

If you were Nahthen Lad, would you dare lose?

(Jenny Pitman's National winner.)

THE MARTELL GRAND NATIONAL

TV Live on BBC. 4m 41 Handicap. Aintree 3.45pm.

5/1 Double Thriller	50/1 Cyborgo
6/1 Call It A Day	66/1 Bells Life
8/1 Eudipe	66/1 Cavalero
8/1 Fiddling The Facts	66/1 Mudahim
9/1 Addington Boy	66/1 Strong Chairman
11/1 Suny Bay	80/1 Tamarindo
14/1 Baronet	100/1 Avro Anson
14/1 Earth Summit	100/1 Feels Like Gold
14/1 General Wolfe	100/1 Frazer Island
16/1 Nahthen Lad	150/1 Camelot Knight
18/1 Bobbyjo	150/1 Choisty
20/1 Kendal Cavalier	150/1 Merry People
25/1 Coomè Hill	150/1 St Mellion Fairway
28/1 Blue Charm	250/1 Castle Coin
40/1 Samlee	300/1 Commercial Artist
50/1 Brave Highlander	500/1 Back Bar

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For the National, Ladbrokes are favourite.

Watch me make it a great day for gutsy Suny Bay

PANIC and pain set in for me when I hit the ground in the Irish Grand National on Monday. I was convinced that my Aintree chance had gone in a flash.

But here I am and I can assure you that I am 100 per cent for the job on Suny Bay. Perhaps I have a lower pain threshold than most people, but when Rightsaid fired me on to my shoulder at Fairyhouse, I was in agony.

I felt sick and dizzy and you always feel nauseous when you break something. I was sure my shoulder was in bits. However, after I had been in the local hospital for an hour and a half, they gave me the news I wanted. Nothing was broken and I felt better straight away.

It was still very painful, but I have had daily physio from 'Rabbit' Slattery, who is a star at putting broken jockeys back together. I felt even happier when I watched my mate Dean Gallagher give Suny Bay some schooling practice on Thursday morning.

Suny Bay has turned into a bit of a dossier, but Dean gave him two spins over a line of fences, the first time without any headgear and the second time with blinkers on.

They finished so strongly

EXCLUSIVE

By GRAHAM BRADLEY

that I thought Dean was headed for the next village and I knew the old grey horse is ready for his third Grand National bid.

There is nothing worse than finishing second in this race and Suny Bay has done it twice.

Jamie Osborne rode him in 1997 when he had a duel all the way with Lord Gyllene. Last year the ground was desperate and I went round at the back for a long way with Carl Llewellyn on Earth Summit.

We had the race to ourselves over the last five fences and when we crossed the Mellong Road with two to jump, I was sure I was on the winner. But Suny Bay was giving 23lb to Earth Summit and, in the end, it was too much. I was gutted

and proud at the same time. We shall just have to put it all right this afternoon.

In 1960 Gerry Scott won the Grand National with a broken collar bone strapped up. You cannot get away with that now and I had to do a series of press-ups in front of the Aintree doctor yesterday to convince him that I was up to riding.

I came through the test with flying colours. What we have got to do now is to turn last year's disappointment into glory and I am sure that Suny Bay is in the right frame of mind again.

He definitely was not interested in the Gold Cup last month at Cheltenham where he sulked and I eventually pulled him up with the Grand



FOLLOW MY LORD: Suny Bay sits in behind eventual winner Lord Gyllene at the 13th fence in 1997

National in mind. Earlier in the season I looked the best step in the country when I won just down from Aintree at H

Things have gone since then, but he has sessions with him home and they have motivated him.

We considered racing them today, but against it in case I too wound up a himself out too. I knows Aintree and I would not be s Earth Summit was horse we had to be with proven Aint keeping coming bac well time and tim

Joe Tizzard has Aintree experie though he is only in for a great r favourite Double T who is well handica My reservation at the horse is that I not totally convinced that he will stay the trip. Mc lodger AP McCo has a chance on, who has run well in races, but my idea outsider is last y National winner B Below is my hor guide to the big-r

Interview: CHARI

3.45 MARTELL GRAND NATIONAL

1 52-11FP SUNY BAY (23) (Gd, St, Hy) S Sherwood 10 11 13 G Bradley 69 Knows what it takes and can put a poor Gold Cup run behind him. Looking for revenge on Earth Summit. 14-1 2 261-1F6 GENERAL WOLFE (42) (Gd, St, Hy, BF) Miss V Williams 10 11 1 N Williamson 68 Strong team behind him, but needs to reproduce Haydock form to have a chance. Well beaten in 1997. 14-1 3 51-12P7 EARTH SUMMIT (77)(B) (Gd, St, Hy, C, EW) N T-Davies 11 11 0 C Llewellyn 68 Beat us fair and square last year and should have got 7lb more. Big chance but best on soft ground. 14-1 4 3P-1PP COOMÈ HILL (105) (Gd, Y, St, Hy) W Dennis 10 10 11 S Wynne 68 No so good since winning at Ascot in November. His first run round here will motivate him so has possibilities. 25-1 5 2P-2P4P CYBORG (FR) (42) (Gd, St, Hy, C) M Pipe 9 10 11 C O'Dwyer 64 Not been running up to Hurdle form over fences and I cannot rely on him, even for each-way money. 50-1 6 23-2419 EUDIPE (FR) (42) (Gd, Hy, BF) M Pipe 7 10 10 A P McCoy 67 Out to improve the Aintree record of my lodger AP McCoy, who has yet to get round. Disappointing latest. 9-1 7 212-114 DOUBLE THRILLER (23) (Gd, St, F) P Nicholls 9 10 8 J Tizzard 71 Gold Cup fourth proved him high-class. The handicap pick, but the question marks are jumping and stamina. 4-1 8 8P-PF35 ADDINGTON BOY (23) (Gd, St, C, BF) F Murphy 11 10 7 A Maguire 70 Good effort to get fifth in the Gold Cup and another with a handy weight with the ground coming right. 8-1	9 11P-2P2 TAMARINDO (FR) (25) (Gd, C) M Pipe 6 10 4 T J Murphy 68 Youngest horse in the race who has ability but three pulled up's in last four runs does not inspire confidence. 66-1 10 PF-3222 FIDDLING THE FACTS (42) (Gd, St, BF) N Henderson 8 10 3 M A Fitzgerald 67 Tough mare from a stable that is having a great season with golden boy M Fitzgerald on top. Big chance. 10-1 11 151-31P BARONET (21) (Fm, Gd, C) D Nicholson 9 10 2 R Johnson 68 Last year's Scottish National winner who has beaten a lot of these on faster ground than he will get today. 16-1 12 2P4432 CALL IT A DAY (21) (Gd, St) D Nicholson 9 10 0 R Dunwoody 67 Richard Dunwoody's pick and the horse is a Whitbread winner so has to be respected. Likes fast ground. 6-1 13 381/3P-0 BELLS LIFE (24) (Gd, St, Hy, C) P Hobbs 10 10 0 G Tormey 68 Proven jumper of these fences but does not get to the racetrack often. Big stamina doubts and not yard pick. 50-1 14 065/3P-P AVRO ANSON (15) (Fm, Gd) Miss J Camacho 11 10 0 A Dobbin 68 Ran well when sixth here in 1997 but not done much since. Must have fast ground, so chances improving. 66-1 15 P1-215P KENDAL CAVALIER (63) (Gd, St, Hy) N Hawke 9 10 0 F Fenton 68 Won Welsh National a few days after joining Nigel Hawke. Poor since and needs to get back to that form. 20-1 16 F4-52P3 NAHTHEN LAD (25)(B) (Gd, St, Hy) Mrs J Pitman 10 10 0 A Thornton 68 Richard Dunwoody has deserted him and he is unlikely to give Mrs Pitman a fairytale Aintree farewell. 14-1
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