

Charlie Swan's Cheltenham Day 2 Preview

13:20 – [Turners Novices' Hurdle](#)

The opening race looks a very competitive contest, especially at the top of the market. Paul Nicholls hasn't been shy about his feelings regarding No Drama This End's chances and, to be fair, he's not wrong – he's a good horse. I think this could come down to him and Ballyfad.

Gordon Elliott's Ballyfad was unbeaten up until last time out at Leopardstown when he went down by a short head to Talk The Talk, who is a very good horse. They think an awful lot of him, so it was still a very good performance from Ballyfad on only his second start over hurdles. I'd imagine he'll appreciate the step up in trip as well.

However, I'd probably just lean towards No Drama This End, as I feel we may not have quite seen the best of him yet, with Ballyfad the obvious danger.



I'm also going to suggest Saint Baco as a small each-way shout. He was a real talking horse for Willie Mullins and there was clearly something amiss the last day when he finished sixth at Naas and scoped wrong. I've since heard that he's working nicely and, at the prices, he could be worth a look if he's back in good shape.

Selection: [NO DRAMA THIS END](#)

Each Way: [SAINT BACO](#)

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14:00 – [Brown Advisory Novices' Chase](#)

I really like Kitzbuhel in the Brown Advisory. I think he'll love the ground and the market looks to have missed him a bit. He beat Kaid d'Authie first time out last year and, considering Kaid d'Authie's position near the top of the market, I just can't see why Kitzbuhel is the price he is.

He won very well at Kempton after that and then didn't look quite himself when falling at Sandown, so I'd be inclined to put a line through that last run.



Kaid d'Authie would be the main danger, but with the ground drying out I'm not sure that really suits him. I'd say he probably wants it softer to be seen at his best. On that basis, Kitzbuhel looks the value in the race.

Selection: [KITZBUHEL](#) (Each Way)

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14:40 – [BetMGM Cup](#)

I like Iberico Lord in this. I thought the step up in trip the last day really suited him and he's already a winner around Cheltenham. I think he's a very decent horse and another that maybe hasn't been given quite enough respect in the market considering his price. His last win at Kempton was impressive at a big price and I think he could run a similar sort of race again here.



Puturhandstogether would be my each-way play. He obviously won the Fred Winter nicely here last year and it's always worth following horses that go well around the track. He's since gone on to win the Irish Cesarewitch and Joseph O'Brien is very good at getting them right for a big day, so I'm sure he'll have him in the best possible shape for this.

Selection: [IBERICO LORD](#)

Each Way: [PUTURHANDSTOGETHER](#)

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15:20 – [Glenfarclas Cross Country Chase](#)

It's hard to look past the favourite in the Cross Country – Favori De Champdou for Gordon Elliott. He looked very good at Cheltenham in January and, considering how decisive that victory was, he really does look the one to beat.



Vanillier would probably be my each-way play. He was really unlucky last year when he went onto the wrong course and still managed to get up for third in the end. Stumptown won that day, but I certainly think that with a clear round Vanillier could reverse that form.

Selection: [FAVORI DE CHAMPDOU](#)

Each Way: [VANILLIER](#)

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16:00 – [Queen Mother Champion Chase](#)

Majborough will be tough to beat in the Champion Chase, and he would be my banker for day two. He was very impressive last time out. His jumping has been a little bit scary at times, but with the cheekpieces applied I think he's got a really good chance. He won't be much of a price, but he should win.



Il Etait Temps would be the main danger and could be considered at an each-way price here. He obviously fell when beaten in the Clarence House as an odds-on favourite, but I think he can bounce back and put in a performance more like the one we saw in the Tingle Creek the time before.

Selection: [MAJBOROUGH](#)

Each Way: [IL ETAIT TEMPS](#)

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16:40 – [Grand Annual](#)

Ben Pauling's horse Vanderpoel is of interest here. I like the way he's been campaigned and the way he's been going about things. He's been in good form, finishing third and second before winning his last two on the bounce. One of those wins came at Ascot on soft ground when he beat Stencil by seven lengths, which was a performance that really caught my eye. He followed that up with another win at Sandown on good ground, so the drying conditions shouldn't be an issue for him.



I like Touch Me Not from an each-way point of view. He always seems to run a good race and, with James Smith's five-pound claim helping him as well, he looks one worth keeping an eye on.

Selection: [VANDERPOEL](#)

Each Way: [TOUCH ME NOT](#)

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17:20 – [Champion Bumper](#)

I like the way Love Sign d'Aunou won at Naas and it's easy to see why he looks set to go off favourite at this stage. He looked very impressive that day. The unbeaten Keep Him Company looks like the main danger, but the manner of Love Sign d'Aunou's 24-length victory makes me think he might just have too much for them. Patrick Mullins has also chosen Love Sign d'Aunou as his mount, which is another positive.

Charismatic Kid would be my each-way shout. My son, Harry, rode him at Leopardstown, so I'll be interested to see how he gets on here.



Selection: [LOVE SIGN D'AUNOU](#)

Each Way: [CHARISMATIC KID](#)

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Best of luck!

Charlie