



NATIONAL HUNT 40 TO FOLLOW 2019/2020

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Our other National Hunt packages

If you purchased our other National Hunt packages, here is what will follow over the coming months...

One ante-post selection for the Cheltenham Festival every week starting Thursday 14th November. This will continue every Thursday until 5th March - that is a total of 17 ante-post bets before we get to the Cheltenham Festival.

One Cheltenham Festival Lucky 15 each month. These will start on the 28th November and will be sent with our ante-post selection on the last Thursday of each month. That is five Lucky 15 bets leading up to the Cheltenham Festival as we will be providing a 'Festival Lucky 15' in our last ante-post Selection.

Foreword

This year will be the fifth year of the JPW 40 To Follow ebook. It has grown in popularity over those five years, and I would like to thank everyone for purchasing a copy. I hope you enjoy the read.

Last year was an excellent year for the book, one of the most profitable 'Horses to Follow' book in the business.

In total the book produced 47 winners throughout the season. I am sure as the season went on you would get a feel for which horses were underperforming and make them a non-bet, therefore increasing your profits and return on investment.

Over the summer, and into the autumn, I have been compiling my 40 to follow for the National Hunt Season. I will be sharing my knowledge and findings with everyone to ensure you are ahead of the game this National Hunt Season.

As always, I go that extra mile to ensure the 40 to Follow includes some real dark horses that will not make many people's lists. Some have exchanged hands for big money, so I have had a keen eye on what has gone on in the sales ring. This, among other angles, will ensure that we will stay ahead of the traders.

The ebook also includes some horses from last season - horses who I feel have plenty of improvement and scope to make a real impact this season.

Acknowledgement

I would also like to thank Ben Jenkins (Website and Marketing Manager) who keeps everything running smoothly each and every day. A special mention to my wife Gemma Walsh who has been on maternity this year with our 2nd child, Quinlan Walsh. I spend a lot of time running three businesses, www.jpwracingtipster.com, www.tipstersempire.co.uk and www.jpwscoop6.com.

Without her by my side looking after our two kids, I would not be able to dedicate the time needed to run three successful websites. A big mention also goes to my two kids, Roisin (4) and Quinlan Walsh (1) who alongside Gemma give me the drive to succeed and provide the very best for my family, in anything I do. You heard it here first, but Quinlan Walsh is going to make a very good jumps jockey. Absolutely fearless that boy whose eyes light up when he sees racing on the TV or the rocking horse in his sister's bedroom. Roisin is clever beyond her years so I am sure she will be taking over Daddy's empire one day.

Jokes to one side, all of the above allow me to concentrate on producing content of the highest quality and keep pushing JPW Racing Tipster and Tipsters Empire to the top of the game.

As some of you may know, Tipsters Empire is our sister website which has (at the time of writing) six tipsters who go by the names of The Wizard of Big Odds, CD Racing, Jakblak Racing, Ed Culham Tips, RM Greyhound Tips and Oddball Tips.

If you haven't heard of them before head on over and read more about them.

Recap of 2018/2019 National Hunt Season

The 2019/2020 season was an exhilarating season. Regarding profit, it was not my best but one of my most enjoyable. This season with things pretty settled with home life and work-life balance, I am targeting my record of 172 points profit, which was set in the 2015/2016.

We are going to run through the biggest races in the calendar, and it all started at Cheltenham in November for the BetVictor Gold Cup.

BetVictor Gold Cup 17th November 2018 - Winner - BARON ALCO

A great ride from Jamie Moore who got into a lovely rhythm from the front on Baron Alco. The horse was literally foot-perfect the whole way around. Coming to the 2nd last fence he had opened up a lead of 5 lengths from Frodon. Given he had been out in front, the entire race, he was always going to tire up the hill but held on from Frodon by 2 lengths. He was getting over 1 stone in weight from Frodon who went on to win the Ryanair Chase at Cheltenham.

It was also a great day for JPW followers as we tipped up Baron Alco at 10/1 a few days before the race. Here is what was sent out to our customers:

***BARON ALCO** ticks all the boxes for me. He comes here after a fine 2nd at Chepstow, after 577 days off the track. To finish 2nd in a hot race with so much time off the track was an excellent effort. He should come on for that run massively and although he has gone up the handicap to 146 it is still only the same mark as when he was 2nd to Road To Respect at the Cheltenham Festival in 2017. That horse was a very impressive winner recently and is 16/1 for the Cheltenham Gold Cup. To get within 6 lengths of that horse and pull clear of the 3rd and 4th, tells me he is a very good horse on his day. His form around Cheltenham is excellent and although he has not won at the course he has not been out of the first 3. It is not his fault he bumped into horses such as Whisper or Road To Respect who would win this race on the bridle. The ground will be absolutely perfect and he likes to go from the front. He will have a trouble-free passage with those tactics in what can be a very a messy race when you are a hold-up horse. It is hard to believe this horse is only 7 and he has yet to reach his full potential. He clearly retains all his old ability as he showed us this at Chepstow. With the improvement to come, the way he handles Cheltenham and his trouble-free passage he will get, he has to be in the mix.*

Hopefully, we can follow this up with a winner in the race this season. I already have an eye on a few and confident they will be in the mix.

Ladbrokes Trophy 1st December 2018 - Winner - SIZING TENNESSEE

I must admit this was a disappointing race last year with only 12 runners. You go back a few years and it always attracts a lot of runners, 2017 (20 runners), 2016 (19 runners), 2014 (19 runners). The quality of the field was not great either. When you look back at the winners of the race like Denman, Native River, Many Clouds, Sizing Tennessee is just not the same. Take nothing away from the winner though he can only beat what was put in front of him and he did do it in some style, by a massive 10 lengths. He was not seen for the rest of the season so I can only assume he got injured. He is also rated 164 by the handicapper which is 16lb higher than his mark when he won the Ladbrokes Trophy. Hopefully, this season will be a cracking renewal of the Ladbrokes Trophy. The early entries look very promising with the likes of Santini, La Bague Au Roi and Lostintranslation. We could be in for a real treat.

King George Chase 26th December 2018 - Winner- CLAN DES OBEAUX

I don't think anyone saw this performance coming following his 4th of 5 in the Betfair Chase. Credit where it is due as Clan Des Obeaux looked top class in this race. Paul Nicholls has always talked this horse up so it was about time he delivered. It was a decent field he beat with ease and after this win, he was a big gold cup contender. He followed it up with a win at Ascot before finishing 5th in the Cheltenham Gold Cup. Going through his form and given his below-par runs at Cheltenham and Aintree, I think this horse could be a right-handed specialist. His wins at Kempton and Ascot certainly suggest that.

Leopardstown Savills Chase 28th December 2018 - Winner – KEMBOY

Kemboy was an excellent winner of the former Lexus Chase, winning by 7 lengths. I don't think they were expecting this from the horse but he easily put aside Monalee and Road To Respect who are very good horses. He had certainly improved and a big few races awaited Kemboy.

Champion Hurdle 12th March 2019 - Winner - ESPOIR D'ALLEN

Some really sad news over the summer as Espoir D'Allen had a freak accident on the gallops and had to be put down. Thoughts are with all connected to the horse as this was an exceptional horse who was only a 5 year old. He will now be remembered for winning a Champion Hurdle by 15 lengths in devastating fashion. We had not seen the best of Espoir D'Allen which is such a shame. He travelled so well through last year's race just stalking Ruby Walsh and Laurina. He came through coming to the 2nd last hurdle and jumped into the lead. It just looked so easy from there and effortless. RIP Espoir D'Allen.

Champion Chase 13th March 2019 - Winner - ALTIOR

Altior was a winner of the Queen Mother for the 2nd time and this was his 4th success at the Cheltenham Festival. He needs no introduction as the horse is a machine. After his win at Sandown, he is now 19 wins in a row. This was not the greatest win of his career as I must admit jumping the last he looked vulnerable. His never say die attitude got him through up the Cheltenham Hill and showed everyone, that is what great champions do. He looked to be crying out for a step up in trip and that is the plan this season. The aim is the King George and if he wins that, the Gold Cup is on the cards. Although he is a superstar he will go down as a complete legend of a horse if he can claim a King George and a Gold Cup. Exciting stuff.

World Hurdle 14th March 2019 - Winner - PAISLEY PARK

Paisley Park completed what was called the Golden Hour, following Bryony Frost win on Frodon. This was some performance by Paisley Park who completed a fairytale for owner Andrew Gemmill. This is a horse who was once so sick they didn't think he would make it home from the vets and owner Andrew Gemmill has been blind since birth. You can see why I called it a fairytale and in all years of going to Cheltenham, I never felt such a buzz around the place. For the full hour, I stood around the parade ring and watched both Frodon and Paisley Park come into the winners' enclosure and the atmosphere was electric. Paisley Park was just so brave and even when he looked beat, he found this turn of foot to grind down the leaders. He even made a mistake at the last and then just powered up the hill. It is going to take some horse to beat Paisley Park next year as he is as tough as they come.

Gold Cup 16th March 2019 - Winner - AL BOUM PHOTO

I must admit I didn't see this horse winning the gold cup and neither was he in my first 5 picks. Credit where it is due though with Willie Mullins winning his first Cheltenham Gold Cup. A bit of a strange race if I am being honest with favourite Presenting Percy not firing and Clan Des Obeaux and Native River not getting involved. It was a new kid on the block with Al Boum Photo who improved a lot from the previous year, when brushed aside by Presenting Percy in the RSA Novice Chase. If he is going to defend his crown this year he will have to be even better, as at this early stage the line up looks to be hotter than ever, with many good novices coming through the ranks. He will also have to be the first horse since Best Mate to win back to back gold cups.

Grand National 6th April 2019 - Winner - TIGER ROLL

What a horse and what a win. Two years in a row he has won the Cross Country and National double. Some training performance from Gordon Elliott and he will be targeted for the hat trick next year. I said it last year but this horse was bred as a flat horse who went on to win the Triumph Hurdle over 2 miles. He has won at four Cheltenham Festivals and gone from 2m to 4m 4f winning two grand nationals. Just thinking about how versatile the horse is, really is frightening. He is not the biggest horse in the world either. A really special horse who everyone will be rooting for, in the next years Grand National.

The highs of last season for JPW and Members

I have handpicked three highlights from last season that have stuck with me. We had plenty of memorable moments, but these are the three which I enjoyed the most.

The highlights were a bet from the Cheltenham Festival, a bet from the Aintree Festival and a bet from the Punchestown Festival.

I know my personal favourite may be a bit bias towards the Cheltenham Festival but for me, it is the pinnacle of the season, and that is when the most pressure is on me to deliver.

At last year's Cheltenham Festival we had 200 full-time members and 450 members who had signed up to the Festival Special - almost 650 people were riding on my tips.

A lot of pressure is on me, but it is when I am at my best. We have made a profit at the Cheltenham Festival for the last eleven years.

A TOP CLASS DAY 3 OF THE CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL

After a disappointing Day One of the Cheltenham Festival where we were 5 points down at the end of the day. We had 3 more days to deliver. We clawed it back on Day Two with 17 points profit and 3 winners, but it was Day Three which was the most memorable day. We needed one more day of profit to secure another profitable festival. If we had made a loss on Day Three then the pressure was really on and my 100% strike rate over 11 years was at risk.

The day could not have got off to a better start. I couldn't pick between Defi De Seuil and Lostintranslation but I was so confident the race was between one of them. I was that confident that not only did we put both up as win bets but we also advised the reverse forecast. Straight from the off, we were up and running with 7 points profit.

The third race of the day was the Ryanair Chase and I was massively keen on Frodon. I had heard a lot of people write him off as not having the class and not up to this standard. I was totally against that opinion as you need heart up that hill in a Cheltenham Festival, something he had in abundance. This was what was sent out to customers:

***FRODON** has just been amazing this season and has improved so much. He is now a complete horse who just keeps turning up and doing the business. He was a winner of the Old Roan Chase on his first start of the season and was then a very good 2nd in the Bet Victor Gold Cup carrying top weight. He then won the Caspian Caviar Gold Cup off a rating of 164 and was just sublime that day. His last start was again at Cheltenham just over a month ago in the Cotswold Chase over 3m 1 1/2 furlongs and was as game as they come from the front. His jumping is simply amazing and Bryony Frost gets the best out of the horse, the partnership is unreal. He will go from the front and now they know he stays 3 miles, I am sure he will go at some pace. He will make others make mistakes and we know he loves Cheltenham and the hill. For a horse who has done nothing wrong this season and is trained by Paul Nicholls, whose horses are running well, the 15/2 on offer is a massive price.E/W.*

After hours upon hours of studying, I love it when you get the race absolutely spot on. We called how the race would be run and it panned out exactly how we said. What a performance from Frodon and Bryony Frost, simply a dream team together.

The final race of the day was the Kim Muir Handicap Chase where we advised two horses. Any Second Now at 10/1 and Crievehill at 50/1. They finished 1st and 4th for a big payday. Another race which was called spot on. We end the day 13 points in profit and was now up 25 points over the 3 days. No matter what happened on the final day, we were coming away with a profit. No better feeling than going into the final day, knowing your work was done.

DAY THREE OF THE GRAND NATIONAL FESTIVAL - GRAND NATIONAL DAY

You will see a pattern form here. Day One was a bit of a disaster losing 8 points in total. We had work to do on the remaining two days and that seems to be when I was at my best. When it matters I was delivering. Day Two we clawed it back with 3.5 points profit but we needed a strong last day which happened to be Grand National Day.

The day got off to a cracker as we landed Aus Ptits Soins at 12/1. He missed the Cheltenham Festival and waited for Aintree. His form previously was behind Paisley Park which is obviously strong. The fact he was running in a handicap here, was a tip itself. We were now back in profit but needed a bit more. We went 3 races without a winner and things were touch and go whether we were going to get home.

We then landed Kildisart at 8/1. He relished the step up to 3 miles and demolished the field like a good horse. One more winner and we were home and dry but talk about leaving it to the last minute.

The very last race of the festival and we go out on a high with Chief Justice at advised odds of 8/1. Three winners on the day at 12/1, 8/1 and 8/1. The more the pressure was on the more I delivered. I don't like doing that though, take me back to the Cheltenham Festival with profit guaranteed, with one day left, any day of the week.

DAY FOUR OF THE PUNCESTOWN FESTIVAL - CHAMPION HURDLE DAY

I picked this day as a standout as it was a flying visit to Ireland and back with profit, all within 36 hours. We got a flight out on Thursday evening, went racing on Friday and was back in the UK early Saturday afternoon. What a great day it was cleaning the bookies out in such a short space of time.

We had bets/tips in 6 races coming away with 3 winners.

Real Steel got us off to a great start winning at 9/2 and this was followed by a lump job two-pointer, on Buveur D'Air. He was special that day with Davy Russell in the saddle and the 5/2 on offer was an absolute steal.

The day ended with another good winner in Gardens Of Babylon and an 8 point haul for members.

JPW 40 to Follow for the National Hunt Season 2019/2020

I have been working on this list for three months, and these are my horses to follow for the National Hunt Season. You can add all of these to a horse tracker to receive notifications whenever they are due to run. A great resource to use for this is NagMe, At the Races, Racing UK, Racing Post and even bet365 have a tracker built-in.

AL DANCER

Trainer - Nigel Twiston Davies

Form Figures - 2314/11110-

I think a lot of this horse and we were on him at Ascot for the Betfair Hurdle. He had 5 starts over hurdles, winning 4 of them. He went to the Cheltenham Festival and was sent off 9/2 favourite for the Supreme Novice Hurdle. He just wasn't himself that day and although nothing was reported to be wrong, horses can have bad days. I have no doubt he is better than that and is certainly built for fences. He embarks on a chasing career this season and I think he will excel over them. He makes his debut over the bigger obstacles on Friday at Cheltenham, a track he won a hurdle race by 11 lengths last season.

Likely target: I would aim him at the Arkle Chase or JLT Chase.

BATTLEOVERDOYEN

Trainer - Gordon Elliott

Form Figures - 1/111P

Battleoverdoyen is an absolute monster of a horse who is built for chasing. Anything he done over hurdles was a bonus as he was always going to come alive over fences. Given he was always going to be better when chasing he still went and won a Grade 1 Hurdle at Naas. He was pulled up at the Cheltenham Festival but was reported to have problems when travelling over. Jack Kennedy pulled him up which I think was the right thing to do and would have helped him mentally going forward. He cost £235k after winning a point to point back in 2017 and is lightly raced. He has loads of improvement to come and given his size, he should jump fences effortlessly. An exciting horse for the coming season.

Likely target: I would aim him at the RSA Chase but the JLT Chase could also be on the cards. Could go right to the top.

BRAVEMANSGAME

Trainer - Paul Nicholls

Form Figures – 1

This horse was purchased by John Dance who is the owner of the flat horse, Laurens. He paid a massive £370k for Bravemansgame following an 8 length win of a point to point, just before the Cheltenham Festival. He has been sent to Paul Nicholls and this is the type of horse the trainer does well with. In the future, he is going to be a chaser but this season I imagine they will start off in bumpers, given he is only a 4 year old.

Likely target: Cheltenham Bumper will be the target given he is only a 4 year old.

BREWIN'UPASTORM

Trainer - Olly Murphy

Form Figures - 1/14/14F42

A horse I have always had down as a better chaser than hurdler and this season I expect him to be very competitive, in whatever novice chase he runs in. The Olly Murphy trained horse still had a decent season over hurdles last season. He made his debut over hurdles with an easy win at Huntingdon and from there on, ran in one grade 2 and three grade 1s. He was 4th to Champ in the Challow Hurdle before falling in a Grade 2 at Cheltenham when looking to have every chance. He went to the Cheltenham Festival and finished 4th of 16 to City Island before ending his season with a very good 2nd to Reserve Tank at Aintree. Ultra-consistent all season in all the top races. Given he comes from the point to point field, chasing will be his game. He won his only point to point by 8 lengths before being purchased for £250k. This is a horse with plenty of scope and I believe he will improve massively for the bigger obstacles.

Likely target: The JLT Novice Chase will be the aim for the season.

CAPAC

Trainer - Tom Lacey

Form Figures - 1-

I wanted to find a dark horse trained by Tom Lacey for this year's book and I think Capac may go under the radar for many. He was a winner of his only start back in April when winning easily enough by 3 lengths. I really rate Tom Lacey as he gets his horses fit and ready and is a very underrated trainer. This horse is actually a half brother to Brave Inca who a Supreme Novice Hurdle and Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham. Not sure where this horse will end up but he could not be in better hands to improve, than with Tom Lacey. One for the notebook for sure.

Likely target: Not sure about big targets but could easily turn into a 135+ horse and can pick up a decent race.

CAP DU MATHAN

Trainer - Paul Nicholls

Form Figures - 42-

I have always had a keen eye on The Stewart Family and the horses they buy. They seem to have a lot of luck in the game with the likes of Big Bucks, Celestial Halo and Saphir De Rheu. This season the one I am going to include is Cap Du Mathan who is sired by Kapgarde. Paul Nicholls seems to do well with Kapgarde horses, Clan Des Obeaux, Dolos and As De Mee, just to name a few. This horse has had two starts in France finishing 4th and 2nd. The winner of his last race was Arverne who was later purchased by JP McManus. Cap Du Mathan has not run since then which was back in November 2018 but the long break would have done him good, so he could mature and grow. Now switched the Paul Nicholls I think he will get significant improvement out of the horse. Not sure the heights he can reach but will win some nice races.

Likely target: Will go novice hurdling and depending on what improvement Paul Nicholls can get out of the horse, you would be hopeful he could go to Cheltenham in March.

CAREFULLY SELECTED

Trainer - Willie Mullins

Form Figures - 21/1123/1-3

Carefully Selected is a horse who finished 2nd in the 2018 Champion Bumper. He has always had rave reviews from trainer Willie Mullins as a potential star when he goes chasing. He did have some problems last season as he was not seen until making his debut over hurdles, at Limerick in March. He won that race easily enough and then went on to Punchestown Festival for the Grade 1 Daily Mirror Novice Hurdle. He came home 3rd behind Albert Bartlett winner, Minella Indo and another Willie Mullins horse in Allaho. Given Carefully Selected was only having his 2nd start over hurdles, it was a great effort. He is sure to improve for that run and more so for a fence. If he has an uninterrupted season, he can go to the top of the novice ranks.

Likely target: RSA Chase will be high on the agenda.

CHANTE NEIGE

Trainer - Paul Nicholls

Form Figures - 3/

This mare is owned by Jared Sullivan - the owner of Laurina and Eglantine Du Seuil who both won the Mares Novice Hurdle in 2018 and 2019. This horse was actually in last year's book but failed to make the course. She has had her problems for the last two seasons but has since been switched from Willie Mullins to Paul Nicholls. With a different trainer, she may have a bit more luck. She was purchased two years ago after finishing 3rd in a valuable hurdle race at Auteuil. In that same race was a horse called Stormy Ireland; trained by Willie Mullins and a now rated 147 horse. Given the rating of that horse who finished 2nd in last season's Mare's Hurdle, Chante Neige could be useful. The route will undoubtedly be the Mare's Novice Hurdle - and if she can be kept fit will surely have a say in the top novice mare's hurdles.

Likely target: Mare's Novice Hurdle

CONCERTISTA

Trainer - Willie Mullins

Form Figures - 2-

Concertista made her debut over hurdles in the Mare's Novice Hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival. To make your debut in such a hot race and to finish 2nd, tells me she is a horse with serious ability. Willie Mullins did not run her again last season, obviously keeping her novice status. This daughter of Nathaniel will be aimed at the race once again and with a few runs through the season, she is going to be very hard to beat. Willie Mullins has won all four runnings of the mares novice hurdle, with Limini, Let's Dance, Laurina and Eglantine Du Seuil.

Likely target: Mares Novice Hurdle.

DEFI DU SEUIL

Trainer - Philip Hobbs

Form Figures - 2/1111111/47/51211-2

Has done nothing wrong for us over the years and even won the Triumph Hurdle at 25/1 ante-post a few seasons back. It is safe to say I have a real soft spot for Defi Du Seuil as he was included in the 2016 book before he had even run. We spotted him from the off and he has not let us down. What a season he had last year with 3 wins over fences, including the JLT Novice Chase at the Cheltenham Festival. He improved with every run last season and now looks the complete racehorse. He will be a tough one to crack if in the same form as last season and given his liking for soft ground, I expect him to win races through the winter, particularly at his favourite course, Cheltenham. He has won 6 of his 8 starts at the season and is course specialist. I can't wait to see how he gets on out of novice company this season and continue to watch him rise to the top.

Likely target: The Ryanair Chase but if the Queen Mother Chase came up soft he has the speed for it.

DELTA WORK

Trainer: Gordon Elliott

Form Figures 213324312

When looking ahead to the Gold Cup, I always try to include one from the UK and one from Ireland. Delta Work is my horse to follow from Ireland and he should pick up some nice prizes throughout the season. I was impressed with his first season over fences last season where he had 5 starts and 4 wins to his name. His only defeat came at the Cheltenham Festival in March when 3rd to Topofthegame in the RSA Chase. He was only beaten by 2 lengths and did make a slight mistake at the 2nd last fence. After the last fence, he was sandwiched between Topofthegame and Santini, having to move to the outside. I don't think he would have won regardless, but once he had daylight he closed on the leading pair, coming up the Cheltenham hill. His final start was at Punchestown when winning the Champion Novice Chase. It was the same race that Al Boum Photo looked set to win in his novice days but for swerving at the last fence. He then went on to win this year's Gold Cup. Delta Work put in his best performance of the season in this race, winning by 12 lengths and jumped for fun. He is not your normal type of chaser as he is not the biggest and doesn't have the biggest build, but he is very athletic and can jump for fun. You only have to see what Gordon Elliott has done with Tiger Roll who is also a similarly built horse. Delta Work can improve again this season and at the age of just 6 (7 in March), he has his best days ahead of him.

Likely target: The aim will be the Cheltenham Gold Cup. In between, he will more than likely run in the Lexus Chase and Irish Gold Cup.

DLAURO

Trainer - Joseph O'Brien

Form Figures - 1/1

I was very taken by the performance of Dlauro at Punchestown back in May. He was not at all fancied and drifted badly on the day of the race. Joseph O'Brien even said after the race, "he was a bit surprised to see him win that well". He won by 11 lengths eased down at the finish. It was his first run since winning a point to point back in February 2018 so over 15 months off the track. Lloyd Williams paid a massive £410k for this horse at the Cheltenham February Sale in 2018 and they have clearly got a very smart on their hands.

Likely target: Supreme Novice and Ballymore Novice Hurdle will be high on the agenda.

DICKIE DIVER

Trainer - Nicky Henderson

Form Figures - 1/214

Dickie Diver was purchased for £210k back in January 2018 following a 20 length win in a point to point in December 2017. He did not make his debut under rules for Nicky Henderson until 1 year later when 2nd to Lisnagar Oscar at Chepstow. It now looks a very good race given Dickie Diver finished 4th in an Albert Bartlett with Lisnagar Oscar back in 5th. Dickie Diver won his 2nd start before going to the above race described at the Cheltenham Festival. He is a 6-year-old who has only had 4 career starts so has plenty of improvement to come. He is clearly a chaser in the making given his point to point win and I am sure he has lots of untapped potential. He could be really classy and is a very strong stayer.

Likely target: Either the RSA Chase or National Hunt Chase at the Cheltenham Festival. Personally, I would target the National Hunt Chase at the festival as he seems to stay forever.

EL BARRA

Trainer - Willie Mullins

Form Figures - 2-

Any 40 to follow has to include a newcomer from Rich Ricci. This horse was actually purchased in May 2018 for £280k at the Cheltenham May Sale. This was following a decent 2nd in a point to point, to a highly regarded horse in Fury Road, trained by Gordon Elliott. El Barra picked up a small injury last season so was not seen. I think that could be a blessing in disguise as trainer Willie Mullins has had time to work with the horse and get him to flourish over a significant amount of time. Given he missed last season I imagine they will go straight over hurdles. Looks a horse who potentially could be smart and given the breeding side of things, will want 2m - 2m 5f.

Likely target: Not sure how good he could be but does come with a big price tag. Given the trainers form in the Supreme Novice Hurdle, that could be the long term aim.

ELLEON

Trainer - Warren Greatrex

Form Figures – 8

From the same owners as Emitom who is highly regarded by Warren Greatrex. Elleon will also be trained by Warren Greatrex and is what I would call, a bit of a dark horse. He has one run to his name back in May, in a bumper, coming home 8th of 13. On paper, it does not sound good but the next day they found a stress fracture which is now healed. Elleon is bred very well by Martaline and out of a horse called Ailette who has produced some decent sorts in the past. I like the look of this horse and the trainer does rate her. As I say a bit of a dark horse but one who could win at a nice price this season.

Likely target: No long term plan but could win at big odds.

ENVOI ALLEN

Trainer - Willie Mullins

Form Figures - 1/1111

Cost a whopping £400k following her point to point win in February 2018. He made his debut in a bumper at Fairyhouse in December and has remained unbeaten in 4 starts under rules. Envoi Allen is a horse who wants further than 2 miles so given he destroyed fields over the minimum trip throughout last season, tells you he is a very classy horse. His season ended with a win at the Cheltenham Festival and the Champion Bumper. He relished the Cheltenham hill that day and he met the rising ground he powered on up the hill. He will be sent over hurdles this season and will improve no end over obstacles. Given he wants further I imagine they will campaign him around 2m 4f and take some beating in the Irish Grade 1 races. A star of the future and possible future gold cup winner.

Likely target: Ballymore Novice Hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival. Would get 3 miles with the Albert Bartlett but that is a tough race, which can destroy horses. They won't want to potentially ruin Envoi Allen, so will be looked after over the middle distance.

EPATANTE

Trainer - Nicky Henderson

Form Figures - 211/119

Epatante was included in last year's edition as one of the main purchases from France, for JP McManus. She had two runs for Nicky Henderson, winning both very comfortably. Her final start was at the Cheltenham Festival and the mares novice hurdle. She was sent off 15/8 fav and was strongly fancied by connections. She finished 9th of 22 and I can't help but think that was not her true showing and something was amiss. She is a horse who is still learning the ropes and looking back, lacked the experience in a competitive race with 22 runners, at the Cheltenham Festival. She would have learned a lot from that run and with a summer behind her, is sure to have grown and matured. The handicapper has given her a rating of 137 which looks very lenient. I would not be surprised to see her turn up at Cheltenham in November for the Greatwood Hurdle and Nicky Henderson taking full advantage of her mark. She has untapped potential and I expect her to win a few races this season given how well Henderson does with his mares.

Likely target: Mares Hurdle may be out of her depth but even so that is where I see her ending up. Should win some nice races along the way.

FAKIR D'OUDAIRIES

Trainer – Joseph O'Brien

Form Figures – 4/264B1142-2

This horse ran a huge race at Cheltenham in January and then switched hands for big money from JP McManus. They sent him to the Supreme Novice Hurdle getting 4 year old weight allowance because they had the ill-fated Triumph Hurdle favourite Sir Erec. My view is it was the wrong decision as he lacked experience and maturity for the Supreme Novice Hurdle and had he gone to the Triumph Hurdle, may well have won. He then went to Aintree and finished 2nd to Pentland Hills before finishing his season at Punchestown with another 2nd. He is only a 4 year old and looks set to go chasing. He is built for fences and a horse similar to him is Frodon who also went chasing at 4. I think he could do very well with a summer behind him and I am very much looking forward to seeing him progress.

Likely target: The Arkle Chase is he goes chasing.

FEEL MY PULSE

Trainer - Gordon Elliott

Form Figures - 1/

We included Feel My Pulse in last year's edition but unfortunately, he never made the track. He must have had a setback. He was purchased for £330k after winning a point to point by 15 lengths. He is a big horse who is a chaser down the line. Gordon Elliott has given this horse some big mentions recently and I feel the year off could be a blessing in disguise as he would have matured and grown. I think this horse could go right to the top. I expect he will start off in bumpers and tell connections which way to go. You will hear a lot about this horse over the winter as he looked a gorgeous, proper national hunt horse when winning his point to point.

Likely target: Could be kept in bumpers for this season and the Champion Bumper will be the ultimate goal although given he missed last season, he could be sent straight over hurdles.

FERNY HOLLOW

Trainer - Willie Mullins

Form Figures – 1

Cheveley Park made a big impact with purchases last season with two Cheltenham Festival winners in Envoi Allen and A Plus Tard. They also had the likes of Allaho and Malone Road. They have added a few more to the portfolio with one of them being Ferny Hollow who has been sent to Willie Mullins. He was a 15 length winner of a point to point and fetched £300k at the Cheltenham February Sales. Given the ease of his win, this looks a potentially very smart horse. Cheveley Park won the Champion Bumper with Envoi Allen last year and given this horse is only a 4-year-old, that will surely be the route of this son of Westerner.

Likely target: The Champion Bumper is the likeliest target. Currently available at 25/1.

FRODON

Trainer - Paul Nicholls

Form Figures - 1/3F543185/11101F115/32321350/12111

Where to start with this horse. He is a horse I absolutely love because he has the biggest heart in racing. He loves a scrap and will constantly keep finding. Bryony Frost and Frodon just have a magical partnership and could be described as the best partnership in racing. Frodon is a fantastic jumper who takes lengths out of his rivals at each fence. He had 5 races last season with four wins and one 2nd. His 2nd was when carrying 11st 12lb in the Bet Victor Gold Cup so still an unbelievable effort. His season ended with a win in the Ryanair Chase where he was just magic from the front. Some forget that his horse is only a 7 year old so could still improve again this season. He has been chasing since he was a 4 year old and you would imagine this season, he will be in his prime. I think he would get the Gold Cup trip also given his heart. He won at Cheltenham over 3m 1 1/2 f in the Cotswold Chase and he didn't hang around that day in bad ground. He has his first start of the season in the Old Roan Chase on Sunday which I believe is a stepping stone for the Betfair Chase. Another fantastic season ahead with this horse who is as honest and genuine as they come.

Likely target: Ryanair Chase or Gold Cup. Wherever he goes he will have his fans.

INTERCONNECTED

Trainer - Dan Skelton

Form Figures - F1/2

Interconnected was another horse included in last year's book. He was purchased from Grech & Parkin for a massive £620k, breaking all records. If truth be told it is silly money for a National Hunt horse but the horse does not know his price tag. He was with Nicky Henderson last season so was in the care of a magician who would have brought the horse along nicely. He made his debut under rules at Newbury when finishing 2nd to Emitom. Given it was his first start I thought the horse travelled incredibly well and lack of experience was the reason he lost. He did not just lose to any horse either it was to the classy Emitom who went on to finish 2nd to Champ, in the Sefton Novice Hurdle at Aintree. Interconnected did not run again so still has his novice status. This is a horse who still has so much potential and I expect him to go to Cheltenham in March, with a lively chance. He could be a classy chaser going forward but in the meantime should pick up some nice prizes.

Likely target: Imagine it will be the Ballymore Novice Hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival.

JARVEYS PLATE

Trainer - Fergal O'Brien

Form Figures - 231/32139-1

We included Jarveys Plate in last seasons 40 to follow, following a win at Perth in a bumper. He went on to have a decent season and won a nice race at Cheltenham on New Year's Day. Disappointed slightly after in a grade 2 and then in the Ballymore Novice Hurdle but has always been a horse who was built for fences. He made his debut over fences at Chepstow 2 weeks ago and beat a very good horse in Reserve Tank. What I liked about the performance is the ground was not his ground and despite not jumping great on the first circuit he warmed to the task. He particularly jumped better when off the bridle which for me is so important. Will you jump when asked the question and he certainly answered all questions. He only started to perform when he came off the bridle and shaped like a horse who wants further. He has a lot of potential and given how he finished his race, I am sure connections won't mind stepping him up to 3 miles.

Likely target: The JLT Novice Chase or RSA Chase.

KLASSICAL DREAM

Trainer - Willie Mullins

Form Figures - P324P/111-1

Willie Mullins has done a fine job with this horse last season. He came over from France after being pulled up on his previous start and has gone unbeaten in the UK and Ireland. He won the three Grade 1s including the Supreme Novice Hurdle and looks a horse with serious talent. I think he is a better horse with cut in the ground and should mop up all the races in Ireland, before coming to the Cheltenham Festival for the Champion Hurdle.

Likely target: The Champion Hurdle.

LETS GO CHAMP

Trainer - Tom George

Form Figures – 1

A horse purchased by Roger Brockhouse (owner of Summerville Boy) for £375k at the Goffs Sale back in May. This was following an easy enough win in a point to point. I really like the breeding side of this horse. A full brother to Scarlet and Dove who won a bumper by 7 lengths, for Joseph O'Brien and Gigginstown last November. When you dig a bit further in the breeding you find a half-sister to Our Connor. Bred to be a very good horse and hefty price tag. One to watch over the winter.

Likely target: Not sure which route they will go but will be keeping a close eye.

LOSTINTRANSLATION

Trainer - Colin Tizzard

Form Figures - 4/221672/231221

This horse is my star horse for the season. A horse I think who can go on and win the Cheltenham Gold Cup. He had 6 starts over fences last season with his form reading 231221. He had a great battle with Defi De Seuil throughout the season, beating the Defi at Cheltenham back in January and then finished 2nd to the same horse at Sandown and the JLT Chase at the Cheltenham Festival. His season finished by beating RSA Chase winner, Topofthegame in Mildmay Novice Chase, at Aintree. He was stepped up to 3 miles for the first time at Aintree and it brought the very best out of him. He got better with each start through the season against top-quality horses, improving with every start. To me, at Aintree, he looked the complete horse. He clearly loves 3+ miles and is an excellent jumper. He also has a turn of foot which will be a useful weapon over longer trips this season. He is a very well built horse and what I would describe as a proper National Hunt horse. I think he has everything you need to win a Gold Cup and I am excited to see him progress further this season.

Likely target: The ultimate aim will be the Cheltenham Gold Cup. I imagine they will go for the Betfair Chase and King George along the way also.

MALONE ROAD

Trainer - Gordon Elliott

Form Figures - 1/11-

Another Cheveley Park Stud horse in Malone Road who Gordon Elliott absolutely loves. Given his comments that this horse was ahead of Envoi Allen before getting injured last season, tells me this could be a superstar in the making. He had two starts in bumpers last November, winning both by 8 lengths without coming off the bridle. He had a setback and missed the rest of the season but what we saw from him in those two starts, is enough to tell me he has what it takes to go to the top. Cost £325k on the Goffs Aintree Sale in April 2018.

Likely target: Supreme Novice Hurdle.

MICK PASTOR

Trainer - Paul Nicholls

Form Figures – 1

In recent years I have found some real gems who could go on to the Triumph Hurdle. I tend to look for movements by JP McManus in France for this particular race. We found Defi De Seuil 3 years ago and he went on to win the Triumph Hurdle. We even advised 25/1 ante-post. The year after we found Apple's Shakira who was sent off really short for the Triumph Hurdle and we were on at 25/1. It didn't come off but we were ahead of the game. This year I think Mick Pastor could be the one. He was purchased after winning at Auteuil back in May by 6 lengths. He beat a horse called Nirvana Du Berlais that day who has since gone on and won a Grade 3. Paul Nicholls has won the Triumph Hurdle a few times, so knows the type of horse it takes. Currently available at 25/1 in a few places.

Likely target: The Triumph Hurdle where 25/1 looks a great early bet.

MY WHIRLWIND

Trainer - Nicky Henderson

Form Figures - 1-

I am also looking out to see what JP McManus has purchased at the Cheltenham Sales and in particular any mares. Last year we included Epatante who went of 15/8 for the Mares Novice Hurdle. This year My Whirlwind seems to be the one who will be going down that route. She was purchased for a whopping £400k at the Cheltenham Sales in March. I believe that is the most expensive mare to come from a point to point field. This purchase was made after winning a point to point at the start of March. She is by Stowaway who I have a lot of time for as a sire and has joined Nicky Henderson to be trained. An exciting horse to look forward to with a hefty price tag.

Likely target: The Mare's Novice Hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival. Currently 33/1 for that race which looks big given how much she cost and who her trainer is.

SHISHKIN

Trainer - Nicky Henderson

Form Figures - 3/11-

This is a horse who was purchased after winning a point to point last November. The Donnelly family (owners of Melon) paid £170k for this horse and sent it to Nicky Henderson. He made his debut in a bumper at Kempton, the day after the Cheltenham Festival, winning very easily by 8 lengths. He looked very smart and going by breeding I imagine they will go down the Ballymore Novice route.

Likely target: Supreme/Ballymore Novice Hurdle route.

SILVER FOREVER

Trainer - Paul Nicholls

Form Figures - 11312-1

Silver Forever had a decent season last year with 3 wins from 5 starts in bumpers. She was only going to come into her own when going over obstacles and made her debut at Chepstow on 11th October. She is a big horse who jumped very well on her debut. Harry Cobden gave her a very confident ride like he knew he had a very classy horse underneath him. She will appreciate further in time but given she is a mare the Novice Mares Hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival must be on the agenda. I expect her to go on a run of wins over the winter and will start off much shorter than 20/1 currently available for that race.

Likely target: Mares Novice Hurdle but could go to the Ballymore Novice Hurdle and get 7lb claim from the boys.

SPORTING JOHN

Trainer - Philip Hobbs

Form Figures - 1-

I am always keen to see what JP McManus has sent to Philip Hobbs and Sporting John fits the bill perfectly. This Getaway gelding was purchased at the Cheltenham Festival Sales for £160k following a win in a point to point. It looks a decent race as the 2nd was purchased by Dan Skelton. The point to point race has also been won by some decent horses in the past like Andy Dufresne who looks a very good horse. Philip Hobbs has done very well in the past with JP McManus horses, none more than Defi De Seuil. One to follow for the season.

Likely target: Giving his age may well start in bumpers and go from there.

THEBANNERKINGREBEL

Trainer - Jamie Snowden

Form Figures - 11P/2-11

I have heard an awful lot about McFabulous recently who is trained by Paul Nicholls. He was a winner at Aintree in April and beat Thebannerkingrebel by 1 length. I think Thebannerkingrebel may go under the radar because he is not trained by your bigger trainers like Nicholls and Henderson. The race at Aintree which I have described above, I would be taking Thebannerkingrebel out of the race as he finished 2nd against a horse everyone is raving about, coming from a 387 day lay off. It was a very good performance given his time off the track. He then made his debut over hurdles at Warwick in May where he won very easily. He then went to Newton Abbot in June where again he was very impressive. He was then put away for the season and will come back stronger.

Likely target: Not sure what the plan is it and all depends on how good he is. If good enough he will be kept over two miles.

THYME HILL

Trainer - Philip Hobbs

Form Figures - 123-1

A late inclusion into the book, following his win in the Persian War Novice Hurdle, at Chepstow. He finished 3rd in the Champion Bumper at the Cheltenham Festival last season, showing a liking to the Cheltenham Hill. He made his debut at Chepstow a couple of weeks ago and really impressed me when winning the Persian War Novice Hurdle. Given it was his first start over hurdles, he jumped very well and done his best work off the bridle at the end of the race. I like a horse who can show me what they do off the bridle rather than a bridle horse. He is tough and genuine and everything you want in a National Hunt Horse. Sure to improve and next stop will be Cheltenham in November.

Likely target: The Ballymore Novice Hurdle will be the end goal.

TORPILLO

Trainer - Nigel Twiston Davies

Form Figures - 1/1140-1

We were on Torpillo when he won his first start of the season at Chepstow. He was so impressive that day despite being free going. He is a mudlark who I think is a similar horse to Bristol De Mai. If he runs in the bottomless ground this horse will be involved for sure, at whatever level. One to keep an eye on over the winter months in heavy ground but would not be keen on him once the spring ground comes.

Likely target: To win as many races on bottomless ground over the winter.

Five handicappers to follow

EAMON AN CNOIC

Trainer - David Pipe

Form Figures - 2/352/119/F1319P/856149-0

I do think Eamon An Cnoic is well handicapped on a mark of 138 given what I saw of the horse last season. He was a winner at Chepstow in February and then an excellent 4th of 22 at the Cheltenham Festival behind Siruh Du Lac, off a mark of 137. He was strongly fancied at Aintree on his next start but failed to get involved. I think he had already peaked for the Cheltenham Festival and that was his season done. He should come back a better horse this season and he also goes well fresh.

Likely target: He has a handicap in him off this mark and it could be at a decent price.

SPIRITOTHEGAMES

Trainer - Dan Skelton

Form Figures - 11421/12357/14335-

Spiritofthegames is not really well handicapped but I still think he can win off a mark of 150. He had a great season as a novice last season. It started with a win at Chepstow and he got better as the season went on. His best performances came at Cheltenham in January when 3rd to Kildisart. He was then 3rd of 22 in the Brown Advisory Plate to Siruh Du Lac and Janika. He ran off a mark of 147 that day so is only 3lb higher in the handicap. His last race he was stepped up to Grade 1 company which is a bit above what he is capable of. I believe he will be going down the Bet Victor Gold Cup route and if he can improve further, he can get involved.

Likely target: The BetVictor Gold Cup and Caspian Gold Cup will be his aim for the first part of the season.

FLYING ANGEL

Trainer - Nigel Twiston Davies

Form Figures - 12353123/1FP161P/54380/6287556

Flying Angel was rated 157 just two years ago so his current mark of 141 looks very lenient. He ran a great race at the Cheltenham Festival when 5th of 24 in the Ultima Handicap off a mark of 142. He then ran another good race in the Topham Chase at the Grand National Festival when 6th of 27. Those final two runs were a good sign that he still has a bit of his old talent and now on his new lower mark, he ought to be winning a handicap sooner rather than later.

Likely target: Not sure of the target but handicapped to win.

SHADY OPERATOR

Trainer - Joseph O'Brien

Form Figures - 1/21223147P

A horse who looks really well handicapped on a mark of 135. He was a novice last season and won a race at Punchestown when defeating a decent horse in Ballyward. He went to the Cheltenham Festival for the Close Brothers Handicap Chase and was still travelling well enough, 4 fences out. He, unfortunately, got hampered at that fence and it was race over. I don't think he would have got anywhere near the eventual winner in all honesty but he would have been closer. The trip that day was also on the sharp side for him so to run so well over a trip short of his best, was a decent effort. He went for the Irish Grand National on his final start but that was a race too soon for a novice in my opinion. This season he would have matured over the summer and should be winning a race off this mark.

Likely target: Not sure of the target but handicapped to win.

NO COMMENT

Trainer - Philip Hobbs

Form Figures - 22/1U2111722/36/55

Hard to believe that this horse has only had 15 career starts as it seems like he has been around forever. This will be his 3rd season as a novice, with only 4 runs to his name over the bigger obstacles. He has clearly had a few issues but on a mark of 137, he looks well handicapped. His last start over fences was at the Cheltenham Festival where he finished 5th of 23 in the Kim Muir Handicap Chase. He is still so inexperienced and still has improvement to come. I feel he will win a big race this season especially on his current mark.

Likely target: Kim Muir or 4-miler at the Cheltenham Festival.

Resources

JPW Scoop 6

Have you ever thought about betting as a group? Over at JPW Scoop 6, we pool our shares together to play the Jackpot, Scoop 6, and more recently Yankees. We've won the Scoop 6 and Jackpot several times, as well as winning over £2,000 nine times in the first two months of the Yankee Syndicate's inception.

www.jpwscoop6.com

NagMe

This is a free horse tracker that will send alerts whenever your chosen horses are racing. Some of our newcomers are so far under the radar that they may not be available straight away, but rest assured they will become available at some point in the near future. Some websites may have them on, but not all are free, as NagMe is.

www.nagme.com

Tipsters Empire betting guide

We've created a Betting Guide over at Tipsters Empire that will be added to and expanded over the coming months. This guide covers commonly used betting terms, examples of different bet types, odds conversion techniques and more.

www.tipstersempire.co.uk/betting-guide/

Where to watch Horse Racing

There are multiple places to watch racing these days, AtTheRaces, RacingUK and ITV, to name but a few. These generally cover almost all racing between them.

www.attheraces.com / www.racinguk.com / www.itv.com/racing

SportingLife has the ability to watch race replays for free, which is a great tool. All you need to do is register a free account, then head over to their results page.

www.sportinglife.com/racing/results

Horse Racing Glossary

Below we have a list of commonly used terms in horse racing that may not be known to all.

A

Agent

An agent is a person who handles a jockey's riding assignments. The top jockeys have the best agents to provide them with the best rides.

All Action in the Saddle

This term is used for jockeys who are throwing everything at their horse to get them home in the best possible position.

All Out

Means a horse is hanging on to the lead with the winning post looming up thick and fast.

All Weather Racing

Commonly known as the British dirt racing such as running on the tapeta. Other synthetic surfaces are known as the AW, which are mostly run at Wolverhampton, Kempton, Chelmsford and Lingfield.

Also Ran

When the rest of the field haven't finished in the first trio.

Apprentice

A jockey who has been riding for less than one year or hasn't won at least 45 races. Horses who are ridden by apprentices are allowed to carry five pounds less, sometimes a bit more.

At the Post

A term meaning all horses are secure in the starting gate or at the starting point, ready for the race to begin.

B

Bolted Up

Won with clear dominance.

Boxed / Boxed in

Surrounded by horses with no clear run and suffering trouble in-running.

Blinkers

Fitted to the horse's head to keep their concentration on track with no visual distractions during a race.

Bay

A horse colour varying from tan to bright auburn.

Blanket Finish

Horses who finish so closely, they could be covered by a blanket.

Brought Down

When a horse has been brought to the floor by another runner who has fallen or made a very bad mistake.

Broke Down

A horse who has suffered a serious injury in the race and is unable to continue.

C

Cheekpieces

Partially obscure a horse's rear vision and to help them concentrate more in a race.

Class

The quality of competition the horse competes in.

Condition

Condition on how the horse looks before it takes to the race (mainly during the paddock).

Course

Specific section of the track used for racing as some racecourses use more than one. As an example, Cheltenham uses the "old course" and the "new course" at different fixtures.

Chestnut

A horse colour that can vary from red-yellow to deep red.

Chasing in Vein

When the horse in second place is chasing down the winner all the way to the finishing line.

Change of Gear

A horse that is able to quicken up smartly off a slow pace or a truly run race.

Colt

An ungelded male horse aged four or younger.

Closer

Horses that do their best running in the closing stages of a race.

D

Dead Heat

A tie.

Dark Horse

When a horse is flying under the radar and could be one to spring a surprise when people least expect it to happen.

Dwelt

Remained in the starting gate long after the jockey, starter and prudence suggested leaving.

Derby

Commonly known as races such as the "Epsom Derby" and "Kentucky Derby" and all others in different countries.

Declarations

Horses that have been entered for a race.

Dying Strides

As close as you can get to the winning post in a race.

Digging Deep

When a racehorse won't give up lightly and is pulling out more.

Dam

The female parent.

Disqualification

A change in the order of finish, by the stewards ruling often following an objection or inquiry.

E

Entry

A horse is an owner's entry in to the race.

Entry Fee

Money paid to enter a horse in a race.

Ear Plugs

Used to muffle background noises during racing.

Eased

Having surrendered, the horse is slowed down during a race.

F

False Start

An invalid start to the race, mainly when a horse tries to grab a lead before the rest of the field.

Filly

Female horse that is four-years-old or younger.

Foal

A horse in its first year of life.

Flags are Raised

When the starter is happy to let the race begin.

G

Gelding

A castrated male horse.

Going Away

To win with an increasing margin.

Graded / Group Races

Jump racing is Grade 1, 2, 3 and Flat racing is Group 1, 2, 3 – both equal to the best horses contesting them.

Gamble

A horse that is heavily backed in betting means a horse is being gambled.

Game Gorse

A horse that is extremely tough to get past, a runner that tries very hard.

H

Handicap

To analyse the past performances and rate the horses in a race. Also designed to give the best horses more weight to carry to make the field more competitive.

Hands and Heels

Jockeys who don't use the whip and have the race in safe keeping use just their hands and heels to get their horse across the line without being given a hard time.

Head Bob

Usually when two horses are neck to neck and cross the line together is often called by the commentators as a "head bob".

Held Up

Horses who are at the back of the field and like to be played late on the scene is known as being "held up".

Held On

When a horse has just held to beat the horse behind them.

I

In Form / Out of Form

A horse said to be in-form can mean that they are performing at their peak level or the horse has been running well lately. Out of form is the complete opposite and has been running poorly.

J

Juvenile

A two-year-old.

Jet Propelled

When jockeys ask their horse for a big jump towards the end of the race.

K

Keen

Horses that are running too freely in a race and are wanting to go quicker than the jockey wants them to which often wastes energy.

Keeping On

Horses that are keeping on well in a race when pressure is applied from their rider.

L

Lame

Describes an inability to walk, gallop or run properly because of a pain or injury.

Listed

A race that is better than a Class 2 race but just short of group/graded company.

M

Missed the Break

Broke slowly from the starting gate, and didn't break with the rest of the runners.

Mount

A horse that a jockey is booked to ride.

N

Nose Band

Keeps the horse's mouth closed so they can breathe through the nose, and it can also help a horse settle throughout a race instead of pulling hard.

Nag

A slang for a racehorse, mostly a bad one.

Neck

Measurement for beaten horses, approximately equal to a horse's "neck".

Nod

Lowering the head so it's fully extended, as in to win in the nod.

O

Off the Bridle

When a horse is 'off the bridle' the bit in its mouth is loose. This indicates that the horse is tiring so the jockey has to lower their stance and really push the horse for more effort.

On the Bridle

When a horse is 'on the bridle' the bit is comfortable in its mouth and allows the jockey to be in contact with the horse through the reins; which then allows the jockey to remain almost stood. This occurs when the horse is travelling well.

Oaks

Races such as the Kentucky Oaks and the English version, Epsom Oaks.

Odds-on

Odds less than even money; staking £10 with a chance to make £8 profit for example.

Outsider

A horse with high odds, given little chance of winning by the public. They do occasionally spring a surprise which is always great to see.

P

Pacemaker

Trainers who have more than one in the race usually use one of them as a pacemaker to set it up for the Closer, ensuring the race is run at a true gallop.

Plodder

A horse that keeps the same pace all the way. A slow, methodical gainer.

Plater

A claiming horse, who is cheap.

Photo Finish

A finish that is so close that a photograph is necessary to determine the precise outcome.

Paddock

The enclosure where horses are saddled before a race, or an enclosure near a stable where horses can be exercised.

Pulled Up

To slow and stop a horse from further competition.

Post Time

Time for a race to start.

Prominent

Horses who are racing towards the front.

Q

Quickened Up

Jockeys who ask their horse for a little more and the response is immediate.

R

Ran Out

Horses who have decided to not continue and run off the track.

Rating

A horse that has been given a rating based on their previous performance.

Refuse

Refused to either break from the starting gate or refused to jump a hurdler or a fence.

Ruled Off

Suspended.

Ridden Out

Having finished under mild urging.

Reverse Forecast

A bet that involves two horses, in which you try and get the 1-2 in the race in any order.

Rallying

When a horse has been headed by another or has been outpaced, they have the ability to come back for more which is known as "rallying".

S

Sire

Male parent.

Shed the Maiden Tag

When a horse has finally won their first race.

Sex Allowance

The weight allowance fillies and mares receive when running against males.

Shut Off

Blocked in traffic or by another horse.

Sprint

A race of a mile or less.

Stallion

A male horse used for breeding.

Stick

A jockey's whip.

Stretch

The straightaway that leads to the wire, also known as homestretch.

Standing Start

When horses have approached the starting tape too quickly, they all have to line-up and start together off a standing start.

Stewards

Officials responsible for enforcing the rules of racing.

Stayer

A horse with stamina, who loves to run all day and excels in long distance races.

Switched Off

A patient ride from the jockey (held-up) means they have switched the horse off so they settle and can be lightened up when the pace of the race picks up.

Stood Down

Jockeys who have been injured or something else means they are stood down for the day and will no longer be riding on the rest of the card or day.

Set Sail

When a horse kicks clear to try and seal the race early.

T

Triple Crown

The American Triple Crown is the Kentucky Derby, Preakness and Belmont Stakes.

The English Triple Crown is the 2,000 Guineas, Epsom Derby and St Leger stakes.

The Canadian Triple Crown is the Queens Plate, Prince of Wales and Breeders Stakes.

Turn of Foot

A horse with a turn of foot can accelerate quickly and put distance between themselves and others in a matter of strides.

Tricast

A bet that involves three horses, in order to try and get the 1-2-3 in the race.

Tailed Off

When horses are not enjoying themselves in the race or are out of their depth, they are tailed off and out of the race.

Turning Up the Heat

Horses that are quickening and are applying pressure to the rest of the field from the front.

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Under Pressure

Horses that need full assistance from their rider, with use of either the whip or being pushed along.

Unseated

Jockeys who have departed from their horse mid-race, mainly due to a bad mistake from the horse over a hurdle or fence.

W

Wind Operation

Designed to help a horse's breathing which can improve a horse to see out the distance of a race.

Weight

The jockey's riding weight on a horse.

Winning Post

The end of a race.

Winged

When a horse has jumped a fence to perfection.