

NTF Weekend Notes – 16th, 17th & 18th October

Friday

100 Fakenham – C5 Selling Handicap Hurdle | 2m0.5f | Good | 6 ran

1st – THE TWISLER

Low level stuff here but nonetheless the victory did improve the record of Neil Mulholland in Handicap Hurdles at Fakenham, especially under the following...N Mulholland | Fakenham C4/C5 Handicap Hurdles | Oct- March = 13/24 | 54% S/R | +£34.81 BFLSP - W&P 16/24 | 67% S/R - 92% above exp.

240 Fakenham – C3 Novices' Chase | 3m1.5f | Good | 4 ran

1st – WOLF OF WINDLESHAM

Good to see the 8yo back in the swing of things after a break of 236 days, with his previous start being off a break of 652 days, so he's clearly had issues, not that you would have known that based on this effort. Stuart Edmunds has an excellent record at Fakenham (12/37) but it gets even better when you only concentrate on those ridden by Ciaran Gethings...12/26 | 46% S/R | +£79.94 BFLSP - W&P 17/26 | 65% S/R - 85% above exp...and any runner for the pair at the track is well worth a second glance, at the very least.

340 Fakenham – C3 Handicap Chase | 3m1.5f | Good | 9 ran

2nd - HEPIJEU

A lover of Fakenham - now 21122 - and running here from a mark where he will be competitive off (OR 125). His highest winning mark is OR 127 but he has placed from higher and he's always worth a look when running here.

3rd – MR CAFFREY

A better effort than recent starts but they still had him parked near the back of the pack, suggesting this wasn't really the plan for him. His last four wins have come when he's been ridden closer to the pace than this so I suspect they are still trying to get his mark down for a 'plan' further down the line. He may not have been totally enjoying this track either as he's now 0/12 on Undulating/Very Undulating tracks as opposed to 5/23 on flat/slightly undulating tracks.

410 Fakenham – C4 Novices' Hurdle | 2m0.5f | Good | 10 ran

1st - CORMIER

Not a track Brian Ellison visits all that much (this was only his 22 visit since 2014 and his 6th winner) but it's possibly worth noting that when he enters one up in a C4 or C5 contest and they start in the top 2 in the market they seems to get the job done...(1P711111 - 6/8, +11.24 BFLSP).

1220 Uttoxeter – C4 Novices' Hurdle | 2m | Good to Soft | 12 ran

2nd – OCEAN DRIFTER

This 6yo is by a sire - Aizavoski - I'm not overly familiar with...so I went digging...and his offspring do seem to improve once out of the bumper division (bumper stats for his offspring of 5/34 | 15% S/R). My preliminary digging suggests that the following angle is a potential area of interest...Aizavoski offspring | Hurdles/Chases | 5yo+ | tracks with any kind of undulations | NOT Heavy ground...where they are...17/66 | 26% S/R | +£94.53 BFLSP - W&P 27/66 | 41% S/R - 61% above exp. Early days yet but that could be something to keep an eye on.

120 Uttoxeter – C4 Juvenile Hurdle | 2m | Good to Soft | 6 ran

1st – CABOT CLIFFS

An impressive victory from the 3yo on Hurdling debut. This was his first run off a wind-op and as always what catches my eye are the SP splits when it comes to Skelton first time wind-op runners...D Skelton | First time wind-op | SP less than 7/1 = 30/89 | 34% S/R | +£17.89 BFLSP - 9% above exp... compared to...D Skelton | First time wind-op | SP 7/1+ = 2/73 | 3% S/R | -£47.35 BFLSP - 65% below exp...money certainly talks when it comes to a Skelton first time wind-op runner. To improve strike-rate and profitability it's best to look at...D Skelton | First time wind-op | SP less than 7/1 | C4/C5 Hurdlers = 23/50 | 46% S/R | +£29.75 BFLSP - 38% above exp...an angle that Cabot Cliffs fitted here.

150 Uttoxeter – C3 Novices Limited Handicap Chase | 2m6.5f | Good to Soft | 18 ran

1st – DEMACHINE

A fine effort on Chase debut from the 6yo. He had shown glimpses of ability in his novice hurdle season last term but being by Flemensfirth out of a Milan mare he was always likely to improve for chasing, which was evident in this performance. The win also improved his trainer Kerry Lee's record in Class 3 Novice Chases to...11/21 | 52% S/R | +£35.55 BFLSP - W&P 12/21 | 57% S/R - 103% above expectation.

3rd – YOUNG BULL

A solid first attempt over fences and he'll come on plenty for this outing as he's always in need of his first run off a break...DSL 61+ = 52333 (0/5) | DSL 60 or less = 1111 (4/4)...he may also be at his

absolute peak on Soft/Heavy (11112) compared to G/S or quicker (3533). He should be winning chases before too long.

4th - NORTHOFTHEWALL

A few too many niggly mistakes from this one but he may just be at his best on Soft/Heavy (2111) compared to G/S+ (0/8) and the slower pace they'll go on more testing ground may help him measure his fences better. He'll also come on for the run as all three of his wins have come off a break of 45 days or less (he's 0/4 off a break of 61+ days). He's also yet to win on a LH track (0/7) so absolute Prime Conditions may well be...RH Tracks | Soft/Heavy | DSLR 45 or less = 111 (3/3 - all 3 career wins).

223 Uttoxeter – C2 Handicap Hurdle | 3m | Good to Soft | 13 ran

1st – CAPTAIN DRAKE

Harry Fry is building a tidy record at Uttoxeter in recent years (2017 - present) especially with his male runners aged 4yo-7yo...13/26 | 50% S/R | +£35.35 BFLSP - W&P 18/26 | 69% S/R - 79% above exp...Captain Drake fitting that angle here.

Saturday

431 Market Rasen – Class 2 Handicap Chase | 2m6.5f | Good | 10 ran

1st - FIDUX

Dug in deep on the run-in here to land the spoils and I would probably have the following as his Prime Conditions...Good to Soft or quicker | Listed & below | 10 or less runners | NOT seasonal debut = 142111141 (6/9, 1p - 6 of 7 career wins)...conditions that were met here.

5th – MELLOW BEN

Has now dropped to his last and highest winning mark of OR 135 (will probably go down again for this effort) and he's worth looking out for when he gets his Prime Conditions...Good | Field of 8 or less = 1132F121 (4/8, 2p - all 4 career wins).

235 Stratford – Class 4 Handicap Chase | 2m4.5f | Good | 10 ran

1st – TEMPLEHILLS

Had dropped to a career low mark of OR 120 here and was 17lbs below his last and highest winning mark, so no surprise to see him score here. He was also running under his Prime Conditions...OR 137 or less | Field of 10 or less | 2m4f - 2m6f | race worth 21K or less = 16111111 (7/8 - all 7 career wins) and he could well back this effort up if getting similar conditions.

Sunday

130 Ffos Las – Class 4 Mares Maiden Hurdle | 2m | Good | 10 ran

1st – ESTELLE MA BELLE

Nicholls is another yard where the 'money talks' when it comes to first time wind-op runners, which this mare was, with his splits reading... P Nicholls | First time wind-op | SP less than 6/1 = 23/58 | 40% S/R | +£36.51 BFLSP - 25% above exp... compared to...P Nicholls | First time wind-op | SP 6/1+ = 1/34 | 3% S/R | -£25.78 BFLSP - 68% below exp...and you get the feeling they have a very strong idea when that wind-op has been a success or not, based on their work at home.

200 Ffos Las – Class 5 Handicap Chase | 2m | Good to Soft | 11 ran

1st – LOTS OF LUCK

Kim Bailey is another that is worth noting with his first time wind-op runners (Lots Of Luck was one), especially in handicap chases, where his record now reads...21P11171112P...he's a little more picky than some with the op but it does pay to keep an eye open for them.

235 Ffos Las – Class 3 Novices' Chase | 2m5f | Good to Soft | 3 ran

2nd - FIDDLERONTHEROOF

Didn't stay (first try at 2m5f)? Needed the run (223 off a break of 121+ days - 221110 off shorter breaks)? Would prefer softer ground (13110 on Soft/Heavy - 2222 on G/S or quicker)? Beaten by a better horse (winner was rated 10lbs his superior over hurdles)? Tizzard yard still not quite firing (2/23 last 14 days - 4/41 last 30 days)? Plenty of potential 'reasons' for this defeat and I wouldn't be over concerned by the run, he still rates as an exciting chasing prospect for the season ahead.

310 Ffos Las – Class 2 Limited Handicap Hurdle | 2m | Good to Soft | 12 ran

1st – SCEAU ROYAL

One of the main key factors for Sceau Royal to run to his best is to get him in a race worth 50k or less to the winner...race worth 50k or less = 12211112131111122 (11/17, 5p) | race worth more than 50k = 53623496460 (0/11, 2p)...he can boss 'lesser' horses but does struggle against the proper big boys. The first time wind-op clearly helped as well and he remains a consistent type when he's in the right grade.

3rd – BUZZ

Threw this away with a blunder at the last (for all he most likely would not have quite beaten Sceau Royal anyway) but there was enough in the run to suggest he starts this season on a decent handicap mark (OR 136) and he could well pick up a half decent pot before the handicapper catches up with him.

6th – THEBANNERKINGREBEL

I'm not sure where I sit with this 7yo at present but I did note that Jamie Snowdon sends plenty of his string for wind-ops and they generally don't improve the horse like they do for other yards...J Snowdon first time wind-ops = 6/72 | 8% S/R | -£43.96 BFLSP - W&P 19/72 | 26% S/R - 47% below exp. This one was running off a wind-op and it doesn't seem to have done all that much from this evidence.

257 Kempton – Class 3 Handicap Chase | 2m2f | Good | 7 ran

2nd – CROOKS PEAK

Didn't make much of an impact on his previous two starts over fences, both in novice company and on left-handed tracks, but this switch to handicaps and a right-handed track saw him put in a significantly better effort. I'm not sold on him needing a right-handed track but he did jump markedly right-handed on his last start at Uttoxeter and it would be something that is in my mind. What is worth noting is the fact that he is 1-1-1-4 in November so he's worth keeping on the radar for any of his entries in the coming weeks, this effort suggested that his current mark (OR 128, may go up a couple for this) isn't beyond him.

332 Kempton – Listed Hurdle | 2m | Good | 6 ran

1st – SILVER STREAK

A very consistent horse when he gets his conditions...Good to Soft or quicker = 112221121411234 (7/15, 6p) compared to 0/7 on Soft-Heavy...DSLRL 61+ = 1611121114 (7/10) compared to 0/12 off breaks of 60 or less...G3 level or below = 7/15 compared to 0/7 at G1 or G2 level. If you pull those angles together you get a sense of his Prime Conditions...G3 level & below | DSLRL 61+ | G/S or quicker = 111121114 (7/9, 1p - all 7 career wins).