

# CHELTENHAM 2020

## RUBY'S FESTIVAL FANCIES



RUBY WALSH

### DAY ONE

#### CHAMPION DAY, TUES MARCH 10<sup>TH</sup>

**1.30 SUPREME NOVICES HURDLE**  
**Abacadabras** has been overlooked against Shishkin and Asterion Forlonge and looks a great price to win the opening race of the 2020 Festival.

**2.10 ARKLE CHASE**  
Cash Back is forward and keen and fast, he'll be bang up there with Notebook but **Fakir Doudairies** could pick them both off.

**2.50 FESTIVAL HANDICAP CHASE**  
The Irish have a pretty ordinary record in this. **La Bague Au Roi** could be interesting dropping down to handicap company from Graded chases.

**3.30 CHAMPION HURDLE**  
It looks a very open race this year and I'd fancy **Epatante**.

**4.10 MARES HURDLE**  
**Benie Des Dieux**. I know she's a short price, but hey, a short-price winner is far better than a long-price loser.

**4.50 NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE**  
I think **Lord Schnitzel** could get in the mix and I think he's a great bet for an each-way play here.

**5.30 NATIONAL HUNT CHASE**  
I tipped **Carefully Selected** months ago and I'm not going to change my mind now just because he's favourite.

### DAY TWO

#### LADIES DAY, WED MARCH 11<sup>TH</sup>

**1.30 BALLYMORE NOVICES HURDLE**  
If I was going to the Cheltenham to ride **Envoi Allen**, I'd be fairly confident he'll win.

**2.10 RSA CHASE**  
I think the fall will have helped **Champ**, as ridiculous as that may sound. He'll be hard to beat here.

**2.50 CORAL CUP**  
No huge opinion but **Burrows Edge** was a good winner of the Lanzarote Hurdle. He's improving.

**3.30 CHAMPION CHASE**  
It's the race of the meeting, **Altior v Defi Du Seuil v Chacun Pour Soi**. Take your pick.

**4.10 CROSS COUNTRY CHASE**  
If **Tiger Roll** is going to win a third Grand National - he has to win this off level weights.

**4.50 BOODLES JUVENILE H'CAP HURDLE**  
I fancy **Tronador** for Gordon Elliott if he runs in it.

**5.30 CHAMPION BUMPER**  
**Appreciate It** ticks all the boxes. The best form and the attitude to go with it.

### DAY THREE

#### ST PATRICK'S THURSDAY, MARCH 12<sup>TH</sup>

**1.30 MARSH CHASE**  
**Allaho** could jump out and gallop these into the ground like Black Hercules did. If Faugheen runs he could be thereabouts too.

**2.10 PERTEMPS FINAL**  
**The Storyteller** looks a sound bet but Relegate could run a big race.

**2.50 RYANAIR CHASE**  
Frodon may struggle so it could be a match between Min and **A Plus Tard**. I hope it's Min but the stiffer track may suit A Plus Tard better.

**3.30 PADDY POWER STAYERS' HURDLE**  
**Paisley Park** is the best by miles but **Penhill** could be one for the places.

**4.10 BROWN ADVISORY AND MERRIBELLE PLATE**  
**Two Taffs** was a good second in Warwick and Cheltenham should suit.

**4.50 MARES NOVICES HURDLE**  
**Colreevy** looks a good each-way play against Minella Melody who has to carry a penalty.

**5.30 KIM MUIR CHALLENGE CUP**  
A few here like **Le Breuil**, **The Conditional** & **Singlefarmpayment** could all run well.

### DAY FOUR

#### GOLD CUP DAY, FRI MARCH 13<sup>TH</sup>

**1.30 TRIUMPH HURDLE**  
The one I like is the strong-staying **A Wave of The Sea** each-way.

**2.10 COUNTY HANDICAP HURDLE**  
**Soviet Pimpernel** with Robbie Power riding looks the one for me.

**2.50 ALBERT BARTLETT NOVICES HURDLE**  
**Ramses de Teillee** is the type of tough, strong, horse you need to win this.

**3.30 GOLD CUP**  
The Festival feature. The reigning champ **Al Boum Photo** will regain his crown.

**4.10 FOXHUNTERS CHASE**  
I really like **Billaway**. Patrick Mullins could cap a great week with him.

**4.50 GRAND ANNUAL CHASE**  
They fly so you want something that's stays a bit further than the 2m. That's **Brelan D'As** for me.

**5.30 MARTIN PIPE HURDLE**  
Five O'Clock beat **Front View** at Thurles last time but the Joseph O'Brien-trained runner can reverse the form in the last race of the Festival.

### RUBY'S NAP

DAY 1: MARES HURDLE  
**Benie Des Dieux**

### RUBY'S LUCKY 15

DAY 1: NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE **Lord Schnitzel**  
DAY 2: PERTEMPS FINAL **The Storyteller**

DAY 3: MARES NOVICE HURDLE **Colreevy**  
DAY 4: COUNTY HURDLE **Soviet Pimpernel**

ALL RACES  
Cheltenham Day 1

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