

## **ANDY RICHMOND'S IN RUNNING NOTES 23rd August 2012**

### **YORK 3.05 – Darley Yorkshire Oaks 1M 4F**

#### **IN-RUNNING OBSERVATIONS**

We should see a race that is run at a decent pace here, with the French filly Sareta usually happier at the head of affair and Was and Shirocco Star likely to pushing the pace alongside here.

Let's deal with the French filly first who has become one of the leading middle-distance fillies in her own land and makes her foray to England here, she has generally led in her races in France this year and the way French races are run that generally gives her a positional/pace advantage. She will be suited by the better ground here, although the fact remains that there are one or two who I think will be far better suited as to how this race will pan out and I thought that her price of around 4.5 was plenty short enough against a field which has plenty of talent.

Two of those likely to keep her company up front – she won't get an easy lead – are Was and Shirocco Star both of whom have shown their best form when ridden prominently and in fact I was surprised that with Was ridden as conservatively as she was last time out when taken back to 10F. Shirocco Star has impressed me all year despite the fact she has yet to win a race but the last three have come in G1/G2 company – she should get a decent sit just behind the leaders here and doesn't need to get involved in a head-to-head with Was and Sareta, but will be well placed to strike early in the straight.

Coquet a stablemate of Shirocco Star met plenty of trouble in the Oaks and with The Fugue attracting most of the unlucky in-running comments, Coquet was almost the forgotten horse of the race – she herself suffered greatly in-running and makes her first start since that tough time that she had on the Downs. There just remains a slight doubt as to whether she has enough tactical pace to hold a position and she may again find some trouble, she also took a long time to respond at Goodwood, although of course that was over a shorter trip than she faces here.

The hold-up trio and the ones that will be playing their cards late are – The Fugue, Wild Coco and Bible Belt. The Fugue is sure to be favourite here as she steps back up to 12F after being a beaten favourite on her last two runs over this trip; in fact it's possible that her form reads a lot better at less than the trip she faces today as that read 1411 against 32. Whilst The Fugue is going back up in trip we encounter Wild Coco coming down in trip from 16F last time out, she is still unexposed and for her age pretty lightly raced, there could be a slight concern that the race might come a little soon and there may be a couple that are just too quick for her here – the ultimate target for her would be something like the Park Hill at Doncaster.

That just leaves the second Irish filly Bible Belt to complete the field – she won her first three starts last year and she quickly developed into a smart filly who looks to be a smooth traveller but she does look to have more on her plate here and could find this just taxing her potential at this stage of her career.

## PACE MAP

**FRONT RUNNER: SHARETA**

**PROMINENT: WAS, SHIROCCO STAR**

**CHASE LEADERS:**

**TRACK LEADERS: COQUET**

**HELD UP: WILD COCO, THE FUGUE, BIBLE BELT**

## BETTING ANGLE

A few ways to play this race and it probably hinges on what you think of the favourite – The Fugue, I find her a tremendously likeable filly but one who has twice beaten over 12F and at around 2.72 I would be keen to take her on initially especially as she is not going to be in control of the race and may be made to dance to one of the more prominent runners tune. That's not to say that I will hold onto that liability and she could well trade bigger in-running and I can see her popping above the 5.0 marker even if she wins here.

The likely company up front puts me off supporting Shareta in any way and I'm fascinated as to what the tactics will be with Was who returns to a trip and ground that will really suit her on this occasion, if she can be ridden more prominently then I would certainly be interested in taking a look at her as a back-to-lay proposition. However, my main play in the race will be on the filly who will surely have the run of the race and who in relation to the favourite The Fugue is overpriced, after all Shirocco Star was only beaten a short head by John Gosden's filly last time out – it could be argued that she had the run of the race but the price disparity is enough to tempt me in. I'll be looking to back Hughie Morrison's charge at 12.0 or better, covering the stake at around 6.0 with further lays placed at 3.55 and 2.52.

Wild Coco will certainly be worth watching in-running as she will be the one really finishing, if you are playing her then it may be better to do so in-running at bigger prices than pre-race.

A race with more depth than the betting suggests and one to look forward to.



*\*All the pace map and IR information is obtained via the Proform Professional software - ([www.proformprofessional.com](http://www.proformprofessional.com))*

## **YORK 4.15 – Galtres Stakes 1M 4F**

### **IN-RUNNING OBSERVATIONS**

We should get a strongly run race here if the two improving handicap winners from last time out are ridden in the same enterprising manner – the two that I write of are Bite Of The Cherry and Sequence. Of course they are stepping up in class here and it might be that they get involved in a duel with each other which could leave them vulnerable to horses that are proven in this grade, although in truth the gap in grade is not as much as it looks on paper.

Of the pair Sequence looks the better traveller and the slightly more progressive, although from a betting point of view it is surprising to see the disparity in the betting market.

Both of those mentioned are undeniably progressive but one that could well match them in that respect is the Irish filly Pale Mimosa, she shaped with promise on her one two-year-old start and the return in a Galway maiden was very visually impressive although she did have to be niggled along at a couple of stages in that race, although that could have been inexperience but she could well get a ideal pace scenario here, especially as I think in time she may be suited by a little further.

Of the others Cracking Lass was a useful filly last year but she has developed a trait that sees her dwelling at the start and she will be on the backfoot from early on if that happens again and the anticipated pace develops up front. Bigger prices should and will be available soon after the start if you do want to support Cracking Lass.

The others look to have very few angles that can be exploited and the race looks sure to go to a lightly raced and improving filly.

### **PACE MAP**

**FRONT RUNNER: BITE OF THE CHERRY, SEQUENCE**

**PROMINENT: ANISEED, PALE MIMOSA**

**CHASE LEADERS: DANE STREET**

**TRACK LEADERS: FIRDAWS**

**HELD UP: CRACKING LASS**

### **BETTING ANGLE**

A race clouded by what will happen between the two lightly raced but prominently ridden runners and the question I have to pose is will they be ridden the same way again or will one or both back off and allow something like Anisees to take up the running. A poser for sure, given that scenario I'm going to swerve any involvement in either Bite Of The Cherry and Sequence and row in with the Irish filly of similar ilk – Pale Mimosa.

I think she may be slightly neglected in the market and if the pace scenario does develop, it will suit her ideally. I'd be looking at a price of 4.5 to support her pre-race and you may even want to have a small bet in the early stages of the race as given her profile from her last run she may just trade a

little bigger in the early of the race and I would be happy with a small bet there at around 6.0 if she is niggled early. If those prices are matched I won't be looking to get out of the bet too early and will be happy to save stakes as low as 2.52 with further insurance at odds-on.



*\*All the pace map and IR information is obtained via the Proform Professional software -*  
[\(\[www.proformprofessional.com\]\(http://www.proformprofessional.com\)\)](http://www.proformprofessional.com)

## **YORK 4.50 – Eventmasters.co.uk (Handicap) 7F**

### **IN-RUNNING OBSERVATIONS**

7F, that intermediate distance that doesn't suit all and there are plenty here that are stepping up and stepping down an attempt to accommodate this trip and that may well not suit.

There are plenty that like to be ridden near the front here but very few out-and-out pace setters, in fact only Swerve and Dutch Rose look happy in that area or with that style, having said that both are not in the best of form and look to have tough tasks here. Moving on then what of those who could be sitting and stalking close to that pace – Honeymead, Jade, Dance Company and Banraku – of that quartet it was Jade who produced a career best last time out under a change of run style (previously held-up and can dwell at the start), Dance Company needs to prove herself on turf, Honeymead could find this all happening a bit quickly on ground this quick and Banraku who is lightly raced needs to be watched if you are supporting her as she can be keen and race with the choke out which could compromise her chance.

Those that track or are placed in midfield produce two interesting types in Ladyship and Riot Of Colour, the former was just touched off last time out at Ascot over 6F last time out and she has travelled noticeably strongly in all of her races and looks a cast iron back-to-lay candidate, although as she is likely to start favourite, there is not as much price elasticity as I would like. Riot Of Colour does offer that, she is also one of those who has settled well in his race and travelled noticeably well, looking every inch a horse who can cope well with the demands of this unique trip.

Of those that are held-up Shesastar is the one that catches the eye returning to the scene of her win in the race last year of a mark of 79, she is now rated 9lb higher but has won off a mark of 84 and if the race did fall apart then she could well be the one to benefit.

### **PACE MAP**

**FRONT RUNNER: SWERVE**

**PROMINENT: DUTCH ROSE**

**CHASE LEADERS: HONEYMEAD, JADE, DANCE COMPANY, BUNRAKU (keen)**

**TRACK LEADERS: LADYSHIP (smooth traveller), SHABORA, WHIMSICAL**

**MIDFIELD: INSTANCE, NIGHT LILY (travels keenly), RIOT OF COLOUR (smooth mover)**

**HELD UP: MISPLACED FORTUNE, SHESASTAR (finds for pressure), NO POPPY (slow away)**

### **BETTING ANGLE**

This looks very much to be the battle between two improving well-placed smooth travelling fillies – Ladyship and Riot Of Colour and I'll be siding with the one that offers me more price elasticity and scope – Riot Of Colour.

I'll be looking for any prices at 9.0 or better to start with and then looking to regain half my stakes at around 4.5, the other half a point lower at 3.5 with a further bet placed at odds-on to complete

operations on Riot Of Colour. I'll leave how deep you want to go with the odds-on bet to you but I'll be looking at between the 1.81 and 1.71 marker.

My other play in the race will be rather more speculative but I can resist a small bet on last year's winner Shesastar repeating her victory here, in all of her four wins she has traded way above her SP and I'll be looking to pop a bet in at around the 25.0+ mark shortly after the off – if I get that matched in the first three furlongs I'll be happy as I'm sure David Barron's filly will be finishing with aplomb, the danger of course is that one or two of the better travelling types could be gone by then but I feel to small stakes the risk is worth taking.



*\*All the pace map and IR information is obtained via the Proform Professional software - ([www.proformprofessional.com](http://www.proformprofessional.com))*