

the
Weekend
card



Marken Julian

The Sleeper Section

Marten Julian

Horses that have been added to the Sleeper Section this week are highlighted in blue.

Albert's Back (3yr Bay Gelding) L 25/1, L 12/1

It's been a long wait to see Albert's Back returned to the fray and, in all truth, it proved a singularly underwhelming experience. The son of Champs Elysees reappeared for the first time since June in a 1m 4f Class 4 0-85 handicap at Ripon last weekend and after showing up for a mile or so dropped back to finish last, beaten just over 16 lengths by the winner. He displayed all the indications of a horse that needed the race. A subsequent 3lb drop, from 73 to 70, will help as should a step back up to a mile and three-quarters. His trainer would not have brought him back this late in the season unless he had plans, so let's keep the faith for a while longer.

Al Mustashar (2yr Bay Colt) L 10/11

This son of Shamardal was heavily supported to make a winning debut at Thirsk but he missed the break and then found less than expected in the closing stages. He is rated much better than this run would suggest so let's keep a close eye on him if he takes up his engagement at *Windsor on Monday (3.15)*.

Entered for Windsor on Monday (3.15)

Alwasmiya (2yr Bay Filly) L 11/8

Earlycomers had 6/1 overnight about Simon Crisford's daughter of Kyllachy on her Newcastle debut but after racing a little freely she found disappointingly little in the final furlong. Given that her sire is Kyllachy and that her dam is by Bahamian Bounty it's possible that she didn't stay the six furlongs, at least not at this stage of her career. She has two entries over the next few days, at *Salisbury (2.35)* and *Kempton (5.25)*, both on Monday. The former is over seven furlongs and the latter over six. We need to give her one more chance although I have serious concerns about the trip.

Entered for Salisbury (2.35) and Kempton (5.25) on Monday

Bakht Khan (2yr Chestnut Colt) L 8/1, 3rd 11/2

This son of Sepoy was not disgraced on his debut at Haydock, showing speed until tiring two furlongs from home, and again showed ability last time at Wolverhampton, travelling very smoothly before finding the two market leaders knowing too much for her. He is entered for the same race as Alwasmiya at *Kempton on Monday (5.25)*. If they clash I would marginally favour Alwasmiya.

Entered for Kempton on Monday (5.25)

Chiara Luna (2yr Brown Filly) WON 4/5

Dermot Weld is very pleased with his batch of two-year-olds and this daughter of War Front has always been high in his pecking order. She is the first foal of Group 2 middle-distance winner Princess Highway, a half-sister to top stayer Royal Diamond and Group 3 winner Mad About You. She lived up to market expectations when landing some big bets on her debut in a 6f maiden at Leopardstown. She has two entries over the next few days, both Listed races, at

Dundalk on Friday (7.30) and Navan on Sunday (5.15). Both are competitive, with the former over seven furlongs and the latter over a mile. I respect her chance in both races.

Entered for Dundalk on Friday (7.30) and Navan on Sunday (5.15)

Eyecatcher (2yr Bay Colt)

Simon Crisford's son of Camelot is extremely well named in the light of his first two runs. On neither occasion, at Wolverhampton in August and then last time at Kempton, has he been put in a position to challenge. Last time he was dropped out of the gate by Timmy Murphy and held up in arrears until making steady late headway in the final furlong. Given that he is owned by the wife of Michael Tabor I think we can safely assume there will be a target in mind for the colt. He would command respect if he took up his option to run in a 1m 2f novice stakes at *Pontefract on Monday (1.55)*.

Entered for Pontefract on Monday (1.55)

Final Rock (3yr Bay Gelding) L 100/1

Final Rock is an imposing looking colt, with a tremendous physique and the scope to progress. Sir Mark Prescott gave him a fourth run, just a week after his third, to force the handicapper into giving the horse a mark. The tactic worked, because Final Rock has been given a rating of 50, which is about right on form but around 10lb lower than I expected.

Final Rock would not still be in this yard if a rating of 50 were a true measure of his ability. I imagine nurseries are in mind rather than handicaps next season. I note that he has recently been gelded, which could bring about an improved performance.

G Eye Joe (2yr Chestnut Colt) L 9/2

James Given's son of Lethal Force showed early pace on his debut at Ascot before dropping away to finish last of seven. He will have come on appreciably for that run and should be a different proposition next time out.

Just Brilliant (2yr Bay Colt)

A leading jockey told me many years ago that Peter Chapple-Hyam was the best judge of a two-year-old he had ever ridden for. Unfortunately, times have got tougher for the trainer in recent seasons, but this half-brother to his useful Racing Post trophy winner Marcel has shaped with a lot of promise in steady early work at home. The trainer says this is his best colt but he requires decent ground. He has been entered for a 1m novice stakes at *Newmarket on Saturday (3.15)*. Monitor him closely in the market.

Entered for Newmarket on Saturday (3.15)

King Crimson (5yr Chestnut Gelding)

When I was working as Mick Channon's private handicapper they hoped that King Crimson would become their Royal Ascot two-year-old. He fell way short of that level, winning on his sixth and seventh starts at Bath and Carlisle and ending his juvenile year on a mark of 78. Since then he has won off 68, 71, 78, 79 and 80 but last autumn he moved from West Ilsley to join John Butler at Newmarket. In nine subsequent starts he has beaten just 10 horses home, dropping from a mark of 82 in October to 65. Those nine starts all came on the all-weather, but King Crimson has won most of his races on the turf, three times at Brighton. Keep your eyes peeled for King Crimson at a sharp track fairly soon. I am sure he retains his ability.

Lever Park (2yr Bay Filly)

Bryan Smart has handled some very speedy two-year-olds in his time and this daughter of Camacho has been showing him plenty of pace in her early work. She looks well bought at 52,000gns as a two-year-old as she is a half-sister to Group 3 winner Tax Free, the speedy Inexile, Green Beret and other useful types. Her pedigree is all about speed.

Magellan (3yr Bay Colt)

I saw enough on a visit to Sandown to persuade me that Magellan is going to win races this summer. One of the biggest horses that Roger Charlton has ever trained, the son of Sea The Stars has shaped well in his three starts at Newbury twice and then last time at Sandown, where he kept on steadily to finish sixth in a fair maiden. He is a half-brother to five winners including Class Is Class and Ascot Lime, who were also late-maturing types that progressed with the passing of time. Magellan should prove effective at a mile and a half but has the ability to win over a shorter trip. An opening mark of 76 is fair and we may get the chance to see him at the beginning of next week at *Kempton on Monday (6.55)*, *Leicester on Tuesday (1.50)* or *Newcastle (5.25)* also on *Tuesday*. I note that he has been entered for the sales.

Entered for Kempton on Monday (6.55), Leicester on Tuesday (1.50) or Newcastle on Tuesday (5.25).

Pitch Dark (2yr Bay Colt)

This son of Dubawi is a half-brother to top US performer Zhukova out of Irish 1,000 Guineas winner Nighttime, so it comes as no real surprise that he went through the ring for E1,100,000 as a foal. The colt has shaped nicely in early limbering work and will make an impression in a back-end maiden.

Play Mate (2yr Bay Filly)

This daughter of Showcasing has shown Karl Burke a fair measure of ability in her work at home. She is a half-sister to four winners all at up to a mile out of a daughter of Cadeaux Genereux. Respect her when she appears.

Riverside Walk (2yr Bay Filly)

Keith Dalgleish does not get many useful two-year-olds but he thinks the world of this daughter of Showcasing, who is out of a middle-distance winning daughter of a half-sister to 1m 4f Group 3 winner Gower Song and the family of Park Hill Stakes winner Idle Waters. This is one of my favourite families in the stud book, and this filly is bred to stay seven furlongs or a mile. She may find the six furlongs on the short side if she runs at *Newmarket on Saturday (3.50)*. However at a likely long price don't let her run unsupported.

Entered at Newmarket on Saturday (3.50)

Shamlan (5yr Brown Gelding) L 6/1

I get the impression that Shamlan was not fancied, despite market support, when down the field last time at Chelmsford. He was never travelling well at any stage but I am surprised that he has not dropped a pound or two in the ratings as a result. I want us to stay with him and I am convinced that there will be a big day for him.

Selections

Chiara Luna (7.30 Dundalk Friday and 5.15 Navan Sunday), Just Brilliant (3.15 Newmarket Saturday), Riverside Walk (3.50 Newmarket Saturday), Eyecatcher (1.55 Pontefract Monday), Alwasmiya (2.35 Salisbury and 5.25 Kempton Monday), Al Mustashar (3.15 Windsor Monday), Bakht Khan (5.25 Kempton Monday), Magellan (6.55 Kempton Monday, 1.50 Leicester and 5.25 Newcastle)

The Premier List Update Marten Julian

Here are the dozen Premier List horses from my 2017 edition of the Dark Horses Annual. I advise a level stake on these horses when they run so for that reason when they appear they will qualify as selections. I will pass on my Premier List from the Dark Horses Jumps Guide in the next week or two.

Chessman, Coronet, Crystal Ocean, Dal Harraild, Make Time, Mirage Dancer, Pivoine, Poet's Word, Red Label, Richie McCaw, Temple Church, Zainhom

Chessman: Shaped well in the Jersey Stakes, making good headway from halfway on the unfavoured side of the course. His mark has risen 4lb from 93 to 97. He has no big-race entries at this stage.

Coronet: May run next in the Qipco British Champions Fillies & Mares Stakes at Ascot on Saturday, 21 October. I would not be surprised to see her kept in training as a four-year-old as she is on the cusp of landing a Group 1 race.

Crystal Ocean: Unlikely to run again this season but promises to prove a Group 1 performer over a mile and a half next season. We have still to see the best of him, and he could not be in better hands to realise his great potential.

Dal Harraild: Shaped well in the Hardwicke Stakes to come sixth, finishing close behind horses rated up to 7lb superior, but then ran rather flat in the Lonsdale Cup at York over an extended two miles. He was slightly squeezed for room and the ground may not have been as fast as he prefers. It wasn't a bad effort at the weights and so I suggest we stay with him, especially if he has a chance at some point to race on genuinely quick ground. He has an entry for the Qipco Long Distance Cup at Ascot on 21 October and the Melbourne Cup on 7 November.

Make Time: Ran well to chase home Beat The Bank at Goodwood, earning him a 4lb rise in the ratings from 103 to 107, but disappointed at York when stepped up in trip to nine furlongs. He is bred to stay a mile and a quarter.

Mirage Dancer: Didn't surprise me with his disappointing race at Doncaster last week. I had been reluctant to include him in this list in the spring but fell for a little of the hype around him. I don't like horses that have more speed on the dam's side than the sire – I call them 'upside down' pedigrees – and this colt's dam is by Green Desert. Having said that, I think the key to Mirage Dancer will be a strongly-run race on fast ground over a mile and a quarter. I expect him to stay in training next season and it may not be until then that he encounters such conditions.

Pivoine: Won a 1m 3f 0-85, visored for the first time, at Kempton and followed up in good style in an extended 1m 2f 0-85 Classified Stakes at Doncaster, keeping on well to beat the strong-finishing Lawless Secret. A 7lb rise now leaves him on a mark of 90 but he is bred to stay further and can continue to progress now the message appears to have got through. As a gelding he will be around for a while longer, although in common with Ballymacoll's other stock he will be destined for the dispersal sale later this autumn. I imagine he could attract the attention of the jumping trainers, especially those holding a dual licence.

Poet's Word: Poet's Word has to be respected if he runs in the Qipco Champion Stakes at Ascot on 21 October. I would sooner see him running over a mile and a half, but he will have his main targets over that trip next season, with the Dubai World Cup at Meydan over a mile and a quarter an early challenge.

Richie McCaw: Richie McCaw is one of the few disappointing horses that Ian Williams has at the moment and, once again, the horse stopped to nothing in the closing stages last time out in a 1m 4f handicap at York, dropping away to finish 17 and a half lengths behind the winner. Perhaps he didn't stay the trip, even though his pedigree suggests he should have done, but the handicapper has not dropped him and he runs to me like a horse with a problem, perhaps of a respiratory nature. Let's stay loyal for a while longer in the hope that his talented handler finds the key to him.

Temple Church: This son of Lawman may have found the ground a shade too quick for him at Newbury. I didn't much care for the way he finished his race, and the first-time application of the tongue-tie may indicate that he has a respiratory problem, or something along those lines. A 2lb drop, from 97 to 95, will help and I would suggest we keep him on our side for a return to softer ground. He has an entry for a 1m 4f handicap at Newmarket on 13 October.

Zainhom: Ran last in a Group 3 at Goodwood, possibly not handling the soft ground even though he won his maiden on good to soft ground last season. He is probably not quite Group class and his mark has dropped from 106 to 102.

The Ante-Post Agenda

Marten Julian

Keep an eye on a French-trained colt named **Sacred Life**.

The son of Siyouni won two minor events at Saint-Malo and Deauville, both in August, but he really caught my eye when quickening from off the pace to beat Alba Power by six lengths in the 7f Group 3 Prix Thomas Bryon at Saint-Cloud today (Wednesday).

The colt cost just 10,000 Euros in a private sale as a yearling but he looked very smart here, showing a bright turn of foot to beat a colt in second rated on 96, with Godolphin's 102-rated Aqabah over eight lengths behind the winner back in fourth.

Lines through those horses puts the winner on a mark of between 110 and 115, which would not be far off the best around.

Sacred Life is the first foal of an unraced half-sister to 1m 4f winner Migwar from the family of St Leger winner Rule of Law, so the step up to a mile will be no problem.

I have no knowledge yet of plans for this colt, and I know nothing about the trainer, but if there is talk of him coming over to Newmarket for the Guineas then I would be very keen for us to have an early involvement. He may, though, be kept in France for their Classics.

Under The Radar

Marten Julian

Following my previous mentions our eyes will be on **Adarenn**a if she makes the journey from Ireland to Fontwell this week.

The five-year-old has shown very little since her promising trip to Cartmel, but 'Shark' Hanlon would not be sending her on the lengthy journey to Sussex unless he meant business (4.30 Fontwell Friday and 4.50 Fontwell Saturday).

The race on Friday is a 3m 2f handicap chase and the one on Saturday is an extended 2m 5f handicap chase. The second is the less competitive but whatever the target I strongly advise you to take a close look at the market. Note that he has also pencilled in others for the trip over.

The Plan Man has an entry for a 1m 4f 60-85 handicap on the Flat at Dundalk on Friday (9.00).

This is the sort of race he could win so watch for market support as an indication of stable expectations. I remain convinced that he has the ability to win races, both on the Flat and over the jumps.

Senatus has been included in the Dark Handicappers section of my *Dark Horses Jumps Guide*. I will try and find out about his wellbeing when I am next racing.

Lucky Ellen made her UK debut at Beverley over an extended mile in a classified stakes race. Given the stamina on her dam's side I thought the trip could be on the sharp side and that is how she ran, outpaced at the start and then staying on steadily through tiring horses to finish third. She had shown a modicum of ability in four runs in Ireland, twice on the all-weather at Dundalk.

Lucky Ellen is owned by someone who likes a bet, so watch for her if she runs next time in a handicap. Her mark has dropped from 51 to 50 following her last run.

Selections

Adarena (4.30 Fontwell Friday and 4.50 Fontwell Saturday), The Plan Man (9.00 Dundalk Friday)

The Clock Watcher Marten Julian

I have nothing for this section this weekend.

The Weekend Action Marten Julian

Quixote is unlikely to run again at Ascot this weekend (3.35). If he does make the trip south then we are going to have to keep an eye on him but I imagine they will have lesser targets on their mind.

The horse we are more obviously keen to side with is **Accidental Agent**, although I am puzzled by his mark for the race. As an early-entry race I assumed that he would be eligible to run off 92, which was his mark before he ran Tabarrak to a neck in a Listed race at Newbury.

The five-day entries have him rated on his new mark of 104, which casts a very different light on his chance. That said, I want us to stay with the horse as his connections believe he has the ability and potential to figure at Listed or even Group level (entered for a Group 2 at Newmarket a week on Saturday).

At around 14/1 he warrants an interest provided the rain stays away. Good ground or quicker suits him best.

Dalileo has an entry for a 1m 2f maiden at Chelmsford on *Thursday* (6.45). The son of Galileo ran way below expectations on his debut but he is not bred to suit this trip. He is best watched.

Also from the list of previous connections our old friend **Wisty** is back in action (4.15 *Kelso Sunday*).

Martin Todhunter's grey has risen 20lb in the ratings following his three victories this summer at Cartmel but he made all to win over hurdles here last September and the track suits his front-running style.

Wisty takes on stiffer opposition here, notably top-weight Simply Ned, but he is better than the average Cartmel regular and I expect his trail-blazing tactics to prove very effective yet again.

We have plenty of runners from other features this week, notably the Sleeper section, so I don't want to overburden us with bets.

The one horse we do need to keep an eye on is **Commander Han**, who ran such a promising first race when ninth of 17 to Dream Today in the Convivial Maiden Stakes at York. There was market support for him that day and it will take something quite special to beat him if he runs in the *7f maiden at Redcar on Saturday (2.10)*.

Whatever happens he is one to keep on our side next season.

Selections

Commander Han (2.10 Redcar Saturday), Accidental Agent and Quixote (3.35 Ascot Saturday), Wisty (4.15 Kelso Sunday)

The Weekend Selections Retrospective Marten Julian

This piece is devoted to retrospective analysis of last week's selections. If any of the horses that are featured in this section are entered and deemed worthy of selection then they will be found in my Weekend Action feature.

GM Hopkins and **Bravery** ran similar races in the Cambridgeshire, both staying on from arrears and beaten about five and seven lengths respectively. GM Hopkins has dropped 3lb, from 107 to 104, and Bravery is down 2lb from 97 to 95.

Both horses shaped better than their finishing positions suggest and I would like us to stay with them if they appear again in a back-end handicap. I see that both horses have entries for the Balmoral Handicap at Ascot on Saturday, 21st October.

Caius Marcius was quietly backed at Market Rasen over the weekend but he seemed to find his rivals going a stride too quickly for him. I have long thought he needs to step up to two and a half miles, so let's hope Nicky Richards finds a suitable opening for him over that trip. He has been dropped 3lb, from 129 to 126.

There was always a risk that connections would not be overly concerned about **Quixote's** run at Haydock on Saturday and that is how it looked, with him racing in arrears throughout. A 2lb drop from 95 to 93 is a step in the right direction and there will be a big day in mind for this useful seven-year-old, possibly on the all-weather surface this winter. I see he has an entry at Ascot on Saturday (3.35) (see Weekend Action).

Cleonte was expected to run better than he did. The four-year-old had the trip and ground in his favour at Haydock but despite the first-time application of a visor he capitulated quickly when pressure was applied. A drop of 2lb, from 92 to 90, may help but I am not convinced that he has the right attitude. It's a risk, because this may be his time of year, but I think we need to drop him from our list.

Brametot was well placed in the early stages of Sunday's Arc and looked poised to challenge until losing his place a quarter of a mile from home. He was staying on again at the finish but his best runs have been when he has come from way off the pace. In fairness this is probably as good as he is.

Ayutthaya was too short for us to back at Chester but I liked the way he won his race. A mark of 86 seems fair.

City Limits has been sold and I see **Eldritch** and **Fleetfoot Jack** are entered for the sales.

Previously Noted Horses

Abjar, Accidental Agent, Adamant, Awake My Soul, Ayutthaya, Bolder Bob, Bravery, Caius Marcius, Coronet, Crystal Ocean, Dalileo, Eldritch, Finisher, Fleetfoot Jack, Giant's Treasure, GM Hopkins, King's Slipper, Mori, Peterport, Poet's Word, Quixote, Soliloquy, Stubyuesday, Tocco D'Amore, Wisty

Jodie's Jottings

Jodie Standing

I was hopeful and optimistic last week with my selections, but unfortunately, we failed to collect again. However, I do feel there was plenty to take out of the races.

Monbeg Charmer left me scratching my head a little. I was happy to see him going to the front and he appeared to be jumping well to begin with but, for some reason, he then started jumping out to his left and hung badly going out on to the final circuit. I thought at one point he was going to pull himself up, but he stuck in and crept into a challenging position rounding the turn for home. His jockey never asked him any serious questions and I'm sure there's another day for him, probably on a right-handed track.

Big Country ran a little flat in the Cambridgeshire. Surprisingly, given the field size, he didn't have much to race against and he never really fired. The fast pace of the race may have been too much for him stepping back in trip, or he could have just needed the race to blow away the cobwebs. There's a big handicap win in him somewhere along the line.

Strangely, Kickboxer hated the ground in the rearranged Ayr Gold Cup at Haydock. It was clear from very early on that he was never going a yard and Dougie Costello rightly looked after him. Michael Appleby has told connections the horse will not run on ground that doesn't have 'good' in the description from now on.

Finally, we come to Ballymoy. The market strength spoke volumes for the winner Simply The Betts, but I was pleased enough with the racecourse debut from this Flemensfirth gelding. He was a little keen in the early stages of the race, but he looks to have plenty of scope and finished his race off nicely. He should come on for this.

Moving on to the week ahead and there are a few old friends resurfacing from their summer breaks and some faces we have followed over the summer months.

First up is **Shady McCoy**, who I am inclined to give one more chance to, given the attractive jockey booking of Ryan Moore (*2.00 Ascot Friday*).

The son of English Channel has let me down on more than one occasion this season and he clearly needs plenty to fall right for him come the day. However, he does have plenty of ability and he gives himself a chance by being fairly consistent. He has also run very well over this course and distance in the past.

I was disappointed with his performance last time out at Ascot when I thought he had everything in his favour for a big run. Top apprentice jockey George Wood had him nicely positioned and he produced him at the right time, but the horse didn't find much off the bridle and finished very one paced.

He has been tried in a hood, so whether he panics and worries himself out of contention as the race begins to develop, I am not sure, but if there is one man who can push him in the right direction it's Ryan Moore. If he can't work the oracle, then I will have to rethink about following the seven-year-old.

Up at Hexham, I want to be with **Bigirononhiship** on his seasonal debut (*3.35 Hexham Friday*).

I followed Rose Dobbin's gelding last season, and although he never managed to get his head in front he showed enough form - against horses who have since gone on to better things - to suggest he can defy top weight here.

The six-year-old was last seen finishing third at Carlisle behind Blakemount and Russe Blanc, both at the time rated 129 with the 135-rated veteran Alfie Spinner eight lengths behind in fourth. I was there that day, and was impressed with him as an individual in the paddock. He's a strong and big scopey type with a lovely loose-moving action.

I shouldn't think the drop back in trip to 2m 4f at Hexham will inconvenience him. It's a track that requires plenty of stamina, and he has it by the bucket load.

On Friday evening there's a horse which I want to bring to your attention at Dundalk.

It's slightly left-field, but **Shelbe** (8.30 Dundalk Friday) has been catching my eye for a while and his turn cannot be far away.

Last time out over this course and distance he was unlucky not to get his head in front. He travelled like the best horse in the race, but couldn't find racing room until deep inside the final furlong and although he ran on strongly, the winning post came too soon and he was beaten a short-neck. Annoyingly, he has been raised 2lb by the handicapper to a career high of 63, but he clearly has a liking for Dundalk and the AW having been a winner over distances ranging from 5f to an extended 1m 2f.

Whatever happens, I think he'll have a fruitful campaign on this surface throughout the winter

Finally, we come to **Diable De Sivola** who brings some rock-solid form to the plate in the handicap hurdle at Fontwell (3.05 Saturday).

Funnily enough, Nick Williams' gelding was one of my first selections for the *Weekend Card* over a year ago following a polished victory on debut. Since then he has gone on to run creditably in some hot races, including a second-placed effort behind Defi Du Seuil in the Triumph trial at Cheltenham and a never nearer fifth from a mark of 132 in the Fred Winter at the Festival in March.

That final run is held firmly in my mind as he was almost last turning for home and still had plenty to do jumping the final flight, but he surged up the run-in and was only beaten the best part of seven lengths by stable companion Flying Tiger, who Lizzie Kelly had chosen not to ride in favour of this gelding.

The handicapper has left his mark unchanged following the eye-catching display and I am pleased to see the four-year-old stepping up in trip on his seasonal reappearance

He will warrant market favouritism, but I hope his price isn't too short.

Also at Fontwell, I will be following Harry Whittington's rules debutant **Court Liability** (4.15 or 5.20 Fontwell Saturday).

He features in my point-to-point piece in the *Dark Horses National Hunt Guide* following a very game effort to finish second at Loughanmore in April behind Battleoverdoyen, who was subsequently purchased by Gordon Elliott for £235,000.

He showed plenty of pace that day and a good attitude to stick to the task once overtaken jumping the final fence. Market strength behind Harry Whittington's runners has been justified lately, so I'll be monitoring that closely. He should run well in either the novices' hurdle event, or the bumper, but I would quite like to see him over the obstacles as the longer trip is likely to suit. His trainer says he has schooled well at home.

Selections

Shady McCoy (2.00 Ascot Friday), Bigirononhiship (3.35 Hexham Friday), Shelbe (8.30 Dundalk Friday), Diable De Sivola (3.05 Fontwell Saturday), Court Liability (4.15 and 5.20 Fontwell Saturday)

The Weekend News

Ian Carnaby

So much has been said and written about Enable in the Arc that I hesitate to add anything at all, beyond saying that she was brilliant and keeping her in training next year would be a massive boost for the sport. John Gosden is a world-class trainer and if anyone can keep her at the top as a four-year-old, he can.

She was returned at a shade of odds-on in the end and I still believe that was poor value, given the calibre of opposition she faced. Of course, she was the likeliest winner and I managed not to put up anything against her. There is no harm in watching a top race without considering a bet, and I have no regrets.

It was an extraordinary market, though. At one stage she was evens and it was 10/1 bar one. There was very little significant money for the opposition and the bookmakers must have been hoping for the miracle which never arrived.

The only other thing I'd mention concerns the draw.

Be in no doubt that a low number on the round course was hugely advantageous and the first three home in the Arc were drawn 2, 3 and 1. They came home virtually in trap order in the Prix de la Foret and you needed to be right up there turning for home. Of course, Enable would still have won, barring some major misfortune, but it's worth bearing in mind for the future, although we shall be back at Longchamp next year.

I have absolutely no idea what was wrong with Signs Of Blessing in the Abbaye but he ran a wretched race. Indeed, it was a poor day for France all round and they must have been sorry there was no routine handicap a la Longchamp to round things off.

Brief words on a couple of other disappointments.

Dark Red started off at the back and stayed there in a good ten-furlong race at Chelmsford on Saturday. Whilst one must never suggest anything untoward, it is certainly fair to say he was never put in the race at any stage and defeat was accepted some way from home. Maybe he is a tricky ride and maybe the AW did not suit. However, I'd be inclined to keep him on the right side when the valuable races leading up to the AW championships take place early next year. It was very hard to believe that the Dark Red we saw last week was the same horse rather unluckily demoted after 'winning' an ultra-competitive handicap at Glorious Goodwood.

Battaash might have beaten any sprinter in the world last week, so well done Charlie Hills. His column in the *Weekender* is always worth careful study and it seems he may wait for something grander than sales races where Nebo is concerned. Actually the youngster has had quite a few tries against classy opposition without winning and would be a slightly false favourite in either of the valuable events at Ascot or Redcar on Saturday.

In his absence, Richard Fahey's Darkanna is possibly the one to beat in the *Listed totescoop Two-Year-Old Trophy (3.20 Redcar Saturday)*, especially after her fifth to Clemmie last week. However, it is all too easy to overlook the fact that she was also fifth in the big sales race at York, so she is no world beater. I learned some time ago that, when Fahey has the favourite in a race of this nature, it's as well to cover his other ones to small stakes as well.

This is a valuable card, with a good purse on offer for the Listed totescoop6 EBF Stallions Guisborough Stakes (*3.55 Redcar Saturday*). Richard Hannon's **George William** had enjoyed a rest before his excellent third at Newbury last time and this is exactly the type of race the Hannons mop up almost as routine procedure. Early in the season I thought George William needed a mile but he seems effective at the shorter distance.

I still rather doubt that the ground will firm up enough for Projection before the end of the campaign but it is no worse than good to soft at Ascot at present and rain is not forecast for the weekend.

Roger Charlton has entered him for the *Group 3 John Guest Bengough Stakes (3.00 Ascot Saturday)* and the fiercely competitive *totescoop6 Challenge Cup (3.35 Ascot Saturday)*, the latter being over the longer trip of seven furlongs. I prefer the first option but shall back **Projection** each-way in either contest, though he certainly does not want any rain.

For someone of my vintage, Charlton is just about the perfect trainer. Not too many in the yard, always the appropriate time between races, horses never over-faced, clever use of the best jockeys available (NB R L Moore), all achieved in a wry, modest, totally unassuming way. His **Cribbs Causeway** doesn't want any more rain, either, but is steadily improving at a mile and a half and has a leading chance in the *EBF Breeders' Fillies' Series Handicap (5.35 Newmarket Saturday)*. Up to 90 after finishing second last time, she might benefit from the use of a good 5lb claimer.

Finally, and just reverting to Charlie Hills for a moment, the stewards were asking for him after The Big Short ran no race at all in a moderate sprint handicap at Goodwood last Wednesday.

The Big Short isn't very good and there is no way he'd find his way into Charlie's column, but to my eye he had a very good chance in that race after a second at Brighton. That event was won by a possible improver of Robert Cowell's, the filly Bella Alissa. Back in third was Everkyllachy, who went in (under top weight) at Bath this week. If whatever ailed The Big Short lasts long enough to rule him out for the season, so be it. But if he turns out at Brighton or Bath, you might have a very careful look and a very modest wager.

Selections

Projection each-way (3.00 or 3.35 Ascot Saturday), George William (3.55 Redcar Saturday, also entered 3.35 Salisbury Monday), Cribbs Causeway (5.35 Newmarket Saturday)



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Selections

Friday 6th October

Shady McCoy	Jodie's Jottings	2.00 Ascot
Bigirononhiship	Jodie's Jottings	3.35 Hexham
Adarena*	Under The Radar (Marten)	4.30 Fontwell
Chiara Luna*	The Sleeper Section (Marten)	7.30 Dundalk
Shelbe	Jodie's Jottings	8.30 Dundalk
The Plan Man	Under The Radar	9.00 Dundalk

Saturday 7th October

Commander Han	Marten's Weekend Action	2.10 Redcar
Projection (EW)	Ian Carnaby's Weekend News	3.00 Ascot
Diable De Sivola	Jodie's Jottings	3.05 Fontwell
Just Brilliant	The Sleeper Section (Marten)	3.15 Newmarket
Projection* (EW)	Ian Carnaby's Weekend News	3.35 Ascot
Accidental Agent	Marten's Weekend Action	3.35 Ascot
Quixote	Marten's Weekend Action	3.35 Ascot
Riverside Walk	The Sleeper Section (Marten)	3.50 Newmarket
George William*	Ian Carnaby's Weekend News	3.55 Redcar
Court Liability*	Jodie's Jottings	4.15 Fonwell
Adarena*	Under The Radar	4.50 Fontwell
Court Liability*	Jodie's Jottings	5.20 Fontwell
Cribbs Causeway	Ian Carnaby's Weekend News	5.35 Newmarket

Sunday 8th October

Wisty	Marten's Weekend Action	4.15 Kelso
Chiara Luna*	The Sleeper Section (Marten)	5.15 Navan

Monday 9th October

Eyecatcher	The Sleeper Section (Marten)	1.55 Pontefract
Alwasmiya*	The Sleeper Section (Marten)	2.35 Salisbury
Al Mustashar	The Sleeper Section (Marten)	3.15 Windsor
George William*	Ian Carnaby's Weekend News	3.35 Salisbury
Bakht Khan	The Sleeper Section (Marten)	5.25 Kempton
Alwasmiya*	The Sleeper Section (Marten)	5.25 Kempton
Magellan*	The Sleeper Section (Marten)	6.55 Kempton

Tuesday 10th October

Magellan*	The Sleeper Sections (Marten)	1.50 Leicester
Magellan*	The Sleeper Section (Marten)	5.25 Newcastle

*This horse also has another entry.