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## A giant returns to Royal Ascot

We've seen an Australian champion stake his claim as one of the world's best sprinters and a French sensation continue his remarkable record over the best in Europe. Now it's time for an Irish legend to return to Royal Ascot in a bid to create history.

Yeats will be out to do what no other horse has done before when he lines up to win his fourth straight Group 1 Gold Cup at Royal Ascot on Day 3 of the world-famous carnival.

The great stayer has been untouchable in the past three years, including his effort last year to fight back to account for arch-rival Geordieland, but this year's renewal of the 4000m marathon looms as his toughest test.

Yeats comes into the race after a rare unplaced staying effort, having finished a well-beaten sixth to the promising Alandi in Listed company at Navan in April. He comes up against a quality field of proven distance gallopers, including Geordieland once again, in-form Patkai and Godolphin stars Eastern Anthem and Veracity.

There's plenty working against the eight-year-old creating history in the Gold Cup but a couple of major things in his favour – leviathan trainer Aidan O'Brien and riding ace Johnny Murtagh know what it takes to win with the champion and his will to win is becoming turf legend. A winner of 14 from 21 starts, including six Group 1 races, he is the dominant European stayer of recent years and has a habit of seeing off all challengers when they arrive on the scene.

The Gold Cup has attracted a small but select field of nine runners and, with tactics always a possibility over a journey 800m longer than the Melbourne, Murtagh is sure to turn the race into a true staying test. That being the case, the last half mile should be one of the great spectacles of this year's Royal Ascot carnival.

Sky Channel will show all races from Royal Ascot live, with the Gold Cup set to run at 12.45am AEST. NSW and Victoria TAB will wager on all races.