

# 100 WINNERS

**HORSES TO FOLLOW – FLAT 2016**



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## Horses To Follow – Flat 2016

### **ABDON**

*3 b c Cacique – Kinnaird (Dr Devious)*

Related to four useful winners, most notably the dual Group winner Berkshire, Abdon got his career off to a perfect start when getting up at Newbury over 1m on soft ground last August. The colt was sent off seemingly unfancied at 12-1 and overcame a slow start, plus distinct greenness to win. Trainer Sir Michael Stoute usually brings his juveniles on slowly and put him away afterwards for a three-year-old campaign that promises plenty. He should relish stepping up to at least 1m2f and should cope with a quicker surface on breeding. SIR MICHAEL STOUTE

### **ALGOMETER**

*3 gr c Archipenko – Albanova (Alzao)*

A son of a triple Group 1 winner, Algometer got off the mark on his second outing, taking a one mile Newbury maiden in the manner of a real stayer. He had shown plenty of promise on his Goodwood debut, despite running green, and displayed the benefit of that experience at the Berkshire venue. His trainer views him as a real galloper and we can expect to see him racing at 1m4f plus this season. He seems unlikely to be suited by fast ground and so might prove to be a spring and autumn horse, unless racing on the continent. The St Leger could be a feasible target if he makes sufficient progress. DAVID SIMCOCK

### **ALJAZZI**

*3 b f Shamardal – Nouriya (Danehill Dancer)*

Nouriya was a dual 1m2f Listed winner for Sir Michael

Stoute and her first foal promises to be at least as good. Racing in the same colours as her dam – the ‘Authorized silks’ – for owners Saleh Al Homaizi & Imad Al Sagar, Aljazzi won a 7f Newmarket maiden by four and a half lengths on her only juvenile start. Marco Botti commented afterwards: “We always thought she was a nice filly but to win like that on this ground [soft] was pretty impressive. She’ll make a lovely three-year-old.” The form was franked when the fourth, beaten six lengths, won a Kempton maiden next time. This filly should start off in a Guineas trial. MARCO BOTTI

### **AMBRIEL (IRE)**

*3 gr f Dark Angel – Skehana (Mukaddamah)*

Michael Dods has long been a fan of Dark Angel’s progeny, even more so now after the exploits of stable star Mecca’s Angel (also in this book.) This filly cost 32,000gns as a yearling and is already looking well bought. After showing ability on her first two starts, she stepped up her game to open her account in an extended seven furlong maiden at Ayr’s Gold Cup meeting in September. Nicely supported, she travelled strongly throughout and came clear to score in decisive fashion, recording a RPR of 81 in the process. She should do even better at three and will no doubt start off in handicap company at around a mile. MICHAEL DODS

### **ANDASTRA (GER)**

*3 b f Kamsin – Arpista (Chief Singer)*

The word was out before this filly made her debut in a back-end Nottingham maiden, as she was well backed into joint-favouritism. She knew her job as well, breaking fast and making every yard in a time of 1m 45.89s, which was 3.6 seconds quicker than the second division of the race. A sister to a German 1m3f Listed winner, she is bred to appreciate a step up to middle distances this year, and will no doubt be given a chance to prove

her Oaks credentials in a trial in the spring. Her trainer has won the Oaks twice in the last eight years, so he knows what's required. Whether she quite reaches that level or not, she looks a promising type for Pattern races.  
RALPH BECKETT

### **APPLETON**

*3 ch c Showcasing – Valentina Guest (Be My Guest)*

Out of a stoutly-bred mare, this 73,000gns yearling purchase was off the mark at the first attempt, taking a five furlong maiden at Pontefract in August, going away at the line. On his only subsequent start he finished a creditable ninth of 22 behind his stablemate Mr Lupton in a very valuable sales race at Doncaster's St Leger meeting in September, where he was not done any favours by the draw. The experience he gained that day will not be lost on him and he starts 2016 as relatively unexposed. RICHARD FAHEY

### **ARCANADA (IRE)**

*3 ch g Arcano – Bond Deal (Pivotal)*

A fine, big sort, Arcanada showed a useful level of ability in a light juvenile campaign, notably when winning a 7f Chester maiden on his second start before finishing fourth in a York nursery over the same trip. He has since been gelded and there should be plenty more to come, so he can exploit an official mark of 85. TOM DASCOMBE

### **ARCHIMENTO**

*3 ch c Archipenko – Caribana (Hernando)*

Archimento had his only run at two in a back-end Leicester maiden, and shaped with plenty of promise considering he was green. Staying on from last place to take third, that experience will have done him plenty of good, and he has the potential to develop into a useful middle-distance handicapper. His sire Archipenko has a good record with his runners on the AW, and his dam's

only win came on Polytrack, so he'd be an interesting proposition on synthetics, but he should also be suited by soft turf (he's a half-brother to Cubanita, who won the Group 3 St Simon Stakes in heavy ground.) ED  
DUNLOP

### **ARCHITECTURE (IRE)**

*3 b f Zoffany – Brigayev (Fasliyev)*

Hugo Palmer enjoyed a memorable 2015 and this filly could well play her part in a lucrative 2016 for the stable. Having shown distinct promise on her debut when third of ten in a 1m soft-ground maiden at Haydock in September, Architecture stepped forward from that to defeat 16 rivals over a similar trip on easy ground at Nottingham the following month, winning in the style of a filly with plenty more to offer. Her pedigree suggests that a mile is likely to remain her optimum trip and, although she holds no big-race entries at this stage, it will be a surprise if she can't make her mark in decent company this season, especially when there is a bit of cut in the ground. HUGO PALMER

### **ARGUS (IRE)**

*4 b c Rip Van Winkle – Steel Princess (Danahill)*

Argus does not have much mileage on the clock, being unraced as a juvenile and having had just five starts last season, but he did prove with three wins that he has considerable ability. His two defeats came at Newmarket, which may not suit him ideally, although one of those was on his debut and the second followed a summer break. His most impressive effort was on his last start, where he stayed on in fine style after hitting a flat spot to take a Class 2 handicap at Doncaster. He was ante-post favourite for the November Handicap after that, but had to miss the race due to a dirty scope. He looks open to further progress as he matures and might make

up into a Group performer; his sibling Sarah Lynx developed enough as a 4yo to win the Group 1 Canadian International. RALPH BECKETT

### **BALLYDOYLE**

#### *3 b f Galileo – Butterfly Cove (Storm Cat)*

Related to smart performers Misty For Me and Twirl, as well as having the name of the training establishment her world famous trainer operates from, it's fair to assume that plenty was expected of Ballydoyle as a juvenile. She didn't make an immediate impact, however, when only fourth of eight on debut (RPR 79), but she did much better next time when second in the Chesham Stakes at Royal Ascot before winning a Newmarket maiden from Nemoralia, who upheld the form at the highest level. Thereafter, the O'Brien filly kept to Group company, winning a Group 2 at the Curragh and rounding off the campaign with a Group 1 success in the Prix Marcel Boussac. If she comes to hand early, the 1000 Guineas at Newmarket is an obvious starting point in what could be a huge season. AIDAN O'BRIEN

### **BATTS ROCK (IRE)**

#### *3 b c Fastnet Rock – Be My Queen (Sadler's Wells)*

Batts Rock wasn't seen until quite late in 2015, but the effort he produced on his sole juvenile start behind, Wajeez, another horse that features in this book, was full of promise. A half-brother to a winner, out of a dam who held her own in Pattern company at up to 1m4f, he had no chance with the impressive John Gosden-trained colt at Nottingham, but was noted making some nice ground in the latter stages. A horse behind him that day has already come out and been successful and it would be surprising if this son of Fastnet Rock doesn't collect something during the season, even if it isn't until he heads into handicaps. MICHAEL BELL

### **BLUE DE VEGA (GER)**

*3 b c Lope De Vega – Burning Heights (Montjeu)*

A very promising three-year-old colt for the campaign ahead, Blue De Vega went into winter quarters slightly unlucky not to be unbeaten, considering he fell out of the stalls on his debut at Dundalk. He made amends in style at Naas next time, from a useful field, and was seriously impressive when taking his form to a new level in the Group 3 Killavullan Stakes at Leopardstown when signing off in October. That has proved to be a decent trial for the 2000 Guineas over the years and, with the step up to 1m sure to suit, he could be a big player at Newmarket in April. Indeed, there is plenty of stamina on the dam's side of the pedigree and he ought to take his young trainer to the next level in 2016. MICHAEL O'CALLAGHAN

### **BRAVERY (IRE)**

*3 b c Galileo – Lady Icarus (Rainbow Quest)*

Bravery found 7f too sharp on easy ground around Leopardstown when second to a more experienced colt on his juvenile debut in a back-end maiden season. However, the manner in which he finished was taking and, bred to relish a stiffer test, he ought to be a shoo-in for a three-year-old maiden in Ireland before going on to better things for team Ballydoyle. The scopey colt could well make up into a St Leger candidate later on. AIDAN O'BRIEN

### **BRONTE FLYER**

*3 ch f Nayef – Shohrah (Giant's Causeway)*

Ann Duffield had a good time of it in 2015 with no less than 21 individual juvenile winners. This one contributed by taking a mile maiden at Carlisle in September, belying market weakness to get up near the line. Raceform reported: 'She impressed with the way she travelled into contention when the penny finally



dropped and even more so in the way she forged past her rivals coming to the last furlong. She looks a nice prospect.' She is by a sire whose progeny generally improve a good deal given time and she should make decent class middle-distance handicapper at three. ANN DUFFIELD

### **CARNTOP**

*3 b c Dansili – Milford Sound (Barathea)*

The Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall look to have bred a useful prospect in the shape of this colt, who is from the family of Arc winner Rail Link. After making an encouraging debut in a Doncaster contest that is working out well, he went on to take a Newmarket maiden from Schubert, an odds-on Coolmore colt who had Group 1 entries, with the rest of the field strung out behind. The third, who was beaten the best part of eight lengths, scored subsequently, which suggests Carntop could make his mark in decent handicaps, or even Listed races, this season. He should get 1m2f at least and is suited by a sound surface, so Royal Ascot could be on the agenda. RALPH BECKETT

### **CASTERBRIDGE**

*4 b g Pastoral Pursuits – Damalis (Mukaddamah)*

A winner at two, this son of a mare who did this stable proud made rapid strides in his second season. At Haydock in July he ran out a clear-cut winner of a handicap from a mark of just 68. On his final start at Nottingham in October, racing from a 5lb higher mark, he routed a competitive field, storming clear to win with 'tons in hand' according to Raceform. A speedball who races in a hood, he has the potential to keep a step ahead of the handicapper at four and in time could equal his dam's achievements. He is definitely in the right hands. ERIC ALSTON

### **COLOUR ME HAPPY**

#### *3 ch c Poet's Voice – Za Za Zoom (Le Vie dei Colori)*

This 20,000gns yearling purchase finished runner-up behind Foundation on his debut at Haydock in August. He again was the silver medallist at Hamilton and Redcar on his next two starts, but he made it fourth time lucky when taking a seven furlong maiden at Newmarket in October, scoring by a short head. The first two were four lengths clear and Raceform predicted: "He looks a useful handicap prospect with next season in mind." He is bred for speed and a mile may be the limit of his stamina.

KARL BURKE

### **COTAI GLORY**

#### *4 ch c Exceed And Excel – Continua (Elusive Quality)*

Trainer Charlie Hills enjoyed his best season to date last year, both numerically and in terms of prize money, and it was his sprinters that really did the yard proud, notably the now retired Muhaarar, who bagged four straight Group 1s. Cotai Glory also chipped in, winning a 5f Listed prize on his final start of a sympathetic four-race campaign, and there's more to come. That was a particularly pleasing victory as it was the horse's first start at Doncaster since he threw away the Group 2 Flying Childers over the same course and distance as a two-year-old - he was two lengths clear inside the final furlong when swerving and unseating his rider. The win showed he's maturing in the desired manner and he's fancied to cope with the step back into Group company this year. Muhaarar may be gone but Cotai Glory is only just getting going. CHARLES HILLS

### **CRAZY HORSE**

#### *3 b c Sleeping Indian – Mainstay (Elaamul)*

Crazy Horse went into winter quarters unbeaten in two outings, despite doing plenty wrong, and he looks capable of making into a classy miler at three. John

Gosden's colt won a fair 7f maiden on Newmarket's Rowley course in September when overcoming greenness, and then backed up in the Group 3 Horris Hill Stakes at Newbury the following month when again advertising his inexperience. He showed a real engine even on bad ground that day and is from a family his stable knows all about, being half-brother to Chesham winner Richard Pankhurst, out of a mare that also won for connections. He ought to eat up the extra furlong of a mile and, with his ability to handle the Newmarket Dip already proven, is well worth a shot at the Guineas in April. JOHN GOSDEN

### **DESERT RULER**

*3 b c Kheleyf – Desert Royalty (Alhaarth)*

Middleham trainer Jedd O'Keefe had his best ever season in 2015 with 17 winners and this big colt contributed two of those victories. Off the mark at the second attempt in maiden company at Ayr in July, he went on to claim a seven furlong nursery at York in September, showing real battling qualities to show ahead near the line and defy an opening mark of 82. On his final start at Doncaster in October he became upset at the start and failed to give his true running. His trainer was determined not to over-tax him in his first season, reasoning that such a scopey individual is almost certain to make a better three-year-old. There is plenty of stamina on his dam's side and he may well stay a mile and a half in time. JEDD O'KEEFE

### **DON'T TOUCH**

*4 b g Dutch Art – Expressive (Falbrav)*

Unraced at two, Don't Touch made spectacular progress at three, remaining unbeaten in five starts, starting off with a maiden win at Newcastle in May and signing off with victory in the Ayr Gold Cup in September. In between he took a handicap at Haydock from an opening

mark of 85, a handicap on Tapeta at Wolverhampton rated 91 and the Great St Wilfrid Handicap at Ripon in August from a mark of 96. He was rated 101 for the Ayr Gold Cup and became the first three-year-old to bag this rich prize since 2002. He will have to step outside handicap company this time round with the Group 2 Duke Of York Stakes at York in May the logical starting point. A strong finisher, a step up to seven might see him in an even better light in time. He looks a really exciting prospect. RICHARD FAHEY

### **FENDALE**

*4 b g Exceed And Excel – Adorn (Kyllachy)*

This gelding has been something of a nearly horse so far. He would probably have won an Ayr Listed race in his two-year-old season had he not met significant trouble in running, and he twice ran well but came up short in decent sprint handicaps last season. However, he's only had nine starts overall, and just three for his current trainer, so there's plenty of time for him yet. MICHAEL DODS

### **FIDAAWY**

*3 ch g New Approach – Haymana (Pivotal)*

Very little went right for this son of New Approach when he was well fancied for a fair Newmarket maiden on his debut over 7f in September. He fell out of the gates, ran freely off an ordinary pace and then met plenty of trouble. Ultimately he did well to finish eighth of sixteen and is a dark horse to keep on your side for his master trainer this season. SIR MICHAEL STOUTE

### **FORT DEL ORO (IRE)**

*4 b f Lope De Vega – Gilded (Redback)*

Eddie Lynam has enjoyed great success with his sprinters – think of multiple Group 1 winners Sole Power and Slade Power for example – and the Irish-based trainer

has another good one in the shape of this filly. She only made her debut last May and has had just five starts, but she signed off for the year with a Listed win at the Curragh and afterwards Lynam said: "She's a good filly and I think she'll improve next year." That's good enough for us to include her in the hundred. EDWARD LYNAM

### **FOXTROT KNIGHT**

*4 b g Kyllachy – Rustam (Dansili)*

Former Raceform stalwart and Horserace Writers journalist of the year, the late and much missed Alan Amies, put a syndicate of friends and colleagues together after claiming this strong, well-made type at the tail-end of his fruitless juvenile career. Switched to Ruth Carr's North Yorkshire yard he thrived, taking handicaps at Catterick and Chelmsford in April and Windsor in June. A real speedball, sprinting is his game and he looks sure to pay his way again at four. Ruth Carr, the late David Chapman's granddaughter enjoyed her best season so far in 2015 with 43 winners and her very personal training regime is paying big dividends. RUTH CARR

### **FRENCHMAN (FR)**

*3 b c Le Havre – Como (Cozzene)*

Frenchman made his debut in a Kempton maiden in October, and showed more than enough to suggest that he'll be winning races this year. A half-brother to four winners, notably Pencil Hill, who won five times, including at Listed level at two, he was slowly away from the widest draw and held up towards the back in a race dominated by those who raced up with the pace. He quickened up well to get into contention early in the straight, before understandably dropping away inside the last half furlong to finish fourth. The third and fifth both won next time out, and the form looks solid. CHARLES HILLS

## **GAMBIT**

### *3 b c New Approach – Sospel (Kendor)*

Tom Dascombe is looking for smart prospects to boost the overall profile of his Cheshire yard after the sad loss of stable star Brown Panther in 2015. This 75,000gns yearling buy is a half-brother to no less than ten winners. On his sole outing to date he rivalled John Gosden's Classic prospect Foundation for favouritism in a one mile maiden at Haydock in August but lost all chance when clipping heels about three furlongs from home. Unable to recover, he finished only fifth of the six runners. Clearly an awful lot better was expected of him that day. That he did not reappear suggests that all was not well with him afterwards but, clearly highly regarded, he will hopefully show his true colours at three. TOM DASCOMBE

## **GAMESOME (FR)**

### *5 b g Rock Of Gibraltar – Hot Coal (Red Ransom)*

Gamesome only has a 2013 maiden score to his name from 11 starts to date, but he has run a number of decent races in defeat for Olly Stevens and, a 75,000gns purchase in October, he could finally fulfil his potential for his new connections this term. PAUL MIDGLEY

## **GARCIA**

### *3 b g Paco Boy – Birdie (Alhaarth)*

This 50,000gns yearling purchase showed promise on his debut when finishing a good third at Newcastle in June, despite giving problems in the preliminaries. Gelded as a result and absent until York in October, he opened his account in a seven furlong maiden, staying on from off the pace to lead near the finish. Raceform said: "He possesses the scope to make a very useful handicapper at three." The easy ground on the Knavesmire seemed to suit him ideally and in his second season he will stay a fair bit further. RICHARD FAHEY

**G K CHESTERTON (IRE)****3 ch c *Poet's Voice – Neptune's Bride (Bering)***

There could be a nice middle-distance prize in this colt in 2016. He confirmed the promise of his Windsor debut to win a 1m Redcar maiden by four and a half lengths on his second and final start last year and, while that track may not be associated with lots of smart maiden winners, the time of the race was decent. Both starts came on soft ground but this Godolphin runner doesn't have much of a knee action so may prove fully effective on quicker going. CHARLIE APPLEBY

**GROWL****4 b c *Oasis Dream – Desert Tigress (Storm Cat)***

Formerly trained by Brian Meehan, this horse has proved frustrating to follow. So far he has failed to add to his impressive 2014 debut win at Ascot in nine subsequent starts and he seemed to be going well and truly the wrong way when down the field, with blinkers added, at Wolverhampton on his final start last term. However, it's interesting to note that he's now been picked up for 38,000gns by Richard Fahey and that price could prove a steal if his new connections can find the key to him. He'll resume with something to prove but there's no doubt the ability is there. His maiden victory came at 6f but he's long hinted he could be suited by a drop to the minimum trip. RICHARD FAHEY

**GUNNERY (FR)****3 ch c *Le Havre – Loup The Loup (Loup Solitaire)***

A son of the lightly-raced Prix du Jockey-Club winner Le Havre, this French-bred half-brother to four winners made an encouraging debut in the Newbury maiden won by Algometer (who also appears in this book.) After a slow start, he was held up at the back before making good progress nearest to the far rail to get to the heels of the leaders entering the final furlong. He showed signs

of greenness and his effort flattened out from that point, but he was beaten by just two and a half lengths and should derive considerable experience from the effort. His siblings have stayed as far as 1m7f, but it seems more likely that this colt will be best suited by a mile to 1m2f. He should win his share of races this term. PETER CHAPPLE-HYAM

### **HEREAWI**

*3 b f Dubawi – Look Here (Hernando)*

This well-bred filly, by the prepotent sire Dubawi out of the Oaks winner Look Here, made an encouraging racecourse debut in a Newmarket maiden, chasing home a filly who had finished third to the subsequent Group 1 winner Ballydoyle on her debut. She ran green that day and failed to build on that effort when a beaten favourite at Nottingham next time, but she was beaten less than five lengths and two that finished behind her there have won subsequently. She will stay at least 1m2f and should be capable of winning races to enhance her already considerable paddock value. RALPH BECKETT

### **HIT IT A BOMB (USA)**

*3 b c War Front – Liscanna (Sadler's Wells)*

Something of a latecomer to the party last year, Hit It A Bomb rather exploded onto the scene when making it 3-3 in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf at Keeneland in October. He maintained his unbeaten record over there despite not being suited by the tight track and the horribly chewed up surface. Being by War Front, a sound surface is important to his cause and he has a cracking attitude. It's hard to gauge how high he might climb during his Classic season and it will be fascinating to see how his leading team campaign him, with the step up to middle-distances likely at some stage. AIDAN O'BRIEN



**IMPASSABLE (IRE)***4 b f Invincible Spirit – Gwenseb (Green Tune)*

Out of a Group 3-winning juvenile, this filly developed really well as a 3yo last season, taking her maiden in March and progressing to win the Group 2 Prix de Sandringham at the end of May. Given a summer break, she returned to win the Prix Daniel Wildenstein at the Arc meeting in comfortable fashion, despite the narrow winning margin. She was asked a big question next time, contesting the Breeders' Cup Mile at Keeneland, but got involved in some scrimmaging early on and, in a steadily run race, could not pick up in the straight. Despite that setback, she seems likely to make her mark in high-class company at around 1m this season. She might not want the ground too quick and will probably be campaigned to avoid her owners' Solow, but has a number of top-class mares' races open to her. CARLOS LAFFON-PARIAS

**JAZZI TOP***4 b f Danehill Dancer – Zee Zee Top (Zafonic)*

A sibling to multiple winners from one of Meon Valley Stud's founding families, Jazzie Top won her first two starts in 2015 before finishing fifth behind Qualify in the Oaks. Like her dam, however, her optimum trip proved to be 1m2f, and she dropped back to that distance to take the Prix de la Nonette at Deauville before losing out narrowly to the Irish Oaks winner Covert Love in the Prix de L'Opera at the Arc meeting. In doing so she emulated her half-sister Izzi Top, and like that filly she looks set to score at the highest level as a 4yo. The Pretty Polly Stakes at the Curragh, the Nassau Stakes and the Prix de L'Opera again are all likely to figure on her agenda. JOHN GOSDEN

## **LEFT HAND**

### **3 ch f Dubawi – Balladeuse (Singspiel)**

A daughter of Dubawi out of a winner of the Group 2 Prix de Royallieu, this filly had a light campaign in 2015. She started just twice, winning a newcomers' race for fillies at Longchamp in September before returning to the same course and distance a month later to contest the Group 1 Prix Marcel Boussac. She fared pretty well there despite showing her inexperience, finishing nicely to be 2 1/2l fourth to Ballydoyle. With her pedigree she looks set to be an even better 3yo, which would make her a contender for the French fillies' Classics, with the distance of the Prix de Diane likely to be in her favour.  
CARLOS LAFFON-PARIAS

## **LIGHT MUSIC**

### **3 b f Elusive Quality – Medley (Daneshill Dancer)**

Light Music looked a sure-fire future winner when runner-up over 7f on her Salisbury debut in September and she had no problem in justifying odds of 1-7 over the same trip at Leicester on her next outing, bolting up by 14 lengths in a decent time. She was then allowed to take her chance in a Newbury Listed event, again over 7f, but, although she eventually made hard work of justifying her skinny odds, the ground at Newbury was very testing and she still impressed with the way she travelled through the race. She is yet to tackle good or faster ground, but this sister to the useful Sea Shanty, who was at his best on a sound surface, may be even better when tackling some decent ground. Currently a top-price 33-1 for the 1,000 Guineas, her pedigree suggests that a mile is about as far as she will want to go.  
WILLIAM HAGGAS

## **LUGANO**

### **3 b c Galileo – Swiss Lake (Indian Ridge)**

Sent off at 20-1, 50-1 and 66-1 on his three starts of 2015, Lugano got no closer than about 11l to a winner on any occasion, suggesting his ability is limited but the

handicapper has allotted him a starting mark of 60 despite those unpromising form figures. The thing that makes him so interesting is his breeding, as his dam Swiss Lake has produced plenty of smart performers so far, most notably Swiss Spirit and Swiss Diva, both Group winners. Indeed, her offspring have all won at least one race. Purchased for 250,000gns in 2014, it would be very surprising if this colt doesn't end the season rated much higher than he starts it. SIR MARK PRESCOTT

### **LUMIERE**

#### **3 gr f Shamardal – Screen Star (Tobougg)**

Mark Johnston took the 1,000 Guineas in 2004 with the brilliant Attraction and hopes are high at Kingsley House that this Cheveley Park winner will follow suit. She hit the headlines on her racecourse debut storming to a wide margin success in a maiden fillies' event at the Newmarket July Cup meeting. Sent to York the following month, she still looked inexperienced when having to settle for runner-up spot behind Besharah in the Group 2 Lowther Stakes. Back at Newmarket in September she ran out a game winner of the Group 1 Cheveley Park Stakes with her York conqueror only third. Connections harbour no doubts about her staying a mile at three as she is a half-sister to a 12 furlong winner. Quite keen at two, she has the potential to improve further in her second season and if she proves to be as talented as Attraction was, she should have an exciting year in Group races. MARK JOHNSTON

### **MASSAAT (IRE)**

#### **3 b c Teofilo – Madany (Acclamation)**

Massaat already held some lofty entries when he made his debut over 7f at Sandown last July when in the care of Barry Hills, and he justified the high opinion of him by only going down narrowly to a rival with previous experience. He had little trouble in justifying odds-on

over the same trip at Leicester on his second start, before being allowed to take his chance in the Dewhurst. Sent off at 20-1, he ran a blinder as he was the only one able to finish anywhere near Air Force Blue having held every chance passing the furlong pole. He is currently disputing second-favouritism at around 16-1 for the 2,000 Guineas and his pedigree suggests that the step up to a mile won't be a problem. Even if the first Classic does prove beyond him, it will be a surprise if he can't make his mark in decent company at some point this season. OWEN BURROWS

### **MECCA'S ANGEL (IRE)**

*5 gr m Dark Angel – Folga (Atraf)*

Highly progressive at both two and three, Michael Dods' pride and joy proved herself a sprinter of the highest class at four. She made her breakthrough at Longchamp in May on her return to action, running out a comfortable winner of a Group 3 event where she relished the good to soft underfoot conditions. She is very much ground dependent and found conditions marginally too quick for her when going under by a neck to Stepper Point in a Group 2 at the Curragh in July. At York the following month she hit the headlines by nailing the flying American-trained juvenile Acapulco near the line to score going away by two lengths. Quick ground ruled out her remaining targets including the l'Abbaye but both her trainer and jockey Paul Mulrennan, who both enjoyed their first Group 1 success at York, believe that six furlongs will not pose any problems. That opens up her options but the ground will ultimately decide her targets in 2016. MICHAEL DODS

### **MEDICIMAN**

*3 b c Medicean – Quintrell (Royal Applause)*

You can usually trust Henry Candy to get the best from his horses and this lightly-raced colt, who showed a fair

level of ability in three 7f-1m maidens last term, looks a likely improver this year. He'll kick off from an official mark of only 78 and it will be a surprise if he's not soon rated a good deal higher. HENRY CANDY

### **MIDTERM**

*3 b c Galileo – Midday (Oasis Dream)*

Midterm could hardly have a more promising pedigree for Derby success, being by Galileo out of Midday, who scored multiple times at the highest level, including over 1m4f. Somewhat surprisingly, he didn't appear to be overly fancied for his only start as a juvenile at Newbury, and was sent off a weak 8-1 chance, but he belied those odds from a high draw to win in taking style. He could be one of the stars of the season if making the anticipated step forward as a 3yo. SIR MICHAEL STOUTE

### **MING DYNASTY (FR)**

*4 b c King's Best – Memoire (Sadler's Wells)*

This French colt developed into a smart performer last season, taking a Group 2 at Chantilly and then running a fine race in defeat when fourth in the Hong Kong Vase. Nothing went right for him that day as there was no pace and he pulled for his head for much of the way. However, he still finished well, which says a lot, and this four-year-old, who did not run at two, has the potential to improve further this year. His French form might suggest he needs soft ground to be seen at his best, but that's a red herring, and it wouldn't be a surprise to see him travel over to Britain at some stage. MIKEL DELZANGLES

### **MIX AND MINGLE (IRE)**

*3 ch f Exceed And Excel – Mango Lady (Dalakhani)*

Newmarket trainer Chris Wall tends to bring his horses along steadily, so it was encouraging to see Mix And

Mingle win her second and third starts of a three-race juvenile campaign. After landing a Lingfield maiden under forward tactics, she was switched to a hold-up ride for a competitive nursery at her local track and impressed with how well she picked up to double her tally. A 7lb rise puts her on a still workable mark of 89, so Wall may opt to continue down the handicap route to begin with, rather than rushing her, or perhaps he'll be tempted to test her in the Fred Darling or Nell Gwyn. The latter may hold particular appeal considering she has already proven herself over Newmarket's undulations. It's probably fanciful to suggest she could be a Guineas filly, but she certainly has Pattern-race potential. CHRIS WALL

### **MONJENI**

*3 b g Montjeu – Polly's Mark (Mark Of Esteem)*

It's fair to say that if you look at Monjeni's form figures, they don't look overly promising for a successful campaign in 2016, as he seemingly regressed in two runs after an okay debut over 1m at Kempton. However, he's been gelded since he was last seen and, as a £650,000 purchase in 2014, something better can be expected of him on the track. The big positive with regards to potential improvement is that he is the first son of the hugely likeable mare Polly's Mark, who was a hardy Group performer for Clive Cox not that long ago between 1m4f and 2m. Sir Mark Prescott is renowned for improving his horses from low marks, and this son of Montjeu looks a prime candidate to do the same. SIR MARK PRESCOTT

### **MONT KIARA (FR)**

*3 b g Kendargent – Xaarienne (Xaar)*

A €135,00 breeze-up purchase after finishing runner-up on his debut at York in July, the high regard in which he is held was underlined when he was sent to France for his next start the following month. He finished a

highly creditable third in a Group 3 there, earning a RPR of 98. After opening his account at long odds-on at Newcastle in September, he took his chance in a Group 2 at Maisons-Laffitte but he didn't give his true running and trailed in well beaten. Gelded afterwards, there should be plenty of good opportunities for him at three at distances up to a mile. KEVIN RYAN

### **MOONLIGHT MAGIC**

*3 b c Cape Cross – Melikah (Lammtara)*

Having had to wait until October to make his juvenile debut, Moonlight Magic currently flies somewhat under the radar in terms of a potential Classic tilt this season. Jim Bolger's Godolphin colt justified market confidence when a good deal better than the bare margin on his debut at Cork over 7f on deep ground. He then signed off with a taking success in Listed company at Leopardstown later that month when upped to 1m1f. There's no doubt he's bred for the job, being out of a supremely bred dam that finished third in an Oaks on just her second start, and looks tailor-made for an early season Derby trial, before going on to test his mettle at Epsom in June. JIM BOLGER

### **MR SINGH**

*4 b c High Chaparral – Sundari (Danehill)*

Mr Singh developed into a leading St Leger candidate last year following his runner-up finish in the King Edward VII Stakes at Royal Ascot and his win in the Bahrain Trophy at Newmarket the following month. Unfortunately, a dirty scope ruled him out of the final Classic, but the time off won't have done him any harm as he was quite an immature horse last year and he should make up into a better four-year-old. It might be that he goes down the Cup route, but it wouldn't be a surprise to see connections try and see how far he can go at around 1m4f first. The John Porter at Newbury in April might be a good starting point. JOHN GOSDEN

### **MR WIN (IRE)**

*5 b g Intikhab – Midnight Oasis (Oasis Dream)*

This gelding is a fine example of the way horses can progress for the aforementioned Chris Wall (see Mix And Mingle), winning five of his 16 starts and his handicap mark going from 65 to a peak of 106. He's got a new trainer this year, having joined Saeed Bin Suroor, but there's still room for more improvement for his new yard. SAEEED BIN SUROOR

### **MUSTAJEER**

*3 b c Medicean – Qelaan (Dynaformer)*

Mustajeer went into a few notebooks when staying on to finish fourth of eight on his debut for Barry Hills in a 1m maiden at Doncaster last September, having looked green and struggling to go the early pace. Just how much he benefited from that initial experience soon became clear when he went on to land a similar event at Newmarket a fortnight later, beating Linguistic by a couple of lengths, having finished around five lengths behind that horse at Doncaster. An Irish Derby entry, the Chester Vase was mentioned as a possible target for him in the early weeks of the new campaign after he scored at Newmarket and his pedigree suggests that 1m4f shouldn't be a problem, with this dam having won twice at around that trip. He looks a very nice prospect for Pattern company this season. OWEN BURROWS

### **NEW BAY**

*4 ch c Dubawi – Cinnamon Bay (Zamindar)*

This son of Dubawi proved himself a top-class colt in 2015. After winning a conditions race over a mile at Longchamp on his reappearance, he returned to the same course and distance next time to contest the Group 1 Poule D'Essai des Poulains (French 2,000 Guineas). He was relatively unfancied there, but did really well to come from off the pace and chase home Make Believe,



his yard's main hope. The Prix du Jockey-Club was next and, despite again being drawn wide, he showed a good turn of foot to sweep past his rivals and give regular jockey Vincent Cheminaud his first Classic winner. Given a break afterwards, he returned to take a Deauville Group 2 before outclassing his rivals in the Prix Niel on his first try at 1m4f. After taking that Arc trial, he was sent off third favourite for the big race itself, and ran pretty well to finish third on ground faster than ideal. That form looks solid, and, with the winner Golden Horn and the fourth, previous dual winner Treve, both retiring, he looks set to be a principal player in the Arc this season, with races like the Prix Ganay likely to figure along the way. ANDRE FABRE

### **NINETTA (IRE)**

*3 b f New Approach – Pine Chip (Nureyev)*

Bred for middle distances, this niece of Arc winner Peintre Celebre enjoyed a nightmare passage when runner-up on her racecourse debut at Beverley in August. Sent to Carlisle the following month, she made all to justify cramped odds in a mile maiden. On her final start she earned £29,550 when finishing an honourable third in a fillies' sales race at Newmarket. Seven furlongs that day was on the short side for her and it is over a mile plus that she can be expected to add to her tally in her second season. Ann Duffield and right-hand man, husband George, enjoyed an excellent season in 2015 and this one should boost the stable statistics this time round. ANN DUFFIELD

### **NUNO TRISTAN (USA)**

*4 b g Hentrythenavigator – Saintly Speech (Southern Halo)*

A back-end winner on Kempton's Polytrack surface on his second and final start at two, Nuno Tristan signed off his three-year-old career by recording another

Polytrack win, this time at Chelmsford, where he landed a competitive six furlong handicap from a mark of 77. After changing hands for 45,000gns at the Horses-In-Training Sale at Newmarket, he joined Richard Fahey and was gelded. On his first outing for this all-conquering yard he took another competitive sprint handicap on Wolverhampton's Tapeta surface in most convincing fashion from an official handicap mark of 81. He looks just the type of second-hand horse that this stable excels with and before the end of the year he may well prove himself a Listed class sprinter. He has shown a fair level of form on quick ground and he is not just an All Weather performer. RICHARD FAHEY

### **ORDER OF ST GEORGE (IRE)**

*4 b c Galileo – Another Storm (Gone West)*

Order Of St George is currently the leading candidate to land all the major staying races this season, should connections make the decision go down that route. It's difficult to see why they wouldn't, considering how 2015 went for the son of Galileo, the highlight of which was a thrashing of several established rivals by 10l+ in the Irish St Leger. That said, Coolmore may harbour ambitions to race him over middle-distances this campaign, and he could easily do well at those distances. However, a decent test of stamina should suit him best, and while a general 4-1 doesn't currently appeal as value for the Ascot Gold Cup in mid-summer, he does seem the most likely winner of that prestigious race as things stand. AIDAN O'BRIEN

### **PERSUASIVE (IRE)**

*3 gr f Dark Angel – Choose Me (Choisir)*

A €180,000 yearling, Persuasive was limited to just the one outing as a juvenile, a 1m maiden on the Kempton Polytrack in November. Sent off at 16-1, which suggested

that not a great deal was expected from her, she nonetheless showed a decent attitude in a tight finish and battled on well to score by a neck in a time more than a second and a half quicker than the other division of the race won by a stablemate half an hour earlier. She could still be anything and her breeding suggests that she should get a bit further without too much problem this year. JOHN GOSDEN

### **PINE RIDGE**

*3 b f Elusive City – Fisadara (Nayef)*

Pine Ridge had three starts as a two-year-old, showing ability when fourth of nine on her debut over 5f at Leicester in August (form worked out well) before finding a valuable 6f sales race at Newmarket just a bit too much for her next time, but she then showed what she was capable of when winning a 5f Bath maiden on her third and final outing. The form of that race was certainly done no harm with the runner-up winning her next two starts and, with the strong possibility of further progress to come, Pine Ridge looks just the type to do well in sprint handicaps this season. CLIVE COX

### **PINSTRIPe**

*3 br c Dansili – Paisley (Pivotal)*

Luca Cumani tends to bring his horses along slowly and give them the opportunity to improve with experience. A prime example is Bauer, who started off on an official mark of 60 and reached a peak of 108 before retiring. It's doubtful that Pinstripe will reach a mark that high but there is little doubt this son of Dansili, out of a well-related dam, showed more than enough in maidens to suggest that he's capable of winning a couple of handicaps this year. He has yet to be tried on turf, but there is no obvious reason why he won't thrive on it. LUCA CUMANI

## **PLAY GAL**

### *3 b f Multiplex – Plead (Bering)*

Play Gal had just the two starts as a juvenile, but despite only finishing in midfield on her debut in a 1m fillies' maiden on easy ground at Nottingham in October (having been sent off at 100-1), she did suggest that she possessed a bit of ability. That view was very much confirmed when she reappeared against the boys in a 1m1f maiden on testing ground at Redcar 12 days later, seeing out the trip really well and beating a Mark Johnston-trained hotpot (who went on to win his next start) by a head. In view of her pedigree, it was no great surprise that she stayed so well and the only real question is whether soft ground is important to her, but in any case we should be hearing plenty more of her in middle-distance handicaps this term. DAVID EVANS

## **POET'S PRIZE**

### *3 b c Compton Place – La Gessa (Largesse)*

Runner-up behind Gracious John, who turned out to be smart performer, on his second start at York in September, this half-brother to three winners went one better at Beverley next time. On his final start he picked up £33,210 when taking a sales race at Newmarket in October on his first try over six furlongs. Highly thought of by his shrewd connections, there should be plenty of opportunities in the expanded three-year-old sprint handicap programme with the Charity Sprint at York in June very much at the back of his trainer's mind. DAVID BARRON

## **PREDILECTION (USA)**

### *3 b c First Defence – Summer Shower (Sadler's Wells)*

Predilection's two starts as a juvenile came 187 days apart, but he showed plenty of ability in both. Although no match for the smart King Of Rooks on his debut over 6f at Newbury in May, finishing six lengths second

behind that subsequent Listed winner/Group-placed performer, he still showed more than enough to suggest that he would be winning races, but he had to wait until November before he had the chance to prove it. Sent off 5-2 second favourite for a 1m maiden on the Kempton Polytrack, he could hardly have been more impressive in bolting up by five lengths, recording a smart time in the process. A half-brother to the Group 3 winner Starboard plus a couple of winning stayers, he is likely to appreciate stepping up to middle-distances this year and looks an intriguing prospect. JOHN GOSDEN

### **PROFITABLE (IRE)**

#### *4 b c Invincible Spirit – Dani Ridge (Indian Ridge)*

This colt didn't run to his best in the Nunthorpe and a French Group 3 on his final two starts of 2015, but his form earlier in the campaign is worth a second look. He won a Listed event at York in May and arguably would have followed up under a penalty in the same grade at Sandown had he not been denied a clear run. Clive Cox's horse then finished a good fifth of 18 in the Group 1 Commonwealth Cup at Royal Ascot. Although his form then tailed off, he should get back on track this year and could be a force in some of the big sprints. CLIVE COX

### **PURPLE MAGIC**

#### *3 b f Rip Van Winkle – Discerning (Darshaan)*

This filly made her debut in a Nottingham maiden in which The Lark, who represented the same connections, finished fourth in her first start three years earlier, before developing into a Group performer (third in the Oaks) at three. While it would be asking a lot for Purple Magic to match those achievements, she showed plenty on her debut, staying on well for third despite being green, and she then got off the mark at Chelmsford on her final start, winning narrowly, but from a gelding (With Pleasure) who won next time out. Bred to improve

for middle distances this year, she looks to have been given a generous opening mark of 71, and it will be disappointing if she cannot capitalise. MICHAEL BELL

### **QEMAH (IRE)**

*3 b f Danehill Dancer – Kartica (Rainbow Quest)*

The first foal of a Group-placed mare, this filly cost Al Shaqab Racing €200,000 at the Arqana sales. She found Antonoe much too good on her debut in a contest for unraced fillies at Deauville, but she made considerable progress thereafter. She got off the mark in a small field conditions race at Longchamp next time, despite taking a keen hold, and, as a result, took her chance in the Prix Marcel Boussac. She comfortably reversed placings with her old rival Antonoe there, although the latter did not seem to run her race, but at the same time Qemah ran really well to be a staying-on third. The Poule D'Essai des Pouliches and the Prix de Diane are likely to be on her agenda this season, and with the pair that beat her at Longchamp being aimed at the 1,000 Guineas and the Oaks respectively, at the time of writing she looks to be a major player in those races if continuing to go the right way. JEAN-CLAUDE ROUGET

### **REAL DOMINION (USA)**

*3 b/br c Cape Blanco – Real Doll (Known Fact)*

There was plenty to like about this colt's debut run at Sandown, a race in which his trainer introduced Elm Park the previous year. Held up at the back of the field in a tactical affair, he didn't get much of a run in the straight but still finished a creditable fourth. He found the Convivial maiden at York a bit too competitive on his next start, but still ran a fair race, and then posted a solid effort back at Sandown on his third outing, when stepped up to a mile for the first time. He's been given an opening mark of 79 and that looks reasonable, with improvement likely for a step up to 1m2f. ANDREW BALDING

**RESILIENCY (IRE)***5 ch g Mastercraftsman – Euroceleb (Peintre Celebre)*

A maiden winner in Ireland for David Wachman in 2014 and sold for 100,000gns later the same year, it might be considered disappointing that he failed to add to his tally for his new connections last term. However, he only had four starts in 2015, all of them in hot enough company, and showed enough to suggest he will eventually come good. Overall this gelding has had just nine outings and he'll resume from a dangerous mark for a trainer who has a knack of finding the key to these types. MICHAEL APPLEBY

**RIDGE RANGER (IRE)***5 b m Bushranger – Dani Ridge (Indian Ridge)*

Eric Alston has long been a dab hand with sprinters – Reverence landed the Nunthorpe / Haydock Sprint Cup double for the stable in 2006. This homebred mare made big strides at four and there is no reason why she should not be competitive in Listed and Group company at five. After taking a handicap at Wetherby in April from a BHA rating of 76, she went on to score at Chester the following month from a 9lb higher mark. A third success followed at Goodwood in July, this time when she defied a rating of 89. A highly creditable third in the Listed Beverley Bullet, she signed off with her best effort to date going under by a whisker to Steps in a Group 3 at Newbury in September. All speed and generally keen to get on with the job, there is even better to come this time. She is a credit to her trainer. ERIC ALSTON

**RHYTHMICAL***4 b f Halling – Caribbean Dancer (Theatrical)*

This filly didn't progress quite as well as expected last year, but she's only had five starts and anyone who saw her finish runner-up at Goodwood on her second start will not be giving up on her just yet. Having won a Leicester maiden on her debut, she was then chucked

into a good, competitive handicap and everything went wrong. She raced out the back after a slow start and found all the trouble going, yet she flew home once finally in the clear, all the while still looking green. Mark Johnston's filly just failed to catch the smart Tashaar and might have beaten him with a clear run. Her three subsequent defeats are less easily explained, but it might yet pay to remember the Goodwood run - there were few more eye-catching performances in 2015. MARK JOHNSTON

### **ROYAL ARTILLERY**

*3 b/br c War Front – Masseur (Dynaformer)*

Some horses that win a maiden on their debut find it hard to make that next step, as it invariably means going in against tough opposition when next seen. That concern doubles when one is put away after winning as a juvenile because you are never sure if the same horse will emerge from a winter break having been locked up in the stable. However, Royal Artillery is surely capable of more victories as a 3yo following an impressive debut at Doncaster in October. A \$450,000 price-tag in 2013 means he wasn't cheap, but his dam is a Graded performer, so he is fancied to hold his own at a smart level in 2016, possibly a bit higher, if making normal progress. JOHN GOSDEN

### **SAN FRANCISCO (IRE)**

*3 b c Galileo – Rumblestiltskin (Danehill)*

There's no pretending otherwise - we're guessing at this colt's ability as he's unraced, but he needs flagging up because of his breeding and connections. He's a brother to Yorkshire Oaks winner Tapestry and one-time Derby hope John F Kennedy, and the dam won a couple of Group 1s. Don't forget the same connections' 2013 Derby hero Ruler Of The World didn't make his debut until April of his Classic season, so if you're looking ahead to



the first Saturday in June, you need to be considering colts like this. AIDAN O'BRIEN

**SEPTEMBER STARS (IRE)**

*3 ch f Sea The Stars – Altesse Imperial (Rock Of Gibraltar)*

A 260,000gns yearling, she was best of the newcomers when finishing nicely for third – behind Zest (another entry in this book) – in a traditionally hot Doncaster maiden on her only run last year and is a decent prospect at 1m-plus. BRIAN MEEHAN

**SHALAA (IRE)**

*3 b c Invincible Spirit – Ghurra (War Chant)*

Second only to Air Force Blue in the European two-year-old rankings in 2015, it's fair to say Shalaa is something of a freak. It's hard to remember his debut flop at Newbury in May, given that he went on to win his next five races, culminating in two Group 1s at the end of the season. He was another fine advert of his trainer John Gosden's skills as he's a highly strung character and really has little business sprinting, being a half-brother to a 1m4f winner among others. A Guineas campaign was not totally ruled out this year, depending on his temperament through the winter. However, it is the Group 1 Commonwealth Cup over 6f at Royal Ascot that looks his for the taking and he could very well spearhead another fine season sprinting for the Classic generation. JOHN GOSDEN

**SIMPLE VERSE (IRE)**

*4 b f Duke Of Marmalade – Guantanamera (Sadler's Wells)*

This half-sister to three winners was bought for a considerable sum at the yearling sales, but when she finished sixth (albeit running with promise) on her belated debut in a Lingfield Polytrack maiden in

February 2015, it seemed unlikely that she would reach the heights she ultimately achieved. She was beaten at Kempton next time in a race run at a steady gallop, so was ridden more positively when getting off the mark back at Lingfield in April. From then on it was onwards and upwards. She was not beaten far by an odds-on shot on her turf debut, before narrowly winning a Salisbury handicap off a mark of 82. Stepped up in both trip and grade subsequently, she caused a minor upset by taking a 1m6f Group 3 against older fillies at Goodwood. A plan to contest the St Leger looked brave, but she showed real courage and stamina to get the better of the favourite Bondi Beach in a close finish. That was not the end of it though, as she was disqualified for bumping her rival on the day, only to get the race back on appeal. She confirmed she was still on the upgrade by taking the Qipco Fillies and Mares Group 1 on Champions Day at Ascot, at the same time bringing her earnings to nearly double her purchase price. She is likely to contest a number of the top middle-distance races in 2016, with the King George mentioned as a possible target. RALPH BECKETT

### **SIGHTLINE**

#### *3 b f Rock Of Gibraltar – Look So (Efisio)*

Out of a four-time winning half-sister to Oaks winner Look Here and six other scorers, Sightline made an encouraging debut in a back-end Doncaster maiden that is often a decent contest. Two of the three principals there had previous experience, but this filly stuck her head down and chased them home until being eased near the line, but pulling clear of the rest. She may not stay as far as Look Here, as the family tend to favour the sire's distance preferences, but she can win races at up to 1m2f this season. RALPH BECKETT

**SOLOW****6 gr g Singspiel – High Maintenance (Highest Honor)**

Solow was included in this book last year after winning his last three races and looking a miler to follow. That proved to be the case, as he became the pre-eminent older horse in that category in 2015, winning all six of his races, five of them at Group 1 level, and in three different countries. After a pipe-opener at Longchamp, he took the Dubai Turf at Meydan in easy fashion before returning to his home country to win the Prix D'Ispahan. He finished the season with three starts in Britain, winning the Queen Anne, Sussex Stakes and Queen Elizabeth II Stakes, taking some notable scalps in the process. A big, strong, rangy type, he lengthens rather than quickens, and although never the most impressive, he always finds plenty when challenged. He has won 12 of his last 13 races (his one defeat came when he was tried over almost two miles) and is likely to follow a similar route to last year, so he remains the one to beat this season. FREDDY HEAD

**SOUTHERN STARS****3 b f Smart Strike – Stacelita (Monsun)**

The first foal of Stacelita, a six-time top-level winner in France and the US, Southern Stars can improve significantly on the form she showed when fifth in a Doncaster maiden on her only run last year. That's a race in which her trainer has run smart types like Gertrude Bell, Izzi Top and Star Of Seville, and this filly is a big sort who looks sure to benefit from time. JOHN GOSDEN

**STAR STORM (IRE)****4 b c Sea The Stars – Sayyedati Storm (Storm Cat)**

A son of Sea The Stars out of a daughter of the top-class Sayyedati, this well-bred colt did not make his debut until May 2015 and took until September and six starts

before he opened his account. However, that Haydock win proved to be the turning point, as he then followed up in cheeky fashion in a 0-100 Yarmouth handicap. He took a big step up for his final start, contesting the Group 3 Cumberland Lodge Stakes against older horses. He scored in taking fashion under a confident ride, and, although critics might question the form against one or two disappointing types, he is clearly on a steep upward trajectory and he looks worth following while that remains the case. JAMES FANSHAWE

### **STATUS QUO (IRE)**

*3 br g Thewayyouare – Again Royale (Royal Academy)*

Following a promising sixth on his debut in a decent Leicester maiden, this gelding was well supported to get off the mark at Beverley. He disappointed, though, finishing well held in fourth, and on the back of that it was understandable that he was weak in the market for his third start at Wolverhampton. However, he's by a sire whose progeny have a much better record on artificial surfaces than on turf and, despite not getting a clear run in the straight, he quickened up nicely at the finish to win far more comfortably than the margin would suggest. A big sort with plenty of scope, there are plenty of opportunities on the AW all year round these days and he can exploit an opening mark of 77. SIR MARK PRESCOTT

### **TANEEN (USA)**

*3 b/br c Speightstown – Moon And Sun (Malibu Moon)*

This colt is bred to sprint, although not necessarily on turf as he has a dirt pedigree. Nevertheless, he's already shown useful form on grass, building on a promising debut at Salisbury, when green and caught wide, by running out an impressive winner on his second start at Newmarket. He showed a good turn of foot when hitting the rising ground that day (the next three home have

all won their maidens since), and he has the potential to develop into a Stakes horse this year. Judged by his pedigree he's unlikely to want the ground too soft.  
ROGER VARIAN

### **THESME**

#### *4 b f Exceed And Excel – Final Dyntasy (Komaite)*

Unraced at two, this likeable filly was simply too keen for her own good on her first three starts. After plenty of work behind the scenes she settled much better on her handicap bow at Recar in June and won readily from her opening mark of 64. A second success followed at York in July from a 8lb higher mark. A return visit to the Knavesmire the following month saw her turn in easily her best effort yet, making all and never looking in any danger while defying a BHA mark of 85. She doesn't handle the mud so her trainer decided to put her on one side and wait for her four-year-old campaign. She is all about speed and the minimum trip suits her ideally. She made great strides in her first campaign and there is hopefully even better to come this time round. NIGEL TINKLER

### **THIRD TIME LUCKY (IRE)**

#### *4 gr g Clodovil – Speckled Hen (Titus Livius)*

Given just four outings at two, this tough grey made spectacular progress throughout his second season. Rated just 77, he was off the mark with an easy success in maiden company at Musselburgh in April. Victories followed in handicap company at Leicester, Musselburgh and Thirsk with his rating rising 13lb as a result. After easily defying a revised mark of 91 at Thirsk in September he became the target for some hefty private bids from abroad. His owners stuck with him and were handsomely rewarded when he landed the 34-runner Cambridgeshire at Newmarket in September, worth £99,600, defying a 4lb penalty for his Thirsk success. The step up to nine furlongs clearly suited him and he

will stay even further at four. On the verge of Listed and Group company, there is surely another rich handicap to be won with him at four. RICHARD FAHEY

### **TIME TEST**

#### *4 b c Dubawi – Passage Of Time (Dansili)*

This horse failed his two toughest assignments last year when only fourth in the International Stakes at York and down the field in the Breeders' Cup Mile at Keeneland. However, on both occasions the ground was wrong - he wants it faster - and neither race unfolded to suit. He won his three other starts in 2015, a decent Newbury handicap plus minor Group races at Royal Ascot and Newmarket, and he can yet make the step up to the top level, be it at home or overseas. ROGER CHARLTON

### **TIPTREE (IRE)**

#### *3 b f Duke Of Marmalade – Taking Liberties (Royal Academy)*

Not much appeared to be expected from Tiptree when she made her debut in a 1m fillies' maiden on easy ground at Nottingham last October as she was sent off at 33-1, but although she finished only seventh of the 17 runners she did show some ability and looked sure to improve for it. She certainly did that when dropped to 7f on even softer ground at Newmarket 17 days later, battling on well to get the better of a well-touted Gosden newcomer with the pair pulling a long way clear of the rest. She still showed some signs of inexperience at Newmarket, though, so there should still be plenty of improvement left in her. A sister to a 10.5f winner and closely related to five other winners including the useful 6f-1m winner Troubadour, we should be hearing plenty more of Tiptree over middle-distances this season. LUCA CUMANI

**TO BE WILD (IRE)***3 br c Big Bad Bob – Fire Up (Motivator)*

Hugo Palmer ran a couple of his Racing Post Trophy entries in a Newmarket maiden in September. Mengli Khan was the better fancied of the two and did best, finishing third, and he then went on to line up in the Doncaster Group 1, after winning his maiden easily at Nottingham. To Be Wild was sent off at 33-1 and only finished fifth, but there was plenty to like about his effort as well. On a day when there was a tailwind and it paid to be prominent, he stayed on in pleasing style from the back of the field, having run green throughout and not given a hard time. Out of a half-sister to Al Kazeem, he should have no trouble winning his maiden before going on to better things. HUGO PALMER

**TRIXIA (FR)***3 b f Siyouni – Tianshan (Lahint)*

A real success story in France last season, Trixia signed off her two-year-old campaign when comfortably taking the Prix Des Reservoirs on very deep going at Deauville in October and extending her career record to 4-4. She travelled like a class filly that day and the form was strong, with Mark Johnston's smart Fireglow well held back in fourth. She will very likely stay in France for a Classic tilt, but a crack at the Coronation Stakes at Royal Ascot in June will be on her agenda if all goes to plan. She is versatile regards underfoot conditions and she has every right to be a poster girl in the fillies' division this year. FREDERIC ROSSI

**TURBINE (IRE)***3 b c Cape Cross – Chiquita Linda (Mujadil)*

Bought for €68,000 as a foal, this imposing son of Cape Cross made an immediate impression on his belated racecourse debut on Wolverhampton's Tapeta surface in mid-November. Virtually ignored in the betting,

he ran out a clear-cut winner of an 11-runner seven furlong maiden in which plenty of powerful stables had a representative. Raceform reported: "Turbine rates an exciting prospect. This was a highly satisfactory debut and could well have his connections thinking in terms of Listed/Group races for next season'. Mark Johnston's in-house monthly magazine Kingsley Klarion was sufficiently impressed to devote a whole page to Turbine's victory, reporting: "His win was a late-season gem, and hopefully will provide the colt with a launching pad for bigger and better things next term." Don't say you haven't been forewarned! MARK JOHNSTON

### **TURRET ROCKS (IRE)**

*3 b f Fastnet Rock – Beyond Compare (Galileo)*

Mr & Mrs Jim Bolger regularly do very well with their home-breds, and this filly was another of theirs to shine last season. She wore a hood and had to be ponied to the start on her debut, and then ran around in front through greenness before scoring from a subsequent winner next time. Dropped to 7f and upped to Group level for her next two starts, she ran well enough, despite looking as if a return to further would suit. Back at a mile in the May Hill Stakes at Doncaster next time, she had the hood left off for the first time and scored in the manner of a stayer, coming through late on. She was then asked to contest the Group 1 Prix Marcel Boussac, and ran her best race of the year, chasing home Ballydoyle, who had finished further ahead of her earlier in the season. Out of a Galileo mare from a good French family, connections view her as a stayer and the Oaks is likely to be the first major target. JIM BOLGER

### **TWILIGHT SON**

*4 b c Kyllachy – Twilight Mistress (Bin Ajwaad)*

A half-brother to five winners, most notably Group 3 scorer Music Master, Twilight Son had a low-key start to his career, winning both his juvenile races in the early



autumn of 2014. That quiet start paid dividends in 2015, as he started off in handicaps and continued progressing throughout the season. He was well backed when taking a Newmarket handicap on his reappearance, then followed up by winning a valuable 3yo handicap at York the weekend before Royal Ascot. He was a bit below-par after that success and, following a break, missed planned targets before returning in the Group 1 Betfred Sprint Cup. He maintained his unbeaten record there, but had to battle to hold off fellow 3yos Strath Burn and Magical Memory. On his final start of the season he lost his unbeaten record, but there was no disgrace in that, as he finished second to champion sprinter Muhaarar, who was winning his fourth successive Group 1. He might have finished closer had he not raced wide apart from that colt, but in any case he was clear of the rest. His sire, who was also handled by Henry Candy, improved considerably as a 4yo and, having had just six races, this colt looks set to be a major player in the top sprints again this season. HENRY CANDY

### **ULTRA (IRE)**

*3 ch c Manduro – Epitome (Nashwan)*

A half-brother to six winners including one at Group 3 level, Ultra made a low-key start, winning at Clairefontaine before taking a conditions stakes over 1m at Longchamp. He took a big step up on his final start, contesting the Group 1 Prix Jean-Luc Lagardere (Grand Criterium) over the same course and distance as his second success. Keen enough early, he battled on gamely to hold off Cymric, with three previous Group winners chasing them home. The time was a good deal slower than the Prix Marcel Boussac on the same day, and he might have been flattered, having raced close-up throughout. However, his pedigree is packed with stamina, so it can be argued that he would have been just as unsuited by the slow early gallop as any of the others. He looks a decent middle-distance prospect

and his trainer indicated that the Epsom Derby could be on the agenda if things go as planned. At the time of writing he is available at around 20-1 for that race.  
ANDRE FABRE

### **ULYSSES (IRE)**

*3 ch c Galileo – Light Shift (Kingmambo)*

By a dual Derby winner out of an Oaks winner, this colt certainly has the pedigree to win a Classic, and, although he will have to improve a good deal on what he showed on his only start so far, there is every reason to hope he can make his mark as a 3yo. Sent off second favourite behind the more experienced Algometer (also in this book) in the second division of what is usually a good back-end Newbury maiden, he was held up at the back before making steady late progress to finish sixth, beaten three lengths. He looked as if he would be sharper for the experience, and might have finished closer had he not raced away from where the race developed. At the time of writing he is 33-1 for the Derby, and, although that may not be overly generous given the improvement he needs to make, he is with the right trainer to get the best out of him. SIR MICHAEL STOUTE

### **VANCOUVER (AUS)**

*4 b c Medaglio D'Oro – Skates (Danehill)*

Winner of the prestigious Golden Slipper and Australia's champion two-year-old when trained by Gai Waterhouse last year, Vancouver was snapped by Coolmoore and shipped to join Aidan O'Brien for a European campaign. That switch proved highly successful for connections in the past with the likes of Haradasun, Starspangledbanner and So You Think. He looks all about speed and will help spice up an already exciting sprint division this season, with Royal Ascot, along with the July Cup at Newmarket, likely summer targets.  
AIDAN O'BRIEN

**VAZIRABAD (FR)***4 b/br g Manduro – Visorama (Linamix)*

This half-brother to six winners was unraced as a 2yo and made an inauspicious start to his racing career, wearing headgear and being beaten in ordinary races at Longchamp and Dieppe in the spring of 2015. However, with the aids removed he improved rapidly, taking a modest 1m7f maiden back at the seaside track in July followed by a conditions race at Deauville. He took another big step up next time, staying on well to land the Group 3 Prix de Lutece back at Longchamp, and followed up with a comfortable success in the Group 2 Prix Chaudenay over the same course and distance. Taking on older horses for the first time, he completed the five-timer when winning the Group 1 Prix Royal-Oak (French St Leger) at Saint-Cloud. Racing Post Ratings suggest he improved a remarkable 50lb during his winning streak, and he looks a horse with the potential to take high rank amongst European stayers. The Ascot Gold Cup, Prix Gladiateur and Prix du Cadran could all figure on his agenda this season. ALAIN DE ROYER-DUPRE

**VERY TALENTED (IRE)***3 b c Invincible Spirit – Crystal House (Golden Voyager)*

This big sort, whose dam was a champion in Chile, winning their Derby, progressed well in three runs last year. He was placed in decent maidens at Goodwood and York before a clear success when upped to 1m at Doncaster. There should be a bundle more to come and maybe he'll get his chance in a Guineas trial – he certainly looks Group-race material. SAEED BIN SUROOR

### **WAJEEZ (IRE)**

*3 ch c Lope De Vega – Chanter (Lomitas)*

Wajeez created quite an impression when winning on his debut at Nottingham in November. Considering how well he won, it's a bit surprising that he was sent off 7-2 second favourite but, after being a little awkward to load, he sprung out, soon became prominent and trounced his rivals over about 1m in heavy ground. The runner-up, although a maiden at the time of writing, had collected RPRs in the 70/80s on all starts, while the fourth won next time, suggesting the form is sound. On pedigree he should handle quicker ground than he encountered on debut and is an exciting prospect this season for a trainer who enjoyed such a fine 2015. JOHN GOSDEN

### **WILD HACKED (USA)**

*3 b c Lemon Drop Kid – Dance Pass (Sadler's Wells)*

This book isn't all about finding the biggest stars of the season, it's about finding horses that have shown enough to suggest they'll either add another win to their profile or gain a first success some time during the season. Wild Hacked may not turn out to be in the top echelons of this season's 3yos, and he was beaten at short odds on his second start, but he evidently has plenty of ability and a handicap if not a maiden looks well within his capabilities. His pedigree suggests he could stay middle distances in time, and his dam placed a couple of times in Listed company, meaning there is class in his family to utilise if the right chances are found. MARCO BOTTI

### **ZAAKHIR (IRE)**

*3 b f Raven's Pass – Zahoo (Nayef)*

Zaakhir didn't make her racecourse debut until November of last year in a 1m maiden on the Kempton Polytrack, but it proved to be a winning one. Sporting a hood and sent off relatively unconsidered at 12-1, she

battled on well to beat fellow newcomer Shaan by a head and it didn't take long for the form to be boosted with a couple of those in behind, including the runner-up, winning their next starts. A half-sister to the Group 3 winner Convergence out of a winner at up to 1m4f, her pedigree suggests that she will relish stepping up in trip and she looks a very nice prospect for the coming season.  
CHARLES HILLS

### **ZARAK (FR)**

*3 b c Dubawi – Zarkava (Zamindar)*

Zarkava was a brilliant racemare, being unbeaten in seven starts including five Group 1s, among them the Poule d'Essai des Pouliches, Prix de Diane and Prix de L'Arc de Triomphe. However, she has made a much less impressive start to her career as a broodmare, with her first three foals all failing to make the track. Things could be very different with Zarak though, as the son of Dubawi was able to win his sole appearance, albeit a contest for unraced horses over a mile at Deauville in October. He produced a turn of foot to score, despite the heavy ground, and, with his breeding, he could be anything. He is certainly worth including in this publication on that basis. ALAIN DE ROYER-DUPRE

### **ZEST (IRE)**

*3 b f Duke Of Marmalade – Affinity (Sadler's Wells)*

This filly, beaten just a short head in a 1m Haydock maiden on her debut, made hard enough work of winning a Doncaster maiden over the same trip next time, but she had some promising types behind and there's potentially lots more to come this year. Her dam won over 1m4f and is a half-sister to Soviet Song, a multiple Group 1 winner for the same connections as Zest – James Fanshawe and the Elite Racing Club. JAMES FANSHAWE

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