

CHELTENHAM CHEAT SHEET

PUNDITS' PICKS OF THE DAY

DAY 4, FRIDAY MARCH 14TH



MICK FITZGERALD

PATRICK MULLINS

NINA CARBERRY

RUBY WALSH

MATT CHAPMAN

1.30PM

TRIUMPH HURDLE

- MF** **STORM HEART** is the alternative in the absence of the NJH's ante-post favourite Sir Gino.
- PM** **STORM HEART** was slightly unlucky last time at Leopardstown and might have more room for improvement than Kargese.
- NC** I'm going with **BUNTING** who should run a big race.
- RW** I'll go with **BUNTING** (each-way) as there's not much between all Willie Mullins' runners and he's a nice price.
- MC** **NURBURGRING** (each-way) was a fine third last time in a Grade 2 at Leopardstown behind Kala Conti with the useful Kargese in second. I suspect he has strong each-way claims now.

2.50PM

NOVICES' HURDLE

- MF** **READIN TOMMY WRONG** is a powerful stayer and will have no problems with the 3m trip. **CAPTAIN TEAGUE** could be best of the home brigade.
- PM** **READIN TOMMY WRONG** settles, jumps and is faster than everything else in the race. He's my NAP.
- NC** **DANCING CITY** was brilliant in previous runs and there's more to come from him.
- RW** **READIN TOMMY WRONG** is the classiest horse in this race but keep an eye on **DANCING CITY**, who finished second behind Ballyburn and ahead of Slade Steel at Punchestown last year.
- MC** **CAPTAIN TEAGUE** (each-way) has been gagging for a step up in trip and this is his chance to shine.

4.10PM

CHALLENGE CUP OPEN HUNTERS' CHASE

- MF** The seven-year-old **ITS ON THE LINE** can follow up connections earlier win with Corbetts Cross this week in the Hunters' Chase for amateur riders.
- PM** **BILLAWAY** always turns up and runs his race. He sets the standard on form but hold on tight!
- NC** I was very impressed with **ITS ON THE LINE** at Naas and he can go very close. He was recently bought by JP McManus.
- RW** I'd be lying if I said I had a really strong fancy in this but I'll side with **ITS ON THE LINE** for Emmet Mullins. He's won his last three and he'll relish the stamina test.
- MC** **ITS ON THE LINE** was runner-up in this last year and while he's a character who can do some odd things on the way round, I expect him to go one place better this time.

5.30PM

JOCKEYS' HANDICAP HURDLE

- MF** **WATERFORD WHISPERS** was second in a Novice Handicap Hurdle over this trip at the Dublin Racing Festival and is still very lightly raced, so there's plenty room for improvement still. **QUAI DE BOURBON** 'could be anything' for the Mullins' stable.
- PM** **QUAI DE BOURBON** only does what he has to. He's a handicapper's nightmare and a jockey's dream for the final race of Festival 2024.
- NC** I'm going with **WATERFORD WHISPERS**. His form has been good all season.
- RW** **QUAI DE BOURBON** could be ahead of the handicapper. His Mullins' stablemate **OCastle DES MOTTES** makes each-way appeal as he will show improvement from stepping up in trip to 2m 4f.
- MC** **TEDDY BLUE** is a massive price for Niall Houlihan and Gary Moore but I think he might defy the odds. This season he hasn't been disgraced in the Lanzarote at Kempton or when fourth behind Mothill at Ascot last time.

2.10PM

COUNTY HANDICAP HURDLE

- MF** Willie Mullins saddles five in this and **ZENTA** (each-way) has a serious chance. **PIED PIPER** was chinned for second last year and can go close again.
- PM** **ABSURDE** ran well last time. The slow ground is a concern but he has the class to be better than his handicap mark.
- NC** **ZENTA** is a very unexposed mare who had a great run last year.
- RW** Zenta is Willie Mullins' best chance but I'm with **LEAU DU SUD**. Dan Skelton told me he really fancies him, as he did with Unexpected Party who bolted up on Wednesday, so I'll side with him!
- MC** **KING OF KINGFIELD** will be very hard to keep out of the places. The Gigginstown runner was third behind the class Ballyburn and Supreme hero Slade Steel at Leopardstown last time and a handicap mark of 140 might be very generous.

3.30PM

GOLD CUP CHASE

- MF** At the prices, I'm going with last year's Grand National winner **CORACH RAMBLER** as an each-way alternative to the likely winner and reigning champ **GALOPIN DES CHAMPS**.
- PM** **GALOPIN DES CHAMPS** is the best horse in the race and is in great form at home. The reigning champ is an easier ride this season too for Paul Townend.
- NC** I have to go with the reigning champ **GALOPIN DES CHAMPS**. You just can't get away from him.
- RW** I've been with **GALOPIN DES CHAMPS** for a long time and I like everything about him. Fastorslow will most likely chase him home. Corach Rambler or Gerri Colombe will likely be third.
- MC** There's no doubt **GALOPIN DES CHAMPS**, the defending champion, is the most talented horse in the race and he comes into this in great form.

4.50PM

MRS PADDY POWER MARES' CHASE

- MF** This could be a very good day for owner JP McManus as he has **DINOBLUE** and Limerick Lace racing in his silks in the Mares' Chase. The former can win it.
- PM** **ALLEGORIE DE VASSY** is working fantastically and can right last year's wrong.
- NC** **ALLEGORIE DE VASSY** can go one better this year after finishing runner-up last season.
- RW** Allegorie De Vassy has improved considerably but **DINOBLUE** is the standout. She's got rock solid form and she'll be hard to beat.
- MC** Many believe Dinoblue is a good thing in this but I like her stable companion **ALLEGORIE DE VASSY**. Paul Townend is on top and she only has 3lb on ratings to find with the favourite.

PADDYPOWER. NEWS

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