

# CHELTENHAM CHEAT SHEET

## PUNDITS' PICKS OF THE DAY

### DAY 1, TUESDAY MARCH 15TH



1.30PM

#### SUPREME NOVICES HURDLE

- RW** I'm with **JONBON**. I'm not a huge believer in pedigree as the sole way to find a winner, but dry ground and being by the sire Walk In The Park sways me.
- MF** **CONSTITUTION HILL** is a thorough professional. I watched him school last week and am convinced he'll handle quicker ground.
- GB** **CONSTITUTION HILL** has the form, temperament and class to follow Shishkin & Altior as Nicky Henderson's former winners of this race.
- MC** I was blown away by **CONSTITUTION HILL** on his debut at Sandown and he then won the Grade 1 Tolworth Hurdle at the same track in January.
- FH** **MIGHTY POTTER** is a little underestimated despite being a Grade 1 winner. A well-run race will suit and he promises to fly up the hill.

2.50PM

#### ULTIMA HANDICAP CHASE

- RW** **BEN DUNDEE** was second in the Paddy Power at Leopardstown over Christmas to School Boy Hours. Enjoy D'allen, Braeside, and Death Duty behind him have franked that form so he's my each-way play.
- MF** **FRODON** is a King George and Ryanair Chase winner dropping back to handicap and will enjoy the Old Course again. **TEA CLIPPER** is one for the places.
- GB** Grade 1 winning chaser **LOSTINTRANSLATION** drops to handicap class for the first time and can show the young guard how it's done.
- MC** **DEATH DUTY** is a once near 160-rated hurdler who can go off at 144 after banging back to form at Punchestown. Stays strongly and a great racing weight.
- FH** **FULL BACK** has won on the new course and looks well handicapped based on his run behind Yala Enki.

4.10PM

#### MARES' HURDLE

- RW** **STORMY IRELAND'S** form has been solid all year the ground will suit her too. She'll want a good gallop and she's a great each-way price.
- MF** It's hard to forget **TELMESOMETHINGGIRL** waltzing up the hill last year and I'll stick with her. Mullins' camp is strong on **STORMY IRELAND** so she's a danger.
- GB** Willie Mullins has won this race nine times and I fancy **BURNING VICTORY**, a former Triumph Hurdle winner, to reclaim it for the Carlow trainer.
- MC** I will have a few quid each-way on **HEAVEN HELP US** for Paul Hennessy and Danny Mullins. She has place claims at least off a mark of 147.
- FH** **QUEENS BROOK** shaped well last time and should be spot on for this. Third behind Ferny Hollow and Appreciate It in the 2020 Champion Bumper.

5.30PM

#### UKRAINE APPEAL NATIONAL HUNT CHASE

- RW** Stattler is a good horse and a solid jumper but I'm not sure about him over 3m6f. **VANILLIER** beat him well last year at the Festival and may have been unsuited by a speed track like Punchestown last time when second to Stattler. He can get his revenge now.
- MF** **STATTLER** finished third to Galopin Des Champs over hurdles at Punchestown but has taken a while to find his feet over fences. Looks like the penny has dropped.
- GB** **RUN WILD FRED** has won the Troytown and been placed in big handicaps of the calibre of the Irish Grand National. He ticks all the boxes to hand Gordon Elliott a fourth win – fifth if you count late stable switcher Galvin last year – in the race.
- MC** I want to take on Run Wild Fred as I'm not sure he enjoys winning. I'll chance **ONTHEROPES** each-way to hit the first two as there are only seven runners.
- FH** Only the seven runners and while I wouldn't have much confidence in any, Run Wild Fred looks tough to beat. However, I think **BRAESIDE** will outrun his odds against the market leaders.

2.10PM

#### ARKLE NOVICES CHASE

- RW** I'm going to take on the top three in the betting and side with **SAINT SAM**. Two mistakes cost him at Leopardstown. He's brave and jumps low and accurate. I'm willing to chance him each-way.
- MF** **EDWARDSTONE** is my best bet of the Festival. His form is rock-solid, he's a very sound jumper and a very strong traveler. You need both to win an Arkle Chase.
- GB** Tough Irish Arkle runner up **RIVIERE D'ETEL** gets the vote to reverse placings with Blue Lord from that race.
- MC** Edwardstone's done nothing wrong but I'll have **WAR LORD** (each-way) as he's been in great form over fences and is a huge price.
- FH** Willie Mullins' **HAUT EN COULEURS** has the ability to win this but we have to hope his jumping holds up. Provided it does, he will run a big race.

3.30PM

#### CHAMPION HURDLE

- RW** Even though I'm in the Willie Mullins camp, if you offered me a ride, I'd be on Honeysuckle - but, at the prices, **APPRECIATE IT** is the value.
- MF** **HONEYSUCKLE** will be hard to beat but at the prices I can watch her win. **EPATANTE** is the each-way play.
- GB** This will be the first time Honeysuckle has faced an unknown quantity like last year's Supreme Novices Hurdle winner **APPRECIATE IT**. He may just prove too difficult to catch despite this being his seasonal debut.
- MC** Honeysuckle is long odds-on to repeat last year's Champion Hurdle win. She's the pin-up girl but **APPRECIATE IT** might just be the bruiser this time.
- FH** **ADAGIO** in the Without Honeysuckle market is the way I'd play this race. His second off top weight in the Greatwood Hurdle is form that's worked out really well.

4.50PM

#### BOODLES JUVENILE HANDICAP HURDLE

- RW** We like Gaelic Warrior but he takes up too much of the market. With Paddy Power paying six places instead of four, it makes sense to back any of **BELL EX ONE**, **EBASARI** and **BRITZKA** in each-way punts.
- MF** **GAELIC WARRIOR** has been the big talking horse since his handicap mark was revealed. Connections are bullish. **BRAZIL** could be the danger.
- GB** Gaelic Warrior is well treated but is short in the market for one we know so little about. **HMS SEAHORSE** has form behind top class juveniles Pied Piper and Vauban.
- MC** We are all slightly guessing about **GAELIC WARRIOR** who is rated 139 in France but runs off 129 on his debut for Willie Mullins. Hard to ignore in a wide-open race.
- FH** **BRITZKA** will be a big price, but I like the first-time blinkers angle and he has been on my radar for this race since his run at Leopardstown at Christmas.

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