



### **Prix de l'Abbaye Longines: Mabs Cross takes it to the wire**

**Mabs Cross** (Dutch Art), the British filly ridden by Gérald Mossé, came with a strong run to take the Prix de l'Abbaye de Longines (Gr1) in the final strides. **Gold Vibe** (Dream Ahead), having been tracked by the winner, had to settle for second – a place of front of the two-year-old **Soldier's Call** (Showcasing) who went very close to pulling off a notable feat. **Battaash** (Dark Angel), the defending champion and pacesetter, finished out of the places in fourth. Mabs Cross was coming off a second in the Nunthorpe Stakes (Gr1) and, with her first choice riders being sidelined through injury, Gérald Mossé stepped up to the mark with aplomb.

### **How the runners fared**

1st – Mabs Cross: After racing in mid-field, the filly made headway hand over fist after coming with a sustained run which enabled her to swoop decisively on the outside.

2<sup>nd</sup> – Gold Vibe: After racing in fourth, became embroiled in a protracted struggle with Soldier's Call before being denied by the final assault of Mabs Cross on his outside.

3<sup>rd</sup> – Soldier's Call: Disputed the lead in tandem with Battaash and, after holding every chance, was denied in the dying throes.

4<sup>th</sup> – Battaash: Tried to make all and battled on gamely to the bitter end.

5<sup>th</sup> – Lost Treasure: Slowly away before making strong headway at the business end. May even have finished closer had he not clipped heels with some of the other runners at the death.

6<sup>th</sup> – Different League: Was noted doing his best work at the finish but without getting on terms with the principals.

7<sup>th</sup> – Tantheem: Slowly away, she made a good final effort despite not being able to stride out entirely fluently after suffering minor interference from Different League.

8<sup>th</sup> – Havana Grey: After racing in fifth, was able to raise his game at the sharp end as he kept on at one pace.

9<sup>th</sup> – Finsbury Square: Never beyond mid-division.

10<sup>th</sup> – City Light: Towards the rear, flattered briefly but not a factor after that.

11<sup>th</sup> – Alpha Delphini: Never placed to challenge.

12<sup>th</sup> – Cox Bazar: After racing prominently in third, he backtracked once the race hotted up.

13<sup>th</sup> – Sioux Nation: Never a factor.

14<sup>th</sup> – Hit The Bid: Never placed to challenge.

15<sup>th</sup> – Declarationofpeace: Never on terms.

16<sup>th</sup> Antonella: Formed part of the leading group before weakening quickly.

## WHAT CONNECTIONS SAID

Michael Dods (the trainer of the winner : Mabs Cross)

« We were very disappointed to have got beaten at York {Nunthorpe Stakes} but she turned in another good performance. Our first two choice riders have been sidelined through injury and Gérald Mosse took over in the saddle. He went about his task with a lot of confidence! »

Pascal Bary (the trainer of the second: Gold Vibe)

« He's a very good sprinter and was unlucky last time out. Today, he ran a blinder. He finished second yet again – and that's the eighth time that he has been runner-up. He's a real 1.000m horse and loves ParisLongchamp. The race panned out well for him. Sometimes he is well within himself, and other occasions this isn't the case, although he was on a going day today. He may race abroad at the end of the year. »

Archie Watson (the trainer of the third: Soldier's Call)

« One can only be proud of the colt. He's only a two-year-old and only got beaten in the final strides, having raced upsides a champion sprinter that is Battaash. I may give the impression of being disappointed as we were beaten by small margins – but it's a great performance. I hope that it is the sign of things to come. He's a well-made colt with a lot of pace - and is one who will be campaigned over 1.000m next year. It's not impossible that he will contest the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf Sprint which could be his last race of the season. We will see how he recovers.»

Charles Hills (the trainer of the fourth: Battaash)

« He finished close up {in fourth) but I don't know why he didn't get home. We will take him home and check him out with a view to roughing him off for the rest of the season. He didn't give the impression of being able to dominate. »

Aidan O'Brien (the trainer of the fifth: Lost Treasure)

« Lost Treasure has run to a decent standard. He gave a good account of himself and particularly taking into account that he raced only recently. »

### The roll of honour

Year	Winner	Trainer	Owner	Jockey	Final time
2018	Mabs Cross	M. Dods	D. Armstrong	G. Mossé	0'57''11

2017	Battaash	C. Hills	Hamdan Al Maktoum	J. Crowley	57''59
2016	Marsha	Sir M. Prescott	Elite Racing Club	L. Morris	57''27
2015	Goldream	R. Cowell	J. Sargeant/Mme J. Morley	M. Harley	54''79
2014	Move in Time	D. O'Meara	A Turton/J. Blackburn/R. Bond	D. Tudhope	56''42