

Follow the Jockey

By Davy Lane

Prior Week's Racing Recap

This is my final FTJ blog of this trial pop up series. I hope you've enjoyed following the races from Australia and New Zealand to Chile and South Africa and from India and Japan to Qatar and Saudi Arabia. Four winners last weekend, beginning with Jimmysstar 10/1 in the Gr1 Oakleigh Plate at Caulfield, Direct Hit 4/1 in the opening race on the Cape Derby card at Kenilworth in Cape Town, Straight No Chaser in the Riyadh Dirt Sprint and Luxor Cafe in Hyacinth Stakes at Tokyo, a points race for the Kentucky Derby. The losers weren't so shabby either with Cracksking a gallant 3 wide no cover beaten by the draw 2nd in the International Handicap and Straight showing a tremendous kick as they straightened up for home in the Gr2 Neom Turf Cup to ultimately finish fifth. The German will be a massive price in the Sheema at Meydan in early April and I'll be on. And if there is enough interest, maybe I'll have a blog on that card and some regular blogs as the European flat season kicks off soon thereafter.

Current Week's Racing Preview (February 28th - March 2nd)

Racetrack	Country	Date
Meydan	UAE	Saturday March 1st
Race/Card Summary:		
This week's blog begins again in Australia with Australian Guineas day at Flemington and some great Gr1s at Randwick. The blog will visit Meydan in the UAE for the first time this year with their Super Saturday card, a month ahead of the Dubai World Cup. I'll have an ABC grid for that card. Hopefully one of your bookies will have that exotic menu. I'll also have a few plays from Turffontein with three great Gr1s at the Johannesburg track. And finally I'll have one from Nakayama and Hong Kong's Sha Tin track as they run another Hong Kong Derby prelude race with the Hong Kong Classic Cup. Ryan Moore and Co in town for that.		
Analysis:		
A bunch of competitive Gr2 & Gr3 affairs on a 9 race card at Meydan, known as Super Saturday.		
I will begin with an obvious one and one most US players will be familiar with, the Wathnan owned, 2. Cagliostro who goes in R3 Gr3 Burj Nahar . James Doyle rides. The horse is currently 10/3 on UK markets. Serious value given his encouraging 2nd when first up at Meydan. T.O. St Denis ships in from Japan, gets Oisín Murphy and heads the market. I much prefer Cagliostro, who is drawn in 7. Class should prevail. However, an outsider I quite like here is 11. Oasis Boy who runs for Doug Watson with the underrated Oscar Chavez in the irons from gate 1. Oasis Boy was useful in Argentina two years ago and was up against it having to lump Southern Hemisphere weights against Northern Hemisphere 3 yr olds last year. Oasis Boy was a super encouraging closing 5th last time over 7 furlongs at Meydan last month. If Chavez can get a clean break from the 1 hole he could catch the main protagonists out if they are more focussed on being ready for the Godolphin Mile in early April. This will be Oasis Boy's Super Bowl. It may be a stepping stone for others.		
15. West Acre is 8/11 for up and coming British trainer George Scott with Callum Shepard riding seems to be a logical A in R4 , the Nad Al Sheba Turf Sprint Gr 3 over 5 furlongs, which would be the first leg of a Pick 6, if there is one. 10. Tawalla gets the capable Ray Dawson . He recently scored in Abu Dhabi and although this is a step up in class, I have him as a logical B horse. There will be money for Frost at Dawn with Oisín Murphy , but this is more		

likely a prep World Cup night and the draw in 2 stinks. C horse here. The Czech trained speedster will almost certainly take them along and could hold on with **Mickael Barzalona** up, so probably safer in the B column.

The **Gr2 Singspiel Stakes R5** is next with Nation's Pride last seen running backward in the Pegasus Turf at Gulfstream, the 7/4 Fav for this. One is compelled to take him on. But with what? The other Godolphin, probably. First Conquest gets Barzalona and was a smooth winner albeit in a Gr 3 last time. **1. Cairo**, an Aiden O'Brien castoff picked up by Kuwaiti connections gets former British Champion Jockey **Sylvester de Sousa** and must enter the B column or sneaky A column being only a 1 1/4 lengths back of First Conquest last time. Holloway Boy has fair recent form. A 5 length 3rd to Romantic Warrior last time in the Measured Time catastrophe race maybe puts him in the B column also.

The **Gr2 Al Maktoum Classic is R6**, a 10 furlong Dirt trial for the Dubai World Cup. Can anyone put their hands up? Imperial Emperor is the 5/2 Fav, but has drawn 15 in the car park, just outside of former Kenny McPeck inmate now with Warhnam, Generous Tipper. This keeps both of them out of the A column, but there remain plenty of possibilities. I know from watching Meydan long enough that Bombs can land in this race. The international players don't have a grip on the collateral US dirt form and the American sharks who may be playing this card often misread the Gulf and other Asian formlines. It's a classic spread race and me waxing lyrical about every horse in the race would get tedious. So I'll list my As and Bs and also nominate my bomb horse.

The As would be:

4. Elyabri drew 10, American Pharoah up top and British turf stayer/ marathoner, Duke of Marmalade below. Kept fresh for this. **Danny Tudhope** rides for Musabbeh Al Mheiri. Sneaky good trainer with a wink and sharp jockey. Watch out. **12. Kabirkhan**, the Russian Kazak tank that was the talk of the town last year, draws 9. Has not shown anything this year, but now is the time. **Pat Dobbs** back up. **13. King Gold** the former turf galloper who was a shock bomb winner on dirt last time. 13/2 3rd Fav for this with **Adrie De Vries** (who is often associated with Bahraini connections, choosing to ignore them and ride King Gold.) Massive Clue. Drawn 2. Massive Advantage.

The B horses would have to be the two aforementioned badly drawn horses, **11. Imperial Emperor** and **6. Generous Tipper**, plus my **BOMB** horse, last year's Korean Derby winner, **7. Global Hit**, who is currently 50/1, but likely to go off longer. If the horse shortens, maybe the South Korean math professor knows something, and you should definitely play. But can he win? He just might.. Korean horses have won at Meydan before. Global Hit was a Korean Derby winner and prolific at this distance and is an all around better horse than Dolkong who placed in this race six years ago. He had a pipe opener from a bad draw first up and will go completely under the radar. The rider is Miss Soft Hands, **Kim Hye Sun**. She is an accomplished rider, the best in Korea, yet you can probably tack on 30 points to the horse's price because it is a Korean horse and gets a female Korean rider. It's a perfect storm for a bomb horse. This horse was sent here to run in the Dubai World Cup and although it may not win tomorrow, the 66/1 Each Way with four places has to be taken. Global Hit's collateral form last September in Seoul running 3rd only 5 lengths back of Wilson Tesero is very respectable. Wilson Tesero was 4th in last week's Saudi World Cup. Global Hit was a winning machine in Korea. What more form do you need? This is a there or thereabouts horse who will be the second longest shot on the board. A great bet.

The Dubai City of Gold Gr2 over the turf is R7. **William Buick** resumes his acquaintance with **6. Silver Knott**. It has to be a Lone A. The former Brian Lynch horse, **2. Highway Robber** must enter consideration as a B horse, though it has not run for 141 days.

R7 is the Gr3 Mahab Al Shimaal over 6 furlongs on the dirt. Tuz is the 8/15 Fav and was an impressive winner of the Golden Shaheen last year, but he had a good inside draw and got loose. This is not the same quality, so in theory Tuz wins, but I want to be with a horse who could be ahead of the curve, so I will chance one at a price here, **7. Ma Yetal** at 16/1 with **Ray Dawson**. Drawn in 8. Put a line through his race when the horse was restless and you have a horse with strong local winning form who could serve it up to Tuz. The Japanese raider **12.**

American Stage with **Oisín Murphy** up can win too. The Into Mischief colt wins for fun in Japan. No reason he can't knock Tuz off also, though the 3/1 price on offer is a little stingy.

Finally, **6. Ruling Court** is a no bet 1/4 shot for Appleby and Buick in the local 2,000 Guineas, but obviously a lone A.

Selection(s) for this Race/Card:	R3 09:50 EST 2. Cagliostro 10/3
	R3 09:50 EST 11. Oasis Boy 20/1 EW
	R5 11:00 EST 1, Cairo 14/1
	R6 11:35 EST 7. Global Hit 66/1 EW
	R8 12:45 EST 7. Ma Yatal 16/1
(See ABC Grid below for P6 selections)	

ABC Grid - Meydan (If they have a P6)

Race	A	B	C
4	15	7,10	11,12
5	1,4	7	6
6	12,13	4,6,7,11	2
7	6	2,7	-
8	7	11,12	-
9	6	-	-

Racetrack	Country	Date
Flemington	Australia	Saturday March 1st
Race/Card Summary:		
Two races to analyse here, the Gr2 Blamey Stakes and Gr1 Australian Guineas.		
Analysis:		
<p>A curious feature of races in Australia is the tendency for middle distance and staying horses to get pitched in at distances well below their optimal and for mug punters to pile in because the horse has once been famous for fifteen minutes and or has big targets in the Melbourne Spring, such as the Caulfield Cup, Cox Plate and Melbourne Cup. There are a couple like that in R7, the Gr2 Blamey Stakes. And here I am ignoring my own sage advice and have been punting one of those names, 10. Place du Carrousel, early and often. A former Al Shaqab horse and winner of Gr1 Prix de L'Opera at Longchamp for Andre Fabre in 2022 and sold on in 2023 after a disappointing finish in the Arc, to shrewd Chinese connections, Yulong Investments, Place du Carrousel is ultimately intended for Yulong's Australian breeding paddocks. After disappointing last Spring in Australia, I would have expected her to be on that track already. (Incidentally, Canadian Oaks, Queen's Plate and Breeders Cup Turf winner, Moira, was also recently sold to Yulong and we may see her running in Sydney soon for trainer Chris Waller, as all Autumn roads there point to The Championships and the Gr1 Queen Elizabeth II at Royal Randwick in mid April.) My sense is that Place du Carrousel showed her Melbourne trainer something during her Summer furlough and she may have a Sydney Autumn target in April too. She does have an entry in the prestigious Doncaster Mile at Royal Randwick on April 5th, but not in any other Championship races. This is a clue. Another clue would be her effortless trial wins over Sprint distances recently. She seems cherry ripe ready now and this is a relatively easy Gr 2. She gets in off a light weight of 53Kg or 117 lbs, with most of her rivals carrying 6 lbs more and has a sweet gate in 2. I think she smashes them and becomes a much discussed recalibrated cut back horse</p>		

for The Doncaster. She is currently 50/1 for that, which is a great Each Way price to throw together in an ante post multiple. Play that before Saturday morning, if you can.

I can't spilt the first five in the market for **R8, the Australian Guineas**, but there is nice spread of prices between **Angel Capital 3/1 Fav** to be ridden by **Ben Melham** and fifth in the market, **Goldrush Guru** at 12/1 to be ridden by Ben Melham's wife, **Jamie Melham**. I am not going to twist myself into a pretzel trying to show the reasons why one is better than the other. I can't. Will the horse that screams Derby distance such as Goldrush Guru have the speed to grab a Guineas from the likes of **Sepals** who has never raced or won beyond 7 furlongs and is stepping up to a mile? Who knows! The bet is therefore a boxed or combination **Trifecta for 0.50 cents, which should cost \$30 using the 1, 2, 4, 7 and 12**. This should produce a profit.

Selection(s) for this Race/Card:	R7 23:40 EST FRI FEB 28 10. Place du Carrousel 6/1
---	--

Racetrack	Country	Date
Randwick	Australia	March 1st
Race/Card Summary:		
Two important Gr1s here, the Gr1 Chase Surround Stakes and Gr1 Verry Ellegant Stakes		
Analysis:		
<p>1. Lady Shenandoah who I tipped up on the blog two weeks ago as an 11/5 2nd Fav is now 3/5 Fav for the Gr 1 Surround Stakes, R7. Notice how quick the top Australian turf horses return to the track once they're in prime racing condition. Why can't American horses do that? James McDonald takes over from the suspended Zac Lloyd and the horse gets a cosy draw in 3. It should go in again. I have refrained for promoting super short odds on horses here, but I'll be including Lady Shenandoah everywhere.</p> <p>Via Sistana is 2nd up against her Gr 1 stablemate, Fangirl. The longer distance suits Via Sistana 19/20, but does not harm Fangirl. Fangirl is the better value at 5/2. I can't bet one over the other, but I will be watching and enjoying it.</p>		
Selection(s) for this Race/Card:	R7 00:00 EST March 1st 1. Lady Shenandoah 3/5	

Racetrack	Country	Date
Turffontein	South Africa	Saturday March 1st
Race/Card Summary:		
Three Gr1s at Turffontein on Saturday, the South African Fillies Classic and Classic both over 9 furlongs for the three olds, a fascinating renewal of the prestigious Horse Chestnut Stakes over a mile as the late three year olds clash with the four year olds.		
Analysis:		
<p>1.Elegantrix is an odds on Fav in the opener over 5 furlongs. An emphatic winner last time and the form has been franked, but I thought the horse wandered at times. I think 2. Glastonbury with Rachel Venniker up has been in equally tough races, didn't run her race last time, though finishing 2nd and is the value at 10/3.</p> <p>I do like the Mike De Kock Fav in the 2nd, another Ridgemont horse with Richard Fourie retained on 1. Read All About It, son of the great Hamdan Al Maktoum Shadwell horse Hawwaam, but De Kock also has the 2nd Fav with Gavin Lerena aboard the unraced 4. Constellation. Read All About It will probably be better over longer distances. I am looking to Constellation who is bred for speed to score here in what should be another match race.</p> <p>Mike De Kock's 1. Spumante Dolce was an impressive winner of the opening leg of the Triple Tiara, the big grey, long striding horse, kicked for home very early and caught most of the field out, but also showed guts when challenged late. If held on to longer, she probably gets the extra furlong in R6, the South Africa Fillies Classic. VJ's Angel almost nabbed her in that and seems the logical horse to take her on with. VJ's Angel is stone cold closer and is drawn 8 of 11 and will have less traffic to contend with in the Guineas. She made a charge the back of the</p>		

field, weaving through runners to almost collar Spumante Dulce. The threat is **3. Fiery Pegasus** who is 6/1 in this. I think a bad draw and the soft going was an issue for her last time and she wasn't able to quicken. It has been warm and sunny in Johannesburg, but it could rain again on Saturday. The choice will be weather dependent. If it stays dry, Fiery Pegasus the play. (It's looking like it will stay dry until later in the day.)

The Fav for the South African Classic, R7, is **1. Parisian Walkway, an outsider** who looked beaten in the Gauteng Guineas, but regathered himself just as Greaterix and rider Muzi Yeni thought the mission was completed. Maybe jockey error or maybe Greaterix had reached his limit. It is interesting that Mike De Kock chooses to take on the older horses in the R9 Gr1 Chestnut Stakes rather than go the extra furlong against Parisian Walkway. One who could upset the Parisian party is **4. Legend of Arthur** who is by Lancaster Bomber, a horse that was 2nd in the Breeders Cup Mile, but claimed subsequent Gr1 success over further later in Ireland. Kwa Zulu Natal (that's the Durban province for those unsure of South African geography) trainer Sean Tarry has run this horse up in the Highveld before (higher altitude up in Johannesburg, folks), so the horse is well acclimatised and turns to Champion Cape Jockey, Richard Fourie. I'll play the Fav, if soft is in the going description. Otherwise, I'll take the value with Legend of Arthur.

Finally, the Horse Chestnut Stakes. I had thought Mike De Kock's 3 yr **8. Greaterix** was unbeatable after watching him warp speed past his rivals in his maiden win and then lead from the front last October. He was unlucky 2nd in the Gauteng Guineas. This is a bold shout to take on the older horses. **1. Main Defender** is by far the best of those, but Greaterix has proven he can handle soft and if it rains, he is the selection in what will be a nip and tuck affair all the way to the line. Both very good horses. But even without the rain, I am leaning towards Greaterix with 7 lbs advantage in the weights.

No gimmes in any of the five races I am playing in Johannesburg. They promise to all be close affairs and require playing as late as possible with an eye on conditions and the market.

Selection(s) for this Race/Card:	R1 05:05 EST 2. Glastonbury 10/3
	R6 08:00 EST 3. Fiery Pegasus 6/1
	R7 08:35 EST 4. Legend of Arthur 9/2
	R8 09:10 EST 8. Greaterix 3/1

Racetrack	Country	Date
Sha Tin	Hong Kong	Sunday March 2nd

Race/Card Summary:

A listed race from Sha Tin full of the world's greatest jockeys all wanted to get on that Hong Kong Derby horse. Racing from Asia on Sunday's morning is the new Saturday Night Fever.

Analysis:

Ryan Moore has been booked to ride **Mickley** in the Hong Kong Classic Cup. A former Royal Ascot winner, this 4 year old is being primed for the Hong Kong Derby for which Moore is also booked. But Moore is not the only jockey in town for the Listed contest. **Tom Marquand** also flies in from the UK. He rides **Divano**. Divano was ridden last time by **Blake Shinn** who has flown in from Australia to hope aboard what would have been the injured Zac Purton's ride, **Packing Hermod**. Also flying in from Australia is **Craig Williams** who rides Cap Ferrat. Another on the plane is **James McDonald** who materialises for the ride on **Stunning Peach**. And on the long haul from Brazil is the Magic Man, João Moreira. It's a case of Follow the Jockey, but which one? For me, it's the Magic Man. He is aboard **1. Packing Angel**, a horse that did not run in the 1st leg of the Classic series, the Classic Mile. Packing Angel brings a fresh formline in and that they've got on the bat phone to a Hong Kong legend highlights intent to me. The horse maps well from the inside gate in this 9 furlong contest. Moreira knows his way around. I'll take what I hope will remain a fair price. Packing Angel is currently 7/1.

Selection(s) for this Race/Card:	R7 03:05 EST Sha Tin March 2nd 11. Packing Angel 7/1
---	--

Racetrack	Country	Date
Nakayama	Japan	Sunday March 2nd

Race/Card Summary:

A Gr2 from Nakayama in Japan highlights the Sunday card. As stated above, racing from Asia on Sunday's morning is the new Saturday Night Fever.

Analysis:

Finally, I can't say more than you should have more than sixpence on **1, Sixpence** with **Christophe Lemaire** booked for the Gr2 Nakayama Kinen. One only needs to look at his past races on Twitter to see a rare turn of foot. Draw well. Best jockey. It will be a strong Fav and should salute.

Selection(s) for this Race/Card:	R11 01.45 EST Nakayama March 2nd 1. Sixpence 6/4
---	--

CRUSH YOUR BETS WORLDWIDE by FOLLOWING THE JOCKEY!