

COMMENT & SELECTIONS – YORK

RACE 1:QUEEN MOTHER'S CUP HANDICAP (FEMALE AMATEUR JOCKEYS)

Nicholas T Carlos Felix Byron Flyer

In an open race the marginal preference is for NICHOLAS T, who was not beaten far when finishing third over this trip at Hamilton two starts ago. His most recent effort can easily be forgiven, as he met with plenty of trouble in running, and the nine-year-old should not be underestimated. Carlos Felix is a player based on his second-placed finish at Chester a couple of starts ago, while Byron Flyer should also be noted. Flymetothestars is arguably the most interesting runner in this field, given that he is 7lb lower than when finishing second in the 2017 Ebor, but the 1371-day layoff is an obvious concern.

NO. HORSE NAME

1 FLYMETOTHESTARS He has won three times from 1m to 2m on the all-weather, but last win was over four years ago. Finished 11l behind Vazirabad when fourth of 8 on his latest outing in the Group 3 Gladiateur Group 3 Stakes at Chantilly over 1m 7f in September '17. Having his first run for a new stable today.

2 BYRON FLYER Winner of five races from 1m 4f to 2m on good ground and on the all-weather, but last win was over two years ago; has also won five hurdles. Finished 8l behind Green Book when sixth of 13 at 40-1 on his latest outing at Chester over 2m 3f (good to soft) last month.

3 NICHOLAS T Has won nine races from 1m to 1m 4f on ground varying from good to firm to soft and on the all-weather. Beaten 3l behind Good Birthday at 33-1 when seventh of 14 on his latest outing at Redcar over 1m 2f (good) last month.

4 CARLOS FELIX A winner at 1m 4f on good ground. Beaten 6l behind Uber Cool at 13-2 when seventh of 9 on his latest outing at Chester over 1m 5f (good to soft) last month.

5 SAMEEM He has won four times from 7f to 1m 3f on ground varying from good to firm to soft. Finished 9l behind Fishable when fifth of 6 at 10-1 on his latest outing at Ripon over 1m 2f (soft) last month.

6 CIVIL LAW A winner at 8-1 at Newcastle over 1m 2f on his latest outing last month, beating Pallas Dancer by 6l.

7 VIADUCT A winner at 1m on firm ground. Beaten 1l by Alchemystique when second of 9 at 33-1 on his latest outing at Lingfield over 1m 4f last month.

8 ARCTIC FOX She has won three times from 1m 2f to 1m 4f on good to firm and good to soft ground, but last win was over two years ago. Finished 5l behind Dream With Me when fifth of 8 at 28-1 on her latest outing at Ayr over 1m 2f (good) last month.

RACE 2: JCB HANDICAP

Dazzling Dan Gifted Ruler Queen's Sargent

While of few of these candidates have questions to answer over this trip, DAZZLING DAN has been going from strength to strength since being upped to this distance and should be able to build on an encouraging third at Newmarket last month. The Pam Sly-trained five-year-old gets the vote off an unchanged mark, although, the unexposed Gifted Ruler has only been seen five times in his career and demands serious interest returning from a lengthy break. Queen's Sargent has been competing on a testing surface and the return to drier conditions means he merits consideration now 3lb higher than his last winning mark.

NO. HORSE NAME

- 1 OSTILIO Winner of six races from 7f to 1m on ground varying from good to firm to soft. Finished 20l behind Toro Strike when last of 6 at 33-1 on his latest outing at Thirsk over 7f (good to firm) in April.
- 2 GIFTED RULER A winner at 6f on heavy ground. Beaten a short head by Boccaccio when second of 6 at 18-1 on his latest outing at Newmarket over 7f (good to firm) in June last year.
- 3 TROUBADOR He has won four times at 6f on ground varying from good to firm to good to soft. Beaten 10l behind Punchbowl Flyer at 40-1 when 13th of 16 on his latest outing at Haydock over 6f (good to soft) last month.
- 4 DAZZLING DAN He has won four times from 6f to 7f on ground varying from good to firm to soft. Third of 11 behind Ametist beaten 1 1/4l at 15-2 on his latest outing at Newmarket over 7f (good) last month.
- 5 QUEEN'S SARGENT Winner of five races at 7f on ground varying from good to firm to heavy. Beaten 7l behind Byron's Choice at 11-2 when seventh of 12 on his latest outing at Beverley over 7f (soft) last month.
- 6 GOLDEN APOLLO Winner of five races at 6f on ground varying from good to firm to good to soft. Beaten 10l behind Punchbowl Flyer at 40-1 when 11th of 16 on his latest outing at Haydock over 6f (good to soft) last month.
- 7 ADMIRALITY He has won three times from 6f to 7f on good to firm and good ground, but last win was over two years ago. Finished 8l behind Rathbone when sixth of 8 at 9-1 on his latest outing at Thirsk over 6f (soft) last month.
- 8 BROKEN SPEAR He has won three times from 5f to 7f on good and good to soft ground. Finished 4 1/2l behind Byron's Choice when sixth of 12 at 14-1 on his latest outing at Beverley over 7f (soft) last month.
- 9 MANIGORDO Successful at 6f and 7f on good to firm and good ground. Third of 9 behind Lampang beaten 2 1/4l at 10-1 on his latest outing at Hamilton over 6f (good to firm) earlier this month.

10 BAASHIR A winner at 7f on good to firm ground. Finished 4l behind Karibana when sixth of 11 at 11-1 on his latest outing at Chelmsford City over 7f last month.

11 NATIONAL LEAGUE Successful twice at 6f on good and heavy ground. Beaten 8l behind Broken Spear at 9-2jt-fav when 10th of 14 on his latest outing at Chester over 7f (good to soft) last month.

RACE 3:SKY BET RACE TO THE EBOR GRAND CUP STAKES (LISTED)

Makawee Ranch Hand Roberto Escobarr

Ranch Hand won a pair of decent staying races on the all-weather earlier in the year and was far from disgraced in a Sandown Group 3 last time, but he has to give 7lb to MAKAWEE, who is rated just 3lb lower. David O'Meara's mare was staying on when third over 1m6f in a Group 3 here last time and could take advantage of her fillies' allowance in this. Red Verdon hasn't been at his best this year, while Roberto Escobarr is untried over this trip but might just be better for it after a fair fifth on his reappearance at Ascot.

NO. HORSE NAME

1 RANCH HAND Winner of six races from 1m 3f to 2m on good and soft ground and on the all-weather; has also won a hurdle in November last year. Beaten 4 1/2l by Lismore when second of 5 at 3-1 on his latest outing in the Group 3 Coral Henry II Stakes at Sandown over 2m (soft) last month.

2 RED VERDON Has won nine races from 1m 1f to 1m 6f on ground varying from good to firm to good to soft and on the all-weather. Finished 20l behind Skazino when sixth of 8 on his latest outing in the Group 2 Prix Vicomtesse Vigier Stakes at ParisLongchamp over 1m 7f (soft) last month.

3 ROBERTO ESCOBARR A winner at 1m 2f on good ground. Finished 16l behind Albalflora when fifth of 11 at 9-1 on his latest outing at Ascot over 1m 4f (soft) last month.

4 MAKAWEE She has won four times from 1m 4f to 1m 6f on ground varying from good to firm to good to soft. Third of 7 behind Tribal Craft beaten 3 1/2l at 15-2 on her latest outing over this course and distance (soft) last month.

RACE 4:PAVERS FOUNDATION CATHERINE MEMORIAL SPRINT HANDICAP

Jadwal Showalong Aikido

The only top weight to win this in the last 10 years went on to Group 2 glory, so that shows the magnitude of the task for Irish raider Aikido, who returned to action with a second win on the all-weather at Dundalk in April. Showalong won a novice stakes here last year and travelled beautifully to score at Chester last time, but he may prefer more give in the ground so JADWAL gets the vote. Charles Hills' gelding had First Folio (fifth), Bickerstaffe (ninth), Seven Brothers (11th) and Barney's Bay (13th) behind when second at Newmarket last time and could be good enough to defy a 7lb higher mark. Novice stakes winners Skyrunner and Dark Shift also warrant attention.

NO. HORSE NAME

- 1 AIKIDO Successful at 6f and 7f on the all-weather. A winner at 5-2 at Dundalk over 6f on his latest outing in April, beating Forest Of Dreams by 1/2l.
- 2 INTERNATIONALDREAM Successful twice at 6f on good to firm and good to soft ground. Beaten 14l behind Winter Power at 11-1 when seventh of 8 on his latest outing here over 5f (good) last month.
- 3 UNCLE JUMBO A winner at 6f on good ground. Third of 4 behind Imperial Yellow beaten 3 1/2l at 13-2 on his latest outing at Leicester over 6f (good) last month.
- 4 BEN MACDUI A winner at 5f on good ground. Third of 5 behind Dragon Symbol beaten 5l at 14-1 on his latest outing at Hamilton over 5f (good to firm) last month.
- 5 SHOWALONG He has won three times from 5f to 6f on good to soft and soft ground. Won on his latest outing when 13-8fav at Chester over 5f (good to soft) last month, beating First Company by 3/4l.
- 6 BICKERSTAFFE Successful at 5f and 6f on good to firm and soft ground. Beaten 9l behind Jumby at 6-1 when 9th of 14 on his latest outing at Newmarket over 6f (good) last month.
- 7 FIRST FOLIO A winner at 6f on good to firm ground. Finished 7l behind Jumby when fifth of 14 at 8-1 on his latest outing at Newmarket over 6f (good) last month.
- 8 SKYRUNNER Successful at 5f and 7f on good to firm and soft ground. Won on his latest outing when 3-10fav at Pontefract over 5f (soft) last month, beating Blazing Son by 7l. Has also won at Doncaster this season.
- 9 DARK SHIFT Successful twice at 6f on good to soft and soft ground. Won on his latest outing when 4-7fav at Nottingham over 6f (soft) last month, beating Adaay To Remember by 1 1/4l.
- 10 SEVEN BROTHERS He has won three times at 6f on good to firm and soft ground. Beaten 11l behind Jumby at 12-1 when 11th of 14 on his latest outing at Newmarket over 6f (good) last month.
- 11 JADWAL A winner at 6f on good to firm ground. Beaten 3/4l by Jumby when second of 14 at 18-1 on his latest outing at Newmarket over 6f (good) last month.
- 12 BARNEY'S BAY Successful twice at 6f on soft ground and on the all-weather. Beaten 12l behind Jumby at 14-1 when 13th of 14 on his latest outing at Newmarket over 6f (good) last month. Has won at Thirsk and Southwell this season.
- 13 BLIND BEGGAR Won on his latest outing when 8-15fav at Catterick over 6f (heavy) last month, beating Touchwood by 9l.
- 14 EY UP IT'S MAGGIE Successful twice at 5f on good to soft and soft ground. Won on her latest outing when 11-4jt-fav at Carlisle over 5f (good to soft) last month, beating Yukon Mission by 3 1/2l.

