

TUESDAY, 23/04/24

C1 - PRIX GASTON BRANERE - 3600m (a2m1/4) - TURF - Listed Divided Handicap - Hurdles - EUR € 110,000

- 1. ELLA DUCHIC** - Showed encouraging signs in her first two outings last year (debut 2nd then 3rd) but has failed to build on that promise in two comeback outings - was only 6th over 3800m on this course last time (3 April). Best watched for now
- 2. CALLIANDRA** - Has never finished worse than 3rd four handicap appearances and was rewarded for that consistency with a last-start breakthrough success over 3600m at Auteuil on 6 April. Should have a role to play once more, despite a 3kg penalty
- 3. ASTALAVISTA** - Finished an encouraging 2nd to Zephyr de Beaumont in a Quinte+ on his reappearance and confirmed that promise by winning a 3600m Quinte+ at Auteuil on 24 March. Progressive hurdler who ought to remain competitive under a penalty
- 4. TI'PUNCH DES ILES** - Won his penultimate start, beating KESIUS DU GRANIT (15) at Pau in January and didn't go unnoticed when finishing 5th over 3600m at Auteuil on 24 February. Not taken lightly
- 5. MOHICAN** - Revealed potential in hurdles races last year but was disappointing on his reappearance (10th) at Auteuil on 24 March. Remains capable of better
- 6. KEL STORY** - Returned to form on his reappearance when finishing 2nd to ASTALAVISTA (3) in a 3600m Quinte+ at Auteuil on 24 March and would've tightened up since. Candidate for success
- 7. BLISSIMO** - Outclassed by several re-opposing rivals on his reappearance in a 3600m Quinte+ at Auteuil on 24 March (was pulled up) but did reveal undeniable means last year. Improvement needed
- 8. MAGMA DODVILLE** - Improving filly with sound references/form credentials, including a last-start 3rd over 3800m on this course on 3 April. Dark horse
- 9. ATTACK MASSIVE** - Has improved in two starts with blinkers fitted and finished ahead of TI'PUNCH DES ILES (4) when 4th at Auteuil (3600m) in February. Made further progress to finish 2nd over that course and distance on 24 March - keep safe
- 10. KAM'N GIN** - Runner-up in consecutive hurdles races at a lower level, including on his reappearance at Angers over 3400m. Showed his limitations at this level when only 7th in the Quinte+ of 24 March over 3600m at Auteuil
- 11. MAGIC FLIGHT** - Showed encouraging signs over hurdles when finishing 4th in the Prix Pride of Kildare on his hurdling debut but hasn't been able to build on that promise - unplaced in both starts this year and only 8th in a 3600m Auteuil Quinte+ (24 March)
- 12. CHOEUR ETINCELLE** - Lightly raced 5-start maiden dominated in his only outing in this category (6th in the Prix Fifelet) and finished a modest 8th on his reappearance over course and distance on 13 March. Others preferred
- 13. SLINKY MALINKI** - Finished ahead of CALLIANDRA (2) over 3300m in her second start on 18 December but has been aimed at steeplechase races this year, finishing 3rd over 3450m at this venue on 5 March then 5th over 3500m at Auteuil on 17 March. Outsider

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14. FOR FRIENDSHIP - Consistent performer on the flat and won a hurdles race at Cagnes in just his second outing over obstacles in December. Absent since finishing 4th in a 3300m hurdles race at that venue on 14 December

15. KESIUS DU GRANIT - Unexposed hurdler with scope for improvement, but has already shown enough in three starts to warrant respect on his handicap debut. Freshened up for this engagement after finishing 4th over track and trip on 13 March

16. KING SAINT - Finished an encouraging 4th over hurdles on debut in November and confirmed that promise when 2nd at Cagnes over 3300m when last seen on 27 December. Open to further progress on his reappearance

Summary: ASTALAVISTA (3) built on the promise of an encouraging comeback outing (2nd) to win the Quinté+ event on 24 March and, on that evidence, could defy a resultant penalty by following up in this opening event. KEL STORY (6), who finished 2nd in the aforementioned contest, renews rivalry on 3kg better terms and ought to pose more of a threat. CALLIANDRA (2) completed the podium positions that day and subsequently boosted that form with a handicap success at Auteuil earlier this month so should remain competitive, despite a 3kg penalty. The shortlist is completed by ATTACK MASSIVE (9), T'PUNCH DES ILES (4) and MAGMA DODVILLE (8) who have shown enough to warrant respect on handicap debut.

SELECTIONS

ASTALAVISTA (3) - KEL STORY (6) - CALLIANDRA (2) - ATTACK MASSIVE (9)

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C2 - PRIX DU FINISTERE - 3200m (a2m) - TURF - Class 3 Race - Hurdles - EUR € 53,000

1. MELODY NELSON - Finished a promising 2nd on debut at Fontainebleau over 3000m on 12 March, notably ahead of a filly who has run well at Auteuil since. High on the shortlist

2. LA LOUISIANE - Improved after discreet debut (10th) to finish 2nd in a 3200m claimer on this course on 3 April. More needed

3. ROYAL PALOMA - Made an encouraging introduction at Auteuil, finishing 5th on debut over 3000m on 31 March. Would've improved with the benefit of that experience

4. KISSY - Has improved in two outings over hurdles this year, finishing 4th on both occasions - the latest over 3500m at Moulins on 7 April

5. LOLITA DES MOTTES - Caught the eye on debut when running on well to finish 3rd over 3000m at Fontainebleau on 29 March. Would've gained plenty from that experience - represents a stable in good form, follow

6. IRISANTE - Revealed potential in three starts on the flat last year but made an unconvincing debut over hurdles, finishing 8th over 3000m at Auteuil on 31 March. Best watched for now

7. DIAMOND'S SAGA - Well-bred Nirvana Du Berlais debutante related to excellent flat performer Siljan's Saga. Kévin Nabet rides for trainer Mickaël Seror

8. CLOTILDA - Wasn't beaten far thus didn't go unnoticed when 6th of 9 finishers on debut over 3000m at Fontainebleau on 12 March

9. MARTADINO - Was pulled up before the second-last hurdle on her debut over 3000m at Auteuil on 31 March. Watching brief is advised

Summary: LOLITA DES MOTTES (5) ran on from out of the pack to finish an encouraging 3rd on debut and, with the benefit of that experience, ought to improve to fight for victory. David Cottin-trained runners MELODY NELSON (1) and ROYAL PALOMA (3) also showed promise on debut, so are likely to give the selection most to fear. Newcomer DIAMOND'S SAGA (7) has an appealing jumps pedigree and shouldn't be underestimated.

SELECTIONS

**LOLITA DES MOTTES (5) - MELODY NELSON (1) - ROYAL PALOMA (3) - DIAMOND'S
SAGA (7)**

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C3 - PRIX DU BREVENT - 3200m (a2m) - TURF - Class 3 Race - Hurdles - EUR € 53,000

- 1. THE WORKAHOLIC** - Finished a promising 3rd over track and trip on debut last month but looked beaten when falling two out at Auteuil over 3000m on 6 April. Needs to reaffirm
- 2. LAUTHENTYKO** - Closely matched with VADOR DU BERLAIS (3) having finished 4th on debut at Auteuil over 3000m on 31 March. Keep safe
- 3. VADOR DU BERLAIS** - Finished a promising 3rd on debut at Auteuil over 3000m on 31 March and would've benefitted from that experience, so ought to be a factor here
- 4. KABALLERO** - Runner-up at Fontainebleau on his introduction over 3000m on 29 March and should, given the benefit of that outing, improve to make his presence felt. Not taken lightly
- 5. DJIN'S** - Caught the eye when a fast-finishing 2nd on debut over 3000m at Fontainebleau on 12 March. Can only improve with the step up to this distance
- 6. SUPER BEND** - Improved after a modest debut outing (8th) over this track and trip to finish 3rd in a minor event over 3400m at Nimes on 24 March. More needed
- 7. DSCHINGIS GOLD** - Consistent performer in four starts on the flat and didn't go unnoticed when finishing 5th on his hurdle debut at Auteuil over 3000m on 31 March. Dark horse
- 8. KASHS** - Finished an encouraging 4th on debut over this course and distance recently (3 April). Should have more to offer with that experience to count on
- 9. WORLD APART** - David Cottin-trained Goliath Du Berlais newcomer not to be underestimated with Felix de Giles engaged to ride. Beware
- 10. MOTY MARC** - Has acquitted himself well in his two starts over hurdles this year, finishing 6th on his reappearance last month and 5th on 3 April - both outings over this track and trip. Outsider

Summary: DJIN'S (5) showed his inexperience on debut but, once the penny had dropped, ran on well to finish an eye-catching 2nd over a shorter trip. and that experience would've done him plenty of good, so it should pay to follow his progress here. VADOR DU BERLAIS (3), LAUTHENTYKO (2), respectively 3rd and 4th on debut at Auteuil, as well as KABALLERO (4), who also finished an encouraging 2nd on his introduction, ought to acquit themselves competitively too. Good race!

SELECTIONS

DJIN'S (5) - VADOR DU BERLAIS (3) - LAUTHENTYKO (2) - KABALLERO (4)

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C4 - PRIX DU MONT DORE - 3800m (a2m1/2) - TURF - Listed Race - Hurdles - EUR € 88,000

1. GOLD TWEET - Has been aimed at this Listed race instead of a Group II at Auteuil on Sunday in his preparation for Group I commitments (Grand Steeple-Chase de Paris). Class act who finished 3rd in a 4400m Group III chase at Auteuil on his return (17 March)

2. LE PHILOSOPHE - Versatile jumper with references over fences and hurdles. Best watched for now, though, having been soundly beaten in a 3900m Group III at Autueil on his reappearance on 24 March

3. CIRANO DE PAIL - Hard-knocking veteran handicapper with sound references in this category and in this grade - seldom finishes far off the mark, confirmed by his last start (5th) over 4100m at Pau on 4 February. Others preferred

4. GENTLEMAN D'ATHON - Absent since finishing 10th in a 4300m Group III Quinte+ handicap at Auteuil on 29 April 2023 and is making his first start for trainer Hugo Mérien. Has run well fresh in the past

5. ITAL CONTI - Confirmed the improvement/encouragement of his reappearance (3rd) with a last-start victory over course and distance on 25 March. Keep safe

6. GUARANA - Rapidly improving, lightly raced mare who reeled off a hat-trick of wins in her last three starts of 2023 - including both of her Compiègne appearances. Absent since her 3600m Auteuil success on 2 December

7. INSTAR DE REVE - A model of consistency in both the hurdles and steeplechase categories. Won a 3800m handicap chase on this course in his last start on 8 Aril and ought to remain competitive under a 5,5kg penalty

8. BOJAK - Consistent hurdler, albeit at a lower level, but has yet to win in this sphere (won twice on the flat). Would have improved after finishing a creditable 6th on his reappearance over 3800m at this venue on 25 March

9. ANGE PITOU - Promising, lightly raced hurdler with sound references/form credentials, including a creditable last-start 5th in a Listed race at Cagnes over 4300m on 7 January

10. PARI D'AMIS - Confirmed the promise of her debut 2nd at La Teste-de-Buch with a wide-margin success in her next/last start over 3550m at Fontainebleau last Friday (19 April). Not taken lightly

Summary: Classy top-weight GOLD TWEET (1) is a genuine Group I Paris Grand-Steeple Chase contender but also boasts sound references over hurdles, so could be worth siding with in this Listed race. GUARANA (6), unbeaten in two starts on this course, won a 3600m Listed race at this venue last year and looks the type to progress this season. She could pose a threat if ready to go on her reappearance, while last-start steeplechase winner INSTAR DE REVE (7) also has legitimate claims on his return to the hurdles category. Maturing ITAL CONTI (5) and the unexposed PARI D'AMIS (10) complete the shortlist.

SELECTIONS

GOLD TWEET (1) - GUARANA (6) - INSTAR DE REVE (7) - ITAL CONTI (5)

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C5 - PRIX DU GRAND MARECHAL - 3900m (a2m1/2) - TURF - Class 2 Race - Steeple Chase - EUR € 59,000

1. MADAME DE LAMBALLE - Consistent mare with references in both the hurdles and steeplechase categories. Wasn't disgraced when finishing 4th in a 3900m handicap hurdle at La Teste-de-Buch on 10 April. Has legitimate claims back over fences

2. MILANNE - Sparingly raced but abundantly talented seven-year-old mare. Confirmed the promise of her debut 2nd over hurdles by winning all four subsequent outings in the steeplechase category - the latest over 3850m at Fontainebleau on 29 March

3. LA CHENEVIERE - Consistent performer with sound references/form credentials over hurdles at a high level - lost her form in consecutive Group races late last year. Absent since finishing 7th in a 4300m Group II hurdle at Auteuil on 2 December but respected

4. ISALINE DE CHANDOU - Returned to form on her reappearance at Le Lion d'Angers with an encouraging/reassuring 2nd over 3900m on 31 March. Not taken lightly

5. SAGRADAME - Hampered by a faller at the last hurdle when finishing 5th in a 3600m handicap hurdle at Auteuil on 6 April. Shouldn't be underestimated on her return to the steeplechase category

6. BEST TIDINGS - Was pulled up on her reappearance at Nort-sur-Erdre on 14 April following an 11-month absence. Best watched for now

Summary: MILANNE (2) has won all four appearances in the steeplechase category and has been more impressive with each outing, so is good value to preserve her invincibility over fences, She will, however, have to thwart the likely challenge of returning LA CHENEVIERE (3), who boasts two Group success over hurdles and whose means are undeniable. SAGRADAME (5) was unlucky not to have achieved a better finishing position over hurdles at Auteuil last time but showed enough on that occasion to warrant respect on her return to this sphere. Of the rest, ISALINE DE CHANDOU (4) appeals most.

SELECTIONS

MILANNE (2) - LA CHENEVIERE (3) - SAGRADAME (5) - ISALINE DE CHANDOU (4)

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C6 - PRIX HOPPER - 3900m (a2m1/2) - TURF - Gr3 Race - Steeple Chase - EUR € 150,000

- 1. KASSEL ALLEN** - Versatile jumper with particularly sound references in the steeplechase category - won the Listed Grand Steeple Chase for four-year-olds at Cagnes in January. Showed his form/well-being by finishing 2nd in a 3800m hurdle here on 3 April
- 2. DIYASHAL** - Has won twice in this sphere from as many outings, both at this venue over 3450m. Caught the eye on his reappearance (4th) in a 3600m hurdles race at Auteuil on 6 April
- 3. KILOMETRE ILLIMITE** - Has won and finished 2nd in both the hurdles and steeplechase categories - boasts a 3450m victory over fences on this course (30 November). Shouldn't be hastily condemned after falling on his reappearance at Auteuil (4400m) on 31 March
- 4. ZARFLIGHT** - Showed promise in four starts over hurdles but has been even more impressive in winning both steeplechase outings, at Compiègne each time. Won a Class 1 conditions race here over 3900m on 25 March - exciting prospect
- 5. GAME OF STORM** - Capable jumper over hurdles and fences - confirmed as much by finishing 2nd to KILOMETRE ILLIMITE (3) over 3450m on this course last year (30 November). Reverts to steeplechase after finishing 8th in a Group II hurdle at Auteuil on 17 March
- 6. KAZADOR DE KERSER** - Made a winning reappearance over hurdles at Pau in January and followed up last time on his steeplechase debut over 3700m at Angers on 23 March. Unknown quantity
- 7. JUDEROSE** - Fell when on his way to victory in a 3450m handicap chase at this venue but failed to redeem himself when pulled up in 3850m handicap chase on 3 April. Has a few questions to answer - for another day
- 8. WORTH A TEAM** - Returned to form with an encouraging/reassuring 2nd in a hurdles race over course and distance on 5 March. Dark horse
- 9. DSCHINGIS LOVE** - Versatile filly but has achieved her best references (two wins) over hurdles - won on debut on the flat. Hasn't been seen since finishing 8th in a 3600m Group II chase at Auteuil on 11 November
- 10. HOLETOWN** - Last-start winner of a 3850m handicap chase on this course earlier in the month (3 April). Penalised 3kg for that victory and is stepping up in class

Summary: As a descendant (grandson) of champion Karly Flight, ZARFLIGHT (4) has done as he was bred to do by winning both outings in steeplechase races this year and has impressed in doing so. He looks an exciting prospect likely to cope with this step up in class on his way to bigger and better things. DIYASHAL (2) is also unbeaten in this category and could challenge the selection, with improvement expected back over fences after an encouraging reappearance (4th) in a hurdles race. Versatile and consistent KASSEL ALLEN (1), who showed his form and well-being by finishing 2nd over hurdles on this course recently, and KILOMETRE ILLIMITE (3), a faller on his reappearance at Auteuil, aren't without a chance either. Good race!

SELECTIONS

ZARFLIGHT (4) - DIYASHAL (2) - KASSEL ALLEN (1) - KILOMETRE ILLIMITE (3)

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C7 - PRIX LA BATE - 3600m (a2m1/4) - TURF - Handicap - Hurdles - EUR € 55,000

- 1. HOKUSAI VALLIS** - Has regained momentum after three comeback outings and confirmed as much by finishing 2nd in the benchmark race over 3800m on this course on 3 April. Candidate for success
- 2. HEDENN BIHOUE** - Caught the eye when finishing a commendable 5th in a 3800m Quinte+ handicap on this course on 8 April. Dark horse
- 3. APAULSTAR** - Consistent handicap hurdler with proven references at a higher level and solid form credentials, including a last-start 6th in a stronger race/field over 3900m at Auteuil in a handicap hurdle on 11 April. Keep safe
- 4. TONERRE DU TEMPS** - Finished an encouraging 3rd in a 3500m Quinte+ handicap hurdle at Cagnes in December and didn't go unnoticed when 5th in the benchmark race on this course over 3800m on 3 April
- 5. INZEO DU GOUET** - Versatile jumper with sound references over hurdles and fences, including recent victories in both categories. Claimed after his hurdles success at Fontainebleau in February before winning a 3500m chase at Auteuil last time (24 March)
- 6. JAIPALETEMPS** - Has won back-to-back steeplechase claimers recently, the latest at Auteuil on 11 April. Not without a chance back over hurdles into a handicap
- 7. ILUMINE PRECIEUSE** - Capable, lightly raced mare with sound references/form credentials, although did disappoint when only 13th in a 3800m handicap hurdle on this course on 3 April
- 8. HALITE** - Inconsistent hurdler with sound references - seldom far off the mark on a going day. Could only finish 8th over 3800m in a handicap hurdle on this course on 3 April
- 9. HENRY BRULARD** - Consistent veteran handicapper hurdler with sound references and solid form credentials, including a 2nd over course and distance in his penultimate start. Finished 4th in a 3800m handicap hurdle at this venue last time (3 April)
- 10. FORZA** - Inconsistent veteran hurdler with sound references - seldom far off the mark on a going day. Finished 7th in both starts this year in the steeplechase category, the latest at Auteuil over 3500m on 24 March
- 11. RIM FIRE** - Capable veteran handicapper on his day but has been off the boil for some time now. Should improve after finishing 8th in a 3800m handicap hurdle on this course on his reappearance (3 April)
- 12. I AM NO RISK** - Has failed to confirm his early promise in either comeback appearance - finished 10th in a 3800m handicap hurdle here on 8 April. Best watched for now
- 13. SPEEDFUL** - Made only four appearances last year, three of them in hurdles races - showed little in each of those outings so is hard to recommend. Finished a modest 7th over 3800m at Fontainebleau on 5 December
- 14. QUICK DADDY** - Consistent and versatile handicapper with sound references/form credentials, including a last-start 2nd over 3900m in a handicap hurdle at Auteuil on 11 April. Keep safe
- 15. EMPIRE STORY** - Failed to confirm the improvement of his previous outing (3rd) when only 9th over 3800m on this course on 8 April. Best watched for now

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Summary: Consistent HOKUSAI VALLIS (1) has struck up a good rapport with Johnny Charron, under whom he finished 2nd in the benchmark race over this track and trip last time, so looks good value to give weight and a beating to his rivals in this handicap hurdle. Versatile INZEO DU GOUET (5), at the top of his game after consecutive hurdle and steeplechase victories (the latest over fences), is also a candidate for success and will keep the selection honest. TONERRE DU TEMPS (4), reliable veteran HENRY BRULARD (9) and hard-knocking handicapper APAULSTAR (3) are competitive for the places.

SELECTIONS

HOKUSAI VALLIS (1) - INZEO DU GOUET (5) - TONERRE DU TEMPS (4) - HENRY BRULARD (9)

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C8 - PRIX DE CASTETS - 3600m (a2m1/4) - TURF - Divided Handicap - Hurdles - EUR € 62,000

1. **TRIOMPHE DE MAINE** - Moderate form so far and was 8th last time out in a Conditions race at Fontainebleau over 3550m on 26 October. Others are much preferred
2. **NUPSALA NOLIMIT** - Unreliable and was well beaten last time out in a handicap hurdle at Auteuil over 360m on 24 March. Capable of better and is not out of it
3. **KIRSEINEKO** - Unreliable but did run well when runner-up last time out in a Conditions race at Le Lion-d'Angers over 3700m on 31 March. Not out of it
4. **MAZARIN DU BERLAIS** - Yet to win a race but was a good runner-up last time out in a handicap hurdle at Auteuil over 3600m on 24 March. Can go one better this time
5. **ELIITE** - His only win was a claimer last year and was 6th last time out in a handicap hurdle at Auteuil over 3600m on 24 March. Capable of better and can fight out the finish
6. **COLWINSTON** - Showed good improvement when third last time out in a Conditions hurdle at Senonnes-Pouancé over 3600m on 23 March. Can contest the finish again
7. **LENEL** - Has done best in claimers and was runner last time out in that division at Auteuil over 3500m on 11 April. Place chance
8. **LOI D'AMOUR** - Showed some improvement when 6th last time out in a Conditions race at this course over 3400m on 25 March. Nore is needed to win
9. **PETIT DRAGON** - Showed some improvement when 5th last time out in a Conditions race at Fontainebleau over 3550m on 29 March. Needs to find a few lengths to win
10. **GRAINE DE BEAUTE** - Disappointing form so far and was 8th last time out in a Conditions hurdle at Fontainebleau over 3550m on 29 March. Others are preferred
11. **GOLD CURTAIN** - Showed some improvement when 6th last time out in a Conditions hurdle at Fontainebleau over 3550m on 29 March. Could be the surprise package first time in a handicap
12. **DEMON DU BERLAIS** - Holding form well and was third last time out in a handicap hurdle at Toulouse over 3500m on 8 April. Place chance
13. **MON EMPEROR** - Unreliable of late but was not disgraced when third last time out in a handicap hurdle at Auteuil over 3600m on 24 March. Capable of making the frame again
14. **PROMICEA** - Yet to win a race but was not disgraced when third last time out in a claimer at Auteuil over 3500m on 11 April. Might play a minor role
15. **SOLOMON SEAL** - Yet to win but did show improvement when 5th last time out in a Conditions chase at Wissembourg over 3400m on 14 April. Others are preferred
16. **KANSAS DU SEUIL** - Unreliable but did not run badly when third last time out in a Claimer at this course over 3400m on 25 March. Could play a minor role
17. **ALGAJUST** - Disappointing form of late and was 8th last time out in a claimer at Auteuil over 3500m on 11 April. Others are much preferred

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18. UNE DAVRILL - Has not shown much so far and was 7th last time out in a handicap hurdle at Auteuil over 3600m on 24 March. More is needed to win

Summary: MAZARIN DU BERLAIS (4) has established himself in handicaps and boasts sound references/form credentials over hurdles, which include a good 2nd in a similar course-and-distance race last time. He should be rewarded with a win soon. COLWINSTON (6), has done well in two of three starts and should be a threat. ELIITE (5) acquitted himself well in consecutive Quinte+ handicaps over this track and trip (finished 6th on both occasions), so will appreciate this type of lucky last race. NUPSALA NOLIMIT (2) is unreliable and is not out of it.

SELECTIONS

MAZARIN DU BERLAIS (4) - COLWINSTON (6) - ELIITE (5) - NUPSALA NOLIMIT (2)