

AINTREE CHEAT SHEET

PUNDITS' PICKS OF THE DAY

DAY 3, SATURDAY APRIL 13TH



MICK FITZGERALD

MATT CHAPMAN

RORY DELARGY

RUBY WALSH

TIMEFORM

PATRICK MULLINS

1.20PM

AINTREE HANDICAP HURDLE

- MF** **WEST BALBOA** has won at Aintree twice and was a dominant winner of this race last season. Ground conditions will not be a problem.
- MC** **CUTHBERT DIBBLE** (each-way) is an improver and despite a 1lb hike for third place in the Pertemps Final at Cheltenham should have an each-way chance at least.
- RD** I'll go with a couple of bigger-priced runners **JOHNSONS BLUE** and **HONOR GREY** against the well-handicapped West Balboa.
- RW** **WEST BALBOA** drops to a mark of 141 and has a good chance.
- TF** Stablemates **WEST BALBOA** and Gwennie May Boy boast good credentials. The former doesn't look badly treated off a mark 6 lb higher compared to when winning this in good style last year.
- PM** **FINE MARGIN'S** Haydock run puts him in the driving seat. His last run was too bad to be true and he can bounce back off this light weight.

1.55PM

AINTREE NOVICES' HURDLE

- MF** A high profile purchase at the sales **CALDWELL POTTER'S** form looks good and ground conditions are fine for him as he makes his debut for Paul Nicholls.
- MC** **ILE ATLANTIQUE** was behind the re-opposing Jimmy Du Seuil when third to Ballyburn in the Baring Bingham at Cheltenham but can reverse the form.
- RD** **BRIGHTERDAYSAHEAD** has enormous potential and there is little on ratings between her and former stablemate Caldwell Potter.
- RW** **JIMMY DU SEUIL** ran really well at Cheltenham and looks overpriced.
- TF** The step up to 2m 4f could see **CALDWELL POTTER** in an even better light and he can prove just too strong for his half-sister and former stablemate Brighterdaysahead.
- PM** **CALDWELL POTTER** comes here fresh and looks the class act with a Grade 1 win under his belt already.

2.30PM

AINTREE HANDICAP CHASE

- MF** **KINONDO KWETU** (each-way) has a good record at the track and was third in this race last year. The drier the ground the better his chance.
- MC** **CRUZ CONTROL** (each-way) stays well and goes in deep ground and is improving so must have a chance for Tom Lacey and Stan Sheppard.
- RD** **FORWARD PLAN** could be the value pick and his running style is perfect for Aintree. The handicapper hasn't a hold of him yet.
- RW** **CREBILLY** will appreciate the step up in trip to 3m 1f after a good run at the Festival over shorter.
- TF** **THE KING OF RYHOPE** travelled sweetly before making a chance-ending blunder in an Ascot Grade 2 a couple of months ago. Dan Skelton's low-mileage eight-year-old should be bang there back in handicap company.
- PM** **TWIG** ran a stormer at Cheltenham and that form looks strong.

3.05PM

AINTREE LIVERPOOL HURDLE

- MF** **STRONG LEADER** ran very well at this venue last year finishing second in a Grade 1 contest over 2 miles. He's taken a big step up in distance since but can out-run his odds.
- MC** This is up for grabs. There should be a good pace on, so I'll give **CRAMBO** another chance although he was hopeless at Cheltenham and he needs to step up big time.
- RD** I didn't fancy **CRAMBO** at Cheltenham (and he ran poorly) but he will shape better after that run. Aintree should suit him better but he's a tentative pick.
- RW** **FLOORING PORTER** can get back to winning ways and has the best form on offer.
- TF** **FLOORING PORTER** is taken to land this prize for the first time following a mighty effort in the Stayers' Hurdle.
- PM** **MONKFISH** is worth another chance. His Galmoy win was impressive and it was a big ask in the Gold Cup. An early mistake took him out of the race.

4.00PM

AINTREE GRAND NATIONAL HANDICAP CHASE

- MF** My four against the field in the Grand National are **MEETINGOFTHEWATERS**, **CORACH RAMBLER**, **NOBLE YEATS** and **PANDA BOY**.
- MC** The Grand National is Irish dominated and my four against the field are: **I AM MAXIMUS**, **NOBLE YEATS**, **MEETINGOFTHEWATERS** and **VANNILLER**.
- RD** In the Grand National it's **PANDA BOY**, **MEETINGOFTHEWATERS** and **GALIA DES LITEAUX** that are my three against the field and the tricast!
- RW** **CAPADANNO** (each-way) has had a better prep this season and can improve on last year's showing in the Grand National.
- TF** **MAHLER MISSION** has been kept fresh since a fine second in the Coral Gold Cup last Autumn. The way he jumped/travelled that day marked him down as one who will be well served by the demands of this race.
- PM** **MEETINGOFTHEWATERS** is lightly raced and has a beautiful light weight. He will need to settle but if he does, he can be ahead of his mark.

5.00PM

AINTREE NOVICES' CHASE

- MF** **HERCULE DU SEUIL** is a strong traveller and good jumper who will revel in this test.
- MC** **FOUND A FIFTY** chased home Gaelic Warrior in the Arkle and that form was given a huge boost by the impressive Il Etais Temps on Thursday.
- RD** **NICKLE BACK** looks overpriced. He's already bolted up in a Group 1 this season and he's been laid out for this.
- RW** **MATATA** (each-way) appeals at a big price on a Flat track after a big run at Cheltenham.
- TF** **FOUND A FIFTY** has been most consistent in the top 2m novice chases this season and can land a second win at the highest level.
- PM** **QUILIXIOS** might as well have been a non-runner at Cheltenham after a bad start. He has high class form and is overpriced.

5.35PM

AINTREE NATIONAL HUNT

- MF** **TRIPOLI FLYER** was a good winner at Lingfield when beating the highly thought of Kingston Pride.
- MC** **MISTER MEGGIT** is rumoured to have bled from time to time but he's bolted up in two wins and looked a special horse at Doncaster last time. And that's it for Aintree 2024!
- RW** **MISTER MEGGIT** has form on heavy ground and has been kept for this, so he's a very tentative selection.
- TF** **MISTER MEGGIT** has looked highly talented on both runs to date and could have a lot more to come, so he's a straightforward choice to maintain his unbeaten record up in grade.
- PM** **HORACE'S PEARL** is two from two and by the great sire, Authorised. Fergal O'Brien is having a super season and while this is his second string, he can come out on top.

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