

COMMENTS AND SELECTIONS - YORK

RACE 1: PADDY POWER 'MAKING FLAT LESS FLAT' HANDICAP

Alligator Alley **Raasel** **Copper Knight**

Raasel made it six wins from his last seven starts when scoring at Goodwood two weeks ago and, despite a further 7lb rise, he must enter calculations. Copper Knight has won six times here, including the last couple of runnings of this race, and he should give his followers a good run for their money, while Newbury second Mountain Peak also warrants respect. However, at the prices, a chance is taken on ALLIGATOR ALLEY. He won a Listed race over C&D when trained by Joseph O'Brien and made a pleasing stable/seasonal debut when third at Wolverhampton in March.

NO. HORSE NAME

- 1 GOOD EFFORT Has won nine races from 5f to 7f on ground varying from good to firm to good to soft and on the all-weather. Finished 1 1/2l behind Bouttemont when sixth of 14 at 9-1 on his latest outing at Newcastle over 6f last month.
- 2 COPPER KNIGHT Has won 11 races at 5f on ground varying from good to firm to soft and on the all-weather. Beaten 5l behind Zarzyni at 28-1 when seventh of 11 on his latest outing at Musselburgh over 5f (good to soft) last month.
- 3 RAASEL Winner of seven races at 5f on ground varying from good to soft. Won on his latest outing when 11-4fav at Goodwood over 5f (good) last month, beating Clarendon House by a head.
- 4 BEDFORD FLYER He has won four times at 5f on good ground and on the all-weather. Beaten 13l behind Ava Go Joe at 3-1 when seventh of 8 on his latest outing at Ripon over 5f (good) last month.
- 5 MOUNTAIN PEAK Has won nine races from 5f to 7f on good to firm and good ground and on the all-weather. Beaten a neck by Blue De Vega when second of 7 at 28-1 on his latest outing at Newbury over 5f (good) last month.
- 6 JAWWAAL Winner of six races from 5f to 7f on good to firm and good ground and on the all-weather. Finished 4l behind Mondammej when sixth of 10 at 4-1jt-fav on his latest outing at Haydock over 5f (good to firm) in September last year.
- 7 ALLIGATOR ALLEY Successful twice at 5f on good to firm ground, but last win was over two years ago. Third of 6 behind Tone The Barone beaten 2 3/4l at 20-1 on his latest outing at Wolverhampton over 5f in March.
- 8 DIGITAL He has won three times at 5f on good to soft and soft ground and on the all-weather. Third of 7 behind Blue De Vega beaten 1 1/4l at 15-8jt-fav on his latest outing at Newbury over 5f (good) last month.
- 9 ZARGUN He has won three times from 5f to 1m 1f on good and good to soft ground. Beaten 15l behind King's Lynn at 80-1 when 13th of 15 on his latest outing at Doncaster over 6f (soft) in November last year.
- 10 READY FREDDIE GO Winner of six races at 5f on good to firm and good ground and on the all-weather. A winner at 9-1 at Thirsk over 5f (good to firm) on his latest outing last month, beating Khabib by a short head.

- 11 **STRONG POWER** Winner of five races from 5f to 6f on good ground and on the all-weather. Third of 7 behind Night On Earth beaten 1l at 6-1 on his latest outing at Lingfield over 5f last month.
- 12 **FINE WINE** Winner of six races at 5f on good and soft ground and on the all-weather. Beaten 1 1/4l by Candescence when second of 14 at 15-2 on his latest outing at Hamilton over 5f (good) earlier this month.
- 13 **MEJTHAAM** Successful at 5f and 6f on good to firm ground and on the all-weather. Beaten 4l behind Lipsink at 9-1 when eighth of 10 on her latest outing at Chelmsford City over 5f in September last year. Having her first run for a new stable today, previously with Charles Hills.

RACE 2:AL BASTI EQUIWORLD DUBAI MIDDLETON FILLIES' STAKES (FILLIES' AND MARES' GROUP 2)

Ville De Grace Noon Star Thunder Kiss

Sir Michael Stoute is seeking his eighth win in this race and holds a strong hand, with the unexposed Noon Star entitled to build on her recent win in Listed company at Nottingham. However, her stablemate VILLE DE GRACE was only narrowly denied in the Dahlia at Newmarket on her return and, with further improvement still possible, the daughter of Le Havre may have the edge. Irish raiders Thunder Kiss and Forbearance also boast impressive profiles and shouldn't be far away either.

NO. HORSE NAME

- 1 **ARISTIA** Successful twice at 1m 2f on good to firm and good ground. Beaten 4 1/2l behind Rumi at 25-1fav when 9th of 10 on her latest outing in the Group 2 La Nonette Stakes at Deauville over 1m 2f (good to soft) in August last year.
- 2 **FORBEARANCE** She has won four times from 1m to 1m 5f on good to firm and good ground and on the all-weather. A winner at 4-1 in the Group 3 Princess Royal Stakes at Newmarket over 1m 4f (good to firm) on her latest outing in September last year, beating Sayyida by 2 1/2l.
- 3 **LILAC ROAD** She has won three times from 1m to 1m 2f on good to firm and good ground and on the all-weather. Finished 2l behind Dreamloper when fifth of 6 at 5-1 on her latest outing in the Group 2 Dahlia Stakes at Newmarket over 1m 1f (good to firm) earlier this month.
- 4 **NOON STAR** She has won three times from 1m to 1m 2f on ground varying from good to firm to soft. Won on her latest outing when 8-11fav at Nottingham over 1m 2f (good to firm) last month, beating Technique by a head.
- 5 **THUNDER KISS** Winner of five races from 1m 3f to 1m 4f on yielding and yielding - soft ground and on the all-weather. Won on her latest outing when 2-1fav at Cork over 1m 4f (yielding - soft) last month, beating Annerville by 4 1/2l.
- 6 **VILLE DE GRACE** She has won three times from 6f to 1m 2f on good to soft ground and on the all-weather. Beaten a nose by Dreamloper when second of 6 at 85-40 on her latest outing in the Group 2 Dahlia Stakes at Newmarket over 1m 1f (good to firm) earlier this month.

RACE 3: PADDY POWER HAMBLETON HANDICAP

Isla Kai Lightning Company Trais Fluors

ISLA KAI's record since being upped to a mile speaks for itself and he is entitled to strip fitter for an excellent run in the Spring Cup last month. Nigel Tinkler's charge doesn't hang about and he may be hard to pass up front, with Redcar winner Lightning Company looking a big danger off a featherweight. Trais Fluors was unlucky not to get a clear run at Thirsk last time out and can have a say along with the likes of top-weight Brunch, Cruyff Turn and La Trinidad.

NO. HORSE NAME

- 1 BRUNCH Winner of five races from 7f to 1m on good to firm and good ground and on the all-weather. Third of 7 behind Master Of The Seas beaten 4l at 12-1 on his latest outing in the Group 3 Earl Of Sefton Stakes at Newmarket over 1m 1f (good) last month.
- 2 BLESS HIM Winner of six races from 7f to 1m on firm and good to firm ground and on the all-weather. Third of 11 behind My Oberon beaten 2 1/2l at 6-1 on his latest outing at Newcastle over 1m last month.
- 3 ISLA KAI He has won four times from 7f to 1m on good to soft and soft ground. Finished 1l behind Modern News when fourth of 17 at 16-1 on his latest outing at Newbury over 1m (good) last month.
- 4 WHAT'S THE STORY Winner of five races from 7f to 1m on ground varying from good to firm to soft and on the all-weather, but last win was over two years ago. Finished 4 1/2l behind Notre Belle Bete when fourth of 8 at 8-1 on his latest outing at Kempton over 1m last month.
- 5 CRUYFF TURN Winner of five races from 7f to 1m on ground varying from good to firm to good to soft. Beaten 1 3/4l behind Redarna at 9-1 when seventh of 15 on his latest outing at Thirsk over 1m (good to firm) last month.
- 6 HORTZADAR Winner of seven races from 7f to 1m on ground varying from good to firm to soft. A winner at 3-1 at Ripon over 1m (good) on his latest outing last month, beating A Boy Named Ivy by 1 1/4l.
- 7 REDARNA Has won 13 races from 7f to 1m on ground varying from good to firm to soft. A winner at 66-1 at Thirsk over 1m (good to firm) on his latest outing last month, beating On A Session by 1l.
- 8 LA TRINIDAD He has won four times from 7f to 1m 1f on good to firm and good ground. Finished 4 1/2l behind Shelir when fourth of 20 at 8-1 on his latest outing over this course and distance (soft) in October last year.
- 9 SNASH Successful twice at 6f on the all-weather. Beaten 2l behind Redarna at 40-1 when eighth of 15 on his latest outing at Thirsk over 1m (good to firm) last month.
- 10 GARDEN OASIS Winner of seven races from 1m to 1m 2f on good to firm and good ground. Beaten 18l behind Hortzadar at 12-1 when seventh of 8 on his latest outing at Ripon over 1m (good) last month.

- 11 LION TOWER Winner of six races from 6f to 1m on good to firm and good ground and on the all-weather. Finished 1 1/2l behind Redarna when fifth of 15 at 14-1 on his latest outing at Thirsk over 1m (good to firm) last month.
- 12 GIFTED RULER A winner at 6f on heavy ground, but that win was over two years ago. Beaten 15l behind Broken Spear at 8-1 when 11th of 22 on his latest outing at Doncaster over 7f (soft) in November last year. Having his first run for a new stable today, previously with Tom Dascombe.
- 13 TRAIS FLUORS Winner of seven races from 7f to 1m 1f on good to firm and good to soft ground and on the all-weather. Beaten 3 1/2l behind Redarna at 8-1 when 10th of 15 on his latest outing at Thirsk over 1m (good to firm) last month.
- 14 ATASER He has won three times from 6f to 7f on good ground. Finished 5l behind Coase when sixth of 10 at 7-1 on his latest outing at Newmarket over 1m (good) last month.
- 15 LIGHTENING COMPANY Successful at 7f and 1m on soft ground. A winner at 9-2 at Redcar over 1m (soft) on his latest outing last month, beating Hortzadar by a nose.

RACE 4:AL BASTI EQUIWORLD DUBAI DANTE STAKES (GROUP 2)

Magisterial Desert Crown El Bodegon

Desert Crown made a pleasing start to his career when running out a comfortable winner at Nottingham in November and he has been well supported for the Derby in recent weeks. Sir Michael Stoute has won this contest six times, with two of those going on to succeed in the Epsom Classic, and although there is every chance the son of Nathaniel will turn out to be a top-class prospect, the concern on this occasion has to be a lack of experience. With that in mind, the vote goes to MAGISTERIAL, who backed up his juvenile victory at Haydock under a penalty at Leicester, when stepping up to 1m2f for the first time, and the son of Frankel, whose dam is a half-sister to Lillie Langtry that produced an Oaks winner in the shape of Minding in 2016, is capable of further progression. El Bodegon's Group 1 success at Saint-Cloud has worked out nicely, with the runner-up currently the ante-post favourite for the Derby and the fourth a leading contender for the Irish 2000 Guineas, while others to note include Bluegrass, whose connections have done little wrong in Derby trials of late, and Kingmax.

NO. HORSE NAME

- 1 BLUEGRASS A winner at 1m on good ground. Finished 6l behind Piz Badile when fourth of 9 at 11-2 on his latest outing in the Group 3 P.W. McGrath Memorial Ballysax Stakes at Leopardstown over 1m 2f (good) last month.
- 2 DARK MOON RISING Successful at 7f and 1m on good ground and on the all-weather. Finished 2 3/4l behind Checkandchallenge when fourth of 6 at 9-4 on his latest outing at Newcastle over 1m last month.
- 3 DESERT CROWN A winner at 11-1 at Nottingham over 1m (soft) on his latest outing in November last year, beating Schmilsson by 6l.

- 4 EL BODEGON He has won three times from 7f to 1m 2f on heavy ground. A winner at 10-1fav in the Group 1 Prix Criterium de Saint-Cloud - Group 1 at Saint-Cloud over 1m 2f (heavy) on his latest outing in October last year, beating Stone Age by 1 1/2l. Having his first run for a new stable today.
- 5 KINGMAX A winner at 1m on the all-weather. Finished 6l behind Native Trail when fourth of 6 at 40-1 on his latest outing in the Group 3 Craven Stakes at Newmarket over 1m (good) last month.
- 6 MAGISTERIAL Successful at 1m and 1m 2f on good to firm and soft ground. A winner at 9-4 at Leicester over 1m 2f (good to firm) on his latest outing last month, beating Ruling Dynasty by 1 1/2l.
- 7 MASEKELA Successful at 6f and 7f on good and soft ground. Beaten 3 1/2l by Eydon when second of 6 at 2-1fav on his latest outing at Newmarket over 1m 1f (good) last month.
- 8 ROYAL PATRONAGE He has won three times from 7f to 1m on ground varying from good to firm to good to soft. Beaten 7l behind Coroebus at 33-1 when eighth of 15 on his latest outing in the Group 1 Qipco 2000 Guineas at Newmarket over 1m (good) last month.
- 9 WHITE WOLF Full brother to Dubai Lady, won at 1m. Won on his latest outing when 9-4fav at Southwell over 1m last month, beating Bearaway by 1/2l.