Emerald Green, yellow hoops, white cap

Jockey Colours: Emerald Green, Yellow hoops, Emerald Green cap, White star

Timeform says: Ultimately well held on return/chase debut in November (absent since), but showed huge promise on first 2 starts as a novice last term and fascinating contender back in this sphere on handicap bow. (Forecast 10.00)

8  111P-3  BIRCHDALE (IRE) 110 C D
b g Jeremy - Oneonewaytheother
6 11 - 4
Aidan Coleman
N J Henderson
146

Jockey Colours: Emerald Green & yellow hoops, Royal Blue cap

Timeform says: Progressive this season, bagging competitive handicaps at Naas and Navan. Came up short in Grade 2 company last time, but wasn’t seen to best effect on that occasion and may well get back on track. (Forecast 29.00)

9  153-7F7  CANARDIER (FR) 74 C D
b g Crillon - Idlyle du Marais
8 11 - 3h
D E Mullins
W P Mullins
145

Jockey Colours: Light green, royal blue star, sleeves and cap

Timeform says: Hasn’t cut it in couple of runs over fences this season, but of strong interest back in this sphere on debut for Willie Mullins, having finished fifth off 4 lb lower mark in this race 12 months ago. (Forecast 17.00)

10 2-512F0  COKO BEACH (FR) 53
gr g Cokoirko - Solana Beach
5 11 - 3p1
L P Dempsey
G Elliott
145

Jockey Colours: Maroon, white star & arml let, white cap

Timeform says: Runner-up in the Fred Winter a year ago but he’s not as leniently treated now and was tailed off when last seen at Naas. (Forecast 101.00)

11 418P30  SAYO 38
gr g Dalakhani - Tiyi
6 11 - 3
M P Fogarty
W P Mullins
145

Jockey Colours: Royal blue, emerald green diamonds, emerald green sleeves, striped cap

Timeform says: On a reasonable mark based on some efforts but doesn’t make as much appeal as a few of his stabilmates having underperformed last time. (Forecast 51.00)

12 0-41924  STRATUM 71
b g Dansili - Lunar Phase
7 11 - 3
R M Power
W P Mullins
144

Jockey Colours: Royal blue, white seams, white and royal blue hooped cap

Timeform says: Won the Cesarewitch at Newmarket in October and, on his sole start since, shaped well well fourth in a minor event at Punchestown 71 days ago. Mark of 145 looks lenient. (Forecast 15.00)

13 57-2213  PROTEKTORAT (FR) 46 C
gr g Saint Des Saints - Protektion
5 11 - 2h
Harry Skelton
D Skelton
144

Jockey Colours: Yellow, red star, yellow sleeves, white arml ets, yellow cap, red star

Timeform says: Has improved here the last twice, off the mark in useful 20.21 listed novice event in January and sold third under a penalty in Grade 2 company later that month. Needs considering back in a handicap. (Forecast 15.00)

14 21-3300  MISTER BLUE SKY (IRE) 39
gr g Royal Applause - Mujdeya
6 11 - 2
D J Mullins
W P Mullins
144

Jockey Colours: Black, yellow stars, yellow sleeves, black stars, yellow cap, black stars

Timeform says: Promising novice hurdler last term and, while he’s not gone on this season, he hasn’t had things pan out ideally the last twice. Bold showing not ruled out. (Forecast 34.00)

15 3P2312  BLACK TEARS 21
b m Jeremy - Our Girl Salley
6 11 - 2p
D N Russell
G Elliott
144

Jockey Colours: Pink, maroon star, striped cap

Timeform says: Useful mare who was beaten only 2 lengths when fourth to Eglantine du Seuil in the Dawn Run at this meeting last year. Majority of this season’s efforts have been solid and she’s not ruled out. (Forecast 29.00)

16 8-334FF  THE MIGHTY DON (IRE) 36 C BF
ch g Shantou - Flying Answer
8 11 - 1
J M Davies
N J Gifford
143

Jockey Colours: Emerald Green, yellow hoops, white cap

Timeform says: Ratified home into second in handicap hurdle at Navan (20f, heavy) on his penultimate start, faring best of those held up. Needs to bounce back following a poor showing last time, though. (Forecast 41.00)
BIRCHDALE (8)

Timeform 1-2-3:  
1: STRATUM (12) 
2: BIRCHDALE (8) 
3: DAME DE COMPAGNIE (21)

STRATUM has already landed a big handicap prize (on the Flat) for his shrewd connections and he might well have been let in lightly ahead of a tilt at a race that he's clearly been lined up for. There's a whole host of dangers but the main threat could come from the McManus-owned pair of Birchdale and Dame de Compagnie.

Timeform 1-2-3: 
1: STRATUM (12) 
2: BIRCHDALE (8) 
3: DAME DE COMPAGNIE (21)

Jockey Colours: Red and white diabolo, black sleeves, white stars, red cap

Timeform says: Useful hurdlr/chaser for Gordon Elliott who shaped as if retaining ability when seventh in a handicap at Haydock last time. Not handicapper has given him a lengthy layoff at Ascot (21f). On a potentially handy mark for handicap debut in this sphere a bit in hand when scoring at Kempton 76 days ago. Saved for this and booking of Johnson suits.

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