

Marten Julian's

ROYAL ASCOT

BULLETIN BOOK 2015

EXTRACTS



From the Prince Of Wales's Stakes Preview ...

Free Eagle's position at the head of the market owes more to his reputation and potential than racecourse achievements. He does not, though, have a great deal to find on the book and his trainer is seldom far adrift in his assessment of a horse's class.

The Conclusion...

I would not want to oppose Free Eagle. He has not yet had the chance to display the level of talent his trainer believes him capable of, but if conditions are right then this will be his chance to show it. Western Hymn's form entitles him to be shorter than 12/1 while Arab Spring and Cannock Chase have more to offer, especially the latter on quick ground.

From the Royal Hunt Cup Preview ...

It can only be a matter of time before **Gm Hopkins** wins the big handicap his ability entitles him to. He probably would have won last year's Cambridgeshire rather than the consolation race had he managed to creep into the foot of the handicap. On that occasion he comfortably beat 21 rivals from a mark of 91.

Raised 9lb to 100, he then ran moderately on his next two starts. He again finished weakly on his return in the Lincoln but was found to be suffering from ulcers. He shaped far better next time at Newbury, just failing to catch Spark Plug after the winner got first run on him. A 4lb rise, from 99 to 103, doesn't help but I understand John Gosden has long believed that this son of Dubawi has Pattern-class potential and this stiff mile should suit his style of racing. He seems fine on any ground.

The Conclusion ...

Chil The Kite is an early fancy for the race. He would have gone close last year with a clear run and he is fairly weighted. His trainer Hughie Morrison has laid him out for this race. Gm Hopkins will again go close while fast ground will suit Ayaar. Spark Plug could make the frame.

Without the benefit of entries for many of the races, Marten selected seven horses as likely contenders for the meeting. Of these, three ran and they all won ...

Arab Dawn (4yr Grey Gelding) - Hughie Morrison

This consistent grey, who has made the first three in six of his 11 starts, is expected to have another crack at a big Royal Ascot handicap having finished fifth in last year's King George V Stakes to Elite Army. That was from a mark of 90 and he then went on to run third to The Corsican and fourth to Air Pilot, both off the same mark. He ended the season running second to Hidden Gold over a mile and a half at Lingfield. Arab Dawn made a pleasing enough start to the new season with a one and a half lengths third in a 1m 4f 0-105 handicap at Newmarket's Guineas meeting (93). A 3lb rise, to 96, does not make life any easier but his trainer has kept him fresh especially for the Royal meeting and he is indifferent to the ground. The plan is the Duke of Edinburgh Stakes. **WON 6/1**

Balios (3yr Chestnut Colt) - David Simcock

Balios is going to prove himself a very good colt in time but, even so, it was a shame to see him ruin a favourable handicap mark on his seasonal return in a race he should have won.

Jamie Spencer's patient hold-up style of riding does not suit every horse, and it was frustrating to see him ride the colt, who has a strong stamina-based pedigree, for speed in a 1m 2f Listed race at Newmarket's Guineas meeting.

Balios had won a 1m maiden at Kempton in November on his only start last year and, rated here on 86, he was meeting horses at level weights on marks between 94 and 102. In running the winner Best Of Times, rated on 98, to half a length it was inevitable that his mark would rise and he is now on 103.

Balios came home very well, pulling up in front of the winner, and he is bred to thrive over a longer trip (his dam won over 1m 7f). I am confident that Balios will be competing in Pattern class company before long but connections may like to try him in a top handicap before then, with Royal Ascot's King George V Handicap a possible option. The colt also has an entry for the King Edward VII Stakes. **WON 3/1**

EXTRACTS

Continued...

Time Test (3yr Bay Colt) - Roger Charlton

Roger Charlton had an inkling last season that Time Test was going to be a decent horse, and we saw evidence of that on his latest run at Newbury, where he beat the in-form Dissolution in one of the season's most competitive handicaps.

The son of Dubawi ran three times last season, winning a 7f maiden at Sandown and finishing second twice. Starting this season from a mark of 93, he was well supported to win the 1m 2f London Gold Cup at Newbury. Weaving his way through the field he came between horses to win by one and a quarter lengths. That success has earned him a 10lb rise, to 103, which would still leave him eligible for the King George V Handicap if that is the way connections want to go.

His dam, a daughter of Dansili, comes from the family of 1m 4f Group 2 winner Father Time and other useful performers so the step up to a mile and a half should suit him. Time Test is likely to be competing in Pattern class company before long. He is one to stay with. **WON 15/8**

In 2014 Marten pinpointed two horses in this section for the meeting – Cannock Chase WON 7/4 and Postponed 3rd. In 2013 Elidor WON 20/1 was the stand-out winner.

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