

Notebook Horses: 26th April – 2nd May

Monday 26th

6.30 Thirsk – 6f Handicap

I AM A DREAMER (3rd of 11)

Will have needed this first run for 191 days (he's 0/5, 1p off breaks of more than 30 days) but the 5yo is now back to a winnable mark and is of interest going forward from this run. I have his Prime Conditions marked down as...6f-7f | C2 & below | OR 82 or less | DSLR 30 or less = 113126411 (5/9, 2p - all 5 career wins)...and those are the conditions I'll be looking to back him under.

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Wednesday 28th

1.00 Ascot – 1m Apprentice Handicap

GIN PALACE (5th of 9)

This Swiss Spirit gelding usually begins to peak from May (0/3, 0p in April) so he'll be nice and sharp now after his two spins this season and is of interest going forward. He got caught on wrong side of the track here as race hit the business end, with all the action taking place down the near side whilst he was trying to make his challenge on the far side (first 3 were drawn 7-6-9 and he was attacking things from stall 3) but he still recorded a solid effort in 5th and the four ahead of him all ran on or just above par for the class level, so early signs are this was a decent contest. He was dropped 2lb to OR 87 for this run, which puts him back on his last and highest winning mark, and I'll be looking out for him under the following... 1m turf handicaps | OR 87 or less | May-Aug...where he is... 5/6 (all 5 career wins).

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3.55 Ascot – 1m Listed Paradise Stakes

DUKE OF HAZZARD (7th of 9)

The 5yo is likely to need this opening run of the season (he is 0/6, 0p of breaks of more than 25 days) and this was also his first run off a wind op (trainer only had 1 winner from 18 runners first time off a wind op). He was still bang there entering the final furlong in this Listed contest, however, and only faded in the final half a furlong to finish 4.25L 7th come the line. Despite the race being won by a 66/1 'outsider' this race was run above standard for the class level and should represent strong form going forward and Duke Of Hazzard will almost certainly come on for the outing. He's a horse with a simple set of Prime Conditions where he runs to his optimum... Good or quicker | DSLR 25 or less = 823111232 (4/10, 5p - all 4 career wins), the 8th coming at Salisbury last season when he quite possibly didn't enjoy the flat nature of the track (his 4 wins have come tracks with some form of undulations). He's a horse of interest going forward, with this first outing of the season now under his belt.

Friday 30th

3.05 Musselburgh

TRICORN (3rd of 8) – 1m1f Handicap

Extremely well-handicapped on his old form but these trips (further than 1m0.5f) just stretch his stamina too far and he probably ideally wants no further than 1m trips, although up to 1m0.5f would probably be OK. The first four home here recorded a speed figure comfortably above par for the class so this looks likely to be solid form and there's plenty hope from his recent starts that Tricorn can finally snap his lengthy losing run, which now stretches to 24 starts. He's worth looking out for under the following... 7f-1m0.5f | Good+ or A/W | race worth 21K or less = 38221112 (3/8, 4p - all 3 career wins)...although he wouldn't, admittedly, be one to follow off a cliff.

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