

Globeform's Royal Ascot Premier Service

June 19 - 23, 2018



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DAY TWO

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20

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WEDNESDAY

3:05 QUEEN'S VASE is quite an open looking affair, with Aidan O'Brien saddling three of the four most prominent names in the betting; Kew Gardens, Southern France and **NELSON** – who is one of two that stand out a bit for me. Set to be ridden by Donnacha O'Brien (Ryan Moore is on Kew Gardens), Nelson has the best form in the book, and it seems strange that he is not the favourite. Perhaps we will see a repeat of the 2,000 Guineas, where Gustav Klimt (with Heffernan on board) was the early favourite but overtaken in the betting by Donnacha's mount Saxon Warrior as we got close to the race.

Nelson is coming off a sixth in the Derrinstown Stud Derby Trial, where he seemed to have an off day. He had previously won the Ballysax from Derrinstown runner-up Delano Roosevelt, and last year Nelson was second, beaten just a neck by Roaring Lion, in the Royal Lodge Stakes at Newmarket. Roaring Lion went on to be a good second to Saxon Warrior in the Racing Post Trophy and we have seen how good he is this year, with an easy win in the Dante and a game (non-staying) third in the Derby.

Prior to the Royal Lodge, Nelson beat Kew Gardens by 3 lengths to win the Champions Juvenile Stakes at Leopardstown, where he has made both his appearances this season. He is coming out of a race that has worked out quite well, as the Derrinstown winner Hazapour finished fifth in the Derby, one place in front of Delano Roosevelt (who had been second to him the Derrinstown) and note that Nelson holds future entries for much better races than the Queen's Vase.

On the eve of the big meeting, Nelson is best priced at **5-1** (with www.bet365.com), and he looks a logical each-way bet. He is a son of Frankel, something that spells class but can also give concerns about stamina, while his dam, Moonstone (Dalakhani), is also the dam of last year's Derby second US Army Ranger (Galileo), Nevis (Dansili), who won the 11.5-furlong Lingfield Derby Trial by 7 lengths before going wrong, and Words (Dansili), who raced just three times and managed a G3 win over 12 furlongs at three.

Moonstone was also trained by Aidan O'Brien. She won the Irish Oaks after having run second in the Oaks. Interestingly, O'Brien also ran her in the Prix Royal-Oak over 15.5 furlongs when she was four, and the daughter of Dalakhani ran with great credit to finish sixth, 4 ½ lengths behind her famous stable companion Yeats. She comes from a family with plenty of stamina mixed in, and Nelson has as good a chance as any of staying the two miles at Ascot.

STREAM OF STARS, representing John Gosdens' powerful team, is also in with a good chance in the Queen's Vase. This son of Sea The Stars has raced just twice, and he is obviously open to improvement. He took a nice step forward to beat Urbino by 1 ½ lengths, with Corgi the same margin further adrift in third, when stepped up to 12 furlongs here at Ascot in May, having finished second on his debut over 10 furlongs at Newmarket in April. Urbino was coming off a second at Wolverhampton, behind Ghostwatch, who has since won a decent staying handicap at Sandown Park. Corgi had been second to the smart colt Young Rascal on his previous start, and he went on to win a Sandown handicap.

Corgi has been entered for the King George VI Handicap on Thursday (16-1 chance) and even for the King Edward VII Stakes on Friday (50-1). An each-way double on Stream Of Stars (9-2) and Corgi for the King George VI (16-1) is not a bad idea. Make sure to bet with 'non-runner no bet', in case Corgi runs in the King Edward instead.

Stamina should not be an issue for Stream Of Stars, as he is a full brother to Flymetothestars, who won last year's Tote Ebor Handicap (14 furlongs), and has also been successful over 2 miles and half a furlong.

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3:40 DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE STAKES has a clear favourite in the Ballydoyle filly **HYDRANGEA**, and it is hard to oppose this talented daughter of Galileo. Best priced at **2-1** on Monday evening, she is likely to be shorter on the day. She was beaten on her seasonal debut, as so many of O'Brien's stars are, but ran well enough to suggest she has retained her ability at four. Hydrangea went down by 1 ¾ lengths to Opan Tiara, (who had fitness advantage after a spell in Dubai) when reappearing in a G2 event at the Curragh in May. She won two top level contests last year, beating dual 1,000 Guineas winner Winter by a head to land the Matron Stakes over a mile at Leopardstown in September, and readily accounting for Prix Vermeille winner Bateel when taking the Champions Filly & Mare over 12 furlongs here at Ascot, a race she won by 2 lengths after taking control two furlongs out. Bateel has begun her 2018 campaign with a nice G2 win in France.

Hydrangea, who ran second to Rhododendron in a G1 over a mile as a juvenile, has to concede weight all round in the Duke Of Cambridge, but she is the class act in the race, she is well drawn in stall 11, and she has Ryan Moore in the saddle. If she brings her best form she will be hard to beat.

ALJAZZI is the most likely threat. Trained by Marco Botti, who has done so well with his fillies and mares in recent years, she produced her best form to date to finish second in this race 12 months ago, splitting the two classy French raiders Qemah and Usherette, who won the 2016 edition of the Duke Of Cambridge. Aljazzi was 40-1 that day but she proved that the run was no fluke by capturing the Atalanta Stakes at Sandown Park next time out, winning by 3 lengths from Nathra (who was second to subsequent G1 winner Aclaim next time out and then ran third to Roly Poly in a G1 at Newmarket, when Aljazzi was unplaced). Aljazzi was sent to Del Mar for her final start in 2017, but she broke a bit slowly in the Goldikova Stakes and found herself at the back early – not a place to be when racing around Del Mar's turf course. She ran on to be seventh, 5 ½ lengths behind Kitten's Roar.

Her seasonal debut, a game third to the bang in-form Addeybb in the Sandown Mile in late April, augured well for another good season for Aljazzi. William Buick rode her there and he will be on board again for the Duke Of Cambridge. 5-1 makes the combination a possible each-way bet.

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TREBLE PLAN: 2 x 2 x 1

Using two horses in two races each, combined with one banker, or key horse if you like, creates a treble plan I often use at these high profile meetings. You need to be pretty sure the banker will win and you need to be confident that the other two legs are two-horse races, to throw serious money at it. That is not quite the case here, as the Queen's Vase is such an unusual contest, but Nelson and Stream Of Stars are two good cards, so let's compile a small 2 x 2 x 1 plan.

My banker is **CRACKSMAN** in the Prince Of Wales's Stakes (4:20). He only scraped home at Epsom last time out, but that is a course he hates and he did remarkably well to make up as much ground as he did when he finally levelled off through the last furlong. He is by far the best horse in this race, which has been his main target since he reappeared with an easy G1 win in France in April. At the time of writing, Cracksman is available at 8/11. Not a great price for a straight win bet – though useful in a banker in a small treble plan.

RECOMMENDED BETS

£25 E/W: NELSON 5-1 Queen's Vase

£10 WIN: STREAM OF STARS 9-2 Queen's Vase

£50 WIN: HYDRANGEA 2-1 Duke Of Cambridge

£10 WIN: ALJAZZI 5-1 Duke of Cambridge

£15 E/W DOUBLE

NELSON 5-1 (3.05) & HYDRANGEA 2-1 (3:40)

£10 E/W DOUBLE

STREAM OF STARS 9-2 (Queen's Vase) & CORGI 16-1 (King George VI Hcap)

4 x £10 WIN TREBLES

3:05 NELSON 5-1 & STREAM OF STARS 9-2

3:40 HYDRANGEA 2-1 & ALJAZZI 5-1

4:20 CRACKSMAN 8-11

Plus 2x£5 extra on Nelson 5/1 and Stream Of Stars 9/2 + Hydrangea 2/1 + Cracksman 8/11

Total stakes Wednesday: £220

Good luck to us!

Geir Stabell

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