



Can Ron ride The Dikler?

By TIM RICHARDS
RON BARRY'S Gold Cup ride on The Dikler at Cheltenham today is in jeopardy.
The champion jockey has concussion, and faces the course doctor an hour before racing.
Ron gave his followers a big shock yesterday when he took a horrifying fall on Well Oiled in the Arkle Chase.
But he beamed from behind a real shiner of a right eye: "I'm just lovely—only a bit banged about."
Ron told me later: "I expect my eye will be a real beauty by tomorrow."
I'm fine

"But I'm fine, and I shall ride The Dikler all right."
"And I tell you he will take all the beating again."
Trainer Fulke Walwyn said: "I think Ron will be fit."
Corrie Burn, trained up in Scotland, turned in a real "shocker" by winning the first race of her life—the Foxhunters' Chase, at 20-1.
George Fairbairn, who trains her for his wife Joanne, said: "This is my first winner under Rules."
"And what better place to have it."

RACING hot favourites can come unstuck at any time, and Cheltenham is no exception, as we have already seen this week.

Today there are small fortunes at stake on both Pendil and Attivo, and I shall be surprised if the punters do not enjoy a bit of a killing.

Pendil tries to avenge his short-head defeat by The Dikler in last year's Gold Cup, and there are few people around who don't expect him to do so.

That has been his solitary defeat in sixteen races over fences.

Heading the minority is The Dikler's jockey Ron Barry. He reckons they can pull it off again.

We all know it can be fatal to make excuses for beaten horses.

Pendil had last year's race sewn up until faltering for a stride or two halfway up the run-in. Although The Dikler seems as good as ever this season he is unlikely to get any better at the age of eleven.

Pendil however, is likely to have come on quite appreciably since that defeat.

It looks like being the speed finish of Pendil against the dogged stamina of The Dikler.

Problem

Richard Pitman on Pendil is the man with the problem.

He cannot afford to lose touch, and at the same time will not want to be in front too soon.

My belief is that Pendil will always be in command of the situation (340).

Although the form book suggests The Dikler as the obvious danger it would come as no sur-

Maddenstown nap to beat the handicap

By NEWSBOY (Bob Butchers)

prise if Ireland's Inkslinger proves the one to take in a forecast with the favourite.

Attivo is unbeaten in his two races, and won each of them by the length of a street.

I thought his first win, over today's course, was a fluke.

But he left no doubt about his ability when he scored at Newbury.

Attivo will have plenty of live opponents in today's Daily Express Triumph Hurdle (3.5).

While Supreme Halo, Banlieu, and Relevant seem the main threats, there is really no way that I can oppose Attivo.

The County Hurdle (4.50) is always a tough race to solve.

Catscore has fallen in five successive races, but could be a fair outsider.

Alcades also has a chance, but my strong fancy is Ireland's Maddenstown.

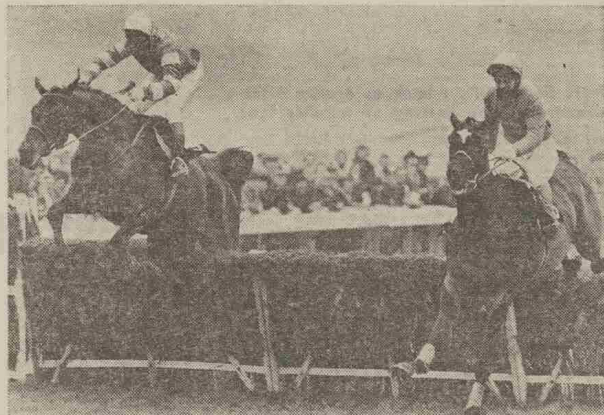
He has had six wins, and a second from his last seven outings and is napped to show he is better than his handicap mark of 11st. 2lb.

Popular

Amarind, with Terry Biddlecombe on board, would be the most popular winner of the Cathcart Challenge Cup (5.25).

The American chestnut gave Terry a fall on Tuesday, but can now give him a win on his final mount before retirement.

A Daily Mirror Punters Club award will be made to Terry before racing begins. This can be seen on BBC-2 at 2.15.



OVER the last . . . and Lanzarote (Dick Pitman) has the edge on Comedy of Errors (Bill Smith) in the title battle.

LANZAROTE MAKES IT SPRING FOR WINTER

By DICK RATCLIFF

THREE wins as a jockey and three as a trainer was Fred Winter's Champion Hurdle record after Lanzarote had beaten Comedy of Errors by a decisive three lengths at Cheltenham yesterday.

Fred won on Clair Soleil, Ebornezer and Fate Time, and had captured the race twice as a trainer with Bula.

But the way Lanzarote won yesterday showed without doubt that he is the best hurdler we have seen for very many years.

Taking the lead at the top of the hill soon after halfway, Lanzarote never looked in danger of defeat.

"I was left in front

sooner than I would have liked, and had no alternative but to push on," said Richard Pitman.

Winter added: "He's a very brave and good horse, but I shall not run him again this season, although you'll be seeing him again for the Champion next year."

Record

Fred now looks set for a NH training record.

Lanzarote's victory brought his season's winnings to nearly £37,500. If Pendil wins today's

Gold Cup Winter will top the £100,000.

Comedy of Errors was sweating freely before the race, and had every chance, but his jockey, Bill Smith, would not admit that the horse had given his true running.

"I think something was wrong with him. He was not happy at any stage, in fact I was in trouble after jumping the third hurdle," he told me.

But trainer Fred Rimell was philosophical in defeat.

"I can only say we were beaten by a horse slightly better than ours," he said.

Golden Lancer is Irish best

By TONY SWEENEY

PAT TAAFFE, inspired by Yenisei's third in the Champion Hurdle, affirms the well-being of Captain Christy—his first runner as a trainer in the Cheltenham Gold Cup.

Captain Christy has twice fallen over fences in England, but with intensive schooling his jumping has steadily improved in terms of speed and stamina he has a first-class chance in today's Gold Cup.

Eddie O'Grady, who has won three races in England since last Friday, could round off a great

week by taking the County Hurdle (4.50) with Golden Lancer, who is napped.

This time last year Golden Lancer ran third to Lanzarote in the William Hill Imperial Cup.

He gave signs of an imminent return to winning form when beaten only a short-head at Naas by Hawker, a useful novice to

whom he was trying to give 7lb. Castleruddery emerges on Irish form as a good 7lb. superior to Mr. Midland, winner of Tuesday's National Hunt Chase.

Off bottom weight and ridden by superb amateur Ted Walsh, Castleruddery could be good value for money in the Kim Muir Memorial (2.30).

His stable companion Gleaming Silver is preferred to Beau Regard in the Daily Express Triumph Hurdle (3.5).

THE FLAT '74 . . . HOW RACING MIRROR HELPS YOU WIN

PRIZE A DAY

LET'S take a look at 10,000 reasons . . . and £50,000 . . . in the science of square dealing.

I'm talking about 10,000 reasons why the Daily Mirror Punters Club Advisory Service is the most significant innovation that has been made by a newspaper for its racing readers.

Recovered

Each one is a letter, from a punter with a problem, that has been dealt with since the service was introduced just over a year ago.

In fourteen months of active arbitration more than £50,000 has been recovered for claimants.

Every case was investigated. Explanations sought and given. Action taken. The punter is en-

Our aim is to please..

titled to a square deal and we are in business to see that he gets it. Nothing more. Nothing less.

In looking for a square deal, of course, we have to realise that before we can have any deal we must have two parties to it.

The bookmaker is as much entitled to a fair deal as the punter, and if adjudication is to have any meaning, it must recognise that fact.

We've cast our spot-

light on murky corners. We've castigated unforgivable shortcomings of some bookmakers, and will always keep the lash handy.

But ten thousand experiences tell me that the careful punter of 1974 is, in a majority of cases, getting a FAIR DEAL.

The careful punter is the man who knows his bet and realises its limitations, knows how to set it down and add it up, sees that he gets it on in time.

One who appreciates value and steps in only when he gets it.

If something goes wrong in his bets, correcting it is usually easy and routine.

Mixed up

The careless punter is the problem.

The tallend Charlie who means to do it the right way but doesn't quite, who gets names and times mixed, gets on late, doesn't understand the rules, or imagines



Presented by JIMMY STEVENSON



'I had to be first past the post..'

TODAY'S winning prize goes to Miss O. Francis, of Budleigh Salterton, Devon.

She writes: "The horses were thundering to the winning post at Newton Abbot when my two-year-old great nephew broke through to cross to his mother who he'd spotted on the other side of the course."

"I dashed after him, grabbed his baby reins and 'galloped' him past the line out of danger. That's one race I'll never forget—I was first past the post."

● Tomorrow . . . Flat '74 looks at Ireland's classic hopes