

CHAMPION DAY AT CHELTENHAM

PUNDITS' FESTIVAL PICKS



RUBY WALSH



MICK FITZGERALD



MATT CHAPMAN



FRANK HICKEY



PADDY POWER

1:30PM

SUPREME NOVICES HURDLE

RW

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

MF

I hope **Shishkin** wins but Abacadabras is the safer each-way bet.

MC

Fiddlerontheroof. Already a Grade 1 winner and jumps and stays strong. Every chance of hitting the frame.

FH

Envoi Allen is undefeated coming into this and it will take something special to change that.

PP

Might as well start like I mean to go on and **Captain Guinness** looks an omen. Each-way though.

2:10PM

ARKLE CHASE

RW

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

MF

Rouge Vif is one that I really like at the prices and is a knock-out each way bet after his last win.

MC

Brewin'upastorm could be huge for Olly Murphy. Fourth in the Ballymore last year and will be strong up the hill.

FH

The strong pace will really suit **Brewin'upastorm** and he's a really solid each-way punt.

PP

Notebook has done nothing wrong but I prefer **Cash Back** or **Brewin'upastorm** at the prices.

2:50PM

ULTIMA HANDICAP CHASE

RW

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

MF

Irish challenger **Discorama** can go close for Paul Nolan and Bryan Cooper.

MC

Discorama ran well in the National Hunt Chase last season and could be the one to go close. He's been consistent and has a reasonable racing weight.

FH

Discorama has hit the frame at the last 2 festivals & looks to have decent each way claims here.

PP

The Conditional ran well in a handicap here before Christmas and the more rain that falls the better his chances.

3:30PM

CHAMPION HURDLE

RW

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

MF

It's a wide open race this year and **Supasundae** looks the safest each way play.

MC

Supasundae is an old boy who has a good Festival record. Once second in the Paddy Power Stayers' but is not without pace. Might get a good run from close to the front.

FH

I'm not too keen on Epatante. If this becomes a strongly-run stamina test she'll be found out. **Cilaos Emery's** jumping needs to sharpen up a bit. If it does he can be involved at the finish.

PP

Supersundae appeals as an each-way play. It's a weak Champion Hurdle so there could be a bit of value in the longer-prices.

4:10PM

MARES HURDLE

RW

Benie Des Dieux is a short price, but hey, a short-price winner is far better than a long-price loser.

MF

A match between the market principles Benie Des Dieux and Honeysuckle that **Benie Des Dieux** will win.

MC

Benie des Dieux would have hacked up last year but for falling at the last. Different gear, baby.

FH

Benie Des Dieux looks the winner to me.

PP

It looks a match between Benie Des Dieux and Honeysuckle. I'm siding with **Benie Des Dieux**.

4:50PM

NOVICES' HANDICAP CHASE

RW

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

MF

Imperial Aura has been laid out for this race having run really well at the track last time.

MC

Hold the Note is lightly raced but ran a big one at Warwick last time. Improving fast now for Mick Channon.

FH

Dan Skelton is a brilliant target trainer and **Beakstown** looks to have been laid out for this race.

PP

Imperial Aura is the leading player in this contest.

5:30PM

NATIONAL HUNT CHASE

RW

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

MF

I'll take a chance on **Forza Milan** each-way for Irish trainer James Nash.

MC

Carefully Selected looks a banker for the Mullins team after a fine effort at Naas last time. Should stay for powerful yard.

FH

Carefully Selected just basically needs to get around. A Grade One horse in a pretty weak field.

PP

He might be a short-price but it's hard to see beyond **Carefully Selected**.



ALL RACES
Cheltenham Day 1

**MONEY BACK
AS A FREE BET**

IF YOUR HORSE FINISHES

2ND

3RD

OR

4TH

Max free bet €10 | Online Exclusive



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