

SUNDAY, 06/10/24

R1 Longchamp [R-H]

**C1 - QATAR PRIX MARCEL BOUSSAC - CRITERIUM DES POULICHES -
1600m (a1m) - TURF - Gr1 Race - Flat - EUR € 400,000**

1. ZARIGANA - Unbeaten Aga Khan filly that flew up in 1600m Gr.3 Prix Aumale here on 12 September. Appears to have a bright future ahead of her and it is not easy to see her being bested

2. SIMMERING - Complemented her Deauville victory with 2nd of 5 in 1400m Gr.1 Moyglare Stud S. at the Curragh 3 weeks ago. Breaks wide but jockey will not be discouraged and, supplemented, must be taken seriously

3. BEDTIME STORY - Impressive in first 4 before finishing last of 5 in Gr.1 Moyglare Stud S. at the Curragh 3 weeks ago. Has had time to re-set and, if back on track, can make a big splash

4. EXACTLY - 3rd of 5 in 1400m Gr.1 Moyglare Stud S. at the Curragh 3 weeks ago. Keeps on progressing and while difficult to beat a tuned BEDTIME STORY (3), she should nevertheless be competitive for a place on the podium

5. ROSA SALVAJE - Consistently gives everything she has, latterly [7L] 3rd to ZARIGANA (1) in 1600m Gr.3 Prix Aumale here on 12 September. Not an obvious candidate for success but can still finish in the mix

6. INHEBHAA - Made a modest racecourse bow early-August when 6th of 7 in a 1600m Deauville debutantes race, and quite simply has no place in this field

7. LHAKPA - Won smartly on debut late-June before repeating mid-August in a 1500m Deauville Class 2 conditions race. Is a progressive filly but has ground to make up and looks more a minor place prospect

8. VERTICAL BLUE - 2nd of 6 in a Lyon-Parilly Listed over a mile on 11 September. Is here on her merits but may be able to help with the pace. Outsider either way

9. LA GUAPISIMA - Won 3 on the trot before running 4th, close to ROSA SALVAJE (5), behind ZARIGANA (1) in 1600m Gr.3 Prix Aumale here 3.5 weeks ago. Should be able to hold her own but still faces a stiff test

10. LA FERRETCAPIENNE - Modest individual that finished 7th of 8 in a fillies-only mile maiden race at Chantilly 10 days ago, and has no realistic chance

Summary: Blue-blooded grand-daughter of Zarkava, who herself secured this race before winning the Arc a year later, ZARIGANA (1) has been unopposed in both starts to date and will take all the beating. Easy winner of the Prix du Calvados, Simmering followed that up with an excellent Moyglare run and will be no pushover. BEDTIME STORY (3), the choice of Ryan Moore, was oddly out of sorts that day after having won her first 4, but is unlikely to be as uncompetitive this time round. Stablemate EXACTLY (4) finished an encouraging 3rd that day and may just find Longchamp to her liking.

SELECTIONS

ZARIGANA (1) - SIMMERING (2) - BEDTIME STORY (3) - EXACTLY (4)

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C2 - QATAR PRIX JEAN-LUC LAGARDERE - 1400m (a7f) - TURF - Gr1 Race - Flat - EUR € 400,000

1. HOUQUETOT - Made up for being beaten at Deauville with solid success in 1400m Gr.3 Prix la Rochette a month ago. Has had time to freshen up and is unlikely to disappoint. First 5

2. MISUNDERSTOOD - Put away after winning a valuable debutants race at Deauville, then trounced the opposition to win Gr.3 Prix des Chênes over course and distance by 4.5L, on return to competition 3.5 weeks ago, and is not to be underestimated

3. FIELD OF GOLD - Won 1400m Gr.3 Solario S. at Sandown, in very good order, late-August. Has never been tested at a superior level but is a colt with buckets of untapped potential and will justifiably receive significant support. Chance

4. HEYBETLI - Won a valuable Class 2 conditions race in Deauville mid-August before running 2nd to HOUQUETOT (1) in 1400m Gr.3 Prix la Rochette early last month. Is clearly capable but others still easier to back

5. REVOLUTIONNAIRE - Runner-up to HEYBETLI (4) in Deauville before coming a good 3rd to HOUQUETOT (1) in 1400m Gr.3 Prix la Rochette on 8 September, but appears to be biting off more than he can chew

6. TIEGO THE FIRST - Won 2 from 3 before finishing 5th of 8 in 1400m Gr.3 Prix la Rochette a month ago and will need to show significant improvement

7. HENRI MATISSE - Won first 3 before running 0.75L 2nd of 8 in 1400m Gr.1 National Stakes 3 weeks ago. Is still somewhat green but should nevertheless appreciate the ground and has the class to win here

8. RASHABAR - Sent for a short rest after winning Coventry S. then returned on 18 August with 2nd of 9 in 1200m Gr.1 Prix Morny at Deauville. Is as tenacious as they come and will be expected to contest the finish

9. COWARDOFTHECOUNTRY - Failed to confirm his Gr.3 Deauville success when 5th of 8 in 1400m Gr.1 National Stakes 3 weeks ago. Easily beat HOUQUETOT (1) on penultimate start, despite a bad trip, and must be taken seriously

10. CAMILLE PISSARRO - 2nd of 20 in a valuable 1300m Class 2 at Doncaster 3.5 weeks ago but has not done enough to be considered a priority

Summary: HENRI MATISSE (7) tasted defeat for the first time when 2nd in the National Stakes last month and although Aidan O'Brien has won this race just once in the last 15 years, he is well-armed to change that statistic. It is not going to be plain sailing though given how well FIELD OF GOLD (3) has been progressing, and the Gosden's colt should take well to Longchamp conditions. Gr.2 winner at Royal Ascot, RASHABAR (8) left a very good impression in the Prix Morny on his return from a spell and, with the Breeders' Cup on Brian Meehan's mind, he must be considered a leading contender. MISUNDERSTOOD (2) has yet to put a foot wrong, was eye-catching here last month and, if his curve is on the same trajectory, Alexis Pouchin can expect a big run.

SELECTIONS

HENRI MATISSE (7) - FIELD OF GOLD (3) - RASHABAR (8) - MISUNDERSTOOD (2)

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C3 - PRIX DE L'ABBAYE DE LONGCHAMP LONGINES - 1000m (a5f) - TURF - Gr1 Race - Flat - EUR € 350,000

- BATWAN** - Has simply not been performing to par, latterly 11th of 18 in Gr.3 Prix du Petit Couvert last month, and is unlikely to cause an upset
- MOSS TUCKER** - Won Flying Five in 2023 but disappointing for most part since, latterly last but one in last month's running, and can be ruled out
- WASHINGTON HEIGHTS** - Has done little of note since winning a spring Gr.3 at Newmarket, although most recently ran 5th of 18 in Flying Five race of reference and, in similar form, will not be going home empty-handed
- STARLUST** - Makes first appearance since running good 3rd to BRADSELL (9) in 1000m Gr.1 Nunthorpe S. at York on 23 August. Comes here fresh and while unlikely to repeat, can still get in on the action
- KERDOS** - Winless since securing a Haydock Gr.2 during the spring but ran a reassuring 4th of 18 in 1000m Gr.1 Flying Five S at the Curragh 3 weeks ago and, in similar shape, can put on another good show
- GRAND GREY** - Has continued his respectable ways since moving yards. 4th of 15 in Gr.3 Prix du Petit Couvert over course and distance 3 weeks ago. Enjoys a decent draw but seems to have little else going for him
- DESPERATE HERO** - Started to come good during the summer before losing his way again. 56/1 6th of 18 in Flying Five race of reference, but a repeat seems most improbable
- AESOP'S FABLES** - 10th of 15, on return to competition, in Gr.3 Prix du Petit Couvert over course and distance 3 weeks ago. Ryan Moore back in the irons but poorly-drawn and others easier to back
- BRADSELL** - A veritable steamroller lately, most recently winning 1000m Gr.1 Flying Five S. in good order mid-September and, capable on any going, can wrap this up
- ROGUE LIGHTNING** - Got back in the game when close 3rd of 15 in Gr.3 Prix du Petit Couvert over course and distance 3 weeks ago. Was unlucky that day and James Doyle will be expected to set the record straight
- MAKAROVA** - Made up for her Nunthorpe blip when 3rd of 18 to BRADSELL (9) in 1000m Gr.1 Flying Five S. at the Curragh 3 weeks ago. Tom Marquand keeps the ride and the soft ground can give his mare an edge this time
- MGHEERA** - 5th of 15 in Gr.3 Prix du Petit Couvert over course and distance 3 weeks ago. Is here on her merits, always acquits herself 100%, but the draw will not help her cause
- NO HALF MEASURES** - Won 3 of last 4, most recently running on well to win a 1000m Newbury Gr.3 a fortnight ago. Takes a notable step up in class but has earned the right to race at this level and, with Oisín Murphy back on board, can pleasantly surprise
- BELIEVING** - Tough filly with nothing to prove at this level, latterly 2nd to BRADSELL (9) in 1000m Gr.1 Flying Five S at the Curragh 3 weeks ago. Has form on soft ground, and Billy Loughnane will be keen to exact revenge on what is a spare ride
- LA BELLOTA** - Runner-up in 3 of 4, last time beaten only a neck in 1200m Mill Reef S. at Newbury a fortnight ago but appears properly out of his depth this time

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16. ENGLEMERE - In the thick of things for the most part this year, most recently 4th of 13 in a 1200m Ayr Gr.3 on 21 September, but in this company has no possible chance

Summary: Always a competitive affair, this year's edition sees revitalised, 2023 King's Stand S. winner, BRADSELL (9) back at the very top of his game and, already a winner in Deauville this summer, he makes his Longchamp debut on a Gr.1 hat-trick and is eminently capable of pulling it off. That being said, BELIEVING (14) [drawn 5] finished runner-up to him in both the Nunthorpe and the Flying Five and, even in the absence of Ryan Moore, still looks dangerous. ROGUE LIGHTNING (10) has not been the luckiest with the draw but reassured here 3 weeks ago and, considering last year's 5th, must be afforded considerable respect. A place behind him that day, MAKAROVA (11) has placed behind the first 2 named over the summer and can again envisage a first-3 spot.

SELECTIONS

BRADSELL (9) - BELIEVING (14) - ROGUE LIGHTNING (10) - MAKAROVA (11)

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C4 - QATAR ARABIAN WORLD CUP - 2000m (a1m1/4) - TURF - Claiming - Flat - EUR € 1,000,000

1. MOSHRIF - Runner-up in 2 Gr.1's earlier in the year, but will need to show marked improvement on latest last of 5 behind NOUR AL MAURY (9) in Gr.1 Prix Manganate over course and distance early-August

2. AL GHADEER - Raced little since winning this 12 months ago. Has since scooped the Gr.1 Amir Sword in Doha and looks eminently capable of making it 2 on the trot

3. EDALBAR - Disappointing in 2 French starts this year, latterly 4th of 5 to RB KINGMAKER (4) in a 1900m Gr.3 at La Teste early-July, and will have too much to do

4. RB KINGMAKER - Won a Gr.3 at La Teste in July but only 3rd of 5 behind NOUR AL MAURY (9) in Gr.1 Prix Manganate over course and distance early-August. Has freshness on his side but still not much more than a minor place prospect

5. CH'EZZA - Ran out a facile winner of 2000m Gr.1 Prix Dragon here mid-September and, while unlikely to impose, should still figure prominently at the business end of affairs

6. DJAFAR - Disappointing in Doha earlier in the year but ran an encouraging 3rd in a Gr.2 over a mile in Baden-Baden early last month. Has placed just once at this level however and is not about to buck the trend

7. FIRST CLASS - Last of 10 in this race 12 months ago. Has not been seen out since finishing last of 13 in 2000m Gr.1 Kahayla Classic in Dubai late-March, and can be passed over

8. NABUCCO AL MAURY - Left a good impression at Mont-de-Marsan before a never-threatening 2nd of 4 to CH'EZZA (5) in 2000m Gr.1 Prix Dragon here mid-September. Can pick up a cheque but is unlikely to spring any surprises

9. NOUR AL MAURY - Won a Gr.1 at la Teste before confirming 2 months ago in a 2000m Gr.1 at Deauville. Has had ample time to freshen up and even in the absence of an established jockey, can play a leading role

10. AL DOHA - Runner-up in last year's edition and has hardly put a foot wrong since, most recently winning a 2000m Gr.1 at La Teste by 3L, but is still expected to play 2nd fiddle to AL GHADEER (2)

11. FARIDA P - Good, consistent performer than ran 3rd over 1500m at Mons a month ago. Has never delivered in this class though and appears to have no realistic chance

Summary: Second on his French debut in 2022, AL GHADEER (2) has not tasted defeat since. Winner of this race 12 months ago, he may not have been seen out in France since but will have been carefully-prepared for this by his talented handler and will be a tough nut to crack. AL DOHA (10) one of 4 Thomas Fourcy-trained runners here, ran 3rd in the Amir Sword, has since won another Gr.1 here, and looks the main danger. Stablemate NOUR AL MAURY (9) is on a Gr.1 3-timer but may have to settle for a podium place this time around. Third in the 2023 edition, CH'EZZA (5) was by no means taxed when securing a Gr.1 over course and distance 3 weeks ago, and will be similarly competitive.

SELECTIONS

AL GHADEER (2) - AL DOHA (10) - NOUR AL MAURY (9) - CH'EZZA (5)

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C5 - QATAR PRIX DE L'ARC DE TRIOMPHE - 2400m (a1m1/2) - TURF - Gr1 Race - Flat - EUR € 5,000,000

- 1. ZARAKEM** - Failed to confirm his Prince of Wales's S. run when 11th of 13, behind BLUESTOCKING (7), in 2500m Juddmonte International at York on 21 August. Has had time to get his house in order, has the rail, and is due some redemption
- 2. HAYA ZARK** - Prix Ganay winner that most recently ran 2nd of 7 in a 2000m Gr.3 here a month ago. William Buick in the saddle this time but still no more than a minor place prospect
- 3. FANTASTIC MOON** - 11th of 15 in 2023 edition but a different horse this season, latterly winning 2400m Gr.1 Grosser Preis von Baden at Iffezheim on 1 September. Cannot be considered a priority but breaks from 2-hole and will generate some interest
- 4. AL RIFFA** - Gr.1 winner at 2 that had not confirmed until running out 5L winner of 2400m Grosser Preis von Berlin at Hoppegarten on 11 August. Yutaka Take called up for the ride and, knowing Longchamp well will only work in his favour
- 5. SEVENNA'S KNIGHT** - Useful stayer that smartly won 3500m Gr.3 Prix Gladiateur here early last month. Adores the venue but seems to be biting off more than he can chew
- 6. CONTINUOUS** - Has only won once since lifting last year's St. Leger, most recently 3rd of 5 in 2400m Prix Foy 3 weeks ago, but forced to break wide, and faces a very stiff test
- 7. BLUESTOCKING** - High-class mare that won Pretty Polly Stakes late-June and most recently repeated with a courageous 2400m Gr.1 Prix Vermeille success here mid-September. Up against the colts this time but still has a good hand to play
- 8. MQSE DE SEVIGNE** - Comes into her first 2400m start off back of 3 straight Gr.1 victories, latterly winning 2000m Gr.1 Prix Jean Romanet on 18 August. Handed a shocker of a draw but 8-times Arc winner, André Fabre, knows what it takes
- 9. LOOK DE VEGA** - Sent for a break after dominating the Jockey-Club but lacklustre 3rd of 5 to SOSIE (13) in 2400m Prix Niel on re-entry 3 weeks ago. Must be forgiven that run and can be backed with confidence this time. Chance
- 10. SHIN EMPEROR** - Full-brother to 2020 Arc winner Sottsass. 3rd in Japanese Derby before repeating in 2000m Gr.1 Irish Champion Stakes at Leopardstown on first start outside of Japan. Draw not a problem. Attention
- 11. SUNWAY** - Well-related Gr.1 winner at 2. Finished 4th, but placed 3rd, in 2900m Gr.1 St. Leger at Doncaster 3 weeks ago. Drew the 15-spot but rain on Sunday would do his prospects no disservice
- 12. DELIUS** - Late-developer that ran a good 2nd to SOSIE (13) in Prix Niel mid-September. Will have progressed for the run and is not incapable of adding a 3rd Arc to the Rouget belt
- 13. SOSIE** - 1.5L winner of 2400m Gr.2 Prix Niel 3 weeks ago. Won his first Gr.1 after running 3rd in Jockey-Club, has not looked back since, and will be competitive for the win
- 14. LOS ANGELES** - Irish Derby winner that was by no means disgraced when 4th of 8, a place behind SHIN EMPEROR (10), in 2000m Gr.1 Irish Champion Stakes at Leopardstown 3 weeks ago. Excels over 2400m and will have his chances

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15. SURVIE - Failed to confirm her Prix de Malleret success when finishing a lacklustre 7th of 12 behind BLUESTOCKING (7) in 2400m Gr.1 Prix Vermeille here mid-September, and is unlikely to spring a surprise

16. AVENTURE - Honest filly that ran 2nd to BLUESTOCKING (7) in 2400m Gr.1 Prix Vermeille here mid-September. Beat a number of good horses that day, goes over any ground, has been handed the 4-spot, and looks an interesting outsider

Summary: Majestic winner of the Prix du Jockey-Club in early-June, LOOK DE VEGA (9) was clearly not himself in the Prix Niel but the Lerner's have been confident about the progress he has made since and, if the case, can bring the Maisons-Laffitte-based team a maiden Arc. Winner of the Niel, 2 months after carrying off the Grand Prix de Paris, SOSIE (13), drawn 5, is a serious proposition, but so too is the similarly well-drawn BLUESTOCKING (7) who bids to become the first Vermeille-Arc winner since Trêve in 2013. Jean-Claude Rouget, who won last year's edition with Ace Impact, sends out DELIUS (12) who bagged 2nd in the Niel on his first start for 2 months, and is sure to be at his peak for the occasion.

SELECTIONS

LOOK DE VEGA (9) - SOSIE (13) - BLUESTOCKING (7) - DELIUS (12)

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C6 - PRIX DE L'OPERA LONGINES - 2000m (a1m1/4) - TURF - Gr1 Race - Flat - EUR € 500,000

1. AMERICAN SONJA - Reliable top-level performer who filled the runners-up berth behind champion Mqse of Seigne in the Group I Prix Jean Romanet before finishing 5th in the Group II Moyglare Stakes won by HANALIA (4) on 15 September

2. RUNNING LION - Not seen to best effect when finishing unplaced (7th) in the 1600m Group I Falmouth Stakes at Newmarket on 12 July. Absent since although undeniably capable of making her presence felt

3. ELUSIVE PRINCESS - Runner-up in the 2023 Group I Prix Saint-Alary over track and trip, and has maintained her form/consistency in 3 starts this year, albeit without success. Was 4th in the course-and-distance La Coupe de Maisons-Laffitte (Group III) on 8 September

4. HANALIA - Progressive Sea The Stars filly. Looked better than ever when winning a Curragh Group II, the 2000m Moyglare Stakes, on 15 September

5. SPARKLING PLENTY - Winner of this season's Group I Prix de Diane - followed that up with an eye-catching 3rd in a 2000m Group I at Goodwood in August. Not at all disgraced in finishing 6th (wasn't beaten far) on this course in the 2400m Group I Prix Vermeille on 15 September

6. ALMARA - Ultra-consistent performer who has only once finished worse than 2nd in her last 8 appearances (was 3rd in a Listed race over track and trip. Returned to winning ways in a 2000m Group III at Deauville on 28 July

7. YLANG YLANG - Returned from a 4-month absence to finish 4th, behind FALLEN ANGEL (10), in the Group I Matron Stakes over 1600m at Leopardstown on 14 September. Will appreciate the extra 400m with improved fitness on her side

8. START OF DAY - Won a 2000m Listed race at Vichy in July and raised her game again to win the Group III Prix Prince d'Orange over track and trip on 8 September. Warrants respect given the good form of Henri-François Devin's stable

9. FRIENDLY SOUL - Start-to-finish winner of the Group II Prix de la Nonette over 2000m at Deauville on 18 August. Not taken lightly

10. FALLEN ANGEL - High-class performer at two and as a three-year-old. Acquitted herself well in defeat (2nd) when pitched into Group I company for the first time in the 1600m Matron Stakes at Leopardstown (14 September) - an unknown quantity over this distance

11. CONTENT - Smart, maturing Galileo filly who produced a career-best performance when winning 2400m Group I Yorkshire Oaks at York on 22 August. Big player

Summary: Prix de Diane winner SPARKLING PLENTY (5) carries the hopes of the French and has been prepared for this Group I engagement. YLANG YLANG (7) finished behind FALLEN ANGEL (10) last month in a Leopardstown Group I over 1600m but, with this longer trip and soft ground likely to suit, is good value to turn the tables on that rival who races beyond a mile for the first time. The shortlist is completed by progressive last-start winners CONTENT (11) and HANALIA (4), though a case could be made for several others.

SELECTIONS

SPARKLING PLENTY (5) - YLANG YLANG (7) - FALLEN ANGEL (10) - CONTENT (11)

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C7 - QATAR PRIX DE LA FORET PRESENTE PAR EDUCATION ABOVE ALL - 1400m (a7f) - TURF - Gr1 Race - Flat - EUR € 350,000

- 1. POET MASTER** - Smart, lightly raced 4yo gelding whose references include a creditable last-start 5th in a 1400m Group II contest, won by KINROSS (2), at Doncaster on 14 September. Ideally drawn and is distance suited - keep safe
- 2. KINROSS** - High-class veteran performer competing in this race for the fourth time (4th in 2021, won the 2022 edition and finished 2nd to KELINA (14) last year). Won a 1400m Group II at Doncaster on 14 September in preparation for another tilt at this prestigious prize
- 3. TRIBALIST** - Bounced back from an underwhelming 9th in a 1200m Group III with a dominant front-running display to win the Group I Prix du Moulin de Longchamp over 1600m at this venue on 8 September. Effective over 1400m too
- 4. TIBER FLOW** - A proven Stakes performer whose 3 Group victories include a last-start Group II Hungerford Stakes success at Newbury on 17 August. Shouldn't be underestimated
- 5. KING GOLD** - Unplaced in consecutive recent starts, the most recent of which (6th) was in the Group I Prix Jacques le Marois over 1600m at Deauville on 11 August. Needs to spark improvement
- 6. ZEROSTRESS** - German veteran with sound references on French soil in Quinte+ handicaps on turf and PSF. Will find this a lot tougher, especially on the evidence of his last-start 9th in a 1200m Group III at Baden-Baden on 25 August
- 7. BIG ROCK** - Proved a high-class colt at 2 and again at 3 but not as effective as a 4-year-old this term. Undeniably capable but needs to spark improvement to make his presence felt, having finished 5th of 7 in the Group I Prix Jacques le Marois over 1600m at Deauville on 11 August
- 8. BEAUVATIER** - Consistent, versatile colt with proven references in Group races over Somewhat isolated in the middle of the track recently on the 1200 meters of Deauville, he took a good third place. Very comfortable over this distance, he has already won on this course.
- 9. RIVER TIBER** - High-class colt at 2 but hasn't fulfilled his potential at 3. Well-beaten 9th of 11 over 1200m in Group I July Cup at Newmarket on 13 July. Needs to spark improvement over this trip to trouble the principals
- 10. OCEAN JEWEL** - Continues to blow hot and cold but has undeniable means. Won a 1600m Curragh Group II in May and finished a good 4th in the Group I Prix Rothschild over 1600m on 28 July. Attractive outsider
- 11. BREEGE** - Inconsistent but undeniably capable filly. Showed her form and well-being by winning a 1400m Group II event at York on 24 August. This demands more of her
- 12. MATILDA PICOTTE** - A well-beaten 14th of 18 runners in a Curragh Group I (Flying Five) over 1000m on 15 September but will enjoy reverting to this distance over which she is most effective. Outsider
- 13. GREGARINA** - Springly raced mare but isn't devoid of ability. Bounced back to form with an encouraging 4th in the Curragh Group II Minstrel Stakes over 1400m on 21 July
- 14. KELINA** - Long-shot winner (27-1) of this race last year but hasn't added to her tally in 4 subsequent starts - unplaced on each occasion, the latest (6th of 7) over 1600m in the Group I Prix du Moulin at this venue on 8 September

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15. EXXTRA - Consistent filly with solid form references/credentials in Group races, including a last-start 4th in the Group III Prix du Pin over this course and distance on 15 September. Place chance at best

16. FLORA OF BERMUDA - Dark Angel filly with proven Group I references, albeit up to 1300m - the distance over which she finished 4th in the Prix Maurice de Gheest at Deauville. Unlucky not to have achieved a better result/ranking in the Group I Sprint Cup at Haydock, where she finished 5th over 1200m, on 7 September. Not taken lightly trying this trip

17. RIBALTAGAIA - Won a 1600m Listed event in May and finished 3rd in a Group II contest over the same distance a month later, both races at Chantilly. Unplaced in both starts since, the latest (8th) in a Group III at that venue on 15 August

18. RAMATUELLE - Classy filly with solid references/form credentials at the highest level, including 3rd-place finishes in Group I races at Newmarket (1000 Guineas) and at Royal Ascot in the Coronation Stakes on 21 June. Yet to win in 2024 but remains high on the shortlist given the strength and consistency of her top-level performances

Summary: Stellar cast assembled for a smashing renewal of the Prix de la Forêt. KINROSS (2), runner-up in this race 12 months ago behind KELINA (14), is participating in this Group I event for the fourth time and has a genuine chance of reclaiming the title he won in 2022. RAMATUELLE (18), in receipt of 2,5kg from her older male rival, and game frontrunner TRIBALIST (3) could make life difficult for the selection. However, consistent three-year-olds BEAUVATIER (8) and filly FLORA OF BERMUDA (16) also have the means to pose a threat if overcoming wide starting berths. POET MASTER (1), TIBER FLOW (4), EXXTRA (15), BIG ROCK (7), and 2024 heroine KELINA (14) add further intrigue to a cracking contest, as they're also capable of getting involved in the outcome. A must watch!

SELECTIONS

KINROSS (2) - RAMATUELLE (18) - TRIBALIST (3) - BEAUVATIER (8)

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C8 - QATAR GRAND HANDICAP DES FLYERS PRESENTE PAR RMC - 1300m (a6f1/2) - TURF - Class 1 Handicap - Flat - EUR € 75,000

- 1. LE TABOU** - Hasn't finished worse than 3rd in his 6 appearances with this headgear fitted. Showed his form and well-being by winning his last start over 100m at Chantilly on 7 September
- 2. APAX** - Reliable hard-knocker performer who should play a leading role, given the strength/consistency of his recent form. Won a Quinté+ on this track last spring and was 3rd in a 1650m Listed race at Craon on 22 September
- 3. PUREST TIME** - Won a 1200m Quinte+ at Deauville in July but has struggled under a penalty in 3 subsequent starts - unplaced on each occasion, the latest (7th) over 1200m at Chantilly on 7 September
- 4. PEDRITO** - Versatile hard-knocking handicapper with references on turf and PSF. Won 1400m Quinte+ on the all-weather at Deauville on 30 July but was only 6th over that course and distance off his current mark on 18 August. Joker
- 5. KIMI ORENDA** - Last-start winner of a 1400m Quinté+ handicap on this course last month (5 September). Carries a 3kg penalty but should remain competitive at this level
- 6. MAJOR OAK** - Took advantage of a drop in the weights/ratings to win a 1200m Quinte+ at Deauville in August but showed his limitations under a 5kg penalty when unplaced (8th) in the Quinte+ of 16 September at Chantilly. Outsider
- 7. ROCK BOY** - Has resumed after a layoff in impressive form/fashion, quickly regaining momentum - confirmed as much with a good 4th in a 1200m Quinte+ at Deauville on 15 August. Candidate for success
- 8. AGAT** - Consistent and lightly raced colt with scope to improve and sound references/form credentials, including an encouraging last-start 5th on this course in a 1400m Quinte+ on 5 September. Not without a chance
- 9. SHORT FINAL** - Made a winning handicap debut over 1500m at Saint-Cloud in November 2023 and followed up in a Quinte+ at that venue over 1400m. Has maintained his form/consistency off this mark and confirmed as much when 5th over 1600m in a Quinte+ at Deauville on 4 August
- 10. TUDO BEM** - Honest well-performed veteran whose means are undeniable but consistency questionable. Finished a decent 4th off his current mark in a 1200m conditions race at Chantilly on 7 September. For lovers of outsiders
- 11. FREJA** - Stylish last-start winner of a Quinté+ handicap over 1400m at Deauville on 22 August. Will remain competitive under a 3,5kg penalty
- 12. MEGARRY** - A 6-start maiden who finished 4th in a 1400m Group III event at Deauville in April. Unplaced (6th) on handicap debut over 1400m at Saint-Cloud on 9 September but wasn't entirely disgraced that day - dropped 1,5kg since
- 13. ETEL DU NINIAN** - Won a 1400m Quinte+ handicap at Saint-Cloud in May but has shown her limits under a resultant penalty in 4 subsequent starts - unplaced on each occasion, the latest (7th) over 1500m at Saint-Cloud on 9 September
- 14. ROYAL SHAKE** - Bounced back to form with an encouraging last-start 4th in the Quinté+ handicap of 5 September at this venue over 1400m. Wasn't beaten far by KIMI ORENDA (5) and LUCKY WINE (18) - races with blinkers refitted

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15. AVERSA - Inconsistent but has undeniable means and sound form references/credentials, including 2 Quinte+ victories. Didn't go unnoticed when 5th over 1400m in a conditions race at Vichy on 23 September - dropped 1,5kg since

16. WILD WEST - Consistent in his early days and landed a 1200m Quinte+ at Chantilly in April this year but lost his way/form since, finishing unplaced in each of his 3 subsequent appearances. Soundly beaten (13th) in 1200m Quinte+ handicap at Deauville on 15 August

17. TORPEN - Favourably positioned in the starting stalls and is likely to feature prominently throughout, especially after an encouraging last-start 3rd over 1200m in a Quinte+ event at Chantilly on 16 September.

18. LUCKY WINE - Acquitted himself admirably, despite an unfavorable run of the race, to finish a game-in-defeat 2nd in a 1400m Quinte at this venue on 5 September - only narrowly failed against KIMI ORENDA (5). On the shortlist

Summary: ROCK BOY (7) revealed considerable promise early in his career and has shown that he retains most - if not all - of his ability since resuming after a lengthy layoff. He is in good form and physical condition so is worth siding with in this handicap from a favorable starting berth. However, course-specialist APAX (2), bottom-weight LUCKY WINE (18), whose performances on this course recently have been encouraging, and last-start winner LE TABOU (1), despite conceding weight all round, are all potential dangers to the selection. There are several others capable of getting involved too!

SELECTIONS

ROCK BOY (7) - APAX (2) - LUCKY WINE (18) - LE TABOU (1)

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C9 - QATAR PRIX DE LA PLACE DE L'ETOILE - 2000m (a1m1/4) - TURF - Class 1 Handicap - Flat - EUR € 75,000

- 1. WATCH HIM** - Has regained form/momentum recently and confirmed as much by finishing 5th in a Quinte+ on the PSF and a good 2nd over 2000m in a conditions race at La Teste on 31 August. Keep safe
- 2. KLEORA** - Won a 1900m PSF Quinté+ on 18 August at Deauville before proving her competitiveness under a 3kg penalty by finishing 5th on a Quinte event on this course over 1850m on 8 September. Candidate for success
- 3. MAKE A WISH** - Outclassed in back-to-back Listed races recently, finishing unplaced in both - the latest (8th) on 16 September at Marseille-Borely over 2000m. Should fare better at this level
- 4. BELIEVER** - Progressive last-start winner on this course over 2100m on 5 September. Makes his handicap debut off a mark high enough but remain open to improvement
- 5. KING TREZY** - Third in the Quinté+ of August 28 on the occasion of a semi-return, it finds here the trail of its only success and will have ambitions for its first confrontation against its elders.
- 6. LONDON ROYAL** - Carefully prepared for this handicap and has always finished in the first four on his visits to ParisLongchamp. Ideally suited to this distance and ought to play a leading role
- 7. TOLLEFAST** - Consistent performer at a lower level, most recently in the claiming category - finished 4th in a 1600m claimer at Fontainebleau on 22 September. Others preferred
- 8. PLAIN BEAU** - Consistent veteran performer in claiming races and handicaps. Showed his form and well-being by finishing a good 4th over 2100m in a handicap at Saint-Cloud on 27 September
- 9. ALPHABIA** - Last-start winner of a 1600m handicap at La Teste on 12 September but is best watched for now racing off a career-high mark (3,5kg penalty)
- 10. LIGHT WAKEUP** - Won a Le Lion-d'Angers handicap over 1400m in July but has struggled under a resultant penalty - unplaced in all 3 subsequent outings, the latest (13th) in a 1600m Lyon-Parilly handicap on 29 September
- 11. FASHION GREY** - Consistent for the most part and didn't finish far off the mark in either outing off his current mark, having won a Quinte+ handicap over 2100m at this venue on 23 May. Attractive outsider
- 12. AL BARQ** - Won a 2000m Toulouse handicap on 5 September and proved her form/competitiveness off this mark when 3rd over 2400m at that venue on 18 September. Dark horse
- 13. CHIAREGGIO** - Out of sorts but retains sufficient ability and is undeniably capable of sparking improvement having dropped in the weights/ratings after finishing 10th in a course-and-distance Quinte+ handicap on 15 September
- 14. SWIFT FLIGHT** - Last-start winner of a course-and-distance handicap on 15 September. Penalised 3kg but is dangerous under a lightweight

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Summary: Consistent KING TREZY (5) took the honours in a 2200m Quinte+ on this course before proving his competitiveness off this revised mark on his semi-return to action at Compiègne. He needn't improve with the benefit of that comeback run under his belt to fight for victory. LONDON ROYAL (6, carefully aimed at this race, has finished in the first four in 9 consecutive outings so he wouldn't be winning out of turn and poses a serious threat. Last-start winner BELIEVER (4), an interesting proposition at this level, and reliable hard-knockers KLEORA (2) and WATCH HIM (1) are others with sufficient means to play leading roles.

SELECTIONS

KING TREZY (5) - LONDON ROYAL (6) - BELIEVER (4) - KLEORA (2)