

NTF

COURSE

CONNOISSEURS

SEASON

Flat 2023

WHERE

ASCOT AYR BEVERLEY CHESTER
DONCASTER GOODWOOD
HAMILTON HAYDOCK
MUSSELBURGH NEWBURY
NEWMARKET PONTEFRACT
SANDOWN YORK

FEATURING...

FRESH – TILSITT – PAWS FOR
THOUGHT – AGGAGGIO – BRUNCH
and more...

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FREE GUIDE

FEATURED
TRAINERS

J Fanshawe
R Micheal Smith
K Dalglish
D McCain
A Nicholls
G Moore
T Davidson
K Burke
I Jardine
H & R Charlton
R Jefferson
J Portman
M Dods

PRIME
CONDITIONS

Detailing the EXACT
conditions needed for
the horse to run to their
optimum...



Introduction

Course Connoisseurs, Track Specialists, Horses for Courses..... whatever you may call them these types of animals are always worth sourcing and getting to know their traits, preferences and, most importantly, their Prime Conditions.

You know the type I'm on about; they have average form figures at other tracks but when they set hoof on their favourite track, they come alive and become a serious force to be reckoned with.

One of my favourite examples of a Course Connoisseur is the silver bullet of the north **GREY ABBEY**. Although he was a National Hunt horse (and this is a Flat guide) he's the Course Connoisseur that I always come back to for these guides...

He was an Ayr specialist through and through and his victory in the Scottish National in 2004 remains one of my greatest ever punts. His course form leading up to this monumental victory was as follows – **1-3-2-1-1-1-1-1-4** - he had never finished unplaced at Ayr and was available at 16-1 (16-1!!) on the morning of the race. At that price it was a no-brainer – I'm on! All week I had been telling everyone I knew that they had to back this horse, he loved the track, he could gallop round there with his eyes shut, and as Course Connoisseurs go, he was right up there.

As history now tells us the galloping grey went on to record a thumping pillar to post victory by a distance! Improving his Ayr figures to – **1-3-2-1-1-1-1-1-4-1** - a Course Connoisseur of some repute and a great example of why it pays to source these types and add them to your punting armory.

This report will look at a selection of UK tracks and highlight specific Course Connoisseur's at each, also highlighting any other conditions the horse in question desires to run to their best.

As is always the case with an NTF guide it is entirely up to yourself how you wish to utilise the information and how you add it to your own punting methods.

Happy Punting

Ben (NTF)

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2023 NTF Flat Course Connoisseurs

ASCOT

Course Connoisseur – **FRESH** (J Fanshawe)

6yo Gelding

Course form – **0-0-0-1-1-9-4-3-2-1-2 (3/11, 4p)**

Has won over 6f & 7f at Ascot

Has proven effective on varying ground conditions

Prime (Ascot) Conditions

Ascot | Carrying 9-5 or less | DSLR 16-75

1-1-9-4-3-2-1-2 (3/8, 4p)

Only unplaced effort under Ascot PC came when drawn on wrong side

AYR

Course Connoisseur – **TILSITT** (R Michael Smith)

6yo Gelding

Course form – **5-2-9-1-3-1-2-1-2-2-3-3-3-8 (3/14, 7p)**

Seems to handle all ground conditions but is at his peak on Good or Good to Firm

All his Turf wins have come between May & September

Prime (Ayr) Conditions

Ayr | 1m-1m2f | OR 79 or less | NOT on 1 of first 3 starts in season

1-3-1-1-2-2-3 (3/7, 4p)

All his Turf wins have come at Ayr

BEVERLEY

Course Connoisseur – **VENTURA FLAME** (K Dalglish)

6yo Mare

Course form – 8-2-2-1-3-3-1-7 (2/8, 4p)

Callum Rodriguez has ridden Ventura Flame to both her Beverley wins (and 4 of her 7 career wins)

Has proven effective on all ground conditions (wins on Heavy, Soft, Good & Good to Firm)

Prime (Beverley) Conditions

Beverley | 5f | OR 78 or less

8-2-2-1-3-3-1-7 (2/8, 4p)

Both unplaced efforts came when drawn widest and second widest of field

CHESTER

Course Connoisseur – **PAWS FOR THOUGHT** (D McCain)

5yo Gelding

Course form – 7-3-9-4-3-2-4-4-1-1 (2/10, 3p)

His 3 career wins to date have come on Good & Good to Soft ground (although handles Soft ground well enough)

Likes to front-run/race prominent so fields of around 11 or less are absolutely ideal for him

Prime (Chester) Conditions

Chester | C3-C4 Handicaps | OR 87 or less

3-9-3-2-1-1 (2/6, 3p)

DONCASTER

Course Connoisseur – **TEES SPIRIT** (A Nicholls)

5yo Gelding

Course form – 1-2-3-2 (1/4, 3p)

Now on a career high mark but progressed to win at Listed level last autumn and could continue to prove to be better than a handicapper this season if progression continues

Prime (Doncaster) Conditions

Doncaster | 5f-6f | Good to Soft or quicker

1-2-3-2 (1/4, 3p)

Only beaten a head and a short-head on his two seconds at the track

GOODWOOD

Course Connoisseur – **AGGAGIO** (G Moore)

5yo Gelding

Course form – 2-1-2-1-1-1 (4/6, 2p)

Still a lightly enough raced type who looks to have more progression still to come

Prime (Goodwood) Conditions

Goodwood | 1m3f+

2-1-2-1-1-1 (4/6, 2p)

HAMILTON

Course Connoisseur – **IRIS DANCER** (T Davidson)

5yo Mare

Course form – 2-4-1-5-4-1-4-5-2-2-2-2-4 (2/13, 5p)

Highest winning mark is OR 63 although has placed off as high as OR 66

All 3 career wins have come on Good to Soft or Soft although she has placed 6 times on Good and once on Good to Firm

Prime (Hamilton) Conditions

Hamilton | Good or softer | DSLR 25 or less

2-4-1-5-1-4-5-2-2-2-2 (2/11, 5p)

Both course wins have come over 6f although she has placed over 5f at course

HAYDOCK

Course Connoisseur – **LIAMARTY DREAMS** (K Burke)

4yo Gelding

Course form – 2-3-2-1-3 (1/5, 3p)

Highest winning mark is OR 77 although has placed off as high as OR 80

Potentially at his peak in the May – July period (form of 24124372116 – 3/11, 5p)

Prime (Haydock) Conditions

Haydock | 7f | DSLR 60 or less

2-3-2-1-3 (1/5, 3p)

MUSSELBURGH

Course Connoisseur – **SMART LASS** (I Jardine)

8yo Mare

Course form – 3-4-9-1-5-1-2-1-1-1 (5/10, 2p)

Jamie Gormley & Andrew Mullen are the only two jockeys to win on him on the flat

Has also won and placed at track over Hurdles

Prime (Hamilton) Conditions

Musselburgh | 1m4f – 1m5f | OR 64 or less

3-1-1-2-1-1-1 (5/7, 2p)

Has won at track when front-running, tracking the leader and held-up

NEWBURY

Course Connoisseur – **ZAIN NIGHTS** (H & R Charlton)

4yo Gelding

Course form – 1-2-2-1-3 (2/5, 3p)

Unexposed as a 4yo and looks interesting for staying handicaps over further than 1m4f

Prime (Newbury) Conditions

Newbury | fields of 12 or less | DSLR 45 or less

1-2-2-1 (2/4, 2p)

Beaten less than 1.5L on both second place finishes

NEWMARKET (Rowley & July)

Course Connoisseur – **ASHKY** (H & R Charlton)

4yo Filly

Course form – 7-0-3-1-3-1-1-3 (3/8, 2p)

Highest winning mark is OR 82 although probably doesn't need to go all the way back to that mark to become competitive

All 3 wins have come on Good or Good to Firm ground and decent ground looks preferable

Prime (Newmarket) Conditions

Newmarket | June-Oct | DSLR 21-45

3-1-1-1 (3/4, 1p)

3rd came from a career high mark

PONTEFRACT

Course Connoisseur – **FLINT HILL** (R Jefferson)

7yo Gelding

Course form – 4-1-2-4-2-4-4-1-2-1 (3/10, 3p)

Handicap ceiling in flat handicaps looks to be OR 75 although possibly ideally OR 71 or less these days

A strong stayer, with 4 of his 5 turf wins coming over 2m+ and 3 of them over 2m1f or 2m2f

Prime (Pontefract) Conditions

Pontefract | Good to Soft or quicker

1-2-4-2-4-1-2-1 (3/8, 3p)

SANDOWN

Course Connoisseur – **SWEET REWARD** (J Portman)

6yo Gelding

Course form – **5-2-9-5-1-1-2-3 (2/8, 3p)**

Potentially doesn't enjoy extremes of going (0/7 on Good to Firm & 0/2, 0p on Heavy)

All 4 career wins have come over 1m1f to 1m2f trips

Prime (Sandown) Conditions

Sandown | OR 83 or less | DSLR 30 or less

2-9-5-1-1-2-3 (2/7, 3p)

9th came when drawn 15 of 15

YORK

Course Connoisseur – **BRUNCH** (M Dods)

6yo Gelding

Course form – **5-2-7-2-1-1 (2/6, 2p)**

All turf wins to date have come on Good or Good to Firm and potentially doesn't want any slower than Good to Soft

May be at his peak in the May-Aug period (4/10, 2p in those months)

Prime (York) Conditions

York | 7f-1m

5-2-2-1-1 (2/5, 2p)

Unplaced run came in 6-runner field and he does generally prefer a bigger field/stronger pace to aim at

The horses in this guide have been taken from a much larger pool of Course Connoisseurs that I have plugged into my various racing databases, **and such horses will be highlighted on a regular basis to full NTF Members in the [Daily NTF Stats Sheets](#).**

I update all horses I have notes for on a regular basis (I've 100's if not 1000's of noted horses at any one time) and the Course Connoisseurs approach is just one of MANY various methods I use to determine a horses Prime Conditions (Prime Conditions being the EXACT conditions where I want to be getting my money down and backing them).

Researching Course Connoisseurs *can* take plenty of time, but the thorough research is well worth the effort and having these animals in your punting armoury will definitely pay off in the long term, providing you with a solid additional bow to your punting string.

It's hard graft... but hard graft pays!

Hopefully you will find a way to add this type of analysis into your own approach and find ways of using this NTF analysis guide to enhance your own punting techniques.

Happy Punting

Ben (NTF)

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