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'GUINEAS' SECOND LOOKS LIKELY DERBY FIRST

To Newmarket, for the season's first classic - the 2,000 Guineas. Palestine (last year's wender horse) and Prince Simon (this year's champion-in-the-making) are the names on everybody's lips - and nearly everybody's betting slips.

Palestine is the known quantity - Prince Simon the unknown. For both, the Guineas Mile is a test for bigger things ahead. For it's at Newmarket, that punters look for a last pointer to the world's greatest classic - the Derby. The field, 19 strong, is off to a good start - going all out for that £13,000 prize. Racing abreast, it's Hedgerow, Full Dress and The Golden Road making the running.

Nearing Bushes Hill, Charlie Elliott on Hedgerow, No. 20, holds a narrow lead, but is about to give way to Eph Smith on Full Dress. The grey Palestine lies handy - Prince Simon is further back.

A furlong from home, it's "everybody change" as Palestine and Prince Simon sweep to the front. In a two-horse finish, jockeys Smirke and Carr fight out a dramatic duel. The result's in the balance, while the judges consult the camera - and then, Prince Simon makes for the second enclosure - his finishing burst of speed having come just too late. One more stride and Palestine, a 4-1 winner, would have been beaten. Simon looks like a Prince for the Derby, as Palestine will not be running at Epsom.

*Prince Simon*