

WEDNESDAY, 21/01/26

R1 CAGNES-SUR-MER [L-H]

C1 - PRIX UNE DE MAI - 2925m (a2m) - Class A - Harness - EUR € 58,000

- 1. HERALDIQUE** - Returns to France, and debuts at the venue, after running 2nd over 2000m in Gelsenkirchen 2 months ago. Comes here fresh but others still easier to back
- 2. GOLDEN VISAIS** - 5th to FUTUR DU CHENE (6) in a Class B over course and distance late last month, but faces a stiffer test this time around
- 3. GREGOR** - Surprise 7th of 15 in 2900m Gr.3 Prix de la Côte d'Azur here on 8 January, however chances of a repeat seem limited
- 4. GREAT OF MADRIK** - Encouraging, but surprise, 3rd to FUTUR DU CHENE (6) in a Class B over course and distance late last month, and is not about to confirm
- 5. HEROS DES MOTTES** - Was not disgraced on debut for new trainer when 9th of 15 in a Gr.3 here a fortnight ago. Sports modified shoeing and cannot be discounted
- 6. FUTUR DU CHENE** - Made amends for Bordeaux elimination when courageous winner of a Class B over course and distance late last month. Seldom disappoints when barefoot, presents solid Cagnes credentials, and is unlikely to be far off the mark
- 7. GIMY DU POMMEREUX** - Unremarkable 6th behind HUDO DU RUEL (12) in a Gr.3 over track and trip on 20 December, and has no possible chance
- 8. GALA DE CRENNES** - 12th of 14 in Gr.3 Prix de la Côte d'Azur here on 8 January. Will be competitively-shod this time and will have his supporters
- 9. ISTER MAN** - Twice disappointed in Paris before making short work of a 2650m Marseille-Vivaux Class C on 11 December. Is new to the venue but it is still hard to see him disappointing. First 5
- 10. GIBUS** - Back at a more reasonable level after running 10th in Gr.3 Prix de la Côte d'Azur here on 8 January. Front shoes off this time but still no more than a minor place chance
- 11. IBISCUS MAN** - Made up for mid-December elimination when 4th in a 2100m Vincennes Class A 2.5 weeks ago. Made short work of last summer's Cagnes debut and with application has a decent chance of confirming
- 12. HUDO DU RUEL** - First-rate trotter that ran 2nd in a Gr.3 over track and trip a month back. Simply thrives at the venue and will be expected to figure prominently
- 13. HAPPY DANICA** - Serious mare with a particular appreciation for Cagnes-sur-Mer. Won this very race 12 months ago and in current condition should prove competitive for a place in the frame
- 14. HYMNE DU GERS** - Wonderfully-entered element facing first target of the winter. Won an Angers Gr.3 last time barefoot and will be expected to give IBISCUS MAN (11) a run for his money

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Summary: Fourth in the Class A Prix de Lille at Vincennes earlier in the month, IBISCUS MAN (11) flew up under these conditions last summer and clearly has a claim on the silverware. It will not be all plain sailing though given the presence of HYMNE DU GERS (14) who benefits from a golden entry. Simply superb at Cagnes-sur-Mer, HAPPY DANICA (13) held her own in a Gr.3 recently and is not about to let the side down. HUDO DU RUEL (12) has had bags of time to recuperate from his Gr.3 Grand Prix de Noël second place and will justifiably garner support. Reassuring at Marseille-Vivaux last month, ISTER MAN (9) warrants respect.

SELECTIONS

IBISCUS MAN (11) - HYMNE DU GERS (14) - HAPPY DANICA (13) - HUDO DU RUEL (12)

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C2 - PRIX DES ANCOLIES - 2925m (a2m) - Gr3 - Harness - EUR € 47,000

1. MANHATTAN ROUSSAC - 27 runs and still to lose his maiden tag. Continues to race barefoot but can expect to have few takers

2. MAESTRIA GALAA - Respectable but unthreatening 4th to MAASAI (4) in a Class B over course and distance a fortnight ago, but is being asked to do too much this time

3. MAFIATIME DUCAMPUS - Sprang a 39-1 surprise when winning a Class A over course and distance on 20 December. Is barefoot for first time but still not a priority

4. MAASAI - Dependably-performant type that showed determination to win a Class B over course and distance a fortnight back. Takes on some better horses this time but is plainly on the right trajectory and can trot his way onto the podium

5. MISTER BARRA - Generous trotter that has been consistently going close, latterly tight runner-up to MAASAI (4) in a Class B over course and distance a fortnight ago, and can compete for a place in the frame once again

6. MOUFFETARD - 6th in Gr.3 Prix de Mansle over 2100m at Vincennes on 13 December after having lost ground at the start. Gets to race with a fresh configuration and can turn the tables on MANHATTAN EMGE (7) who beat him that day

7. MANHATTAN EMGE - Quality colt that passed important left-handed test when 4th in Gr.3 Prix de Mansle over 2100m at Vincennes on 13 December. Benefits from a good entry here and Lana Henry will be eager to capitalise

Summary: On paper, this looks a 2-horse race between the promising MOUFFETARD (6) who will be competitively-shod for the first time, and a similarly-reconfigured MANHATTAN EMGE (7) who finished just ahead of him in the Gr.3 Prix de Mansle at Vincennes last month. Locally-trained MAASAI (4) has shown a particular liking for these conditions and looks the best of the rest.

SELECTIONS

MOUFFETARD (6) - MANHATTAN EMGE (7) - MAASAI (4) - MISTER BARRA (5)

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**C3 - PRIX GELINOTTE - 2150m (a1m1/4) - Class F - Harness - EUR €
16,000**

1. NARKOS DU CHATAULT - Pleasant at Nantes on debut before finishing 4th of 5 in a 2425m Angers Class F against some better horses. Is just 1 of 2 horses sporting pads and if Jean-Philippe Monclin sends him here, one should sit up and take notice

2. NOVA DE VISAIS - Unremarkable filly making first start since early-October and is unlikely to generate much interest

3. NOTHING FOR MONEY - Showed his form here on 2nd start despite being eliminated early. Races shod for the occasion, with David Bekaert in the bike, and will not be far off the mark if he keeps his charge focused

4. NOTRE SAXO D'AURE - Qualified pleasantly in 1'18"2 at Grosbois in September. Has not been rushed to the track and will be worth monitoring on career debut

5. NEEDLE OF DEATH - Did not enjoy the best of trips in a 2925m Class C here last Friday. Takes a dip in category but still not an obvious choice

6. NEURO BELLA - Held her own in both starts to date, most recently 4th in as Class F over course and distance on 23 December. Is better-positioned this time, sports 4 pads, and can again make first 5

7. NOMAN'S POINT - Qualified in 1'17"1 at Grosbois last October. Is clearly an interesting future prospect and is not incapable of imposing at the first time of asking

8. NORTHFIELDS - Unlucky on debut at La Capelle when stumbling in the final turn, arguably costing him a debut success. Has had over 2 months to get back in shape and Romain Derieux will be eager to put things right

9. NEWLIFE DE CAHOT - Set off no fireworks in last spring's Caen qualification. Has been afforded time to come on however and, even though starting on the 2nd row, should nevertheless acquit herself competitively

10. NINA DE MALAC - Has not been seen since qualifying in 1'20"2 at Le Mans in early-October, and is unlikely to spring any surprises

Summary: A well-related colt that qualified nicely at Grosbois in October, NOMAN'S POINT (7) has had time to come on and makes his career debut with a realistic chance of making it a victorious one. Christophe Martens will still be keeping a keen eye on NORTHFIELDS (8) who would have fought out the finish on last November's debut had he not briefly blundered turning for home, and the padded NARKOS DU CHATAULT (1) who does not travel south for a walk on the beach. NEWLIFE DE CAHOT (9) hails from a good home and takes her first competitive steps with a seemingly good hand to play.

SELECTIONS

NOMAN'S POINT (7) - NORTHFIELDS (8) - NARKOS DU CHATAULT (1) - NEWLIFE DE CAHOT (9)

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**C4 - PRIX TIGRE ROYAL - 2150m (a1m1/4) - Class D - Harness - EUR €
26,000**

1. MAGICAL - Never far from faulting but is by some margin the best horse here and, if kept trotting, will take all the beating

2. MINOS DE BERLES - Gave a fine account on return to Cagnes on 5 January, coming 2nd in a 2925m Class D. Goes barefoot again and is not incapable of imposing this time

3. MICHIGAN HAWK - Complicated but capable colt that was eliminated on comeback in race of reference. Trainer in the bike this time but others still easier to back

4. MYSTERE DE L'AVRE - Flattering 3rd of 3 finishers in 5 January race of reference. Runs first-time barefoot but still not a priority

5. MADNESS DOLCE - Tenacious 4th of 9 in a 2700m Class E here last Friday but has better references in the other code

6. MOTTEAUX DAIRPET - Showed a different side to himself at Toulouse on 9 January, winning a Class D over 2150m. Benefits from a good entry and, barefoot again, should not be underestimated

7. MISTER MAGIC - Lost his action in a 2925m Class D here on 5 January. Has otherwise been showing his form and Theo Briand gets the nod this time. Place chance

8. MIGUEL DU CHERISAY - Handy sort that was quickly eliminated in 5 January race of reference. Has otherwise raced respectably since the autumn break and cannot be discounted

Summary: Even though eliminated as often as not, MAGICAL (1) is nevertheless a serious talent, and will be shod this time. He should appreciate the new profile, is already twice a winner for his Italian driver, and with application, can make this his own. Gabriele Gelormini will still want to be mindful of MINOS DE BERLES (2) who missed out by little here early this month, and the in-form MISTER MAGIC (7) who was surprisingly eliminated that day.

SELECTIONS

MAGICAL (1) - MINOS DE BERLES (2) - MISTER MAGIC (7) - MOTTEAUX DAIRPET (6)

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C5 - PRIX DU CAIRE GROS - 2150m (a1m1/4) - Class E - Harness - EUR € 22,000

1. LEGEND SMART - Quality element that was put away after faulting twice during the autumn. Hind shoes off for comeback but many just be a race shy

2. LINAS - Failed to confirm Montauban performance when eliminated in a Class E over track and trip a fortnight ago. Did look to be in shape though and, while not a priority, he will be reconfigured and should not be entirely written off

3. LAMIA DU VIVIER - Progressive sort that would have finished closer than 5th in a Class E under these conditions 5 days ago had she been afforded a run. Well-positioned behind the car here and should not be underestimated

4. LANCELOT ELLIS - Returns to the harness code after pleasing in a monte Class E in Bordeaux 2 weeks ago. David Bekaert in the bike this time but still not a concern

5. LELOUP VALLEE - Tough element that was beaten only by a very good horse in a Class E over course and distance 2.5 weeks ago. Is dangerous when barefoot and has every chance of wrapping this up

6. LEADER RASTID - Ran 2nd over longer here 3 weeks ago, then came 3rd, a place behind LELOUP VALLEE (5), in better company 6 days later. Is clearly close to his race and his trainer-driver will be quietly confident of getting back to winning ways

7. LA LIFE - Failed to deliver in 5 January race of reference but certainly redeemed herself at Marseille-Vivax last week and must be taken more seriously

8. LEADER DES APRES - Did not enjoy the best of trips here on 8 January. Is no slouch when barefoot and focused, and even in spite of a wide draw, can still get in on the action. First 5

9. LE BON MAYENNAIS - Showed improvement at Marseille-Vivax last week after having been dropped in category. Is plainly not devoid of ability and is not incapable of picking up some prizemoney

10. LUNE SMILE - Plainly useful but eliminated in last 4 and must first get her house in order

Summary: A tough nut to crack when barefoot, LELOUP VALLEE (5) gave a fine account here on just his 2nd start back, has pulled a good number, and could well get his nose in front this time. A place behind behind him that day, LEADER RASTID (6) has come into himself this winter and again looks the principal danger. LAMIA DU VIVIER (3) has yet to impose at Cagnes but she was most unlucky here last Friday and, even against the boys, must be taken seriously. Unplaced behind Nicolas Ensch's horse in the race of reference, LA LIFE (7) returned to the winners' enclosure just 8 days later and will be no shrinking violet.

SELECTIONS

LELOUP VALLEE (5) - LEADER RASTID (6) - LAMIA DU VIVIER (3) - LA LIFE (7)

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C6 - PRIX RASTEL BIHAN - 2150m (a1m1/4) - Class E - Harness - EUR € 31,000

1. JOLYSTAR GEDE - Has bags of ability but is as tricky as they come. Starts in front, races barefoot, with David Bekaert in the bike this time, and has the wherewithal to get in on the action, but must first stay in stride from one end of the race to the other

2. IPSOS D'ARIANE - No champion but always gives what he can. Encouraged here late last month but still has more to find

3. JOLAN BOY - Defied his odds to run 2nd in a 2925m Class E here 10 days ago. Is clearly close to his race and should represent main threat to JIQUEL (8)

4. JOCKSTRAP - Unlikely to play much of a supporting role after twice failing to deliver here recently. Yannick-Alain Briand in the bike this time but others still easier to trust

5. ISAAC DE SYVA - Faces first objective of the winter after 3 conditioners. Is barefoot for Cagnes bow but in this company will have his work cut out

6. JOE TEJY - Not always the most dependable but can trot when focused. Was quickly eliminated behind JOLAN BOY (3) last time but has a decent spot in front here and can play a small role

7. ISEA DU QUENNE - Returns to racing barefoot after failing to deliver behind JOLIE SMART (13) in a 2925m Class E here on 8 January, and even with shoes off this time will have too much to do

8. JIQUEL - Quality individual that was unlucky in a 2925m Class E here 10 days ago. Form is not in question and can more than make amends if kept out of harm's way. Claim

9. HAYRTON MAGIC - Pleasantly surprising 3rd of 11 to JOJO LAPIN (16) in an amateurs Class F over course and distance 10 days ago, however a repeat seems improbable

10. IDEAL DU BRIEU - Modest individual that has done nothing noteworthy for some time and is not about to start now

11. ISLA - Fine servant with nothing to prove over course and distance, but is not ideally-positioned and would have better prospects at a lower level

12. INTREPIDE TURGOT - Returns to France after winning over 2180m in Modena on 12 January. Starts on back line but is barefoot for first time at Cagnes and must not be underestimated

13. JOLIE SMART - Respectable 4th in a 2925m Class E here on 8 January before running 2nd to JOJO LAPIN (16) in an amateurs Class F over course and distance 3 days later. Cannot be considered a priority but is still worth keeping an eye on

14. JEALOUS GIRL - Went into the winter in decent shape but out of the picture in last 2, latterly 9th of 10 behind JOLIE SMART (13) in a 2925m Class E here on 8 January, and can be passed over

15. JELGA DU VIVIER - Won a Class E over longer here before faulting early under similar conditions a fortnight ago. Has to contend with a poor draw but in current condition is easy to like for a podium place

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16. JOJO LAPIN - Took no time getting back in the game following his 2nd semester holiday, running 2nd at Toulouse on re-entry before winning an amateurs Class F over course and distance 10 days ago, and despite the draw looks a major player

Summary: JIQUEL (8) was clearly in fine shape before having a brush with another sulky here recently. He is forced to break wide but still looks a marginally better bet than the well-positioned, and in-form, JOLAN BOY (3) who ran 2nd that day. The hardy JOJO LAPIN (16) easily won an amateurs event under these conditions the same afternoon and will be no pushover if Christophe Martens successfully negotiates the start. Breaking just to his inside, a similar caveat applies to the reconfigured JELGA DU VIVIER (15) who has shown a liking for Cagnes-sur-Mer.

SELECTIONS

JIQUEL (8) - JOLAN BOY (3) - JOJO LAPIN (16) - JELGA DU VIVIER (15)

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**C7 - PRIX HOUSTON LAUKKO - 2150m (a1m1/4) - Class C - Harness - EUR
€ 33,000**

1. KAPORAL VISAIS - Has looked a different horse since returning to Cagnes. Has lucked out in last 2 but has been reconfigured and can impose if kept out of trouble

2. KIRA BO FACE - Pleasantly surprising 2nd to KLASSE DE BRUZEAU (5) in a 2925m Class E here on 8 January. Has ground to make up though and is unlikely to sway the status quo

3. KAZAR - Talented type making Cagnes debut after a short spell. Finds himself in more reasonable company this time and will be no easy touch

4. KAMOUR - Steps up in category after coming 2nd in a 2925m Class D here on 13 December. Has shown fine aptitude for racing barefoot and must be considered a player

5. KLASSE DE BRUZEAU - Opened her Cagnes account when inheriting success from KATIA DHELPA (7) in a 2925m Class E here on 8 January. Is plainly in fine fettle but a repeat seems improbable

6. KASH SNIPER - Good servant with a particular liking for the venue but has better references over longer and can be passed over

7. KATIA DHELPA - Won a 2925m Class E here on 8 January but was subsequently eliminated. Starts wide here but that may just work to her advantage. Chance

Summary: A fine campaigner in excellent shape, KAPORAL VISAIS (1) was most unlucky over longer here 10 days ago, as he was on the previous occasion, but sports modified shoeing, and in this small field can bring home the bacon. KAZAR (3) drops down the category-ladder and reverts to a previous formula for his debut on the Riviera and should be good enough to contest the finish. KATIA DHELPA (7) imposed a fortnight ago only to lose it in the stewards' room, but returns to racing barefoot and Theo Briand will be out to set the record straight.

SELECTIONS

KAPORAL VISAIS (1) - KAZAR (3) - KATIA DHELPA (7) - KAMOUR (4)

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**C8 - PRIX HENRI ESTABLE - 2925m (a2m) - Class D - Harness - EUR €
38,000**

1. I AM DES MOTTES - Capable on a good day but returns shod from a spell and best to keep one's powder dry

2. GAI LOGIS - Excellent here last summer but has been less-effective since. Encouraged here earlier in the month and with Romain Derieux reining can start to come good again

3. JAGUAR WIT - Raced honourably here a month back prior to being eliminated at Agen last Saturday. Is patently in decent shape though and can play a role if Pierrick Le Moel manages to keep him focused

4. IRISH NICE ELGE - 6th of 15 on re-entry in a 2700m Class C here just 5 days ago. Will have progressed for the run and will be expected to finish closer

5. HIVER D'AUTHISE - Races shod following a pair of modest harness runs. Has other ambitions and can be passed over

6. FULGURER - Not the easiest of horses to handle but can trot when applied. Is barefoot for the occasion and, on good behaviour, can pick up a cheque

7. GRIZMAN - Returned to productive ways when 2nd in a 2925m claimer here 10 days ago. Is unlikely to spice things up but sports 4 pads for the first time and in this field can make his presence felt

8. INVISIBLE SAM - Previously a good sort but has made no impact in either code recently and is not about to change his ways

9. IDEAL DE JEAN - Gave a good account at Le Mans before enduring a tough run in Paris on New Year's Day. Yet to impose here but has come close more than once and will be competitive at the business end of the race

10. HESCORT LOVE - Gave a fine account on comeback a month ago, running 3rd of 11 in a Class D under these conditions. Is reunited with Gabriele Gelormini for the occasion and has every chance of contesting the finish this time

11. IVANA DE BERTRANGE - Back under harness after failing to make any impression under the saddle. Sports a revised formula but still not a priority

12. GIVE ME CASH - Unexceptional sort that finished 6th behind GRIZMAN (7) in a 2925m claimer here 10 days ago, and can expect to have few friends

13. IBROX PARK - Won 2 of last 3, most recently a 2200m Vincennes monte Class D a month back. Enjoys a good entry and Theo Briand can be confident of another big performance

Summary: Generous and performant, and winner in both disciplines this winter, IBROX PARK (13) is difficult to criticise when barefoot and once again looks the horse to beat. That said, HESCORT LOVE (10) got back in the game here a month ago and will be reconfigured for the occasion. Back at a track he appreciates, IDEAL DE JEAN (9) should not be too hastily-condemned for his Vincennes performance. IRISH NICE ELGE (4) held his own here last Friday and Christophe Martens will be reining this time.

SELECTIONS

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IBROX PARK (13) - HESCORT LOVE (10) - IDEAL DE JEAN (9) - IRISH NICE ELGE (4)
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