ALL THE FUN OF THE FESTIVAL

BUCK SHOWS

Forget to be perfect

By NEWSBOY (David Phillips)

FORGIVE 'N FORGET beat many of today's rivals strictly on merit in the Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup (3.30) a year ago and I am expecting a repeat performance by Jimmy FitzGerald's chaser today.

Jimmy has proved a past master at producing his horses on song for the big occasion. Forgive 'N Forget has been far from word perfect in rehearsals but if he's all right on the night then the nine-year-old can take the chasing crown again.

Combs Ditch has bags of ability but he has proved a bitter disappointment in the last two Gold Cups. The mare Dawn Run bids to be the first to achieve a Champion Hurdle-Gold Cup double, but she is still a novice.

Peter Easterby's Jobroke is my nap to make amends for the narrow defeat of Comedy Fair in the County Handicap Hurdle (4.40) last year.

Jobroke won three races on the trot in a purple patch last term. Peter has given Jobroke a nice easy season and all the signs are that his hurdler has been brought back to his peak for this race.

Irish Cheers

By CHRIS JUDGE

THE Irish broke their duck yesterday when Buck House turned in a sparkling performance to win the Queen Mother Champion Chase.

Tommy Carmody, who always had him prominent, set sail for home three out to win by three lengths from Very Promising.



TOMMY CARMODY

Trainer Mouse Morris said: "That was a championship run. The ground was just right for him and his jumping was superb.

"He's been to the Festival for the last four years and not been out of the first four."

The Irish also had the favourite Bobsline in the race. But rumours swept the ring that all was not well with him and one rails firm quickly knocked his price out from 5-4 to 7-4.

Bobsline never really got into the race and struggled home in fifth place. His jockey Frank Berry told me: "The ground was much too fast for him. He needs the soft."

Badsworth Boy, winner of the race for the last three seasons, but making his first appearance this campaign, finished sixth.

If Buck House brought the Irish cheers back to Cheltenham, it was Omerta who really put the smiles back on the visitors' faces with a convincing National Hunt Chase win.

"We've been training him for this race for 12 months and that's as far as we thought," said trainer Homer Scott.

Crack amateur rider Lorcan Wyer delayed turning professional in order to take the ride and he commented: "The hardest job was avoiding the fallen horses."

If the Irish have been finding things hard, the Berkshire village of Lambourn has been cleaning up in style and win No. 6 came from Ten Plus in the opener.

And they made it seven when The Tsarevich landed the final race of the day—the Mildmay of Flete Challenge Cup.

Bookies blasted

By CHARLES FAWCUS

TERRY RAMSDEN blasted the bookies again at Cheltenham yesterday—with a bit of help from a top Flat jockey.

"Greville Starkey has been riding this horse for me on the sand," revealed trainer Mick Ryan after Motivator's win in the Coral Golden Hurdle Final.

"We knew he was fit and it was a question of if he was good enough," added the trainer, who had already landed a Royal Ascot win for millionaire owner Ramsden with Katies.

"I spoke to him only once before the race and that was when the odds began tumbling," he added.

Biggest on-course bet yesterday was £4,000 at 8-1 and the sponsors face a pay-out of £100,000 on the race.

Brunico is expected to go well carrying the Ramsden colours in the Triumph Hurdle today Stearsby wore them into third place in yesterday's Sun Alliance Chase.

Winner here was Cross Master from Tom Bills's small Midland stable.

CHELTENHAM BBC-1&2

2.15 —DAILY EXPRESS TRIUMPH HURDLE. (4--) 2/miles Winner £24,33. (30 run). **BBC-1**

101	024312	ABBEY GLEN (M Carroll) Harney (IRE) 11-0 (D)	T Morgan	44
109	21	BOLLIN PALACE (N Westbrook) M H Easterby 11-0 (D)	J J O'Neill	40
110	11	BRUNICO (T Ramsden) Simpson 11-0 (D, EW)	D Browne	45
112	2	CHANCE IN A MILLION (D Hodgson) Hodgson 11-0	F Berry	39
115	310	COPSE AND ROBBERS (Mrs Hutchinson) Jenkins 11-0 (CD, BF)	J White	40
119	1144	DUPLICATOR (Mrs O'Toole) M O'Toole (IRE) 11-0 (D)	N Madden	47
120	0010	EL GALILEO (J South) Jenkins 11-0 (D)	H Jenkins	40
121	002	EMIR SULTAN (BL) (Unicol Group Holdings Ltd) Mellor 11-0	G C Jones	40
126	0011	HOME COUNTY (T Richards) Elsworth 11-0 (D)	C Brown	43
129	02	KUWAIT MUTAR (D Willis) Madgwick 11-0	A Madgwick	44
131	044101	LOUGH DERG (W Bonner) P Mullins (IRE) 11-0 (D)	A Mullins	45
135	02	PRIME OATS (R Waterman) Henderson 11-0	S Smith Eccles	44
137	1	ROARK (P Leeper) Pipe 11-0 (D, SF)	—	48
139	22F3	SANTELLA BOY (S Gallagher) Holder 11-0	P Murphy	40
140	1110	SANTOPADRE (T Ramsden) W Storey 11-0 (D,BF)	G McCourt	42
141	0410P	SHROPSHIRE LAD (NZ) (D Parker) Barons 11-0	H Davies	37
142	3141	SOLAR CLOUD (V) (Mrs A McEwen) Nicholson 11-0	P Scudamore	40
143	0121	SON OF IVOR (USA) (V) (A Paulson) Weld (IRE) 11-0 (D)	T Carmody	46
144	4113	STRING PLAYER (F H Lee) F Lee 11-0 (D)	—	40
145	24	SUPREME CHARTER (Charter Racing Ltd) Mrs Pitman 11-0 (BF)	M Pitman	40
147	011	TANGOGNAT (T Stafford) Simpson 11-0 (CD)	—	47
148	313	TESTIMONIAL (BL) (Mrs D Dobson) Jenkins 11-0 (CD)	S Sherwood	42
149	011	THAT'S YOUR LOT (D Dorey) Francome 11-0 (D)	R Dunwoody	46
151	201F	THE FOOTMAN (P Powell) Elsworth 11-0 (D, BF)	G Bradley	45
152	1	THE MUSICAL PRIEST (Mrs Purcell) Miss Purcell (IRE) 11-0	P Deagan	42
153	20	THE YOMPER (FR) (Mrs Duffield) Elsworth 11-0 (BF)	—	40
156	0323	TROY FAIR (R McAlpine) J Edwards 11-0	R Beggan	44
157	1	TUDOR SEASON (T McIlhagga) Ferguson (IRE) 11-0 (D)	T Taaffe	41
158	1	YALE (G Hubbard) Gifford 11-0 (D, F)	R Rowe	49●
162	102F40	NINATTASH (B Wheatley) Pipe 10-9 (D)	J Lower	44

Forecast: 7-2 Roark, 7 Tangognat, 8 Thats Your Lot, 10 The Musical Priest, Brunico 12 Duplicator, Prime Oats, Son of Ivor, 16 Bollin Palace, Santopadre, Copse & Robbers, 18 Yale

1985: FIRST BOUT, 11-0, S Smith Eccles, 5-1 (N Henderson), 27 ran **Favourites: 0 0 0 0 2**

MIRROR TV SPOTFORM: **YALE**, a decent staying handicapper on the Flat, made an impressive start to his hurdling career with (11-3; 10-1) 15l victory over Stanwood Boy (11-3; 25-1) at Chepstow (Mar 8; £4,050; 2m hdle, sft), with **SANTELLA BOY** (11-3; 6-1) 4l back in 3rd and **SUPREME CHARTER** (11-3; 3-1) another ¾l behind in 4th. **ROARK** (10-5; 10-1) went a long way towards justifying his big home reputation with 10l success from Infinity Rules (11-7; 11-2) at Wolverhampton (Feb 3; £928, 2m nov hdle, sft). **TANGOGNAT** (11-7; 7-4f) was reported to have been short of a gallop when rallying on the flat to beat **PRIME OATS** (11-0; 7-1) and **TROY FAIR** (11-0; 7-1) ¾l and ½l here (Jan 25; £7,692, 2m hdle, gd-sft), with **EL GALILEO** (11-7; 5-1) 22l back in 5th. **TANGOGNAT** has course experience on his side, but is ideally suited by an easy surface. **PRIME OATS** did not get the best of runs that day and is capable of further improvement. **TROY FAIR**, despite wandering off a true line, led at the last and kept on well. **DUPLICATOR** (10-6; 33-1) ran a fine race at the weights to finish a 9½l 4th to the subsequently relegated Kesslin (11-4; 7-1) when taking on smart older handicappers at Leopardstown (Feb 16; IrE20,682, gd). **BRUNICO** (10-12; 5-2) found a tremendous turn of foot to sh hd **EMIR SULTAN** (10-12; 16-1) on the line at Sandown (Feb 1; £2,705, 2m hdle, sft). His hurdling has left something to be desired in two races to date. **THAT'S YOUR LOT** (11-3; 7-4f) looked a likely contender for this race when 5l clear of Ana Wasslawi (11-0; 16-1) at Lingfield (Dec 7; £6,793; 2m hdle; gd-sft) **SON OF IVOR** (10-13; 11-2) showed the benefit of blinkers with 4l victory over Caparison (10-13; 10-1) at Leopardstown (Dec 26; IrE7,542, sft).

2.50 —CHRISTIES FOXHUNTER CHALLENGE CUP (CHASE) 3 miles 2 furlongs Winner £8,778. (14 run). **BBC-1**

201	1U-1	ATTITUDE ADJUSTER (BL) (Mrs J Magnier) M Morris (IRE) 6-12-0	T Walsh	41
202	11/122U-	BORDER BURG (J Delahooke) owner 9-12-0	P Greenall	46
204	F/F223-1	DART OVER (P Pocock) owner 10-12-0 (D)	Lynne Pocock	41
205	3/2F410-	DICKY BLOB (J Nicholls) owner 11-12-0	S Long	38
206	203324-	DULL LIGHT (S Colman) owner 11-12-0	P Rawle	—
207	U0F112-	ELIOGARTY (Miss Beasley) Murray-Smith 11-12-0 (CD)	Caroline Beasley	42
208	P1/1U11-	FURTHER THOUGHT (Mrs Vanden Bergh) owner 11-12-0 (F)	T Thomson Jones	50
209	F031/4P-	LAKIN (Mrs A Villar) owner 9-12-0	S Cowell	—
210	203410/	MISTER DONOVAN (J McManus) O'Grady (IRE) 10-12-0	F Codd	—
212	1/143F-3	TALON (B Munro-Wilson) owner 11-12-0 (D)	B M-Wilson	43
213	0011111-	TEN CHERRIES (M Bell) Mrs Rimell 11-12-0 (CD)	M Bell	48
214	1/11F11-	URSER (M W Easterby) owner 12-12-0 (EW)	T Reed	47
215	02111/1	VENTURE TO COGNAC (N Sherwood) Sherwood 13-12-0 (CD, SF)	P Webber	51●
216	P1/310-2	VILLAGE MARK (J G Cann) owner 12-12-0 (D)	C Brooks	39

Forecast: 9-4 Venture to Cognac, 11-4 Further Thought, 5 Eliogarty, 7 Border Burg, 10 Urser, 12 Dart Over, Talon.

1985: ELMBOY 7-12-0 Mr A Hill 10-1 (W Mawle) 17 ran. **Favourites: 0 0 1 0 0**

MIRROR TV SPOTFORM: **VENTURE TO COGNAG** looks set to repeat his 1984 success in this race (12-4; 7-2) showed his well being with 20l victory over **MUSSO** (11-11; 11-4f) at Doncaster (Mar 8; £1,105; 3m 122y hun 'ch, gd-fm), with **TALLON** (12-1; 7-1) 2½l further back in 3rd. **FURTHER THOUGHT** is arguably the best hunter in training, but has failed to live up to expectations in this event for the past two years (12-1; 4-7) not asked a serious question to beat **JACK OF ALL TRADES** (11-9, 9-1) 25l at Ascot (Apr 13; £2,372; 2m 4f hun 'ch, gd). **TEN CHERRIES** (11-12; 8-11) comfortably beat Segahan Dam (11-5; 20-1) here (May 8; £2,670; 4m hun 'ch, fm). **URSER** (12-9, 9-4) easy 6l winner from Fixed Price (12-0; 16-1) at Chepstow (May 27; £4,386; 3m 3f hun 'ch; sft). **BORDER BURG** (12-0; 16-1) no impression from the seventeenth when 12l runner-up to **ELMBOY** (12-0; 10-1) here (£7,507, gd) a year ago, when **TALON** (12-2; 66-1) finished 7l back in 3rd, **ELIOGARTY** (12-0; 5-2f) was another 24l behind in 5th. **FURTHER THOUGHT** (12-0; 11-4) unseated rider at the fifth and **USER** (12-1) was behind until falling at the twelfth. **ELIOGARTY**, a former winner of this event, has changed stables since (12-2; 2-5f) running Neville's-Delight (11-3; 10-1) to a nk at gowran (May 29, Ir £1,382, 3m 140y hun 'ch, gd). **ATTITUDE ADJUSTER** (12-1; 6-4f) all out to account for Ah Whisht (12-7; 7-4) by a nk at Thurles (Feb 20; Ir £2,570, 3m hun 'ch; yield). **DART OVER** (11-7; 7-1) ridden clear flat to score a 20l success over **VILLAGE MARK** (12-3; 6-1) at Stratford (Feb 1; £722, 3m 2f hun 'ch, sft). **MISTER DONOVAN** would prove dangerous if reproducing his useful form of a couple of seasons ago.

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