

# NTF Weekend Notes – 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> October

## Friday

**210 Chepstow – Grade 2 | Persian War Novices Hurdle | 2m3.5f | Good to Soft | 9 ran**

### **1<sup>st</sup> – THYME HILL**

A fine effort on hurdling debut and he backed up his strong Bumper form in impressive fashion here, he's likely to be a serious player in the novice hurdle division this season. Hobbs often does well in non-handicap hurdles at Chepstow, particularly under the following...Chepstow Non-Handicap Hurdles | 2m3.5f or less | SP 6-1 or less...where his runners are...13/29 | 45% S/R | +£17.67 BFLSP – W&P 20/29 | 69% S/R. It worth noting that Hobbs Hurdlers on hurdle debut in Novice events that start as fav (like this one) have an excellent record in general... 21/33 | 64% S/R | +£12.83 BFLSP – W&P 29/33 | 88% S/R.

**245 Chepstow – Class 4 | Novices Hurdle | 2m | Good to Soft | 10 ran**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> – FLIC OU VOYOU**

This one probably ran better than the final result suggests, and he could turn out to be the best horse from the race in the long-term. He was quite keen in the early stages and wandered about at a couple of the hurdles and also made a mistake two out when the taps were turned to full. Given all that he needs plenty credit for how he battled back when headed and almost got back up to snatch the victory on the line. The penny still doesn't really seem to have dropped with him but when it does there's a chance he could be a well above average type.

**320 Chepstow – Class 3 | Novices Chase | 2m7.5f | Good to Soft | 6 ran**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> – LISNAGAR OSCAR**

I reckon the mistake at the last probably cost him here, given how well he finished. Curtis will get wins into the horse as she does have a good record with her 6yo-7yo Chasers in Beginner/Novice chases, particularly those in single figure fields (9 or less) and starting at an SP of 8-1 or less...44/135 | 33% S/R | +£60.62 BFLSP – W&P 61/135 | 45% S/R...conditions this lad is highly likely to be rocking up under.

### **4<sup>th</sup> – TRUCKERS LODGE**

Wouldn't be writing this one off just yet as for some reason Nicholls novice chasers regularly under-perform at Chepstow...7/41 | 17% S/R | -£22.48 BFLSP – W&P 14/47 | 34% S/R – 40% below

expectation. Dropping even further when there is cut underfoot...2/25 | 8% S/R. This one doesn't look like a superstar in the making but he's probably better than this performance suggests.

**355 Chepstow – Class 2 | Veterans Handicap Chase | 2m7.5f | Soft | 9 ran**

**1<sup>st</sup> – VIEUX LION ROUGE**

Conditions were pretty much perfect for the 10yo here... May-Feb | 3m4.5f or less | OR 146 & below = 12/17, 3p – all 12 career wins...with the only thing missing being Tom Scudamore in the saddle (who is currently injured and had ridden horse to all previous 11 wins). The most notable thing for me here is the record of David Pipe in Veterans Chase, particularly when his horse starts at an SP of 10-1 or less...13/29 | 45% S/R | +£51.74 BFLSP – W&P 16/29 | 55% S/R...that is seriously impressive.

**535 Chepstow – Class 4 | Novices' Hurdle | 2m3.5f | Soft | 9 ran**

**1<sup>st</sup> – SILVER FOREVER**

Now 2 from 2 at Chepstow and she's yet to run a poor race in five career starts. The form of her Ascot win last February has also been working out well and she looks a decent recruit to the hurdling game. Also worth noting that Paul Nicholls female hurdlers at Chepstow in Class 4 events rarely get beaten...1121111P...doesn't run many at all but when he does they get the job done.

**Saturday**

**210 Chepstow – Class 4 | Juvenile Hurdle | 2m | Soft | 7 ran**

**1<sup>st</sup> - NORDANO**

A likeable effort from the 3yo and he's now 2 from 2 over hurdles. In his two starts he's won on Soft & Good, on a LH & RH track, on a flat track & a very undulating track and when carrying a penalty; he could be an interesting type going forward with what looks a flexible profile.

**245 Chepstow – Class 2 | Handicap Hurdle | 2m | Soft | 9 ran**

**5<sup>th</sup> – LOUIS VAC POUCH**

Always likely to need the first run of the season as he's 0/6, 0p off a break of 121+ days. Not sure exactly where he'll be heading this season (fences or hurdles) but prime conditions look something along the lines of...race worth 13k or less | DSLR 120 or less | 12 or less runners | NOT Very Undulating or Galloping tracks...where he is 11111146 (6/8 – all 6 career wins).

## **320 Chepstow – Class 2 | Handicap Chase | 2m7.5f | Soft | 7 ran**

### **1<sup>st</sup>- BALLYOPTIC**

I've never quite managed to pin this one down to prime conditions (mainly because it was hard to assess where his handicap ceiling was) but after this effort I'd be thinking of...Soft/Heavy | 3m1f or less | Field of 15 or less | Feb-Nov...where he is 141212111 (6/9, 1p -6 of 7 career wins). This 9L win will probably, however, put him on a mark he'll struggle from (he's FP6F5 in handicaps from OR 155+).

### **2<sup>nd</sup> – LIL ROCKEFELLER**

I've always had my doubts about this one over fences but in fairness this wasn't a bad effort, bar a couple of scrappy jumps he was clean enough at his fences. This was only his second start in a handicap chase and there's a chance he could pick up a similar event from this mark of OR 145, possibly, although not exclusively, under the following conditions...Good to Soft & quicker | Field of 11 or less...where he is 7/18, 6p (7 of 8 NH wins).

### **3<sup>rd</sup> – RELENTLESS DREAMER**

A decent effort considering all 6 career wins have come on better ground than the soft he faced here. He's been very lightly raced in recent times (only 4 starts in last 18 months and this was first run for 350 days) so possibly isn't the soundest of horses, but he's possibly worth keeping on the radar for when he gets the following...G/S+ | Class 2 or below | Jun-Dec = 6/14, 4p – all 4 career wins.

### **4<sup>th</sup> – CLOTH CAP**

I thought he went well enough for long enough in this, before things started to unravel down the home straight. Wouldn't be totally convinced he wants it as soft as this (not really run to form on 2 starts on Soft) although I'd remain a little flexible on that until further evidence. What was evident before the run, however, was that he was likely to need the outing (0/6, 1p off a 61+ day break – 3/7, 1p off shorter breaks). He'll be sharper for this and he's worth keeping on the radar for coming months, with form of 47111 (3/5 – all 3 career wins) in the November to December period.

### **6<sup>th</sup> – CAPTAIN CHAOS**

A very disappointing effort. He was jumping for fun and making ground at his fences in the early stages but, for whatever reason, just checked out of things around half-way. Potential reasons? Possibly doesn't like Chepstow – 606, possibly doesn't like Very Undulating tracks – 1706606, possibly at his peak in the Nov-Feb period – 111824221731F41 compared to 656006 in other months...although overall it was just plainly disappointing.

### **PU – DRINKS INTERVAL**

Hard to keep making excuses for her given she's now on a form line of PFP32F but I guess, at the end of the day, she's maybe just not up to C2 level+ (0/9, 2p compared to 5/14, 2p at C3 level & below).

### **355 Chepstow – Listed | Novices Chase | 2m3.5f | Soft | 3 ran**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> – JARVEYS PLATE**

Seems to be a horse capable of such performances but not always one capable of backing up the run. That could change now he's over fences of course, and this was only his 7<sup>th</sup> career start, so he's interesting as a chaser, at the very least.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> – RESERVE TANK**

A shade disappointing on chase debut but he didn't quite fire on seasonal debut last year (also at this meeting) so there's every chance he'll improve for the outing.

### **430 Chepstow – Grade 3 | Handicap Hurdle | 2m3.5f | Soft | 16 ran**

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> – IMPERIAL AURA**

Possibly suffered from chasing the leading trio in the early stages (two that finished ahead of him were held-up out the back) but he jumped well bar two out (which may have just done enough to cost him the win, for all he may have still not won with a clean jump there) and travelled well enough throughout. Chasing is likely to be the plan now and the way he jumped in this suggests that discipline should bring about further improvement.

#### **5<sup>th</sup> - INDEFATIGABLE**

Don't think the move that Gavin Sheehan made as they turned for home really helped the mare here and she could have been done with being held on to for a bit longer to help her see out her race better. She should, however, improve for the effort as she's won on her second start of the season both times and there was enough in this run to suggest OR 137 is a mark that's within range for her, providing she's held on to for a bit longer next time.

#### **12<sup>th</sup> – REMASTERED**

Both wins to date have come heavy so possibly just needs a proper bog to be seen at his best.

#### **14<sup>th</sup> – CHIC NAME**

I suspect he's just a tad high in the weights on OR 129 at present. His prime conditions being something along the lines of... G/S-Soft | C3 level & below | Field of 12 or less | NOT V-Undulating tracks | DSLR 30 or less | OR 126 or less = 11141 (4/5 - all 4 career wins), albeit he maybe doesn't need every box ticked to become of interest.

**505 Chepstow – Class 2 | Handicap Chase | 2m3.5f | Soft | 10 ran**

**6<sup>th</sup> - TEMPLEHILLS**

Not far off prime conditions for the 8yo but he maybe just wants slightly less valuable races and at least half a furlong further. I'd have his prime conditions as... OR 137 & below | 2m4f-2m6f | race worth less than 20k | field of 10 or less...where he is an unbeaten 111111 (6/6 – all 6 career wins).

**10<sup>th</sup> - WHISPER**

I thought he jumped quite well in the main before tiring late on, suggesting there maybe is still something left in the tank despite his advancing years. Not convinced, however, that Sam Thomas is the man to get something from the horse as the trainer is a lowly 18/263 | 7% S/R in his career, dropping to 7/142 | 5% S/R at C4 level+. Wouldn't be totally convinced he has the skills to rejuvenate this 158-rated 11yo.

**540 Chepstow – Class 4 | Bumper | 2m | Soft | 12 ran**

**2<sup>nd</sup> - EVERGLOW**

Almost got up to snatch this on the line and this was a decent effort on racecourse debut. It's often worth looking out for a Hobbs Bumper runner at Chepstow, especially when meeting the following criteria...SP 10-1 or less | ridden by Johnson or Tom O'Brien...since 2009 that has returned...7/20 | 35% S/R | +£6.29 BFLSP – W&P 16/20 | 80% S/R (+£12.12 E/W profits to SP). That 80% W&P S/R is nothing if not impressive. On a pure win front there of utmost interest when starting at SP 7/2 or less, where they are 7/12 | 58% S/R | +£14.29 BFLSP (again when ridden by Johnson or O'Brien).

**125 Hexham – Class 5 | Maiden Hurdle | 2m4f | Soft | 11 ran**

**1<sup>st</sup> – DARRY DESBOIS**

Not all that sure on the quality of this contest but Marcus Todhunter has a decent enough record at the track in these types of races, under the following conditions...Hexham C4/5 Maiden/Novice Hurdles | Aged 5yo-7yo | 2+ career starts...where he has long-term figures of...10/40 | 25% S/R | +£79.30 LSP – W&P 19/40 | 48% S/R (+£98.89 E/W profits to SP). Not many qualifiers in a year but they are consistent.

**155 Hexham – Class 4 | Novice Handicap Chase | 2m4f | Soft | 9 ran**

**1<sup>st</sup> – WEAKFIELD**

A comfortable victory on chase debut and it's always worth looking out for Brian Ellison Chasers aged 6yo on their first or second starts when starting at 5-1 or less...16/29 | 55% S/R | +£27.21

BFLSP – W&P 19/29 | 66% S/R...that's tight and he can get them winning early on when the money is down.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> – AINT MY FAULT**

Lucinda Russell often likes to run her less exposed chasers at Hexham and this one fitted a Russell angle I've plugged into the database... Russell | Hexham Handicap Chases | Horses aged 6yo-8yo | 1-14 career starts | 0-5 Chase starts | Same or down 1 class level from last run...which returns...18/45 | 40% S/R | +£33.38 BFLSP – W&P 27/45 | 60% S/R (+£40.73 E/W profits to SP). From a pure win perspective, if you concentrate on those with an SP of 7-1 or less you get...18/33 | 55% S/R | +£45.38 BFLSP. Always worth looking out for Russell's unexposed chasers at Hexham as they do seem to enjoy the track (I imagine they are well used to the undulations due to how they are trained at home).

## **305 Hexham – Class 4 | Handicap Chase | 3m | Soft | 7 ran**

### **1<sup>st</sup> – CLASSICAL MILANO**

Hexham or nowhere for this lad, with all 4 of his career wins coming at the track. His prime conditions are simply...Hexham | C4 or below | OR 106 & below | fields of 9 or less...where he is...1111 (4/4 – all 4 career wins).

## **340 Hexham – Class 4 | Novices Hurdle | 2m | Soft | 11 ran**

### **1<sup>st</sup> – MIAH GRACE**

Very impressive from the 4yo on her third career start and hurdles debut. As always, it's never easy to assess exactly what she beat in these races but aside from that the win improved the record of Jed O'Keefe runners in Novice Hurdles at Hexham to 1171121 (5/7 | 71% S/R | +£12.92 LSP – W&P 6/7 | 86% S/R).

## **450 Hexham – Class 5 | Bumper | 2m | Soft | 8 ran**

### **1<sup>st</sup> – DAKOTA BEAT**

If Gavin Cromwell sends one over the water (under any code) then you should take note. His stats are...41/177 | 23% S/R | +£71.99 LSP – W&P 79/177 | 45% S/R...those that start at 4-1 or less are...29/72 | 40% S/R | +£22.49 BFLSP – W&P 46/72 | 64% S/R...he's not coming over for a day out that's for sure!

## **Sunday**

**NOTHING TO NOTE**