THE ENGLISH GUINEAS OF 2009

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This weekend sees the running of both the English 2000 and 1000 Guineas. The 2000 Guineas will be run on Saturday, whilst the 1000 runs a day later.

Likely favourite for the 2000 Guineas is Delegator. The Dansili colt was a most impressive winner of the Gr3 Craven Stakes, and is said to have been working well.

Aidan O’Brien has a superb record in the 2000 Guineas, and he sends over two colts, both of whom have a chance. Mastercraftsman (Danehill Dancer) and Rip Van Winkle (Galileo) . The latter was sore on Monday but is said to have responded well to treatment. Mastercraftsman was one of the best juveniles around last year, and won both the Phoenix and National Stakes before flopping in the Prix Jean Lac Lagardere. Rip Van Winkle has yet to show the same level of form as his stablemate, but is highly regarded by the stable. Other colts with strong chances include last year’s Dewhurst Stakes winner Intense Focus (Giant’s Causeway), the consistent Lord SHanakil (Speightstown), Gr2 Futurity winner Arazan (Anabaa) and his stablemate, the beautifully bred Sea The Stars. The 1000 Guineas looks to be a match race between the unbeaten fillies Rainbow View and Serious Attitude. Rainbow View (Dynaformer), whose four victories include scores in the Gp2 May Hill Stakes and Fillies Mile, is hard to oppose here, but last year’s Cheveley Park victress Serious Attitude (Mtoto) is said to have worked exceptionally well of late. Outsiders include Fred Darling winner Lahaleeb (Redback), Moyglare Stud Stakes runner up Shimah (Storm Cat), Breeders Cup runner up Heart Shaped (Storm Cat) and UAE Oaks winner Devotee (Elusive Quality).