

Joy for Martyn Meade as Technician strikes at Group 1 level in Prix Royal-Oak

By Robbie Wilders UPDATED 3:25PM, OCT 27 2019



Technician dug in bravely to repel the challenge of hardy stayer Call The Wind to strike at Group 1 level for the first time in the Prix Royal-Oak at Longchamp for Martyn Meade.

The St Leger sixth, who captured the Group 2 Prix Chaudenay at this course last time, continued his progression and travelled well into the 1m7½f contest

to secure an authoritative length-and-a-quarter success at odds of 11-4 under Pierre-Charles Boudot.

The gritty performance prompted Paddy Power to introduce the son of Mastercraftsman at 20-1 for the Ascot Gold Cup, with a cup campaign under consideration next season.

When asked about Technician's credentials for the staying showpiece, Freddie Meade, son and assistant trainer to Martyn said: "He's a lovely stayer, isn't he? We'll find as we go along what he can do but he's done enough as a three-year-old and he'll have a well-deserved rest.

"We'll make a plan through the winter and dream about what we can do from there."

Last year's winner Holdthasigreen was third, while the John Gosden-trained Lah Ti Dar, who set out to deliver Frankie Dettori a second Group 1 of the day and a remarkable 20th of the season, fell short again at the highest level in fourth.