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WORLDWIDE 

2018 Royal Ascot Insider Guide



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WatchandWager's 2018 Royal Ascot Insider Guide

Welcome to your exclusive Royal Ascot Insider's Guide for 2018.

Five days of superb international racing await racegoers and viewers around the world. With the first post time each day being at 9:30 a.m. ET and the last at 12:30 p.m. ET -- what better to enjoy all the best international turf horse racing on a quiet week for USA racing after the Belmont Stakes?

Remember our fantastic Price Booster on USA-trained winners: yes, we will pay 2 POINTS BETTER than the Tote Win return on all USA-trained winners (see later in the Guide for all details - sorry available to USA based clients only.) Also you can watch all races on www.watchandwager.com.

Meeting Overview

The Ascot Authority should once again be congratulated for luring some of the top-grade international runners from the USA, Japan, Hong Kong and Australia, not to mention of course Ireland and France closer to home. The home defense will need to be at the top of the game. Whilst prize money maybe higher in other jurisdictions, the lure of winning at the Royal Meeting remains undiminished.

Meeting Hints

With five days of racing and 30 races, advance projections may be difficult with running plans still yet to be decided. There is an uncharacteristically dry forecast for Ascot, which should produce ideal running conditions for the turf specialists. The track in itself is unique in nature and draw bias can become a factor as the meeting goes on. Do remember that our live streaming at www.watchandwager.com (supplied by local experts at GBI Racing) will provide up-to-date insight into local conditions to aid your handicapping.

The Guide

Exclusive USA preview-- our expert team based in Lexington, Kentucky, provide an insight into projected runners from the USA. The team has been on great form through the Triple Crown and provide a unique insight into all the likely USA raiders, including the return of Lady Aurelia and all of the formidable Wesley Ward runners, who has a great record at the Meeting.

Enjoy Royal Ascot from the Team at WatchandWager.

Ed Comins

President

WatchandWager.com LLC

Schedule of Races

(ALL TIMES EASTERN DAYLIGHT TIME)



Tuesday, June 19th

Time	Race	Age	Purse	Distance
9:30 a.m.	The Queen Anne Stakes (Group 1)	4+	£647,500	One mile
10:05 a.m.	The Coventry Stakes (Group 2)	2	£150,000	Six furlongs
10:40 a.m.	The King's Stand Stakes (Group 1)	3+	£538,750	Five furlongs
11:20 a.m.	The St James's Palace Stakes (Group 1)	3 colts	£538,750	Old mile
12:00 p.m.	The Ascot Stakes (Handicap)	4+	£90,000	Two-and-a-half miles
12:35 p.m.	The Wolferton Stakes (Listed)	4+	£100,000	A mile-and-a-quarter

Wednesday, June 20th

Time	Race	Age	Purse	Distance
9:30 a.m.	The Queen Mary Stakes (Group 2)	2 fillies	£110,000	Five furlongs
10:05 a.m.	The Queen's Vase (Group 2)	3	£200,000	One-and-three-quarter miles
10:40 a.m.	The Duke of Cambridge Stakes (Group 2)	4+ Fillies & Mares	£188,250	One mile
11:20 a.m.	The Prince of Wales's Stakes (Group 1)	4+	£750,000	A mile-and-a-quarter
12:00 p.m.	The Royal Hunt Cup (Heritage Handicap)	3+	£175,000	One mile

Wednesday, June 20th

Time	Race	Age	Purse	Distance
12:35 p.m.	The Jersey Stakes (Group 3)	3	£90,000	Seven furlongs

Thursday, June 21st

Time	Race	Age	Purse	Distance
9:30 a.m.	The Norfolk Stakes (Group 2)	2	£100,000	Five furlongs
10:05 a.m.	The Hampton Court Stakes (Group 3)	3	£90,000	A mile-and-a-quarter
10:40 a.m.	The Ribblesdale Stakes (Group 2)	3 Fillies	£200,000	One-and-a-half miles
11:20 a.m.	The Gold Cup (Group 1)	4+	£500,000	Two-and-a-half miles
12:00 p.m.	The Britannia Stakes (Heritage Handicap)	3 Colts & Geldings	£120,000	One mile
12:35 p.m.	The King George V Stakes (Handicap)	3	£90,000	One-and-a-half miles

Friday, June 22nd

Time	Race	Age	Purse	Distance
9:30 a.m.	The Albany Stakes (Group 3)	2	£90,000	Six furlongs
10:05 a.m.	The King Edward VII Stakes (Group 2)	3	£225,000	One-and-a-half miles
10:40 a.m.	The Commonwealth Cup (Group 1)	3	£500,000	Six furlongs
11:20 a.m.	The Coronation Stakes (Group 1)	3	£583,750	Old mile
12:00 p.m.	The Sandringham Stakes (Handicap)	3	£90,000	One mile
12:35 p.m.	The Duke of Edinburgh Stakes (Handicap)	3+	£90,000	One-and-a-half-miles

Saturday, June 23rd

Time	Race	Age	Purse	Distance
9:30 a.m.	The Chesham Stakes (Listed)	2	£90,000	Seven furlongs
10:05 a.m.	The Hardwicke Stakes (Group 2)	4+	£225,000	One-and-a-half miles
10:40 a.m.	The Windsor Castle Stakes (Listed)	2	£90,000	Five furlongs
11:20 a.m.	The Diamond Jubilee Stakes (Group 1)	4+	£600,000	Six furlongs
12:00 p.m.	The Workingham Stakes (Heritage Handicap)	3+	£175,000	Six furlongs
12:35 p.m.	The Queen Alexandra Stakes (Conditions)	4+	£90,000	Two miles, five-and-a-half furlongs

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TUESDAY, JUNE 19TH-
SATURDAY, JUNE 23RD

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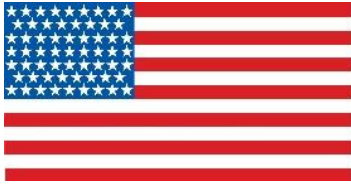
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The American Challengers

BOUND FOR NOWHERE:

Projected race: Diamond Jubilee Stakes, Saturday, June 23rd, 11:20 a.m. ET / 8:20 a.m. PT

A son of The Factor out of the Alydeed mare Fancy Deed, Bound For Nowhere is making his second appearance at Royal Ascot after last year's fourth place finish in the Group 1 Commonwealth Cup. He is undefeated in two starts as a 3-year-old, with a four-length win over Buccherio in the five-and-a-half furlong, Grade 2 Shakertown Stakes at Keeneland on April 7. We're hoping that the Shakertown was a tune-up because the Diamond Jubilee is a jump in class and a longer distance.

BUCCHERO:

Projected race: King's Stand Stakes, Tuesday, June 19th, 10:40 a.m. ET / 7:40 a.m. PT

Tim Glyshaw is swinging for the fences with this Indiana-bred son of Kantharos out of the General Meeting mare Meetmeontime. He won four races in 2017, including the five-and-a-half furlong, Grade 2 Woodford Stakes at Keeneland on Oct. 7. Buccherio battled for position in the five furlong, Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint, but had to settle for fourth behind Stormy Liberal, Richard's Boy, and Disco Partner. Buccherio has been filling spots underneath the exacta and trifecta in 2018; however, he has not returned to the winner's circle to date.

CHELSEA CLOISTERS:

Projected race: Queen Mary Stakes, Wednesday, June 20th, 9:30 a.m. ET / 6:30 a.m. PT

Wesley Ward brings this 2-year-old daughter of First Samurai out of the Pulpit mare Postulant to Royal Ascot off an eight-length score in a four-and-a-half furlong maiden special weight race at Keeneland on April 19. She is hard not to like considering that Ward is a specialist with 2-year-olds, and she impressively handled a field of well-meant juveniles in her debut. Chelsea Cloisters seems like one that could jump in and steal a win from her less-seasoned European rivals.

GIDU (IRE):

Projected race: Commonwealth Cup, Friday, June 22nd, 10:40 a.m. ET / 7:40 a.m. PT

Representing the Todd A. Pletcher barn at Royal Ascot is Gidu, an Irish-bred son of Frankel (GB) out of the Unbridled's Song mare Manerbe. Although he has three wins from five starts, two of his stakes wins came against black type company in the Columbia Stakes at Tampa Bay Downs and the Paradise Creek Stakes at Belmont Park. Gidu just missed by a head in the mile-long, Grade 3 Dania Beach Stakes at Gulfstream Park on Feb. 3. While that was his first start of the year, we would hope that Gidu would have had enough to overcome Grade 3 company. The Group 1 Commonwealth Cup will be a challenge.

HEMP HEMP HURRAY (ON):

Projected race: Jersey Stakes, Wednesday, June 20th, 12:35 a.m. ET / 9:35 a.m. PT

Last seen in the six-and-a-half furlong, \$50,000 Animal Kingdom Stakes (Black Type) at Turfway Park on March 31, Hemp Hemp Hurray blew away the competition by nearly 12 lengths over the all-weather surface. While he might not be the classiest horse in the American string, his appearance in the Jersey Stakes (Listed) might be the right spot for him.

LADY AURELIA:

Projected race: King's Stand Stakes, Tuesday, June 19th, 10:40 a.m. ET / 7:40 a.m. PT

The defending champion of the Group 1 King's Stand Stakes, Lady Aurelia powered her way home in the final furlong in an impressive performance for the star-spangled runners. The daughter of Scat Daddy out of the Forest Wildcat mare D' Wildcat Speed was second in the Group 1 Coolmore Nunthorpe at York in August before fading to an off-the-board finish in the Grade 1 Breeders' Cup Turf Sprint. Lady Aurelia could not hold the lead in the five-and-a-half furlong, \$100,000 Giant's Causeway Stakes on April 14. She was the solid winner of the Giant's Causeway when she used it a prep for last year's King's Stand Stakes, so Lady Aurelia may still be in the process of working her way back to her previous form.

MOONLIGHT ROMANCE:

Projected race: Windsor Castle Stakes, Saturday, June 23rd, 10:40 a.m. ET / 7:40 a.m. PT

Moonlight Romance is another juvenile from the barn of Wesley Ward. The daughter of Liaison out of the Malibu Moon mare Envious Moon ran second in her debut to Shang Shang Shang and then graduated to winner-status in a five-furlong maiden special weight at Belmont Park on May 24. She drew away to win by five-and-a-half lengths, so it's not a stretch to see her be competitive in the Windsor Castle Stakes (Listed)

SHANG SHANG SHANG:

Projected race: Norfolk Stakes, Thursday, June 21st, 9:30 a.m. ET / 6:30 a.m. PT

Representing the Sunshine State at Royal Ascot is Florida-bred Shang Shang Shang, the daughter of Shanghai Bobby out of the Yankee Victor mare Yankee Victoria. Bred by Kris Del Giudice, Shang Shang Shang won in her only appearance at the track, the four-and-a-half furlong maiden special weight over the dirt at Keeneland on April 26. Shang Shang Shang won that race by two-and-a-quarter lengths in a wire-to-wire effort in 51.03. The Group 2 Norfolk Stakes might be a bit of a reach for her, especially with the change in surface and the jump in class.

STILLWATER COVE:

Projected race: Albany Stakes, Friday, June 22nd, 9:30 a.m. ET / 6:30 a.m. PT

A 2-year-old daughter of Quality Road out of the Broken Vow mare Celibataire, Stillwater Cove won her debut in a four-and-a-half furlong maiden special weight race at Keeneland on April 8. Trained by Wesley Ward, Stillwater Cove was ahead by five lengths early in that contest but had to fight to hold on by a nose over 25-1 longshot Giro Kate in 53.03. Stillwater Cove will need to bring more than that to the table if she wants to win the Albany Stakes.

YOSHIDA (JPN):

Projected race: Queen Anne Stakes, Tuesday, June 19th, 9:30 a.m. ET / 6:30 a.m. PT

Japanese in breeding but trained-and-raced in the United States, Yoshida is coming into the Group 1 Queen Anne Stakes off a win in the mile-and-an-eighth, Grade 1 Old Forrester Turf Classic on the Kentucky Derby undercard. It was Yoshida's only start in 2018, showing that the son of Heart's Cry (JPN) out of the Canadian Frontier mare Hilda's Passion can run a top race off a layoff. Trainer Bill Mott is looking to join Wesley Ward and Mark Casse as the only American trainers to win at Royal Ascot.