

~ The Early Word ~ New Zealand

Three Meetings to siphon money off the back of the Cup with patronage at TABS mega compared to normal. The Ellerslie meeting is normally a good one & has a large turnover compared to an average Saturday meet. We will stay with Ellerslie today although rain is expected later in the day, it may come too late to have an effect.

Our best bet of the day is Ellerslie **Race 3 No 5 De Los Angeles**. On paper this is a race in 2 with 5 De Los Angeles & 6 Morelle to fight it out as they have on the last 2 occasions they have met. Back to 1200 & De Los Angeles appears to be better suited to this distance, Morelle is drawn in the carpark which will make it difficult for it to get near the speed. De Los Angeles is improving with each run & is hard to see it not amongst the placegetters.

Our rated price is 2.80. Expected price 3.50-4.50

The value selection for today is Ellerslie **Race 9 No 9 Vickezzchardonnay**. Is in a purple patch of form this time in with 2 wins from 3 runs, this distance suits & is never very far away in most of its runs. It doesn't meet anything here that it can't topple. Is an on pace runner who wont be troubled by the rain if it arrives. 1 Stone Garden & 5 Sir Prized appear as likely dangers.

Our rated price is 4.00. Expected price 5.00-6.50.

Adelaide

The Banker

Race 3 # 13 The Long Road

Rated: 1.90

Expected: 3.10

BEST BET

Very keen on this meeting with several good bets really standing out including R1 no 10 Vaugirard, R2 no 8 Fine Spirit and R4 no 1 Road Worker but have finally settled on The Long Road(13) in race 3. Is first up here but was placed behind some smart types when far from disgraced last preparation when having genuine excuses on each occasion. The only doubt is the 4 first starters including one from the Hayes Stable-Elusive Peak(5)???.

However they would need to be above average to be beating home The Long Road. Prepared to step in at \$1.90 or better. On disclosed form Dancing Elegance(4) is the only other runner to have really shown any ability.

The Value

Race 7 # 14 Wendy Ellen

Rated: 6.50

Expected: 7.00

E/W BET

Still a maiden after 14 races but is always up there. Has been far from disgraced finishing on the placegetters heels last few runs in much tougher company(including against the likes of Vicello, Humaway and Testasaurus).

Will be winning one of these races one day and would not be at all surprised if she can make a nuisance of herself here and salute at healthy odds. Rates a good bet each way bet at about 6.50 or better.

Chances in an open race include the promising Boogi On The Grass(8) 3.0, Climb The Hill(5) 4.5 as well as Purple Haze(2) 8.0 and Jeune's Lagoon(1) 9.5

Lacey Underall

2008 Adelaide Cup Winner

Brisbane

The Banker

Race

Rated:

Expected:

BEST BET

The Value

Race

Rated:

Expected:

E/W BET

Barclays ran

Viewed

2008 Brisbane Cup Winner

Melbourne

The Banker

Race 5 # 2 Aichi

Rated: 2.00

Expected: 2.35

BEST BET

Aichi looks an extremely promising type with the son of Strategic finishing no further back than second in six career runs. He won down the straight here two starts back before an exceptional second behind Sunburnt Land (should have won Saturday) when racing against the older horses. Back to his own age group and down significantly in class, he is going to be very hard to roll.

The Value

Race 7 # 7 Zipping

Rated: 13.00

Expected: 20.00

E/W BET

There can be no criticisms of Zipping this time in with all three of his runs being enormous. Fresh he got home well at the Valley before an exceptional third in the Turnbull at Flemington. He followed that up with a luckless second in the Cox Plate. He has ran two fourths in the Melbourne Cup and looks well suited by the expected pace in the race. He is always honest and will be right in the finish.

Efficient

2007 Melbourne Cup Winner

Sydney

The Banker

Race 7 #2 Zazabeau

Rated: 1.80

Expected: tba

BEST BET

~~Has looked good at the mile and a half at his last 2, in stronger races than this. Not concerned about the extra weight. More than happy to snap up even money if it's on offer.~~

The Value

Race 5 # 1 Sequinella

Rated: 4.50

Expected: 6.50

E/W BET

This mare has a lot of weight to lump, but won't know herself in a Fillies & Mares race that looks more like a Kembla Grange race. Doesn't win out of turn, but she's a consistent placegetter in better fields than this and looks to get her chance today. Hugh Bowman helps her cause and she should be the right odds.

No Wine No Song

2008 Sydney Cup Winner

~ The "Get Out" Stakes ~ Western Australia

Generally speaking, a tough card with few standouts. The highlight of the meeting will be watching Dark Target win race 5. This galloper has searing short course speed, and if the track races similar to last Saturday will give the state record a real push. He will be at unbackable odds. Race 8 has some tidy gallopers, but looks an evenly graded affair.

GUMNUT GURU (Race 4 No 3) looks perfectly placed here to annex his second career win at his 7th start. Clearly rates best on last start 3rd behind Hermosa Corona and Valentine Miss, both those gallopers would win this moderate affair easily. Over raced last time and should settle better here with the 200m step up to the 1600 course. Rider was questioned at length regarding lack of initiative and tactics last time in, and has been replaced by William Pike today. Looks the one. Forever Generous appeals as the logical danger running less than a length behind Gumnut Guru last time and General Mosvale has steadily improved with each run.

Rated Price: 3.25 Expected: 3.00

The last race on the card should see an excellent each way chance in the way of **PROART** (Race 9 No 2). This twice listed placed entire, put in a cracking first up performance when he thundered home from 12th on the turn to finish 5th less than a length adrift of the winner. Has performed well second up in the past, and raced admirably against the best of his age bracket last preparation. A genuine Saturday performer, against a largely mid week field here. Will get back, but plenty of top end speed in this should suit his racing pattern. The rest are very evenly graded.

Rated Price : 3.5 Expected: 8.50