

# TIMEFORM

Your complete guide to the

# QATAR GOODWOOD FESTIVAL



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## Introduction

Welcome to the 2018 Qatar Goodwood Festival magazine presented by Timeform, which features previews and tips for all of the big races at the track this week.

Staying events have always been a prominent feature of British Flat racing which, unlike some jurisdictions, offers a rich variety in the distances of races in the calendar. Much has been said over the years about the need to protect—and enhance—the programme of staying races in Britain, so when Weatherbys Hamilton announced earlier this year that a new bonus scheme for stayers worth £1 million was to be introduced this season, it was well received. The WH Stayers' Million is on offer to any horse that wins one of four races in May—the Sagaro Stakes at Ascot, the Ormonde Stakes at Chester, the Yorkshire Cup at York or the Henry II Stakes at Sandown—before going on to claim victory in each of the Gold Cup at Royal Ascot, the Goodwood Cup and the Lonsdale Cup at York.

The bonus prize has come along at just the right time for connections of last year's Goodwood Cup winner **Stradivarius**, who is a short-priced favourite to retain his crown and move one step closer to landing the inaugural WH Stayers' Million, having won the Yorkshire Cup and Gold Cup in his two previous starts this season. He will be without the services of regular pilot Frankie Dettori in the feature race on Tuesday, but Andrea Atzeni is an able deputy, having won both the Queen's Vase and this race on him last season, and everything looks set fair for another big run. **Torcedor**, who will be a first runner at Goodwood for Jessica Harrington, was beaten just three quarters of a length when third in the Gold Cup and looks likely to emerge as one of the biggest dangers to the favourite again here.

The other two Group races on the opening day of the meeting, the Vintage Stakes and the Lennox Stakes, are also covered in detail, while the betting for Wednesday's Sussex Stakes, the first big clash of the generations in the mile division, suggests the three-year-olds are set to dominate. **Without Parole** was installed as the ante-post favourite after winning the St James's Palace Stakes at Royal Ascot, but his position has come under threat in more recent days, following the news that **Expert Eye** had been supplemented at a cost of £70,000 on Thursday. Sir Michael Stoute's charge had been disappointing since winning the Vintage in devastating fashion 12 months ago, but looked well and truly back on track when winning the Jersey Stakes by four and a half lengths at Royal Ascot last time.

Thursday's Nassau Stakes is the third and final Group 1 of the meeting, with Aidan O'Brien responsible for three of the ten entries at the five-day stage, as he bids to complete a hat-trick of wins in the race. This year's renewal looks much more open than those won by Minding and Winter, however, with recent Pretty Polly winner **Urban Fox** currently shading favouritism from O'Brien's **Rhododendron** at around the 3/1 mark. Friday's King George Stakes, on the other hand, only holds Group 2 status, but it could still play host to the world's joint top-rated horse in the shape of **Battaash**. An impressive winner 12 months ago, he lost nothing in defeat when second in the King's Stand Stakes at Royal Ascot last time, and should take all the beating with the return to this more speed-orientated track expected to play to his strengths.

The Stewards' Cup on Saturday looks set to be as difficult to solve as ever, but there are plenty of other good betting opportunities across the meeting—the team of analysts at Timeform have picked out their best bets for three of the handicaps, as well as the feature races on each day, so head over to the [Betfair Sportsbook](#) to place your bets!

Timeform's guide to the  
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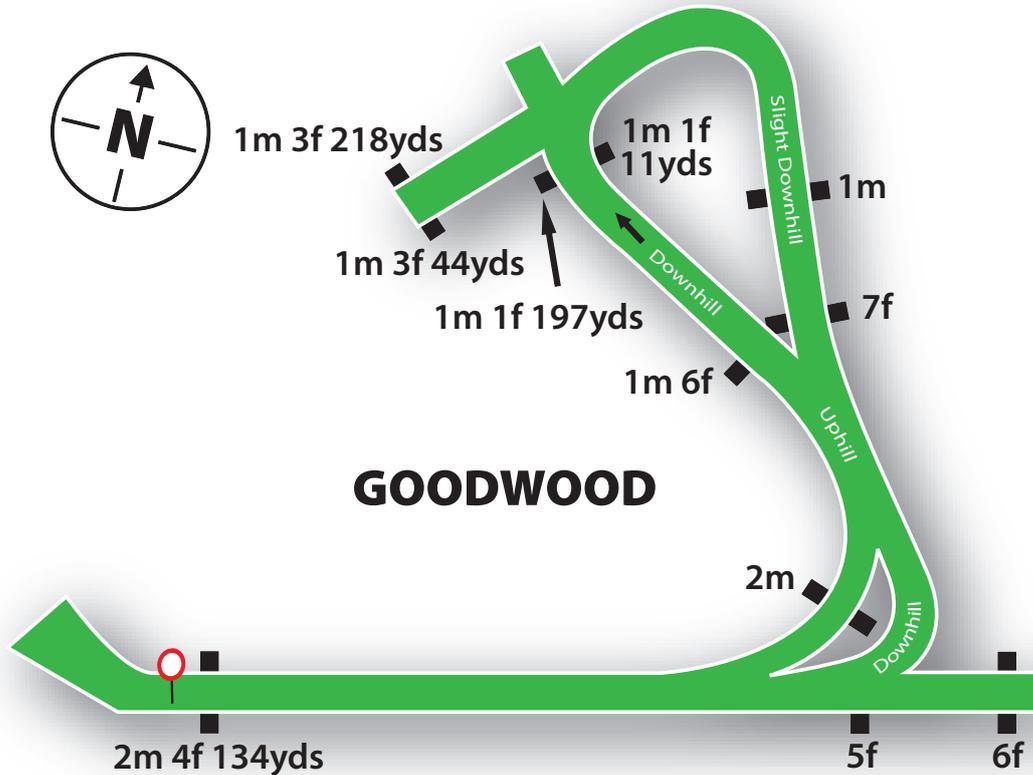


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# Goodwood Track & Stats



Right handed. There are two bends; all races up to a mile and a quarter use the lower bend, and in excess of eleven furlongs use the top bend. Although there is a five-furlong run-in from the top bend, the turns and the pronounced downhill gradients make Goodwood essentially a sharp track, favouring handy types, particularly in the shorter-distance races. The five-furlong course is one of the fastest in the country, meaning speedy sorts often have an advantage. A notoriously tricky course, those held up regularly meeting trouble in the straight, particularly when kept to the rail.

## MOST SUCCESSFUL TRAINERS AT GOOWOOD 2013-2017

Trainer	Wins	Runs	%	Trainer	Wins	Runs	%
Mark Johnston	52	326	15.95%	William Haggas	23	98	23.47%
Richard Hannon	40	333	12.01%	Amanda Perrett	20	235	8.51%
Sir Michael Stoute	29	142	20.42%	Andrew Balding	18	194	9.28%
Mick Channon	26	290	8.97%	Charlie Appleby	18	103	17.48%
John Gosden	26	139	18.71%	David Simcock	18	145	12.41%



Expert Eye won the Vintage Stakes in devastating fashion 12 months ago

## Vintage Stakes

The Vintage Stakes, a seven-furlong contest open to two-year-olds, was promoted to Group 2 status in 2003, and has since produced several subsequent Group 1 winners, including Shamardal, Highland Reel and Galileo Gold. Confiding currently heads the betting for this year's renewal, and is attempting to provide trainer Martyn Meade with a first win in the race...

Perhaps the main reason for **Confiding's** position as favourite is how well his debut win at Newbury has worked out. Indeed, seven of the eight who followed him home that day have won since and Confiding could hardly have looked more promising himself in making a winning start, travelling strongly and hitting the front inside the final furlong with something to spare (ran green in front). He looks sure to improve with that experience under his belt and is respected for a yard that can already boast

the July Stakes winner Advertise amongst only four two-year-old runners so far this term.

**Dunkerron** and **Van Beethoven** were fourth and seventh, respectively, behind Advertise in that Newmarket heat last time. The former progressed again to be beaten just three lengths on that occasion and left the impression he could have an even bigger effort in him now stepping up to seven furlongs, while Van Beethoven simply wasn't in the same form as when winning the

Railway Stakes at the Curragh the time before. He could easily bounce back, though the ill health of some of the Aidan O'Brien-trained runners must be a concern (also has stamina to prove).

The Richard Fahey-trained **Cosmic Law** sets the standard on Timeform ratings, having won the Woodcote Stakes (readily, by six lengths) on soft ground at Epsom in June. He faces a much different set of circumstances here, however, better ground and an extra furlong, and he rather had his limitations exposed when only ninth in the Coventry Stakes at Epsom last time. **Getchagetchagetcha** was also well held in the Coventry and needs the step up to seven furlongs to bring about significant improvement.

**Drogon** stepped up markedly on his debut form to get off the mark at Haydock last time, responding well to a more positive ride and always in control once quickening over two furlongs out. He remains open to more improvement and shouldn't be underestimated. Similar comments apply to **Federal Law**, who showed the benefit of his debut second at Newcastle to go one better at Salisbury last time. He appeared to relish this longer trip on the latter occasion and should do better again, having still looked green once hitting the front.

All three of **Junius Brutus'** previous starts, on the other hand, have come over five furlongs, including when sixth in the Windsor Castle Stakes at Royal Ascot last time, but he is bred to stay this far and cannot be totally discounted on his

debut for Ralph Beckett. Others to note include **Dark Vision** and **Blonde Warrior**. The former is unbeaten in two starts and should have more to offer for the Mark Johnston yard that loves having winners at this meeting, while Blonde Warrior had very little to beat when making all at Doncaster last time, but he could no more than win impressively and remains with potential.

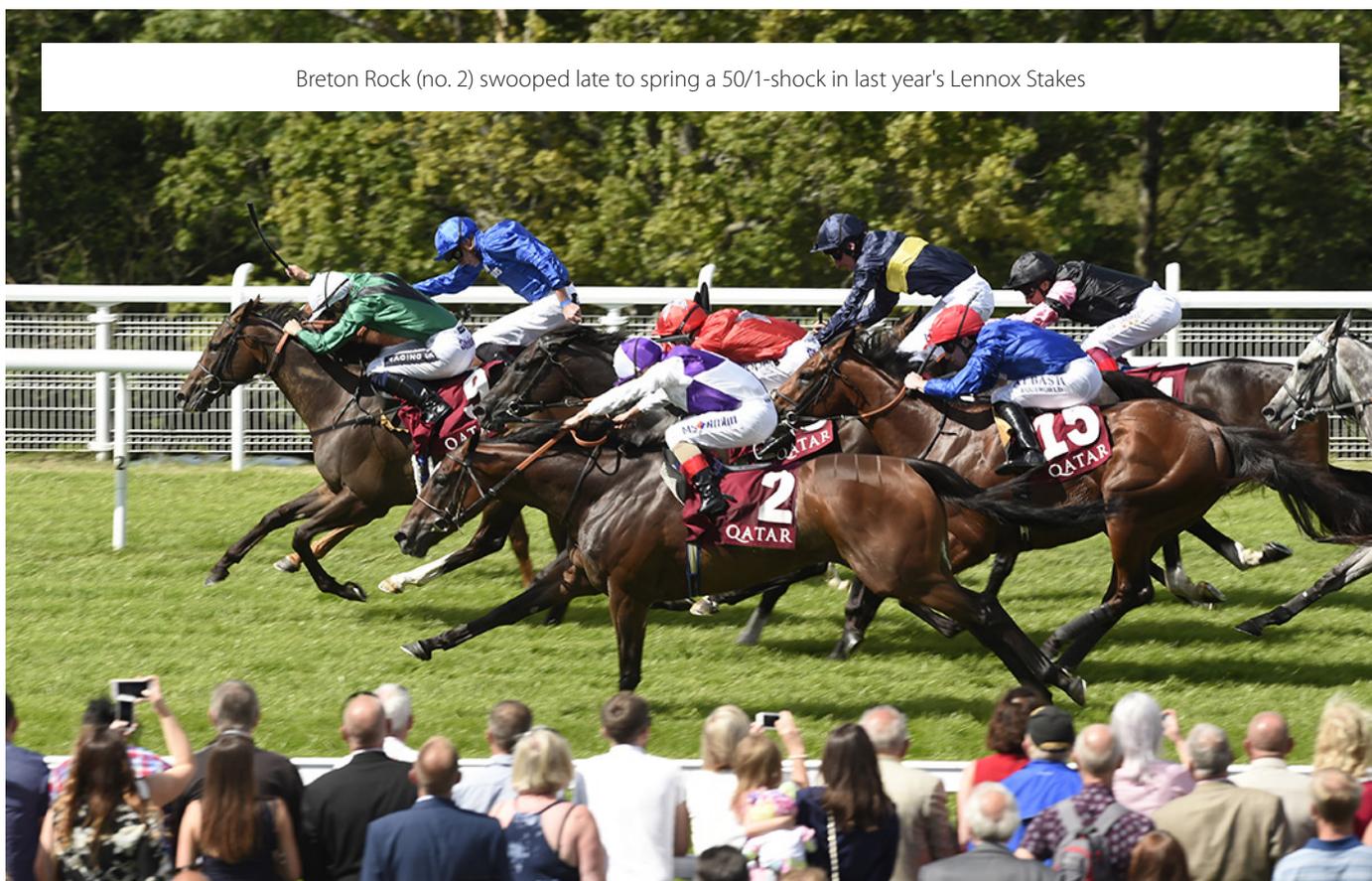
Recent Brighton winner **Burj** and the maiden **Mordred** complete the field, but both have plenty to find at this level and, at the prices, it is **Dunkerron** who makes the most appeal. Alan King's charge will likely need luck in the biggest field for this race since the turn of the century (usually held up), but he was doing good late work when fourth in a Group 2 at Newmarket last time, recording a useful timefigure, and may yet prove capable of better over this longer trip. Confiding and Drogon complete the shortlist.

Timeform Ratings (weight adjusted)	
COSMIC LAW	116
DARK VISION	113p
DUNKERRON	113p
VAN BEETHOVEN	113
DROGON	111p

Selection	Bet now
<b>DUNKERRON</b>	

Vintage Stakes - Past Winners						
2017	Expert Eye	2-9-1	7/4f	Sir Michael Stoute	Andrea Atzeni	10 ran
2016	War Decree	2-9-1	6/4f	Aidan O'Brien	Ryan Moore	9 ran
2015	Galileo Gold	2-9-1	9/2	Hugo Palmer	Frankie Dettori	8 ran
2014	Highland Reel	2-9-1	10/11f	Aidan O'Brien	Joseph O'Brien	8 ran
2013	Toormore	2-9-0	5/4f	Richard Hannon Snr	Richard Hughes	7 ran

Breton Rock (no. 2) swooped late to spring a 50/1-shock in last year's Lennox Stakes



## Lennox Stakes

The Lennox Stakes is one of the newer events at the Goodwood Festival, first run at the track in 2000, but the seven-furlong event has quickly established itself as one of the premier races over that distance in the domestic calendar. It's surely only a matter of time before the race is upgraded to Group 1 level, with a total prize fund of £300,000, and Breton Rock is back as he attempts to land the cash for the second year in succession...

A smart performer, **Breton Rock** sprang a 50/1 surprise when winning this race (by half a length from Home of The Brave, **Suedois** third) in 2017, but he ran well on most of his other starts that season, though he was out of his depth in the QEII Stakes at Ascot on his final one. He shaped as if needing his reappearance when fifth to Century Dream in the Diomed Stakes at Epsom last time, and should strip fitter here, with the

drop back in trip in his favour. Any rain would help his cause (shows plenty of knee action).

Suedois is a very smart performer who won the Boomerang Stakes at Leopardstown and Shadwell Turf Mile Stakes at Keeneland (by half a length from Heart To Heart) in 2017. He produced his best effort since when a good neck third to Beat The Bank in the Summer Mile Stakes at Ascot last time, and commands plenty of respect on that form.

Garswood was the last three-year-old winner of this race, back in 2013, but **Tip Two Win** looks to have leading claims of following in his footsteps. He won the Group 2 Al Biddah Mile at Doha in February, and produced his best effort yet when second in the 2000 Guineas at Newmarket (one and a half lengths behind Saxon Warrior). He was unable to confirm that effort in the St James's Palace Stakes at Royal Ascot last time, but this represents an easier task, and the drop in trip shouldn't be an issue.

**Dutch Connection** was second to Toomore in this race as a three-year-old in 2015 and returned to go one better the following year, one of his three victories over C&D, overall. He showed he retains plenty of his ability when three and a half lengths fourth to Rhododendron in the Lockinge Stakes at Newbury on return, but has been below form on both starts since.

**Sir Dancealot** won the Criterion Stakes at Newmarket (by a length from **So Beloved**) in June, before a creditable two and a half lengths fourth to U S Navy Flag in the July Cup at Newmarket last time, finishing well. The return to this trip is in his favour and he has to be high on shortlist. So Beloved is not the easiest to win with, his losing run stretching back to May 2016, but he was a respectable half-length second in the Minstrel Stakes at the Curragh last time.

Of the remainder, **D'bai** was below form when five lengths sixth to Merchant Navy in the

Diamond Jubilee Stakes at Royal Ascot last time, but he had earlier returned to his best when landing the John of Gaunt Stakes at Haydock in June. **Emmaus** has won three of his four starts, including a heavy-ground listed race at Leicester (by one and a half lengths from **Donjuan Triumphant**) last time; he almost certainly has more to offer. Six-year-old French challenger **Karar** needs to improve to top the pile.

To conclude, the likes of Tip Two Win and Emmaus are respected, but **Suedois** is fancied to turn the tables on last year's winner Breton Rock. Suedois had suggested all his ability remained on his first two starts of the campaign and confirmed it at the third time of asking in the Summer Mile last time; a repeat of that run would see him firmly in the mix.

### Timeform Ratings (weight adjusted)

TIP TWO WIN	132
SUEDOIS	131
SIR DANCEALOT	130
EMMAUS	129p
D'BAI	129

### Selection

### Bet now

## SUEDOIS

### Lennox Stakes - Past Winners

Year	Winner	Age	Time	Trainer	Jockey	Runners
2017	Breton Rock	7-9-3	50/1	David Simcock	Andrea Atzeni	13 ran
2016	Dutch Connection	4-9-3	9/4f	Charles Hills	James McDonald	8 ran
2015	Toomore	4-9-3	9/4jf	Richard Hannon	James Doyle	7 ran
2014	Es Que Love	5-9-3	7/1	Clive Cox	Adam Kirby	7 ran
2013	Garswood	3-8-9	9/4f	Richard Fahey	Ryan Moore	10 ran

Stradivarius will be attempting to repeat his heroics in last year's Goodwood Cup



## Goodwood Cup

The Goodwood Cup was promoted to Group 1 status in 2017 and moved to the first day of the meeting, having been run previously on the Thursday. Stradivarius earned his place in the history books when winning the first renewal of the race to be run as a Group 1 last year, and he has the chance to cement his standing as an outstanding stayer on Tuesday, as he attempts to join the likes of Yeats and Big Orange as a multiple winner...

**Stradivarius** won a handicap at Beverley and the Queen's Vase at Royal Ascot prior to his victory in this race 12 months ago, when becoming the first three-year-old to land the race since Lucky Moon in 1990. A ready winner of his return in the Yorkshire Cup, he proved better than ever when battling to victory in the Gold Cup at Royal Ascot (by three quarters of a length from Vazirabad) last time, deserving extra credit given

that he reportedly finished lame/lost his right-hind shoe. Admirably consistent and genuine to go alongside all his talent, he rates by far the most exciting prospect in the staying division and looks sure to take all the beating once again.

The Jessica Harrington-trained **Torcedor** was another to record a career best when third behind Stradivarius at the Royal meeting, hitting the front over a furlong out and rallying gamely

once headed to record another fine placed effort in a Group 1 (also second in the Irish St Leger in 2017). It's not often that he disappoints and he looks sure to give another good account, for all that he has a bit to find with Stradivarius on their Ascot running—incidentally, he will be a first runner at this meeting for his veteran Irish trainer.

**Desert Skyline** stepped up on his previous form when third in this race 12 months ago, and went on record a first Group win in the Doncaster Cup, staying on strongly and well on top at the finish. He improved again when chasing home Stradivarius (conceding 3 lb to that rival) in the Yorkshire Cup in May, but proved to be a major disappointment when well held in the Gold Cup; he is clearly capable of better than that and rates one of the most likely to take advantage should the favourite not come up to scratch.

In the absence of Order of St George, Aidan O'Brien is represented by **Idaho**. A very smart performer on his day, he has often shaped as if worth a try at staying trips and the bigger concern is his form of late—he has finished well held in two starts since winning the Ormonde Stakes at Chester in May. **St Michel** was also well below form after 10 months off in a listed race at Hamburg last time, and while he is entitled to improve with that outing under his belt, even his best form leaves him with plenty to find.

The field is completed by the William Haggas-trained duo **Call To Mind** and **Dal Harraild**, with the former making most appeal of that pair following a comfortable victory in a Group 2 at Belmont. He will need to step up on that form if he is to figure here, but it would be no surprise if there was a bigger effort in his locker, still relatively unexposed as a stayer and a winner of his only previous start at this track.

In summary, last year's winner **Stradivarius** is odds-on to retain his crown and it is easy to see why, with his Gold Cup win comfortably the best form on offer. The drop back to two miles is expected to see him in an even better light if anything, clearly blessed with a fine turn of foot, and he is difficult to oppose as he attempts to confirm his standing as the top stayer in training, with Torcedor and Desert Skyline feared most.

### Timeform Ratings (weight adjusted)

<b>STRADIVARIUS</b>	<b>130</b>
<b>TORCEDOR</b>	<b>128</b>
<b>DESERT SKYLINE</b>	<b>124</b>
<b>IDAHO</b>	<b>123+</b>
<b>DAL HARRAILD</b>	<b>122</b>

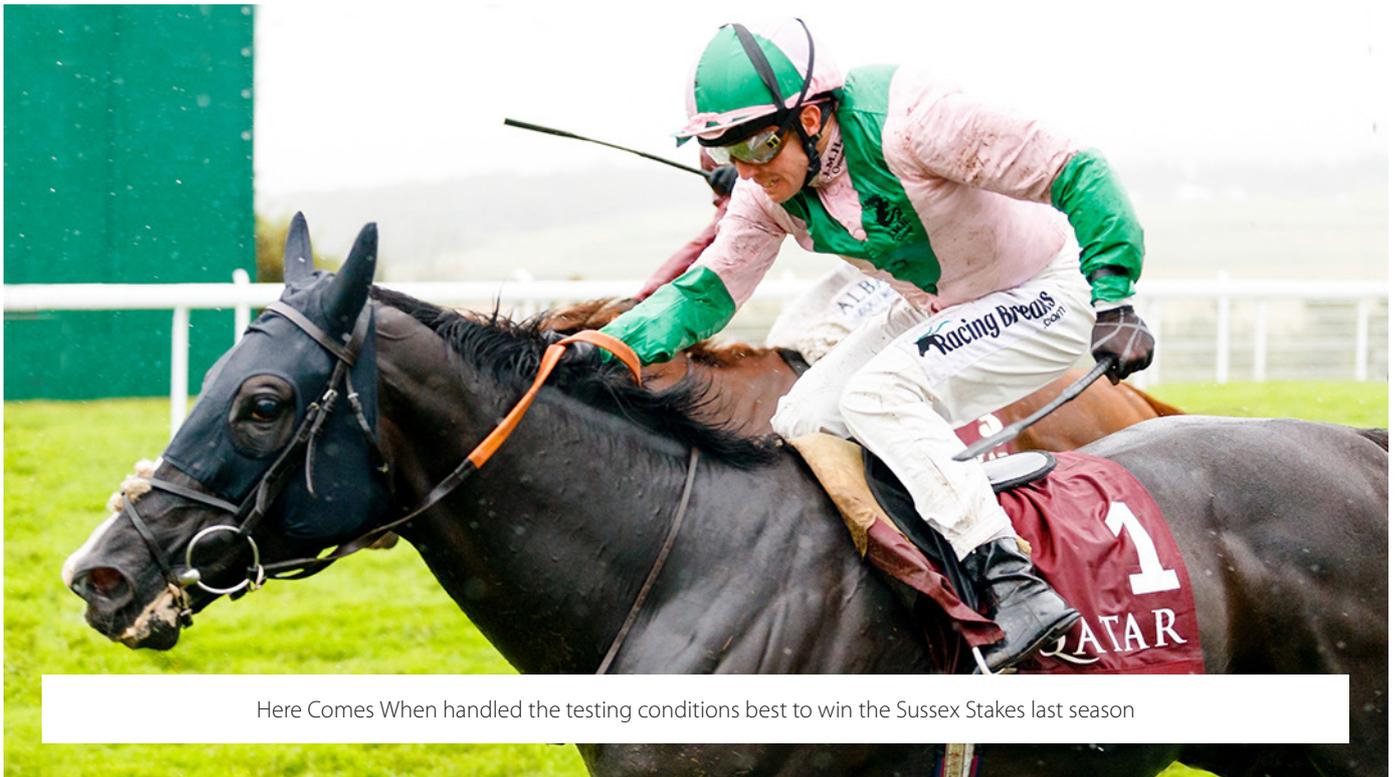
**Selection**

**Bet now**

**STRADIVARIUS**

### Goodwood Cup - Past Winners

2017	Stradivarius	3-8-8	6/1	John Gosden	Andrea Atzeni	14 ran
2016	Big Orange	5-9-8	11/4f	Michael Bell	Jamie Spencer	14 ran
2015	Big Orange	4-9-8	6/1	Michael Bell	Jamie Spencer	11 ran
2014	Cavalryman	8-9-8	5/1	Saeed bin Suroor	Kieren Fallon	8 ran
2013	Brown Panther	5-9-7	13/2	Tom Dascombe	Richard Kingscote	14 ran



Here Comes When handled the testing conditions best to win the Sussex Stakes last season

## Sussex Stakes

The Sussex Stakes is the centrepiece of the Qatar Goodwood Festival, providing the first opportunity for the leading three-year-old milers to test their mettle against the top older performers. The three-year-olds have undoubtedly had the upper hand in recent years—that age group has been responsible for seven of the last ten winners—and their domination looks set to continue if the betting for the latest renewal is anything to go by, with little to separate **Without Parole** and **Expert Eye** in most bookmakers' lists...

**Without Parole** is quickly making up into the best of his generation, having taken his unbeaten record to four when winning the St James's Palace Stakes at Royal Ascot (by half a length from **Gustav Klimt**) last time. He was arguably value for more than the official winning margin that day, too, having made his move sooner than ideal, allowing the runner-up the opportunity to swoop late. Still open to improvement given his lightly-

raced profile, he is fully expected to uphold that form and looks the one to beat again.

**Gustav Klimt** produced the best effort of his career when chasing home **Without Parole** at the Royal meeting, for all that he might have been flattered to get as close as he did. Clearly a very smart miler on his day, it would be no surprise to see him run into a place again, but his latest effort, when only third in the Prix Jean Prat at Deauville, suggests he is always likely to come up a bit short for win purposes at this level.

**Expert Eye**, on the other hand, looked a Group 1 winner in waiting when landing the Jersey Stakes at Royal Ascot last time, forging clear late on. Connections made the decision to supplement him for this at a cost of £70,000 on the back of that, and given the impression he made at this meeting 12 months ago (most impressive when winning the Vintage Stakes), he must be high on the shortlist, well worth another try over a mile having settled much better than in his previous attempt last time.

The three-year-old challenge is completed by the French raider **Orbaan**. Andre Fabre's charge showed much improved form when winning a listed race at Saint-Cloud last time, and while that form is a long way short of what will be required here, he could yet have more to offer after just four starts; he cannot be discounted for his top trainer, who won this race with a three-year-old in 1987.

The pick of the older horses on Timeform ratings is the David Simcock-trained **Lightning Spear**. He has a good record over this C&D, with back-to-back wins in the Celebration Mile on his CV (also third in this race 12 months ago), but his record at the highest level now stands at 0/15 and that looks unlikely to change here. Of more interest is **Beat The Bank**, who was a dominant winner of the Thoroughbred Stakes at this meeting last year and got back on track

with a determined win in the Summer Mile at Ascot (by a neck from **Lord Glitters**) last time.

The field is completed by the David O'Meara-trained duo Lord Glitters, who is closely matched with Lightning Spear and Beat The Bank on recent evidence, and **So Beloved**, for whom this would be a quick turnaround should he take up his engagement in Tuesday's Lennox Stakes.

In summary, the older horses all look likely to be playing for minor money here, with the three-year-olds looking a strong bunch, and clear preference is for **Without Parole**. There is no telling how much more he could have to offer, having beaten everything put in front of him in his short career so far, and he rates a far more reliable proposition than Expert Eye, who is yet to put two good runs together.

Timeform Ratings (weight adjusted)	
WITHOUT PAROLE	132p
EXPERT EYE	131
GUSTAV KLIMT	130
LIGHTNING SPEAR	130
BEAT THE BANK	128

<b>Selection</b>	<b>Bet now</b>
<b>WITHOUT PAROLE</b>	

Sussex Stakes - Past Winners						
2017	Here Comes When	7-9-8	20/1	Andrew Balding	Jim Crowley	7 ran
2016	The Gurkha	3-9-0	11/8f	Aidan O'Brien	Ryan Moore	10 ran
2015	Solow	5-9-8	2/5f	Freddie Head	Maxime Guyon	8 ran
2014	Kingman	3-9-0	2/5f	John Gosden	James Doyle	4 ran
2013	Toronado	3-8-13	11/4	Richard Hannon	Richard Hughes	7 ran



Winter (grey) recorded her fourth Group 1 win of 2017 in the Nassau Stakes

## Nassau Stakes

The Nassau Stakes, a Group 1 over just shy of ten furlongs and open to fillies and mares, has been won by three-year-olds in each of the last three seasons, including back-to-back wins for Aidan O'Brien with Minding in 2016 and Winter 12 months ago. O'Brien appears to hold sound claims of bringing up the hat-trick, too, with three entries at the time of writing, though there are plenty of potential dangers in an open renewal...

**Rhododendron** could be the pick of the O'Brien-trained runners if bouncing back from a below-par effort in the Queen Anne Stakes at Royal Ascot last time. A Group 1 winner at both two and three (when beating stablemate **Hydrangea** in the Prix de l'Opera at Chantilly), she added a third top-level win to her tally when winning the Lockinge Stakes at Newbury in May, hitting the front over a furlong out and finding plenty to hold off the late thrust of Lightning

Spear. That form sets the standard on weight-adjusted ratings here and she commands respect with the return to further expected to suit, for all that no excuse has been put forward for her no-show in the Queen Anne.

Ballydoyle could also be represented by a full-sister to Rhododendron in the shape of **Magical**—incidentally, their dam Halfway To Heaven won this race in 2008. Magical was

a smart two-year-old with two wins from six starts, including the Debutante Stakes, and didn't have to be at her very best to make a winning return from three months off in the Kilboy Estate Stakes at the Curragh last time. She promises to be suited by the extra furlong here and wouldn't need to improve much to figure back at Group 1 level.

Overall, three-year-olds make up half of the ten entries at the five-day stage, with **Billesdon Brook** and **Wild Illusion** both bringing classic form to the table. The former won the 1000 Guineas at Newmarket in May and, though disappointing when only fourth in the Coronation Stakes at Royal Ascot last time, she cannot be discounted back at the scene of her Group 3 win at two, with the longer trip here unlikely to be an issue on breeding. Wild Illusion has hit the frame in all three of her starts this season, including when second under her Group 1 penalty in the Ribblesdale Stakes at Royal Ascot last time, and she looks sure to give another good account.

Having missed the 1000 Guineas due to a setback, **Veracious** ran a huge race for one so inexperienced when one place ahead of Billesdon Brook in the Coronation. That was just the third start of her career, and her first after eight months, so it would be no surprise if there were more to come from her here. **Nyaleti** is at the opposite end of the scale, with 13 runs already under her belt, and the latest of those—when fourth in the Falmouth Stakes

at Newmarket—suggests she has a bit to find to be competitive in this exalted company.

Similar comments apply to **Promising Run** and **Wilamina**, but **Urban Fox** is of more interest following a breakthrough success at the top level in the Pretty Polly Stakes at the Curragh last time. That represented a career-best effort on just her third start for William Haggas, the step up to this trip for the first time seemingly the making of her, and this looks the logical next step.

In summary, Rhododendron and Urban Fox look the pick of the older horses, but it would no surprise to see the three-year-olds take this for the fourth year in succession. A winner of two of her three starts at this track, **Billesdon Brook** makes most appeal at around the 10/1 mark, as a repeat of her 1000 Guineas form would make her a serious contender, and the longer trip here is unlikely to inconvenience her.

Timeform Ratings (weight adjusted)	
RHODODENDRON	128
HYDRANGEA	127
BILLESDON BROOK	124
URBAN FOX	124
MAGICAL	122

Selection	Bet now
<b>BILLESDON BROOK</b>	

Nassau Stakes - Past Winners						
2017	Winter	3-8-13	10/11f	Aidan O'Brien	Ryan Moore	6 ran
2016	Minding	3-8-11	1/5f	Aidan O'Brien	Ryan Moore	5 ran
2015	Legatissimo	3-8-12	2/1f	David Wachman	Wayne Lordan	9 ran
2014	Sultanina	4-9-7	11/2	John Gosden	William Buick	6 ran
2013	Winsili	3-8-11	20/1	John Gosden	William Buick	14 ran

Battaash (striped cap) put up a top-class performance to win last year's King George Stakes



## King George Stakes

Run on one of the fastest five-furlong courses in the world, the roll-call of winners for the Group 2 King George Stakes is filled with very speedy horses. Recent greats like Lochsong, The Tatling and Borderlescott all feature at least once, while Take Cover became the first dual winner since Lochsong when following up his own 2014 win two years later. Last year's victor Battaash will bid to follow in their footsteps...

**Battaash** is a top-class performer who won four of his five starts in 2017, including this race and the Group 1 Prix de l'Abbaye de Longchamp at Chantilly. He made a winning return in the Temple Stakes at Haydock (by a head from **Washington DC**), and shaped best when one and three-quarter lengths second to Blue Point in the King's Stand Stakes at Royal Ascot last time, showing rare speed before being worn down late on. He carries a Group 1 penalty for his win in France, but is still the one to beat here.

Second and fifth in the last two renewals of this race, Washington DC would appear to be the pick of the five Aidan O'Brien-trained entries, for all that he's been disappointing since chasing home Battaash in the Temple, including when four lengths last of seven to the Karl Burke-trained **Havana Grey** in the Sapphire Stakes at the Curragh last time. The latter was a smart two-year-old, his wins including two listed races at Sandown and the Molecomb Stakes over C&D, and he's respected, along with fellow

three-year-old **Sioux Nation**, who got back on track when two and three-quarter lengths fifth to U S Navy Flag in the 6f July Cup last time; he has the pace to be effective over this trip.

**Muthmir**, the 2015 winner of this race, can flatter to deceive at times, but he has proved consistent this season, resuming winning ways in a listed event at Haydock in June. He has produced respectable efforts since, but was well held by Battaash in the Temple Stakes earlier this season, and will likely prove vulnerable again from a win perspective.

The aforementioned **Take Cover**, who is now 11-years-old, is also back for another crack having proved at least as good as ever in 2017. He's yet to find his stride in three starts this term, but has a great record at this track and can't be totally discounted. Stablemate **Duke of Firenze** is a useful handicapper who took a step back in the right direction at Newmarket last time, but he has plenty to find at this level.

The biggest danger to Battaash on weight-adjusted Timeform ratings, though, is former Molecomb winner **Kachy**. Tom Dascombe's charge has taken his form to a new level this year, his wins including a 6f listed race at Lingfield in February and a minor event at Chester (by nine lengths from Growl) in May. He was only narrowly beaten by Battaash when third in the Temple Stakes, but paid the price for trying to match

strides with that rival in the King's Stand last time. A similar result awaits if he tries those tactics again, and it's worth noting that he has been well held in this race for the last two years.

Of the others, **Mr Lupton**, who produced a career-best effort when winning a listed race at York last time, and the Commonwealth Cup seventh **Heartache**, who receives plenty of weight as a three-year-old filly, are not to be discounted, especially as both should be suited by the likely furious tempo.

In summary, this looks a good opportunity for **Battaash** to confirm himself as the best European sprinter, despite having to carry a Group 1 penalty. He should get a good tow into the race from Take Cover and Kachy and is fancied to see off the younger brigade which is led by Sioux Nation and Heartache.

### Timeform Ratings (weight adjusted)

<b>BATTAASH</b>	<b>145</b>
<b>KACHY</b>	<b>135</b>
<b>WASHINGTON DC</b>	<b>131</b>
<b>MUTHMIR</b>	<b>130</b>
<b>SIoux NATION</b>	<b>130</b>

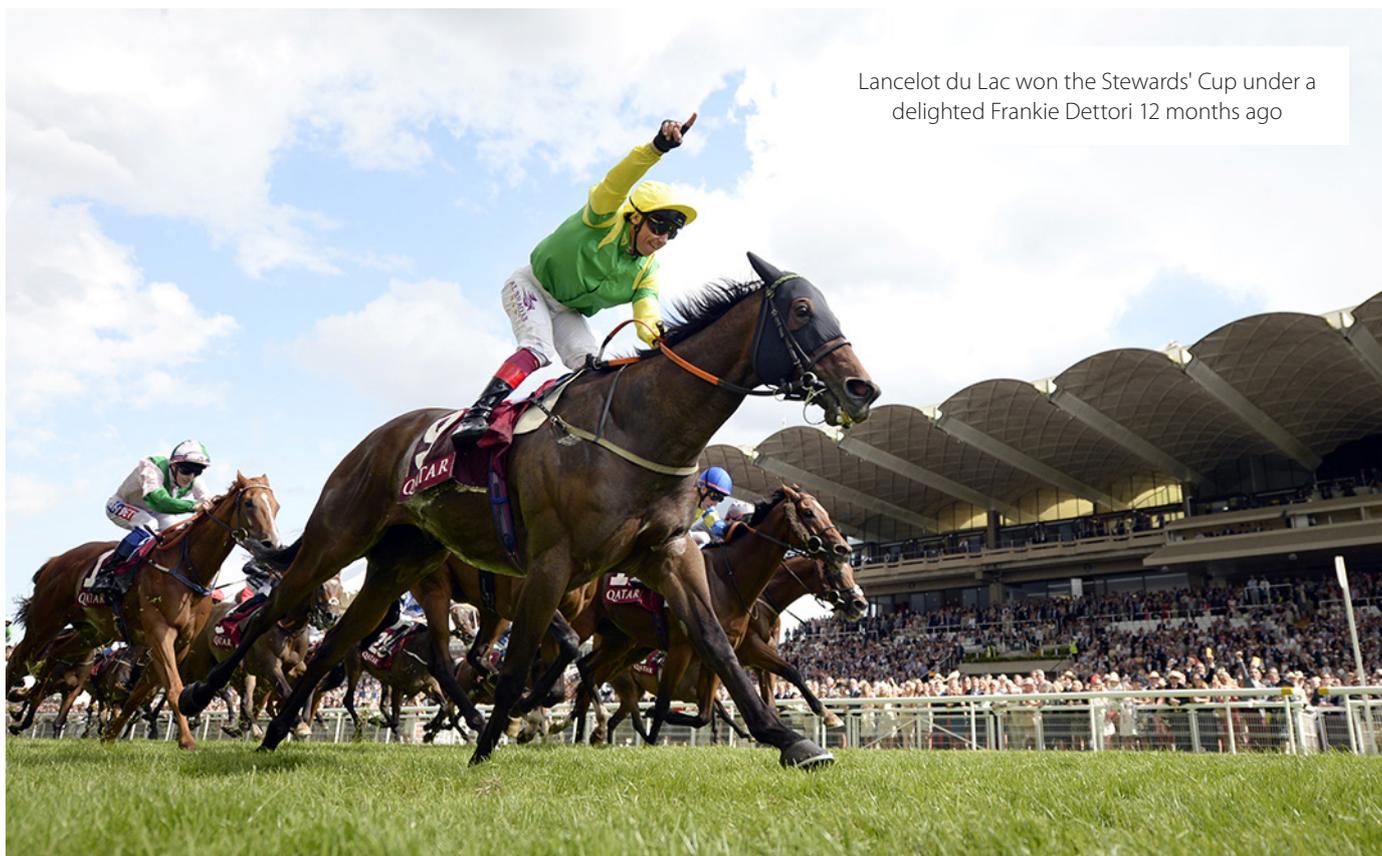
**Selection**

**Bet now**

**BATTAASH**

### King George Stakes - Past Winners

2017	Battaash	3-8-13	9/2	Charlie Hills	Jim Crowley	11 ran
2016	Take Cover	9-9-2	8/1	David Griffiths	David Allan	17 ran
2015	Muthmir	5-9-6	3/1	William Haggas	Paul Hanagan	15 ran
2014	Take Cover	7-9-1	6/1	David Griffiths	Andrea Atzeni	15 ran
2013	Moviesta	3-8-12	5/1	Bryan Smart	Paul Mulrennan	17 ran



Lancelot du Lac won the Stewards' Cup under a delighted Frankie Dettori 12 months ago

## Stewards' Cup

The Stewards' Cup is one of the most competitive sprint handicaps in the racing calendar, often attracting a maximum field of 28 runners. Frankie Dettori, who returns from a ban that rules him out of the first two days of the meeting, has won two of the last three renewals and there is sure to be plenty of interest in his chosen mount once again, with last year's winner Lancelot du Lac likely to be one of several options for the Italian...

**Lancelot du Lac** looks as good a place to start as any, as he returns from a mark just 1 lb higher than when landing this race (by three quarters of a length from **Aeolus**) 12 months ago, having looked as good as ever when winning a handicap at Wolverhampton in March and a minor event at Chelmsford in April. He was well held on his most recent outing in the Wokingham Stakes at Royal Ascot, but it can often be worth forgiving these older sprinters the odd bad run, and it would be no surprise to see him go well again.

**Bacchus** produced a career best when winning the Wokingham and cannot be discounted from 5 lb higher, having run respectably when fourth in the Hackwood Stakes at Newbury last time, whilst **Tis Marvellous** and **Spring Loaded** are amongst several that could reoppose from the Royal meeting. The former was a Group 2 winner as a juvenile and has to be respected here having confirmed himself back on track with a good fourth at Ascot, while Spring Loaded, who was only ninth that day, proved better than

ever when winning a similar event back there on Saturday and could still be one step ahead of the handicapper under a 6 lb penalty here.

**Flying Pursuit** also carries a penalty for Saturday's victory in a valuable handicap at York (for the second consecutive year, **Summerhand** third, **Growl** fourth) and should give another good account, having been placed from a mark of 101 last autumn. **Aces** is another who arrives here in top form, having followed up his Epsom win in brave fashion from 8 lb higher at Newmarket last time; he remains one to keep onside despite a further 2 lb rise, not long with the Ian Williams yard after all.

Others to note include **Dancing Star** and **Foxtrot Lady**, half-sisters who both look set to line up for the Andrew Balding yard. The former won this race as a three-year-old in 2016, but has struggled for form since and instead it is her younger sibling Foxtrot Lady who arrives here with the more attractive profile, having won a three-year-old handicap at Newmarket last time that has previous for producing winners of this race. Indeed, two of the last three Newmarket winners have followed up here, including none other than Dancing Star, and Foxtrot Lady looks similarly well-in under a penalty if getting a run (needs just one to come out).

**Glenamoy Lad** needs five to come out to be a guaranteed a place in the line-up, but he would have to be of interest should that happen. A winner of three of his five starts since joining the Michael Wigham yard, he was most impressive when making a successful all-weather debut at Newcastle last time and may yet prove capable of better given the strong pace that seems to suit him so well.

To conclude, this looks a typically-competitive renewal of this valuable sprint, with preference for **Spring Loaded**. As he showed at Ascot last weekend, these big-field handicaps suit him ideally and the quick turnaround is no concern, having followed last season's Portland win with a close-up second at York seven days later. **Tis Marvellous** heads the list of dangers, along with **Aces** and, if getting a run, **Foxtrot Lady**.

### Timeform Ratings (weight adjusted)

<b>FLYING PURSUIT</b>	<b>130</b>
<b>FOXTROT LADY</b>	<b>129</b>
<b>SPRING LOADED</b>	<b>128</b>
<b>GLENAMOY LAD</b>	<b>126+</b>
<b>ICE AGE</b>	<b>125</b>

**Selection**

**Bet now**

**SPRING LOADED**

### Stewards' Cup - Past Winners

2017	Lancelot du Lac	7-9-5	25/1	Dean Ivory	Frankie Dettori	26 ran
2016	Dancing Star	3-8-12	9/2f	Andrew Balding	David Probert	27 ran
2015	Magical Memory	3-8-12	6/1f	Charles Hills	Frankie Dettori	27 ran
2014	Intrinsic	4-8-11	6/1	Robert Cowell	Richard Hughes	24 ran
2013	Rex Imperator	4-9-4	12/1	William Haggas	Neil Callan	27 ran

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# Handicappers To Follow

Timeform's expert team of handicappers bring you four horses to back at the Qatar Goodwood Festival...

## **AFAAK – 13:50 Goodwood, Tuesday 31st July**

*Charlie Hills*

Timeform rating (117) The form of Afaak's earlier win at York has worked out really well and he duly produced another excellent effort when second in the Hunt Cup at Royal Ascot last time, underlining his progression from last season, no match for the impressive winner Settle For Bay but deserving plenty of credit for emerging best of the rest. The way he stuck to his task in the closing stages suggests he'll be at least as effective over this longer trip and he looks sure to give another good account from just 1 lb higher, clearly well suited by a big-field environment and no surprise if there was even more to come from him (improving all the time).

## **LIL ROCKERFELLER – 13:50 Goodwood, Wednesday 1st August**

*Neil King*

Timeform rating (91) National Hunt/dual purpose yards have a terrific record in Wednesday's 2m5f opener and that is hardly a surprise, the race being unique to nearly every other in the Flat calendar for its marathon distance. Very few horses are suited by the rare test of stamina that it represents, but there is one horse in this year's line-up who should absolutely relish it, and that is the former Stayers' Hurdle runner-up Lil Rockerfeller. Admittedly, he has not run on the level since finishing second in a Salisbury handicap in May 2015, but a BHA mark of 82 could prove very lenient judged on the pick of his hurdles form. With the booking of Silvestre de Sousa catching the eye, everything looks set fair for a big run.

## **DESERT WIND – 14:25 Goodwood, Wednesday 1st August**

*Ed Vaughan*

Timeform rating (103p) The mile and a half handicap for three-year-olds on Wednesday has a decorated roll of honour, with Pethers Moon and Dartmouth amongst those to have won it in recent years before going on to taste success in Group company. It is unlikely that Ed Vaughan has such high aspirations for Desert Wind, but he should take plenty of stopping here, having shaped much better than the bare result when fourth at Newmarket last time (came from further back than ideal and didn't get a clear run). Nearest at the finish, the step up to this trip is unlikely to be an issue on that evidence, and he could still have more to offer if returning to the more positive tactics that served him so well earlier in the year (made all for two of three wins).

## **AL JELLABY – 13:50 Goodwood, Thursday 2nd August**

*Clive Cox*

Timeform rating (102p) Al Jellaby is clearly held in high regard, having been sent off a short-priced favourite for both of his starts so far this season, in a 17-runner handicap at Ascot and a more sedate affair with just the five runners at Doncaster last time. Having finished second on both occasions, those with burnt fingers may not be keen on rowing in again, but there were plenty of positives to be taken from both of those efforts—the winner last time was second in another red-hot Ascot handicap on Saturday—and he certainly appeals as one who is ahead of his mark. Indeed, he is 3 lb clear on Timeform's weight-adjusted ratings at the five-day stage here, and will prove suited by going beyond a mile for the first time.

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Horse	Next & Last Run	Declaration	Evening Before	Morning of Race	Result	SHOW ALL NOTES
ACAPELLA BOURGEOIS (FR)	LAST: 25 APR 17 PUN					MY NOTES
ALTIOR (IRE)	LAST: 29 APR 17 SAN					MY NOTES
AMERICAN (FR)	LAST: 18 MAR 17 UTT					MY NOTES
BACARDYS (FR)	LAST: 28 APR 17 PUN					MY NOTES
BRIO CONTI (FR)	LAST: 08 APR 17 AIN					MY NOTES
BURTONS WELL (IRE)	LAST: 14 MAR 17 CHL					MY NOTES
BUVEUR D'AIR (FR)	LAST: 08 APR 17 AIN					MY NOTES
CALL ME LORD (FR)	LAST: 29 APR 17 SAN					MY NOTES
CAUSE OF CAUSES (USA)	LAST: 08 APR 17 AIN					MY NOTES
CHARLI PARCS (FR)	LAST: 17 MAR 17 CHL					MY NOTES
COEUR DE LION	NEXT: 14 OCT 17 NMR LAST: 23 MAY 17 NOT					MY NOTES
CONSTANTINE BAY	LAST: 07 APR 17 AIN					MY NOTES
DEFI DU SEUIL (FR)	LAST: 08 APR 17 AIN					MY NOTES
DOUVAN (FR)	LAST: 15 MAR 17 CHL					MY NOTES

FOX NORTON (FR)	LAST: 26 APR 17 PUN					MY NOTES
IF THE CAP FITS (IRE)	LAST: 07 APR 17 AIN					MY NOTES
MICK JAZZ (FR)	LAST: 05 FEB 17 PUN					MY NOTES
MIGHT BITE (IRE)	LAST: 07 APR 17 AIN					MY NOTES
MINELLA AWARDS (IRE)	LAST: 27 APR 17 PUN					MY NOTES
OUR DUKE (IRE)	LAST: 17 APR 17 FRY					MY NOTES
PINGSHOU (IRE)	LAST: 26 APR 17 PUN					MY NOTES
SINGLEFARMPAYMENT	LAST: 14 MAR 17 CHL					MY NOTES
<b>Declaration</b> Valuable handicap chase to be won this season - BetVictor Gold Cup early-season target? Higher grades later?						
<b>Evening Before</b>						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Save Changes
<b>Race Morning</b>						<input type="checkbox"/> Clear Notes
<b>Result</b>						
Your changes have been saved. Last updated: 2017-08-31						
SIZING JOHN	LAST: 26 APR 17 PUN					MY NOTES
THISTLECRACK	LAST: 28 JAN 17 CHL					MY NOTES
UNOWHATIMEANHARRY	LAST: 27 APR 17 PUN					MY NOTES
WILLOUGHBY COURT (IRE)	LAST: 15 MAR 17 CHL					MY NOTES
YANWORTH	LAST: 08 APR 17 AIN					MY NOTES



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