

WEDNESDAY, 14/01/26

R4 VINCENNES [L-H]

**C1 - PRIX DE RIOM - 2100m (a1m1/4) - Class R Claiming - Harness - EUR
€ 18,000**

- 1. LANNISTER D'AVRIL** - Disappointing over recent months. Prepped shod under the saddle and even though barefoot this time, still has his work cut out
- 2. LA PERLA DE LOU** - Takes a notable drop in category after failing to deliver in a Class E over the main track. Will be reined by the champion driver this time and is not about to let the side down
- 3. LEADER DE JOUDES** - Comfortably won over the main track here on 12 December for Duvaldestin yard. Faces first objective for Mirandel stable and from the 3-spot can repeat
- 4. LUNE DU DOUET** - Won an Agen claimer in early-November but has been disappointing since and is unlikely to create an upset
- 5. LONDON DELO** - Complicated mare making first appearance since last May and with shoes fitted can be confidently ruled out
- 6. LINDSTEDT** - 4th to LAIKA DES MARES (7) in a similar event on 25 November. Looked rather ordinary in race of reference though and will need to find more
- 7. LAIKA DES MARES** - Very hard to knock at this level of competition. Form is sure and has a decent chance of contesting the finish
- 8. LALBANE STAR** - Lost all chance in a claimer under these conditions in late-November when involved in a collision. Is forced to start wide but is plainly in fine fettle and will not be far off the mark if kept out of harm's way
- 9. LARIFLETTE** - Fine servant in the claiming division making first appearance since running 2nd to LEADER DE JOUDES (3) in a claimer over course and distance on 12 December, and could turn the tables if Matthias Legros keeps her focused
- 10. LYS PETTEVINIERE** - Unable to confirm Cabourg performance when last but one in a Class E here 2.5 weeks ago. Gave a good account when 5th in race of reference and despite the draw still warrants respect

Summary: LEADER DE JOUDES (3) changed yards after winning a claimer here last month, will be barefoot for his return to the category, and is in with a realistic shout of doubling up. LARIFLETTE (9) ran a close 2nd to him that day and even though drawn wide still looks a serious proposition. Excellent winner under these conditions last November, LAIKA DES MARES (7) will have her chances, as should LA PERLA DE LOU (2) who has a pair of runs under her belt and Eric Raffin in the bike.

SELECTIONS

**LEADER DE JOUDES (3) - LARIFLETTE (9) - LAIKA DES MARES (7) - LA PERLA DE LOU
(2)**

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C2 - PRIX DE SAINT-POL - 2850m (a2m) - Class F Amateur Drivers - Harness - EUR € 12,000

- 1. HE MISS DEIHA** - Very good servant in the amateur category. Has never disappointed in the day's configuration and, even though in better company, still warrants a 2nd look
- 2. IX THE BEST** - Unexceptional type returning to Vincennes after 6 straight eliminations. Has been re-shod for the occasion but still not a concern
- 3. JANGO ELEVEN** - Has done nothing but improve lately and left a good impression here 2 weeks ago when 5th in a similar event. Serious amateur at the helm this time and can finally get back into the winners' enclosure
- 4. GOLD DE LA COUDRE** - Honest type with nothing to prove in the amateur division. Has not been seen out since October, and is new to the main track, but cannot be discounted
- 5. ITEM BUISSONAY** - Faithful element that could have finished much closer here 3 weeks ago had he been afforded a run, and is in with a realistic shout of opening his 2026 account
- 6. INSTAR JOKE** - Impressive in first semester of 2025 but disappointing in last 3 and is unlikely to set off any fireworks
- 7. ISEO PRIOR** - Returns to category of choice after prepping in the pro ranks, and races barefoot for the first time since the summer. Boasts a 50 percent win-rate in the amateur division, is ideally-engaged, and looks a decent first-5 chance
- 8. HORACE DU VIVIER** - Never far from faulting but ran 4th in a 2100m amateurs Class F here 9 days ago. Has ground to make up but is confirmed under these conditions and despite the handicap cannot be ruled out
- 9. JAWAX DE KERYANN** - Made short work of a Saint-Brieuc Class E before failing to deliver at Meslay, but is patently in excellent shape and will not be far from the action if kept out of trouble
- 10. IN YOU** - Useful sort making first appearance since late-October. Is still in conditioning-mode though and best to hold off
- 11. HYPER HAUFOR** - Has turned a corner since the autumn, should not be too hastily-judged for losing his action 2 weeks ago, and despite the handicap looks competitively well in
- 12. IPSO DU FER** - Made no impact on re-entry here a fortnight ago. Races barefoot this time but still not an obvious choice
- 13. GALOPIN DE CONDE** - Takes a dip in category after disappointing in the professional ranks at Chartres. Gave a good account last time sporting front pads and, although not a priority, should not be entirely ignored
- 14. IDEAL MOSSA** - Useful type in the provinces but has little love for Vincennes. Has placed in just 1 of 6 amateur starts and is not about to spring any surprises
- 15. INSIDE** - Quality element with fine credentials but has been off the boil lately. Will be fit though, is nicely-entered here, and on good behaviour can finish in the mix

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Summary: Forced to endure traffic problems here on Christmas Eve, ITEM BUISSONAY (5) nevertheless showed his form; he has been entrusted to the talented Emilie Duperche this time and is just preferred to JANGO ELEVEN (3) who receives a Barbara Guenet drive for the occasion. XJAWAX DE KERYANN (9) failed at Meslay-du-Maine to confirm his Saint-Brieuc victory, and starts on the back line again, but imposed here on his amateur debut last autumn and must be considered a priority. Fine 3rd in good company here in late-November before the following month's elimination, HYPER HAUFOR (11) has taken well to racing in the day's configuration and, with application, will have a lot to contribute.

SELECTIONS

ITEM BUISSONAY (5) - JANGO ELEVEN (3) - JAWAX DE KERYANN (9) - HYPER HAUFOR (11)

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**C3 - PRIX DE CHAMBLY - 2700m (a1m1/2) - Class E - Mounted - EUR €
35,000**

- 1. MARANELLO** - Has yet to demonstrate any particular flair for the monte code and even though barefoot still looks a rank outsider
- 2. MADE IN CLEMAXELLE** - Finished last but one in a Cordemais Class F on monte bow 10 days ago and is not about to paint the town red
- 3. M'AVEZ VOUS VU** - Has taken well to the code, most recently 2nd in a Graignes Class F on Sunday. Backs up with modified shoeing and, even though stepping up in category, is still worth keeping an eye on
- 4. MID DANCER** - Returns to racing shod after losing his action in race of reference. Clearly has talent in abundance and the Mathieu Mottier-factor can make all the difference
- 5. MILLENIUM JIEL** - Imposed on monte debut but eliminated in 3 since, latterly 1 January race of reference. Has buckets of ability though and the new formula may be just the ticket. Chance
- 6. MAGIC JOHN** - Complicated element but has yet to disappoint when given the chance to express himself. Faulted here last week but has been entrusted to Tamara Mathias-Maisonnette this time and can finish in the mix if she keeps him trotting
- 7. MARKUS DES AGETS** - Left a fine impression when 3rd in a 2725m Graignes harness Class F late last month. Is new to Vincennes, and the discipline, but with application should not be far off the mark
- 8. MIMO DU MESNIL** - Takes first competitive monte steps after a lacklustre effort under harness here in late-November, and others easier to back
- 9. MAGUEN DAIRPET** - Made up for Laval elimination when 3rd of 5 finishers in a 2200m Class E here on 1 January. Races barefoot again and can expect the lion's share of support

Summary: The serious MAGUEN DAIRPET (9) ran out a good 3rd over the inner course here on New Year's Day, in a race marred by a number of eliminations, but he still looks good enough to open his Vincennes account. Both talented but particularly complicated nevertheless, MILLENIUM JIEL (5) and MID DANCER (4) were 2 of the fancied casualties that day. Both have been reconfigured though and will be reined by Pierre-Yves verve and Mathieu Mottier respectively this time. MARKUS DES AGETS (7) is not short of character himself but is plainly in fine condition, will be sporting front pads on this occasion, and makes his monte bow with a realistic chance of picking up a place cheque.

SELECTIONS

**MAGUEN DAIRPET (9) - MILLENIUM JIEL (5) - MID DANCER (4) - MARKUS DES AGETS
(7)**

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C4 - PRIX DE MAUQUENCHY - 2850m (a2m) - Class R Claiming - Harness - EUR € 18,000

1. **HORIZON D'AMARO** - Has looked decidedly ordinary for a number of months. Has already won twice for Matthieu Abrivard, and races barefoot, but others easier to recommend
2. **FRENCH LOVER** - Has 3 runs under his belt following a lengthy layoff but has yet to come to hand and best to wait
3. **IRON MIJACK** - Takes to the claiming division after finishing last but one behind HARFAN DES GRANGES (4) at Graignes late last month, and is unlikely to spice things up
4. **HARFAN DES GRANGES** - Honest element with solid claiming references. Gave a reassuringly good account at Graignes 2 weeks ago, has nothing to prove in this category, and the front-line break will do his prospects no disservice
5. **GOSSIP BOY** - Pleased over the short course during the autumn but out of the picture in next 2. Has placed just once over track and trip and others preferred
6. **HOMMAGE DE LARRE** - Oddly below-par 5th in a Cagnes claimer on Sunday, but has otherwise been in good shape and cannot be ruled out
7. **HORSERIS** - Seldom wins these days but always gives what he can. Left a good impression in amateur division last time out and will be expected to finish thereabouts
8. **HEAGLE ONE** - Placed twice in Enghien claimers last autumn but has struggled to make his presence felt since and can be passed over
9. **FELDSPATH THEPOL** - Capable veteran but starts for the first time since early-October. Races shod and will need the run
10. **HISTOIREMIKA** - Unremarkable mare racing with 4 pads for the first time after some very modest performances and is unlikely to generate much interest
11. **GENTLEMAN PIYA** - Twice a provincial claiming winner last autumn. Has yet to make his mark at Vincennes but has been reconfigured for the occasion and must be afforded respect
12. **GLOUGLOU D'EMI** - Got back in the winners' circle last November but out of the picture in 3 since and has no possible chance
13. **HERMES LUDOIS** - Dips down the category-ladder after some lacklustre performances. Benjamin Rochard in the bike this time and, given the opposition, must be regarded a player
14. **GREG DE NIRO** - Sent out barefoot with a leading driver in the bike after the requisite conditioner. Set personal-best time when imposing here last May and once again looks the leading contender
15. **FILOU SMILING** - Drops in category and sports a new configuration after a pair of disappointing efforts in the provinces. Has struggled over 2850m on the main track for some time and will have few takers
16. **FLYING BRICKELL** - Encouraging 4th at 132-1 in an Agen Class C on 18 November, before being eliminated at Beaumont, and is not about to spring another surprise

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17. GARANCIO BELLO - Failed to make any impression on return to the mainland when 12th of 14 in a Marseille-Vivieux Class C on 11 December. Has previously won over course and distance and while not a priority, should still generate interest

18. GIROLAMO - Back at a more reasonable level after having failed to deliver last winter. Is by some margin the richest horse here and in this company should prove competitive at the business end of affairs

Summary: Winner of a claimer last spring, on her last start under these conditions, GREG DE NIRO (14) is reunited with Eric Raffin who won with him that day, and barefoot following his comeback run, looks the one to beat. Similarly barefoot following a much-needed re-entry race, GIROLAMO (18) is new to this category and Franck Ouvrie can be confident of a competitive performance. HERMES LUDOIS (13) is in need of a morale-booster and a race at this level may be just what the doctor ordered. Barefoot following a fine performance in a Graignes Class E, HARFAN DES GRANGES (4) is 25m better off this time and must be taken more seriously. HORSERIS (7) is seldom far from the action and can pick up another cheque.

SELECTIONS

**GREG DE NIRO (14) - GIROLAMO (18) - HERMES LUDOIS (13) - HARFAN DES GRANGES
(4)**

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C5 - PRIX D'ABLEIGES - 2175m (a1m1/4) - Class D - Harness - EUR €
33,000

- 1. NIACKELLA** - Qualified in 1'19"2 at Caen last July. Grimault stable enjoying rude health and the choice of driver speaks volumes. Attention
- 2. NEW YORK FRANCE** - Switches code after faulting on debut in a Class D here 2.5 weeks ago and will need to show another side
- 3. NUIT MYSTIC** - Nicely-related filly with a big engine but is still somewhat green. Was eliminated in 30 December race of reference but should not disappoint if her new pilot keeps her mind on the job
- 4. NILDA LAND** - Was not disgraced on debut when 5th behind NIKITA ERCA (8) under these conditions a fortnight back. Will have progressed for the race but still not a priority
- 5. NEUILLY** - Eliminated here on 5 December before finishing 5th of 7 in a Graignes Class E a week later, and is not about to spring any surprises
- 6. NATION HAUFOR** - Produced a fine performance first time out, coming 3rd of 12 in a Class D over track and trip on 5 December. Has been afforded ample time to get back to her best and looks thoroughly capable of playing a leading role
- 7. NACRE GALAXY** - Interesting filly that is better than her Cabourg result would suggest. Races left-handed for the first time and, if she turns, should be able to make her presence felt
- 8. NIKITA ERCA** - Pleased on debut at La Capelle before running excellent 3rd under these conditions a fortnight ago. Comes here fresh and looks good enough to win a race of this nature
- 9. NEW APPROACH** - Could well have finished closer to NIKITA ERCA (8) in a 2700m Class D here 2 weeks ago had she not stumbled close to home. May well prove more effective over 2175m and has a reasonable chance of turning the tables
- 10. NEEDREAM** - Tricky filly but is not devoid of ability. Has form over the inner course and can play a prominent part if she takes to the main-track profile

Summary: Left to come on after qualifying nicely last June, NIKITA ERCA (8) has not missed a beat since her November debut, should appreciate this shorter trip, and has a fine opportunity to lose her maiden status. It's unlikely to be all plain sailing though considering how well NEW APPROACH (9) acquitted herself behind Benoit Robin's filly late last month. NATION HAUFOR (6) defied her odds on debut here early last month and will not be sent out at 44-1 this time. NIACKELLA (1) didn't set off any fireworks in qualification but hails from a yard going good-guns and will be partnered by Mathieu Mottier.

SELECTIONS

NIKITA ERCA (8) - NEW APPROACH (9) - NATION HAUFOR (6) - NIACKELLA (1)

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C6 - PRIX DE GAVRAY - 2700m (a1m1/2) - Class E - Harness - EUR €
35,000

1. MYSTIC HAUFOR - Showed promise in the provinces before being eliminated twice here. Will be competitively-shod for the first time though and, if applied, will have his chances

2. MILO JO - 2nd in a 2750m Cabourg Class E on 22 December. Is never the easiest to gauge but will be barefoot and could get a look in

3. MARBRE D'ERABLE - Has shown considerable potential but is still rather green. Front pads added to the mix this time and, if given a chance to express himself, should prove competitive for a place in the frame

4. MELLOW SPEED - Produced a pair of decent efforts here before faulting early over the short course on 26 November. Has freshness on his side, is proven over 2700m here, and is unlikely to go home empty-handed

5. MERCATO MESLOIS - Honest sort that showed improvement when 2nd in a Le Mans Class E in mid-December. Takes on a better bunch this time but in current condition is easy to recommend

6. MEDICI DE BUSSET - Respectable colt making first appearance since last August. Sports front pads for the first time but is going to need the race

7. MAGIK UP STAR - Has not put a foot wrong since his successful May debut. Imposed at Cherbourg on comeback, will have progressed for the race, and is not incapable of making his Vincennes bow a winning one

8. MANNINEN SEVEN - Tricky colt that tends to show more over a flatter surface, however goes unshod-behind for the first time and, if focused at this level of competition, can impose

9. MONTANA BLUE - Starts for the first time in 2 months. Is preparing for a campaign in the other code and can be ruled out

Summary: Eliminated in both Vincennes starts to date, MANNINEN SEVEN (8) may not be the most disciplined horse here but he takes to the main track, with hind shoes off for the first time, and can return to victorious ways. Nicolas Bazire will still be mindful of the progressive MAGIK UP STAR (7) who is both barefoot and undefeated racing left-handed, and a competitively-shod MARBRE D'ERABLE (3) who has shown significant promise. MYSTIC HAUFOR (1) has yet to get around Vincennes unscathed but with hind shoes off this time can begin to redeem himself.

SELECTIONS

MANNINEN SEVEN (8) - MAGIK UP STAR (7) - MARBRE D'ERABLE (3) - MYSTIC
HAUFOR (1)

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**C7 - PRIX DU BOUSCAT - 2700m (a1m1/2) - Class C - Mounted - EUR €
53,000**

1. KARTING BOY - Moderate sort that was found wanting in a Class D over course and distance late last month and in this company will have his work cut out

2. KOMEDIE SOMOLLI - Moves up in category after twice running 3rd over track and trip a level down. Always gives her best but with the boys to deal with this time, is unlikely to shake things up

3. KILOU D'YMER - Quality element returning to his code of preference after a pair of harness conditioners here. Seldom lets the side down when barefoot and is not about to start now

4. KOALA - Got back in the game on 21 December when storming up in a Class D over track and trip. Is unlikely to double his money but should still be competitive for a cheque

5. KOQUIN DU PERCHE - Game sort that ran 5th to KIKI AND CO (9) in a Class B over 2850m early last month and will need to find more

6. KADO SHINING - No slouch on a good day and has decent Vincennes references. Will be fit by now and returns to the code with a reasonable chance of making first 5

7. KENYAN BLUES - Failed to secure the 3-timer when 3rd to KIKI AND CO (9) in a Class B over 2850m early last month. Eric Raffin back in the bike and will be no pushover

8. KALINE DE FAEL - Has gone from strength to strength over recent months, and was most impressive first time in the code. Takes on some good horses again but still looks the one to beat

9. KIKI AND CO - Excellent element that has won 4 of his last 5 ridden starts, all at Vincennes. Has won 5 of 6 with Alexandre Abrivard and is the direct threat to KALINE DE FAEL (8)

Summary: Facile winner on ridden debut here on 17 November, KALINE DE FAEL (8) went on to dominate under harness just over a month later, and returns to the monte code with every chance of completing the hat-trick. Mathieu Mottier will nevertheless be vigilant of the excellent KIKI AND CO (9) who will be barefoot as he was when winning a Class B here in early-December, and KENYAN BLUES (7) who has been dynamic this term when barefoot. KILOU D'YMER (3) is not about to win this but he has solid references under these conditions and will be barefoot for his first objective of the new year.

SELECTIONS

KALINE DE FAEL (8) - KIKI AND CO (9) - KENYAN BLUES (7) - KILOU D'YMER (3)

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C8 - PRIX DE MAURIAC - 2850m (a2m) - Class B - Harness - EUR € 52,000

- 1. FIRST TIME ROC** - Races for first time in 2 months, but will be barefoot. Has placed in just 1 of 4 starts here, but with Eric Raffin reining will have his supporters
- 2. LOUIS VITTON MIJO** - Has won 4 of 6 when barefoot, most recently a 2175m Class C on 19 December. Boasts excellent record with Mathieu Mottier and looks a major player
- 3. FAKIR ROC** - Returns to France after prepping correctly in Turin, but has yet to deliver here and is unlikely to start now
- 4. LUMINOSITY** - Quality mare starting for the first time since early-November. Will be shod once more and best to hold off
- 5. LUDIVINE** - Took little time getting back in shape following the break. Takes on a better lot this time but should nevertheless acquit herself competitively
- 6. LIZZANO D'ALOUETTE** - Did everything asked of her on comeback over course and distance a month ago, just missing out by the smallest of margins. Hind shoes back on this time and looks more a minor place prospect
- 7. LA STAR ROC** - Showed improvement when 5th behind LIZZANO D'ALOUETTE (6) under these conditions on 14 December. Trainer in the bike this time and others preferred
- 8. LARA DU GOUTIER** - Drops back down the class ladder after running 9th of 17 in Gr.1 Criterium Continental on 21 December. Has never delivered over 2850m of the main track but in current form is easy to fancy for a place on the podium
- 9. LARA DU LERRE** - Starts for first time since 19 November. Preparing for a monte campaign and will have nothing to offer
- 10. LORD DELO** - High-calibre element making first appearance since 8 November. Won a Gr.3 on sole start over course and distance and will not be easy to oppose this time either. Claim
- 11. LISSANDRO** - Trotter with buckets of ability but has been showing his character over recent months. Has won 2 of 3 in the days' configuration though and is not to be ignored
- 12. LAPIS LAZULI** - Beat a number of these under same conditions here in late-November. Has failed to confirm in 2 since but at this level stands a decent chance of finishing in the mix

Summary: The excellent LORD DELO (10) may not have been seen out since outclassing the opposition here in early-November but clearly means business and will be accordingly well-backed. LARA DU GOUTIER (8), who regularly bites off more than she can chew, is back to a more sensible level, and looks the main threat. Nicely-entered at the limit of earnings, LAPIS LAZULI (12) is better than recent results would imply and should garner more support this time around. Winner over shorter here in last month's re-entry, LOUIS VITTON MIJO (2) steps up in category with a good card to play.

SELECTIONS

LORD DELO (10) - LARA DU GOUTIER (8) - LAPIS LAZULI (12) - LOUIS VITTON MIJO (2)

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**C9 - PRIX DE PORNICHET - 2850m (a2m) - Class B - Mounted - EUR €
75,000**

- 1. HEVA BLONDE** - Pulled off a hat-trick during the summer but has done nothing of note since and others easier to trust
- 2. HANDSOME BOY** - Got back in the game when runner-up to HARVEST (4) in a Class D over course and distance late last month. Climbs back up the category-ladder but in current condition is hard to ignore. First 5
- 3. GALOPIN DE MARTHE** - Good, consistent individual that ran courageous 3rd in a Class D over track and trip a month ago. Is unlikely to get his nose in front but still has the wherewithal to finish in the mix
- 4. HARVEST** - Serious type that made no bones about winning a Class D under these conditions on 28 December. Takes on a better lot this time but looks eminently up to the task. Claim
- 5. ILEO PIERJI** - Should not be too quickly-condemned for latest performance here. Has form under these conditions and Benjamin Rochard will be keen to put things right
- 6. HIS DREAM DE CAHOT** - Faithful servant dropping in category after being trounced in a Class B here. Has otherwise been enjoying a productive run of form and could yet get a look in
- 7. GANGSTER DAVANESS** - Well-beaten in last 2 starts. Has made no impact at the venue since 2021 and can be confidently disregarded
- 8. HARDI CROWN** - Always gives his best but is no champion. Eliminated early here last month and once again seems to be taking on too much
- 9. FOREVER JIEL** - Pleased in 2 of last 3 here, including under these conditions, but is facing a much stiffer test this time and others easier to back
- 10. IVANOF** - Reassuring 4th in a 2175m Class C here on 6 December, and with Alexandre Abrivard in the bike again, should not disappoint. Place chance
- 11. IMPERIAL COGLAIS** - Quality element in this branch of the game, and recent run can be excused. Is new to 2850m of the main track but is as versatile as they get and will have a claim on a place in the frame
- 12. FLASH DU BIWETZ** - Pleased on re-entry last autumn but out of the picture in last 3 and will need to raise his game
- 13. HOLLYWOOD DU BOIS** - Capable on a good day but disappointing in last 3 monte starts and would be preferred barefoot
- 14. HOLD UP DU DIGEON** - Returns to a code for which he has shown decent aptitude, will be reconfigured, but still looks no more than a minor place chance
- 15. GORDON MIJACK** - Returns to a more reasonable level after failing to deliver in a Gr.3 here late last month. Has references in this category, and over the distance here, and should not be overlooked

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Summary: A fine campaigner that took little time returning to victorious ways, HARVEST (4) flew up here 2.5 weeks ago and is never to be underestimated in his current configuration. The complicated, but no less talented, ILEO PIERJI (5) is a tough nut when focused, however, and Eric Raffin will be keen to make up for his recent elimination. IMPERIAL COGLAIS (11) was strangely below-par here recently but otherwise presents fine Vincennes credentials, and Alexis Collette will be in the bike this time. IVANOF (10) may not be the easiest of horses to deal with but he is plainly in shape and, with application, can challenge for a place on the podium.

SELECTIONS

HARVEST (4) - ILEO PIERJI (5) - IMPERIAL COGLAIS (11) - IVANOF (10)

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**C10 - PRIX DE LA BAULE - 2700m (a1m1/2) - Class E - Harness - EUR €
35,000**

1. LOOKING BOY - Decent element that ran solid 5th of 12 in a 2100m Class E on comeback here 2.5 weeks ago. Is more competitively-shod this time and can impose for the first time since May 2024

2. LOUKY DE BAULON - Tricky character that ran 5th behind LET'S GO HAUFOR (3) here early this month. Hind shoes back on though and in this company is unlikely to make his mark

3. LET'S GO HAUFOR - Eliminated as often as not but has an abundance of ability. Produced a tenacious performance here on 3 January and will be expected to bring the fight to LOOKING BOY (1)

4. LEAD ME ON - Valiant 4th in a 2175m Class E here on 11 December. Pitted against better horses this time though and looks a minor place prospect at best

5. LUCKY PORT - Raced well when shod here early last month. Has improved for every run lately and will not be far from the action if he can keep his mind on the game

6. LAERTE DU GOUTIER - Made up for below-par Mauquenchy performance when successful at Le Mans in mid-December. Is hard to fault when barefoot and steps up in category with a lot to contribute. First 5

7. LUCKY CASTELETS - Returns to France after 3 conditioners at home in Mons. Sports modified shoeing but is still being aimed too high

8. LUKARI DE FONTAINE - Returns to racing barefoot after finishing unplaced in a Mauquenchy conditioner in late-November. Is reunited with Mathieu Mottier who ran 2nd over the short course with him earlier that month, and must be afforded respect

9. LORD DES GRANGES - Regularly struggles in a volte start but is not without merit, and can play a prominent part if he gets off on the right foot

10. LOOPING MIL - Honest element that always gives his best. Tends to show more racing clockwise but, barefoot with David Thomain in the bike, cannot be discounted

11. LORD DAIRPET - Useful individual but has not been seen out since August 2024 and is going to need the race

12. LOGO MAJYC - Held back for this after just missing out for the Graignes double on 20 November. Will have been kept on the boil though and Paul Ploquin can be forgiven for feeling bullish

Summary: Lightly-raced but plainly a trotter of considerable ability, LOOKING BOY (1) gave a good account on his recent winter re-entry. He sports a fresh configuration for the occasion, will have progressed for the run, and could well impose this time. Eric Raffin will still want to be wary of the complicated but talented LET'S GO HAUFOR (3) who reassured here early this month, and the superbly-engaged LOGO MAJYC (12) who has been re-shod for his Vincennes bow. LUCKY PORT (5) has raced and placed in more elevated company and returns to racing barefoot with a lot to offer if he stays in stride.

SELECTIONS

LOOKING BOY (1) - LET'S GO HAUFOR (3) - LOGO MAJYC (12) - LUCKY PORT (5)

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