

# NTF Weekend Notes – 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> November

## Friday

**110 Cheltenham – Class 3 2m5f Conditional Jockeys Handicap Hurdle | Good – 16 ran**

**4<sup>th</sup> – TUNE IN BOX**

The Good ground won't have been ideal for this 5yo so this was a decent effort and suggests he's still got some wiggle room for his current mark of OR 122... I have a loose set of PC for him as... **G/S or softer | NOT 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> run of season = 11211 (4/5, 1p - all 4 career wins)...**

**5<sup>th</sup> – IL VA DE SOI**

This race played to the strengths of those held-up off the pace (first 4 home all held-up off the pace) and Harry Derham's 6yo was the first home of those ridden more prominently, so well worth marking this effort up a couple of pounds on the bare form... he'll also appreciate the ground softening up over the next few weeks (0/5 on G/S or quicker ground) and he will also come on for this outing (0/5 off breaks of >60-days)... he's worth considering under the following... **Soft or Heavy | NOT seasonal debut = 112 (2/3, 1p – both career wins)...**

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**145 Cheltenham – Listed 3m1f Novices Chase | Good – 4 ran**

**1<sup>st</sup> – HYLAND**

Now 3 from 4 over fences and he's enjoying the ground staying on the quick side... this took his PC to... **LH Tracks | 2m4f+ | 1st-4th seasonal run = 11413112121 (7/11, 2p – all 7 career wins)...** and his Cheltenham form to 1101 (3/4)... the only time he disappointed at track came in the Pertemps Final last season when the ground was riding Soft...

**4<sup>th</sup> – BUDDY ONE**

Was going well enough for most of the race but he did get a little scrappy in the closing stages and weakened up the hill... could be that ideally, he wants to be going Right-Handed, despite holding some solid form on LH tracks (3/10, 3p RH tracks compared to 1/12, 4p LH tracks)... and I'd possibly just tweak his PC to... **RH tracks | >2m4f | G3 or less = 11221 (3/5, 2p – 3 of 4 career wins)...**

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## **220 Cheltenham – Grade 2 2m Shloer Chase | Good – 4 ran**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> – BOOTHILL**

A solid effort under conditions he enjoys, and this improved his PC to... **Oct-Feb | DSLR 21+ | 2m1f or less = 2FF1121119311 (7/13, 2p)...**

### **4<sup>th</sup> – UNEXPECTED PARTY**

As expected, it looks like they are on a 'Handicap mark reducing campaign' at the moment with this one, whilst picking off some handy prize money in the process... he won the Grand Annual last year off OR 138 and ran off OR 146 here (and at Carlisle 4-days previous) and I suspect they will be doing all they can to get him lining up in the 2025 Grand Annual off somewhere near the OR 138 he won off last season... on the PC front I'd have somewhere around the following for him... **G/S or softer | Listed or below | OR 142 or less = 1913121 (4/7, 2p – all 4 career wins)...**

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## **400 Cheltenham – Class 3 2m0.5f Novices' Handicap Hurdle | Good – 15 ran**

### **1<sup>st</sup> – WRECKLESS ERIC**

Made up for his LTO fall with a cosy win here... and he should have more still offer on the handicapping front going on from this... Jonjo O'Neill has some decent stats with his horses on their next starts that won at Cheltenham LTO... **JJ O'Neill | 8yo or younger | 18 or less career starts | WON LTO at Cheltenham (DSLRL <100) = 19/42 | 45% S/R | +£40.53 – W&P 29/42 | 69% S/R (E/W = +£58.76)...**WRECKLESS ERIC will fit those stats on his next run (assuming he reappears within the next 100-days)...

### **4<sup>th</sup> – FASOL**

A better effort than it looked, with this race very much playing to those that were held up/sat mid-division... the first 9 home returning in-running comments of... HU | Mid Div | HU | **FR/CP** | HU | Mid Div | HU | HU | HU... FASOL being the exception in the first 9 home with his FR/CP positioning... he needs to sharpen up his jumping but this was only his third run over Hurdles and he's also likely to come on for this first run for 146-days, so he's worth keeping on the radar as he's surely better than his OR 108 mark... a step back up to 2m4f/5f may be ideal (although not necessarily essential)...

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## **1223 Southwell – Class 4 3m0.5f Handicap Chase | Good – 7 ran**


### **1<sup>st</sup> – STRINGTOYOURBOW**

Might be one that Christian Williams can start moving up through the handicap levels now he's got his head in front over fences... both his career wins have come under the following... **3m+ | Flat tracks | DSLR 30 or less = 11 (2/2 – both career wins)...** and he's possibly worth keeping an eye on for getting similar conditions...

## 2<sup>nd</sup> – ALI STAR BERT

Likely just bumped into one with more upside on the handicapping front... but he's on a winnable mark himself and did have conditions to suit here... **Hcps on LH tracks | Oct-Apr | Fields of 14 or less | 2+ starts in current season | OR 102 or less = 211213321161 (6/12, 5p - all 6 career wins)**... and he's worth looking out for under similar conditions...

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## **Saturday**

**110 Cheltenham – Class 3 3m1.5f Amateur Jockey's Handicap Chase | Good – 11 ran**

**2<sup>nd</sup> – JAVA POINT**

Looked a danger turning in and his fitness maybe just gave way on the battle to the line... he does generally need his first run of the season (form of 0/6, 2p on seasonal debut) so every chance he'll come on for this first spin of the campaign... he's on a winnable mark at present and he's worth looking out for under the following... **OR 130 or less | NOT Seasonal debut | Nov-April | wearing a TT | tracks with undulations = 5/12, 4p – all 5 career wins...**

**3<sup>rd</sup> – PLANNED PARADISE**

A solid effort under his Prime Conditions, which now stand at... **Hcps | OR 113 or less | NO Headgear | DSLR 16-30 = 3231121 (3/7, 3p – all 3 career wins)**... and he may well have managed to fight out for the win had he not pecked on landing at the last... worth looking out for under similar conditions... holds Dec-Jan form of 12472 (1/5, 2p) so can go well during the deep winter months...

**4<sup>th</sup> – THE NEWEST ONE**

A better effort than it looked as he was up on the sharp end from the off and fended off the first wave of challengers before only just giving way to the second bunch that came at him... worth keeping an eye on him getting his PC again in the coming weeks... **LH tracks | 2m7f-3m2f | Oct-Dec = 41125121 (4/8, 2p - all 4 career wins)**...

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**145 Cheltenham – Grade 2 2m Novice Chase | Good – 8 ran**

**1<sup>st</sup> – LEAU DU SUD**

Won as his advantage on the rating suggested he should have, but despite that it was hard not to be impressed by the effort, and he looks a future G1 player over fences... winners of this do generally keep progressing... with 12 of the last 27 winners winning next time out and 18 of 27 finishing first or second next time out... Dan Skelton also has some decent Cheltenham stats that suggest he's got a good chance of following up on his next start... **D Skelton | SP 5/2 or less | WON at Cheltenham LTO (but NOT the Festival) = 10/16, 1p | +£8.00...** stats you suspect LDS will meet when he next runs...

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**220 Cheltenham – Class 1 2m4.5f Paddy Power Gold Cup Hcp Chase | Good – 15 ran**

**2<sup>nd</sup> – GA LAW**

A solid run from the 8yo under his PC and this improved his PC figures to... **2m3f-2m5f | tracks with undulations | NOT G1 level = 2211111 (5/7, 2p - all 5 career wins)**... all his wins have come on G/S or quicker ground (he is 0/5, 0p on Soft) and he won't be wanting

the ground to soften up too much... although if it does, he could run down the field on Soft ground and find himself better handicapped for when the ground dries out again...

#### **4<sup>th</sup> – MADARA**

The first home of those held up in rear (first 3 were ridden... CP | front of mid-div | CP/FR) and I just wonder if they've got a bit of a longer to medium term plan for him... this was his first try past 2m1f (ran over further in France when trained there) and he was held on to out the back for a lot of this race and did his best work once they turned for home for the final time... his two wins over here have come on Soft ground so could be that they are waiting for the ground to start cutting up before properly unleashing him... he won at the December Cheltenham meeting last season over 2m0.5f and he could be interesting if going for the December version of this race...

#### **5<sup>th</sup> – FUGITIF**

Ran like he was maybe needing this first run of the season, which is a potential as he's now 1/5, 1p on seasonal debut... he should go down a little for this run and that would put him on a more workable mark... he worth looking out for under the following... **Handicaps in Nov-March | NO Headgear | OR <152 = 122124111 (5/9, 3p – all 5 career wins)**... also worth noting that this was his first run off a wind-op and his trainer – Richard Hobson – is 0/21, 3p with his runners on first run off a wind-op, improving to 4/18, 2p on their second run off a wind-op and 9/49, 9p on their 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> runs combined off a wind-op... so his runners do seem to improve for that first outing after having their wind done... he won the December version of this last season after finishing 4<sup>th</sup> in this on seasonal debut... and that will likely be a target for him again...

#### **PU – GINNYS DESTINY**

The fact this was seasonal debut for him was always the worry and he's now 0/4, 1p on seasonal debut (and he's 0/6, 3p off breaks of >60-days) and clearly needs his first run back... he's 3 from 3 on second run of a season so every chance he'll improve plenty for this run and I still have his PC as... **LH tracks | DSLR <61 = 22111211 (5/8, 3p - all 5 career wins)**...

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#### **255 Cheltenham – Class 2 3m Handicap Hurdle | Good – 12 ran**

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> – GOWEL ROAD**

Likely just bumped into a horse on an upward curve and well ahead of his mark in the shape of the winner DOYEN QUEST... but he comes out of this with plenty credit, ran his normal solid race and improved his PC figures to... **DSLR 21-42 | Fields of <16 | C2 or less = 24311114 (4/8, 2p - all 4 career wins)**...

#### **4<sup>th</sup> – THANKSFORTHEHELP**

Much more like from the 7yo and this showed he's on a very workable mark at the minute on OR 118... the ground may have been a little on the quick side for him as he's now 0/3, 0p on Good ground and he may just want the ground to start cutting up a bit before fully letting himself down... he might also just have needed this run to fully tune him up for the season as he's now 0/7, 1p on 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> run of the season and I'd maybe now apply the following PC to him... **G/S or softer | NOT 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> run of season = 101322 (2/6, 3p – both career wins)...**

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#### **330 Cheltenham – Class 3 2m5f Intermediate Handicap Hurdle | Good – 10 ran**

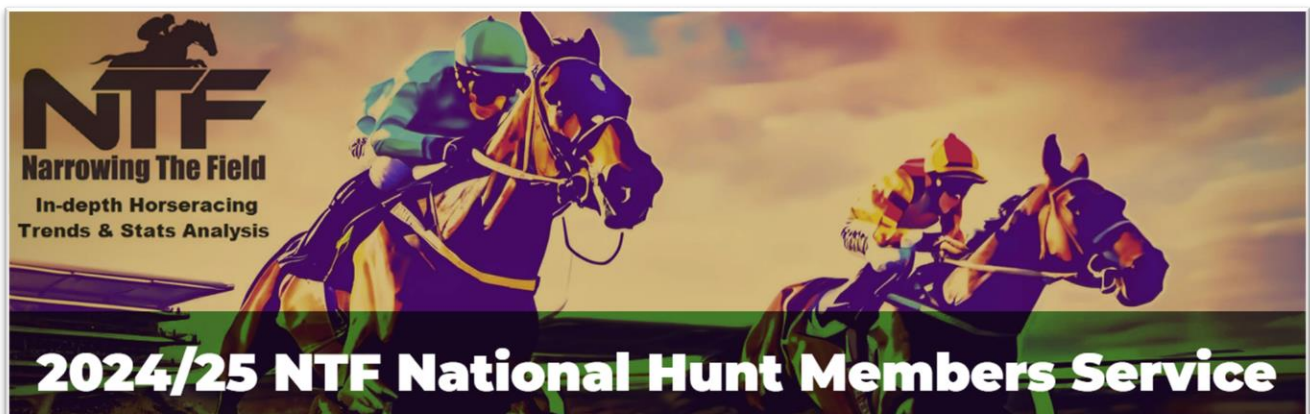
#### **3<sup>rd</sup> – WONDERFUL EAGLE**

A solid run from the 5yo and enough in this that suggests his mark of OR 117 is still within range for him... now 1113 (3/4, 1p) on G/S or quicker ground and whilst he does handle softer, it could be that he's at his best on ground such as this...

#### **PU – FIRE FLYER**

He was hampered by the UR horse in front of him 3-out but I'm not convinced he was going to be laying down a serious challenge anyway... good chance he's best going Right-Handed... now 0/4, 2p on LH tracks compared 3/5 on RH tracks... and could be we'll see better from him when going back the other way round...

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## **SUNDAY**

### **110 Cheltenham – Class 2 2m0.5f Maiden Hurdle | Good – 4 ran**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> – ACE OF SPADES**

A battling performance from the 5yo here and he dug in deep to get himself back to the front after being passed. The Skeltons have some very solid stats when looking to following up with similar types to this one... **D Skelton/H Skelton | Hurdles over 2m4f or less | SP 5/1 or less | DSLR 30 or less | Won a Maiden Hurdle LTO = 23/38 | 61% S/R | +£20.31 – W&P 30/38 | 79% S/R...** and worth watching out to see where they go next with this lad...

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### **145 Cheltenham – Class 3 2m4.5f Novices' Limited Handicap chase | Good – 7 ran**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> – PEAKY BOY**

Improved as the race went on here and there was plenty to like about this debut chasing run from the 6yo, who is now 3 from 3 at Cheltenham... Henderson generally places these debut chase winners well on their next start... **N Henderson | Novice Chases in Aug-Feb | Soft or quicker | SP <7/1 | DSLR 30 or less | WON on Chase debut LTO (SP 4/1 or less) = 26/51 | 51% S/R | +£9.98 – W&P 30/51 | 59% S/R...**

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> – GUARD YOUR DREAMS**

Not convinced he wants to be going past 2m4f (now 0/5, 0p over >2m4f)... and not convinced he'll make into a better chaser than he was a hurdler... but he could pick off something from on or around his current mark of OR 136... I'd have loose PC for him as... **2m4f or less | fields of 12 or less | Sept-Jan = 151311141 (6/9 – all 6 career wins)...**

#### **4<sup>th</sup> – PRIMOZ**

Emptied quickly here and he either didn't stay the 2m4.5f trip (first try beyond 2m 0.5f) or didn't handle the hill (or both)... drop back in trip and/or a return to an easier track may be what is needed...

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### **255 Cheltenham – Class 1 3m3.5f Handicap Chase | Good – 10 ran**

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> – SURREY QUEST**

I don't think he's at his absolute best on Very Undulating tracks like this but no doubt his stamina reserves kicked in as they faced up the hill on the climb to the line and he did all his best work when the win was out of reach for him... this effort took his Oct-Dec form to... **131141 in Oct-Dec (4/7, 2p)...** and I have a loose set of PC for him as... **DSLR 31+ | NOT V Und tracks = 21143711 (4/8, 2p – all 4 career wins)...** although enough in his runs to

suggest we can be flexible, to a certain extent, on his PC at the minute... could well have a National of some sort in him this season...

### **PU – NASSALAM**

Been struggling since running away with the Welsh National last season but in fairness he's been set some real tough challenges and/or hasn't had his PC to attack... he should get dropped a few for this effort and there should still be races for him somewhere given he's still only a 7yo... the following are likely to be his PC... **G2 or less | tracks with undulations | Soft or Heavy | Oct-Feb = 11312111 (6/8, 1p – 6 of 7 career wins)...**

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### **330 Cheltenham – Class 1 2m0.5f Greatwood Handicap Hurdle | Good – 15 ran**

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> – BE AWARE**

Almost managed to run down the winner BURDETT ROAD after the last but that one did have the advantage of being fit from the flat and also was in a prime position throughout... and like this one he's also a lightly raced type with plenty to offer from a handicapping perspective... so the result makes perfect sense... BE AWARE will get a hike in the weights for this, but I suspect he's well below his handicap ceiling right now and should be able to absorb the rise he gets for this run... will be interesting to see what they target from here...

#### **6<sup>th</sup> – FIERCELY PROUD**

Travelled and jumped well enough out the back for most of the race but he made his move down the inside as they turned for home (and also stayed more to the inside up the hill to the line) and I suspect that compromised his chances enough to stop him battling it out for a place... coming near side/wide was the preferred route of choice on the hurdles track and as such I'd mark this effort up a few pounds on the bare form, he still looks like he should be up to defying his current mark of OR 129...

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### **400 Cheltenham – Listed 2m0.5f Bumper | Good – 6 ran**

#### **1<sup>st</sup> – FORTUNE DE MER**

Won as cosy as he liked here, and he looks a classy prospect to keep on the right side of... the win also boosted the following Skelton Bumper Angle... **D Skelton | Bumpers | Geldings with 1 or 2 previous Bumper starts | SP 3/1 or less = (since 2017) 22/40 | 55% S/R | +£15.50 – W&P 36/40 | 90% S/R... if you look at the angle for runners with an SP of >3/1 you get... 4/71 | 5% S/R | -£43.12 (54% below exp)...** so pretty clear the Skeltons know when one of their bumpers runners is ready to score off the back of a debut (or first 2) starts (and they or someone connected to the yard back it accordingly)...





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