

NTF Weekend Notes – Saturday 28th November

Saturday

12.15 Bangor – Class 4 Beginners Chase

1st – PINK LEGEND

Very much a lover of testing ground – 612141 on Soft/Heavy compared to 60342 on Good/Good to Soft – and this was a pleasing chasing debut from the mare. There is quite a split at Bangor between the Venetia Williams Chasers and Hurdles – Chases = 12/63 | Hurdles = 1/47 – and there's an interesting little Chase angle at play once you start digging...V Williams | Bangor Chases | 2m4.5f+ | 6yo-8yo | SP 8/1 or less = 10/23 | 43% S/R | +£36.71 BFLSP – W&P 14/23 | 61% S/R – 92% above expectation...Pink Legend fitting that angle here.

2nd – STOLEN SILVER

Had his ground (both wins on Soft or Heavy) but it was another defeat on a track with undulations (2/3 on a flat track compared to 0/8 on tracks with undulations). To show his absolute best I'm just thinking a flat track is what he wants.

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1.22 Bangor – Class 3 Handicap Chase

3rd – UN PROPHETE

On a winnable mark at present (OR 115 – high and last win mark is OR 122) but has only ever won when returning within 14 days of his last run (form of 11F1 – fell at last when staying on) so a quick return from this run would make him of interest.

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12.10 Newbury – Listed Novices' Hurdle

3rd – MRS HYDE

Was well fancied by plenty (started 5/2f) but Ellison runner regularly under-perform at Newbury (2/56 | 3.5% S/R | -£39.38 BFLSP – 66% below expectation for Ellison Newbury runners) and Ellison is just struggling a little for winners right now (0/18 last week and 3/31 last couple weeks – plenty hitting the places so not out of form as such but just a smidge off the pace) so I wouldn't look unfavourably on the mare and she could well bounce back from this effort. She was also giving 5lbs to the rest of the field (bar one), so again, probably a better run than the bare form suggests.

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12.40 Newbury – Grade 2 Novices' Chase

3rd – KALOOKI

Wasn't the cleanest round of jumping and maybe he just couldn't get away with things on the good ground against the better class of opposition. He won well on Good last time out but this was a step up in class and I'd like to see him on more testing ground against better opposition to get a better gauge of where he's at on a class front.

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1.15 Newbury – Class 2 Handicap Chase

3rd – MELLOW BEN

Had the Good ground he needs (all 4 wins on Good – 0/13 on G/S or softer) but I wouldn't be totally convinced he stays these trips all that well (0/9, 1p over 2m6f+ - 4/16, 3p over 2m2f – 2m5.5f). I'd have his Prime Conditions as...Good | field of 8 or less | 2m2f – 2m5.5f = 1132121 (4/7, 2p - all 4 career wins).

5th – CHAMPAGNE COURT

Quite possibly doesn't stay these trips (54559P (0/6, 1p) over 2m4.5f+ compared to 154321318 (3/9) over 2m4f or shorter) and I'd be looking at the following as Prime Conditions for him...2m4f or shorter | C2 level & below | DSLR 45 or less = 11331 (3/5, 2p – all 3 career wins). He's back on his last winning mark now (OR 138, should go down for this effort) and he's worth keeping in mind for a race under Prime Conditions.

7th - KAPCORSE

First run off a wind-op but also his first run for 644 days and he is a horse that comes on for a run (0/3, 0p off a break of 121+ days). He's still lightly raced over fences with only 4 chase starts on his CV and possibly Prime Conditions for him could be along the lines of...DSLR 90 or less | 2m4.5f – 2m6.5f | 11 or less runners = 111 (3/3 – all 3 career wins).

11th – CAPTAIN CHAOS

The blinkers remain off and they continue to get his mark down to a workable area. Over fences he's now 4/10, 3p when wearing blinkers compared to 0/14, 1p without blinkers on and everything about his recent runs look all about getting his mark back down to somewhere around OR 134 (he won't have to go all the way back to that mark). Expect the blinkers to go back on when they think they've got his mark down far enough.

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3.00 Newbury – Grade 3 Handicap Chase – Ladbroke Trophy

1st – CLOTH CAP

He had his conditions and he landed the big pot that had always looked within him. Prime Conditions for him remain...2m5f+ | Good to Soft or quicker | Handicaps = 13311F1 (4/7, 2p - all 4 career wins) and I'd possibly even be siding towards adding NOT Very-Undulating tracks to the mix as well, which returns...1311F1 (4/6, 1p). He'll get stuck up to a career high mark after this but there's nothing to say he can't defy a higher mark, he's still lightly enough raced and the cheek-pieces he wore for the first time here could continue to eke out improvement.

2nd – AYE RIGHT

I'm honestly not sure where I stand with this one and I'm equally not sure where he fits into the wider picture. He's been running some noteworthy races over fences but ultimately he's not winning them and squeaking up the handicap each time. Indeed so far he's only won a two horse race over fences. He's clearly talented alright but I'm not sure finding a winning opportunity over fences is going to be all that easy for connections.

3rd – THE CONDITIONAL

Was still bang there as they came down the straight but he had no answer to the winner in the closing stages and there's a good chance his fitness just ebbed away when push came to shove (he's now 0/4 off a break of 121+ days). I had a feeling he may have been near the ceiling of his abilities off OR 147 (a career high mark) but I'd maybe hold fire with that assessment for now as there was enough in this run to suggest he could be up to defying the mark. He seems a relatively adaptable type but worth noting that all 3 of his wins have come on Soft or Heavy and I'd maybe have rough Prime Conditions for him as...DSLRL 60 or less | Soft-Heavy | Undulating – Very Undulating tracks...where he is...11412 (3/5, 1p – all 3 career wins).

4th – THE HOLLOW GINGE

A big run from the 7yo who was probably running on ground that wasn't ideal for him (he is 4/13 on Soft or Heavy compared to 0/6 on G/S or quicker). He's also possibly best off a bit of a break and rough Prime Conditions for him may be something along the lines of...Soft/Heavy | DSLRL 31+ | NOT Very-Undulating tracks...where he is...11916731 (4/8, 1p – all 4 career wins). I have an inkling that smaller fields (12 or less runners) may also be ideal for him but I'd be open on that for now.

5th - ARDLETHEN

Not convinced he's really up to Class 1 level (0/6 at C1 level) and smaller fields than this may prove to be more favourable for him. OR 138 should be a mark that is a winnable one for him (or at least one he can be competitive off) and I'd be looking at Prime Conditions for him of...C2 level & below | 11 or less runners = 2111F (3/5, 1p – all 3 career wins).

7th - KILDISART

I think OR 155 may be pushing the ceiling of his abilities but he'll hopefully go down a pound or two for this run.

FELL - VINNDICATION

There didn't seem to be anything obviously wayward with his jumping here but the fact remains that all his wins have come right-handed (7 from 8 on RH tracks) and he is 0/4 on left-handed tracks.

PU – COPPERHEAD

A poor run and he was struggling from a very early stage. His last three runs now read F-P-P and this is clearly a concern and the only real glimmer of hope you can give him is that all his wins have come in the Dec-Feb period where he is 5/8 compared to 0/6 all other months. If you feed the monthly filter into the rough Prime Conditions I already had for him then you get...Chase/Hurdle | G2 & below | DSLR 60 or less | Dec-Feb = 111118 (5/6 – all 5 career wins)...and as a 6yo there is still plenty of time for him to bounce back to form.

UR – MISTER MALARKY

Doesn't seem to be a fan of large fields as he is now 0/8 in fields of 16+. I'd be looking at Prime Conditions for him of... Good to Soft or quicker | 14 or less runners = 1111013 (5/7 – all 5 career wins).

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3.35 Newbury – Class 2 Handicap Chase

1st – ZANZA

Thrown into open handicap company on only his 3rd chase start and he was clearly sitting on a lenient mark. These conditions will have been bang ideal for him...C2 level & below | DSLR 45 or less | Field of 12 or less | NOT Heavy...where he is now...121111 (5/6, 1p – all 5 career wins).

3rd - MARRACUDJA

A better run from the 9yo as he continues to slide down the ratings, travelling well down the home-straight before not quite having enough to kick on a go for the win. He's on a winnable mark now (OR 139) but this race was just above his class ceiling (now 0/17, 3p in races worth more than 17K to winner) and a small drop in grade could see him winning shortly, with Prime Conditions remaining...2m2f or shorter | C2 level & below (17k or less) | OR 140 or less | Sept-Feb = 121211311 (6/9, 3p)...ideally a field of 8 or less (all 6 wins in fields of 8 or less).

Fell – THE RUSSIAN DOYEN

Despite failing to complete on his last two starts there's been enough in his three runs this season to suggest he could be winning soon, with just a little tweak down to C3 or lower level likely to be the change he needs to get back winning (C3 level & below = 3111132 (4/7, 3p - all 4 career wins)), his current mark of OR 135 should be withing range for him.

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12.20 Newcastle – Class 4 Handicap Chase

6th - TRESHNISH

2m4f looks out with his stamina capabilities and Good ground is also probably too quick for him. All 3 of his wins to date have come in Dec – Jan (3/7, 1p in those months compared to 0/12 in Feb-Nov) so a drop back in trip on softer ground would make him more appealing, with Prime Conditions looking somewhere along the lines of...Dec-Jan | 2m0.5f or less | C3 level or below | Soft ground = 1113 (3/4, 1p – all 3 career wins). Heavy ground may also be OK for him as 2 of his 3 previous starts on Heavy came at C2 level, which does look beyond him, regardless of the ground.

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2.40 Newcastle – Class 4 Maiden Hurdle

1st – FOSTERED PHIL

This was the second first time wind-op winner on the card for James Ewart and his wind-op stats are starting to look interesting, especially under the following... J Ewart | First time wind-op | Chase/Hurdles | fields of 10 or less | SP 9-1 or less = 11121151 (6/8 | 75% S/R | +£37.67 BFLSP).

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