

TEAM HHH
International Racing Tip Sheet
April 12th-13th, 2025
#1 Royal Randwick, Newbury and The Curragh

Review

I would love a mulligan for last weekend's tip sheet. Only two winners, one of which was odd's on. I was right to suggest one of the Japanese would get Romantic Warrior, though I didn't expect it to be Soul Rush. Danon Decile scored big. It was 12/1 on UK markets and 9/1 on US international markets. Hopefully you cashed on that. My vacillation on Aeliana v Willydoit in the Australian Derby was costly, as was my failure to take on Ryan Moore with Vinrock in the Inglis Sire, a horse I hinted at. I made a schoolboy error in the Al Quoz Sprint, not accounting for the starting gates being on the far side rail with only an 11 runner field. At one point Believing and Aeliana were inked into my tips. *C'est la Vie*. Another mistake was hinting at the clue of Christophe Lemaire being at Meydan and not delving properly into the UAE Derby, which I did on the morning of the race, eventually finding Admire Daytona. It could have easily been 6 winners. But there was some shocking advice also. Kinesology had nothing down the stretch and Geoglyph ran no race in the Doncaster Mile, both finishing last. The odds on Swiftfalcon was huge disappointment, as well as Stellenbosch in the Osaka Hai.

This week we have Day 2 of The Championships at Royal Randwick in Sydney. It's Guineas trials day at Newbury and good racing at the Curragh in Ireland.

Royal Randwick

It could be a chalky start to Day 2 of The Championships at Royal Randwick with Tempted 7/4 in the Gr2 Percy Sykes R4, Autumn Gold 1/2 in the Gr2 Arrowhead Sprint R5 and the 4/6 Treasurethe Moment in the Gr1 Australian Oaks R6. A lot of multiples will be going through them, mine included.

I will playing **2. (12) Tempted** in the Gr2 Percy Sykes. The horse found traffic and was a very unlucky loser of the Golden Slipper and is currently 11/5. A 12 draw over 6 furlongs can be complicated, so I advise caution, but Tempted may not find the same traffic here and took some pulling up after the line at Randwick. I will also be playing **8. (5) Autumn Gold** in the Gr2 Arrowhead Sprint over 6 furlong for the 3 yr olds. The horse is odds on and should win easily. The Gr1 Australian Oaks should go to **2. (2) Treasurethe Moment**. This filly is 6 from 6, is proven over this distance, has vanquished most of her competitors before. One she hasn't faced is New Zealand Oaks Winner Leica Lucy (NZ) who is 6 from 7, but barely got over the line last time at Trentham.

The runaway winner of Gr2 Schweppes Chairman's Prize over 1 Mile 5 furlongs, **8. (15) Alalcance** returns to head the market for R7 The Schweppes Sydney Cup Gr1 and gets in at the ridiculously low weight of 52 Kg. She is 4 1/2 kgs well in, ie, if the handicapper could raise her roughly 10lbs before this race, he would. The extra

three furlongs won't hinder Alalcance. The grey mare was strong through the line last Saturday. The mid to high draw is a small historical negative, with 23 of the last 30 winners coming from a single digit draw, though the 15 gate probably helps her as she can slow away. There are a few dangers lurking in the field, though the two logical ones, Duke de Sessa and Arapaho are both too high in the handicap for mine, carrying 56.5 kg and 55 kg respectively. It's hard to win Sydney Cup that high in the weights. **15. (1) Birdman** who was 2nd to Alalcance last week is probably the danger at 8/1, though you'll get better odds with **5. (4) Athabaskan** at roughly 20/1. I was annoyed I took on Alalcance on last weekend and will be playing her on Saturday, though only mostly in vertical exotics. **16. (16) Valiant King**, the other, other Chris Waller has to be to be in the mix. **10. (18) Cleveland** made a point of finishing last in four consecutive races last season, though finally perked up at a little with a 4th place finish behind Alalcance in a Gr3 at Rosehill on March 22nd. This is a former Chester Cup winner when with Aiden O'Brien over 2 miles 2 1/2 furlongs and a Moonee Valley Cup winner in Australia. Cleveland gets in off a light weight and gets Jamie Melham. It's a horse for a big occasion. I can't tip it to win on the nose, but I am including the horse in exotics. (Note: An Australian and British or Irish Cup race means it is a long distance race, what Americans call a Marathon distance.)

Many Aussie punters will be playing 4, 5 and or 6 horse multiples including the aforementioned 4 races, landing on Via Sistina in the big one, and Fangirl in the Gr1 Queen of the Turf in R9.

The Gr1 Queen Elizabeth Stakes R8 is preeminent race on the Royal Randwick calendar.

Christophe Lemaire flies in from Dubai to ride **2. (12) Rousham Park (JPN)** for Sunday Racing. The horse gets the 2,000 Meters or 1 Mile 2 in UK parlance, that's 10 in US racing vernacular and has won at Nakayama - going the "Sydney direction" - which are all right handed courses, as opposed to the "Melbourne direction", which are all left handed courses, as in the US. You may remember Rousham Park almost "getting the chocolates" (Australia racing term for winning) in the Breeders Cup Turf at Del Mar. Top form. He's not usually quick out of the gates (as you may remember last November) and the first turn comes quick over the 10 at Randwick, so Rousham Park will be back or mid pack at best. I can sense a surging late run down the stretch, which is a furlong or more than at Del Mar. Will he run of out road or nail them on them line? You'll get great odds to find out. Rousham Park is currently 14/1.

US players will remember **15. (4) Full Count Felicia (USA)** who flashed away to win the EP Taylor stakes last year at Woodbine. She is now runs for Yulong and Chris Waller. She may win some prize money down under, but her status is Australia is probably more about blending the War Front bloodlines into to Yulong's breeding operation. That said, she probably has two missions here: Make the pace for Via Sistina or sneak away and hold on. She will likely find the lead and set a strong pace, along with two other Aussie pace setters, **14. (9) Deny Knowledge** (another Yulong mare, this one trained by the Freedmans) and **8. (7) Lindermann**

(a multiple Gr1 placed horse this year, trained by Waller - who has four in the race). I cannot have any of these pace setters in the places. Same for **11. (2) Geoglyph** who ran horribly with my money in the Doncaster last weekend. His role now is probably to ride shot gun for his Sunday Racing cohort, Rousham Park. He is a ridiculous 80/1 in the market 24 hours before the race.

Top UK trainer William Haggas returns with **1. (13) Dubai Honour (IRE)**, who won the race two years ago. (Note: Haggas is 11 from 23 in Australia winning 14 Million Australian dollars — Haggas has not matched that level of prize money with his last 200 winners in the UK.) The horse has been largely upped distance since and has drawn poorly. He won a local prep 10 days ago at Rosehill with Tom Marquand aboard. And Tom boomerangs back from Dubai where, but for traffic, he could have shocked both Romantic Warrior and Soul Rush with Maljoom who I touted in the Dubai Turf. Marquand gives Dubai Honour every chance. Some rain may have helped but it's not likely to materialise and this is a much tougher Queen Elizabeth than two years ago. Dubai Honour will be thereabouts, but others will be placed on the turn for home and will have fresher legs.

Another 7 yr old is the early market super hot Fav, **12. (1) Via Sistana (GB)** who opened at 9/10 or 1.9 upon completion of the barrier draw and within seconds shortened to 4/5 or 1.8 Fav. Via Sistina drew the inside, whereas most of her main market rivals have drawn wide outside. James McDonald also returns from Dubai for the ride. Via Sistina won the Cox Plate (known as the Southern Hemisphere's top Weight for Age Middle Distance race, a title the Sydney racing folks would like to have with the Queen Elizabeth) in a track record time of 2:01.07 last October. Romantic Warrior may have been the World's Highest earning racehorse last year, but Via Sistani was the highest rated racehorse. She'll be an awfully hard horse to kick out of the way. She has prepped well, winning two Gr1s this March, first at Randwick over a Mile and then on March 22nd over 10 furlongs at Rosehill. But this won't be as easy as advertised. There are eleven Gr1 wins among the horses amassed against her.

I have found one that I believe can kick both Via Sistina and the British and Japanese raiders out of the way. And that is **7. (3) Buckaroo (IRE)**. Buckaroo is former Joseph O'Brien trained horse that has Group winning form in Ireland including collateral Classic form, with the likes of Irish 1,000 Guineas winner Homeless Songs and Breeders Cup Juvenile Turf winner, Victoria Road behind him. He did not immediately adapt to racing in Australia, but his new owner Lebanese Australian businessman Ozzie Kheir who partnered with previous owners Qatar Racing were rewarded with their patience when he exploded last Spring winning the Gr2 Underwood at odds 8/1 by a distance with João Moreira up. I am still dining out on that particular flutter, as the Twitter archives will verify. Buckaroo then ran Via Sistina to 0.2 of length in the Gr1 Turnburn Stakes. This made him favourite for the Caulfield Cup, but one sneaked away and he closed late for 2nd. He was well in at the weights for the Melbourne Cup, so they rolled the dice, but drawn 23 of 24, he only managed 9th over the 2 Miles. Some players may be concerned he is only 2nd up, but I think it is clear to Chris Waller he is best fresh, hence he has only one prep over 7 1/2 furlongs in the Gr1 George Ryder. That has set him up for this. His

trials have been cosy, always keeping his useful training partners in hand. He looks fit and healthy. He is an absolute steal at 16/1. Tommy Berry recently back from a long suspension rides. He rides Randwick as good as anyone. Berry was the jockey for great Aussie sprinter, Chautauqua.

Randwick

11:30 pm EST Aprl 4th R4 - 2. Tempted 11/5

00:05 am EST R5 - 8. Autumn Gold 8/15

00:40 am EST R6 - 2. Treasurethe Moment 4/6

01:15 am EST R7 - Box Tri 0.50 base \$30

- 5. Athabaskan
- 8. Alalcance
- 10. Cleveland
- 15. Birdman
- 16. Valiant King

01:55 am EST R8 - 7. Buckaroo 16/1

Quaddie

5, 8, 10, 15, 16 / 7 / 1, 2 / 2, 6, 8
£1 base bet - \$30

British and Irish Racing

England's Flat racing seasons moves into 2nd gear this weekend with Guineas trials at Newbury. All the best flat jockeys are back on home turf, except Tom Marquand who is at Randwick. They are racing at the Curragh in Ireland also, with Ryan Moore hopping over. The party line from the English racing cognoscenti is "we are just guessing" or "wait and see" with these first up runners or maiden horses. I think they are mostly focussed on Jumps racing in Scotland. I prefer a different approach this weekend. The last two weeks here in April has been as good as any Summer I can remember in the UK. Warm, sunny weather, not a cloud in the sky. The going will be firm in places and I'll be playing horses who have the pedigree or are proven over the conditions.

Newbury

08:25 am EST R1 - 2. (7) Bellum Justum 5/1. The winner of the Nashville Derby returns to the Shires for his 1st up appearance. James Doyle replacing Frankie Dettori for Andrew Balding, a trainer known for good early season results. He gets good to firm ground, in which he excelled over at Kentucky Downs. Newbury has a few undulations too. **6. (1) Tabletalk 10/1** with Rossa Ryan up is the danger, though this middle distance contest maybe on the short side for him. I am taking on the two market leaders here.

09:00 am EST R2 - Christophe Soumillon pops over from France to ride **15. (6) Simmering** for Ollie Sangster and Al Shaqab in the Gr3 Fred Darling Stakes, a traditional trial for the 1,000 Guineas over 7 furlongs. Simmering is the 10/3 favourite, a reflection of her stellar 2 yr old season in which she was a Gr2 & 3 winner as well as a good 2nd to Lake Victoria. Next in the market is the Godolphin horse, Mountain Breeze and an Aidan O'Brien shipper, Heavens Gate. I am passing over all three. William Haggas may not get the chocolates down under at **Randwick** a few hours earlier, but I fancy **14. (2) Nardra** to crack open the chocolate box here. She was super strong late to win her maiden at Haydock last September. Haggas trusts the young Cieran Fallon to ride her. Her dam is by Rock of Gibraltar, which suggests firm. Haggas has firm ground horses running well as Maljoom showed last week at Meydan. I'll take the 8/1.

09:35 am EST R3 - The Greenham Stakes Gr3 is a trial for the 2,000 Guineas. Royal Ascot winner Rashabar heads the market, but this seems a local starting off point for longer distance French targets later in the Spring. **9. (6) Saracen** makes the journey from Ireland for Joseph O'Brien. This is probably to avoid his father's runners at the Curragh. Christophe Soumillon gets the call. It has shortened from 20/1 to 12/1 at the declaration stage and I may yet play him, but this probably seems to be a sighter for Newmarket in May. I prefer **1. (1) Al Qudra 13/2** for Charlie Appleby and William Buick. The No Nay Never colt is fit from racing in the UAE and Qatar these past few months. He acts on good to firm. He may not be the next great thing, but he may just be the best Charlie Appleby has at this distance just now and that will do for me.

11:19 am EST R6 - 5. (8) Ivatt was a respectable 2nd over 10 in his maiden. His pedigree top and bottom, Ghaiyyath and Mastercraftsman suggests to me he'll appreciate the going and the distance. No UK bookie has priced this race up yet, but as soon as they do I will be playing hard.

The Curragh

10:25 am EST R5 - Last year's Royal Winner Bedtime Story was entered in this Gr3 Lodge Park Stakes, but not declared, so Ryan Moore ends up on Whirl a Gr winner last year. She can win, as can the Dermot Weld horse Azada or Aga Khan, but I will be playing **9. (10) Ecstatic**. She won her maiden in August over good to firm. She has Classic entries. And because is not riding her, we'll get a price on this impeccably bred filly by Lord Kanoloa (JPN). Ignore any horse with the Great, Grandsire, Kingmambo at your peril.

Newbury

R1 - 2. Bellum Justum 5/1

R2 - 14. Nardra 8/1

R3 - 1. Al Qudra 13/2

R6 - 5. Ivatt S/P

The Curragh

R5 - 9. Ecstatic S/P