



CHEL TENHAM '84

Bobsline's the banker for Ireland

IF both Bobsline and Dawn Run are beaten at Cheltenham this afternoon there will be many long faces and empty pockets amongst the multitude of Irish punters who last night were pouring into the town ready to give the English layers a rare slating.

Bobsline, in particular, is hard to oppose and is unbeaten over fences. It is years since I saw a novice jump with the same brilliance as Bobsline and, no matter what the home reputation of Noddy's Ryde, the Irish raider should comfortably land the nap and take home another Arkle Trophy (2.50).

The National Hunt committee have done their best to ensure that Dawn Run does not fail in the Waterford Crystal Champion Hurdle (3.30) for the first time in the history of the race there is a 5lb sex allowance and, as Dawn Run would be favourite to beat her 13 opponents at levels,

By TONY SWEENEY

she will be an even stronger fancy at these terms.

The presence of the tearaway Desert Orchid will make this a hectic contest from the start.

Robin Whitford, who has been training little more than a year, saddles his first Cheltenham runner in Nore Prince, who has a good chance in the Waterford Crystal Supreme Novice Hurdle (2.15).

THE home-trained runners could have a good start and finish to the opening of the Cheltenham Festival today, but I reckon the Irish will capture the other four events.

Their anticipated haul should almost certainly include the Waterford Crystal Champion Hurdle (3.30) with Dawn Run. She is as game as a pebble and has the clear beating of all her rivals.

Cut a Dash and Desert Orchid could be the pick of these but Dawn Run, receiving the newly-introduced 5lb allowance for mares and ridden by Jonjo O'Neill, looks a good thing.

She can become only the second of her sex to take the Champion title. The other was African Sister, who scored in the hands of Lester Piggott's father, Keith, 45 years ago.

RA NOVA winner of the Schweppes, will miss the Champion.

The five-year-old suffered a slight injury after work yesterday morning and trainer Mrs. Nan Kennedy, said:

"I am very sorry, but I feel it would do the horse more harm than good if I ran him."

Despite the overwhelming strength of the Irish challenge, I fancy John Webber to win the Waterford Crystal Supreme Hurdle (2.15) with Townley Stone.

His only defeat in five races this season was when trying to give 19lbs to Rose Ravine at Worcester.

Browne's Gazette is the pick of the other home-trained runners, while Nore Prince is probably the best of the eight Irish

By NEWSBOY
(Bob Butchers)

Townley Stone is home ace

raiders. They will all have a job to beat Townley Stone, who is my nap.

The still-improving Mossy Moore can beat Spinning Saint to gain a sixth successive win and prove a success for the "little man" in the Grand Annual Chase (5.15).

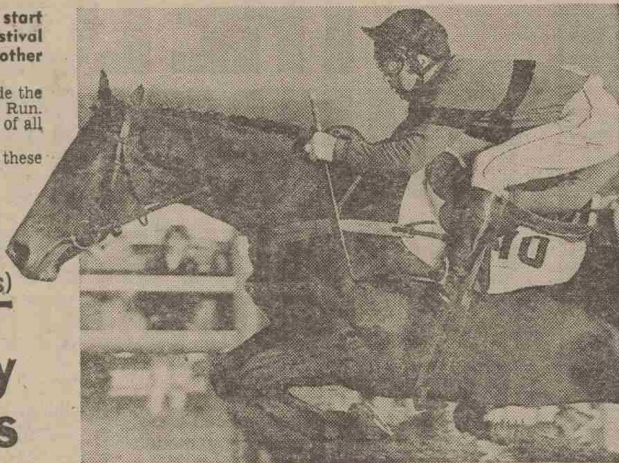
A safer bet is probably Ireland's Bobsline in the Arkle Trophy (2.50).

Bobsline won three hurdle races last season and is unbeaten in four outings over fences. He

jumped impeccably in his last race and was always toying with the opposition.

The Waterford Crystal Stayers' Hurdle (4.05) is fairly open. Gaye Chance and Buckbe could be the best of ours, but Ireland has tough rivals in Daring Run and Deep Ivy. I expect Daring Run to succeed.

At Sedgfield, a couple of good bets are Stand Back (3.00) and Frosty Touch (3.40).



Dawn Run (Jonjo O'Neill) has a favourite's chance today.

Hill Lad is okay

By TIM RICHARDS

JENNY PITMAN'S Burrough Hill Lad is under tight security for Thursday's Cheltenham Gold Cup... and not under a cloud, according to assistant trainer David Stait.

Some Irish bookies suspended Gold Cup betting yesterday morning after more rumours that Bur-

rough Hill Lad would not run.

Stait stormed: "Absolute rubbish. Tell those bookies to come and watch his big-race jockey, Phil Tuck, ride him work in the morning."

"His lad has slept with him in his box for the past week and there's extra security in the yard."

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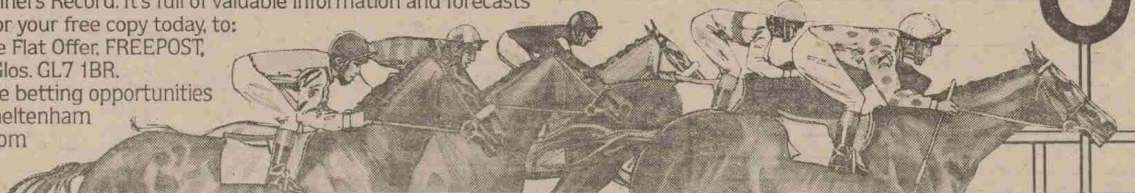
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