

DUBLIN RACING FESTIVAL

PUNDIT'S PICKS FOR SUNDAY



RUBY WALSH



MICK FITZGERALD



FRANK HICKEY



PADDY POWER

Mares Handicap Hurdle, 2nd Feb

12.55 PM

RW: I am going to go for **La Sorelita** at a big price each-way. It's a while since she's won a race but was a little better than the bare form suggests on her last two starts.

MF: **Drury** is the obvious one as the race is named after Willie Mullin's dad, Paddy but JP McManus' horse **Ena Baie** ran very well in a Novice handicap at Leopardstown and he's my nap of the weekend.

FH: A bit like me after a few double gin and tonics, I get **Strange Notions** and that's the horse I like here for Charles O'Brien at a massive price.

PP: **Jeremy's Flame** is due a win.

Novice Hurdle, 2nd Feb

1.55 PM

RW: **Blue Sari** seems to be in good form at home and if you're willing to forgive him that last run, he most certainly has the ability. He looks over-priced to me here.

MF: **Blue Sari** was beaten only by Envoi Allen in the bumper at Cheltenham last year so there is every reason to forgive his last run, which I'm willing to do.

FH: Willie has won before with horses that haven't been the first string and I think **Asterion Forlonge** could run a massive race.

PP: I like **Mount Leinster** in this. Nothing to do with me being a Leinster fan, seriously. I think he jumps well and Paul Townend has picked for a reason.

Novice Chase, 2nd Feb

3.00 PM

RW: **Faugheen** is absolutely bombing away at home. Whatever way you look at it, he's 12 years old now but he's only had 24 runs in his life. I hope he wins.

MF: **Faugheen** is a class act but his could be the chance for **Battleoverdoyen** to land a big one. I just feel the ground is the key here and because of that I am going to side with him.

FH: I would take a chance on **Tornado Flyer**. I think he just wants a trip and should be a good price.

PP: I can't help but go with my heart on this one. C'mon **Faugheen**!!

Juvenile Hurdle, 2nd Feb

1.25 PM

RW: **Aspire Tower** looks the real deal - still a bit green - but I can't see it being beaten.

MF: I've been super impressed with **Aspire Tower**. He looked a bit green but there's no doubting this horse's ability and he'll only get better with runs.

FH: **Aspire Tower** is just brilliant. This thing's a machine and it won't be beaten. If he learns to settle, he could do what Our Conor did in the triumph a few years back

PP: You'd be a fool not to go with **Aspire Tower** and I aint no fool. I pity the fool!... Sorry.

Handicap Hurdle, 2nd Feb

2.30 PM

RW: **Column of Fire** is very well handicapped on his best form and could be aimed at something like the Martin Pipe Hurdle at the Festival.

MF: **Silver Sheen** impressed at Warwick and is a solid each-way where Paddy is paying on the places. **Column of Fire** is the one who could be the best-handicapped horse in the field though.

FH: If you're looking for a horse that will definitely hit the each-way target, **Tout Est Permis** is the one but I think **Snugsborough Benny** will be a massive danger.

PP: I fancied **Cabaret Queen** at Christmas and it fell so I'm going to give it another go because I'm nice like that.

Paddy Power Irish Gold Cup, 2nd Feb

3.30 PM

RW: **Bellshill** beats Kemboy and Al Boum Photo seven days a week at home. He looks a 'wrong' price to me at double-digits if he can bring that form to the track. I think the value is with him.

MF: I love **Presenting Percy** and I want him to win here. I hope they ride him positively as this is probably sharp enough for him with the ground drying out.

FH: I just don't think **Presenting Percy's** good enough to win a race like this or a Gold Cup. I would be surprised if **Kemboy** isn't clear favourite for this. If you go back to what he did last year at Aintree and Punchestown, that's different level to what the rest of them are doing.

PP: **Kemboy** is my nap of the day. Enough said.

PADDYPOWER. NEWS

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SWAP RUGBY FOR RACING.

Dublin Racing Festival at LEOPARDSTOWN

FEBRUARY 1ST & 2ND

