

4. Second 3.20 BBC 1

SPOT
FORM

336	114111	MR SNUGIT M W Easterby 8-10-0 (SF).....	P Tuck 70
		(Black, white striped sleeves, pink sash and cap)	
337	112244	GLENFOX S Mellor 8-10-0.....	Mr D Gray 48
		(Yellow, dark green star on body and cap, green sleeves, yellow armbands)	
338	0040-00	NEVER TAMPER J Baker 10-10-0.....	C Brown 38
		(Ancient McDougall tartan, green sleeves and cap)	
339	P4P0P0	ROMAN BISTRO J Gifford 9-10-0.....	P Nicholls 38
		(Yellow, green sleeves, red cap yellow spots)	
340	213PP2	CAPTAIN PARKHILL B McLean 12-10-0.....	C Grant 42
		(Yellow, green sleeves, red cap yellow spots)	
341	40-0030	LENEY DUAL D Pitcher 10-10-0.....	Mr D Pitcher 40
		(Dark blue, light blue cross-belts, striped cap)	
342	0404F0	OUR CLOUD S Shields (IRE) 9-10-0.....	J Queally 38
		(Brown, orange seams, hooped cap)	
344	4P010P	IMMIGRATE G Richards 12-10-0 (BF).....	J Hansen 43
		(White, red sash, black cap)	
345	22121P	GREENHILL HALL C Thornton 9-10-0 (BF).....	D Wilkinson 42
		(Yellow, brown spots on body, brown cap)	
346	142F21	NORTHERN BAY T Bill 9-10-0.....	Philip Hobbs 42
		(Emerald green, black spots and cap)	

Favourites: 0 2 1 0 0

FOLLOW THE RACE WITH SPOTFORM
(MIKE STRONG)



BECHER'S BROOK:
Plain enough from the take off side, but drops steeply on landing. The way down is steeper from the inside berth. Second time round, and with aching limbs, this fence proves the most demanding test for horse and rider.

FENCE ONE:
A trap for the headstrong and the unwary as the field tends to be going too fast and the drop catches them out.

START:
A single white tape stretches across the width of the course. The runners wait, nervous, adrenalin pumping. Ahead four-and-a-half miles and thirty of the world's toughest fences.

REST OF LIVERPOOL CARD... Page 18

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Fethard's a good friend

BASHFUL LAD is a safe enough jumper, but has only the one pace and he looks hard pressed to figure in the outcome.

BLACKRATH PRINCE, an ex-Irish 'chaser', is trainer Toby Balding's second string. Stays well enough, but is very slow.

BROOBY BANK broke a blood vessel in this race last year and under the circumstances did well to complete in 8th place. Slightly disappointing this season.

CAPTAIN PARKHILL has negotiated these fences before, but looks well out of his depth today.

CLASSIFIED is a classy performer at distances up to 2½ miles and today's gruelling contest will draw on all his storming reserves. However, past winner Gay Trip, in 1970, and the gallant Crisp, in 1973, disproved the theory that non-stayers cannot be considered for this race. A good jumper and well handicapped.

CLONTHTURPIN fell at the sixth last year and it is difficult to tell this one giving Irish eyes a reason to smile.

CORBIERE, successful in 1983 and a gallant third under 12st last year, looks to have paid a heavy price for those efforts. Kept fresh with spells in the hunting field but had a thin time this season until gaining a morale boosting win at Chesham recently. Reported fresh and well and carries maximum stable confidence.

CROSA, if successful would be the first mare to win this race since Nickel Coin in 1951. Suited by fast ground but does not look good enough.

DUDIE, although a faller on only one occasion, is too much of a suspect jumper to give rise to any hopes of making the winner's enclosure.

DRUMLAGAN is expected to be John Francome's last National ride. Also has close links with the sponsors, being part-owned by the wife of the chairman of Seagram. Gets his first crack at this race, and although at times a risky jumper, is safe enough. Stays well and is capable of a bold show. Prefers a soft surface.

FAULON, formerly a smart staying 'chaser', but has long since past his prime and is best ignored nowadays.

FETHARD FRIEND has failed to finish on only one occasion in 39 'chases'. A creditable seventh last year he has been prepared with this race in mind. Completed his racecourse preparation with an eye catching win at Wolverhampton recently, and, with a sensible weight, will take a great deal of beating.

GLENFOX is a good jumper and stays well enough, but it is hard to justify any confidence for his chances.

GREASEPOINT, runner-up for the last two years will be hoping it's his third time lucky. Has done little wrong this season and can be expected to be firing on all cylinders today. There will not be a more deserving winner of this race.

GREENHILL HALL, a winner at two miles this season, will probably be struggling from an early stage.

HALLO DANDY, fourth in 1983, came tuned to the minute last season and is again favoured by the prevailing good ground. Has followed an almost identical build up for this year's attempt, but despite his trainer's confidence, may find it difficult to confirm the placings of today's weight. Looks sure to give substitute rider Graham Bradley a great ride.

HILL OF SLANE is unpredictable nowadays and looks to have deteriorated from the useful 'chaser' of two seasons ago. Finished 11th last year.

IMMIGRATE stays well on his day, but will probably wish he had stayed at home today.

IMPERIAL BLACK unseated his rider last year and even if keeping the partnership together this time cannot be expected to see more than a rear view of the principals.

KNOCKAWAD is prone to too many jumping errors to warrant serious consideration.

KUMBI is trained by Ginger McCain, but is no Red Rum. Although he has improved this season, is unlikely to follow in the footsteps of his illustrious stable mate. Unseated his rider at the 19th last year.

LAST SUSPECT, who carries the Arkle colours, comes from a stable in good form which turned out Well To Do to win this in 1972. Jumps and stays well but is a tail-swisher and does not look one to trust for an occasion such as this.

LENEY DUAL, a poor 'chaser' these days, will, hopefully, keep out of the way of the more serious challengers.

LUCKY VANE stays forever and would be an ideal National type, but for his tendency to totally disregard a fence or two. Ran on well last year when fourth, and that experience will not be lost on him this time. Strangely fancied by connections, and if keeping out of trouble, will be finishing best of all.

MR SNUGIT has improved by leaps and bounds this season and has surely been underrated by the handicapper. Although in the novice stage he handled these fences in the Kallenberg last year, and, with that invaluable experience, looks to be a very lively contender. Stamina will not be a problem and he looks every inch an Aintree horse.

MUSO is trained by Fred Winter who knows what it takes to prepare a horse for this race, but on evidence so far, he will be fighting an uphill battle for success.

NEVER TAMPER who was tailed off when refusing four out two years ago, will be hard pressed to improve on that effort.

SPOTFORM EXPERT MIKE STRONG

NORTHERN BAY beat some very moderate animals over 4 miles at Cheltenham but faces a different ball game here.

ONAPROMISE has yet to fall over fences, but has developed into a moody customer. Not good enough, and the biggest cheer would come from the bookies if this one won.

OUR CLOUD is a no hopper from Ireland.

ROMAN BISTRO has too much on his plate today.

ROYAL APPOINTMENT is a forlorn Irish hope.

RUPERTINO could prove the best outsider, as this one jumps and stays and will be turned out fresh as one baked bread.

SCOT LANE, usually at his best at this time, looked ready-made for this race in past seasons only to be diverted elsewhere. Past his best nowadays, but still capable of a forward display.

SHADY DEAL, a smart 'chaser' two seasons ago on fast ground, has gone backwards since. Not the most reliable of jumpers.

SOLIHULL SPORT has done nothing to suggest he will be concerned in today's outcome.

TACROY pulled up in 1983, failed to land a stone since the announcement of the weights in January. Badly injured in a road accident at home he has come back in fine style this season. A faller once in seventeen races over fences, he underlined his chances with an eye catching win at Cheltenham. Further he goes the better he is.

TALON, third in the Foxhunters at Cheltenham is a sound jumper and stays well enough, but in actual ability falls some way short of the requirements.

TUBBERTLY looks well out of his depth here.

WEST TIP has made a mockery of the handicapper's assessment improving over a stone since the announcement of the weights in January. Badly injured in a road accident at home he has come back in fine style this season. A faller once in seventeen races over fences, he underlined his chances with an eye catching win at Cheltenham. Further he goes the better he is.



Turn of the Irish

LET'S call them the "Aintree Seven." They are Tommy Carmody, John Francome, Peter Scudamore, John Burke, Graham Bradley, Richard Dunwoody, and Phil Tuck.

In my Grand National book, one of these mates from the jockeys room will be crowned King of Aintree while I am sitting on the fence missing out on those Grand National butterflies.

And if you squeezed a National tip from me I'd say grab a piece of Greasepoint, with my fellow Irishman Tommy Carmody on board.

Tommy conjured the ride of a lifetime from Greasepoint last year when they flirted with fame, only to be denied on the long, cruel run-in by Hallo Dandy. This time it could end in a dream for the lad from Limerick.

John Francome will get classy Drumlagan jumping and that spells danger.

Peter Scudamore will find Corbiere, the 1983 winner, doing part of the job for him—he's such a wily Aintree character. A great National ride.

John Burke, 1976 hero on Rag Trade, must not let Lucky Vane lapse into a mistake.

Graham Bradley will find he has a Christian underneath him when he climbs aboard Hallo Dandy.

Richard Dunwoody, the Francome of the future, must steer clear of trouble on West Tip.

Phil Tuck will enjoy his Aintree afternoon out on Mr Snugfit, a great leaper with stacks of stamina in his tank.

But for me it will be the Irish eyes of Tommy Carmody that will be smiling.

JONJO O'NEILL talking to TIM RICHARDS

GRAND NATIONAL
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Grand National 3-20 Liverpool £5 win Hallo Dandy

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Today's Seagram Grand National Odds

6/1 Corbiere	33/1 Tacroy	100/1 Crosa
13/2 West Tip	50/1 Blackrath Prince	100/1 Immigrate
15/2 Greasepoint	50/1 Last Suspect	100/1 Knockawad
8/1 Lucky Vane	50/1 Musso	100/1 Onapromise
10/1 Drumlagan	50/1 Rupertino	100/1 Solihull Sport
10/1 Hallo Dandy	66/1 Dudie	100/1 Tubbertly
12/1 Mr. Snugfit	66/1 Faulon	150/1 Northern Bay
20/1 Fethard Friend	66/1 Glenfox	200/1 Captain Parkhill
25/1 Brooby Bank	66/1 Imperial Black	200/1 Lenny Dual
25/1 Classified	66/1 Royal Appointment	200/1 Our Cloud
25/1 Hill of Slane	66/1 Shady Deal	250/1 Greenhill Hall
25/1 Kumbi	100/1 Bashful Lad	250/1 Roman Bistro
25/1 Talon	100/1 Clonthturpin	500/1 Never Tamper
33/1 Scot Lane		

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