GRAND NATIONAL Mirror

FOUR PAGE PULL-OUT GUIDE



NEWSBOY (Bob Butchers)
1—KEENGADDY
2—MID DAY GUN
3—GRITTAR

BOUVERIE (Charles Fawcus)
1—SPARTAN MISSILE
2—GRITTAR
3—CANFORD GINGER

TIM RICHARDS
1—FORTINA'S EXPRESS (NAP)
2—SPARTAN MISSILE
3—MID DAY GUN

TONY SWEENEY
1—KING SPRUCE, 2—TACROY
3—GRITTAR

SPOTFORM
1—PEATY SANDY 2—GRITTAR
3—CORBIERE

KEENGADDY CAN NICK IT



and give me a National hat-trick says NEWSBOY (Bob Butchers)

KEENGADDY, from the Nick Gaselee stable and winner of three of his six races this season, is the one I hope will land me a Grand National hat-trick today.

The emphasis has to be on a little hope this time as previous winners Grittar and Aldaniti came into the confident category.

I reckon the race is going to be a lot harder to win this year. Proven Aintree performers Grittar and Spartan Missile are the leading fancies, but I have a niggling fear that this is not going to be their year.

Keengaddy has had this race as his sole objective since finishing second to Beacon Time in the Topham Trophy last season. Outings have been carefully spaced to form the perfect build-up and his win at Sandown four weeks ago was his most impressive.

He is a splendid jumper and likely to reverse course placings with Beacon Time, who has the illustrious Red Rum as a stablemate.

Mid Day Gun is another who has had an ideal warm-up and there is nothing to worry about concerning his jumping or stamina. I think he is a better proposition than either Corbiere or Bonum Omen.

Their style of jumping has frightened me on occasions and if they make errors their lack of pace could see them struggling to regain a good position. On the other hand, a trouble-free round would probably see them in contention.

Michael Dickinson is capable of almost anything these days, but I reckon he will need to be a real miracle man to score with Political Pop.

The Irish are well represented and I have a sneaking regard for both Greasepaint and King Spruce, who will be ridden by the 29-year-old American lass Joy Carrier.

Joy would create a record if winning but if new records are to be set I fancy David Elsworth has as good a chance.

He saddled Mighty Fly to win the Lincoln and he is not without a chance of becoming the first to complete the Spring Double with Canford Ginger.

Chased

This one carries 16lb more than his long handicap weight, but he has run some good races and at Cheltenham chased home Bit Of A Skite, who went on to take the Irish Grand National with ease.

Keengaddy is a tough battler with the pace to get into the positions that Steve Smith Eccles decides. It is all a matter of opinion and mine is Keengaddy as the ideal type to give trainer Gaselee his greatest win.

Mid Day Gun is my choice for the runner-up spot, with Grittar managing no better than third.

Canford Ginger is my best outsider, with an each-way bet quite worthwhile at big odds.



Keengaddy and Smith Eccles

King Spruce in the swim

By TONY SWEENEY

A GRAND NATIONAL double for the swimmers—that's my forecast in nominating Joy Carrier's mount, King Spruce, to win at Aintree today.

King Spruce who had a trace of shoulder trouble after running well at Cheltenham, has completed his Liverpool preparation in Mrs. Joan Moore's equine swimming pool at the Curragh.

This is the same programme that Eddie O'Grady adopted with Monday's Jameson Irish Grand National winner Bit Of A Skite.

Last year, King Spruce himself won the Irish National and will be bidding to complete a double only once previously brought off, by Ascetic's Silver.

Tacroy, finished fifth to Bit Of A Skite on Monday after once being a fence behind.

That was a most satisfactory preparation race and he could be the danger to King Spruce, while Grittar, having been raised a modest 7lb for such an easy win a year ago must again figure in the finish.

William HILL

TODAY'S SUN GRAND NATIONAL.
4½ miles, Handicap Chase, Aintree 3.20 pm live on BBC TV.

6 Grittar	33 Canford Ginger	66 Mender
7 Spartan Missile	33 Political Pop	66 Oakprime
10 Bonum Omen	33 Tacroy	66 That's It
14 Corbiere	40 Beech King	66 Williamson
14 Mid Day Gun	40 Carrow Boy	100 Hot Tomato
14 Peaty Sandy	40 Delmoss	100 Menford
16 Keengaddy	50 Artistic Prince	100 Monty Python
18 Greasepoint	50 Royal Mail	200 O'er The Border
20 Fortina's Express	50 The Vintner	200 Sydney Quin
25 Pilot Officer	50 Yer Man	200 The Lady's Master
25 Venture to Cognac	66 Arrigle Boy	500 Midday Welcome
28 King Spruce	66 Colonel Christy	500 Never Tamper
28 Three to One	66 Duncreggan	500 Tower Moss
33 Beacon Time	66 Hallo Dandy	

Each-way one-quarter the odds a place 1, 2, 3, 4. Prices subject to fluctuation available up to the "first show". In the event of withdrawal(s) S.P. Place Terms and Tatts Rule 4(c) will apply based on these prices. Non-runner no bet.

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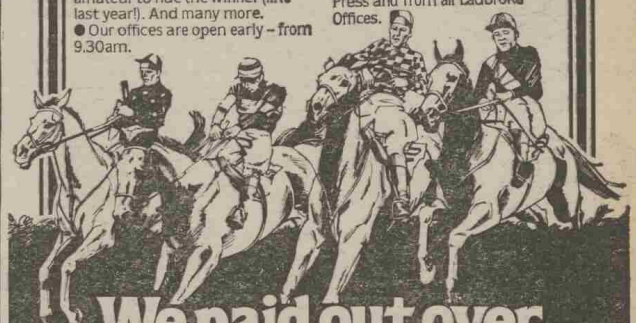


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JONJO IN BIG RACE SCARE
See Page 16

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