# **Epsom Derby Day Tips**

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 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**

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**.

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

**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

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 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

# Seven-race card tips for Epsom Thursday

Epsom Racecourse hosts its penultimate meeting of the Summer on Thursday with a seven-race card for punters heading to the track.

Racing gets underway at 2.00pm with a novice stakes in class four before the action comes to a close at 5.22pm with a nine-runner handicap in class five.

Read below to discover the latest tips and meeting preview for Epsom's card on Thursday courtesy of BoyleSports, who offer the latest **horse racing odds** throughout the season.

The opening contest on the Epsom card (2.00) sees a field of seven head to the start for the seven furlong handicap in class four, with the two-year-old's taking centre stage in the opener. Luna Girl was a €95,000 purchase as a yearling for trainer Richard Hannon and ticks plenty of boxes on paper making her debut here. Bold Impact for the Ralph Beckett teams also makes plenty of appeal, a thrice-race maiden who has been beaten as an odds-on favourite twice but could go one place better at Epsom this time around.

Race two on the card (2.35) is a seven furlong handicap in class four and a good field of 15 will be taking it on. Red Mirage was a winner at Catterick in April and followed up with a third in a Chester handicap so is a big player here 1lb lower in the weights. He should see off the inform Roscioli, a winner at Salisbury last month and a very good second of 11 in a Lingfield handicap three weeks ago.

Nine runners will head to the start for the class five handicap over the one mile and two furlong trip to mark race three on Epsom's card (3.10). Imperial Cult gets the nod here for trainers Rachel Cook and John Bridger, only narrowly denied in his handicap bid over this course and distance last month having landed back-to-back all weather wins at Lingfield. Mrembo rates the main danger if she can handle the expected softer conditions at Epsom as she has shown preference for better ground than this previously.

A competitive class four handicap is race four of the afternoon (3.45) with ten runners set to tackle the one mile and four furlong distance. Enochdhu gets the very slight edge here, the slow ground expected to be very much in his favour after a disappointing outing on a faster surface at Kempton last week when he was a disappointing fifth of seven. Of his rivals, Haliphon rates the main danger, the Ian Williams runner arriving off the back of a win at Haydock last time out just a week ago.

Dubawi Time looks very much the one to beat in race five of the meeting (4.20) having been bang in-form prior to flopping at Chelmsford last time around where he didn't appreciate the step up in trip so is back down at a more comfortable distance heading to Epsom, while race six (4.50) can go the way of Chips And Rice, who is in good order for trainer James Fanshawe despite being hampered in-running last time out at this track.

Finally, the card comes to a close with the class five handicap for three-year-old's at 5.22 over the extended mile trip. Preference in the finale heads the way of Tribal Chief for trainer David Menuisier, landing a career-best when winning a ten-runner Kempton handicap last month and has a very progressive profile to boost his chances. Crimson Spirit is a previous course winner and was second at Epsom on his last spin so clearly has a liking for the track and rates the chief threat so can fill out the second spot.

#### **Epsom selections - Thursday**

2.00 - Luna Girl

2.35 - Red Mirage

3.10 - Imperial Cult

3.45 - Enochdhu

4.20 - Dubawi Time

4.50 - Chips And Rice

5.22 - Tribal Chief

Image: Credit Paul. CC BY 2.0

# Racing tips for Friday at Epsom

The action continues at Epsom Downs this week with a competitive six-race card on offer for punters heading to the track on Friday 16th August.

Racing gets underway at 1.40 with a class five nursery contest before rounding off at 4.35 as eight runners tackle a class five handicap.

Read below to discover the latest tips for Epsom's card on Friday, courtesy of **OLBG**:

The opening race of the afternoon (1.40) sees a field of nine head to the start for the class five nursery for two-year-old's. Liberty Bird was a runner up last time out at Leicester for trainer Charlie Johnston and gets the nod here to bag a second win of the campaign, having been victorious at Beverley in June. Enchanted Eye rates the main danger from the Eve Johnson Houghton yard,

a good second on nursery debut at Leicester 29 days ago.

A small field of four will take on race two of the afternoon at Epsom in the maiden fillies' stakes (2.15) over the seven furlong distance. The Amy Murphy-trained Creative Lady is the clear pick on form here, a decent second in a Lingfield maiden last time out and is the one to beat here. Graduated, for trainer Dr Richard Newland, can fill the second spot, second at Brighton on her last spin.

A class four handicap marks race three on the Friday card at 2.50, with eight runners set to travel over the six furlong sprint distance. Winner of this race last year, Musicka is back for another crack for trainer David O'Meara and has hit form at the right time with a second in a big-field handicap at York last month so is the one to beat again. Of his rivals, Tourist can make his presence felt if bouncing back to form following a fifth at Doncaster last time out.

Race four (3.25) is an 11-runner handicap in class six for horses aged three and older, with preference heading the way of Imperial Cult, who landed a career best when scoring in a 12-runner handicap at Lingfield 17 days ago to follow up another win at that venue a month previously so is taken to complete the hat trick here ahead of Corporate Raider, a Brighton winner in June and second at that track 45 days ago.

The penultimate race on Epsom's card this week arrives at 4.00 as six runners head to the start for the extended mile handicap in class five. Unreal Connection for trainer Amanda Perratt looks the one to beat here, a previous winner at Epsom who was fourth in a Sandown handicap when last seen. Eretat is the main danger, a cosy winner at Wolverhampton three weeks ago who is bidding to follow up.

Finally, the card comes to a close with the class five handicap over seven furlongs (4.35) and eight runners will take it on, with preference heading the way of Marlay Park, a four-time course and distance winner who has yet to fire this season but is sliding down the weights as well as dropping in grade here.

### **Epsom selections - Friday**

- 1.40 Liberty Bird
- 2.15 Creative Lady
- 2.50 Musicka
- 3.25 Imperial Cult
- 4.00 Unreal Connection
- 4.35 Marlay Park

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# **Epsom Racing tips for Thursday**

Racing returns to Epsom on Thursday, with six races on the card for what is expected to be an exciting evening of racing.

Timed perfectly to pick up punters following the day's racing at Glorious Goodwood, the action begins at 6pm, with the final race taking place at 8:35pm. The going on the Downs is good to firm, but with another day where the temperatures are set to top 30 degrees, the ground could be firm by the time racing gets underway.

Read below to find out the latest **horse racing odds** and tips from Thursday's Epsom card.

#### 18:00 - Peter Bromwich Apprentice Handicap

The opener is a 1m2f handicap, with four-year-olds and above contesting this Class 5 contest. Having finished second over a shorter trip at Epsom earlier this month, **Chips And Rice** will run off an unchanged mark and could push the fancied Big Bear Hug.

### 18:30 - Pick And Place Your Stakes Challenge EBF Restricted Novice Stakes

Next up, a race for Novice two-year-olds, with a 7f trip to negotiate in this Class 4 contest. Parole D'Oro's second placed start at Ascot makes for an appealing option, however, debutant **Noble Phoenix** is an exciting newcomer and could upset the odds.

#### 19:00 - Outdoor Advertising Is The Best British EBF Fillies' Handicap

Another Class 4 race is up next, with a 1m1/2f trip for a top prize of £7,731 on offer for the winner. **Dreamrocker** is the favourite, with a career-best win at Ascot 20 days ago representing excellent form and this should be enough to push through a 4lb rise in weights.

# 19:30 - Iron Maiden Red Wine Handicap

Up next, a Class 6 handicap for three-year-olds which will be run at just over seven furlongs. Having finished a strong fourth at Doncaster 21 days ago, **Moakadd** for Roger Varian is the likely frontrunner, down 1lb.

#### 20:05 - Miles Commercial Handicap

The penultimate race of the card is a Class 5 contest, run over 1m4f and open to 4yo+ horses. Having shown a marked improvement in form so far this year, **Rogue Tornado** is expected to continue this good form as the front-runner in this race.

### 20:35 - Trooper 'Time People Please!' Handicap

Finally, this 6f handicap sees just five expected runners for what is a close Class 5 contest to call. With a first time visor fitted and good form this season, **Macanudo** will be expected to perform well especially when considering a drop back in grade for this race.

# **Selections - odds courtesy of BoyleSports**

18:00: Chips And Rice - 11/4

18:30: Noble Phoenix - 6/1

19:00: Dreamrocker - 11/4

19:30: Moakadd - 3/1

20:05: Rogue Tornado - 4/1

20:35: Macanudo - 15/8

Image: Credit Paul. CC BY 2.0

# Get a lift from Epsom's flat season.

The Flat season continues at Epsom this Thursday, with six evening races for fans to enjoy in the summer sun.

The going on the Downs is good to soft, soft in places, but with a day of sunshine forecast, it could firm up throughout the day before the first race at 5:55pm. The racing runs all the way through until 8:35, with the main attraction being the Class 4 Betfred "Bet Builder" Handicap at 8:05.

Read below to find out the latest horse racing betting and tips from Epsom's card on Thursday:

#### 17:55 - Betfred Play Fred's 5 Million EBF Maiden Stakes

The first race of the evening will put on show some promising two-year-old horses, who will race along seven furlongs. Having been bred from Andrew Balding's stable star Kameko, there are high hopes for Spell Master having debuted in sixth place at Newbury 14 days ago. However, Oisin Murphy's presence on John and Thady Gosden's **Attack** cements its place as the top pick for this contest.

#### 18:30 - Steve Donoghue Handicap

For this Class 5 race, a slightly longer trip of 1m 1/5f awaits the runners and riders, with nine entries competing for the top prize of £4,448.90. The standout runner in the race is **Blenheim Star**, with three wins in six outings so far this year, most recently at Brighton 16 days ago, but trainer William Knight will hope that the ground firms up.

### 19:00 - Chantilly Handicap

Next up, the second handicap of the card sees six runners competing over a 1m 2f trip. For Jack Channon, **Amancio** is the type who can bounce back from a disappointing fifth place at Chester 34 days ago and Rossa Ryan will hope to guide home the three-year-old to a win which replicates success at Haydock on April 27.

#### 19:35 - Betfred Ladies' Derby Handicap

For the fourth race, for female amateur jockeys only, **Naasma** looks like the smart option having operated well at this C&D. One to watch out for in this race is also Roost, who is down in grade and with blinkers back on could enter the running.

#### 20:05 - Betfred 'Bet Builder' Handicap

For the second Class 4 race of the evening, ten runners will take to the short 7f 3y trip. Having performed well at this C&D, **Guiteau** is the top pick for the race, although the highly rated Miss Information will be expected to produce a strong performance under the charge of Oisin Murphy for Andrew Balding.

# 20:40 - Betfred 'The Classic Bookmaker' Handicap

For the final race of the evening, 12 runners will take to the course in a race which is exclusively for three-year-olds. From a career low mark, **Bated Breeze** catches the eye, especially when first-time blinkers are added into the equation. Meanwhile, Havana Mojito is the forecast favourite having finished runner-up here 16 days ago and is at a 4lb lower mark.

#### Selections - odds via BoyleSports

17:55 - Attack 5/2

18:30 - Blenheim Star 9/4

19:00 - Amancio (NAP) 6/1

19:35 - Naasma 5/1

20:05 - Guiteau 3/1

20:40 - Bated Breeze (E/W) 10/1

Image: Credit Paul. CC BY 2.0

# **Epsom Downs Summer season race tips**

The Summer Season kicks off at **Epsom Downs** on Wednesday evening with a competitive six-race card for punters heading to the track.

Racing gets underway at 6.20pm with a seven-runner apprentice handicap before rounding off at 9.00pm as ten runners take on the class four handicap.

Read below to see the latest Horse racing betting and tips for Epsom's Wednesday card

The opener (6.20) is an apprentice handicap over the one mile and two furlong trip with Giselles Defence arriving in the best form of the field, winning at Pontefract in May and getting back on track at Leicester 18 days ago after a poor ninth prior so should take the beating here. Of his rivals, Oj Lifestyle was a Newbury maiden winner in 2022 who hasn't fired since but is dropping down into much calmer waters here.

Race two on the card (6.50) sees seven runners head to the stalls for the maiden stakes in class four for two-year-old's and Sir Peter Fossick for trainer Charlie Johnston is taken to get off the mark on debut, a half-brother to several winners over the this seven-furlong trip so he makes plenty of appeal on paper.

Mr Wagyu is on a losing run but has a fine record at Epsom and is back for more in race three on Wednesday's card (7.25), only slightly edged out on Derby Day so has to be considered back at his favoured track. Indian Creek won this race last year off a 2lb higher mark so is set to be amongst the top end as well in this six furlong class three handicap.

Trainer Ralph Beckett's son of Galileo, Atlantic Convoy, looks ripe for improvement in handicap company and he is the selection in race four on the card (8.00) having taken a step in the right direction when seventh in a Sandown maiden last month and is up in trip here.

The penultimate race on Epsom's card arrives at 8.30 with a one mile and four furlong handicap in class six. A competitive heat, Our Papa Smurf should be bang up there for trainer Gary Moore off the back of a win at Goodwood on June 14, going up in trip here by three furlongs. Of his rivals, Angel On High can give the Moore runner plenty to think about with two thirds and a second in his last three outings.

Finally, the card comes to a close with the ten-runner handicap in class four for three-year-old's and upwards (9.00), with preference in the finale heading to Justcallmepete, who can cash in on his low turf mark – 10lb lower than when he races on the all-weather surface – to take the spoils in the card closer ahead of course and distance winner Marlay Park, who has won four times at Epsom in his career.

#### **Epsom selections - Wednesday**

6.20 - Giselles Defence

6.50 - Sir Peter Fossick

7.25 - Mr Wagyu

8.00 - Atlantic Convoy

8.30 - Our Papa Smurf

9.00 - Justcallmepete

Image: Credit Paul. CC BY 2.0

# Student racemakers favourites at the Derby

**Ewell** based **Nescot** (North East Surrey College of Technology) were proud to be part of this year's **Epsom Derby** Festival. Our Travel and Tourism students were once again 'Racemakers' and our Animal Management students presented personalised handmade plaques to the grooms of the Betfred Derby runners.

NESCOT on Reigate Road, Ewell is the location for a local HUSTINGS, staged by Epsom and Ewell Times, for the Epsom and Ewell Parliamentary Candidates in the Adrian Mann Theatre at 7pm on Wednesday 26th June. All welcome.

Our Travel and Tourism Level 2 and 3 students were part of the 'Racemaker' team on 31 May and 1 June. They used skills developed within their course to assist visitors with directions and queries, helping to ensure an excellent experience was had by all. The students benefitted from both, the preparation and employment during the event. The experience has allowed them to develop their academic and transferrable skills, from CV development to interviews and onsite advice and guidance with Epsom Downs Racecourse. They received training on the various enquiries they might receive including how to effectively deal with a range of customer service scenarios.

A team of four of our Level 2 and 3 Animal Management students also presented unique mementos made from wood off cuts that bore the names of the horses running in the Derby. These personalised and handmade plaques were presented to each groom. The students were chosen for their consistent hard work and involvement in sustainability projects as part of their course.

**Julie Kapsalis**, Principal and CEO of Nescot, said, "We are proud of our involvement at the Betfred Derby Festival. Thanks to our staff for creating these collaborative opportunities and to our students for being excellent ambassadors for the College. It has been an incredible experience for them to be part of an internationally renowned premier racing event.

"We are hugely appreciative of Epsom Down Racecourse for inviting our students to be part of this prestigious event. Working with businesses and the community is important to us as a college and we look forward to our continued partnership that will enrich our learners with practical experiences to prepare them for their careers."

**Jennifer Fasad** and **Jemma Brodie**, Travel and Tourism lecturers at Nescot also expressed their gratitude. They said, "A huge thank you to the team at Epsom Downs Racecourse who ensured a comprehensive training programme was given to all learners involved. The opportunity to gain first hand customer service skills at an event of this scale offers them an all-important experience as they consider career paths in the travel, hospitality and events industry."

**Zoe Brown**, Head of Curriculum, Animal Studies, commented, "Our students were thrilled with the invitation to go behind the scenes in the stables area and meet the people who care for the horses. It's been an amazing experience for them. Thanks to Epsom Downs Racecourse for organising this opportunity. We are delighted that the personalised plaques were well received and we've been asked to provide them next year too."

**Tom Sammes**, General Manager at Epsom Downs Racecourse, said "We were pleased to offer students from Nescot the opportunity to be part of the 'Racemaker' team at the Betfred Derby Festival. Their enthusiasm and commitment to learn and execute their roles is commendable, and the whole team were professional and dedicated across the two days.

"We were also delighted to help the students present the beautifully designed plaques to the grooms of the Betfred Derby runners and want to thank them for their hard work in the build up to the event.

"Epsom Downs Racecourse is looking forward to offering a range of different projects to support study programmes for young people throughout the rest of the year. Nescot is a huge part of the local community, and we want to help them continue to make a positive impact on the young people that come through their doors."

Travel and Tourism student Frankie said, "We had such a great time working as part of the Racemaker Team. The guidance and the allocation of roles and locations was clear and organised. This opportunity has allowed me to develop my leadership skills. I was proud to be placed on the radio as a team leader during the second day."

Another student Josh added, "It was an amazing experience! Helping customers has developed my confidence. I had some fantastic personal moments and even had the opportunity to see the beautiful race horses in the winner enclosure."

This is the second year that our Travel and Tourism students have worked alongside The Jockey Club as part of the Beacon Project that was set up in in Autumn 2022. This collaboration offers our students work experience opportunities with various projects at Epsom Downs Racecourse to aid with their studies and understanding of the racing industry and career opportunities it presents.

Nescot's Travel and Tourism students as part of the 'Racemaker' team at Epsom Downs Racecourse for the Betfred Derby Festival along with Julie Kapsalis, Principal and CEO. Photo credit: Nescot