

SATURDAY, 25/01/25

C1 - COUPE INTERCONTINENTALE DES AMATEURS - 2100m (a1m1/4) - Class F Amateur Drivers Race - Harness - EUR € 15,000

1. **GRAFFITI BOND** - 9th of 17 in a 2650m Bordeaux claimer early-December and has nothing to offer
2. **ECLIPSE DU NOYER** - Last of 11 finishers in a 2850m Class F here late last month and even with shoes off has no realistic chance
3. **HUNADORA** - Left a very good impression when 2nd of 12 finishers in an amateurs Class F over course and distance late-December. Ideally-placed on front line and will be expected to bring the fight to GIZMOGOLD (7)
4. **HILLONA DE NESLE** - 2nd of 10 in a 2800m Pontchateau monte Class F early this month. Breaks from the 4-spot and if form transitions can pick up a cheque
5. **GALOPIN DE BIANCA** - Tough type that just missed out on a podium place when 4th of 13 finishers in a 2650m Vivaux Class F on 14 January. Takes a dip in category and from the 5-spot will be no easy-touch
6. **FIRST DE ROUGEMONT** - Returns to the harness code after coming 5th of 12 to GUEPARD GRIFF (10) in a 2825m Class E at Le Croise-Laroche mid-December. Handed a decent draw and will be expected to make first 5
7. **GIZMOGOLD** - Debuts at Vincennes after finishing and unlucky last of 13 in a 2650m Vivaux Class F on 14 January. Goes well when barefoot and should have the measure of the field
8. **IKAROS** - Not without merit but sanctioned in last 3, latterly a 2925m Cagnes Class E a fortnight ago. Sports a fresh configuration and if applied can play a small role
9. **HASCHELEY BERRY** - Surprise 4th of 12 finishers behind HUNADORA (3) before finishing 7th of 16 in a 2850m amateurs Class F here 10 days ago. Forced to break wide but is still good enough to finish in the mix
10. **GUEPARD GRIFF** - Ran 2nd over course and distance before coming 6th of 12 in a 2700m monté Class D conditioner here 9 days ago and, if positioned early, will not be far off the mark
11. **FANFARO BELLO** - Has not been seen out since being sanctioned in a 2700m Graignes monte Class F early-November and can be disregarded
12. **HERINE D'OCCAGNES** - Last of 13 behind GUEPARD GRIFF (10) in an amateurs Class F earlier this month and will have nothing to contribute
13. **IDEAL FLEURI** - Produced a brace of good efforts prior to running 8th of 12 finishers behind HUNADORA (3) in an amateurs Class F over course and distance on 28 December. Goes first-time barefoot and despite a 2nd line draw, can still make his presence felt
14. **FIANARANTSOA** - 4 times a winner in the amateur division but will need to improve on her 8th of 15 in a 2750m Toulouse Class F 2.5 weeks ago

Summary: GIZMOGOLD (7) did not enjoy the best of runs in Marseille mid-month but returns to a distance he will appreciate, starts in front, and can make a big splash if he takes to the new profile. Better-positioned behind the car, and runner-up under similar conditions last month, HUNADORA (3) will be no pushover. GALOPIN DE BIANCA (5) enjoys a wonderful entry, encouraged last time out and even racing shod this time, looks a player. GUEPARD GRIFF (10) showed his worth at this level earlier in the month and will have his chances.

SELECTIONS

GIZMOGOLD (7) - HUNADORA (3) - GALOPIN DE BIANCA (5) - GUEPARD GRIFF (10)

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C2 - PRIX DE CHALONS EN CHAMPAGNE - 2700m (a1m1/2) - Class D Race - Harness - EUR € 40,000

1. FLY LR - Won 4 on the trot before finishing 4th of 7 behind FALAISE DANCE (2) over 2120m in Milan on New Year's Day. Shoes back on this time however and others preferred

2. FALAISE DANCE - Produced a pair of good runs before being sanctioned over 2120m in Milan 10 days ago. Has never raced beyond 2020m but goes barefoot for the occasion and can get a look-in

3. QUEEN OF PARIS - Makes first appearance since finishing last of 10 in a Gr.3 over course and distance early-November and will not be troubling the judge

4. GOSA GOSING - 5th of 6 when being prepared for this over 2100m at Orebro on 12 December. Is confirmed at a superior level and will be expected to contest the finish

5. FLORIS DAY BAR - Has taken her game up a notch since starting to race barefoot, most recently 3rd of 7, a place behind FALAISE DANCE (2), over 2120m in Milan on New Year's Day. Has demonstrated decent versatility but still no more than a minor place prospect

6. LITTLETON LANDING - 11th of 12 finishers in a 2100m Class E here 3 weeks ago. Reunited with Eric Raffin and although unlikely to get her nose in front, can still figure prominently

7. FRANCESINA ORS - Pulled-up in a 2100m event in Naples a fortnight ago. Races first-time barefoot but still not a priority

8. FIAMMETTA FERM - Won at Le Capannelle early-December before finishing 2nd of 8 over a mile in Florence 3 weeks later. Takes on a tougher lot here and is unlikely to shake things up

9. LA BOMBONERA - Sanctioned in last 4, latterly a 2100m Class D here on 14 January, and others easier to trust

10. L'ILE D'HAUFOR - Won over short course a month ago but never at her ease when sanctioned in a 2100m Class D here mid-month. Gets a 2nd shot at the main track and her driver will be eager to set the record straight. Chance

11. FEDE JET - 5th of 8 finishers over 1660m at Aversa a fortnight ago. Races barefoot for first time but appears to be out of her depth

12. LADY BIRD JENILAT - Courageous 5th of 14 in a Class D over track and trip on Christmas Eve. Hind shoes off for first time and will be expected to show another side

13. FREISA ROC - Faithful servant that made it 2 in a row when victorious over a mile at San Siro 3 weeks ago. Untried over 2700m but with a leading driver at the helm is unlikely to disappoint

14. FREYA T BOKO - Quality element facing something of a stiff test here but has shown significant promise and must be taken seriously

15. FLAVIA BROS - Quality element making French debut after securing the hat-trick over 1600m in Florence on 17 December. Takes to 2700m for first time but is clearly a filly for the future and given the stable's form, looks a serious proposition

Summary: FLAVIA BROS (15) makes her French debut after pulling off the hat-trick at home in Italy and if she takes to the new conditions, should be good enough to win this. She is going to come under pressure from the good Scandinavian GOSA GOSING (4) who returns to racing barefoot after prepping at home, and the complicated L'ILE D'HAUFOR (10) who will be dangerous if David Thomain keeps her focused. Gabi Gelormini's services have been booked for FREISA ROC (13) who can be assured a competitive drive.

SELECTIONS

FLAVIA BROS (15) - GOSA GOSING (4) - L'ILE D'HAUFOR (10) - FREISA ROC (13)

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C3 - PRIX DES ANDELYS - 2175m (a1m1/4) - Class B Race - Mounted - EUR € 52,000

1. LOTUS PAULOIS - Sanctioned in both since the break, latterly a 2700m Class D here last Tuesday. Front shoes off this time but others still easier to trust

2. LIO RENKA - 4th of 7 behind LOLA DAIRPET (9) in a Class B over course and distance late last month. Goes up against the colts this time but races barefoot and should be able to hold her own

3. LITTLE DRAGON - Sanctioned when unsupported in a 2700m Class C here 2 weeks ago. Not the same horse he was last spring and even though reconfigured, still seems to have his work cut out

4. LEONARD DU CLOS - Unexceptional 4th of 5 finishers behind LABEL DE LARRE (14) in a Class C over 2700m here a fortnight ago and will struggle to make his presence felt

5. LOVE'S SECRET - Beautifully-related colt that has found his feet under the saddle, most recently dominating a 2200m Class D here 2.5 weeks ago, and Eric Raffin will be determined to secure the 3-timer

6. LOOKING FRANCE - Sanctioned, on monte debut late last month, in a 2175m Class B here. Has shown the limits of her capacity though and, front shoes off or not, her chances seem slim

7. LAFOLLY DELO - Pleasant 5th of 7 behind LOLA DAIRPET (9) in a 2175m Class B here late last month. Is unlikely to shake things up but going barefoot will do her prospects no disservice

8. LA SEGNORA PIYA - Well-beaten 6th of 7 behind LOLA DAIRPET (9) in a 2175m Class B here late last month. Has already triumphed under these conditions but even racing barefoot still faces a tough test

9. LOLA DAIRPET - 3rd of 7 finishers in a 2175m Class B here on 27 December. Sports a new configuration for the occasion but is a minor place chance at best this time

10. LITTLE DAIDOU - Has taken well to his new vocation, latterly runner-up to LE BEST MADRIK (13) in a 2700m Class D here on 20 December, but with shoes off this time, looks the pick of the bunch

11. LEVADIA - Scored a 2nd straight when securing a 2200m Class D here on 6 January. Flopped on lone start over the main track but stays barefoot and will be no pushover

12. LORD CATH - Has been knocking at the door all winter, latterly 3rd behind LABEL DE LARRE (14) in a Class C over 2700m here a fortnight ago. Is not far from opening his account and the new configuration may be just the ticket

13. LE BEST MADRIK - Made it 2 in a row when securing a 2700m Class D here on 20 December, beating LITTLE DAIDOU (10) in the process, and is not incapable of confirming

14. LABEL DE LARRE - Stayed on well to run 2nd of 5 finishers in a Class C over 2700m here a fortnight ago. Ran 2nd last time under these conditions and is unlikely to disappoint

Summary: Although seldom far from faulting, LITTLE DAIDOU (10) has nevertheless shown significant ability in both codes and, racing first-time barefoot, has a realistic chance of turning the tables on the hat-trick seeking, and reconfigured, LE BEST MADRIK (13) who had his measure here last month. LOVE'S SECRET (5), however, has been simply superb since being associated with Eric Raffin and looks the principal danger to Mathieu Mottier's mount. Enjoying a good entry close to the limit of earnings, LABEL DE LARRE (14) has been knocking at the door this winter and his recent Class C performance bodes well for his chances.

SELECTIONS

LITTLE DAIDOU (10) - LOVE'S SECRET (5) - LE BEST MADRIK (13) - LABEL DE LARRE (14)

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C4 - PRIX BOLD EAGLE - 2700m (a1m1/2) - Gr1 Race - Harness - EUR € 300,000

1. **IMMORTAL DOC** - Sprang an 87/1 surprise when finishing 2nd to KOCTEL DU DAIN (18) in 2850m Gr.2 Prix de Croix here 2 weeks ago. Front shoes off this time and must be taken more seriously
2. **KANTO AVIS** - Failed to replicate Prix Octave Douesnel success when 5th in Gr.2 Prix de Croix earlier in the month but is no slouch on a good day and should not be ignored
3. **KOKOTE** - Made up for Critérium Continental sanction when 3rd to KOCTEL DU DAIN (18) in 2850m Gr.2 Prix de Croix here 2 weeks ago. Goes barefoot for the occasion and will not be far off the mark if she stays in stride
4. **KATINKA DU MOUCHEL** - Sanctioned in last 2, most recently Gr.2 Prix de Croix a fortnight back. Has references in this class but in current shape is not easy to recommend
5. **KEENAN DE JOUDES** - Last but 1 in Criterium Continental prior to running 4th in Prix de Croix 2 weeks ago. Has never delivered at Gr.1 level but in current form is easy to like for a minor place cheque
6. **KHAL'S FELLA** - Did not live to expectations when 6th of 11 finishers to KOCTEL DU DAIN (18) in 2850m Gr.2 Prix de Croix here 2 weeks ago. Cannot be considered a contender but still has the wherewithal to get a look-in
7. **KAYA DREAM** - Sanctioned in last 2, most recently a monté 2700m Gr.3 here 3 weeks ago, and will have nothing to contribute
8. **ENCIERRO (ITY)** - Makes first appearance since running 4th of 7 to EXECUTIV EK (12) over 2100m at Le Capannelle mid-November and is not about to cause an upset
9. **KING OPERA** - Respectable 7th of 11 finishers to KOCTEL DU DAIN (18) in 2850m Gr.2 Prix de Croix here 2 weeks ago. Shod to preference this time but others still easier to back
10. **KRISTAL JOSSELYN** - Sanctioned in last 2, most recently 2850m Gr.2 Prix de Croix here a fortnight back, and will first need to get his house in order
11. **KSAR** - Got back in the game on 22 December when 4th behind EAST ASIA (15) in Critérium Continental on 22 December and in similar shape can repeat
12. **EXECUTIV EK** - Quality Italian type that won a brace at home before coming 7th behind EAST ASIA (15) in Critérium Continental on 22 December. Is better than that though and is not to be underestimated
13. **NINETTA BOKO** - 3rd to KOKOTE (3) in Gr.2 Prix Ariste Hemard before faulting early in 2100m Gr.1 Critérium Continental here on 22 December. Not a priority but will generate some interest
14. **KALIF LANDIA** - Won a Gr.1 under the saddle before being sanctioned in 2850m Gr.2 Prix de Croix here 2 weeks ago. Is plainly in decent shape and although preferred in the other code, should nevertheless give an honourable account
15. **EAST ASIA** - Excellent 2nd of 18 in 2100m Gr.1 Critérium Continental here on 22 December. Has form at this level and looks every bit a place prospect

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16. KANA DE BEYLEV - Runner-up to KOKOTE (3) in Gr.2 Prix Ariste Hemard prior to coming 5th of 13 finishers in 2100m Gr.1 Critérium Continental here on 22 December. Will not have to contend with a bad draw this time and can give KOCTEL DU DAIN (18) something to think about

17. KILMISTER - Has failed to fire since coming to France, latterly 8th of 11 finishers to KOCTEL DU DAIN (18) in 2850m Gr.2 Prix de Croix here 2 weeks ago, and others preferred

18. KOCTEL DU DAIN - Made up for Critérium Continental disappointment when routing the opposition in 2850m Gr.2 Prix de Croix here 2 weeks ago and a similar performance would see him double up

Summary: One of the highlights of the afternoon has drawn a full field with recent, and dynamic, Gr.2 Prix de Croix winner KOCTEL DU DAIN (18) very easy to like for the double. It will not be all plain sailing though considering how well KANA DE BEYLEV (16) has been acquitting herself and her chances will improve significantly if there is a good pace. EAST ASIA (15) finished ahead of her in the Criterium Continental and should again play a leading role, as can KSAR (11) who ran 4th that day.

SELECTIONS

KOCTEL DU DAIN (18) - KANA DE BEYLEV (16) - EAST ASIA (15) - KSAR (11)

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C5 - PRIX ROQUEPINE - 2700m (a1m1/2) - Gr2 Race - Harness - EUR € 150,000

1. GINGER WISE AS - Makes Vincennes debut on a hat-trick, most recently dominating the opposition over a mile in Naples on 3 January. Gocciadoro stable in flying form and she will be dangerous if she takes to the main-track profile

2. GRACE BREED - Sanctioned at 125/1 in 5 January race of reference and will have nothing to contribute

3. MIRATISSIME - Respectable but unexceptional 4th of 9, a place behind MUSCADE LEMAN (6), in a 2700m Class A here a week ago and can be confidently passed over

4. MASINA DE TILLARD - Faulted early in Gr.2 Prix Gelinotte on 5 January, subsequently finishing last but one. Has significant ability though and can play a leading role if Théo Duvaldestin assures her initial strides

5. MONEGASQUE - Ran 3rd in Gr.2 Prix Une de Mai mid-December before faulting early in 5 January race of reference. Mathieu Mottier keeps the faith however and will not be far from the action if he keeps her focused

6. MUSCADE LEMAN - In the frame in last 2, latterly 3rd of 7 in a 2700m Class A here a week ago, although in this company, and at this level, is unlikely to influence the outcome

7. MARGAUX DES ARRIS - Runner-up to MONICA JISCE (11), at 50/1, mid-December before losing her action in 2175m Gr.2 Prix Gélinothe here 3 weeks ago. Is not about to paint the town red but, with application, can get a look-in

8. MASSIVE ATTACK - Talented filly but sanctioned in last 3, most recently Gr.2 Prix Gelinotte earlier this month. Will not be far off the mark though if she stays in stride from one end of the race to the other

9. MORALITY - 4th in Gr.2 Prix Une de Mai before repeating to MELBA DU GERS (13) in 2175m Gr.2 Prix Gélinothe here 3 weeks ago. Faces a stiffer test this time and chances appear limited

10. MISTY GREEN - Showed marked improvement when 3rd of 8 finishers to MELBA DU GERS (13) in 2175m Gr.2 Prix Gélinothe here 3 weeks ago. Is plainly on the way back up and William Bigeon will be confident of making the frame once again

11. MONICA JISCE - Won Gr.2 Prix Une de Mai mid-December before faulting early in 2175m Gr.2 Prix Gelinotte here on 5 January. Corentin Delbecq back in the bike this time and will have his chances of picking up a cheque if he manages to keep her mind on the job

12. MAGIC AMERICA - Failed to make it 4 on the trot when headed by MELBA DU GERS (13) in 2175m Gr.2 Prix Gélinothe here 3 weeks ago. Is nevertheless a serious filly and has a realistic chance of reversing the order

13. MELBA DU GERS - Dominated a Class A here prior to winning 2175m Gr.2 Prix Gélinothe here on 5 January. Is by far the richest horse here and Jean-Michel Bazire will be eager to demonstrate why

Summary: Another classy future prospect from the Bazire stable, MELBA DU GERS (13) ran out a convincing winner of the Gr.2 Prix Gélinothe here 3 weeks ago and once again looks a marginally better bet than the progressive MAGIC AMERICA (12) who ran him close that day. Third on that occasion, MISTY GREEN (10) merits considerable respect but she may first have to defer to GINGER WISE AS (1) who has shown significant talent at home in Italy.

SELECTIONS

MELBA DU GERS (13) - MAGIC AMERICA (12) - GINGER WISE AS (1) - MISTY GREEN (10)

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C6 - PRIX OURASI - 2700m (a1m1/2) - Gr1 Race - Harness - EUR € 300,000

- 1. LAPIS LAZULI** - Won a Gr.3 here mid-December before finishing 6th of 10 to LEMON TREE (6) in Gr.3 Prix de Château-Chinon over track and trip on Christmas Day. Barefoot for first time but is unlikely to spring any surprises
- 2. LIGHT MY FIRE** - Defied his odds to run 4th of 12 to FRANK GIO (15) in Gr.2 Prix Charles Tiercelin over course and distance 3 weeks ago. Has ample ability, and races barefoot, but may be taking on too much
- 3. LONDON** - 7th of 12, on comeback, to FRANK GIO (15) in Gr.2 Prix Charles Tiercelin over course and distance on 5 January. Will have come on for the run, goes barefoot this time, and should not be overlooked
- 4. L'AMOURPOURBLANCA** - Swedish Gr.1-winning colt that ran 9th of 12 to FRANK GIO (15) in Gr.2 Prix Charles Tiercelin over course and distance 3 weeks ago. Is better than recent numbers would suggest but first needs to re-establish his credentials
- 5. LITTLE BROWN** - Has struggled of late, most recently finishing last of 12 in 5 January race of reference. Clearly capable but others easier to trust
- 6. LEMON TREE** - Held on well to win Gr.3 Prix de Château-Chinon over track and trip a month back. Ran 4th on lone start at this level, races first-time barefoot, and his tenacity and speed will serve him well
- 7. LUCKY JACKSON** - Sanctioned in 2175m monté Gr.2 Prix de Pardieu here a week ago. Has never delivered at the highest level and is unlikely to break the mould
- 8. LARGO DE CASTELLE** - Sprang 37/1 surprise when 3rd of 12 in 2700m Gr.2 Prix Charles Tiercelin on 5 January. Is another racing first-time barefoot but better options available
- 9. LOULOU DE MYE** - 5th in Prix Ready Cash before repeating in Gr.2 Prix Charles Tiercelin over course and distance 3 weeks ago. Is not about to cause an upset but will be competitive for a first-5 cheque
- 10. LOTTA BOURBON** - Ran 6th in Prix Ready Cash before repeating in Gr.2 Prix Charles Tiercelin over course and distance 3 weeks ago. 4 shoes off this time and with some luck in running, could pleasantly surprise
- 11. LUCIANO MENUET** - Would have finished closer than 8th of 12 to FRANK GIO (15) in Gr.2 Prix Charles Tiercelin over course and distance 3 weeks ago had he been afforded a run. Sports similar shoeing and Yoann Lebourgeois will be eager to put things right. First 5
- 12. LOMBOK JIEL** - Classy colt that was sanctioned in Prix Ready Cash before coming close 2nd to FRANK GIO (15) in Gr.2 Prix Charles Tiercelin over course and distance 3 weeks ago. Seldom disappoints over 2700m and will be no easy touch
- 13. FIRST OF MIND** - Italian Derby winner that ran 3rd to LOVINO BELLO in Gr.1 Prix Ready Cash here early last month. Has had ample time to recuperate, is confirmed over the distance, and will be competitive for a place in the frame
- 14. LOVINO BELLO** - High-class colt that won 2100m Gr.1 Prix Ready Cash here early-December, turning the tables on FIRST OF MIND (13) who beat him in a Turin Gr.1 in early-November. Thrives with Eric Raffin in the bike and can impose

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15. FRANK GIO - Close 2nd to LOVINO BELLO (14) in Gr.1 Prix Ready Cash before securing Gr.2 Prix Charles Tiercelin over course and distance 3 weeks ago. Has just twice finished out of the frame and Matthieu Abrivard will be keen to exact revenge. Claim

Summary: LOVINO BELLO (14) put in quite the performance to win the Gr.1 Prix Ready Cash early last month, has twice won over course and distance, sports a fresh configuration, and is not going to be sent out at 14/1 this time. FRANK GIO (15) ran him close that day before comfortably winning the Gr.2 Prix Charles Tiercelin earlier this month, and is not incapable of turning the tables. LOMBOK JIEL (12) made up for his Prix Ready Cash sanction when 2nd to Pierre-Yves Vera's colt 3 weeks ago and will race first-time barefoot. Quality Italian-trained raider, FIRST OF MIND (13), seldom disappoints and going barefoot for the occasion, must be considered a viable place chance.

SELECTIONS

LOVINO BELLO (14) - FRANK GIO (15) - LOMBOK JIEL (12) - FIRST OF MIND (13)

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C7 - PRIX PAUL VIEL - 2700m (a1m1/2) - Gr2 Race - Harness - EUR € 150,000

1. MILORD D'IRAI - Won a claimer before coming surprise 5th of 13 to MAITRE JACQUES (6) in a 2850m Class A here on Christmas Eve but can still be confidently ruled out

2. MISTRAL DU GOUTIER - Last of 8 in 2175m Gr.2 Prix Maurice de Gheest 3 weeks ago before running 3rd of 9 in a Class A over course and distance last Sunday and can be passed over

3. GOLIMPIO D'OR - Won 5 of 6 at home in Italy before finishing last but one in race of reference and can expect to have few takers

4. MEMPHIS DE BRASSE - Ran 3rd to MAITRE JACQUES (6) last month before coming 6th of 8 finishers in Prix Maurice de Gheest 11 days later. Not a priority but should nevertheless acquit himself honourably

5. MAKE A DREAM - Won 2 of last 3, most recently a Class B over course and distance. Being aimed much higher this time but is plainly at the top of his game and warrants respect

6. MAITRE JACQUES - Made short work of a 2850m Class A over the short course a month ago. Has earned the right to race here and will not go down easily. Place chance

7. MAT MANATHIS - 4th in Gr.2 Prix Emmanuel Margouty before repeating in race of reference and is unlikely to be too far from the action

8. GOLDEN GIO - Superb winner of 2175m Gr.2 Prix Maurice de Gheest 3 weeks ago, on Vincennes debut, and with form maintained will be a tough nut to crack

9. MAESTRO RIVER - Runner-up to MACK DE BLARY (12) mid-December before being sanctioned in 4 January race of reference, but can more than make amends if Eric Raffin gets him off on the right foot

10. MAGNUM DU CHOQUEL - In the frame in last 2, most recently runner-up to GOLDEN GIO (8) in 2175m Gr.2 Prix Maurice de Gheest 3 weeks ago. Unlikely to get his nose in front but will be competitive for a sizeable payout

11. MONZON NORMAND - Gave a reassuringly good account in Prix Maurice de Gheest 3 weeks ago, finishing 3rd of 10 to GOLDEN GIO (8) and, if still on the boil, can make first 5

12. MACK DE BLARY - Pleasant winner of Gr.2 Prix Emmanuel Margouty before enduring a hard race to come 5th of 10 to GOLDEN GIO (8) in 2175m Gr.2 Prix Maurice de Gheest 3 weeks ago. With a more favourable trip however, can give Guarato's colt a run for his money

Summary: Easy winner of the Gr.2 Prix Maurice de Gheest here earlier this month, on his maiden start for the Guarato stable, GOLDEN GIO (8) tackles 2700m for the first time but will still take all the beating. Matthieu Abrivard will nonetheless be keeping one eye on mid-December Gr.2 winner MACK DE BLARY (12) who did not enjoy the best of trips in the Maurice de Gheest, and the excellent MAESTRO RIVER (9) who can be forgiven his recent fault. MAITRE JACQUES (6) has won both of his Vincennes starts and even though taking a notable step up in class, he will be expected to feature prominently.

SELECTIONS

GOLDEN GIO (8) - MACK DE BLARY (12) - MAESTRO RIVER (9) - MAITRE JACQUES (6)

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C8 - PRIX DU LUXEMBOURG - 2100m (a1m1/4) - Gr3 Race - Harness - EUR € 100,000

1. INEXESS BLEU - Fine campaigner with nothing to prove at this level, latterly securing the hat-trick in a 2850m Class A here on 28 December. Boasts solid references under these conditions and looks the pick of the field

2. MISTER HERCULES - Did not enjoy the best of luck in 2850m Gr.2 Prix de Belgique here a fortnight back. Is most certainly up to the task in a race like this and can play a leading role if Yoann Lebourgeois keeps him out of trouble

3. GASPAS D'ANGIS - Runner-up to INEXESS BLEU (1) in 2850m Gr.3 Prix Jean Dumouch here mid-December. Tends to prefer longer but considering the draw, and current form, should prove main threat

4. GENDREEN - Honest sort that ran 4th of 9 in 2700m Gr.3 Prix de Forez here 2 weeks ago. Handed the plum spot behind the car and has a decent chance of picking up some prizemoney

5. FACE TIME - Classy veteran that ran 7th of 8 in a 2700m Gr.3 here 2 weeks ago. Excels over 2100m here though and from the 5-spot can make a big impact

6. BANDERAS BI - Quality individual making first appearance since running 5th of 18 in 2700m Gr.2 Prix de Bretagne mid-November. Comes here fresh and barefoot and from the front row can give this a good go

7. ELITE DE JIEL - Unremarkable 6th of 9 behind GENDREEN (4) in 2700m Gr.3 Prix de Forez here 2 weeks ago. Races barefoot this time but may find the going too tough

8. HAPPY AND LUCKY - Last but one behind JUNINHO DRY (11) in Prix de Belgique 2 weeks ago. Sports modified shoeing but has other priorities

9. ORACLE TILE - Just missed out on a Prix d'Amerique berth when 5th of 17 in 2100m Gr.2 Prix de Bourgogne late last month. Handed a tough draw but is a tough trotter and not to be underestimated

10. HAVE SEVEN - Useful dual-discipline type but sanctioned in a 2850m monte Class B here on 18 December. Badly-drawn and chances slim at best

11. JUNINHO DRY - 5th in Gr.1 Prix Ténor de Baune, at 89/1, prior to finishing last of 10 in Prix de Belgique 2 weeks ago. Allocated an unfavourable draw and chances appear limited

12. CASH BANK BIGI - Previously a good sort but has struggled of late, most recently finishing 10th of 15 in a Class A over track and trip 3 weeks ago, and will need to pull her socks up

13. GLOBAL ETALON - Ran 6th in Criterium Continental before faulting early in a 2850m Gr.2 here 2 weeks ago. David Thomain reining this time and will need to defy the draw to get in on the action. First 5

14. BRAMBLING - Never-threatening before being disqualified in 2850m Gr.3 Prix Jean Dumouch here mid-December. Has freshness on his side, with Bjorn Goop in the bike, but others still easier to back

Summary: An absolute steamroller when focused, and winner of his last 3, INEXESS BLEU (1) is forced to start on the inside but he excels at Vincennes and should be able to wrap this up. He will still encounter considerable resistance from the battle-hardened GASPAS D'ANGIS (3) who is in flying form and better-positioned behind the car, and the talented MISTER HERCULES (2) who was sanctioned here when full of running a fortnight ago. FACE TIME (5) won 6 in a row here last winter, will be at peak fitness by now, and should prove significantly more competitive this time around.

SELECTIONS

INEXESS BLEU (1) - GASPAS D'ANGIS (3) - MISTER HERCULES (2) - FACE TIME (5)

SATURDAY, 25/01/25

C9 - PRIX DE VITTEL - 2700m (a1m1/2) - Class C Race - Harness - EUR € 68,000

1. **ADAMO DIPA** - Last but one when preparing for this in a Class C over track and trip on Christmas Eve. Shoes off this time but chances still slim
2. **ETHAN DRIVE** - Spirited at the break, running 4th of 15 in a 2100m Class D here on 6 December. Tends to go well for JMB though and will have his chances if he gets off on the right foot
3. **FEU DE REVOLTE** - Makes first start since winning a 2725m Graignes Class C mid-October. Shod to preference but others easier to back
4. **GALION** - Would have finished 3rd of 14 in a 2100m Class D here on 16 January had he not faulted 100m out. Is in his category and will not be far from the action if kept trotting
5. **GOLD D'ECROVILLE** - Put a trio of sanctions behind him when 5th of 7 behind GORDON MIJACK (15) in 16 January race of reference but still needs to find more
6. **ASTRONASCENTE ZAC** - Sanctioned when well-backed in a 2100m Class D here 9 days ago. Alexandre Abrivard in the wagon this time and can finish thereabouts if he keeps his charge focused
7. **FICIMER** - 3rd of 15 in a 2150m Cagnes Class D on 6 January. Trainer won this race 12 months ago and knows how to seal the deal. Claim
8. **EQUEJUELO** - Last of 11 in a 2850m Class D here 2.5 weeks ago and, even racing barefoot, appears to have no realistic chance
9. **GUERRIER CASTELETS** - Won 16 January race of reference only to be disqualified for interference. Matthieu Abrivard stays faithful though and should not be overlooked
10. **GARANCIO BELLO** - 4th under these conditions in the other code before breaking into a gallop when competitive in na 2850m monte Class D mid-December. Has decent harness references and if applied can finish close
11. **FLYING BRICKELL** - Off the boil this winter, most recently 11th of 14 behind GALION (4) in a 2100m Class D here on 16 January, and can expect to have few friends
12. **BEHIND BARS** - Produced a pair of good performances before finishing last of 8 in a 2650m Bordeaux Class A on 27 December. Takes on a better bunch this time and chances limited
13. **FILOU DE LARRE** - Useful type but below-par in last 3 here, latterly 9th of 14 behind GALION (4) in a 2100m Class D here on 16 January, and must first re-establish his credentials
14. **GAI MATIN** - Not the most fortunate when 8th of 12 finishers behind BEHIND BARS (12) in a 2100m Class D here on 7 December. Has already won 3 times for his driver and should logically finish close at the business end of the race
15. **GORDON MIJACK** - Returns to racing barefoot after running 3rd of 7 finishers in a 2100m Class D here on 16 January. Not a priority but has the wherewithal to make first 5
16. **GAULTHERIA** - Enjoys a superb entry but will need to show marked improvement on his 9th of 11 in a Class C over track and trip on 27 December

Summary: Very hard to knock when racing barefoot, and winner last time here, FICIMER (7) returns to the capital with a realistic chance of imposing. GAI MATIN (14) was unlucky here last time but his form is sure and with Eric Raffin in the bike can set the record straight. Winner over 2850m here before a troubled start early last month may well have cost him the race, ETHAN DRIVE (2) can be backed with confidence this time. Reliably-performant and clearly in excellent shape, GALION (4) may never have delivered over 2700m here but he showed his form before being sanctioned here recently and must be afforded respect.

SELECTIONS

FICIMER (7) - GAI MATIN (14) - ETHAN DRIVE (2) - GALION (4)

SATURDAY, 25/01/25

C10 - PRIX VARENNE - 2700m (a1m1/2) - Class D Race - Harness - EUR € 40,000

1. **KILLARNEY** - Good, consistent servant that ran 3rd of 15, a place behind KEEP ON ROLLING (15), in a 2175m Class D here mid-December but may just be biting off more than she can chew this time
2. **KALINE DU LOCHEUR** - Fine mare that won a Class E over 2700m here before running 4th in a Class D under similar conditions on Christmas Day. Is as consistent as they come and unlikely to let the side down. First 5
3. **KARLITA MADRIK** - Steps up in category after winning a Class E over course and distance on 18 December but in this company will struggle to make her mark
4. **KIMIKO DU DOUBS** - Failed to confirm good Bordeaux run when last but one behind KALINE DE FAEL (7) in a 2100m Class D here on 14 January, and can be passed over
5. **KEY OF LOVE** - Second only to a very good horse in a Class C over course and distance on 6 January. Hails from a very good family and should be capable of challenging for a place on the podium
6. **KELLE CLASS** - Reliability not her strong suit but ran a reassuring 5th behind KALINE DE FAEL (7) in a 2100m Class D here 11 days ago and will be expected to finish thereabouts
7. **KALINE DE FAEL** - Has come into herself this term, most recently running 3rd of 11 finishers in a 2100m Class D here mid-month. Is barefoot again and can impose
8. **KOSY D'ERONVILLE** - Made up for early-December sanction when 4th of 11 finishers, a place behind KALINE DE FAEL (7), in a 2100m Class D here mid-month, but a repeat seems most improbable
9. **KAGNOTTE D'AZIF** - Disappointing in last 2, most recently 7th in 31 December race of reference, and is unlikely to spring any surprises
10. **KAROLINE CALINE** - Has not been seen out since running 2nd of 16 in a Class C under these conditions last October. Shod to preference but may be race-rusty
11. **KASSIOPEE WIND** - Went into her break last September after securing the hat-trick. Shod for re-entry though and best to hold off
12. **KETY DU GOUTIER** - Sanctioned in a Class C over course and distance on 6 January but is shod to preference this time and expected to go close
13. **KEEN OF THE NIGHT** - Sanctioned in a Class C over track and trip late last month. Has been off the boil for some time and can be ruled out
14. **KELLY JANE** - Left a good impression when 8th of 10 finishers in a Class C conditioner over course and distance early this month and will be competitive if Julien Dubois keeps her focused
15. **KEEP ON ROLLING** - Honest mare that ran 4th of 12 finishers in a Class C over track and trip late last month. Enjoys a good entry and although unlikely to impose, can still pick up some prizemoney
16. **KALITA D'HENINEL** - 5th of 12 finishers, a place behind KEEP ON ROLLING (15), in a Class C over track and trip late last month. Gives a good account for the most part over 2700m here and, well-engaged, should not be overlooked

Summary: Something of a late developer, KALINE DE FAEL (7) has been firing on all cylinders recently, has taken superbly to main track conditions, and over this longer distance can open her 2025 account. The delicate KELLY JANE (14) has form over course and distance and racing barefoot for the occasion looks the principal danger. With a race under her belt, and unbeaten in this configuration, KETY DU GOUTIER (12) will be no soft touch. KEY OF LOVE (5) put on a good show under these conditions earlier in the month and looks capable of making the frame once more.

SELECTIONS

KALINE DE FAEL (7) - KELLY JANE (14) - KETY DU GOUTIER (12) - KEY OF LOVE (5)