



Ascot Racecourse Media Release

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Cheval Grand aiming to go two better than sire Heart's Cry in 2019 King George VI & Queen Elizabeth QIPCO Stakes

The 2017 G1 Japan Cup victor **Cheval Grand** will arrive in the UK later this month ahead of racing against some of Europe's leading lights in the £1.25-million G1 King George VI & Queen Elizabeth QIPCO Stakes at Ascot on Saturday, July 27.

A plethora of stars feature among the 38 entries for the 12-furlong highlight, details of which are revealed today, headed by dual G1 Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe heroine **Enable** (John Gosden, 5/2 favourite with Ascot's official bookmaker Betfred), plus the two most recent winners of the G1 Investec Derby in 2018 victor **Masar** (Charlie Appleby, 16/1 with Betfred) and 2019 winner **Anthony Van Dyck** (Aidan O'Brien IRE, 8/1).

Cheval Grand (16/1) has finished third in the two latest editions of the G1 Arima Kinen, one of Japan's premier middle-distance contests staged at Nakayama just before Christmas.

The seven-year-old had his first start outside of Japan when putting up an excellent performance to come home second to Old Persian in the G1 Dubai Sheema Classic at Meydan, UAE, on March 30.

Four Japanese-trained horses have contested the King George VI & Queen Elizabeth QIPCO Stakes, with Cheval Grand's sire Heart's Cry faring best when a close third behind Hurricane Run in 2006. The others were Sirius Symboli (1985, 8th), Air Shakur (2000, 5th) and Deep Brillante (2012, 8th).

Yasuo Tomomichi, trainer of Cheval Grand, said: "It is a great honour for me to send a runner for such a prestigious race at Ascot and I am very excited.

"Cheval Grand's sire Heart's Cry ran very bravely in King George in 2006, finishing third behind Hurricane Run and Electrocutisionist.

"In fact, I recently had a call from Kojiro Hashiguchi, the trainer of Heart's Cry who stopped training two years ago, and he has given me some useful advice.

"I would like to win the King George for Japan."

Hurricane Run's trainer Andre Fabre is likely to be represented by **Waldgeist** (12/1). Now a five-year-old, Waldgeist looked as good as ever on his latest start when swooping to victory in the G1 Prix Ganay at Longchamp, France, on April 28.

Enable, an impressive winner of this race in 2017, and **Sea Of Class** (William Haggas, 9/2) could renew rivalries, having being separated by a short-neck in the G1 Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe at Longchamp in October. Sea Of Class is set to make her 2019 reappearance at Royal Ascot next week in the G1 Prince Of Wales's Stakes.

Ireland's 21-time champion Flat trainer, Aidan O'Brien, has 18 entries in total. As well as Investec Derby hero Anthony Van Dyck, O'Brien's team features impressive G1 Tattersalls Gold Cup scorer **Magical** (6/1) and G1 Investec Oaks second **Pink Dogwood** (16/1), plus **Japan** (16/1) and **Broome** (20/1) who were third and fourth respectively in the Investec Derby. There are 19 Irish-trained entries in total, with O'Brien's son Joseph having engaged 2018 Irish Derby victor **Latrobe** (50/1).

O'Brien has sent out four winners of King George VI & Queen Elizabeth QIPCO Stakes, most recently Highland Reel in 2016.

Sir Michael Stoute is the most successful trainer in King George VI & Queen Elizabeth QIPCO Stakes history with six wins, after Poet's Word led home a one-two for the stable in 2018.

Newmarket-based Stoute has two entries this year, made up of 2018 neck runner-up **Crystal Ocean** (5/1), unbeaten on his two starts so far in 2019, and G3 scorer **Mirage Dancer** (25/1).

In addition to 2018 Derby winner Masar, the famous blue silks of Godolphin could also be represented by 2018 G1 Melbourne Cup hero **Cross Counter** (16/1) and Prix Ganay third **Ghaiyyath** (25/1). Both horses are both trained by Charlie Appleby.

Other high-profile entries include **Defoe** (Roger Varian, 10/1), who got the better of **Kew Gardens** (Aidan O'Brien IRE, 14/1) in the G1 Coronation Cup at Epsom Downs on May 31.

The G1 King George VI & Queen Elizabeth QIPCO Stakes is part of the QIPCO British Champions Series.

There is a scratchings stage at noon on Tuesday, July 9, with the five-day confirmation and £80,000 supplementary entry stage on Monday, July 22.

Betfred spokesman Matt Hulmes said "It is another stellar entry for the midsummer highlight at Ascot, with the market headed by two female equine superstars.

"Enable is the 5/2 favourite and will be hoping to regain her title having missed last year's race through injury, while 9/2 second favourite Sea of Class will be looking for revenge over John Gosden's mare after her narrow Arc de Triomphe defeat. Fingers crossed they both turn up in top form and recreate that stunning finish at Longchamp in October.

"With Magical fourth in the betting at 6/1, the market has found favour with the fillies and mares, who have landed three of the last seven runnings of this prestigious prize."

King George VI & Queen Elizabeth QIPCO Stakes, Betfred bet: 5/2 Enable, 9/2 Sea of Class, 5/1 Crystal Ocean, 6/1 Magical, 8/1 Anthony Van Dyck, 10/1 Defoe, 12/1 Waldgeist, 14/1 Kew Gardens, 16/1 Cheval Grand, Cross Counter, Japan, Masar, Pink Dogwood, 20/1 Broome, Flag of Honour, 25/1 Constantinople, Fleeting, Ghaiyyath, Mirage Dancer, 33/1 Lah Ti Dar, Morando, Norway, Private Secretary, Salouen, Southern France, 40/1 Capri, Circus Maximus, 50/1 Cape of Good Hope, Communique, Coronet, First Eleven, Latrobe, 66/1 Humanitarian, Hunting Horn, Magic Wand, 100/1 Cypress Creek, Pondus, 200/1 Sovereign

The King George VI & Queen Elizabeth QIPCO Stakes

Group 1, £1,250,000 total prize fund. Ascot, 3.40pm, Saturday, July 27, 1m 4f. For three-year-olds and upwards. Weights: 3yo colts and geldings 8st 10lb, fillies 8st 7lb; 4yo and up colts and geldings 9st 7lb, fillies and mares 9st 4lb. Entries closed June 11 (**38 entries**), scratchings deadline July 9, five-day confirmations and £80,000 supplementary entry stage July 22, final declarations 10am July 25.

Horse	Age	Owner	Trainer
ANTHONY VAN DYCK (IRE)	3	Sue Magnier, Michael Tabor & Derrick Smith	Aidan O'Brien IRE
BROOME (IRE)	3	Michael Tabor, Derrick Smith & Sue Magnier	Aidan O'Brien IRE
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE (IRE)	3	Sue Magnier, Michael Tabor & Derrick Smith	Aidan O'Brien IRE
CAPRI (IRE)	5	Derrick Smith, Sue Magnier, Michael Tabor	Aidan O'Brien IRE
CHEVAL GRAND (JPN)	7	Kazuhiro Sasaki	Yasuo Tomomichi JPN
CIRCUS MAXIMUS (IRE)	3	Flaxman Stables/Mrs Magnier/Tabor/Smith	Aidan O'Brien IRE
COMMUNIQUE (IRE)	4	Sheikh Hamdan Bin Mohammed Al Maktoum	Mark Johnston
CONSTANTINOPLE (IRE)	3	Derrick Smith, Sue Magnier, Michael Tabor	Aidan O'Brien IRE
CORONET (GB)	5	Denford Stud	John Gosden
CROSS COUNTER (GB)	4	Godolphin	Charlie Appleby
CRYSTAL OCEAN (GB)	5	Sir Evelyn De Rothschild	Sir Michael Stoute
CYPRESS CREEK (IRE)	4	Michael Tabor, Derrick Smith & Sue Magnier	Aidan O'Brien IRE
DEFOE (IRE)	5	Sheikh Mohammed Obaid Al Maktoum	Roger Varian
ENABLE (GB)	5	Khalid Abdullah	John Gosden
FIRST ELEVEN (GB)	4	Khalid Abdullah	John Gosden
FLAG OF HONOUR (IRE)	4	Sue Magnier, Michael Tabor & Derrick Smith	Aidan O'Brien IRE
FLEETING (IRE)	3	Sue Magnier, Michael Tabor & Derrick Smith	Aidan O'Brien IRE
GHAIYYATH (IRE)	4	Godolphin	Charlie Appleby
HUMANITARIAN (USA)	3	HH Sheikh Zayed bin Mohammed Racing	John Gosden
HUNTING HORN (IRE)	4	Sue Magnier, Michael Tabor & Derrick Smith	Aidan O'Brien IRE
JAPAN (GB)	3	Derrick Smith, Sue Magnier, Michael Tabor	Aidan O'Brien IRE
KEW GARDENS (IRE)	4	Derrick Smith, Sue Magnier, Michael Tabor	Aidan O'Brien IRE
LAH TI DAR (GB)	4	Lord Lloyd Webber	John Gosden
LATROBE (IRE)	4	Lloyd Williams	Joseph O'Brien IRE
MAGIC WAND (IRE)	4	Michael Tabor, Derrick Smith & Sue Magnier	Aidan O'Brien IRE
MAGICAL (IRE)	4	Derrick Smith, Sue Magnier, Michael Tabor	Aidan O'Brien IRE
MASAR (IRE)	4	Godolphin	Charlie Appleby
MIRAGE DANCER (GB)	5	Khalid Abdullah	Sir Michael Stoute
MORANDO (FR)	6	King Power Racing Co Ltd	Andrew Balding
NORWAY (IRE)	3	Derrick Smith, Sue Magnier, Michael Tabor	Aidan O'Brien IRE
PINK DOGWOOD (IRE)	3	Derrick Smith, Sue Magnier, Michael Tabor	Aidan O'Brien IRE
PONDUS (GB)	3	Hubert John Strecker	James Fanshawe
PRIVATE SECRETARY (GB)	3	Denford Stud	John Gosden
SALOUEN (IRE)	5	H Balasuriya	Sylvester Kirk
SEA OF CLASS (IRE)	4	Sunderland Holding Inc	William Haggas
SOUTHERN FRANCE (IRE)	4	Derrick Smith, Sue Magnier, Michael Tabor	Aidan O'Brien IRE
SOVEREIGN (IRE)	3	Sue Magnier, Michael Tabor & Derrick Smith	Aidan O'Brien IRE
WALDGEIST (GB)	5	Gestut Ammerland/ Newsells Park	Andre Fabre FR

38 entries

19 Irish-trained

1 French-trained

1 Japanese-trained

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