

### WEDNESDAY

BATH  
BRIGHTON  
KEMPTON PARK (AW) (E)  
PONTEFRAC  
YARMOUTH (E)  
SLIGO (E)

### THURSDAY

BRIGHTON  
HAYDOCK PARK  
NEWCASTLE (AW) (E)  
SANDOWN PARK (E)  
WOLVERHAMPTON (AW) (E)  
YARMOUTH  
LEOPARDSTOWN (E) Sligo (e)

### FRIDAY

BRIGHTON  
HAYDOCK PARK (E)  
MUSSELBURGH  
NEWMARKET (E)  
WOLVERHAMPTON (AW)  
TIPPERARY (E)

### SATURDAY

ASCOT  
AYR (E)  
HAYDOCK PARK  
LINGFIELD PARK (E)  
NEWMARKET  
REDCAR  
Kilbeggan (e)

### SUNDAY

LEICESTER  
WINDSOR  
CURRAGH  
Downpatrick

### MONDAY

AYR  
RIPON  
WINDSOR (E)  
WOLVERHAMPTON (AW) (E)  
Ballinrobe (e)

### TUESDAY

CHELMSFORD CITY (AW) (E)  
FFOS LAS  
NOTTINGHAM (E)  
THIRSK

## THE PHOENIX STAKES

### Curragh, Sunday

Gordon Elliott will bid to continue his reinvention as a leading Flat trainer when his unbeaten colt Beckford bids to take some more big scalps in the Keeneland Phoenix Stakes, this week's Group One highlight, at The Curragh on Sunday.



Beckford is poised to take on Aidan O'Brien's Norfolk Stakes winner, Sioux Nation (left), with 12 horses having stood their ground at the latest confirmation stage. O'Brien has won the race with top class performers of the likes of George Washington, Holy Roman Emperor, Zoffany and Caravaggio and will be bidding for a remarkable 16th win in the race. The Ballydoyle handler has seven possible runners with Declarationofpeace and course and distance-winning filly Actress among them, although July Stakes runner-up US Navy Flag looks the form horse if the going doesn't come up testing.

However, the Ballydoyle team will have their work cut out against the Elliott runner, who won well in the Railway Stakes at the same track last time out and has already attracted support for next year's 2000 Guineas. Elliott (right) said: "He's a very nice horse and he'll have to improve again but we think he is in good form and I'm happy with him. It's a great thrill having a nice horse like him in the yard but I wouldn't say it's given me any urge to give up training the jumpers. It's just nice for the team to have something different to keep us busy in the summer too."



There are a couple of possible representatives from Britain in the shape of Tom Dascombe's Frozen Angel and the Mick Channon-trained maiden winner Helvetian, while other potential rivals include James Nash's T For Tango and the Ken Condon-trained Romanised who was only beaten a little over two lengths in the Coventry Stakes at Royal Ascot.

Condon said: "We like him a lot and after Sunday we will know a lot more. He has always given us the impression he is a good colt and in the circumstances, with him being slowly away at Royal Ascot, I felt he ran very well. The times were quick that day and the horses at the front-end looked to have an advantage so we are looking forward to Sunday. I think he has improved since Royal Ascot and his work has been to a good standard but we'll get a better idea after the Phoenix Stakes. I'm hoping he will represent us well."

Joe Murphy's stable star Only Mine will look to make it three wins on the bounce in the Group Three At The Races Phoenix Sprint Stakes on the supporting card. Tom Hogan's globetrotting veteran Gordon Lord Byron, a Group One winner in his prime, will aim for a third course-and-distance success and the fascinating contest could also feature Willie McCreery's highly-rated Downforce and Richard Fahey's Kimberella, a winner at Chester last weekend.

### THE SHERGAR CUP

#### Ascot, Saturday

At Ascot itself, the day is all about the Shergar Cup, the once-a-year international challenge where jockeys from around the world get their chance to shine in a one-off tournament format.

Australian Kerrin McEvoy is making his second appearance at the meeting and is certainly no stranger to followers of British racing, having guided Rule Of Law to victory in the 2004 St Leger at Doncaster and ridden three previous winners at Royal Ascot. Back at home, the 36-year-old captured the Melbourne Cup for the second time last November.

Anthony Delpech and Keita Tosaki are among the other international riders involved. Delpech, 48, is a dual champion jockey in South Africa, while Tosaki, 37, has been the Japan Racing Association's top rider for the last three years.

Canada's Emma-Jayne Wilson and Australia's Michelle Payne, two of the most successful riders ever in the world, are also part of the team of female jockeys involved, along with GBI's own ambassador Hayley Turner, whose retirement from race-riding is - pleasingly for her many supporters - back on hold again.



### BEST OF THE REST

#### Haydock

There is high-quality action to look forward to at a number of other meetings in Britain on Saturday, with Brian Meehan bidding to maintain a hot run of recent form when he runs the mercurial Spark Plug in the Group Three Betfred Rose Of Lancaster Stakes at Haydock.

The 2100m contest has attracted 20 possible starters including representatives from a number of the major stables. Meehan has sent out five winners in the last fortnight, including Group-race success at Glorious Goodwood last week, and Spark Plug has been a fine servant to his stable over the years.

The winner of the big Cambridgeshire Handicap last season, he isn't always easy to catch right and ideally needs to be delivered patiently. However, he showed his skills when winning a Listed race at Sandown on his latest start and it's clear that the six-year-old still has all of his old ability.

Among the possible opposition, Sir Michael Stoute's Autocratic, the winner of the Brigadier Gerard Stakes last time out, very much takes the eye. While Hugo Palmer has always held three-year-old Best Of Days in the highest regard.

#### Newmarket

At Newmarket, the Headquarters of the sport, the main event is the 1400m Sweet Solera Stakes, often a significant stepping stone towards the big end-of-season juvenile fillies' contests such as the Fillies' Mile and the May Hill Stakes. Godolphin won the race five years running between 2009 and 2013 and could be represented by the Charlie Appleby-trained Poetic Charm, an impressive winner on her debut in a maiden at this track at the July meeting.

Dance Diva already has form at this level, having chased home Nyaleti in the Group Three Princess Margaret Stakes at Ascot recently. She is a solid contender for Yorkshire trainer Richard Fahey.