



PCS Preview – Saturday 28 July 2018

SUMMARY

Hi there,

As I write there is no news about the participation of Cracksman in the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes (3.40).

With only 2mm of rain overnight it seems unlikely that the ground will be suitable but, as I say, there is no official announcement as yet.

Either way my selection for the race is Poet's Word, who is the top-rated horse in the race on BHA figures just 1lb ahead of Cracksman and 4lb superior to Crystal Ocean.

Although his best form has been over a mile and a quarter, this is his first chance to tackle proper Group 1 company over a mile and a half on home soil. I have long held the view that his pedigree points to his being more effective at a mile and a half, as does his style of racing.

Crystal Ocean is progressive and has more stamina than his stable companion, having run a good second in last year's St Leger. If Cracksman runs then my concern would be his temperament, especially in the preliminaries, as he has not been focused on the job this season.

Hydrangea returns to a mile and a half after two runs over a mile, but there are concerns over the wellbeing of Aidan O'Brien's horses at the moment. I expect Coronet to go well as she was just pipped a nose in a Group 1 in France and the winner there Waldgeist would have been well fancied for this race.

As you know I have been a fan of Poet's Word ever since his early days and this could be his big chance to prove himself at the highest level. James Doyle is an added bonus given the confidence with which he's riding at the moment.

As you are aware at York there was a significant change in the going yesterday, with conditions now on the very soft side. This will be ideal for Flying Pursuit in the 6f 0-105 handicap (2.40). Tim Easterby's five-year-old has won his six races on good to heavy ground but five defeats on unsuitably fast ground this season have seen his mark drop to 94, 2lb below his last winning mark in September.

I don't normally get involved with sprint handicaps, but Flying Pursuit has everything in his favour for the first time in a while and at around 9/1 I advise him each-way. I'll also be watching Boy In The Bar, who is due a return to form.

At Lingfield I hope to see Highland Sky win his first race (6.00). He shaped well when third in a Class 4 race at Sandown and then struggled on the surface at Chelmsford. Now down 3lb from 67 to 64 and down to Class 5 grade he is value at around the equivalent of 7/1 on Betfair to beat Trouble And Strife, who is a doubtful stayer.

It's tough today but I like Poet's Word to win and Flying Pursuit and Highland Sky, both each-way.

Bye for now

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marten". The letter "M" is large and stylized, with a horizontal line underneath it. The name "Marten" is written in a cursive script to the right of the "M".

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