

**TECHNICIAN LANDS LISTED PRIX RIDGWAY YESTERDAY AT LONGCHAMP
MEADE-TRAINED GREY DIGS DEEP UNDER OISIN MURPHY TO WIN BY NECK
JOCKEY TELLS TRAINER TO RUN HIM FARTHER AND KEEP HIM ON THE SOFT**



Connections of Technician could be forgiven for experiencing déjà vu yesterday when the 3-year-old grey colt refused to enter the starting gate until he was fitted with a blindfold. Any reluctance the son of Mastercraftsman may have had entering the gate disappeared during the running of the Listed Prix Ridgway. In fact, his generosity was his hallmark in a dead-game effort in which he repelled a lengthy challenge from Godolphin/Fabre's favored Battle of Toro with 3 separate surges in the final 1½ furlongs under an inspired and vigorous ride from young Oisin Murphy.

Technician prevailed by a neck in the 5-horse field. Trainer Martyn Meade was concerned no pace would develop, as is often the case in French racing, so he told Murphy to set the pace. The colt set a very slow pace early and early in the straight he was let loose in order to gain some separation from his immediate pursuers.

But Veronesi inside and Battle of Toro outside had other plans and suddenly swamped the British raider. Veronesi definitely stuck his head in front and Battle of Toro may have done so as well, but at least got on even terms with Technician.

Connections in attendance, named Freddy Meade, Jessica Berry and Jonathan Hensley of Seattle all girded for the seeming inevitability that their colt would retreat towards the rear of the quintet. But rider Murphy knew what he had underneath him and, through judicious use of the whip and plenty of rhythmic body pumping, was able to get the colt to dig deep and find more.

Battle of Toro had dead aim and could not peg back Technician. It was a length and a quarter farther back to HH The Aga Khan's lightly raced Diyani, while Veronesi ran fourth.

Murphy told Jessica Berry two things about Technician for the future: a) he loves soft turf like today so don't run him on hard turf going forward and b) he will be much better over 12 furlongs instead of 10.

RacingPost rated the effort at 104 within minutes of the race being run, so it is best taken with a pinch of salt, but it equaled his topper when he was second in the Group 3 Classic Trial at Sandown. Timeform bumped up Technician by 2 points to 108 in spite of the race being run extremely slowly in a tactical affair.



Technician cut a dashing pose in the walking ring before Thursday's Listed Prix Ridgway at the improved ParisLongchamp Racecourse.



Technician's connections gathered post race for this photo opportunity, L to R Jonathan Hensley, Jessica Berry and her father, jockey Oisin Murphy and Freddy Meade (assistant trainer to his father Martyn Meade) of Manton Estate in the UK.

Barry Irwin said "He loved the soft turf. And he showed himself to be a great battler today. This race sets him up well for the Group 1 Grand Prix de Paris on July 14 at Longchamp racecourse over a mile and a half. Hopefully Martyn can do some gate work with him between now and then."

In 3 starts for Team Valor, Technician has a Listed win, a Group 3 second and a Group 2 fifth. Meade's lone regret was that he did not wait for Sunday's Group 2 Prix Hocquart as it has only 5 runners.

Interestingly Technician wore all white silks as the International Racing Bureau, which makes British entries for foreign races, mistakenly listed the colt's previous owner and silks for Technician. Post race Barry Irwin was able to straighten out the error to racing officials, so at least the statistics and official records are now correct. Above the jockey is wearing the white colors he wore in the race. *Just for fun*, Kathleen Irwin used her computer skills to portray Technician winning in TVI silks in the winning photo.