

Published based on [Force working towards racing return](#)

Force working towards racing return

Derby hero Workforce will have to show connections he is back in peak condition before they allow him to return to the racecourse.

The King's Best colt looked destined for greatness following his seven-length Epsom triumph but he was well beaten in fifth as stablemate Harbinger ran away with the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes at Ascot.

Nothing significant has come to light following that lifeless display and connections will give him all the time he needs to find his feet once again.

Teddy Grimthorpe, racing manager to owner Khalid Abdullah, told At The Races: "There is no question he was a very impressive winner of the Derby. He won by seven lengths and you can never take that away from him. It was an outstanding performance which ever way you look at it.

"We're pretty sure he didn't give his true running at Ascot. He has been checked out thoroughly with a fine tooth comb and nothing significant has been revealed, so we are just going to have to let him tell us when he's ready to go back to the races.

"We're not going to put a programme on him, and realistically the one remaining race for him in Europe is the Arc. But we want to know he is back on song and giving everyone the vibes we're looking for.

"We want to be convinced he's going to do himself justice. All the signs were that he would at Ascot, but he didn't. Perhaps he just needed a bit more time and perhaps he had a much harder race at Epsom than we thought.

"People need to remember that Ascot was only his fourth race. He's a big, scopey horse and he may just need a bit more time to strengthen up."

Not many Derby winners stay in training beyond their Classic campaign, but Grimthorpe is not ruling out the possibility of Workforce running as four-year-old.

He went on: "If he improves as much as Harbinger did between three and four, then we're going to have something quite special. It's certainly a possibility that he could stay in training, but we haven't really got there yet. That will be Prince Khalid's decision."

You can also find this article published on [Force working towards racing return](#), and on the tag pages [Ascot](#), [bit](#), [khalid abduallah](#), [king george vi](#), [queen elizabeth stakes](#), [time](#).