

# Breeders Cup Preview 2011



## A Bisogno Bulletin Special Report

## FRIDAY

### BC Juvenile Dirt Sprint

- 1 Seeker – interesting if it came up wet, 95 Beyer, ... It has come up wet
- 2 Sum Of The Parts – bullet work LTO, could be outpaced and close
- 3 Blacky The Bull – SoCal doesn't look good enough
- 4 Trinniberg – wants to lead, so do most of these. Sectionals suggest he'll be there early
- 5 Shumoos – Dirt pedigree for 1<sup>st</sup> dirt start, Meehan knows the score, outpaced and stay on?
- 6 Secret Circle – 2x97 Beyer, wants to lead, might be four wide at the turn, no value, field against
- 7 Holdin Bullets – looked to be tiring at 4.5f, can't see him getting involved on first dirt start, and first since April(!)
- 8 Jake Mo – very fast early, but not quite the class of some of those, possible for pieces
- 9 Vexor – held up from wide draw, come late, best each way?

#### Pace:

Front Rank – 1, 4, 7, 8

Stalkers – 2, 3, 6, 9

Closers – 5

#### Pointers:

- Perhaps look to fast sprinters who disappointed going further
- Wesley Ward / Steve Asmussen of interest
- Ripe for an upset...? No history to go on!

#### Main Contenders:

Seeker, Shumoos, Secret Circle, Vexor

#### Other Possibles:

The rest!

#### Summary:

I'm trying to get *Secret Circle* beaten here. This is much tougher than he's faced so far, and there's a TON of early pace so he won't get it all his own way. He might be good enough to blitz all, especially on a sloppy track, but at the prices I'm looking for some jam on my bread.

*Seeker* is proven on the slop and looks sure to be close at the first call, which was a huge advantage on Thursday's slop card.

*Shumoos* has a dirt pedigree and ought to finish the race off best if actually taking to the surface, but this looks something of a crap shoot. With very little to go on, I'll be playing a number of these on the B and C tickets in my Pick 3's, and even then only for small money.

Not a race to get seriously involved in.

## BC Juvenile Fillies Turf

- 1 My Gi Gi – closer who will need luck in running as well as improvement to win from #1
- 2 Dayatthespa – likely pacesetter, likely outrun late, hold on for pieces underneath?
- 3 Up – stuffed on turf debut, won after layoff on AW return, hard to fathom, interesting.
- 4 Stopshoppingmaria – big 101 on dirt, this first run on turf is tough to figure, though stalk style gives big chance if taking to turf
- 5 Stephanie's Kitten – bad trip in Natalma, can go better here, dangerous closer
- 6 Sweet Cat – the more obvious Pletcher? Slight drop in trip in her favour and stalking style gives her first run on some of these
- 7 Royal Bonnie – decent stalking run Ito, but unlikely to be able to repeat here, trainer rarely has stakes runners/winners
- 8 Hard Not To Like – progressive Woodbine specialist, bad trip when beaten, back off quite a short layoff, prefer others
- 9 Pure Gossip – murdered the Ms Grillo field, stalker with a big kick, nice price and decent chance for unfashionable NY yard
- 10 Elusive Kate – best form, versatile as regards pace, fresh enough, the one to beat though Euro record is poor
- 11 Ann Of The Dance – not won outside of claiming/maiden company, and 3<sup>rd</sup> in G3 gives her a mountain to climb, bred for turf
- 12 Dear Lavinia – front runner in a race short on pace, could set soft fractions, still susceptible to finisher
- 13 Customer Base – unbeaten in 2 on main track, this altogether different, passed over
- 14 Somali Lemonade – deep closer is 2/2 on turf, 90 Beyer, drawn to drop in and rally, might be all over though?

### Pace:

Front Rank – 2, 12

Stalkers – 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13

Closers – 1, 3, 5, 11, 14

Versatile – 10,

- Yet to be won by a Euro! (only one from 9 placed)
- Sharp race LTO
- 30+ days off not a disadvantage
- Belmont / NY fillies favoured, SoCal not so.
- Pletcher a man to follow (esp. with a filly via Woodbine)
- So far the three winners have failed to feature one of the first 3 in the betting
- Stalk and rally types prevail

### Main Contenders:

Stephanie's Kitten, Sweet Cat, Pure Gossip, Somali Lemonade

### Other Possibles:

Dayatthespa, Elusive Kate, Customer Base

### Summary:

If *Dayatthespa* is not rushed to the lead, she will have a great chance, having had the exact prep (and finishing positions) that last year's winner had. *Stopshoppingmaria* is curious here, with no turf experience. All previous winners had won on the 'lawn'. *Somali Lemonade* has a tough draw, but she's quick and unbeaten.

*Sweet Cat* and *Pure Gossip* look like value prices and both could run well, especially the latter who is proven on soft when thumping the Miss Grillo field.

Johnny G's *Elusive Kate* had a hard race last time, and the performance of Euro's over here puts me off a bit.

## BC Filly and Mare Sprint

- 1 Irish Gypsy – SoCal G2 winner on poly over 7f, front runner will do well to hang tough in the lane here
- 2 Great Hot - Keeneland G2 winner on poly over 7f, stalker who stays a mile, could well hit the board from good draw
- 3 Turbulent Descent – coast to coast stalker, has improved with each run, won G1, stays 7f, dirt no problem, hard to knock
- 4 Champagne D'Oro – not in the same form as last year, and wasn't good enough last year
- 5 Musical Romance – 2<sup>nd</sup> in TCA and in a G1 at Calder, this Florida-based stalker has a lot to do here
- 6 Switch – super consistent in G1 company, big Beyers, 2<sup>nd</sup> in this last year when stuck in traffic, big chance to atone
- 7 Tar Heel Mom – off the boil since G2 win three back, hard to fancy in current form and with moderate G1 record
- 8 Tanda – synth and turf specialist would be a shock winner, not in this class, seems short enough in the betting to me
- 9 Golden Mystery – thumped in only Graded run (G1), won at numerous tracks, in best form, try to lead all the way, unlikely
- 10 Tamarind Hall – best form last four runs, still hard to see reversing with Pomeroy's, outpaced in the stretch
- 11 Her Smile – bad trip last two (only two) 7f starts, doesn't look good enough here
- 12 Pomeroy's Pistol – consistent 3yo will need luck in running from wide draw, might chuck it in here as when well beaten CD
- 13 Shotgun Gulch – deep closer with course experience, could well run better than odds suggest, pieces/each way play

### Pace:

Front Rank – 4, 7, 8, 9,

Stalkers – 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, 12

Closers – 11, 13

Versatile -

- 7F Graded form (win)
- Thoroughbred Club of America Stakes might be key prep
- Dirt form
- Stalk and rally types (tough to lead this far)
- Sharp race LTO (pref win)
- G1 Stakes win or at least G1 placed that term
- SoCal based 'away' winner might be ideal

### Main Contenders:

Turbulent Descent, Switch

### Other Possibles:

Shotgun Gulch, Great Hot, Tar Heel Mom

### Summary:

The only doubt about *Turbulent Descent* is that she's been off for three months. However, she's been firing in the bullets in her work and her CV is impeccable for this.

*Switch* has an obvious chance. She's made the frame in 15 of 17 career starts, including when second here in this last year. But... she's never raced on a wet main track.

*Tar Heel Mom* is a regular sloppy track winner, and is upgraded on that basis.

*Shotgun Gulch* could tilt the tote for a place late doors.

## BC Juvenile Fillies

- 1 Questing – could be a weak race, but Johnny G's runner still looks up against it, with lots of other pace on early. Bred for dirt.
- 2 Candrea – improved for step up in trip when 2<sup>nd</sup> in Oak Leaf. Work since unspectacular and ought not to be good enough
- 3 Rocket Twentyone – unbeaten stalker who won Arlington Lassie LTO, Beyers are low but she earns a tickle at a price
- 4 Miss Netta – beaten a fair way in Frizette, but that bullet best of 107 on Oct 29 catches the eye. Bounce back?
- 5 Grace Hall – impressive surge in the turn when winning G1 Spinaway, unbeaten in three, and maybe the second best here
- 6 Self Preservation – ex-Irish has a lot to do based on balance of form, not this day for this player
- 7 Putthebabiesdown – close 3<sup>rd</sup> in G1 Alcibiades merits respect, as does improved Beyer on 1<sup>st</sup> poly start. Yet to race on dirt.
- 8 Homecoming Queen – turf pedigree for the O'Brien inmate. Already had ten starts so battle hardened, but also fully exposed.
- 9 My Miss Aurelia – impressive in the G1 Frizette, front runner is unbeaten in 3, this much tougher but she's still the one to beat
- 10 Northern Passion – closer will definitely be suited by the race pace, first dirt start a worry, like the way she eats it on the turn
- 11 Weemissfrankie – unbeaten in 3, closer with turn speed also, first dirt start saw G1 win (her second) on the line
- 12 Frolic's Revenge – exposed as something of a no-hoper, and doesn't look anywhere near this grade
- 13 Say A Novena – picked up nice prize money in mainly ungraded stakes at the gaffs, not in this class but has won on slop
- 14 Awesome Belle – Calder shipper ran huge race last time, Calder runners won two here last year, bit much not the biggest surprise ever...

### Pace:

Front Rank – 1, 2, 8, 9, 14

Stalkers – 3, 5, 11, 12, 13

Closers – 7, 10,

Versatile – 4, 6

- Improved Beyer when stretching in trip
- 90+ Beyer LTO
- Won or placed in Frizette, Oak Leaf, Alcibiades, Matron, Del Mar Deb and Arlington Lassie
- Gained ground into the stretch LTO
- Won at 7f+ on dirt
- Bullet or very sharp final workout
- Horses close to the pace go well often
- (Any) Graded Stakes win or Frizette placed

### Main Contenders:

Grace Hall, My Miss Aurelia, Weemissfrankie

### Other Possibles:

Rocket Twentyone, Miss Netta, Northern Passion, Awesome Belle, Say A Novena

### Summary:

The top of the market looks pretty solid here, though they all have to answer the wet track question.

Whilst *My Miss Aurelia* could well be taken on for the lead early, potentially scuppering her chances, the other two on the contenders list – *Grace Hall* and *Weemissfrankie* – will be waiting to pick up the pieces. It's hard to see a shock here but, if there is to be one, *Rocket Twentyone* or *Northern Passion* may provide it.

The only slop winner in the field is the 66/1 outsider, *Say A Novena*. She'll take a couple of my dollars on that score alone, though she ought not to be good enough.

## BC Filly and Mare Turf

- 1 Dubawi Heights – 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Lowther in 2009, before crossing the Atlantic with Simon Callaghan, improved since, this tougher
- 2 Stacelita – Top draw ex-Frenchie, settled in US well and looks tough to beat
- 3 Harmonious – Terrible trip when battered in this last year, in good form, big priced outsider with a squeak
- 4 Cambina – Dead heated in a soft Grade 1 in July, this much harder than that
- 5 Nahrain – Improving unbeaten Roger Varian inmate, got first run on Announce LTO, will need to do so again to win here
- 6 Announce – Form ties with Sarafina and Cirrus Des Aigles gives her a big shout, tends to find one too good though...
- 7 Aruna – Likes the Churchill oval, and has been improving over longer distances recently, another who's tough to rule out
- 8 Perfect Shirl – 3 wins from 14 lifetime starts, none in top Grade says she's got a mountain to climb
- 9 Shared Account – 45/1 bomb winner of this last year, unlikely to repeat but English handler trains them for turf
- 10 Distorted Legacy – 4 silver medals, no gold on turf, held by Stacelita last time and trip doubts as well, may enjoy soft
- 11 Dyna Slew – Will bid to make all, extremely unlikely to succeed against these, gobbled up at the top of the stretch
- 12 Misty For Me – 5<sup>th</sup> in the Oaks, and her 6L win in the Pretty Polly earned the highest RPR in the field, underrated?

### Pace:

Front Rank – 1, 11, 12

Stalkers – 2, 5, 6, 9

Closers – 3, 4, 7, 8, 10

- 4 to 7 prior starts that season
- US runner: won or close up LTO
- Euro: Sharp LTO but not nec. a win (G1 pref)
- G1 win for US, Graded for Euro
- Aged 3, 4, 5 (3-6-3) (only Euro 3yo)
- Note fillies who ran last year, and return now
- Flower Bowl, First Lady noteworthy prep races for US types

### Main Contenders:

Stacelita, Nahrain, Misty For Me

### Other Possibles:

Dubawi Heights, Harmonious, Aruna, Shared Account, Announce, Distorted Legacy

### Summary:

This is an absolute crackerjack of a race, and finding a winner is very far from easy. There is strength, depth, and the shape of the race opens the window slightly to the prospect of another upset win.

*Stacelita* and *Dubawi Heights* represent the pick of the 'home' form (both ex-Euro), but they'll have their work cut out against 3yo's *Nahrain* and *Misty For Me*, who are progressive and top figured respectively. Indeed *Nahrain* might improve for the soft ground (being a Selkirk filly).

Dangers everywhere, with *Harmonious* and *Distorted Legacy* big-priced players who might go well.

*Announce* has obvious form claims on the run with Nahrain LTO, but I doubt she wants it too soft.

## BC Ladies Classic / Distaff

- 1 Miss Match – Improved this year to take a G1, but overall level of form means it'd be disappointing if she was good enough
- 2 Pachattack – Gerard Butler inmate, never won above G3, though 2<sup>nd</sup> in consecutive G1's last twice, still hard to fancy
- 3 It's Tricky – Dual G1 winner for Godolphin's US operation, only out of first two once in career, and contender again on slop
- 4 Satans Quick Chick – A single win in the last two years, and that in an ungraded stakes. Not getting a second notch here
- 5 Ask The Moon – Probably needs to lead, it will be very difficult to repel all raiders for nine furlongs, should take them along
- 6 Royal Delta – 3yo won the G1 Alabama, before respectful 2<sup>nd</sup> to Havre de Grace in the Beldame, form pick
- 7 Ultra Blend – Never run this far, but fully effective at a mile and a tenth, and on dirt. Balance of form at a lower level
- 8 Plum Pretty – Won Kentucky Oaks over course/distance, big win last time may be overrated, take on at the price
- 9 Medaglia D'Amour – Shown little in three starts this year, only G3 winner last year, much to prove on first dirt run, unlikely
- 10 Super Espresso – Well beaten in G1 company last four runs, disappointing last two, but respectable before, some upside shock potential

### Pace:

Front Rank – 3, 5, 8,

Stalkers – 6, 9

Closers – 1, 4, 7, 10

Versatile – 2,

- Possible upset race - look for an outsider
- 6 to 8 races this season
- Sharp LTO
- Less than 35 days since a run
- ITM at 9f
- Sharp race in G1 this season
- Sharp works can be revealing
- Key preps are Lady's Secret, Spinster, Beldame, Ruffian
- Early speed (stalkers ideal)

### Main Contenders:

It's Tricky, Royal Delta

### Other Possibles:

Miss Match, Pachattack, Ultra Blend, Super Espresso

### Summary:

A disappointing turnout this term, with the standout Havre de Grace instead choosing the Classic. In her absence, it looks between *It's Tricky* and *Royal Delta*. The former has been working well since beaten by *Plum Pretty*, and can be fancied to reverse the form with PP unlikely to get things her way up front this time.

The latter has looked progressive and reliable this season and should at least make the frame.

*Miss Match*, *Ultra Blend* and *Pachattack* offer some value for those interested in the longer prices. They're sure to be staying on when others have dogged it in. *Super Espresso* wouldn't be the biggest surprise ever, with her wet track form, though she would be a surprise.

I'm expecting the favourite, Plum Pretty, to bounce pretty hard after a massive career high last time. I very much doubt she can repeat that and she looks the lay of the day.

## SATURDAY

### BC Marathon

- 1 Bird Run – Mile and a half winner represents best of the US form, and will try to take it out from the front
- 2 Baryshnokov – Big step in trip for doubtful stayer, not for me
- 3 Meeznah – Undoubtedly a class act in this, stamina certain, only questions are the travel over and the first time dirt
- 4 Pleasant Prince – Hard to see him staying, even harder to see him being good enough, no sirree
- 5 Giant Oak – In poorer form than when 5<sup>th</sup> in this last year, may not truly stay, surprise if nothing quicker at the death
- 6 Brigantin – High class Gallic plodder, and connections respected. Win record concerning and probably wants further
- 7 Harrison's Cave – Stayed on well to win Navan handicap, but this quite different from soft turf, and not sure to want it fast
- 8 Afleet Again – Not bred to stay, doesn't stay, not quick enough, won't win...
- 9 Cease – progressive at nine furlongs, this is another five furlongs after that. Not bred for it, but slop suits (2 from 2)
- 10 Eldaafer – Won thanks to a nice stalking ride last year, comes here in similar form and with a similar chance, respected
- 11 A U Miner – Churchill 'homer' responsible for the famous Borel scrap last year, stays and pick of the home team

### Pace:

Front Rank – 1,

Stalkers – 2, 3, 4, 9, 10

Closers – 5, 6, 7, 8, 11

- Stamina (1 3/8 miles + winner)
- Stamina in breeding
- Won on dirt
- Sharp prep
- NOT a front runner
- Key preps: Greenwood Cup, Cougar II, TP Fall Challenge

### Main Contenders:

Meeznah, Eldaafer, Cease

### Other Possibles:

Brigantin, Harrison's Cave, A U Miner

### Summary:

I really like the look of *Meeznah* here. Sure, she's never raced on dirt, still less sloppy dirt (which is like a road), but she's got bags of class (disqualified from 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Oaks last year), a healthy scrapping attitude, and has won her last two Group races at a mile and six or beyond.

With the possible exception of *Brigantin* – who likely wants about another four miles – she's in a different class to these. If she goes on the dirt, she must be mighty tough to beat.

*Harrison's Cave* is a possible due to connections winning with a similar type in *Man Of Iron* in 2009, but has a lot to find with *Meeznah* on bare form, and might not have wanted it to come up muddy.

Last year's winner, *Eldaafer*, and *A U Miner*, look the clear pick of the US squad, though the latter may not want it as soggy as it is, and *Cease* is improving and 2 from 2 'in the soup'.



## BC Juvenile Turf

- 1 Gung Ho – Reverts to turf after bad run on poly LTO. Bullet works on the grass imply a decent run may ensue
- 2 Fantastic Song – Turf pedigree but looks a lick short on form. Others preferred.
- 3 Shkspeare Shaliyah – Finished well last twice, when making BIG move on the bend. Expect him to try the same here.
- 4 Farraaj – 2<sup>nd</sup> in Tattersalls Stakes, which has worked out very well, extra furlong looks a plus, big chance for Varian
- 5 Wrote – Galway nursery winner may have been flattered by 3<sup>rd</sup> in Royal Lodge .More on here, and others preferred.
- 6 Coalport – Another on the improve and a big turn closer LTO, one of the better US options
- 7 Caspar Netscher – Given a mountain to climb last time and did great to get so close, underrated, big chance at longer trip
- 8 Majestic City – Five time poly runner makes turf debut here. Good poly form but hard to fathom and a 'no' at the odds
- 9 Daddy Nose Best – Local runner has improved for switch to turf, but not good enough to beat these, surely...
- 10 Animal Spirits – Another big turn mover and won the G3 Summer Stakes LTO in a decent time, chance
- 11 Escaper – Best of his three runs was when 2<sup>nd</sup> in G3 Summer, his only turf start. Improvement likely but wants the lead
- 12 Lucky Chappy – Given way too much to do LTO, could be thereabouts if replicating his Italian form from the summer
- 13 Finale – Pace presser who won't get his own way up top, may have little to give in the straight. Poor value at the odds
- 14 State Of Play- More pace and hard to lead all the way from the 14 box. A weak favourite in my view

### Pace:

Front Rank – 8, 11, 14

Stalkers – 2, 4, 5, 13

Closers – 1, 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12

- Euro Euro Euro
- Respect Belmont shippers
- US 80+ or top Beyer / Euro 100+ RPR

### Main Contenders:

Farraaj, Caspar Netscher, Animal Spirits,

### Other Possibles:

Gung Ho, Shkspeare Shaliyah, Wrote, Coalport, Lucky Chappy

### Summary:

Euro's have been 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup>, in three of the four races, so it makes sense to start there. *Farraaj's* last run has worked out well, but *Caspar Netscher* would surely be half the price if he'd been given a proper ride last time (5<sup>th</sup> when seeking a Group 2+ treble), or was trained by say, AP O'Brien.

With loads of pace on here, it's likely that he'll get a good tow into the action under Kieren Fallon, and I've no worries about his lack of form beyond six furlongs. He should be fine on the heavier ground too, and looks a really good bet to me.

For exacta/trifecta/superfecta players, this has the makings of a bonanza underneath, with solid reasons to oppose the first three US runners in the betting. Game on!

## BC Sprint

- 1 Euroears – only two 7yo's have won in 27 years, but this chap has top back class, ran a stinker LTO, but bullet works since
- 2 Giant Ryan – 8 from 11 at the distance including his last six (!), wants to lead and may struggle here to do that
- 3 Aikenite – deep closer with 7f form may have the race set up for him, unexposed at the trip and will be rolling late
- 4 Hamazing Destiny – 2nd in this last year, and has some decent efforts to his name. Not obvious but the winner here rarely is.
- 5 Jackson Bend – no show in 2 runs on CD oval, but 2 from 2 at 6f and stays further, most likely of the 'obvious' brigade
- 6 Force Freeze – Beyers give him something to find, but improving and will be having only 3<sup>rd</sup> US start
- 7 Amazombie – conditions look ideal for this stalker/closer, and his Ancient Title win LTO is a key prep, player
- 8 Big Drama – won last year, then recorded a monster 120 Beyer. Only seen once since, winning with an 89. Same horse?
- 9 Apriority – has the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest Beyer in the field with 113, stays further and race sets up for him. 33/1 shocker?

### Pace:

Front Rank – 1, 2, 6, 8

Stalkers – 4, 7, 9

Closers – 3, 5

- Favour SoCals'
- Road Warriors
- Form at 7f helpful
- Big trifecta prospect
- Look to closers for the exacta, tri and super (but not win)
- Top 3 LTO
- Graded stakes winner
- MUST have a seasonal 6f win
- Long layoffs should have bullet stamina work (5f+)
- Beyer par 105+, Beyer top LTO of interest
- Vosburgh and Ancient Title key preps
- 3 and 4yo's have won 19 from 27

### Main Contenders:

Amazombie, Aikenite, Jackson Bend

### Other Possibles:

Euroears, Giant Ryan, Big Drama

### Summary:

A small field but with average odds on the winner of around 10/1, it pays to look beyond the obvious. *Amazombie* looks to have a lot in his favour, and at the prices makes the most appeal of the main contenders.

*Giant Ryan* goes on all surfaces and has won his last six!

This could be a tote tilting affair however, and I'll be mixing in a few 'rags' at sexy prices, in a quest for the exacta and/or trifecta pots.

## BC Turf Sprint

- 1 Grand Adventure – Got going too late in this last year, and never won at the distance (3 2<sup>nd</sup>s), tough draw for late runner too
- 2 Holiday For Kitten – Ran at Royal Ascot this year, won TCA last time on poly, turf form not great and trip on short side
- 3 Broken Dreams – Gets going late, but won at distance and 2<sup>nd</sup> here, decent Beyers give place prospects
- 4 Perfect Officer – 5f specialist and in decent form this term, stuffed only go at CD, and not as quick as some
- 5 Great Attack – Not won in four tries this season, though 2<sup>nd</sup> in 2 ungraded stakes in Florida. Probably not good enough
- 6 California Flag – Won this in '09 over a furlong further, never competitive in it last year, 7 now, hard to fancy
- 7 Hoofit – English trainer can win BC races, and favours turf, ex-NZ horse is 2 from 2 on poly in US, and relatively unexposed
- 8 Regally Ready – 2 from 2 over course/distance, usually leads when he wins, might be tough here, sulk? Joint 2<sup>nd</sup> Beyer
- 9 Rapport – Never run at the distance or on grass, speed to lead, try to hang on all the way, shocker at a monster price?
- 10 Havelock – Decent win record, but flat 5f races tend to finish before his run does, might not quite get there...
- 11 Country Day – Big Beyers in the background, 3<sup>rd</sup> run off a layoff a plus, finishes well, another who needs luck to make it
- 12 Camp Victory – Never gone 5f on turf, and big Beyers are all on poly. Could shock with top jock Leparoux up but not for me
- 13 Caracortado – All form at further, hard to see why he's 4/1 on the morning line, and won't make my win tickets
- 14 Chamberlain Bridge – Won last year from inside post, outside makes it tough for repeat, another playing late who needs luck

### Pace:

Front Rank – 2, 8, 9

Stalkers – 1, 4, 5, 6, 12

Closers – 3, 7, 10, 11, 13, 14

- 5f winners at CD should be favoured
- Look to road warriors too
- A middle to outside post MAY be favourable
- Avoid front runners
- Ungraded stakes winner that season
- "A race for gamblers not investors" ..!! (Beware the bad trip)

### Main Contenders:

Broken Dreams, Regally Ready, Country Day, Chamberlain Bridge

### Other Possibles:

Hoofit, Great Attack, most of the rest!

### Summary:

"A race for gamblers not investors" says Crushing The Cup, and it's hard to disagree.

There could well be carnage here and it's not a race to go long in. Small stakes exactas and hoping to get through the Pick 3 and 4 is the order of the hour.

With that in mind, *Regally Ready* is the best horse in the race, but there's every chance that *Holiday For Kitten* and *Rapport* will outpace him early, which might lead to a sulky effort. If not, he has a fine chance. I'll include him in vertical wagers but hope for a boil over...

*Chamberlain Bridge's* record here commands serious respect in his bid for the repeater.

*Broken Dreams* and *Country Day* will both need luck in running, but so will most of the rest of the field and, from reasonable draws, they offer more meat on the wagering bone than some at skinnier odds. For that reason, allied to their form prospects, I'll be hoping to get one or both in the exacta mix, and maybe even 'on top' for the Pick 3 and 4's!

## BC Dirt Mile

- 1 The Factor – Inconsistent and doesn't seem to have a trip, could hit the board or miss entirely, short price on that basis
- 2 Shackleford – Pace pressing winner of Preakness Stakes, 4<sup>th</sup> in Kentucky Derby, also won here and has a chance
- 3 Tapizar – Up in trip and class (the latter a factor for previous winners), figures leave something to find but not out of it
- 4 Tres Borrachos – Yet to win on dirt but turning back from nine furlongs, and has the 4<sup>th</sup> best Beyer here (albeit from '09)
- 5 Wilburn – Unexposed pace stalker, improving and dirt record allied to turning back in trip makes him a player
- 6 Irrefutable – Generally trail blazes and it's a long way home here for that. Well beaten only previous try at a mile
- 7 Jersey Town – Quick stalking mile specialist with good dirt form, surprise to see him 15/1 on the morning line
- 8 Caleb's Posse – Closer who is better at shorter, was losing ground not making it LTO over 1.06 miles, overlay
- 9 Trappe Shot - Lost significant ground both times beyond a mile in Graded company, slop helps but fading late, overlay?

### Pace:

Front Rank – 1, 2, 3, 6

Stalkers – 4, 5, 7, 9

Closers - 8

- Turn back from 9f
- 4 or 5 years old
- 35-42 days off
- Plenty of runs this season (6-10 is the range of winners)
- Tried, and generally failed, in G1 company
- Distance form not too important

### Main Contenders:

Wilburn, Jersey Town

### Other Possibles:

Tapizar, Shackleford, Trappe Shot

### Summary:

Ah, the 'Dirty Mile' as it's become known. Could have been a *shoo in* for Uncle Mo, but he's Classic-bound, leaving the door wide open.

*Trappe Shot*, *The Factor* and *Shackleford* all look opposable given the likely pace shape of the race, whereas there are good grounds to like *Wilburn*, who is clear best of the favourites in my eye, and can be expected to improve again from his LTO Beyer top.

It is a true mystery to me why *Jersey Town* is a 20/1 shot, as he has by far the best dirt mile Beyer, is in decent form without winning this season, and looks set to get the run of the race here. Never out of the frame on fast dirt (10 runs, 3 wins, 6 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1 3<sup>rd</sup>) means I'm having a good bet each way.

I'm struggling to make a case for much else, though it wouldn't surprise if 'The Shack' hit the board. The price means I'm happy to pass it up.

## BC Turf

- 1 St Nicholas Abbey – Perfect profile fit, especially if taking up the running, might be hard to pass, quite good value
- 2 Sarafina – Best form from Europe, but she tends to leave it late, and at the price might leave it too late, too short
- 3 Dean's Kitten – Reasonable US profile, just beaten by Cape Blanco in Turf Classic, best American hope
- 4 Stately Victor – Moderate turf form, doubtful stayer, impossible to fancy against such a classy field
- 5 Teaks North – Win over Stacelita reads well for this turf specialist, but unlikely to see out the trip against these
- 6 Await The Dawn – High class lightly raced sort, could get the run of the race behind St Nick, fancied
- 7 Sea Moon – Another classy lightly raced type, seems to take time to get going, could be all over, short price too
- 8 Brilliant Speed – Overraced and probably over-faced here too, consistent on the lawn but never run this far on it
- 9 Middy – Only two wins from six this season, and has been frustrating to follow, fair price but others preferred

### Pace:

Front Rank – 3,

Stalkers – 1, 5, 6, 8, 9

Closers – 2, 4, 7

- Churchill BC Turf faves are 0 from 7!
- Euros 5 from 7 here, usually with a rag
- Front runners go ok here, so don't dismiss
- Look closely at likelihood of strong early pace (maybe unlikely due to the short field again)
- Sharp LTO (or Arc 'also ran')
- 3-6 starts this season
- 4 and 5 yo's (or Euro 3yo's)
- No 6yo+ has won, from 33 tries.
- Grade 1 win for US, decent Graded form for Euro
- Distance form imperative
- Best Beyer / RPR LTO can be a positive
- Arc best Euro prep, Turf Classic/Man O'War best US preps

### Main Contenders:

Await The Dawn, St Nicholas Abbey, Sarafina

### Other Possibles:

Sea Moon, Middy, Dean's Kitten

### Summary:

The European team have won five of the seven Churchill Downs runnings of this race, and it is very hard to see them failing to add to that.

Much tougher though to fathom which will prevail. At the likely odds, I'll take the Ballydoyle duo of *Await The Dawn* and *St Nicholas Abbey* against the field.

Dangers abound, mainly from Europe, but *Dean's Kitten* might be interesting too if sent off at a price.

### Aside:

Looking through St Nick's form I stumbled on this, which made me smile. It was a great day at the Curragh...

BET NOW

**1 1/2 MILES** (Turf). (2:26<sup>2</sup>) 28th Running of THE EMIRATES AIRLINE BREEDERS' CUP TURF. Grade I. Purse \$3,000,000 For Three-year-olds And Upward. Northern Hemisphere Three-Year-Olds, 122 lbs.; Older, 126 lbs.; Southern Hemisphere Three-Year-Olds, 117 lbs.; Older, 126 lbs. All Fillies and Mares allowed 3 lbs. \$30,000 to pre-enter, \$60,000 to enter, with guaranteed \$3million purse including nominator awards of which 54% to the owner of the winner, 18% to second, 9.9% to third, 6% to fourth and 3% to fifth; plus stallion nominator awards of 3% to the winner, 1% to second and 0.55% to third and foal nominator awards of 3% to the winner, 1% to second and 0.55% to third.

Post time: 4:45 ET		Wagers: Exacta, Trifecta, Superfecta, Daily Double, Pick 3, \$0.50 Pick 4	
<b>1 St Nicholas Abbey (Ire)</b>		B. c. 4 (Apr)	Life 10 5 0 3 \$976,656 - D
Own: Derrick Smith Mrs John Magnier & Mich		Sire: Montjeu'Ire (Sadler's Wells)	2011 6 2 0 3 \$656,429 - W
9-2 Purple, White Seams, Purple Cap		Dam: Leaping Water* GB (Sure Blade)	2010 1 0 0 0 \$8,261 - S
O'BRIEN J P (-) (-)		Br: Barton Bloodstock & Villiers Synd (Ire)	CD 0 0 0 0 \$0 - D
		Tr: O'Brien Aidan P(-) 2011:(11 5 .45)	
20Oct11 Longchamp (Fr)	fm *1 1/2 RH 2:24 <sup>2</sup> 3+	Qatar Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe-G1	56 O'Brien J P 131 33.00 Danedream120 <sup>5</sup> Shareta120 <sup>nk</sup> Snow Trckd ldrs, brief.
Racing Post Rating:	123	Stk 5354800	
11Sep11 Longchamp (Fr)	fm *1 1/2 RH 2:32 <sup>1</sup> 4+	Qatar Prix Foy-G2	32 3/4 Soumillon C 128 2.00 Sarafina125 <sup>nk</sup> Hiruno d'Amour128 <sup>2 3/4</sup> Trckd
Racing Post Rating:	121	Stk 171300	
23Jly11 Ascot (GB)	gs 1 1/2 RH 2:35 3+	King George VI And Queen Elizabeth Stakes-G1	34 O'Brien J P 133 3.50 Nathaniel121 <sup>2 3/4</sup> Workforce133 <sup>1 1/4</sup> St 1 Hel
Racing Post Rating:	120	Stk 1736000	
3Jun11 Epsom (GB)	gd 1 1/2 LH 2:37 4+	Investec Coronation Cup-G1	11 Moore R L 126 *1.00 St Nicholas Abbey126 <sup>1</sup> Midday123 <sup>2</sup> Keen hold, lck
Racing Post Rating:	124	Stk 409200	
6May11 Chester (GB)	gf 1 1/8 LH 2:52 <sup>1</sup> 4+	Boodles Diamond Ormonde Stakes-G3	19 Moore R L 126 1.35 St Nicholas Abbey126 <sup>9</sup> Allied Powers Held up,
Racing Post Rating:	124	Stk 106400	
3Apr11 Curragh (Ire)	sf 1 1/4 R 2:24 <sup>1</sup> 4+	Geegeez.co.uk Alleged Stakes	36 1/2 Heffernan J A 127 *.35 Unaccompanied124 <sup>2 3/4</sup> Cilium124 <sup>4</sup> St
Racing Post Rating:	88	Stk 54600	
1May10 Newmarket (GB)	gf 1 Str 1:36 <sup>1</sup>	2000 Guineas Stakes-G1	63 1/2 Murtagh J P 126 *1.00 Makfi126 <sup>1 1/4</sup> Dick Turpin126 <sup>1/2</sup> Canforc Tracked in 6th, outpace
Racing Post Rating:	115	Stk 612000	
24Oct09 Doncaster (GB)	gs 1 Str 1:39 <sup>3</sup>	Racing Post Trophy-G1	13 3/4 Murtagh J P 126 *1.60 St Nicholas Abbey126 <sup>3 3/4</sup> Elusive Pim, Rated at rear, smoot.
Racing Post Rating:	123	Stk 326000	

## BC Juvenile

- 1 Take Charge Indy – First run on dirt for close up 4<sup>th</sup> in the Keeneland Futurity, looks to have it to do, but minor place poss?
- 2 Dullahan – Doesn't seem to like dirt, as his better runs on turf and poly indicate, won Futurity but tough to like on dirt form
- 3 Crusade – Beaten both starts beyond 6f, dirt pedigree, stable respected but stamina is a question mark
- 4 Drill – Has it to do based on 2<sup>nd</sup> in Norfolk, his first dirt start which was regressive on Beyers. Maybe non-stayer
- 5 Hansen – Won minor stakes by 13L over this trip on poly. Dirt form unknown but at the prices this unbeaten colt offers value
- 6 Perspective – Grade 3 winner yet to race on dirt. Beyers give him a mountain to climb
- 7 Creative Cause – Won Norfolk going away, but overall form maybe suspect. Could win but little value
- 8 Speightscity – Won a 9f no name race LTO by 11 ½ L, a huge improvement. Same step up again gives a big-priced chance
- 9 Alpha – Representing Godolphin, looked a non-stayer last time. No big kick, just 'plods on'. Not for me.
- 10 Union Rags – Impressive in three wins to date, incl 5L win in Champagne, stalking style suited to race and very solid 'chalk'
- 11 Daddy Long Legs – Much more credible than stablemate after Royal Lodge saunter, prospects if taking to dirt
- 12 Ford Loudon – Calder win machine has no Beyer to put him in the mix here, stays all right but surely not quick enough?
- 13 Optimizer – Turf and poly runner came from a mile back for 3<sup>rd</sup> LTO, but may have been flattered there. Limited appeal.

### Pace:

Front Rank – 5, 7, 8

Stalkers – 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 10, 11, 12

Closers – 9, 13

- Likely winner comes from Kee Futurity, Champagne, or Norfolk
- But... look for good performances elsewhere too!
- Top 3 in the betting at 59% win strike (fav 37%)
- Hard for front runners to win, favour stalk/rally types
- 2-4 races is the average prep
- Stakes winners, but look to big priced non-Stakes too
- 17 of last 18 winners ran 1-2-3 lto
- Churchill BC winners were within 2 lengths and 1-2-3 lto
- Beyer improve from sprint to route
- Bred for beyond a mile
- Insider posts quite well favoured (1-7)

### Main Contenders:

Union Rags

### Other Possibles:

Daddy Long Legs, Hansen, Creative Cause, Speightscity

### Summary:

This looks all about the favourite, Union Rags. Three runs, three wins, the latest a 5 ¼ length romp in the Champagne Stakes, a recognised trial for this. He's versatile regarding run style and track conditions, and has the two best Beyer's in the field.

2/1 may not be everyone's cup of *caramel skinny latte*, but he is impossible to crab and a repeat of either of his last two should be good enough. Improvement makes it another romp.

There are some nice priced options for the exacta, led by *Speightscity* and *Daddy Long Legs*, in a race that has cut up underneath in the past.

## BC Mile

- 1 Goldikova – Triple BC Mile winner, now 6yo, question to answer re 'a step slower'. Could still win even if she is!
- 2 Zoffany – Closing type who nearly did Frankel at Royal Ascot, ignore latest, could make the frame
- 3 Courageous Cat – 2<sup>nd</sup> in this in '09, and good credentials for a US runner, odds look about right
- 4 Mr. Commons – Big Beyer LTO a warning not a plus, and overall form looks below the pick of either side of the pond
- 5 Gio Ponti – Not getting any younger at 6yo, 2<sup>nd</sup> last year, good last out run, best of the US
- 6 Get Stormy – Swamped in this last year, good overall form, and might make the superfecta if things go right
- 7 Jeranimo – Big 108 LTO, tempting at a price though likely to underperform in relation to that last run
- 8 Byword – Mile form reads 1121, lines with Cirrus des Aigles give big chance, draw favourable as is race make up, big chance
- 9 Court Vision – Been here twice before, not beaten Goldi then, can't see it happening now either, four trainers this year!
- 10 Sidney's Candy – Front runner will lead into the straight most likely, but they'll be flying at him from all angles thereafter
- 11 Strong Suit – Progressive and first time Lasix, but was outpaced only try at a mile, could win but short enough against these
- 12 Compliance Officer – East Coaster has run up a five timer in minor stakes races, well drawn, big price to play a bit part?
- 13 Turallure – Closing style means he'll have to pass good Euros, capable on US form, but it's a big ask against these

## Pace:

Front Rank – 3, 6, 10

Stalkers – 1, 4, 8, 9, 11, 12

Closers – 2, 5, 7, 13

- US winners tend to pay WELL (look to longer US shots)
- 3 to 7 runs this year
- Sharp LTO
- G1 win for Euros / any Stakes (even ungraded) for US
- Distance form important
- Beware runners who posted a Beyer top LTO
- US runners 2nd or 3rd start off a layoff
- Look for horses returning to the race (whether they won or not)
- Key US preps are Oak Tree BC, and Keeneland BC
- Stalls 10-12 fare well, 13/14 never won

## Main Contenders:

Goldikova, Gio Ponti, Byword

## Other Possibles:

Zoffany, Jeranimo, Strong Suit, Turallure

## Summary:

This does look between the Euro's and I actually like *Byword* over *Goldikova* at the odds. Irrespective of whether she's 'lost a step', *Byword* is a lightly raced 5yo (just 14 runs) and seems to be improving. His mile form is very good, and at 9/1 I reckon he's a strong each way play in a tricky race. Goldi may also have liked it firmer underhoof.

*Strong Suit* is capable of making me look a bit daft, but he looks better at shorter trips (seven furlongs to be precise), whilst *Gio Ponti* has a squeak of making it a 6yo 1-2 and replicating the 5yo 1-2 of last year.

*Jeranimo* and *Zoffany* could make the frame at monster prices.



## BC Classic

1 Prayer For Relief – NON-RUNNER

2 Flat Out – Won Jockey Club Gold Cup LTO in good time, gets the trip, goes well on dirt, two dudders at Churchill the negative

3 Drosselmeyer – Best run LTO behind Flat Out, and 1 from 1 at Churchill, but surely not quick/good enough to win this

4 Ruler On Ice – Belmont winner stays better than pretty much all of these, will need to, but a fat price to make the frame

5 So You Think – Teak tough, & looks the perfect type for this IF he acts on dirt and IF he isn't over the top. Short price on that.

6 Ice Box – 2<sup>nd</sup> in Kentucky Derby over course/distance on the slop. Might be of minor interest if it rained hard, otherwise pass.

7 Rattlesnake Bridge – Unexposed and close 2<sup>nd</sup> at trip in G1, probably not right here but seen worse 40/1 shots.

8 Game On Dude – SoCal raider who needs to lead, could do that but unlikely to hang in there all the way to the wire

9 Stay Thirsty – Only won on East Coast, tonked twice here, form chances but not a great traveller so far. Short enough.

10 Havre de Grace – Stamina reservation (2<sup>nd</sup> both 10f starts) aside, she ticks all boxes, and will be tough to beat. Frame cert.

11 Headache – Loves Churchill, loves the trip, loves dirt, 40/1. A step (or two) slower than some but likely to run race at a price

12 Uncle Mo – Lightning miler, but this is another quarter. Will try to get out and stay out. Would be as awesome as it is unlikely

13 To Honor and Serve – Hit and miss sort, very good on his day, though question over extra furlong. Wants to lead as well.

### Pace:

Front Rank – 1, 8, 12, 13

Stalkers – 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10

Closers – 6, 11

- 3yo's 9 from 27 (33%) but pay short when they win generally
- Top 3 in betting won 5 from 7 at Churchill
- Closers have the best record in the Classic, especially those with mid-race pace (like So You Think?)
- Sharp race LTO
- Grade 1 important, distance win not so important
- For possible longshots, still demand a G2 or G3 win
- If horse has been off 40+ days, demand a bullet workout and ideally a stamina (6f+) run too
- Don't back a shortie off a LTO Beyer top (require decent odds if you're betting in that context)
- Interesting play is triple-digit Beyer LTO but not a best (9 from 17, 53%)
- No SoCal LTO runner has won the Classic at Churchill Downs
- Post Position 2-8 looks ideal

### Main Contenders:

Flat Out, So You Think, Havre de Grace

### Other Possibles:

Ruler On Ice, Rattlesnake Bridge, Headache

### Summary:

The shape of the race has it as a suicidal early gallop, which surely plays to the closers. *Havre de Grace* and *So You Think* are both high class grinders, and either could win. If *Uncle Mo* wins, I'd be sufficiently impressed and excited to forget the losing wagers I've had on the race..!

*Headache* is going to be any price, and has an outside chance if the race collapses as it might. *Ruler On Ice* is a reasonable bet for the frame at around 20/1, and goes on any surface.