

THE PRICE WATCHER BLOG

Welcome to The Price Watcher Blog, where we take a value-led approach to the televised racing on ITV and aim to identify bets that the market may have overlooked.

As the Dante Festival continues at York, Thursday's ITV Racing coverage features five competitive contests from the Knavesmire, headlined by the Group 2 Dante Stakes - alongside one supporting race from Salisbury.

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14.20 YORK

Back for Day Two of York and up first is a strong-looking handicap sprint.

After previously putting him up at both Newmarket and Chester before he was subsequently withdrawn, it makes sense to stick with Robert Cowell's Jakajaro. He returned in winning style at the Craven Meeting when making all over five furlongs, showing plenty of pace and proving difficult to pass once getting into a rhythm on the front end. He also holds solid placed form at Listed level, and his current mark looks workable if he can get back to that sort of level.

Interestingly, the race he was withdrawn from at Newmarket was over six furlongs, and this drop back to five should suit better. If allowed an uncontested lead again he could be hard to reel in, particularly on a track where front runners can be very effective. The high draw is a slight concern, but not an impossible one to overcome, especially with Grosvenor Sport's Each Way Plus offering five places.

Selection: JAKAJARO E/W – 11/1

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14.40 SALISBURY

The eye is immediately drawn to the favourite in the televised race from Salisbury, Gallivanted, who represents Harry Derham. While Derham is more commonly associated with the National Hunt sphere, his runners on the Flat have still tended to be well found in the market when appearing in races like this.

However, if looking for value, Jonathan Portman's Personal Best could be the one to side with. He has already shown his ability to stay this trip, having won over it at Ffos Las last season, and arrives with a solid, consistent profile from his three-year-old campaign.

There looks to be scope for further improvement based on some decent form towards the back end of last year, and if building on that, he could be competitive at the prices.

Selection: PERSONAL BEST – 5/1

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14.55 YORK

Sea Force looks a progressive type for the William Haggas team and sets a solid standard on recent form, but at the prices the value may lie elsewhere.

Diego Ventura could be the one to side with at around 14/1, having shown useful Group form over this trip last season. He shaped with encouragement on his comeback run last month and should strip fitter for that effort.



If he can build on that return, he looks well capable of outrunning his odds and getting involved at the business end.

Selection: DIEGO VENTURA E/W – 14/1

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15.30 YORK

Sea The Fire is probably the right favourite here, particularly given her excellent form at York and her overall profile in top company.

She was a hugely impressive winner of this race last year, scoring by around twelve lengths in what wasn't the strongest renewal, but she has since gone on to show her class in much deeper races, including form alongside the likes of Ombudsman in the Prince of Wales's Stakes.



She stays the trip well, has had a recent prep run to sharpen her up, and ticks plenty of boxes on paper. If reproducing anything close to her best, she is clearly the one to beat, and anything around even money or better could still be considered fair value.

Selection: SEE THE FIRE – 5/4

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16.05 YORK

Christmas Day is the favourite here and the choice of Ryan Moore, which naturally commands plenty of respect, but Action is one that should not be overlooked in this line-up.

He showed smart form as a two-year-old, finishing just under two lengths behind Bow Echo in the Royal Lodge - form that has worked out strongly with that rival going on to Guineas success. He should also come on for his reappearance behind the useful Rahheeb, and with Wayne Lordan taking the ride, he looks a capable each-way player who could step forward and run a big race at a price.

Selection: ACTION E/W – 13/2

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16.40 YORK

Black Star Boy looks a solid each-way bet as a progressive sprinter for Ed Walker. He was last seen winning on his reappearance over this trip at Sandown last month, producing what looked a very taking performance in the process.

His current mark of 93 still looks workable on that evidence, and there should be further improvement to come. Punters will also be encouraged by the stable form, with Felicitas running such a game race in the Group 3 Musidora on Wednesday, suggesting the yard is operating well.

Selection: BLACK STAR BOY E/W – 12/1

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Best of luck if you're playing and remember always gamble responsibly!

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