

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** is already a Grade One winner and jumps and stays strong. Every chance of hitting the frame.
- FH** **Asterion Forlonge** looks rock solid for the Festival opener and I'm on his side.
- 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** looksto 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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