

the
Weekend
card



Marken Julian

The Sleeper Section

Marten Julian

Accidental Agent (2yr old Eve Johnson-Houghton) WON 9/2 (from 9/1)

Accidental Agent realised the expectations I had for him when comfortably winning a 7f maiden auction stakes at Chepstow.

The only rival with a rating was a 59-rated horse who was beaten about 13 lengths into seventh and at 2lb a length over that distance the winner should have received something in the mid-80s, so a mark of 78 looks very reasonable. He may be one for a valuable sales race as he was bought back by the vendor for just 8,000gns and is entered for two such races at Newmarket and Redcar on 1 October. Before then he may run in a 7f nursery at Sandown on Saturday where, given what may be a favourable mark, I hope to see him go close.

Entered for Sandown on Saturday (1.55).

Angelito (7yr old Tony Newcombe)

With horses trained by Tony Newcombe the game is all about getting a horse down to its mark, usually at a fairly low-grade track. Bath, for example, is a favourite venue and indeed it was at the Somerset track that Angelito won his two races, as a three-year-old back in the late summer of 2012.

Since then the horse has failed to win, but his consistency has meant that his rating has seldom moved by more than a pound or two. For example, between May 2013 and June 2015 his mark varied between a low of 75 and a high of 79. However, since then he has started to slip down the weights and despite running quite well on his most recent start at Bath at the beginning of July he is now down to a career-low mark of 64. As recently as last August he was within a neck of winning a race from 75 – an 11lb higher mark – and I am sure his trainer will have a target race in mind for him in the near future.

No immediate entries.

Boy In The Bar (5yr old Ian Williams)

This five-year-old was dropped 3lb, from 78 to 75, from his last run in June. As high as 95 this time a year ago, Boy In The Bar is poised to return to winning ways.

His best form has probably been with some ease underfoot, but he can act on good ground as well and I suggest you keep a careful watch on him in the market.

No immediate entries.

Dubai One (2yr old Saeed bin Suroor)

This is the time of the season when the better class longer-term two-year-olds start to appear and, as usual, Godolphin have a rich depth of talent. The royal blue colours are having a good season with all age groups, and this daughter of Exceed And Excel is rated one of their better prospects.

Dubai One is the fourth foal of a 5f winning half-sister to 1m and 1m2f Group 1 winner Crimplene and a Group 3 winner over a mile and a half. Her full-sister Role Player won over 6f and 7f and her half-brother is the useful three-year-old Prize Money.

No immediate entries.

Safe Voyage (3yr old John Quinn)

There is more to come from this son of Fast Company following his cosy success in his first handicap from a mark of 67 at Thirsk.

Safe Voyage received what appears to have been three educational runs prior to this, over five, six and seven furlongs, keeping on quite well at the finish on each occasion. It was no surprise to see market support come in for him, especially as he was dropped back to six from seven furlongs – a trip more suited to his speedy pedigree. The handicapper was clearly quite impressed with his victory, raising him 8lb from 67 to 75.

No immediate entries.

The Premier List Update Marten Julian

The following horses from the Premier List of the Dark Horses Annual have forthcoming entries or have run in the last few days.

Rainbow Pride is entered for a 1m 6f 56-75 handicap at Salisbury on Friday (8.05). He looked most unwilling last time and forfeited a winning chance when disqualified the time before at Bath. Jamie Spencer is an interesting booking.

Top Beak surprised me with his fine effort to finish second at Leicester earlier this week. The son of Lawman showed plenty of ability last season but I thought this quicker ground and drop to an extended mile would not suit him. This was most definitely a step in the right direction and I expect to see him to greater effect on easier ground in the autumn.

Turret Rocks is declared for the Yorkshire Oaks at York on Thursday (3.40). She ran better last time in the Irish Oaks than she had at Epsom, but her overall profile suggests she is just short of top class. She needs to improve to win at this level.

The Postscript Update Marten Julian

The following horses from the Postscript service have forthcoming entries.

Churchill has an entry for the Group 2 Futurity Stakes at the Curragh on Sunday (3.45). I believe Aidan O'Brien is favouring the Group 1 National Stakes in September but if he does run this weekend then the odds will be prohibitive. I still prefer him to Caravaggio for next year's 2,000 Guineas and will be disappointed and surprised if he gets beaten.

Even Song is one of four entries that Aidan O'Brien has made for the Yorkshire Oaks on Thursday (3.40). I have not heard a valid excuse for her disappointing effort in the Irish Oaks but she had looked progressive before that at Royal Ascot. I am not sure what to expect from her here.

Kings Fete made all to win the Group 3 Geoffrey Freer Stakes at Newbury in the manner of a progressive horse. Although now aged five, he was unraced at two and has run just 10 times in his career including the 2014 St Leger, when he sustained a tendon injury which caused him to miss last season. Pat Smullen made all in the knowledge that the gelding would stay the trip. He may go to Deauville for his next race and is one to stay with, both for this season and beyond. There is still more to come from him.

Limato has been supplemented for the Group 1 Nunthorpe Stakes on Friday (3.40). On figures he is fully entitled to be here, rated 1lb superior to the 120-rated mud-lover Mecca's Angel and 4lb superior to the progressive Profitable. If he has the fast ground that suits him he will be hard to beat. Connections are, though, rightly concerned that conditions may be made easier by artificial watering, so monitor conditions carefully before stepping in.

Manson is entered for a 1m 0-100 at York on Friday with Frankie Dettori booked (4.55). The three-year-old has not progressed from his seasonal bow at Sandown but despite three defeats, including a last of 13 on his latest start, he remains on a mark of 94. He is best watched until things pick up.

Nemoralia is well treated by the terms of the Group 3 City of York Stakes on Friday (3.05). Fast ground is important for her and this would represent a drop in grade. She has the ability to win at this level and Jamie Spencer's quiet style will suit her.

Persuasive is one of the most attractive fillies that we have seen this season. She has shown steady progress in her three starts, winning a handicap off 80 at Goodwood, then again from a 7lb higher mark at Chelmsford before landing the Sandringham Handicap a fortnight later at Royal Ascot off 95. Now rated on 104, she has a great turn of foot and the scope to progress. This Group 3 Atalanta Stakes at Sandown on Saturday could be ideal for her (2.30).

Queen's Trust is an interesting runner in Thursday's Yorkshire Oaks (3.40). The daughter of Dansili showed something of the ability she displays at home when chasing home Minding in the Nassau Stakes. The way she was staying on the time before at the finish of the Ribblesdale Stakes augurs well for this return to a mile and a half. I am keen on this filly and expect her to go close.

Stamp Hill is entered for the 1m 81-100 handicap at York on Friday (4.55). He may prefer easier ground and is not bred to appreciate this step up to a mile.

The Grey Gatsby will have run in the Juddmonte International Stakes on Wednesday by the time you read this (3.40). Jamie Spencer has switched to Arab Spring, who is rated 3lb lower, leaving Daniel Tudhope to take his place. The Grey Gatsby has finished second and third in this race in the last two years but has been dropped 7lb, from 122 to 155, following his two defeats this season.

US Army Ranger is entered for the Group 3 Royal Whip Stakes at the Curragh on Sunday but he is unlikely to run (3.15).

Zonderland kept on strongly to win the Group 3 Sovereign Stakes at Salisbury last week. The three-year-old is progressing well and will not be disgraced if he runs next in the Group 1 Celebration Mile at Goodwood.

The Ante-Post Agenda

Marten Julian

I have no additional thoughts for this feature at present.

Back Churchill at 8/1 for the 2017 2,000 Guineas

Under The Radar

Marten Julian

There has been much speculation about the reason Ryan Moore is having such a long break away from the saddle.

Given the latest findings regarding the number of jockeys affected by mental health issues – a condition that is exacerbated by wasting and stressful travelling – there was speculation that his break could have been required as much for pastoral reasons as physical.

My information, from an unproven but well-placed source, is that he has sustained a fracture to his upper leg which requires time to heal. He has missed some big races but plans to be back fighting fit for the busy International schedule in the autumn.

The Clock Watcher

Marten Julian

Chain Of Daisies is very exposed, having won five of her 12 starts, but there was clear evidence from the clock that she has stepped up a level since her appearance at Newcastle in June, where she finished fifth of 11 on their all-weather surface.

That came when she ran last week at Salisbury, making all and keeping on in most determined fashion to win by a length from Sagaciously in a time over three seconds faster than So Celebre took to win the handicap over the same course and distance from a mark of 68. This was later shown to be a new course record.

The key to Chain Of Daisies is an uncontested lead and fast ground, which is why her trainer Henry Candy is keen to step her up to Group 3 company while she has her conditions. I have no doubt on these figures that this daughter of Rail Link has the ability to win at a higher level although the trainer says he may have to look abroad for her.

Gravity Flow must go close in the apprentice race at York on Saturday (5.05). I see that William Haggas has already engaged the services of the promising Georgia Cox. **Fair Eva** is odds-on to confirm her status as the season's leading two-year-old filly in the Lowther Stakes at York on Thursday (2.30). **Jacbequick** is now dropped from our list.

Previously Noted Horses:

Fair Eva (2.30 York on Thursday), Gravity Flow (5.05 York Saturday)

The Weekend Action

Marten Julian

Simon Crisford has not done much wrong since he took out a licence to train, and I expect him to land his second Group race with **Mokarris** in Saturday's Gimcrack Stakes (3.25).

The son of More Than Ready did everything expected of him when winning on his Haydock debut in May but then disappointed in the soft ground when beaten a long way in the Coventry Stakes. That defeat was later attributed to the soft ground, and he was duly seen in a far better light when winning the Listed Rose Bowl Stakes at Newbury on going described as good to firm.

Of the others the highly-regarded Blue Point will be all the rage and Global Applause could outrun his odds, but Mokarris has done very well at home recently and he will like the prevailing fast ground.

I am keen on **Elidor** for the Ebor even though I am less happy about the engagement of Paul Hanagan (4.00 Saturday). The son of Cape Cross probably would have won the race two years ago had Hanagan had his wits about him early in the straight. On that occasion he finished full of running after being out of his ground. Elidor is more a grinder than a horse with gears, so it was a mistake to ride him for a turn of foot.

Elidor is now rated 10lb higher than on that occasion, and has to carry top-weight here of 9st 11lb which includes a 4lb penalty for winning last time at Goodwood.

Of the others I respect Ivan Grozny and the luckless Seamour, but this does not look an especially strong race this year so let's stay with the reliable Elidor.

I expect the 7f maiden at York on Friday to prove a useful source of future winners (4.20).

Black Trilby is progressing along the right lines and Jeremy Nosedá's newcomer First Up has shown ability at home, but I am keen here on newcomer **Via Serendipity**. Hugo Palmer unleashed a very useful newcomer at Thirsk earlier in the week, and this son of Invincible Spirit has been showing up well with winners at home. Not cheap at 320,000gns as a two-year-old Breeze Up purchase, he is bred along miling lines and thought ready to do himself justice.

Elidor (4.00 York Saturday)

Mokarris (3.25 York Saturday)

Via Serendipity (4.20 York Friday)

The Weekend Selections Retrospective

Marten Julian

Muhajjal ran a promising first race in a decent maiden at Newbury on Friday. The son of Cape Cross was off the pace in the early stages but stayed on steadily to finish a never-nearer third, beaten two lengths by the favourite. The colt is sure to improve from this, although he won't be much of a price when he next appears.

Jacbequick shaped quite well in a one-mile 0-90 at Ripon last weekend, perhaps a little unfortunate as he was short of room in the closing stages. I am not sure he can win from this mark and so I suggest we drop him for the time being.

Rio Ronaldo didn't get the best of starts in the valuable handicap sprint at Windsor on Monday. That race had been the long-term plan so I suggest we put a line through that. The horse is very well at the moment and poised to win, so let's stay with him.

Keep a close watch on the market for **Par Three** at Chelmsford on Sunday (4.40). He is rated to win off 58 and is stepped up to his appropriate distance for the first time this season.

Previously Noted Horses:

Arab Spring (3.40 York Wednesday), Dutch Destiny, El Vip, Kings Fete, Kruger Park, Muhajjal, Par Three (4.40 Chelmsford Sunday), Rio Ronaldo

Irish Eyes William Reilly

The summer evening fixtures at Leopardstown came to a close for 2016 on 11 August and the card was bookended by smart performances from fillies. Firstly, Holy Cat took the opening juvenile maiden for Michael O'Callaghan on her debut and Sharliyna won the finale, the 3yo+ fillies' maiden, for Dermot Weld.

Holy Cat is readily identifiable owing to a big white blaze, Her trainer is one of the rising stars of the training game and definitely has an eye for a good horse.

Another two-year-old fillies' maiden, at Dundalk on Sunday, produced a good race, with David Wachman's Winter edging out Michael O'Callaghan's Dreamy Gal. Because it was a Plus10 Bonus race, Winter earned connections €21,110 for the victory.

Showing promise in fifth was Dermot Weld's **Making Light** and she looks good for maiden success. This race was won in 2014 by subsequent Epsom Oaks winner Qualify; in 2013, it was won by subsequent Listed and Group 3 winner Flying Jib.

Maiden winners at Dundalk this season include Group winners Caravaggio, Peace Envoy, Seventh Heaven, Even Song and Housesofparliament, which is quite a collection. On Sunday's card, we were treated to seeing the great race-mare Zenyatta's brother, **De Coronado**, winning the finale, a maiden contest.

He's a heavy, strong horse and stuck to his task well despite still obviously being green. Add him to the list of promising Aidan O'Brien maiden winners we've seen this season.

Earlier on the card, Eddie Lynam produced Moviesta, who raced in first-time cheekpieces, to win the €25,000 6f handicap for owners who include Harry Redknapp. Eddie will probably bring him back to Dundalk for a Listed race, after which the Middle East beckons – if the owners are okay with that. The gelding is unbeaten in two runs on all-weather surfaces.

One of the best jockeys of the last 30 years, Johnny Murtagh is now doing well as a trainer. He sent out Hawke to win the Dundalk card's feature, the €50,000 'Red God' Handicap, on his first run for his new trainer. He is one of six French imports Johnny recently received from Ballygallon Stud and three of them have now won.

Before the race, **Cook Islands** stood out in the paddock and he ran well to be third on his handicap debut. If the handicapper doesn't react too harshly, he should be able to build on this, as should **Hurricane Cass**, but **Poitin** ran as well as he has ever done in finishing fifth. He's on a career-high mark but, on this evidence, he'll be adding to his five course wins during the autumn and winter months at Dundalk.

By the time you read this, the Ebor and Killarney Festivals will be under way and Katie Walsh will be in Australia ahead of a bid to emulate her brother Ruby's 2015 success and land Saturday's Grand National Steeplechase at Ballarat. She rides I'll'ava'alf for trainer Patrick Ryan.

There's a good two-day card at The Curragh on Saturday and Sunday. **Bondi Beach** ran a good prep-race for Saturday's Irish St Leger Trial and, so long as Order Of St George doesn't turn up, he should run a big race. I'm looking forward to seeing Aidan O'Brien's **Rhododendron** (mentioned last week) run again, and she could be out on Sunday.

A less-obvious horse to add to the list of ones to watch is **Complicit**, who, on 15 August at Roscommon on his first run for Johnny Levins, ran better than his finishing position might suggest. On the same card, dual hurdles winner **Head Turner** again suggested that she's well up to winning on the flat. It may happen sooner rather than later.

Bondi Beach, Cook Islands, Complicit, De Coronado, Head Turner, Hurricane Cass, Making Light, Poitin, Rhododendron

Jodie's Jottings

Jodie Standing

As you are probably aware, last week Marten and I ventured to Ireland with the hope of purchasing a horse from the Tattersalls Ireland August Sale with a view to it becoming our National Project horse.

We managed to narrow the potential targets down to around 50 horses before the sale by looking through the pedigrees and form shown by the siblings, whereupon a few were discarded because they had a blot on their veterinary certificates.

I am thrilled to say the trip was a success and we came home with a very good-looking three-year-old gelding by Court Cave.

There were a few horses prior to this lot that we liked but for both of us he was the standout. He is a very athletic type, who to look at would not seem the type to lack speed, but his pedigree is all about stamina. His dam won and was placed in point-to-points and he is closely related to Night In Milan with the family going back to the great Cheltenham Stayers Hurdle winner Rose Ravine. This is one of the strongest female lines in jump racing.

Overall, the trade at the sale was slow and of the 50-plus horses that we pulled out only a handful fitted the bill.

The first was a gelding by Gold Well from the family of Amberleigh House. There was something about him and I will be watching with interest to see how he gets on once he goes into training. A gelding by Scorpion from the family of Tanks For That and a gelding by a relatively unknown sire Mustameet, from the further family of Rocky Creek and Tell Massini, proved fairly popular and also caught the eye.

We have no idea of costs as yet or the nature of the ownership group, but if you would like any information, or the chance to talk about our horse, please feel free to call the office on Thursdays or Fridays, or email me jodie@martenjulian.com.

This week it is all about York. A couple of weeks ago I flagged up **Ivan Grozny** for the Ebor Handicap (4.00 Saturday). He was around a 14/1 shot at the time and is now best price 6/1 having been declared with a nice weight of 9st 6lb. Willie Mullins posted a positive report about the six-year-old last week and I am still confident he is the one to beat. Of the others I think **She Is No Lady** could be the each-way value. I liked the way she finished her race at Sandown and Ralph Beckett does well in staying handicaps.

Finally, looking back at last weekend. **Rex Imperator** was once again banging on the door of victory when finishing strongly over 6f at Ripon. He clearly has the ability but it is just a case of when he wants to win.

Frankuus was also in action at Newbury. He folded quite early which was disappointing to see, but he did stick on at the one pace in a race won by the highly-regarded Escobar. He is begging for a step up in trip.

The Weekend News

Ian Carnaby

I'm sure we shall soon leave behind this sequence of non-runners. The way the race cut up, I'd have thought the Hungerford at Newbury was ideal for Nemoralia but she came out and things are not really working out this summer for Jeremy Nosedá.

Bear Valley was hugely impressive in a Goodwood nursery but Mark Johnston opted for Frankuus in the Washington Singer and he finished last of four. Bear Valley will have run in the Acomb at York by the time you read this (I have to file by Wednesday morning) and perhaps we shall have no regrets but, then again, I'd have been slightly more apprehensive with an Aidan O'Brien horse entered up anyway. I think last Saturday was the day for Bear Valley but I have never been all that clever at catching Johnston on the right day.

Intisaab went very close for us in the Great St Wilfrid at Ripon. He was short of room in the closing stages and is not the luckiest of horses, having been very poorly drawn when second at York the time before. He should win a nice sprint handicap but the handicapper knows all about him.

Making excuses for beaten horses can be very expensive but if the ground rides on the fast side I shall stay with Roger Charlton's **Quest For More** in the Lonsdale Cup at York on Saturday. On Goodwood Cup running he has something to find with runner-up Pallasator, third home Sheikhzayedroad and Wicklow Brave but there was plenty of rain in the air earlier in the day and I believe Quest For More wants it genuinely firm.

He was staying on steadily all the way up the straight and we should not forget he was beaten only a neck by Big Orange in the same event last year before acquitting himself well in the Melbourne Cup. If the ground changes, or he misses out for any other reason, Pallastor - better behaved before the start these days - would be the choice.

If I've got **Nemoralia** right, she should take advantage of the fillies' allowance in the City of York Stakes which follows. Nosedá thinks the world of her and we know she likes York. Jamie Spencer will give her all the time in the world to get organised.

I can't comment on the Nunthorpe without knowing whether conditions will be soft enough for Mecca's Angel (unlikely) but Limato will be taken along very fast indeed over five and I'd be wary of taking a short price.

On Saturday I'm happy enough to watch the Ebor but Godolphin could have a good day in the other races. **Scottish** would have a favourite's chance in the Group 3 Strensall Stakes and in the Gimcrack I like **Blue Point**, who looked green to me at Goodwood but twice came at Mehmas before just going under. There is more to come from him and he is an exciting prospect.

Finally, I must pass on some information which came my way courtesy of my colleagues at the Irish Field. You should keep a close eye on bookings for David Egan, who is the son of John Egan and Sandra Hughes. David can still claim 7lb and the other day he held off Silvestre de Sousa, no less, in a tight finish at Yarmouth.

Various trainers have noticed how good he is - Gay Kelleway and Nigel Tinkler among them. I believe his indentures are with Roger Varian and it will not be long before the Racing Post picks up on him and does a feature. He is outstanding value for the 7lb allowance and more winners will follow before long.

Blue Point (3.25 York Saturday), Nemoralia (3.05 York Friday), Quest For More (2.30 York Friday), Scottish (2.15 York Saturday or 3.15 Curragh Sunday)

Well the moment has at last arrived!

After much searching over a couple of years, ploughing through catalogues and visiting sales, Jodie and I travelled to Dublin for Tuesday's Tattersalls NH Sales and found an unbroken three-year-old store that we really liked, on both pedigree and conformation.

In brief he has everything I want to see in a potential jumper.

As you know the intention was to find a horse that could fit the bill for our National Project and become a long-distance chaser. This horse may have a little more speed than that, but he has bags of stamina on his dam's side.

He is by the relatively young but successful Court Cave, a son of Sadler's Wells from the family of Dancing Brave one of Juddmonte's best families. His dam was a decent point-to-point winning mare from the family of useful chaser Night In Milan and the exceptionally talented Cheltenham Stayers' Hurdle winner Rose Ravine, Cardinal Red and Ringaroses. There are younger lightly-raced and unraced members of the family that have shown promise.

I loved the 'page', as we call the pedigree, and we were bowled over when we saw the way he walked. A good jumping horse has to be loose with a little bit of a swagger, and that is precisely what this horse has.

The plan at present is to have him broken in locally and to keep an eye on him to ensure he is the right horse for us. If he is ready he will then go into training, as I would like to think he could take his chance in a back-end bumper. If not, then we will look after him until later. The key is to have patience and give him every opportunity to enjoy life in his new surroundings.

If you wish to register an interest then speak to **Jodie** or **Rebecca** on **01539 741007** or **01539 736836**. We have no idea of costings yet until the horse goes into training, but by all means have a chat with us if you are keen to know more.



Marten Julian

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