

# 2009 Investec Derby – Horse Racing Pro Preview

## Winkle Has Class To Rip Them To Shreds



### The Field

#### Age Of Aquarius



Galileo o/o Clara Bow

Aidan O'Brien  
Pat Smullen

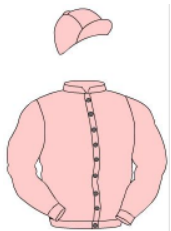
14 – 1

An impressive winner on debut at Dundalk and shaped with promise when 4<sup>th</sup> to Fame And Glory at Saint Cloud. Grounded out his win in good battling style at Lingfield but it would be slightly surprising if he was good enough to collect in this class.

#### Star Rating:



#### Black Bear Island



Sadler's Wells o/o Kasora

Aidan O'Brien  
Ryan Moore

21 - 31

Caught on heels at a crucial stage when 3<sup>rd</sup> in Longchamp on his seasonal reappearance but improved significantly on that run when taking the Dante in good style. Shaped as if the step up in trip would only see about improvement and he looks a very solid ride for Ryan Moore here.

#### Star Rating:



## Crowded House



Rainbow Quest o/o Wiener Wald

Brian Meehan  
Jamie Spencer

0121 - 0

High class juvenile who picked up in smart style to destroy his rivals in the Racing Post Trophy last season but hugely disappointing in the Dante and still questions to be answered on whether he can stay the 1m 4f and has to prove his disappointing Dante effort all wrong. Maybe too early to write him off entirely but certainly plenty to prove and with that I couldn't have him.

### Star Rating:



## Debussy



Diesis o/o Opera Comique

John Gosden  
Jimmy Fortune

4 – 113

Done nothing wrong when winning his Lingfield maiden in a canter and then improved significantly to beat the Oaks 2<sup>nd</sup> Midday in comfortable fashion around this track. Failed to beat Golden Sword and Masterofthehorse at Chester but came out with credit in 3<sup>rd</sup> and his work subsequently has been pleasing. Still improving he is a nice prospect and has good outside claims here.

### Star Rating:



## Fame And Glory



Montjeu o/o Gryada

Aidan O'Brien  
J A Heffernan

11 -11

The only unbeaten colt in the line up and was hugely impressive in his trial spread eagling the field in the style of a very smart prospect. Stayed 10f very easily at two and looks seriously useful given he will improve for today's step up in trip. Seems to have slipped under most peoples radar but definitely a live player.

### Star Rating:



## Gan Amhras



Galileo o/o All's Forgotten

Jim Bolger  
Kevin Manning

312 – 3

Looks a stayer and ran very well in the 2000 Guineas when staying on the one pace in 3<sup>rd</sup> suggesting a longer trip would suit. Had decent form as a 2yo and beat Masterofthehorse in his maiden before running a creditable 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Goffs Million. Definitely of interest stepping up in trip but for me he still needs to improve to collect with Sea The Stars and Rip Van Winkle looking more potent players from the Guineas.

### Star Rating:



## Golden Sword



High Chaparral o/o Sitara

Aidan O'Brien  
Colm O'Donoghue

3541 – 41

Took a long time to win his maiden last season and needs to improve on his 4<sup>th</sup> at Longchamp at the start of the season. However his win at Chester wasn't as lucky as many would make out and he set a searching gallop up front rather than being given a soft lead. The form has a solid look to it now with the 3<sup>rd</sup> holding the Oaks runner up Midday on previous form and it would be very unwise to write off or discount a horse who arguably could have the best trip form in the race.

### Star Rating:



## Kite Wood



Galileo o/o Kite Mark

Saeed Bin Suroor  
Lanfranco Dettori

211 – 5

Fascinating 2yo who improved with each start ending the season with an impressive display in the Autumn Stakes. Sold for good money to Godolphin subsequently he didn't run badly in the Dante and was one of a few making late headway suggesting he could be suited by this step up in trip. Has done nothing but impress in his work at home and far too early to write off. Another with outside ew claims.

### Star Rating:



## Masteroffthehorse



Sadler's Wells o/o Shouk

Aidan O'Brien  
Richard Hughes

2130 – 2

Not convinced by his chances here and to me he flatters to deceive and has looked the winner of three of his races before going through with his effort. Outclassed in the Racing Post Trophy last season much was made of Johnny Murtagh's ride at Chester but for me he wasn't making any serious impression on the winner and has no chance this afternoon.

### Star Rating:



## Montaff



Montjeu o/o Meshhed

Mick Channon  
Richard Hills

21 – 2

Form of Lingfield run is very suspect and whilst improving and working well he does look to have a mountain to climb at this level and it would be disappointing if he were good enough to score in a race of this calibre.

### Star Rating:



## Rip Van Winkle



Galileo o/o Looking Back

Aidan O'Brien  
Johnny Murtagh

110 – 4

The best horse in this race for me and having impressed in his first two starts he just couldn't get into the Dewhurst before flashing home late. Had a stop start preparation before the Guineas so his fast finishing 4<sup>th</sup> looks all the better and he certainly gives the impression that this step up in trip will suit. Working really well at home he comes here in excellent form and he for me is the moral winner of this race.

### Star Rating:



## Sea The Stars



Cape Cross o/o Urban Sea



John Oxx  
Michael Kinane

411 – 1

Useful 2yo who improved to collect in the 2000 Guineas in good style. Looks sure to improve for this longer trip and is certainly bred to be as effective over this trip. Much has been made of his claims of late and certainly a major player, but very little in the way of value at 11/4.

### Star Rating:



## Summary

One of the most competitive Derby's in a long time and the Guineas form coming into the race looks strong with Sea The Stars, Gan Amhras and Rip Van Winkle all making it a mouth watering contest and that's before you consider Fame And Glory, Golden Sword and Black Bear Island making it a smart renewal for the Irish. Of the English horses Debussy looks the best runner for me but this can go to **RIP VAN WINKLE** whose Guineas preparation was interrupted continuously and he shapes as if this longer trip will suit.

**Selection: Rip Van Winkle**

**Ew: Debussy & Golden Sword**

Preview produced by Ace for Horse Racing Pro