

CHELTENHAM CHEAT SHEET

PUNDITS' PICKS OF THE DAY

GOLD CUP DAY, FRIDAY MARCH 19TH



1.20PM

JCB TRIUMPH HURDLE

- MF** The clock-watchers were purring about the performance of **ZANAHIYR** at Fairyhouse and so was I. I've been **ZANAHIYR'S** biggest fan since the Fairyhouse Winter Festival. His performance that day was incredible.
- RW** **TRITONIC** has proved he jumps and stays well and is the one to burst Zanahiyr's bubble.
- GB** **TRITONIC** won the Grade 2 Adonis Hurdle at Kempton and was extremely impressive in beating Casa Loupi by 10 lengths.
- FH** I was blown away with **TRITONIC** at Kempton last time and the conditions should be ideal.
- MC**

1.55PM

MCCOY CONTRACTORS COUNTY HANDICAP HURDLE

- MF** **YOU RAISED ME UP** will appreciate the drying ground that may take a lot of this field out of their comfort zone.
- RW** Willie Mullins' **GANAPATHI** and **CIEL DE NEIGE** are my two selections against the field in a hugely competitive County Hurdle.
- GB** Dan Skelton has won three of the past five renewals of this race and can add to his tally here with **THIRD TIME LUCKI**.
- FH** **YOU RAISED ME UP** will love the drying ground and both he and **CIEL DE NEIGE** look each-way plays.
- MC** I love an eclair and **ECLAIR DE BEAUFEU** could be thrown in on the ratings. Worth a few quid each-way.

2.30PM

ALBERT BARTLETT NOVICES' HURDLE

- MF** **STREETS OF DOYEN** looks a good each-way play as he once beat Flooring Porter over this trip at Gowran Park.
- RW** The make-up of this race keeps changing but **FAKIERA** still looks the one who will appreciate this 3m stamina test the most.
- GB** Paul Nicholls saddles the progressive, well-related Barbados Bucks but stablemate **THREEUNDERTHRUFIVE** interests me.
- FH** The step up to three miles is really going to suit **FAKIERA** as he will motor up the hill to hit the places at least.
- MC** **ALAPHILIPPE** has place claims at the very least. The seven-year-old stays well and was impressive at Kempton last time.

3.05PM

WELLCHILD CHELTENHAM GOLD CUP

- MF** There's a much stronger pace angle in this year's race and that will help **AL BOUM PHOTO** secure a third Gold Cup win to enter the history books.
- RW** Willie Mullins is delighted with **AL BOUM PHOTO**. A Plus Tard looks a bigger danger to him than Champ given the form Henry De Bromhead's runners are in.
- GB** The Champion Hurdle winning duo of Rachael Blackmore and Henry de Bromhead can win with **A PLUS TARD**.
- FH** He's a two-time Gold Cup winner but the still under-rated **AL BOUM PHOTO** can win his third Gold Cup.
- MC** I'm backing **SANTINI** each-way who was only just touched off in last year's race. I'm keeping the faith.

3.40PM

ST. JAMES'S PLACE FESTIVAL CHALLENGE CUP OPEN HUNTERS' CHASE

- MF** Red Indian can run a big race at a price but **IT CAME TO PASS** should be more suited by the drying ground.
- RW** **BILLAWAY** is in great order and is a better horse now than he was last year. Bob And Co looks the obvious danger.
- GB** **BOB AND CO** returned from a year's break to win impressively at Haydock last month. Looks to have every chance.
- FH** **STAKER WALLACE** was fourth in this race last year and can reverse the form with It Came to Pass and Billaway.
- MC** **BOB AND CO** could be in a different league to these. He's having his second run after a wind operation. Sean Bowen is a good jockey booking.

4.15PM

MRS. PADDY POWER MARES' CHASE

- MF** It could be a Willie Mullins' benefit race and **ELIMAY** gets the nod after some pretty smart runs.
- RW** Willie Mullins saddles four runners and **ELIMAY** looks the best of them particularly on the drying ground.
- GB** **ELIMAY** jumps well, stays well and unlike her stablemate Colreevy does not carry a penalty. She gets my vote.
- FH** Elimay and Colreevy look difficult to split but **SALSARETTA** should enjoy the drying ground and can hit the places at least.
- MC** Elimay will be hard to beat but **MAGIC OF LIGHT** is the each-way pick. She's a better chaser than hurdler.

4.50PM

MARTIN PIPE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP HURDLE

- MF** **FIRE ATTACK** looks unexposed and has some smart graded form to his name and his 138 rating looks competitive in the finale.
- RW** **GALOPIN DES CHAMPS** should be suited by the step up in trip and his run last time behind Appreciate It stands out. I favour him over stablemate Gentleman de Mee.
- GB** The Irish have dominated this race and **GENTLEMAN DE MEE** could be absolutely thrown in off a mark of 139.
- FH** A wide-open contest so I'll take two against the field in **EGLANTINE DU SEUIL** and **FRONTAL ASSAULT** each-way.
- MC** **GENTLEMAN DE MEE** has only had three runs and bolted up at Naas last time on his Irish debut. Could be chucked in at the weights for Willie Mullins.

PADDYPOWER. NEWS

WINGING IT SINCE 1988.