

## "ONE TO JUMP!!!"

Horses to follow for the remainder of the 2001/2002 national hunt season by [furlongtogo.co.uk](http://furlongtogo.co.uk)

Began - Monday, 30 April 2001  
Completed - Saturday, 30 October 2001

### FOREWORD

After a season which many will wish to forget, due the ravishes of foot and mouth, as well as it being one of the wettest winters I can remember, we at least had the thrill of a finale which more than made up for it, with Ad Hoc confirming my impression that he would a better horse in the second half of the season, when running away with the Whitbread Gold Cup, Marlborough locking horns with Go Ballistic, in the 3mile Championship chase; Baracouda confirming his position as the best novice we saw on this side of the water, and Edredon Bleu and Fadalko fighting out one of the best finishes to race you'll probably ever see. Meanwhile in Ireland, Ned Kelly, as well as Sackville, Like-A-Butterfly, and Colonel Braxton were confirming what talents they are for the future.

The season opens out with the appearance of being one of the most open and competitive in recent years, and its quick conceivable that by the end of it, there could be a complete 'changing of the guard'.

### THE LIST

Since the end of the last season, The Rook, aided by his co writers Christopher Iles, and The Flat Man have been sifting through the formbook/sales returns for horses to follow this season. This year the list comprising runners trained in Britain, Ireland, France and Germany, and includes horses

that raced in these countries, as well as Australia, the Czech Republic, Italy, Poland, New Zealand. As usual the list large as we feel it helps to have a 'core' of horses to keep an eye on. We have had to leave some out, but will include them as and when in our FUTURE WINNERS feature during the winter

The format is as much as the same as is recent years.

We have avoided many of the big names of jumping, mainly because we all know who they are, and they usually offer very little in the way of betting opportunities (...besides you can hundreds of similar features who will offer you these horses!!)

That isn't to say that we don't think they will do well, and our hopes for them will be expressed on the website in our 'FEATURE MEETINGS' reviews, or on the 'CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL' page. There are a couple of exceptions, however don't think it odd, that you will not find ISTABRAQ, MALBOROUGH, FIRST GOLD, KNIFE EDGE, SACKVILLE, EDREDON BLEU amongst this year's offering.

### WHY SUCH A LARGE LIST?

The list is really intended to cover (at least) a twelve-month period, rather than a quick return although some of the horses highlighted have done exactly that. I find it pays to start off with a central 'core' of horses to watch out for, rather than having to try and remember how a horse has performed.

We don't expect these to win all of the time, but we hope they are capable of performing solidly during the season. It is worth having a look in the NATIONAL HUNT, or 'RECOMMENDED BETS' sections to see when we are most keen on their chances.

The list of horses have been placed into the following sections

- .. Bumper Horses
- .. Hurdlers - 3 Year Olds (Juveniles)
- .. Hurdlers - Novices 4 Year Olds+
- .. Hurdlers - Handicappers
- .. Hurdlers - Championship Class?
- .. Steeplechasers ~ 3 Year Olds
- .. Steeplechasers - Novices 4 Year Olds+
- .. Steeplechasers ~ Handicappers
- .. Steeplechasers ~ Championship Class?
- .. Point-To-Pointers
- .. Hunter Chasers

We hope you find these an enlightening and enjoyable read . And of course we hope we find some winners!!.

#### Æ Bumper Horses

AMERICAN PRESIDENT br, g. Lord Americo - Deceptive Response  
 [THE TRAINER] :-:-> Owen Brennan  
 [COMMENTS] :-:-> American President is an unraced five year old gelding by Lord Americo who connections purchased at Doncaster sales for 20000 guineas. He is an attractive sort, and it'll be interesting to see how connections get on with him in bumpers with term

B B BOY br, g. Arctic Lord - Belle Nugent  
 [THE TRAINER] :-:-> Kim C Bailey  
 [COMMENTS] :-:-> B B Boy is at the time or writing unraced. He is related to The Proclamation and was bought by Kim Bailey at of Doncaster sales last year. Connections think a bit of him, and so I have retained in the list for another season

BED BUG (FR) b, g, Double Bed (FR) - Cotation (FR)  
 [THE TRAINER] :-:-> Nicky Henderson  
 [COMMENTS] :-:-> Bed Bug was another eye catcher at the Doncaster sales. The

B B A paid 46,000.00 guineas for this attractively bred three-year-old gelding and I'll be interesting to see who'll he trained by.

BLUES STORY (FR) b, g. Pistolet Bleu - [THE TRAINER] :-:-> Paul Webber  
 [COMMENTS] :-:-> Blues Story is a lovely son of Pistolet Bleu, who I saw on a Racing Channel feature. He looks an extremely attractive sort, and I'll be interested to see how he fares in bumper this winter

BOB AR AGHAIDH b, g. Bob Back (U.S.A.) - Shuil Ar Aghaidh  
 [THE TRAINER] :-:-> Ed Stanners  
 [COMMENTS] :-:-> Bob Ar Aghaidh is an unraced five-year-old son of Bob Back, out of 1993 Bonus Print Stayers' Hurdle winner Shuil Ar Aghaidh. He's bred for this game and is to note in bumpers this term

D' ARGENT gr, g. Roselier (FR) - Money Galore  
 [THE TRAINER] :-:-> Alan King  
 [COMMENTS] :-:-> D' Argent is a lovely-unraced gelding by Roselier. The sire's progeny do usually tend to need time so any form in bumpers will be encouraging for the future.

EASY TIGER (FR) br, g. Sillery - Extreme Dream  
 [THE TRAINER] :-:-> Nicky Henderson  
 [COMMENTS] :-:-> Easy Tiger is a three-year-old by the French sire Sillery, who has been pleasing connections at home. He is being aimed at bumpers so lets see how he gets on in them.

ENCORE CADOUDAL (FR ) b, g. Cadoudal (FR ) - Maousse (FR )  
 [THE TRAINER] :-:-> Martin C Pipe  
 [COMMENTS] :-:-> Encore Cadoudal is an unraced gelding by Cadoudal, who was bought at Doncaster sales. I like his pedigree and hope he is good enough a bumper at some stage this season.

FIDÈLE GALOPIN (FR) b, c. Comte du Bourg

(FR) - Buff Beauty (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:-->

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Fidèle Galopin is another unraced three year old due to go under the hammer at the Goffs France Horses-in-Training sale. By the Group 2 winning sire Comte du Bourg, out of a dam who was placed over obstacles, Fidèle Galopin is the sort of horse that could do well over here, so it'll be interesting to see if he is snapped up

JACK POT II (FR) ch, g, Luchiroverte (FR) - Roxane Ii (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Lenny Lungo , or Nicky Richards

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Jack Pot Ii, is at the time of writing, an unraced four-year-old gelding, who cost Ashleybank Investments 32,000.00 guineas at the Doncaster May sale. He is likely to have been sent to one of their northern trainers, and is likely to be seen on a racecourse during the second half of the season.

JACQUEMART COLOMBE (FR) gr, g. Royal Charter (FR) - Tanie (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Currently trained in France

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Jacquemart Colombé is a horse that I've liked for a few seasons now. he is by Royal Charter out of Tanie, who was placed on several occasions over jumps. He was purchased at the 2000 GOFFS France summer sale by Guillaume Macaire, who has placed him to good effect, winning two APQS races at Toulouse, and La Roche sur Yon.

Jacquemart Colombé should do well over obstacles, and it is interesting to note his entry in the 2001 Gaffs France horses in training sale. I wouldn't be at all surprised if he is brought to race over here

JIM (FR) b, g. Glaieul (U.S.A.) - Beautywal (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Jim T R Dreaper in Ireland

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Jim is an unraced French-bred, who could develop into a lovely chaser in due course lets see

how he gets on in bumpers

JOY DE DISSE (FR) b, g. Grand Trésor - Surprise de l'Isle (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:-->

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Highflyer Bloodstock were active at this year's GOFFS France summer sale. They paid FF420, 000 for Joy De Disse, a bay gelding by Grand Tresor out of Surprise De L'Isle who won three times on the flat and is a half-sister to three winning jumpers.

Joy De Disse is bred to be a winner, and with the right placement should find opportunities this winter

JUMPTY DUMPTY (FR) br, g. Chamberlin (FR) - Caryatide (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Guillaume Macaire in France

[COMMENTS] :-:--> As yet unraced gelding that has a great jumping pedigree. He is the sort of horse that Guillaume Macaire will be seeking to sell to a British trainer so hopefully he demonstrates that he possesses ability.

JUPITER DE BUSSY (FR) b, g. Silver Rainbow ~ Tosca De Bussy (Fr)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Lenny Lungo

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Jupiter De Bussy is an unraced four-year-old gelding in the care of Lenny Lungo. he didn't make the racecourse last term, however I'm certain that connections will have him out in bumpers in the not too distance future another embryonic chaser of the future in the list.

KIF D'ESTRIVAL (FR) b, c. Epervier Bleu - Vocation (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:-->

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Kif d'Estrival, a three-year-old by Epervier Bleu, has yet to see a racecourse but was presented "pre-trained" at the GOFFS France summer sale. He is a half-brother to Destin d'Estrival who has won six times over jumps and was twice placed in Listed Steeplechase. He could be a nice bumper horse this season

KLASSIC (FR) ch, g. Panoramic - Dague

Bleue (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Currently trained in France

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Klassic is a three year old gelding who has had only one start when winning an APQS bumper at Corlay. He is due to go under the hammer at the Goffs France Horses-in-Training sale shortly and therefore could interest foreign buyers, thus he could be racing over here this winter

KYPER DISCO (FR) b, c. Epervier Bleu - Disconea (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Nicky Henderson

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Kyper Disco a three-year-old by Epervier Bleu, has yet to see a racecourse but was purchased for FF250, 000. at the GOFFS France summer sale. His dam showed ability on the flat at three and four so he could do well over obstacles ... lets see how well he does in bumpers this winter

LAOUEN, (FR) b, c. Funny Baby - Olive Noire (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:-->

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Laouen, a three-year-old by Funny Baby, has yet to see a racecourse but was purchased for FF170,000. at the GOFFS France summer sale. His dam was placed on several occasions over fences so he could do well over obstacles. Hopefully he'll show promise in bumpers this winter

PATRICK'S NINETEENTH

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Paul Webber

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Patrick's Nineteenth is a lovely four-year-old gelding.

bought from Ireland by Paul Webber I like what I've seen so far, and I'll be interested to see how he fares in bumper this winter

SH-BOOM b, c. Alderbrook - Muzmah

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Kim C Bailey

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Sh-Boom is an unraced gelding by Alderbrook who I saw on the Racing Channel in September Kim Bailey is sweet on this three year old, and he could be worth watching out for in bumpers this season

STORM A BREWING ch, g. Glacial Storm (U.S.A.) - Southern Squaw

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Mark Pitman

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Storm A Brewing is an unraced gelding by Glacial Storm who I saw on the Racing Channel in September he really took the eye, and I hope that shows up well in bumpers this season

TIMIMOUN (FR) ro, g, Turgeon (FR) ~  
Tabelbala

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Paul Webber

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Timimoun is a lovely gelding by Turgeon who catch my eye during a Racing Channel feature. He sot connections 20,000 guineas at the Doncaster sales, and they clearly think that was money well spent. hopefully he proves that in bumpers this winter

TI PUNCH b, g. Jupiter Island -  
Caipiriunha

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Alan King

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Ti Punch is a three-year-old by Jupiter Island , out of a winning mare. Connection like him so lets see how he gets on in bumpers in the spring.

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Æ Hurdlers - 3-Year Olds (Juveniles)

ABBOT b, g. Bishop Of Cashel - Gifted

[THE TRAINER]:-:--> Charlie Mann

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Abbot is a huge three-year-old gelding by Bishop of Cashel. who probably shouldn't have been campaigned in that sphere. He's 17hands high and achieved a rating of 74 for Brian Meehan. His best effort was probably his third placing behind Aquarius (beaten 5 ¾ lengths) at Kempton in April. he could do well in juvenile hurdles on soft ground.

CANADA b, c. Ezzoud - Chancel (U.S.A.)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--à Martin C. Pipe

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Canada, rated 94 on the flat last season could be an

interesting recruit to hurdling. He had useful form early on last season winning at York and Ayr, both over 1 1/4 miles and ran creditably when second to Jokesmith on his final start at Newmarket in October. Sure to win races if he takes to hurdles and could be anything

DETONATEUR (FR) b, c. Pistolet Bleu - Soviet Princess

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Ian Williams  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Formally trained in France by Mme M Bollack-Badel, Detonateur has shown promise on the level being placed at Saint Cloud on a couple of attempts in March. He's got bags of scope and his performances on the Flat in France were well above average. He's a nice horse who will go hurdling after Christmas.

DOMENICO b, c. Sadler's Wells (U.S.A.) - Russian Ballet (U.S.A.)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Nicky Henderson  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Domenico was picked up by his new connections at the recent Tattersalls 'horses-in-training' sale. he improved steadily for former trainer Charles O'Brien this summer eventually taking a 1m 4f maiden at Thurles. he'll be given a chance to acclimatise, so is possibly one to note in the second half of the season

GEORGE STREET b, g. Danehill (U.S.A.) - Sweet Justice

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Martin C Pipe  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> George Street was picked up by his new connections for 16000 guineas at the recent Tattersalls 'horses-in-training' sale. he didn't win for former trainer John Gosden, but was placed over 1m3f at Beverley in September. connections will be hoping for a few wins on the country circuit with him

HERNANDITA b, f. Hernando (FR) - Dara Dee

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Martin C. Pipe  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Hernandita could be a shrewd purchase by connections. she was

picked up by his new connections for 13000 guineas at the recent Tattersalls 'horses-in-training' sale having run well over middle distances for John Dunlop in the summer. On her last start she finished 2 1/2 lengths behind Lord Joshua who Nicky Henderson also bought at this sale for 103,000 guineas ... I hope for his sake that proves to be a sound investment as there would be a strange irony if she were able to turn that form around over obstacles.

HARAPOUR (FR) b, c. Valanour - Haratiyna

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Paul F Nicholls  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Harapour is a big, strong son of Valanour, who won on the Flat in France this summer when in the care of A De Royer-Dupre. This Aga Khan cast off, has been bought by Paul Nicholls and is one to watch out for in juvenile hurdles after Christmas

HEEZAPISTOL (FR) br, g. Pistolet Bleu - Strictly Cool (U.S.A.)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Willie P Mullins in Ireland  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Sold out of Criquette Head-Maarek's yard at Goffs France sale. Heezapistol has the one win to his name, the Prix des Tribunes at Longchamp, in April, but was placed in his other starts he could do well in juvenile hurdles this term

JUST MURPHY br, g. Namaqualand (U.S.A.) - Bui-Doi

[THE TRAINER] :-:-->  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Just Murphy was another purchase by Highflyer Bloodstock at the Tattersalls 'horses-in-training' sale that is probably destined for a hurdling campaign. he won three times last term at Thirsk, Pontefract and Hamilton, and handled most surfaces. he was best being held up for a late challenge and always struck me as the sort that could do well over obstacles so it will be interesting to see where he ends up.

KEYSSAC (FR) b, g. Beyssac (FR) - Dhop

La (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Alex M Hales

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Keyssac is a three-year-old son of Beyssac, who unsurprisingly with his stout jumping pedigree hasn't yet graced the track. Frankly he may be better off in bumpers and then going over hurdles in due course, however he must have shown something for connections top already by entering him up ... lets see how he gets on, but he looks capable of developing into a nice chasing prospect in a few years time

KHETAAM b, c. Machiavellian (U.S.A.) - Ghassak

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Noel Meade in Ireland

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Khetaam was picked up by his new connections at the recent Tattersalls 'horses-in-training' sale. He was a winner twice at Roscommon in May, and The Curragh in July and stayed up to 1m6f. He should do well over obstacles this winter

KING GEORGES (FR) b, g. Kadalko - Djoumi (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> : Currently G.J. Pelot in France

[COMMENTS] :-:--> King Georges is a three-year-old son of Kadalko, who may be shortly continuing his career in this country.. He is a winner of two of his three races at Vichy and Durtal over 10 furlongs. Although he hasn't raced over hurdles there is plenty of jumping form in his pedigree, and I think he is the exact sort of horse that British buyers like to work with.. He is due to be sold at Goffs Autumn sale and he is certain to attract plenty of interest

LONDONER (U.S.A.) ch, g. Sky Classic (CAN) - Love And Affection (U.S.A.)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Martin C Pipe

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Londoner is an interesting purchase from the recent Tattersalls Horses in training sale have cost his new connections 70,000 guineas. He actually didn't progress as much as I suspect connections thought he would

last term, having looked so promising when winning both of his starts as a two year old. Henry Cecil did though have a poor season, and therefore he may be a little better than the initial first impression suggests

LOUP BLEU (U.S.A.) br, c. Nureyev (U.S.A.) - Louve Bleue (U.S.A.)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> John-Paul Gallorini in France

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Loup Bleu showed ability on the flat winning on one occasions at Chantilly. This Daniel Wildenstein-owned gelding was entered in one of the significant juvenile trials and it wasn't surprise me if he developed into one of the better French juveniles this term.

MONOLITH b, c. Bigstone - Ancara

[THE TRAINER] :-:-->

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Monolith was a relatively cheap purchase from the recent Tattersalls Horses in training sale, however this recent winner at Windsor in October has always looked ever bit of a hurdler, and I'd hope that he proves this at some stage this winter

NARKIS (FR) br, g. Lost World - Newness

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> John-Paul Gallorini in France

[COMMENTS] :-:--> In our N.H. horses to follow feature, we are this season not only trying to find horses to follow in Great Britain and Ireland, but also this year a few more entries than usual from France. Narkis is one of our hopes to be best juvenile hurdler. He won the Prix Monarch in May, a race which is usually won by a useful sort (Dibea Times won a Division last year). Hopefully he can build on that and find more success this winter

PENTLAND (JPN) br, g. Pentire - Lay Claim (U.S.A.)

[THE TRAINER] :-:-->

[COMMENTS] :-:--> This is the time of year to start when jump trainers have begun searching for horses to buy from the flat ... I put forward Pentland, who

I note is up for sale at the Horses in Training sale at the end of October. He is a three-year-old Japanese bred, who is a half-brother to three winners in Japan, his dam was a winner in US and a half-sister to three Grade 1 winners. He raced on the flat for Geoff Wragg, and like so many of his horses, has been brought along slowly. He was quite progressive this term winning once over 9 furlongs and hasn't been 'burnt out'. I'd like to think a jumping yard can get him but with his good pedigree, he may end up overseas ... I hope not.

PRIZEMAN (U.S.A.) b, g. Prized (U.S.A.) - Shuttle (U.S.A.),  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Nicky Henderson  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Prizeman, runner-up in Newbury's Group 3 Horris Hill Stakes and fourth in the Group 2 Royal Lodge Stakes at Ascot last year for Richard Hannon, has been transferred to Nicky Henderson with the ultimate objective of competing in the Triumph Hurdle. If he is able to run anywhere to perform anywhere near his BHB rating of 104, he is a certainty to win over obstacles

QUEL BON CHOIX (FR) br, g. Tel Quel - Special Marianna (FR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Currently trained in France  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Quel Bon Choix is a three year old gelding who has been placed on four of his five starts over hurdles on the French provincial circuit. He is difficult to weigh up really, but might appeal to prospective buyer from these shores as he still all options open, and could be open to improvement. A potential 'cheap buy' at Goffs forthcoming sale that might do well on the country circuit.

RIYADH ch, g. Caerleon (U.S.A.) - Ausherra (U.S.A.)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Martin C Pipe  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Former useful if quirky stayer on the flat for Paul Cole, having won three races, at Newmarket, Good wood, and Leicester, and finished in the frame of several other occasion.

Now joins Martin Pipe, and could develop into a useful staying novice if he takes to hurdling

SAINT PAR (FR) gr, g. Saint Preuil (FR) - Paris Or (FR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Paul F Nicholls  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> I've taken a very long term with Saint Par, who if he performs well this term should be in this list for the next couple of seasons. He is a very recent purchase by connections, from A Chaille-Chaille yard in France. Interestingly he has been placed twice over fences at Auteuil in September, on the second occasion finishing a length behind Guillaume Macaire's Nelson Du Berlais (beaten a length). He should develop into a lovely chaser one day, but should make his mark in juvenile hurdles first.

SONEVAFUSHI (FR) b, g. Ganges (U.S.A.) - For Kicks (FR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Venetia M Williams  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Sonevafushi is another juvenile who could do well this winter. He was bought by Guy Petit at GOFFS France's Summer Sale, having won the Prix de Champerret at Longchamp in May on heavy ground. He didn't run very much on the level, so he should find plenty of improvement over the coming season

VIE DE REINE (FR) b, f. Mansonnien - Synecure (FR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Guillaume Macaire in France  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Vie de Reine is a huge three year old filly, who has had four starts for Guillaume Macaire's yard in France. She won her second start over hurdles at Enghien nicely, however has recently appeared (in my view) to have been struggling when asked to race on really deep ground, (her size may also be aggravating this deficiency) however she does jump beautifully, as demonstrated when leading most of the way when weakening on the run in to finish fourth on her debut over fences at Enghien on her last start. She could do better as the ground improves, so

should do better in the second half of the season. It isn't inconceivable that she might even be sent over on a sortie by connections

VOL SOLITAIRE (FR) b, g. Loup Solitaire (U.S.A.) - Vol Sauvage (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-> Paul F Nicholls

[COMMENTS] :-> Formally in training

in France with Thierry Civel, Vol

Solitaire is a recent purchase for the

Nichols yard. He has had four runs so

far, and although he hasn't won, he

didn't run too badly last time out after

finishing third beaten three lengths in

a £36,000 race at Auteuil in September.

As he's still a maiden there should be

plenty of opportunities for him.

Hopefully he wins a few races this term

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Æ Hurlers - Novices 4-Year Olds+

AHEAD TO THE PAST b, g. Be My Native

(U.S.A.) - Lucky Appeal

[THE TRAINER] :-> Noël Meade in

Ireland

[COMMENTS] :-> Ahead To The Past

could be a nice staying novice for this

season. hasn't raced since May 2000, but

showed promise in two bumpers finishing

third to Liss A Paoraigh at Clonmel in

March on his debut, before finishing out

of the frame at Leopardstown on his

subsequent start.

ALLEGED SLAVE ch, g. Husyan (U.S.A.) -

Lek Dawn

[THE TRAINER] :-> Alan King

[COMMENTS] :-> Alleged Slave is a

horse I liked when I first saw him run

at Huntingdon on his only start in April

2000. I think it was a decent bumper

because the winner Tribal Dancer, and

the third Whether The Storm are decent

prospects, so it was no disgrace to have

split them. This former point-to-point

winner in Ireland could be pretty

decent, and is worth noting in staying

novice hurdles

AMERICANCONNECTION b, g. Lord Americo -  
Ballyea Jacki

[THE TRAINER] :-> Willie P Mullins in  
Ireland

[COMMENTS] :-> Americanconnection was

highly regarded last term, and could be

better than an eighth to Ivan De Vonnas

at Fairyhouse, beaten 17½ lengths

possibly suggests. I hope that

Americanconnection will improve enough

to win a race or two this term

ANXIOUS MOMENTS b, g. Supreme Leader -  
Ms Brooks

[THE TRAINER] :-> Charlie F Swan in  
Ireland

[COMMENTS] :-> Anxious Moments is a

former winning pointer-to-pointer, and

showed promise when beating Eden Royale

at Fairyhouse last October. If near

full-fitness, after an absence of nearly

a year, he could make his presence felt

this term

ARCTIC (FR) b, g. Arctic Tern (U.S.A.) -

Fiasco Argento (U.S.A.)

[THE TRAINER] :->

[COMMENTS] :-> Arctic has had a

varied career. He was initially raced in

Poland, and amongst several wins lifted

the 1998 Polish Derby. He was sold to

race with F Chappet in France, and has

visited the winners' enclosure three

times over the next two seasons at

Deauville and Saint Cloud. He didn't

manage a win this season and has

literally just been bought in France, so

it'll be interesting to see where this

six-year-old ends up

ARGAMIA (GER) b, m. Orfano (GER) -

Arkona (GER)

[THE TRAINER] :-> M G Quinlan

[COMMENTS] :-> Argamia, a big

heavy-topped soft-ground-loving stayer,

would be an ideal hurdler in my view,

especially if we had a similar winter to

last year. unfortunately she did well on

the all-weather, and connections may

save her for that ... A waste really

especially as there are opportunities

for her over obstacles

BACK IN FRONT br, g. Bob Back (U.S.A.) - Storm Front

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Edward J O'Grady in Ireland

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Back In Front is a good looking son of Bob Back, who looks set for a good winter if his 5 lengths win over Sin A Bhfuil at Naas in July is anything to go by. I'd be surprised if that's his only win of the season

BALLYKETTRAIL b, g. Catrail (U.S.A.) - Ballykett Lady (U.S.A.)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Christy Roche in Ireland

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Three wins out of three this season, (2 bumpers + a novice hurdle) for Ballykatriel, who showed plenty of promise behind Davenport Millenium on his only other start in a Leopardstown bumper in February. Hopefully he hasn't done all his winning this term, and should be capable of finding more success during the rest of the season

BEECHCOURT b, g. Son Pardo - Calametta

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Michael J P O'Brien in Ireland

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Beechcroft has only had the one run thus far, but it was an impressive one winning a Leopardstown bumper by 12 lengths in January. He hasn't run since but looks a promising sort to watch out for in Handicap Company.

BEETHOVEN b, g. Yashgan - Adare Princess

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Noel Chance

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Beethoven gave me a lot of pleasure when winning on his debut at Ascot, quickening up impressively to beat the Queen Mother's First Love decisively. He confirmed that impression when finishing an honorable second at Sandown under his penalty I love him to bits, and if he gets over an injury sustained in that event he could be an interesting novice hurdler this term.

BIDIN' MY TIME (NZ) b, g. Centro (NZ) - Moet Heights (NZ)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Nicky J Henderson  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Bidin' My Time could be interesting over hurdles this term.

He beat the highly touted Midland Flame on his debut at Ludlow in November on good ground. He went back there under a penalty in December but got stuck in the mud behind L'Orphelin. If he gets his ground, he should win hurdle races this term.

BNEYA (FR) b, f. Hero's Honor (U.S.A.) - Khariyada (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Mary Reverley

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Bneya is an interesting new arrival from France, running five times without winning, but in the frame four times, behind the likes of Bilboa, Line Apple, and Cara Crown If she translates that form over here, she should lose her maiden without much trouble

BOB LE GAOTH br, g. Bob Back (U.S.A.) - Shuil Le Gaoth

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Ed Stanners  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Bob Le Goath, an attractive brown gelding by Bob Back, (who looks to be a sire worth noting this term) showed plenty of ability in two starts last term. He really caught the eye on his debut, staying on strongly to finish third behind One Knight at Newbury in March. He subsequently stepped up that effort, when staying on strongly to win at Newton Abbot in April. 2 1/2 miles+ over hurdles, should (hopefully) bring about further improvement in him

BRITISH VOLUNTEER br, g. Executive Perk - Dante Light

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Charlie J Mann

[COMMENTS] :-:--> British Volunteer a promising eighth on his debut in a Fontwell Park bumper in April, showed me enough to suggest/hope that this br, g. by Executive Perk could find a race of middle distance on the country courses.

CADOU ROYAL (FR) b, g. Cadoudal (FR) - Leonie Des Champs (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Arthur L T Moore in Ireland

[COMMENTS] :-:--> It'll be interesting to see what connections do with Cadou Royal this season. He showed plenty of promise last term finishing in the frame in all of his three starts, initially over hurdles at Navan in November behind Ned Kelly, and Bob Justice a month later at Fairyhouse. he ran respectably on his final start in bumper at Fairyhouse in February, and surely only needs to replicate this sort of form to find a race this winter

CAKE O' THE NORTH ch, g. Eve's Error - Butlers Pier

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Mrs. Mary Reveley

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Cake O' The North is one of Mary Reveley's lesser lights, but he shown ability in two 'educational' starts. He met a tartar in The Bajan Bandit at Carlisle in April 2000. He didn't reappear for a year, but ran a nice race at Wetherby in the hands of Peter Niven, staying on nicely inside the final quarter to finish fifth (beaten 24lengths). I'm hopeful that there are races to be won with this five-year-old.

CAPTIVE br, g. Be My Native (U.S.A.) - La Capitana

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> A Crook

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Captive, who showed plenty of promise in three runs for Nicky Richards. He's already given further indication that a wins inst too far way, when finishing a good third placing behind Mytimie at Kelso recently. Captive is a lovely chasing prospect that appears to want a step up in trip ... one to bear in mind when that occurs

CHAUVINIST br, g. Roselier (FR) - Sacajawea

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Nicky J Henderson

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Chauvinist owes me nothing when landing me a good punt on his debut at Kempton. He a tough little

brute and having tipped him up as one to note in our Future Winners sectioned, I enjoyed watching him battle all the way to the line. to hold Lord Lupin at bay. He will come on for the run, and should be capable of finding success over hurdles this term

CLASSIC JAZZ (NZ) br, g. Paris Opera (AUS) - Johnny Loves Jazz (NZ)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Nicky J Henderson

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Classic Jazz is another horse that could have a god season. I don't know much about this horse's early career in New Zealand (I believe he won a few races). He certainly caught the eye though at Worcester, where he travelled smoothly throughout to easily beat Spectrometer easily. He has been with his trainer for a while now, however on this evidence, this lightly raced six-year-old clearly has a future

CLOONEEN br, g. King's Ride - Arctic Chatter

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Edward J O'Grady in Ireland

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Clooneen is a lovely prospect for the rest of the season. he has had one start under rules, taking a 23 runner maiden hurdle at Navan in May, and I'd be surprised if that's his last win of the season.

COCKCROW b, g. Topanoora - Call Me Anna

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> A King

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Cockcrow is a big scopey son of Topanoora, who has had the one start at Huntingdon in April 2000, where he finished third, beaten only 4lengths to the winner. He didn't run last year and has been fired but is back steady work. He should show some promise this season over hurdles before embarking on a career over fences.

CORLETTO (POL) b, g. Professional - Cortesia (POL)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Tom R George

[COMMENTS] :-:--> I know very little about Corletto, other than he won a race

at Sluzewiec in October 2000. he came to the stable with a similar background to Cobbet, who is also in this list. He must have shown connections something in his native country to make them keen, and hopefully can replicate the efforts of his stablemate this winter.

COUNTESS OF CHELL b, m. Gildoran - Chanelle

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Venetia M Williams  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Countess of Chell could do well in mares only races this winter. She's had only one run, where she was second [beaten 10lengths] by Cullen Bay at Bangor in May. I'm sure her astute trainer can place her to good effect.

CYRIAN b, g. Persian Bold - Regina St Cyr

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Martin C Pipe  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Former winner of the Northumberland Plate who missed the last two season because of injury. Could be a useful staying novice this time around

DATITO b, g. Over The River (FR) - Crash Call

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Richard T Phillips  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Datito came to my attentions thanks to our "Irish Point to Point Review". He had shown promise during their brief season, and had been sold to Richard Phillip's yard. Clearly there was plenty of on course knowledge about him because he was a well back 5/2 favourite on his British debut at Haydock. He didnt let his supporters down either as despite steering a wide course throughout he still out-galoped seventeen rivals by 5 lengths. It looked a good effort, and i won't surprise me if he developed into one of the better novice hurdles out this winter

DAVENPORT MILENIUM b, g. Insan (U.S.A.) - Society Belle

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Willie P Mullins in Ireland  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Davenport Millenium must be a banker to win this term. He ran twice last term at Leopardstown,

winning a bumper in February from Red Bear, before being put in his place by Like-A-Butterfly, at the rearranged Punchestown Champion Bumper. It wills a huge surprise if he doesn't manage to get onto the scoreboard

DEAD-EYED DICK b, g. Un Desperado (FR) - Glendale Charmer

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Paul R Webber  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Dark-Eyed Dick certainly gave the impression to connections that he has ability he didn't however translate this in two bumpers, on both occasions giving the impression that he was still a little on the weak side. Dark-Eyed Dick continues to please connections and could leave last season's form behind him

DIRECT BEARING b, g. Polish Precedent (U.S.A.) - Uncertain Affair

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Dermot K Weld in Ireland  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Direct Bearing is a four-year-old gelding by Polish Precedent, who could well be one of Ireland's best novices by the end of the season. he's had four runs to date, winning at Fairyhouse on his debut. he's since run three times on the flat; Winning at Leopardstown in June, before just being touched off in a decent prize at Leopardstown in September. on decent ground he could do well over hurdles this winter

DOUKASH (FR) br, g. Cadoudal (FR) - Paris Kash (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Martin C Pipe  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> As a fan on the French non thoroughbred, I can understand why punters may be punch-drunk, with constant references to there being another 'good thing' from France, however you do get a few genuine ones along the way. We have been spoilt with the exploits of the likes of Jair Du Cochet, Bilboa and most recently Royal Auclair in the juvenile division, and have the highly touted Azertyuiop to come, however Martin Pipe may well have another interesting one his hands in the

shape of Doukash. By Cadoudal, Doukash has only had the two starts over obstacles in France; He put up a good effort on his debut finishing 8 lengths behind Robin Des Champs (who would be rated currently in the top ten juveniles in France over hurdles), and Jet Des Pres in the Prix Rush Hurdle at Auteuil in March, He then followed that effort by chasing home Maillot Jaune in the Prix Chateaufort (Hurdle) again, at Auteuil in May of last year (beaten 6 lengths). Although that doesn't appear as good an effort Maillot Jaune is himself a useful sort over both hurdles and fences. obviously with that background plenty was expected. but Doukash failed to reproduce that form, probably running best behind Montalcino on his final start. he's better than that, and on his French form looks certain to win races in the future

DREAM WITH ME (FR) b, c. Johann Quatz (FR) - Midnight Ride (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Charlie Egerton  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> A recent purchase at one of last season's GOFFS France sales, this useful handicapper on the flat ran creditably during the summer and won most recently at Deauville in August. They paid a lot for this one so I'd expect a high profile campaign with him (He made a promising first appearance at Newbury recently)

DUNGARVANS CHOICE ch, g. Orchestra - Mary's Gift

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Nicky J Henderson  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Dungarvans Choice is a chestnut gelding by Orchestra whose galloping style is very reminiscent of Bacchanal though a larger scale model of that chaser. He's had the four starts - promising plenty at Huntington on his debut, when he finished a staying-on second to Junkaroo. He then appeared not to handle Fontwell's eccentricities, when running out on the final bend when looking all over the winner. There was no mistakes next time out, when striding out an impressive winner at Chepstow in January, before rounding off the season

with a good fourth at Newbury. He is a lovely staying prospect for the season, and should win races this term

EL DIVINO (GER) b, g. Platini (GER) - Eivissa (GER)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Paul F Nicholls  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> El Divino, formally trained in Germany by C Von Der Recke is one of the first German breds to be trained by the yard. He had very good form on the Flat in Germany, winning at Hamburg and Cologne, over a mile and will be seen to best effect initially over the minimum trip

FELIXRDOTCOM ch, g. Gran Alba (U.S.A.) - Golden Curd (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Josh T Gifford  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Felixrdotcom should promise in two starts in bumpers, catching the eye behind Beethoven at Ascot. He is no world-beater, but I can see him winning races over hurdles around the southern east circuit

FIRST FLIGHT br, g. Neltino - The Beginning

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Kim Bailey  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> First Flight, a full brother to the highly promising pointer Itsgoneoff (who I have no doubt would have made it to the top bar injury) made a pleasing appearance at Wincanton on his only start to date. He finished third that day, but showed up prominently, and should step up on this effort when pull over obstacle.... He should appreciate a trip in time

FIRST LOVE br, g. Bustino - First Romance

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Nicky J Henderson  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> First Love is one of Her Majesty the Queen Mother's best young prospects. He will be a lovely chaser in a few years time and has already that promise in four bumpers last term. He won two of those races, at Towcester in February, where he beat the promising gelding Majority Verdict. as well as Ascot on his last start. He also ran a great race in defeat behind

Beethoven on his third start. As long as he takes to obstacles, he must be a near banker for victory this term

FOR YOUR EARS ONLY b, g. Be My Native (U.S.A.) - Sister Ida

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Alan Parker

[COMMENTS] :-:--> For Your Ears Only is a lovely four-year-old gelding who has only had the one start, finishing third to City Venture at Ayr in April. that was a good effort, and he should improve on that when tried over hurdles this winter

GIANLUCA br, g. Un Desperado (FR) - Belwood Girl

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Charlie R Egerton

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Gianluca is another bumper horse that only made the one visit to the racetrack, but it was a very impressive one, cruising on the bridle throughout before putting 11 lengths between himself and his opponents. He didn't race last term, presumably due to injury, but if he takes to the jumping game (reportedly not at present) then he could be a very interesting individual

GOSS b, g. Linamix (FR) - Guillem (U.S.A.)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Michael J P O'Brien in Ireland in Ireland

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Bought at the 2000 Goffs 'Horses in Training' Sale, having earlier this week finished 7th to Inglenook in a listed event over 10 furlongs at Saint Cloud. Goss could be an interesting prospect over hurdles this term Looks an interesting proposition

GUNG HO br, g. Mister Lord (U.S.A.) ~ Deruma Lady

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Mark Pitman

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Gung-Ho has only had one run to date, when winning a bumper at Fontwell. He is a nice individual who may be kept to bumpers term before embarking on a hurdling career; I suspect the latter is more likely

HARITHABAD (FR) b, g. Ela-Mana-Mou - Haratiyna

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Noël Meade in Ireland

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Harithabad has had a varied career thus far. he joined Noël Meade as a three-year-old, having been 'cast aside' by The Aga Khan. he was sent him away to get experience as a point-to-pointer, and did well in that sphere winning a race at Clonmel. He rejoined the Noël Meade camp and took the Powers Gold Label Point-to-Point Championship Final at the rearranged Punchestown festival. his first effort this term was encouraging even though he was beaten 11 lengths by Golden Row at Navan in May (gave that multi-winning gelding 5lbs). On this effort he should find a race, and could be anything

HEDGEHUNTER b, g. Montelimar (U.S.A.) - Aberedw

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Willie P Mullins in Ireland

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Hedgehunter was another highly touted bumper from the Willie Mullins camp. This five-year-old gelding proved to be highly frustrating finishing second on all of his five starts. He looks one paced on more than one occasion, but a distance of ground over hurdles may finally be the breakthrough.

HIS NIBS b, g. Alflora - Mrs. Jennifer

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Venetia Williams

[COMMENTS] :-:--> His Nibs, a four year old gelding by Alflora, was given an educational run at Folkestone in May where he stuck on tenaciously to withhold the last challenge of Game On by 2 lengths. That was a pleasing effort, and he is sure to come on for the experience

HORIZON (FR) ch, g. Arctic Tern - Furtchella (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Currently trained in France

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Horizon is a four year old gelding who has been placed over

both hurdles and Fences in France before winning the Prix d'Indy (a cross country chase) at Saumur at the end of October. He is due to go under the hammer at the Goffs France Horses-in-Training sale and clearly has some potential, especially as he is a maiden effectively over both 'normal codes. I wouldn't be surprised if he was bought to race over here.

HYPERION DU MOULIN II (FR) b, g.  
Kedellic (FR) - Mipour (FR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-> Lady Herries  
[COMMENTS] :-> Hyperion Du Moulin II was one of the last horses trained by the late Tim Forster. he never raced for him but he liked this horse and his new trainer Lady Herries is bringing him along nicely. He ran only once last season, but showed promise when finishing ninth to Chapelton at Newbury in February. he's a nice prospect, and having left him out of my list last season, I'll put him back this season.

IAN DE BRION (FR) b, g. Shafoun - Jupe de Laine(FR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-> Currently trained in France  
[COMMENTS] :-> Ian de Brion is a four year old gelding who has won one of his seven starts over obstacle (a chase ) on the French provisional circuit. He is due to go under the hammer at the Goffs France Horses-in-Training sale and appeals to me as there should be plenty of improvement to come from him, and he should be relatively easy to place. I won't be surprised if he was bought to race over here.

ICI LONDRES (FR) b, g. Royal Charter (FR) - Agra (FR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-> Francois Doumen in France  
[COMMENTS] :-> Ici Londres hasn't as yet won over obstacles in his native France, a couple of useful efforts on the flat including a win at Lisieux, suggest he has the ability to do so. It is also encouraging that Christopher Iles in our 'focus on France' feature

pinpoints him a horse to watch out this term. On the evidence I've seen I'm prepared to go along with that

I GOT IT (FR) gr, g. Agent Bleu (FR) - Una Rosa (FR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-> Arthur L T Moore in Ireland  
[COMMENTS] :-> I Got It was put in last year's list on the strength of his win at Gowran Park in March 2000. He failed to appear last term, and hopefully Arthur Moore's patience is rewarded this term

IMAGO II (FR) br g. Chamberlain (FR) - Penesee D'Amour (FR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-> Ferdy Murphy  
[COMMENTS] :-> Imago II is well regarded at home, and although this wasn't translated in the betting market (he started at 10/1), he stayed on tenaciously to win a bumper at Haydock. He is guaranteed to come on for that experience, and should win some more races this term

IRISH HUSSAR b, g. Supreme Leader - Shuil Ard  
[THE TRAINER] :-> Nicky J Henderson  
[COMMENTS] :-> Irish Hussar is being talked up as a horse to watch out for this term not surprising really considering his 8 length defeat of Beethoven at Sandown in March The phrase 'he could be anything' springs to mind, and he should be worth keep an eye on this winter.

ISARD III (FR) gr, g. Royal Charter (FR) - Aurore D'Ex (FR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-> Martin C Pipe  
[COMMENTS] :-> Isard III impressed many onlookers when winning his only start in a bumper at Newbury. He is an embryonic chaser, so may have another quiet season over hurdle before embarking on that career

ISHANDRAZ (GER) gr, g. Mondrian (GER) - Isla Limpia (GER)  
[THE TRAINER] :-> Martin C Pipe  
[COMMENTS] :-> Don't know what to

make of his flat form, (last time out he finished second in a claimer at Chantilly in July) A nice gelding who is bred for stamina. He didn't race last term, so if all is well could make up for lost time this term

ISIO (FR) b, g. Silver Rainbow - Swifty (FR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Nicky J Henderson  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Isio, a five-year-old winner on the flat, out of a dam who is a half-sister to four jump winners was bought by the newly formed Highflyer Bloodstock. at this year's GOFFS France summer sale. Isio is the winner of an AQPS (French non-thoroughbred) Flat races. he was their most expensive purchase they clearly think he has potential... so do I. hopefully we'll see him over hurdles this winter.

ISARD DU BUARD (FR) b, g. April Night (FR) - Upsala Du Buard (FR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Ed James  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Isard Du Buard is a lovely chasing prospect for the future. He has only had the one run, winning a bumper at Fakenham, a course, which wouldn't have suited him. Improvement is expect this term, and he should win a race or two over hurdles this term

INVITE AU SUCCES (FR) gr, g. Agent Bleu (FR) - Volmerange (FR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Arthur L T Moore in Ireland  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Invite Au Success, a typical ^unraced-at-purchase~ French-bred that Arthur Moore does so well with had three `educational` runs last term, including finishing a long way behind Ned Kelly at Naas in November 2000. Expect better from him this term

JACKSONVILLE (FR) b, g. Petit Montmorency (U.S.A.) - Quinine Des Aulnes (FR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Alan Parker  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Jacksonville is a big backward four-year-old gelding who had only had the one start, finishing midfield behind The Phair Crier at Ayr

in January. that wasn't too bad an effort, and he should improve on that when tried over hurdles this winter

JAKARI (FR) b, g. Apeldoorn (FR) - Tartifume Ii (FR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Henry D Daly  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Jakari is a lovely prospect for hurdling this season. he has only had the one start, finishing fifth to Beethoven at ascot in February. Jakari should progress on these efforts, and over 2-2 ½ miles should progress on that effort this winter

JALOUX D'ESTRIVAL (FR) b, g. Kadalko (FR) - Pommette Iii (FR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Mrs. Lydia C Taylor  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Lydia Taylor only had a small string of runners at Uplands, but she has regularly thrown up a useful performer over the last couple of seasons. She is a regular visitor to Goffs France sales, and its there where she found Jaloux D'Estival, who I'm hoping, will make up for the loss for Gigembre this term. Jaloux D'Estival has had two starts in this country (both in bumpers). He was far too free, when finishing well Beethoven at Ascot in February he learnt from that experience when running a much better race behind One Knight at Newbury. He is still clearly got plenty to learn about the game, however hopefully he is mature enough to take any golden opportunities that come this way

JAMESON b, g. Broken Hearted - Seyona  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Mark Pitman  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Considering his good homework (he galloped impressively with the likes of Ever Blessed and Ashley Park, plus an easy success in a Sandown bumper in 2000), Jameson never really did himself justice, last term continually getting bogged down in the persistent heavy ground. Jameson is very talented, and is better that his bare form suggests. He should confirm this if we get decent ground this winter

JARDIN DE BEAULIEU (FR) b, g. Rough

Magic (FR)- Emblem (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:-> Ian Williams

[COMMENTS] :-:-> Guy Petit purchased

Jardin De Beaulieu on behalf of Ian Williams at this year's GOFFS France summer sale. The four-year-old son of Rough Magic has had just the two outings, both over fences, finishing second on both occasions, both times at Angers. I expect his trainer will start him off over the smaller obstacles this winter and I expect him to win races

JAYBEJAY (NZ) b, g. High Ice (U.S.A.) - Galaxy Light (NZ)

[THE TRAINER] :-:-> Martin C Pipe

[COMMENTS] :-:-> A recent purchase by the Pipe camp, Jaybejay is the winner of seven races in New Zealand. Once he has fully acclimitised this six year old could be a useful recruit to hurdling.

JEANNOT DE BEAUCHENE (FR) b, g. En Calcat (FR) - Chipie D'Angron (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:-> Robert Alner

[COMMENTS] :-:-> Jeannot De Beauchene is an four-year-old gelding by En Calcat, who in the care of Robert Alner

He had shown a little promise in a couple of bumpers in the French Provinces, and is a nice long-term prospect. I don't expect much from him this term, as connections will no doubt be adopting a softly-softly approach, but hopefully he's capable of showing promise by the end of the season.

JERICHO III (FR) b, g. Lute Antique (FR) - La Salamandre (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:-> Nicky J Henderson

[COMMENTS] :-:-> Jericho Iii is an unraced four-year-old gelding by Lute Antique, who is well regarded by connections. He never quite made it to the track last term, but he should be capable of finding a race or two

JOHN HUNTER b, c. Unfawain (U.S.A.) - Aigue

[THE TRAINER] :-:-> Martin C. Pipe

[COMMENTS] :-:-> John Hunter could be a shrewd purchase for connections. he cost them 20,000 guineas at the recent

Tattersalls 'horses-in-training' sale having run creditably on the level for Barry Hills. he only won the one race for Hills at Redcar in May over 10 furlongs however spent the rest of the season carting big weights in Grade B handicaps. he is blessed with an abundance of stamina, and should do well for new connections this winter

JORN DU SOLEIL (FR) ch, g. Murmure (FR) - Ina Du Soleil (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:-> Paul F Nicholls

[COMMENTS] :-:-> Jorn Du Soleil is another purchase from France gracing our shores this winter. This former inmate of Guillaume Macaire won an AQPS bumper, and finished second over hurdles from only three runs in France. He should develop into a lovely chaser one day, but should make his mark in novice hurdles first.

JUDICIOUS b, c. Fairy King (U.S.A.) - Kama Tashoof

[THE TRAINER] :-:-> Charlie Mann

[COMMENTS] :-:-> Judicious a frustrating sort on the flat for Geoff Wragg has been purchased by his new connections at the recent Tattersalls 'horses-in-training' sale. He is interesting as he clearly has ability, but seemed to make an art of finding trouble in running. He was useful when putting it all together though as he did at Thirsk in June, and could proved to be better in this sphere

JURANCON II (FR) br, g. Scooter Bleu - Volniste (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:-> Martin C Pipe

[COMMENTS] :-:-> Jurancon Ii is four-year-old son of Scooter Bleu, who is the winner of an APQS bumper in the French provinces before joining Martin Pipe's camp. he has a chasing pedigree so it may be only once he goes over obstacles that he wins a race

JUST A MINUTE (FR) b, g. Le Nain Jaune - Brave Again (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:->

[COMMENTS] :-:-> Just a Minute could do

well over hurdles this term. This French-bred won twice in his native France from seven starts, (at Saint-Brieuc, and Cholet). He was bought by Guy Petit at GOFFS France's Summer Sale, and could do well once acclimatised this winter.

JUVANTIQUÉ (FR) b, g. Lute Antique (FR) - Vivaldy (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:-> Martin C Pipe  
[COMMENTS] :-:-> Juvantique is a lovely looking four-year-old gelding by Lute Antique who David Pipe bought at the 2000 Doncaster May sales ... I assumed that a career between the flags was the plan, then again that was also the case with Isard III (bought at the same sale) who won so impressively on his only start. He could be anything, but should be all right in due course.

KEEN LEADER b, g. Supreme Leader - Keen Gale

[THE TRAINER] :-:-> Jonjo O'Neill  
[COMMENTS] :-:-> Keen Leader is a likeable big gelding by Supreme Leader who won a point-to-point in Ireland, before galloping his rivals in to the ground on his first run for Jonjo O'Neill when coming home 22 lengths clear in a heavy-ground bumper at Perth. he could do well in similar condition this winter

KICKHAM b, g. Supreme Leader - Knocknagow

[THE TRAINER] :-:-> Edward J O'Grady  
[COMMENTS] :-:-> Kickham may well repay Edward O'Grady for the kindness he showed him in only giving him the one start in a bumper at Punchestown in April 2000, where he beat Summer In Siberia (also in this list) by 4 ½ lengths. He was a possible for the festival bumper last term so connections clearly thought he still retained ability. He should have a good season over hurdles this season

LESSSAIDTHEBETTER ch, g. Montelimar (U.S.A.) - Urdite (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:-> Christy Roche in

Ireland

[COMMENTS] :-:-> Lesssaidthebetter could be extremely well named, if he has a bad season, hopefully this isn't the case, and I hope this unraced son of Montelimar demonstrates some promise this term

LE TOUQUET (FR) b, g. Petit Loup (U.S.A.) - Vertevoie (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:-> Robin Dickin  
[COMMENTS] :-:-> Le Touquet, a five year old son of Petit Loup, was one of a clutch of horses I liked who were purchased at the Doncaster May Sale. He'll jump a fence in time, and that's probably when he'll find success, but I'm hopeful of some promise this winter. I'm certain his astute trainer'll place him to good effect

LIBERTY HILL b, g. Golden Heights - Free Credit

[THE TRAINER] :-:-> John R Upson  
[COMMENTS] :-:-> Liberty Hill caught my eye on his debut at Towcester at the end of October. Despite eventually being well beaten, he wasn't really put into the race, but made smooth headway from halfway before weakening four out. He'll improve on this throughout the remainder of the season, and can hopefully find a little race

LIKE-A-BUTTERFLY b, m. Montelimar (U.S.A.) - Swifts Butterfly

[THE TRAINER] :-:-> Christy Roche in Ireland  
[COMMENTS] :-:-> "...The best bumper horse that I have trained ." Its a pity that Like-A-Butterfly never got the chance to show British racing fans (unless of course you go the bookies) what huge potential she possesses. Wide margin victories and Leopardstown and Naas, ensured that she was a warm order for her final start, the champion bumper at the rearranged Punchestown festival, held at Leopardstown, where she withheld the final challenge of Davenport Millennium to retain her unbeaten record. Clearly she has had her problems, however literally could be

anything this term over hurdles, and must be being earmarked for a campaign ending up at Cheltenham in March

LISS RUA ch, m. Bob Back (U.S.A.) - Shuil Liss

[THE TRAINER] :-> John E Kiely in Ireland

[COMMENTS] :-> Liss Rua, a half sister to multi winning hurdler Liss A Paoraigh, has only had the one start but fell in the race subsequently won by Timber King. If Liss Rua has inherited any of her half sister's ability, I'd be confident of her winning a race (or two) this term

LORD'S BEST br, g. Mister Lord - Ballinlonig Star

[THE TRAINER] :-> Alan King

[COMMENTS] :-> Lord's Best showed promise in a point to point in Ireland earlier in the year. Bought subsequently by connections and could develop into a nice 2m4f-3mile novice hurdler this winter

LORDSTON b, g. Mister Lord (U.S.A.) - Dawstown

[THE TRAINER] :-> Josh T Gifford

[COMMENTS] :-> Lordston has a couple of sighters last season - in a bumper last April won by First Love at Ascot, and behind Bering Gifts at Huntingdon. Whilst he didn't trouble the judge, there was plenty to like about this gelding, and I wouldn't be too surprised if he improved on these efforts this term

MAJORITY VERDICT b, g Leading Counsel (U.S.A.) - Culm Valley

[THE TRAINER] :-> Henry D Daly

[COMMENTS] :-> Majority Verdict is a nice prospect for hurdles. He finished second to first love on his debut in what now looks to be a decent bumper, before going one better in a similar event at Stratford. hopefully he's strengthened up and should be capable of finding a race over obstacles this winter

MARCUS DU BERLAIS (FR) gr, g. Saint Preuil (FR) - Rosacotte (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-> Arthur L T Moore in Ireland

[COMMENTS] :-> Marcus Du Berlais is a four-year-old son of Saint Preuil, who is the typical 'French bred' store horse that Arthur Moore does well with. He could well fail to score this term, but is a lovely long-term prospect, who I'm hopeful at least hints at possessing some ability, particularly during the second half of the season.

MINGLING b, g. Wolfhound (U.S.A.) - On The Tide

[THE TRAINER] :-> Charlie Mann

[COMMENTS] :-> Mingling is another purchase that could do well for connections, that was picked up at the recent Tattersalls 'horses-in-training' sale. He was very consistent on the level for Mark Tompkins this summer winning twice at Newcastle in June, and Sandown in July as well as being placed on several other occasions. I'm sure he can be placed to good effect over hurdles this winter.

MUTAKARRIM ch, g. Mujtahid (U.S.A.) - Alyakkh

[THE TRAINER] :->

[COMMENTS] :-> Mutakarrim, a former inmate of Dermot Weld's yard was one of the more expensive purchases from the recent Tattersalls Horses in training sale, however this recent winner at Galway has to be one of the better recent recruits to hurdling having won at Galway in September obtaining a rating on over 100. It'll be interesting to see how his season pans out

ONE NIGHT OUT br, g. Jamesmead - Deladeuce

[THE TRAINER] :-> Willie P Mullins in Ireland

[COMMENTS] :-> One Night Out looks a nice prospect over hurdles this term. He ran four times last term, winning two bumpers at Fairyhouse, and on his last start at Gowran Park in May. He improved with reach effort last year, and I

wouldn't be surprised if that trend was repeated this time around.

PELE MELE (FR) b, g. Tel Quel (FR) - Star System (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Venetia M Williams

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Pele Mele could do well for Venetia William this winter. He hasn't run very often but campaigned in good company, winning twice at Longchamp and Saint Cloud, and also ran creditably in listed company. He'll be placed to good effect over hurdles this term

PEPE GALVEZ (SWE) br, g. Mango Express - Mango Sampaquita (SWE)

[THE TRAINER] :-:-->

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Pepe Galvez could do well over hurdles this winter. He is a half-brother to fairly useful handicapper Forest Fire. He had four runs on the flat in 2000, running his best race when second to Marienbad at Leicester over 1m3f. That should ideal for hurdles, and could do well with careful placement

PRIDE OF INDIA b, g. Ezzoud - Indian Queen

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Kim C Bailey

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Pride of India has been on the go with John Dunlop this summer. He looked promising when he won twice at the beginning on the season, when the mud was flying and has steadily progressed from there. There is an abundance of stamina running though his pedigree (dam won the Ascot Gold Cup) so it would not surprise me to see him win novice event in excess of 2 1/2 miles this term

POC FADA br, g. Be My Native (U.S.A.) - She's Tough

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Christy Roche in Ireland

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Poc Fada, a four-year-old gelding by Be My Native, has only had the one start to date, but showed plenty of promise to finish 12lengths behind the winner Holy Order is a maiden hurdle at Gowran Park in February 2001. Poc Fada is bound to

improve for the experience, and should find success in the not too distance future

POSH PEARL b, m. Rakaposhi King - Rim of Pearl

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Venetia M Williams

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Posh Pearl was probably the best bumper mare in the UK, winning three of her five starts at Warwick Taunton and Exeter, plus running respectably behind The Bajan Bandit at Aintree. I'd be amazed if she doesn't have a similar season over hurdles this winter

PUTUP OR SHUTUP br, g. Religiously (U.S.A.) - Nights Crack

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Kim C Bailey

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Putup Or Shutup is a good-looking br, g, by Religiously who is a half-brother to Conchobar.

Connections will hope can improve on his ninth behind Talaman Lady on his debut at Market Rasen Going over obstacles may bring about the necessary improvement.

RAINFOREST br, g. Be My Native (U.S.A.) - Nanny Kehoe

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Paul R Webber

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Rainforest showed promise in two bumpers at the end of the 1999 season. He missed last (probably as he may have been still on the weak side) but is a nice horse that could win around the smaller tracks, probably in the second half of the season

RAVENSWOOD b, c. Warning - Green Lucia

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Martin C Pipe

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Ravenswood is an interesting recruit to hurdling. He dint run as well as I hoped in the Cesarewitch at Newmarket, however had previously run creditably in the Mallard Handicap, Ebor and Northumberland Plate. he's a potentially useful individual to be going hurdling. Ought to make his mark at a high level.

RICHTER SCALE br, g. Strong Gale - Molten

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Charlie R Egerton

[COMMENTS] :-:--> I've been aware for a few seasons that connections have liked this seven year old son of Strong Gale, however a 20th of twenty-seven runners at Fairyhouse in April 1999 doesn't explain the appeal. Hopefully we find out when he races over middle distances this winter.

ROBBER BARON ch, g. Un Desperado (FR) - N T Nad

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Henrietta C Knight  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Robber Baron is one of several lovely geldings out of the sire Un Desperado. He'd been pleasing connections at home before taking a nineteen runner bumper at Huntingdon in March, and is certain to do well in novice hurdles. One to note

ROBERT E LEE ch, g. Be My Native (U.S.A.) - Shannon Dee

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Tom J Taaffe in Ireland  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Robert E Lee is at the time of writing, an unraced four-year-old son of Be My Native, but is related to several winners over jumps. I'm sure he'll be found opportunities to take a novice hurdle this term, especially when allowed over middle distances.

SAMON (GER)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Martin C Pipe  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Samon, who is a progressive horse with four wins from seven starts to his name. He has been brought by Graham Bradley and will be joining Martin Pipe. he could be anything.

SHOSEN br, g. Persian Mews - Lugnagullagh

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Alan King  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Shosen in a five-year-old by the sire Persian Mews, who was formally trained in Ireland but didn't race due to foot and mouth. Connections like him so it'll be interesting to see how he fares over hurdles.

SIN A BHFUIL ch, g. Phardante (FR) - American Lady

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Christy Roche in Ireland  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Sin A Bhfuil, a four-year-old gelding, has only had the three starts, winning one race at Fairyhouse in August 2001, and finishing second in both two starts. I don't expect him to develop into a world-beater, but he is capable of winning more races this term

SOUTHERN FRANCE b, g. Toulon - High Fi

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Charlie Mann  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Southern France is an interesting prospect. He was placed in his bumpers in Ireland for Tom Horgan, despite running green in both starts, and connections are keen on him. he's a chaser for the future but should improve on this in novice hurdles this season.

SUMMER IN SIBERIA b, g. Soviet Lad (U.S.A.) - Have A Nice Time

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Willie P Mullins in Ireland  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Summer In Siberia is retained in the list. He was a promising second to Kickham in a Punchestown bumper in May 2000, and built on that effort this term, winning two bumpers, both at Fairyhouse. He has been kept busy on the level, showing promise in two starts, and should pretty forward for a hurdling campaign

TEES COMPONENTS b, g. Risk Me - Lady Warninglid

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Mary Reverley  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Tees Components a winner of a bumper two seasons ago is well regarded, and wont be over-faced by Mary Reveley this season. He has so much pace that she intended to try him on the flat this season (another Mellottie maybe). Watch out for his appearances and he should find a race

THARI (U.S.A.) br, g. Silver Hawk (U.S.A.) - Magic Slipper

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Noel Meade in Ireland

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Khetaam was picked up by his new connections for 60000 guineas at the recent Tattersalls 'horses-in-training' sale. He is a half-brother to several winners, including useful 7f juvenile winner Muhab and 1m 4f winner Atnab He was a winner twice at Leicester at two year, and at Newmarket at three years, and was very useful on his day achieved a rating of 102 at his peak. he could be very useful if he took hurdling this winter

THE BAJAN BANDIT b, g. Commanche Run - Sunrise Highway VII

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Lenny Lungo  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Impossible to fault, in winning three bumpers last term, and as a result impossible to drop from this year's list. His run at Aintree on Grand National is arguably the best but of form, however I thought his demolition job on a useful field at Chepstow was the best ~ almost certainly the best by a bumper in this country last year a pity that the foot-and-mouth crisis, prevented him and Like-A Butterfly meeting at Cheltenham now there would have been a race to savour! That is unlikely now to happen as The Bajan Bandit gives every indication that he will want a trip over hurdles, and I wouldn't be surprised if 2 ½ miles proves to be the bear minimum .

THE LAIRD'S ENTRY b, g. King's Ride - Balancing Act

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Lenny Lungo  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> The Laird's Entry is a six year old son of King's Ride of a mare that has produced several winners. Ashleybank Investments Limited who have bought him have sent him Lenny Lungo, who will no doubt find opportunities for him over hurdles this winter

THE PHAIR CRIER ch, g. Phardante (FR) - Maul-More

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Lenny Lungo  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> The Phair Crier can reward the patience of connections this winter. he had been ready to run for most of last term, but connection gave

him time to mature. he had two runs last term taking an Ayr bumper on his debut in January, before running well under a penalty behind Imago Ii the following month. expect further improvement once he goes over hurdles this winter.

THE TALL GUY br, g. Zaffaran (U.S.A.) ~ Mullangale

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> N A Twiston-Davies  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> The Tall Guy is very lovely (and well named) son of Zaffaran. He made only one appearance last term, but it was one of those eye-catching ones. Despite a funeral early pace, which wouldn't have suited him, The Tall Guy still managed to gallop home strongly enough to hold twelve rivals at bay not sure what he'll make of hurdles, as he really isn't build for them, however he has the potential to win over them

TIDOUR (FR) b, g. Rahotep (FR) - Softway (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Paul Webber  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Tidour is a fine, big French-bred horse and a fantastic jumper, but one who has been a bit too keen for his own good on occasions. Pat Murphy rides him out and he's doing a great job in settling him-he's grown up and is maturer this year. He's always shown us terrific ability at home and, when he has settled on a racecourse, he's been placed in a bumper and finished third in a big novice hurdle at Liverpool. He could be a very nice novice hurdler to follow this season at 2mile

TISSIFER b, g. Polish Precedent (U.S.A.) - Ingozi

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Martin C Pipe  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> I think Tissifer could prove to be quite an astute purchase my Martin Pipe. Although he only won four times in that sphere he has run creditably in decent prizes over three seasons between 6f- 1m2f. Tissifer was claimed as a result of winning a claimer at Newmarket, and I'll look forward to his first appearance over

hurdles with interest

TROUT SECRETS (NZ) b, g. Sir Trout (U.S.A.) - Tuna Jill (NZ)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Nicky J Henderson  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Very highly regarded in New Zealand, where Anthony Bromley purchased him on behalf of Trevor Hemmings. He was a successful jumper there, and I'm looking forward to seeing him running in England this winter.

WILL OF THE PEOPLE b, g. Supreme Leader - Another Partner  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Henrietta C Knight  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Will Of The People should do well in 2-2 1/2 mile novice hurdles this winter. He ran a nice race under a lovely introduction when staying on to finishing second to Jollie Bollie is a Wincanton bumper. He should come on a bundle for that effort, and could find success around the country courses

WORD OF HONOUR b, g. Supreme Leader - Shaping  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Mark Pitman  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Closely related to Egypt Mill Prince, Word of Honour is an unraced gelding who is related to Egypt Mill Prince who I saw on the Racing Channel in September Word of Honour should go in bumpers this season, and could do well before a career over hurdles

XPRES LADY b, m. Commanche Run - Chalk It Down  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> J Mackie  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> There aren't very many decent mares in training (particularly novices) so Xpres Lady, who did the job nicely, when winning at Market Rasen on her only start, could be one to note in mares only novice hurdles

ZAAJER (U.S.A.) ch, h. Silver Hawk (U.S.A.) - Crown Quest (U.S.A.)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Jim A B Old  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Zaajer was very useful in his youth, he was a decent three year old, and won one of the Derby trials before disappointing behind Oath in the

1999 renewal. He failed to reach those dizzy heights against, but is a lovely individual, who could do really well over hurdles if Jim Old can sweeten him up.

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Æ Hurdlers - Handicappers

AIDEN b, g. Supreme Leader - Chevaux-Vapeur  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Lydia Richards  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Aiden didnt show much in two sorties in bumpers in 2000, however he improved on those efforts last term over hurdles, finishing sixth to Spring Margot at Plumpton in January on his seasonal appearance before finishing in the frame on his last two starts, again at Plumpton in April, and at Warwick in May where he beat all bar Native Peach over 3miles 1 furlong. The step up in trip clearly suited, and I wouldn't be surprised if he finally gets his head in front at similar venues this winter

ALBATROS (FR) br, g. Shining Steel - Abalvina (FR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Edward J O'Grady in Ireland  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Albatros has successfully mixed flat and jump racing since joining Edward O'Grady from his native France last season. he has well over both codes - winning twice over hurdles at Cork and Kilbeggan, as well as winning three times on the flat at Leopardstown, which included a £26000 handicap. he appears to have improved on the flat so hopefully that will improve his chances of success over obstacles this winter

ARMATURK (FR) ch, g. Baby Turk - Armalita (FR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Paul F Nicholls  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Armaturk could have a decent second season in England. he came to Paul Nicholls` yards having well in

France winning at Pau in January, and running well against the likes of Jair Du Cochet, and Ogham. He won on both his starts, winning as he liked at Plumpton, before winning at Kempton. He was most impressive here spread-eagled his rivals with a turn of foot at halfway, he proceeded to maintain a relentless gallop, having only one feasible rival from some way out. Given that he was carrying a double penalty, this was a fine effort however as a result is high enough in the weights. that may not necessarily be a problem as he should take to fences and could make hay, taking advantage of the four-year-old weight allowance .

BARROW (SWI) br c Caerleon (U.S.A.) - Bestow  
[THE TRAINER] :-:-> Ferdy Murphy  
[COMMENTS] :-:-> Barrow could be a nice fun horse this season. he was useful [in his grade] for John Dunlop on the flat and ran creditably in five starts over hurdles finishing in the money on each occasion. The ground was probably always too soft for him last winter, but with that experience gained he should it to good effect in staying events this winter

BEST GREY gr, g. Ezzoud - Best Girl Friend  
[THE TRAINER] :-:-> Edward J O'Grady in Ireland  
[COMMENTS] :-:-> I like Best Grey. he is a big grey gelding by Ezzoud who was a useful horse when trained in his native Italy. he was bought to go jumping by connections at the end of 2000, and hasn't done too badly - winning once from four starts last term at Fairyhouse in February where he beat Adamant Approach. he has continued to progress this term, winning a 2-½ mile handicap at the Galway festival before running respectably over 2miles behind Young American at Tralee at the end of august I'm sure there's more to come, especially where the emphasis is placed on his stamina

C'EST DEJA VU br, g. Phardante (FR) - Quayside Romance  
[THE TRAINER] :-:-> Paul F Nicholls  
[COMMENTS] :-:-> C'est Deja Vu has only had the one start for Paul Nicholls, earlier on this season when showing a little promise when finishing midfield behind Christopher in a useful bumper by Hereford's standard. He should improve for the experience, and probably won't waste much time in bumpers. One of Paul Nichols lesser lights that may be worth noting in handicaps around the country coourses

CHOUM (FR) b, g. Faucon Noir (FR) - Clementine Fleurie (FR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:-> Guillaume Macaire in France  
[COMMENTS] :-:-> Choum could be a horse to watch out for from Guillaume Macaire's yard in France. He was a useful juvenile, but like so many of those missed a season through injury. He made a successful return at Auteuil in April 2001, when taking a £21000 handicap hurdle, and could be placed to good effect over here

COBBET (CZE) - b, g. Favoured Nations - Creace (CZE)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:-> Tom R George  
[COMMENTS] :-:-> A list of horses to follow, without a few 'posers' in it is no fun at all in my view. I will remember Charlie Brookes' trips to France, to find himself cheaper bloodstock, which he, Martin Pipe, and Arthur Moore made, with such huge rewards, which has now opened the door to the current gluttony that we have at the moment with French bloodstock.

So it was with that in mind that I have begun noting down purchases from less favourable climates. I will look forward with interest to find out how successful Paul Webber's trip to Chile and Argentina was, and have duly noted the continued success of the New Zealand, Australian, and German breed,

It isn't therefore a surprise that I

noted that Tom George had picked up a couple of Eastern European bred horses, which I added to my list of possibles . One of them was Cobbet, who had won on the Flat in Poland. I have made up my mind that if I liked the look of him that I would definitely include him in next year's list if he ran well at Fakenham on his hurdles debut. Having burdened this debutante with my selection, I was pleasantly surprised. He is a well-conformed horse, who has a bit of scope, and judging by his appearance, he had a bit more room for improvement. As far as the race went, he travelled well throughout and jumped nicely (occasionally novicey). He took over from the long time leader Beytadj before two out. and appeared to have the measure of the eventual runner-up, when that rival made a bad mistake at the second-last. Even allowing for the poor quality of the field, it was a promising effort, which broke Fakenham's 2mile-course record

I was a little surprised that it only cost 7,800 gns to buy him back in, and whilst I can see why connections have a chasing campaign in mind for him, (probably next season) I would be a little surprised if this is his only visit to the winners enclosure.

CONTRACT SCOTLAND br, g. Religiously (U.S.A.) - Stroked Again  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Lenny Lungo  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Contract Scotland is a backward six-year-old gelding by Religiously. he's shown only a little ability in four starts over hurdles, without troubling the judge but is likely to need to mature further before being able to race competitively. he'll be kept to hurdles this winter and can [hopefully]show promise as the season progresses . likely to want a trip.

DANCING PHANTOM b, g. Darshaan - Dancing Prize  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> M W Easterby  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Dancing Phantom has plenty of miles on the clock on the

flat, but is an interesting handicap prospect over hurdles. I know he excited many a decent judge when spread-eagling a decent field at Wetherby in November 1999. he has only had one other start over hurdles, finishing well behind Regal Holly at Market Rasen in December 2000. he ran well at the Ebor meeting recently on the flat, and if Dancing Phantom remains sound, he could be in for a profitable season.

DARK'N SHARP (GER) br, g. Sharpo - Daytona Beach (GER)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Richard T Phillips  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Dark N'Sharp is a lovely (a well-named) brown gelding by Sharpo. He had useful form in his native Germany, and has clearly retained some of that ability. He progressed through the season winning three of his five starts, beating most impressive when carry 12-0 to victory at Newcastle in a novices handicap hurdle in February. He went into my notebook as a possible for the County Hurdle after that, and could have run off of the minimum weight. I wouldn't be surprised if he manages to take a decent handicap hurdle this winter, and is one to note in these types of races, especially when there is cut in the ground

FASGO b, g. Montelimar (U.S.A.) - Action Plan  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Paul F Nicholls  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Fasgo, who wais a winner between the flags for Richard Barber last season is scopey enough to possible be able to graduate to rules racing. He wasn't always the best of jumpers so assuming he went hurdling, there are plenty of races available to him on the country circuit

FRED'S IN THE KNOW ch, g. Interrex (CAN) - Lady Vynz  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> N Waggott  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Fred's In The Know could be a progressive hurdler for a small yard this term. heavy ground clearly suits Norman Waggott's novice well, as he ran some his best races on

that surface, behind the likes of Skippers Cleuch and Historg, but taking a novice event at Leicester in december0200. the key to this success was that pilot Richard Guest, managed to get him to switch off in mid-division before giving him his head three out. This is a useful combination that could prosper this term

FONT ROMEU (FR) b, g. Start Fast (U.S.A.) - Ile d'Amour (FR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-> Martin C Pipe  
[COMMENTS] :-> One of the sadder sides of this sport, is the horses who, but for injury/fragility might have 'made it'. Martin Pipe has had a steady stream of these over the years, and whilst they're placed to win or as has been the recent case with horses like As du Trefle, and Slew Man. been enjoying semi retirement hunting/point-to-pointing. As an aside, that it would be in the stable's interest to make the general public more aware of this, rather than allow them to get away with the unfair charge that Pond House is simply a meat factory churning them out, and discarding them, once they've serve their purpose.

One such horse is Font Romeu whose appearances on the track are becoming as frequent as a comet. That said he owes me nothing after landing me a massive punt on his reappearance in 1999 at Wincanton (He kept me waiting 1000 days for that punt!!!). A third behind Rubhahunish in the Ladbroke Casinos Final hides how well he ran that day, probably taking it up on the run to the second last hurdle was far too soon for him. He made one appearance last term, again in a Ladbroke Casinos qualifier where he was given a scenic view of Warwick. He made eye-catching ground until top weight told before the final turn.

Font Romeu is a very good horse, who I hope retains enough ability to have another good season. There is a decent prize in this horse and a win for him

this term would be a great testament to Pond House's skills and tolerance.

FORTO (GER) ch, h. Acatenango (GER) - Flunder (GDR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-> Dai Williams  
[COMMENTS] :-> Forto was picked up by his new connections for 25000 guineas at the recent Tattersalls 'horses-in-training' sale. He has useful form in handicaps at trips up to 12 furlongs, and is going to a trainer adept of placing his horses top best advantage. may be seen to best advantage in Handicap Company

FRIEDHELMO (GER) ch, g. Dashing Blade - Fox For Gold (GER)  
[THE TRAINER] :-> Venetia Williams  
[COMMENTS] :-> Friedhelmo came over from Germany two seasons ago with useful form on the flat. He may have needed time to acclimatise as he came out and appeared to beat Reiziger fair and square at Worcester. If that is valid form Friedhelmo is well handicapped and could make hay in Handicap Company.

FRUIT DEFENDU (FR) b, c. Exit to Nowhere (U.S.A.) - Pauvresse (FR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-> Noël Meade in Ireland  
[COMMENTS] :-> Fruit Defendu could improve on a disappointing first season over obstacles. He was a useful handicapper on the flat in France and on the basis of that was expected to take high rank in the juvenile hurdle division. he handles winter ground well, however only managed one win at Fairyhouse in December 2000. I'm convinced he's better than that, and Noël Meade should be able to find opportunities for this individual this winter

GREENKEYS (AUS) br, g. Bonhomie (U.S.A.) - Cindy Doll (AUS)  
[THE TRAINER] :-> Norman B Mason  
[COMMENTS] :-> Greenkeys is a real 'dark horse' ... in fact he could be a dud... he frankly has shown very little in five starts under rules. But it's not

the first time he's caught my eye. He ran a very strange race over hurdles at Hereford in April 2000... sitting out of his ground before making rapid headway, which he couldn't sustain, eventually finishing a well beaten eighth. He made a similar impression when given a very sympathetic ride in his first run for the Mason yard (his first run for over a year) at Hexham in May when finishing 26 lengths behind Noel's Pride... I'll be watching how this lightly raced seven-year-old progresses this term.

HERMES III (FR) b, g, Quart de Vin (FR) - Queenly  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Nicky J Henderson  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Hermes Iii could be a nice handicap chaser this season. He is a winner in the French Provinces, whose most recent win was at Fontainbleu in April 2000. He may well be campaigned along the lines of Tenseesee, who did so well for the stable two season ago but unlike that horse he'll want to the mud to be flying for him to be effective.

HOH NO b, g, Efisio - Primetta  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Robert M Stronge  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Hoh No is a rather risky choice, however there is always a void in the handicap hurdler department, and I'm hoping he can fill some of the space. He ran three times over hurdles last term for Paul Nicholls, frankly cutting up little ice. He has run well on the flat, particularly behind I Tina at Chepstow in August. He will start this season on an attractive mark if moving to Robert Stronge's yard work the oracle, and may be able to win races around the country courses

IDAHO D'OX (FR) b, g, Bad Conduct (U.S.A.) - Queseda (FR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Martin C Pipe  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Idaho D'Ox could do well for the Pipe camp this winter. He was campaigned over fences last term and ran creditably on several of occasions. He sauntered to victory on his British debut at Exeter at the beginning of October, and on this evidence I'd be

very surprised if that was his last win of the season

IMPEK (FR) b, g, Lute Antique (FR) - Attualita (FR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Henrietta C Knight  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> I really like Impek, who could have an interesting year, given the right ground conditions. He Bought out of Francois Doumen's yard at one of Goffs France's Sale after winning three bumpers in France, and ran a great race on his British debut when just failing against the battle hardened Fondmort at Kempton at Christmas. He lost his maiden tag with a smooth success at Ludlow in February, but struggled after that on ground that wouldn't have suited, and as a result appears to be on an interesting mark over hurdles. Impek is a future chaser in the making who possesses electrifying speed he should win races other either code this winter

IMPERIAL ROCKET (U.S.A.) br, g, Northern Flagship (U.S.A.) - Starsawhirl (U.S.A.)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Nicky J Henderson  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Imperial Rocket had three starts over hurdles, disappointing in his first two starts last term at Doncaster and Market Rasen, before taking a novice event at Fontwell on his first start of the new season in May. Imperial Rocket has useful wining form from the flat so could conceivable improve this season

IOGA (FR) br, g, Video Rock (FR) - Valentia (FR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Venetia M Williams  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Another purchase from Francois Doumen's yard, who went to Venetia Williams. he won a couple of chases, but was subsequently disqualified. he only run for current connections was in May, where he was well beaten in a novice hurdle at Aintree. He is better than that, and being only five he could still be interesting in Novice Company

IVAN DE VONNAS (FR) b, g, Cadoudal (FR)

- Diana De Vonnas (FR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-> Arthur L T Moore in Ireland  
[COMMENTS] :-> Ivan De Vonnas is an embryonic chaser, who could have a good season. He has had two starts; he finished fourth on his debut at Leopardstown in December 2000. He then improved on that to take a Fairyhouse bumper in April. Further improvement is assured, and hopefully he should find races this term.

IPLEDGEALLEGIANCE (U.S.A.) b, g. Alleged (U.S.A.) - Yafill (U.S.A.)  
[THE TRAINER] :-> Kevin A Morgan  
[COMMENTS] :-> Ipledgeallegiance is another horse that I've always thought would make a jumper. He was purchased from the 2000 Tattersalls Horses in Training sale by Kevin Morgan for 12,000guineas, and should have won over hurdles last term (clear when falling at the last at Sedgefield). He isn't settling in his races, and is currently struggling to really get home, however if he does, he can take advantage of a favourable handicap mark

JANIDOU (FR) b, g. Cadoudal (FR) - Majathen (FR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-> Arthur L Moore in Ireland in Ireland  
[COMMENTS] :-> Janidou appears to be charting a totally different path to the top in comparison to his precocious brother Majadou. Whereas Majadou was carrying all before him at four, and wining at the Cheltenham Festival over fences at five years. Arthur Moore's gelding appears to be taking far longer to come to hand. Two solid efforts behind Ned Kelly, and Timber King ensured he went off a warm favourite of his last start at Tramore in January, where he cruised home by 8 lengths. He is certain to continue to improve on these efforts this season, and should do well in Handicap Company

JAZZ D'ESTRIVAL (FR) gr, g. Bayalidaan (FR) - Caro D'Estrival (FR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-> Nicky Richards

[COMMENTS] :-> One of several purchases from one of GOFFS France sales littered amongst this list. He belied his odds of 20/1 when cruising home on his debut at Perth. He should come on for the experience, and could do well on the northern circuit before embarking on a chasing career next term.

JOE CULLEN ch, g. River Falls - Moycullen  
[THE TRAINER] :-> Willie P Mullins in Ireland  
[COMMENTS] :-> Although he may never reach the heights his dazzling Cheltenham win suggested he might, it may pay to keep faith with Joe Cullen. On grounds that clearly doesn't suit him Joe Cullen managed one win at Fairyhouse last term, and also respectably behind Ned Kelly on two occasions. He probably isn't badly treated, and could take a decent prize on a fast surface this term

KADOUN b, g. Doyoun - Kumta  
[THE TRAINER] :-> Michael J P O'Brien in Ireland  
[COMMENTS] :-> Although he only won the one start over hurdles last term at Down Royal in January, Kadoun was one of the better juveniles seen in Ireland, finishing in the money behind the likes of Rostropovich, Risk Accessor, and Holy Orders. He has had a pipe opener at Naas in October, and looks set for a good winter in Handicap Company.

LOCHIEDUBS br, g. Cragador - Linn Falls  
[THE TRAINER] :-> Mrs. L B Normile  
[COMMENTS] :-> Lochiedubs is a huge son of Cragador, who has the stamp of the old fashion chaser about him. He's has three runs under rules, and whilst he hasn't won, he has twice finished in the money, behind Joss Naylor at Carlisle, and Keen Leader at Perth. Everything he does over hurdles is a bonus, as he will win races over fences... There may be a little handicap hurdle for him to steal on the Scottish circuit this winter

MAAS br, h. Elbio - Payne's Grey  
[THE TRAINER] :-:-> Norman B Mason  
[COMMENTS] :-:-> I'm curious why Norman Mason is racing this admittedly attractive son on Elbio over obstacles, as his pedigree suggests that he could find the distance too far. He hasn't raced in this country since his three-year-old days but was placed on several occasions, so clearly isn't entirely considered a forlorn hope by connections. Horses like him tend to progress from the bottom, upwards so I'll be paying particular attention to when connections feel he worth a try in handicap company

MATCH MAKER (GER) br, g. Winged Love - Musette (GER)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:-> Tim D Easterby  
[COMMENTS] :-:-> Match Maker could improve on last term's efforts. he has useful form in house, but didn't quite live up to that, although he ran well behind the likes of Tysou, and Dibeas Times. he starts the season on a lenient mark, and can an event or two (hopefully) on the northern circuit.

MONTREAL (FR) br, g. Chamberlin (FR) - Massada (FR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:-> Martin C Pipe  
[COMMENTS] :-:-> Montreal is retained in the list despite only winning once from his six starts. his sire's progeny tend to be real chasing types, so it was maybe asking a lot to expect him to be one of the better juveniles of the season. Although he won at Cheltenham on his debut, I thought his best effort was his last run where pulled up in the Lingfield Gold Cup Hurdle in March, where he ran better than the bare form figures look, as he just failed to see out the longer trip after looking a possible winner off the home bend.

NAJJM (U.S.A.) br, g. Dynaformer (U.S.A.) - Azusa (U.S.A.)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:-> Nicky J Henderson  
[COMMENTS] :-:-> Najjm is a horse who grew on me as last season progressed. He caught the eye on his debut behind Under

the Sand at Huntingdon, and confirmed that initial impression with three smooth successes at Newbury, Ayr and Lingfield. He should improve for those efforts, and could be a useful charge between 2 ~ 2 1/2 miles this season

OGHAM (FR) ch, c. Surumu (GER) - Orage Celeste  
[\*Current Trainer\*] ~  
[COMMENTS] :-:-> Ogham gets into this in list in part because he may have joined a British yard this winter. He had respectable form on the flat in his native France, but is of most interest due to his victory over Armatürk at Pau over hurdles in January. He is relatively lightly raced over hurdles, and as a result he is an interesting sort to 'go to war with this winter presumably over hurdles (though he'd jump a fence in time).

OO EE BE b, g. Whittingham - Miss Derby (U.S.A.)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:-> Martin J M Evans  
[COMMENTS] :-:-> I like a challenge!!!  
I was looking for a horse to note in sellers, I remember I put up Oo Ee Be last season, and as I noticed he was back in training, I will nominate him again. he has only shown a little promise, (a third to Cosmo Jack at Taunton in January 2000), but small operations tend to place their charges more realistically, and Martin Evans is well capable of finding this horses level. No horse in this list will get a bigger cheer than this one if he gets his head in front

PASSING WIND (NZ) br, g. Beau Zephyr (AUS) - Miss Row (NZ)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:-> Cyril G Griffiths  
[COMMENTS] :-:-> If you were to study Passing Wind's form figures at the end of last season, which read "PFF", you would have missed that this former ex New Zealand-trained gelding had shown signs of ability during the early part of last season. Armed with that knowledge, it wasn't the greatest surprise that he was the subject of a

sizeable gamble at Bangor in August where he beat the in form Caxton Star by 7 lengths. he went back to Bangor in August but hit the deck when travelling well at halfway. I'm sure there are other races to be won his him, however his poor completion ( He has fallen in 50% of his races) is a little because for concern

PETUNTSE b, g, Phountzi (U.S.A.) - Alipampa

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Mary Reveley  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Petunste could be extremely well treated on his old hurdles form. He won twice on the level over ten furlongs at Newcastle in July, and at Haydock in August and appeared to act on any going. He was campaigned mainly in selling hurdles when trained by the Frost, and I'll be surprised if he couldn't manage a win in better company than that.

ROSE D'APRIL (FR) gr, g, April Night (FR) - Rose De Hoc (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Lenny Lungo  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Rose D'April is a good-looking four-year-old gelding by the French sire April Night. he has had only one start [in a bumper], when he got bogged down in the heavy ground that prevailed at Perth in April. I wouldn't condemn him for that and hopefully he can improve on that this winter. A horse to look out for once he's obtained a handicap mark

SPOOF b, g, Good Thyne (U.S.A.) - Wraparound Sue

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Lenny Lungo  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Spoof is a six-year-old son of Good Thyne, who has a brief but profitable season, winning two of his three starts over hurdles , at Ayr in January, and Perth at the end of April. He is clearly on the upgrade, and looks capable of further progression over hurdles before embarking on a chasing career.

SWEET BRIEF (GER) b, g, Brief Truce (U.S.A.) - Sweet Royale (GER)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Pat Hughes in Ireland

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Sweet Brief is an improving young hurdler who could do well this winter. He had useful form in his native Germany, and like so many horses that arrive from there took a while to show any real promise. After three quick races in May over hurdles, he ran away with a Leopardstown handicap by 20 lengths. His most recent start was at Listowel in September, where he ran well behind Snob Wells (beaten 4lenth). He probably is well handicapped at present and can win a decent prize over hurdles in Ireland this winter

TIGER IN THE WOODS (U.S.A.) b, g, Woodman (U.S.A.) - Hearts And Clouds (CAN)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Arthur L T Moore in Ireland

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Tiger In The Woods was an unusual purchase by Arthur Moore, in so far as he had run on the flat, Arthur More usually purchases unraced store horses. He had three runs last term over hurdles progressing with each effort, before taking a Cork Maiden in April. With further improvement, Tiger in the Woods could find success in Handicap Company

TURKESTAN (FR) b, g, Petit Loup (U.S.A.) - Turkeina (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Martin C Pipe  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> I like Turkestan, who despite having already got onto the scoreboard three times this term over hurdles have in my view greater potential in chases. His form in France in Handicap Company is sound, and before being beaten at Fontwell by Comex Flyer, had looked a progressive novice hurdler ... don't lose faith in him

VRIN b, g, Mukaddamah (U.S.A.) - Traumerei (GER)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Venetia M Williams  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Vrin may only have had a truncated season, but this former useful inmate of Luca Cumani really took the eye when losing his maiden early in

the season at Perth. Connections appear to be saving him for the real season. and I fully expect him to win more races this season

WOODWARD STREET (AUS) b, g. Coronation Day (AUS) - Super Unicorn (AUS)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Nicky J Henderson  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Woodward Street could still revive the purchase of Australian bloodstock. He had two runs in this country after showing useful form there. He beat Avalon Buck decisively on his debut at Haydock in November 2000. Woodward Street had a tough task with the penalty two weeks later at ascot, but was still disappointing. Connections were unable to offer an explanation so hopefully it wasn't too serious. He starts from a nice mark and could do well in Handicap Company

YA-AIN b, g. Warning - Ahbab  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Tom J Taaffe in Ireland  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Ya-Ain who has useful form on the flat when trained by Barry Hills, is transforming into a decent handicapper. It took a while to get the hang of things, but two wins at Listowel, and Downpatrick, plus a good effort when finishing fourth to Patriot Games at Navan in May. He's still only five, and on decent ground is likely to find further success this term

YANN'S (FR) b, g. Hellios (U.S.A.) - Listen Gyp (U.S.A.)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Richard T Phillips  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> I wouldn't be surprised if Yann's improves for his first season in this country. He managed two wins from five starts last term, at Warwick and Ludlow in Novice Handicap hurdles, where he took advantage of a lenient mark. He failed to progress when upped in grade, but may have had enough for the season. He appeared to have plenty of size about him so presumably could go over either code this winter. Either way I'd expect him to find success this winter

YAYO gr, g. Petit Loup (U.S.A.) - Cuixmala (FR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Christy Roche in Ireland  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Yayo could be open to improvement this term. He had two starts last term, after showing good form in France in 1999. He caught the eye behind Timer King at Leopardstown on his hurdle bow, before winning a Ballinrobe maiden in May 2001. He has been placed in his first two runs this term, and I expect he will go one better at some stage this term

YOUNG AMERICAN br, g. Hamas - Banana Peel  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Christy Roche in Ireland  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Young American had a relatively quiet second season over hurdle, partly due the interruption of the sport in Ireland due to the foot-and-mouth crisis. Bar one run behind Ned Kelly at Naas in November, he was relatively disappointing. I have a hunch that this is a blessing in disguise for this attractive brown gelding and I wouldn't be surprised if this son of Hamas has a much better season in Handicap Company

ZETHO (FR) b, g. Lesotho (U.S.A.) - Maria Cara (FR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Francois Rohaut in France  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Zetho, one of the better four-year-old provincial hurdlers is placed in the list. A winner on the flat in 2000, Zetho won his second start over hurdles at Pau in January, before a creditable effort behind Tiger Groom on his first venture to Auteuil in March. He was entered for the Triumph Hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival, so even if a move to these shores proves unfounded, a venture for a handicap hurdle may not necessarily be out of the question.

Æ Hurdlers - Championship Class?

AZERTYUIOP (FR) b, g. Baby Turk - Temara (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Paul F Nicholls

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Azertyuiop is difficult to evaluate. He is clearly very talented, as he has only been beaten in five starts by Bilboa, in heavy conditions in the Glenlivet Hurdle at the Grand National Meeting, but had previously shot to prominence in this country when beating Hor La Loi III on his British debut at Wincanton. His form in France now looks good as Vic Toto who he beat on his hurdling debut, subsequently took the French equivalent of the Triumph Hurdle. I have no doubt that connections will be on gearing Azertyuoiop towards a campaign over hurdles and I can see why that is most likely, however the form with Hor La Loi III is very suspect, and I hope that his long term potential over fences is recognised and he is only given a light campaign this winter

CABALLO RAPTOR (CAN) br, h. Quest For Fame (U.S.A.) - Viator (U.S.A.)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Bernard Seely in France

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Caballo Raptor could fill the void temporarily made vacant due the injury sustained by Le Sauvignon. he was the champion four-year-old hurdle in 2000. and though he failed to trouble the judge in the second half of their season, showed promise behind Baracouda, and Le Sauvignon. there is further improvement to come and Caballo Raptor can back to winning ways as the season progresses

DIBEA TIMES (FR) b, g. Sheyrann - Cerise Royale (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Malcolm Jefferson

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Having been pointed out by Christopher Iles on his 'Focus on France' feature, after winning the Prix Wild Monarch, it is restricted to 3 year olds making their first appearance over hurdles, you cant really say that he

disappointed, winning three times in England, before disappointing in the Imperial Cup. He has possible one of those difficult transitional years ahead, that juveniles seem to experience between 4 and 5, however he really is a chasing prospect, and could run up a sequence if connections decide to go this route with him.

LANDING LIGHT b, g. In The Wings - Gay Hellene

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Nicky J Henderson

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Landing Light will go down on many a ^ten to follow~ list this winter. he has improved with each of his six starts over hurdles taking the Tote Gold trophy at Newbury by 3 lengths from Rooster Booster along the way. his season culminated in him taking the Coral Eurobet Championship Hurdle ( Grade 1) at the Whitbread meeting from stablemate Geos. There should still be more improvement to come, so it may be premature to assume he can't bridge the gap between him and Istabraq (will he necessarily need to?) this winter

LISS A PAORAIGH b, m. Husyan (U.S.A.) - Shuil Liss

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> John E Kiely in Ireland

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Liss A Paoraigh was a model of consistency last term, winning three of her four starts at Naas, Gowran park and Fairyhouse, and ran probably one of her best races in defeat behind Colonel Braxton at Leopardstown in February. there is plenty of stamina in her pedigree, and its possible she may improve once she's sent over a distance of ground.

LORD BREX (FR) gr, g. Saint Estephe (FR) - Light Moon (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Philip J Hobbs

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Lord Brex - one if the best juvenile hurdlers during the 1999/2000 national hunt season, is back in training and could be one to watch out for this winter He progressed throughout that winter to impressively take the Glenlivet Hurdle at Aintree,

before a good second place behind Topacio at that season's Punchestown festival. He missed that difficult second season, and had run a lot of times during that season, so the enforced break is probably a blessing. I'll be watching for his return to the track with interest.

NED KELLY ch, g. Be My Native (U.S.A.) - Silent Run

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Edward J O'Grady in Ireland

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Ned Kelly was unbeaten in six starts and was particularly impressive in winning his last three.

Next season he'll be going for the nice races that Istabraq won't, including the John J McManus Memorial Hurdle at Tipperary, and I wouldn't mind stepping up to two and a half miles in the Hatton's Grace Hurdle here. He is entitled to stay hurdling next season."

NOM D'UNE PIPE (FR) gr, f. Linamix (FR) - Newness

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> John-Paul Gallorini in France

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Nom D'Une Pipe could develop into a useful stayer this season. She was one of the best juveniles in France last term, she started off finishing third behind Dibeatimes on her debut, before going on to win three times at Auteuil, the last occasion beating Vic Toto, and Bilboa in the Prix Sageris - Prix de Longchamp (Grade 2) over 2m3f. He finished well behind Vic Toto in the French Triumph hurdle, but she had had eight starts and may have been over the top by then. Her last success really impressed me, giving the impression that the further she goes the better she could be, and if she does improve again this term could develop a serious threat to the best stayers in France.

SERRANO (GER) b, g. Par Sillery (U.S.A.) - Et Stiletta (GER)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Andreus Wohler in Germany

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Serrano breaks new

ground for the Furlong to go horses to follow list, as he is the first German trained horse to be placed in the list. He was one of the best of his generation in Germany last term, and may have won the French Triumph hurdle, but for falling two out when upsidings Vic Toto, with Bilboa, and Nom D'Une Pipe well beaten behind him. I'm not certain whether connections would be tempted to come over to Britain, but he looks potentially to be a decent second season hurdler, who can make his presence felt in France.

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Æ Steeplechasers ~ 3 Year Olds

SAINT DES SAINTS (FR) br, g. Cadoudal (FR) - Chamisene (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Guillaume Macaire in France

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Saint Des Saints may be one of a few juveniles that Guillaume Macaire races in this country this winter. He wouldn't be from the cream of the French crop, but has run well on each of his three starts, winning on his debut at Auteuil in April, before finishing in the money behind Trepass, in May, and Pussigny in a £29,000 hurdle in June. I like him, and he could be a nice sort over fences one day.

TEMPO D'OR (FR) b, g. Esprit Du Nord (U.S.A.) - Peau D'Or (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Guillaume Macaire in France

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Tempo D'Or is another horse I'll be hoping can become champion 4 year old chaser in France. He has already won four races over hurdles in the provinces at Le Pin Au Haras, Saint-Malo (twice), and La Teste Buch. He is due to embark on a steeplechase career shortly and will be difficult to beat in that sphere at this level, even if he isn't good enough to progress.

further. It isn't impossible that we might see him over hurdles at some stage this winter

Æ Steeplechasers - Novices 4 Year Olds+

ACOUSTIC br, g. Orchestra - Rambling Ivy  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Owen Brennan  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Formerly a useful point-to-pointer, Acoustic has a few educational efforts over obstacles, without really troubling the judge. There is plenty of improvement to come, and whilst his future lies over fences, he is certainly capable of making an impact over hurdles or fences this term

ACTON BANK b, g. Teenoso - Lavenham Blue  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Paul Webber  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> point-to-point followers will know Acton Bank. He put in an extraordinary performance at Eyton-on-Severn two years ago when he won a maiden without coming off the bridle, in a time which was only a few seconds slower than the Men's Open run that day. The form is hard to evaluate; however it appears to have been a good performance, and there were plenty of taking of the 16/1 offered on him to twin the Foxhunters Chase at Cheltenham. He reminds me of Jolly Green Giant is so far as he may have come to a professional trainer at the ideal time, and I wouldn't be surprised if he has a decent season

ALPHA BLUES ch, g. Acatenango (GER) - Alpha Belle (GER)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Jim T R Dreaper, in Ireland  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Former useful stayer from the flat Alpha Blues is developing into a nice prospect for Jim Dreaper. he disappointed two seasons ago showing little of the ability that saw him run so well against Kayf Tara at Deauville in August 1999. he may have though simply needed time to acclimatise, as he got progress better with each effort

last term, never finishing out of the first two in all of his five starts (winning two of them). He impressed me in his last two starts (both at Fairyhouse), where he spread-eagled a field by 15lengths in April, and then ran creditably in defeat behind Risk Accessor (beaten 2½lengths) in May. Alpha Blues could be one of the better novice chasers seen in Ireland this winter, and should have a good season

ANOTHER RALEAGH b, g. Be My Native (U.S.A.) - Caffra Mills  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> A Ennis  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Another Raleagh is another embryonic chasers that the late Terry Casey will no doubt be looking down on, hoping that it fulfils its potential. He has being brought along slowly, and after a promising effort behind St Pirran on his British debut, beat Patriarch at Towcester, outstaying him in heavy ground up the final hill. Patriarch reversed placings with him on their next start. A win on his final start consolidated this promising first season, and his debut over fences is eagerly awaited

ASADOR (FR) ch, g. Kadounor (FR) - Apos (FR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Paul Nicholls  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Asador could be useful if he makes a comeback this term. He had plenty of Flat experience on the French provincial circuit and won all of his three hurdles before his run in the 2000 Triumph Hurdle at Cheltenham. I seem to remember something happened to the bit in the Triumph Hurdle, which made him virtually unsteerable, yet still finished seventh. he could do well over fences if returning this winter

A VENTURE TO PHAR br, g. Phardante (FR) - Loughaderra  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Nicky Richards  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Highly touted but ultimately disappointing gelding last term, again disappointing over hurdles. I'm certain he is better than that and is one to keep the right side of this

term, if connections let him loose over fences

**BEAR ON BOARD** b, g. Black Monday - Under The River

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Alan King

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Bear On Board is still a great big baby who is going to be a 3mile chaser in time. He has ability having won on his debut at Uttoxeter, despite running very green, and also put up two useful efforts in defeat, finishing 7lengths behind Hindiana on his final start at Ascot in February. This former Irish Point-to-point winner will go chasing and should find little races this term

**BIG-AND-BOLD** b, g. Legal Circles (U.S.A.) - Kodak Lady

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Ger M Lyons in Ireland

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Big-And-Bold is a lovely chasing prospect this term. He had four starts last term, winning a bumper on his seasonal debut at Thurles in November, before winning a decent novices hurdle at Leopardstown in January, and finishing his season behind Colonel Braxton also at Leopardstown. If he takes to fences, which surely will be the chosen path this term, Big-And-Bold should be in for a decent season

**BLUE ROYAL** (FR) b, g. Dauphin du Bourg (FR) - Before the Flag

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Nicky J Henderson

[COMMENTS] :-:--> One of the better juvenile hurdlers of his generation, he improved all through the 2000 season culminating with an excellent second to Istabraq in the champion hurdle. Chasing is what he's been made for and he must have a good season if he has got over the ailments that preventing him from running last term

**BOUNCE BACK** (U.S.A.) ch, g. Trempolino (U.S.A.) - Et Lattaquie

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Martin C Pipe

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Strange purchase really Bounce Back in relatively exposed over hurdles, but did finish

third in the French Champion Hurdle behind Le Sauvignon .I'm not convinced he's be as good as connections hope over fences, however I can see him winning under Martin Pipe's care this term

**CAGE AUX FOLLES** b, g. Kenmare (FR) - Ivory Thread (U.S.A.)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Richard Lee

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Cage Aux Folles, who began the last campaign looking like a 'short runner', blossomed into a useful handicap hurdler on the country circuit. He won on four occasions at Newton Abbot (twice) Worcester, and Bangor, and ran creditably , against the likes of One Nation, Lady for Life, and Water Stratford. Connections have chasing in mind for him this term, and hopefully this will bring on further successes

**CHICUELO** (FR) b, g. Mansonnien (FR) - Dovapas (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Ian Williams

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Chicuelo is an interesting arrival from France. He is clearly very useful having been placed in several of the big chases in France over the last two season behind the likes of Douze Douze, Sleeping Night and Boisnoir (who already feature in this list) ... A word of caution though. Christopher Iles said of him in his Focus on France Feature "There seems to be a fair amount of British interest in Chicuelo, who keeps being placed in all the big French four year old races, though why anyone would want to buy a horse who specialises in being beaten is beyond me." He's eligible for novice chases here, whereas the majority of the best French four year olds this year aren't, which may be the explanation. "He's got plenty of size and scope and he is potentially very interesting ... we'll have to see what happens

**CHIVES** b, g. Good Thyne (U.S.A.) - Chatty Actress

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Henrietta C Knight

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Chives is a lovely big son of Good Thyne, who is being brought along very quietly. He won both starts

over hurdles at Hereford in October, and Kempton in November where he did well to out-battle Ballycassidy, withholding his last thrust by 1 1/2 lengths. I wouldn't be surprised if he had a similar campaign as he will be a better horse next season, but should the experience gained this time around

COLONEL BRAXTON b, g. Buckskin (FR) - Light the Lamp

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Dessie T Hughes in Ireland

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Colonel Braxton surely figures in a high proportion of lists of horses to follow this term. Hardly surprising really considering the progression shown last term in his three wins at Fairyhouse, Leopardstown, and Naas, which made him one of the best staying novice hurdlers around. Cheltenham's Sun Alliance Chase surely beckons if he takes to the larger obstacle

DEOCH AN DORAIS b, g. Supreme Leader - General Rain

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Nicky J Henderson  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Deoch An Dorais should provide more success for the Queen Mother this term. This ex Irish gelding ran twice last term, finishing a decent third to St Pirran at Kempton on his British bow. He then disappointed slightly at Huntingdon, but may not have fully acclimatised. I'd be disappointed if he doesn't win this term.

DIRECT ACCESS ch, g. Roselier (FR) - Spanish Flame

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Lenny Lungo  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Direct Access in another horse from last season who is impossible to drop from the list. He's huge, 17.1hh and wouldn't immediately grab you as the sort of horse to win over hurdles, more one of those horses that suddenly blossoms when asked to go over the larger obstacles. It is to his credit that he remained unbeaten last term, he used a long raking stride to good effect over weak opposition in his first two starts. He proved though that

his huge frame possesses heart though by out-battling Tyneandthynagain at Sandown on his last start. In truth he looked beat two out, and if Norman Mason's charge had jumped either of the last two cleanly he may have done, however life is full of imponderables, and what matter was that when asked Direct Access responded to pressure to prevail by a diminishing 1/2 length. Lets hope that he does have a good season as Lenny Lungo deserves this with his other chasing star prospect Skippers Cleuch missing this term due to injury

ENGAGED br, g. St Ninian ~ Betrothed

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> T D Walford  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Engaged is a lovely horse who caught the eye on his only run under rules when running well in (an admittedly bad race) at Market Rasen in March 2001 which was eventually won by Cromwell. He was second in his only other race in a point to point so possesses a little ability I hope he finds a little race on the northern circuit this season.

FERGUS O' D b, g. Be My Native (U.S.A.) - Rocky's Gal

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Nicky J Henderson  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Fergus O'D could reward the patience of his owners if he perseveres with under rules. I remember a few years back seeing this gelding stay on to take a maiden point-to-point at Horseheath (I think on his debut). He didn't run many times between the flags, and must have sustained an injury, as he didn't run again until March 2000, when finishing an encouraging fourth to Eau De Cologne in a novice chase. His fragile frame gave way two months later at Fontwell, but he did enough to suggest a win is possible

FONDMORT (FR) b, g. Cyborg (FR) - Hansie (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Nicky J Henderson  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Fondmort came to the attention courtesy of Christopher Iles in his Focus on France feature... That

will be several readers of that feature who will thank him after Fondmort made an impressive British debut, withholding the determined challenge of Impek, and Ibis Rochelais. He may have good reasons for disappointing afterwards... its quite conceivable that he simply needed time to fully acclimatize. If that's the case he could develop into a useful performer over either code this term

FOR PADDY'S DAY br, g. Supreme Leader - Romany Fortune

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Christy Roche in Ireland

[COMMENTS] :-:--> For Paddy's Day is a huge stamp of a horse. Connections thought that he would need that he'd improve for the experience, so must have been pleasantly surprised that he won on his debut at Fairyhouse, and confirmed his talent when coming second to Big-And-Bold at Leopardstown in January. He can only improve and should find further success this term, especially once his attention is turned to the larger obstacles.

GALA DU MOULIN MAS (FR) br, g. Le Riverain (FR) - Soiree d'Ex (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Merrick E D Francis

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Gala Du Moulin Mas , a six-year-old half brother to Fard du Moulin Mas , could be worth noting in novice company. formerly trained in France by J Betran de Balanda. Gala Du Moulin Mas is a winner on the flat at Dieppe, and has also run creditably over fences at that venue, as well as at Enghien. He may not be as good as his half brother, but should be capable of finding a race

GOLA CHER b, g. Beau Sher - Owen Money

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Alan King

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Gola Cher is retained in the list after a good first season under rules. This well regarded individual won three of his five starts, at Stratford, Ascot, and Sandown, and had run well in defeat on his other two starts behind Garruth at Cheltenham in December 2000, and Historic on his final

start at Haydock, where it's possible racing on a deep surface finally took its toll. He is OK after his summer's break and will go straight out novice chasing... he could make up into a very good chaser and be the sort that is aimed at something like the for the Royal & SunAlliance at Cheltenham.

GOLA SUPREME br, g. Supreme Leader - Coal Burn

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Alan King

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Gola Supreme is a promising sort. He won a point-to-point in Ireland earlier in the year. Bought subsequently by connections and has been pleasing them since. he could develop into a nice 2m4f-3mile-novice chaser this winter

GOLDEN GOAL (GER) br, g. Nebos (GER) - Goralin (GER)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Venetia M Williams

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Ex-German Golden Goal came over with a good reputation, and whilst he didn't quite go as far as connections maybe hoped over hurdles, he could be a totally different proposition over fences could hoped certainly indicated that he possessed ability. he didn't win last term but ran well in several of the better handicaps, last time out finishing only 12½lengths to stablemate Milligan in the Swinton Hurdle. this lovely scopey son of Nebos looks every inch a chaser and could have a very good season

GOLFEUR (FR) b, g. Bayolidaan (FR) - Bermude (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Jim T R Dreaper in Ireland

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Golfeur has only made three racecourse appearances, but Jim Draper's seven-year-old gelding clearly possesses ability. He won on his debut in a Fairyhouse bumper in February 1999, and then ran respectably the following month under a penalty. Returning from a 770-day absence at Navan Golfeur attempted to make all. Though headed two out, he was still in second place until a mistake at the last relegated him into

third. He has clearly had his problems, but if Jim Dreaper can keep him right he should be able to win races.

HALLYARDS GAEL br, g. Strong Gale - Secret Ocean

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Mary Reveley  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Hallyards Gael is an attractive son of Strong Gale. He hasn't been out for 12 months but had previously won twice over hurdles at Perth and Kelso. Presumably he had a problem but is reportedly back in work and should do well over the larger obstacles.

HISTORG (FR) b, g. Cyborg (FR) - Kalliste (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Ferdy Murphy  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Historg, formerly trained by Francois Doumen took a little time to acclimatise. He duly obliged at Newcastle, before finishing a good second to Another Moose at Huntington on his last start of the season. he was bought to go chasing and this half-brother to Fadalko, could have a good season

HUSSARD COLLONGES (FR) b, g. Video Rock (FR) - Ariane Collonges (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Peter Beaumont  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> I'll be hoping that Hussard Collonges continues the progression made towards the end of last term. He had looked a little ordinary in three bumpers, however he finally justified an inclusion in last year's list when proving 13 lengths too good for Pur Tresor in a big field of maidens, at the rewarding odds of 33/1 in April. He consolidated the good impression made that day with a good second to Tyneandthyneagain at Perth 10 days later. As he was an impressive winner of his only point to point, I look forward to his chasing career with relish, however I would be too surprised if that wasn't put on hold until Christmas

IACACIA (FR) br, g. Silver Rainbow - Palencia (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Venetia M Williams  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Formerly in the care

of Francois Doumen, you might remember Iacacia making a promising second appearance in a Sandown novice hurdle won by Urban Hymn, during the 2000 season, where he was staying on when falling at the last. He has since won over hurdles at Enghien, and ran respectably on his first run for Venetia Williams, when only just failing to catch Young Ottoman in May. Iacacia should find races this term, probably over fences this term

IBAL (FR) b, g. Balsamo (FR) - Quart D'Hekla (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Mrs N (Dina) Smith  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> I've been quite rude about Ibal who had look frankly very soft in the finish when trained by Paul Nicholls. A smaller yard and a change of tactics have brought about a change in his fortune. His pilots (particularly Ben Hitchott) have allowed this big gelding to use his long raking stride. He has to great effect making all to win at Leicester, as well as at Sandown in March, where he outstayed Valiramix to win the Imperial Cup. The bottomless conditions beat him at Aintree, but he still ran a great race to finish second to Docklands Limo. It'll be interesting whether he sticks to hurdling this term, or whether he gets a chance to go chasing.

IBIS ROCHELAIS (FR) b, g. Passing Sale (FR) - Ta Rochelaise (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> A. Ennis  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Ibis Rochelais showed promise on two starts over hurdles at the end of the 2000 season. He built on that last term finishing a good third to Fondmort on his seasonal reappearance at Kempton last Boxing Day, before taking a little race at Folkestone on his final start. Ibis Rochelais looks the sort of animal that will improve for the experience, so a softly-softly approach may well be adopted, particularly if he put over fences this winter

IDIOME (FR) b, g. Djarvis (FR) - Asterie L'Ermitage (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:-> Lydia Taylor  
[COMMENTS] :-:-> Idiom could be a nice novice chaser for Lydia Taylor this season. He ran three nice races for her since promise in his native France. he was a respectable third to Swan Knight, and Dark Shell at Wincanton on his British debut, and then ran well to finish second to Chapelton at Newbury. he disappointed on his last start at Hereford but could probably be forgiven that effort, and could progress on this level on form when tried over fences

IL'ATHOU (FR) b/br, g. Lute Antique (FR) - Va Thou Line (FR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:-> Simon E H Sherwood

[COMMENTS] :-:-> Il'athou is (hopefully) one of Simon Sherwood's best prospects for the season. He had five runs in Britain winning twice, at Folkestone (twice) making all and galloping his rivals into submission. he has plenty of scope and should improve again this summer .. he should have a good season

IMAGINAIRE (U.S.A.) b, g. Quest For Fame (U.S.A.) - Hail The Dancer (U.S.A.)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:-> Venetia M Williams  
[COMMENTS] :-:-> Imaginaire, a half-brother to the Grand Steeple-Chase de Paris winner Mandarin had three runs over hurdles for last season after coming from France. He did manage to take a minor event at Folkestone, but was disappointing. He had showed plenty of promise, without winning, over fences in France, and should do better over the larger obstacles this winter

IT TAKES TIME b, g. Montelimar (U.S.A.) - Dysart Lady  
[THE TRAINER] :-:-> Martin C Pipe  
[COMMENTS] :-:-> It Takes Time is going to be a lovely staying chaser one day. he was unbeaten last term, beating Dunster Castle by only a neck on his debut for martin Pipe at Exeter in October a wide margin success at Doncaster in January and at brave win at Fontwell on his final start. I can see a

similar sort of campaign over fences this year and I can imagine this horse having a decent season

IZNOGOUD (FR) br, g. Shafoun (FR) - Vancia (FR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:-> Martin C Pipe  
[COMMENTS] :-:-> Iznogoud had a good first season under rules in Britain. this ex French gelding ran a good race when he was second to St Pirran, and progressed from there to win twice at Chepstow in December and at ascot in January, he disappointed after that but should have benefited from a summer's acclimatization. he should do well over fences this winter

JAGUAR (NZ) b, g. St Hilarion (U.S.A.) - Saab (NZ)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:-> Phillip J Hobbs  
[COMMENTS] :-:-> Injury prone Jaguar is another horse who could have a good season over fences. He only made one appearance last term, his first since December 1999, when landing a gamble at Exeter in October. That was only his third effort in this country, and I would have thought that further improvement is assured. A certainty to win races if he manages to make an appearance this term.

JANITURE (FR) gr. f. Turgeon (U.S.A.) - Majaway (FR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:-> Paul F Nicholls  
[COMMENTS] :-:-> it'll be interesting to see what Paul Nichols dos with Janiture this winter. She is a good-looking four-year-old filly by Turgeon, (whose progeny are doing really well over obstacles of late in France). she has won on the flat as well as her last three starts over hurdles. Apparently she is going chasing which makes sense considering she'll be eligible for the maximum weight concession because of her sex/age. She should have a good winter

JANUS DU COCHET (FR) b, g . Rahotep (FR) - Qualite du Cochet (FR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:-> Martin C Pipe

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Janus du Cochet was probably pitted a little high last term - racing off of levels against his former stable mate Jair du Cochet on his British debut at Cheltenham in January before running a cracker to be second to Bilboa at Kempton. He had won over hurdle in France, but was always considered a long term prospect by Guillaume Macaire so don't be surprised if he improves on last season form over fences this winter

JAPHET (FR) b, g. Perrault - Una Volta (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Guillaume Macaire in France

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Japhet is one of the more interesting runners we may see from Guillaume Macaire's yard this term. He is unbeaten thus far having won on the level in the provinces before winning his last five starts, twice over hurdles, and his three chases all at Auteuil, most recently the Prix Edmond Barrachin Chase (Grade 3), where he readily disposed of Dourakine and Sun Storm. The Sun Alliance Chase is the aim, and I imagine they'll be more victories on the way before he gets there.

JARRO (FR) b, g. Pistolet Bleu - Junta (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Venetia M Williams

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Jarro is a five-year-old by Pistolet Bleu, who won two over hurdles at Auteuil and Pau October 1999, and was to race in this country but an accident prevented him running. there will be opportunities over fences for him this winter

JEAN D'AUTEUIL (FR) b, g. River Sand (FR) - Santa Marta (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Martin C Pipe

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Jean d'Auteuil should be a lovely chasing prospect this term, and whilst he only achieved a win in a Taunton maiden hurdle. he did enough against Fondmort at Kempton last Christmas, and Selberry at Chepstow in January 2001 on his final start to

suggest that he should be able to find races over fences this winter

JEAN GUY (FR) b, g. Passing Sale (FR) - Umea Iv (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Phillip J Hobbs

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Jean Guy is a four-year-old gelding by Passing Sale, who will be novice chasing this winter. he has had four starts in his native France - he was pulled up over hurdles in April, but has run well three times over fences, finishing third to Japhet (a possible Sun Alliance horse) in May before winning a race in June over 2m4f. despite that win, he should win races by taking advantage of the favourable weight concession at this part of the season

JET DES PRES (FR) br, g. Perrault - Ekoship (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> P Rago in france

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Jet Des Prés has to go in ... after all, I was hoping that he could be bought by one of my friends!! I think he is one of the best four-year-old maidens in France, having been placed behind the likes of Roscoff, Saint Realise, Robin Des Champs, and Bilboa over hurdle and fences, however must have soft ground (He would fail a vet because of his bad knee-joints). That is a pity, however as I told my friend... "I hope he doesn't develop into another 'vet failure' Jair du Cochet!!!"

JIMMY CRICKET (FR) b, g. Video Rock - Via Tennise (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Currently Thierry Civel

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Jimmy Tennis, a four year old son of Video Rock could soon be racing in this country as he is due to go to sale. He is a winner of an APQS flat race at three years, and has progressed this term over fences, winning the Prix Djarvis at Auteuil in June, as well as finishing in the frame in three of his other four starts. He appears to be still eligible to race in novice chases this winter, which

increases his appeal, as does his eligibility to run in novice hurdles. He is another who should attract interest from British buyers, so don't be too surprised if he makes an appearance over here during the second half of the season .

JUNIOR FONTAINE (FR) b, g. Silver Rainbow - Blanche Fontaine (FR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Arthur L T Moore in Ireland

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Junior Fontaine is another good example of the typical French breeds that Arthur Moore likes to buy. He had good form in France, having finished only two lengths behind Janus du Cochet at Auteuil in October. He failed to cut much ice behind Rostropovich on his Irish debut, but came out and beat Sweet Brief at Kilbeggan this May. He has disappointed twice since however he should still be able to win over hurdles, before showing more significant improvement once he goes go chasing,

JUPON VERT (FR) b, g. Lights Out (FR) - Danse Verte (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Paul F Nicholls  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Jupon Vert is a lightly raced four-year-old son of Lights Out, who was formerly trained in the provinces Mme I Pacault by in France. He didn't cut much ice over hurdles, however improved to finish a close second in a novice chase in May before bought by connections to race over here. He should do well over fences around the country courses

KAPOK (FR) b, h. Kaldoun (FR)- Karannja (U.S.A.)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Edward J O'Grady in Ireland

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Kapok is hard to evaluate as he did run well in many of the better Irish handicap hurdles, [and did take takes minor events during the season], but did disappoint me ... I do like him though and maybe steeple-chasing will be the making of him

KAROLINA (FR) b, f. Pistolet Bleu - Katevana (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Nicky Henderson  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Karolina could be another French import destined for these shores She is a full sister to Katarino, owned by Robert Waley-Cohen, and is currently in training with J Bertran De Balanda. Last season, she ran four times winning on her last at Auteuil. She has one start this term over fences at Auteuil, which was an auspicious one - she refused early on. If that was only a blip, I wouldn't be surprised if she ended up in Nicky Henderson's care

KATARINO (FR) b, g. Pistolet Bleu - Katevana (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Nicky J Henderson  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Katarino's promising career is going off the rails. 1999 season's top juvenile, did to some degree get trapped in that awkward second season, running a great race in France against their best 4 year olds, and then disappointed slightly in the Bula Hurdle, and the 2000 Champion hurdle. He made only one run last term in the Rendlesham Hurdle at Kempton in March 2001, but Katarino stopped so suddenly before the home turn that it was no surprise to hear connections report his wind operation had not worked. If connections can sort out these ailments, he'll leave those disappointments behind ... its becoming a bit of a big ' if'.

K H FLYER br, g. Camden Town - Kerrie's Magic

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Nigel A Twiston-Davies

[COMMENTS] :-:--> K H Flyer is yet to win a race, and in truth hasn't shown much, however he did show that he was capable of winning a race, when just getting touched off in a Towcester seller, and this fun horse may finally get his head in front over the larger obstacles

KUNG HEI FAT CHOI b, g. Roselier (FR) -

Gallant Blade

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Noël Meade in Ireland

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Kung Hei Fat Choi is a backward six-year-old by Roselier. he's shown signs of a little ability over hurdles but is going to be better over the larger obstacle. a nice horse for the lesser Irish tracks

LANGHOLM VENTURE gr, g. Supreme Leader - Tara's Lady

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Nicky G Richards

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Langholm Venture is an attractive son of Supreme Leader. If you looked at him, you would have been surprised that he managed to win a race over hurdles, as physically he isn't really build for that discipline, the sort of horse that Tim Forster would have tutted/sighed to see jumping hurdles. That said he obviously possesses an engine, as he impressed in winning at Kelso on his debut before disappointing at Haydock last time out in January 2000 but that may well have been because the stable contracted a virus. He hasn't run since, but chasing will be the making of him and I'd be disappointed if he doesn't win this term

LE CABRO D'OR b, g. Gildoran - Deirdre's Choice

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> John R Upson

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Le Cabro d'Or is a familiar name to East Anglian point to point followers, as this seven year old showed plenty of promise when he was trained by the Sporborgs. However he is blessed with a bit of temperament, and has shown away winning opportunities by hanging badly in his races. If John Upson can sort this problem out there are little races in the calendar for him

LE COUDRAY (FR) b, g. Phantom Breeze - Mos Lie (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Christy Roche in Ireland

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Le Coudray is another horse, who is reputedly returning to the

frame this winter. Its a while since we saw him, his last start was behind Limestone Lad at Navan in December 1999, however we know he was before that a very useful tool in his native France, and was also one of the best staying hurdlers of the 1999 season .... Is he a chaser though? ... personally yes, he could be very useful . I am not put off by the absence either. He is relatively lightly raced, and arguably the year off, could have done him t he world of good.. Hopefully this is confirmed this winter.

LORD MOOSE b, g. Mister Lord (U.S.A.) - Moose

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Henry D J Daly

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Another nice prospect in Henry Daly's yard, if only they can get him mentally tuned in for the game. He's run twice over fences, running poorly at Fontwell, before falling when going well at Wetherby next time, in a race won by New Inn. He missed last term through injury, however I'm sure that Lord Moose will make a chaser, but he's a backward horse and may need more time.

MANX MAGIC (U.S.A.) b, g. Imperial Falcon (CAN) - Spirited Away (U.S.A.)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Martin C Pipe

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Manx Magic has already been in scintillating form this winter. After finishing a good second to Crazy Horse at Haydock in May, he rattled off two of the most impressive rounds of jumping I've seen from a novice this winter in wining at Warwick and at Newton Abbot. he will be upped in grade but on this evidence deserves to be.

MASALARIAN b, g. Doyoun - Masamiyda

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Arthur L T Moore in Ireland

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Masalarian could be in for a good season. He have five starts last term, winning twice at Fairyhouse, as well running well in the Ladbroke behind Grinkov. He is a horse for whom everything needs to go right, but when it does, he is bale to use his basic

flat speed, tuned from his days racing in France, to devastating effort, as he managed when winning the Galway Hurdle in August. He is the sort of horse who could easily go and win another decent handicap, this season however he could be even more interesting if tried over fences

MAXIMUS br, g. Un Desperado (FR) - Fais Vite (U.S.A.)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> D M (Gardie) Grissell

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Former useful point to pointer Maximus created a good impression on his first season under rules. Ben Hitchcott struck up a fine partnership with him, winning two of their three starts at Plumpton and Newbury. the only poor effort was on his last effort at Fontwell. however conditions were appalling, so it may pay to give him the benefit of the doubt. he should come into his own this term, once he's put over fences

MICHAEL MOR ch, g. Denel (FR) - Oralee

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Noël Meade in Ireland

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Michael Mor never stopped improving over hurdles last term winning five times at Kilbeggan (twice), Punchestown, Naas, and Sligo before good efforts behind the likes of Colonel Braxton, and Grinkov at the end of the season... chasing hopefully beckons, and he could have a similar season this time around

MINI SENSATION b, g. Be My Native - Minorettes Girl

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Jonjo O'Neill

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Shotgun Willy's full-brother Mini Sensation had a good season last term, winning most impressively at Wetherby, and Haydock. he went wrong after the Haydock success and didn't run again. He's difficult to keep sound but is pleasing connections at home but could be one of the more interesting novice chasers of the season

MISTER BANJO (FR) b, g. Mister Mat (FR) - Migre (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> P F Nicholls

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Former useful juvenile hurdler Mister Banjo looks is on of the more interesting chasing prospect for the season. He fell at the second last when well beaten by Caballo Raptor at Auteuil in November, and then ran two great races at Cheltenham - outstaying Run For Paddy in a conditions hurdle, before losing nothing in defeat when finding on Lady Rebecca too good in January 2001. Conditions were too desperate for him at Aintree and he was pulled up. It managed to get through that awkward second season relatively unscathed, and Connections' patience/kindness should be rewarded in staying novice chases this winter

MIXSTERHETRIXSTER (U.S.A.) b, g.

Alleged (U.S.A.) - Parliament House (U.S.A.)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Nick Littmoden

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Mixsterhetrixster was a useful juvenile hurdler, just failing to make the grade against the better juveniles. Mixsterhetrixster, who has not been seen in public since running in the Triumph Hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival 20 months ago. Now with Nick Littmoden in Newmarket, the five-year-old gelding - has been pin-fired and is well over that, but because he has been off for a long time, connections will take things very steadily with him. A chasing career beckons and he could do well at this season

MODEM (NZ) br, g. Omnicorp (NZ) - Replica (NZ)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Simon Sherwood

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Modem, an ex New Zealander who won four races between eight and ten furlongs made a good start to his career on these shores. He cruised home on his debut at Worcester and steadily progress through the season ( I thought he was particularly impressive at Aintree at the end of the season. He was bought to go chasing, and

connections will surely send him straight over them this winter.

NATIVE EIRE br, g. Be My Native (U.S.A.)

- Ballyline Dancer

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Noel Wilson

[COMMENTS] :-:--> I may be proved to be totally wrong, but Native Eire is a backward seven year old son of Be My Native, who may just sneak a win this term. In truth he's shown very little, however He appears to be a little more competitive this term, than in his educational effort last term. He still has a chance turning for home, when eventually finishing seventh on his reappearance at Wetherby, and he could build on this if kept in Maiden/handicap Company around the northern circuit

NEVER MORE (FR) b, g. Sanglamore

(U.S.A.) - Neraida (U.S.A.)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Edward J O'Grady in Ireland

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Never More could do well for Edward O Grady this winter. He had a good 2000/1 season winning three times; over hurdles at Tramore, and Clonmel, before winning a Beginners Chase at the beginning of May. He is still eligible for novice chases, and should find more of those, however he's already beaten some useful handicapper when he raced over hurdles, and I wonder if he'd be most 'potent' if let loose in handicap company.

NO DISCOUNT b, g. Be My Native (U.S.A.)

- Flameing Run

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Charlie Swan in Ireland

[COMMENTS] :-:--> No Discount hopefully returns to the fray after a year off due to injury. He was a very useful novice hurdler two seasons ago, winning three of his eight starts, and running two notable runs in defeat behind Monsignor in the 2000 Sun Alliance Hurdle (where he was, in my view, was given a bit too much to do), and to Sackville subsequently at Aintree. He picked up 'a leg' but is the sort of horse that could easily have benefited from a year off.

His return is eagerly awaited.

OA BALDIXE (FR) gr, g. Linamix (FR) -

Bal d'Oa (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Noël Meade in Ireland

[COMMENTS] :-:--> I'll be hoping that Oa Baldixe bounces back from a quite/poor 2000/2001 season. Noël Meade's yard was out of sorts on several occasions last term, and as a result this gelding looked a pale shadow of his former self. The yard is in better form this term, and it may pay to give this horse the benefit of the doubt

OLIVER CROMWELL br, g. Mandalus - Gemini Gale

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Peter Hedger

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Oliver Cromwell is a backward, but very attractive son of Mandalus. Connections have adopted a softly-softly approach with, and after showing promise in his first season, taking a handicap hurdle at Towcester in March 2000. He built of those efforts last term, finishing in the frame on his first three starts before beating McHattie by 5lengths at Exeter in January, and Stormy Skye at Kempton in February. He is probably still well treated over hurdles, however he's built to jump a fence and I'm sure he'll be asked to do so at some stage this season.

ONE NATION br, g. Be My Native (U.S.A.)

- Diklers Run

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Henrietta C Knight

[COMMENTS] :-:--> I think Henrietta Knight has been itching to put this lovely brown gelding by Be My Native over fences. . He is definitely is the ideal specimen. He had the speed to win over the smaller obstacle though, as he proved by winning twice at Wincanton and Hereford last term, as well running well in some of the better handicap hurdles (he was a respectable fourth in the Imperial Cup on his final start. His time has come though, and he must surely find success this winter over fences

ONTOS (GER) br, h. Super Abound (U.S.A.)  
- Onestep (GER)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Ronald O'Leary in  
Ireland  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Ontos is a  
five-year-old that has caught my eye over  
the last twelve months. This ex German  
gelding has yet to win a race, but is  
steadily improving with his runs. He has  
run eight times in maiden company., but  
may be better off in handicap company.  
However I wouldn't be at all surprised  
if he proved far better over fences.  
we'll have to see

PARLOUR GAME br, m. Petoski - Henry's  
True Love  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Henry D Daly  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> The stoutly bred mare  
Parlour Game could have a good season  
over fences this winter. she won one of  
her four starts last term, sluicing home  
in the mud at Southwell in January. She  
ran creditably in handicap company after  
that, and launches a career over fences,  
where opportunities should be plentiful.

PATRIARCH b, g. Alphabatim (U.S.A.) -  
Strong Language  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Mark Pitman  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Patriarch is a big  
strappy son of Alphabatim, who managed  
only one win at Warwick in February, but  
ran well in several of the better novice  
hurdles held last term. He seems to  
manage most types of ground (bar really  
deep ground) and seems to more open to  
improvement when tried over a longer  
distance. He should do well over fences  
this season.

PHAR FROM A FIDDLE br, g. Phardante  
(FR) - Lucycello  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> P F Nicholls  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Phar From A Fiddle  
came to England with a huge reputation  
(He was the best 4 year old pointer in  
Ireland of his generation) ... he failed  
to live up to that in three runs  
initially for Oliver Sherwood, (who  
seems to have borne the brunt of the  
owners disappointment.... unfairly in my

judgement) and more recently Paul  
Nichols. While he ran creditably this  
huge gelding clearly needs time, and can  
only improve with each effort, he is a  
bit of a weak finisher so whilst extreme  
distances may be ultimately what is  
required, races over 2 1/2 miles should  
be within his scope this term

POLIANTAS (FR) b, g. Rasi Brasak - Popie  
D'Ecorcei (FR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Paul F Nicholls  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Poliantas is another  
purchase from France, who Paul Nicholls  
will look to be doing well for over  
fences. He is a four-year-old gelding by  
Rasi Brasak, who has run well on the as  
well as won three times in the French  
provinces, most recently when he beat  
Monkerhostin (who has joined Oliver  
Sherwood) in June 2001. Not sure how  
good he is, but I would have thought he  
could find success at the smaller tracks

PRIESTTHORN b, g. Denel (FR) - Polly's  
Flake  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Robert Alner  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Promising winner of  
his only point-to-point last term,  
Priestthorn is now in the care of Robert  
Alner. After a couple of educational  
effort, he belied odds of 20/1 when  
winning at Lingfield in March. he was  
more impressively at Exeter next time  
when staying on strongly from a long way  
off the pace to beat Young Ottoman by 24  
lengths. Definitely a horse with a  
future, and could do well in similar  
types of races over fences this winter

RED REVENGE b, g. Rakaposhi King - Just  
A Tipple  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Norman B Mason  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Red Revenge is a nice  
backward son of Rakaposhi King. He only  
made three appearances last term -  
running really well at Sedgefield in  
September 2000 on his debut to finish  
second to A Day on the Dub. He then  
found Harvis too hot to handle at  
Towcester in November (beaten 45lengths)  
and had gone eight days later in an

ill-conceived run at Catterick. He has been given plenty of time to get over these exertions and can improve on these initial efforts

REGAL STATESMAN (NZ) br, g. Vice Regal (NZ) - Hykit (NZ)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Owen Brennan  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Regal Statesmen is a lovely scopey eight year old gelding who likes so many of their charges, is being brought along steadily by the Brennans. He didn't show very much last term, but that is almost certainly due to the prevailing ground, but has looked more promising this season - winning his first race at Wetherby in May, and running creditable there again a week later. He has shown enough promise in his eight runs since coming from New Zealand to suggest that he can improve one he's put over the larger obstacles

ROBIN DES CHAMPS (FR) b, c. Garde Royale - Relayeuse (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Guillaume Macaire in France  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Robin Des Champs is worth listing just in case he returns from injury, he was one of the best four year old hurdlers last term, especially at the beginning of the season where he rattled off four victories over hurdles at Auteuil. He was a decent second on his last start to Nom D'Une Pipe in June 2000, but clearly has met with a setback. If he returns, he may worth noting if he was sent to these shores, its also a possibility that his absence may be as a result of a sale to a trainer in this country, in which case a campaign over fences would probably be likeliest

ROYAL AUCLAIR (FR) ch, g. Garde Royale - Carmonera

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Martin C Pipe  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Big, strong horse who hacked up at Sandown on his first run for us. You can forget his run at Aintree, when the ground caught out so many of them. I like the way he has summered-he has strengthened up no

end-and his owner came down the other morning and watched him school nicely over fences. He will be running in good-class novice chases when there's some cut in the ground, and is the type we hope to take to Cheltenham in March. I am pleased there are more opportunities for four-year-old chasers this season; it has taken the race planners a long time to do something about the situation, but at least it's better late than never.

S'ASSAGIR (FR) b, g. Shining Steel - Dalticia (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Nicky J Henderson  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> S'Assagir only had two runs over hurdles last term. He won with head in his chest at Exeter on his debut, but failed to follow up on his subsequent start falling as early as the second obstacles. Connections clearly still hold a high opinion of him and he is due a good season

SIOUX RAIDER b, g. Commanche Run - Deverell's Lady

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Lenny Lungo  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Sioux Raider is a big son of Commanche Run, who like his sire appreciates cut in the ground. he has impressed in winning both of his starts [ at Newcastle] - out galloping Stormin' Native in a bumper in November, before winning a maiden hurdle over 2 1/2 miles in December. chasing is his future but he can do well in Handicap Company before that, under the right conditions

STAMPARLAND HILL b, g. Gildoran - Woodland Flower

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> J Malcolm Jefferson  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Stamparland Hill, a lovely big son of Gildoran is every bit a chaser, and after showing promise behind the likes of Artic Jack, and Dark Shell last term took a little novice event at Sedgefield on his seasonal reappearance. Connections may try and take advantage of his current handicap mark over hurdles, but he's a chaser, and I'm sure he'll go over fences at

some stage this term.

ST PIRAN b, g. Be My Native (U.S.A.) -  
Guess Twice

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> P F Nicholls

[COMMENTS] :-:--> I'll be interested to see which path connections go with St Pirran, because whilst he has the stamp of a chaser, he possesses a high cruising speed which he can accelerate off of. He had a good season really considering the ground conditions wouldn't have been ideal. He won three times last term beating the likes of Ilico II, Iznogoud, and Razor Blade, and ran well in defeat on each of his other four starts, and would have almost certainly have strengthened up during the summer. I suspect he'll go chasing, however there is a dearth of really good handicap hurdlers, and if he were mind, I'd certainly have a go in that department initially.

STRONGTROOPER b, g. Doubletour (U.S.A.) -  
Moss Gale

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Oliver Sherwood

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Strongtrooper made three appearances last term. After showing promise on his first start behind Punchy at Fontwell, he made an impressive debut over hurdle at Ludlow, spread-eagling a field of maidens. He bit of much than he could handle behind Europa at Doncaster subsequently, but he almost certainly was still on the weak side... I expect him to exploit his current handicap hurdle mark before embarking on a chasing career

SUDDEN SHOCK (GER) b, g. Motley (U.S.A.) -  
Santalina

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Jonjo O'Neill

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Sudden Shock could be an interesting novice chaser this term. He was a useful stayer/hurdler in Germany, winning six times. Last season he showed arguably improved form, winning at San Siro in November, before finishing second in the Prix Juigne (Group 3 Hurdle) at Auteuil in March 2001, and then sixth on his first start for Jonjo O'Neill when finishing sixth

to Barracouda at Sandown last April. He looks as though he has the size and scope to jump a fence, and he could have a good season

THREE DAYS REIGN br, g. Camden Town -  
Little Treat

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Simon E H Sherwood

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Three Days Reign is a big backward gelding who has shown promise in five starts but isn't currently yet mature enough to do himself justice. he probably wants a trip and it wouldn't surprise me if begins to show promise when stepped up in 3 miles in due course

TIK-A-TAI b, g. Alhabatim (U.S.A.) -  
Carrig Ross

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Oliver M C Sherwood

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Tik-A-Tai was one of the best 5-year-old point-to-pointers in 1999. "He was bought from Aidan Murphy in Ireland after winning and lived up to the hype with a nice performance at Fontwell when galloping his field into submission. Maybe he still was on the weak side because he completely failed to repeat the effort, pulling up twice at Wincanton and ascot. I'll sure he can bounce back from that and chasing could be the making of him, that is what is planned this term

TOBAGO b, g. Phardante (FR) - Portia's  
Delight

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Paul F Nicholls

[COMMENTS] :-:--> I like Tobago. He isn't the best horse in Paul Nichols care, but he is my idea of the perfect embryonic chaser. He ran twice last term, using his long-raking stride to go effect when beating all bar Spike Cooney at Taunton in April, before finishing third to Thyne Will Tell at Wincanton in May. I'm confident he'll win races once he goes over fences, hopefully sometime this term

TYNEANDTHYNEAGAIN b, g. Good Thyne  
(U.S.A.) - Radical Lady

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Norman B Mason  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Tyneandthyneagain had a really good season really. Connections came in for plenty of flak for the 'tactics' employed early on in the season, when it was quite apparent that Tyneandthyneagain was being taught his craft. I have a certain amount of sympathy as I am certain that if the gun had been put to his head that he would have won, his second to Garruth [beaten only 2 1/2 lengths] at Perth in October springs to mind. That isn't the Norman Mason/Richard Guest way, and their patience was rewarded with three wins in the second half of the season at Southwell, Haydock and Perth - in each of these he sluiced home in heavy conditions. His best race was though in defeat where he was unlucky not to Direct Access at Sandown in March - sloppy jumps at the last two costing him dearly. I expect him to have a similar sort of campaign this winter, and he could very well over fences around the northern circuit

UNION MAN ch, g. Teamster - Cobusino  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Henrietta C Knight  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> It'll be interesting to see which way connections go with Union Man. He clearly has had his problems being sent to Henrietta Knight after impressing between the flags to go novice-chasing; (apparently he had a wind operation for a breathing problem). He is clearly still talented as he showed when winning his first race under rule in a Kempton Hunter chase, and is a ready-made winner whichever path connections choose with him

VALLEY HENRY b, g. Step Together (U.S.A.) - Pineway Vii  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Paul F Nicholls  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Valley Henry is the most gorgeous chasing prospect. I know that the owner has thought of lot of him, ever since he debuted in his point to pointing days in Ireland. he disappointed on his final two starts of the season, however is bettered judged on his first two wins at Wincanton and

Chepstow. where this athletic gelding used his powerful stride to great effect. chasing will be the making of him, and he is definitely a horse to follow this winter.

VENTURE TO FLY ch, g. Roselier (FR) - Fly Run

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Nicky G Richards  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Venture To Fly is retrained in the list after showing plenty of promise over hurdles, winning at New castle and Ayr, before running well in defeat behind Tyneandthyneagain at Perth in April ... He is the most lovely chasing prospect, and should have a good season in that sphere on the northern circuit.

YOULNEVERWALKALONE b, g. Montelimar (U.S.A.) - In My Time

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Christy Roche in Ireland  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> I've ummed and erred about about adding Youlneverwalkalone to my list, after add there is a good chance that he could again act as a substitute for Istabraq. If this transpires there isn't much chance that he will go chasing where I have little doubt he could have developed into a useful performer ... he may not make the final cut.

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Æ Steeplechasers ~ Handicappers

ABALVINO (FR) ch, g. Sillery (FR)- Abalvina (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Paul R Webber  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Abalvino did well last season, winning three novice chases. He requires right-handed tracks, soft ground and a stiff 2mile trip to be at his most effective. He reportedly has been operated on for ad a wind operation a few weeks ago, and if he gets over that could be worth noting in the better-2mile handicap chases.

AONFOCALELIE b, g. Be My Native (U.S.A.)

- Stamp of Glory

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Venetia M Williams

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Aonfocalelie was a

little inconsistent on his first season with Venetia Williams. On good days like when he won hard held at Leicester, he looks one to follow, however there were too many poor effects littering that good impression to be sure of him. In his defence, there is very little mileage on the clock, and at distances between 2m4f ~3m2f, it could pay to give Aonfocalelie the benefit of the doubt

A PIECE OF CAKE gr g Roselier (FR) -

Boreen Bro

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Mary Reveley

[COMMENTS] :-:--> A Piece Of Cake

developed into a useful novice chaser in the north. He managed three wins from eight starts, and struck up a fine partnership with Peter Niven. I felt that he'd improve for stepping up in trip against, but he is apparently going to be campaigned over 2 ½ miles ... let's see who's right!

BE MY MANAGER b, g. Be My Native

(U.S.A.) - Fahy Quay

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Henrietta C Knight

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Be My Manager is one

of the best prospects in Henrietta Knight's care, and it wouldn't surprise me if he took a decent prize this winter. He has been brought along very slowly, and is reaping the benefit of this approach. Have shown decent form over hurdles. He made two appearances last term in novice chases, beating Bohill Lad as he liked at Taunton in October before taking a £11000 handicap at Cheltenham in April, staying on stoutly to beat Frenchman's Creek by 2 ½ lengths. There isn't any reason why he couldn't improve again, and is one to note

BIPBAP (FR) gr, g. Dom Pasquini (FR) -

Temara (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Guillaume Macaire

in France

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Bipbap, a former

winner of the Prix Maurice Gillois, was amongst the best four-year-old novice chasers elite of 1998 in France, before being struck down by injury. [He was having his first run since October 2000, when making a winning reappearance recently at Auteuil. There is no knowing whether this horse retains his ability, or whether his fragility will strike him down again. However I'm sure he'll win more races in France. and could make an excursion or two to these shores

BLANVILLE (FR) b, g. Pot D'Or (FR) -

Nordica Iii (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Martin C Pipe

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Blanville arguably the

best hunter chaser seen last season [despite a poor run in the Horse & Hound Cup] is in the twilight of his career, but this formerly useful ex French chaser put in some good efforts in the hands of owner Philip Scouller, particularly when tenaciously holding off Skip'n'time at Cheltenham's hunter chase meeting in May, and is worth a try in handicap company ... well worth noting if he gets the chance this winter.

BLEU SUPERBE (FR) br, g. Epervier Bleu -

Brett's Dream (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Venetia M Williams

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Bleu Superbe was a

bit of a disappointment last term, especially as this import came from France with decent form in Italy and France (provincial tracks, and at Auteuil). He failed to complete in five of his seven starts, but did win nicely at Haydock in January, which is why I assume Venetia Williams bought him back at the May Doncaster Sale. he's only five and a lot of mileage on the clock, however he looks cheap at 6,000 guineas, and could easily win that money back with sound placement this winter

BOWLINGHER (FR) b, g. Shining Steel -

Touraille (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:-->

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Bowlingher could be an interesting handicapper this term.

Admittedly this ex French bred gelding hasn't won for a couple of seasons, when winning the Prix de France chase at Auteuil in November 1999, but has gone well since in handicaps at Enghien and Auteuil. If he can be astutely placed he should be able to take a race this term

**BROISWINK (FR) b, g. Ambroise (FR) - Winkel Princess (FR)**  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Guillaume Macaire in France  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Broiswink is another possible visitor from the Guillaume Macaire camp this winter. He has won several races in the French provinces over both hurdles, and fences, and was a possible for the Sun Alliance Chase after winning a little race at Folkestone, but as we know that didn't take place, instead he went to Auteuil for a valuable handicap chase where he was beaten by the promising Karthoum. He almost certainly wasn't up to Sun Alliance grade, but could be interesting if allowed to lesser company

**CARBURY CROSS b, g. Mandalus - Brickey Gazette**  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Jonjo O'Neill  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Carbury Cross is a lovely looking individual who should continue to pay to follow again this term over the larger obstacles. He was unbeaten last term, winning at Ayr Musselburgh and Doncaster. Mick Fitzgerald really got a tune out of him and impressed when winning a valuable handicap at Ayr last spring. He now won his last five starts and could be interesting if he can improve again this winter

**CÊANANNAS MOR br, g. Strong Gale - Game Sunset**  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Nicky J Henderson  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Cêanannas Mor, a Full brother to Stormyfairweather, bought from Edina Bolger's yard is bred to be a decent horse, but has disappointed if the truth were known... He possesses ability as he proved when cruising home at Leicester on his debut, but failed to

build on this in three subsequent starts. Far worse he is jumping went completely to pieces, and he failed to complete his last two starts. Another year on his back and time to mature, who knows?... Some confidence boosters over hurdles will give hope for the rest of the season

**CERILLY (FR) b, g. Sassanian (U.S.A.) - Wilhelmine (FR)**  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Currently J Bertran De Balanda  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Cerilly, a four-year-old son of Sassanian is another who could soon be racing in this country. as he is due to go to sale. He is a winner of three of his four starts (he finished send in the other) over hurdles at Clairefontaine and over fences at Fontainebleau and at Auteuil, where he took a conditions chase over 2m1½f in October. He should attract plenty of interest and should continue to progress whether he stays in France or continues his career on this side of the water

**COQ HARDI DIAMOND b, g. King's Ride - Snoqualmie**  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Noël Meade in Ireland  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Coq Hardi Diamond could have a decent handicap chase in him this year. He is still relatively unexposed over fences having only run the four times, winning easily at Navan on his debut, and then after a fall running an extraordinary race at Leopardstown last Christmas. Where he made up the best part of 30lengths in the final half to get within 6 lengths of Call Me Dara. He wasn't a natural, which may explain how he managed to lose so much ground at Leopardstown, but if he gets the hang of matters could develop into a nice prospect this term.

**COUNT VON KNOCKAGH bl, g. Ilium - First In**  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Robert Alner  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Count Von Knockagh showed promise on his only start last

term when finishing second to New Era at Kempton in April. Count Von Knockagh didn't jump that well, and therefore did well to get as close as he did. however he's had very little racing and is the type of animal with which his trainer tends to do well with.

CYFOR MALTA (FR) b, g. Cyborg (FR) - Force Nine (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:-> Martin C Pipe  
[COMMENTS] :-:-> Cyfor Malta has been it this list every year that I've done it, and despite although it was a disappointment that he failed to make an impact last season after a long spell on the sidelines, I do thin that some punters are possibly taking the level of form at face value, which could be unwise. The handicapper has dropped him a bit in the weights, and I would have thought that that his trainer is likely to try and take advantage of that this season... Forget The Gold Cup for the present, there are races for him in the calendar before that between 2m4f-3m1f... Martin Pie has bought back several horses that punters had previously written off. Don't be too surprise if he makes it into the winners enclosure this winter.

ECUYER DU ROI (FR) b, g. Roi De Rome (U.S.A.) - Mill's Cambric (FR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:-> Martin C Pipe  
[COMMENTS] :-:-> Ecuyer Du Roi has had a varied season thus far. he came back to the yard having run respectably between the flags for David Pipe. After a couple of indifferent efforts he was stepped up in trip at Newton Abbot in June. Despite some indifferent jumping, he out galloped twelve rivals to win by 11 lengths. Another round of indifferent jumping probably cost him victory at Stratford next time out, but he may just be find9ing himself, and could be worth noting over extreme trips round the country tracks for the rest of the season.

EI EI b, g. North Briton - Branitska  
[THE TRAINER] :-:-> Michael C Chapman

[COMMENTS] :-:-> We haven't done too badly with our choices during the summer, and Whilst Cobbet was winning over hurdles Ei Ei was doing even better over fences. He's always appealed to me as a possible jumper when he was being trained by Barry Hills on the flat. He became a bit disappointing on the flat in truth (descending to selling class) and seem destined to be the same over hurdles until making all to win one at Stratford in July, where he was claimed by current connections. They put him over fences, and immediately took to it. He has won four of his five chases, and ran a far better race than the bare facts suggest only his only defeat at Cartmel in August. He was well clear when making a horrendous mistake at the 7th (he actually cannoned into the outside running rail). Although he got back on an even keel, the long run in, and softening ground did for him, and he weakened to finish a well-beaten second. He's a real fun horse, and can win again over fence, and hurdles, where he appears to be well handicapped

ERNEST WILLIAM br, g. Phardante (FR) - Minerstown

[THE TRAINER] :-:-> Ferdy Murphy  
[COMMENTS] :-:-> Ernest William, was one of the happier sights of the season. This useful handicap hurdler had been off the track since March 1998, when winning a little event at Perth in April 2001. I had previously always thought that he looked capable of being a better horse over fences, and if he can be held toge5ther then he may finally be able to fulfil that promise.

EXIT SWINGER (FR) b, g. Exit To Nowhere (U.S.A.) - Morgarella (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:-> Martin C Pipe  
[COMMENTS] :-:-> Didn't quite do as well as I maybe hoped, but ran his heart out to finish third in the Thomas Pink Chase to stable mate Lady Cricket, and occupied the same position when finishing third to Function Dream in the Victor Chandler chase. he's only six and is no forlorn hope this term.

FRETEVAL (FR) b, g. Valanjou (FR) - La  
Beaumont (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:-->

[COMMENTS] :-:--> formerly trained by E  
Chevalier Du Fau in France, Freteval has  
had ten starts over obstacles finishing  
twice in the frame; at Pau, and also in  
the Prix de Ouistreham (chase) at  
Auteuil in June. This four-year-old has  
several options open to him, and I'd  
like to think he could find a race this  
season.

GAILOORN DE MEE (FR) b. g Apeldoorn -  
Une de Mee (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Currently trained  
in France

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Gailoorn de Me is a  
seven year old gelding who has been in  
good form on the French provisional  
circuit, He has won ten of his thirty  
four starts and has won over fence  
hurdles, and cross-country chases most  
recently a steeplechase at Corlay in  
July. He is due to go under the hammer  
at the Goffs France Horses-in-Training  
sale shortly and is likely to attract  
interest as there is still plenty of  
mileage on the clock. He's another that  
I could see placed by the right trainer  
to good effect on the country circuit or  
in cross country chases

GLORIEUX COLLONGES (FR) b. g Brezzo -  
Quetty Collonges (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> currently A  
Chaille-Chaille in France

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Glorieux Collonges is  
a seven year old gelding who has been  
in good form on the French provisional  
circuit, He has won four of his sixteen  
starts most recently at La Rohelle over  
hurdles. He is due to go under the  
hammer at the Goffs France  
Horses-in-Training sale shortly and  
therefore could be racing on this side  
of the water .. the sort of horse who  
could do well on the country circuit

GOGUENARD (FR) b, g. Gaspard De La Nuit  
(FR) - Laika Iii (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Nicky J Henderson

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Goguenard is a rarity  
- a winning chaser from France, that  
manages to win off of their initial  
handicap, during their first season in  
England. After showing up well on his  
first starts at Haydock, he ran a great  
race to finish second to Gower-Slave in  
the John Hughes Trophy. He was very  
impressive on his final start when  
taking a £19000 handicap at the  
Whitbread card. he seemed to finding his  
real form at the end of the season, and  
could be a very interesting proposition  
this time around.

GUE AU LOUP (FR) gr, g. Royal Charter  
(FR) - Arche D'Alliance (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Henry D J Daly

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Gue Au Loup returns to  
the list. he had shown promise in his  
native France two seasons ago but failed  
to show this for Henry Daly. he was sent  
point to pointing last term and did well  
in open company. foot and mouth brought  
about a return to rules racing and after  
a second at Huntingdon at the end of  
last season, he galloped his rivals into  
submission under top weight in a novices  
handicap chase. he was last seen failing  
by ¾ length to beat Maxie McDonald back  
at Bangor again under top weight. and on  
this evidence will find similar type of  
events this season

HADES DE SIENNE (FR) b, g. Concorde Jr  
(U.S.A.) - Aube De Sienne (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Alan Parker

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Hades de Siennes is a  
big backward ex French gelding who had  
previously shown so promise in the  
French provinces. he slowly progress  
last term over fences eventually winning  
over 3m1f at Ayr in January 2001. he is  
an out and out stayer in the making and  
should progress again this season.

HARASARAH (FR) b, g. Glaieul (U.S.A.)-  
Carasarah (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Martin C Pipe

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Harasarah got into  
last year's list as a result of some  
excellent performances in France (He is  
the winner of a valuable hurdle at

Auteuil). Have to profess to being slightly disappointed with him thus far, despite a particularly impressive win at Chepstow, and it may pay to give him the benefit of the doubt, especially as some horses do need a period to adjust to new regimes. He may be worth trying over hurdles.

HAUT CERCY (FR) b, g. Roi De Rome (U.S.A.) - Mamoussia (FR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Henry D J Daly  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Haut Cercy is one of the last horses the late Tim Forster bought and raced. Henry Daly's care he ran consistently to win twice and be placed on several other occasions over hurdles. Haut Cercy ran a cracker on his only start last term, jumping really well to finish a creditable second to Shotgun Willy at Wincanton in October 2000. a repeat of that form will ensure wins around the smaller tracks initially this winter, and could be stepped up in grade during the second half of the season

HEIDI III (FR) br, g. Bayolidaan (FR) - Irlandaise (FR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> A Crook  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> I adore Heidi Iii... He built on his successes over hurdles at Carlisle, at Wetherby, and at Perth, to win twice last term over fence. His best effort was in the Pertemps Great Yorkshire Chase where he rallied gallantly to outstayed In At the Top at the rewarding odds of 20/1. Heidi Iii clearly appreciated the step up to 3miles, and should improve further as this was only his fourth race over fences. He should be one to note in staying chases this term.

HEROS COLLONGES (FR) b, g. Dom Alco (FR) - Carmen Collonges (FR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Guillaume Macaire in France  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Heros Collonges is another possible 'invader' from Guillaume Macaire's yard in France. He has won his last six starts - four on the provisional circuit before stepping

up on those efforts to win his last two starts at Auteuil including a twenty runner £20,000 handicap chase on his last start. This six year old clearly is a talented individual and is another to keep an eye out for the remainder of the season

HESK (FR) b, g. Spoleto - Negrilla (FR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Martin C Pipe  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Hesk is not a natural chaser, however he is an able one when he puts it all together. He has all the races he has completed since coming from France, but has taken some spectacular falls as well might be given a spin over British hurdles this winter and is could possibly do well in that sphere

HESPOIR D'AURÉLIE (FR), ch, g. Champ Libre - Tinie d'Aurélié (FR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> currently Eric Lellouche in France  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Hespoir d'Aurélié is without doubt one of the best horses due to go under the hammer at the Goffs France Horses-in-Training sale. He is the winner of five of his thirteen starts and has over all codes. He has over fences and hurdles at Auteuil, including winning the Prix Orcada Chase (gr.3) and has been placed in graded company including a find second place in Prix Maurice Gillois Chase (gr.1). He is likely to attract plenty of interesting, and is still young enough at six to be capable of further success, whomever/wherever he is trained in the future

HUNTER GOLD (FR) br, g. Chamberlin (FR) - Une de Mai IV (FR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Tom R George  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Hunter Gold could be interesting if he ever took to fences. he had winning form over fences in the French provisional circuit, before joining Tom George last season, and ran well behind My Baton and Harvis. however he jumped badly at Warwick back over fences when probably having had enough for the season. he is potentially nicely treated if he ever gets the hang of our

fences, and is worth keeping an eye on with that in mind.

ICHI BEAU b, g. Convinced -May As Well  
[THE TRAINER] :-:-> Ferdy Murphy  
[COMMENTS] :-:-> Ichi Beau won three times last season, but lost his confidence jumping mid-season. intensive schooling worked the oracle at Ayr's National meeting when he won on the opening day and was second in a good handicap 24 hours later. He's better going left-handed and should pay his way.

IKRENEL ROYAL (FR) b, g. Bricassar (U.S.A.) - Kreneldore (FR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:-> Nicky J Henderson  
[COMMENTS] :-:-> Ikrenel Royal is a very interesting prospect for this season having run well in France over hurdle against the likes of Caballo Raptor, Ilare and Isful (now with Martin Pipe). he won his only run over fences in France at Enghien in November 2000, before impressively beating Crocadee by 12 lengths at Sandown's Whitbread season .. I'm sure a softly-softly approach will be adopted initially but he could be one to note for the second half of the season

ILNAMAR (FR) b, g. Officiel (FR) - Quillemare (FR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:-> Martin C Pipe  
[COMMENTS] :-:-> Inamar never really settled into Martin Pipe's yard last term after a hectic year 2000. He progressed from wins in the French provinces, to being one of the better young chasers of his generation. He beat Whitenzo in the Prix le Hon (Chase) at Auteuil in October 2000, before finishing second to Sleeping Night in the Prix Morgex (Chase) (Group 3) over 2m41/2f. He was purchased by connections after winning the Prix Vanille (Hurdle) again at Auteuil in December. Foot-and-mouth may yet prove a blessing in disguise for Inamar and this revitalized five-year-old could be in for a decent season

INN ANTIQUE (FR) b, g. Lute Antique (FR) - Taghera (FR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:-> Paul F Nicholls  
[COMMENTS] :-:-> Inn Antique could develop into a seriously decent 2mile handicap chaser this winter, if he can be cured of the sloppiness that crept into his jumping on his last two starts. Before that he had looked very promising when putting in a scintillating round of jumping to win at Kempton in January. He failed to get round after that, falling at the first at Wincanton before another round of poor jumping knocked him out of contention at Aintree's Grand National Meeting. He ran well to a point in a confidence boosting run over hurdles at Chepstow recently (he was eased considerably as though something went wrong - would have finished second), and his next appearance over fences could be very significant.

ISFUL (FR) b, g. Useful (FR) - Contesty (FR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:-> Martin C Pipe  
[COMMENTS] :-:-> Isful disappointed last term in four starts over hurdles, but is worth giving another chance if he is capable of showing the sort of form that allowed him to beat Ikrenel Royal twice in his native France, as well as running well behind Caballo Raptor. he should be a totally different proposition over fences this term

JACKIE C b, g. Supreme Leader - Gloria St Julien  
[THE TRAINER] :-:-> Tom R George  
[COMMENTS] :-:-> Jackie C had seven starts last term. He had should promise on several occasions, including a good second to The Baltimore Man at Wexford in May 2001, before winning in his sixth start at Sligo in June. He made one more appearance, finishing midfield behind Hot Shots over fences at Ballinrobe. Jackie C appears to have several options open to him this term and I'd be surprised if he didn't find further success this term.

KARTHOUM, (FR) gr, g. Great Palm

(U.S.A.) - Kaldirine (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> John-Paul Gallorini in France

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Although I failed to find a nice jumper for my friend I saw several nice individuals. One that appealed was Karthoum, a grey son of Great Palm who won three hurdles as well as the Prix Lutteur - a Listed steeplechase at Auteuil this year. He has a current rating of 151, and it may have been this, which resulted in his presence at Goffs July Sale. Bought back from Jean-Paul Gallorini. (Very cheaply in my view) Karthoum could be in for a good season in France, but if he finds like hard over there, don't be surprised if paid us a visit of two

KORAKOR (FR) ch, g. Nikos - Aniflore (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Ian Williams  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Very useful 2 1/2 mile chaser in France, who ended up running 6th of 12 in one of their most valuable races, the Prix Georges Courtois, in November 1999. He failed anything near that level of form when in the care of Tim Easterby, but was a total revelation on fast ground for his final start for new strainer Ian Williams when winning at the Scottish national meeting at odds of 20/1. He again may be well in and could develop into a useful good ground handicapper.

MAJED (FR) b, g. Fijar Tango (FR) - Full Of Passion (U.S.A.)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Martin C Pipe  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Majed could be an interesting horse for Martin Pipe to go to war with over fences. frankly he looked very ordinary when getting turned over on his British debut at Warwick in November 2000, however he proceeded to win four races on the bounce, including defeating Sheer Genius at the Scottish national meeting. he already has experience of chasing in France so as long as he transferred to the British version, I could see him running up another sequence this term

MAN ON THE HILL b, g. Mandalus - Gipseyy Jo

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Ferdy Murphy  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Man On The Hill doesn't look destined for the dizzy heights many of us entertained when he thrashed a field by a distance on his British debut. He failed to click in three starts over fences for Martin Pipe, but looked more promising for Ferdy Murphy (who bought 50% of him), when he won at Sedgfield at the beginning of this season. He's still a novice for this season, and if he goes the right way could do well around the lesser tracks

MEADOWBANK b, g. Meadowbrook - Polypodium

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Mick Easterby  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Meadowbank improved from being a promising point to pointer (Meadowbank won twice at Duncombe Park, and Charm Park) to a useful staying chaser in the making. He seems to like Wetherby, having won twice there last term, and ran well in defeat by Narrow Water. His form tailed off at the end of the season but it wouldn't surprised me if he bounced back, particularly over extreme distances

NARROW WATER b, g. Mazaad - Miss Doogles

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Ferdy Murphy  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Narrow Water did connections proud last year, winning three of his five races, he improve from a good second to Behrajan on his first appearance right through to his victory in the Eider Chase (as was) when he outstayed Scotton Green by 2 1/2 lengths. that was his first season as a chaser and he should improve again. He could develop into a useful staling chaser and should have all the 'Nationals' on the agenda

NE M'OUBLIE PAS (FR) br, g. Shining Steel - Irish Lullaby (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Phillip J Hobbs  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Ne M'Oublie Pas interests me as he is only five, and has

as abundance of experience over hurdles and fences mainly in France. He didn't cut much ice during the summer. However a step up in trip 2m7f over fences showed the first signs of a possible when staying from a mile back to finish third in a novice handicap. After coming second over 3m2f at Newton Abbot on his next start, he carried website confidence when outstaying Butler John back over that course and distance. That was off of a mark of only 84 and though he'll go up for that success, extreme distances may suit, and further successes are possible

ORSUNO (GER) br, g. Konigsstuhl (GER) - Orvida (FR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Venetia Williams  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Orsuno could be a really shrewd buy from Micky Hammond. He ran well over fences but threw a few opportunities away. Having only cost 17,000 at the Doncaster sales two years ago, it wouldn't surprise me if he repays that money back with interest this winter

QUAINTON HILLS b, g. Gildoran - Spin Again  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Nick A Gaselee  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Quainton Hills has only managed one career win at Leicester in January 2001, however this lovely big individual demonstrated potential in abundance, on several occasions. Quainton Hills' jumping needs to improve, but if it does, he could have by far his best season to date.

RISING GENERATION b, g. Risen Star - Queen's Victory  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Currently trained in France  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Rising Generation, a four year old son of Risen Star (a stallion I know nothing about) could soon be racing in this country as he is due to go to sale. He is a model of consistency having finished in the frame in all bar one of his eleven starts on the French provincial circuit, and won of four occasions, twice over both codes

~ most recently at Croan in September. He should to attract interest from British buyers, though what they'd do with him isn't immediately clear over here he could be anything

RODOCK (FR) b, g. Leading Counsel (U.S.A.) - High Light (FR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Martin C Pipe  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> The talented yet frustrating Rodock remains in the list for the third successive season. he didn't quite see out the 3miles, but still ran a great race when finishing fourth to Baracouda at sawn in April, and impressed when winning on his chasing debut at Warwick, but showed the other side of his nature with two moody performances behind Whitenzo over fences again at Warwick and in winning at Lingfield in March. He is probably best kept fresh, and may only appear a few times this term, but is too able to leave off, and might just pop up and win a decent prize.

ROSCOFF (FR) ch, g. Start Fast (FR) - Yellow Light (FR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Curently A Chaille-Chaille in France  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> There was plenty of interest from British trainers fro Roscoff last term and in be interesting if anyone went in for this four-year-old French bred. He had respectable form over hurdles, but blossomed over fences winning three times at Auteuil, before falling there on French Gold Cup day - he was still in the lead when making a bad mistake at the first on the final circuit, he fell at the next. he isn't very big, but is clearly able, and could do well wherever he races this term.

SOMEMANFORONEMAN b, g. Asir - Wintry Shower  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Charlie J Mann  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Somemanforoneman was a really shrewd purchase by Charlie Mann last term. Frankly his form in Ireland was 'respectable without being spectacular' (though he had shown bits of promise for Mouse Morris in Ireland),

which is why his record of two wins (at Warwick in October, and at Ascot in November), plus excellent efforts in defeat behind the likes of Jolly Green Giant, Bindaree, and Dusk Duel, was all the more creditable. Hopefully he's got over his exertions at Aintree in April, if so Somemanforoneman could have a good second season for the Charlie Mann camp

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE b, g. Lafontaine (U.S.A.) - Spotted Choice

[THE TRAINER] :-:-> Edna Bolger in Ireland

[COMMENTS] :-:-> Spot The difference has always been useful between the flags in Ireland, and has well against the best of Ireland's hunter chases over the last couple of seasons. It was interesting to see how he progressed when unleashed in Handicap Company. He rattled off a quick hat trick at Roscommon, and Kilbeggan [twice], before running well in a £26,000 event again at Kilbeggan. Spot The difference is still nicely handicapped and could still find opportunities to be in Handicap Company or back in hunter chases

SUBEHARGUES (FR) b, g. Mansonnien (FR) - Grande Yépa (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:-> Guillaume Macaire

[COMMENTS] :-:-> Subehargues could be an interesting visitor from France this term. He was a top class chaser in his youth, but sustained a leg injury after finishing third in the Prix Maurice Gillois Grand Steeple-Chase des 4 ans (Grade 1) in November 1999. Not sighted until finishing second to Kimbi in the Prix Air Landais (Chase) at Auteuil this April. He proved that he is still a force to be reckoned with when taking the 19 runner Prix du Président de la République (Handicap Chase) again at Auteuil two weeks later. Guillaume Macaire made ambiguous references to running Subehargues in the big English races this term so would certainly be worth keeping tabs on him in the better handicap chases this season

SULPHUR SPRINGS ch, g. Don't Forget Me -

Short Wave (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:-> Martin C Pipe

[COMMENTS] :-:-> It's amazing to believe that until the end of last season, Sulphur Springs hadn't won under rules, despite contesting some very high-class races whilst in France, placing in some valuable handicaps and finishing a rather distant 6th of 8 in the 1999 Grand Steeplechase de Paris. Ridden by his veteran owner Phillip Scouller for two seasons in hunter chases/ point to points Sulphur Springs won a couple of point-to-points and hunter chases. However since becoming AP's ride he has really blossomed, winning his last five starts with consummate ease. I thought he was very impressive in winning at Newton Abbot and Market Rasen which he put a distance between himself and Audacter. We may still not have seen the best of him, and he may yet make his mark in better company, at some stage this term

TAILLEFER (FR) b, g. Cyborg (FR) - Tourka (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:-> Merrick E D Francis

[COMMENTS] :-:-> Taillefer is a five-year-old son of Cyborg, who took a novice chase over 2m4f at Haydock at the end of March. He has a hard race that day and it showed on his last start when well beaten by Skillwise again at Haydock in April. He had shown plenty of promise before that when raced in the French provinces, and could easily step up on this form this winter.

TANGO ROYAL (FR) gr, g. Royal Charter (FR) - Nazia (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:-> Martin C Pipe

[COMMENTS] :-:-> It may prove an unwise move to judge Tango Royal solely on the basis of his first effort. Martin Pipe, when tailed off in a poor novice hurdle at Chepstow. He was one of the best four-year-old chasers of 2000, and has solid form lines with the likes of Sleeping Night who also is in this list. I don't think he reached the same heights as that individual, however I

could see him running up a sequence, probably over hurdles this term.

TICTAC (FR) ch g. Beyssac (FR) - Native D'Acres (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Martin C Pipe  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Tictac is hard to evaluate as this French import has won twice over fences, last time winning a claimer in June 2000. Imprevue, whom he beat that day, and Exit Sud, who beat him in May, prior to those two wins aren't bad sorts, so Tictac may well do well over here over hurdles or fences.

TROOG (FR) b, g. Tropular (FR) - Gunievre (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Guillaume Macaire in France  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Once foot-and-mouth took hold last spring, there were opportunities for British punters to see what was happening en Francais. I had quite a fruitful time, and one of the successful 'winners' was Troog, who won on a chase at Compiègne. I thought from that time that he would make a nice chaser over here. I couldn't evaluate the merit of that performance until he ran at Auteuil in March, where he failed by 2lengths to give 7lbs to Roscoff, who went on to be one of the better young chasers of last term. I will be interested to see if Guillaume Macaire sends him over here on one of his expected sorties.

TUESDAY b, g. Satco (FR) - Beech Glen  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Willie P Mullins in Ireland

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Tuesday was a huge disappointment last term, after showing so much promise in bumpers the previous season. It may be he struggles to handle the heavy conditions that prevailed last year, his form at the end of last term lends weight to that notion. He is still eligible for novice hurdles having won at Cork in May, but may try his hand at the larger obstacles

TURGEONEV (FR) gr, g. Turgeon (U.S.A.) - County Kerry (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Tim D Easterby  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Turgeonev could be interesting in two mile handicaps this winter. he has joined Tim Easterby having run four times for Micky Hammond last term. he started off well spread-eagling a field at market Rasen in November. he then failed to follow, though he did run well behind Grey Abbey at Kelso. he is reasonably and could do well if he sights aren't aimed too highly

VINCENT VAN GOGH b, g. Executive Perk - Rare Picture

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> R J Hodges  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Vincent Van Gogh returns to the list because I think this huge six year old gelding may finally be coming to himself. frankly he had looked ordinary the combination of fast ground and fences finally offered some hope when he took a minor event at Taunton in April 2001. Vincent Van Gogh is only rated 77 so given the right condition will have plenty of opportunities this season.

UN JOUR A VASSY (FR) br, g. Video Rock (FR) - Bayalika (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Paul F Nicholls  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Point-to-pointing appears to have made a Man out of Un Jour A Vassy. He appeared to be very ordinary when trained by Oliver Sherwood, but a spell with Richard Barber worked the oracle, as not only did he win between the flags, but he and Polly Gundry struck up a formidable run under rules winning a hunter chase at Huntingdon, before wins at Taunton and a £10,000 handicap chase at Southwell. Connections probably went once too often to the well when he failed to sparkle at Warwick, but his had been his fourth run in quick succession and he clearly is better than that. This is currently his level and I'd be surprised if he wasn't able to add to this tally this season

WELL RIDDEN b, g. Gildoran - Rydewells Daughter

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Arthur L T Moore in

Ireland

[COMMENTS] :-:--> Well Ridden is one of the more ironically named horses around, as there are many punters who took the view last term that on some occasion he wasn't well ridden, and given far too much to do. That shouldn't be allowed to detract from his record, and easy wins at Leopardstown over Roscoff et al in January 2001 and Navan in November 2000, show that he has the potential to develop into a useful 2m2f -3mile handicapper

WHITENZO (FR) b, g, Lesotho (U.S.A.) - Whitengy (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> P F Nicholls  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Whitenzo is another potential star over 2miles this winter. His form in France suggested that he was struggling to get home over trip in excess of 2miles, and that definitely was the case at Fontwell on his British debut over 2m5f where he jumped for fun and looked home and hosed until he past the 2mile barrier, he weakened dramatically afterwards and held on by a diminishing 1/2 length. He looked a totally different proposition subsequently over the minimum trip however putting in sparkling rounds to beat Corniche at Taunton, and Rodock at Warwick. Only the bottomless ground and inspired riding of Adrian Maguire got Ballinclay King home in front of him at the Grand National Meeting. With a summer on his back Whitenzo should be one of note during to winter

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Æ Steeplechasers ~ Championship Class?

AD HOC b, g, Strong Gale - Knockarctic  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Paul F Nicholls  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Ad Hoc is retained in the list for the third successive season. In last year's listing I wrote " Ad Hoc - placed in Point-to-points two seasons ago more than exceeded my expectation of him last season, A winner of his final three starts culminating in

a very easy win at Ayr on Scottish Grand National day. The move to Paul Nicholls is significant and this horse definitely will be going places this term". He typified the non gambling aspect of the listing as he has given plenty of pleasure since his days between the flags with Richard Barber ... more over... how can I possibly remove a potential championship horse from this list. It is hard not to be impressed with the manner in which he destroyed his field in the Whitbread Gold Cup, a week after finding the extreme distance of the Scottish National a bit to far for him. The tactic successfully employed on Marlborough also suit him, and as a result his jumping (his Achilles' heel) improved as the season went on. Time is still on his side and he can only continue to improve ... there is another decent prize in this horse this winter if anything holds together

BOISNOIR (FR) b, g, Djarvis (FR) - Antoniola (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Guy Cherel in France  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Boisnoir could make a welcome return to the track this winter. He was one of the best four-year-old chasers in France in 2000, winning three times, including the Prix Inspace - Ferdinand Dufaure (Grade 1). He suffered a leg injury that has kept him away from the track, however he could continue where he left off, although what connections will do with him, having Kotkijet, and Homme du Jour in their armoury is a matter on conjecture

DOUZE DOUZE (FR) ch, g, Saint Cyrien (FR) - Kitkelly (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Guillaume Macaire in France  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Douze Douze is another inmate of Guillaume Macaire 's who may appear in this country this term. He ran won three of his four starts over fences, including the Prix Maurice Gillois Grand Steeple-Chase Des 4 Ans (Chase) (Grade 1) in November 2000,

beating Sleeping Night (gave 7lbs). Christopher Ile's comments in our Focus on France feature paint an ever better impression;

"Douze Douze went to the front after six fences, soon went clear, and basically disappeared off into the distance, producing a huge jump at the water jump, and easing down to win by a comfortable 15 lengths. Sleeping Night and Tango Royal fought out a good battle for second before the latter weakened in the home straight, and the rest were nowhere".

He's another horse that may have the French gold cup as an aim, however if he fell short of the mark, we may see him tried on these shores

GEOS (FR) br, g. Pistolet Bleu - Kaprika (FR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Nicky J Henderson  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Geos had a wonderful season last term over hurdles, taking the Grade 1 Bula and Christmas hurdles along the way. after a slightly disappointing run in the Agfa hurdle, he confirmed his position as one of the better hurdlers around with a brave second to stable Landing Light in the Coral Eurobet Championship Hurdle. Geos will be trying his hand over fences this term, and having already over them will be difficult to place .. but I wouldn't be surprised if he had another good season.

HINDIANA (FR) ch, g. Quart De Vin (FR) - La Salamandre (FR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Ferdy Murphy  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Hindiana who was previously trained in France by Francois Doumen, has got top class form over fences in France. he won four of his six starts probably being at his most impressive when beating Europa by 13lengths at Huntingdon in March. Aintree's atrocious ground condition did not suit him, and he'd gone for the season after that. His graded race form in France he has earned himself a high

rating over fences, but this class act may be able to meet the challenge and I wouldn't be surprised if this lovely ch, g. wins a decent handicap this winter

HOMME DU JOUR (FR) ch, g. Video Rock (FR) - Ability (FR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Guy Chereil in France  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Homme Du Jour, France's best juvenile hurdle in 1999, appeared to have suffered the same fate as Katarino. He beat that horse in the Prix Renaud du Vivier (Grade 1) in November 1999, but struggled over hurdles after that. He had three runs over fences last term, winning on his debut in November, before finishing only ¾ length second to Kotkijet in the Prix Georges Courtois (Chase) (Group 2) at Auteuil in December. He failed to concede to his rivals when a respectable fourth behind Kimbi in back at Auteuil in April but that was a decent effort and if he can continue to build on that could win him a decent prize this term.

ILARE gr, g. April Night (FR) - Vousseliere (FR)  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Ed Chevalier Du Fau in France  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> I've noted this horse, ever since Christopher Iles mentioned him in one of his Focus on France features... This is what he wrote

"The same card gave a possible reason why the Marquesa de Moratalla sold First Gold - she has a potential star of the future in the front-running grey, Ilare, winning his second Auteuil chase of the season. His previous win came in the same race First Gold used to debut at Auteuil, the year he won the Grand Steeple-Chase de Paris... Ilare isn't trained by Francois Doumen, so is less likely to be brought over here to run, and his entries since suggest a rather lower-key approach than was taken with First Gold".

Ilare is unbeaten in his last six starts having won again decisively on Sunday

over 2m7f beating amongst others Kimbi, who was just short of championship class over hurdles, and has progressed so much so that that he may now line up against First Gold in the Grand Steeple-Chase de Paris later, a race that that great horse also won at five.

Ilare subsequently beat all bar Kotkijet in the Grand Steeple-Chase De Paris, an amazing performance really for a horse only in training for six months. We might never see him in truth, however he is such a class act that he deserves a place, and you never know, in 2002 or 2003, we might see him lining for gold in march"

SLEEPING NIGHT (FR) Sleeping Car (FR) - Doll Night (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Mary Reverley  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Sleeping Night is a fascinating lodger in these shores. He was one of the best four-year-old hurdler/chaser in France, having run He ran ten times in 2000, winning five times - four of these were over fences. He competed against the likes of Inamar, Chicuelo, and Douze Douze. - All from the cream of that vintage. On his last racecourse appearance in November 2000, he gave 11lbs to Inamar, in the Prix Morgex Chase (Group 3). He is being aimed for the Charlie Hall at Wetherby, and could be in for a fruitful season

TOTO TOSCATO (FR) br, g. Lesotho (U.S.A.) -Tosca De Bellouet (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Martin C Pipe  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Interesting season ahead for Toto Toscato, as there isn't much doubt that he has still got more improvement in him at distances above 2 1/2 Miles, if judged on his efforts of two seasons ago. A length defeat by Lord Noelie in the 2000 Sun Alliance Chase reads encouragingly, and he has reportedly strengthened up since his last run. Missing a season through injury was possibly a blessing in disguise, as second season chasers, can struggle on occasions and it'll be

interesting to see what sort of season he has

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Æ Point-To-Pointers

BRYDFERTH DDU b, m. Supreme Leader - Mantas Melody

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> David Brace  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Brydferth Ddu looks an interesting prospect, probably for pointing. She won her second start in that sphere, and then didn't run too badly in a Newton Abbot bumper in August. She probably wants a trip so wouldn't be seen to great effect over hurdle (apart from maybe mare's only races) though would appeal more to me if she went chasing or between the flags where I'm sure she progress to intermediate class in her native Wales.

HESSAC (FR) br, g. Beyssac (FR) - Chic Lilie (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Caroline Bailey  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Hessac may only be pocket-sized, but proved that he possessed talent when coming second to Union Man (beaten 4lengths) on his debut. He franked that effort by losing his maiden tag, next time out, although he disappointed on his final effort. He should continue to improve this term, although his progression may be restricted because of his build

IRILUT (FR) br, g. Lute Antique (FR) - Patchourie (FR)

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Mark Rimell  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> An interesting purchase by a sire that is starting to do well in this country. As yet unraced in points, but again I expect him to lose his maiden tag

IRISHEYESARESMILIN br, g. John French - Laugh Away

[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Caroline Bailey  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> One of the fascinations of point to points is that

most races are run over the same trip, usually 3miles. Sometimes this enables some fascinating clashes being horses who subsequently do well either at the minimum trip or staying events, the one race that stays in the mind, was the Irish point in which Ask Tom 'outstayed' a rather immature Suny Bay.

A pointer who I expected great things of is Irisheyesaresmilin, and whilst he didn't run too badly last term, he never really suggested that he could live up to being labelled Caroline Bailey's "best young prospect" at the beginning of last season. This season already hasn't gone off to a good start as he fell when travelling well at Cottenham's first meeting. He pulled up next time after being given a confidence building school

It is interesting that Caroline Bailey intends to run him in hunter chases, as evidently she takes the view that they are opportunities for this horse to race over 2-21/2miles which may be his best trip ... If he does he's good enough to win, and may just pay to follow.

LA VASCO DE GAMA (FR) br g  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> William J Warner  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Whilst last season was a fascinating year so far for pointers, it was equally the same for yours truly. persistent lameness is currently keeping me away from the racetrack. which frustrates me. It means that I have not been able to attend as many points to points as I liked, where watching the whole build up of each race at close hand has its own uniqueness/atmosphere. Cottenham is one of my local track, (I'm spoilt in this respect), and it is a shame that I was unable to make their most recent meeting, as the performance of La Vasco De Gama brightened up an ordinary card. It probably wasn't a fair fight, as La Vasco De Gama went into the race with some useful place form behind him when trained in France, and by winning a 2m4f maiden he achieved nothing. However it

was the manner (apparently) by which he undertook the task that was most impressive, the fact that he also easily pulled 30 lengths clear of his rivals, in a time 9 seconds faster than the second division, suggests he is a young horse of great potential. Bill Warner currently trains him, however Judy Wilson has horses with Nicky Henderson, and I'd suggest that this horses future might lay with him. I shall be keeping a close eye on his for the remainder of the season

NOUGHTOSIXTY b, g. Brevet - Arch Hall  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Caroline Bailey  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Noughtosixty is an imposing individual, who had been off of the track since winning a maiden at Horseheath in 1999. He began last season in the Caroline Bailey yard ran with promise, winning a televised Restricted at Tweseldown in January 2000. Foot-and mouth ensured that he didn't race last term, however Noughtosixty could still significantly improve on that form with another summer on his back

PILLAGING PICT ch, g. Primitive Rising (U.S.A.) - Carat Stick  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> John B Walton  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> Pillaging Pict is one to note between the flags, but may be worth running under rules this winter. He is being brought along slowly by connection, but has shown promise is a couple of maiden points (winning on his last start. He may his first appearance under rules at Hexham in May, but fell early on. He was well supported that day, and the race has thrown up some useful winners so is worth keeping an eye on.

SEE MORE SENSE br, g. Seymour Hicks (FR) - Flower Of Tintern  
[THE TRAINER] :-:--> Richard Barber  
[COMMENTS] :-:--> See More Sense is probably a horse we'll see under rules in the next couple of seasons, however he should make his presence felt between the flags this time around. It is hard to knock him, having gone against normal

convention and won a restricted on his debut at Milbourne St Andrew, and then amazingly only failed by 1 1/2 lengths to hold Millyhenry in a Men's Open in 2000. He is, in my view, certain to win, either in Open races, or in Hunter Chases

SHOEMAKER b, g, Good Thyne (U.S.A.) - Kalanshoe

[THE TRAINER] :-:-> William J Warner  
[COMMENTS] :-:-> Whilst Union Man was tantalising the taste buds of most point to point fans in 2000, the Warner stable were aware that they had been duly blessed last season. Shoemaker only ran the twice, but on each occasion at Guilsborough, and Clifton on Dunsmore hinted that he possessed the potential to be a smart point to pointer. Having proved completely unsuited to the mud at Hexham in May of this year, he looked a different proposition seven days later on a faster surface at Huntingdon and took an admittedly weak contest in grand style. shoemaker has ability and also has age on his side and you would expect him to develop on these efforts this season.

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Æ Hunter Chasers

BLACKCHESTERS bl, g, Genuine Gift (CAN) - Newgrove

[THE TRAINER] :-:-> Tim Brown  
[COMMENTS] :-:-> Blackchesters may make the breakthrough to Open class/hunter chases this term. He started off winning a Restricted at Ampton, and then went on to run respectably in two hunter chases at Bangor, behind Minella Silver at Bangor, at Cheltenham behind Romany Chat. He disappointed at Hereford on his last start but he is better than that, and hopefully will prove it this winter

EVAN'S COLLIER BOY b, g, Supreme Leader

- Little Treat

[THE TRAINER] :-:-> D Brace  
[COMMENTS] :-:-> Evan's Collier Boy could be interesting under rules this term. He developed into a really decent pointer on the Welsh circuit, and has been the subject of several major punts during the last couples of season (not surprising really with that name). He caused a near stampede at Higham - one of my local Point-to-points last term. When landing a major punt in a common canter. There was talk of him going to Cheltenham as a result, which in my view was a realistic target. He could do well under rules if his head-strongness and sloppy jumping are ironed out. By way of illustration, he was travelling well at he time in the front when taking one of those slithering falls that horses have at Stratford in March. A little patience should reap its reward.

HELL-OF-A-SHINDY b, g, Phardante (FR) - Tonto's Girl

[THE TRAINER] :-:-> Edna Bolger in ireland  
[COMMENTS] :-:-> Hell-Of-A-Shindy hasn't shown the level of form achieved between the flags, however he has to some extent been thrown in against the best of Ireland's crop. he is improving with experience though, and his victory at Clonmel in June is hopefully signs that there is more to come from this individual this winter

HORUS b, g, Teenoso (U.S.A.) - Jennie's First

[THE TRAINER] :-:-> David Pipe  
[COMMENTS] :-:-> Very promising youngster who last season improved to Open Class this winter, winning one of the better Open races at Larkhill with consummate ease. Certain to find more success this season, and is one for the shortlist for the major hunter chases of the season

LITCHANINE (FR) gr, g, Linamix (FR) - Margello

[THE TRAINER] :-:-> Martin C Pipe  
[COMMENTS] :-:-> Litchanine clearly

progressed from out first glimpse of him in a Fontwell novice chase in January 1999. He won two hunter chases at Huntingdon and Stratford, but could possibly won another two [I thought his owner rider gave him too much to do]. he gets three miles and could develop into Blanville's replacement this winter.

MINELLA SILVER gr, g. Roselier (FR) - Mrs. Minella

[THE TRAINER] :-> J D Downes  
[COMMENTS] :-> Minella Silver will be one of the leading fancies for the Foxhunters at Cheltenham this term if he repeats the form shown under rules last season. This Open Class pointer between the flags impressed many a judge in winning at Ascot on his hunter chase debut in March, before doing the same at Bangor in May. Minella Silver is a relentless galloper, and his attacking style of racing gets many of his rivals into trouble trying to keep tabs with him. Further success is almost assured, and he'd be interesting if tried in Novice /handicap chases

WAP b, g. Be My Native (U.S.A.) - Mrs. Hill

[THE TRAINER] :-> Enda Bolger in ireland  
[COMMENTS] :-> Wap could a nice hunter chaser to follow. I only saw two of his races last term, (I believe he has won between the flags). He was thrown into the seep end against Sheltering at Leopardstown in February ... and sunk! He came out again at Cork in April, and showed his potential when beating by Sheppardson 12 lengths. This five-year-old gelding should improve on this last effort, and could develop into one of Ireland's better young hunter chasers

.. BLANVILLE (FR)  
.. DARK SHELL  
.. DOUZE DOUZE (FR)  
.. HINDIANA (FR)  
.. HORUS  
.. ILARE (FR)  
.. ILNAMAR (FR)  
.. LE COUDRAY (FR)  
.. SAINT DES SAINTS (FR)

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Æ THE ROOK'S 10 HORSES TO FOLLOW FROM THIS LIST