EPSOM & EWELL TIMES
For the community, by the community. A not-for-profit service

5th November 2026

ISSN 2753-2771

Epsom Racecourse: Preview and Tips for Sunday's Seven-Race Card

27 September 2025



It's Epsom Racecourse's season finale Sunday, and the seven-race card card features the Apprentices' Derby Handicap, alongside four other handicaps, a conditions stakes and a novice.

Read on for a full preview of the Epsom card, courtesy of Boyle Sports, who provide all the latest ***horse racing odds****.*

The first race of the meeting is a nursery handicap run over seven furlongs (1.45). We have seven runners here, of which the most experienced are Galileo Island and Penhallam, who have been in handicap company for a few runs now. Of those running in a handicap for the first time, Ralph Beckett's Crystal Pier may make the most appeal, already proven over the trip and having run a nice race over course and distance last time. Penhallam might get the better of her with a five-pound claimer aboard, however.

Race two is a juveniles' conditions race over an extended mile (2.20). We have just four runners in this race, but it is a hot contest nonetheless as three of the contenders have previously won a race and the only maiden, Alfaraz, was second on debut at Goodwood. He looks well qualified to improve and win this race under Oisin Murphy. With an entry in the Group One Futurity Stakes later this year, he must be well thought of at home.

Next is a mile and a quarter novice (2.55). This race looks to be between the Gosdens' Gamrai and Alan King's Alcarath as they are the only two of the six with winning or placing form to their names. The latter would have to improve a fair bit, though, in order to get past the former, who won on seasonal reappearance and should be able to defy his penalty easily enough.

The fourth race is the feature Apprentices' Derby Handicap, run over a mile and half (3.30). Pat Phelan's Naasma seeks a hat-trick today, having won her last two starts at Windsor, and hasn't been so heavily penalised by the handicapper that she couldn't get involved once more. Give It To Me Oj, a dual-purpose performer, won over course and distance last time out on soft ground, and has been sharply raised in the weights as a result. Odin Legacy should have a good chance under George Bass, but Way Of Life looks to have the strongest claims at the weights for Jonathan Portman.

Following is a mile and a quarter handicap (4.05). David O'Meara's 10-year-old Orbaan has been steadily dropping back towards his last winning mark and, now just one pound above it, could get the job done under Tom Marquand here. He was fourth of 12 at this track last time over seven furlongs and it's interesting to see him upped in trip. Richard Hughes' Criminal also looks likely to be there at the sharp end, and is weighted accordingly to being one of only two three-year-olds in the race. Don't forget Kimeko Glory, though, who made a winning start for Brian Toomey and could go well again.

The penultimate race is a handicap over an extended mile (4.40). This is another four-runner race, with half of the field having won their last starts. Jiff's Army won over course and distance a month ago, while Falmouth Lad seeks a hat-trick after successes at Newmarket and Kempton. With Rossa Ryan in the saddle, Jiff's Army looks the most likely to repeat the winning form, while Hot Cash has now come down to what should be a winnable mark and could be very competitive under Tom Marquand.

Finally, we conclude with a seven-furlong handicap (5.15). Kisskodi has won at this track twice this term already, while Ed Walker's Tokyo Joe looks to have come down to a nice mark and could run a big race after some promising performances so far this season, despite not having got a win on the board yet. Course and distance winner Marlay Park should be very competitive also under Paddy Bradley.

Epsom selections – Sunday:

1.45 – Penhallam

2.20 – Alfaraz

2.55 – Gamrai

3.30 – Way Of Life

4.05 – Orbaan

4.40 – Jiff's Army

5.15 – Marlay Park

Horses racing Image: Credit Paul. CC BY 2.0

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ISSN 2753-2771

Today’s racing at Epsom racecourse

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This afternoon’s first race is a two-year-olds’ seven-furlong novice (1.37). Each of the seven runners have been seen before, with the best currently presenting as Ollie Sangster’s Red Tsarina, who won a fillies’ race at Chelmsford most recently. She makes her turf debut today, while the best with turf form is St Anton, who placed on debut at Newmarket and will be a big player once again.

Courtesy of Boyle Sports, who provide all the latest ***horse racing odds****.*

Next is a seven-furlong handicap (2.12). Rod Millman’s Cypriot Diaspora seeks a hat-trick, having won her last two starts at Ffos Las, but may not be so well suited to this track, so it may pay to look elsewhere. Dylan Cunha’s Valley Ofthe Kings went well over course and distance last time out and, running off the same mark again, could pick up at least a place, but David O’Meara’s 10-year-old veteran Orbaan looks the most likely candidate given his good track record and recent strain of form.

Race three is a handicap over a mile and a quarter (2.47). Racing Demon should have a good chance after a recent pair of places and the addition of a visor for today. Didaar also should be able to run a good race off the same mark which saw him place last time at Ffos Las, and has a useful five pounds from his rider. Questionable could be the winner, though, now just one pound above his last winning mark.

The Jump Jockeys Derby is next – a handicap over a mile and a half (3.18). Balhambar could have a good chance for Paul O’Brien, now two pounds below his last run on the Flat, in which he finished a respectable third of 11 last October. Returning from a break, he could win this, but will have to watch out for Alan King’s Westerton, who has dipped down to a very workable mark.

Race five is another handicap over a mile and a half, this time for three-year-olds (3.53). Owen Burrows’ Girls Night Out could go well, having come down a couple of pounds in the weights. She is ridden by a five-pound claimer, which helps her case. Drawn next door, though, is Love You Back, who makes more appeal with a good bit of course form from July and a workable mark for Gary and Josh Moore.

The penultimate race is a handicap run over the extended mile (4.25). Another for Gary and Josh Moore, Oj Lifestyle goes well at this track and is on a mark which should lend itself to winning here. Magical Merlin could run for a place under claiming rider Millie Wonnacott, while Beau Jardine could do the same from the innermost draw.

Last of all is another handicap over the same trip, this time for three-year-olds (5.00). Nigel Tinkler’s Amidst The Chaos travels a long way for this and seeks a hat-trick today, while Pink Azalea – who also has a long drive from Malton to Epsom – looks more likely on a mark which may be winnable from under a five-pound claimer.

Epsom selections – Thursday:

1.37 – St Anton

2.12 – Orbaan

2.47 – Questionable

3.18 – Balhambar

3.53 – Love You Back

4.25 – Oj Lifestyle

5.00 – Pink Azalea

Horses racing Image: Credit Paul. CC BY 2.0

Should Epsom’s Derby revert to Wednesday?

27 September 2025

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Epsom-based trainer: make the Derby “London’s Race” as town’s training revival gathers pace

“There’s a genuine feel that Epsom is back on the map”

Epsom-based trainer George Baker says the town is poised for a racing revival and has urged The Jockey Club to reposition the Derby as “London’s Race”. Baker, who trains from Downs House “a furlong from the Derby start”, told Boyle Sports that Epsom’s facilities are comparable with Lambourn, Middleham and Newmarket and that the missing ingredient is simply more horses in training.

Baker points to the recent investment and new capacity at Downs House and Jim Boyle’s redeveloped South Hatch yard as signs of renewal: “There’s a genuine feel that you can have good horses trained at Epsom again.”

Call to engage London — and fill the yards

With “a huge catchment area over the hill called London,” Baker says his team will be “rolling the dice” at upcoming sales and persuading owners to put horses into training at Epsom. Jockey Club Estates highlights the gallops’ proximity to the capital and the convenience of the Epsom Downs facilities.

Attendance slump sharpens focus on Derby’s future

Baker argues the Derby needs a reset after a tough year for crowds. Official figures for the 2025 Betfred Derby put paid attendance at 22,312 — a modern-era low and down on 2024 — even as TV audiences remained significant.

Midweek return mooted

Baker suggests returning the Classic to a weekday. Historically, the Derby ran on a Wednesday until 1994, before moving to Saturday in 1995, and he believes a midweek slot would give the race clear air and avoid clashes with other major sport.

“Make it Epsom’s party”

His prescription: “strip it back”, keep the Hill accessible and festive — “come for free… bring a picnic, have a bet” — and aim to make the 250th running in 2029 a city-wide celebration drawing London “up the hill”.

Deep roots: Churchill and Epsom’s heyday

Epsom’s heritage includes Sir Winston Churchill’s long association with South Hatch trainer Walter Nightingall and periods when hundreds of horses were stabled and trained around the Downs. In the 1950s around 800 horses were said to be in training on the Epsom Downs.

Who actually holds the Downs’ long lease?

The long lease underpinning Epsom’s training grounds dates to 1969, when a 999-year lease of Walton Downs was granted to the Horserace Betting Levy Board to secure the future of training on the Downs, with management overseen via the Training Grounds Management Board. This is often conflated with The Jockey Club, but the leaseholder is the Levy Board.

Editor’s note: EET requested comment from The Jockey Club on 3 September 2025. No reply had been received at the time of publication.

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Epsom racecourse caught short of loos on family

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Epsom’s bank holiday racing results

27 September 2025



The seven-race card at Epsom on Monday afternoon saw a good spread of results with a pair of winning favourites alongside some less anticipated victors, with some very impressive winning distances among them; the combined winning distance was around 15 lengths.

Read on for a full report of the Epsom card, courtesy of ***Sporting Life****.*

Up first was a six-furlong handicap (1.35). Of the six runners, the most fancied was Emma Lavelle’s Silver Wraith at 6/4, who raced in touch with the leader, Em Four (6/1), who made all and began to extend his lead in the last couple of furlongs. The favourite could get no closer, with a challenge delivered by George Baker’s Danger Alert, but the Jamie Osborne-trained Em Four was not for catching and won by a length.

Next was a seven-furlong two-year-olds’ maiden (2.10). In a field of just four, Andrew Balding’s Ghost Mode, ridden by Oisin Murphy, was the favourite at 1/3. The colt was keen, though, and though he led into the closing stages, he couldn’t hold on for long enough and was overtaken by Ollie Sangster’s filly Mayaada in the hands of Sam James at 4/1. The Nick Bradley Racing-owned filly won by a tidy two and a half lengths.

Following was a seven-furlong handicap (2.45). This saw our first winning favourite of the afternoon; David Loughnane’s Partisan Hero under Rossa Ryan (3/1). This was a competitive race, with a number of possibilities with two furlongs left to travel. The market leader had to fight Archie Watson’s Aurora Majesty home, but managed to cross the line a head in front with Native American following on in third.

An amateur riders’ handicap was next, run over a mile and four furlongs (3.20). This race saw the second and final favourite of the day win a race; Gordon Grey at 9/4 for Ben Brookhouse under Paul Hainey. The grey gelding was never really in doubt, making all from the off in first-time cheekpieces, and no other runner made it close to him. Ridden home, Gordon Grey was eased down over the line and won by a very impressive five lengths.

Race five was a handicap run over a mile and a quarter (3.55). Oisin Murphy rode the favourite once again, Andrew Balding’s Soul Dance, who led the field for most of the way. The pair looked likely to win at the two-furlong pole, but Ed Walker’s Stormy Monday ran on home more strongly and snatched the win under Kieran Shoemark, eventually crossing the line nearly three lengths ahead.

The penultimate race was a handicap over the extended mile (4.28). Three of the field of six were finishing strongly; Jiff’s Army, Due West and Play Me, with the former pair ahead of the rest. In the end, though Jiff’s Army and Due West duelled home, it was Jiff’s Army who stuck his neck to take the win under Rossa Ryan at 11/2.

Finally, the afternoon’s racing concluded with a seven-furlong handicap (5.03). It was a slightly surprising result in that the favourite, 11/8 Silver Trumpet, all but pulled up having reportedly lost his action, while the 9/1 shot The Bitter Moose made all under Jim Crowley to win in emphatic fashion by nearly five lengths, totally unchallenged.

Epsom results – Monday:

1.35 – Em Four (6/1)

2.10 – Mayaada (4/1)

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ISSN 2753-2771

2.45 – Partisan Hero (3/1)

3.20 – Gordon Grey (9/4)

3.55 – Stormy Monday (5/1)

4.28 – Jiff's Army (11/2)

5.03 – The Bitter Moose (9/1)

Horses racing Image: Credit Paul. CC BY 2.0

Today's Epsom racing tips

27 September 2025



Epsom Racecourse presents its latest meeting on Friday afternoon, with a six-race card consisting of five handicaps and one fillies' novice.

Read on for a full preview of and tips for the Epsom card, courtesy of Boyle Sports, who offer all the latest ***horse racing odds****.*

The first race of the afternoon is a seven-furlong two-year-olds' nursery handicap (2.05). Of the six runners, Tom Dascombe's Jowalla is the only one making her handicap debut, and wears first-time cheekpieces for the occasion, which could help her improve on her consistent placing form. Gascony wasn't suited by the heavy ground when last seen at Glorious Goodwood, and should be able to get back to his best today under a five pound claimer.

Next is a seven-furlong two-year-old fillies' novice (2.40). We have two newcomers here; Born To Bright, who wears a hood, and the expensive Lady Vanguard, who cost 320,000 guineas as a yearling, for George Scott. Calendar Girl is the filly she has to get past, who won on her debut in smart fashion at Newbury in July, but Epsom is a very different track and Lady Vanguard's trainer has the higher strike rate with juveniles in this context, so ought to be worth siding with.

Race three is a six-furlong handicap (3.15). There are just five runners here, but this is nonetheless a competitive race. Harry Eustace's Kisskodi completed a hat-trick earlier this season, and another good race is unlikely to be beyond him, especially with a claiming rider in the saddle again. Nordic Games has good course form, having placed a very close second at this track last time out, so could be involved again.

The fourth race is a mile and a quarter handicap (3.50). Letsbeatsepsis should have a chance, remaining on the same mark today as when second of 10 last time out, while Twilight Guest is back down to his last winning mark and could get back to the hat-trick winning ways of earlier this summer. He's a consistent type who should be capable of a decent result.

Second to last, race five is an extended mile handicap for three-year-olds (4.20). Jim Boyle's Play Me has come down two pounds in the handicap lately and now looks tempting, especially with a seven-pound claimer in the saddle. Though disappointing last time out at Lingfield, he is normally better and should be able to do his best work today. Coma Cluster similarly is at a winnable mark and should be at the sharp end.

Finally, the afternoon's racing concludes with a seven-furlong handicap (4.50). Revolutionise should be bang there, running off the same mark as last time when second over course and distance. Course and distance winner Marlay Park also should be able to run a good race on the same mark as a promising performance last time at Brighton. With Luke Catton's three pounds to boot, he could win this.

Epsom selections – Friday **(via Sporting Life):**

2.05 – Gascony

2.40 – Lady Vanguard

3.15 – Kisskodi

3.50 – Letsbeatsepsis

4.20 – Coma Cluster

4.50 – Marlay Park

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Today’s Epsom racing tips

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Epsom Racecourse presents its latest race meeting on Thursday evening, with a total of six races; five handicaps and a juveniles’ novice race.

Read on for a full preview of and tips from the Epsom card, courtesy of Racing TV, who provide all of the latest ***free bets*** *offers.*

Kicking off the evening’s action is an apprentice handicap over a mile and two furlongs (5.50). Etretat won last time out at Newcastle just five days ago and carries a penalty as a result, although is given three pounds back by his claiming rider. He is more of an all-weather specialist, however, having never won a race on turf, and is easy to look past. Despite carrying top weight, Carnival Day looks capable of winning this due to remaining on the same mark as when running well for fourth of 12 at Yarmouth last time, and has good form at this track, which is a big positive.

Next is a two-year-olds’ novice run over seven furlongs (6.25). Of the six runners, Dylan Cunha’s Champagne Dream is the only newcomer here; a colt by Oasis Dream who is probably best watched this term, looking on paper to be more a next-season sort. William Knight’s horses are running well at present, and his colt Norfolk Blue looks to have a solid chance. This son of A’Ali placed a close second last time out at Lingfield, and is given a handy three pounds by his rider, Brandon Wilkie.

Race three is a mile and a half handicap (7.00). King’s Castle seeks a hat-trick, having won his last two starts at Ffos Las and Sandown under the same rider; seven-pound claimer Taryn Langley. He wears a first time hood, and shouldn’t have too much standing in his way here at a track that he likes. Chips And Rice ought to be in with a big chance here, fit from a hurdling campaign and now on a very workable Flat mark for today. Jockey Pat Cosgrave is in good form, and Robert Stephens’ horses are running well at present too.

Following is an extended mile fillies’ handicap (7.30). We have only four runners here, all of which have won at least one race this term. Pink Azalea seeks a hat-trick, having won her last two starts at Ripon and Carlisle, and has Jack Dace’s seven pounds in hand. Both Brielle and Revelance won their last starts, but Brielle’s win was more applicable to this race. She does have a lot of weight to shoulder now though, hence it might be better to side with Revelance today, whose form is of a very promising level.

Penultimately we have a seven-furlong handicap for three-year-olds (8.00). With nine runners, this is a competitive affair. Miakoda won his last start under Pat Cosgrave, who rides again today, and though this will be a tougher ask, this gelding may prove to suit this track quite well and could make a good show of himself. That said, he might not appreciate any rain that falls, so it may be safer to side with the likes of Uncle Simon, who can handle ground with some give and comes here in good form having been a very close second last time at Redcar, and represents a trainer in form.

Last of all is a six-furlong handicap of eight runners (8.30). Twirler carries a five-pound penalty , having won her last start at Windsor five days ago, but is given the weight straight back by her claiming rider, so could easily be in contention once again. David O’Meara’s veteran, the 11-year-old Muscika, is a course and distance winner who was last seen finishing third of eight at this track, so could also be a player despite carrying top weight.

Epsom selections – Thursday:

5.50 – Carnival Day

6.25 – Norfolk Blue

7.00 – Chips And Rice

7.30 – Revelance

8.00 – Uncle Simon

8.30 – Musicka

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ISSN 2753-2771

Epsom’s six races; five handicaps and a fillies’ maiden

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Epsom Racecourse presents its latest meeting on Thursday evening, which consists of six races; five handicaps and a fillies’ maiden.

Read on for a full preview of the Epsom card, courtesy of Racing TV, who have the very latest horse racing ***free bets*** *offers.*

The first race at the track – which is the UK’s cheapest Grade One racecourse, according to the ***Racing Post*** Price Index – is a mile and a half three-year-olds’ handicap (5.50). A competitive affair, this is a tough race to call. Stormy Monday is well proven over the trip, while Only One Blue and Nobleman look likely to enjoy the extra couple of furlongs, stepping up in trip for the first time. Newmarket trainer Harry Eustace is having a very good season and, therefore, his runner Vulcan Way is of some interest, but Sir Mark Prescott’s Bosphorus Rose should be able to finish strongly here and win for a bang in-form yard.

A two-year-old fillies’ maiden is next, run over seven furlongs (6.25). From a field of nine, four are newcomers, all with useful pedigrees. Ollie Sangster’s Court Of Stars and Eve Johnson Houghton’s Mystic Moment set the standard on form, both having picked up places, but the former looks to have the most potential on paper and ought to be today’s winner.

Next is a seven furlong handicap (7.00). Both Daisy Roots and Finbar’s Lad seek to make it back-to-back wins, although the latter does carry a five-pound penalty having won at Chelmsford only nine days ago. Course and distance winner G’Daay comes here in a good strain of form, having placed on both of his last starts, and is given a chance by the handicapper in remaining on the same mark. With a seven-pound claimer in the saddle, this could be his day.

Race four is a six-furlong handicap (7.35). Harry Eustace’s Kisskodi seeks a hat-trick, having won his last two starts at Leicester and Brighton. With rider Jack Nicholls’ seven-pounds in hand, they could go well again, but this might be a tall order for a three-year-old up against older, hardened handicappers. 11-year-old Muscika has a good record at this track and is back down to a workable mark, so should be right there at the finish.

The penultimate race is a handicap run over the extended mile (8.10). Orbaan carries a penalty having won last Friday at Beverley, so this may prove to be too much of an ask. Golden Circet looks promising equipped with a visor for the first time, back down in trip from 10 furlongs last time, while Virtue Patience looks well primed for a win here. Rab Havlin won on the gelding in March and rides again for Amanda Perrett, whose stable is doing very well at present.

Finally, a mile and a quarter three-year-olds’ handicap rounds off the evening’s racing (8.45). James Fanshawe’s Inquisition comes here hoping to complete a hat-trick and might be able to do so, with rider Fred Daly’s seven-pound claim counteracting the six-pound penalty the filly carries here. Pergola, Without Burlington and Marmalade Kid make their handicap debuts here, but this does look like quite an ask.

Epsom selections – Thursday:

5.50 – Bosphorus Rose

6.25 – Court Of Stars

7.00 – G’Daay

7.35 – Muscika

8.10 – Virtue Patience

8.45 – Inquisitio

Image: Horses racing Image: Credit Paul. CC BY 2.0

Epsom race tips for Wednesday meet

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5th November 2026

ISSN 2753-2771



Epsom Racecourse presents its latest Flat card on Wednesday evening, hosting six races; five handicaps and a maiden.

Read on for a preview of Epsom's card, courtesy of Betano, who provide the latest ***horse racing betting.***

Up first is an Apprentice Handicap, run over a mile and a quarter (6.20). Ed Dunlop's Bobacious won last time out at Leicester under Mason Paetel, who rides again, giving five pounds. With the stable in good form, this gelding should make a decent showing of himself and is generally good at holding his form. Jim and Suzi Best's nine-year-old gelding Early Morning Dew looks a good option for the win, though, due to having winning course form, and will relish the conditions. His age and experience might counteract the inexperience of his nonetheless capable rider Ashley Lewis.

Next is a two-year-olds' maiden over seven furlongs (6.50). Only two of the six runners have been seen on the track before; Gary and Josh Moore's Eschweiler and Richard Hannon's filly Ibshara, whose twice placing form is the best of the two. A newcomer for Roger Varian, Starlight Time was inexpensive as a yearling, but does have a smart pedigree and might do well on debut for a yard whose juveniles are going well.

Race three is a six-furlong handicap (7.23). Jennie Candlish's Alzahir carries a five-pound penalty having won at Chester just four days ago, but the trainer may get around this by employing the very valuable five-pound claiming rider Warren Fentiman. He still shoulders a lot of weight in comparison to his rivals, though, which might leave Huscal with a good chance under Billy Loughnane.

A mile and a half handicap follows (7.58). Big Bear Hug won his first start for Jim Boyle just under a month ago and has good course form, but would probably prefer the ground to be softer to show his best side. Graham has dipped to a career low Flat mark, but is out of form judged by his last appearance at Goodwood, ninth of nine, leaving Vaynor looking tempting down to a very workable mark for Charlie Hills. He ought to get on with conditions and could get back to winning ways here.

Our penultimate race is another handicap over a mile and half (8.30). With the biggest field of the day, made up of 11 runners, it's not an overly strong race, but there are plenty of horses here with a chance. Jack Langley and Rupert The Prince make their handicap debuts here having both run well in classified stakes last time out, so could improve in this class of race. Richard Hannon's Emily Rebecca should have a good chance having shown signs of improvement in her last couple of runs. With Sean Levey an asset in the saddle, she could be our winner.

The finale is a seven-furlong handicap (9.00). Made up of eight runners, it is one of the more competitive races on the card. Hodler, Dream Of Mischief and Marlay Park are all course and distance winners, with the latter looking to have the best chance on this occasion. He will like the conditions, ran well enough last time on ground which was softer than ideal for him, and is down to mark which ought to be more than workable for him.

Epsom selections – Wednesday:

6.20 – Early Morning Dew

6.50 – Starlight Time

7.23 – Huscal

7.58 – Vaynor

8.30 – Emily Rebecca

9.00 – Marlay Park

Horses racing Image: Credit Paul. CC BY 2.0

Epsom Derby's Speed and Spirit Captured in New Station Art Project

27 September 2025

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ISSN 2753-2771



A new art installation at Tattenham Corner Station is shining a light on Epsom's rich racing heritage while adding a burst of creativity to commuters' journeys. This initiative, part of the Art@thestation project launched at Epsom main station in October 2024, transforms everyday travel into a gallery experience, offering young artists a unique platform to share their work.

Led by The Art Society Epsom with support from Southern Railway and its London head office, the project celebrates the energy and excitement of Derby Day and the iconic Tattenham Corner bend. Local artists were invited to explore the theme of 'Speed'—a nod to both the daily rush of life and the fast-paced world of horse racing.

The project's success has been driven by collaboration between Angie Child, Head of Young Arts Volunteers at The Art Society Epsom, and Ben Robinson, Commercial Development Manager at the University for the Creative Arts Students' Union (UCASU). Their efforts have brought together a striking collection of images that celebrate local identity and creativity.

One of the contributors, Richa Elangovan, a Master's student in Graphic Design at UCA Farnham, shared:

"My artwork and style consists of messaging through my concept illustrations: topics I'm passionate about include environmentalism, climate change, feminism, and human and animal rights. I use art as my tool for expression on issues otherwise sidelined."

The installation is a testament to how art can enrich public spaces, spark meaningful conversations, and bring the community together. Ben Robinson said:

"We're proud to support young talent and bring this celebration of the Derby into the heart of the community. A massive thank you to The Art Society Epsom for partnering with us on this. We're always looking to showcase student work and can't wait to see how these pieces brighten the station this summer."

For local artists and residents keen to get involved, Angie and her team welcome new participants—contact her at Volunteers.tase@gmail.com to be part of this dynamic project.
Meanwhile, the UCA Students' Union continues to seek out new venues for student art—anyone with a space that could use a creative spark can reach out to ben.robinson@uca.ac.uk.

Photo L to R: Ben Robinson, Alistair McGeachy, Richa Elangovan and Angie Child

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Epsom Derby Day Tips

27 September 2025



Derby Day at Epsom is one of the highlights of the British racing calendar, with a stellar card for racegoers to enjoy in Surrey on Saturday afternoon.

The Derby itself is a hugely historic race, having been held at the Surrey course for a remarkable 245 years. The free entry for the inner course makes the event even more unique, providing families the perfect opportunity to enjoy a day of racing, with seven races in total on the card.

Wet weather is projected for Derby Day, with thunderstorms presenting the possibility of disruption, but a top class cast of runners and riders will bring in the punters.

Read below for a preview of the Epsom card courtesy of **Racing TV**, who offer the latest horse racing free bet offers.

13:00 Princess Elizabeth Stakes (Fillies' And Mares' Group 3)

The opening race of the day will see 11 runners taking the just over a mile trip for this Group 3 contest. The two

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ISSN 2753-2771

favourites for the race look to be Royal Dress and **Skellet**, with little to choose between this pair, the latter's scope for improvement this season and form on softer ground gives her the edge for this contest.

13:35 Betfred Diomed Stakes (Group 3)

For this second Group 3 contest, this race has an interesting triple Group 3 winner from Germany, in the form of Geography. However, a lack of UK experience and inclement weather conditions on good to soft ground suggests the likes of **Persica**, could fare better, having won in similar conditions in April at Newmarket.

14:10 Betfred 3yo 'Dash' Handicap

A large field will line up for the third race, which is a 5f 'Dash' which is the only Class 3 race of the afternoon. **Mademoiselle** looks a progressive type and made a strong second-placed start to this season having finished 2024 in fine form with two wins, although this is a step up in class.

14:45 Aston Martin 'Dash' Handicap (Heritage Handicap)

Another short race to precede the main event of the afternoon, with this one being a Class 2 contest. Oisin Murphy's presence on board **Jer Batt** is a positive indicator for a horse who is also on a competitive mark for trainers David & Nicola Barron, making this one to watch.

15:30 Betfred Derby (Group 1)

One of the highlights of the season, The Derby is run over 1m4f with prize money of £909,628 for the winner making it the richest race of the British Flat season.

Vying for this prize will be the leading trainers and jockeys, with the combination of Aidan O'Brien and Ryan Moore winning an 11th Oaks for O'Brien on Friday, a feat they could repeat for the Derby. They will combine to boost Delacroix's hopes, but **Pride Of Arras** is a huge hope after just two races for Ralph Beckett and good pedigree for this trip.

16:15 Encore Lifestyle Northern Dancer Handicap (GBBPlus Race)

Up next, another race run over 1m4f, but this time a handicap. An interesting contest, but with a favourite who has gone well in the mud for Ralph Beckett, it will be hard to look past **Valvano**, who also has handicap form.

17:00 Hong Kong Jockey Club World Pool Lester Piggott Handicap (GBBPlus Race)

The penultimate race of the day is a Class 2 with a £38k prize for the winner, to keep the punters entertained following the main event. Despite a disappointing handicap debut, **Hornsea Bay** has since been gelded and could go well under Danny Tudhope.

17:40 JRA Tokyo Trophy Handicap

The final race of the day, and the 2025 Derby meeting, is a 6f sprint. For this, **Eye Of Dubai** looks like an interesting proposition for a yard which has won this race twice before, and has two Class 2 wins under their belt to call upon when checking the form book.

Selections:

13:00 – Skellet – 9/2

13:35 – Persica – 5/2

14:10 – Mademoiselle – 6/1

14:45 – Jer Batt – 13/2

15:30 – Pride of Arras – 5/1

16:15 – Valvano – 9/2

17:00 – Hornsea Bay – 11/2

17:40 – Eye Of Dubai – 13/2

Image: Horses racing Image: Credit Paul. CC BY 2.0

Epsom Racecourse: Preview and Tips for Oaks Day

27 September 2025



The Derby meeting is upon us and the greatly-anticipated Oaks Day card hosts seven intriguing races.

*Read below for a preview of the Epsom card courtesy of **Racing TV**, who offer the latest horse racing **free bet offers.***

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ISSN 2753-2771

Kicking off the afternoon's top class action is the Listed Surrey Stakes, run over seven furlongs (1.30). Topping the ratings is The Waco Kid, whose two starts so far this season has been far below his best, so connections try him in first time cheekpieces here in the hope that he can recapture his Tattersalls Stakes winning form of last year, in which race he finished ahead of Diego Ventura. Given a fair amount of weight by the colts, Formal might spring a surprise on a track which just might suit her.

Next is the two-year-olds' Woodcote Stakes over six furlongs (2.05), which introduces just one debutant in the shape of George Baker's Trinculo, who has his work cut out for him on his first try here amongst a high quality field. Charlie Appleby has a very good strike rate at Epsom, therefore his talented, fast colt Maximised looks the most likely of these, but Havana Hurricane could be a close second.

The Group 1 Coronation Cup is next, with a quality multi-national field of seven runners (2.40). French raider Calandagan tops the ratings, has beaten some of his opponents here in the past and is fit from a run in Dubai in April. He's tough and will be up to this, but is untried at this tricky track. Bellum Justum ran a good race in the Derby over course and distance last year and has taken a step forward this term already, so could pick up a place at least. Irish Oaks winning filly You Got To Me musn't be underestimated in this company, but does lack a prep run.

3.15 brings the Nifty 50 Handicap, run over a mile and quarter. John & Thady Gosden have a very strong strike rate of 31% at Epsom, therefore their runner Mutaawid is worth considering after a particularly impressive six-length win last time at Newmarket, but he has been heavily penalised for that performance by the handicapper. Roger Varian's Defiance should have a chance, having finished a close second over course and distance last year in the Blue Riband Trial, but may need this run to get up to speed for the season, leaving Rathgar looking a good option with proven ability over undulating tracks and remaining on the same mark as his last three starts.

The eagerly anticipated feature is next; the Group 1 Oaks over a mile and a half (4.00). Godolphin's 1,000 Guineas winning Desert Flower is the best on ratings by a long way, but she is untried over this trip. There is, however, plenty of staying power throughout her pedigree, so this is unlikely to have too great an impact on her ability to win the second leg of the fillies' Triple Crown. Aidan O'Brien's Miinie Hauk ought to be her main competition, but Ed Walker's Qilin Queen, who is well equipped with a staying pedigree and shouldn't be underestimated.

The penultimate race of Oaks Day is a handicap run over a mile and half a furlong (4.35). Ebt's Guard is slowly improving and could be at the sharp end here, while Bopedro comes from David O'Meara's bang in-form stable and wouldn't be without a chance having placed on both his last starts with an eyecatching jockey booking in Rossa Ryan. Two Tempting is last year's winner, but has risen sharply in the weights since that performance. A lower weighted, reliable sort such as Mr Baloo might be a better option.

The finale is a seven-furlong handicap of 13 runners (5.10). Rhoscolyn was last year's winner of this race, and returns on a one-pound lower mark than his victory, but he might want slightly good to soft or soft ground. Although well beaten by Rhoscolyn that day, Darkness does have good course form and, having won well last time out at Thirsk, arrives in good sorts. He might prefer good ground here, but is versatile enough to cope with softer going if the rain comes.

Epsom selections – Friday

1.30 – Formal

2.05 – Maximised

2.40 – Calandagan

3.15 – Rathgar

4.00 – Qilin Queen e/w

4.35 – Mr Baloo

5.10 – Darkness

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Modern Yard Revitalizes Epsom's Historic Racing Scene

27 September 2025



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EPSOM & EWELL TIMES
For the community, by the community. A not-for-profit service

5th November 2026

ISSN 2753-2771

The Daily Telegraph (Monday 21st October) has highlighted a significant revival for Epsom's historic role in British horse racing, reporting on the recent developments at **Downs House**, a training yard with a prestigious past. According to the *Telegraph*'s racing correspondent, **Marcus Armytage**, the once derelict site is now undergoing a transformation into a modern facility, spearheading efforts to attract London-based owners back to the area.

The report details how New Zealander **Mark Travers**, who has lived in the UK for two decades, undertook the ambitious seven-year project to restore Downs House. Situated just a quarter of a mile from the start of the Derby, Downs House had long symbolized Epsom's decline as a training hub, having lost its prominence as a centre for racehorse training decades ago. However, the newly revamped facility, now boasting space for 70 horses and cutting-edge amenities, is positioned to revive the town's fortunes.

The *Daily Telegraph* also reports that **George Bake**r, a Stewards' Cup-winning trainer, will move his operation to Downs House in January. Baker, along with his wife Candida, was struck by the state-of-the-art facilities and the untapped potential of the nearby gallops. The move signals a bold step forward for Epsom's equine industry, which has long played second fiddle to more prominent centres like Newmarket and Lambourn.

Baker, who has trained horses from his base in Chiddingfold, shared with the *Telegraph* how unlikely the move to Epsom once seemed. Yet, the combination of modern infrastructure and proximity to London convinced him to seize the opportunity. In an era when racehorse ownership is increasingly attractive to Londoners, Downs House's accessibility could be a game-changer.

As reported, Baker hopes that his move will contribute to the broader rejuvenation of Epsom as a competitive training centre. With room for 50 horses initially, Baker is aiming to fill the yard within two years, making the facility a top choice for owners seeking convenience and quality.

While Epsom's journey back to its glory days remains a work in progress, the ambitious restoration of Downs House, as highlighted in *The Daily Telegraph*, marks a pivotal step in the town's efforts to reclaim its place on the racing map.

Image: Downs House aerial – Google

Season finale tips for Epsom racecourse

27 September 2025



The finale meeting of the Summer Flat season at Epsom Downs arrives on Sunday with a seven-race card to bring the campaign to a close.

Racing gets underway at 1.45pm with a class four nursery contest before the action – and the season – rounds off at 5.15pm with a class four handicap.

Read below to discover the latest tips and a full meeting preview for Epsom's final card of the year on Sunday courtesy of ***Racing TV.***

The opening contest on Sunday's card sees a small field of five head to the start for the class four jersey contest (1.45). The Paul and Oliver Cole-trained White Chapel Road could be the play in the opener, getting off the mark in a Brighton maiden 27 days ago in fine style and he should be right up there again if showing the same form. Previous course and distance winner Pietro can fill the second spot and rates the chief threat.

Race two on the card (2.20) is another five runner contest, this time in a class two conditions stakes over the extended mile around Epsom. Anniversary holds an entry in the Group 1 Futurity Stakes at Doncaster next month and this could be an ideal prep run for the Ralph Beckett runner, off the mark on debut at Newmarket six weeks ago so is the clear horse to beat here.

Sene runners aged between three and four years old will tackle race three on the card (2.55) over the one mile and two furlong trip. Rickshaw made a promising start for trainer Harry Charlton when landed a third in a Pontefract maiden ten days ago and should be in with a big shout here stepping up in trip. Of his rivals, Sir Lowry's Pass rates the main danger, a winner of a Goodwood novice earlier this month despite missing the break that day.

Mark Of Gold looks to be the one to beat in the fourth race on the card (3.30), returning to the Flat having been pulled up in a handicap hurdle at Sandown in April for trainer Gary Moore and back on a handy looking mark as well, will take all the beating. Stablemate Miller Spirit can run him closer, a three-time winner in 2024 and produced a career-best when winning at this track just 17 days ago.

Nine runners will tackle the one mile and two furlong class three handicap at 4.05 with preference heading the way of Andrew Balding's handicapping newcomer Winston's Tipple, who got off the mark in a six runner novice at Lingfield last time out and has the eye-catching jockey booking of Oisin Murphy to boot. Qitaal looked better than ever when scoring

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ISSN 2753-2771

under the now retired Franny Norton at Chester on his last run and can take the second spot here as he has to defy a 9lb rise in the weights.

The penultimate on the card is up next at 4.40 and Arkhalia Flynn is taken to get back to winning ways having only been narrowly denied in his hat trick bid last time out at Haydock for trainer Jack Channon.

Finally, the card and the season at Epsom comes to a close with an 11-runner handicap in class four over the seven furlong trip (5.15). Preference in the finale goes to Hodler, who has a good record at this track including a win over course and distance 17 days ago for which he is penalised 6lb in the weights but given how impressive his last run was, looks the type to be able to shoulder the rise with ease.

Epsom selections – Sunday

1.45 – White Chapel Road

2.20 – Anniversary

2.55 – Rickshaw

3.30 – Mark Of Gold

4.05 – Winston's Tipple

4.40 – Arkhalia Flynn

5.15 – Hodler

Horses racing Image: Credit Paul. CC BY 2.0

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