

COMMENTS & SELECTIONS - AYR

RACE 1: VIRGIN BET APPRENTICE HANDICAP

Hortzadar Ventura Rascal Cosa Sara

HORTZADAR had Ventura Rascal (second) and Hale End (fifth) behind when scoring by a length over C&D last month and he was put up 3lb for that effort. The eight-year-old remains well below his previous winning mark of 91 in April last year and he looks ready to strike once again. If Cosa Sara can run to the level of her penultimate start, when successful over 7f at this track, then she could also have a say.

NO. HORSE NAME

- 1 HORTZADAR Has won eight races from 7f to 1m on ground varying from good to firm to soft. A winner at 12-1 over this course and distance (good to soft) on his latest outing last month, beating Ventura Rascal by 1l.
- 2 TELE RED He has won four times from 1m to 1m 2f on ground varying from good to firm to soft. Finished 3 1/2l behind Global Spirit when sixth of 12 at 13-2 on his latest outing at Pontefract over 1m (good to soft) last month. Has won at York and Haydock this season.
- 3 VENTURA RASCAL Winner of six races from 7f to 1m on good to firm and good ground. Beaten 1l by Hortzadar when second of 12 at 28-1 on his latest outing over this course and distance (good to soft) last month.
- 4 HALE END A winner at 1m on good ground. Finished 1 1/2l behind Hortzadar when fifth of 12 at 4-1fav on his latest outing over this course and distance (good to soft) last month.
- 5 STARSHOT Placed once in ten starts. Beaten 8l behind Poet's Dawn at 40-1 when eighth of 11 on his latest outing at Redcar over 1m (good) last month.
- 6 CHINESE SPIRIT Has won nine races from 1m to 1m 1f on ground varying from good to firm to heavy. Beaten 2 1/2l behind Ayr Poet at 10-1 when seventh of 13 on his latest outing over this course and distance (good to soft) last month.
- 7 COSA SARA Winner of five races from 7f to 1m on ground varying from good to firm to good to soft. Finished 6l behind Mac Ailey when fourth of 8 at 5-1 on her latest outing at Hamilton over 1m (good to soft) last month. Has won twice at Ayr this season.

RACE 2: VIRGIN BET MAIDEN STAKES (GBB RACE)

Golden Strike

Glory Hyde

Bona Fortuna

Inexperience at the start probably did for GOLDEN STRIKE on his debut at Pontefract 12 days ago but the manner in which he powered home to claim a close third was notable and he could be a different proposition with that experience to draw upon. Glory Hyde also catches the eye after a solid run at York last month, while Bona Fortuna and Firebird appeal most from the newcomers.

NO. HORSE NAME

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| 1 | BENEATH THE SAND | Foaled 1 Mar. Half-brother to Alashar, won at 7f and 1m 1f. |
| 2 | BONA FORTUNA | Foaled 16 Mar. Full brother to Mojomaker, won at 5f. |
| 3 | ETRETAT | Foaled 10 Mar. Dam won at 1m. Unplaced in both starts. Finished 4l behind Invictus Spiritus when fifth of 10 at 50-1 on his latest outing at Yarmouth over 7f (good to firm) in August. |
| 4 | GOLDEN STRIKE | Foaled 28 Apr. Half-brother to Shotgun Express, won three times at 1m. Third of 12 behind Bondy beaten 1 1/2l at 18-5 on his racecourse debut at Pontefract over 6f (good to soft) last month. |
| 5 | SPYROTHEDRAGON | Foaled 3 May. Dam won at 5f. Well beaten at 33-1 behind Asteverdi when last of 6 on his racecourse debut at Musselburgh over 7f (good to soft) last month. |
| 6 | ALLEGRO BRILLANTE | Foaled 23 Mar. Dam a lightly raced maiden. Unplaced in both starts. Finished 9l behind Havana Rose when fifth of 8 at 200-1 on her latest outing at Carlisle over 6f (good to firm) last month. |
| 7 | FIREBIRD | Foaled 21 Mar. Half-sister to Tolstoy, won three times at 6f. |
| 8 | GLORY HYDE | Foaled 10 May. Placed once in three starts. Beaten 1 1/4l by Invincible Molly when second of 6 at 33-1 on her latest outing at York over 6f (good to soft) last month. |

RACE 3: VIRGIN BET EVERY SATURDAY MONEY BACK HANDICAP

Star Start Ayr Poet Montevideo

Course specialist Ayr Poet returns to a more suitable trip after a near-miss over 1m4f at Hamilton last week and should go well off a 2lb lower mark, but the progressive STAR START is just preferred. The penny has really dropped for the Rebecca Menzies-trained gelding, who made it two wins from his last three starts when scoring over this trip at Beverley last week and he escapes a penalty for that apprentice handicap success. Montevideo is respected on her handicap debut.

NO. HORSE NAME

- 1 HARTSWOOD He has won four times from 7f to 1m on good to firm and good ground and on the all-weather. Finished 1 1/2l behind Tosen Wish when fifth of 13 at 15-2 on his latest outing at Southwell over 1m last month.
- 2 STRESSFREE A winner at 1m 1f on soft ground. Finished 2l behind Forceful Speed when fourth of 6 at 8-1 on his latest outing at Redcar over 1m 2f (good) last month.
- 3 BASHFUL Winner of five races from 1m to 1m 4f on good to soft and heavy ground and on the all-weather; has also won a hurdle in November last year. Finished 14l behind Restorer when fourth of 8 at 5-1 on his latest outing at Chester over 1m 4f (good to soft) last month. Has won 3 times this season.
- 4 TILSITT Winner of six races from 1m to 1m 2f on ground varying from good to firm to soft and on the all-weather. Finished 3 1/2l behind Capital Theory when fifth of 9 at 12-1 on his latest outing here over 1m 5f (good to soft) last month.
- 5 MONTEVIDEO Placed once in five starts. Beaten 3 1/2l by Regheeb when second of 5 at 5-1 on her latest outing at Lingfield over 1m 2f last month.
- 6 GLASSES UP Has won eight races from 1m to 1m 6f on ground varying from good to firm to soft. Beaten 5l behind Capital Theory at 7-1 when seventh of 9 on his latest outing here over 1m 5f (good to soft) last month.
- 7 AYR POET Has won nine races from 1m to 1m 2f on ground varying from good to soft. Third of 5 behind Where's Jeff beaten 3/4l at 7-2 on his latest outing at Hamilton over 1m 4f (good to soft) last month. Has won 3 times here this season.
- 8 STAR START He has won three times from 1m 1f to 1m 2f on good and soft ground. Won on his latest outing when 10-3fav at Beverley over 1m 2f (soft) last month, beating Chester Tonik by 1l. Has won 3 times this season.

RACE 4: VIRGIN BET HANDICAP

Abduction

Master Zoffany

William Dewhirst

Master Zoffany has to be respected following his win at Chester a month ago, while similar comments apply to William Dewhirst and Autumn Festival following their recent victories. That said, preference is for ABDUCTION, whose recent effort in the Silver Cup at this venue can easily be forgiven. Prior to that, the five-year-old was not disgraced in a valuable race over 7f at Ascot and a reproduction of that form would give him a big chance.

NO. HORSE NAME

- 1 MASTER ZOFFANY Winner of five races from 7f to 1m on good and good to soft ground and on the all-weather. A winner at 10-1 at Chester over 1m (good to soft) on his latest outing last month, beating Percy's Lad by 1 1/2l.
- 2 SIRONA Successful twice at 7f on good ground. Finished 3 1/2l behind Revich when fifth of 9 at 20-1 on her latest outing here over 1m (good to soft) last month.
- 3 AUTUMN FESTIVAL Has won eight races from 7f to 1m on ground varying from good to firm to soft. A winner at 13-2 at Beverley over 7f (soft) on his latest outing last month, beating Ugo Gregory by 1 1/2l. Carries a 5lb penalty today for that success.
- 4 ABDUCTION Winner of six races from 6f to 7f on ground varying from good to firm to good to soft and on the all-weather. Beaten 17l behind Wobwobwob at 20-1 when 21st of 25 on his latest outing here over 6f (good to soft) last month.
- 5 ON A SESSION Winner of five races from 5f to 7f on ground varying from good to yielding. Beaten 4 1/2l behind Master Zoffany at 20-1 when seventh of 12 on his latest outing at Chester over 1m (good to soft) last month.
- 6 ROCK MELODY She has won four times from 5f to 7f on good ground and on the all-weather. Third of 6 behind Iris Dancer beaten 1 1/4l at 9-4fav on her latest outing at Hamilton over 6f (good to soft) last month. Has won twice at Musselburgh this season.
- 7 WILLIAM DEWHIRST Successful at 6f and 7f on good to soft and heavy ground. A winner at 9-2 at Carlisle over 7f (good to soft) on his latest outing last month, beating Bicep by 1/2l. Has also won at Thirsk this season.