

informative and **insightful** news & views

the
Weekend
card

The background of the page features a dark green gradient. In the lower half, there are silhouettes of several jockeys riding horses, captured in a racing posture. The jockeys are leaning forward, and the horses are in full stride. The overall scene is dark and atmospheric, with the silhouettes standing out against the green background.

Marken Julian

The Weekend Card

The *Weekend Card* has proved a great success since its return in July, 2016. One of our most popular publications 30 years ago, it has now returned to its former glory with a succession of fantastic results from Marten and his team of writers. Published **every Thursday** the Weekend Card is packed with over 5,000 words of news and information and carries a host of features including:

Marten's Weekend Action

Marten is very selective in the horses he advises for the days ahead, focusing on value and the strength of his news rather than be governed by the status of the meeting. Last jump season's winners included One For Arthur 14/1 (advised at 20/1 ante-post), Bernadelli 11/1, Vicente 9/1, Lough Kent 7/1, Dadsintrouble 6/1 and many more

End of season return:

60 points profit to level stakes. 61% return on investment.

Jodie's Jottings

Marten's assistant Jodie Standing has made a tremendous impact since joining the team. Many of you will know her from the Point-to-Point section of the Dark Horses Jumps Guide, but she is just as astute about racing under Rules as her results show. Last jump season's winners included Frodon 14/1, One For Arthur 14/1, Brio Conti 8/1, Dadsintrouble 6/1, Our Kaempfer 5/1, Oldgrangewood 4/1 and many more.

End of season return:

43 points profit to level stakes. 53% return on investment.

The Ante-Post Agenda

Selections on this service are obviously few and far between, but last season's highlight was the recommendation at 20/1 for Grand National winner One For Arthur (14/1). Marten also advised Churchill at 8/1 in the autumn for the 2,000 Guineas, which he won at 6/4.

End of season return:

26 points profit to level stakes. 328% return on investment.

Ian Carnaby's Weekend News

Ian Carnaby has been a long-standing fixture in the team, enjoying a strong and loyal following over many years. His feature is always insightful and enlightening and last jump season's winners included Call To Order 11/2, Native River 7/2 and Astracad 0/30.

**End of season return:
5 points loss to level stakes. 5% loss on investment.**

The Sleeper Section

Marten pinpoints a handful of unexposed or unraced horses that have caught his eye. Last jump season's highlight was 33/1 winner Molly Carew.

**End of season return:
33 points profit to level stakes. 109% profit on investment.**

Under The Radar

This section is devoted to a few observations other pundits miss – or choose to avoid! Last jump season's winners included Pure Vision 7/1, Upsilon Bleu 11/2, Conquer Gold 3/1, etc.

**End of season return:
4 points profit to level stakes. 17% profit on investment.**

Other features include:

The Premier List Update: Marten updates you every week with his thoughts and the running plans for the horses that he nominated in the Premier List section of his *Dark Horses Jumps Guide*. **The Weekend Selections Retrospective:** Marten looks back at how his previous week's selections performed and maintains a running list of past selections. We occasionally invite a guest to contribute an article and we are always on the look-out for new features.

The Weekend Card is all about continuity, assuring our clients of feedback on our selections – win or lose.

Extracts from Marten's Weekend Action

Edition 23: Lough Kent WON 7/1

*"On a quiet weekend for me I suggest we keep an eye on **Lough Kent** at Newcastle (2.10). The eight-year-old has slipped to a mark of 108 from 115 and, after a couple of disappointing runs, he showed a little more last time at Haydock. He was rated as high as 139 over fences with Nicky Henderson and 136 over hurdles."*

Edition 25: Bernadelli WON 11/1

*"This weekend we head to Kelso on Sunday for the extended 2m 5f handicap chase on Sunday (2.40). I hope Doctor Harper opts for Warwick because in his absence I suggest we take a close look at **Bernadelli**. Nicky Richards has endured a torrid first half of the season, with at least five on-course fatalities to my knowledge and another expensive store horse lost at home. He is due for a change of fortune, and Bernadelli now has plenty in his favour. He struck winning form last season on heavy ground, winning handicap chases off 125 at Newcastle in December and off 132 at Ayr in February. Three defeats later he is still a little high on 133, but the trip on Sunday and soft ground look ideal and his two runs this season have not been without promise."*

Edition 28: Dadsintrouble WON 6/1

*"I took a great liking to **Dadsintrouble** both in the paddock and the race itself when I saw him winning at Haydock last month. Tim Vaughan's seven-year-old had tipped up when travelling well on his previous start at Cheltenham and he won here by six lengths with plenty in hand. The handicapper has raised him 12lb, from 117 to 129, but to my eyes he had that in hand and I expect him to go very close in his chosen engagement this weekend (2.35 Haydock or 3.55 Wincanton Saturday). The latter is the less competitive but the longer trip at Haydock will suit him better. He is bred to stay very well and could develop into a Welsh National type when he is switched to fences."*

Extracts from Jodie's Jottings

Edition 21: Frodon WON 14/1

*"On to Saturday, **Frodon** (1.50 Cheltenham Saturday) is a name I have mentioned a few times in the past. He was my tip for the BetVictor Gold Cup last month and despite finishing down the field, I was not disappointed with his run. The four-year-old was travelling well and looked poised before making a terrible blunder at a crucial stage of the race. That error winded him and he couldn't make up the lost ground. He is entered in the Caspian Caviar Gold Cup and I am hopeful he can put his experience to good use and run a big race. Nicholls won the race in 2012 with the four-year-old Unioniste and I am hoping this youngster can follow in his footsteps. At around 12/1 he is good each-way value."*

Edition 28: Dadsintrouble WON 6/1

*"I am going to take a chance on Tim Vaughan's **Dadsintrouble** (2.35 Haydock Saturday). I was very impressed with how well the gelding travelled into the race when scoring over course and distance last time out. Despite making a complete hash at the third from home he was quick to regather his stride and continue motoring. Pricking his ears on the approach to the last it was clear there was plenty left in the tank. He's been raised 12lb but his trainer has targeted this race saying he would like the horse to win and be put up 7lb so he can squeeze into the bottom of the weights for the main event. Whatever happens he is there to run on his merits and he cannot be ignored."*

Edition 32: Brio Conti WON 8/1

*"Paul Nicholls looks to have another live chance in the Martin Pipe in the shape of **Brio Conti**, having won the race last year with Ibis Du Rheu (4.50 Cheltenham Friday and 2.40 Kempton Saturday). As I write on Wednesday, he is number 56 on the list so I'm confident he will get into the race, but he also holds an entry for the consolation race of the Silver Plate at Kempton on Saturday. He won last time out at Doncaster with any amount in hand, cruising effortlessly though the race to win by an eased down nine lengths. He's been allotted a handicap mark of 134 and the Nicholls stable have been quite bullish about his chances. For me he's each-way value."*

Edition 35: One For Arthur WON 14/1 (Advised 20/1 Antepost)

*"Finally, we come to the Grand National and **One For Arthur**, who I advised at 20/1 when the weights were published, comes here in good form according to his connections (5.15 Aintree Saturday). The eight-year-old has been my idea of a National horse from way back in December and I couldn't have been happier when he won the Classic Handicap Chase at Warwick in January as it ensured that he would get into this race. He has all the right attributes you need - he's a sound jumper, he stays well, he's got a lovely racing weight and he has experience over the fences. Everything else is down to luck and chance."*

Extracts from Ian Carnaby's Weekend News

Edition 17: Astracad WON 100/30

*"A couple of things on Friday's card are worthy of mention. Nigel Twiston-Davies can win races at any time but is particularly effective in October and November and I believe **Astracad**, happiest around here, can trouble the best in the Markel Insurance Amateur Riders' Handicap Chase (12.55 and also 3.50). There is plenty of talent in the stable for this type of contest, with James Bargary ably supported by other amateurs."*

Edition 21: Call To Order WON 11/2

*"I like three-mile handicap hurdles at Cheltenham and Philip Hobbs' For Good Measure may be suited by stepping back up in trip on Friday after disappointing last time (2.40 Cheltenham Friday). The one to take the eye, however, is Jonjo O'Neill's lightly-raced **Call To Order** over the longer distance. With only 10st 11lb he has clearly been nursed along with something in mind and Jonjo must think he stays because he is also in the Pertemps Qualifier at Carlisle on Sunday (2.10). Interesting."*

Extracts from the Sleeper Section

Edition 26: WON Molly Carew 33/1

*"You may wonder why I want to include a maiden mare that has finished well beaten in her three starts to date in this section, but I saw enough on **Molly Carew's** hurdling debut at Fontwell to believe that she will win races when the time is right. I stress the latter point because she may be one for handicaps after two more runs, but at Fontwell I was taken by the way she made progress from the back straight to join the leading bunch until appearing to tire turning for home. The daughter of Midnight Legend, who is related to winners, had run in a similar way in her two bumpers, showing up until fading out of contention. Molly Carew looks destined for a low mark in handicaps and could be one to have on your side in the spring. Neil Mulholland will have a plan for her but respect a market move on Tuesday. The yard is in tremendous form."*

Extracts from Under The Radar

Edition 21: WON Pure Vision 7/1

*"**Pure Vision** has an entry for a 2m 0-120 handicap hurdle at Lingfield on Saturday (3.25). Keep close tabs on him in the market."*

Edition 26: WON Upsilon Bleu 11/2

*"**Upsilon Bleu** is entered for an extended 2m handicap chase at Doncaster on Saturday (1.55). He is 2lb higher for running second at Musselburgh but with Brian Hughes booked to ride and the flat track in the horse's favour, I expect a good run."*

Edition 33: WON Conquer Gold 3/1

*"**Conquer Gold** has an entry for a mares' handicap chase at Bangor on Saturday (3.25). The daughter of Gold Well will appreciate the three miles and comes here on the back of good runs at Kelso and Catterick. I expect to see her go close."*

Extracts from the Ante-Post Agenda

Edition 28: One For Arthur advised each-way @ 20/1 WON @ 14/1

*"The first is **One For Arthur**, who can be backed at 20/1 for the first five places if you hunt around. Lucinda Russell's eight-year-old has winning form over a marathon trip – last time at Warwick over 3m 5f – he has a handy weight on 10st 6lb and has winning form on good ground and soft. He has never fallen and has made the first three in 14 of his 18 starts. He is also improving, rising from 132 last March to 148. He also has experience of the Aintree fences, having run a very good fifth in the Becher Chase in March."*

What the clients think...

'Just a quick word to say congratulations on the Weekend Card's anniversary and how much I am looking forward to this week's bumper issue. As I've mentioned to you before, the Weekend Card is brilliantly written and very informative. I was only going to subscribe for the Flat season, but having given it a bit of thought (all of two seconds!) I am definitely going to carry on for the jumps. Please pass on my thanks to all concerned, to those who write and those who produce, on a really outstanding publication.'

'Thank you very much for a really excellent publication that offers so much more than the industry norm.'

'Just thought I would drop you a line while I have five minutes. I am thoroughly enjoying this service and it is good to have it back. Having been a follower of the Weekend Card many years ago, it didn't take me long to appreciate the various articles once again and incisive comment. Obviously having a few winners always helps, but plenty of pointers for the future certainly leaves you with something to look forward to and think about. Well done to all concerned and keep up the good work.'

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