

TEAM HHH
#5 International Racing Tip Sheet
May 10-11, 2025
Lingfield - Ascot - Tokyo - Longchamp - Leopardstown

A mixed bag last weekend. Two winners on Friday and Four winners on Sunday, mostly Favs, though Bellum Justum was superb value at 11/2 in a four horse race. I over reached on Saturday, particularly with the provincial Australian cards. I did have two double priced winners chicken scratched on my notes, but didn't play them or give them out. Frankly, I didn't know what to say about Tiger Bay the 11/1 winner of the 1st at Newmarket other than Shirley Bassey was from Tiger Bay - so hard is it to tip first up horses with no training records, only a intuitive sense that the old timer trainer Henry Candy who is good with sprinters and had a poor record in recent years and was due a win. And he duly did win, but without our money. I suppose the moral of that story is not to be afraid to tip a hunch play.

We are all of a sudden deep into Derby and Oaks trials. The Guineas last weekend, the Chester festival these past three days, with more Derby and Oaks trials at Lingfield on Saturday and the first French classics of the season at Paris Longchamp on Sunday. The dry sunny weather continues and the form is holding.

Saturday, May 10

Lingfield

R4 10:00 am EST Aiden O'Brien's 1/3 shot Giselle should win the Oaks trial earlier in the day. This should help strengthen the market interest in the O'Brien Fav, Puppet Master here. There is also the other O'Brien to consider, but the value is the Richard Hannon horse **1. (4) Nighttime Dancer** at 12/1. The horse has already had a win on the synthetic in February. Kept in the rear and forced to learn the ropes bumping his way through the field to win going away. I love the new sire Ghaiyyath over the good to firm and the middle distance. The long stretch at Lingfield works in his favour. German owner, with entries in the Irish and German Derbies, this horse will be under the radar even in a 7 horse field. Play it a place play if you like, but I will playing it to win.

Ascot

R2 09:05 am EST I like the outsider of the field in the six horse contest here, **3. (2) Finsceal Luas**, 12/1. She won her maiden over heavy at Leopardstown and this may keep the casual player away, coupled with the fact that she has been switched from legendary Irish trainer to Eve Johnson Houghton in England. She will be marked down as a horse who failed in Ireland and needs heavy. But look a little closer and you'll see her earlier 2nd place finish at Listowel in rural West Ireland was over good to firm and she kept on nicely, winning on her side of the track. And look even closer and you'll see that the horse was entered in the Park Diane at Chantilly last year. I shared a few moments with the owner in Liverpool last year. I sought him out as I was looking for a Prix Diane tip. I recall Mr Ryan saying she'll get better with age. And now this once well intended horse is one year older and gets 15 lbs from the King's horse Rainbow's Edge, the 2/1 Fav for Gosden and Buick. Great value bet for me.

R3 09:40 am EST is the Victoria Cup, one of the Charge of the Light Brigade type races down the Ascot stretch. Finding the winners of such races is always difficult. There are often three races within one, as the horses can break into three groups. The first task is to find the winner of the far side scramble. And I am siding with the 8. (4) No Retreat, a horse who comes here after a successful stint at Meydan (always a great angle for the Spring in the UK, particularly a dry Spring) for Bahraini trainer, Fawzi Nass. He is now trained by up and coming trainer George Scott. He has no pace around him and will need to take it up on the far side. 17. (7) Diligent Resdev is a low weight danger at the better price of 16/1. It is a 7 furlong race and the 11 lbs may make all the difference. Joanna Mason rides. I touted her last week. Same logic holds. She could collar No Retreat late on the far side rail or she could float mid pack and pounce late up the middle. Most of the pace seems middle to high and in that race within a race I have **10. (15) Metal Merchant** for Jack Channon prevailing. David Probert resumes for the injured James Doyle. Metal Merchant ran a length 4th over 7 furlongs at Royal Ascot last Summer carrying 3lbs more than on Saturday. He has blown away the cobwebs away in a Mile contest at Newbury in mid April in which he carried 10 lbs more than today. He'll feel flyweight fit within himself and he is the primary selection. I would prefer No Retreat, but for the draw and paucity of speed around him. The money will land on the Juddmonte and Wathnam horses, Qirat and English Oak. Both are capable, but the price seems too short for Qirat's first up appearance and English Oak too much weight to carry. Both will want to be competitive at Royal Ascot. Winning this would only see them hiked in the weights, so pass.

Sunday, May 11th

Tokyo

R11 02:40 am EST The NHK Mile Gr1. I am like **15. (15) Arte Veloce** in this. This horse went off the 9/4 Fav in the Asahi Futurity Stakes back in December, a race won by Admire Moon, Fav for this in UK ante post markets, with Museum Mile (who went on to win the Satsuki Sho, the Japanese 2000 Guineas, three weeks ago) in 2nd place. Arte Veloce is by Maurice, the prolific miler and I doubt the Japanese Derby is on the agenda. I am happy to play him at 11/1 with a young gun rider Daisuke Sasaki resuming on the horse after Yutake Take was booked for the Futurity. Arte Veloce was a sweeping wide winner of a Gr3 on the wet turf last year. It is currently raining in Tokyo. The ground won't be heavy, but it will suit. It's a great value bet. The wide draw will not hurt. He is a big tank and will better coming down the crown of the track.

Longchamp

R1 07:58 am EST 9. (9) Electric Storm. This is very consistent mare. Strong winner over 5 furlongs first up at Bath (a provincial UK course best known for having no watering facilities. Youse get what the Lord gives youse). Soumillon booked. This Gr3 is her level. Would prefer a low draw, but nothing to fear in the race except the Czech trained Ponntos who ran well at Meydan earlier this year, but flopped when encountering Heavy going at San Siro in Milan two weeks ago. I am betting Ponntos won't readjust to the firm going. No betting market on the race yet.

R2 08:33 am EST Two American owners go at it in the four horse Gr2 field, Prix Saint-Alary over 10 furlongs for 3 yr fillies. The target for both Graffard trained horses is the Prix Diane. The Peter Brandt horse Gezora was bought after some success in the provinces, but seems out of her depth at top level. The Craig Bernick filly, **1. (3) Audobon Park** was a facile winner back in March and looks a serious Prix Diane contender. Flaming Stone does not have a Diane entry. She could land an upset blow if she runs this at dawdle and it turns into a sprint, but I would hope Soumillon has this possibility covered, though he won't want to burn too much rubber in this. It is risk you have to take.

R5 10:25 am EST The **Gr1 Poule D'Essai des Poulains** is a firecracker of a race. All the usual suspects from across the Channel and Irish Sea have players in this race, Charlie Appleby, John Gosden, Aiden O'Brien, Andrew Balding, not to mention the French establishment, such as Jean Claude Rouget and Francois Henri Graffard. It is a race I would love to do a horse by horse analysis, but there are time limits and maybe I'll save such analysis for the Prix du Jockey Club. In short, I have it as a two horse race. **12. (6) Henri Matisse** for Aiden O'Brien and Ryan Moore, fresh off their various conquests up at Chester and **16. (2) Hotazhell** for Jessica Harrington and Shane Foley also over from Ireland. Hotazhell took the scalp of another O'Brien prospect Delacroix in the Futurity at Doncaster late last October. The Too Darn Hot colt will be better for firmer going. He is outstanding value at 7/1. I am betting him tonight. Henri Matisse was the winner of the Breeders Cup Juvenile at Del Mar, so is use to the firm and the emphatic win of Zulu Kingdom last week at Churchill Downs does no harm to the form.

R6 11:05 am EST The **Gr1 Poule D'Essai des Poulaches** is a slam dunk case for **2. (7) Zarigana**, despite Aiden O'Brien sending three of his best over to Paris, including Royal Ascot winner Bedtime Story. Zarigana is currently 5/4 on UK books.

Leopardstown

R5 10:30 am EST This is another Derby trial, one that sees the presumptive Derby Fav Aiden O'Brien's Delacroix in his 2nd appearance of the season. In his first race this term he emphatically downed Lambourn, himself a clear winner at Chester yesterday. Delacroix is currently 4/9 Fav in early markets, but I prefer the Josphe O'Brien horse, **5. (2) Tennessee Stud** here, currently 3/1. Tennessee Stud was only 3/4 length back of Hotazhell in a Gr2 last September. I am betting on the form of that race.

Saturday, May 10th

Lingfield

R4 - 1. Nightime Dancer 12/1 VALUE

Ascot

R2 - 3. Finsecal Luas 16/1 VALUE

R3 - 10. Metal Merchant 12/1 VALUE

Sunday, May 11th

Tokyo

R11 - 15. Arte Veloce 11/1 VALUE

Longchamp

R1 - 9. Electric Storm SP

R2 - 1. Audoban Park SP

R5- 16. Hotazhell 7/1

R6- 2. Zarigana 5/4

Leopardstown

R5 5. Tennessee Stud 3/1