

CHELTENHAM CHEAT SHEET

PUNDITS' PICKS OF THE DAY

DAY 3, THURSDAY MARCH 14TH



MICK FITZGERALD

PATRICK MULLINS

NINA CARBERRY

RUBY WALSH

MATT CHAPMAN

1.30PM

NOVICES' CHASE

- MF** I fancy a British winner in this as we swap to the New Course for the next two days. **GREY DAWNING** has solid form.
- PM** **FACILE VEGA** should appreciate the step up in trip and soft ground will help him show his true ability.
- NC** I fancy **FACILE VEGA**. He's crying out to go up in trip.
- RW** I'm not going to desert **FACILE VEGA**. The way Willie Mullins turned around Gaelic Warrior shows you can't go against his runners.
- MC** Now the mud has come I'm all over **GREY DAWNING** for the team of jockey Harry and trainer Dan Skelton. This grey has always had plenty of talent.

2.50PM

RYANAIR CHASE

- MF** I am wary of the ground conditions for **BANBRIDGE** so if he doesn't run then **ENVOI ALLEN** is probably the one to beat.
- PM** **CAPODANNO** will handle soft ground which will help negate the drop in trip to 2m 5f. There are question marks over plenty of others.
- NC** **BANBRIDGE** has got a massive chance, hopefully the ground won't spoil his chances of running if it gets too soft.
- RW** In my opinion, **ENVOI ALLEN** will win at Cheltenham for a fourth time and Henry de Bromhead's horses have done brilliantly this week.
- MC** **PROTEKTORAT** has a cracking each-way chance for trainer Dan and jockey Harry Skelton. Rated 165 he's bang in the mix and he's not been disgraced behind Shishkin and L'Homme Presse this term.

4.10PM

PLATE HANDICAP CHASE

- MF** **CREBILLY** is ticking a lot of boxes for me as he's been progressive all season.
- PM** Irish raider **GLENGOULY** could still be unexposed and the drop back in trip will help him.
- NC** **CREBILLY** has made steady progress all season and could be well handicapped on some of his form.
- RW** I like **RIAAN** at a decent each-way price. I was really impressed with his run at the Dublin Racing Festival.
- MC** **SHAKEM UP'ARRY** loves soft ground and won really well at the track last time. He's up 3lb for that but in these conditions that might not stop him.

5.30PM

KIM MUIR AMATEUR JOCKEYS' HANDICAP CHASE

- MF** A tricky amateur jockey's handicap over 3m 2f to end the card. Henry de Bromhead's **AMIRITE** seems fairly handicapped.
- PM** **AMIRITE** has been around the course and ran well in the Paddy Power Chase at Christmas at Leopardstown. This is a drop in class for him.
- NC** **INOTHEWAYURTHINKIN** has been lined up for this race all season and can deliver now.
- RW** Inothewayurthinkin is at the top of the market but I have my doubts over the 3m2f distance and his pedigree. Instead, I'll have two picks and side with **AMIRITE** and **WHERE IT ALL BEGAN** as each-way plays.
- MC** **AMIRITE** is okay in soft ground and has an each-way chance so the pin falls on him for Henry de Bromhead and 3lb conditional Noel McParlan. Hasn't won for a little while but last time was fifth in the Paddy Power Chase when running

2.10PM

PERTEMPS NETWORK FINAL HANDICAP HURDLE

- MF** **ICARE ALLEN** is very interesting, there's more to come from him. **MILL GREEN** is consistent and has an each-way chance.
- PM** **GAOTH CHUIL** has been hugely consistent this season and has a lovely light weight.
- NC** I'm going with **GAOTH CHUIL**. She's been on form all season.
- RW** I'm hoping my dad's **GAOTH CHUIL** (each-way) can deliver a third Festival winner for him. She will definitely stay and she can run into the money.
- MC** Could **LE MILOS** be well handicapped? He's on 142 here and was second at Kelso in a chase in March last year off 152. Will act on the ground.

3.30PM

PADDY POWER STAYERS' HURDLE

- MF** **TEAHUPOO** is my fancy. He's still only a seven-year-old and there is definitely more to come. The key to him performing at his best is that he runs well fresh and he hasn't run since December.
- PM** **TEAHUPOO** was beaten as a six-year-old last year but is in his prime now and holds the best current form, from the Hattons Grace Hurdle.
- NC** **TEAHUPOO** was placed last season and can go a couple of places better now.
- RW** **NOBLE YEATS** has a huge chance (each-way) now fitted with headgear. I can't see him out of the places.
- MC** I like the improving **CRAMBO** (each-way). He has defeated Paisley Park at Ascot but, most importantly, is back on watery ground which he hasn't had since loving heavy at Sandown in March last year. A cracking chance to get in the frame at the very least.

4.50PM

MARES' NOVICES' HURDLE

- MF** **BRIGHTERDAYS Ahead** is a major player, the quality is there for all to see and she's unbeaten.
- PM** **DYSART ENOS** could be hard to beat getting weight from Jade De Grugy and Brigherdaysahead who both carry a penalty.
- NC** **JADE DE GRUGY** looks more the finished article than market rival Brighterdaysahead.
- RW** The way Gordon Elliott talks about Brighterdaysahead is infectious. I can't walk away from Willie Mullins' **JADE DE GRUGY** but maybe I should listen to Gordon!
- MC** **BRIGHTERDAYS Ahead** has been a talking horse and all we have to hope is that she's not another Samcro! The mare is the apple of trainer Gordon Elliott's eye.

PADDYPOWER. NEWS

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