

# Racin'



Issue 373

February/March 2022

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS 2022

This renewal reminder is only for members who receive 'paper' copies of the club magazine.

Due to the rising costs of printing/postage, the cost for 2022 will now be £12 per address. This is the first increase for many years and hopefully members will appreciate that we do all we can to keep costs as low as possible.

If you have set up a bank standing order for your membership, please increase the next payment due on March 1<sup>st</sup> 2022 to £12 (and also for future years).

If you normally pay by cheque, please send your payment of £12 (payable to North & Midlands Racing Club) to Helen Goodwill, Membership Secretary, North & Midlands Racing Club, 124 Lindsell Rd, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 5NZ

## STEVE LEWIS HAMILTON (PRO PUNTER)

Steve has been a pro punter for over 30 years and shares some of his key punting strategies in an interview with Phil Evans – see pages 4 and 5.



## DAVID CLEARY – UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

David is set a series of questions about his racing career by Brian Goodwill – see page 8 to read how he got on.



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# COMPETITION NEWS & RESULTS

## 59's DRAW RESULTS UPDATE

The latest '59's' winner is as follows:

**December 4th – 47 – Maureen Dawson (Merseyside)**

**January 1st – 42 – Jean Jarvis (Durham)**

**February 5<sup>th</sup> – 48 – Andy White (North Yorkshire)**

All win the usual £50pm prize. The winning number is determined by the 'bonus ball' drawn in the UK Lottery on the first Saturday of the month.

Thanks to all who continue to support the draw.

**We currently have two numbers available (31 & 44)** so if you want to join the draw please contact Phil Evans (see committee panel on last page). It costs £1pm to join the draw payable either yearly or quarterly.

## NH SATURDAY NAPS 2021-22

Thanks to all who have entered this winter's NH tipping challenge.

There were 70 entries this time so the prize fund is £700 plus the sponsors prize (Betfred) of £100.

For each of the three rounds the winner receives an £80 prize with the runner up receiving £40.

For the seasonal prize the winner will receive £120 plus the sponsors prize of £100 in betting vouchers. The runner up will receive £90, third place £50 & 4<sup>th</sup> place £30.

There will also be a supplementary competition prize of £50 for the entrant that finds the most winners over the 18 Saturdays, regardless of the odds!

Due to the variations in how Tote prices are recorded nowadays, for the rest of the season all

winners will now be awarded points based on the higher of the Tote price or the SP.

The winner of the first-round prize of £80 was **Cieran Cassidy** from Chorlton, Manchester with **David Bates** from Warrington, Cheshire winning the runner up prize of £40.

In Round 2, after three weeks, **Mike Wheater** is just ahead of **Brendan O'Meara**.

In the supplemental challenge for the most winners, **Colin Malone** is currently in the lead with 6 wins.

In the seasonal challenge the leader board as at Feb 5<sup>th</sup> was as below:

Tot	Name & Entry No.
66.22	Michael Wheater 89
52.9	Brendan O'Meara 56
41	Cieran Cassidy 87
34	Dave Bates 44
29.85	Diane Bates 68
26.1	Brian James 22
26.1	Elaine Waddington 122
26.1	Harold Woodward 50
23.8	Simon Wilson 121
21	Maureen Dawson 03
20.94	Jason Sandland 74
15.53	Colin Malone 01
13	Barbara Doyle 113
13	Elizabeth O'Donoghue 92
12.32	Jim Aitkenhead 29
12	Linda Harrison 34
11.75	Eunice Flynn 21
11.4	Gary Mellor 12
11.38	Sam Doyle Snr 112
11.2	Rob McDermott 28
11.1	Craig McConnachie 110
11.08	Jon Barry 49
10	Simon Clark 48
9.76	Carol Evans 107
9.5	Mary Halewood 122
9	Helen Goodwill 46
9	Jim Flanagan 79
9	John Waddington 90



# Farewell To Two Longstanding NMRC Members



In December the club was informed that longstanding club and committee member **Colin Stanton** had passed away. Colin was a badge holder at Haydock Park and was usually seen there with his racing buddy Alan Preston. The photo (left) shows Colin (on right) with Alan at Chester some years ago at a club sponsored race there.

Always supportive of club events Colin would be a fixture at preview nights at Haydock Park helping out with ticket collections on the 'front desk' there.

Colin was also the organiser behind many other club events held at the Tetley Club in Warrington where he was also a member of the bowls team.

Even at the age of 80, Colin coped with the latest technology and was a regular at the online quizzes and similar club events held in 2021. Our sincere condolences to wife Marie family & friends.



Another sad loss in December was the passing of longstanding member **Robert Edge** (from Winsford) at the age of 68.

Robert was a badge holder at Bangor-on-Dee and was always keen to get involved when the club was offered sponsored races there. The photo on the left shows Robert (without coat) with member Mike Langridge presenting a BTO prize for our race and another member Denise Williams just behind.

Robert was also a keen point-to-point enthusiast and used to volunteer at many local meetings. He was also behind the inclusion of point-to-point updates/news in the club magazine.

Our sincere condolences to his brother David Edge (also a club member) and other friends and family.

## NMRC A.G.M. MINUTES NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

Thanks to all who took part in this year's online AGM. As we now have a more diverse regional membership this 'online' format is likely to stay in place for future years so that all of our members have an equal chance of joining in the meeting wherever they live.

Minutes of the meeting are now available online on the club website at <https://the-nrc.weebly.com> From the home page select 'more' from the menu and then 'AGM Minutes' where you can download the pdf document. For copies of the club accounts please e mail [info@northernracingclub.com](mailto:info@northernracingclub.com)

# Steve Lewis Hamilton – Pro Punter

Interviewed by Phil Evans

No doubt many readers of this magazine will at some juncture, probably during a good winning streak, have thought that they could give up work and make a living from punting. Well Steve did that over 30 years ago and is still making the bookies pay to keep him and his family in the lifestyle he enjoys!

Steve is the son of a dock worker, originally from Bermondsey in South London. His family introduced him to racing at an early age and he became hooked on the sport. When he was old enough to bet his career looked to be heading towards being a professional footballer, having spells at Millwall and Leyton Orient. However, after quitting football he later ran pubs in Kings Cross and then worked at Smithfield Market (mornings) and as a board marker at the local bookies in the afternoons. In those days Steve was a 'regular' punter and was having a fair share of losers. It was his manager at the bookies that gave him his first real steer towards profitable punting by telling him to record all his bets and learn from his mistakes.

This made Steve more disciplined and going forwards he focussed on jumps racing mainly with only top-grade flat racing considered for betting purposes. He started compiling his own handicap ratings and would use these and other factors to 'price up' races and only then bet when the odds were in his favour. So if he rated a horse at 2/1 and bookies were offering 5/2 a bet was struck. If the odds were 6/4 he would walk away. To Steve this is the meaning of 'betting value'. Initially, betting in £5's and £10's Steve realised that he was able to continually make a profit on his weekly bets and with the agreement of his family he decided to go to the next level and become a full-time professional punter.

The only problem was that he didn't have a big enough betting bank. To solve that minor problem he took out a £10,000 loan from his bank for 'home improvements' and used the funds to increase his level stakes by ten-fold. The first week won him £5,000 and whilst there have been the odd blips along the way he has made handsome returns for over 30 years.

In the early days most of Steve's punting was done on course (as then tax free) and to make travelling to courses easier he relocated from London to Chesterfield, where his wife also has family. Roughly speaking by being in the middle of the country all tracks were within reach. Some extra income was raised from 'marking cards' for a small number of punters on course and also giving 'placing advice' to a few close trainers.

By 1995 Steve's reputation was growing and he decided to set up his own fee-paying racing advisory service. This is still going strong today and is 'top of the range', costing close on £1000pa to subscribe, so is not for the faint hearted! As to why pro punters also set up tipping services Steve says 'it's simple – you can double your income by doing it!'

As with all tipping services that advertise, the Racing Post has a proofing service to ensure adverts are genuine. Indeed Steve was once followed by the Observer for a year to see if such services were worth following and based on the stakes advised made a surplus of £11,345 that year. He also had a day at the races with Radio 5 live presenter Adrian Chiles, for a radio programme, with Adrian expecting a series of bets over the card whilst he was actually advised to put the whole days stakes of £100 on a single horse which won at 3/1! Therein lies the nub of differentiating between a 'day out' punter who will usually back in every race for fun against the pro punter who will often have just a single bet and if no value may not bet at all.

Now aged in his mid-sixties, Steve is just as keen as ever with his punting systems and services. On a typical day he will be up at 5am to study form for the days meetings he covers (not Irish racing) and by lunchtime he will have his short list of potential bets that he shares with his subscribers. In the afternoon it's a mix of betting and watching races to assist his handicapping system. The evenings are spent enjoying his days returns and chilling out! The betting instructions Steve supplies will tell followers only to bet if there is value and indeed if the price is too long he will duck away on the basis there must be a concern that he had not picked up on earlier.

Steve is very critical of the modern on-line bookies who will close down accounts if you win regularly. Whilst he still has an account with Star Sports he tends only to use them in the mornings so they can lay off his liabilities and so keep a valuable account open with them.

The bulk of his personal bets are placed on the exchanges within 5 or 10 minutes of the off. The reasons are two-fold: Firstly, it gives his subscribers more time to get a decent price and secondly the liquidity on the exchanges is often very weak until just before the race starts. Occasionally Steve will lay horses as well if he feels they are over bet. He did have some success with in running punting in the past but since drones became common place at meetings he has given up on that side of things.

Nowadays Steve is happy punting from home most days. When asked whether he missed checking fitness in the parade ring or temperament when going down he indicated that he factored this into his selections by avoiding newcomers in races and also looking mainly at horses where fitness was assured. He still retains a circle of contacts that he can phone about the chances of horses but he stressed that he only does a 'double check' on a horse he fancies and would never bet on the back of 'stable gossip' alone.

Steve did work with Sky TV as a pundit in the past but is happy doing what he does today without that additional work load.

On the question of ante post bets Steve very rarely goes down that route and is very much an 'on the day' punter. Whilst he will enjoy watching the big racing festivals, from a punting viewpoint he will only bet on his firm principals of value bets so in March he is just as likely to be finding a horse to back at the secondary meetings at Huntingdon, Sedgefield etc as at Cheltenham.

Whilst Steve believes it is possible to teach his 'value spotting' skills he has not yet started writing a book on the subject albeit would be open to doing something in the future with the help of a co-writer.

Many other professional punters dip their toes into ownership of horses and Steve is no exception. However, that was back in 2002 when his *Physical Force* won a modest event at Lingfield in the winter. Whilst it went off at 9/4 favourite, Steve admitted that he only had a small bet on the horse. Since that time he has remained focussed on the punting side rather than ownership.

A few bullet points for any aspiring pro-punters from Steve:

- You must be prepared to put in long hours so if you cannot commit to this don't bother trying.
- There is so much racing that you need to specialise on a certain type of racing and maybe only consider analysing one or two meetings per day.
- Keep your own handicap ratings system, based on what you have seen. That way you may get an edge on the bookies.
- Only bet if there is 'value' in the race. To do this learn how to 'price up' races based on the information you have.
- Generally speaking, avoid most ante post markets, each way bets and multiple bets.
- Once you find your own profit-making formula, be disciplined and walk away from poor value bets.
- If using bookmakers, have many accounts. If you get closed down, use the exchanges.
- When assessing races treat each race on its own merits and try to visualise how the race will be run based on known running styles. If a horse only wins on right/left hand tracks, certain ground/trip, after a long/short break etc ensure this is factored into your assessment.
- Don't be afraid of betting at odds-on providing there is still 'value' to be had.
- Be aware of the 'over round' in the betting market when you place a bet.
- If you do have a network of reliable contacts, ask them for a view to confirm your own assessments.

For more information about Steve and his services (including several useful video interviews) visit his website at <https://www.slh.co.uk/>

# 'MIRACLE MAN' BRIAN TOOMEY INTERVIEWED BY PHIL EVANS

It's the time of year when NMRC usually holds a fund-raising event for the Injured Jockeys Fund with our generous members helping us to raise over £6,000 in recent years. With no 'live' Cheltenham Preview' again this year we hope that readers will add to our fund raising again by taking part in our online Cheltenham Preview Event in 2022 (see page 9).

Anyway, as a reminder as to how these funds are spent, I recently interviewed Brian Toomey, who was given the title of 'Miracle Man' by the Racing Post in an article published in June 2017.

Brian hails from a farming family in Limerick, although they had no direct involvement in racing. However, the early farming life, including pony riding on the farm, led Brian into the sport of horse racing. Nearly all of Brian's 800+ rides were in the UK and he steered around 50 of them home into first place and was close to losing his claiming allowance when disaster struck at Perth in July 2013.

Brian was riding 11/4 favourite Solway Dandy for trainer Lisa Harrison in a conditional jockeys handicap hurdle when the horse took a crashing fall. The horse was relatively unscathed but the rider was not so lucky. Brian was technically dead for several seconds and indeed the BHA infamously tweeted that Brian had died. The head injuries were, however, very severe and doctors advised his family that there was only a 3% recovery chance. Jump jockeys are made of sterner stuff than most of us and after 157 days in hospital, and with a metal plate inserted in his skull, Brian eventually made a very good recovery.

With the help of the injured jockeys fund amongst others, Brian immediately set a target to return to the saddle as soon as possible. It was however two years before he was back on the track in July 2015, albeit after a relatively short return Brian decided it was time to give up the dream of riding professionally again.

The next target Brian set himself was to get a trainers licence. After a further 2 years Brian completed his final training courses to obtain the required accreditation in June 2017. After a spell with Dr Richard Newland, Brian is currently working with Clive Cox at Lambourn, albeit he is now actively looking for a small yard to set up training in his own name and at the age of 32 would be one of the youngest trainers in the sport.

Brian's next step has not been helped by the Covid-19 issues in the last two years but he feels the time is now right to get going as a trainer sooner rather than later. When not working with Clive Cox in the stables he is often seen 'networking' on local courses and is very adept using other forms of social media, such as 'Linked In' to ensure his profile and training ambitions are 'out there'.

This story of dogged determination to overcome adversity certainly deserves to have a happy ending, so hopefully Brian will have lots of supporters sending horses his way as soon as he finds the right facility. I and many others hope to hear some positive news later this year. Photos below (L) Brian's head injuries and (R) at Newbury recently 'networking' with Harry Redknapp.



# Win a pony for your favourite charity! BY HAROLD HEYS

ONE OF THE rare pleasures of racing is tipping a good-priced winner to a pal. It's even rarer to give a good winner to someone you have just met.

It was Juddmonte Day at York last year and Christine and I were looking for seats to tackle our excellent – but expensive – picnic platters and got chatting to Peter and Sandra from Hartlepool. We swapped a few racing tales. We compared bar prices. A tiny white wine and a small can of Moretti in plastic cups? Just under £11. Our new friends nibbled a lemonade each – at £3.50 a pop!

As we were moving on I told Peter: "I'll give you the winner of the first race. Have a nibble." I'd never done that before. Anywhere. But I really fancied **Copper Knight** (photo below). It duly obliged – at 18-1. We bumped into them by chance later in the afternoon and they were still smiling. "Thanks! We've had a free day," they told us.



A day's racing is a good day out – if you can avoid the Saturday party drunks. So here's your chance to win £25 for the charity of your choice by writing a short article for the April edition of Racin' Magazine. Say 200 words or so. Details at the end of this piece.

Going racing is still a thrill 65 years since I walked into the magical world of colour and excitement at, er, Manchester. Yes, I know, drab and dismal Castle Irwell, especially on a cloudy and damp November Handicap day! To me it was wonderland.

It's not the same these days. The battle with the books to shade the odds is no more with all the electronic wizardry flashing around. Just before the Juddmonte, from the top of the stands, I scanned the boards down in the ring. It was 2-1 **Mishriff** and 3-1 **Love**. On every board. "Come racing for value," is a regular call by Matt Chapman on ITV. Yeah. Right.

I thought Mishriff was a good thing in the Juddmonte and had a good bet.

It was nearly 4 o'clock when we bumped into Kieran Rowbottom, president of our North and Midlands Racing Club. He was staying in the same hotel as John Queally, the Dungarvan trainer. "He can't see **Arcadian Sunrise** getting beaten in the two-miler [the 4.10]," said Kieran. "He's telling everybody." Our pockets were – for a change – bulging from winnings so we invested a dollop at 3-1 and it duly landed a hat-trick of winners. Just three bets all day – and they all won!

So ... over to you. A couple of hundred words or so on a memorable day's racing during the Covid chaos of the past two years. Don't worry too much about grammar, punctuation and spelling. Racin' editor Phil Evans will knock it into shape. Entries to: Racin' Editor, 53 Dalebrook Road, Sale, Greater Manchester M33 3LB or e mail [info@northernracingclub.com](mailto:info@northernracingclub.com)

Christine and I will send a cheque for a pony to the sender of the entry which Phil considers the best. Anything. Something funny, unexpected, eventful, magical... Entries must be received by Sunday March 20th. Right. Get cracking!

# DAVID CLEARY'S RACING SPOTLIGHT

COMPILED By BRIAN GOODWILL

## WHEN DID YOU START IN RACING?

Sitting with my grandmother, watching racing on a Saturday afternoon aged five; then actually going seriously – three times a week or so – when I was at University in Leicester, with a racecourse at the end of the road, quite a few more a bus or train ride away and virtually no set times I needed to be studying. Plus a student grant. Actually being paid to watch racing started in November 1983 and a job at Timeform in the editorial department.

## WHAT DO YOU DO NOW?

I still work as a racecourse reporter for Timeform, though as a freelancer these days, with fingers in other pies as well. I'm also the President of the Horserace Writers & Photographers Association and a member of the BHA's Jumps Pattern Committee. Enough to keep me out of mischief.

## IS BRITISH RACING THE BEST IN THE WORLD?

Objectively, it's hard to argue that jump racing in Britain (and Ireland) isn't the best around; on the Flat the question is trickier, and depends what you mean by best. I have no interest in racing in dirt, which just seems a different sport to racing on turf, so even if ratings suggest the US has the best horses, my subjective view would be British racing is better overall.

## WHAT COULD THE BHA DO BETTER?

It's very easy to knock the BHA, which is a regulator that has to defer to various stakeholders in order to get anything done. They can come up with an idea for the good of racing, but if, e.g., the racecourses don't want it, then it won't happen. This can sometimes lead to the BHA being a little too timid in their approach, thinking what can we get through all the hoops rather than putting forward what they would really like to do.

## TELL US A PUNTING STORY THAT JUST HIT THE BAR?

The morning of the 2001 Grand National; it's still raining and I'm chatting in the Aintree Press room. Conditions were already sure to be extremely gruelling and could only get worse. We get into a discussion on the likely number of finishers; I'm convinced the number could be very small indeed. We ask a bookmaker for odds on this sort of scenario and end up taking 16/1 about three finishers or fewer. For one brief moment, with just Red Marauder and Smarty still going I was sure to collect. Then McCoy and Walsh remount, hack round and the jammy bookmaker keeps the money. There is no justice.

## WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE CURRENT JUMPS PROGRAMME?

As I said, I'm on the Jumps Pattern Committee and I also sat on the BHA's recent Quality Jumps Racing Review Group, so I have to keep some of my specific views to myself. I know the QJRRG has been criticised in some quarters, but I think it works as a statement of intent and when the details are added, I would hope the changes made will be substantial and beneficial. It does, though, depend on the courses and other stakeholders playing their part and seeing the bigger picture. At a lower level, I think something needs to be done about the blandness of so many cards (this is an even worse problem on the Flat). This is in part due to the reliance of tracks on field sizes to earn the maximum amount of income. But cards where all but one of the races are lower-grade handicaps make for an uninspiring product. To encourage day-to-day interest, I would advocate a greater variety of races, particularly conditions races, such as those with penalties based on prize money or grade of race won, and median handicaps.

## WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE EVER RACEHORSE?

I have a few. Sea The Stars and Battaash on the Flat, and NH Florida Pearl and Teaplanter, but probably it is Otter Way. It was the name to start with – I was a teenager, so it's allowed – and then the story of this unlikely horse and his clearly bonkers trainer. He was running in the days when only a few races were shown on tv, so I mainly got to hear his result on Radio 2 or read a report of his race in the Sporting Life. Otter Way kept racing long enough that I actually saw him run, though the afternoon he won the Horse & Hound Cup as a 15-year-old, I was having to sit an exam on Old English Language. Thankfully, I had a tenner on for sentiment's sake, the money won proving rather more useful than the subject on which I'd spent the afternoon answering questions.

## SHOULD THE WHIP RULES BE ALTERED?

No.

## WOULD YOU RATHER FINISH BY GIVING US A HORSE TO FOLLOW, A RECIPE OR A SHOW TO WATCH?

Given the time of year, can I recommend the recipe for Colonel Gore's Marmalade, which I know from Fay Maschler and Elizabeth Jane Howard's wonderful *On Food*, a book long out of print. Fortunately, as space wouldn't permit me to give the full chapter and verse, the recipe is available on the internet

# CHELTHENHAM FESTIVAL ONLINE EVENTS 2022

As the UK in January was still in the world of Covid-19 restrictions, the club decided that, with a heavy heart, it was best to cancel our annual live event at Haydock Park once again.

In 2021 we held online events instead with many racing professionals joining in to help raise funds for the IJF.

In 2022 we are trying something similar but hopefully with the assistance of club members who want to sit in the hot seat and spend 5 minutes being an online racing pundit!

So, we are looking for 28\* volunteers with each member allocated one race over the four days to present to the online audience in a 5-minute slot.

The format will be four nightly events on the evening before each day of the festival, starting at 7.30pm and lasting around 45 minutes.

Ideally we would like to again raise funds for the IJF via these events and suggest a donation of £1 per night (or £3 for all four nights) would be appropriate with donations again made via [NMRC's Just Giving page](#) or cheques payable to 'The Injured Jockeys Fund' can be sent to NMRC at 53, Dalebrook Rd, Sale, Greater Manchester M33 3LB. Links to the 'Just Giving' page will also be added to the club website and club Facebook page in early February with donations accepted until the end of June.

For those unable to watch these online events 'live' the selections will also be posted on the NMRC Facebook page after each event finishes.

Over the four days, the 'pundits' who manage to find a winner will be put in a draw for a mystery prize!

## HOW TO VOLUNTEER FOR A PUNDIT SLOT

Decide which day(s) you are available and contact Phil Evans (see committee panel) who will tell you which races are still available to choose from on the day(s) requested. The races are being allocated on a first come first served basis. Ahead of your agreed slot it is probably best to prepare some notes to refer to when presenting your race which will include your shortlist, your final selection and how you decided on your eventual tip. On the day before your chosen race you will be e mailed a link to join the online meeting.

\*Whilst 28 volunteers would be ideal, if we are short on any days some members may be asked to present more than one race.

## HOW TO WATCH THE ONLINE PREVIEWS

Members should be able to view on computers, tablets or mobile phones. Similar to the pundits note above, you will need to decide which day(s) you want to watch the online events and contact Phil Evans. We do not expect there will be any limit on the numbers watching so feel free to watch them all. If watching just one event please state the day of the event rather than the day of the racing e.g. for Gold Cup day ask for Thursday (rather than Friday). On the day before the event(s) chosen you will be e mailed the link to join the meeting.

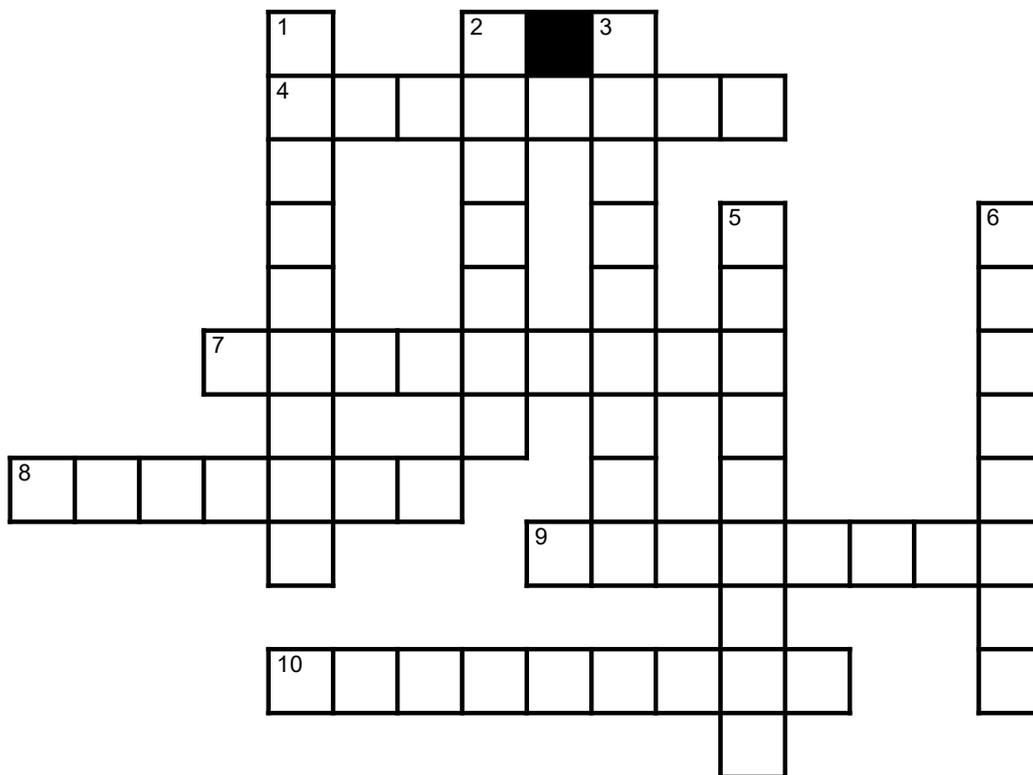
After the Cheltenham Festival finishes the NMRC committee will decide whether it is possible to hold an **Aintree Festival** 'live' event in April and if so details will be published in the April/May club magazine (which will be produced earlier than usual) and also on the club website and other social media.

Should covid-19 rules still make holding a live event indoors too onerous then we may decide to hold a further online Preview event instead.

After last year's positive support, the **Grand National Sweepstake** will again be held this year.

## Mal Boyle's Cheltenham Jigword puzzle

CAN YOU NAME AND FRAME THE TEN CHAMPION HURDLE WINNERS SINCE 1990 WITH SEVEN, EIGHT OR NINE LETTERS IN THEIR NAMES?



TIE BREAKER TEASER:

WHICH HORSE WON THE TWO-MILE CHAMPION CHASE IN THE SEVENTIES AND THEN BECAME ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS SECOND PLACED HORSES IN THE GRAND NATIONAL?

Members need to complete the grid (like a crossword) with the names of the Champion Hurdle winners.

Once completed, please send your entry as a completed grid to NMRC at 53 Dalebrook Rd, Sale, M33 3LB and a winner will be drawn to receive a racing book prize. **Closing date is Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2022.**

To receive the answers members can e mail Mal Boyle on/after March 20<sup>th</sup> . The address is [malcolmboyle2@gmail.com](mailto:malcolmboyle2@gmail.com)

To receive Mal's weekly jigwords please also e mail Mal and he will add you to his mailing list.

**Mike Campbell** from Stockport was the winner of the last book competition.

# GO RACING IN YORKSHIRE



- 187 days racing
- 9 racecourses
- 58 weekend fixtures
- Yorkshire County Cricket reciprocal fixtures
- Single and joint options

## Go Racing In Yorkshire Season Ticket

“A Go Racing In Yorkshire season ticket is a must have if you are a regular on the Yorkshire racing circuit. Giving admission to all 187 scheduled fixtures across the nine racecourses; Beverley, Catterick, Doncaster, Pontefract, Redcar, Ripon, Thirsk, Wetherby and York, the season ticket offers the best possible value for a day’s racing and runs from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

Admission is into the Grandstand & Paddock enclosure, apart from York’s Ebor meeting and Doncaster St Leger Day when admission is into the family enclosure, however upgrades can be purchased at a discounted rate in advance.

There are 58 weekend fixtures included within the season ticket so lots of opportunity to get out and about weekly.

Single and joint options, for two people living at the same address, are available and a season ticket also includes reciprocals with Yorkshire County Cricket plus membership of the North and Midlands Racing Club. The cost of a season ticket works out at about £2 per meeting and also gives you the flexibility of making plans on the day, without the need to pre-book.

You can book your season ticket online <https://goracing.co.uk/product/season-ticket/> or download the booking form and return it with a cheque or pay by BACS. If you would like a booking form posting out please contact Charlotte Russell on [charlotte.russell@goracing.co.uk](mailto:charlotte.russell@goracing.co.uk) or 01937 580051.

## SAMANTHA ENGLAND STABLE VISIT – THURSDAY MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup>

We are delighted to be able to visit Sam England’s yard at Guisley, Near Leeds. The stable mainly caters for jumpers, with husband Jonathan riding most of them, albeit there are also a number of flat horses in the yard.

The yard sent out around 20 winners (flat/jumps) last year and is well on course to better the number of jumps winners again in the current season.

If members visiting the yard are interested in group ownership there is a stable racing club, which costs £500pa, and gives an involvement with two horses over the year. Club manager is Terry Davis 07970060383.

March 31<sup>st</sup> has been chosen as there is also racing at Wetherby in the afternoon with a 2.15pm start advertised with a seven race jumps card advertised.

Members (and guests) attending the stable visit are asked to donate £5 per adult so that the club can leave a gift for the stable staff on the day. Accompanied under-18’s are free!

Places may be limited, so please book as soon as possible with the final details to be confirmed one week before the visit. Please send postal requests to Dave Bates at 44 Burtonwood Rd Great Sankey Warrington WA5 3AJ. Please include your contact details and if sending cheques, please make payable to North & Midlands Racing Club. Alternatively, members can send requests via e mail to [bates270@btinternet.com](mailto:bates270@btinternet.com) who will advise you of the bank details where to send payments.

# ANDY WHITE'S POINT TO POINT NEWS

Welcome to my first point to point report for the club. I'd like to start by thanking Rory Alkin for his past work producing his North West point to point reports in the club magazine. My reports will mainly focus on the Yorkshire area following my recent move from Greater Manchester to North Yorkshire. The 2021/2022 point to point season has started with crowds returning in numbers after a shortened 2020 season and a behind closed door season in 2021.

The first Yorkshire meeting, the Yorkshire Area Point to Point in aid of the Yorkshire Air Ambulance was held at Mick Easterby's in Sheriff Hutton on the 15 January in front of a record crowd of around 2500.

The meeting saw seven hotly contested races which started with a winning double in the opening conditions races for Leicestershire trainer Kelly Morgan. The First Division was won by Feuille De Lune ridden by Alice Stevens and the second division won by Smoke Man ridden by Tom Chatfield Roberts.

There was local success in the Men's open for Monbeg Chit Chat ridden by Christy Furness for trainer Gill Walford. The winner was pushed all the way by the race fit Game As A Pheasant but took the race by a narrow margin. Monbeg Chit Chat formally trained over rules by Henry De Bromhead was successful in a hunter chase at Cheltenham last April and has since followed up this win with another point-to-point victory at Alwick on 30<sup>th</sup> January. The horse will now be aimed at a Hunter Chase with a possible longer-term aim being the Foxhunters Chase in the spring.

The other Yorkshire victory on the day was 24-year-old Lily Frank enjoying a win on her first ever point to point ride for her father and trainer Paul Frank in the restricted race on Vent D'Autome.

The next meeting in Yorkshire is Sinnington at my local course Duncombe Park in Helmsley on 6th February. It will be great to be able to walk to a race meeting. However it is not all good news on the Yorkshire pointing front as several fixtures are missing from this year's calendar including Skipton, Cleveland and Bilsdale.

A selection of Upcoming fixtures in Yorkshire are :-

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> February Yorkshire Area Club at Askham Bryan College (YO23 3FR) just off the A64 on the approach to York. The Badsworth and Bramham Moor hunt are also scheduled to race here on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March.

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March York Area Jockeys point to point is at Charm Park just outside Scarborough. They also race here on the 8<sup>th</sup> May. On Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April sees the Middleton Hunt race at Sheriff Hutton.

In the North West the planned meetings this season are :-

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March Sir W W Wynns and Flint & Denby at Bangor-On-Dee Racecourse near Wrexham.

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April Cheshire Forest race at Tabley House Near Knutsford Cheshire (WA16 0HB). The Knutsford Races Club also have a meeting here on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May.

For more information on the point-to-point scene, the pointing authority website [www.pointtopoint.co.uk](http://www.pointtopoint.co.uk) has up to date information on all meetings.

You can subscribe to their free "Go Pointing" Newsletter sent to your inbox every Thursday with meeting previews, reports and news.

# 'ALEX BIRD' TIPPING CHALLENGE 2022

The Alex Bird Trophy, the competition to find the North & Midlands Racing Club Champion Tipster for 2022, gets underway with the Cheltenham Festival. For 2022, Mark Banks will again run the competition assisted by Mike Wheeler. Please note that for this year entrants must enter all four rounds – if anyone is on holiday for any round a substitute may be appointed!

The format of the competition again covers all races on each day of the first two meetings at Cheltenham & Aintree with the 'last' four days covered by Round 3 at Royal Ascot. For Round 4, at the time of writing, we plan to run the 'last' three days of the Doncaster St Leger festival in early September. This year it's going to be difficult for us to run either Goodwood or York due to family commitments. We'll confirm Round 4 details to entrants as soon as we're able to do so.

1. The points scored will be based on the winner and placed horses (2nd/3rd/4th depending on number of runners) with potential bonus points added based on the starting price of the winning horse. Precise scoring details are set out in the full rules (available from Mark/Michael or online at <https://the-nrc.weebly.com/clubcompetitions.html> ).
2. The overall winner, and therefore the 'Alex Bird' Champion Tipster, will be decided on the total for all 4 rounds and receives the coveted Alex Bird trophy for a period of 12 months.
3. Any entrants who are on holiday for a full round may nominate a substitute to send entries on his/her behalf.
4. Entry Fees in 2022 are the same as last year, namely £10 for all 4 rounds.
5. As previously, entrants may submit up to two entries, as long as all are marked as 'entry 1' 'entry 2' and will be scored separately
6. Cash prizes will now be awarded to the overall winner and the winner of the four rounds. The overall winner's prize is guaranteed as a minimum of £100 with the four round prizes guaranteed as a minimum of £50 with the actual prizes confirmed once the number of entries is known. In 2021, due to the volume of entries, additional prizes for runners up were available. If the level of entries permits, these will again be awarded in 2022. NB: All cash prizes are remitted to the winners by direct bank payments.

We hope that the 2022 competition will appeal to loyal members of previous years and to new contestants alike. In due course, your feedback will be welcome. In the meantime, we look forward to your entries and wish everyone the best of good tipping fortune.

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## ALEX BIRD COMPETITION 2022 – ENTRY FORM

Name..... Address.....

Phone/E Mail.....

Please return to North & Midlands Racing Club at 53 Dalebrook Rd, Sale, Greater Manchester M33 3LB. Please also enclose your entry fee of £10 per entry (cheques payable to North & Midlands Racing Club please). Please enclose a SAE if you require a paper copy of the rules. To make an online banking payment of your entry fee please Email [info@northernracingclub.com](mailto:info@northernracingclub.com) for further details. You will then receive an e-mailed copy of the rules for 2022.

# GORDON ARMISTEAD'S RACING DIARY

## **Wednesday December 1<sup>st</sup> Haydock**

A very good field for the final veteran's chase qualifier with three former graded performers filling the places. Blaklion had looked in terminal decline before the Skelton's got him back to be the first British finisher in last season's National. From thirty pounds off his peak rating he was ridden like he had been targeted at today's race leading from early on and keeping on well. Runner up Aso was only three runs from running in the Cheltenham Gold Cup and while he was a massive price then the handicapper had dropped him enough to get into this. He has never really looked to stay three miles and having got to within a length of Blaklion at the last he didn't get home. Lake View Lad who has also dropped nearly a stone in the last twelve months faded from three out. He might be the one for the final as unlike the first two he had not had a previous outing this term. Only four in the two-mile five novice chase and with the main two in the betting Coconut Splash and Kiltealy Briggs turning into disappointing sorts Mint Condition looked to have every chance at a fair price on his chase debut. He jumped really well apart from the last and that may well have cost him the neck he went down by.

## **Saturday December 4<sup>th</sup> Aintree**

A good renewal of the Many Clouds and probably a good winner in Protektorat who always travelled like the best horse. He has certainly come on from last season and he stayed the three one here very well. I would have him ahead of Champ and Chantry House as far as the British Gold Cup challengers. This was Native River's ground and he ran his race but is not getting any younger. Is this the last we will see of Tiger Roll after he never travelled a yard. We will see.

Snow Leopardess turned in a super display of jumping just holding on from the last in the Becher Chase. It is evidently not certain she will be back here in April but she deserves a shot at the big race. The last mare to run in the National after having a foal is Saucy Flirt who fell at second Becher's in 1977 when a 200/1 shot. Runner up Hill Sixteen was part of the Trevor Hemmings downsize last year and this was easily a career best. He will need to go up a fair bit to get in in April. My fancy Chris's Dream was closing nicely on the leaders when Jonjo Jr fell off after the horse jumped the Canal Turn. I imagine this will be the last race for Vieux Lion Rouge who was never going before he was hampered.

The first four home in the listed juvenile fillies' race were Irish trained although the home team did see off 2/5 shot Elimay in the mares listed chase.

## **Friday December 10<sup>th</sup> Cheltenham**

Only five in the two-mile novice hurdle but a decent looking bunch the pick of which was JPR One who came to win the race but was run out of it close home by Datsalrightgino. Probably not Grade 1 class over hurdles but I would expect JPR One to be a chaser in time.

Corach Rambler stepped up on his Aintree win to take the three-mile one novice handicap chase in spite of not looking the most straightforward. He hung right across the track and will need to cut that out as he will now be up in class in open company.

Santini reappeared in the three two handicap chase for his new stable looking a bit on the portly side but ran OK up to a point. He was the only one to go with all the way winner Commodore. You would imagine The National would be the long-range target and we will see how he goes when he is fit. The winner jumped superbly and he will go up the best part of the stone he would need to be an Aintree runner himself.

Sporting John failed to follow up his good run at the last meeting and maybe they will try chasing again.

## **Saturday December 11<sup>th</sup> Cheltenham**

A more competitive field for the juvenile hurdle than on many occasions but the form must be doubtful as it was run at a crawl with front runner Interne De Sivola kicking first and nothing had the pace to challenge him. He was one of the best looking in the field so should still have a good future. Paddock pick was the Skelton runner Message Personnel who was carrying a penalty for a win at Dieppe. His jumping wasn't great and he was outpaced before running on and will need a trip.

Once again the novice chase here was uncompetitive as My Drago won but not without a couple of scares. His stable mate Third Time Lucki was found out stepping up in class and we will see what happens to My Drago next time.

I stuck with Midnight Shadow in the Racing Post Gold Cup but the extra weight was too much as Coole Cody put the field to the sword. Nothing leapt out of the field behind but I had Farinet down as one to follow this season on very heavy ground and he is better than he showed here.

No Champion Hurdle contenders in the International Hurdle with good handicapper Guard Your Dreams stepping up in a tight finish against a reluctant Song For Someone and old timer Hunters Call.

### **Saturday December 18<sup>th</sup> Haydock**

Remastered was plenty short enough for the Tommy Whittle after his fall in the Ladbroke Trophy. Many considered that he would have won there but on this evidence where he looked the winner three out and failed to get home he wouldn't and it looks like he just needs the flat three miles. Winner Enqarde is not the most consistent but stayed on well enough and looked like he will get the three and a half of the National Trial here. Stella Magic looked a really nice sort before the two-mile three handicap hurdle. He hadn't run for nearly a year and looked like he would just come on for the run and his second place was full of promise for the rest of the season

### **Thursday December 30<sup>th</sup> Haydock**

Mint Condition had actually been dropped a pound for his chase debut and while he found himself in a competitive two-mile six novice handicap I wasn't going to desert him. Ridden with restraint as Bushypark and Ashtown Lad went plenty quick enough on the heavy ground he jumped well again. From halfway between the last two he was always going to get to Ashtown Lad as that horse stopped to a walk on the run in. He can follow up in a better race and will stay three miles. Ashtown Lad is a decent looking sort and will win more chases on better ground.

A good-looking field in the two-mile novice hurdle and Jungle Jack did well to give the penalty away. He looked to have it to do coming to the last as Captain Broomfield travelled really smoothly from off the pace to take it up but Jungle Jack battled well in the last half furlong. He looks more a chaser as does the runner up who is a full brother to Captain Guinness. Third home Georges Saint a dual chase winner in France was a bit outpaced two out before finishing well and can win over hurdles before going back over fences. Fourth finisher Notlongtillmay pulled too hard to get home on this ground but will have a future.

The Last Fling Chase runners had all been around the block plenty of times and some of them had had enough as Vieux Lion Rouge went off into a well-earned retirement and Beware The Bear showed little appetite for racing. Not so Blaklion whose return to form this season is a super piece of training by Dan Skelton. He just had to jump around for the last two miles as his rivals toiled. He was the first British finisher in last season's National after being the last horse to make the cut and is now back on the mark he ran off then. Connections will face a long wait again to see if he gets in this season.

A foul day had turned even worse as the runners in the bumper disappeared into the murk and rain at the far end of the course. Forpaddytheplumber whose dam is a half-sister to top the top class Forpadydeplasterer had finished runner up to Captain Broomfield in an Irish point. He made all at a steady pace and had things under control in the last furlong, Runner up Hermes Du Gouet had won an English point where eight of the ten runners pulled up. He was clear of the third here so should do well under rules.

### **Saturday January 1<sup>st</sup> Cheltenham**

Aintree winner Hillcrest was upped in class for the listed two-mile four novice hurdle and made the necessary improvement to make all. He looks like he will keep going all day but is not short of pace. He is seven already but no doubt he will be kept to hurdling this season. With his size you would expect he will need give in the ground so any spring targets will depend on that. Some horses his size are too big and clumsy for chasing but hopefully that will be his game next season. The contrast between him and runner up I Am Maximus could not be greater both in size and temperament. A bit of a talking horse for the season after beating My Drogo in a bumper in October 2020 he needed two handlers in the parade ring and was sweating freely and very light in condition. He actually settled well enough in the race but after coming to challenge at the last was readily seen off. He doesn't look the sort to stand much racing but was still clear of some decent animals. The mare Get A Tonic looked the part and after a third here can go back to decent races against her own sex. Doctor Ken duly got off the mark after his promising Aintree run but was well seen off here but the Ollie Murphy yard has just hit a down spell.

I have no doubt that my first winner of the year would have been in the bag if Destinee Royale had not fallen over a couple of strides after five out in the three-mile two handicap chase. She brought down Captain Tommy who was the only other one travelling anything like and those that finished were out on their feet.

Undersupervision had looked promising early in the season but has found precious little under pressure since his fall two runs ago.

Venetia Williams and Charlie Deutsch did not have long to wait for compensation as L'Homme Presse turned in a super effort in the Dipper Novice Chase. He made all jumping easily and then just went away up the run in. He looks the part as well and will be a good British contender for whatever the two-and-a-half-mile novice

chase at the festival is called this season. The Glancing Queen has showed she has taken well to fences and ran her race but she was flat to the boards between the last two fences. Third home Fantastikas looked a decent sort and tried to hassle the winner early on. He should find a decent handicap somewhere.

Vienna Court looked hard done by in going up twelve pounds for winning a mare's handicap here in December and turning down the back straight in last place is not the place to be in big handicaps here. However she arrived running away turning in in the two five handicap chase but Simply The Betts under top weight ran her to the line. Knowing the Twiston-Davis yard she will be heading for the Mares Chase at the Festival after no doubt getting another big hike.

Simply The Betts looked like he needed to come down a few pounds but he won't after this and he will find it hard to find a race. Fifth home Deyrann De Carjac looks for all money like he needs to go up to three miles. Stormy Island made it three from four over hurdles since returning to Willie Mullins with the defeat being behind Honeysuckle. She was three from four before she left again only beaten in a race won by Honeysuckle yet zero from four when at Paul Nicholls. She has just the one way of running and for my money had put favourite Brewin'Upastorm under pressure resulting in his fall at the last and would have won anyway. Mcfabulous looked in super nick for his first run of the season but was readily seen off and he also failed to fire on his previous run here. Guard Your Dreams was not up to this and any Champion Hurdle claims for him after the International Hurdle were put to rest.

### **Saturday January 15<sup>th</sup> Warwick**

Brave Seasca looks like a horse on a serious climb up the ratings and barely came off the bridle taking the two-mile handicap chase. The Grand Annual looks the obvious target but as he is still a novice maybe the Maghull at Aintree would suit.

Threeunderthrufive keeps winning without giving me the impression he is anything special. The runner up here Doyen Breed has somehow been given a rating of 142 for beating two disappointing sorts at Hexham while Haydock winner Mint Condition never jumped a fence here and appears to need it bottomless. The 10/1 the winner for the Brown Advisory makes little appeal. Graded hurdle winner Mossy Fen back after over a year off looked fit but dropped away tamely more than a mile out.

It didn't look a good renewal of the Leamington Hurdle but decent flat runner Stag Horn put his rivals to the sword with a good front running display. Just what this is worth we will see later in the season. Party Business did nothing for the Challow form never looking to be going well.

Another below par field for the Classic Chase with none of the runners rated highly enough to be Grand National prospects. Winner Éclair Surf is a very big lump and got most of these well out of their comfort zones right from the off before surviving what has become a regular bad mistake. He would need to go up twelve pounds to have a chance of getting in at Aintree so maybe the Scottish National would be a target. Runner up Gericault Roque hasn't won a chase but stayed on well enough to have chances in one of the regional second level Nationals. Aintree and Cheltenham winner Corach Rambler never got involved before finishing fourth and the form of those wins has not worked out.

### **Saturday January 22<sup>nd</sup> Haydock**

He has a long way to go before he is as good as his brother Douvan but Jonbon has set off well enough and knows nothing about his £570K price tag. He is an edgy sort getting warm in the parade ring but as you would expect he looks the part. His win was just workmanlike giving five pounds all round in the Supreme Trial. Runner up Richmond Lake has come on from his third at Aintree in December and he and third home Might I will probably make better chasers next season.

The Grade 2 two-and-a-half-mile novice chase also had a big priced ex pointer in Papa Tango Charly who was beginning to look a poor £440K buy as he took six goes to win his maiden hurdle and then it was a three-runner race in June. His chasing career had started better but he didn't jump well in the Grade 2 Altcar Chase. Winner Minella Drama is a quirky sort but keeps running well. He isn't up to taking on the top performers so it may be handicaps now.

The Champion Hurdle Trial was anything but as Tommy's Oscar stepped up from handicaps to take it easily and while he deserves to take his chance at Cheltenham he is hardly a likely winner.

The Peter Marsh has had some top-class winners but it has slipped down the rankings in recent years and it was good to see a top-class runner in Royal Pagaille when he could easily have gone for the Cotswold Chase. If Charlie Deutsch wasn't riding with total confidence he might not have won this. At various times in the race he didn't appear to be going that well but when he brought him through he stayed on dourly to hold a back to form Sam Brown. I doubt he will win the Gold Cup but a place might be possible.

I didn't fancy much on the day but thought The Last Day was well overpriced in the two-mile handicap chase and my modest investment at 22/1 looked home and hosed between the last two fences but it was not to be.

### **Saturday January 29<sup>th</sup> Cheltenham**

A fair selection of the British juveniles was completely blown away by Pied Piper in the graded Triumph Hurdle Trial. The same connections Fil Dor goes to Leopardstown and is rated better so we will see where Pied Piper might turn up after that. Iceo was particularly disappointing and didn't appear to like being held up.

The biggest mystery of the season is how Chantry House started favourite for the King George. His form is a long way off that class of race and his rating of 160 is too high. He should still have run better than he did there and while he won today he never looked happy beating Santini who is twenty pounds off his top rating. Santini and third home Aye Right should go to the National but probably won't.

Champ found very little when let down in the Cleeve Hurdle and Paisley Park who had looked to be going backwards stepped up again after giving the field a start. The Stayers Hurdle betting is up in the air.

Imperial Alcazar is going to get a big ratings hike for beating some very iffy and disappointing sorts in the two-mile four novice handicap chase as will Torn and Frayed for winning the open chase over that distance.

Milton Harris is having a super season and his Mullenbeg looked well overpriced in the rearranged listed mare's bumper and ran away with it. Aintree would seem the obvious target. Mitch Bastyan who rode out his claim here disappeared for a couple of seasons after a promising start with Evan Williams but has made a good comeback this season.

### **Saturday February 5<sup>th</sup> Leopardstown**

After being denied a trip here at Christmas at the last minute it was good to be back. A successful stop at Dundalk the night before started things going for the weekend. The course had poured plenty of water to ensure good yielding ground and it was topped up by some natural water although it missed the snow I drove through on the Friday coming down from Belfast.

First up was the two-mile six novice hurdle with a smaller field than normal but they all looked the part and all had the scope for chasing in time. Danny Mullins is a very good front running jockey and he made all on Minella Cocooner who had it won before the last. He will stay three miles while runner up Minella Crooner will relish a step up in trip after losing ground at the second last. Favourite Hollow Games is being found out in Grade 1's while Bronn didn't get home and Eric Bloodaxe dropped away like there was something wrong. After Pied Piper the week before it was the horse he beat on debut Vauban and his owner mate Fil Dor's turn to step up to the plate in the juvenile hurdle. Vauban was very impressive as he pulled hard enough early on but still finished well to outpace Fil Dor. Fil Dor might be a better stayer for Cheltenham and it will be a case of you pay your money and make your choice between the three of them for the Triumph. Back in third Il Etait Temps looked a real trier but lacked the speed and will stay further and there might be a race at Punchestown for him.

Probably not a great Irish Arkle with Blue Lord surviving a stewards after just holding the mare Riviere D'Etal. His jumping is a bit slow for a top two miler and he will be better over further. He seemed to idle in front after the last giving Riviere D'Etal the chance to come back after her mistake at the last and the interference. The Arkle at Cheltenham looks more wide open than it can usually be and the British runners could fancy their chances.

The Gold Cup looked wide open but Conflated-who had gone up twelve pound for winning a two-and-a-half-mile handicap against modest sorts under a five-pound claimer-was not one that seemed to have a chance. Following Galvin the stable has two Cheltenham Gold Cup contenders they probably didn't expect to have two months ago and the race looks wide open. It was the first time I had seen Minella Indo and he is a pretty plain looking beast but this was definitely better and the trip and course at Cheltenham will suit him more. Asterion Forlonge was made favourite but pulled too hard and Punchestown would seem his best chance for the spring. Delta Work is on the downgrade while Frodon's run was typical of his stables form at present.

Decent animals were absolutely slaughtered by Facile Vega in the Grade 2 bumper. He will be a very short price at Cheltenham. Runner up Sandor Clegane was well clear in second. I was disappointed in The Big Doyen who I had seen win at Roscommon as he never got involved.

### **Sunday February 6<sup>th</sup> Leopardstown**

Some pretty miserable breakfast companions with the hotel full of Welsh Rugby supporters.

After L'Homme Presse had had just an easy wander around Sandown in the British equivalent Galopin Des Champs had to take on three Grade 1 novice chase winners over two miles five. He did it very well travelling and jumping with ease to beat Master McShee. It was a pity that both Capodanno and Beacon Edge came down as I thought they were the chief challengers but it was hard not to be impressed.

Chacun Pour Soi was far too good for his rivals in the Dublin Chase and let's hope he can run his race at Cheltenham where it will be interesting to see which horse Paul Townend selects. Dunvegan has been a super horse for me this season but is not up to Grade 1 class. Greaneteen ran even worse than Frodon had the day before.

Honeysuckle made it fourteen from fourteen in the Champion Hurdle very easily and she is obviously far superior to all the other hurdlers around. Zanahiyr is a big sort who will stay further than this.

Heaven Help Us had set a good pace in the Champion Hurdle but they were much quicker in the two-mile novice which followed as Sir Gerhard made all. His jumping was not spot on but he goes into the mix for the Supreme novice. Three Stripe Life is a super looking beast who ran his race sitting in second the whole way but was just outpaced. I think he should have won the Grade 1 at Christmas and will be better over further and looks a chaser. Colonel Mustard gives some relationship to the British form and ran his race. Gavin Cromwell thinks enough of My Mate Mizzie to have entered him in the Champion Hurdle but he was beaten fifty plus lengths here and the Royal Bond form took a big knock.

It was hard to knock out many on looks in the Mares Grade 2 bumper with Willie Mullins running seven. An incredible finish with less than a length covering the first five with Lily Du Berlais following up her win in a Perth race last summer. Stuart Crawford is really a point-to-point trainer and seller but is doing well with the Munir/Souede horses he has under rules. To pick out a couple of those well beaten Eabha Grace and Bellator should be better over jumps and a trip.

From the handicaps Minella Times was never involved in the two-mile five chase eventually pulling up and it was sad to see Samcro trail in as the last finisher.

## WEATHERBYS CHELTENHAM GUIDE – SPECIAL MEMBERS OFFER



Thanks to Paul Ferguson and the team at Weatherbys for giving NMRC members a discount of £4 of this year's guide. This is available on the printed, digital or the printed/digital bundle.

Members should order online at <https://weatherbysshop.co.uk/cheltenham/> and at the checkout enter the promo code **NMRC22**.

Weatherbys have asked us **NOT** to share the promo code on social media etc so please keep the code to yourselves. Members may, however, recommend NMRC membership to their friends so they will then receive their own copy of the club magazine!

## RACING POST CHELTENHAM GUIDE – SPECIAL MEMBERS OFFER



Thanks to the Racing Post who have offered NMRC members a 15% discount when ordering this year's Cheltenham Guide.

To obtain the discount, please use the promo code **CHELT15** at the checkout when ordering online on the Racing Post shop website <https://shop1.racingpost.com/products/the-racing-post-cheltenham-festival-guide-2022>

Members **ARE** allowed to share the promo code with friends/family etc in this instance.

## RACING SYSTEMS FOR CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL 2022 BY PHIL EVANS

All of these systems are available on the club website [www.northernracingclub.com](http://www.northernracingclub.com) 'Racing Systems' tab with results tracked throughout the year and updates posted most months. Whilst the data covers a 4/5-year period in most instances, where a shorter period is covered this will be stated. All data assumes a notional profit/loss at starting prices against a £1 stake for qualifying selections. Data correct as at 3/2/2022 and covers all Cheltenham meetings (not just the festival meetings).

### The positive trends are as follows:

- \*\*IRISH RUNNERS IN UK +£199.67 (3+ years - Irish trained runners):
- \*DAYS LAST RAN +£45.58 (Covers races won at least three times in last ten years by horses who have had a similar break/preparation since last run, often in the same race)
- \*TRAINER TRAITS +£36.22 (Trainers who have won a race at least three times in last ten years).
- \*\*\*PAST WINNING HORSES +£15.50 (2 years+ - horses that have won the race before and carry the same/lower weight this year).

### The negative trends are as follows:

- \*\*\*TRAINER PAST WINS -£73.56 (Races which the trainer has won once/twice before in the last ten years).
- \*\*BLINKERS FIRST TIME -£64.50 (Includes Blinkers, hoods and visors only).
- \*\*FIRST RUN SINCE WIND OPERATION -£32.13 (3 years+).
- \*\*365+ DAYS SINCE LAST RUN -£27 (Horses which last ran in a NH race at least a year ago).
- \*JOCKEY TRAITS -£12.50 (Jockeys who have won races at least three times in the last ten years).

\*This information is available from the NMRC website.

\*\* This information is available from most online racing websites & racing papers.

\*\*\*For past winners details I use either Betturtle or Irish Racing websites.

## N & M RACING CLUB COMMITTEE/OFFICIALS 2022/23

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*Next copy deadline for Racin' will be Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March*

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