

Charlie Swan's Cheltenham Day 3 Preview

13:20 – [Mares' Novices' Hurdle](#)

This looks very much like a two-horse race between Bambino Fever and Oldschool Outlaw. Bambino Fever won the Cheltenham Bumper last year and will almost certainly go off a very short-priced favourite.

However, I'm tempted to take her on here with Oldschool Outlaw. Her form stacks up well, with three wins to her name, and she actually finished in front of Bambino Fever at Naas earlier in the season. She still looks open to further improvement, and if she continues to progress, she could be the one to cause the upset.



If I were looking further down the card for a bigger-priced option, I'd stop at Future Prospect. She's a good filly with plenty of ability. At times she can be a little keen early on, but if they settle her in behind the pace and the race is run at a solid tempo, she could easily run into a place.

Selection: OLDSCHOOL OUTLAW

Each Way: FUTURE PROSPECT

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14:00 – Jack Richards Novices' Handicap Chase

This looks competitive but I would have to agree with the market and go with Meetmebythesea. He lost his last race at Newbury, but it was a strong race, with the likes of Lulamba in there. He's back in a handicap now and hopefully he has a good chance here.



Each-way I'd be inclined to look at Wingmen. He's super consistent having always been there or thereabouts and has some good form.

Selection: MEETMEBYTHESEA

Each Way: WINGMEN

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14:40 – [Mares' Hurdle](#)

In the Mares' Hurdle, Wodooh looks set to start at very short odds, and it's easy to see why. She produced a superb performance to win the Martin Pipe last year and has since been marked down by many as one of the bankers of the entire week. On that form, she sets a very high standard and is clearly the one they all have to beat.

Her biggest danger could be Jade De Grugy, who has the ability to give the favourite something to think about if running to her best.



For those looking at bigger priced options, Jetara could be worth considering. Trained by Jessie Harrington, she finished fourth in this race last year and, if she can rediscover a similar level of form after a couple of slightly below-par efforts, she has every chance of getting involved.

Selection: WODOOH

Each Way: JETARA

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15:20 – **Stayers' Hurdle**

The standout contender here is Teahupoo, who will take plenty of beating. The biggest threat may come from Honesty Policy, but this is a deep and competitive race with several runners capable of making an impact. One such contender is the Dan Skelton-trained Kabral Du Mathan, who could well play a role in the finish if things fall his way.

That said, Teahupoo's strengths are well known, particularly in this race. Having won it a couple of years ago, he clearly thrives in these conditions and has already proven he can deliver on this stage. If he produces a similar performance, he could easily find himself back in front once again.



One runner who would benefit from the ground drying out slightly is Impose Toi. Should conditions improve, he looks an interesting each-way proposition and could be capable of outrunning his odds.

Selection: TEAHUPOO
Each Way: IMPOSE TOI

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16:00 – Ryanair Chase

There is a slight concern regarding the ground for Fact To File. If the expected rain doesn't arrive and the surface becomes too good, it could put his participation in doubt. Should that scenario unfold, Jonbon looks like a solid alternative and would effectively become the main selection if Fact To File were not to run.

If Fact To File lines up, he would be the pick to win. However, if the ground keeps him out, the race will open up significantly, although Jonbon would still be the one to side with. If the alternative happens and they both run, as currently expected, then Fact To File to win and Jonbon each-way would be the play.



Heart Wood will also be worth keeping an eye on as a consistent type who won last time out.

Selection: FACT TO FILE

Each Way: JONBON

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16:40 – [Pertemps Handicap Hurdle](#)

I'm going to side with the top-weight in the Pertemps, Staffordshire Knot, who also looks to offer solid value. He's effectively a Graded-calibre horse running in a handicap and arrives here in strong form after winning the Boyne Hurdle. If he reproduces that performance, I can see him being right there at the finish.



Another interesting each-way angle could be Yeah Man for Gavin Cromwell. This race often throws up a bigger-priced winner, with three of the last four winners returning at 25/1, so it may pay to look a little further down the betting. Yeah Man fits the profile of a horse who could outrun his odds and get involved.

Selection: STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT

Each Way: YEAH MAN

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17:20 – [Kim Muir Handicap Chase](#)

I'm going to side with Waterford Whispers in the last race on day three. He ran a very solid race to finish third in a big handicap at Leopardstown on his latest start, in the contest won by Backmersackme. That form didn't quite get the boost we might have hoped for on Tuesday, but we know Waterford Whispers enjoys it around Cheltenham, so the form still reads well.



For an each-way angle, I like King's Threshold. My son rides him for Emma Lavelle, and I think he has a solid each-way chance. We're really looking forward to seeing how he gets on.

Selection: WATERFORD WHISPERS

Each Way: KING'S THRESHOLD

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Best of luck!
Charlie