



Horses to Follow

by John Sexton

WE ASKED LAST SEASON'S LEADING TRAINERS TO CHOOSE ONE HORSE TO FOLLOW FOR THE COMING SEASON AND THIS IS WHAT THEY SUGGESTED



Peter Bowen, Trainer
ROYAL SCOUNDREL (Ire)
6y bay or brown gelding
Anshan-Bridgequarter Lady
Trained by Peter Bowen
Owned by Roddy Owen & Paul Fullager

Had just one run in a bumper at Newton Abbot in 2008 when he trotted up by 14 lengths. We gave him the year off last season and he should show the benefit. He comes from the same family as Royal Athlete so his long term future will be over fences, but he will go novice hurdling this season and I expect him to do very well as a staying hurdler. Although good ground will be fine, I think he will be better with a bit of cut.



Henry Daly, Trainer
SAFRAN DE COTTE (Fra)
4y grey gelding
Dom Alco-Vanille De Cotte
Trained by Henry Daly
Owned by Mrs A Timson

He won his only two bumpers last year and looks as though he will want soft to heavy ground as there was plenty of cut on both occasions. He goes novice hurdling this season and should do well. I think he will want a trip although I might start him off over two miles to see how it goes. In time, though, he will definitely want further.



Tom George, Trainer
TELL MASSINI (Ire)
6y bay gelding
Dr Massini-Kissantell
Trained by Tom George
Owned by Mr and Mrs R Cornock

He had a good season last year and won three times over hurdles, but he was always going to be a much better chaser and will go straight over fences this season. He has schooled at home and is a great jumper and he will be out in late October to take advantage of the softer ground.



Nicky Henderson, Trainer
SPIRIT RIVER (Fra)
5y bay gelding
Poliglote-Love River
Trained by Nicky Henderson
Owned by Michael Buckley

He won the Coral Cup at Cheltenham on his final start over hurdles last season and he will go over fences this year. We haven't schooled him at home yet, but he won at Auteuil before he came to me and jumped very well there so we have no worries about his jumping. He should do well over a distance of ground.



Philip Hobbs, Trainer
DARE ME (Ire)
6y bay gelding
Bob Back-Gaye Chatelaine
Trained by Philip Hobbs
Owned by Trevor Hemmings

He won a bumper at Ffos Las last year and ran well in the big bumpers at Cheltenham and Aintree, finishing second at Liverpool. I am expecting him to make up into a decent novice hurdler this season. He is a horse with a decent turn of pace so should prove effective over two miles and we have it in mind to start him off in the maiden hurdle at the Cheltenham October meeting and then take it from there.



Alan King, Trainer
SWEET IRONY (Ire)
4y bay gelding
Laveron-Medicis
Trained by Alan King
Owned by S M Smith

He was a bumper horse last year and even though he didn't win a race he showed a lot of ability. He was third at Ascot and was beaten a short head into second at Market Rasen. He is a pretty good horse and should do well over hurdles. He won't be out until the end of October or early November.



Emma Lavelle, Trainer
COURT IN MOTION (Ire)
5y brown gelding
Fruits Of Love-Peace Time Girl
Trained by Emma Lavelle
Owned by N Mustoe

He ran well in a Newbury bumper and showed a lot of promise in two starts over hurdles last season. He would have won at Exeter as he was well clear jumping the last, but tripped up on landing and then finished second at Warwick. He looks a very smart horse and I think he will win races especially on soft ground on a galloping track. I hope he will be good enough for the three miles novice hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival in March.



Charlie Mann, Trainer
EBONY DIAMOND (Ire)
6y bay gelding
Marignan-Mrs Quigley
Trained by Charlie Mann
Owned by Charlie Mann

Ebony Diamond is a horse I bought in Ireland after he won a Cork bumper by 10 lengths in early August. He was very impressive that day and I am very excited about his prospects. He is bred to be a good

jumper and will be going over hurdles this season, though I do expect him to make a chaser in time.



Donald McCain, Trainer
DUNOWEN POINT (Ire)
4y bay gelding
Old Vic-Esbeggi
Trained by Donald McCain
Owned by Tim Leslie

He ran in the same point-to-point in Ireland that Peddlars Cross won in 2009 and came to me from the same man. Although he didn't win his point-to-point he was up there challenging when unseating his rider two out. He will start off in a bumper somewhere and then go novice hurdling. I have high hopes for him and if he is half as good as Peddlars Cross he will pay to follow.



Gary Moore, Trainer
MEGASTAR
5y bay gelding
Kayf Tara-Megalex
Trained by Gary Moore
Owned by Hinds,
Waddington, Arthur, Herbert, Day

Did very well in bumpers and rounded off his season by winning the big race at Aintree in April. He will go over hurdles this year and will have a fairly low key start at somewhere like Fontwell or Folkestone and then build up from there with the Tolworth Hurdle as a likely target. Don't expect to see him too often, but all being well he should finish up at Cheltenham or Aintree in the spring.



Ferdy Murphy, Trainer
SOPHONIE (Fra)
4y bay filly
Kapgarde-Kore Des
Obeaux
Trained by Ferdy Murphy
Owned by Crossed Fingers Partnership

She has joined us this summer from France and we are really excited about her prospect. She won a chase in France last March and was also second over fences, but she will start off novice hurdling and she will be aimed at the mares final later in the year. She is a very nice mare and we are really looking forward to seeing her run.



Paul Nicholls, Trainer
CELESTIAL HALO (Ire)
6y bay gelding
Galileo-Pay The Bank
Trained by Paul Nicholls
Owned by The Stewart
Family

Has been a top class hurdler for us, winning the Triumph Hurdle in 2008 and then finishing second and fourth in the last two runnings of the Champion Hurdle, so we know how good he is. This season he goes

novice chasing and I expect him to do really well in that sphere. He will probably start off at Exeter in October and then we shall take it from there.



Jonjo O'Neill, Trainer
ROCK NOIR (Fra)
5y bay/brown gelding
Mansonnien-Keep Me
Trained by Jonjo O'Neill
Owned by John P McManus

Made his debut for me in the County Hurdle at Cheltenham and although he was disappointing that day, he is a horse I have always liked a lot and I think he will improve for going over fences this season. He was rated 150 in France when he won all his five races at Auteuil and I shall be very disappointed if he is not winning very soon.



David Pipe, Trainer
KAZZENE (Fra)
3y bay colt
Cozzene-Coconut
Willamina
Trained by David Pipe
Owned by Terry Neill

He was bought at the Sales in France recently and as a three-year-old will be juvenile hurdling. He has some decent form in France including in some listed races on the Flat and he has shown enough to suggest he will do well this winter. He handles soft ground well so there will be no worries on that score.



Nigel Twiston Davies, Trainer
SYBARITE (Fra)
4y bay/brown gelding
Dark Moondancer-Haida
III
Trained by Nigel Twiston Davies
Owned Raymond Mould

He got off to a winning start in a bumper at Uttoxeter the other day and he will probably run in another bumper and then go novice hurdling. I think he will make a useful staying novice and he could make his debut over hurdles at Cheltenham, but we shall see.



Tim Vaughan, Trainer
MOORLANDS JACK
5y bay gelding
Cloudings-Sandford
Springs
Trained by Tim Vaughan
Owned Mrs Lynda M Williams

He is an unraced horse and a half-brother to Moorlands Teri, who won a couple of bumpers at Bangor and then last season won novice hurdles at Uttoxeter and Exeter. I didn't think he was ready last season so turned him out and the year off has been the making of him. He has strengthened up now and will run in a bumper and then go over

hurdles. Over time, he will want three miles and fences, but he will probably run over two to two-and-a-half miles over hurdles this season.



Paul Webber, Trainer
TIME FOR RUPERT (Ire)
6y chestnut gelding
Flemensfirth-Bell
Walks Run
Trained by Paul Webber
Owned by Littlecote Racing Partnership

He may be an obvious choice, but he should still pay to follow. We had intended a quiet campaign over hurdles, but it turned into something rather different last year culminating with his second to Big Buck's in the World Hurdle. He will go chasing this year and I am told is the highest rated hurdler going over fences, just ahead of Celestial Hero. He will start off at Cheltenham in November and hopefully end up there for the RSA Chase in March.



Evan Williams, Trainer
GAMBO (Ire)
4y bay gelding
Oscar-River Thyne
Trained by Evan Williams
Owned R J Gambarini

Is still a maiden after three runs over hurdles, but he was placed second in a couple of them and I am sure there is improvement to come, especially when we step him up in trip as he looks sure to stay well. Whatever happens this winter, I am certain he will be a much better horse in the spring and I can see him doing very well then.

