

Dosage analysis

Eminent can come through the likely war of attrition



DOSAGE PROFILE OF DERBY CONTENDERS

Colt	Sire/damsire	Profile	DI	CD
Wings Of Eagles	Pour Moi/Kendor	2-0-9-6-1 = 18	0.57	-0.22
Salouen	Canford Cliffs/Galileo	2-0-12-8-0 = 22	0.57	-0.18
The Anvil	Galileo/Rainbow Quest	5-0-25-18-0 = 48	0.57	-0.17
Cliffs Of Moher	Galileo/Dansili	4-1-20-15-0 = 40	0.60	-0.15
Finn McCool	Galileo/Halling	5-0-21-14-0 = 40	0.63	-0.10
Dubai Thunder	Dubawi/Lando	1-0-3-0-2 = 6	0.71	-0.33
Permian	Teofilo/Mark Of Esteem	2-1-14-6-1 = 24	0.71	-0.13
Capri	Galileo/Anabaa	4-2-18-12-0 = 36	0.71	-0.06
Glencadam Glory	Nathaniel/Orpen	2-1-11-6-0 = 20	0.74	-0.05
Eminent	Frankel/Kingmambo	6-1-20-13-0 = 40	0.74	0.00
Venice Beach	Galileo/Danehill	4-2-24-12-0 = 42	0.75	-0.05
Douglas Macarthur	Galileo/Green Desert	4-3-19-12-0 = 38	0.77	-0.03
Rekindling	High Chaparral/Salse	3-0-10-4-1 = 18	0.80	0.00
Crowned Eagle	Oasis Dream/In The Wings	2-3-17-7-1 = 30	0.82	-0.07
Khalidi	High Chaparral/Cape Cross	2-1-18-4-1 = 26	0.86	-0.04
Cracksman	Frankel/Pivotal	1-6-16-7-0 = 30	1.00	0.03
Pealer	Campanologist/Big Shuffle	6-0-12-6-0 = 24	1.00	0.25
Diore Lia	Yeats/Catrail	4-0-8-4-0 = 16	1.00	0.25
Best Solution	Kodiak/Kingmambo	7-2-17-6-0 = 32	1.21	0.31
Benbatl	Dubawi/Selkirk	3-0-5-1-1 = 10	1.22	0.30

Key to Profile: Left to right columns, ranging from speed to stamina: Brilliant, Intermediate, Classic, Solid, Professional. DI = Dosage index; CD = Centre of distribution. The Centre of Distribution (CD) scale complements the DI. The CD covers the range from +2 to -2, where +2 corresponds to the Brilliant aptitudinal group in the Dosage profile (DP), +1 corresponds to Intermediate, 0 corresponds to Classic, -1 corresponds to Solid, and -2 corresponds to Professional. A low (close to zero) or negative CD indicates enhanced stamina potential

Emphasis on stamina to help Eminent stand out

Steve Miller



Our dosage expert with his view on the Derby

THE Derby is once more upon us and, in the regrettable absence of the long-time ante-post favourite Churchill, the race looks to be wide open.

The dual 2,000 Guineas winner certainly has the speed for the Derby and Galileo's progeny tend not to lack sufficient stamina over middle distances. He is an ideal type for the race.

Without Churchill, the contenders seem to be a mix of plausible if less than fully convincing individuals in terms of form, so the Dosage system can provide vital additional clues.

The accompanying table shows the 20 who could still take part and as usual it is arranged with those showing the most stamina potential at the top and the least at the bottom, ranked in order of DI.

As mentioned in my 2,000 Guineas preview, the figures now fully reflect the addition of Galileo and Pivotal to the chef-de-race list. As a result, the Galileo-influenced colts are

showing a reinforced – or even a slightly exaggerated – shift toward stamina as the profiles for the stallion's progeny were already reflecting an adequate stamina position before his inclusion.

It means our table has a more stamina-laden look to it than usual and the optimum blend of speed and stamina for the Derby – often expressed as a DI of 1.0 and a CD of zero – appears more than halfway down our list. Indeed, only two runners have a higher DI than the ten-year winning average of 1.06.

Ballydoyle battalions

In Churchill's absence, Aidan O'Brien could field as many as seven, with six sons of Galileo plus the Pour Moi colt Wings Of Eagles. The downside to having more than a handful who may be good enough to win the Derby is that it is quite possible none of them actually are good enough.

That may well be the case with O'Brien's Derrinstown Derby Trial first and third **Douglas Macarthur** and **Capri**. That pair, split by another stablemate Yucatan, who will now be left until the autumn, crossed the line together and, as they also have very similar stamina profiles, it seems there is next to nothing between them. While they ought to be in the mix, it's hard to see nothing else proving slightly better.

The Chester Vase also saw O'Brien claim a one-two-three, with Venice Beach and the fast-finishing Wings Of Eagles both

getting past The Anvil, who set the pace, and the winner should confirm the form.

Venice Beach won his maiden at the third attempt at Tipperary last term, but only after being stepped up to 1m4f. Clearly this trip is just what he needs.

Wings Of Eagles, out of a Kendor mare, has no stamina issues either, appearing as he does at the top of our table, although he finished down the field when stepped up to Group 1 company last term behind Waldgeist, Best Solution and Capri.

The other big Chester trial, the Dee Stakes, saw **Cliffs Of Moher** beat Godolphin's exposed and highly tried Bay Of Poets. He was also much too good for his opposition, including smart stablemate Orderofthegarter, when running away with a 17-runner maiden at Leopardstown last season.

O'Brien has expressed reservations about the trip but, by Galileo out of a Dansili mare, the colt has stamina aplenty and looks the pick of the Ballydoyle team.

Dante credentials

Since it was upgraded to a Group 2 in 1980, the Dante has been the most significant trial for the Derby, with seven colts winning both races since then and Workforce landing the Derby after finishing runner-up at York in 2010. The 2014 Dante winner, The Grey Gatsby, went on to win the Prix du Jockey Club and the 2015 one-two, Golden Horn and Jack

Hobbs, were also first and second at Epsom, so there are clear precedents for Permian and Benbatl.

Permian saw off Benbatl in determined fashion that day and this extra distance should help him to confirm the form. Stamina will not be an issue for the son of Teofilo, out of a Mark Of Esteem mare, and he looks worth his place in the line-up.

Benbatl has a chance of staying the trip, but on a DI of 1.22 the Dubawi colt may be better suited to 1m2f, at least for the time being.

Stablemate **Best Solution**, a son of Kodiak, has a similar place in our table and his overall form is patchy, although the best of it, including his win in the Lingfield Derby Trial, entitles him to be in the mix.

Saeed Bin Suroor's best chance may be **Dubai Thunder**, who could be anything having won his only race, an 18-runner 1m2f maiden at Newbury, by ten lengths. By Dubawi out of a Lando mare, he should have no trouble at this trip.

Going back to the Dante, though, the big absentee was **Cracksman**, who was pulled out at the 11th hour but had already beaten the winner, Permian, at Epsom.

The son of Frankel, out of a Pivotal mare, has an ideal stamina profile for the Derby, with a DI of 1.0 and CD of 0.03, and has to be on the shortlist.

Eminent to relish trip

No horse in more than 50 years has won the Derby after finishing outside the first four

in the 2,000 Guineas and **Eminent** was only sixth at Newmarket, but it's worth bearing in mind that he ran wide without much cover, was pinched for room when the field quickened in earnest and, according to trainer Martyn Meade, probably had a more taxing race in the Craven than his yard first suspected.

While it is true that a list of excuses shouldn't leave us brimming with confidence, I was sweet on Eminent's chances in the Derby before the Guineas and nothing has put me off that idea.

The son of Frankel will need to improve markedly on his Guineas performance, but that is exactly what can be expected of him as he will relish stepping up in trip.

His Dosage reading is just about ideal for this race, with a CD of zero, indicating a perfect balance of speed and stamina, and a DI of below 1, showing good stamina aptitude for middle distances.

Best of the rest

Several others in the field should stay the trip well, including all of John Gosden's runners.

As well as Cracksman, Gosden has four other possibles, including **Khalidi**, who looks an intelligent supplementary entry.

The son of Derby winner High Chaparral has won Listed races at Newmarket and Goodwood this season and is closely grouped in our table with stablemates **Crowned Eagle** and **Pealer**, all of them

LAST TEN DERBY WINNERS

Year	Winner	DI
2016	Harzand	1.40
2015	Golden Horn	1.38
2014	Australia	0.78*
2013	Ruler Of The World	0.88*
2012	Camelot	0.94
2011	Pour Moi	0.78
2010	Workforce	1.44
2009	Sea The Stars	1.67
2008	New Approach	0.68*
2007	Authorized	0.70
Average		1.06

*Adjusted for the inclusion of Galileo as a C/S chef-de-race and Pivotal as an I/C

shaping as if middle distances will suit.

Glencadam Glory has the lowest DI of the Gosden quintet but was well beaten by Best Solution at Lingfield.

The Ballysax winner **Rekindling** is another High Chaparral colt and has the right sort of Dosage reading for the trip.

Being out of the Galileo mare Gali Girl, the trip should present no problem for **Salouen** either.

Verdict

Aidan O'Brien is again geared up for a major assault on the race with Cliffs Of Moher and Venice Beach spearheading a group of colts packed with stamina who could turn the race into a real war of attrition. Cliffs Of Moher looks the best of them and is respected, as are Cracksman, Permian and the once-raced Dubai Thunder, but Eminent gets the nod. He can prove his 2,000 Guineas running wrong over a trip that was always going to play more to his strengths.

1. **EMINENT**
2. **Cliffs Of Moher**
3. **Cracksman**

More on the Dosage system from the author and from Dr Steven Roman can be found at bit.ly/2prBlyS and in the book *Dosage: Pedigree and Performance*, published by The Russell Meerdink Company, Ltd.