

SUNDAY, 05/01/25

R1 VINCENNES [L-H]

C1 - PRIX GELINOTTE - 2175m (a1m1/4) - Gr2 Race - Harness - EUR € 120,000

- 1. GRACE BREED** - Italian trotter with sound references at a higher level, including a last-start 4th in the Group I Gran Premio Allevatori Femmine Masaf over 2100m on 14 December. Place chance
- 2. MIRATISSIME** - Promising filly with sound/consistent form references, albeit at a lower level. Didn't go unnoticed when finishing 5th at this venue over 2850m on 25 December
- 3. MADNESS** - Progressive trotter with untapped potential but the form and experience to acquit herself competitively - finished 3rd over 2200m at this venue on 23 November. Not taken lightly
- 4. MAGIC AMERICA** - Progressive filly, unbeaten in 3 starts - each victory more impressive than the last. Completed the hat-trick here over 2700m on 4 December and could make sufficient progress to remain undefeated - this is her acid test!
- 5. MASINA DE TILLARD** - Lost her unbeaten record last time (start #4) in a 2700m Group II at this venue last month - missed the start that day but shouldn't be hastily condemned for that 15 December failure. Keep safe
- 6. GEILES LEBEN HOME** - Consistent Italian filly with solid form references/credentials, including a last-start 3rd in a 2100m Group I at Milan on 14 December. Not taken lightly
- 7. MONEGASQUE** - Delicate filly with undeniable means and sound references/form credentials, including a last-start 3rd in a Group II at this venue over 2700m on 15 December. Dark horse
- 8. MISTY GREEN** - Raced offensively in the 2700m Group II Prix Une de Mai on 15 December at this venue and gamely stuck to her task, finishing a creditable 6th. Respected over this shorter distance
- 9. MARGAUX DES ARRIS** - Confirmed the form and improvement of her previous start (course-and-distance victory) with a career-best 2nd over 2700m in a Group II event at this venue on 15 December. Attractive outsider
- 10. MORALITY** - Complicated and seldom far from a fault but undeniably talented filly - usually acquits herself well when remaining wise. Finished 4th in a 2700m Group II on 15 December. Dark horse
- 11. MASSIVE ATTACK** - Delicate filly with undeniable means and sound references/form credentials but seldom far from a fault these days. Disqualified in consecutive recent starts, the latest in a 2700m Group II on 15 December - a question of wisdom
- 12. MELODY COOL** - Blotted her copybook in a 2700m Group II at this venue on 15 December. Capable of better but best watched for now
- 13. MELBA DU GERS** - Finished well to win a recent 2850m harness race on this course last month (25 December). Will remain competitive, even over this shorter distance

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14. MONICA JISCE - Delicate debut winner who snapped a run of 3 consecutive disqualifications by winning the Group II Prix Une de Mai on this course over 2700m on 15 December. Need only avoid disqualification to fight for victory again

15. GOLDIE HOME - Classy Italian filly with solid references/form credentials at the highest level, including a last-start 2nd in the Group I Gran Premio Allevatori Femmine Masaf over 2100m on 14 December. Keep safe

Summary: Undefeated MAGIC AMERICA (4) faces her toughest test but it could pay to follow her progress. MONICA JISCE (14), winner of the Group II Prix Une de Mai, MISTY GREEN (8) and MASINA DE TILLARD (5), who shouldn't be hastily condemned for her first defeat (failure) last time, have the form and experience to make life difficult for the selection. Italian filly GOLDIE HOME (15) and last-start winner MELBA DU GERS (13) complete the shortlist.

SELECTIONS

MAGIC AMERICA (4) - MONICA JISCE (14) - MISTY GREEN (8) - MASINA DE TILLARD (5)

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C2 - PRIX D'ETREPAGNY - 2700m (a1m1/2) - Class C Race - Harness - EUR € 46,000

- 1. EGUADOR** - Soundly beaten (11th) in this shoe-fitting over 2850m on 4 December at this venue. Best watched for now
- 2. EMIRO CLEMAR** - Lost his way last year and isn't likely to trouble the judge on the evidence of recent displays. Soundly beaten (11th) in a Quinte+ event over track and trip on 25 December
- 3. ELAND** - Complicated trotter, seldom far from a fault although usually acquits himself competitively when applied/remaining wise - confirmed as much by finishing 2nd in a Quinte+ over track and trip on 25 December. Confirmation required
- 4. THE LION** - Consistent Scandinavian trotter confirmed under these conditions/in this configuration with sound form references, including a last-start 3rd in a course-and-distance Quinte+ event on 25 December. Not taken lightly
- 5. ERNESTO ROC** - Complicated trotter with sound references, though seldom far from a fault. Didn't go unnoticed when finishing 8th in a 2850m harness event on 22 November - dark horse
- 6. CAVIAR FROM MINE** - Last-start winner (shod) over 2140m at Romme on 16 December. Not taken lightly in his first start on French soil with all 4 shoes removed
- 7. NELSON GREENWOOD** - Sparked improvement when finishing 4th over 2600m at Wolvega on 20 December. More needed but it's encouraging that his shoes are removed
- 8. EXPRESS D'ARC** - Back to his best recently, winning consecutive Vincennes appearances under these/similar conditions - the latest in a course-and-distance Quinte+ event on 25 December. The hat-trick beckons
- 9. KWARTZ SIBEY** - Honest hard-knocker who finished 2nd on this course over 2850m last month. Shouldn't be hastily condemned for a disappointing recent performance (8th) over track and trip on 29 December, especially with Mathieu Mottier engaged
- 10. KEVISAN** - Returned to form with a reassuring 2nd in this shoe-fitting on 29 December in a similar course-and-distance event. Candidate for success
- 11. KAZAR** - Consistent hard-knocker who won a course-and-distance race in late October. Shouldn't be hastily condemned for a disappointing recent performance (7th) over track and trip on 8 December - has the means to set the record straight
- 12. UNDERGROUND ARTIST** - Consistent Scandinavian trotter confirmed under these conditions and in this unshod configuration with references at a higher level. Respected on French soil with trainer Robert Bergh enlisting the services of Eric Raffin - keep safe
- 13. KAISER** - Consistent performer with sound references but seldom far from a fault - usually acquits himself competitively when applied/remaining wise. Shouldn't be hastily condemned for his recent disqualification here (2700m) on 8 December
- 14. KARMA** - Versatile trotter with undeniable means but out of sorts at present - disqualified twice and unplaced twice in his last 4 appearances. Finished 9th (shod) over 3000m at Nantes on 6 November - capable of better with his shoes removed
- 15. KILL BILL PIYA** - Consistent hard-knocker with sound references/form credentials, albeit at a slightly lower level - finished a good 2nd over 2850m at Lyon-Parilly in this shoeing configuration on 16 November. For lovers of outsiders

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Summary: EXPRESS D'ARC (8) has looked better than ever recently, winning back-to-back starts at this venue. He's taken to continue his momentum by completing his hat-trick at the expense of KEVISAN (10), who leads the opposition ahead of ELAND (3), runner-up to the selection here on Christmas Day, and KAZAR (11). With Eric Raffin at the helm, UNDERGROUND ARTIST (12) isn't taken lightly in his first start on French soil.

SELECTIONS

EXPRESS D'ARC (8) - KEVISAN (10) - ELAND (3) - KAZAR (11)

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C3 - PRIX D'ENGHIEN - 2700m (a1m1/2) - Gr3 Race - Mounted - EUR € 90,000

1. LEONCE DU CLOS - Consistent colt with sound references/form credentials, albeit at a lower level - finished 5th at this venue over 2175m in this shoeing configuration on 28 December. Improvement needed

2. LUZ FATALE - Complicated filly with undeniable means, though seldom far from a fault - disqualified in consecutive recent outings, the latest in a course-and-distance Group I event on 15 December. For another day

3. LISBONNE DRY - Delicate filly with undeniable means and references at the highest level, including a last-start 3rd in the Group I Prix de Vincennes over track and trip on 15 December. Unshod for the first time, she can fight for victory if remaining wise

4. LAMBADA DU GOUTIER - Runner-up in a 2450m Group I event at Caen in October so shouldn't be hastily condemned for a subsequent failure (disqualification) in a course-and-distance Group II event on 30 October. Not taken lightly on her reappearance

5. LONG ISLAND - Versatile filly with the form and experience in both trotting categories to play a leading role. Did well to finish 5th in consecutive Group races recently, the latest in a course-and-distance Group I event on 15 December - on the shortlist

6. LUCAS - Experienced colt with sound references/form credentials under the saddle, including a course-and-distance 3rd in a Group III race on 21 November. Shouldn't be hastily condemned for finishing 8th in a Group I race on 15 December

7. LOOPING DAY - Consistent hard-knocker with sound references/form credentials, including a last-start 4th in a course-and-distance Group III event on 25 December. Attractive outsider

8. LOVISSIME - Versatile filly with sound references/form credentials in both trotting categories but most efficient under the saddle. Didn't go unnoticed (7th) in a course-and-distance Group I mounted race on 15 December- keep safe

9. LIONHEART - Prolific colt with an impressive record and room for improvement. Won 7 of 8 starts before his disqualification in the course-and-distance Group I Prix de Vincennes on 15 December - deserves another chance and could make amends

10. LUCKY SIBEY - Bounced back to form with a reassuring 4th in the course-and-distance Group I Prix de Vincennes on 15 December. Will be competitive with a repeat of that performance and is open to improvement racing unshod for the first time

11. LITTLE ORELIE - Classy filly with sound references/form credentials - she is the highest earner in the field. Disqualified in the Group I Prix de Vincennes over track and trip on 15 December but could well redeem herself, especially with shoes removed

Summary: Prolific LIONHEART (9) fluffed his lines recently in the Group I Prix de Vincennes but retains undeniable means and could redeem himself. LITTLE ORELIE (11) fits a similar profile and shouldn't be hastily condemned either for her recent failure (disqualification). LISBONNE DRY (3), LONG ISLAND (5), LUCKY SIBEY (10) and LOVISSIME (8) have the form and experience to challenge for a spot on the podium.

SELECTIONS

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LIONHEART (9) - LITTLE ORELIE (11) - LISBONNE DRY (3) - LONG ISLAND (5)

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C4 - PRIX DE LILLE - 2100m (a1m1/4) - Class A Race - Harness - EUR € 90,000

- 1. HAPPY DANICA** - Last-start winner over 2925m at Cagnes-sur-Mer on 14 December. Confirmed under these conditions/this shoe-fitting
- 2. EXTREME (DEN)** - Well-performed veteran trotter regaining momentum recently after enduring soundness issues. Didn't go unnoticed (4th) in a 1600m Charlottenlund harness event on 10 November - will appeal to lovers of outsiders
- 3. HEDIC GEMA** - Reliable veteran hard-knocker with undeniable means - the form and experience to play a leading role. Finished 3rd over 2925m at Cagnes in a 2925m Group III event on 21 December
- 4. HIDALGO DES NOES** - Bounced back to form with a reassuring 3rd in a 2175m Group III harness event on 11 December. Not taken lightly
- 5. CASH BANK BIGI** - Experienced Italian mare, a regular at this level although out of sorts at present - unplaced (7th) in a 2850m Quinte+ at this venue on 15 December. For another day
- 6. GRECO BELLO** - Ultra-consistent performer at the peak of his powers - in good form and physical condition. Runner-up over 2700m at this venue on 21 December - keep safe
- 7. JACK TONIC** - Has held his own at a high level but faces his elders for the first time. Shouldnt be hastily condemned for his failure (disqualification) in a 2700m Group I race here on 22 December - dark horse
- 8. HORCHESTRO** - Honest hard-knocker with sound references and solid form credentials, including a last-start 3rd at Lyon-Parilly over 2850m on 1 December. Should have a role to play
- 9. EUREKA VRIE** - Experienced hard-knocker with sound references (2 victoires) at this level. Didn't go unnoticed when finishing 7th in a competitive 2700m event here on 21 December - attractive outsider
- 10. HANDY BOURBON** - Former Group II winner of the Prix Jean Gauvreau but struggling to regain his best level - soundly beaten (14th) over 2800m at Pontchâteau on 22 December
- 11. ESTEBAN JIEL** - Honest hard-knocker who finished a reassuring 3rd on this course over 2700m on 21 December. More needed
- 12. IZNOGOUD AM** - Runner-up in a 2022 Group I on this course but far from his best level these days. Soundly beaten (9th) over track and trip on 14 December - others preferred
- 13. BENGAN** - Runner-up in the Group III Prix de Chenonceaux in November before a disappointing subsequent performance (9th), albeit at Group I level over 2700m at this venue on 22 December. Winning chance with Jean-Michel Bazire at the helm
- 14. I CAN DREAM** - Experienced veteran mare with sound references, though most effective without her irons (unshod). Finished 9th in a 2850m harness event here on 28 December - best watched for now
- 15. INDY ROCK** - Not immune to a fault but his competitiveness at this level is beyond doubt. Disqualified at Solvalla over 2140m on 14 November but is the class horse in the race - sets the standard and needs only to remain wise to fight for victory

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Summary: INDY ROCK (15) enjoyed a stellar season in Sweden last year, competing brilliantly at the highest level. With an error-free trip, he ought to set the record straight and is good value to emerge victorious. Stablemate BENGAN (13) has also proven his competitiveness against the best in France, particularly at Vincennes. With Jean-Michel Bazire at the helm, he is another serious candidate for race honours. Carefully prepared for this favourable entry, HORCHESTRO (8) should make his presence felt too. Hard-knockers HEDIC GEMA (3), HAPPY DANICA (1) and GRECO BELLO (6) are others with legitimate podium aspirations.

SELECTIONS

INDY ROCK (15) - BENGAN (13) - HORCHESTRO (8) - HEDIC GEMA (3)

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C5 - PRIX CHARLES TIERCELIN - 2700m (a1m1/2) - Gr2 Race - Harness - EUR € 120,000

1. LIGHT MY FIRE - Unreliable colt but isn't devoid of ability. Showed his form and well-being by finishing 3rd in a course-and-distance Group III race on 25 December

2. LA JOYEUSE WICZ - Experienced but inconsistent filly with undeniable means/sound references (3rd in a course-and-distance Group II on 17 November). Unplaced in both subsequent starts, the latest (6th) in 2700m Group I mounted race on 15 December

3. LONDON - Delicate but usually acquits herself competitively when applied/remaining wise - confirmed as much by finishing 2nd in her last 3 completed starts, twice at Group II level (runner-up in a 2175m Group II here on 25 October). Dark horse

4. L'AMOURPOURLANCA - Classy Scandinavian trotter who was soundly beaten (9th) in a 2100m Group I at this venue on 8 December. Others preferred

5. LITTLE BROWN - Complicated colt but has undeniable means and sound references/form credentials at this level. Shouldn't be hastily condemned for finishing 8th in a 2100m Group I at this venue on 8 December

6. LARGO DE CASTELLE - Experienced colt with undeniable means and sound references/form credentials, including a last-start 2nd here over 2850m in a Group III event on 1 December. Not taken lightly

7. LUCKY JACKSON - Versatile but delicate colt with references at a high level in both trotting codes - usually acquits himself competitively when applied/remaining wise. Respected back in the harness category despite his disqualification under the saddle in a 2700m Group I mounted race on 15 December

8. LOULOU DE MYE - Honest hard-knocker with the form and experience at this level to play a leading role in a race like this, especially in this configuration (unshod for the first time). Finished a creditable 5th in a 2100m Group I race here on 8 December

9. LOTTA BOURBON - Consistent hard-knocker with the form and experience to make her presence felt. Didn't go unnoticed when finishing 6th in a 2100m Group I event at this venue on 8 December - respected with all 4 shoes removed for the first time

10. LUCIANO MENUET - Enigmatic trotter with undoubted ability and sound references/form credentials at Group level. Shouldn't be hastily condemned for his failure (disqualification) in a 2100m Group I event here on 8 December - question of wisdom

11. LOMBOK JIEL - Exciting colt with impressive references/form credentials at this level in the harness category. Had legitimate excuses for his recent failure (disqualification) in a 2100m Group I event at this venue on 8 December - worth another chance

12. FRANK GIO - Well-traveled high-class performer with references at the highest level, including a last-start 2nd at this venue in the Group I Prix Ready Cash over 2100m on 8 December. Sets the standard

Summary: FRANK GIO (12) was narrowly headed in a Group 1 last time out and a repeat of this effort shall make him hard to beat in this line-up. The highly promising LOMBOK JIEL was unlucky last time out and is expected to make amends. LOULOU DE MYE (8) a good reliable performer who has every chance for the podium. LUCKY JACKSON (7) is back in a harness contest without shoes and must be closely monitored.

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SELECTIONS

FRANK GIO (12) - LOMBOK JIEL (11) - LOULOU DE MYE (8) - LUCKY JACKSON (7)

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C6 - PRIX DE SALON DE PROVENCE - 2850m (a2m) - Class D Race - Harness - EUR € 46,000

1. ICE HAUFOR - Experienced veteran mare with sound references at this level but currently out of sorts - soundly beaten (15th) at this venue over 2100m on 31 December. Has no references in this configuration but is respected with Yoann Lebourgeois

2. IGGY DU LOISIR - Unreliable veteran, though seldom finishes far off the mark on a going day. Unplaced (9th) in a course-and-distance event on 21 December so best watched for now

3. INCA - Last-start winner in this shoe-fitting over 2750m at Cabourg on 17 December. Will appeal to lovers of outsiders

4. IN LOVE DE JIEL - Honest hard-knocker with sound references at this level in this (barefoot) configuration, including a last-start 2nd in a 2600m harness race at Meslay on 19 December. Attractive outsider

5. ISLAND LOVE - Consistent hard-knocker with sound references/form credentials under these conditions and in this configuration, including a last-start 4th in a course-and-distance harness event on 25 November. Keep safe

6. INITIALE CASTELETS - Versatile trotter with references in both categories - seldom finishes far off the mark when avoiding disqualification. Best watched for now after her last-start fault here over 2700m in a mounted race on 24 September

7. INTELLO DE CHENU - Complicated trotter disqualified in 6 of his last 8 appearances, the latest over 2150m at Cagnes on 21 December. For another day

8. IQUEM D'AMER - At the top of his game after 5 consecutive victories in this shoeing configuration - the latest over 2600m at Meslay on 19 December. Hard to oppose in current mood

9. IDOLA - Ended a run of 4 consecutive disqualifications in the harness category with 3 consecutive victories under the saddle, the latest in this shoeing configuration over 2850m at Mauquenchy on 13 November. Respected back under harness

10. IS MAGIC HAUFOR - Bounced back to form by winning a 2700m harness race on this course on 20 December. Remains competitive for the leading positions

11. IMOKO JIBELAU - Well-beaten 11th (shod) in a 2700m harness race at this venue on 15 December but an entirely different proposition in this unshod configuration. Barefoot with Jean-Michel Bazire at the helm, he's a candidate for success

Summary: A winner of his last five starts, IQUEM D'AMER (8) is an obvious pick in this race but he may have to raise his game once again as the opposition looks stiffer. Entrusted to Jean-Michel Bazire, IMOKO JIBELAU (11) has had this race on his agenda for some time and is a real threat. IS MAGIC HAUFOR (10) is back at the top of her game and has to be closely monitored. ISLAND LOVE (5) always runs well without hind shoes and is best to keep safe.

SELECTIONS

IQUEM D'AMER (8) - IMOKO JIBELAU (11) - IS MAGIC HAUFOR (10) - ISLAND LOVE (5)

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C7 - PRIX DU CALVADOS-CORNULIER RACES Q3 - 2850m (a2m) - Gr2 Race - Mounted - EUR € 120,000

- 1. JASMINE DE VAU** - Consistent hard-knocker with sound references/form credentials, including a remarkable last-start 3rd in the Group I Prix Bilibili over 2700m on this course in her first mounted appearance on 15 December. Candidate for success
- 2. BEAT GENERATION** - Experienced trotter under the saddle with better references in this unshod configuration. Finished 9th (shod) on this course in a 2700m Quinte+ harness race on 24 December - can do better under these conditions
- 3. INTOUCHABLE** - Runner-up to IDEALE DU CHENE (13) in the Group II Prix Jules Lemonnier over 2175m at this venue on 21 December in his first appearance under the saddle. Could have more to offer over this extended distance so must be respected
- 4. GAZELLE DE VAL** - Unstoppable under the saddle - won all 6 appearances in the mounted code, including consecutive recent outings on this course, the latest over 2175m on 7 December. May well preserve her 100% record in this code, even at this level
- 5. HALFA** - Consistent veteran hard-knocker with sound references/form credentials under these conditions in mounted races, including a last-start 2nd in a course-and-distance event on 18 December. Should give another competitive account
- 6. HARLEY GEMA** - Well-performed trotter with sound references/form credentials (13 wins from 52 starts), albeit in harness races - the latest (4th) in a course-and-distance Group III event on 15 December. Respected in her first start under the saddle
- 7. INES DES RIOULTS** - Honest hard-knocker with sound references under the saddle in this configuration, including a last-start Group III 6th at this venue on 11 December. Minor role
- 8. GRACE DU DIGEON** - Versatile veteran mare with impressive form references in both trotting categories, including a course-and-distance 3rd in a Group III mounted race on 11 October in her last appearances under the saddle. Attractive outsider
- 9. VAPRIO** - Veteran Italian trotter with 28 wins from 120 appearances. Runner-up in over 1600m at Milan on 14 December
- 10. INA DU RIB** - This experienced trotter is a specialist under the saddle -confirmed as much with a reassuring 5th on this course in a 2175m Group III mounted race on 21 December. Not taken lightly
- 11. EDITION GEMA** - Classy veteran mare and multiple Group winner in the mounted code - scored at the highest level over 3000m on this track last year. Shouldn't be hastily condemned for finishing 7th in a 2175m Group III here on 21 December
- 12. HIRONDELLE DU RIB** - Battle-hardened veteran mare with nothing to prove in the mounted code at this level - finished 6th in 3 consecutive starts under the saddle in Group III races, the latest over 2175m at this venue on 21 December. Not taken lightly
- 13. IDEALE DU CHENE** - High-class trotter whose references include victories in her last 3 appearances under the saddle - won 2200m Group I in March last year and consecutive Group II races here recently, the latest over 2175m on 21 December. Keep safe

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Summary: GAZELLE DE VAL (4) is imperious under the saddle, winning all 6 appearances in the mounted category. She deserves a shot at this level and is good value to preserve her 100% record in this specialty. JASMINE DE VAU (1) and INTOUCHABLE (3), both of whom made pleasing introductions in the mounted code, and HALFA (5), with the form and experience in this category, are competitive for the leading places, and they will expose any chinks in the armour of the selection. IDEALE DU CHENE (13) and INA DU RIB (10) appeal most of the remainder.

SELECTIONS

GAZELLE DE VAL (4) - JASMINE DE VAU (1) - INTOUCHABLE (3) - HALFA (5)

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C8 - PRIX DE LIGNIERES - 2850m (a2m) - Class D Race - Harness - EUR € 40,000

- 1. KUNZITE D'EM** - Defied market expectations when finishing an improved 3rd at long odds (75-1) in a course-and-distance contest on 17 November. Confirmation required
- 2. KAYA DU SAPTEL** - Rejuvenated mare in good form and physical condition with sound references/form credentials, including a last-start 4th on this course over 2700m on 18 December. Dark horse
- 3. KOSMOPOLITAINE** - Unreliable mare but not devoid of ability - finished 4th (barefoot) over 2100m at this venue in November so shouldn't be hastily condemned for her subsequent failure (10th) here over 2100m on 6 December. For lovers of outsiders
- 4. KAROLENE D'ETANG** - Delicate trotter with undeniable means - seldom far from a fault, though usually acquits herself competitively when applied/avoiding disqualification. Runner-up in a 2700m race at this venue on 2 December
- 5. KATHLEEN D'ECOTAY** - Won her only start in this shoe-fitting, over 2100m at this venue in December 2023. Out of sorts recently, well beaten (12th) in a 2700m harness race here on 22 November but an attractive outsider nonetheless
- 6. KOH LANTA** - Experienced hard-knocker whose experience and improved recent form will stand her in good stead, especially with Benjamin Rochard at the helm again. Finished 3rd in consecutive recent Vincennes races, the latest on 18 December
- 7. KAMBRIA JOSSELYN** - Confirmed the form/improvement of her penultimate start (3rd over 2700m) by winning a course-and-distance event here on 10 December, both appearances in this unshod configuration. Winning chance without her irons again
- 8. KALISTA JIEL** - Versatile mare with references (wins) in both trotting codes but seldom far from a fault - disqualified in consecutive mounted races before finishing 8th in a 2175m harness race here on 14 December in this configuration. Must improve
- 9. KARMEN DE MONTCEAU** - Honest hard-knocker with sound references under these/similar conditions with this barefoot configuration. Soundly beaten (12th) on this course over 2100m on 6 December - best watched for now
- 10. KATYLAND** - Delicate mare with sound form references/credentials, though seldom far from faulting. Disqualified in consecutive recent starts here (the latest on 14 December) but shouldn't be hastily condemned - question of wisdom
- 11. KIWA BLEUE** - Unplaced in both comeback outings after an absence of 4 months - soundly beaten (14th) at this venue over 2100m on 6 December. Shouldn't be underestimated and a better showing is expected, especially under these conditions
- 12. KHALEESI D'ALESA** - Complicated mare with sound references/form credentials although seldom far from a fault these days - disqualified in consecutive Vincennes appearances before a reassuring 6th (shod) over 2150m at Enghien on 9 October. Outsider
- 13. KELLE STAR DI PAO** - Inconsistent but not devoid of ability - has references at this level in this barefoot configuration, including an Enghien 3rd over 2875m on 13 July. Absent since finishing 7th at Enghien over 2150m on 31 July
- 14. KISS ME BEJI** - Runner-up in 2 of her last 3 starts, the latest on this course over 2700m on 18 December, so wouldn't be winning out of turn. Candidate for success

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15. KARINA STEED - Unplaced (twice) and disqualified in 3 comeback appearances after a 3-month absence, though didn't go unnoticed when finishing 7th in a course-and-distance event on 29 November. Not taken lightly with all 4 shoes removed

Summary: A toss-up between the top 2 picks KAMBRIA JOSSELYN (7), fully unshod, and KISS ME BEJI (14), runner-up in consecutive recent outings. KAROLENE D'ETANG (4) and KARINA STEED (15) also have the means to play leading roles, while KIWA BLEUE (11) and Marc Sassier's duo of KOH LANTA (6) and KATYLAND (10) are competitive for the minor positions.

SELECTIONS

KAMBRIA JOSSELYN (7) - KISS ME BEJI (14) - KAROLENE D'ETANG (4) - KARINA STEED (15)

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C9 - PRIX DE GONTAUD - 2700m (a1m1/2) - Class D Race - Harness - EUR € 40,000

- 1. LUGANO DE LOU** - Experienced colt whose form and experience will stand him in good stead here, especially from a favourable starting position. Finished 6th in back-to-back Vincennes appearances recently, the latest (2175m) on 13 December - beware!
- 2. LATINOS DU NOYER** - Complicated colt disqualified in his last 4 starts, including 3 consecutive recent Vincennes appearances - the latest on 28 December over 2100m. Others preferred
- 3. LARABELLO DE LOU** - Delicate trotter with undeniable means - seldom far from a fault, though usually acquits himself competitively when remaining wise. Disqualified in consecutive recent starts (latest at this venue on 13 December), all or nothing
- 4. LOUSTIC D'YVEL** - Tricky customer but not devoid of ability - won here over 2200m last month so shouldn't be hastily condemned for a subsequent failure (disqualification) on 28 December, especially with all 4 shoes removed for the first time. Beware
- 5. LEZZO FIGHTER** - Promising trotter with undeniable means and scope for improvement - won 3 of his 4 starts before faulting behind the autostart in a 2100m event here on 7 December. Deserves another chance and is taken to set the record straight
- 6. LATINO PURA VIDA** - Unreliable colt at fault in 2 of his last 3 starts, the latest on this course over 2100m on 28 December. For another day
- 7. LOUSTIC DELAURIERE** - Experienced colt with sound references/form credentials, albeit at a lower level. Didn't go unnoticed when finishing 10th in a course-and-distance event on 18 December after a 3-month absence - open to improvement racing unshod
- 8. LUCKY LOVE** - Experienced colt with sound references at this level, albeit without success (12-start maiden). Didn't go unnoticed when finishing 6th over 2100m at this venue on 28 December
- 9. LENNON D'HERFRAIE** - Unexposed colt with undeniable means and room for improvement - shouldn't be hastily condemned for his failure (12th) in a 2850m Group III here on 1 December. Respected with all 4 shoes removed for the first time
- 10. LEBOSS D'HAVAROCHE** - Tricky customer undeniable means and sound references/form credentials but seldom far from a fault. Disqualified in consecutive recent starts here (latest on 18 December) but respected with Eric Raffin engaged and shoes removed
- 11. LUGANO** - Regaining momentum after a 5-month absence and finished a reassuring 4th here on 28 December over 2100m. More needed
- 12. LOVELY TRIP** - Complicated colt disqualified in 4 of his last 5 starts, including consecutive recent outings at this venue - the latest on 28 December over 2100m. Question of wisdom
- 13. L'AMIRAL GAGNANT** - Delicate but undeniably capable trotter with sound references/form credentials - never finished worse than 4th in his 6 completed races (10 appearances). Shouldn't be hastily condemned for his disqualification here on 28 December
- 14. LISTER VEDAQUAIS** - Weakened late after an unfavourable trip to finish unplaced (8th) in a course-and-distance event on 18 December but is better than that performance suggests. Could make amends with all 4 shoes removed for the first time - keep safe

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15. LUDO PAROYO - Progressive trotter with consistent form references/credentials, including a last-start 2nd at this venue over 2175m on 13 December. Not taken lightly

Summary: LEZZO FIGHTER (5) blotted his copybook when galloping behind the autostart last time but this looks a good opportunity for him to gain compensation. Barefoot rivals LISTER VEDAQUAIS (14), LEBOSS D'HAVAROCHE (10) and stablemate LENNON D'HERFRAIE (9), and LUDO PAROYO (15) are open to improvement in their lightened configurations, so they aren't taken lightly. LUGANO DE LOU (1) and LOUSTIC DELAURIERE (7) appeal most of the remainder.

SELECTIONS

LEZZO FIGHTER (5) - LISTER VEDAQUAIS (14) - LEBOSS D'HAVAROCHE (10) - LENNON D'HERFRAIE (9)