

Published based on [O'Brien retains faith in Cape](#)

O'Brien retains faith in Cape

Aidan O'Brien bids for a fifth consecutive Dubai Duty Free Irish Derby and an eighth in all when he saddles a five-strong team headed by Cape Blanco at the Curragh today.

Stable jockey Johnny Murtagh has chosen to ride the French Derby flop instead of Epsom Derby fourth Jan Vermeer, who will be the mount of Seamus Heffernan.

"The French race was a bit messy, but we're not really sure what happened that day," said O'Brien.

"It wasn't his running and he just wasn't the horse he was at York (where he beat subsequent Epsom hero Workforce in the Dante). Maybe he just had an off-day, which every horse is entitled to have.

"He hasn't really done a lot of work as he doesn't take a lot of work, but everything he's done we've been happy with."

On Jan Vermeer, the Ballydoyle handler added: "He ran well at Epsom, but with the benefit of hindsight we might have been better going to France for an easier mile and a quarter rather than the gruelling mile and a half.

"He probably didn't get enough time between his first run at the Curragh and Epsom to make the progress fitness-wise that we would have liked.

"But he seems to have been in good form since and we've had a little bit more time between Epsom and the Curragh than we did between the Curragh and Epsom the first time."

O'Brien also runs Derby second At First Sight (Joseph O'Brien) and fifth home Midas Touch (Colm O'Donoghue), as well as Bright Horizon (Sean Levey).

You can also find this article published on [O'Brien retains faith in Cape](#), and on the tag pages [bit](#), [epsom derby](#), [jan vermeer](#), [o donoghue](#), [time](#), [work](#).