



Horse Racing Tips

Cheltenham Festival

2020

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The purpose of this ebook

We know that we produce great content, and in-depth write ups. Quite often, a snippet here and there does not do our research justice. We've pulled together our tips from the Cheltenham Festival 2020 to show the amount of research that goes into our tips, and how they are portrayed to our followers.

Each day represents a new email to our followers, as we send our tips the evening before the racing, for each day. This gives us more time to study the weather, the going and whether any non-runners could effect our selections' chances.

Cheltenham Festival tips explanation

As it is going to be a busy week for all involved - not just for us in the office, but for bettors around the country too - we thought it'd be best for us to explain exactly what will happen this week with regards to the tip process.

Tips will be sent as follows:

Monday evening around 6pm ahead of Day One

Each evening after between 7pm - 8pm for Day Two, Day Three and Day Four.

We will then review the Cheltenham Festival on the Monday following the Festival.

Full time members

We will update the Full Time Members page, which is the page that you access on a daily basis as it stands.

We will then send a text to confirm that the tips are live on the website. There will be a link in this text that will take you to the login page on our website. From here, you can log in and visit the Full Time Members page.

An email will then be sent as a backup to ensure you are able to access the selections and write ups.

Festival members

We will update our Festival Members page, which is where you will access your tips.

We will then send a text to confirm that the tips are live on the website. There will be a link in this text that will take you to the login page on our website. From here, you can log in and visit the Festival Members page.

An email will then be sent as a backup to ensure you are able to access the selections and write ups.

If you have any queries at all about the process, please get in touch during office hours on Monday, as all attention will be focused on ensuring that the tips are accessible and that our server is handling the expected influx of web traffic in the evening.

Thank you,

The JPW Team

Cheltenham Festival Day One

I am confident of another repeat of the last 11 years where we have absolutely smashed the bookies.

This place takes no prisoners but one thing for sure is the cream always rises to the top at Cheltenham.

From my point a view the work has gone into each and every selection back as far as 6 months, evens years when it comes to some replays I have been watching. Every race, every replay, every bit of study has been with a view to Cheltenham since the National Hunt season started in October, looking for our edge over the bookies.

As you will see every tip comes with full reasoning which shows exactly how hard I have worked.

I will now talk you through what is needed over the 4 days.

You will need a **betting bank of 80 points** and each selection will have how many points bet they are.

You choose how much you are using per point on what you can afford. It is all down to the individual but I cannot stress how **important** it is to follow the staking plan over the 4 days in order for us to come away with a profit.

If you were to use £5 per point you need a £400 betting bank.

£10 per point £800 betting bank.

£20 per point £1600 betting bank and so on.

Here is an **EXAMPLE** of what I will write next to a horse and what you will stake.

KAUTO STAR – GOLD CUP 6/1 – 1 POINT WIN

If you were using £10 per point you would place £10 win.

£20 per point £20 win.

£50 per point then a £50 win.

If I was to write:

KAUTO STAR – GOLD CUP 6/1 – 0.5 POINTS E/W

If you were using £10 per point you would need to place a £5 E/W bet.

£20 per point a £10 E/W bet.

£50 per point a £25 E/W bet.

If I was to write:

KAUTO STAR – GOLD CUP 6/1 – 1 POINT E/W

If were using £10 per point you would need to place a £10 E/W bet.

£20 per point a £20 E/W bet.

£50 per point a £50 E/W bet.

Hopefully this explains exactly how it works. Some of you will already know but for those who are new to this, if you are unsure then send us an email at info@jpwracingtipster.com and we will answer any relevant questions.

I know I keep referring to it but it is so important to stick to the staking plan.

I would advise anyone to only bet what they can afford to lose. I am confident that we will come away with big profits at Cheltenham but the bottom line is it is still gambling and nothing is guaranteed in the gambling world.

Right let's get this show on the road. I am determined, focused and hungrier than ever to take Cheltenham by storm.

It is what I was born to do and all the hard work is now being put into practice. Let's do this...

CHELTENHAM DAY 1

What a day we have ahead of us. This is my favourite day of the whole week. The roar from the crowd when that flag goes up for the first race makes the hairs on my neck stand up, just from talking about it. Racing Fans up and down the country have literally been counting down the days since the final day of the 2019 festival.

No more anticipating let's go to work and it is work of the highest quality:

I am going to get us started with a Festival Lucky 15, Lucky 15 for Day 1, a Festival Double and a Festival Treble:

Festival Double

4:10 Mares Hurdle (Tuesday) – BENIE DES DIEUX – 4/7

4:10 Cross Country (Wednesday) – TIGER ROLL – evens

2 PT DOUBLE

Festival Treble

4:10 Mares Hurdle (Tuesday) – BENIE DES DIEUX – 4/7

4:10 Cross Country (Wednesday) – TIGER ROLL – evens

1:30 Ballymore Novice Hurdle (Wednesday) – ENVOI ALLEN – 5/4

1 PT TREBLE

Festival Lucky 15

2:10 Arkle Chase (Tuesday) – FAKIR D'OUDAIRIES 4/1

5:30 National Hunt Chase (Tuesday) – CAREFULLY SELECTED 9/4

3:30 Champion Chase (Wednesday) – DEFI DE SEUIL 7/4

1:30 Triumph Hurdle (Friday) – SOLO 10/3

0.10 Points Win Lucky 15 = 1.5 PTS TOTAL

Day One Lucky 15

1:30 Supreme Novice Hurdle – FIDDLERONTHEROOF 6/1

2:50 Ultima Handicap Chase – VINNDICATION 6/1

3:30 Champion Hurdle – EPATANTE 3/1

4:50 Northern Trust Handicap Chase – IMPERIAL AURA 5/1

0.05 Points E/W Lucky 15 = 1.5 PTS TOTAL

1:30 Sky Bet Supreme Novices' Hurdle

FIDDLERONTHEROOF 11/2 with William Hill (7 places, 1/5 odds) – 0.75 POINTS E/W

CHANTRY HOUSE 5/1 with William Hill (7 places, 1/5 odds) – 0.75 POINTS E/W

MARIO DE PAIL 80/1 with William Hill (7 places, 1/5 odds) – 0.25 POINTS E/W

William Hill are paying 7 places in this race so I would advise betting with them. Next best in terms of places are Paddy Power and Betfair, with 5 places.

We have 3 selections in this race.

What a race we have in store to start the festival and I think we could have a special horse in this year's line up. I have gone over the race in my head and I think they are going to go a good clip out in front, with Asterian Forlonge likely to be near the front, as he will need this race to be a test. I am happy to take on Asterian Forlonge as personally I think he is inexperienced, a stayer and a horse who jumps out to his right with a funny head carriage. He may have got away with it in his previous runs but this is a completely different test.

The smart jockeys will sit just off the pace on the inside, hoping that Asterian Forlonge does continue to jump out to the right and possibly take the horses on the outside out a bit. If you have the right horse who is travelling strongly on the inside rail, gaps could become available for a horse to slip through. I am no jockey but as race planning goes and if they wanted advice, that would be exactly what I would be saying the best tactics would be. A jockey will quite possibly get the opportunity to sneak up the inside rail.

Robbie Power is one of the smartest jockeys around and he ride's FIDDLERONTHEROOF who is trained by Colin Tizzard. I have no doubt that he will be sitting just off the pace with plenty of cover in behind the leaders. He is already a Grade 1 winner after winning the Tolworth Hurdle at Sandown, back in January, which was his last start. He sat off the leaders that day before quickening in between the last two hurdles and put the race to bed impressively. It is those type of tactics which if replicated, will ensure he goes close here. He has had 4 starts this season so has experience on his side. His season started at Chepstow back in October, when 2nd to Thyme Hill

over 2m 3f. That horse is now favourite for the Albert Bartlett on Friday, so the form holds up well. He was beaten on his next start to another of today's runners in Edwardstone, but that was on good ground and with the ground described as soft and the forecast rain tonight into tomorrow morning, it could quite possibly be heavy ground, if that is the case, I have no doubt he will turn that form around with Edwardstone. His next two starts were both wins over today's trip and both were on soft and heavy ground. He is a horse who has progressed as the season has gone on and I still think he has further improvement to come. He stays further than today's trip and also has the gears to put a race to bed, as he showed on his last start in the Tolworth Hurdle. The ground is massively in his favour and I can't have him out of the frame, hopefully with the class act of Robbie Power in the saddle, he can get his head in front. E/W.

CHANTRY HOUSE is a gorgeous horse who has winning form around Cheltenham. He was a winner back here in December on his debut over hurdles. Although it was on the new course, I think the old course will play to his strengths even more so. Albeit whenever anyone speaks to me about the differences between the old and new course, I always reply that they all have to get up the same hill (incline) and they are on the same field. For me course form is massive when it comes to the Cheltenham Festival as the course takes no prisoners and if you have acted at the course, it is a huge plus from me. Not only did he act at the course, he won on his debut over hurdles at the course. He beat a horse called Stolen Silver who went and won a Grade 2 on his next start, giving the form some nice substance. He then went to Newbury and given he looked green on his debut at Cheltenham, he was very professional in the jumping department and how he travelled through the race. He travelled with such ease and jumped very well. Barry Geraghty could basically do what he wanted with the horse that day and he answered. He has only had two starts over hurdles so you could argue he lacks inexperience, but what he lacks in that department, he makes up for in class. This is a horse who has the world at his feet and he is going to make some chaser next season. He stays further than today's trip which is what is needed in this race and still has bags of improvement to come. Whether this is a race too soon, we will find out but my judgement tells me he is all class and a potential superstar. If I am right he has to go very close. E/W.

Some may look at this selection and laugh, but hear me out.....

With 16 runners you are going to have a few horses in this race who will not run their race and with William Hill paying 7 places, he is a very big price. MARIO DE PAIL is trained by Sam Thomas who is having his first runner at the Cheltenham Festival. He is a trainer who only has between 10-15 horses in training so all his focus would have gone on getting this horse right for one day only. Like in any business, if you want to grow or want more horses in this case, you have to deliver on the big stage and he wants get many opportunities like this on the biggest stage in National Hunt Racing. That is the very reason why I think he will be primed for this race and every last bit of effort would have gone into this horse, to get him right for the day. That of course may not be good enough but in my opinion if this horse was trained by one of the bigger trainers, he would not be this price and much shorter. He has had two starts over hurdles, winning his first at Kelso by 12 lengths and then coming home 2nd to Eden Du Houx at Chepstow, who is a highly regarded horse by David Pipe. MARIO DE PAIL should really have won that day and if he wasn't hampered going into the last hurdle. If he had he would be coming into this race unbeaten over hurdles. I am under no illusions of the task he has ahead of him, stepping into this company but I do think the horse has a raw ability which could see him steal a place (7 on offer). He does not mind a battle as we found out last time and he will love the soft ground, even better if it did turn

heavy. The shrewd booking of Sam Twiston Davies is also a strong one and you don't see many Sam Twiston Davies horses, going off at this price. I really do think this horse has a decent amount of ability and given he would have had all the yards focus for many many months, he should be spot on for the day. E/W.

2:10 Racing Post Arkle Novices' Chase

FAKIR D'OUDAIRIES 4/1 generally – 1.5 POINTS WIN

ESPRIT DU LARGE 12/1 generally – 0.5 POINTS E/W (3 places, 1/5 odds)

We have 2 selections in this race.

This race is going to be run at an absolute furious pace. You have at least 5 front runners in this race and you would imagine at least 2-3 of the front runners are going to cut each other's throats out in front. For me this race is set up for a horse that you know will stay very well and let those in front, do the hard work for you.

FAKIR D'OUDAIRIES is a horse who likes to be prominent so I can see him sitting around 4th and 5th and jumping fence to fence. I would say his greatest weapon is his jumping and that will hold him in good stead as some of these novices, will make mistakes. He has had 3 runs over fences this season, winning two and finishing 2nd to today's favourite, Notebook. He was so impressive on his first two starts where his jumping was beyond his years. He won the Grade 1 Drinmore Novice Chase at Fairyhouse on his 2nd start and didn't just win, he blew them away. Samcro did fall in that race when looking threatening but nevertheless, this game is about jumping and if you don't jump you don't win. As mentioned above, he was 2nd to Notebook but the ground is softer today and I think Notebook may not have the temperament to cope with Cheltenham and the preliminaries. Horses often lose the race before it starts and it is not always about the form, you sometimes have to think beyond that. I also don't think FAKIR D'OUDAIRIES was given the best ride that day and I am sure Mark Walsh would admit that. This is horse who may have gone for the Marsh Novice Chase over 2m 5f so we know he will stay, we know he will jump, we know he will love the ground and we know he likes the course, given he has won one race at Cheltenham and finished 4th in last year's Supreme Novice Hurdle. Very solid bet and decent price. WIN.

ESPRIT DU LARGE is another horse who is a top class jumper and has not got the recognition he deserves for winning the Grade 1 Henry VIII Novices Chase at Sandown on his last start. Again if this horse was trained by a bigger trainer, everyone would be going mad. He has won his last two races over fences and stays that bit further which is clearly evident, given he won at Exeter over 2m 3f on his penultimate start. I expect Adam Wedge to sit near the back of the field and slowly coast him in to the race with 3 fences to jump. Given how he jumps and travels through his races, the way this race is going to be run at a frantic pace, it is set up perfectly for him. He loves soft ground which is another added bonus and is only a 6 year old with so much progression to come. He has not run since December but that decision was made by his trainer as he felt he didn't need any more runs. For me that is the sort of confidence you need from a trainer and he will come into the race as fresh as they come. A big price and certainly overpriced given how the race is likely to pan out. E/W.

2:50 Ultima Handicap Chase

VINNDICATION 6/1 Paddy Power, Betway, Sky Bet, Betfair – 0.75 POINTS E/W (6 places, 1/5 odds)

THE CONDITIONAL 15/2 Paddy Power, Betway, Sky Bet, Betfair – 0.5 POINTS E/W (6 places, 1/5 odds)

TOWNSHEND 40/1 with Paddy Power, Betfair (6 places, 1/5 odds) – 0.375 POINTS E/W

We have 3 selections in this race and it is a race I love, given we have had the winner of this race, 7 out of the last 10 years. Chief Dan George at 33/1 and Golden Chieftain at 40/1, just to name a few. Can we find the winner again this year?

This is a race that has been won by a horse carrying 11st 3lb or more, 5 times from the last 6 seasons. Although with the top weight Vinndication in the race, who is the highest rated horse to run in this race for as long as I can remember. I have gone back 10 years and the highest rated horse prior, was 155. Vinndication is rated 159 so 4lb higher than anything that has ever run in the last 10 years. More so this season, I think it could play to look for something near the bottom of the handicap, given how stretched he is making the weights but nevertheless, I am still happy have VINNDICATION has one of my selections.

It is a very bold entry by Kim Bailey to run VINNDICATION here off a mark of 159. The mark is just outside a Gold Cup mark with the lowest entry this year being 161 in the Gold Cup. I have thought long and hard about this horse and I would rather have him on my side than against. Given what I have seen of the horse so far, he could still easily be 6 – 8lb ahead of the handicapper. In 9 career starts he has won 7 races with his only defeats coming to Defi Du Seuil, over a trip which would have been short of his best. He was 3rd to Defi Du Seuil and Lostintranslation in the Grade 1 Scilly Isles Novice Chase back last year and look how good that form has turned out. He only went down by 3 lengths that day and both those horses are now rated 173 and 170. VINNDICATION then ran in the JLT Novice Chase last season, coming home 5th of 12. He made a very bad mistake at only the 4th fence, which would have knocked the stuffing out him, he still rallied up the hill to come home 5th. Take away his iffy jumping in that race and the bad mistake, he gets a lot closer to Defi Du Seuil and Lostintranslation. I am under no illusions that his jumping was not great last season, but he is still a seriously talented. To be doing what he done last year, over trips which were too short and some of the mistakes he was making, tell me he could be a horse who, if ironing out these problems, could quite easily be a Gold Cup class horse.

VINNDICATION was sent for a wind operation last April which could have been bothering him all last season. He returned at Ascot in November and was a much improved horse in every department. His jumping was accurate, he travelled well and had loads in the tank, come the end of the race, winning by an easy 5 lengths. He looked a horse who could go around again and looked well ahead of the handicapper. He has not been seen since because of a bone bruise but that does not bother me as I would say, his best career run so far, was last time out, when coming back from 233 days off the track. He clearly goes well fresh and they will have him in great condition.

I was also at a preview evening the other night and one of the panel said to Kim Bailey, my main handicap bet is Imperial Aura what do you think?, without hesitation Kim Bailey replied 'he has a good chance but would not have anywhere near as good a chance as Vinndication, he will win'.

That simply confirmed what I was thinking of the horse and although this is very very competitive, with 6 places on offer, he has to be in the frame.

THE CONDITIONAL is down the bottom of the handicap with Brendan Powell carrying 10st 6lb. He is actually a jockey who has won this race with Golden Chieftain in the past which is always nice to have on your side. He is rated 139 by the handicapper and given he is still a novice, I think he could still be a good few pounds ahead of the handicapper. He wants soft ground which he is going to get and since joining David Bridgewater, is much improved horse this season. He was a winner at Cheltenham back in October, beating West Approach and Cogry that day off a mark of 131. He then went to Newbury for the Ladbrokes Trophy and came home 2nd to De Rasher Counter, off a mark of 137. He made a mistake at the last fence that day and you never know, if he pinged it could have gone on and won. Regardless it was a great effort and cracking piece of form in the bag. On his next start he was sent to Warwick for a competitive handicap over 3m 5f. It was a race won by Kimberlite Candy with Captain Chaos back in 2nd (since gone on and won elsewhere). I thought THE CONDITIONAL travelled very well throughout the race and until 4 out, was travelling better than anything else. He just got tired and ultimately didn't stay the trip in testing ground, coming home 4th. Now back down in trip to 3m 1f and down the handicap to a mark of 139, he should run his race. As with Vinndication, with 6 places on offer it is hard to see him out of the frame.

My final selection is TOWNSHEND who is trained by Nigel Twiston Davies. What a story this would be if he was to win. The rider is Jamie Neild who is the son of owner John Neild (Splash Of Ginge owner).

This is a horse who was once trained by Willie Mullins and and back in 2017, won off a handicap mark of 142, which is the same handicap mark as he is on today. He joined Nigel Twiston Davies 16 months ago and has taken time to get going. He has been for a wind operation since joining and Nigel Twiston Davies seems to finally have him in a good place, with TOWNSHEND winning his last two races. On his final start he was stepped up in trip to 3 miles on heavy ground and jumped and travelled very well, winning by an eased down 4 lengths. He was given an excellent ride by Jamie Neild that day who looked very comfortable in the saddle. He has since gone up to a mark of 142 but I think connections have been saving the mark as he has not run since. Jamie Neild claims 7lb today so that brings him down to a handicap mark of 135, carrying just 10st 2lb. He is getting nearly 2 stone in weight from Vinndication which is massive. He could literally be thrown in and I have seen far worse 33/1 shots. Could have a big say for a jockey who I would say looked very stylish on the horse last time out. E/W.

3:30 Unibet Champion Hurdle

EPATANTE 3/1 generally – 1.5 POINTS WIN

SUPASUNDAE 11/1 generally – 0.75 POINTS E/W (4 places, 1/5 odds)

We have 2 selections in this race.

As many have pointed out this is a very poor renewal of the Champion Hurdle, mainly down to the fact that the race is missing a superstar, that we have seen in recent years. For me though it doesn't mean it is poor, I would rather describe it as an ultra competitive Champion Hurdle. We don't have any short price favourites in the field and it is as wide open a Champion Hurdle we have seen. It is a proper betting race and not sure what the fuss is about as it is the type of race I love to get involved in, rather than backing a 4/6 Buveur D'Air, a 4/5 Faugheen or even 13/8 Hurricane Fly. What it may lack in quality the race undoubtedly could turn out to be a great race to watch with so many angles available.

This race is going to have plenty of pace with Cornerstone Lad and Petit Mouchoir in the field, who will no doubt take them along. With the fast pace I think it will suit two horses for different reasons.

EPATANTE is a horse who I have always loved ever since I seen her make her debut at Kempton in November 2018. She hacked up on the bridle and then went to Exeter and done the same thing. She went to last years Cheltenham Festival as a hot favourite and run no race whatsoever. I can't believe she run her race and I can't agree that it is because she don't like Cheltenham, not after only one start. One thing I do know is she was mega keen last year which was her undoing and was not as fluent over a hurdle as you would have liked. This season in two starts she has matured a lot and is not as keen and is very fast and fluent over her hurdles. She really has a proper Champion Hurdle style of jumping a hurdle in the same mould as Istabraq and Buveur D'Air. I just think this season she knows what the game is all about and is well past her novice days, where ultimately she was just learning her trade. She has had two starts this season and absolutely bolted up in both races. She won on her first start of the season at Newbury, albeit a handicap she travelled supremely well and jumped very well to win by 6 lengths. She then went to Kempton for the Grade 1 Christmas Hurdle and won with such ease, beating some good horses like Ballyandy and Silver Streak (both line up here). In terms of time for the race, EPATANTE was faster than both Buveur D'Air and My Tent Or Yours when they won the Christmas Hurdle, on the same soft ground. Both horses were at the peak of their careers also whereas EPATANTE still has so much more improvement to come. She was also only 5 seconds slower than when Faugheen won the race and that was on good to soft. The form of that race and the time figures, certainly back up that she could be top drawer. Now you add into the equation her 7lb mares allowance which is huge and I fail to see how she does not get involved. I would go as far as to say, if she carried 11st 10lb like the rest, I would still make her a 7/2 chance, the fact that she carries 11st 3lb, make me think she could be shorter. The pace of the race will help her settle and travel nicely into the race. As long as she jumps as slick as she has all season, I expect her to be their at the bottom of the hill. With her turn of speed which is electric and her weight advantage, I can see her flying up the hill and putting the race to bed in a matter of strides. If she does that, will this then be called a weak Champion Hurdle?? WIN.

In terms of value, I would go as far to say SUPASUNDAE is one of my value bets of the week. This race is going to be run to suit. This is a horse who probably wants 2m 4f to be seen at his best as he does not quite get 3 miles and probably not quite got the speed for 2m, albeit he has run some terrific races over 2 miles, over the years. As we said this race is going to be run at a nice pace with at least two front runners, on soft ground, around an undulating track. It is a race which has every credential to be run like a 2m 3f – 2m 5f race. Stamina could come into play and if it does, SUPASUNDAE will play his part in the finish and devour the Cheltenham hill. I can't

actually believe that in what people are calling a poor renewal, this horse is not shorter in the market. You are talking about a horse who has run in 14 consecutive Grade 1 races. Of those 14 runs, he has finished 1st or 2nd 11 times. Six of those runs have been over 2 miles with his form reading, 112224. Hardly form of a horse who will not appreciate 2 miles. In those 2 mile races, he beat Faugheen (won a champion hurdle) and Wicklow Brave. He also finished 2nd to Buveur D'Air and Apples Jade over this distance. He even beat Buveur D'Air over 2m 4f in the Aintree Hurdle, a race run on soft ground. He has had one run this season when finishing 4th of 9 to Honeysuckle in the Irish Champion Hurdle 6 weeks ago and that was nothing more than a run to blow away the cobwebs. For a run to gain fitness he put a great effort in to go down by only 4 lengths and I expect significant improvement to come. He has clearly been targeted at this race all season, with no other race in mind. SUPASUNDAE also has festival winning form when winning the Coral Cup back in 2017 and then finishing 2nd in a Stayers Hurdle in 2018. It is all in his favour to be thereabouts, from the ground, to the pace, to course form. He has the lot and expect him to go off around the 13/2 mark with Robbie Power taking the ride. E/W.

4:10 Close Brothers Mares Hurdle

NO BET – I am happy to sit out this race and watch a superstar at work in BENIE DES DIEUX, who I am confident can get our doubles and trebles off to a flyer.

4:50 Northern Trust Novices' Handicap Chase

IMPERIAL AURA 11/2 with Ladbrokes and Coral – 1 POINT WIN

ESPOIR DE GUYE 15/2 with Ladbrokes, Coral, Unibet – 0.75 POINTS E/W (5 places, 1/5 odds)

We have 2 selections in this race.

I had this race narrowed down to four horses. The two named above, Beakstown (ground gone against him, although well handicapped), Jarveys Plate (creeping down the handicap but can't see how form is turned around with Imperial Aura).

A Plus Tard won this race last year in a canter, I don't think we have anything of that type of horse this season but a few who are improving at a rapid rate of knots are:

IMPERIAL AURA was 2nd to Simply The Betts (strong fancy of mine in the Brown Advisory Plate). I have tried to get IMPERIAL AURA beat but sometimes you got to admit defeat and actually think why? If I strongly fancy a horse who IMPERIAL AURA was only beaten 1 1/2 lengths, he has to have a great chance in this race. He is a massively improving type who started this season with a run over hurdles, finishing 3rd of 16 in the Silver Trophy at Chepstow. He then debuted over fences at Fakenham in a weak beginners chase and was the only horse to finish, even so nothing was beating him that day. His last two runs have come at Cheltenham. One when 2nd to Pym over 3m 1f. He came there travelling strongly that day but did not quite see out the trip. It was a

pleasing effort and showed he is clearly talented and has a big future over fences. He was back down in trip on his next start on Trials day, and came home 2nd to Simply The Betts. It was another very good run as the pair pulled 11 lengths clear of the 3rd and 17 and 20 lengths clear of 4th and 5th. He has gone up the handicap once again to a mark of 143 but I still think he has some more improvement left in him. Could it be Kim Bailey's 2nd winner of the day? WIN.

ESPOIR DE GUYE made his debut over fences back in November, when 2nd to Simply The Betts at Chepstow. That form has clearly worked out very well since and so has this horse. He has won his last two races easily at Exeter and in particular Ascot, when winning by 10 lengths in a competitive handicap. He had horses like First Flow back in 3rd (now rated 148) which shows what a run it was, as that horse has gone on to win his last two races impressively. He has not run since December but Venetia Williams did not want to risk his handicap mark going up, as he would not get in this race. She must be very happy with the mark as this horse has had plenty of opportunities since. The key to this horse is the ground and with rain forecast tonight, it is certain to be soft ground. He has a high knee action and if it did come up heavy, wouldn't take much rain for that to happen, he will go off favourite for this race. E/W.

5:30 National Hunt Novices' Chase

CAREFULLY SELECTED 9/4 with William Hill and Unibet – 2 POINT WIN

I have tried and tried to get CAREFULLY SELECTED beat but I just can't. Everything keeps coming back to him. This is a poor National Hunt Chase and he is the only horse who has any real touch of class, possibly a Grade 1 horse. Take nothing away from the field but they are all a bunch of handicappers in my opinion. The 2/1 available is a decent price as he could quite easily be around the 5/4 mark. A lot of feedback has been about his jumping but I don't think that will be a problem especially with Patrick Mullins on board who is an excellent horseman. He has never fallen in his career in hurdles or fences, just making a few novice mistakes, as you would expect. This is a horse who was unlucky not to win the Champion Bumper back in 2018, just getting nabbed by the fast finishing Relegate. He made his debut over hurdles in March last year, following a problem, which he won with ease. He then went for the Grade 1 Irish Novice Hurdle at the end of April, over 3 miles, a race which was won by Minella Indo and Allaho in 2nd. Carefully Selected was just 3 1/2 lengths behind the winner and 1 1/2 lengths behind Allaho in 3rd place. Now imagine what sort of price either of them would be in this race, I would say odds on which again shows how good a bet 2/1 is. He has done nothing wrong in 3 starts over fences so far this season and is 3 from 3. CAREFULLY SELECTED is a horse who wants soft ground and wants a staying trip. For me he looks bulletproof, with the only problem that could get in his way is the jumping, but going a tad slower, I really don't see it being a problem. WIN.

Cheltenham Festival Day Two

We will start Day Two with a Double and a Lucky 15:

Benie Des Dieux cost us both Double and Treble today, something I did not think would happen so we will stick with both:

DOUBLE

1:30 Ballymore Novice Hurdle – ENVOI ALLEN 4/6

4:10 Cross Country Chase – TIGER ROLL

2 PT DOUBLE

Day Two Lucky 15

2:10 RSA Chase - CHAMP 7/2

3:30 Champion Chase – DEFI DU SEUIL 5/4

4:50 Juvenile Hurdle – MICK PASTOR 8/1

5:30 Champion Bumper – FERNY HOLLOW 12/1

0.05 E/W Lucky 15 = 1.5 PTS TOTAL

1:30 Ballymore Novice Hurdle

THE BIG BREAKAWAY 10/1 generally – 0.75 POINTS E/W (3 places, 1/5 odds)

I am under no illusions of how good Envoi Allen is and the odds and performances he has put in this season, tell you he will be hard to beat and I suppose I think he will win. I think given he is a novice, with improving types around him, you don't know exactly where you stand with him. The reason I say this is because this race is full of improving types who have not reached their full potential, so could be there to be shot at. Given we have a double running with Tiger Roll and I am happy to include one horse against him.

The horse who I think good go right to the top is THE BIG BREAKAWAY. I would go as far to say that I think he is a gold cup winner of the future and has chaser written all over him. Whether this

is a race too soon, we will find out, but he has done nothing wrong and if he continues to improve, he can serve it up to Envoi Allen.

He is a horse who will eventually want 3 miles, so any soft in the description will be too his advantage. The rain that fell overnight on Monday, pretty much confirms it will be at least good to soft (dry period ahead of us).

This is a horse who was purchased for £360k after winning a point to point at Quakerstown back in April 2019. He didn't just win that race, he won it by 10 lengths and that is the reason he cost so much money.

He made his debut at Chepstow in November when beating Blackjack Kentucky on the bridle, by lengths. He jumped extremely well and travelled like a horse beyond his years. Blackjack Kentucky has since gone on to win and is now rated 132 by the handicapper. The way THE BIG BREAKAWAY won, tells me it was a performance of at least a 150 horse that day (without the further improvement to come). He then went to Newbury and done exactly the same, if not better, to win by 7 lengths. A performance beyond his years, yet again.

Both races were lower level races, so he has to step up in class here but he has all the tools to go to the top of the game. He is as exciting as they come and although he comes here, inexperienced, the potential is endless.

I think he can improve to go close here but even if it is a race too early, keep an eye on this horse in years to come, particularly over fences. WIN.

2:10 RSA Chase

CHAMP 7/2 generally – 1.5 POINTS WIN

SLATE HOUSE 14/1 generally – 0.5 POINTS E/W

This is a race which I have been going over in my head for months and months. Like anyone, the preparation of CHAMP is hardly ideal, but it comes back to the same thing, Class.

I have watched every race back many times and generally he is a good jumper but has had a tendency to lose concentration, which has resulted in him falling on his last start, at Cheltenham.

Looking at it from my point of view, if I lacked concentration when jumping a wall but got away with it, I probably wouldn't take notice until I fell and smacked my head. Would I fall when jumping a wall again? Definitely not you would give it your full concentration. I think his fall had to happen for him to finally respect what was in front of him. He has smacked his head once, he won't want to do it again. It really could be the making of him.

If he had won at Cheltenham, where he was pretty much certain to, you would be looking at a horse who was 7/4 here. He is not he is drifting and 7/2 is looking very appealing.

This horse has the potential to be a gold cup horse next year, obviously if he sorts his jumping out.

3 miles could really be the making of him as when he won the Sefton Novice Hurdle at Aintree, last season, it was a horse of all class.

Minella Indo is obviously a worry but for me he potentially wants further than this, a real slogger who will not have the gears to go with CHAMP if they are neck and coming to the last.

One at a big price and pretty much the forgotten horse has to be SLATE HOUSE. He was a runner in the Cotswold Chase at Cheltenham on Trials Day. He went off 4/1 against Santini (13/8) and Bristol De Mai (9/4). He was strongly fancied that day, despite being a novice and although he was pulled up that day, Robbie Power looked after him once the race was lost.

Prior to that SLATE HOUSE won 3 of his last 4 races and should have been 4 from 4, had he not fallen in the Bet Victor Gold Cup. He loves it around Cheltenham and was a winner here back in October, in heavy ground. He then fell when looking the winner in the Bet Victor Gold Cup, again at Cheltenham. He won at Huntingdon before going for the Grade 1 Kauto Star Novice Chase when looking very classy that day. I can't for the life of me understand why a Grade 1 winner, who was well fancied against the Cheltenham Gold Cup favourite, Santini. Robbie Power, I am sure had a choice if he wanted to ride Copperhead or SLATE HOUSE and the feedback I have received, is he chose SLATE HOUSE after an excellent piece of work leading into the festival. I think he is very much overpriced and with only 10 runners, has a great chance of at least placing. E/W.

2:50 Coral Cup

TRAFFIC FLUIDE 25/1 generally – 0.5 POINTS E/W (6 places, 1/5 odds)

CHAMPAGNE WELL 18/1 generally - 0.5 POINTS E/W (6 places, 1/5 odds)

BURROWS EDGE 16/1 generally - 0.5 POINTS E/W (6 places, 1/5 odds)

We have 3 selections in this race.

If you said to me a few months ago I would be putting up TRAFFIC FLUIDE in the Coral Cup, I would have laughed but the fact remains he looks thrown in, on a mark of 142 compared to his chase mark of 154. His last run came in the Grade 1 Ascot Chase, when falling at the last fence, when looking the likely winner. It is a very shrewd move by trainer Gary Moore to switch him back over hurdles for the first time since 2018. One thing this horse does is stay, so the fact they are going to go hard and fast, will play to his strengths. He is also a previous winner at Cheltenham, albeit over fences back in April 2018, but it was a Grade 2. If he is close enough one thing for sure is TRAFFIC FLUIDE will be staying on up the hill and like last year when William Henry won, he came from the clouds. I expect the same ride from this horse and if he was to win, it would be in the last strides. Could potentially be 10lb ahead of the handicapper. E/W.

Another shrewd move this time by Fergal O'Brien as he runs Champagne Well in this race, despite being a novice. I think he is fairly treated on a mark of 141 and his form this season is excellent. He was beaten just 3 lengths by Thyme Hill two starts back, over today's trip. Ask yourself what price Thyme Hill would be in this race? I would go 7/2, even shorter if it was off a mark of 141. This shows how big a price CHAMPAGNE WELL is. He has run at Cheltenham 3 times this season with his form reading 122. He acts at the course, is possibly better than handicap company and given how fit Fergal O'Brien gets his horses, he will stay on well up the hill. E/W.

BURROWS EDGE is yet another horse who looks well handicapped at the bottom of the handicap on a mark of 138, with Nico De Boinville carrying just 10st 10lb. I think a fast run pace will really suit this horse and the hill will be to his liking, as all his good work is late in the race. He was a winner last time out at Kempton when winning by 9 lengths and has been saved since. That run was at the start of January so they are clearly happy with the mark or they would have run him once more. I think it is also worth pointing out, that they fit first time headgear and that really should sharpen him up a bit. He is a very well bred horse who has a touch of class and with each run he is maturing nicely. E/W.

3:30 Queen Mother Chase

DEFI DU SEUIL 5/4 generally – 2.5 POINTS WIN

My NAP of the meeting. It is a shame Altior is not running as it would have been some race, with Altior v Defi Du Seuil v Chacun Pour Soi and more so, we would have had a bigger price.

It is now a 2 horse race between DEFI DU SEUIL and Chacun Pour Soi and I am very confident DEFI DU SEUIL wins.

He is going to love the ground and absolutely loves Cheltenham, winning 6 from 8 starts at the course. I think that is a huge advantage over Chacun Pour Soi who has not run at the course.

DEFI DU SEUIL was a winner at last year's festival when winning the JLT and stepped it up a notch again this season, winning all 3 starts, including the Tingle Creek Chase and Clarence House Chase. His jumping has been electric this season and last time out he showed a turn of foot, to put a race to bed in strides. He was beaten by Chacun Pour Soi at Punchestown last season but that was on the back of a hard season, where the Willie Mullins horse would have had his horse primed.

It is still some race but I believe DEFI DU SEUIL could turn out to be special and he is only 7 years old. WIN.

4:10 Cross Country Chase

NO BET

I think Tiger Roll should win this doing handstands and we have him in a double.

4:50 Boodles Juvenile Hurdle

MICK PASTOR 8/1 with Ladbrokes, Coral, Betway, Unibet – 0.75 POINTS E/W (5 places, 1/5 odds)

PALLADIUM 10/1 with William Hill and Bet 365 – 0.75 POINTS E/W (5 places, 1/5 odds)

We have 2 selections in this race.

I fancied Mick Pastor to have an E/W chance in the Triumph Hurdle so if I fancied him in that then I have to give him a big chance in this weaker Juvenile. Last May he was a good winner of a hurdle race in Auteuil, before joining Paul Nicholls. The horse he beat in France went on to win a Grade 1 by 14 lengths, so I always thought the form was strong even before he came over here. He switched hands for decent money over the summer and sent to Paul Nicholls. His first start under new trainer was at this course back in November where he was sent off favourite. I have to say he was not fully wound up that day and Nicholls clearly had bigger targets. He went to Ludlow at the start of January and it was much more the type of horse I thought he was. He jumped soundly, travelled very well, winning on the bridle. He has not been seen since which tells me Nicholls is very happy with his handicap mark of 140 and did not want to ruin it. The trainer has also won this race, 3 times in the last 7 years so knows the type of horse it takes. E/W.

Nicky Henderson has been planning this for a while for PALLADIUM. He mentioned in an interview on 4th of January after winning at Sandown, we will run in another race and think about the Fred Winter. He went back to Sandown a month later and won again and the trainer said that mark will now do for the Fred Winter (now Boodles Handicap). It was the manner of his two wins at Sandown which has struck me as he won both quite easily. He found off the bridle and showed me attributes which would be suited to the Cheltenham Hill. Both runs were on soft and heavy ground and with the ground set to dry out slightly, he moves like a horse, suited to better ground. E/W.

5:30 Champion Bumper

FERNY HOLLOW 12/1 generally – 0.5 POINTS E/W

PANIC ATTACK 12/1 generally – 0.5 POINTS E/W

We have 2 selections in this race.

Appreciate It is a red hot favourite following his last 2 wins. To be fair he has looked impressive but Patrick Mullins, although a decent jockey, is not as good as some of these professional jockeys. I was not impressed by how far he set off the pace with Carefully Selected and has shown me he lacks concentration at crucial times.

The same could be said about Paul Townend after his ride on Benie but in fairness, he probably wasn't expecting Robbie Power to come off rail, who if he stayed on the rail with Stormy Ireland, we could possibly be saying it was bold move and great ride. Those are the fine margins so I will give him another chance on FERNY HOLLOW who was purchased for £300k by Cheveley Park Stud, following a 15 length win in a point to point. Envoi Allen won this for the same owners last year and they have another great chance this season. They are going to go a good clip in this race and it will help FERNY HOLLOW settle. The horse disappointed on his first two starts but was a different horse for the hood which was fitted last time out, when he won on the bridle by 4 lengths. I think this horse has much more improvement to come and under a Paul Townend ride he can give the favourite something to think about. E/W.

PANIC ATTACK was an impressive winner of a bumper at Market Rasen when trained by Willie Mullins. She was purchased for big money by Bryan Drew following the win and sent to David Pipe. It was a decent mares bumper she won at Market Rasen and the fact she is only a 4 year old and a mare, she gets lots of weight from nearly all the field. Basically 7lb for age and 7lb for being a mare, 14lb in total. In fact she gets 1st and 1lb from the favourite which is a huge amount of weight. They have booked Brian Hughes to ride which is a strong booking and connections won this race with Moon Racer a few years ago. Given the weight she gets 12/1 does look a big price. E/W.

Cheltenham Festival Day Three

Day Three Lucky 15

1:30 Marsh Chase – FAUGHEEN 5/1

2:10 Pertemps Hurdle – RELEGATE 13/2

2:50 Ryanair Chase – FRODON 5/1

3:30 Stayers Hurdle – EMITOM 12/1

0.05 E/W Lucky 15 = 1.5 PTS TOTAL

1:30 Marsh Novice Chase

FAUGHEEN 5/1 generally – 1 POINT WIN

SAMCRO 4/1 generally – 1 POINT WIN

We have 2 selections in this race.

We should be running on Good to soft Ground tomorrow or thereabouts, with the weather forecast we have today and tomorrow.

As much as Itchy Feet was impressive when winning the Scilly Isles Novice Chase on his last start, the form of the race is not great in my opinion with Midnight Shadow in 2nd and Champagne Platinum in 3rd.

I have no doubt FAUGHEEN and SAMCRO would have done the same.

If FAUGHEEN wins tomorrow, he will bring the roof down. He is now a 12 year old and to be doing what he has been doing this season over fences, is amazing. We all now the class this horse has after winning a Champion Hurdle and a Ballymore Novice Hurdle. He absolutely loves the place and as I always say, horse for courses. If you love Cheltenham you will keep coming back, year up on year, running great races.

He is 3 from 3 this season this season over fences, including winning two Grade 1s. He beat Samcro by 10 lengths over the Christmas period and then won Flogas Novice Chase at Leopardstown last month.

He is getting some stick in the industry, with people saying he can't win it but why not? We are not talking about a normal horse, FAUGHEEN is literally a machine and the Cheltenham Festival

throws up a story all the time. This would just be magic and I believe it is already written and he can win the race. WIN.

SAMCRO has been a horse who has been so frustrating but like Faugheen will love the drying ground. This horse had the world at his feet after winning the Ballymore Novice Hurdle back in 2018. He has had his share of problems since and often scoped dirty but if they can get him back to best or even close to best, he would have his say in this race, no doubt about it. He comes into this festival after having a wind operation in January and I think that may just sort the problem out. The feedback I have received is he is working very well and despite finishing 2nd to Faugheen over Christmas, he again scoped dirty after the race. If he was not well that day but still only got beat by 10 lengths, a horse who is fit and well could easily turn that form around. He was travelling very well on his penultimate start when falling in a race won by Fakir D'Ourdairies. Had he not fallen and won that race, you would be looking a horse who would possibly be favourite today.

I really think Gordon Elliott may have worked his magic with the horse and we will see the real SAMCRO. WIN.

2:10 Pertemps Hurdle

RELEGATE 13/2 generally – 0.5 POINTS E/W (5 places)

WELSH SAINT 7/1 Sky Bet, Betfair – 0.5 POINTS E/W (6 places)

UNKNOWWHATIMEANHARRY 50/1 Paddy Power – 0.25 POINTS E/W (7places)

RELEGATE was a winner at the Cheltenham Festival back in 2018 when winning the Champion Bumper. She went over hurdles the following season and although she won one race and came home 5th of 16 in a grade 1, her jumping was not the best. She was off the track for 382 days before running again and she switched trainers from Willie Mullins to Colm Murphy. She ran at Punchestown and came home 4th of 16 to get herself qualified for this race. She jumped much better than day and it looked like Colm Murphy had sorted her issues out. Given she won a Champion Bumper she literally could be thrown in on a mark of 137, as her record suggests she should reach around the 150 mark, given this is a former Champion Bumper winner. E/W.

WELSH SAINT is only a 6 year old and is still improving. He could again be thrown in on a mark of 138. He was an impressive winner at Warwick back in December and was then stepped up in class on New Years Day, at Cheltenham. He was a fast finishing 3rd that day and clearly looked to want 3 miles. Nicky Henderson stepped him up to 3 miles on his final start and he travelled well into the race to win by a couple of lengths. He is just a horse who is highly progressive and I would not be surprised to see him progress even further. E/W.

This is a bet as I think UNOWWHATIMEANHARRY is way overpriced at 50/1. That is an absolutely huge price given what this horse has done in his career. He might be a 12 year old but he is a multiple Grade 1 winner including on 11 months ago at the Punchestown Festival. He has had 4 starts this season which were in Grade 1s and 2s before being entered in a Pertemps Qualifier at Haydock. If he was being aimed at this race, they were never going out to win the race and ruin

his mark, they were simply looking for a top 6 finish, which they got. He was rated 153 in that race and is now down to 150. I really think he has a great each way chance and with Paddy Power paying 7 places, I have seen far worse bets around. He loves it around Cheltenham and has won 4 races around the course. E/W.

2:50 Ryanair Chase

FRODON 5/1 generally - 1 POINT EACH WAY (3 places, 1/5 odds)

I really don't understand how this horse is getting as much stick as he has been recently. I think he is a cracking price. The horse won this race last year and is as game as they come. He loves Cheltenham and everything about it. His form around Cheltenham is spectacular with his last 4 races at the course reading 2111.

You know what you are going to get with FRODON, he is going to bowl along at the front and jump fence to fence, they will all try to get to him and he will keep finding. For me he is the perfect horse at Cheltenham and is perfect for this race, as he will get that bit further.

I have done a bit of digging around on the times at last year's festival between A Plus Tard, who I respect but the price is skinny. A Plus Tard won a Novice Handicap Chase at last year's festival, with Rachael Blackmore carrying 11st 5lb, over 2m 4f, and he absolutely hosed home in a time of 5m 13s. Frodon ran and won this race last year over ½ f further, in a faster time of 5m 9s, with Bryony carrying 5lb more at 11st 10lb. The figures don't lie and although A Plus Tard may have improved, nothing says that FRODON can't improve. I can't have Min at the price as I think he is a flat track horse.

One thing I know is if FRODON jumps the last neck and neck, I don't think anything will get up the hill better.

His season has not been the greatest but he did win at Kempton on his last start. He has not run at Cheltenham this season so far, and like humans who have their favourite places, FRODON will think, I am back at my favourite place, let's do this. E/W.

3:30 Stayers Hurdle

EMITOM 12/1 generally – 0.5 POINTS E/W

Paisley Park is going to be very hard to beat but we have seen three odds on favourites beat this week so it is shaping as one of those festivals.

I am going to take him on with EMITOM who improved for the step up to 3 miles last time out and is the improving type, being only a 6 year old. You still haven't seen the best of the horse and he has bags of improvement to come. Trainer Warren Greatrex has always described this horse as special and he has the potential to be the next big thing. He was 2nd last year to Champ in the

Grade 1 Sefton Novices Hurdle and after today with Champ winning the RSA, that form looks even more solid. He had his first start of the season at this course in the International in December. He looked to need that run badly and the trip was also on the short side. He was stepped up in trip on his last start for the Grade 2 Rendlesham Hurdle and he won like a very nice horse. He is sure to come on for that run and his trainer has won this race in the past, so knows what it takes. At the price he is very good value. E/W.

4:10 Brown Advisory Plate

SIMPLY THE BETTS 4/1 with Ladbrokes and Coral – 1.25 POINTS WIN

LA BAGUE AU ROI 14/1 with Paddy Power and Betfair – 0.5 POINTS E/W (5places)

DEATH DUTY 22/1 with Paddy Power and Betfair – 0.375 POINTS E/W (5places)

A little bit annoyed with myself for not putting SIMPLY THE BETTS up before Imperial Aura won the other day, as I quoted in the write up, Simply The Betts form was the reason why I put Imperial Aura up. The price has since crashed and although it is shorter than I wanted, I can't not put him up given he was my handicap bet of the week. He is rated 149 and I still feel he is ahead of the handicapper. I honestly think he is good enough to run in the Marsh Novice Chase and not disgrace himself. I think that of the horse then I have to think he is good enough to win this weaker handicap. He seemed to love Cheltenham and the hill when winning here on Cheltenham Festival Trials Day and as mentioned above, he beat Imperial Aura who went and won the Close Brother Novice Chase on Tuesday. Both of them pulled well clear of 3rd and 4th that day and he has to go close here. He is going to be ridden prominently so should remain out of trouble and it will take a really well handicapped horse to beat him. WIN.

LA BAGUE AU ROI won two Grade 1s last season and they included the Kauto Star Novice Chase at Kempton. When she won that race she beat Topofthegame and Santini who went on to finish 1st and 2nd in the RSA Chase at last year's festival. That form obviously looks red hot and although she has not looked the same horse this season, you have to think 149 looks a very reasonable handicap mark. I think she has been trained differently this season, maybe with a view on a handicap at the Cheltenham Festival. She has run some good races, which included a 5th of 8 in the Irish Gold Cup last time out, 13 lengths behind Delta Work. 13 lengths behind what could quite easily be the Gold Cup winner this year is very very good form. To drop from a Grade 1 to this handicap, tells you all you need to know and I am sure she will be in peak condition for this race. E/W.

DEATH DUTY is another horse who could be thrown in on a mark of 151. This is a horse who has won a Grade 1 over hurdles and fences. He went off favourite in the Albert Bartlett Novice Hurdle at 13/8 in 2017 so has always been highly thought of. Unfortunately, he suffered an injury and spent 758 days off the track before returning in January in a Grade 2 hurdle. He then went and run in a Grade 2 Chase and although never featured in either race, I think Gordon Elliott has trained him to get right for one day and that is at Cheltenham. Interestingly they have Gavin Brouder riding and he claims 7lb. He had one ride on Cracking Smart today and he gave him a great ride to finish 4th at 33/1. He is clearly a good jockey and did not look out of place, against the best jockeys in

the industry. His 7lb claim brings the mark down to 144 and that is a mark I am sure he can win off. E/W.

4:50 Mare's Novice Hurdle

FLORESSA 8/1 with Ladbrokes and Coral – 0.75 POINTS E/W (4 places, 1/5 odds)

FLORESSA is a horse who has impressed me massively this season and I can't understand why she is not shorter than 8/1. She was a short head 2nd to Silver Forever back in November when travelling like the winner. She turned that form around with the same horse, when winning at Newbury on her next start. Back in 2nd that day was Jeremys Flame who went on to finish 2nd in the Tolworth Hurdle. She went for a grade 2 last time out, out of novice company and was sent off 6/4 fav. She had a few problems in the race and was hampered late on, eventually come home 3rd to Lady Buttons. I think it was a good effort and is better than the form suggests. This will be a fast run race and it will really suit her style of running. Nico De Boinville gets on with her having rode her in her last 5 races, before James Bowen took over the saddle last time out. I think she will go close and would be surprised if she didn't make the first four. E/W.

5:30 Kim Muir Handicap Chase

LE BREUIL 13/2 generally – 0.75 POINTS E/W (5 places, 1/5 odds)

FITZHENRY 12/1 with Paddy Power and Betfair – 0.5 POINTS E/W (5 places, 1/5 odds)

We have 2 selections in this race.

Jamie Codd has won this race 3 times in the last 9 years and I am sure he would have had offers coming in from everyone to ride there's. He has stayed loyal to LE BREUIL who he won the National Hunt Novice Chase at last year's festival. That tells a story and for me Jamie Codd, Derek O'Connor and Partick Mullins are worth 1 stone in weight, given how good amateur riders they are, in these type of races. LE BREUIL was last seen at Warwick over 3m 5f when getting off to a slow start and staying on fast to claim 5th. After the race Ben Pauling said he got off to a slow start and was always struggling, but loved the way he stayed on at the end of the race. I think it will put him spot on for this race and test it is going to offer. I think they will have him handy in this race as given he won over 4 miles last year, staying is not a problem, unlike some of these. E/W.

FITZHENRY will be ridden by Patrick Mullins and although I give him stick for his ride on Carefully Selected, I am sure he will be keen to make up for it. FITZHENRY has been consistent this season and was 2nd in the Paddy Power Chase back in December. That is solid form and form which would see him go close in this race. He slightly disappointed on his next start, but I am happy to forgive him one bad run. He was also 2nd to Chris's Dream 3 starts back when travelling like the winner, that horse has since gone on to be well backed in the Gold Cup. I do think he has a big race in him and expect him to go close with a clear round. E/W.

Cheltenham Festival Day Four

Lucky 15 Day 4

1:30 Cheltenham - SOLO 4/1

2:10 Cheltenham - ARAMON 8/1

2:50 Cheltenham - THYME HILL 11/2

3:30 CLAN DES OBEAUX 8/1

0.05 POINTS E/W LUCK5 15 = 1.5 POINTS TOTAL

1:30 Triumph Hurdle

SOLO 4/1 with generally – 1.5 POINTS WIN

What a race this looks set to be and the pace in this race, will be relentless throughout. You have Allmankind who will go off as fast as he can, from the start. Goshen will also be pushing him up front and I basically think they will end up cutting each others throats. Goshen jumps out to the right so will no doubt lose ground, although he does look a freak horse I am not confident he will get away with it at this level. If he jumps right he will leave so many gaps, similar to what Asterion Forlonge done the other. I respect Allmankind but I guess I have just not warmed to him and at the top level, will get find out. I could be wrong but I think SOLO is a class above. He is still a colt which basically means his balls are still intact. You don't see many colts over hurdles and given it does not seem to bother him and he is a very relaxed horse, I imagine they will be keen to keep them, for breeding purposes later down the line. He made his debut for Paul Nicholls at Kempton last month, when winning the Adonis Hurdle by 13 lengths on the bridle. He just oozed class. Travelled, jumped, had gears, just everything you want from a Triumph horse. This race should be set up perfectly for him, I think Harry Cobden will have him prominent just off the leaders and basically let them take him into the race, before being unleashed in between the last two hurdles. WIN.

2:10 County Hurdle

ARAMON 8/1 generally – 0.75 POINTS E/W (6 places, 1/5 odds)

RATHHILL 28/1 generally – 0.5 POINTS E/W (5 places, 1/5 odds)

I think ARAMON is fairly treated on a mark of 148 given his form, especially on his last start when 5th of 8 to Honeysuckle, in the Grade 1 Irish Champion Hurdle. He was given a very quiet ride that day at the back of the field and Paul Townend didn't move a muscle or try to put him into the race. It looked nothing more than a training exercise, ready for a bigger target, which was obviously this race. To finish 5th of 8 to Honeysuckle, with a quiet ride tells me has much more to come. That form was obviously boosted the other day as Honeysuckle won the Mares Hurdle and Darver Star finished 3rd in the Champion Hurdle. This horse was a Grade 1 winner and also 2nd in two Grade 1 Novice hurdles last season, behind Klassical Dream and Felix Desjy and on his day is a decent horse. Willie Mullins has won this 4 times in 8 years with Paul Townend winning two of those. This has been a long term plan and under a confident Paul Townend ride, he has to go close. E/W.

I am going to take a chance on RATHHILL at a huge price. The Nicky Henderson trained horse could be thrown in on a mark of 135 and he may well have been plotted for this race all season off that mark. I say plotted but he has not run this season so I suppose he has been kept on that mark ready for the festival. He went for a breathing operation back in November so was clearly on his way back, yet they decided not run him and wait for the Cheltenham Festival. If I seen a handicap mark of 135, I think I may have done the same as this horse had the potential to be a 150+ horse last season. He was an easy winner at Newbury back in December 2018 and Nicky Henderson said he had a serious horse on his hands and would send him to the Grade 1 Tolworth Hurdle. Unfortunately he did not factor in the race despite going off 6/5 fav. He then went to Down Royal at the start of November and put in another bad performance. 10 days later he was sent for a wind operation so it is evident that the wind was the problem for the bad run. They have not run him since which is as shrewd a move you will see from Nicky Henderson. It could be a genius move come the end of the race, and I quietly fancy him under a Nico De Boinville ride. E/W.

2:50 Albert Bartlett Novice Hurdle

THYME HILL 11/2 generally – 1 POINT WIN

LATEST EXHIBITION 9/2 with generally – 1 POINT WIN

We have 2 selections in this race.

I simply think this is a 2 horse race between THYME HILL and LATEST EXHIBITION. I honestly believe they are a class above and when you combine the class with the endless amounts of stamina I believe they have, I think they will outstay anything that comes to them.

THYME HILL was 3rd in last year's bumper at the Cheltenham Festival behind Envoi Allen, only beaten 2 lengths. That form looks solid and he has built on it this season. He was a winner on his first start of the season, in the Grade 2 Persian War Hurdle at Chepstow. He beat Fiddlerontheroof that day stayed on strongly over 2m 4f. He was then sent to Cheltenham and done exactly the same, stayed on strongly up the hill, over 2m 5f. That was was also a Grade 2. He was stepped up

to Grade 1 company on his final start which was the Challow Hurdle at Newbury. He did make hard work of it but grinded the race like a true Albert Bartlett horse does. He is a horse with real guts and determination and this step up to 3 miles will be the making of him. WIN.

LATEST EXHIBITION has improved with each run. His season started over 2 miles with a win at Galway in October. He then went to Navan just two weeks later and came home 2nd to Abacadabras over 2 miles. That form looks very good now that horse has only just been beaten in the Supreme Novice Hurdle. It was also a trip short of his best so to get within 3 lengths of a proper 2 miler, shows his class. He was stepped up in trip to 2m 4f on his next start beating a good horse in Andy Dufresne, battling on well, all the way to the line and looked like he wanted 3 miles. On his final start he was stepped up again to 2m 6f and again improved for the step up in trip. Despite the slow pace he still found extra and you could see how much he would benefit from a faster pace, which he will inevitably get in this race. I expect him and Thyme Hill to be fighting out the finish and it is a case of who gets up the hill better. WIN

3:30 Gold Cup

DELTA WORK 5/1 generally – 1 POINT WIN

CLAN DES OBEAUX 8/1 generally – 1 POINT WIN

What a race we have in store and I think the race has the potential to be one of the greats. Al Boum Photo was the winner of this race last year and although he looks solid, I do think this race is much stronger this year. Santini I have down as a Grand National horse and he would not want the ground drying out. It should be good to soft ground on Friday and his best chance would be on heavy ground as he is a dour stayer. I fancy our horses to have a better kick than him and for those reasons, that is why I am against. I really liked Lostintranslation at the start of the year but I have to question how ideal it is coming into a Gold Cup, on the back of being pulled up.

DELTA WORK has done nothing wrong this season apart from his first start of the season when he was 4th at Down Royal. He scoped badly after that race and had a small setback. He then went to Leopardstown for the Savills Chase and beat Monalee by a head. He was apparently only 80% fit that day so Gordon Elliott was very pleased. He then went back to the same course and won the Irish Gold Cup by 2 lengths, jumping impressively throughout and he just looks the complete Gold Cup horse. He also has form at Cheltenham after winning the Pertemps Handicap Hurdle as a 5 year old and 3rd in last year's RSA. He made a few mistakes in last year's RSA but was only beaten 2 lengths, in fact if it was over a further 2f, like the gold cup trip, he would have caught both Santini and Topofthegame. This race is made for him and I think it will take a good one to beat him.

That good one could possibly be.....

CLAN DES OBEAUX who I think is a bigger and stronger horse than ever. I believe he was good last season when winning the King George which was followed by a win at Ascot, both impressively. I really think Paul Nicholls may have overcooked him last year and peaked him too soon, by the time the Gold Cup came, he was over the top. They have done in differently this

season and after winning the King George they have come straight to the Gold Cup and that is what I think will be the difference this year. He was so impressive in the King George and not sure how he can be 8/1 on the back of his demolition job. The drying ground is going to be help, as is the slower pace, with no Native River in this year's race.

4:10 Foxhunters Chase

MINELLA ROCCO 7/2 generally – 1.5 POINTS WIN

With the drying ground this race is sure to suit MINELLA ROCCO who has bounced back to form on his last two starts. He also has Derek O'Connor on board and as I said in yesterday's email, he is worth a stone in weight compared to some of these other amateur jockey's. MINELLA ROCCO defeated last years winner Hazel Hill last time out, and it was on soft ground which is not totally in his favour. MINELLA ROCCO would be at home on good to soft ground, which is what I think it will be. This is a horse who was once a Gold Cup 2nd and I can't help but think he is better than this level. Jonjo O'Neil will have him primed for this race and I am confident under an O'Connor ride, he can go close. E/W.

We were running out of time after this race so the write ups are a bit shorter.

4:50 Grand Annual Chase

US AND THEM 20/1 E/W – 0.5 POINT E/W (5 places , 1/5 odds)

THEINVAL 33/1 generally – 0.5 POINTS E/W 95 places, 1/5 odds)

We have 2 selections in this race.

Two horses who will love the drying ground are US AND THEM and THEINVAL, it is just whether it will dry out enough but at the prices of 20/1 and 33/1, it is worth taking the risk.

US AND THEM has some great from last season in Grade 1s against Duc Des Genievres and Le Richenbourg, when 2nd on both occasions, earning a rating of 152. He is now down to 147 but has been running on really soft ground all season. I think you will see a different horse on slightly better ground and is overpriced given his form on better ground. E/W.

THEINVAL has been running on soft ground all season and has come down the handicap from a mark of 150 to 141. He wants better ground and a fast pace, which he should get here. He has run well in this race in past, particularly in 2018 when 4th of 22 on soft ground. He will improve for this slightly better ground and is overpriced.E/W.

5:30 Martin Pipe Handicap Hurdle

FLASH THE STEEL 16/1 generally - 0.75 POINTS E/W (5 places, 1/5 odds)

HAPPYGOLUCKY 50/1 with Bet 365 - 0.375 POINTS E/W (5 places, 1/4 odds)

MILL GREEN 50/1 generally - 0.375 POINTS E/W (5 places, 1/4 odds)

We have 3 selections in this race.

FLASH THE STEEL is a horse I have had in mind for this race for a while, even since Dan Skelton said on morning line a good few months back that he would be aimed at this race. I like a long term target. He has not run since November, obviously being saved for this race. He is on a mark of 138 and the perfect capable William Marshall takes the ride. He didn't stay 3 miles last time out so this drop down in trip will help. E/W.

HAPPYGOLUCKY is a ridiculous price give he has finished 2nd in his last two runs, both of which were Grade 2s. He was even sent of favourite in a grade 2 last time out, despite finishing 3rd he ran a solid race. He should not be anywhere near this price and Stan Sheppard is one of the best jockeys in the race.

MILL GREEN will appreciate the return to better ground and going back up in trip. He did win over 2 miles back in January but is a much better horse over further. I think he could still be on a reasonable mark on 140 and is well overpriced. E/W.