

MEETING DE DEAUVILLE BARRIÈRE

DU 2 AU 30
AOÛT 2026

HIPPODROME DE
DEAUVILLE - LA TOUQUES

ENTRÉE
DÈS 5 €

GRATUITE POUR LES - 12 ANS*

*1^{ère} CATÉGORIE ENTRÉE GÉNÉRALE, DANS LA LIMITE DES PLACES DISPONIBLES

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Press Release

Sunday, August 2nd

2026 MEETING DE DEAUVILLE BARRIÈRE

British filly Blue Bolt wins the first Group 1 of the Deauville Barrière Meeting



On Sunday at Deauville-La Touques Racecourse, the Prix Rothschild – Fonds Européen de l'Élevage – World Pool by PMU (Group 1, the highest level of horseracing competition) provided the first major highlight of the 2026 Deauville Barrière Meeting. The visiting fillies dominated proceedings. The pecking order established in the Falmouth Stakes (Group 1) at Newmarket on 10 July was confirmed on the Normandy track. However, Britain's Blue Bolt had to give everything to hold off Ireland's Precise. Another British filly, Moon Target, retained third place after setting the pace.

Blue Bolt carries the colours of Juddmonte Farms, the Abdullah family's racing operation. She is trained by Andrew Balding and was ridden by Colin Keane. Bred in Ireland by the Hayes family, she was offered as a yearling at the 2023 Arqana sales, where bidding reached €400,000. This major event on the French breeding calendar will take place in two weeks' time at the sales complex located very close to the racecourse.

Official result

1st BLUE BOLT (C. Keane)

2nd PRECISE (R. Moore)

3rd MOON TARGET (L. Morris)

Margins: ½ length – 1¾ lengths – SHORT HEAD

Reactions from connections

Andrew Balding (trainer of Blue Bolt, 1st) – Great Britain

"She really is a remarkable filly. Her jockey, Colin Keane, gave her a wonderful ride. I was not feeling particularly confident while watching the race: I thought we were going to be beaten in the final 200 metres, but he judged her effort perfectly. It is fantastic.

For a filly, she has tremendous physical power. That is undoubtedly her greatest asset. She also has an extraordinary will to fight, which helps enormously.

I would also like to thank the entire team at home. Alfie Redman, who rides her every day, has done an outstanding job. She is not easy: she likes to take control, but over the past six months he has really managed to channel her and has done excellent work with her.

Blue Bolt likes to race prominently. She gallops with tremendous power and knows how strong she is. The key is therefore to channel that energy in the right direction. Colin also did a remarkable job.

What is so valuable about her is that she is equally effective on all types of ground, which is a major advantage.

I think we have always regarded the Matron Stakes at Leopardstown as her main target of the year. And after that... we shall see! Who knows..."

Aidan O'Brien (trainer of Precise, 2nd) – Ireland

"I am very pleased with her. In the Falmouth Stakes, Blue Bolt beat her by two lengths, whereas today she finished only half a length behind, despite the weight conditions being less favourable to her. She therefore ran very well.

She may step up in distance on her next start; we will see whether that is necessary. Her future programme has not yet been decided, and we will take some time to consider it."

Chris Richardson (Managing Director of Cheveley Park Stud, breeder and owner of Moon Target, 3rd) – Great Britain

"We are delighted with this third place. The plan was to go to the front, as there was no obvious pacemaker in the race. It therefore seemed logical to try to control the race from the lead at a steady pace and make the others come and catch us.

Obviously, the winner, Blue Bolt, was very impressive. Precise finished second, confirming the pecking order we have seen since the beginning of the year. Last year, our filly finished second to Precise in the Prestige Stakes at Goodwood. In the Coronation Stakes, those two

fillies also finished ahead of us when we took fourth place. We felt that we had been a little unlucky at Ascot.

Looking ahead, I think we will probably keep her over a mile. Some of these very good fillies are going into battle race after race. Our filly was a little fresher, and we will try to keep her that way. She needs time between her races.

We learned that last year, when we ran her again too quickly. This year, we will space out her races more carefully. We will therefore see how she recovers from this run."

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