

QIPCO British Champions Day

Saturday 17th October



Racing TVi

British Champions Day - Saturday 17th October

Super mare Magical, ace stayer Stradivarius and Palace Pier – arguably the best turf miler anywhere in the world – are among the headline acts ready to light up the 10th running of QIPCO British Champions Day at Ascot on Saturday.

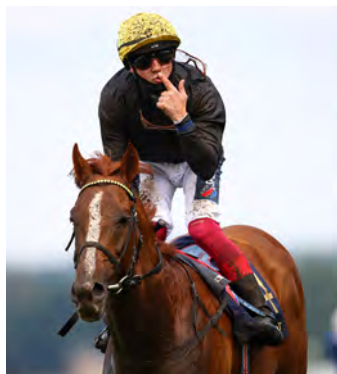
The trio feature among 22 horses who will be in action having already registered a Group 1 victory, including five Classic winners.

In total, 87 runners have been declared for the six races, a joint-record for a prestigious and star-studded day of racing.

1.20pm (BST) QIPCO British Champions Long Distance Cup (Group 2) (3200m)

The world's top-rated stayer, **Stradivarius**, attempts to regain his crown in this race after a shock defeat at the hands of Kew Gardens 12 months ago.

The brilliant six-year-old, bred and owned by Bjorn Nielsen, won the Qatar Goodwood Cup for a record fourth time at Goodwood in July, having landed the Gold Cup at Royal



Ascot for the third time the previous month.

Stradivarius will face an intriguing new rival in the shape of two-time Irish St Leger winner **Search For A Song**. She was impressive when beating Fujaira Prince, the Sky Bet Ebor winner, by two lengths at The Curragh last time and her trainer, Dermot Weld, already has two previous wins in this race in the bag.

The Key Trend

Since the race was first run in 2011, five winners had run in that year's Gold Cup at the Royal Meeting, finishing 13321. Four of the six Irish-trained winners ran in that year's Irish St Leger, finishing 4512.

Trends tip: Stradivarius



Nick Lightfoot's verdict

Click image to play video



Racing TVi 1-2-3:

- 1. Search For A Song**
- 2. Stradivarius**
- 3. Spanish Mission**

1.55pm (BST) QIPCO British Champions Sprint Stakes (Group 1) (1200m)

Runner-up last year, **One Master** attempts to go one better, having since made history by becoming the first triple winner of the Prix de la Foret at Longchamp. She's an admirable mare with conditions in her favour, but her hold-up style always leaves her open to bad-luck stories.

Dream Of Dreams, twice beaten a head in the Diamond Jubilee Stakes at the Royal Meeting, was brilliant when running away with the Hungerford Stakes at Newbury in August and looked in control of the Sprint Cup from some way out at



Haydock last time, when **Glen Shiel** (second), **Art Power** (fourth), **The Tin Man** (sixth), **Lope Y Fernandez** (seventh) and **Brando** (ninth) were all behind.

Dream Of Dreams is unbeaten in two starts when partnered by **Oisin Murphy**, the champion jockey, while another exciting young riding talent, Cieren Fallon, will again be aboard July Cup winner **Oxted**.

The Key Trend

Only one of the past eight winners, Muharaar in 2015, had landed its previous race. Librisa Breeze (2017) and Donjuan Triumphant (2019) had been beaten in all their races that year, while Sands Of Mali (2018) had lost his previous four starts and Gordon Lord Byron (2014) was on a seven-race losing streak.

Trends tip: The Tin Man



Nick Lightfoot's verdict

Click image to play video



Racing TVi 1-2-3:

- 1. Dream Of Dreams**
- 2. One Master**
- 3. Oxted**

British Champions Day - Saturday 17th October

2.30pm (BST) QIPCO British Champions Fillies & Mares Stakes (Group 1) (2400m)

David Menuisier is hoping **Wonderful Tonight** can end his quest for a first Ascot winner in style here. Menuisier is a multiple Group 1-winning trainer but, in his seventh season, a success of any description at Ascot has somehow so far eluded him.



In **Wonderful Tonight**, he appears to have an ideal candidate to put the record straight. The three-year-old filly, who features among a final field of 12 is thriving on her racing and scooped a Group 1 in France on her latest start.

The other Group 1 winner in the line-up is the Ger Lyons-trained **Even So**, who landed the Juddmonte Irish Oaks in impressive style at The Curragh in July when she had the Aidan O'Brien-trained pair of **Passion** (third) and **Laburnum** (fourth) behind.

The Key Trend

Aidan O'Brien and John Gosden have between them landed the past four renewals, but their domination goes further. Last year they were responsible for the 1-2 (separated by a short head) and 12 months before that, the 1-2-3. And in 2017 they were responsible for the first four home among the British and Irish-trained runners.

Trends tip: Frankly Darling



Nick Lightfoot's verdict

Click image to play video



Racing TVi 1-2-3:

- 1. Dame Malliot**
- 2. Frankly Darling**
- 3. Passion**

3.05pm (BST) Queen Elizabeth II Stakes (Group 1) (Sponsored By Qipco) (1600m)



Palace Pier gets the opportunity to cement his standing as the top-rated miler in the world in a cracking renewal of this famous race. Five runs have yielded five wins for the three-year-old Kingman colt, who swept through from off the pace to land the St James's Palace Stakes

at Royal Ascot in June.

Trainer John Gosden is chasing a fifth win in the race. **Palace Pier**, who as usual will be ridden by Frankie Dettori, completed his preparation with a gallop on the Rowley Mile Course at Newmarket.

Gosden is also represented by **Nazeef**, a game winner of the Kingdom Of Bahrain Sun Chariot Stakes at Newmarket this month. **Charm Spirit** (2014) and **Solow** (2015) have been French-trained winners in recent years and **The Revenant**, runner-up to King Of Change last year (when **Veracious** was fourth), will attempt to emulate them.

The Key Trend

Six of the nine winners of the race at Ascot have been three-year-olds and the last three renewals at Newmarket were also won by a three-year-old. Since 2002, only two four-year-olds have prevailed.

Trends tip: Palace Pier



Nick Lightfoot's verdict

Click image to play video



Racing TVi 1-2-3:

- 1. Palace Pier**
- 2. Molatham**
- 3. Nazeef**

British Champions Day - Saturday 17th October

3.40pm (BST) QIPCO Champion Stakes (2400m)



The Aidan O'Brien-trained **Magical** has already accumulated seven Group 1 victories and will become the first horse to achieve three wins on QIPCO British Champions Day if she can retain her QIPCO Champion Stakes crown here.

The contest promises much, with six of **Magical**'s rivals also being Group 1 winners and seven of the field boasting an official rating of 119 or higher. She will be joined in the line-up by star stablemates **Serpentine**, this year's runaway Investec Derby winner, plus last year's Juddmonte International winner **Japan**.

The Key Trend

This is a great race for market-leaders - the favourite has won for the past four years. And overall, since the race was moved to Ascot in 2011, the record of the market leader has read 2125311111.

Trends tip: Magical

Addeybb will attempt to go one better than 12 months ago and, like **Magical**, has already enjoyed a fabulous year, chalking up two Group 1 victories in Australia. John Gosden has two leading contenders in **Mishriff** and **Lord North**.



Nick Lightfoot's verdict
Click image to play video



4.15pm (BST) Balmoral Handicap (1600m)



For the past three years, the winner of this always fiercely-competitive mile handicap has swept through from a long way off the pace. As in the Sprint, it seems likely the runners will end up crowding on the far rail so a low draw may be of some benefit.

David O'Meara has saddled the winner twice plus had two places in the past four years, so his runners are all worth close inspection, even if they look handicapped up to their best.

The same cannot be said for **Raeq**, a three-year-old Kingman colt held in high esteem by Brian Meehan. He was having only his fifth start when romping home in a 7f handicap at the start of the month and, raised 11lb (5kg) in the weights, is well-in here running under just a 6lb (2.7kg) penalty.

The Key Trend

It's notable that 20 three-year-olds have run in the Balmoral and none have won. In addition, a dozen horses have run carrying a weight penalty - four of them starting at 6-1 or shorter - and the closest any of them have finished is third.

Trends tip: Kynren



Nick Lightfoot's verdict
Click image to play video



Your guide to some of the big-name jockeys taking part on *QIPCO British Champions Day*



ANDREA ATZENI

2020 Ascot Strike Rate: 11%

Age: 29

Season Winners: 65

Champion Jockey Titles: 0

British Champions Series Winners: 11

British Champions Day Winners: 2

Best chance - Fujaira Prince (1.20)



WILLIAM BUICK

2020 Ascot Strike Rate: 6%

Age: 32

Season Winners: 100

Champion Jockey Titles: 0

British Champions Series Winners: 23

British Champions Day Winners: 0

Best chance - Wonderful Tonight (2.30)



JIM CROWLEY

2020 Ascot Strike Rate: 26%

Age: 34

Season Winners: 72

Champion Jockey Titles: 1

British Champions Series Winners: 13

British Champions Day Winners: 1

Best chance - Raaeq (4.15)



FRANKIE DETTORI

2020 Ascot Strike Rate: 23%

Age: 49

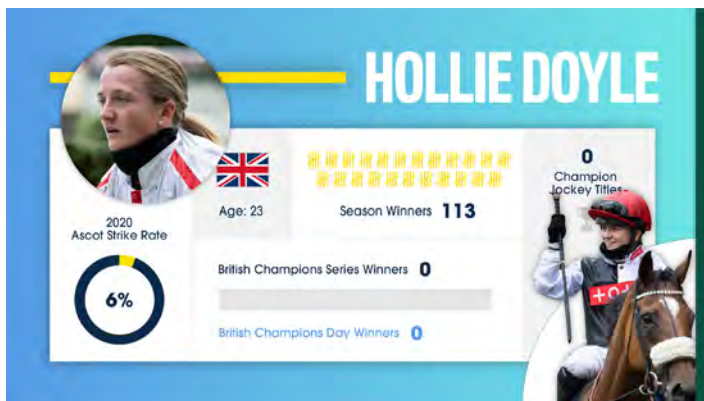
Season Winners: 38

Champion Jockey Titles: 3

British Champions Series Winners: 46

British Champions Day Winners: 7

Best chance - Palace Pier (3.05)



HOLLIE DOYLE

2020 Ascot Strike Rate: 6%

Age: 23

Season Winners: 113

Champion Jockey Titles: 0

British Champions Series Winners: 0

British Champions Day Winners: 0

Best chance - Dame Malliot (2.30)



TOM MARQUAND

2020 Ascot Strike Rate: 8%

Age: 21

Season Winners: 103

Champion Jockey Titles: 0

British Champions Series Winners: 1

British Champions Day Winners: 0

Best chance - Starman (1.55)



RYAN MOORE

2020 Ascot Strike Rate: 10%

Age: 37

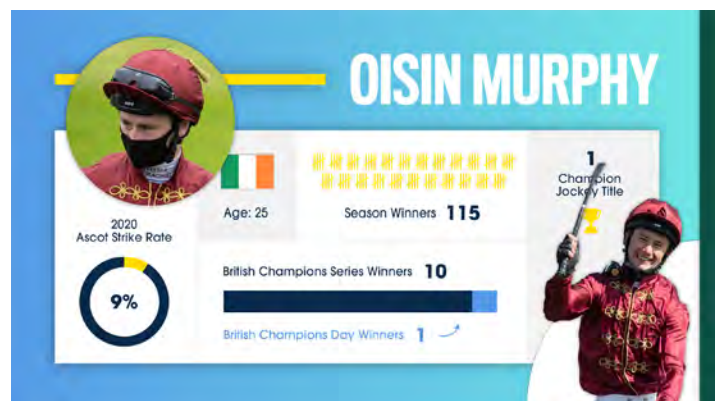
Season Winners: 61

Champion Jockey Titles: 3

British Champions Series Winners: 49

British Champions Day Winners: 4

Best chance - Magical (3.40)



OISIN MURPHY

2020 Ascot Strike Rate: 9%

Age: 25

Season Winners: 115

Champion Jockey Titles: 1

British Champions Series Winners: 10

British Champions Day Winners: 1

Best chance - Dream Of Dreams (1.55)

+o+e

It's not all about the winner.

£1m+ Trifecta, Quinella and
Swinger World Pools in every
race on British Champions Day

The average
Trifecta
dividend last
year paid
£3269.60 to
a £1 stake

