

PUNDITS' PICKS OF THE DAY

THE ONES TO WATCH OUT FOR ON CHAMPION DAY - TUESDAY 13TH MARCH



RUBY WALSH



NINA CARBERRY



FRANK HICKEY



PADDY POWER

SUPREME NOVICES' HURDLE

Ruby Walsh: **Kalashnikov** sets a fair level of form. **Summerville Boy** is decent as well. But we like **Getabird**.

Nina Carberry: **Kalashnikov** is probably the best of the English but he's going to have to be very classy to beat **Getabird**.

Frank: **Kalashnikov** will surely hit the frame at the very least and the hill looks tailor made for him.

Paddy: I consider myself the AK-47 of pop culture: reliable under harsh conditions, low production cost, and largely operated by gas. So it can only be **Kalashnikov**.

ARKLE CHASE

Ruby Walsh: Nicky Henderson is raving about **Brain Power**, but **Footpad's** a great ride and he's in good order. I wouldn't swap him.

Nina Carberry: **Footpad** has a proper chance. I can't see **Petit Mouchoir** improving eight lengths to beat him.

Frank: **Footpad** has been extremely impressive over fences to date and should be clear favourite in my opinion.

Paddy: **Brain Power** was a nickname of mine back at school, so I'm tempted by that – but apple brandy is delicious, so I'm going for **Saint Calvados**.

ULTIMA HANDICAP CHASE

Ruby Walsh: **Singlefarmpayment** ran in the race last year but if the ground is soft, **Beware the Bear** could run a big race at a big price.

Nina Carberry: **Snow Falcon** was only just behind **Yanworth** and **Supasundae** at Aintree, so if he gets a nice bit of ground at Cheltenham, he could run very well.

Frank: **Vintage Clouds** is one that appeals at the prices. He is sure to handle the testing ground and is a strong stayer.

Paddy: **Singlefarmpayment** hasn't been great recently, but I'm backing him to improve on last year's second-place showing in this race.

CHAMPION HURDLE

Ruby Walsh: **Faugheen** could make a race of it, but **Buveur D'Air's** going to be hard to beat whatever way you look at it. His form is rock solid.

Nina Carberry: You can't go by **Buveur D'air**. He's been in form all season, so he can go well on any type of ground and he has the form that everyone has to beat.

Frank: It looks like **Buveur D'air** just has to avoid trouble to win this. It appears **Faugheen's** best days are behind him.

Paddy: It's hard to see any horse outrunning **Buveur D'air** here. I'd love to think **Faugheen** could pip him, but I'm going with the favourite.

MARES' HURDLE

Ruby Walsh: **Apple's Jade** is very good. She'll be hard to beat. But she'll have to take a run and it's a very competitive race.

Nina Carberry: If there's a chink in **Apple's Jade's** armour, **Benie Des Dieux** would probably put it up to her. But it's hard to see **Apple's Jade** getting beat.

Frank: **Apple's Jade** is almost impossible to oppose in her pursuit of back to back wins in this race.

Paddy: I hate to be unoriginal. In fact, Originality is basically by middle name. But **Apple's Jade** is clearly going to win this one.

NATIONAL HUNT CHASE

Ruby Walsh: **Rathvinden** is tailor-made for this. He's a lot of experience under his belt and he'll be bang there.

Nina Carberry: I like **Ms Parfois**. She's bringing the course form to the race, and she'll stay all day, so I think she could be a nice bet.

Frank: **Gordon Elliott** has a tremendous record in this race. **Dounikos** looks to be his first string here but I like the claims of one of his other runners, **Fagan**.

Paddy: This could be one of the closer races today. I reckon **Dounikos**, **Rathvinden** and **Fagan** will be in the running – but I'm going for good old **Jury Duty**.

CLOSE BROTHERS NOVICE HANDICAP

Ruby Walsh: It's a while since **De Plotting Shed** won a race but theoretically he could be well in.

Nina Carberry: **Movewiththetimes** has been campaigned in Grade Ones. I think he could be one to side with.

Frank: **Any Second Now** is likely to prove to be graded class and looks to be worth a shot here.

Paddy: I reckon Gordon Elliott's **De Plotting Shed** can end his winless streak here.