

SUNDAY, 19/05/24

C1 - PRIX DE BRUXELLES - 2500m (a1m1/2) - TURF - Class 4 Divided Handicap - Flat - EUR € 15,000

- 1. HYGROVE DAN** - Versatile veteran who has shown his form and well-being recently on turf and PSF in Belgium - finished 2nd over 2700m at Waregem on 1 May. Not taken lightly
- 2. WHEN I DREAM** - Inconsistent maiden. Finished 16th in a 2800m ParisLongchamp handicap on 28 April with blinkers on, but reappears with the headgear removed. Can do better
- 3. ASPHODELE MIA** - Enjoyed a fruitful 2023 but has been soundly beaten (unplaced) in each of her last five starts, including all four outings this year - the latest (8th) over 2100m at ParisLongchamp on 9 May. Dropped 1kg
- 4. IVISHAK RIVER** - Consistent handicapper with sound references/form credentials. Finished a disappointing 9th in a 1900m PSF handicap at Chantilly on 11 May but ought to do better back on turf
- 5. MAX ZORIN** - Finished 3rd in consecutive PSF handicaps at Chantilly in December 2022/February 2023 but unplaced in all 7 subsequent outings - the latest (17th) over 1900m at Chantilly on 26 April. Others preferred
- 6. BANANA SHOT** - Won an 1800m handicap at Evreux in April but struggled to confirm that form/improvement by only finishing 11th in a 1900m PSF handicap at Chantilly on 11 May. Outsider
- 7. LORD SPIRIT** - Capable veteran who has dropped considerably in the weights/ratings after going off the boil some time ago. Finished a well-beaten 11th over 2100m in a handicap at ParisLongchamp on 9 May
- 8. GRAND YAKA** - Performed relatively consistently/competitively during 2022 but finished unplaced in all 3 appearances last year and was soundly beaten (16th) in his 2400m comeback this year at Compiègne on 10 March
- 9. RUE DAUPHINE** - Consistent performer for the most part and confined as much with a creditable course-and-distance 5th on 20 April. Has leading claims
- 10. FIVE BY FIVE** - Unreliable veteran but isn't incapable of getting into the picture judged on his best references. Finished 3rd over 2400m at Nantes before a disappointing (10th) last start at Châteaubriant on 12 May
- 11. LIE HIGH** - Has been out of sorts recently but unsuited to heavy tracks, finishing 8th in consecutive starts - latest over 1800m at Evreux on 24 April. Return to faster/firmer ground will serve his interests
- 12. THE FOOTMAN** - A 31-start maiden who showed signs of improvement when finishing 5th in a handicap over 1800m at Evreux on 24 April. More needed
- 13. MOUSSON D'EVAILLE** - Has placed just once in 18 appearances, without winning. Unlikely to trouble the judge after finishing 7th in a 2650m handicap at Châteaubriant on 12 May

Summary: Competitive opener. IVISHAK RIVER (4), her disappointing last start aside, and RUE DAUPHINE (9), who has been regaining momentum recently off her current mark, have the means to fight for victory. However, so does HYGROVE DAN (1), whose recent form in Belgium is encouraging. LIE HIGH (11), who should find a faster/firmer track more to his liking, is another candidate for success.

SELECTIONS

IVISHAK RIVER (4) - RUE DAUPHINE (9) - HYGROVE DAN (1) - LIE HIGH (11)

SUNDAY, 19/05/24

C2 - PRIX FRANCIS BERNARD - 2500m (a1m1/2) - TURF - Class 4 Divided Handicap - Flat - EUR € 17,000

- 1. ANALEON** - Consistent veteran who didn't finish a long way behind CITY CAT (7) when 3rd over this track and trip on 20 April. Not taken lightly under a light weight
 - 2. CANIAR DE LUXE** - Consistent, hard-knocking handicapper with sound references/form credentials, including a last-start 4th over 2500m at Angerson on 11 April. An attractive outsider
 - 3. CIVNYAN** - Unreliable but capable handicapper. Finished 14th in a 2100m handicap at ParisLongchamp on 9 May but would have a say here on the form of his 3rd over 2000m at Compeigne on 16 April - keep safe
 - 4. SKIP CHOP** - Consistent performer in handicaps and claiming races, confirmed as much by his last-start 4th on his reappearance in a claimer over track and trip on 22 March. Should have a role to play
 - 5. KENNY** - Hard-knocking handicapper over hurdles. Reverts to the flat after finishing 7th in a 3800m conditions race over the obstacles at Wissembourg on 1 May
 - 6. ROCHEUX** - Last-start winner of a 2300m handicap at Angers on 4 May. Ought to remain competitive under a 2.5kg penalty
 - 7. CITY CAT** - Runner-up in a handicap over course and distance on her return to France last time (20 April). Winning chance
 - 8. RUE DE VOLGA** - Improved with each of her three comeback outings this year - confirmed as much by finishing 6th over track and trip in a handicap on 20 April. Dark horse
 - 9. DETESNOUVELLES** - Unreliable mare but isn't incapable of getting into the picture judged on her best references. Finished 3rd over 2000m at Compeigne before a disappointing (12th) last start over 2500m at Nancy on 5 May
 - 10. WINGS OF FIRE** - Showed signs of improvement when finishing 6th in a 2500m handicap at Saint-Cloud on 6 May. Needs to build on that
 - 11. THINDY** - Veteran handicapper and last-start winner over 1700m at La Roche-sur-Yon on 12 May. Dangerous to discount off an unchanged mark
 - 12. MISS COSY** - Has dropped considerably in the weights/ratings but seldom finishes far off the mark. Absent since her 9th at Compeigne in a 2000m handicap on 29 March
 - 13. LE HOULME** - Has plummeted in the weights/ratings having gone off the boil some time ago. Best watched for now after finishing 8th in a 2800m handicap at ParisLongchamp on 28 April
- Summary:** CITY CAT (7) finished an encouraging 2nd over course and distance recently so needs only to repeat that performance to fight for victory. SKIP CHOP (4), whose comeback was satisfactory, should improve with the benefit of that outing to pose a threat. Veteran ANALEON (1), who is closely matched with the selection on recent form, and CIVNYAN (3) also have the means to make their presence felt.

SELECTIONS

CITY CAT (7) - SKIP CHOP (4) - ANALEON (1) - CIVNYAN (3)

SUNDAY, 19/05/24

C3 - PRIX DU JOCKEY-CLUB DE BELGIQUE - 1100m (a5f1/2) - TURF - Maiden Race - Flat - EUR € 21,000

- 1. SCAN FOR CHAMPAGNE** - Runner-up in a 1400m claimer at Strasbourg on 22 April but failed to confirm that form/improvement when only 11th over 1300m at Saint-Cloud on 6 May
- 2. TIME SIGNATURE** - Consistent performer who didn't finish a long way behind O'DONNELL'S ORCHARD (6) when 4th over 1200m at Fontainebleau on 30 April. Ought to remain competitive
- 3. SPEED LIGHT** - Confirmed the promise of his debut 3rd at Moulins by improving to finish 2nd at Lyon-Parilly over 1000m on 9 May. Candidate for success
- 4. TIGER KING** - Finished a well-beaten 12th on debut over 1300m in a claimer at Saint-Cloud on 6 May. Ought to have improved with that experience
- 5. APPELLANT** - Consistent performer with sound references/form credentials, including a last-start 4th in a 1300m claimer at Saint-Cloud on 6 May. Place chance
- 6. O'DONNELL'S ORCHARD** - Made an encouraging start to his career in England and finished an eye-catching 2nd on his debut on French soil at Fontainebleau over 1200m on 30 April. Winning chance
- 7. CARDISTRY** - Consistent filly with sound references/form credentials, including a last-start 5th over 1200m on heavy ground at Deauville on 10 April. Keep safe
- 8. ROAST CHESTNUT** - Consistent performer with sound references/form credentials, which include finishing 6th over 1300m on PSF at Cagnes on 26 February. Not taken lightly
- 9. ARZUGA** - Unplaced in all three appearances and is hard to recommend after finishing 12th at Fontainebleau over 1400m on 3 May
- 10. BOTTOMS UP** - Has placed just once in 11 appearances and isn't likely to trouble the judge after finishing 5th in a 1200m handicap at Fontainebleau on 3 May
- 11. NURTURE** - Showed plenty of speed in her first two starts, finishing 4th on debut over 1600m and 5th over a mile at Lyon-Parilly on 20 April. Should enjoy this shorter distance
- 12. ALIMAYA** - Improved after a modest (10th) debut last year to finish 5th over 1400m on her reappearance at Fontainebleau on 3 May. Open to further progress

Summary: O'DONNELL'S ORCHARD (6) finished an improved/encouraging 2nd on his reappearance at Fontainebleau and he needn't improve a great deal to open his account. SPEED LIGHT (3) and CARDISTRY (7) have both the form and experience to fight for victory, although the same could also be said of NURTURE (11) who ought to appreciate this shorter trip. Good race!

SELECTIONS

ODONNELL'S ORCHARD (6) - SPEED LIGHT (3) - CARDISTRY (7) - NURTURE (11)

SUNDAY, 19/05/24

C4 - PRIX D'OSTENDE - 1100m (a5f1/2) - TURF - Class 4 Claiming Handicap - Flat - EUR € 13,000

1. TRUE ROMANCE - Won a 1300m claimer at Saint-Cloud on 12 April and wasn't disgraced when finishing 6th in a 1400m handicap at that venue on 19 April under a 1kg penalty (current mark). Dark horse

2. PAPATEOU - Course-and-distance winner of a similar contest on 22 March before failing to make an impression in a 1200m handicap (11th) at Chantilly on 15 April. Big player back at this level

3. MAJOR OAK - Finished 4th in a 1300m claimer at Saint-Cloud on 12 April but didn't confirm that form/improvement when only 9th in a 1600m claimer at Fontainebleau on 3 May. Best watched for now

4. GLICOURT - Capable but inconsistent veteran who has looked out of sorts recently - confirmed by his last start (7th) over 1000m at Dieppe on 13 May

5. ABRASSO - Inconsistent performer who lost his way in the handicaps last year - absent since finishing 13th over 1400m at Compiègne on 13 October. Best watched for now

6. INTREPID ITALIAN - Didn't go unnoticed when 6th on his reappearance on heavy ground over track and trip on 22 March. Ought to have improved with the benefit of that comeback outing - keep safe

7. EXCALIBUR - Soundly beaten in consecutive handicap appearances recently - the latest (10th) at ParisLongchamp over 1400m on 28 April - but did finish 2nd in a similar contest over track and trip prior to that

8. PERMENTON - Caught the eye when staying on to finish 5th in a claimer over course and distance behind EXCALIBUR (7) on 22 March. Ought to remain competitive

9. WRONG COLOUR - Sparked improvement to finish 5th in a 1200m conditions race at Lyon-Parilly on 8 May. Could have a say here if confirming/building on that progress

10. JAVA JAMES - Has placed just once in 19 appearances and isn't likely to trouble the judge on the evidence of her 7th in a handicap over track and trip on 20 April. Others preferred

Summary: A wide-open claimer in which it could pay to side with EXCALIBUR (7) returning to form with the benefit of his rider's 2kg allowance. PAPATEOU (2), who finished slightly ahead of the selection last time, has obvious claims too, especially with his rider taking 1,5kg off the back. INTREPID ITALIAN (6) didn't go unnoticed on his reappearance and will appreciate a hot pace, so could play a leading role too. PERMENTON (8) completes the shortlist.

SELECTIONS

EXCALIBUR (7) - PAPATEOU (2) - INTREPID ITALIAN (6) - PERMENTON (8)

SUNDAY, 19/05/24

C5 - PRIX DE WAREGEM - 1800m (a1m1/8) - TURF - Handicap - Flat - EUR € 17,000

1. MANOIR - Has performed relatively consistently/competitively in the handicaps - boasts sound references/form credentials. Disappointing 8th in a 2000m handicap at Saint-Cloud on 10 May but should do better here

2. GRAN HABANO - Consistent performer in handicaps on both turf and PSF - confirmed as much by finishing 4th in a 1600m handicap at Le Mans on 23 April. Candidate for success

3. RUM TUM TUGGER - Absent since finishing 12th in a 1600m PSF claimer at Chantilly on 12 December. Best watched for now

4. KOUPRA - Improving filly who caught the eye when finishing 3rd over 1700m at Saint-Brieuc on 22 October when last seen. Not taken lightly on her reappearance

5. FEE DU VIVIEN - Unplaced in all three appearances. Makes her handicap debut after finishing 8th at Fontainebleau over 1400m on 3 May

6. BALERION - Acquitted himself competitively (4th) on his handicap debut over 2100m at Senonnes on 14 April. Keep safe

7. NOUSDEUX - Improved to finish an encouraging 5th in a handicap over 1850m at ParisLongchamp on 14 April. Ought to be competitive on that form

8. WALDLADY - Runner-up in a course-and-distance handicap on 20 April and didn't go unnoticed when finishing 5th in a 2000m handicap at Nancy on 5 May. Not taken lightly

9. OLAF - Unplaced in all five outings, including both handicap appearances on PSF - the latest (10th) over 1900m at Chantilly on 24 February. Dark horse back on turf

10. ROCKSTAR MARTINI - Didn't go unnoticed on his handicap debut over 1600m at Saint-Cloud on 6 May. Finished 5th that day, so could get into the picture with any improvement

11. FABIOLA HILL - Lightly raced filly with sound references, albeit without success, and seldom far off the mark. Finished an encouraging 5th in a 1300m claimer at Saint-Cloud on 6 May so shouldn't be underestimated

12. SWEETYDANCER - Yet to open her account (11 starts) or establish herself in the handicaps, finishing unplaced all 3 outings at this level - the latest (8th) over 1600m at Saint-Cloud on 6 May. Outsider

13. LAMAJESTIK - Consistent performer for the most part with better references in the claiming category, though seldom far off the mark in handicaps - confirmed as much by her 6th over 1600m at Saint-Cloud on 6 May

14. MOONWALKER - Has placed just twice in 16 appearances and is unlikely to trouble the judge on the evidence of his last start (10th) in a 1900m PSF claimer at Chantilly on 7 May. Others preferred

Summary: GRAN HABANO (2) has performed competitively in handicaps and ought to be rewarded for his consistency sooner rather than later - today could be his day. He gets the nod ahead of NOUSDEUX (7), whose latest outing at this level was positive, and BALERION (6), who didn't go unnoticed when finishing 4th on his handicap debut at Senonnes last month. WALDLADY (8) finished 2nd in a similar contest over track and trip second on 20 April and should also have a role to play on that form.

SELECTIONS

GRAN HABANO (2) - NOUSDEUX (7) - BALERION (6) - WALDLADY (8)

SUNDAY, 19/05/24

C6 - PRIX DE MONS - 1800m (a1m1/8) - TURF - Class 4 Claiming Handicap - Flat - EUR € 13,000

1. JACK OF TRADES - Confirmed his improved recent form with a last-start success over 1600m at Fontainebleau on 3 May. Chief threat

2. PORTRERO - Won a course-and-distance handicap in March but has struggled in 2 starts subsequent outings under a penalty - finished 9th on both occasions, the latest over 1900m on PSF at Chantilly on 11 May

3. MEDINA GOLD - Sparked improvement to finish a reassuring 3rd in a 2000m claimer at Fontainebleau on 30 April. Could have a say if confirming that form/improvement here

4. EL ROY - Won a 1650m claimer at Amiens in November and confirmed that form/improvement by finishing 2nd over 2000m on PSF at Mariselle-Vivieux in December. Can improve after a comeback outing (7th) over 1600m at Fontainebleau on 3 May

5. KHANWEILER - Consistent performer with sound references at this level and represents a stable in good form. Didn't go unnoticed when finishing 5th over 2300m at Angers on 4 May

6. RIYAK - Has won and finished 2nd in his last two visits to this track, both over course and distance. Unplaced in both comeback outings - the latest (9th) over 1800m at Evreux on 24 April - but should fare better here

7. TAYBET - Has plummeted in the weights/ratings having lost his form in conditions and handicap races recently, the latest (9th) over 2500m at Saint-Cloud on 6 May - but ought to do better in his first start at this level

8. LEX LUTHOR - Consistent veteran handicapper with a particular liking for this course. Will be competitive for victory on the evidence of his last-start 5th in a 1600m handicap at Lyon-Parilly on 27 April

9. EL BNOUD - Won a 1350m handicap at Wissembourg on 1 May but struggled to make an impression (11th) under a 2,5kg penalty in a 1400m handicap at ParisLongchamp on 12 May. Best watched for now

10. LA LOIRE - Has been off the boil for some time now and is hard to recommend after finishing unplaced in all three comeback outings - the latest (9th) in a claimer over 1300m at Saint-Cloud on 12 April

Summary: Veteran course-specialist LEX LUTHOR (8) makes obvious appeal on the strength and consistency of his recent form. JACK OF TRADES (1), a winner last time out, and consistent KHANWEILER (5), especially in this headgear, are those most likely to challenge the selection for race honours. RIYAK (6) is out of sorts but isn't incapable of staking a claim either. Tricky!

SELECTIONS

LEX LUTHOR (8) - JACK OF TRADES (1) - KHANWEILER (5) - RIYAK (6)

SUNDAY, 19/05/24

C7 - PRIX GABRIEL THIEFFRY - HANDICAP CHALLENGE - 1800m (a1m1/8) - TURF - Class 4 Race - Flat - EUR € 14,000

- 1. HEATHERWOOD** - Made quite the splash by winning a 1600m ParisLongchamp handicap on 9 May. Should play a leading role under a 1kg penalty
- 2. HADLEIGH** - Last-start winner of a 2000m handicap at Strasbourg on 8 May. Ought to fight for victory with Florent Guy engaged to ride
- 3. JOAO** - Capable veteran but is unreliable/inconsistent. Runner-up in a 1600m Chantilly handicap last month before finishing a disappointing 13th in a 1600m handicap at ParisLongchamp on 9 May - dark horse
- 4. ZELZEFYR** - Last-start winner of a 1950m conditions race at Châteaubriant on 12 May. Should remain competitive under a 2kg penalty
- 5. COCO LOVE** - Yet to find the frame in 10 appearance and is unlikely to trouble the judge here after finishing 8th over 1800m at Evreux in a handicap on 24 April
- 6. PRAIRIE GLORY** - Capable but is unreliable/inconsistent. Unplaced in all five appearances this year and is best watched for now after finishing 11th in an 1800m Evreux handicap on 24 April
- 7. AFGHANY** - Finished 4th in a 1900m PSF handicap at Chantilly a few weeks ago but has failed to confirm that form in subsequent outings - unplaced in both, the latest on PSF over 1900m at Chantilly on 11 May. Capable
- 8. PEARL HARBOUR** - Showed signs of improvement when finishing 3rd in a 1600m Saint-Cloud handicap on 1 May. Needs to confirm
- 9. UNA NOVA** - Performed consistently at Mons this year before a disappointing last start (8th) at that venue over 2100m on 26 April. Needs to reaffirm

Summary: Consistent last-start winner HADLEIGH (2) could make this amateur race his own, especially with Florent Guy in the irons. HEATHERWOOD (1), himself a winner last time out at ParisLongchamp, has a bit to find at the weights but will challenge. AFGHANY (7), with the aid of Jad Hondier's 2kg allowance, and another recent scorer in ZELZEFYR (4) are competitive for a spot on the podium.

SELECTIONS

HADLEIGH (2) - HEATHERWOOD (1) - AFGHANY (7) - ZELZEFYR (4)

SUNDAY, 19/05/24

C8 - PRIX ETIENNE DE WAZIERES - 2500m (a1m1/2) - TURF - Class 3 Race - Flat - EUR € 15,000

- 1. LEXOVIENNE** - Last-start winner of a 2400m claimer at Dieppe on 13 May. Should remain competitive for the leading places with the aid of Lorette Gallo's 3,5kg allowance
- 2. LADYSHOW** - Consistent 18-start maiden who seldom finishes far off the mark. Confirmed as much by finishing 4th in a 2400m handicap at Nantes on 6 May
- 3. WALD PRINCE** - Improving colt with sound references/form credentials, including a last-start 3rd over this distance at Nancy on 5 May. Candidate for success
- 4. POTE** - Caught the eye when finishing a career-best 3rd in a 2500m claimer at Evreux on 24 April. Not taken lightly
- 5. BIMBO** - Finished a career-best 2nd over 2400m at Dieppe on 13 May and need only repeat that performance to fight for victory
- 6. HEAREN** - Unplaced in all 4 appearances but could have more to offer over this extended trip, having finished 9th over 2000m at Lyon-Parilly on 17 April. Outsider
- 7. L AMICALEMENT** - Soundly beaten in each of her three outings, the latest (10th) at Angers over 2300m on 4 May. Others preferred

Summary: A small but competitive field assembled for this concluding contest. WALD PRINCE (3) has improved with each outing and is likely to fight for victory if building on the encouragement of his last start (3rd). BIMBO (5) finished an eye-catching 2nd last time and ought to challenge for race honours if confirming that form/improvement. Last-start winner LEXOVIENNE (1) should also remain competitive with the aid of her rider's 3,5kg allowance. POTE (4) has the form and experience to play a leading role too. Good race!

SELECTIONS

WALD PRINCE (3) - BIMBO (5) - LEXOVIENNE (1) - POTE (4)