

# DUBLIN RACING FESTIVAL

## PUNDIT'S PICKS OF THE DAY



RUBY WALSH



MICK FITZGERALD



FRANK HICKEY



PADDY POWER

### Novices' Hurdle, 1st Feb

12.50 PM

**RW:** I think **Elixir D'ainay** will uphold the form with **Longhouse Poet** at Naas over this longer trip. Whether either of them is good enough to match the form shown by Paul Nolan's **Latest Exhibition** is another thing.

**MF:** **Fury Road**, if the taps are turned on and it's soft ground.

**FH:** **Longhouse Poet**, who is related to horses who stay 3m plus is going to love the extra two furlongs here and should relish the test of stamina.

**PP:** The step up in trip will really suit **Long House Poet** and he looks value to me.

### Arkle Novice Chase, 1st Feb

2.00 PM

**RW:** I expect Mark Walsh and **Fakir Doudairies** to make more of the running than he did at Christmas. Paul Townend has stuck with **Melon** purely on back-class, but **Cash Back** and **Bapaume** still have potential. Too hard to call but set up for a finisher.

**MF:** If **Fakir Doudairies** is ridden like he was at Fairyhouse, he may get his revenge this time.

**FH:** Purely from a selfish point of view I want **Notebook** to win, so we get a price about something else in the Arkle.

**PP:** I think **Cashback** is worth some value as he'll hopefully put some of the others jumping under pressure because he gets over them so well.

### Irish Champion Hurdle, 1st Feb

3.10 PM

**RW:** The one doubt I'd have about **Honeysuckle** is the ability to jump at speed. You have to race at Championship pace. I think the race will be set up for **Sharjah** to pounce on the run to the last flight.

**MF:** It wouldn't surprise me to see **Honeysuckle** win this – but it is by far and away her sternest test to date.

**FH:** **Sharjah** is lethal at Leopardstown and the race should set up perfectly for him.

**PP:** I think the conditions, everything about the race probably sets up for **Sharjah** but I'm sticking with **Honeysuckle**.

### Dublin Chase, 1st Feb

1.25 PM

**RW:** We're hoping **Chacun Pour Soi** improves to **Min's** level but getting to that level isn't easy. **Min** is 171, has been there, done that. Simple as.

**MF:** I just love the way **A Plus Tard** goes through a race so he's the one for me.

**FH:** **Min** is a massive price on what he's done in his career to date and if Paul Townend picked him instead of **Chacun Pour Soi**, he'd be favourite.

**PP:** Arguably **Min's** form is as strong as you're gonna get in the race. I think **Min** might be worth a few quid.

### Handicap Chase, 1st Feb

2.35 PM

**RW:** The two I like against the field are Shane Nolan's **Charlie Stout** who won well at Fairyhouse last time and my Dad's horse **Batcio**. Both are at the right end of the weights and should be involved at the finish. I'm hoping **Batsio** wins it for my Dad.

**MF:** I like last year's winner **Quamino** trained by Paul Nolan. He's on a similar handicap mark again and is a double-digit price. His last run was over three miles, but the 2m 1f trip is more up his street.

**FH:** The Ted Walsh-trained **Batcio** could be one of my best bets on day one. He looks well treated to me and ran well in his first handicap start here in December.

**PP:** **Batcio** for me Bob.

### Ladbrokes Hurdle, 1st Feb

3.45 PM

**RW:** I can see why Paul Townend has chosen **Buildmeupbuttercup**. She was a little unlucky at Fairyhouse last time and could be good value. Gordon Elliott's **Thatsy** under Jack Kennedy caught my eye as well.

**MF:** Nothing really fancy in this one and Frank is the king of the handicaps so just go with his pick.

**FH:** I absolutely love Tony Martin. He's a great man and has an excellent record with his runners in this race and saddles **The Mouse Doctor**. I do also like **Unexpected** and think it's well handicapped.

**PP:** **Buildmeupbuttercup** for me screams a bit of value, thank you.



PADDYPOWER. NEWS

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