RACE 1 OWNERS ONLY MAIDEN 1:30 PM (2000M)
We’re pretty confident of getting off to a fast start with BREAK THE CHAIN appearing perfectly positioned to record his maiden victory, after an eye-catching minor placing in much stronger company at Belmont last start. This fellow showed a bit during his initial racing campaign and has endured an interrupted winter/spring preparation, however, he’s trending in the right direction and the four-year-old son of Blackfrac is certainly has some staying potential. BREAK THE CHAIN comes out of a faster-than-average 2000-metre special conditions event where he was strong through the line, and this appears his race to lose. REGENT STAR made a significant leap from 1400 to 2200 metres at only his third career start at Northam last time and did a good job to place after meeting with some support in betting. That middle-distance hit-out will obviously be beneficial leading into this assignment and he does hail from the very much in-form Adam Dunn stable, so we’re expecting some good improvement from this nicely-bred three-year-old. PRO MUTUAL led them up as a well-backed $3.50 favourite at York last start, but couldn’t get the job done after being ambushed in a clever mid-race move from Ryan Hill aboard eventual winner Come On Journey. Stick or well enough through his sprint home and he’s capable of a repeat of his first-up victory at Northam last start, while NO PLACE TO HIDE made ground on a day that didn’t suit the backmarkers at Belmont last start and she’s a lock for your exotic bets.
Tips: 2-1-3-7 Suggested Bet: (2) STATE ATTORNEY to win.

RACE 4 ROSS PRICE LIFE MEMBERSHIP HCP 3:15 PM (1200M)
There are quite a few hopes in this Class Five sprint but it’s hard to go past likely favourite MY GRACE, who was doing her best work last start when saluting as an odds on favourite first up at York recently. The win, which followed up a smart Lark Hill trial display, was a trademans-like performance, but the opportunity to run fast on a first-up at York race. MY GRACE can make his presence felt. MEGA MINX was well found ($3.40) when resuming at Northam recently and competed well enough in what’s turned out to be a particularly strong form race. Will obviously strip fitter for this second-up assignment, and we expect to see her roll forward and be afforded every opportunity, while we wouldn’t be surprised to see BARRY’S RABBIT go close at his first run back from a break. Can gallop and is a lock for your exotic bets.
Tips: 3-2-9-4 Suggested Bet: (3) MY GRACE to win.

RACE 5 GET THE TABTOUCH MAIDEN 3:47 PM (1400M)
This is a really deep second leg of the late Quaddie and we eventually narrowed it down to the Pearce Bros-trained duo RACY AVA and VITAL SILVER, with the nicely-bred filly RACY AVA on top. This Testa Rossa three-year-old impressed at her Northam debut and probably should have won, when diving late and failing to catch Red Hot Flint by a head. RACY AVA rattled off some sharp sectionals on that occasion and it was her final 100 meters that stood out for us, where she knuckled down and really ran through the line. The 1400 metres suits, and we expect to see RACY AVA ridden fairly patiently and sweeping home powerfully late. Stablemate VITAL SILVER, a half-brother to the well-regarded Touch Of Silver, caught the eye on debut when coming from the back half to get within a length of the winner over 1200 metres. Team Pearce have lodged three significant gear changes for this second-up assignment, which is interesting, but with a better getaway VITAL SILVER can land closer in running from his low draw and should have plenty of fuel in the tank to charge late. Although she was rolled as a $2.10 favourite first up at York race. AWESOME AS will also be beneficial leading into this assignment after handily winning a trial at the trials beforehand.
Tips: 5-3-9-1 Suggested Bet: (5) FLOWER OF SCOTLAND win & place (1 x 3 units).

RACE 7 AMELIA PARK HANDICAP 4:55 PM (1100M)
Tricky short-course Class 1 event here and we ended up settling on THE GOSPEL SIN, who’s a horse we quite like. Won like a smart horse first up last campaign, accounting for the capable Mantime here over 1200 metres, and continued to race well on the provincial circuit through the summer/autumn. THE GOSPEL SIN hasn’t been knocked around in two lead-up barrier trials and, while 1100 metres is short of his best distance, we’re confident he can show some dash with fresh legs here. VITAL ASSET appreciated being back on top of the ground at Northam last start when almost upsetting the short-priced favourite Danebridge, before chasing home the smart Father Knick at Belmont three starts back. Goes okay this fellow, and we expect to see him enjoying a soft run from an inside draw and fighting out the finish. HIGH CALYPSO improved sharply with the drop in grade second up at Northam recently, returning to the solid form she displayed during a successful autumn campaign. Possesses good gate speed and he’ll have every chance by racing up on top of the pace, so it’s hard seeing her miss the top four, while we wouldn’t be surprised to see MADAM WINKS produce a more competitive effort second up. Will strip fitter after running out of steam when leading them up at Belmont first up and she does have some strong form at this venue.
Tips: 1-2-5-7 S/Bet: (1) THE GOSPEL SIN win & place (1 x 3 units).

RACE 8 PARKS TAVERN HANDICAP 5:30 PM (1675M)
A bit of a thin race to end the day and it really looks set up for very promising local KIA ORA STAR, who is double-engaged this weekend having accepted to start at Ascot also. While there’s no doubt he’s a chance in town, he looks just about a moral in this Class One Handicap, coming back in grade after a quality minor placing in Graduation 62+ company on opening day last Saturday. Big effort to get within a long neck of the winner on that occasion, considering the way the race was run, and none of his opposition here would be able to compete as well in that grade. Looks like only bad luck will be able to deny KIA ORA STAR victory here. PERSISTENCE TIME comes out of the same race as KIA ORA STAR and we didn’t mind the way he hit the line after being last swinging for home. Was doing some nice work late in the race and he should be ready to produce a peak performance at his fourth run this campaign. TRACKTA is a three-year-old who showed a bit during the winter and is better than his first-up Northam effort suggests. Performed well enough in a mid-prep trial at Lark Hill recently and we wouldn’t be surprised to see sharp improvement with no weight band going on, while former Victorian L adul Racer MIDNIGHT SKY was last seen stepping up on the shelf to win at Belmont last start, but was a little disappointing after enjoying a soft run in transit. May have just needed that blow out and the blinkers have been added for this third-up assignment, so he’s worth sticking with especially when you consider he was backed into $4.20 last start.
Tips: 1-4-6-3 Suggested Bet: (1) KIA ORA STAR to win.