

**INVITE THRASHES SEASONED, CLASSY OLDER MALES TO WIN LISTED RACE
BALDING EYEING SAME G1 BRITISH CHAMPIONS RACE AS LA PETITE COCO
IRWIN “SHE HAS EVERY CHANCE TO MOVE INTO A MUCH HIGHER LEAGUE”**



INVITE (The Gurkha), with the “screaming eagle” blaze, rolls home two lengths the better of race favorite Alanouk.

Invite (IRE), which figured to need her return engagement Saturday in the Listed Stand Cup after not having raced since splitting her Group 2 Italian Oaks field as the favorite 3 months earlier, belied conventional wisdom by not only being fit and sharp, but ready to move into a new league.

Grabbed and taken back somewhat roughly by veteran 53-year-old reinsman John Egan, Invite (IRE) was soon at the back ahead of just one runner in the 9-horse field for the 1 mile 4½-furlong race contested on ground officially rated as “good,” but the grass had retained a bit of moisture from recent rains and was listed just a day earlier as “soft.”

Egan said “The trick in riding her is to completely switch her off. Once I can do that, she becomes tractable and I can place her anywhere I want. But if you let her have her head early you will lose her.” When employing a similar tactic two races back when Egan rode the TVI filly to a 10-length romp on heavy ground at Doncaster, Egan learned that if he let the filly run next to another horse without him having her under control, she over races and becomes to rank to place.

Invite (IRE) was taken to the fence, where she spent most of the race on the round, American-like Chester oval.

Initially the filly raced a dozen lengths off the pace, but the margin was cut in half going into the far turn. It was obvious that Egan had plenty of horse under him as the field came off the final bend, where he launched his wide stretch bid, storming down the center of the course to run right past favored horse Alounak. The runner-up looked home free when produced 2 furlongs from home, but he was made to look ordinary by the filly's sustained late burst. The winning margin was a long-looking 2 lengths. [VIDEO](#)

Invite (IRE) is ultra-consistent, and in 6 starts now sports a record of 3 wins, 2 seconds and a fifth in the troubled Group 2 Oaks d'Italia as the favorite. She earned about \$40,000 in winning the Stand Cup.

