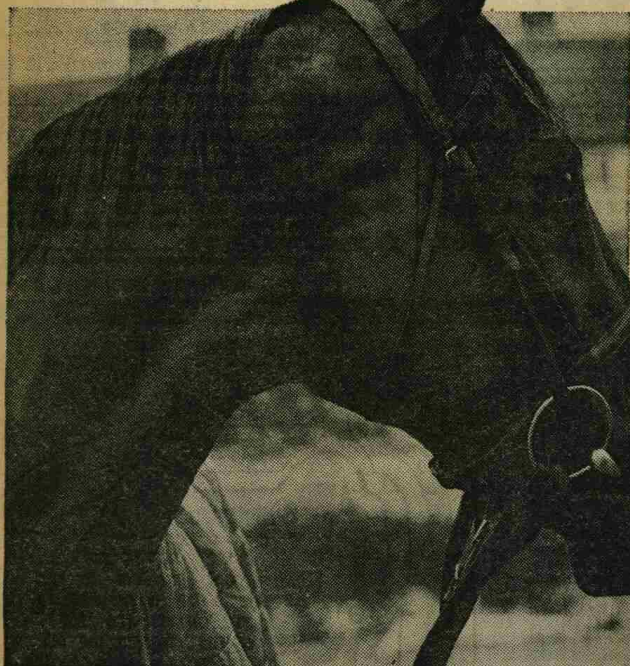


# GRAND NATIONAL Mirror

As the  
Lad  
may be  
saying  
to his  
old pal  
Corbiere



STRAIGHT from the horse's mouth. Burrough Hill Lad (left) and his stablemate Corbiere.

Picture: MIKE MALONEY

## Robson's eyes on double

By TIM RICHARDS

ENGLAND soccer captain Bryan Robson hopes Greasepaint will kick off a big Liverpool double for him this weekend.

Bryan, also captain of Manchester United and a new racehorse owner, told me: "I'll be backing Greasepaint in the Grand National."

"And on Sunday Manchester United must be another winner against Liverpool at Anfield if we are to keep in the League title race."

"I'm not one of the biggest punters in the world and may have a tanner on Greasepaint... or perhaps even £20."

"I'm a believer in horses for courses and Greasepaint has run cracking races to finish second in the last two Nationals."

While having healthy respect for Greasepaint, my fancy is for Fethard Friend and Paul Barton to win.

Fethard Friend finished seventh last year but was not himself on the big day.

His new trainer, John Edwards, saddled him to win at Wolverhampton and assures me: "He is in top form and will go extra well if the ground remains good."

# LOOK OUT FOR WEST TIP

WEST TIP is without experience of the Aintree fences and jockey Richard Dunwoody has been over them only once—on Thursday—but they seem to have "Grand National" written all over them.

I hope that they will show the world that enthusiastic new blood can be very exciting by winning the Seagram sponsored showpiece at Aintree today. I am not worried that West Tip will carry the number 13 saddle cloth.

With four successive wins it is clear that West Tip and his rider have every confidence in each other. The ingredients are near perfect in my view and the only one missing is a guarantee that he can jump these tough fences.

That ingredient is missing from the make-up of plenty of others and with bad luck even the likes of Corbiere and Greasepaint could find themselves rolling in the grass. It is a chance they all have to take.

I have detected nothing in the jumping of West Tip that suggests disaster and even more important Richard Dunwoody does not reckon the fences will be beyond them even though they have not crossed one. It is a bonus if a jockey sets off with a positive attitude which is invariably passed to his mount.

The four and half miles is certainly ideal for West Tip. In fact he will relish the long run-in. He certainly has the ability and there is no one who can argue that he is not attractively weighted.



By NEWSBOY  
(Bob Butchers)

Hallo Dandy, Greasepaint, Corbiere and Lucky Vane filled the first four places last year. This time I have least fancy for Hallo Dandy and the one that comes out on top for me is Lucky Vane.

Although he can belt the odd fence he seems to get away with it these days and his recent close third to Dumper at Sandown convinced me he is a better horse this year.

Classified is unproven over such a long trip, but several two and a half mile horses have shown smart form in past Grand Nationals. He is capable of running well, but I would be afraid to back up any hopes with hard cash.

I reckon a sounder proposition could be Ireland's Drumlargin, for whom John Francome has

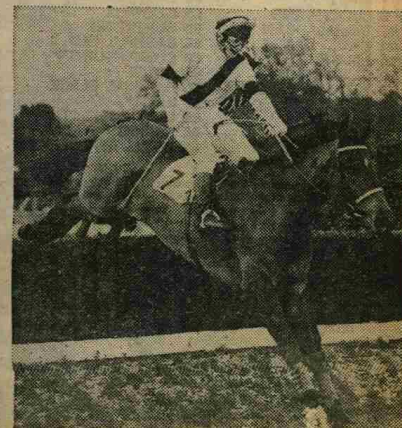
been engaged. He has a touch of class and performed with credit in some top events.

No doubt the Irish have a strong hand with Drumlargin and Greasepaint, but since they won it with Mr. What in 1958 their only success has been with L'Escargot ten years ago.

It seems too much like a fairy tale for both Corbiere and Greasepaint to be placed for the third year in succession and in any case the weight concession to West Tip seems beyond them.

Plenty of smaller stables win the Grand National and if Michael Oliver takes it with West Tip it would be just reward for the way he and his team have nursed him back to health following a serious argument with a lorry.

I have complete faith in the whole set-up and am quietly confident that West Tip will give Richard Dunwoody a win in his first season as a professional. Lucky Vane and Drumlargin are the pair I expect to fill the places.



WEST TIP and RICHARD DUNWOODY