

PUNDITS' PICKS OF THE DAY

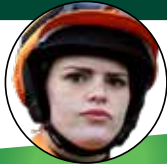
CHAMPION HURDLE DAY AT CHELTENHAM



MICK FITZGERALD



MATT CHAPMAN



LIZZIE KELLY



RUBY WALSH



KEVIN BLAKE

SUPREME NOVICES HURDLE

1:30PM

- MF:** I have backed **Fakir D'oudairies** at 12/1 for this already so I'm sitting pretty. Mr Fisher should run well too.
- MC:** **Aramon** has loads of experience and was unlucky against **Klassical Dream** last time. Each-way chance.
- LK:** I thought **Al Dancer** was really impressive in the Betfair Hurdle and can win this.
- RW:** It's very open but **Aramon** has form at the highest level and could be value each-way in the opening race of Cheltenham 2019.
- KB:** **Angels Breath** can be forgiven last time, potential big improver.

ARKLE CHASE

2:10PM

- MF:** I like **Lalor** to win it but I'm not in love with his price. He could drift on the day though.
- MC:** **Glen Forsa** improves with every run and can run his rivals ragged from the front.
- LK:** I'd love to see **Lalor** win it for connections.
- RW:** Willie Mullins' **Duc Des Genievres** or Gordon Elliot's **Hardline** look solid Irish challengers too.
- KB:** **Hardline** has a massive chance.

FESTIVAL HANDICAP CHASE

2:50PM

- MF:** Jockey Daryll Jacobs thinks that **Janika** is his best chance of a winner at the meeting and I agree.
- MC:** **Mister Whitaker** could give **Mick Channon** a famous double. Jumps and stays and won here last year as a novice chaser.
- LK:** I won this race last year on **Coo Star Sivola** and think we've a chance of doing it again.
- RW:** If **Up for Review** runs in this for Willie Mullins he'll have a lovely racing weight and a really good chance.

CHAMPION HURDLE

3:30PM

- MF:** I'm backing **Buveur D'air** to win his third Champion Hurdle. **Apples Jade** can put it up to him but I'm worried about her tendency to jump right at her hurdles.
- MC:** **Laurina** is unbeaten since joining Team Mullins and looks a monster. Can take advantage of the 7lb weight allowance she gets off **Buveur d'Air**.
- LK:** Everyone's gone for the front three but I'll go with **Sharjah** each-way for a bit of value.
- RW:** I ride **Laurina** has the potential to win a Champion Hurdle but she'll have to improve by about 7lb to thwart **Buveur D'air** & **Apples Jade**. I hope she can.
- KB:** **Apples Jade** looks much improved this year and this could be her big day.

MARES' HURDLE

4:10PM

- MF:** A lot fancy **Benie Des Dieux** but I like her stablemate **Limini**.
- MC:** Defending Champion **Benie des Dieux** looks outstanding and has been laid out for this.
- LK:** I never know how to pronounce it but **Benie Des Dieux** looks the winner to me.
- RW:** **Benie Des Dieux** looks my best ride of the meeting. She's unbeaten since we got her and I hope it stays that way on Tuesday!
- KB:** I fancy **Limini's** chances of upsetting her stablemate **Benie Des Dieux**.

NOVICES' HANDICAP CHASE

4:50PM

- MC:** **Shady Operator** is from a strong outfit. May place at least.
- RW:** **Riders On the Storm** was a good winner in Punchestown and could still be improving in a very competitive handicap. I'd also be looking out for **Tower Bridge**.
- LK:** **Highway One O One** ran a good race at Cheltenham last time behind **Kildisart**.
- KB:** **Riders On the Storm** is potentially well handicapped and should be well suited by conditions.

NATIONAL HUNT CHASE

5:30PM

- MF:** If **Ok Coral** settles better he'll be good enough to win. **Discorama** is the each-way play.
- MC:** **OK Corral** was impressive at **Warwick** and might be a class above these.
- RW:** This looks a match between **Ballyward** and **OK Corral** and I'm hoping **Ballward** and Patrick Mullins can come out on top.
- KB:** **Discorama** might have beaten **Ballyward** last time and will be suited by the longer trip.



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