

CHEL TENHAM EXPRESS

Dunwoody and Oliver team up again



Richard Dunwoody

BY THE SCOUT (John Garnsey)

RICHARD DUNWOODY is back on West Tip in the Seagram Grand National, although he forsakes last year's Aintree hero to ride Charter Party in today's Cheltenham Gold Cup.

Peter Hobbs stands in for Dunwoody, who has now settled his differences with West Tip's trainer Michael Oliver.

Oliver recalled Dunwoody after substitute Richard Linley was dramatically injured at Cheltenham the previous day. "It's been a ghastly couple of days and all a complete misunderstanding," said the trainer.

Dunwoody, for his part, was delighted to be back in the saddle and came within a whisker of landing the Queen Mother Champion Chase, when Very Promising ran Pearlyman to a neck.

This was an event for the connoisseur. Pearlyman would undoubtedly have won far more easily had he not clipped the top of the last two fences.

Never let it be said again, that Desert Orchid does not act on a left-handed track. He ran a blinder to finish third, over a distance that is now too sharp for him, against the top two milers.

Aiming

Pearlyman, artistically ridden by champion Peter Scudamore, was a seventh Festival winner for his trainer John Edwards, who will be aiming him for Liverpool.

Sadly the veteran Lucky Vane misses the Seagram spectacular and faces likely retirement. "He bruised a foot and it will not be possible to get him ready in time," said Toby Balding.

Compensation was on hand for the Weyhill trainer when Kildimo proved their recent Ascot running all wrong, to land the Sun Alliance Chase, although much of the sting was taken out of the contest when the favourite Tawridge fell at the fifth fence.

Advertisement for Shrewton Racing Pk, offering a chance of profits and a year's racing fun. Includes contact information and a prospectus form.

TODAY'S TOP TIPS

SCOUT'S TREBLE WESTERN SUNSET (nap) (5.15 Cheltenham) ELIOGARTY (nb) (2.50 Cheltenham) THE THINKER (3.30 Cheltenham)

BENDEX'S BEST D'OR'S GEM (nap) (3.0 Herham) SIR JEST (nb) (4.20 Hexham) CATCH PHRASE (4.5 Cheltenham)

CHEL TENHAM GOLD CUP DAY BBC 2.15, 2.50, 3.30, BBC2 4.5

TOP JOCKEYS ON THIS COURSE RIDING TODAY.—P Scudamore, S Smith Eccles, R Dunwoody, R Rowe. TOP TRAINERS ON THIS COURSE WITH RUNNERS.—F Winter, J Gifford, N Hollister, J Ingham.

Table with 3 columns: Bendex, Computerman, Clockwise Best. Lists race numbers, names, and odds.

BEST TRAINING HINTS.—Dhoni (Middleham, 2.15), Motman (Lambour, 4.40). GOING.—Good. JACKPOT/PLACEPOT: 2.15 to 5.15 inc.

2.15—DAILY EXPRESS TRIUMPH HURDLE (Grade 1)

Race results for 2.15 Daily Express Triumph Hurdle. Lists runners, jockeys, and odds.

Daily Express Betting Forecast.—4 High Knowl, 8 Cashew King, 9 Sproutston Boy, Aldino, Alone Success, 14 Albert Hall, Nos Na Gaoithe, 16 Agathist, Dhoni, Osric, Past Glories, 20 Grabel, 25 Anything Better, Full Flow, Master Don, 33 Irish Dream, Raven Vert, Sprina Palm, 40 others.

TV GUIDE: Our race terrifies the professionals. The betting shows just how open it is again. High Knowl looked unbeatable until Celtic Chief (a left hander) ran him to a short head. Then Framington Court caught Peter Scudamore napping at Kempton. His rivals cannot expect the same mistake again. Alone Success has the guts to win this demanding race. Aldino beat a hot field at Huntingdon, which in no way resembles Cheltenham. Cashew King's supporters may be praying for another snowstorm—the same exceptional circumstances in which he won the Victor Ludorum, 10 expert Past Glories, second time, to turn the tables today. The only Northern winner of the Express was Peterhof, but Nos Na Gaoithe, Dhoni and Carousal Rocket are not without hope. If this were a handicap SPROWSTON BOY would be top weight. He put up the best performance by a 4-y-o with a great effort in the Tote Trophy (see Schweppe's). Paul Kallaway is following the route of his mentor, Ryan Price, with 73 winner Moonlight Bay. Paul was jockeyed off Moonlight Bay for our race, after finishing third in the Schweppe's, so winning today would lay several ghosts.

2.50—CHRISTIES FOXHUNTER (CHASE)

Race results for 2.50 Christies Foxhunter Chase. Lists runners, jockeys, and odds.

Daily Express Betting Forecast.—3 No Other Way, 11—2 Attitude Adjuster, Elogarty, 6 Border Burg, 9 Mister Donovan, 10 Phil Grey, 12 Animalhorn, 15 Beamwam, Three Counties, Obsarve, 20 others.

TV GUIDE: Having a moderate Cheltenham, the Irish need all the help principal English rivals. Border Burg and Elogarty, came to this race last year without a run. Both are in fine form this year so I don't think he will leave them far in his wake now. The selection has had a perfect preparation—runner up, giving weight to No Other Way at Thurles, and winner of a point to point in January. These amateurs do the job "professionally" nowadays and Fred Winter's Obsarve former top handicap chaser, will do well to live with those hunters.

IRISH SAY NO WAY WILL THIS GET BEAT

By FRANK O'NEILL

ENDA BOLGER, former champion point-to-point rider in Ireland, will hope to please his future father-in-law Pat Hogan, in the Christies Foxhunters Chase today.

Bolger teams up with Hogan's No Other Way (2.50) regarded by many Irish as the hope of the side, after his two recent wins at Wexford and Thurles, where he beat today's rivals, Attitude Adjuster and Animalhorn.

Helynsar (4.40) a fast finishing fifth to Neblin in the Tote Gold Trophy at Newbury, looks best of the Irish in the County Handicap Hurdle, and Paddy Mullins' Grabel should take a hand in the finish of the Daily Express Triumph hurdle.

3.30—TOTE CHEL TENHAM GOLD CUP (CHASE)

Race results for 3.30 Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup Chase. Lists runners, jockeys, and odds.

Daily Express Betting Forecast.—4—5 Forgive 'N Forget, 8 Stearsby, 10 Bolands Cross, Door Latch, 11 The Thinker, 12 Wayward Lad, 16 Golden Friend, 20 Charter Party, Combs Ditch, Cybrandian, 40 Earls Bag, 50 Mr Moonraker, West Tip.

TV GUIDE: Total abolition of betting tax wouldn't make Forgive 'N Forget Desert Orchid in the King George are away from Cheltenham but GOLDEN FRIEND, each way, could bring bigger betting rewards. His target win, at Newbury, highlighted his most potent weapon—the ability to quicken. The Thinker blunted that at Haydock but needed the mud to help him. Old Wayward Lad frightened Dawn Run's supporters here last year, but he went there as winner of the King George Chase, in which he ran as though over the hill this season. Bolands Cross has been spoken of as a Gold Cup winner though he has yet to put up a performance to prove it. Pity he fell when in with every chance for the novice's crown here last year. Door Latch is a very good handicapper. Combs Ditch was something more on his day. His defeat of Castle Warden (see 18lb) at Kempton shows there's life in him yet. Cybrandian would create something of a record if he took chasing's crown after falling in his three previous races. Presumably Stearsby got rid of his jockey on the Lambour gallops because he is so well, but I cannot recommend a runner who had only a 50-50 chance of running two days ago.

4.5—RITZ CLUB NATIONAL HUNT HANDICAP CHASE

Race results for 4.5 Ritz Club National Hunt Handicap Chase. Lists runners, jockeys, and odds.

Daily Express Betting Forecast.—5 Lucius, 11—2 Voice Of Progress, 6 Catch Phrase, 8 Gainsay, 10 Simon Legree, Jimbrook, 12 The Langholm Dyer, Strath Leader, 14 Haventalight, 16 Knock Hill, Burannour, 25 others.

TV GUIDE: A favourite Grand National Trial in the past, only LUCIUS represents Aintree betting here. He will need every yard of this extended three miles and has won his latest two races on "Irish Soft" (ie bog-like ground). Catch Phrase stays very well as he showed when second to Stearsby in the Mildmay. The Langholm Dyer gets 11b for the two lengths at Simon Legree beat him when they were placed behind Castle Warden at Ascot. Both have won good handicaps this season. Burannour was amateur ridden when unsating here on Tuesday, having shown a liking for the course when winning here on New Year's Day. Haventalight and Jimbrook make mistakes and these stiff fences have taken a toll already. Strath Leader and Knock Hill stay forever but take a long time doing so.

RESULTS: QUEEN MOTHER CHASE FOR PEARLYMAN

Results for Queen Mother Chase for Pearlyman. Lists runners, jockeys, and odds.

The Thinker set to get it right

WEATHER forecasters predict the whole of winter descending on Cheltenham today.

They get it right about as often as racing tipsters but the softer the ground the better The Thinker's chance in the Gold Cup.

Arthur Stephenson's improving nine-year-old comes to chasing's premier prize with a couple of impressive wins, at Haydock and Wetherby, to his credit. The Thinker has a decent turn of foot and could easily emerge as the new force among the slayers.

Memorable and emotional as Dawn Run's victory was last year, I doubt whether the ill-fated Irish mare beat a vintage field.

Runner-up Wayward Lad has only been a shadow of himself this season, though Forgive 'N Forget is in fine fettle; fir his attempt to regain his 1985 crown.

At current odds how-

ever The Thinker (3.30) looks the value.

Western Sunset (5.15 nap) can do us a good turn in the Cathcart. He was third in this race last year to Half Free beaten four lengths at level weights. Western Sunset is now 4lb better off and more significantly has already beaten Half Free this season.

My Daily Express Triumph Hurdle fancys is Sproutston Boy (2.15), by no means disgraced against his seniors in the Tote Gold Trophy.

JOHN GARNSEY

4.40—COUNTY HANDICAP HURDLE

Race results for 4.40 County Handicap Hurdle. Lists runners, jockeys, and odds.

Daily Express Betting Forecast.—4 Quikstep, 9—2 Spring Fling, 6 Abbey Glen, 13—2 Young Nicholas, 8 Jim Thorpe, 10 Hypnosis, 12 Comedy Fair, Santopadre, 14 Cool Strike, 16 Motman Noblin, Bel Course, 20 others.

GUIDE: Expect some ferocious betting from the Pipe and Ramsden camps on Quikstep and Santopadre respectively. The former likes it soft and the latter prefers a sound surface. But this is no two-horse race. Neblin made late headway again at Sandown. Herbert United wasn't disgraced in the Champion. Hypnosis beat Champion Hurdle third Barnbrook again, at Wincanton. Bel Course returned to form with a vengeance at Doncaster but my two against the field are Young Nicholas and METMAN. Young Nicholas nearly gave lumps of weight away all round at Lingfield while Metman may have deceived the handicapper with the ease of his Stratford win. That made it three out of his last four outings, the defeat coming in a slowly run race, which is unlikely to be.

5.15—CATHCART CHALLENGE CUP (CHASE)

Race results for 5.15 Cathcart Challenge Cup Chase. Lists runners, jockeys, and odds.

Daily Express Betting Forecast.—5—4 Half Free, 9—4 Western Sunset, 5 Von Trappe, 6 Classified, 33 Bruggs.

GUIDE: Half Free sent punters home happy when winning this "getting out stakes" last year. He's won no less than seven times here, but has begun to need excuses elsewhere. WESTERN SUNSET gets 4lb for the 4l Half Free beat him in this race last year and has since beaten Fred Winter's horse at Huntingdon. The selection was helped by Half Free's stumble after the last but is at the peak of his powers. Von Trappe is also held on that Huntingdon form, but can be the joker in any pack.

Guide compiled by Rolf Johnson

Afternoon Dogs

Results for Afternoon Dogs. Lists runners, jockeys, and odds.