

GRAND NATIONAL MIRROR

FOUR-PAGE PULL-OUT GUIDE



CLEVER CRISP HAS THE GLASS

THE race in which anything may happen and often does is with us again.

A few pounds weight advantage can be wiped out with just one bad jump and any horse who can negotiate the thirty fences without error has to be lucky. This is what makes the Grand National.

It is a race of contradiction. The most unlikely 'chaser' often completes the course, while several horses of suspect stamina have succeeded in the world's longest and toughest race.

Who will be the lucky one today?

It could be Fred Winter turning out a third Grand National winner with a horse from foreign parts.

He runs the Australian Crisp and the Spanish Nereo, having already won it with America's Jay Trump and, of course, Anglo.

When it comes to class you can't get away from Crisp, L'Escargot and Spanish Steps; that is why they are at the top of the handicap.

Memorable

Others I want to have on my side are Proud Tarquin, Grey Sombra, Highland Seal, Ashville, Princess Camilla, and Nereo.

If any of the other 29 win, it will be without me having any fancy for them.

I think the two "old men" will have memorable rides.

The 34-year-old Duke of Alburquerque partners Nereo and will probably have to carry about 5lb. overweight.

Nereo is not a very experienced 'chaser', but he jumps in the right style and though he has never



By **NEWSBOY**
(Bob Butchers)

Dangers are Proud Tarquin and Nereo

run beyond 2½ miles I think a longer distance is what he needs.

What a combination! The youngest horse and the oldest rider! But be prepared to see them running a cracking race.

Words are inadequate to describe the courage and enthusiasm of 44-year-old Lord Oaksey.

Our John has improved with age and no horse will be ridden with more thought and determination than Proud Tarquin.

John has even borrowed the saddle used by John Cook when he won on Speedy in 1971.

Proud Tarquin may not be the speediest 'chaser', but he is not lacking in ability and is likely to be among the leading bunch when they set out on the all-important second circuit.

Fast ground is just what Grey Sombra needs and he will probably try to set up a useful lead at some stage.

It is difficult to knock Princess Camilla, Highland Seal and Ashville, but I have a feeling they may lack that little extra something needed to win.

L'Escargot and Spanish Steps

are not quite as good as they were, but it would be unwise to dismiss them on this account.

Now we come to CRISP. We know he is a high-class 'chaser' and a brilliant jumper, who I feel sure will handle these fences without the slightest trouble.

Those who point to his possible lack of stamina may be barking up the wrong tree. With effortless jumping and a pace that will not put him under an early strain, he should have something in reserve for the business end.

Best Horse

Comparing him with individual rivals, he is a cut above them in class and the fact that this is the Grand National does not deter me.

I truly believe CRISP to be the best horse in the race and as such I expect him to add to the prolific scores of Fred Winter and jockey Dick Pittman.

For the places I choose Proud Tarquin and Nereo—and nobody would complain if either of these amateur-ridden horses stole the glory.



CRISP and Richard Pitman ... the combination chosen by Newsboy (Bob Butchers) for today's Grand National. Newsboy gave last year's winner, Well To Do.

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