ase 4 miles and a half. Penalty Value £52,949. Second 6,112. Third £7,926. Fourth £3,833. (41 runners). 3.20 BBC-1

SPOT FORM

			G Newman	59
			K Mooney	62
			G McCourt	63
			S Morshead	64
			J J O'Neill	61
		spots)	C Magnier	63
			P Duggan	58
			P Scudamore	66
			J Burke	54
			P Tuck	62
		cap)		

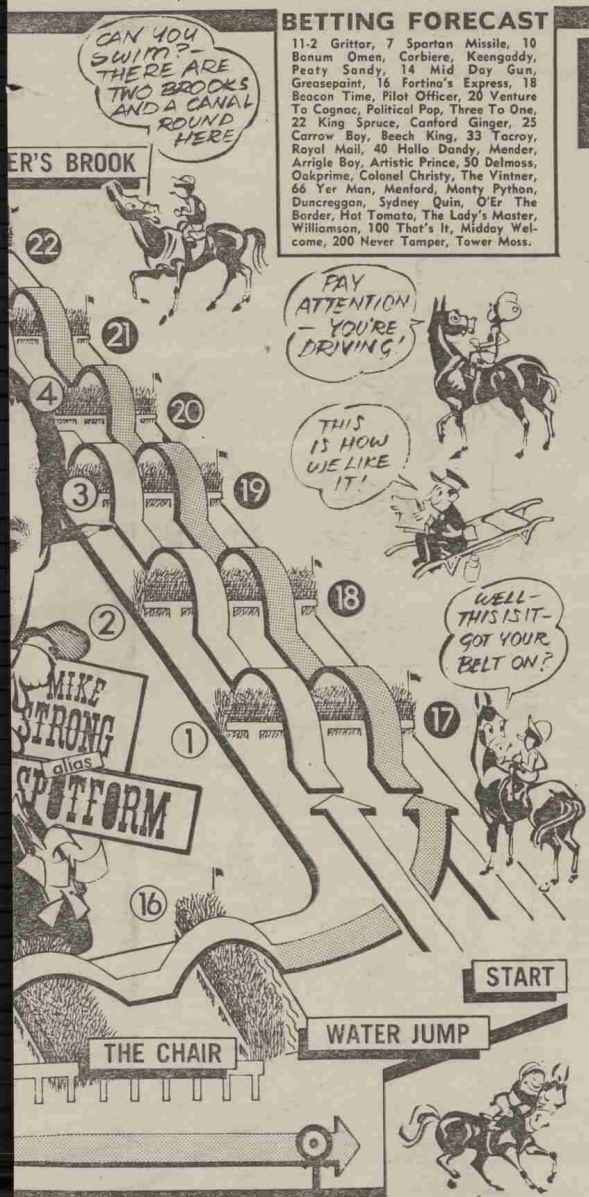
SPOT FORM

324	023320	**HALLO DANDY** G Richards 9-10-0 *(Black, black cap emerald green spots)*	N Doughty	62
326	002103	**DUNCREGGAN** S A Kirk (IRE) 10-10-0 *(Orange, two green diagonal stripes, collar and cuffs)*	G McGlinchey	57
327	413101	**KEENGADDY** N Gaselee 10-10-0 *(Pink, black epaulets)*	S Smith Eccles	64
328	223F43	**COLONEL CHRISTY** H O'Neill 8-10-0 *(Lilac, black epaulets and armlets, quartered cap)*	P Hobbs	63
329	F32034	**MENDER** R Armytage 12-10-0 *(French grey and royal blue halved, red cap)*	A Webber	59
330	004-000	**DELMOSS** F Walwyn 13-10-0 *(Black, red sleeves, check cap)*	W Smith	50
332	020140	**MENFORD** K Bailey 8-10-0 *(Emerald green, white collar, cuffs and cap)*	M Perrett	66
333	0P4001	**OAKPRIME** D Nicholson 8-10-0 *(Royal blue and grey quartered, white sleeves and cap)*	R Linley	60
334	000343	**THE VINTNER** M Naughton 12-10-0 *(White, royal blue disc, sleeves and spots on cap)*	C Grant	57
335	F310/02-	**ARRIGLE BOY** D Eddy 11-10-0 *(Yellow, grey diamond on body and cap)*	C Pimlott	54
336	140P04	**ARTISTIC PRINCE** Mrs J Pitman 12-10-0 *(Brown, orange striped sleeves, orange cap)*	C Brown	58

SPOT FORM

337	F00240	**YER MAN** A McNamara (IRE) 8-10-0 *(Orange, black spots)*	T V O'Connell	58
338	0313F4	**O'ER THE BORDER** P O'Connor 9-10-0 *(Light blue, gold buttons, black cap gold tassel)*	P O'Connor	51
339	1F3332	**CANFORD GINGER** D Elsworth 8-10-0 *(Royal blue, white sash and armlets, white cap, royal blue star)*	J H Davies	59
340	301000	**MONTY PYTHON** Mrs J Pitman 11-10-0 *(Royal blue, yellow chevrons, blue sleeves, yellow cap blue star)*	P O'Brien	58
341	311202	**WILLIAMSON** E Witts 9-10-0 *(Dark green, white seams, hooped cap)*	C Mann	57
342	0-3400U	**MIDDAY WELCOME** J Wilson 12-10-0 *(White, emerald green star, red sleeves, green and white quartered cap)*	Geraldine Rees	51
343	443-P00	**SYDNEY QUIN** C Trietline 11-10-0 *(Dark green, gold sleeves, scarlet cap)*	P Double	51
344	143340	**THAT'S IT** J Gilbert 9-10-0 *(Light blue, gold stars on body, white star on blue cap)*	G Holmes	50
345	43140P	**TOWER MOSS** A Neaves 10-10-0 *(Light blue, brown square, gold sleeves, collar and cap)*	R Rowe	51
346	44401P	**NEVER TAMPER** J H Baker 8-10-0 *(Light blue, yellow seams, quartered cap)*	John Williams	51

1982: GRITTAR 9-11-5, 7-1f, C Saunders (F Gilman) 39 ran. **Favourites:** 0 0 0 2 1



BETTING FORECAST

11-2 Grittar, 7 Spartan Missile, 10 Bonum Omen, Corbiere, Keengaddy, Peaty Sandy, 14 Mid Day Gun, Greasepaint, 16 Fortina's Express, 18 Beacon Time, Pilot Officer, 20 Venture To Cognac, Political Pop, Three To One, 22 King Spruce, Canford Ginger, 25 Carrow Boy, Beech King, 33 Tacroy, Royal Mail, 40 Hallo Dandy, Mender, Arrigle Boy, Artistic Prince, 50 Delmoss, Oakprime, Colonel Christy, The Vintner, 66 Yer Man, Menford, Monty Python, Duncreggan, Sydney Quin, O'Er The Border, Hot Tomato, The Lady's Master, Williamson, 100 That's It, Midday Welcome, 200 Never Tamper, Tower Moss.

Peaty Sandy's now at his peak

ARRIGLE BOY has not reappeared since finishing runner-up to Clever General at Newcastle (3m) in October 1981. ARTISTIC PRINCE has yet to complete the course in two attempts. Fell four out in 1979 and came down at the first last year. Ran best race when six-length fourth to GREASEPAINT (gave 21lb) at Cheltenham (3m) last month. Very one-paced.

BEACON TIME made light of these fences when winning last year's Ladbroke Topham Trophy (2m 6f) by a length and a half from KEENGADDY (rec 5lb), with YER MAN (rec 12lb) seventeen lengths back in fourth. Has changed stables since and has been prepared with this race in mind. Stamina may be his undoing.

BEECH KING ran easily his best of the season when runner-up to Bit Of A Skite in the Jameson Irish Grand National at Fairyhouse (3m 4f) five days ago. Had TACROY (gave 22lb) eight lengths back in fifth.

BONUM OMEN has polished up his jumping and has shown substantial improvement. Stayed on strongly to account for Talon by ten lengths at Cheltenham (4m) and Troytwood by five lenghts at Warwick (4m1f).

CANFORD GINGER, blessed with a surfeit of stamina, has held his form well in quite a busy season. Stayed on strongly but was no match against Bit Of A Skite at Cheltenham (4m), being beaten four lengths. No forlorn hope.

CARROW BOY, a pretty smart 'choser at his best, was in third place but tiring when coming to grief four out in last season's race. Should make a creditable show, but does not look good enough.

COLONEL CHRISTY has more stamina than speed and faces an uphill task here.

CORBIERE is a thoroughly tough customer as he showed in the Coral Welsh National at Chepstow (3m 6f) in December, inching out PILOT OFFICER (rec 9lb) close home to score a head success. A strong stayer who has stood up well to some hard races this season.

DELMOSS, a faller behind Ben Nevis and Aldaniti, fared much better last year when fourth to GRITTAR (gave 16lb), but is very slow nowadays.

DUNCREGGAN a winner at Sligo (2m 4f) in August, has shown little worthwhile form since.

FORTINA'S EXPRESS, following some sub-standard performances this season, has earned himself a reputation for being faint-hearted. A very useful 'chaser on his day he may find the hurly burly of today's contest too much for his temperament.

GREASEPAINT, a strong Irish challenger, is a tough and pretty consistent staying 'chaser. Scored a well-deserved, three-length success from Another Duke (gave 5lb) at Cheltenham (3m). Cannot be overlooked.

GRITTAR, won this race last year, handling the stiff fences to come out an easy fifteen length winner from Hard Outlook (rec 18lb). Although this season's preparation has been hindered by leg trouble he showed he was making the right progress when second at Nottingham (3m) last month. Another fine performance looks on the cards.

HALLO DANDY needs good ground to be at his best, but has been generally disappointing this season. Best effort was when second to Gay Spartan (gave 23lb) at Catterick (3m 300y) last month. Safe jumper.



SPOTFORM NH EXPERT (Mike Strong)

HOT TOMATO finished fourth to Mr Marlsbridge in the Topham Trophy two seasons ago, but looked past his best.

KEENGADDY cannot be ignored provided the ground is not too soft. Showed himself to be in fine fettle with a useful win from Approaching at Sandown (3m 11By) recently, with MID DAY GUN (gave 11lb), MENDER (rec 5lb), and GRITTAR (gave 23lb) behind. Knows his way over these drop fences, having finished second to BEACON TIME here (2m 6f) last year. Seems sure to give a good account of himself.

KING SPRUCE, winner of last season's Irish Grand National, looks to have more than his share of weight. Will be ridden by experienced American woman jockey Joy Carrier, but is still looking for his first win this season.

MENDER is not the most reliable of jumpers and a serious question mark must be placed against his ability to measure up to this task.

MENFORD is not badly handicapped on efforts in Ireland, but may be let down by his jumping.

MID DAY GUN is an honest and consistent performer who was at long odds when a late withdrawal for this race last year. Has improved his jumping this season and shapes as though the further he goes the better he becomes.

MIDDAY WELCOME is a sound jumper, but very slow and his best days have gone.

MONTY PYTHON, a faller in the Topham in 1980, refused at Becher's second time round in last year's National. Not one to trust.

NEVER TAMPER, a recent winner of a poor 'chase, should not be causing too many problems today.

OAKPRIME is inconsistent, but showed his well-being with a threequarter-length win from WILLIAMSON (rec 12lb) at Newbury (3m 2f 82y). Looks out of depth here.

O'ER THE BORDER is moderate and cannot be seriously considered.

PEATY SANDY is a sound but economical jumper who looks to have the machinery for today's gruelling test. Winner of last season's Coral Welsh National (3m 6f), he has run some good races this campaign and, judged on his latest Kelso (3m) success, is now at his peak. Prefers an easy surface and has been given a very favourable mark.

PILOT OFFICER tends to make a hash or two, but rarely falls. Stays well but his chances of giving Mercy Rimell a win in her own right are not improved by his often scant respect for his fences.

POLITICAL POP has been given little opportunity by the handicapper following his win at Cheltenham (3m) last season. Runs off a more realistic mark today and cannot be left out of calculations.

ROYAL MAIL has been a good servant to his connections. Third to Aldaniti in 1981, but fell at the sixth last year. Usually a sure-footed jumper, he may have seen his best chance of winning slip away.

SPARTAN MISSILE, winner of the Fox Hunters in 1978 and 1979, ran a gallant second to Aldaniti two years ago. Has been plagued with leg trouble since, but his two promising runs since his return will have put him in shipshape condition. Must be respected.

SYDNEY QUIN, was runner-up to GRITTAR in the 1981 Fox Hunters and fourth behind Lone Soldier last year but it's difficult to envisage him being successful.

TACROY, winner of the Thyestes 'Chase at Gowran Park in January, will not have improved his chances of success here by his fifth in the Irish National last Monday. Rarely runs a bad race.

THAT'S IT, unplaced in last year's Topham, has not shown any worthwhile form this season.

THE LADY'S MASTER looked pretty useful in Ireland during the Summer, but has not run since being pulled up at Listowel (2m) in September.

THE VINTNER looked ready-made for this race, but after three disappointing attempts his best chance looks to have gone. Pulled up in 1980, refused in 1981 and unseated his rider last year.

THREE TO ONE makes his fourth appearance in this race. Fell at the twenty-second in 1980 and the first last year and in between finished fourth to Aldaniti. Has lost his edge, but generally gets round in his own time.

TOWER MOSS would be more at home around Plumpton.

VENTURE TO COGNAC has not been easy to keep sound. Given little respite from the handicapper and allied to his inability to quicken, has failed to break the ice this season.

WILLIAMSON has improved this term, but faces an enormous task at these weights.

YER MAN makes little appeal here. Gained experience for this race in last year's Topham, but looks very slow.

Fortina is right type

By TIM RICHARDS

PETER SCUDAMORE has just 20 minutes to get to know Fortina's Express before the tapes go up for the Grand National.

But trainer Arthur Stephenson is not unduly worried that the joint champion jockey has never sat on Fortina's Express.

Arthur says: "I wouldn't be surprised if Peter and Fortina's Express click. Fortina's is the type of horse who could rise to the challenge of Aintree and I'm hoping he will run well."

Stephenson's stable jockey, Ridley Lamb, in traction for 12 weeks with a hip injury, will be watching from his hospital bed. Ridley rode Fortina's Express at Haydock and said: "I was trying to sweeten him up for the National."

Scudamore has had two rides in the National and completed on both occasions. He says: "I am looking forward to teaming up with Fortina's Express. He has some very useful form."

Spartan Missile, runner-up to Aldaniti two years ago, may again have to be content with second berth. Mid Day Gun is sure to be staying on at the finish and is nominated for third place.



PETER SCUDAMORE

REST OF LIVERPOOL CARD ... Page 18

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