

AINTREE DAY 1 CHEAT SHEET

PUNDITS' PICKS OF THE DAY

FRIDAY 9TH APRIL

MICK FITZGERALD

PADDY POWER

TIMEFORM



FRANK HICKEY

MATT CHAPMAN



1:45PM

PERTEMPS NETWORK HANDICAP HURDLE

- MF** **AMARILLO SKY** won his last start cosily and has some good form against smart rivals last season. An each-way chance at the foot of the weights.
- PP** The form of the County Hurdle is starting to work out well and **EDWARDSTONE** can be another to hit the target.
- TF** Nicky Henderson has won this three times since 2013 so **MONTE CRISTO** is taken to improve on his Coral Cup run at Cheltenham.
- FH** **MONTE CRISTO** ran much better than his finishing position in the Coral Cup implies.
- MC** **SOLWARA ONE** has only had five career starts to date and has improved all season. Worth an each-way play.

2:20PM

BETWAY TOP NOVICES' HURDLE

- MF** **DUSART** was a convincing winner of his only start at Newbury beating the subsequent Belfair Hurdle winner Soaring Glory. The stable has an enviable record in this race.
- PP** County Hurdle winner Belfast Banter now lines up in a Grade One but **DUSART** looks the only one of Grade One standard.
- TF** **THIRD TIME LUCKI** paid the price for an early move in the County Hurdle but makes a strong case for compensation now.
- FH** Nicky Henderson has won this contest four times in the last eight years and **DUSART** can score for him again now.
- MC** I'm hoping **THIRD TIME LUCKI** can reverse County Hurdle form with Belfast Banter as he's now 14lbs better off at the weights.

2:50PM

BETWAY MILD MAY NOVICES' CHASE

- MF** **FIDDLER ON THE ROOF** has been knocking on the door all season against top opposition. Hopefully it finally opens today.
- PP** The flatter track and longer trip should suit **SHAN BLUE** who had the accelerator on all the way at Cheltenham and ran out of gas.
- TF** **CHANNY HOUSE** has quickly made up into a cracking chaser and he can land a second Grade 1 after his Marsh Chase success at the Festival.
- FH** Stamina won the day for **CHANNY HOUSE** in the Marsh Chase and he looks certain to improve for the step up to three miles here.
- MC** **THE BIG BREAKAWAY** should appreciate the drying ground and looks an each-way play.

3:25PM

MARSH CHASE

- MF** **POLITOLOGUE** comes here a fresh horse and Aintree suits him. He has been first and second in the last two renewals of this contest.
- PP** This was a toss up between **MASTERTOMMYTUCKER** and Fakir Doudairies, but the former looks better value on good ground.
- TF** **POLITOLOGUE** has won this in the past and is marginally preferred to the Ryanair Chase runner-up Fakir Doudairies.
- FH** **DASHEL DRASHER** won his first Grade 1 at Ascot last time and skipping Cheltenham should leave him fresh for this.
- MC** This is the perfect track and trip for **POLITOLOGUE** who won this race a few seasons back.

4:05PM

RAN DOX TOPHAM HANDICAP CHASE

- MF** **PRECIOUS CARGO** has had a wind operation and shaped well on his first run after it at Warwick. Makes each-way appeal at a nice price.
- PP** Irish challenger **VISIOMAN** has been targeted at this race by Henry De Bromhead after winning in Limerick last Autumn.
- TF** **CARIBEAN BOY** caught the eye in the Paddy Power Plate at the Cheltenham Festival and heads a strong entry for Nicky Henderson who has won this contest five times.
- FH** **PRECIOUS CARGO** ran well last time after a wind operation and can go well at a price.
- MC** This should be more to the liking of **MORNING VICAR** who didn't see out the longer trip at Cheltenham and will also appreciate the better ground now.

4:40PM

DOOM BAR SEFTON NOVICES' HURDLE

- MF** If you take **OSCAR ELITE's** runner-up berth at Cheltenham on face value he looks to have every chance now.
- PP** Emmet Mullins has had a great time with his UK challengers and **CAPE GENTLEMAN** has only run over hurdles three times and is improving all the time.
- TF** **BRAVEMANS GAME** couldn't live with Bob Ollinger at Cheltenham but can return to winning ways against likely dangers Cape Gentleman & Gallyhill.
- FH** **OSCAR ELITE** seems to be a little underestimated in the market after his excellent second in the Albert Bartlett when a 40/1 shot.
- MC** **ALAPHILIPPE** jumped badly at Cheltenham before eventually plodding on for fifth. Has each-way claims if he builds on that run.

5:15PM

PINSENT MASONS HANDICAP HURDLE

- MF** **FRANSHAM** got stuck in the mud at Sandown but should appreciate this ground. Gina Andrews booking is a plus.
- PP** The drop back in trip will suit **LEONCAVALLO** after he didn't see out the 2m 4f of the Martin Pipe Conditional Hurdle at Cheltenham.
- TF** **COPPERLESS** is on an upward curve and had plenty in the tank when making a recent winning handicap debut at Taunton.
- FH** **THE GREY FALCO** has some very useful form behind some good novices and he looks to have got in lightly off a mark of 124. If he handles good ground, he should have decent each-way claims.
- MC** **THE GREY FALCO** bumped into the Skelton's Calico at Ludlow who was won another couple of races since. He could be well handicapped on that form and can hit the places.

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