

From *The Guardian* in England comes the following:

Gutsy Newbury win puts Technician back in frame for success in St Leger

- **Victory in Geoffrey Freer Stakes rekindles expectations**
- **Trainer says Doncaster classic is now 'logical next step'**

Technician, ridden by Rob Hornby in the green and red colours, beats Morando, with Silvestre de Sousa on board, in the Geoffrey Freer Stakes at Newbury on Saturday.

Martyn Meade can dream once more of a first Classic success, having got Technician back on track with a surprise victory in the Geoffrey Freer. The 71-year-old trainer has tackled the 2,000 Guineas and the Derby with high hopes in recent seasons, only to see Advertise and Eminent come up short, but next month's St Leger may provide him with a happier outcome.



Technician was himself tried in a couple of Derby trials in the spring and fared respectably when runner-up to Bangkok at Sandown, but Saturday's performance was a new career best as he outbattled the favourite, Morando, after a protracted duel up the soggy home straight. He took a long time to get on top but looked the likely winner from over a furlong out and appears well suited by a test of stamina.

"He's been a funny horse," said Meade's son, Freddie, on duty as assistant trainer while his father was buying yearlings in Deauville. "You have a short amount of time to work these horses out and he's only had six runs. A galloping track and a bit of juice in the ground, and he just keeps giving and giving. You need to ask him to give, he doesn't give it to you without asking. He's good like that, which means hopefully he's got a bit of longevity." Meade Jr pointed out the horse had managed to win over 10 furlongs just a couple of months ago. That now seems a formidable test of speed, by Technician's standards, and it is impressive that he was able to cope.

The St Leger in four weeks' time was described as "the logical next step" and "a race that's been on our radar for some time", and bookmakers duly hastened to cut Technician's odds. But he was still available at 20-1 by Saturday evening, which seems generous in the context of a race for which the betting is due a shake-up. After all, six of the top eight in betting lists are from Aidan O'Brien's stable and there must be every chance that half of those will drop out. The current favourite, Japan, seems especially at risk of missing the Leger, since the trainer named other targets last week for the colt, who is being aimed at the Juddmonte International and the Irish Champion.