

# Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June

## BETFRED DERBY – Group 1 (3yo)

### 130 Epsom

Generally a strong race on the trends front and I'm using the same trends I used for the 2023 renewal...

- 1 15/15 top 3 finish LTO (beaten no more than 4L)
- 2 15/15 OR 107+ (or didn't have a rating yet)
- 3 15/15 won 1 of last 3 starts
- 4 15/15 sired by a G1 winner
- 5 14/15 previously ran at Group level
- 6 14/15 won 1 of their first 2 career starts

...for a trends table of...

	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOT
ARREST	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6
PASSENGER	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6
WHITE BIRCH	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6
ALDER	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	5
AUGUSTE RODIN	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5
DUBAI MILE	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5
MILITARY ORDER	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	5
SPREWELL	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	5
THE FOXES	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	5
WAIPIRO	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	5
ARTISTIC STAR	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	4
COVENT GARDEN	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	4
DEAR MY FRIEND	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	4
KING OF STREET	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	4
ADELAIDE RIVER	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	3
SAN ANTONIO	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	3

...and a trends shortlist of...

**ARREST – PASSENGER – WHITE BIRCH**

## Pace/Draw thoughts...

*\*Will be added when final field is declared and finished guide is produced...*

*\*Pace Map will appear here*

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## Trainer notes/Jockey notes/Horse notes/General pointers...

**AIDEN O'BRIEN** has won this 8 times and had 14 others place from 90 runners (since 2001). All winners had 1-2 starts in season, won 1 of their last 3, won or were beaten no more than 2L LTO and started at a single figure SP LTO... for race form of... 8/49, 8p... his **COVENT GARDEN & SAN ANTONIO** meet those stats this year...

**MICHAEL STOUTE** has won this 4 times and had 4 others place from 15 runners (since 1999). All his winners had 2-3 career starts, ran at C1 level LTO but were yet to run in a Group 1... for a race form line of... 1312113 (4/7, 3p)... his **PASSENGER** fits those stats this year...

**Last race run in before Derby... Dante (X7), 2000 Guineas (X5), Lingfield Derby Trial (X3), Derrinstown Stud Derby Trial (X3), Dee Stakes (X3), Chester Vase (X3), Ballysax Stakes (X1), Irish 2000 Guineas (X1)...** outliers were POR MOI who came from a G2 in France and SERPENTINE who came from a Curragh Maiden in the 2020 Covid hit season...

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## Conclusion/Current Thoughts...

Trend Toppers...

**ARREST** Winner of 3 of his 5 starts as well as a head second in a G1 in France on final start last season. Visually impressive winner of the Chester Vase LTO although not as good on the figures as some of the other recent pieces of form (for all he was eased down at the line). Last few runs have been on ground with plenty cut (was actually Heavy at Chester) so will be facing quite different ground at Espom...

**PASSENGER** A well-bred type who only made his debut in April as a 3yo, which is unusual for a Derby winner (only Ruler Of The World did the same of the past 26 Derby winners... but at least that proves it can be done...) but I thought he would have won the Dante last time out had gotten a clear passage and I think there's a good chance he'll prove to be the best horse in that race. Fits the profile of recent Stoute Derby winners and placed horses...

**WHITE BIRCH** Another well-bred sort who should be suited by stepping up to 1m4f. Possibly given too much to do in the Dante but was a big run nonetheless. Looks to have improved over the winter and for stepping up in distance.

Thoughts on others...

**AUGUSTE RODIN** was bitterly disappointing in the Guineas LTO and horses beaten more than 3.5L on their final start before the Derby are 0/69, 7p in the race. It may well have been due to being hampered in the first half of the race that was the cause of his poor effort, and

stablemate LITTLE BIG BEAR has come out and put his equally disappointing run behind him since, but he does have questions to answer right now...

**SAN ANTONIO** seems a big price (around 40's) as he posted a very good figure when winning the Dee Stakes on his last start. He's only raced on Soft or the AW so far so there are unknowns there, but he's possibly been overlooked a little at present...

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I'd be wanting to see the final decs and the draw before coming to a final conclusion, but I do like the chances of **PASSENGER (M Stoute)**. He ran relatively freely in the early stages of the Dante but still cruised into the final furlong like a very classy type before meeting all sorts of trouble as the race hit top gear. He picked up well when he finally got running room but the winner had flown by then and Kingscote was far from hard on him in the final half-furlong, giving him one tap with the whip and accepting the win was out of his reach. I'm pretty confident he was the best horse in that Dante and connections must think along the same lines as well as they've supplemented him for this for £85k and he's the one at the forefront of my thinking for this currently.



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