

GRAND NATIONAL 2021 CHEAT SHEET

Aintree Picks...



FALLON SHERROCK

I'm sticking with the woman of the moment Rachael Blackmore who rides **MINELLA TIMES**. Owner JP McManus throws plenty of darts at the board but I'm hoping Rachael hits the bullseye with Henry de Bromhead's runner! See what I did there.

The Grand National is synonymous with Liverpool and as a big Red I can't overlook the claims of **DEFINITLY RED** in the big one. I'll be doing him each-way to finish in the first six. The one I fancy to win though is the Irish raider **ANY SECOND NOW**. Ruby Walsh's dad, Ted, won this before with Papillon 21 years ago. He's due another.



PHIL THOMPSON



MICK FITZGERALD

I have gone for **ANY SECOND NOW** at the top of my list as he has a very similar profile to the Ted Walsh trained winner Papillon. He is nine years old, he has speed to win and he's been campaigned with this race in mind for the last two years. **CLOTH CAP** has a great chance and the drying ground is a plus for his prospects. He could be thrown in at the weights. **FARCLAS** has run in some big races and looks like the trip will help him. **POTTERS CORNER** has already won a Welsh National and **BURROWS SAINT** has won an Irish National.

BURROWS SAINT has a great chance. I won on him in the 2019 Irish Grand National and thought then he had 'Aintree National' written all over him. **CLASS CONTI** has the profile to run a big race and I'll also be shouting for **ANY SECOND NOW** trained by my dad. He's very happy with his preparation and thinks he will stay the trip.



RUBY WALSH



MATT CHAPMAN

The big one. The Grade 3 Grand National Handicap Chase over an extended 4m2f. So this is it people. Good luck. I'm going to take four against the field for you. **1. KIMBERLITE CANDY** has a lovely racing weight for Tom Lacey and Richie McLernon. He stays well and has form over the big fences, having finished a fine second over the fences in the 2019 Becher Chase. Should have strong each-way claims. **2. CLOTH CAP** is chucked in at the weights and will love the ground. Did this column a favour when landing a big prize at Newbury and warmed up in style at Kelso. Has every chance for Jonjo O'Neill and Tom Scudamore who is trying to win his first National after many attempts. Hard to crab. **3. BURROWS SAINT** could blitz this lot if returning to the form of his Irish National success in 2019. Not been quite as good of late now rated higher, but is trained by the champion of Ireland in Willie Mullins and gives Patrick Mullins a huge shout with Paul Townend sadly side-lined. **4. VIEUX LION ROUGE** has jumped more than 220 National fences and never fallen. Unlikely to win, but is a fabulous each-way bet with many places up for grabs at Paddy Power. Has been a fine servant for David Pipe.

I've liked **DISCORAMA** for this for quite a while and nothing has changed since. Hopefully he takes to the fences and if he does, he should have no issue with the trip and he has the back class to suggest his weight will give him a big chance.



FRANK HICKEY

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TIMEFORM

Often it pays to keep things simple and in **CLOTH CAP** we have a solid favourite who is progressive, stays, is well handicapped and represents an owner with a fantastic record in the race. He's hard to get away from and with luck should win. 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**.

KIMBERLITE CANDY looks tailor-made for this. I've been a big fan of his since he bolted up at Warwick last year. **BRISTOL DE MAI** is the class act of the field having placed third in a Gold Cup. I've always been a big fan of his jumping as he's absolutely foot perfect and as the race is a little bit more of a speed test now he should be able to see it out.



JASON WEAVER



PADDY POWER

Every time **BURROWS SAINT** has run on good or yielding ground he's won, including the 2019 Irish Grand National which is usually a great pointer for the big one. As **TALKISCHEAP**, the better the ground the better his chance, he hosed up in the Bet365 Gold Cup at Sandown over 3m5f which suggests this marathon trip will be no bother to him. He has a squeak at a price.



FEEL LIKE A FAVOURITE