

# ST PATRICK'S THURSDAY AT CHELTENHAM

## PUNDITS' PICKS OF THE DAY



RUBY WALSH



MICK FITZGERALD



MATT CHAPMAN



FRANK HICKEY



PADDY POWER

1:30PM

MARSH CHASE

- RW** It would be a real fairytale if **Faugheen** wins.
- MF** **Itchy Feet** is a Grade 1 winner and a would be a worthy winner of this contest.
- MC** **Faugheen** is my favourite horse in training and I will not be deserting him.
- FH** He's had his critics but **Samcro** has had a wind up and it would be no surprise if he bounced back.
- PP** The safer bet might be **Mister Fisher** each/way.

2:10PM

PERTEMPS FINAL

- RW** **The Storyteller** looks a sound bet but **Relegate** could run a big race.
- MF** **Welsh Saint** won at Haydock, handles soft ground and is a real player at a price.
- MC** **Kilbricken Storm** might surprise a few people in a race where there's plenty of extra places on offer.
- FH** Former Champion Bumper winner **Relegate** jumped a lot better on her reappearance at Punchestown and could be well treated in this.
- PP** I always take note when Grade One winners drop to handicap company so I'm all over **Relegate**.

2:50PM

RYANAIR CHASE

- RW** 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.
- MF** Min and Frodon are big players but I'm with **A Plus Tard** all the way.
- MC** I see no reason why the 2019 hero **Frodon** won't go really well again.
- FH** I'd been keen to get away from A Plus Tard. **Riders Onthe Storm** is a fair price.
- PP** I'd just prefer **Min**, and I think it's between him and A Plus Tard.

3:30PM

PADDY POWER STAYERS' HURDLE

- RW** I think **Paisley Park** will win. I'd put him in the same bracket as Big Bucks. No one knew how good he was. I'd say Paisley Park is the same. Willie Mullins has gotten four runs into Penhill this season. He could chase Paisley Park home.
- MF** **Paisley Park** to win but **City Island** can run into the places.
- MC** **Paisley Park** is the outstanding Paddy Power Stayers' Hurdle contender and it will be some shock if he is beaten.
- FH** **Paisley Park** to win but maybe **Ronald Pump** could be the value in the 'without Paisley Park' market.
- PP** I know it's a bit boring, but I think **Paisley Park** will take home the bacon.

4:10PM

BROWN ADVISORY & MERRIEBELLE PLATE

- RW** **Two Tuffs** was a good second in Warwick and Cheltenham should suit.
- MF** **La Bague Au Roi** is a Grade One winner running in a handicap.
- MC** Expect a big effort from **Simply the Betts**.
- FH** **Simply the Betts** beat Tuesday's winner Imperial Aura last time at this track and still looks to be ahead of the handicapper.
- PP** **Siruh Du Lac** won at the Festival last year so I'll be cheering on Lizzie Kelly again this time.

4:50PM

MARES NOVICES HURDLE

- RW** **Colreevy** looks a good each-way play against Minella Melody who has to carry a penalty.
- MF** **Minella Melody** and **Floressa** are my two against the field.
- MC** **Dolcita** each-way looks the play even though the Willie Mullins stable rider is on Colreevy.
- FH** **Dolcita** has shown a bit of promise and could hit the places.
- PP** **Dolcita** has shown enough to suggest she could get involved.

5:30PM

KIM MUIR CHALLENGE CUP

- RW** Jamie Codd and **Le Breuil** won the National Hunt Chase last year and can go well again in this amateur riders race.
- MF** **Champagne Platinum** gets the nod with Derek O'Connor booked.
- MC** **Le Breuil** has a good Cheltenham record and has every chance for Ben Pauling and Jamie Codd.
- FH** A competitive race where **Deise Aba** and **Cloth Cap** have each way claims.
- PP** I always go with the jockey in these races. Derek O'Connor is the best around so its **Champagne Platinum** for me.

**PADDYPOWER.** NEWS

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