

ANDREW MOUNT



BETWEEN THE LINES

War worth a crack at a big price to take the International



Branscombe goes to Newbury on Thursday

The last ten winners of Ascot's Gigaset International Stakes were aged four or five and this race has thrown up several shocks, with winners at 40-1, 33-1 (twice), 25-1, 18-1, 16-1 and 14-1 in that period.

WAR GLORY, who did best of the centre group when fifth to Parfait in the Silver Bunbury Cup, could be the way to go.

Fastnet Rock's progeny have a great record on Tapeta, with 29 winners from 123 runners since the start of 2015, for a profit of £74.03 to £1 level stakes. Tim Easterby's **FASTALONG**, who did well to run fourth from a poor wide draw at Chester on his latest outing, could improve for the switch to an artificial surface at Newcastle on Saturday.

The 1m6f Haydock handicap won by Ebor hope Zenon recently is working out well, with the second, fifth and ninth all scoring next time. **MISTER MANDURO** was last of ten in that but did too much too soon and can return to winning ways wherever he winds up this week.

COOLFITCH has blown the start on occasions but looks set to encounter her preferred soft ground and big field at Ascot on Friday. She ran a blinder from a tough draw when a close second on unsuitably quick ground at York last time and her handicap record in fields in 12 or more

HORSES TO FOLLOW

Name	Date	Track	Dist	Comment
Atletico	14 July	Ascot	6f	Stuck out in centre with two others and did well to finish fifth; worth another chance
Blair House	24 June	Ascot	1m	Fantastic effort to run second from off pace in Hunt Cup on belated seasonal debut
Cardsharp	22 June	Ascot	5f	Big run from poor draw; has since landed July Stakes and will be winning again soon
Fire Tree	14 July	Ascot	1m	Raced away from favoured rail when landing apprentice handicap; value for more
Golden Apollo	13 July	Newmarket	6f	Decision to stick to centre might have cost him when fourth of 19 in hot handicap
Gossiping	15 July	Newmarket	7f	Second best of low numbers when 7th in Bunbury Cup; high on list for Goodwood
Handsome Dude	20 May	Thirsk	6f	Clear best of those to race stands' side on a day the far side was favoured
Indian Dandy	22 June	Ascot	1m	Best of those stands' side when 25-1 fourth in the Britannia; yet to run a bad race
Kestrel Dot Com	15 June	Newbury	1m	Yet to score around a turn but this win took figures on straight course to 1523411
Mr Lupton	7 May	Newmarket	6f	Confirmed promise of Bath comeback run with another big-field handicap success
Muirsheen Durkin	28 June	Carlisle	1m	Closer to pace than those around him when runner-up in Carlisle Bell Consolation
Muthmir	8 July	Sandown	5f	Did well to grab fourth place from poor wide draw in Group 3 Coral Charge
Polybius	24 June	Ascot	6f	Back from break to run fourth in Wokingham; open to improvement for current yard
Projection	24 June	Ascot	6f	Best of those drawn high when third in Wokingham; deserves to win a big handicap
Robero	15 July	Newmarket	7f	Tricky draw when 5th in Bunbury Cup; figures of 1182115 in turf handicaps over 6f-7f
Roussel	7 July	Sandown	5f	Challenged wide from worst of the draw when runner-up in Listed Dragon Stakes
Samarmadi	17 July	Wolves	6f	Huge effort to go close after missing the break where pacesetters were favoured
Santry	22 June	Ascot	5f	Lost unbeaten record but huge effort to run close second in Norfolk from poor draw
Savannah Slew	9 June	Carlisle	6f	Did well to win after slow start; 3-3 in handicaps on good to soft or softer going
Show Palace	20 May	Thirsk	6f	Travelled like the winner but didn't get home; hard to beat granted cut at 5f
The Wagon Wheel	17 June	York	6f	Not best drawn when runner-up to Golden Apollo and can land a big handicap
Tisbutadream	21 June	Ascot	1m	Ran well from low draw; has since won at Sandown and still has more to offer
Tribute Act	14 June	Kempton	7f	Overcame slow start to score in fast time; 2-2 over 7f; looks most progressive
Wind In My Sails	15 June	Newbury	1m	Form of third to Kestrel Dot Com franked by subsequent wins for the fourth and sixth

BLINKERS WORK

Open Wide, backed from 6-1 into 4-1, overcame a slow start to land a sprint handicap at Bath last week, giving trainer Amanda Perrett another first-time blinkered winner. Since 2012, the yard is 8-41 (19.5%) with runners in first-time blinkers for a profit of £46.00 to £1 level stakes.

runners, aside from seasonal debuts, now reads 312.

Mark Johnston's **BRANSCOMBE**, usually ridden prominently, couldn't get involved at York last time and is worth another go in the 6f nursery at Newbury on Thursday. Johnston is four from eight in nurseries this year for a profit of £10.16 to £1 level stake. He's also in at Thirsk on Friday.

HARLEQUIN STRIKER was a tailed-off last of four at Epsom on his latest outing, but the ground was plenty quick enough that day and he can bounce back at Sandown on Wednesday night.

He always needs his first three runs but his record from his fourth start onwards, on good to soft or softer going, reads 1121237 (3-7). Trainer Dean Ivory ended a barren spell at Newmarket on Saturday.

SHOW PALACE is difficult to beat at the minimum trip on good to soft or softer going, taking his record under such conditions to 111101 (5-6) when scoring at Carlisle last time. The sole defeat can be excused, as he went solo down the stands' side from stall 20 at Ayr (first three drawn one, three, seven) and

he's been found a good chance at Nottingham on Tuesday.

It was hard to win from off the pace at Wolverhampton last week and **LOVE TO ROCK** fared second best of the hold-up horses when fifth of 13 over the mile trip. The strong pace will suit at Musselburgh on Tuesday.

BROTHER TIGER also ran well against the pace bias at Wolverhampton last week, keeping on well into fourth in the 6f handicap. He can return to winning ways at Chelmsford where he looks well drawn.

SELECTIONS

TUESDAY

Chelmsford 7.00 Brother Tiger.
Musselburgh 2.15 Love To Rock.
Nottingham 6.50 Show Palace (NAP).

WEDNESDAY

Sandown 6.35 Harlequin Striker.

THURSDAY

Doncaster 7.50 Savannah Slew.
Newbury 6.30 Branscombe;
8.40 Samarmadi.
Sandown 2.30 Mister Manduro.

FRIDAY

Ascot 2.45 Mister Manduro;
3.20 Tisbutadream; 3.55 Mister Manduro;
4.25 Coolfitch (N.B.).
Newmarket 8.10 Mister Manduro.
Thirsk 2.20 Fastalong; 2.55 Branscombe;
4.35 Samarmadi.

SATURDAY

Ascot 3.00 War Glory.
Chester 3.10 Muirsheen Durkin.
Newcastle 1.25 Fastalong.
Newmarket 4.00 Golden Apollo.
York 2.40 Golden Apollo.

SUNDAY

Curragh 3.50 Tisbutadream.

DRAWING CONCLUSIONS LESSONS FROM THE RECENT DRAW ACTION

WOLVES, MONDAY

Sand surfaces can behave oddly during the warmer months and that was the case at Wolverhampton last Monday as prominent racers enjoyed an advantage.

It's rare for a pacesetter to score over the longer trips here, but 33-1 shot **HOWARDIAN HILLS** made all in the 1m4f classified

claimer and the other winners were described as 'made all', 'chased leaders', 'soon led', 'always prominent', 'soon led' and 'chased leader'.

TRANQUIL SOUL did well to come from off the pace for second in the 6f opener but the real eyecatcher was **SAMARMADI**, who was short-headed in the 6f handicap after completely

blowing the start.

LINGFIELD, WEDNESDAY/SATURDAY

The inside looked chewed up on the round turf course and most of the winners came late and wide.

THISTIMENEXTYEAR did well to make all in the maiden on Saturday night and is the one to take from the meeting.

NOTTINGHAM, FRIDAY

It was all about pace and the inside rail on the round course, with the winners described as 'made all', 'soon led' and 'led 2f, close up'.

The Owen Burrows-trained **EHTIRAAS**, making his belated seasonal debut, was forced to challenge late and wide after a slow start in the mile Class 4

handicap and deserves extra credit for grabbing second. He can be backed to go one better next time.

SIZE MATTERS, who has made the running in the past, was described as 'dwelt and in rear' before keeping on into fourth in the mile Class 6 handicap. A clean break could see him hard to beat next time.

HAMILTON, FRIDAY

The stands' rail has often been favoured in sprints here this year but, in the biggest field of the season, those drawn low who raced far side were dominant, with **CLASSIC SENIORITY** (stall five of 14) leading home runners drawn four and one. The winner takes some getting fit and a recent run is key.