

FUTURITY TROPHY PREVIEW

SATURDAY 25 OCTOBER 2025

RACE 1

THE SKILL STEP
GROUP HANDICAP
STAKES (CLASS 2),
5F 3Y

PRIZE MONEY
£50,000

RACE 2

THE WILLIAM HILL
FUTURITY TROPHY
STAKES (CLASS 1)
(GROUP 1), 1M

PRIZE MONEY
£200,000

RACE 3

THE WILLIAM HILL
PROSPECT STAKES
(CLASS 1) (LISTED
RACE), 6F 2Y

PRIZE MONEY
£50,000

RACE 4

THE SKY SPORTS
RACING SKY 415
NURSERY
HANDICAP STAKES
(CLASS 3), 7F 6Y

PRIZE MONEY
£22,000

RACE 5

THE WILLIAM HILL
EACH WAY EXTRA
HANDICAP STAKES
(CLASS 3), 1M

PRIZE MONEY
£25,000

RACE 6

THE WILLIAM HILL
BEST ODDS
GUARANTEED
HANDICAP STAKES
(CLASS 2), 1M 2F 64Y

PRIZE MONEY
£45,000

RACE 7

THE FREE DIGITAL
RACECARD AT
RACEDAY-READY.COM
HANDICAP STAKES
(CLASS 4) (DIV I), 7F 6Y

PRIZE MONEY
£22,000

RACE 8

THE FREE DIGITAL
RACECARD AT
RACEDAY-READY.COM
HANDICAP STAKES
(CLASS 4) (DIV II), 7F 6Y

PRIZE MONEY
£22,000

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GUIDE TO THE FUTURITY TROPHY STAKES

RUNNER BY RUNNER

By **Jamie Lynch**



THE WILLIAM HILL FUTURITY TROPHY (14:05)

Live on

sky sports racing

This race has a rich history of generating classic winners, cause and effect of Ballydoyle's reverence of the race as a generational gateway to help turn two-year-old promise into three-year-old achievement, and its importance is emphasised this year by such a talented trio of team-mates - dangerous to assume a known hierarchy in this instance.

Let's take a deep dive into all five runners for the Doncaster feature...

ACTION

Trainer: **A P O'Brien**



Already ahead of schedule, as third in a Royal Lodge was better than anything his close relative Lambourn managed as a two-year-old, and what's more that didn't get to the bottom of Action, who came from further back than Bow Echo and Humidity and recorded the fastest final furlong, out of rhythm in the Dip but in his element on the rising ground. Though measured as the third string here, he'd be the number one in some years, not just on profile and projection as he's equal to Benvenuto Cellini on official ratings and just 1lb off Hawk Mountain. This course and these conditions will elevate his next step into a hop, and maybe even a leap.

BENVENUTO CELLINI

Trainer: **A P O'Brien**



Second on debut at the Curragh in June, then an odds-on win in a maiden and a two-month break before a bigger statement success in the KPMG Champions Juvenile at Leopardstown on Irish Champions weekend, ahead of attacking the Futurity Trophy. The sculptors' pathway, Auguste Rodin went where Benvenuto Cellini follows, in lockstep, only Benvenuto is 1lb ahead at the same stage after a five-length win at Leopardstown, with the how more relevant than who he beat, really rocketing through the final two furlongs albeit off a steady pace. He's tracking to be something out of the ordinary, and in a race that means a lot to Ballydoyle, it means a lot that he's demonstrably their first string - also ante-post favourite for the Derby.

GUIDE TO THE FUTURITY TROPHY STAKES

RUNNER BY RUNNER

Continued

HAWK MOUNTAIN

Trainer: **A P O'Brien**



If you tasked AI with creating a Futurity winner, it would probably look more like Hawk Mountain than either Action or Benvenuto Cellini, for the simple fact that five of Aidan O'Brien's 11 winners came via the Beresford, on top of the classic Coolmore family, out of Hydrangea, who was twice second in Group 1s in the autumn of her juvenile campaign. His Beresford was a little light and his process a little awkward, at times, but a matter of rawness, and he still clocked a good time for the testing conditions. Front-running fits well with his style and spirit, and he's almost toyed with the opposition the last twice, quickly coming alive when challenged and with no knowing how much is left in the tank, though it feels like a lot..

OXAGON

Trainer: **J & T Gosden**



If he hadn't run at Newmarket a fortnight ago then he'd undoubtedly be in amongst the Ballydoyle battalion in the betting, considering that in the Champagne he finished behind only the Lagardere winner, with the Dewhurst winner behind him along with Cape Orator, who landed the high-value sales race on Arc weekend. His track position probably didn't help in the Dewhurst, in which the first four were all nearer the stand-side rail than him, and Rivet is a horse from recent history who rebounded from the Dewhurst (also fifth) to win this, but it might just be the case that the reality doesn't quite match the reputation for Oxagon. There's just a chance the Frankel in him may come out more at this new trip, however.

ROCHFORTBRIDGE

Trainer: **A Keatley**



In the deep end since his winning debut, swimming rather than sinking but still coming up short in Group 3 and Listed company, including on Monday at Pontefract (2nd to Shayem). Overmatched even more so here.

JAMIE LYNCH'S VERDICT

Futurity winners for Ballydoyle have come in all shapes and sizes, but the main thing that separates these three is reputation. **Benvenuto Cellini** could easily be the next big thing from the way he won on Irish Champions weekend, but his price assumes that he's further along that curve than he actually is, so **ACTION** is surely the value play, joining the dots from how he came home in the Royal Lodge - with the highest finishing percentage speed - to his greater compatibility with the course and conditions on Saturday.



KEY RACES STATS GUIDES

By **Paul Jones**

No one knows more about the crucial trends behind the key races than Paul Jones, who has compiled this comprehensive guide to Saturday's key race.

Four of the last eight winners have all gone on to win a Guineas (Saxon Warrior, Grecia Magna, Kameko and Mac Swiney) and the Classic roll of honour this century of winners doesn't end there outside of Epsom and various Guineas' as three winners added the Irish Derby; Kingston Hill and Brian Boru returned to Doncaster to win the St Leger and American Post added the French 2000 Guineas.

Aidan O'Brien is responsible for no less than nine of the 13 confirmations in his quest for a twelfth success in the race. Three of his winners (Camelot, Saxon Warrior and Grecia Magna) went on to win the 2000 Guineas and three more (High Chaparral, Camelot and Auguste Rodin) went on to complete the Derby-Irish Derby double.

Benvenuto Cellini is the pick of his squad following his 5l victory in the Group 2 KPMG Champions Juvenile Stakes at Leopardstown and has been put in at odds-on. The final Group 1 race in Britain has proven to be a very good race for favourite backers of late collecting in 11 of the last 16 runnings. However, the surprise victories of Palace Episode (20/1), Authorized (25/1) and Marcel (33/1) this century have shown it is a race where we should keep an open mind.

When Hotazhell nosed Delacroix out of it last season on his sixth start, he was emulating Mac Swiney who had also ran five times previously, so they have been the busiest winners this century. The last maiden to win was Sir Michael Stoute's Dilshaan in 2000 but all 13 confirmations have a win on the board.

Of the 25 winners this century, 21 had finished first or second last time out (15 winning), 20 had run within the last six weeks and 14 had already won over a mile. A higher draw nearer the stands' rail certainly hasn't been a disadvantage. Since 2011, three winners have emerged from the highest stall and six other winners were drawn in the higher half.

☑ POSITIVES:

- Trained by Aidan O'Brien
- The Favourite
- Drawn High
- Ran within the last six week
- Already won over one mile

☒ NEGATIVES:

- Not finished first or second last time out

TIMEFORM TIPS

RACE	1st TRILBY (13)
1	2nd JER BATT (11)
	3rd LEXINGTON BLITZ (8)
RACE	1st BENVENUTO CELLINI (2)
2	2nd ACTION (1)
	3rd HAWK MOUNTAIN (3)
RACE	1st LAM YAI (6)
3	2nd BOSTON DAN (1)
	3rd FIGJAM (5)
RACE	1st COLORI FOREVER (2)
4	2nd THE RESDEV SCHOLAR (5)
	3rd CHAPTER (4)
RACE	1st WALSINGHAM (8)
5	2nd VALVANO (1)
	3rd GALERON (3)
RACE	1st GREY CUBAN (1)
6	2nd CROWD QUAKE (9)
	3rd MUSTAZEED (8)
RACE	1st DWINDLING FUNDS (9)
7	2nd TACTICAL PLAN (12)
	3rd RAINBOW NEBULA (4)
RACE	1st CATALYSE (6)
8	2nd EY UP ITS JAZZ (14)
	3rd SHAZANI (13)



La Bellota winning the Prospect Stakes in 2024.



Hotazhell (left) winning the Futurity Trophy in 2024.



Laafi winning the Proper Betting Handicap in 2024.

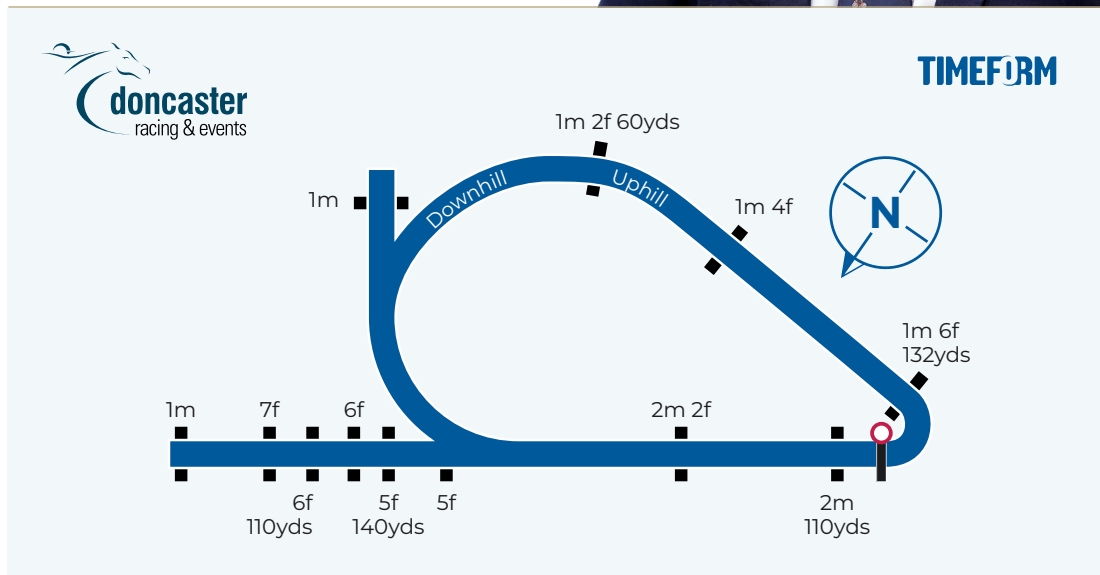
GUIDE TO DONCASTER

By Classic-winning jockey and Sky Sports Racing presenter **Jason Weaver**

“ There are not many fairer courses than Doncaster, which is a lovely, virtually flat, galloping track. You do climb briefly, up and over Rose Hill, but, for the most part, it's beautifully smooth to ride, a good, solid test of a horse.

There can be one or two hard-luck stories, especially on the round course, when lots of runners are still in contention late on, and that's where jockeyship comes in. I liked to be on the stands' side on the straight course, but either side is fine, just as long as you're not far off a rail.

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Left handed, galloping. One of the fairest courses in the country, essentially flat with the exception of a slight uphill gradient about a mile and a quarter from the finish. Races between five furlongs and one mile are run on the straight course, though there is also a round mile start on an off-shoot of the round course. It is a free-draining course, underfoot conditions only occasionally being soft/heavy.