

NTF Weekend Notes – 24th, 25th & 26th January

Friday

1.15 Doncaster – Class 5 | Maiden Hurdle | 2m3.5f | Good to Soft | 11 ran

1st - GLYNN

Very impressive on rules debut (also won his 1 P2P start). The victory also boosted the following Henderson angle... Henderson | Doncaster non-handicap Novice/Maiden Hurdles | Top 3 in market | 0-4 starts last 365 days...to... 32/65 | 49% S/R | +£33.77 LSP - W&P 48/65 | 74% S/R - 28% above expectation.

1.50 Doncaster – Class 2 | Handicap Chase | 2m0.5f | Good to Soft | 11 ran

9th – CRACKING FIND

Conditions will have suited the 9yo here... C2 & below | OR 131 or less | 11 or less runners | 2m4.5f or less | tracks with undulations = 7/14, 2p – all 7 career wins... but Sue Smith chasers often underperform in C1/C2 chases at Doncaster...2/58 | 3.5% S/R | -43.50 LSP – W&P 9/58 | 16% S/R – 66% below expectations. He's been struggling for form recently but there's no doubt he's well-handicapped at present.

2.55 Doncaster – Class 4 | Novices' Hurdle | 2m0.5f | Good to Soft | 9 ran

5th – FRANCE DE REVE

Third hurdle start (beaten fav on two of them, 7/2 on other one) and she's never really looked like winning any of them (or been allowed to win any of them?). She'll get a handicap mark now, likely a very favourable one, and I just wonder if team McManus are plotting something for her...

2.00 Huntingdon – Class 4 | Handicap Hurdle | 2m4.5f | Soft | 14 ran

1st - SERMANDO

This win extended Jonjo O'Neill's record in Handicaps at Huntingdon under the following... JJ O'Neill | Huntingdon Handicaps | 4yo-9yo | 0-8 starts last 365 days | No Claimers | SP 16/1 or less...to... 31/86 | 36% S/R | +£102.15 BFLSP – W&P 48/86 | 56% S/R.

2.35 Huntingdon – Class 2 | Handicap Hurdle | 3m1f | Soft | 14 ran

1st – PHOENIX WAY

I get the feeling he won this with a huge amount up his sleeve and connections simply wanted a win to get his mark up to guarantee a place in the Pertemps final (this was a qualifier). The form of his three previous hurdle starts have all been working out extremely well and there should be plenty more to come from the 7yo.

Saturday

12.40 Cheltenham – Grade 2 | Juvenile Hurdle | 2m1f | Soft | 6 ran

1st – GALAHAD QUEST

Nick Williams can fire in Hurdle winners at Cheltenham, particularly in January and particularly under the following... Cheltenham Non-Handicap Hurdles | January | Good to Soft or softer | 4yo-8yo | SP 16/1 or less = 1126113111421 (8/13 | 62% S/R | +£50.17 BFLSP – W&P 10/1 | 77% S/R). Not sure exactly where this juvenile fits into the wider picture but he's clearly improving plenty with racing, which isn't unusual for a Nick Williams horse.

1.15 Cheltenham – Class 2 Handicap | Handicap Chase | 2m5f | Soft | 12 ran

2nd – IMPERIAL AURA

Another fine effort from the 7yo but the defeat added to the distinctly average record of Kim Bailey trained horses at the track (2/144 since 2003). Worth noting that the horse has lost all 3 starts on Very Undulating tracks (322 – 31111 on easier tracks) albeit he hasn't exactly run poor races on those Very Undulating track starts. It could, however, just be suggesting he's possibly at his absolute best away from such tracks, or at least more likely to win away from them.

4th – GARO DE JUILLEY

Connections are not scared to run this boy and although he's yet to win in six chase starts, a little tweak in conditions could see him successful. I'd see him as a potential bet under the following...2m3.5f-2m4f | OR 134 or less | race worth 30k or less...where he is...21231 (2/5, 3p – both career wins).

7th – ENCORE CHAMPS

Probably didn't appreciate the soft ground (now 767 on Soft) and possibly isn't quite up to C2 level+ (form of 7877). If you look at him under the following...Good to Soft or quicker | C3 level & below...you get a form line of...121112 (4/6, 2p – all 4 career wins) and that's probably the best place to catch him.

1.50 Cheltenham – Grade 3 | Handicap Chase | 2m5f | Soft | 10 ran

PU – COUNT MERIBEL

I'd like to see another jockey given a chance on this one. Mark Grant has ridden the horse on all 22 of its starts but the facts are he's 0/23 the last 90 days, 3/63 the last 365 days and 8/122 the last two National Hunt seasons; he probably just not good enough to be competing in the top races. That may, of course, not be what's keeping this horse back, I may have the horse wrong and it simply may not be up to these levels (it's now P72646P2 – 0/8 in Class 1 races). I'd be looking at revised prime conditions of...C2 level & below | 2m3.5f – 2m5.5f = 1151112 (5/7, 1p – all 5 career wins), preferably with another jockey on top, although that is unlikely to happen, unfortunately.

2.25 Cheltenham – Grade 2 | Cotswold Chase | 3m2f | Soft | 6 ran

1st - SANTINI

A fine effort from the 8yo and this puts him firmly on track for the Gold Cup, for all Cotswold Chase winners/runners have a poor recent record in the big one. The most interesting thing for me off the back of this is the discovery of the following trend/angle...Henderson | Cheltenham Non-Handicap Chases | Top 2 in the market = 26/61 | 43% S/R | +£25.09 BFLSP - W&P 37/61 | 61% S/R...which becomes even more striking when you look at... Henderson | Cheltenham Non-Handicap Chases | NOT Top 2 in the market = 0/61 | 0% S/R | -£61 BFLSP - W&P 10/91 | 16% S/R. You can tighten the positive angle up a shade... Henderson | Cheltenham Non-Handicap Chases | Top 2 in the market | No Headgear or TT | DSLR 18+ = 26/53 | 49% S/R | +£33.09 BFLSP - W&P 36/53 | 68% S/R...which are all Henderson Non-Handicap Chase winners at the track since 2010.

2nd – BRISTOL DE MAI

A fine effort from the 9yo but it's probably as good as he is at Cheltenham (form of 27332) which let's be honest isn't bad at all, but he's just always likely to find at least one too good for him.

3rd – TOP VILLE BEN

Well enough beaten in the end (for all it was a decent enough effort) to back up the thinking he's not really a top-level player (F3553 at G1 or G2 level). Can't believe he really justifies his 164 rating either, that seems a bit lofty to me. Suspect he could be tricky to place.

PU – SLATE HOUSE

Jumped horribly in this and simply never looked happy. He travelled well enough between fences but the jumping was doing the damage. I had hoped that his wind-op in the off season would change things for him (early signs were it had) but this effort means he again disappointed after the turn of the year (Jan-Apr form of 545PF288 || Oct-Dec form of 111F411).

PU – MISTER WHITAKER

Just doesn't stay this far (PP over 3m1f+, 34PP over 2m5.5f+).

3.00 Cheltenham – Grade 2 | Novices Hurdle | 2m5f | Soft | 8 ran

1st – HARRY SENIOR

A lot to like about this effort and he's improved significantly for stepping up in trip. This win also improved Tizzards' record under the following... C Tizzard | G2 & below Cheltenham Novice Hurdles | 8 runners or less | 4yo-6yo | SP 11/2 or less...to...1311121145211 (8/13, 3p | +£18.72 BFLSP).

3.35 Cheltenham – Grade 2 | Cleeve Hurdle | 3m0.5f | Soft | 8 ran

2nd – SUMMERVILLE BOY

Definitely looked to stay 3m+ at his first try and he could have given Paisley Park a real fright had he jumped the last cleaner. His record under the following... Soft or Heavy | ignore December (seems to struggle then)... you get a form line of...21141121 (5/8, 2p – all 5 career wins). He may begin to struggle once the ground begins to dry out.

3rd – LISNAGAR OSCAR

Good to see him show a bit more life here and connections will have to pray they've not blown his favourable handicap mark of OR 140.

5th – IF THE CAP FITS

First run at Cheltenham and on this evidence he didn't seem to handle it all that well. It's only one run so there may have been more at play, but this was some way below the form he's shown recently.

4.10 Cheltenham – Class 2 | Handicap Hurdle | 2m1f | Soft | 11 ran

2nd – AINCHEA

Surprised this one started as fav considering Tizzard's record in Handicap Hurdles at Cheltenham is 1/62 | 1.5% S/R | 8 places. I suspect the horse is well-handicapped and a return to somewhere like Sandown may be the best option for him.

12.55 Doncaster – Grade 2 | Novices Chase | 2m0.5f | Good to Soft | 4 ran

1st – MISTER FISHER

Now 1111 (4/4) in Dec-Jan and he looked to have this race in control from some way out. Nicky Henderson has a very strong record in such races at Doncaster...N Henderson | Doncaster Non-Hcp Chases | 5yo-7yo | SP 5/2 or less...where his record now stands at...16/25 | 64% S/R | +£8.47 LSP – W&P 19/25 | 76% S/R. Not a huge amount of profits but an extremely strong S/R at play.

2nd – AL DANCER

Just can't have him as a G1/G2 player at present (04242 G1/G2 level – 11121131 G3 level & below). He could, potentially, be up to those levels if they stretch him up in trip to 2m4f/2m5f, the way he travels suggests he's worth a crack over a longer trip and that could be where he cracks G1/G2 level, there does look to be stamina in his pedigree. If sticking to 2m I'm just not convinced he's up to taking a race of this level.

2.05 Doncaster – Grade 2 | Novices Hurdle | 3m0.5f | Good to Soft | 5 ran

1st – RAMSES DE TEILLEE

First run off a wind-op and also his first win on any other ground than Heavy (Good to Soft here), which could make things interesting and open up further options for him going forward. This win also improved his record over 2m7.5f – 3m0.5f trips to 1211211 (5/7, 1p – all 5 career wins).

3.15 Doncaster – Listed Handicap | Skybet Handicap Chase | 3m | Good to Soft | 14 ran

1st – OK CORRAL

Now 11121211 (6/8, 2p) at Listed level & below (compared to 25P09 at Graded level) and this seems to be his level. The weight rise for this may make life difficult for him again.

4th – RAVENHILL ROAD

Looks a non-stayer at 3m (P-4 in 2 starts at 3m) but he was still bang there around 3-out and this wasn't a bad effort at all. His wins have all come Oct-Dec time so it may be best to catch him under the following...2m5.5f or less | Oct-Dec (15232111)...for all a drop in trip is possibly more important than the monthly angle...possibly...

5th – DINGO DOLLAR

Just not convinced he's up to Listed+ level (73565). I'd be looking at Prime Conditions of along the following...Listed level & below | LH tracks | DSLR 26-75 | NOT V-Undulating tracks....where he is...2211110 (4/7, 2p – all 4 career wins)...for all he's not the most reliable of types.

6th – COBRA DE MAI

Doesn't seem to appreciate large fields (0/11, 0p in fields of 11+) or races worth 20k+ (0/13, 3p). Prime Conditions for him are probably along the following...Fields of 10 or less | Race worth less than 20k | OR 142 or less...where he is 9/18, 2p – all 9 career wins.

10th – GOOD MAN PAT

Another that probably prefers smaller fields (P470P in fields of 12+) and his Prime Conditions remain... LH track | DSLR 60 or less | 9 or less runners = 1112 (3/4, 1p – all 3 career wins). He's handicapped to win at present on OR 134.

12th – AZZERTI

Seems very much a non-stayer over these longer trips as he's now 7F7P50 over 2m5f+ trips. Prime Conditions for him look to be...Chase/Hurdle | 2m4.5f or below | race worth less than 20K | NOT Very Undulating tracks...where he is 6/13, 3p – all 6 career wins.

1.55 Uttoxeter– Class 4 | Novices' Handicap Chase | 3m0.5f | Heavy | 5 ran

1st – FORTESCUE

Has shown plenty improvement since switching to fences and 3m trips (1-2-1 with form prior to the switch 4-3-8-P-8-3-0) and that improvement may not be done with yet. The record of Henry Daly in Uttoxeter Handicap Chases is also worth noting...H Daly | Uttoxeter Handicap Chases | C3/C4 | 6yo-8yo | SP 8/1 or less = 8/20 | 40% S/R | +£25.30 LSP – W&P 11/20 | 55% S/R.

3.05 Uttoxeter– Class 3 | Mares Novices' Handicap Chase | 2m7f | Heavy | 6 ran

1st – HAUL US IN

Lucinda Russell generally makes her trips to the track pay with chasers, especially under the following... L Russell | Uttoxeter Chases | 2m7f & below | July-Feb | 6yo+ = 10/31 | 32% S/R | +£50.08 LSP – W&P 15/31 | 48% S/R.

Sunday

4.20 Fontwell – Class 4 | Maiden Hurdle | 2m3.5f | Soft | 13 ran

1st – FULL BACK

Gary Moore has a solid record in Fontwell maiden hurdles under the following...G Moore | Fontwell Maiden Hurdles | 0-2 starts last 90 days | SP 11/2 or less...where he is now...13/30 | 43% S/R | +£16.44 BFLSP – W&P 21/30 | 70% S/R...Full Back being a qualifier here.

4.00 Sedgefield – Class 5 | Handicap Hurdle | 2m0.5f | Soft | 12 ran

1st – ROXYFET

Very much a Sedgefield specialist, particularly under the following...Sedgefield | 2m0.5f – 2m1f | 4k or less | OR 100 or less | carrying 11-05 or less...where he is now 1241P12611211 (7/13, 3p – 7 of his 10 career wins).

2.40 Naas – 8.5K | Maiden Hurdle | 2m3f | Yielding | 16 ran

1st – THE BIG GETAWAY

Mullins has an exceptional record at Naas in Maiden Hurdles, particularly under the following...Mullins | Naas maiden Hurdles | Nov-Jan | 0-3 starts in season...where he is now...22/43 | 51% S/R | +£32.29 LSP – W&P 31/43 | 72% S/R...this lad qualifying on the angle. The last six qualifiers on the angle return the following form line...111411.