

the
Weekend
card

TWO YEAR
ANNIVERSARY
BUMPER EDITION



Marten Jullian

The Sleeper Section

Marten Julian

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

Art Du Val (2yr Bay Colt)

Charlie Appleby's son of No Nay Never is a half-brother to three winners in France at trips up to a mile and a half. There is plenty of stamina on the bottom line as the dam, a daughter of Rainbow Quest, won over an extended 1m 6f and is related to a French Oaks and Prix Vermeille winner. In the circumstances this colt is doing well to show good speed in his work at home.

Converter (2yr Bay Colt)

Mick Channon's son of Swiss Spirit is the first foal of a half-sister to five US winners from the family of 1m 1f Grade 1 winner Bob And John. He has been working well with some of the yard's good winners and is expected to make a good impression on his debut.

Jazeel (3yr Bay Colt) 3rd 7/2, 3rd 9/2

Jazeel ran a fair enough race at Goodwood, staying on from off the pace to finish third from a mark of 79. He was raised 3lb, to 82, for running third 12 days earlier at Sandown but has since dropped 1lb back to 81. Now on a mark of 80 having been dropped a further 1lb following his reasonable third to the progressive Howman at Yarmouth. He warrants one more chance in the 1m 2f 0-85 handicap at *Sandown on Thursday (3.25)*.

Kadar (2yr Bay Colt)

Karl Burke's son of Scat Daddy is the fifth foal of a middle-distance-winning half-sister to Breeders' Cup Turf and Champion Stakes winner Kalanisi, so there is every chance this €700,000 two-year-old purchase will stay a mile or more next season. He is rated a nice prospect and is the sort to run well in a 7f or 1m maiden in a few weeks' time.

Lady In France (2yr Bay Filly)

This daughter of Showcasing is the fifth foal of her dam, a daughter of Compton Place that won over six furlongs at two. She is a half-sister to the Group 2 sprinter Stepper Point, Gulland Rock and Cross My Heart. Karl Burke has been very happy with her work and she is one to note on her racecourse debut.

Luxor (2yr Bay Colt)

This £190,000 yearling purchase, who was bred by Gary Middlebrook, is all about speed. His sire is Oasis Dream and his dam, a winner over six furlongs, is by Exceed And Excel and is a half-sister to Group 1 sprinter Reverence. Despite the precocity in his pedigree he has taken a while to come to hand and may not thrive until next year, but he should still show up well in his maiden. Trained by William Haggas he could be very useful.

Magellan (4yr Bay Gelding) 2nd 6/1, WON 11/8

Magellan landed some decent bets when beating Armandihan by two and a quarter lengths from a mark of 77 in a 1m 3f handicap at Kempton. Making all, he looked like being swallowed up a furlong and a half from home before pulling out more to win cosily at the line with something in hand. A 7lb rise is about right, from 77 to 84, and a step up in class beckons. He could be the right type for the Cesarewitch, which this horse's trainer Roger Charlton won last year with Withhold.

Socru (2yr Bay Colt) 2nd 8/1

Mick Easterby didn't hang about in claiming this son of Kodiak out of Jamie Osborne's yard after his eye-catching run in the valuable seller at York. Held up by Jamie Spencer, typically, at the rear of the 18-runner field he made steady progress in the final quarter-mile to finish fifth, a never-nearer three lengths behind the winner. Having cost €70,000 as a foal, this son of a half-sister to a Group 3 winner probably looks the part and it was encouraging to see him staying on at the finish of this six furlongs because his pedigree is all about speed. I reckon the claim for £18,000 will prove money well spent in time and his second-place effort at the end of June at Chester behind Gabriel The Wire was another solid run. He has been allocated a nursery mark of 70 and I expect him to prove very effective from that rating.

Victory Day (2yr Bay Colt)

This son of Bated Breath, who cost £270,000 as a yearling, is a half-brother to useful 6f to 8f performance Homage and other winners over seven furlongs to 1m 5f. His dam, a daughter of Night Shift, won as a two-year-old. Trained by William Haggas, this colt shows plenty of talent in his work at home.

Selection

Jazeel (3.25 Sandown Thursday)

The Premier List Update – Flat Marten Julian

Here are the Premier List horses from the Dark Horses Annual.

Bombyx, Crossed Baton, Elarqam, Gardens Of Babylon, Glendevon, Herculean, Knight To Behold, Lady Of Shalott, Matchmaking, Sovereign Duke, Stephenson's Rocket, Tabdeed, Thrave, Veracious

Bombyx: Did everything expected of him when beating Polish by three and three-quarter lengths in a 1m 4f novice stakes at Doncaster last time out. That was a good effort and sets the path for a rise in class, possibly incorporating the Great Voltigeur Stakes at York in August before a crack at either the English or Irish St Leger.

Crossed Baton: Duly showed he was better than he had looked in the Dante Stakes at York when plugging on gamely to finish second to Hunting Horn in the Hampton Court Stakes at Royal Ascot, beaten four and a half lengths by the 109-rated winner. He then appeared in a Group 2 at Maisons-Laffitte over an extended mile and a quarter but was beaten a length by dual-Listed winner Gyllen. With Beat Hollow as his maternal grandsire he is bred to thrive when he is stepped up to a mile and a half or more and an entry for the 1m 4f Great Voltigeur may enable connections to test the water in that respect.

Elarqam: Ran well to finish fourth in the 2,000 Guineas but disappointed connections when sixth to Romanised in the Irish 2,000 Guineas. He has a chance to return to form in the Group 2 Sky Bet York Stakes at *York on Saturday (3.15)*, stepped up in trip to an extended mile and a quarter. On pedigree he is not certain to be suited to the longer trip.

Gardens Of Babylon: Has no entries at the moment but has a long-term entry in the Great Voltigeur Stakes.

Glendevon: This son of Scat Daddy ran his race in the Listed Sir Henry Cecil Stakes on the July Course but he is not straightforward and proving hard to win with. Rated 100, the truth is he is probably not much above top handicap class but he will be hard to place from his mark. He may pop up at some point but will need everything to fall right if he is to do so. He has an entry in the Celebration Mile at Goodwood.

Herculean: Made quite hard work of winning a 1m 2f novice stakes at Pontefract last time but that was a step in the right direction without suggesting he is heading for the big time. A mark of 90 is about right.

Knight To Behold: Harry Dunlop's son of Sea The Stars inevitably failed to maintain his strong gallop at Epsom, dropping away in the final quarter mile to beat one home. He was not entirely disgraced in the Irish Derby at the end of June, beaten just over ten lengths. He could come into his own in the autumn.

Lady Of Shalott: Disappointing at Lingfield, racing keenly and then finding less than expected in the final quarter-mile, but ran a little better in the Ribblesdale Stakes at Royal Ascot. She is not Group 1 or 2 class, but may take her chance in the Group 2 1m 6f Lillie Langtry at *Goodwood next Thursday (2.25)*. More about her chance next week.

Matchmaking: Again appeared to make heavy weather of winning at Bath today (Wednesday) from a mark of 69 but leaves the impression he still has more to offer. Entered again twice on *Sunday (2.30 Pontefract and 4.25 Wolverhampton)* and at *Yarmouth on Tuesday (3.25)*.

Sovereign Duke: Ran a fair sort of race in the Queen's Vase without convincing that he stayed the trip. May be between a rock and a hard place on his new mark of 95.

Stephensons Rocket: Doesn't help his cause by racing keenly but settled better for Jamie Spencer in the Hampton Court Stakes at Royal Ascot, finishing just over eight lengths behind the winner. His mark has dropped from 101 to 99. He looks Listed class at best.

Tabdeed: Ran well in the Jersey Stakes without suggesting he is up to Group class. His mark has dropped from 97 to 96 and his entry in a Group 3 at the Curragh in August looks about right for him.

Veracious: Ran as well as her trainer expected in the Coronation Stakes, racing prominently for much of the way until dropping to third inside the final furlong. She finished one place ahead of Billesdon Brook, suggesting that she would have gone close in the 1,000 Guineas had she been able to run. She has come on a bundle from that run and she may run in next week's Group 1 Nassau Stakes at *Goodwood on Thursday (3.35)*. More about her chance next week.

Selections

Elarqam (3.15 York Saturday), Matchmaking (2.30 Pontefract and 4.25 Wolverhampton Sunday, 3.25 Yarmouth Tuesday), Lady Of Shalott (2.25 Goodwood Thursday next week), Veracious (3.35 Goodwood Thursday next week),

The Ante-Post Agenda

Marten Julian

I suggest we have a modest early interest in **Delano Roosevelt** at 16/1 for the St Leger.

Aidan O'Brien will have plenty of entries for the race, with Kew Gardens currently heading the market, but Delano Roosevelt looks to be crying out for a step up in trip having been noted staying on late in the Derby, King Edward VII Stakes and then last time when fourth to Latrobe in the Irish Derby.

His pedigree does not scream out stamina but his style of racing certainly does. Aidan O'Brien will be a long way from deciding on his squad for the race, but I will be surprised if this son of Galileo is not among them. At 16/1 he is worth an early each-way interest.

Selections

Delano Roosevelt E/W at 16/1 (St Leger)

Under The Radar

Marten Julian

Bouclier is now on a career-low mark of 67 following his quiet run at Kempton last time out. He shaped well from the front there – better than his eventual finishing position suggests – and his turn cannot be far away. He has to be watched very closely from now on.

The Plan Man has featured here for many months now but didn't seem to be wanted when weak in the market and eased in the final furlong at Leopardstown. He has since dropped 11lb, from 69 to 68, and he is worth noting if he runs in the extended 1m 4f apprentice handicap at *Down Royal on Friday (8.05)*.

I suggest you keep an eye on **On Route**. Sir Mark Prescott's speedily-bred daughter of Pivotal shows more ability at home than her opening nursery mark of 61 reflects and she will have benefited from a short break since her last run at Bath. Keep her high on your list.

Ross Raith Rover is now a very well-handicapped horse. Lee Carter is having a quiet time, but this five-year-old was a consistent performer in the mid-to-high 60s for former trainer Robert Eddery, and his four starts since joining his new yard have not been devoid of promise. Now rated on a career-low mark of 55 he is ideally poised to win when wanted.

Finally I suggest you keep on the right side of **Sugar Plum Fairy**. Tony Carroll's three-year-old daughter of Halling was better fancied than the market suggests when beaten ninth of ten on her handicap debut at Lingfield last week. She didn't get the best of runs after a tardy start and now down to 50, from 52, can win a similarly low-key event.

Selections

The Plan Man (8.05 Down Royal Friday)

The Weekend Action

Marten Julian

I hope to see **Poet's Word** land the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes at Ascot this weekend (3.40 Saturday). As most of you know I have been keen on this horse since his younger days and believe he can find further improvement stepped back up to a mile and a half. Sir Michael Stoute obviously had the horse's stud career in mind when making him a Group 1 winner at Royal Ascot over a mile and a quarter, but his pedigree points to him proving more effective over further. The trouble is that he is not great value now at a top price of 2/1.

Have a saver on **Cliffs Of Moher** if he is declared to run. He is one of five entries that Aidan O'Brien has made for the race, but he has caught the eye with some strong-finishing efforts at the highest level and I hold true to my belief that one day a big race will come his way. At 25/1 I want to be with him each-way.

At the other end of the scale, **Evanescent** is nothing like the force of old, when he regularly competed off marks in the mid-to-high 80s. He still has some pace, but was well beaten off just 50 on the all-weather at Newcastle on Tuesday. Let's give him one last chance if he runs again at *Wolverhampton on either Sunday (1.50) or Monday (7.25)*.

Flawless Jewel should go close if she runs in the 5f novice stakes at *Pontefract on Sunday (2.00)*. She shaped well on her debut at York but if **Sosome** runs then he would be the more favoured.

Highland Sky interests me if he runs on Saturday (6.00 *Lingfield* and 8.15 *Salisbury*). The first-named is slightly lower grade, but this stoutly-bred son of Camelot has the potential to be superior to his current mark of 64.

Hulcote has a chance to win her first race at *Salisbury on Saturday (7.45)*. I am intrigued to see **Kannapolis** declared to run again at *York on Friday (6.00)* so soon after his defeat at Haydock. Serena Brotherton gives the horse an edge in this lady riders' handicap.

Sosome forfeited all chance at the start when beaten on his recent debut at Ripon. He works well at home so let's give him another chance if he takes up one of his near-at-hand engagements (2.00 *Thirsk Friday* and 2.00 *Pontefract Sunday*). As stated above if he clashes with Flawless Jewel then he is the more favoured.

Special Mission was very disappointing on her handicap debut at Redcar on Sunday. She was ominously weak in the market beforehand but the fact she has three entries on Monday suggests nothing untoward has been found (2.50 *Lingfield*, 3.50 *Lingfield* and 9.00 *Wolverhampton all on Monday*). Let's give her another chance.

Timoshenko should keep improving but he won't be much value in his choice of four entries over the next few days. I think we'll leave him for now.

Selections

Sosome (2.00 Thirsk Friday and 2.00 Pontefract Sunday) Kannapolis (6.00 York Friday), Poet's Word and Cliffs Of Moher E/W (3.40 Ascot Saturday), Highland Sky (6.00 Lingfield and 8.15 Salisbury Saturday), Hulcote (7.45 Salisbury Saturday), Sosome first choice and Flawless Jewel (2.00 Pontefract Sunday), Special Mission (2.50 Lingfield, 3.50 Lingfield and 9.00 Wolverhampton on Monday), Evanescant (1.50 Wolverhampton Sunday and 7.25 Wolverhampton Monday)

The Weekend Selections Retrospective

Marten Julian

This piece is devoted to retrospective analysis of Marten's selections from last week. If any of the noted horses have entries over the next few days my views will appear elsewhere.

Timoshenko took advantage of the same mark as at Ayr when powering away to win over 1m 6f at Lingfield last week. See elsewhere for my thoughts on his forthcoming entries.

Evanescent showed speed at Newcastle on Tuesday. See elsewhere for my thoughts on his forthcoming entries.

Kannapolis looked beaten on merit at Haydock last week. See elsewhere for my thoughts on his forthcoming entries.

Miss Mumtaz was caught close home over the mile at Newmarket last week. As I've said time and again I don't think she gets a mile. She is removed from the list.

I don't know what was wrong with **Special Mission** last Sunday at Redcar. Supported in the overnight markets, she was desperately weak in the pre-race betting and after showing early pace dropped away tamely to beat one home. I expect her to show up in a much better light if she takes up her engagement at Wolverhampton on Monday (9.00). See elsewhere.

Cliffs Of Moher, Evanescant, Flawless Jewel, Highland Sky, Hulcote, Kannapolis, Timoshenko, Sosume and **Special Mission** are reviewed elsewhere.

Previously Noted Horses

Adamant, Cliffs Of Moher, Commander Han, Elysees Palace, Evanescant, Eyecatcher, Flawless Jewel, Highland Sky, Hulcote, Kannapolis, Master Carpenter, Quixote, Shareef Star, Sosume, Stubbytuesday, Timoshenko, Tocco D'Amore

The Early Days

Dave Nevison

Staying ahead of the crowd is absolutely essential for profitable punting and it always has been.

I am absolutely convinced it has never been more difficult than it is now, presenting challenges to an ageing mind with set ideas, as it requires constant evolution of thought and more particularly behaviour.

I started out late in 1993 and after two years serving my time (i.e. not making it pay and changing strategy constantly), I hit on two phenomena that both saved me and then got me ahead of the game, for a time.

First up was a young jumps jockey A P McCoy who had come over to join Toby Balding as a conditional.

I noticed that he was an amazing talent and his determination combined with huge strength meant that he was making the top jockeys of the time, who were indeed excellent, look like second division players. The fact that this kid was the best around was not unheralded in the papers but punters seemed to acknowledge more the fact that he was claiming weight from his rivals and was therefore inferior. The punting

possibilities to me were obvious and I cleaned up for quite some time. A jockey who was a stone better than almost all around him was for a time getting weight!

The other big winner for me was the arrival of David 'Dandy' Nicholls on the sprint scene.

I still don't know how he did it and when interviewed he seemed to suggest that his horses could do their work regularly on the racecourse and that his main job was to turn them out and settle them so they were relaxed for the races.

It certainly worked (though I am sure there was more to it) and Nicholls turned around the form of any number of seemingly lost causes or jaded animals from established yards. These horses were winning at double-figure odds for an amazing amount of time and it really was like stealing money for a while.

The mid-to-late nineties were heady days indeed and my only regret, obviously, is that I didn't go in much stronger.

The point in mentioning these two examples is that I don't believe I will ever be allowed that sort of advantage again. What used to be known as the 'information superhighway' has meant that almost as soon as you spot something, and a window of opportunity opens, the market catches on and it closes.

The market is incredibly well informed nowadays and having an edge is harder to get and even harder to keep, but as long as you don't lose focus I believe it is still possible to stay ahead of the game. It is harder, that's all, but why should it be easy?

I believe there are two jockeys around who could be the best I have seen for a long time.

James Bowen is a 'McCoyesque' freak. He is unbelievably strong for his age but also tactically aware and a fantastic judge of pace but not rash in the way a young Adrian Maguire used to be. He will be the next champion after Richard Johnson for my money.

Oisin Murphy is, I am told, quite a solitary character in the weighing room but he clearly spends an awful lot of time thinking about his rides as he rarely gets tactics wrong.

Both these jockeys are respected by the markets so backing them blind is not an option, but putting a ring around all their rides will be a very good way to approach a day's racing in my view.

Finally, here is the name of a horse to note in the coming weeks.

Beat Le Bon made his debut at Newbury recently and stood out as a really good, strong, athletic type in the paddock beforehand. I didn't back him because there was no money for him, and in recent seasons Hannon two-year-olds win almost twice as often second time out as they do on their debuts, but when he struck the front a furlong out I was cursing missing a 16/1 winner.

On this occasion the more experienced Momkin wore him down close home but I will be amazed if he doesn't win next time out and go on to be a useful performer at least.

www.daveneverson.net

You can listen to Dave's daily news by calling **09068 888 100**.

His line is updated by 11am

Premium rate charges apply. Our Service Charge is 60p per minute & your telecom provider will add their own Access Charge. Please contact your provider for exact charges.

Jodie's Jottings

Jodie Standing

Last week was a quiet one selection-wise, with only Fair Mountain running for me at Market Rasen on Saturday.

The son of Tiger Hill ran a solid race to finish second, but despite looming up to try and mount a challenge on the turn for home, he never really got into a position to land a blow on the winner, who was extremely game from the front and kept finding for pressure.

Despite not being able to catch the winner, Fair Mountain stuck to his task gamely and stayed on all the way to the line. The handicapper has raised him 5lb which takes him to a mark of 139. I'm not sure he's a 139 horse in truth, not yet anyway. He still has a lot to learn and may benefit from a step up in trip in time. He's clearly a nice horse, but I wouldn't be investing in him next time.

The Wicket Chicken makes some appeal in the novices' handicap chase on Friday (*2.45 Uttoxeter Friday*), although she is also entered in a beginners' chase at Worcester (*Tuesday 6.05*).

She did well to get as close as she did at Huntingdon the time before last where she was badly hampered at the fourth from home, almost stopping her in her tracks before rallying gamely to be beaten a neck.

Last time at Southwell she bumped into the resurgent Timeforwest and to her credit, despite being off the bridle some way from home, she kept on steadily at the one pace to finish second.

She appeared happier when given space and her jumping warmed to the task as a result. She's admirably game and it can only be a matter of time before she finds a race.

Over at Ascot I'd like to give **Banditry** another chance (*4.10 Ascot Friday also entered 1.50 Goodwood Tuesday*). He ran no sort of race at the Derby meeting but ran well the time before when finishing second to the improving Thundering Blue from a mark of 95 and has since been put up 3lb to 98.

The son of Iffraaj has form over hurdles around two miles so this step up in trip to 1m 4f should pose no problems. It's rare for him to run a bad race and with Ryan Moore in the plate he warrants a close look.

Over in Ireland the Galway Festival gets under way on Monday with the Galway Plate taking centre stage on Wednesday.

Last year's winning trainer Henry De Bromhead has seven horses to call upon this time around with Valseur Lido and Sub Lieutenant chief amongst the leading players. However, the one I side with is **Calino D'airy** who is best priced 16/1 at the time of writing and I would advise you to take those odds (*7.20 Galway Wednesday*).

I spoke about the son of Anzillero in last week's piece as I believe he has the potential to improve over staying distances. He was last seen finishing third to the ill-fated Finian's Oscar in the Grade 1 Manifesto Novices' Chase at Aintree on his first try at 2m 4f. He stayed on well down the home straight and might have finished second had it not been for a blunder at the last.

Eddie O'Leary warned in the *Racing Post* on Tuesday that the six-year-old isn't in the same league as last year's winner Balko Des Flos, but he is an interesting contender with age on his side. He is also unbeaten over fences at the track, with two winning front-running displays last season.

Drumcliff would also be an interesting contender if he made the journey for Harry Fry. The son of Presenting had the Summer Plate at Market Rasen in his sights but could have swerved that engagement for this.

Selections

The Wicket Chicken (2.45 Uttoxeter Friday or 6.05 Worcester Tuesday), Banditry (4.10 Ascot Friday and 1.50 Goodwood Tuesday), Calino D'airy E/W (16/1) (7.20 Galway Wednesday)

A Point-To-Point Teaser

Jodie Standing

While the Flat season is taking centre stage throughout the summer months, there are a few of us beavering away in an attempt to unearth some potential future stars for the National Hunt season.

As always, the point-to-point scene has been my focus and this year in particular is a very exciting one for me as, for the first time, I will be producing my very own book entitled *The Point-To-Point Recruits 2018/19*. It will be packed with unexposed horses from between the flags that will hopefully be making an impact for their new handlers under Rules this season.

Since I started focusing on the pointing scene around five years ago, I have noticed that the quality of stock coming through has risen steadily. This is mainly due to the pin-hookers and point-to-point handlers buying a better model at the store sales the previous season – individuals with a better conformation or a decent pedigree. At the recent premium Tattersalls Ireland Derby Stores Sale, the Monbeg Syndicate team, which includes the Doyle brothers Donnchadh and Sean, were chief amongst the heavy hitters, spending a total of €1.36 million on 33 horses!

I am only part way through my research at the moment, but it is evident at this early stage that there are some seriously exciting horses to look forward to this coming season.

Dlauro, who goes into training with Joseph O'Brien is perhaps, for the moment, sitting at the top of the tree. He set the record for a five-year-old point-to-pointer sold at public auction when O'Brien parted with £410,000 at the Tattersalls Ireland Cheltenham sale in February. He was bought to run in the colours of top owner Lloyd J Williams who has already formed a successful relationship with O'Brien, winning the Melbourne Cup with Rekindling and most recently the Irish Derby with Latrobe.

Dlauro looked head and shoulders above a good field when making all to win on his debut at Belharbour in February. For a newcomer his jumping at the stiff track was spectacular and the manner with which he pulled effortlessly clear after the penultimate fence left the impression he could reach a high level under Rules.

Another to whet the appetite is **Thatsy**.

The son of Martaline made all to win by an easy three lengths on his debut at Lingstown in March under a confident ride from James Walsh. The four-year-old has a lovely long, lolling stride and also the ability to quicken which he demonstrated when putting distance between himself and the rest of the field between the final couple of fences.

On his second start, just under three weeks later, he lost nothing in defeat when finishing a head behind the far more experienced Manetti at Loughanmore. The form looks strong with the winner going on to win by 30 lengths on his next start and the third home winning a hunter chase very easily by the same distance for Peter Maher.

He enters training with Gordon Elliott for £130,000 but it may be some time before we see his true potential.

The sale at Aintree which follows Thursday's racing of the Grand National meeting has earned quite a lofty reputation in a very small space of time and it's always interesting to watch the lots go through the ring. Big names such as Samcro, Black Op and Topofthegame are just a few to graduate from there in the last couple of years.

I fell in love with Blackbow at the sale last year, but unfortunately none of those on offer had the same effect this time around, but that's not to say there weren't any nice types.

Lot 7, **Faustinovick**, was a lovely model. He finished second on his debut to the highly regarded Andy Dufresne at Borris House in March and went the way of Colin Tizzard for £170,000. He is a lovely, deep-chested gelding with plenty of scope and power.

Lot 5, **Minella Bobo**, has been hobbled but he caught the eye walking around the paddock. The son of Oscar was value for more than the two-length winning distance on his debut at Inch in March. He had plenty of power coming from his shoulder and had a little touch of class about him. Rebecca Curtis, despite winning the Scottish National, had a quiet season last year but went to £100,000 to secure the five-year-old.

Lot 2, **Tara West**, and Lot 10, **Champagne Platinum**, were perhaps the ones which stood out the most. The former is very speedily bred and went to Anthony Honeyball having won on her only start. She looked lovely and relaxed in the paddock. Kieran McManus was responsible for spending £250,000 on Champagne Platinum who comes from a smart family. He still looked a shell of a horse, with plenty of filling out to be done before he will be a complete model.

Lot 17, **Malone Road**, was the sales' topper at an eye-watering £325,000 and will go to Gordon Elliott. He was a nice model, not overly big but athletic and loose-moving.

In truth, I preferred Lot 23, **Soldier At War**, who made most of the running in Malone Road's point-to-point but couldn't keep up the gallop once jumping the second from home. He will also go into training with Gordon Elliott and it wouldn't surprise me if he proved to be the better of the two.

At the moment I have around 70 horses that will be going into my new book, with the possibility of more. I am a firm believer that if you work hard and do your research, you will be rewarded further down the line. By focusing on the point-to-point world, I hope it gives us a slight edge when the graduates embark on their careers under Rules for their new handlers.

I look forward to sharing more of my thoughts with you throughout the autumn in the *Weekend Card* and *The Point-To-Point Recruits 2018/19*.

Point-To-Point Recruits by Jodie Standing

Brand new publication! We are excited to publish *The Point-To-Point Recruits 2018/19* which we are confident will prove an entertaining, informative and intriguing read.

Available early October.

£7.50

Available to order now!

The Irish Perspective

Stuart Williams

The Galway Festival is a summer spectacle for many racing fans given its blend of National Hunt Racing and Flat action. However, both of the feature races are contested over obstacles, with Wednesday's Galway Plate and Thursday's Galway Hurdle often attracting some very talented participants.

The Galway Plate is traditionally won by an up-and-coming second season chaser who boasts respectable form from the previous winter. However, I can't help but be drawn to the experienced **Vieux Morvan** (*7.20 Galway Wednesday*) this year, who has only raced twice since leaving the yard of leading French trainer Guy Chere! to join the roster of Melbourne Cup and Irish Derby-winning trainer Joseph O'Brien.

While his record of 2-24 over fences in his native France hardly sets the pulse racing, his two efforts on Irish soil, when fifth in the ultra-competitive Paddy Power Handicap Chase and second over this distance in the Grade A Chanelle Pharma Handicap Chase, have both been much more encouraging.

Good ground is somewhat of an unknown, but I feel it would be short-sighted to rule him out purely on that score as good ground is a rarity in France and he therefore has not had the opportunity to prove himself on the surface. Clearly his shrewd trainer does not consider it to be an issue and this does appear to have been the plan for some time judged on his return to action over hurdles at Killarney two weeks ago. Joseph O'Brien has already proved his proficiency when it comes to preparing a horse for a specific target. Hopefully the former champion Flat jockey can hit the bullseye once again.

The only race that carries a bigger reward than the Galway Plate is the €300,000 Galway Hurdle which, as always, appears to be a very open contest. However, I suspect that Closutton inmate **Whiskey Sour** (*4.35 Galway Thursday*) may attract significant support following a brace of victories at this meeting 12 months ago.

The Jeremy gelding recorded a number of creditable efforts over timber last season, including Grade 1 success in the Future Champions Novice Hurdle at Leopardstown, a third-placed finish in the County Hurdle at Cheltenham, as well as fourth and second-placed efforts in Grade 1 novice company at the Punchestown Festival in April.

Both of Whiskey Sour's victories came on the Flat 12 months ago and Willie Mullins' talented five-year-old limbered up for this race with a respectable fifth-placed effort at Royal Ascot last time out. Officially rated 143 in Ireland, there is every chance that he has been let in lightly on his Irish handicap debut.

Regular readers of this publication will be aware that I have been tracking the progress of **Sheberghan** (*6.50 Galway Friday*) this summer and, given Dermot Weld's affinity with this meeting, I am keen to be with him on Friday.

The promising three-year-old failed to make it to the track last season but displayed significant potential when comfortably shedding his maiden tag at the second time of asking, after which Weld aimed the son of Sea The Stars at the valuable Ulster Derby at Down Royal, where he ran a solid race to finish second.

The third gave the form a boost when winning next time out and there could be any amount of improvement to come from Sheberghan given his lightly raced profile. Ground and trip should be ideal and the master trainer has his string in fine form.

While discussing Mr Weld, I will also be keeping a close eye on **Wentwood** (7.40 Galway Tuesday) should he take up his engagement at Galway on Tuesday.

The imposing three-year-old boasts a very similar profile to stablemate Sheberghan after missing his two-year-old campaign and getting off the mark at the second time of asking. However, he then finished a below-par second when sent off an odds-on favourite at Sligo in June.

While that effort was understandably disappointing, it did come over a trip of seven furlongs and I am sure that the son of 2011 Derby winner Pour Moi will be much more at home over this extended mile. Hopefully his absence has been with this meeting in mind.

Marten has also asked me to highlight two horses to follow for the remaining months of the Flat season, the first of which is **Andre Amar**, who has only been seen on the racetrack twice but appears to possess rock-solid form.

Ger Lyons' son of Dandy Man accounted for subsequent Listed winner Servalan on his debut before running a thoroughly respectable race behind the well-thought-of Sergei Prokofiev on his only subsequent appearance. I am hopeful that the two-year-old can prove to be Group class should things fall right this summer.

The second horse I will nominate is the aforementioned **Servalan**, who was last seen finishing sixth in the Group 2 Queen Mary Stakes at Royal Ascot.

I was very keen on Jessica Harrington's talented two-year-old heading into the Royal meeting, given the speed she displayed when landing her Listed contest at Naas with something to spare. I am confident that the daughter of No Nay Never can make her presence felt in Group company before the season is out.

Selections

**Wentwood (7.40 Galway Tuesday), Vieux Morvan E/W (7.20 Galway Wednesday),
Whiskey Sour (4.35 Galway Thursday), Sheberghan (6.50 Galway Friday)**

Two-Year-Old Speed Figures

Gary Spinks

Que Amoro currently has an official rating of 79 which is lenient when her overall times and sectionals are taken into consideration. A sectional of 12.3 seconds (adjusted for ground allowance) and finishing speed of 102% last time at Beverley are amongst the best for two-year-olds at the track over the past few years. Entered in a Class 5 novice stakes at *Thirsk on Friday (2.00)* and a more competitive Class 3 nursery at *York on Saturday (5.35)*, either engagement would be a good opportunity.

Comedy currently has a rating of 87 which seems a very workable mark. She set sectionals of 11.8 with a finishing speed of 102% and a good speed figure when winning last time out at Doncaster and I rate the performance higher than 87. Entered in the Princess Margaret Group 3 race at *Ascot on Saturday (1.50)* she is each-way value but needs noting if she bypasses that to run in a nursery.

Sense Of Belonging has been gelded since his last run but if producing sectionals of 11.5, as he did in his first race at York, will prove well handicapped off 78.

Ynys Mon's performance at Newmarket rates higher than his current handicap mark of 79. Subsequent performances have not been to the same standard but conditions have been against him. A straight track on softish ground will be ideal for this colt and I expect him to prove better than his current rating.

Selections

Que Amoro (2.00 Thirsk Friday and 5.35 York Saturday), Comedy (1.50 Ascot Saturday)

The Weekend News

Ian Carnaby

We tried very hard to catch Projection on the right day and the horse could hardly have gone any closer than his slightly unlucky second in the Hackwood Stakes at Newbury on Saturday.

He is hard to win with and is probably genuine Group 3 class with close-up runs in higher grade to his name. I was pretty confident he would beat the older horses in the Hackwood but Yafta received the three-year-olds' allowance and beat him by a head, Projection having been checked in his run at a vital stage. Things will not be any easier next time and I feel this was the day he had to win.

Roger Charlton still enjoyed a successful meeting because Momkin won the two-year-old race the previous day. Previously a good third at Salisbury, he was just that bit more experienced than Richard Hannon's newcomer Beat Le Bon and beat him a head with John Gosden's widely-touted newcomer Sheriffmuir all of five lengths away in third. This looks smart form to me and the first two may well be up to taking on Pattern-class rivals.

There are question marks over the participation of some very high-class horses in the King George at Ascot on Saturday and it is very hard to draw any firm conclusions at present, though I feel Crystal Ocean is very short at 7/4. He is very talented and has won his races with increasing authority this season but this looks quite a bit harder and he will need to have come on again.

He has the ideal 'substitute' jockey in William Buick but the fact that Ryan Moore will be riding for Ballydoyle sets an alarm bell ringing. Aidan O'Brien was more than happy to release him before the Hardwicke but that is not the case this time and he is certain to be aboard a dangerous rival. Crystal Ocean's own stable companion Poet's Word has also looked in fine fettle this summer and there is no value at all in this market.

On the other hand, Charlton's **Makzeem** looks to have a very fair chance in the valuable Gigaset International Stakes (3.00 Ascot Saturday). Burnt Sugar did us a good turn in the Bunbury Cup at Newmarket a fortnight ago but Makzeem was not far away in fifth and that was a fine effort after quite a long break. Watching Moore's every move outside the O'Brien and Stoute stables is very important and he is more than happy to keep the ride on Makzeem, who is quite well treated on the adjusted terms. He is 6lb higher than he was when winning at Newmarket last season, when Moore was in the saddle again.

Burnt Sugar should go well again, while there is always the chance that Shady McCoy will put his best foot forward in these multi-runner handicaps and, at a very handy price, Via Serendipity (well handicapped with Rip Orff) is not out of it, either.

The Heath Court Hotel Employee Awards Handicap (4.00 Newmarket Saturday) is a rejig of the six-furlong handicap at the July Meeting won by Foxtrot Lady in a desperate set-to with Kevin Ryan's Stormbringer. The latter has earned top weight and is respected but several of them have leading chances at the revised weights and I suspect **Roundhay Park**, who finished third, will go very close again. Nigel Tinkler does not have many capable of competing in red-hot handicaps like this but he is no fool when the chance presents itself. Roundhay Park will be an each-way price.

It is impossible to draw any firm conclusions about the Lennox Stakes at Goodwood on Tuesday without knowing how many will take their chance in the Sussex Stakes the following day. If the likes of Expert Eye go for that, it might set things up for David O'Meara's Suedois, who was third last year and ran a fine race behind Beat The Bank at Ascot recently. He seems to favour a mile these days so will need a fast pace over this seven furlongs.

Selections

Makzeem E/W (3.00 Ascot Saturday), Roundhay Park E/W (4.00 Newmarket Saturday)

A Labour Of Love – And How Ian Carnaby

Glorious Goodwood looms large. On balance it is my favourite meeting of the year with many memories, several of them involving the Stewards' Cup. Also, I can stay in Southampton, which will always be home, and visit my mother and father's grave.

It is invariably foolish to suppose that things will always stay the same. The last time I went with a bunch of flowers before the May meeting, the grass was so overgrown I failed to identify the plot. Awaiting a new hip, had I turned an ankle I'm not sure when help would have arrived. The flowers went home with me and I was honest enough to tell my wife the story. I suppose the council can no longer afford workers to keep everything neat and tidy.

There is a Muslim section (similarly overgrown) immediately behind, with a tiny plot in the corner dedicated to Hafa Ali Youris, who was born and died on the 30th January 2010. Her parents must have made a special request at the hospital, or so I assume.

My younger daughter Susannah was born on the same day exactly twenty years before and I think, 'There but for the grace of...' and now she has a baby of her own. That thought helps when a short head or a goal in 90 minutes plus six goes against me, though I've more or less given up thinking about such things, and that's the truth.

My father was a Geordie miner who followed his younger brother south when Tom signed for Southampton from Blyth Spartans just before the 39–45 war. Working shifts in the wire-drawing department for Pirelli in Eastleigh was preferable to the Isabella Colliery in Blyth. He was not well educated but thoroughly decent and kind. He'd walk a long way to help you out and never ask for a loan to be repaid.

He favoured very slow horses trained by Eddie Magner and Capstan Full Strength. It's a funny thing because I've never fancied a puff of anything, anything at all, but even as a child I knew there was something special, even classy, about Capstan Full Strength. They were omnipotent kings to Woodbine's toiling serfs and he smoked them properly – half for now, the other half behind his ear, the 'doofer' as in 'do for later'. They saw him off at 59, when he dropped dead from malignant lung cancer at the Pirelli gates, having never missed a shift. He was pretty tough, I guess.

His favourite bet was six crossed shilling (5p) doubles, or two shillings if he really fancied them. He preferred the Flat to the jumps and was one of the first people to fall foul of the 'twenty minute' rule, having backed winners at 100/6 and 33/1, one of them an Eddie Magner stalwart, the pair having run only fifteen minutes apart. The theory was that Ladbrokes and others needed longer to offset their liabilities and it fell to my mother to explain this to him. He listened and murmured that the rule was new to him but that was as far as it went.

My mother much preferred the jumps and was happy with sixpences as opposed to shillings. She liked Dick Francis' column in the *Daily Express* when the *Express* was still a newspaper and Dick had plenty of inside information when the season kicked off again in August. People find it hard to believe but the jumpers took the summer off after the final Stratford meeting in June with the Horse and Hound Cup generally taking place the night before the Derby.

Everybody bet. My mother and father and all their brothers and sisters. On the Geordie side, there was an uncle who said that his daily pleasure lay in placing his bets and then forgetting about them until it was time to buy an evening paper and study the back page and the later results in the stop press – Abbotsbury Abbot 50/1, PC 49 25/1, things like that.

Nobody expected to win overall and I think that was probably just as well. Every now and then in columns, I try to explain the difference between then and now. There aren't as many people prepared to lose on a steady or regular basis these days; neither the frisson of excitement nor the battle of wits justifies the loss. They might tap their head if you suggested otherwise. And when you think about it, the contrast affects turnover, forces betting offices slowly but surely towards the edge, but for the appalling machines, and even affects television viewing figures.

I took my father racing at Ally Pally a year or two before he died. One of Richmond Sturdy's went into the bottom bend (invisible from the stands) at the back and emerged in front, which he thought rather wonderful, even if it confirmed one or two of his more downbeat theories.

He died in the week of my finals at Cambridge. A couple of years before that my mother prevailed upon him to send me a letter, probably the only one he ever wrote, and in it he said he'd been watching Jack Lemmon in *The Apartment*, which was every bit as good as I'd claimed.

It's hard to know what to do about the grave. A pair of shears and a plucky two-hour session before Second Step wins the Glorious Stakes, perhaps. But where to stop? The headstone needs whitening, the stone itself is sinking in the middle and needs fresh chips. Apart from living over two hours away, I am an only child, nudging 70, and when I go, nature will resume its course before someone says that, with all due respect to those no longer with us, a new road cannot be delayed any longer.

Then I think about Hafa Ali Youris' family and wonder how they'd approach the problem. Better make a start, I suppose.

During my BBC Radio days, I interviewed the late Dandy Nicholls following Soba's Stewards' Cup success. 'Terse' would best describe his reaction but we got the job done and I also had a piece with trainer David Chapman, a lovely man who was too shy to enjoy being interviewed but seemed to warm to me for some reason.

Always interested in sprinters, especially handicappers, I followed the pair of them with semi-religious zeal, enjoying one of my best-ever days when Chapman won with Scotch Imp, Glencroft and Chaplins Club at three different meetings on the same day in 1988. We weren't supposed to bet at SIS but we had champagne that day.

Nicholls learned from Chapman, idolised him and loved him. This squat, pugnacious little man, with little apparent interest in racing's traditions or the affairs of the great and the good, was close to tears when his mentor won the Ayr Gold Cup with Quito in 2003, even though he himself only just missed out with third-placed Fire Up The Band. Some might say that, with six Ayr Gold Cups to his credit, he could afford to be generous but Dandy wasn't made that way.

My first Stewards' Cup winner was Ashurst Wonder, trained by Les Hall after Richmond Sturdy, and my most recent, in 2010, was Dandy's Evens And Odds, a 20/1 shot ridden by Billy Cray, claiming 5lb. Sometimes names just flash across our consciousness and are gone, but I've always wondered what happened to Billy.

It turns out he went to Australia for a holiday a while back and stayed there, recently riding the winner of a famous bush race, the Wallabadah Cup, on Still Undaunted. Without knowing anything about him at all, I'd have surmised he came from London and it turns out to be true. In fact, it gets better and better because he's the son of a Bermondsey builder and 'bunked off school to go down the bookies with my dad to study the colours'. That would have appealed to Nicholls, who put him up at Goodwood after only a few months at his Thirsk stable.

"I never had any doubts about Billy," he said, as Evens And Odds came back in. "He's very good ... though not as good as I was, of course."

That was a tongue-in-cheek remark because Nicholls was a journeyman jockey before touching genius as a trainer of sprinters. The point about Evens And Odds, second the previous year, was that he won by only a neck and would not have prevailed without the 5lb allowance.

The trainer knew this and probably saw something of the young jockey in himself. For sure, a streetwise Londoner like Billy Cray was not about to be overawed on the big day and when he burst between senior jockeys to give the trainer his third Stewards' Cup, Nicholls was making a shrewd move look no more than a routine manoeuvre.

He may not have been the most popular man in the world and, when illness and financial problems took their toll, his fall was swift indeed. But, as someone who prompted him through the Soba interview and looked for his runners every day, nearly ringing him up when he made one of his very rare mistakes by running The Tatling in a Catterick claimer – much to Milton Bradley's surprise and delight – I say with some confidence that we shall not see his like again.

I suspect I am writing for people whose betting is well organised and, for want of a better expression, under control. Whilst it is not my intention to trawl through my own rather more hazardous punting career, there are one or two things to pass on which may be of some assistance in the ongoing battle.

Apart from basic rules – not chasing losses, not betting odds-on and not looking for a winning favourite just to feel better – the most important thing is to specialise.

I am well aware that many enthusiasts prefer NH racing these days. Cheltenham is one of the great success stories of recent years and the build-up begins soon after Christmas. Fine. Chacun à son goût, as an old wine trade friend of mine used to say. Each to his own.

It's a funny thing but I'm nearly 70 now, and if you asked me for some betting highlights and/or major disappointments over jumps, I'd struggle to answer. A tremendous placepot at Punchestown in 'volcanic ash' year, when I travelled over by ferry, stands out and I have particularly fond memories of the diminutive Flakey Dove winning the Champion Hurdle. But ask me for a major financial setback in a steeplechase and I'm beaten for the simple reason that there has never been one. I don't believe strongly enough and, whilst I admire the spectacle, I think that people who embrace the obvious risks as part and parcel of the game are conveniently applying their own set of blinkers. I do my level best when it comes to advising but nearly all of my selections are hurdlers.

I'm a Flat man, not because of the speed (no one attending as many Bath and Brighton meetings as I do could ever be hooked on speed) but simply because I can apply my own system, especially in handicaps where some or even most of the runners will have met before.

But just lately I find myself looking towards the weekend (which is exactly what the *Racing Post* does) and specialising even more. The number of times ordinary sprinters race against each other in 'Monday to Thursday' contests is making things very difficult indeed, added to which they really shouldn't be racing at Bath at all while the weather stays like this.

I always look forward to Goodwood and this year I can go to York as well, because family commitments do not take us to Calgary and the delights of Century Downs and the pacers, where I immerse myself in the form of claimer after claimer, all of them worth considerably more than a medium-grade handicap in England.

I have a decent record in the Ebor going back to Tintagel II and Lester in 1970 and I nurse the hope that Roger Charlton will let Blakeney Point take his chance this time. It's not a strong fancy but I feel the fast pace over a mile and three-quarters at a galloping track will help.

The reason I've touched on this is that Charlton – beyond question my favourite trainer – encapsulates what I'm saying about choice. Last weekend he ran two fancied horses at Newbury – the youngster Momkin and our old friend Projection. When you've seen a two-year-old keep on strongly for a place at Salisbury, it stays with you – shades of Mill Reef against Fireside Chat (2/9) all those years ago, though the great horse managed more than a place, of course.

Momkin was 3/1 at Newbury. There was a John Gosden newcomer (13/8) ridden by Frankie Dettori in the field and people will back those blindly, but if you allowed for that – maybe it wouldn't be the new 2,000 Guineas favourite after all – Momkin was fair value and beat a Hannon newcomer by a head. Twenty-four hours later, the frustrating Projection was slightly checked in his run (Roger thought he would have won) and went down by the same margin.

Compared with some of the prices around the lower-grade tracks earlier in the week, there was definitely value here. And there was even more spectacular value about Masar (16/1) in the Derby, given that he was under two lengths behind Saxon Warrior in the Guineas. When the press and the bookmakers focus on one horse, there is likely to be value elsewhere. You are never going to get this away from the bigger meetings.

To be frank, I think a lot of the day-to-day stuff now can be safely ignored. And this from someone who has written elsewhere about a Catterick claimer and is still in love with Brighton. I had many good days with moderate horses but now they just seem to turn up willy-nilly. The only chance you have involves patience and selectivity. In my case it involves Charlton, Henry Candy, James Fanshawe and a few others. There are two very different branches of the sport now.

You can listen to Ian's daily news by calling **09068 888 111**. His line is updated by 11.30am

Premium rate charges apply. Our Service Charge is 60p per minute & your telecom provider will add their own Access Charge. Please contact your provider for exact charges.

Ian's free racing and sports blogs are available on:
www.martenjulian.com



Marten Julian

LATEST NEWS & INFORMATION

0906 150 1555

PREMIUM RATE CHARGES APPLY. OUR SERVICE CHARGE IS £1.50 PER MINUTES & YOUR TELECOM PROVIDER WILL ADD THEIR OWN ACCESS CHARGE. PLEASE CONTACT YOUR PROVIDER FOR THEIR CHARGES.

WE OFFER AN EXACT COPY OF THIS LINE ON AN 03 NUMBER (NORMAL LINE CHARGE OR INCLUDED IN BUNDLE ON A MOBILE) FOR A SUBSCRIPTION FEE. PLEASE SEE OUR WEBSITE OR CALL THE OFFICE ON 01539 741 007 FOR MORE DETAILS.



@martenjulian



@rebeccaerjulian



@jode2k75

© Copyright in all Marten Julian Publications is strictly reserved by the publishers. No material therein may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without written permission from Marten Julian.

Selections

Thursday 26th July

Jazeel The Sleeper Section 3.25 Sandown

Friday 27th July

Sosome* Marten's Weekend Action 2.00 Thirsk
The Wicket Chicken* Jodie's Jottings 2.45 Uttoxeter
Banditry* Jodie's Jottings 4.10 Ascot
Kannapolis Marten's Weekend Action 6.00 York
The Plan Man Under The Radar 8.05 Down Royal

Saturday 28th July

Comedy Speed Figures (Gary Spinks) 1.50 Ascot
Makzeem (EW) Ian Carnaby's Weekend News 3.00 Ascot
Elarqam The Premier List Update 3.15 York
Poet's Word Marten's Weekend Action 3.40 Ascot
Cliffs Of Moher (EW) Marten's Weekend Action 3.40 Ascot
Roundhay Park (EW) Ian Carnaby's Weekend News 4.00 Newmarket
Que Amoro Speed Figures (Gary Spinks) 5.35 York
Highland Sky Marten's Weekend Action 6.00 Lingfield/8.15 Salisbury
Hulcote Marten's Weekend Action 7.45 Salisbury

Sunday 29th July

Evanescent* Marten's Weekend Action 1.50 Wolverhampton
Sosome* Marten's Weekend Action 2.00 Pontefract
Flawless Jewel Marten's Weekend Action 2.00 Pontefract
(Sosome Preferred)
Matchmaking* The Premier List Update 2.30 Ponte/4.25 Wolves

Monday 30th July

Special Mission Marten's Weekend Action 2.50/3.50 Lingfield
9.00 Wolverhampton
Evanescent* Marten's Weekend Action 7.25 Wolverhampton

Tuesday 31st July

Banditry* Jodie's Jottings 1.50 Goodwood
Matchmaking* The Premier List Update 3.25 Yarmouth
The Wicket Chicken* Jodie's Jottings 6.05 Worcester
Wentwood The Irish Perspective (Stuart Williams) 7.40 Galway

Wednesday 1st August

Calino D'airy (EW) Jodie's Jottings 7.20 Galway
Vieux Morvan The Irish Perspective (Stuart Williams) 7.20 Galway

Thursday 2nd August

Whiskey Sour The Irish Perspective (Stuart Williams) 4.35 Galway

Friday 3rd August

Sheberghan The Irish Perspective (Stuart Williams) 6.50 Galway

Marten's Ante-Post Advice

Delano Roosevelt E/W at 16/1 (advised) St Leger