

GRAND NATIONAL DAY CHEAT SHEET

PUNDITS' PICKS OF THE DAY

SATURDAY 10TH APRIL

MICK FITZGERALD



PADDY POWER



TIMEFORM



FRANK HICKEY



MATT CHAPMAN



1:45PM

EFT SYSTEMS HANDICAP HURDLE

- MF** **BALLYBEGG** has snuck in at the bottom of the weights after two wins at Wetherby and Hereford. He's progressive and held a Grade One entry in the next race on the card.
- PP** **HOMETOWN BOY** won a point to point so should appreciate the trip and loves decent ground on this step up in distance.
- TF** Tom George's **COME ON TEDDY** arrives on the back of a cracking third in Cheltenham's Pertemps Final so this upwardly-mobile hurdler is fancied to emerge on top.
- FH** **BARNAVIDDAUN** won a really good handicap hurdle at Naas when last seen and looks worth chancing at the prices.
- MC** **CHAMPAGNE PLATINUM** should enjoy this tighter track to Cheltenham and has strong each-way claims.

2:25PM

BETWAY MERSEY NOVICES' HURDLE

- MF** **MY DROGO** won very nicely at Ascot and Kelso and the Skelton team are in top form.
- PP** Most of his winning has been done on soft ground but **DREAL DEAL** is on a seven-timer and dodged Cheltenham for this.
- TF** **MY DROGO** maintained his unbeaten record over hurdles when conceding weight all around in an excellent time at Kelso last month and he's strongly fancied to strike again.
- FH** **MINELLA DRAMA** looks worth siding with each-way as the drying ground should be fine and he doesn't have as much to find in the form book as you would think.
- MC** This might well be the big chance for **BALLYADAM** to win a second Grade One hurdle.

3:00PM

DOOM BAR MAGHULL NOVICES' CHASE

- MF** **SHISHKIN** should stamp himself as one of the best novice chasers around. Funambule Sivola can chase him home.
- PP** Based on his Arkle win at Cheltenham, Nico De Boinville could let the others go, have a cup of tea, and **SHISHKIN** will still win.
- TF** This Grade One should prove little more than a formality for the outstanding **SHISHKIN**, who sauntered clear in the Sporting Life Arkle at The Cheltenham Festival last month.
- FH** The 12 fences are the only danger to Arkle Chase winner **SHISHKIN**.
- MC** Arkle hero **SHISHKIN** is different league to this lot and bar an accident will hack up for Nicky Henderson.

3:35PM

RYANAIR STAYERS HURDLE

- MF** The Stayers Hurdle didn't work out for **PAISLEY PARK** but this long straight at Aintree will play more to his strengths. Roksana should run better than at Cheltenham too.
- PP** **ROKSANA** was third in the Mares Hurdle over 2m 4f, but has a massive chance over this 3m trip especially with the mares allowance.
- TF** It's one apiece between **THYME HILL** and Paisley Park this season, but the latter isn't sure to be seen to best effect over this sharp 3m. Philip Hobbs's charge is taken to come out on top in this decider.
- FH** I am willing to give **VINNDICATION** one more chance with the blinkers applied for the first time. That can help him hit the frame.
- MC** I suspect in a big field they will go a stronger gallop and that will suit **PAISLEY PARK**.

4:15PM

BETWAY HANDICAP CHASE

- MF** **SPIRITOFTHEGAMES** has been slipping down the weights and looks well handicapped. Lalor could go well but hasn't raced for 440 days.
- PP** This is a big step up in trip for **JOHNBB** but there's a decent chance it can bring out a bit more improvement.
- TF** Progressive novice **HAPPYGOLUCKY** was beaten only by a rejuvenated/well-handicapped runner in the Ultima Chase at Cheltenham last month. Bids to go one place better off only 2 lb higher.
- FH** It could be worth siding with **SAM BROWN** at the prices on his first start since November.
- MC** **HAPPYGOLUCKY** was very unlucky to come up against a rejuvenated Vintage Clouds at Cheltenham but still ran a cracker in defeat.

5:15PM

RANDEX GRAND NATIONAL HANDICAP CHASE

- MF** **ANY SECOND NOW** is top of my list and this has been his target. Cloth Cap, Farclas and previous Welsh and Irish National winners Potters Corner and Burrows Saint are all in the mix.
- PP** Every time **BURROWS SAINT** has run on good or yielding ground he's won, including the 2019 Irish Grand National. The better the ground, the better the chances of Talkischeap too.
- TF** It pays to keep things simple and in **CLOTH CAP** we have a horse who is progressive, stays and is well handicapped. The last two Nationals have seen an Irish 1-2-3 and another formidable challenge is headed up by Burrows Saint, Farclas and Any Second Now.
- FH** I've been with **DISCORAMA** for the Grand National for a while. He has the back class to win and a lovely racing weight.
- MC** **KIMBERLITE CANDY** has a lovely racing weight, stays well and has form over the big fences. He can lead the way home from Cloth Cap, Burrows Saint and Vieux Lion Rouge.

6:20PM

WEATHERBYS NHSTALLIONS.CO.UK STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE

- MF** **BALCO COASTAL** Highly thought of by connections and bolted up at Kempton on his last start.
- PP** Brian Hughes and Donald McCain team up for **FRUIT N NUT** who is chasing a hat-trick.
- TF** **BALCO COASTAL** was most impressive at Kempton and the form has a strong look to it, so he's taken to follow up in this higher grade.
- FH** **CHARLIE'S GLANCE** can prove that his debut win at Newbury was no fluke by following up in the finale.
- MC** **BALCO COASTAL** looked good on debut for Nicky Henderson at Kempton and must take some beating in the lucky last.

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