

## GLORIOUS GOODWOOD

### RACE 1

In the last 6 years there have been 10 handicaps of this type run over this particular CD and 9 of those races have been won by 3-year olds, so that gives us a pretty good starting point. Once we dig a little deeper, we see that all 9 winners had an OR of between 81 and 90 and had an SP of 12/1 or less which effectively leaves us with 4 potential runners in the shape of, **ANGEL POWER, TOMORROWS DREAM, VIVIDLY and DECLARED INTEREST** (ALABAMA WHITMAN ruled out on the basis of likely SP).

**ANGEL POWER (90)** – This filly is trained by Roger Varian and has 1 win from her 3 career starts. Her debut came in a novice race at Newmarket which has thrown up a handful of winners around the C4 level. Her next race came at Chelmsford and it was this performance which ultimately will have led to her handicap mark. She won comfortably pulling away from **PERFECT INCH** in second and **AWARD SCHEME** in third. That form has a very solid look to it as **PERFECT INCH** is well regarded by her connections and **AWARD SCHEME** bolted up off a mark of 87 at the weekend. The fillies final race came at Haydock last month where she finished 2<sup>nd</sup> (beaten a neck) in a class 3 handicap.

**TOMORROW'S DREAM (84)** – This filly is trained by William Haggas and so far, has 2 wins from her 5 career starts. I am pretty familiar with this horse because she has featured on the CS on her last two starts and my personal view is that the mark of 84 may underestimate her. If we go back to her debut run when she finished 5<sup>th</sup> at Newcastle, 3 of the horses in front of her that day are now rated in the mid 90's. She was well backed last time out off her revised mark when finishing just behind **FESTIVE STAR** at Newbury.

**VIVIDLY (84)** – This filly is trained by Charlie Hills and so far, has 1 win from 4 career starts. As with a lot of Charlie's horses, he gave this filly a baptism of fire following her maiden win at Goodwood when he chucked her into a G3 at Newmarket. She was very well beaten that day, but the performance may have been taken into account by the handicapper when he elected to award her an opening mark of 84 which didn't appear to be overly harsh given, she is a Class 2 maiden winner and is bred to be precocious. Her seasonal reappearance at Ascot was filled with promise and I know that Charlie loves to have winners at this meeting, but I am still not convinced that this horse wants a mile, but she may get away with it at this track.

**DECLARED INTEREST (83)** – This filly is trained by Ralph Beckett and has 1 career win from her 5 starts to date. Overall, her form has a pretty solid look to it and she certainly wasn't disgraced on her two outings at Ascot earlier this season. Her mark of 83 looks fair and while I don't think she has as much in hand as some of her rivals, it would be foolish to dismiss her completely.

### Conclusion

This is a competitive contest to kick off Glorious Goodwood and it's very difficult to split the horses towards the head of the market. Ultimately, the horse with the best form in the book is **ANGEL POWER** and I would expect SDS to make good use of her in a race where most of the speed is drawn wide. If he can get a good position early and if the horse handles the downhill run, I would expect her to go very close, but I also wouldn't put anyone off backing the likes of **TOMORROW'S DREAM** or **VIVIDLY** either

Selection – **ANGEL POWER** ★★★

Next Best – **VIVIDLY** ★★

## RACE 2

This is an ultra-competitive, middle-distance handicap and the task of narrowing the field is not an easy one. However, since 2002, all of the winners of this contest have been aged between 4 and 5; have had an Official Rating of 90+; and have previously won over 1m 1f or further. If we are to stick purely to trends, that would leave us with a reduced field of 10 runners. The issue however is that this is not a normal year and trends for race like this may well go out of the window altogether but as I don't have the time or desire to review this race horse by horse, we will stick with the trends and see where we end up.

So, using the basic criteria above we now have a filtered field of 10 horses (**DEREVO, CAPE CAVALLI, FIFTH POSITION, TANANDALI, ALTERNATIVE FACT, YURI GAGARIN, WALKINTHESAND, BABBOS BAY, SKY DEFENDER and LAWN RANGER**). In order to try and filter the field further, I reduce the time period for the trends in order to reduce the sample size. Having placed the cut off at 2012, I then found that 7 of the last 8 winners have been geldings and that none of them had previously won at the track. So, having amended the filters the field now reduces to just 5 (**FIFTH POSITION, TINANDALI, ALTERNATIVE FACT, YURI GAGARIN and BABBOS BOY**).

At this point in proceedings you really can't take the trends angle much further without backing fitting the stats, but we can make some pretty quick informed judgements. The first judgement is to remove **YURI GAGARIN** on the basis that he probably lacks the experience required to win a handicap of this type. The second judgement is to remove **BABBOS BOY** on the basis of price alone. We now have a shortlist of just 3 and if I were to be having a bet in this race (I definitely won't be), I'd be looking to play all 3 in the knowledge that if one wins, I land a profit.

### Conclusion

This is not a race I will be getting overly excited about and I certainly won't be having a bet. The key trends point heavily towards a handful of horses but as I mentioned at the top of this review, this could well prove to be a meeting where prior stats count for very little.

Selection – **FIFTH POSITION ★★**

Next Best – **TINANDALI ★★**

### RACE 3

This is the first graded contest of the meeting and it is a Group 3 for the 2-year olds to be run over 7 furlongs. This would not usually be a race to go digging for key trends and stats. The past list of winners of this contest is pretty impressive and the biggest hint to finding a winner is approaching it safe in the knowledge that you need to be precocious, talented and speedy to win here. Again, this is not a contest I would be having a bet in, but I will run through a couple of the key protagonists.

**BATTLEGROUND** - This Aiden O'Brien trained colt is the current favourite for the race following his pretty bloodless victory in the Chesham. My personal opinion is that the Chesham this year was well below average and while I don't want to take anything away from this horse as I am sure he is a nice type, but I wouldn't be jumping up down to back him at 11/8.

**DEVIOUS COMPANY** – This colt is trained by Tom Dascombe and has 2 wins to his name from his 3 career starts. There is a lot to like about this horse, he has a great attitude and plenty of early speed which can be deadly at Goodwood if utilised correctly. If I was being hyper critical, or trying to pick holes in the profile, he's simply not bred to win a race such as this as he doesn't scream future G1 winner to me.

**YOUTH SPIRIT** – This colt is trained by Andrew Balding and showed the benefit of his race course debut when winning on his second career start at Newmarket. I was impressed by the way he got the job done that day and I think that form will prove to be really strong. He was only beaten a length and a bit by DEVIOUS COMPANY on debut and I think he will have a strong chance of at least reversing that from today.

### Conclusion

These juvenile contests are always a bit of a lottery as you never really know how far down the line the individual horses are in terms of their progression. Given his connections it's safe to assume that there is more to come from **BATTLEGROUND** and I wouldn't be at all surprised to see him win but I think the value lies with **YOUTH SPIRIT** who may I think has plenty of scope for improvement.

Selection – **YOUTH SPIRIT** ★★★

Next Best – **BATTLEGROUND** ★★

#### RACE 4

This is the Group 2 Lennox Stakes to be run over 7 furlongs and on paper it promises to be a fantastic race. The first thing to note about this contest is that the draw has played a pretty big part over the years. This race has been run 17 times since 2000 on ground described as good or good to firm and 11 winners during that time have come from stalls 1-5. As far as this review is concerned, I am just going to give a few thoughts on some of the most likely winners.

**SPACE BLUES** - This four-year-old colt is a real superstar in the making. He has always been held in high regard by his connections and his run at Haydock the last day was mightily impressive given that he was expected to need that run. My only worry for the horse today is the draw but he's usually held up anyway and I am sure his two stablemates together with **MARIES DIAMOND** will ensure that they go a strong early gallop. There is no doubt that he is the horse to beat but there will be no margin for error for Buick here.

**SAFE VOYAGE** – This seven-year-old gelding is as tough as they come, he has talent in abundance and on his day can mix it with the very best seven-furlong horses around. He comes into this race on the back of a win at Epsom where he broke the course record and with a really good draw, he will have every chance of reversing past form with **SPACE BLUES**.

**SIR DANCELOT** – This gelding has seemingly been around forever, and he's be a remarkable horse for his connections. The particular CD really plays to his strengths and like **SPACE BLUES** he may well benefit from the early speed duel as he's at his best coming from off a true gallop. If this race does end up falling into the lap of a hold up horse, he will be bang there at the finish, it is just questionable whether he will have the same turn of foot as the favourite given the miles he already has on the clock.

#### Conclusion

For me this is the race of the day and it is a truly fascinating contest. There is no escaping the fact that **SPACE BLUES** has a very poor draw, but I do feel they will go fast enough, early enough that Buick may get a perfect tow into the race and if that's the case he will get the win. If, however Frankie and James Doyle don't choose to assist their stable mate and this turns into a lone speed contest via **MARIES DIAMOND** then I think **SAFE VOYAGE** gets first run on the favourite and won't be caught. Either way, this is a race to hold off backing the favourite now and look to take a price in the run once the race begins to unfold as more than likely he will trade a few points bigger than SP.

Selection – **SPACE BLUES** ★★★★★

Next Best – **SIR DANCELOT** ★★

### RACE 5

The big race of the day is the Goodwood Cup and the show down between **STRADIVARIUS** and **SANTIAGO**. A lot has been made over the last few days about **STRADIVARIUS** having to give away 15lb to his younger rival and whether or not it will be sufficient to get the superstar beaten so I thought I would take a look at the stats.

Since 2002, nineteen horses have run in G1 contests over a distance of 10 furlongs+, carrying a weight 10-15lbs lower than the average weight carried and eight of those horses went onto win. The list of winners is mightily impressive, we have **ENABLE, STRADIVARIUS himself, MINDING, TAGHROODA, NATHANIEL, SEARCH FOR A SONG and ORDER OF ST GEORGE**. That record in itself may give supporters of **SANTIAGO** hope BUT if you were to line those horses up based solely on their form at 2/3 then **SANTIAGO** would probably be right at the bottom of the line-up. Furthermore, **AUTHORISED** (his sire) is not a produced of top-class talent, in fact he's only sired 5 Group winners in the UK in the last 9 years.

### Conclusion

There is no doubt that **SANTIAGO** is good horse with a bright future and maybe on day he will be winning these staying races for fun as the division doesn't exactly have a lot of strength in depth but as it stands John Gosden has one of the best staying performers in recent memory and while weight can stop a train, I certainly don't think it will stop **STRADIVARIUS** from landing his 7<sup>th</sup> Grade 1 today.

Selection – **STRADIVARIUS** ★★★★★

### RACE 6

Our next race is a 5-furlong handicap and we have a smaller field than usual for this contest with only 11 runners going to post. These competitive sprint handicaps are always trappy and a lot depends on the early speed, the draw and the jockey especially around a track like Goodwood. Looking at the pace profile for this race we quickly see that there is an abundance of early speed and I would expect the first few sectors at least to be run at a blistering pace. With that in mind, we are probably looking for a horse that stays a little further than this trip and the bookies obviously agrees as we currently have **CELSIUS and RECON MISSION** at the head of the market. Now while I can see the merits in both of those horses, I would argue that both are now too short in the market to be of any major interest.

### Conclusion

This is one of those races where the bookies have the market spot on at the head of affairs and whilst the two most likely winners are sat 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> I think it is worth seeking a little bit of eachway in the shape of either **ORNATE or BENNY AND THE JETS**. That being said, I wouldn't put anyone off having a play on either **CELSIUS or RECON MISSION** as their form is there for all to see.

Selection – **ORNATE** ★★

Next Best – **RECON MISSION** ★★

## RACE 7

Our next race is a Class 2 Maiden to be run over 6f ad we have a few key trends here to assist us. Firstly, since 1997, 109 newcomers have tried to win this race and only 4 have succeeded. While the overall record of newcomers in this race isn't great, it has improved in recent years with 3 of the last 6 renewals being won by debutants and we have a very well backed newcomer in today's contest in the shape of RIFFAA WONDER. In an attempt to find the winner, I have reviewed a couple of the key runners below.

**ALKUMAIT** – This colt is the obvious starting point in this race. He has run under his belt, has a lovely pedigree and qualifies from one of my key systems (he's on the CS). His debut came in a decent contest at Newbury where he was held up against a speed bias. That experience will no doubt have been needed and he's a very worthy favourite in my opinion.

**RIFFAA WONDER** – This Richard Hannon trained newcomer was purchased for 100K and has a textbook sprinting pedigree. He's a Kodiak out of a Pivotal mare which is a well-established bloodline combination although Richard Hannon hasn't had much joy with it in the past. Kodiak's offspring always have plenty of early dash and RIFFAA WONDER is definitely drawn to attack from the 1 stall. My only worry would be that he may show some greenness and a tendency to pull and that may well spoil his chances.

**TAWLEED** – This John Gosden colt is the Hamdan second string on jockey bookings. He does however have a very interesting pedigree being out of Exceed and Excel and Elusive Quality. Off all the horses in today's line-up this is the colt that is really bred to be precocious and while he may end up needing the run today, he will no doubt be a horse to follow moving forward.

### Conclusion

This is obviously a tight contest and the money for the Hannon horse does make life difficult as their newcomers are always to be feared when the money is down. On paper the horse would have a solid chance but if I were to ignore the market, there is no doubt in my mind that **ALKUMAIT** is the horse to beat and that his biggest danger will be the owners second string, **TAWLEED**. Ultimately, the market is going to tell the story here and whichever horse is strongest at the off will probably end up winning nicely.

Selection – **ALKUMAIT** ★★★

Next Best – **TAWLEED** ★★

## RACE 8

The final race of day one is a Class 3 fillies handicap to be run over 12 Furlongs. I would have loved to go shopping for some value in this contest, but the fact is that the winner is more than likely going to come from one of the horses in the first 4 in the market (**ASIAAF, TULIP FIELDS, DANCING APPROACH and AU CLAIR DE LUNE**). Those four horses fit bill in almost every respect and should fight out the finish but it is very difficult to pick just one of them out as the potential winner.

**ASIAAF** – This filly is one of two selections on the CS today. Her form overall has a pretty solid look to it without being outstanding and I think her mark is probably about right at this point in her career. She did previously beat AU CLAIR DE LUNE on her debut, but I wouldn't give much weight to that form. While she may well prove to be good enough to win this, she is short enough in the betting.

**TULIP FIELDS** – This filly is the other horse to feature on the today's CS. She is more exposed than most of her rivals but knows how to win and will be given a prominent ride by Fanning. My personal feeling is that she may come up short here, but you can never really be sure when one of Mark's horses are going to find improvement.

**DANCING APPROACH** – This filly comes into this race seeking a hattrick and there is no doubt that she is progressive. She has taken a big hike up the weights in recent times and this field is much stronger than the ones she's beaten on her last two runs, but she is another that holds a valid claim here.

**AU CLAIR DE LUNE** – On paper this horse looks a little underwhelming, but she's very highly thought of by her connections and although there hasn't been an abundance of winners coming from her prior races, she's always shown a significant degree of promise. Like a few of these she now needs to prove that she is well handicapped, but I think she's capable of winning a race like this when everything falls right for her.

### Conclusion

The market here suggests we are looking at a tight field with no standout horse and I would agree with their assessment. I don't think we have anything in this contest with a massive amount in hand and therefore the contest will probably go to the filly that gets the best ride, the best trip and a clean finish. Unfortunately, I couldn't persuade Mystic Meg to come out of retirement to help me fill in the blanks so for the time being this would be a race to be wary of in my opinion.

**Selection – AU CLAIR DE LUNE ★★**

**Next Best – ASIAAF ★★**