

BOXING DAY CHEAT SHEET

PUNDITS' PICKS OF THE DAY



FRANK HICKEY



MATT CHAPMAN



MICK FITZGERALD



TIMEFORM



PADDY POWER

1.05pm

LEOPARDSTOWN 2M JUVENILE HURDLE

- FH** **ZANAHIYR** looked the real deal at Fairyhouse and was backed up by the clock. He can't be opposed.
- MC** **HA D'OR** must be hard to beat for Willie Mullins. My hope is a Flat winner and Rich Ricci doesn't have many bad ones!
- MF** **ZANAHIYR** looked a machine when winning at Fairyhouse and sets a good standard.
- TF** It's hard to look beyond **ZANAHIYR** who already heads the betting for the Triumph Hurdle at Cheltenham.
- PP** Gordon Elliott seems to have the juvenile division sewn up this year and **ZANAHIYR** has been really impressive so far. It'll take a good one to beat him.

1.50pm

KEMPTON KAUTO STAR NOVICES' CHASE

- FH** **THE BIG BREAKAWAY** returns to three miles and trainer Colin Tizzard has had two winners and a second with his last three runners in this race
- MC** **THE BIG BREAKAWAY** was so good at Cheltenham first time up I have to give him another chance even if he disappointed last time.
- MF** **SHAN BLUE** is the clear form pick on what we have seen so far and sets the standard.
- TF** **SHAN BLUE** has taken brilliantly to this discipline and looks the one to beat.
- PP** **SHAN BLUE** absolutely hosed up twice at Wetherby in October where he jumped for fun and looks an exciting prospect for the future.

2.15pm

LEOPARDSTOWN NOVICE CHASE 2M 1F

- FH** **BLACKBOW** didn't hit the heights over hurdles but he made an impressive chase debut at Navan and might be the value now at Leopardstown.
- MC** I'm with **BLACKBOW** who made a winning chase debut at Navan last time and can make up for lost time.
- MF** **FELIX DESJY** looked like he would be better suited going left handed after his Punchestown win so Leopardstown should suit him better.
- TF** The unbeaten **FELIX DESJY** will need to jump better than he did in at Punchestown last time but still rates the most persuasive option.
- PP** **BLACKBOW** is a beautiful looking horse who has always looked a chaser in the making. He won really well first time up at Navan and could be a bit special.

1.15pm

KEMPTON 2M 4F HANDICAP CHASE

- FH** Soft ground didn't suit **SON OF CAMAS** over hurdles last time but a mark of 132 is very attractive and looks worth taking a chance on now that he goes chasing.
- MC** **KILLER CLOWN** is beginning to get his act together and I'll have a few quid on each-way.
- MF** **GALAHAD QUEST** gets the weight-for-age allowance, handles soft ground and looks an each-way play.
- TF** The progressive **ALNADAM** still looks fairly treated after an 8 lb rise in the weights and he can follow up.
- PP** **ALNADAM** showed a bit of star quality last time at Sandown and is the only one of these coming here on the back of a win.

2.05pm

WETHERBY ROWLAND MEYRICK CHASE 3M

- FH** **WINDSOR AVENUE** got no luck in the Caspian Caviar Gold Cup last time but he is worth another chance for connections that won this race in 2016.
- MC** **THE DUTCHMAN** has stamina to burn and a lot of this field mightn't see out this three mile trip.
- MF** I was really impressed with **BEAU BAY** who won the Grand Sefton at Aintree and he can deliver again.
- TF** A fiercely-competitive contest where **CANELO** gets the nod on the back of a cracking second at Newbury in a race that's already proving strong form.
- PP** **WANDRIN STAR** was just touched off at Ascot, and that was his first run after a big break and a wind op. A small bit of improvement from that gives him a squeak.

2.25pm

KEMPTON CHRISTMAS HURDLE

- FH** After her super impressive reappearance at Newcastle the hurdles are the only danger for **EPATANTE**.
- MC** Something would have to go very wrong for the Champion Hurdle heroine **EPATANTE** not to win this contest for the second year in a row.
- MF** It is very difficult to look past **EPATANTE**. The reigning Champion Hurdler announced herself on the big stage last year in this contest.
- TF** **EPATANTE** beat Silver Streak and Ballyandy in this last year and it could be a similar story again.
- PP** Sit back, relax and enjoy **EPATANTE**. This'll be a stroll in the park for her, in fact she might lap them!

3.00pm

KEMPTON KING GEORGE VI CHASE 3M

- FH** A cracking renewal of the feature race at Kempton and dual winner **CLAN DES OBEAUX** can match some greats by winning his third King George VI Chase.
- MC** I tipped up **CLAN DES OBEAUX** in many places for this months ago and nothing has changed my mind.
- MF** **CLAN DES OBEAUX** can do the three-peat in the King George VI Chase.
- TF** **CYRNAME** proved himself over 3m when strolling home in the Charlie Hall Chase and is taken to turn the tables on last year's winner Clan Des Obeaux.
- PP** Dual winner **CLAN DES OBEAUX** is obviously tailor made for this race and I can't believe Harry Cobden has chosen Cyrname over him. Sure what would he know!?



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