

PUNDITS' PICKS OF THE DAY

ST PATRICK'S THURSDAY AT CHELTENHAM



MICK FITZGERALD



MATT CHAPMAN



LIZZIE KELLY



RUBY WALSH



KEVIN BLAKE

JLT NOVICES CHASE

1:30PM

- MF:** The former Triumph Hurdle winner **Defi Du Seuil** can confirm his recent superiority over **Lostintranslation**.
- MC:** **Lostintranslation** will take all the beating and is considered a future Gold Cup horse.
- LK:** **Defi Du Seuil**. I love the fact that he's now doing really well chasing, it's brilliant.
- RW:** If **Defi Du Seuil** runs here – he should win.
- KB:** **Defi Du Seuil** has got better and better as the season has gone on and should be well suited by this.

PERTEMPS HANDICAP HURDLE

2:10PM

- MF:** **Thermistocles** ran well at Leopardstown last time and although exposed he could go well.
- KB:** **Sire Du Berlais** has been aimed at this all season and ran an eye-catching race in his preparation.

RYANAIR CHASE

2:50PM

- MF:** This can go to Irish challenger **Monalee**. He's a really solid jumper who gets on with it from the front.
- MC:** **Monalee** would be hard to beat on good ground. But it's not so I'll go for **Un de Sceaux** in the mud.
- RW:** I've picked last year's Arke winner **Footpad** over **Un De Sceaux** and I hope I'm right. **Footpad** did win in France as a juvenile hurdler over the trip.
- KB:** **Monalee** should be perfectly suited by this trip and has a massive chance if handling the ground.

STAYERS HURDLE

3:30PM

- MF:** I would love to see **Paisley Park** win and think he will. I'm slightly concerned though that he was pulled up in the Albert Bartlett Hurdle last year at the Festival. **Black Op** could be an each-way play especially if the ground turns soft.
- LK:** **Paisley Park** has just been in the best form this season, just head and shoulders above everyone.
- MC:** **Faugheen** is a Champion Hurdle winner and stays strong. Can turn back the years.
- KB:** **Paisley Park** absolutely brilliant performance last time.
- RW:** **Faugheen** has recovered from his fall behind **Apple's Jade** at Christmas but **Paisley Park** has been the stand-out stayer this season and he's going to be hard to beat. But I'm hopeful **Faugheen** can run a big race and I'm really looking forward to riding him.

BROWN ADVISORY HANDICAP CHASE

4:10PM

- MC:** **Spiritofthegames** has good Festival form and is highly thought of by the Skelton connections.
- KB:** **Janika** should have won his last two starts and could well win this on the way to bigger things.
- LK:** I ride **Siruh Du Lac** who beat Janika at Cheltenham. **Janika** is really fancied for this race so I think we've a great chance.

MARES NOVICE HURDLE

4:50PM

- MF:** This looks between the top two in the market and I slightly favour Nicky Henderson's **Epatante**.
- LK:** **Posh Trish** looks very solid in this.
- MC:** **Epatante** will take some stopping after wins at Kempton and Exeter.
- RW:** **Epatante** has been winning her races very comfortably and could have more to give.
- KB:** **Posh Trish** has solid form and could be a bit of value against the favourite.

FULKE WALWYN KIM MUIR

5:30PM

- MC:** **Out Sam** has always threatened to win a big race and will love the conditions.
- RW:** **Livelovelaugh** could run here but I'm not sure the 3m 2f trip will suit. I think my dad's horse **Any Second Now** has a good chance. I think the trip will suit him.
- KB:** **Measureofmydreams** ran a race full of promise on his comeback last time and is ridden by top amateur Jamie Codd.



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