

YORK CHEAT SHEET

PUNDITS' PICKS FOR DAY THREE

FRIDAY, AUGUST 20

TIMEFORM

MICK FITZGERALD

JASON WEAVER

PADDY POWER

MATT CHAPMAN



1:50PM

SKY BET HANDICAP 1M 4F

- TF** **WINK OF AN EYE** is fancied to make another bold bid to complete the five-timer and the step up in trip will hold no fears.
- MF** **JOHNNY DRAMA** won over a mile here two starts ago and can be involved in the finish. Midnights Legacy will love conditions too.
- JW** **MIDNIGHTS LEGACY** is going through the grades nicely and put up a really smart performance at Epsom when winning there in June.
- PP** **STATE OF BLISS** seems versatile so let's hope jockey Nicola Currie kicks on and gets the fractions right in her head again like she did at Ascot.
- MC** **STATE OF BLISS** is a youngster against seasoned handicappers but he stepped up to this trip in style at Ascot in the Shergar Cup last time. Nicola Currie keeps the ride.

3.00PM

DUBAI GIMCRACK STAKES GROUP 2 6F

- TF** **LUSAIL** was an impressive winner of a hot C&D maiden on debut and has since won at HQ twice, beating Asymmetric in the July Stakes last time.
- MF** **BERKSHIRE SHADOW** won the Coventry Stakes at Royal Ascot very nicely on good ground and I'm willing to forgive him a poor run at Goodwood on soft ground last time.
- JW** **FEARBY** didn't seem to go with his normal fluency last time at the Glorious Goodwood meeting and he's better than that.
- PP** I am happy to swerve Lusail as the Richard Hannon yard isn't firing. **ORAZIO** is the value each-way play as there's loads of ability there.
- MC** **BERKSHIRE SHADOW** never seemed happy on soft ground at Goodwood last time so I'll give him another chance for Andrew Balding and Oisín Murphy.

4.10PM

EBF CONVIVIAL MAIDEN STAKES 7F

- TF** **BROADSPEAR** pulled clear with another well-backed newcomer when runner-up at Salisbury two months ago. That form may be the best on offer.
- MF** The family of **VINTAGE CHOICE** has produced three first-time out winners as two-year-olds. That bodes well for this type of race.
- JW** **BROADSPEAR** put up a good performance on debut when quite green and babyish and the winner has finished fourth in a decent Listed contest since.
- PP** There wasn't much between **VALAZQUEZ** and Hoo Ya Mal at Sandown but the former took a massive step forward from his debut run and can do so again.
- MC** **VINTAGE CHOICE** cost a few quid and won't be far away for Willaim Haggas.

5:10PM

SKY BET MILE HANDICAP 1M

- TF** **ROYAL FLEET** maintained his unbeaten record on his Newmarket handicap bow. With the prospect of more to come, a 7lb rise may not be enough to stop the four-timer.
- MF** **MARSABIT** was narrowly beaten in a decent handicap at Ascot last time and has to be respected in here with only 8st 3lbs on his back.
- JW** **ROYAL FLEET** is a massive powerhouse of a horse and if they can channel that ability in the right way he could well prove himself much better than a handicapper in time.
- PP** **IL BANDITO** is a model of consistency and while others may have more upside, he looks a solid bet to hit the places in a competitive finale.
- MC** **RIFLEMAN** should be hard to keep out of the frame. He used to be a bit of a monkey but has since been gelded and ran a creditable second at HQ last time.

2.25PM

LONSDALE CUP STAKES GROUP 2 2M

- TF** **STRADIVARIUS** still holds all the aces despite meeting with defeat in the Ascot Gold Cup and can turn the form around with Spanish Mission.
- MF** I am sticking with **STRADIVARIUS** as on this quicker ground it may just give him the edge over Trueshan who looked very impressive in soft ground at Goodwood last time.
- JW** The old boy **STRADIVARIUS** should not be underestimated on a track that clearly suits him.
- PP** It feels to me like **TRUESHAN** is here to stay and he'll confirm the changing of the guard with Stradivarius in the stayers' division.
- MC** The former multiple Gold Cup hero **STRADIVARIUS** has a chance to bounce back here for Frankie Dettori in conditions that should be perfect.

3:35PM

NUNTHORPE STAKES GROUP 1 5F

- TF** **SUESA** looked something special when swooping late to land Goodwood's King George Stakes by three lengths and she will take some stopping with the race likely to be teed up for her again.
- MF** French filly **SUESA** looked very, very good at Goodwood and despite a slight reservation that she needs soft ground, looks the one to beat.
- JW** **GOLDEN PAL** has not stopped winning since an unlucky second at Royal Ascot last season. Chipotle looks the each-way steal with the weight allowance.
- PP** **WINTER POWER** is really consistent and might be a bit of value against the market leaders. The ground is spot on, and he's won twice at York so far this year.
- MC** Today might just be the day for **DRAGON SYMBOL**. The disqualified Commonwealth Cup hero has since been second in the July Cup and runner-up to Suesa at Goodwood where a slow start did not help.

4.40PM

EBF FILLIES' HANDICAP 1M 2F

- TF** **ACHELOIS** goes from strength-to-strength, posting a career-best effort when making it three wins from her last four starts at Goodwood last month.
- MF** Rae Guest has brought **JEWEL IN MY CROWN** along from a lowly win at Brighton to this. She is very much on the up and is an improving three-year-old.
- JW** **ANANYA** had some pretty decent form in the book behind some quality runners and rates an each-way play in an open contest.
- PP** Dermot Weld's **UMNEYAAT** is an interesting runner as his trainer doesn't travel horses over from Ireland for the fun of it.
- MC** **UMNEYAAT** took some time to get off the mark in Ireland but won last time and might now improve.

PADDYPOWER. NEWS

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