

RUBY'S PICKS

DAY 4

FRIDAY MARCH 18TH

1.30PM JCB TRIUMPH HURDLE

Vauban is very good but I'm not sure if the soft ground is in his favour. The more it dries the better his chance. It's going to be a real test of stamina on soft ground. That will suit **FIL DOR** better. If it's dry, then Vauban or Pied Piper can use their speed.

2.10PM COUNTY HURDLE

STATE MAN is well handicapped and looks a graded horse in the making. I just hope inexperience doesn't cost him like it did his stablemate Gaelic Warrior on Tuesday. A better jump at the last would have seen him win then. Hopefully, State Man puts that right now.

2.50PM ALBERT BARTLETT NOVICES' HURDLE

I was taken by Hillcrest's win at Haydock last month on heavy ground. We know he'll handle conditions. It'll suit Ginto too. I just marginally prefer **HILLCREST**.

3.30PM CHELTENHAM GOLD CUP

It should be relatively easy for **A PLUS TARD** to turn the Leopardstown form around with Galvin. A Plus Tard has more speed and will do me to go one better in the Gold Cup this year.

4.10PM ST JAMES' PLACE HUNTERS' CUP

The headgear will help Billaway but he's been runner-up twice in this contest which doesn't bode well. Frank Hickey has backed **PREMIER MAGIC** so I'll copy his homework and do the same!

4.50PM MRS PADDY POWER MARES' CHASE

ELIMAY was unlucky last year and the cheekpieces will suit her. I'm hoping she can bounce back. Zambella is a big danger as the trip will suit her.

5.30PM MARTIN PIPE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP

Adamantly Chosen has had three runs over hurdles and is going the right way but I don't know how good he is. Hollow Games and **GRAND JURY** look a bit more value at the prices and I'll side with the latter.



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