

CHELTENHAM CHEAT SHEET

PUNDITS' PICKS OF THE DAY

DAY 2, WEDNESDAY MARCH 13TH



MICK FITZGERALD

PATRICK MULLINS

NINA CARBERRY

RUBY WALSH

MATT CHAPMAN

1.30PM

GALLAGHER NOVICES' HURDLE

- MF** Ballyburn is the obvious pick but I'd sooner **ILE ATLANTIQUE** (each-way) who has some very good form to his name.
- PM** We think the world of **BALLYBURN** and this will tell us whether we are right or not. Trip and ground will suit.
- NC** Now that **BALLYBURN** runs here he's still the one to beat.
- RW** **BALLYBURN** has been my pick in whatever race he runs in so I'll stick with him. **JIMMY DU SEUIL** could be an each-way play.
- MC** Most will see this as a penalty kick for Ballyburn, but I'll have a few quid each-way on **JINGKO BLUE** at the prices.

2.50PM

CORAL HURDLE

- MF** **DODDIETHEGREAT** ran really well in the 2m Betfair Hurdle and the step up in trip to 2m 5f should really suit him.
- PM** If **SA MAJESTE** runs like he works at home then he is well handicapped.
- NC** **BUILT BY BALLYMORE** is set up for this race, he's been laid out for it all season.
- RW** Willie Mullins saddles **SA MAJESTE** who could be well handicapped but his price is short enough now for a handicap like this. I prefer **FIRST STREET** (each-way) for a bit of value.
- MC** The one I'm risking here is **MIGHT I**. He's interesting off 142 having been fourth this time last year off 145 in the Martin Pipe behind Iroko.

4.10PM

CROSS COUNTRY CHASE

- MF** **DELTA WORK** is a real course specialist and looks for a hat-trick of wins in this contest. He's a proven performer.
- PM** **MINELLA INDO** is a former Gold Cup winner in the Cross Country. He picks himself.
- NC** I'm going with **GALVIN** who put in a brilliant run at Navan last time.
- RW** The Cross Country course faces an 8am inspection on Wednesday. If the ground is that heavy it will suit **COKO BEACH**.
- MC** I wanted to oppose the former Gold Cup hero **MINELLA INDO** but he will love the heavy ground and he really does have an excellent chance of winning.

5.30PM

CHAMPION BUMPER

- MF** **ROMEO COOLIO** looked very good when winning at Fairyhouse and could give his owners reason to celebrate after Mount Ida won for them at a 'Covid' Cheltenham.
- PM** **JASMIN DE VEUX** put in the most visually impressive performance at Naas and I'm lucky enough to be riding him.
- NC** I have to go with **THE YELLOW CLAY**. There's a lot more to come from him.
- RW** **ARGENTO BOY** (each-way) performs better on the track than he does in his homework and will stay going in the soft ground.
- MC** For some time I've been siding with **YOU OUGHTA KNOW** (each-way) who is one of many who goes for Willie Mullins. A big field and strong pace should suit.

2.10PM

NOVICES' CHASE

- MF** I'm not as convinced that Fact To File will relish this 3m trip. **STAY AWAY FAY** is a very strong stayer and I'd sooner side with him if this turns into a slog.
- PM** **FACT TO FILE** jumps, settles, and has a high-cruising speed and a turn of foot. The full package.
- NC** I fancy **MONTY'S STAR** each-way to run a big race.
- RW** **FACT TO FILE** should be too quick for Stay Away Fay who will have to do a lot of the donkey work now up front.
- MC** I'm a huge **STAY AWAY FAY** supporter whoever beats him here will have to be a real star. Of course Fact to File might, but I'll stick with Harry Cobden.

3.30PM

QUEEN MOTHER CHAMPION CHASE

- MF** I feel like a deserter ignoring Jonbon but everything has to go right for him to win. **EL FABILO** just always finds a way to get the job done.
- PM** **EL FABILO** beat Jonbon last year and should confirm that result again.
- NC** I can't get away from **EL FABILO**.
- RW** I still think the angle on **JONBON** (each-way) stands up. I can't see him out of the three so you'll get your money back. If he beats El Fabiolo you'll get a bunch more.
- MC** I'm massively in the **EL FABILO** camp and expect him to prove the outstanding two-miler chaser of the season.

4.50PM

GRAND ANNUAL CHALLENGE CUP

- MF** **LIBBERTY HUNTER** is a novice with some very good form this season. The booking of top UK jockey Harry Cobden should be noted.
- PM** **SAINT ROI** always runs well at Cheltenham and is a Grade 1 horse in a handicap.
- NC** **SAN FUREUR** was a very decent hurdler and has good chase form this season. He steps in to handicap company now and handles soft ground.
- RW** Two against the field for me in **SAINT ROI** who ran well enough in the Arkle last year and **LIBBERTY HUNTER**.
- MC** **UNEXPECTED PARTY** (each-way) would want better ground but he might just be a very well handicapped. If held up off a strong gallop could be very interesting.

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