

## MONT-DE-MARSAN [R-H] - 16 December

**Race 1 - PRIX PIERRE VALENTIN - 4450m STPLE CL3.** Purse EUR €22,000.

1. **MASSATREE** - Finished fourth two runs ago in a steeplechase (3500m) at Toulouse. Made amends last time when he grabbed second in the same conditions. In the mix again.
2. **ABERDEEN STREET** - Won two starts back in a steeplechase (3600m) at Saint Briec then wasn't beaten all that far over 3800m at Bordeaux. Hard to beat.
3. **INVICTICE** - Has been racing consistently and is due a win. Makes plenty of appeal on the latest offering.
4. **POLITICO DEMAGO** - Returned from a spell last start with a modest fourth in a steeplechase (4450m) at this track. Has ability and strips fitter.
5. **STORM FULL** - Finished seventh last start and needs more.
6. **ILOTE** - Finished fifth at Maure-de-Bretagne before a sixth at this track. Won't find this easy.

**Summary:** ABERDEEN STREET (2) placed second when beaten 3.5L in a 3800m chase at Bordeaux. Selected to deliver a victory stepping up in distance. INVICTICE (3) finished 4.5L runner up in a track and trip contest. Shortlisted. POLITICO DEMAGO (4) came home 24L fourth in that course and distance race. Warrants close consideration. MASSATREE (1) was runner-up two weeks ago and can go well once more.

### Selections

**ABERDEEN STREET (2) - INVICTICE (3) - POLITICO DEMAGO (4) - MASSATREE (1)**

**Race 2 - PRIX DE SAINT AVIT - 3450m HDLE CL3.** Purse EUR €22,000.

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1. **DOCTOR WHO** - Has impressed in both career starts. Great chance to make it two in a row.
2. **EMIR CHOP** - Useful second in a maiden hurdle (3650m) at this track last time out. Capable of another bold run.
3. **BURGANDY** - Was returning from a layoff last start when beaten 12L into fifth in a maiden hurdle (3650m) at this track. Requires further improvement.
4. **BEL OUEST** - Beaten a long way last time when tenth at Deauville All Weather. Would need to find best to feature.
5. **MONTHELIE** - Turned in a fair run on first try over the jumps finishing sixth over 3700m at Bordeaux. Improvement likely.
6. **RODAVIVA HAS** - Filly by Planteur out of Royale Lombok. The in-form François Nicolle stable is likely have her primed. Worth watching closely.
7. **LADY MONTAIGU** - Unlikely based on two starts to date.
8. **SAINTE ODILE** - Lightly-raced three-year-old who was third in a hurdle (3100m) at Castera-Verduzan on debut. Impossible to rule out.
9. **SHARICA** - Was disappointing in a maiden hurdle (3650m) at this track on November 26. More needed.
10. **MA ROMAINE** - Finished sixth the start before last in a hurdle (3500m) at Toulouse then seventh most recently in a maiden hurdle (3650m) at this track. This looks too tough.

**Summary:** DOCTOR WHO (1) built on a promising debut when scoring by 3.5L in a 3650m maiden hurdle here. Selected to follow up. EMIR CHOP (2) is shortlisted on the back of a 3.5L second in that contest. RODAVIVA HAS (6) is another newcomer to consider by Planteur. SAINTE ODILE (8) has shown mild promise in two hurdles to date but is worth keeping on side from a top yard.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Selections</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>DOCTOR WHO (1) - EMIR CHOP (2) - RODAVIVA HAS (6) - SAINTE ODILE (8)</b></p>
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**Race 3 - PRIX DE L'ESTRIGON - 4450m CLM STPLE.** Purse EUR €17,000.

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1. **MENDELSON** - Won at Nimes two starts back then sixth in a steeplechase (4400m) at Auteuil last time. All set to bounce back to winning form.
2. **BLACKLIST** - Wound up last campaign with a fourth in a Toulouse hurdle over 3900m and makes his return today. Looks an each way chance this line-up.
3. **MILLIONKISS DOROUX** - Pulled up after a 473- day spell last start in a hurdle (3650m) at this track. Big task ahead.
4. **GUAIPARD** - Place claims if bouncing back after unseating.
5. **CHANT SACRE** - Wound up last campaign with a sixth at Castera-Verduzan over 4300m and makes his return today. Others rate better.
6. **PRINCESS POLLY** - Was very good when returning from a 255-day layoff most recently when third on the flat at Auch over 2650m. Capable.
7. **KELTIA DE KERBARH** - Finished a modest fifth in a steeplechase (3600m) at Fontainebleau last start. Place at best.
8. **PATRICIEN** - Sixth more recently in a hurdle (3650m) at this track. Place at best.
9. **GALICY ROCHELAISE** - Hasn't had things go right recently. Improvement required.
10. **J'VA YALE** - Finished fourth two back in a steeplechase (3800m) at Angouleme then again missed out in a steeplechase (4450m) at this track last time. Won't find this easy.
11. **ROSANDE** - Resumed after a spell last start with a modest fifth in a hurdle (3800m) at Niort. Place.
12. **ELITE D'AINAY** - Unseated last start. Worth another chance here.

**Summary:** PRINCESS POLLY (6) placed third when beaten 1.75L over 2650m at Auch. Selected to making a winning return to jumping with a top jockey booked to ride. MENDELSON (1) looks a big threat having taken a 3800m chase at Nimes on his penultimate start. GUAIPARD (4) tried to make all when unseating in a 4250m claiming chase at Argentan. May register a third career success. BLACKLIST (2) came home 33L fourth in a 3900m hurdle at Toulouse. Consider debuting for a new trainer.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Selections</b></p>
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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PRINCESS POLLY (6) - MENDELSON (1) - GUAIPARD (4) - BLACKLIST (2)</b></p>
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**Race 4 - PRIX TEC RAIL - 3450m HDLE CL3.** Purse EUR €22,000.

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1. **L'ANGE VERT** - Bounced back from a fall and wasn't beaten far when third in a steeplechase (3500m) at Toulouse last time out. Place at best.
2. **CHERNABOG** - Won on his first attempt in a hurdle (3600m) at Agen two months ago in impressive style. Place.
3. **SAINT SIRE** - Four-year-old gelding who has a liking for this distance having recorded two wins already. Has the ability to be in the finish.
4. **CADET VERT** - Unplaced two starts back in a hurdle (3700m) at Bordeaux then produced a better result last start when he wound up in fifth at Toulouse in a steeplechase (3500m) at Toulouse. Tougher test.
5. **IDEAL D'ALLIER** - Win at Angers last start. Well-placed here and sure to be tough to beat.
6. **NUNS ISLAND** - Two runs ago finished fifth in a hurdle (3700m) at Bordeaux. Can bounce back from a subsequent fall.
7. **GOOD BYE DE ROCHE** - Resumes here after nine months off. Needs to have improved a long way to feature here.
8. **ZARKAN** - Making jumps debut. Last seen finishing seventh on the flat over 2500m at Deauville All Weather and returns from a 14 months break.
9. **STYLE LENZAC** - Made his jumps debut in a hurdle (3700m) at Bordeaux on November 20 but was pulled up. Unlikely.

**Summary:** IDEAL D'ALLIER (5) pulled up in the Listed Prix Phillippe Menager chase over 4400m at Auteuil in April. Expected to prove hard to beat switched to hurdles. NUNS ISLAND (6) fell in a 4000m hurdle at Craon. Capable of going well for a good yard having performed well in defeat prior. SAINT SIRE (3) looks a threat following a 14L fifth in a 3850m handicap chase at Compiègne in the spring. CHERNABOG (2) won a Class Four hurdle at Agen-La-Passage recently. Interesting once more.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Selections</b></p>
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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>IDEAL D'ALLIER (5) - NUNS ISLAND (6) - SAINT SIRE (3) - CHERNABOG (2)</b></p>
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**Race 5 - PRIX DE L'ESTAMPON - 3650m HCP HDLE.** Purse EUR €25,000.

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1. **BALILAND** - Win at Angouleme two starts back gives place claims.
2. **JARRY WELLS** - Improved sharply from a poor effort two runs ago to win a 3600m hurdle at Auteuil on his latest appearance. In the mix.
3. **BONAPARTE FORLONGE** - Unplaced two back in a steeplechase (4200m) at Toulouse. Bounced back last time to win over hurdles at this track. Right in the mix on current form.
4. **BALLINSO** - Returns from a 212-day spell. Form from last campaign gives him a big chance.
5. **FRIMOUSSE** - Impressed when she scored two runs ago in a steeplechase (4200m) at Saint Brieuc. Capable.
6. **CAPARICA** - Worth place consideration after a second at this track.
7. **DRAGEES AUX POIVRE** - Was returning from a layoff last start when beaten 15L into seventh in a hurdle (3700m) at Bordeaux. Will strip fitter.
8. **HANDSPINNER** - Missed the frame two runs ago in a hurdle (3700m) at Bordeaux before a third at the same track. In the mix.
9. **TINO ROLI** - Ran in a hurdle (3650m) at this track last start and was pulled up. Doesn't make much appeal.
10. **GREAT PAUL** - Found the frame two back in a hurdle (3600m) at Agen then could only manage sixth last time. Looking to others.
11. **VESROLI** - Did a good job to finish second two back in a hurdle (3600m) at Agen but could only manage fourth at Bordeaux last time. Won't find this easy.
12. **SAINTE CLENI** - Pulled up two starts back. Finished fourth last time in a hurdle (3650m) at this track. More needed.

**Summary:** BALILAND (1) looked a possible winner when taking the wrong course and suffering a DQ in a 4450m handicap chase here. Taken to make amends switched to hurdles. FRIMOUSSE (5) delivered a 1.5L second in a 4400m handicap chase at Auteuil. Looks up to registering another big effort. HANDSPINNER (8) performed well when 2L third in a 3700m handicap hurdle at Bordeaux. Capable of playing a part in the finish. BONAPARTE FORLONGE (3) won by 6L in a course and distance handicap hurdle. Shortlisted.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Selections</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>BALILAND (1) - FRIMOUSSE (5) - HANDSPINNER (8) - BONAPARTE FORLONGE (3)</b></p>
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