

CHELTENHAM CHEAT SHEET

PUNDITS' PICKS OF THE DAY

ST PATRICK'S DAY, WEDNESDAY MARCH 17TH



1.20PM

BALLYMORE NOVICES' HURDLE

- MF** Rachael Blackmore loves **BOB OLINGER** and she is a pretty good judge. He was a good winner at Naas in a Grade One Hurdle.
- RW** I've been a **BOB OLLINGER** fan all year. His Naas win is stronger form than Gaillard Du Mesnil's win at Leopardstown. He'll do for me.
- GB** **BRAVEMANSGAME** won the Challow Hurdle by 10 lengths and can take another step forward.
- FH** Bob Olinger, Gaillard Du Mesnil and Bravemansgame all have been impressive but **BEAR GHYLLS** excites me.
- MC** It's hard to judge the British form against the Irish but **BRAVEMANSGAME** will be hard to stop.

1.55PM

BROWN ADVISORY NOVICES' CHASE

- MF** I've loved **MONKFISH** from the get-go and I see no reason to change my mind. The Big Breakaway is one to give him most to do.
- RW** **MONKFISH** looks top class in my opinion. As long as he gets around, he should win.
- GB** This week will inevitably burst the bubbles of several so-called 'bankers' but **MONKFISH** looks unbeatable.
- FH** He may be a short price but there are few holes in **MONKFISH**. All the others have to find plenty to beat him.
- MC** If **MONKFISH** was in the Gold Cup I would be tipping him up – he's that good.

2.30PM

CORAL CUP HANDICAP HURDLE

- MF** **SNEAKY GETAWAY** runs in cheekpieces for the first time and could be a player. Garo De Juilley is worth an each-way bet at a price.
- RW** **BIRCHDALE** was eighth in this race last year after one run but has had three runs this time to get fit.
- GB** A big betting heat that often falls to an unexposed hurdler. **MONTE CRISTO** could be a lot better than his 145 rating suggests.
- FH** Monte Cristo, Craigneiche and Guard Your Dreams are interesting but **SNEAKY GETAWAY** could be well handicapped and can hit the frame.
- MC** If the cheekpieces sharpen up **THOMAS DARBY** he can hit the frame despite carrying top weight.

3.05PM

BETWAY QUEEN MOTHER CHAMPION

- MF** The scene looks set for Willie Mullins to win his first Champion Chase with **CHACUN POUR SOI**.
- RW** I can't see why **CHACUN POUR SOI** won't handle the track on his first visit to Cheltenham. His form is the best on offer and he should win.
- GB** Willie Mullins' CV lacks a Champion Chase win but **CHACUN POUR SOI** can correct that. Put The Kettle On for the places.
- FH** I'm looking beyond Chacun Pour Soi and siding with **PUT THE KETTLE ON** to be placed at least.
- MC** **CHACUN POUR SOI** will hack all over this lot and he should be much shorter in the betting in my book.

3.40PM

GLENFARCLAS CROSS COUNTRY CHASE

- MF** **EASYSLAND**. He was a revelation over track and trip in this race last year and hopefully it brings out the best in him again for French trainer David Cottin.
- RW** I didn't see enough from Tiger Roll at Navan to show me he's back to his best. **EASYSLAND** should win again.
- GB** I'm struggling to have faith in anything improving past last year's winner **EASYSLAND**. The softer than expected ground should suit and he should have too much in hand for his rivals.
- FH** This discipline could really suit **HOGAN'S HEIGHT** and he can hit the first four places at least or even cause an upset at a big price.
- MC** **EASYSLAND** was being talked about as a Gold Cup horse this time last year when winning this race and should be very hard to beat.

4.15PM

JOHNNY HENDERSON GRAND ANNUAL HANDICAP CHASE

- MF** Jordan Gainford's 7lb claim will come in handy on last year's winner **CHOSEN MATE**. He's a promising young jockey.
- RW** Last year's winner **CHOSEN MATE** is 9lbs higher than winning last year but jockey Jordan Gainford claims 7lbs. He should go close.
- GB** A speed test should suit the strong-travelling **EMBITTERED** who looked like he has been laid out for the race by Joseph O'Brien.
- FH** **US AND THEM** has the back form to go close in this. On The Slopes looks an each-way play with Paddy paying 6 places.
- MC** **IBLEO** is in tremendous form and while he has nothing in hand of the handicapper now should run a big race for Venetia Williams and Charlie Deutsch.

4.50PM

WEATHERBYS CHAMPION BUMPER

- MF** It's hard to get a handle on all Willie Mullins' runners but Patrick Mullins thinks **KILCRUIT** is the best of them. I'll trust him!
- RW** Willie Mullins has a lot of runners but **RAMILLIES** has improved a lot since he was beaten at the Dublin Racing Festival last month.
- GB** **SIR GERHARD** can land the bumper for the Cheveley Park Stud team for the third time in a row and Willie Mullins for the 11th time in total.
- FH** **SIR GERHARD**'s winning time at Down Royal was very good and he could be more than a match for his illustrious stablemate Kilcruit.
- MC** The bumper is always a guessing game but **SIR GERHARD** has done nothing wrong and could be the one to upset the big talking horse Kilcruit.

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