

EPSOM OAKS DAY CHEAT SHEET

PUNDITS' PICKS OF THE DAY

FRIDAY, JUNE 04

TIMEFORM

MICK FITZGERALD

JASON WEAVER

FRANK HICKEY

MATT CHAPMAN



2:00PM

WOODCOTE EBF STAKES 6F

- TF** **DAIRERIN** is marginally preferred to easy Nottingham scorer Flaming Rib, with Dusky Prince perhaps the one open to most improvement.
- MF** **DAIRERIN** won on debut at Ripon but was pipped at Newbury and looks a well-balanced type who should handle this test.
- JW** **ALREADY GONE** will be a big each-way price as he was down the field on debut but wasn't knocked about. He might just get a slice of the pie now.
- FH** **RAGING** did well to win a race over 5f and he looks sure to appreciate going up to 6f now.
- MC** I expect the champion jockey Oisin Murphy to take some beating on **DAIRERIN** as Epsom's fast track should suit his running style.

3:10PM

GROUP 1 CORONATION CUP 1M 4F

- TF** Stablemates Japan and Mogul are threats but **AL AASY** has taken his form to a different level so far this season.
- MF** **AL AASY** deserves a crack at the big time after looking ultra-impressive in his last two wins.
- JW** **JAPAN** ran a good comeback race at Chester and should come on a lot for the run if Al Aasy fails to cope with the preliminaries.
- FH** **AL AASY** has looked transformed this season in his two wins and can take the rise into Group One company in his stride.
- MC** I'll have a few quid each-way (*just two places*) on **MOGUL** who I think will have a big year.

4:30PM

GROUP 1 CAZOO OAKS 1M 4F

- TF** **ZEYAADAH** ran a cracker under a penalty in the Cheshire Oaks and looks a bit of value against the unexposed Santa Barbara.
- MF** **SANTA BARBARA** ran a great race to be fourth in the 1,000 Guineas at Newmarket over a mile and the 1m 4f trip of the Oaks will be right up her street.
- JW** **SANTA BARBARA** carried a lot of condition at HQ and still finished fourth on her reappearance. This could be a lap of honour for her and the start of something special in her career.
- FH** **DUBAI FOUNTAIN** looks underestimated in the market and can hit a career-peak here provided the race is run at a solid pace.
- MC** I expect **SANTA BARBARA** to absolutely hack up for Ryan Moore and Aidan O'Brien.

5:40PM

CAZOO DERBY FESTIVAL HANDICAP 7F

- TF** **DULAS** still looks ahead of the handicapper after his Goodwood win and can collect again. Rhoscolyn is feared most, ahead of Paws For Thought.
- MF** **RHOSCOLYN** style of racing is aggressive and that should really suit around Epsom. He won at Goodwood late last month and can follow up.
- JW** **ARIGATO** has seen his rating drop to a competitive 87 and should be spot on now for this contest.
- FH** **ARIGATO** is back down to his last winning mark and has won here previously. He may represent the each-way value in a competitive handicap.
- MC** The ground will be much more suitable here so **ON A SESSION** each-way has solid chances for David Barron and William Buick over this 7f trip.

2:35PM

FREE BET HANDICAP 1M 1/2F

- TF** **IRISH ADMIRAL** is fancied to make a bold bid. Thirsk Hunt Cup winner Storting and the consistent Mostawaa head up the dangers.
- PP** **IRISH ADMIRAL** ran a nice race at York over 1m 2f and will appreciate the drop back in trip to a mile.
- JW** The drop in trip should help **IRISH ADMIRAL** and was only put up 1lb by the handicapper for his good run at York. Should be plenty more to come.
- FH** Dual course winner **CORAZON ESPINADO** bumped into a well handicapped rival last time and looks to have solid each-way claims.
- MC** **IRISH ADMIRAL** looks to have a huge chance for Tom Marquand and William Haggas and is just the type Haggas does so well with.

3:45PM

CAZOO HANDICAP 1M 2F

- TF** A case can be made for most of these but the most persuasive one is for **BLUE CUP** who figures on a very good mark and is worth forgiving his over-exuberant York seventh now the hood goes on.
- MF** Course winners are always worth noting and Ralph Beckett's **VICTORY CHIME** has managed to win a couple of times over this 1m 2f trip at this track.
- JW** **BLUE CUP** had zero luck on his last run here and then pulled too hard at York. With Oisin Murphy riding and a hood applied he can go much closer now.
- FH** **VICTORY CHIME** is two from two at Epsom and with Ralph Beckett in red-hot form he can make it three from three.
- MC** This might be the day to back **BLUE CUP** each-way. He loves this trip and distance on decent ground and was a fine winner at Sandown in July of last year.

5:10PM

SURREY STAKES LISTED RACE 7F

- TF** **MEHMENTO's** second in the Greenham Stakes is a stand-out piece of form and his subsequent run in the French 2000 Guineas was excusable. Meu Amor and Run To Freedom look the main dangers.
- MF** **RUN TO FREEDOM** looks a very progressive youngster and a solid each-way play.
- JW** Expect **MYSTERY SMILES** to be ridden aggressively from his draw on the rails now back down to the long sprint distance and he can collect.
- FH** **MYSTERY SMILES** ran a cracker in the Craven Stakes and this 7f trip looks sure to be his optimum. He could upset favourite Memento.
- MC** **ROYAL SCIMITAR** was a promising juvenile landing his debut at Newbury and finishing fourth in the Acomb Stakes. He should go close for trainer Clive Cox and Adam Kirby.

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