



A TALL TALE THAT COULD COME TRUE

HAVE you heard the one about the two Irishmen, two Yorkshiresmen and the shepherd? It's not funny, but it could become fact at Cheltenham today.

They are trying to win the Cheltenham Gold Cup for Michael Dickinson—and could fill the first five places. Dermot Browne on Ashley House and yours truly on Wayward Lad are the Irishmen.

Robert Earnshaw (Silver Buck) and Graham Bradley (Bregawn) are Yorkshire lads, while my mate Dave Goulding takes a break from lambing sheep in Cumbria to ride Captain John.

I'm told it's about 150-1 against Michael's "fantastic five" completing the grand slam.

And there are no medals for guessing that I'm dreaming of winning on Wayward Lad.

He's a classy 'chaser who won't let his King George VI Chase and won't be out of his depth.

Silver Buck and Bregawn fought out the Gold Cup finish last year and there are plenty who reckon they'll do it again.

Ashley House should run well on the Grand National. So



we could have a seemingly unbelievable, but true, tale to tell our grandchildren.

I'm deputising for injured Alan Flint on Rag Dancer in the County Hurdle today. Path of Peace did me such a good turn in the race last year and I'm hoping for a repeat.

I came in with mixed feelings on Torreon after we'd been beaten a short head by Canny Danny in the Sun Alliance Chase yesterday.

It was great that Torreon ran the race of his life... but I had been riding on Canny Danny.

JONJO O'NEILL talking to TIM RICHARDS

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COMBS DITCH THE COLD TIP

SAFETY in numbers would seem to be a good maxim when a trainer saddles five of the 11 runners for the Tote Gold Cup (3.30) at Cheltenham today.

Michael Dickinson does just this but it may still not be good enough. I fancy the up-and-coming Combs Ditch to beat them all.

David Elsworth's gelding has improved tremendously to win his last three races and the secret of his success probably lies in the riding tactics employed.

Colin Brown has ridden him with admirable patience, which enables Combs Ditch to produce a real finishing punch.

Admittedly, it only just succeeded when he beat Bregawn narrowly at Wincanton, but he may have challenged a bit too early that day.

Silver Buck and Bregawn seem best of the Dickinson runners. They filled the first two places last season, but I have a feeling it may not work out so cosily this time.

I can't enthuse over the others and if Colin delays his challenge as long as possible I reckon Combs Ditch may produce enough to beat the Dickinson team.

There is the usual maximum turnout of 30 for the Daily Express Triumph Hurdle (2.15) and there is once again plenty of scope for a surprise result.

I give great chances to Cut A Dash and Saxon Farm, but am napping Alastor O Mayors to win.

He was third to Cut A Dash on his debut, but has won his three subsequent races.

This event needs a



by NEWSBOY (Bob Butchers)

sturdy stayer with a temperament to withstand a rough passage. Alastor O Mayors is just the type and I hope to see him making the best of his way home from the second-last hurdle.

The County Hurdle (4.40) seems to be an impossible handicap to solve, but I am still quite keen on Du Maurier.

He is unpunished for a recent win and has hit form at the right time. With bottom weight he

should give us a good run.

Earls Brig and Compton Lad are prolific winners and they clash in the Christies Foxhunter Chase (2.50). Earls Brig is unbeaten in point-to-point and hunter chases and may remain so.

Corbiere has come back to form in style and is preferred to Gay Spartan in the Ritz Club Chase (4.05).

Observe should most certainly win the concluding Cathcart Cup (5.15).



Combs Ditch puts on the style.

JIMMY LANDS A GAMBLE

By CHARLES FAWCUS

JIMMY FITZGERALD, the man from the village of Horse and Jockey, was the toast of Cheltenham yesterday. The success of Forgive N' Forget had the drink flowing all over the place.

The horse landed an almighty gamble in the Coral Golden Hurdle Final, starting at 5-2 after being offered at 10-1 over the weekend. "It wasn't my money, but we have a lot of friends in Ireland," smiled

Jimmy, who has been exiled over here for 25 years as jockey and trainer.

Not that Jimmy left things at that. He went on to win the very next race with 33-1 Canny Danny. And he would have made it three from as many runners but for a bad blunder at the second-last fence by Direct Line, allowing 19-year-old Leslie

Bloomfield to win on Mr Peapock in an all west-country finish.

Mark Dwyer, also 19, had the easiest ride of the meeting on Forgive N'Forget, who had the race won a mile from home, even though he didn't lead until the last hurdle. "I thought the driver was pretty good—both drivers in fact," said Jimmy, after Niall Madden had landed Canny Danny a short-head winner over Torreon.

HEXHAM with exclusive Spotform ratings

GOING: Good to soft.
COURSE: Group 4, altitude 800ft.
Left-hand. 1m. 4f. Run-in 250y.
TRICASTS: All races of 10 or more.
PLACEPO: All six races.

TOP TRAINERS (with runners today): M A Stephenson 37, G Richards 20, W A Easterby 7, K Oliver 7, V Thompson 7.
TOP JOCKEYS (riding today): T Dun 12, N Doughty 9.

2.00 —OAKWOOD 'H'CAP CHASE. 8 runners. 2m. Penalty Value £845. (8 runners).

5 P10-300 OLD HEAD J Dods 11-17 (C, D, F) D Turnbull 33
6 32P344 BORDER BRIG Brevin 12-11 (C, D) C Pimlott 34
7 132F00 GOOD ACTION O Brennan 8-11 (3F) M Brennan 32
9 40032 BIRSBY R McDonald 7-10-7 *K Jones 30
12 351U0P OAKSAY W Holden 8-11 (C, D, F) *K Roberts 19
13 P23220 SUPREME SAIL V Thompson 12-10 (C, D, E) *M Thompson 32
14 30F030 SECRET GOLD (BU) Justin 9-10-0 *C Storey 12
15 040-000 WINKING FIELDS E Alston 7-10-0 *C Storey 12
Betting Forecast: 5-2 Birsky, 3 Old Head, 7-2 Good Action, 5 Border Brig, 8 Supreme Sail.

2.30 —FALLOWFIELD CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS 'H'CAP. 2m. Penalty Value £566. (15 runners).

1 34F8P SUZY MANDEL Allen 8-12 (3) B Holohan —
2 031100 SHOOTER PRINCE F Watson 6-11 (6, C, D) —
3 12333F LOUVIERS G Richards 5-11 (5, D, 3F) *A Wilson 30
4 300410 BOLD IMAGE (5lb ex) Francis 6-11 (5, D, 3F) *S Brazier 30
6 000001 BONNY GOLD (5lb ex) Mrs Postlethwaite 5-11 (3) G Ray 34
7 1-231F1 MENDALEAK V Thompson 6-11 (0, C, D) *S Youlden 28
9 14-00 OPTIMUM R Fisher 5-10-10 *K Jones 32
10 000000 THE KNIFE M James 5-10-0 (D) —
11 001030 HAWYARD GEORGE Denys Smith 8-10-7 *D Thompson 35
12 1234-00 ABERCRA M Self 11-10-7 (D, E) *K Jones 32
14 400000 MANDY'S TIME J Harris 7-10-7 (D) *Vicki Harris 32
16 40042F CLICKHAM Lad Chamberlain 5-10-7 (SF) S Kettlewell 30
17 000000 SHORT TERM A LeBlond 10-10-7 (D) —
19 000004 MR DENETOP Musgrave 5-10-7 *G McCaskill 29
20 0000P0 SIN NO MORE Redden 8-10-7 —
Betting Forecast: 7-2 Clickham Lad, 9-2 Louviers, 5 Bold Image, 5 Hawyard George, 7 Shooter Prince, 8 Mendaleak, 10 Bonny Gold, 12 Mr Denetop.

3.05 —CHOLLERFORD 'H'CAP CHASE. 3m. Penalty Value £1,092. (8 runners).

3 40F41 THREE TO ONE K Oliver 12-11 (5, C, D, F) T G Dun 32
6 31-130F BURELLO (FR) G Richards 10-10-8 (C, D) N Doughty 34
7 100030 WHAT A COUP Daigtry 8-10-7 (C, D, SF) S Charlton 36
8 9-14122 LITTLE FRENCHMAN E Robson 10-10-4 C Pimlott 32
9 141130 TWILIGHT B Wilkinson 8-10-0 (D) M Brennan 32
11 29P3-0P CHURCHILL PEAK (BU) W A Stephenson 9-10-0 (D, E) *K Jones 29
16 300000 YOUNG SAGORN J Charlton 10-10-0 (C, D) *K Jones 29
17 140330 PAMPAS DEMON Temple 10-10-0 *M Pepper 28
Betting Forecast: 3-4 Three To One, 11-4 Little Frenchman, 9-2 Burello, 6 Twilght, 8 What A Coup, 10 Pampas Demon.

* Allowances (except 2.30): S Grant, G Gray, T Davis, B Storey, L Hudson, J Hansen, M Pepper; 4lb, others, 7lb.

3.45 —COASTLEY NOVICE HURDLE (DIV. I). 2m. Penalty Value £627. (19 runners).

1 40 ALPINE GARDEN Miss Hall 5-11 (3) S Charlton 25
2 BISK 5-11 (3) *S Grant —
3 000P-0 BUT BEAUTIFUL J Jordan 5-11 (3) *G Gray —
4 0P CROWN OF BLYTHE (NZ) E Carter 5-11 (3) A Brown —
5 42200 DEER LOVE R Fisher 5-11 (3) *K Jones 28
6 000000 EASTER WATERS Jewett 5-11 (3) *D Davies —
8 000000 HAIL HENRY Moorhead 5-11 (3) *D Nolan —
9 000000 LEX KELLY J Harris 5-11 (3) A Dickinson 27
10 P30320 MAJORIAN J Harris 5-11 (3) *A Harris 29
11 MEMORIES CALL Mrs Ralpin 5-11 (3) —
12 ROYAL TOP W Foster 5-11 (3) *A McGillion —
14 000000 SCARLET TERROR Brevin 5-11 (3) C Pimlott —
16 000000 TELEGRAPH BUSH Remlin 5-11 (3) *R Shields —
18 03P044 VEILED CITY Storey 7-11 (3) *B Storey 25
19 000000 ASTRAVAULT V Thompson 4-10-4 *M Thompson 26
20 0040 CROWCROPPER Peace 4-10-4 —
21 FOUNTAIN VALLEY O Brennan 4-10-4 (EW) M Brennan —
23 000000 TEYLOUN Lambert 4-10-4 *P Charlton —
24 YOUNG ADVENTURER A Lamb 4-10-4 *S Grant —
Betting Forecast: 5-2 Alpine Garden, 100-30 Deep Love, 9-2 Lex Kelly, 5-2 Bisk, 7-2 Scarlet Terror, 8 Veiled City, 10 Crowcopper, 12 Young Adventurer.

4.15 —PLOVER HILL NOVICE CHASE. 3m. Penalty Value £926. (20 runners).

1 0-013F1 WORTHY HEIRESS E Robson 8-12 (3) C Pimlott 31
2 420001 KING TOP Chamberlain 8-11 (10) S Charlton 32
3 023131 MUSTAPHA (BU) Camacho 5-11 (0, SF) D Oldham 34
4 0040P0 BENNILLON P O'Connor 7-11 (3) R Crank 33
7 0-0P0P CANTYCRON (BU) Sutton 7-11 (3) R Crank 33
8 0430P0 CARRIGTHILL P O'Connor 7-11 (3) *R Began 31
9 000000 DRUMMONY Griffiths 7-11 (3) *R Began 31
10 000000 GO BENFIELD W A Stephenson 7-11 (3) *G Ray 32
12 00P0P0 HIS REVERENCE Harman 7-11 (3) *G Kelly —
14 000000 PARSONS BRIDGE S Wias 7-11 (3) C Graham —
15 P23040 PRECIPITANT Lambert 8-11 (3) P Charlton 31
16 3-00P4 ROMAN VIEW Dods 8-11 (3) D Wilkinson 28
17 0FF003 ROYAL ASSENT P Courage 9-11 (3) C Fairhurst 30
18 3300P2 THE ARKESDEN A R Johnson 6-11 (3) *J Hansen 27
20 00P0P TREGED Mrs Lloyd-Jones 7-11 (3) *P Carr —
25 43-0000 VICTORY MORN Duan 7-11 (3) (EW) *B Storey 27
26 0P04 WELLHILL W Foster 8-11 (3) *A McGillion 25
27 344000 WHO'S FREE Cuthbert 8-11 (3) —
Betting Forecast: 2-1 Mustapha, 7-2 Worthy Heiress, 4 King Top, 6 Go Benfield, 8 Royal Assent, 12 Bennillon, Victory Morn.

4.45 —COASTLEY NOVICE HURDLE (DIV. II). 2m. Penalty Value £593. (11 runners).

3 0F-0000 FIRST APRIL Cuthbert 7-11 (3) (EW) —
4 000000 LEX KELLY J Harris 5-11 (3) *S Roberts 27
5 P440 IRISH GEORGE Redden 8-11 (3) —
6 030000 MOSSDURM Griffiths 5-11 (3) N Doughty 30
10 0 UNGUARDED Mrs Weighman 5-11 (3) S Charlton —
11 343400 MICK'S RITUAL M W Eastory 4-11 (0) D) *K Jones 33
12 0 ARISTO TREAT Lambert 4-10 (4) (F) *P Charlton —
14 P FLYNN (BU) McNaughtan 4-10-4 *S Charlton —
15 0002 LOLLINHHINE Miss Hall 4-10 (4) (SF) —
16 03 PENNY'S DREAM V Thompson 4-10-4 *M Thompson 31
17 0 SCOTSDEN BLUE Mrs Calder 4-10-4 *K Jones —
Betting Forecast: 11-9 Lochlinne, 3 Mick's Ritual, 9-2 Aristo Treat, 8 Penny's Dream, 10 Mossdurm.

NEWSBOY

2.00—BIRSBY
2.30—HAWYARD GEORGE
3.05—LITTLE FRENCHMAN
3.45—ALPINE GARDEN
4.15—MUSTAPHA
4.45—MICK'S RITUAL

BOUVIERIE

2.00—BIRSBY
2.30—BONNY GOLD
3.05—LITTLE FRENCHMAN
3.45—ALPINE GARDEN
4.15—WORTHY HEIRESS
4.45—LOLLINHHINE

RICHARD'S CHOICE

RICHARD MORRELL, the Daily Mirror Punter of the Year, picks Spring Rocket for today's Ritz Club Chase (4.05) at Cheltenham.

GREYHOUND RESULTS

BRISTOL—133: Idrona Lady 3 (11.1), 135: NBL 136: Computer 137: 151: Kishavanna Star 3 (13.3), 152: 153: 154: 155: 156: 157: 158: 159: 160: 161: 162: 163: 164: 165: 166: 167: 168: 169: 170: 171: 172: 173: 174: 175: 176: 177: 178: 179: 180: 181: 182: 183: 184: 185: 186: 187: 188: 189: 190: 191: 192: 193: 194: 195: 196: 197: 198: 199: 200: 201: 202: 203: 204: 205: 206: 207: 208: 209: 210: 211: 212: 213: 214: 215: 216: 217: 218: 219: 220: 221: 222: 223: 224: 225: 226: 227: 228: 229: 230: 231: 232: 233: 234: 235: 236: 237: 238: 239: 240: 241: 242: 243: 244: 245: 246: 247: 248: 249: 250: 251: 252: 253: 254: 255: 256: 257: 258: 259: 260: 261: 262: 263: 264: 265: 266: 267: 268: 269: 270: 271: 272: 273: 274: 275: 276: 277: 278: 279: 280: 281: 282: 283: 284: 285: 286: 287: 288: 289: 290: 291: 292: 293: 294: 295: 296: 297: 298: 299: 300: 301: 302: 303: 304: 305: 306: 307: 308: 309: 310: 311: 312: 313: 314: 315: 316: 317: 318: 319: 320: 321: 322: 323: 324: 325: 326: 327: 328: 329: 330: 331: 332: 333: 334: 335: 336: 337: 338: 339: 340: 341: 342: 343: 344: 345: 346: 347: 348: 349: 350: 351: 352: 353: 354: 355: 356: 357: 358: 359: 360: 361: 362: 363: 364: 365: 366: 367: 368: 369: 370: 371: 372: 373: 374: 375: 376: 377: 378: 379: 380: 381: 382: 383: 384: 385: 386: 387: 388: 389: 390: 391: 392: 393: 394: 395: 396: 397: 398: 399: 400: 401: 402: 403: 404: 405: 406: 407: 408: 409: 410: 411: 412: 413: 414: 415: 416: 417: 418: 419: 420: 421: 422: 423: 424: 425: 426: 427: 428: 429: 430: 431: 432: 433: 434: 435: 436: 437: 438: 439: 440: 441: 442: 443: 444: 445: 446: 447: 448: 449: 450: 451: 452: 453: 454: 455: 456: 457: 458: 459: 460: 461: 462: 463: 464: 465: 466: 467: 468: 469: 470: 471: 472: 473: 474: 475: 476: 477: 478: 479: 480: 481: 482: 483: 484: 485: 486: 487: 488: 489: 490: 491: 492: 493: 494: 495: 496: 497: 498: 499: 500: 501: 502: 503: 504: 505: 506: 507: 508: 509: 510: 511: 512: 513: 514: 515: 516: 517: 518: 519: 520: 521: 522: 523: 524: 525: 526: 527: 528: 529: 530: 531: 532: 533: 534: 535: 536: 537: 538: 539: 540: 541: 542: 543: 544: 545: 546: 547: 548: 549: 550: 551: 552: 553: 554: 555: 556: 557: 558: 559: 560: 561: 562: 563: 564: 565: 566: 567: 568: 569: 570: 571: 572: 573: 574: 575: 576: 577: 578: 579: 580: 581: 582: 583: 584: 585: 586: 587: 588: 589: 590: 591: 592: 593: 594: 595: 596: 597: 598: 599: 600: 601: 602: 603: 604: 605: 606: 607: 608: 609: 610: 611: 612: 613: 614: 615: 616: 617: 618: 619: 620: 621: 622: 623: 624: 625: 626: 627: 628: 629: 630: 631: 632: 633: 634: 635: 636: 637: 638: 639: 640: 641: 642: 643: 644: 645: 646: 647: 648: 649: 650: 651: 652: 653: 654: 655: 656: 657: 658: 659: 660: 661: 662: 663: 664: 665: 666: 667: 668: 669: 670: 671: 672: 673: 674: 675: 676: 677: 678: 679: 680: 681: 682: 683: 684: 685: 686: 687: 688: 689: 690: 691: 692: 693: 694: 695: 696: 697: 698: 699: 700: 701: 702: 703: 704: 705: 706: 707: 708: 709: 710: 711: 712: 713: 714: 715: 716: 717: 718: 719: 720: 721: 722: 723: 724: 725: 726: 727: 728: 729: 730: 731: 732: 733: 734: 735: 736: 737: 738: 739: 740: 741: 742: 743: 744: 745: 746: 747: 748: 749: 750: 751: 752: 753: 754: 755: 756: 757: 758: 759: 760: 761: 762: 763: 764: 765: 766: 767: 768: 769: 770: 771: 772: 773: 774: 775: 776: 777: 778: 779: 780: 7