

# CHELTENHAM CHEAT SHEET

## PUNDITS' PICKS OF THE DAY

DAY 1, TUESDAY MARCH 12<sup>TH</sup>



MICK FITZGERALD

PATRICK MULLINS

NINA CARBERRY

RUBY WALSH

MATT CHAPMAN

1.30PM

### SUPREME NOVICES' HURDLE

- MF** **FIREFOX** is the only horse to have beaten Ballyburn. That was on soft ground and we're starting on slow ground.
- PM** **MISTERGIF** (each-way). He jumps like a gazelle and has lots of speed.
- NC** The race has been blown wide open with Ballyburn's defection to Wednesday's Gallaghers Hurdle. I like his stablemates **MYSTICAL POWER & MISTERGIF** to run big races now.
- RW** There are only 12 declared and none are real tearaway front runner so **TULLYHILL'S** jumping mightn't come under as much pressure.
- MC** I have long been a fan of **JERIKO DU REPONET** (each-way) and we get a price because the Nicky Henderson stable is under a cloud.

2.50PM

### ULTIMA HANDICAP CHASE

- MF** It looks like connections have protected **THE GOFFER'S** mark all season as we didn't see him until a two-mile stable yard 'challenge' race last month, where he ran out a convincing winner. He's primed to go close.
- PM** The Paddy Power Chase winner **MEETINGOFTHEWATERS** is a young, progressive and exciting chaser.
- NC** I fancy **THE GOFFER**, he's back on form to repeat a good run from last year.
- RW** The booking of Harry Cobden catches the eye on **TRELAWNE**. Meeingofthewaters has his chance but the price has gone for me now.
- MC** I've long been a supporter of **CHIANTI CLASSICO** (each-way). I loved the way he kept on at Kempton against a course specialist and he will get an aggressive ride from David Bass ride.

4.10PM

### MARES' HURDLE

- MF** Unoriginal I'm afraid, but **LOSSIEMOUTH** is the highest rated runner in the field and unless she gets very keen and runs herself into the ground she should be winning. Marie's Rock is definitely a contender at a price to be placed.
- PM** **ASHROE DIAMOND** is bred to appreciate the ground and the trip. Unbeaten against her own sex over hurdles.
- NC** I have to go with **LOSSIEMOUTH**, who was unbelievable last year in the Triumph Hurdle last season and again on her reappearance.
- RW** This is all about **LOSSIEMOUTH** who was awesome on her comeback run.
- MC** Of course **LOSSIEMOUTH** can bounce after one run following a long lay-off but she bolted up from Love Envoi last time and she's simply the class act against this lot.

5.30PM

### NATIONAL HUNT CHASE

- MF** **APPLE AWAY** runs here instead of the Ultima earlier on the card and isn't without a chance as she has good chase form.
- PM** **CORBETTS CROSS** has proven Grade 1 form and sets the standard. I ride Embassy Gardens in the race so I hope I'm wrong about Corbetts Cross!
- NC** **CORBETTS CROSS** with Derek O'Connor booked to ride can get the job done.
- RW** I'm with **CORBETTS CROSS** ahead of Embassy Gardens mainly on their running in the Albert Bartlett last season.
- MC** A small field and none of these are certain stayers. **SALVADOR ZIGGY** did nothing in America last time but it's fairly easy to forgive him that run and I'll chance him for Gordon Elliott and Robert James.

2.10PM

### ARKLE CHALLENGE TROPHY

- MF** I'm going for a little bit of a surprise, **HUNTERS YARN**, who was very strong last time when winning at Fairyhouse. He looks a value bet.
- PM** **GAELIC WARRIOR** is the best horse in the race and the slow ground will help. The fact that he's jumping fences rather than hurdles may help to negate his preference for jumping right-handed at the obstacles.
- NC** **QUILIXIOS** was back to form over fences in Naas and I think he'll run a big race.
- RW** A small each-way stake on **MASTER CHEWY** in what is a head-scratcher of a race.
- MC** **GAELIC WARRIOR** is the most talented horse in this race. If he gets into a rhythm out in front I don't think they will get near him.

3.30PM

### CHAMPION HURDLE CHALLENGE TROPHY

- MF** It is very hard to get away from **STATE MAN** as the most likely winner, especially with Lossiemouth going to the Mares' Hurdle. Iberico Lord could be one for the places.
- PM** **STATE MAN** was runner up to Constitution Hill last year in the Champion Hurdle and is unbeaten this season. Just look at his form.
- NC** I think **STATE MAN** is a certainty.
- RW** It's **STATE MAN's** to lose since reigning champ Constitution Hill was ruled out last week. Iberico Lord could run a big race but I'll be watching how Nicky Henderson's runs in the first to see if they are back to form.
- MC** There's really not much point in taking ages over this as quite clearly **STATE MAN** has to underperform not to score. **NEMEAN LION** is the each-way bet if you don't want to back the odds-on favourite.

4.50PM

### JUVENILE HANDICAP HURDLE

- MF** Connections must've been happy enough with the handicap mark as **LIARI** (each-way) handles soft ground fine and is a strong traveller in his races. How Milan Tino runs gives us another pointer to Sir Gino's chance on Friday.
- PM** Plenty of good judges fancy **MILAN TINO**. His handicap mark looks like it could be 'generous'.
- NC** An outsider **EAGLE FANG** could run a big each-way race.
- RW** I'll chance **OSE PARTIR** based on his Christmas run at Leopardstown rather than a disappointing run at the Dublin Racing Festival. He should have an each-way chance.
- MC** Nothing that grabs me here and I'm chancing **ROARING LEGEND** (each-way) for Sean Bowen and Olly Murphy who had the big Imperial Cup win with Go Dante over the weekend.

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