

## PUNDITS' PICKS OF THE DAY



JASON WEAVER



MATT CHAPMAN



MICK FITZGERALD



FRANK HICKEY



PADDY POWER

1.15pm

### GOLDEN GATES HANDICAP

- JW** TRITONIC looks fairly weighted off a rating of 95 and can start the season on a winning note.
- MC** The lightly-raced MAORI KNIGHT could be improving at the right time.
- MF** MAFIA POWER looks the each-way play with jockey Silvestre da Sousa able to do his featherweight.
- FH** HIGHLAND CHIEF was third behind Pinatubo at Ascot last year and while he's top weight here, he is the class act in the race.
- PP** ACQUITTED gave Derby hopeful Palace Pier a race last time and the step up in trip will suit.

1.50pm

### WOLFERTON STAKES

- JW** DREAM CASTLE has been overlooked in the market and can grab a slice of it at huge odds
- MC** SIR DRAGONET was fifth in last year's Epsom Derby and the step back to 1m 2f should suit perfectly.
- MF** SIR DRAGONET disappointed after last season's Epsom Derby but can bounce back here. Aloe Vera could be one for the places.
- FH** ALOE VERA impressed me when winning at listed level on her last start and I'll chance her each way.
- PP** I'll take a chance on DUBAI WARRIOR transferring his all-weather ability to turf.

2.25pm

### JERSEY STAKES

- JW** MONARCH OF EGYPT got no clear run in the Irish 2,000 Guineas and the drop back to seven furlongs should really suit.
- MC** KING LEONIDAS is unbeaten in his last two races for John Gosden and Frankie Dettori.
- MF** KING LEONIDAS was so impressive at Newmarket last time when conceding 7lb to his rivals. He gets the nod in a fascinating race.
- FH** FINAL SONG has decent course form and ran a cracker in the 1,000 Guineas. Seven furlongs looks ideal for her.
- PP** If the ground stays good, then KING LEONIDAS looks an exciting prospect.

3.00pm

### CHESHAM STAKES

- JW** All runners have only one run and FIRST PROPHET impressed on debut at Newbury.
- MC** BRIGHT DEVIL made all to win at Newmarket last time and I'm hoping he can do the same again.
- MF** MODERN NEWS won nicely at Newmarket and can follow up. Battleground will be sharper now after his comeback run at Naas.
- FH** MODERN NEWS won what looked like a nice maiden at Newmarket on debut. He can give Godolphin back to back wins in this race.
- PP** I loved the way GOLDEN FLAME battled to the line when second at Haydock last time and he could come on plenty from that.

3.35pm

### ASCOT GOLD CUP

- JW** STRADIVARIUS has beaten most of this field before and the only real danger is the ground becoming too soft.
- MC** Stradivarius is the one to beat but at the prices CROSS COUNTER has to be the each-way play against the favourite.
- MF** STRADIVARIUS has won this twice before and is hard to oppose in his hat-trick bid.
- FH** Rain will suit TECHNICIAN and I will back him in the without the favourite market.
- PP** The only doubt about STRADIVARIUS is if the ground comes up soft. Technician could chase him home.

4.10pm

### BRITANNIA STAKES HANDICAP

- JW** KHALOOSY is an improver who ran out an easy winner at Wolverhampton and can keep going in an upward curve.
- MC** VERBOTEN should appreciate the step up in trip on what could be a good day for Frankie Dettori and John Gosden.
- MF** JOHAN quickened up smartly winning last time at Newbury. A 5lb penalty won't stop him.
- FH** FINEST SOUND was impressive on the clock at Haydock. He is really well handicapped.
- PP** Trainer Roger Varian is in good form and KHALOOSY looks unexposed in this contest for rider Jim Crowley.

4.40pm

### SANDRINGHAM STAKES HANDICAP

- JW** AFRICAN DREAM just failed to concede 7lbs to two runners at Newbury last time but can make amends now.
- MC** AFRICAN DREAM was second at Newbury a week ago and should relish this contest with that run under his belt.
- MF** Ralph Beckett's DECLARED INTEREST runs from the foot of the weights and the way she won at Chelmsford means she has a cracking chance.
- FH** AFRICAN DREAM is 16lbs ahead of her mark here and has a perfect draw in 14. She will be tough to beat.
- PP** AFRICAN DREAM was just touched off in a novice race by Stylistique who is rated way higher. Could be a good thing in handicap company now.

