Donn McClean RACING

Newsletter
June
2015

Welcome to the June 2015 edition of the Donn McClean Racing Newsletter.

Royal Ascot review

Where to start with a review of Royal Ascot?

There were some outstanding equine performances, like Solow's in the Queen Anne Stakes, Time Test's in the Tercentenary Stakes and Muhaarar's in the Commonwealth Cup. And there was extraordinary human endeavour.

Just about every single horse that Aidan O'Brien ran put up a performance that either surpassed or equalled its best previous performance. The champion trainer had five winners, and if the ball had hopped a little differently, he could have had six or seven.

Ryan Moore had nine, more than any other rider in the post-war era. Moore has set the bar high, and he continues to raise it higher and higher. If there is such a thing as the best flat rider in the world, then Ryan Moore is it.

There were other equine performances that might have been better than the bare form suggests, and which therefore may provide betting angles for the future. Bronze Angel did well to finish as close as he did in the Royal Hunt Cup given that he raced prominently from early in a race that was run to suit the hold-up horses, as the Royal Hunt Cup usually is. The Corsican made eye-catching ground from the rear in the Prince of Wales's Stakes in a race in which the early pace held up well. Udododontu went for home very early in the Britannia, his turn of foot deployed just a little early in a race run over a stiff straight mile for a horse whose optimum trip is probably seven and a half furlongs.

Sacrificial won the 'race' on the near side in the Britannia and Balty Boys won the 'race' in the near side in the Hunt Cup, both horses having to do a lot of running on their own in order to try to bridge the gap with the far side. Both would probably have finished closer had they been drawn lower.

And there were others, like Marma's Boy and Provenance and Temptress and Hundi. It was a deep meeting, as ever. Royal Ascot form could reverberate through the entire season. It usually does.

Royal Ascot profits

Private Clients of Donn McClean Racing had a good Royal Ascot.

Tuesday started well, with **Cougar Mountain** (advised each-way at 40/1) running a massive race to finish a close-up third in the opener, the Queen Anne Stakes, and

the opening day ended well with Clondaw Warrior (advised at 8/1) getting up to win the final race on the day, the Ascot Stakes.

On Wednesday, Free Eagle (advised at 3/1) battled on gamely to win the Prince of Wales's Stakes, while on Thursday, Curvy (advised at 7/1) got up to beat Pleascach in the Ribblesdale Stakes and Space Age (advised at 12/1) made all the running to land the King George V Handicap.

Then on Saturday, Interception, whom clients had backed a couple of weeks previously **ante post at 33/1**, came from the back of the field to win the Wokingham Handicap by more than a length. The day and the meeting ended well with Oriental Fox (advised at 8/1) winning the finale, the Queen Alexandra Stakes, by seven lengths.

It could have been even better. Sir Isaac Newton (advised at 10/1) was a little unlucky in the Jersey Stakes and Kingfisher (advised ante post at 16/1) was a little unlucky in the Gold Cup, while if Udododontu (advised at 18/1) had been asked for his effort about 200 yards after he was, he could have won the Britannia.

Even so, it was a highly profitable week for Private Clients of Donn McClean Racing. Clients who are betting at €100 per point made a **net profit of €7,387** for the week.

150th Year of the Irish Derby

This year's race is the 150th renewal of the Irish Derby, and it is shaping up to be a cracker.

Epsom Derby runner-up Jack Hobbs obviously sets the standard. He was the only horse who was able to get close to his stable companion Golden Horn at Epsom, and he came clear of Storm The Stars and Giovanni Canaletto. Also, that was just his fourth run ever. He is probably still improving.

Storm The Stars and Giovanni Canaletto re-oppose but, in reality, it is difficult to see either of them reversing placings with the favourite. That said, Giovanni Canaletto did have a rushed preparation for Epsom, he only had two weeks between his seasonal return in the Gallinule Stakes and the Derby, so he could come on for his run in the Derby.

Very fast ground would be a slight concern for Jack Hobbs, and it would be a positive for Highland Reel. The Aidan O'Brien-trained colt stepped forward from his seasonal return in the French 2000 Guineas to finish second in the French Derby. The step up in trip to a mile and a half, combined with the prospect of faster ground, could bring about further improvement.

The filly Qualify is a really interesting outsider. Salsabil in 1990 and Balanchine in 1994 proved that a filly could win the Irish Derby, and Qualify stayed on really well to win the Epsom Oaks, like Salsabil and Balanchine did. She adds a fascinating dimension to an intriguing race.

Good year so far

It has been a good year so far for Private Clients of Donn McClean Racing. They made net profits at all the major National Hunt festivals in the spring, at Cheltenham, Aintree, Fairyhouse and Punchestown. They have also made net profits at the major flat meetings so far in 2015: the Guineas meeting at Newmarket, Chester's May meeting, the Dante meeting at York, the Irish Guineas meeting at The Curragh, and now most recently at Royal Ascot.

Private Clients who are betting at €100 per point are showing a **net profit of €18,587** for 2015 to date, and those who have been with us since the service started in 2009 are showing a **net profit of well over €50,000**. For further information, visit Donn's Bets.

Horses To Follow

The Horses To Follow service and the HTF Private service on www.donnmcclean.com both continue to highlight winners at decent prices.

Interception was noted as a horse to follow after she finished second behind Blhadawa in a listed fillies' race at Haydock at the end of May:

"She goes well on Polytrack and at Ascot, so that leaves her with lots of options. She is in the Wokingham at Royal Ascot, and she will be of interest if she takes her chance in that, her hold-up style of racing should be well-suited to that race."

As mentioned above, David Lanigan's filly was available at 33/1 for the Wokingham at the time. She was still available at 25/1 on the morning of the race before being backed down to an SP of 10/1.

Other recent winners noted in the Horses To Follow and HTF Private services include Duca Valentois (MP 14/1), Trip To Paris (MP 12/1), Quest For More (SP 9/2), Cable Bay (MP 6/1), Western Hymn (MP 5/1), New Bay (MP 4/1), Time Test (MP 5/2), Spirit Raiser (SP 8/1), Lily's Rainbow (MP 8/1) and Arab Dawn (MP 8/1).

For more information, visit Horses To Follow and HTF Private.