

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 wanted to take on Run Wild Fred but the field is cutting up badly. I thought On the Ropes would be good value, but he was taken out, so I'll oppose with **STATTLER**. He looked like a strong stayer when winning at Naas last time and should travel better than the favourite throughout the race.
- 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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