

The week that was: 27th Nov- 3rd Dec 2017

Handicappers to follow?

Chasers

Belmont Park (30.11.17 Towc) I tipped this one in the 'notes' and he ran a decent race. He'll win handicap chases and is worth keeping an eye on. No doubt the market won't miss him NTO but you never know. I thought he jumped very well here and stayed on again at the end as if he wanted further than 2m5f. This was a weak race but having departed early on his last run, which was after 161 days off, there is a chance he needed it. Bridgwater isn't firing in the winners either.

Hurdlers

Oi Oi (30.11.17 Towc) I flagged this mare in my 'through the card notes' as maybe worth some 'track side change'. In the end she finished 5th, beaten 20! I'm not sure that tells the full story though and given this was her handicap debut you'd like to think there will be more to come. She was held up last for the most part, jumping well. She was niggled, cajoled, and given reminders throughout various parts of the race. It could be she found it happening too quickly and needs further. Or it could be she's just inexperienced and will progress naturally with time, or she needs headgear to concentrate. She did keep responding for pressure until after the last and Jonjo is having another of his quiet spells. Worth keeping an eye on, especially if on her next run she is 'doing something different'.

Big Penny (01.12.17 Donc) hmm... another unexposed mare for Jonjo here... we had three qualifiers in this race from section 1 and she looked most interesting. In the end I dodged 'tipping' as I couldn't make up my mind. Had this one won, I'd have been cursing. She had the 'magic formula' profile (stats qual/unexposed/doing something different) here... third run after a break, second handicap run, dropped two classes and moved up in distance, 9/1. If I had tipped her I'd have been furious with the ride... I think she should have won this and have no idea what RM was playing at. For me he waited far too long to get after her and she somewhat flew at the finish. The winner was behind him for most of the race but moved forward turning in and the jockey let the race get away from him. She stayed on well for second, closing all the way. In fairness to RM she did look green at times and will have learnt plenty from this. I suspect she won't be 9/1 next time, but I think she ran like a well handicapped horse. She has wins in her. She did have the TT on for the first time also, maybe it wasn't until after the last that she realised she could breathe properly, and then really motored. RM should have trusted her stamina and started riding much sooner. I should have been annoyed with myself after this race for not making her a 'notes' horse, in the end I got away with it.

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I'll mention **Don't Ask** (02.12.17 Bang) who won a novices hurdle for Warren Greatrex. I happened to watch the race and I think he is worth following just because of his attitude. I was impressed by how much he appeared to want to win. He responded for presser, head bowed, and just kept galloping. He outbattled the 5/6 fav in second place. Keeping horses onside who like their job and want to please you is never a bad idea. He made all here as well which showed a level of maturity beyond his years.

Stats The Way To Do It....

Gavin Sheehan

GS is undoubtedly talented but over the summer Warren Greatrex dumped him as stable jockey and recruited Dickie Johnson to the job, when available. (I think Hobbs comes first, then Tim Vaughan, and he has commitments to Henry Daly) He'd lost his way somewhat and his confidence had taken a battering.

In recent weeks, freed from his #1 duties for WG, I have noticed him riding winners for a few other trainers. I wouldn't back any of the following systematically, but you may find it of use, especially as a 'starting point'...

Since the start of September on all runners priced 14/1 or shorter SP...

- 57 bets / 14 wins / 33 places / 25% sr / +30
- Rode the horse last time: 22 bets / 9 wins / 16 places / 41% sr / +36 SP / +41 BFSP

Jamie Snowden and Paul Webber have used him plenty in recent weeks and to good effect. They clearly rate him. He will often be one of the better riders in poor mid-week races and it's worth keeping watch on his mounts. He seems to do better on horses that he knows and has ridden before. Plenty of logic in that. I'd like to think he is more confident than he was a few months back and that will transmit to his mounts. It would appear a few smaller yards are taking note of his availability.

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Evan Williams

Jamie posted a comment touching on an old 'system' I'd discussed before in relation to Evan Williams and his hurdlers.

I have just had a look and a simple approach did appear...

- 2015- (up to end 3rd December 2017)
- Evan Williams
- Handicap Hurdles ('standard' handicaps)
- Horse WON Last Time Out
- Any odds

47 bets / 15 wins / 25 places / 32% sr / +83 SP / +153 BFSP

Those results are boosted by the 40/1 winner of Court Minstrel a couple of years back, but even without him they look solid. These types are underestimated by the market. There are not too many qualifiers but most of the time it would be to keep them onside.

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David Pipe

When tipping a few more losers last week I stumbled across some fascinating stats for Pipe runners that Pulled Up on their last start. Blowing three points on said race will have been worth it if the following can point to some winners in the months ahead... every cloud...

David Pipe/ 2012- / All Chases / PU LTO

- 11/1 or shorter SP: 48 bets / 16 wins / 22 places / 33% sr / +79 SP / +98 BFSP / AE 2.2
- 14/1 or shorter SP: 59 bets / 17 wins / 24 places / 29% sr / +83 SP / +105 BFSP / AE 2.1
- 16/1 + : 1/32,4p, -6

This angle is saved in my HRB account and I'll flag any 'qualifiers' in the Test Zone.

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Right, I think that's the lot for this week, I hope you enjoyed the read,

Josh