

# THE QATAR PRIX DE L'ARC DE TRIOMPHE OF 2011

Contributed by Sarah Whitelaw

## Workforce

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Sarafina: 4 f Refuse To Bend & Sanariya

The ruling favourite. Was an unlucky third last year when beaten by Workforce and Nakayama Festa. Has been in superb form this year, winning her last three starts. After running second in the G1 Prix Ganay, she beat subsequent G1 winner Announce when victorious in the G2 Prix Corrida. She then added the G1 Grand Prix de Saint Cloud and G2 Prix Foy to her victories, which include a score in last year's French Oaks. Highly strung filly, but very talented. Should go close here for her owner-breeder, the Aga Khan. Workforce: 4 c King's Best & Soviet Moon

Is bidding to become the first since Alleged in 1978 to record back to back wins in the Arc. Has only raced three previous times this year. He made a winning return to the track when running out a comfortable winner of the G3 Brigadier Gerard Stakes, before being touched off, beaten 0.5 length, by So You Think in the G1 Eclipse Stakes. Was well beaten by Nathaniel (an uncertain runner here) in the King George.

Workforce's trainer, Sir Michael Stoute, has a superb record in the major races, and Workforce is a big runner here, as he arguably better suited to the trip than some of his rivals. So You Think: 5 h High Chaparral & Triassic Outstanding Australian galloper, whose 8 G1 wins include back to back victories in the Cox Plate. Has been in superb form since relocating to Aidan O'Brien, and he has reeled off four wins in five starts. His last win in the Irish Champion Stakes saw him defeat last year's Investec Oaks winner Snow Fairy by half a length. Prior to that he outfought Workforce in the Eclipse. There is some doubt as to whether or not he will be as effective over Longchamp's 2400m as he has been over 2000m. A magnificent looking individual, So You Think has only been out of the money once in 17 starts, and has earned over 3 million pounds in prize money. Snow Fairy: 4 f Inthikab & Woodland Dream

There has been a lot of support for Snow Fairy in the pre race betting. Frankie Dettori is very keen to ride last year's champion filly in the Arc. She comes into the race off a game second place finish behind So You Think in the Irish Champion Stakes (over 2000m), and will be better suited to a mile and half of the Arc. She is yet to win this year so far, but her prep looks to have been excellent, and it would be no surprise to see Snow Fairy turn the tables on So You Think. Nakayama Festa: 5 h Stay Gold & Dear Wink

Nearly caused a 22-1 upset when beaten just a head in the Arc last year. His only subsequent race saw him finish fourth, of four, behind Sarafina, in the Prix Foy last time out. It would seem to be asking a lot of a horse to win the Arc off a single race. St Nicholas Abbey: 4 c Montjeu & Leaping Water

One of the most exciting 2yos of his generation, St Nicholas Abbey had a desperately disappointing 3yo campaign, when making just one start. He has made amends for that campaign, winning both the G3 Ormonde Stakes and Coronation Cup. However, he was well beaten by both Nathaniel and Workforce in the King George last time out, and has ground to make up on that run. Bids to emulate his sire, who won the Arc in 1999. Reliable Man: 3 c Dalakhani & On Fair Stage

A good winner of the G2 Prix Niel last time out, Reliable Man is another who bids to emulate his sire, who won the Arc in 2003. The colt has won four of his five starts, with his sole defeat coming when third behind Meandre in the Grand Prix de Paris. Prior to that, he was victorious in the Prix du Jockey Club. His trainer Alain de Royer Dupre last won the Arc with Zarkava back in 2008. A strong contender. Treasure Beach: 3 c Galileo & Honorine

An uncertain runner. Winner of the Irish Derby and runner up at Epsom, Treasure Beach has had a busy campaign. He made his last start in the USA, where he captured the G1 Secretariat Stakes. Seville: 3 c Galileo & Silverskaya Been disappointing since finishing second in the Grand Prix de Paris. Prior to that he finished second in the Irish Derby to Treasure Beach. Was beaten nine lengths into fourth in the St Leger, but could have the trip too far. An uncertain runner. Hiruno & Amour: 4 c Manhattan Cafe & Share Elegance

One of two Japanese runners in the Arc. Ran a great in the Prix Foy when a close second, beaten a short neck, by Sarafina. On that run must be a leading contender. Prior to his Foy effort, Hiruno & Amour beat Japan Derby winner Eishin Flash when winning the Tenno Sho back in May. He has been lightly raced this year, and his campaign has clearly been built around a tilt at the Arc. Top horse, and one who should not be overlooked. Galikova: 3 f Galileo & Born Gold

A half-sister to mighty, 14 time G1 winner Goldikova. She has built a considerable reputation herself, winning her last two in a row. She looked awesome winning the G1 Prix Vermeille, where she beat fellow Arc runner Shareta by 2.75 lengths. Prior to that, Galikova defeated dual classic winner Golden Lilac when winning a G2 race over colts.

Winner of five of her seven starts, Galikova is bidding to give Galileo yet another big win, in a year where the Coolmore sire has dominated the stallion lists. Shareta: 3 f Sinndar & Shawara

Bids to emulate her sire, who won this race in 2000. An improving sort, she has ground to find with Galikova on their running in the Vermeille, but seems to be an improving sort. Prior to her run behind Galikova, Shareta reeled off back to

back wins in Listed and G3 company. This is, however, her stiffest task to date. Danedream: 3 f Lomitas &ndash; Danedrop

Germany's highest rated horse was supplemented into the race for a fee of 100,000 euros. Is coming off a six length romp in the Grosser Preis von Baden, where she demolished former champion Night Magic. Previous winner of the Italian Oaks, Danedream also ran third against the boys in the Derby Italiano. A cracking filly, and one who should be well suited to the Arc conditions. SELECTIONS

- 1 Workforce
- 2 Snow Fairy
- 3 Galikova