

PAU [R-H] - 08 January

Race 4 - PRIX D'IROULEGUY - 1600m MDN. Purse EUR €19,000.

1. **BULLISH BALL** - 3L third in a course and distance maiden four weeks ago. Noted.
2. **CORTEZ BANK** - 2.25L fourth in a maiden over this distance at Toulouse. Frame chance.
3. **BLUE FALCON** - Runner-up on all three starts to date including when beaten 1.25L over track and trip. Top chance.
4. **FAWKES** - Promising 1L second in a course and distance newcomers event 20 days ago. Claims.
5. **GOREK** - 9.25L sixth in a 1300m maiden at Deauville AW on debut. Upped in trip.
6. **EMPEROR MAXIMUS** - 1.5L third in a 2000m maiden here on debut. Open to progress.
7. **PERLE ROUGE** - Five placings from eight starts including in a 1800m handicap at Lyon-la-Soie. Noted.
8. **SHALADISSIMA** - Unraced filly by Shalaa. Market check.

Summary: A competitive maiden where the vote goes to BLUE FALCON (3). Finished runner-up on all three starts to date including when beaten 1.25L over track and trip. Top chance for a leading trainer. FAWKES (4) showed bundles of promise when 1L second in a course and distance newcomers event twenty days ago. Key claims with further progress. PERLE ROUGE (7) has placed in five of his eight career starts and must be respected back in maiden company. BULLISH BALL (1) is not dismissed.

Selections

BLUE FALCON (3) - FAWKES (4) - PERLE ROUGE (7) - BULLISH BALL (1)

Race 7 - PRIX DE CAUTERETS - 1600m HCP CL3. Purse EUR €21,000.

1. **NOELLE** - Narrow third behind two of these in a course and distance handicap. Claims.
2. **SUPER CUTE** - 4L sixth in a 1500m handicap at Deauville AW 22 days ago. Place chance eased 0.5kg.
3. **GAGNESIRY** - 1.5L second in a handicap over this trip at Toulouse. Noted on AW debut.
4. **MICHEL** - Close fourth behind behind three of these in a course and distance handicap. Stable debut.
5. **VIRIMOON ETOILE** - Narrow success beating Narvaez by a nose over track and trip. Chance.
6. **MISSY CHOPE** - One from one at the track but needs a bit more on latest ninth at Le Mans.
7. **MA CHERIE AMOUR** - 1.75L second in a 1500m handicap at Deauville AW 22 days ago. Player.
8. **NARVAEZ** - Bounced back to form when beaten a nose by Virimoon Etoile over track and trip. Needs to replicate.
9. **O GRE DES SAISONS** - 3.75L ninth behind plenty of re-opposing rivals over course and distance. First-time blinkers.
10. **WERSEILLER** - Handicap debut following a solid Class Three fourth at Marseille-Vivax AW. In the mix.
11. **FORCE CAT** - More required on handicap debut and best watched in the first-time tongue-tie.
12. **KATCHI** - Two placings from fifteen career starts. Midfield finish anticipated.
13. **VERBENA** - Held twelfth behind a lot of these over track and trip. More needed.

Summary: MA CHERIE AMOUR (7) finished a good 1.75L second in a 1500m handicap at Deauville AW twenty-two days ago. Leading chance from the inside draw. VIRIMOON ETOILE (5) beat NARVAEZ (8) by a nose in a course and distance handicap recently and the former could uphold the form with the latter often inconsistent. NOELLE (1) was a close-up third in that event and rates highly off these revised terms.

Selections

MA CHERIE AMOUR (7) - VIRIMOON ETOILE (5) - NARVAEZ (8) - NOELLE (1)

Race 8 - PRIX DE JURANCON - 1200m HCP CL3. Purse EUR €21,000.

1. **FANTASTIC SPIRIT** - Classy Listed winner who drops to a handicap after 224 days off. Key chance for a top yard.
2. **AZUR AS WELL** - 1.25L success in a course and distance handicap beating a handful of re-opposing rivals. Upped 2kg.
3. **CODE OF SILENCE** - 4.5L seventh in a 1300m Class Two handicap at Deauville AW. Place chance.
4. **OASIS COVE** - 1L third in a Class Three 1500m handicap on the AW at Deauville. Noted.
5. **TAWHIRI** - Second behind Azur As Well in a course and distance handicap latest. Chance.
6. **FUCHSIA** - 4.5L tenth in a Class Three qualifying handicap over 1300m at Deauville AW. Outside place claims.
7. **IDAHO JAMES** - 1.75L fifth in a course and distance handicap 27 days ago. Place contender.
8. **UNTITLED** - 3.25L eighth behind some of these over track and trip. Not ruled out from a good draw.
9. **HEDWIG** - 2L Agen success prior to a 3L third behind re-opposing rivals latest. Stable debut.
10. **LEITZA** - Bit more needed on handicap debut and market will likely guide.
11. **GENERALIFE** - Back-to-back ninths in handicap company recently. More required.
12. **LOU MCDOWELL** - Best watched on stable debut having run mostly in claiming company recently.
13. **BEYOND MY DREAMS** - 2L third in a course and distance Class Three handicap four weeks ago. Supplemented runner.
14. **NEW ADELE** - One placing from eight career starts and this looks a tough draw.
15. **WAILEA NIGHTS** - Front-runner who needs to see out her races better of late. Best watched.
16. **ELOKANTE** - Sixteen race maiden who looks unlikely to change that.

Summary: It could be worth siding with the top-weight and class act in the field FANTASTIC SPIRIT (1) on reappearance. A Listed winner on the AW at Cagnes-sur-Mer this time last year he may be capable of giving weight all-round back in a handicap. AZUR AS WELL (2) beat TAWHIRI (5) by 1.25L in a course and distance handicap recently. The former rates highly with a 2kg rise fair whilst the latter must be respected if replicating. OASIS COVE (4) shaped well when 1L third in a Class Three 1500m handicap on the AW at Deauville. In the mix.

Selections

FANTASTIC SPIRIT (1) - AZUR AS WELL (2) - TAWHIRI (5) - OASIS COVE (4)