

COMMENTS & SELECTIONS - CURRAGH

RACE 1: WILLIAMHILL.IE IRISH EBF MAIDEN

Espionage Dark Side Quar Shamar

A case can be made for plenty of these but none more so than ESPIONAGE, after his encouraging debut effort at Galway a few weeks ago. The son of Galileo should only benefit from that experience and has plenty in his favour this afternoon. Dark Side is an obvious threat to the selection having also hit the crossbar on his racecourse bow, while Quar Shamar and Walsingham are both newcomers to note.

NO. HORSE NAME

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| 1 | ALEXANDER JOHN | Half-brother to Oud Metha Bridge, won four times at 1m. |
| 2 | ASGARD'S CAPTAIN | Unplaced in all three starts. Beaten 17l behind Slan Abhaile at 200-1 when 14th of 16 on his latest outing here over 6f (good) in June. |
| 3 | BARNEY HYLAND | Dam a lightly raced maiden. |
| 4 | DARK SIDE | Half-brother to King Zain, won twice at 7f. Beaten 1 3/4l by Imadpour when second of 11 at 7-1 on his racecourse debut at Cork over 7f (heavy) earlier this month. |
| 5 | DJOCKOVIC | Dam unraced. |
| 6 | ESPIONAGE | Dam won twice at 1m and 1m 4f including a Group 2 race. Beaten 1 3/4l by Alexandroupolis when second of 11 at 17-2 on his racecourse debut at Galway over 1m 1f (soft) earlier this month. |
| 7 | MARCO MONACO | Half-brother to Benz, won over hurdles at 2m. Beaten 6l behind Bold Discovery at 16-1 when seventh of 11 on his racecourse debut at Naas over 7f (good - yielding) earlier this month. |
| 8 | NARMAR | Half-brother to Chicago Bear, won twice between 7f and 1m 1f. |
| 9 | NEW VARIANT | Dam a lightly raced maiden. Beaten 9l behind Bold Discovery at 17-2 when eighth of 11 on his racecourse debut at Naas over 7f (good - yielding) earlier this month. |
| 10 | QUAR SHAMAR | Half-brother to Quarantini, won at 7f. |
| 11 | SHOT OF LOVE | Half-brother to Last Sunset, won at 7f. Finished 6l behind Al Riffa when sixth of 11 at 9-1 on his racecourse debut over this course and distance (good) last month. |
| 12 | SIERRA BLANCA | Half-brother to Somehow, won five times between 1m 1f and 1m 3f including a Group 2 race. Unplaced in both starts. Finished 5l behind Zoinnocent when |

sixth of 10 at 11-8fav on his latest outing at Gowran Park over 7f (yielding) in June.

13 WALSINGHAM Full brother to Duke De Sessa, won three times between 1m and 1m 4f including two Group 3 races.

14 ENGELINE Half-sister to Glorious Man, won twice at 1m.

15 FANCY GLOVES Dam a lightly raced maiden. Beaten 13l behind Rothko at 100-1 when 9th of 12 on her racecourse debut at Punchestown over 1m (good - yielding) earlier this month.

16 THALARA Half-sister to Third Intention, won four times in chases between 2m and 2m 4f, three times over hurdles at 2m and 2m 4f and on the flat at 1m 5f including two Group 2 races.

RACE 2:IRISH EBF MEDIAN SIRES SERIES MAIDEN

Mount King

Starry Heavens

Cape Bridgewater

MOUNT KING finished a far from disgraced fifth on his racecourse bow over 7f, and the fact that he kept on well on that occasion suggests a stiffer stamina test today should work in his favour. He can make his presence felt, along with Starry Heavens, who has shown plenty of promise in all three career starts. Cape Bridgewater boasts an appealing pedigree and completes the shortlist for powerful connections.

NO. HORSE NAME

1 CAPE BRIDGEWATER Half-brother to Maraweh, won five times over hurdles at 3m.

2 THATS JET Dam won three times at 6f and 7f. Beaten 17l behind Bold Discovery at 66-1 when last of 11 on his racecourse debut at Naas over 7f (good - yielding) earlier this month.

3 UNION FLAG Dam a lightly raced maiden. Unplaced in both starts. Finished 6l behind National Emblem when fifth of 11 at 18-1 on his latest outing at Gowran Park over 7f (good to firm) last month.

4 NURBURGRING Half-brother to Senzazione, won at 1m.

5 HAPPENSTANCE Half-brother to Halite, won over hurdles at 2m 1f.

6 RUBIO DRACO Full brother to Downforce, won seven times between 5f and 7f. Beaten 5l behind Winemaker at 15-2 when 9th of 13 on his racecourse debut at Naas over 6f (good) last month.

7 YOU SEND ME Half-sister to Gerry's Way, won at 1m.

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| 8 | MOUNT KING | Dam unraced. Finished 4 1/2l behind Roman Hands when fifth of 15 at 11-1 on his racecourse debut at Galway over 7f (yielding) in July. |
| 9 | OMAR NAVARRO | Half-brother to Hey Pretty, won at 7f. Well beaten at 33-1 behind Apricot Twist when last of 10 on his racecourse debut at Naas over 6f (good) in July. |
| 10 | PICTURE OF A CITY | Half-brother to Quenelle D'or, won twice at 1m 3f and 1m 4f. |
| 11 | HASIYNA | Dam won at 1m. |
| 12 | STARRY HEAVENS | Placed once in three starts. Finished 4 1/2l behind Keep In Touch when fourth of 11 at 9-2 on her latest outing at Galway over 7f (soft) earlier this month. |
| 13 | PORTMAGEE | Dam unraced. |
| 14 | SAOIBH | Full sister to Solar System, won at 1m 3f. Unplaced in both starts. Beaten 11l behind Speirling Beag at 100-1 when eighth of 11 on her latest outing at Gowran Park over 1m (yielding - soft) earlier this month. |

RACE 3: IRISH EBF AUCTION SERIES RACE

Freedom Falls

Lord Massusus

Winemaker

In this competitive contest it may pay dividends to opt for FREEDOM FALLS, who has been edging in the right direction on her three outings. Following a career-best effort, when fourth at this venue last time out, the Jack Davison-trained filly can continue her ascendancy in this contest. Lord Massusus shed the maiden tag in convincing style at Listowel on Tuesday and merits the utmost consideration, while Winemaker warrants interest in the hope of maintaining his unbeaten record.

NO. HORSE NAME

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| 1 | LORD MASSUSUS | A winner at 13-2 at Listowel over 1m (good - yielding) on his latest outing earlier this month, beating With Love by 2 1/2l. |
| 2 | WINEMAKER | Half-brother to Pleasant Prize, won at 6f. A winner at 100-1 at Naas over 6f (good) on his latest outing last month, beating Mount Mary by 1/2l. |
| 3 | CHARMING LADY | A winner at 5f on yielding ground. Finished 3l behind Congo River when fourth of 6 at 40-1 on her latest outing at Dundalk over 5f earlier this month. |
| 4 | L'IMMORTALE | Dam a lightly raced maiden. Beaten 14l behind Betterdaysrcoming at 100-1 when 9th of 14 on his racecourse debut at Naas over 7f (good - yielding) earlier this month. |
| 5 | NATION OF STARS | Dam a lightly raced maiden. |
| 6 | FREEDOM FALLS | Unplaced in all three starts. Finished 1 3/4l behind Streets Of Gold when fourth of 11 at 33-1 on her latest outing over this course and distance (soft) earlier this month. |

7 TOOPROFITABLE Dam a lightly raced maiden. Unplaced in both starts. Beaten 6l behind Felix Natalis at 150-1 when eighth of 16 on her latest outing at Naas over 6f (good - yielding) earlier this month.

8 NET A PORTER QUEEN Dam a lightly raced maiden.

RACE 4: WILLIAM HILL IRELAND RENAISSANCE STAKES (GROUP 3)

Sam Maximus Art Power Just Beautiful

Art Power is sure to be popular here, having won this contest 12 months ago, but he may be opposable based on his latest outing at Haydock and a chance is taken on fellow UK raider SAM MAXIMUS. James Horton's colt was last seen winning a Listed contest at Newmarket last month and, if the first-time visor ekes out even more improvement, he looks capable of backing that performance up. Just Beautiful was below-par at Leopardstown on her reappearance, but she should fare better on this occasion.

NO. HORSE NAME

1 ART POWER Winner of five races from 5f to 6f on ground varying from good to yielding - soft and on the all-weather. Beaten 10l behind Minzaal at 7-1 when eighth of 12 on his latest outing in the Group 1 Sprint Cup Stakes at Haydock over 6f (good to firm) earlier this month.

2 POWER UNDER ME He has won three times at 6f on ground varying from good to yielding - soft. Beaten 4l behind Dexter Belle at 8-1 when 10th of 20 on his latest outing over this course and distance (soft) earlier this month.

3 KING OF BAVARIA Successful at 5f and 6f on heavy and yielding - soft ground. Third of 9 behind Curraheen Princess beaten 1l at 4-1 on his latest outing at Navan over 5f (good to soft) earlier this month.

4 SAM MAXIMUS Successful twice at 6f on good to firm and good ground. A winner at 14-1 at Newmarket over 6f (good) on his latest outing last month, beating Vadream by a head.

5 DEXTER BELLE Successful twice at 6f on good to firm and soft ground. A winner at 50-1 over this course and distance (soft) on her latest outing earlier this month, beating No More Porter by a neck.

6 JUST BEAUTIFUL Winner of five races at 7f on good to firm and good ground and on the all-weather. Beaten 9l behind Jadoomi at 9-4jt-fav when last of 8 on her latest outing in the Group 2 Clipper Logistics Boomerang Mile at Leopardstown over 1m (soft) earlier this month.

7 ANO SYRA She has won four times from 5f to 6f on good and yielding ground and on the all-weather. Finished 2 1/2l behind Tees Spirit when fourth of 10 at 4-1 on her latest outing at Tipperary over 5f (good) last month.

8 VERTIGINOUS A winner at 5f on good to firm ground. Beaten 8l behind Khaadem at 22-1 when last of 11 on her latest outing in the Group 2 King George Qatar Stakes at

Goodwood over 5f (good to firm) in July. Having her first run for a new stable today, previously with B J Meehan.

COMMENTS & SELECTIONS - EPSOM DOWNS

RACE 1: RIO FERDINAND FOUNDATION NURSERY

Benacre

Daydream Dancer

Out Of Shadows

Although his below-par effort at York last time will need to be forgiven, that was a strong race that BENACRE contested, and back at the scene of his debut victory in June, a chance is taken on him to return to winning ways. Daydream Dancer looks the type to improve for nurseries, and she's one to consider off an opening mark of 76, while Out Of Shadows is another to keep an eye on if the first-time cheekpieces have the desired effect.

NO. HORSE NAME

1 WHISTLE AND FLUTE Foaled 31 Mar. Successful at 5f and 6f on good to firm and good to soft ground. Finished 3 1/2l behind Safari Dream when sixth of 9 at 11-1 on his latest outing at Windsor over 5f (good) earlier this month. Has won at Brighton and Bath this season.

2 BENACRE Foaled 16 Apr. A winner at 7f on good to firm ground. Beaten 10l behind Kyeema at 10-1 when 10th of 14 on his latest outing at York over 7f (good) last month.

3 OUT OF SHADOWS Foaled 25 Mar. A winner at 6f on good to soft ground. Finished 3l behind Indian Dream when sixth of 9 at 22-1 on his latest outing at Doncaster over 7f (good) earlier this month.

4 LOOK BACK SMILING Foaled 20 Apr. Full brother to Flashcard, won three times at 6f and 1m. A winner at 6f on good to firm ground. Third of 8 behind Promoter beaten 4 1/2l at 9-4fav on his latest outing at Chepstow over 7f (soft) earlier this month.

5 MAJESTIC NEWLAW Foaled 16 Apr. Placed twice in three starts. Beaten 3l by Ancestral Land when second of 7 at 4-1 on his latest outing at Chepstow over 6f (soft) earlier this month.

6 DAYDREAM DANCER Foaled 4 Mar. Placed once in three starts. Beaten 3 1/2l by Rage Of Bamby when second of 12 at 9-2 on her latest outing at Leicester over 7f (good) earlier this month.

7 CHOURMO Foaled 14 Feb. Placed twice in four starts. Finished 8l behind Dance Havana when sixth of 8 at 11-1 on his latest outing at Yarmouth over 1m 1f (good to soft) earlier this month.

8 HUNKPAPA Foaled 23 Mar. Placed twice in six starts. Third of 10 behind Spioradalta beaten 1 3/4l at 4-1 on his latest outing at Catterick over 7f (good to soft) earlier this month.

RACE 2: DERBY 'WILD CARD' EBF CONDITIONS STAKES (GBB RACE)

Castle Way Ndaawi Struth

There wasn't much between Ndaawi and CASTLE WAY when they clashed at Newmarket last month, and they've both stepped forward from that in winning their next start, so they look the ones to concentrate on. Castle Way finished ahead of Ndaawi that day, and he was the more impressive of the two in victory next time, so the Godolphin runner is fancied to confirm the form with that rival. It would be foolish to discount Struth after his debut victory at Nottingham, and he could be open to any amount of improvement.

NO. HORSE NAME

1 CASTLE WAY Foaled 1 Apr. Half-brother to Palace Pier, won eight times at 7f and 1m including five Group 1 races. Won on his latest outing when 4-9fav at Haydock over 1m (good to firm) earlier this month, beating King Me by 2l.

2 NDAAWI Foaled 9 May. Half-brother to Hunterview, won three times over hurdles at 2m, twice on the flat at 7f and 1m 4f and in an all-weather flat race at 1m. Won on his latest outing when 8-13fav at Goodwood over 1m (good to soft) last month, beating Night Life by a head.

3 STRUTH Foaled 12 Mar. Half-brother to Miss You Too, won twice at 7f and 1m 2f. A winner at 13-2 at Nottingham over 1m (good to firm) on his latest outing last month, beating Going To The Moon by 4l.

4 DESFONDADO Foaled 25 Mar. Dam won at 1m. Unplaced in both starts. Finished 6l behind Theme Park when fifth of 12 at 25-1 on his latest outing at Kempton over 7f earlier this month.

5 CITE D'OR Foaled 28 Mar. Successful at 7f and 1m on good to firm and good ground. Won on her latest outing when 8-11fav at Beverley over 1m (good) earlier this month, beating Silk Bird by a short head. Has also won at Brighton this season.

RACE 3: STANLEY WOOTTON HANDICAP

Jewel In My Crown Bad Company The Whipmaster

This looks a tricky puzzle to solve, but JEWEL IN MY CROWN won a small-field event at Kempton last time in nice fashion, and a 1lb rise shouldn't prevent another bold showing, for all this is a deeper race. Bad Company won well here last time, and off a 4lb higher mark, he could go close again, while this represents a step down in class for The Whipmaster, however this shorter trip is a slight worry.

NO. HORSE NAME

1 WILKIE A winner at 1m 1f on the all-weather. Third of 7 behind Diamantis beaten a head at 4-1fav on his latest outing at Chantilly over 1m 3f (good) in April last year. Having his first run for a new stable today, previously with A Fabre in France.

- 2 PALAVECINO Winner of six races from 7f to 1m 4f on good and good to soft ground and on the all-weather. Beaten 6l behind Marching Army at 33-1 when eighth of 13 on his latest outing at Newbury over 1m 2f (good) earlier this month.
- 3 JEWEL IN MY CROWN Winner of five races from 1m to 1m 3f on good to firm and good ground and on the all-weather. A winner at 4-1 at Kempton over 1m 3f on her latest outing earlier this month, beating Pretty Sweet by 3/4l. Has also won at Windsor this season.
- 4 BAD COMPANY Winner of seven races from 1m 2f to 1m 4f on ground varying from good to heavy. A winner at 7-1 here over 1m 4f (heavy) on his latest outing earlier this month, beating Napper Tandy by 1 1/4l. Has also won at Newmarket this season.
- 5 THE WHIPMASTER Winner of six races from 1m to 1m 3f on good to firm and good to soft ground and on the all-weather. Finished 6l behind Pride Of Priory when sixth of 10 at 11-4fav on his latest outing at Ascot over 1m 4f (good to firm) last month. Has won 3 times this season.
- 6 ACE ROTHSTEIN He has won three times from 1m 1f to 1m 3f on good to firm and good ground. Beaten 7l behind Duke Of Verona at 28-1 when 9th of 12 on his latest outing at Sandown over 1m 6f (good) last month.
- 7 RESTORER Winner of six races from 1m to 1m 4f on ground varying from good to soft, but last win was over two years ago. Beaten 3 1/2l by Eikonix when second of 6 at 3-1 on his latest outing over this course and distance (heavy) earlier this month.

RACE 4:DARBY DENNIS APPRENTICES' DERBY HANDICAP

Amalfi Bay Saratoga Gold Tartan Chief

AMALFI BAY is 2-2 here, and his rider Connor Planas looks excellent value for his 5lb claim in this, so although others look on a more favourable mark, Roger Charlton's four-year-old could go well at a price. Saratoga Gold won in good fashion in a similar contest over C&D last time, and a 5lb rise shouldn't stop him going close again if in anything like the same form. Tartan Chief was unlucky when narrowly beaten at Newbury last weekend, and Paul Cole's grey is another to consider.

NO. HORSE NAME

- 1 SARATOGA GOLD Winner of six races from 1m 2f to 1m 6f on good to firm and good ground and on the all-weather. A winner at 5-1 over this course and distance (good) on his latest outing last month, beating Thibault by 2 1/2l. Has won 3 times this season.
- 2 SWORD BEACH He has won three times from 1m to 1m 3f on good to firm and soft ground; has also won a hurdle in March. Beaten 8l behind Wootton'sun at 22-1 when last of 10 on his latest outing at Windsor over 1m 3f (good) earlier this month.
- 3 RAVENS ARK Winner of five races from 1m 2f to 1m 5f on good to firm and good ground and on the all-weather. Third of 7 behind Secret Shadow beaten 4l at 13-2 on his latest outing at Goodwood over 1m 6f (good to soft) last month.

- 4 BARN OWL Successful at 1m 2f and 1m 3f on good to firm ground. Well beaten at 50-1 behind Duke Of Verona when last of 12 on his latest outing at Sandown over 1m 6f (good) last month.
- 5 TARTAN CHIEF Successful twice at 1m on good to firm and good ground. Beaten a neck by Sir Rumi when second of 14 at 11-2 on his latest outing at Newbury over 1m 4f (good) earlier this month.
- 6 DUNDORY He has won four times from 1m to 1m 3f on ground varying from good to firm to heavy. A winner at 15-2 at Goodwood over 1m 3f (soft) on his latest outing earlier this month, beating Boy George by 1 1/2l. Has won 3 times this season.
- 7 ELOSO He has won three times from 7f to 1m 4f on good to firm and good ground and on the all-weather. A winner at 15-2 over this course and distance (good) on his latest outing last month, beating Greatness Awaits by a neck. Has also won at Brighton this season.
- 8 AMALFI BAY Successful twice at 1m 4f on good and good to soft ground. Third of 9 behind Jacovec Cavern beaten 7l at 15-2 on his latest outing at Ffos Las over 1m 4f (good) last month.
- 9 CAPTAIN HADDOCK Successful at 1m 4f and 1m 5f on good ground. Finished 8l behind Saratoga Gold when sixth of 12 at 6-1 on his latest outing over this course and distance (good) last month.