Racing Mirror

YOUR BEST BET EVERY DAY

CHELTENHAM 78

Ian suffers a Major set-back

By TIM RICHARDS

LAID UP with a broken pelvis, Ian Watkinson this afternoon may have to swallow his second bitter pill in two days.

From his hospital bed he will be watching his intended mount Major Thompson on TV at Cheltenham in the Daily Express Triumph Hurdle.

Ian had been booked to deputise for injured Jonjo O'Neill on yesterday's Arkle 'Chase winner Alverton.

But after doctors had diagnosed his "stiffness" from a Southwell spill on Monday as a broken pelvis Ian was admitted to Newmarket General Hospital.

And he had to suffer further agony at seeing Graham Thorner boot home Alverton in his place.

Graham again takes over on Major Thompson, and says: "I hope he can do his stuff as well as Alverton.

"Alverton had Straight Row cooked when the other fell at the second-last. He is a real tough customer."

POOL PROMOTERS ASSOCIATION
CERTIFIED PPA DIVIDENDS
All dividends are subject to rescrutiny.
MATCHES PLAYED MARCH 11th

ZETTERS POOLS. LONDON E.C.1.
BIG 21 POINTS 'DOUBLE TOP'
£31,752 WON BY Mr. C.B. of LONDON E.4
£31,752 WON BY Mr. R.H. of LONDON N.1
WIN BIG with 25-a-1p stakes
THE WORLD'S EASIEST TREBLE CHANCE
21 PTS. £29,019·95
20½PTS. £651·45
20 PTS £48·20
19½PTS. £11·75
for 1/25p
3 DRAWS .... £19·50 (Nothing Barred)
4 DRAWS .... £195·00 (Nothing Barred)
8 HOMES .... £0·50
4 AWAYS .... £15·00 (Paid on 3 Aways)
EASY 6 .... £60·00
Above dividends to units of 15p
Expenses and Commission for 25th February, 1978, 34.2%
GET YOUR COUPON FROM YOUR LOCAL COLLECTOR OR DIRECT FROM ZETTERS, LONDON, E.C.1.

LITTLEWOODS POOLS, LIVERPOOL
This week A WORLD RECORD PAYOUT TO 3 WINNERS
MR. P. WATTS, CHIPPENHAM £232,745
MR. P. WHITTAKER, BLACKPOOL £229,661
BRIDGEND MAN £225,921
THE TREBLE CHANCE PAYING 6 DIVS.
21 PTS (Max.) ..£225,909·65
20½ PTS ....£5,134·30
20 PTS ....£567·95
19½ PTS ....£113·65
19 PTS ....£26·45
18½ PTS ....£6·00
Treble Chance dividends to units of ½p.
4 DRAWS .....£184·05
10 HOMES ......£3·75
4 AWAYS ......£36·60
EASIER 6 ....£61·50
Above dividends to units of 15p.
Expenses and Commission 25th February 1978 – 29·4%

VERNONS POOLS LIVERPOOL
5 TOP TREBLE CHANCE WINNERS THIS WEEK
£128,236 WON BY LANARKSHIRE WOMAN
Mr GRADWICK of DARTFORD £31,769 Mr PECK of NORWICH £34,926
BEDWORTH MAN £33,428 CHELMSFORD MAN £32,056
8 GOES A PENNY TREBLE CHANCE 5 DIVIDENDS
21 PTS. £30,734·65 (Max)
20½PTS. ... £565·60
20 PTS. ... £73·85
19½PTS. ... £17·05
19 PTS. ... £3·90
1 FOR 8p
4 DRAWS .... £129·75 (Nothing barred)
9 HOMES .... £1·80 (Nothing barred)
5 AWAYS ..... £12·30 (Nothing barred)
Above dividends to units of 15p.
Expenses and Commission for 25th February 1978—33·7%
ASK YOUR COLLECTOR FOR THE EXCLUSIVE COUPONS

LEAP AHEAD WITH THE EXPERTS

MIDNIGHT LUCK FOR FRED

FRED WINTER'S Cheltenham luck can change with a vengeance today.

The elusive Piper Champagne Gold Cup may come his way via Midnight Court, and earlier I expect Fred to land the Daily Express Triumph Hurdle with Rodman.

This pair are both unbeaten in five outings this season.

Midnight Court has really come good, but had the class of runner in the Gold Cup (3.40) been higher I have no doubt his appearance in this race would have been delayed until next year.

With the exception of Fort Devon the line-up consists of horses whose chances cannot be considered extra bright.

Bachelor's Hall is an improved 'chaser, but now tackles a much tougher task.

Rambling Jack is getting better all the time and, by this time next year, he could well be a force to reckon with.

Logically the race seems to concern chiefly Midnight Court and Fort Devon.

By NEWSBOY (Bob Butchers)

At the age of twelve, Fort Devon is unlikely to be any better than we know, whereas the potential of Midnight Court has not been fully tapped.

I reckon the Fred Winter runner will be able to quicken enough after the last fence to justify the nap.

For quite a time I reserved judgment of Rodman, but he has done enough now to convince me he is a worthy favourite for the Triumph Hurdle (2.30).

Rodman is, however, faced with some very strong opposition.

No doubt some of the Irish runners will figure prominently, but it will surprise me if the Hibernians can produce one to win.

I regard Major Thompson and Atlantic Bridge as much greater threats to Rodman.

The North may have a win with Tamalin in the National Hunt 'Chase (4.15).

Smart

Tamalin's chance really depends on whether he produces his best form.

He won his latest race, and when everything is right he is very smart.

The County Hurdle (4.50) is another problem race. Th Irish have often produced fancied runner for this handicap, and I expect Daletta ma be quite well in.

As winner, though, I favou Narribinni, who had wo three in a row before bein brought down in his latest rac at Haydock.

The almost-white Willy Wha is finding his form at the righ time.

He was only just caught b Jer at Market Rasen, and is preferred to Nampara and Ale Lewis in the Kim Muir 'Chas (3.05).

Tree Tangle has his off days but if feeling at his best would probably be good enough for the Cathcart Challenge Cup (5.25)

JOHN FRANCOME rides Fred's duo

HEXHAM with exclusive Spotform

NEWSBOY
2.15—TOP-N-TALE
2.45—CHARMING SCOT
3.15—HABBERSUPREME
3.55—CUMBRIA
4.25—CROMWELL ROAD
4 55—TEARS OF JOY

BOUVERIE
2.15—PENTAGON
2 45—WAGNER
3.15—MILK RIVER
3.55—BOUNTIFUL CHARLES
4.25—BOLD WARRIOR
4.55—FEHRANI

2.15 — FALLOWFIELD OPPORTUNITY H'CAP. HURDLE. 2m. Penalty value £512. (11 runners.)

SPOT FORM

1	012020	**TWIDALE** J. Wilson 5-12-7 (D2)	—	29
3	0012-01	**TOP-N-TALE** (6lb. ex.) G. Richards 5-12-3 (SF)	*C. Pimlott	30
4	102040	**JANE AGAIN** Haigh 8-11-12 (CD5)	*P. Carvill	31●
5	0/0-0010	**FARE UP** W. A. Stephenson 9-11-7 (EW)	*M. Murphy	29
6	204200	**MELDRETTE** L. Griffiths 7-11-2 (D)	—	30
7	030400	**MR RESISTOR** Barron 5-11-1 (D3)	*S. Houlker	28
8	00-3230	**PENTAGON** B. Wilkinson 7-11-4 (D, F)	*A. Harrison	29
10	400-000	**STORY TELLER** Allan 7-10-9 (D)	*M. Ennis	27
11	134410	**TOUGHIE** Naughton 11-10-7 (CD2, D2)	*A. Brown	27
12	010040	**HUNTERCOMBE LAD** Skilling 5-10-7 (D)	*M. Huscroft	28
13	P-0PF00	**KEYVACA** Lamb 6-10-7	*S. Grant	—

Betting Forecast. — 2 Top-N-Tale, 3 Jane Again, 9-2 Twidale, 6 Pentagon, 8 Fare Up, 10 Meldrette, 12 Toughie.

2.45 —PLOVER HILL NOVICES' 'CHASE. 3m. Penalty value £616. (10 runners.)

2	300004	**BORDER BRIEF** M. Cousins 6-11-3	R. Crank	28
3	000030	**BOSPHORUS QUEEN** Naughton 7-11-3	P. Mangan	29
4	0-00002	**CHARMING SCOT** Barron 7-11-3 (F)	K. Gray	31●
5	130P-0P	**CROWN BIRD** Allan 7-11-3	*B. Holohan	—
7	0/00	**JIMMIE T** Burns 8-11-3	D. Nolan	—
8	042-PPP	**KENTMERE** W. A. Stephenson 7-11-3	G. Faulkner	—
9	042F00	**MOORSIDE** Barnes 7-11-3 (EW)	M. Barnes	—
10	0044-0F	**OLD POLICY** Dodds 7-11-3	*S. Charlton	—
12	00000U	**TULLY TOWN** Naughton 7-11-3	*A. Brown	—
13	0F	**WAGNER** W. A. Stephenson 8-11-3 (SF)	*T. Dun	—

Betting Forecast.—9-4 Charming Scot, 3 Wagner, 4 Bosphorus Queen, 6 Border Brief, 10 Moorside.

3.15 —COASTLEY NOVICES' HURDLE (Div. I). 2m. Penalty value £448. (14 runners.)

1	0	**ALBANY WAY** Townson 6-11-3	—	—
4		**GREENVILLE GUY** Allan 5-11-3	J. Walton	—
6	P-0	**HILLEND LADY** Pringle 5-11-3	*A. Phillips	—
8	000	**MOKA** R. Fisher 5-11-3	*J. Errington	—
9	P000	**OPEN DOORS** P. Curtis 6-11-3	—	—
10	00000-0	**PERIWIEGE** V. Thompson 5-11-3	—	—
11	0000-	**POKEY JO** McLean 6-11-3	*D. Muller	—
12	000	**RUSSIAN SOCIETY** W. A. Stephenson 5-11-3 (EW)	G. Faulkner	—
14	022212	**HABBERSUPREME** E. Carter 4-11-0 (SF)	*M. Lowry	31●
16	F00	**CONTRIBUTION** Allan 4-10-4	*B. Holohan	—
17	00302	**HIT THE ROOF** Whitaker 4-10-4	*S. Charlton	29
18		**MATTIE ROSS** Dodds 4-10-4	K. Gray	—
19	F42032	**MILK RIVER** W. A. Stephenson 4-10-4	R. Collins	29
20	034303	**ROYAL BUDGET** Owen jun. 4-10-4 (F)	*N. Balmer	30

Betting Forecast.—7-4 Habbersupreme, 4 Milk River, 5 Hit The Roof, 8 Royal Budget, 12 Russian Society.

3.55 —CHOLLERFORD H'CAP. 'CHASE. 3m. Penalty value £975. (6 runners.)

WEIGHTS RAISED 2lb.

2	312203	**CUMBRIA** W. A. Stephenson 8-11-2 (CD, D3, SF)	*T. Dun	40
3	1FU10P	**CHOSEN SLAVE** Naughton 11-11-0	C. Hawkins	39
4	4012F0	**BOUNTIFUL CHARLES** Cunard 12-10-7 (D7, BF, F)	—	41●
7	014033	**LITTLE SWIFT** McLean 8-10-0 (D3)	A. Dickman	38
9	PP4300	**KERMAN** Tuer 14-10-0 (CD3, D)	P. Charlton	40
10	00/00PP	**LUCK** M. W. Easterby 8-10-0 (CD, C, D)	D. Atkins	—

Betting Forecast. — 2 Cumbria, 5 Bountiful Charles, 9-2 Kerman, 6 Chosen Slave, 8 Little Swift.

4.25 —OAKWOOD H'CAP. 'CHASE. 2m. Penalty value £807. (7 runners.)

2	P-321F2	**CROMWELL ROAD** K. Oliver 8-11-11 (CD2, D6, SF)	*D. Turnbull	51●
4	F2114U	**BOLD WARRIOR** J. Berry 7-11-4 (C, D8, F)	K. Gray	50
5	1023P4	**CHARTIST** Hogg 10-10-8 (C, D2)	P. Charlton	47
6	104102	**STAG PARTY** B. Wilkinson 10-10-7 (D2)	D. Atkins	49
7	30-0003	**WELTON LAD** Henderson 8-10-5 (D)	M. Barnes	49
8	42F100	**SUPREME SAIL** V. Thompson 7-10-0 (C, D2)	J. Walton	49
11	20P233	**TATTERS INN** Howie 10-10-0 (D)	C. Hawkins	47

Betting Forecast.—7-4 Cromwell Road, 7-2 Bold Warrior, 4 Stag Party, Supreme Sail, 8 Chartist, 12 Welton Lad.

4.55 —COASTLEY NOVICES' HURDLE (Div. II). 2m. Penalty value £435. (11 runners.)

1	P	**BELLA PASQUA** Burns 6-11-3	—	—
2	000030	**BELRIB** McCain 5-11-3	*W. Beardwood	28
3	U	**FEHRANI** Barron 5-11-3 (EW)	K. Gray	—
4	00F	**GLANFORD BRIDGE** R. Fisher 6-11-3	—	—
5		**KILDALE** W. A. Stephenson 5-11-3	*P. Murphy	—
6	4-00020	**SAUCY EATER** T. Barnes 5-11-3	M. Barnes	31●
7	3000-0	**SIMPRIM LADY** G. Richards 7-11-3 (SF)	J. Coogan	30
8		**VELVET CAP II** McLean 7-11-3	A. Dickman	—
10	RP	**COWGATE LADY** R. Cross 4-10-4	*S. Charlton	—
13	000	**ROYAL FLIP** Potts 4-10-4	D. Munro	—
14	0340	**TEARS OF JOY** Allan 4-10-4 (F)	J. Walton	26

Betting Forecast.—9-4 Saucy Eater, 7-2 Simprim Lady, 4 Tears Of Joy, 6 Kildale, 12 Belrib.

* Allowances: S. Charlton, A. Phillips, 3lb.; M. Lowry, N. Balmer, A. Brown 5lb.; Others 7lb.

RACING BRIEF

GOING: Good.
COURSE (altitude 800ft.): Left-hand 1½m. Run-in 250y.
DAILY TOTE DOUBLE: 3.15, 4.25.
DAILY TOTE TREBLE: 2.45 3.55, 4.55.
TOP TRAINERS (with runners today): W. A. Stephenson 41, G. Richards 22, K. Oliver 20, C. Lamb 10.
TOP JOCKEYS (riding today): D. Atkins 10, M. Barnes 10, P. Charlton 8, P. Mangan 6, K. Gray 5, J. Walton 5.
1977: NO CORRESPONDING MEETING.

No hoax it's Cox and Fox

By TONY SWEENEY

FORT FOX has bee something of a fiasco i all his English venture to date.

But trainer Bunny Co is adamant that for th first time he will be abl to produce the horse i top shape for an Englis audience in this afternoon's Cheltenham Gol Cup.

Fort Fox was a fast finishing third under to weight to So in th Leopardstown 'Chase las time out.

Value

Over today's extra distance and at most attrac tive odds Fort Fox look good each-way value.

For an ambitious na I nominate Corrib Chief tain for the Triump Hurdle.

He could finish onl fourth in his sole ru over hurdles, but tha effort is probably bes ignored.

Corrib Chieftain late raced brilliantly t slaughter a big field o the Flat by 15 lengths.

He has been jumping super at home since then and his connections have gone for a big gamble.

ABC

C—Cheltenham
H—Hexham

Albany Way	3.15 H
Albion Prince	2.30 C
Alec Lewis	3.05 C
Angel Clare	3.05 C
Arctic Heir	4.15 C
Ardfern	4.50 C
Argent	4.15 C
Atlantic Bridge	2.30 C
Autumn Rain	4.15 C
Bachelor's Hall	3.40 C
Balek	3.05 C
Ballylogue	2.30 C
Bannow Rambler	3.40 C
Bella Pasqua	4.55 H
Belrib	4.55 H
Beparoejoja	2.30 C
Big Ben (FR)	2.30 C
Bold Warrior	4.25 H
Border Brief	2.45 H
Border Mark	3.05 C
Bosphorus Queen	2.45 H
Bountiful Charles	3.55 H
Bourbon Street	2.30 C
Brown Lad	3.40 C
Buckshell	3.05 C
Bunker Hill	3.40 C
Casamayor (ARG)	3.40 C
Charming Scot	2.45 H
Chartist	4.25 H
Chosen Slave	3.55 H
Connaught Ranger	2.30 C
Contribution	3.15 H
Cornmarket	4.15 C
Corrib Chieftain	2.30 C
Cowgate Lady	4.55 H
Cromwell Road	4.25 H
Crown Bird	2.45 H
Cumbria	3.55 H
Daletta	4.50 C
Discount Market	4.15 C
Double Negative	4.15 C
Drakes Nephew	2.30 C
Drumgora	4.50 C
Eborneezersdouble	4.15 C
Escapologist	4.50 C
Excelsior	2.30 C
Fare Up	2.15 H
Fast Score (USA)	2.30 C
Fehrani	4.55 H
Flashy Boy	5.25 C
Forest King	4.15 C
Fort Devon	3.40 C
Fort Fox	3.40 C
Frantouri	3.05 C
French Canadian	3.05 C
French Lane	2.30 C
Gay Spartan	3.40 C
Ghost Writer	4.15 C
Glanford Bridge	4.55 H
Golden Vow	2.30 C
Graigue House	5.25 C
Grangewood Girl	5.25 C
Greenville Guy	3.15 H
Habbersupreme	3.15 H
Handycuff	4.50 C
Helping Hand	2.30 C
High Prospect	4.15 C
Hillend Lady	3.15 H
Hipparion	4.50 C
Hit the Roof	3.15 H
Hot Hand	4.50 C
Huntercombe Lad	2.15 H
Isle Of Man	5.25 C
Jane Again	2.15 H
Jimmy T	2.45 H
Justafancy	4.50 C
Kenimere	2.45 H
Kerman	3.55 H
Keyvaca	2.15 H
Kilcoleman	4.50 C
Kildale	4.55 H
Kilmakilloge	5.25 C
King Con	3.05 C
Le Bon Levanstell	2.30 C
Liebeslied	4.50 C
Little Swift	3.55 H
Lovely Bio	4.50 C
Luck	3.55 H
Lucky Victory	4.15 C
Lucy Parker	4.15 C
Mackelly	2.30 C
Mac's Chariot	5.25 C
Major Thompson	2.30 C
Master Davenport	4.50 C
Master Spy	3.40 C
Mattie Ross	3.15 H
Meldrette	2.15 H
Midnight Court	3.40 C
Milk River	3.15 H
Mixed Melody	2.30 C
Moka	3.15 H
Montanello	4.50 C
Moorabinda	3.05 C
Moorside	2.45 H
Morning Lee	2.30 C
Mr. Resistor	2.15 H
Nampara	3.05 C
Narribinni (NZ)	4.50 C
Never Rock	4.15 C
No Gypsy	4.15 C
Old Policy	2.45 H
Open Doors	3.15 H
Orillo	4.15 C
Otter Way	3.40 C
Paper Rich	4.50 C
Pentagon	2.15 H
Periwiege	3.15 H
Pin Tuck	2.30 C
Pokey Jo	3.15 H
Pollerton	2.30 C
Precious Jem	3.40 C
Ragabash	2.30 C
Rambling Jack	4.15 C
Regent's Garden	4.50 C
Rodman	2.30 C
Roi-Des-Toits	2.30 C
Rolls Rambler	3.05 C
Romany Bay	3.05 C
Royal Boxer	2.30 C
Royal Budget	3.15 H
Royal Flip	4.55 H
Royal Frolic	3.40 C
Rushmere	4.50 C
Russian Society	3.15 H
Rusthall	4.50 C
Sanskrit	3.05 C
Saragusa	4.50 C
Saucy Eater	4.55 H
Sebastian V	4.15 C
Silkstone	3.05 C
Simprim Lady	4.55 H
Spanish Armada	2.30 C
Stag Party	4.25 H
Story Teller	2.15 H
Straight Phase	3.15 H
Stublick	4.15 C
Successor	4.50 C
Supreme Sail	4.25 H
Tamalin	4.15 C
Tatters Inn	4.25 H
Tears Of Joy	4.55 H
The Bay	4.50 C
The Czar	2.30 C
Three Gems	3.05 C
Tied Cottage	3.40 C
Top-N-Tale	2.15 H
Toughie	2.15 H
Tree Tangle	5.25 C
Tully Town	2.45 H
Twidale	2.15 H
Uncle Bing	3.40 C
Urser	2.30 C
Velvet Cap II	4.55 H
Viewfinder	5.25 C
Village Swan	2.30 C
Wagner	2.45 H
Welton Lad	4.25 H
Wild Rushes	3.05 C
Willy What	3.05 C
Within The Law	2.30 C
Wavoka	4.50 C

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