

TAKE HEART WINS GOODWOOD FESTIVAL OPENER FOR LUCRATIVE PURSE STABLE NOW IN SECOND-BEST EARNINGS YEAR, HAVING PASSED \$4-MILLION



Take Heart won at Goodwood for Johnny Murtagh
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With today's gutsy win by **Take Heart** (Dark Angel) in the Chesterfield Cup Handicap at Goodwood, Team Valor International has moved into its second-best earnings year over the course of the 38 years the Barry Irwin-led syndicate has been in business.

Take Heart is a son of Three Hearts, the Hat Trick filly that Team Valor bred from their South African Grade 1-placed stakes winner Secret Heart, most importantly remembered as the dam of the stable's Breeders' Cup winner **Pluck**. Three Hearts, the half-sister to Pluck, ran in Southern California, winning the G3 Red Carpet Handicap and placing in five other Graded races there.

Today's winning purse earnings for Take Heart of £51,540 converts to approximately \$66,250 in U.S. funds. That amount is sufficient to push the seasonal earnings of the stable over the \$4,000,000 level. The previous second-best year was 2011, the year in which Team Valor's homebred colt Animal Kingdom won the Kentucky Derby. But that spectacular year is now in the rear-view mirror as seasonal earnings stand at \$4,017,655 and the goal is firmly set on reaching the number one year.

Year	starts	wins		Seasonal Earnings	Rank by Earnings
2013	189	33	17.5%	\$7,612,586	1
2024	117	20	17.1%	\$4,017,655	2
2011	224	50	22.3%	\$3,975,299	3
2007	253	44	17.4%	\$3,888,233	4

Is that lofty goal achievable? “Yes,” says Team Valor International CEO Barry Irwin, “it absolutely is. We have some big races coming up, including the £1,000,000 Group 1 Sussex Stakes tomorrow, in which our stable star Facteur Cheval is competing. It’s a tough field, but we have utter faith in our horse.”

Regardless of how Facteur Cheval performs tomorrow going a mile on grass, Team Valor and partner Gary Barber have their sights set on racing him a mile and a quarter on dirt at Del Mar in the Grade 1 Breeders’ Cup Classic. In his seasonal debut he won the \$5-million, Grade 1 Dubai Turf at Meydan.

“Team Valor is particularly hot right now,” Barry Irwin reported. “In our last dozen starts, our partners have celebrated 5 wins and 4 placings. One of the wins was a stakes race, and two of the placings were in Group or Graded races!”