

Dawn Approach wins Guineas by five

Qipco 2,000 Guineas (G1), £ 226,840, 8f, Rowley Mile, May 4, good to firm

1	DAWN APPROACH (IRE)	New Approach	GF 122p	Kevin Manning	Jim Bolger
2	Glory Awaits (IRE)	Choisir	GF 110?	Jamie Spencer	Kevin Ryan
3	Van Der Neer (GB)	Dutch Art	GF 106p	William Buick	Richard Hannon

3yo / 13 runners / 1.35.84 / Won by 5 - 2 1/4

2012: Camelot (J O'Brien / A P O'Brien)

Winner owned by Godolphin, bred by Jim Bolger



Dawn Approach and Kevin Manning passing the winning post in splendid isolation. Photo © Steven Cargill.

Two years after Frankel's sensational win in this classic, and twelve months after Camelot took the first leg of a popular Guineas / Derby double, comes a colt named Dawn Approach to light up the Rowley Mile in early May. He won the Dewhurst Stakes (G1) here last autumn and had been a firm Guineas favourite every one of the 203 days that had passed since. Unbeaten at two, Dawn Approach began his 3yo campaign in an impressive way here, scooting clear through the final furlong to win by five lengths from 150-1 outsider Glory Awaits, with the staying on Van Der Neer third and a disappointing Toronado back in fourth. The latter ran as if something was amiss, so the showdown between the Craven winner and Dawn Approach never happened, but make no mistake; it would have taken a seriously good horse to match strides with Jim Bolger's star on this day. Without keeping a straight line at the finish, he was way too good for his rivals and won with a bit up his sleeve, clocking a good time in the process.

A bit eager in the pre-parade ring, he settled down really well in the paddock and looked even better – and mentally very strong – as he cantered down to the start. Dawn Approach is a runner who relaxes more and more the closer he gets to the race – a rarity indeed. After stretching his unbeaten run to seven, a sequence going right back to the first juvenile event in Ireland last year, he was greeted by Sheikh Mohammed, who bought the colt for Godolphin before the Dewhurst, in the winners' enclosure. Sheikh Mohammed and his wife Princess Haya saw his sire, New Approach, lose the Guineas by a few pixels to Henrythenavigator six years ago. New Approach went on to win the Derby (G1), and less than 48 hours after his Guineas win, Bolger announced that Dawn Approach would take the same route. The only question seemed to be; would he stay?

As a champion juvenile, this colt won the 6-furlong Coventry Stakes (G2) at Royal Ascot, before stepping up to seven to win the National Stakes (G1) at The Curragh and Dewhurst Stakes (G1) at Newmarket.



*Dawn Approach gets the all blue Godolphin silks first past the post again, as he beat Toronado by a nose at Royal Ascot.
Photo © Steven Cargill.*

Running over 1 1/2 miles at Epsom was always going to pose a test, even in what appeared to be sub-standard Derby field. All seemed fine and well with Dawn Approach in the paddock, as he was once more nicely relaxed and taking the preliminaries in his stride. He was 5/4 favourite at the off. Soon after the stalls had opened he looked more like a 50-1 shot. He pulled very badly and was totally unsettled, possibly because he was not used to racing at such a dawdling pace. The writing was on the wall a long way out, even when Manning let the colt have his way and allowed him to go to the front turning for home. Too much energy had been wasted and Dawn Approach was soon a spent force. His rider did the sensible thing and eased him right down, allowing the Guineas winner to trail home in last place, more than thirty lengths behind the winner, Ruler Of The World. What was expected to be another stroll in the park turned into a nightmare on the downs, but the one positive to take back home to Ireland was that Dawn Approach did not have a hard race. Thus, he was quickly back to his old self on the Coolcullen gallops, and Jim Bolger decided to take him to the St. James's Palace Stakes (G1) – just 17 days after the Derby. It was pointed out by many that this had been done before, as Marju won the St. James's Palace after having finished second to Generous in the Derby back in 1991, but two factors make these two cases quite different. Firstly the fact that Marju had run well in the Derby, not way below form, and secondly a colt named Toronado. He had flopped in the Guineas, most likely due to a temporary breathing problem, but everyone who saw him blitz his rivals in the Craven here at Newmarket in April knew what an engine he had. Freshened up, he was ready for another crack at Dawn Approach at Ascot. And a serious crack at him he had. The two colts served up the most exciting finish of the week, and a photo finish was needed to call the winner. Unfortunately the race became a bit too exciting, as both Dawn Approach and Toronado were hampered when Glory Awaits veered left two furlongs out. Toronado was the main sufferer and unlucky to go down by a nose to Dawn Approach, but Bolger's colt fought back really well after being marginally headed for a few strides and it was anybody's guess how the result would have read without the incident. What mattered to Sheikh Mohammed, Godolphin and Jim Bolger was just one thing; that Dawn Approach was still in pole position amongst the classic milers, albeit only just.

Family of Miss Oceana and Kitwood

1st dam **Hymn Of The Dawn** raced only five times and never finished better than fourth. She has also produced Comadoir (Medecis), an 80-rated winner from 5 to 7 furlongs at Lingfield and Brighton. Hymn Of The Dawn is a half-sister to Galantas (winner in Ireland at two and third in the G1 Woodbine Mile in Canada at four), as well as the two 7-furlong winners Atomic Cat and Danticat (all three by Tale of The Cat).

2nd dam **Colonial Debut** (Pleasant Colony) was out of Kittihawk Miss (Alydar), a sister to the top class filly Miss Oceana, who was runner-up in the Eclipse Awards both at two and three. Trained by Woody Stepehns, Miss Oceana won the Arlington-Washington Lassie (G1), Frizette Stakes (G1) and Selima Stakes (G1) in her first season, and she followed up with wins in the Acorn Stakes (G1), Gazelle Handicap (G1) and Maskette Stakes (G1) at three. She won 11 races in all, and was sold for a then world record \$7 million as a broodmare at Fasig-Tipton Sales in 1985 (when in foal to Northern Dancer). Kittihawk Miss and Miss Oceana were half-sisters to Kitwood (Nureyev), who landed the Prix Jean Prat (G1) for Sheikh Mohammed and Andre Fabre in 1992, when also third in the Grand Prix de Paris (G1) and Hollywood Derby (G1).

Galileo
New Approach
Park Express
DAWN APPROACH (IRE) ch c 2010
Phone Trick
Hymn Of The Dawn
Colonial Debut