

SATURDAY, 21/12/24

C1 - PRIX D'ANDERNOS-LES-BAINS - 2175m (a1m1/4) - Class E Race - Harness - EUR € 35,000

1. **LAY UP** - 10th of 11, on comeback, in a 2100m Class E here a month ago. Front pads fitted this time but still not an obvious choice
2. **LOOK REBEL** - Won a brace before being sanctioned in a 2700m Class D here late-August. Has not been seen since but should at least hold his own
3. **LE TAJ MAHAL** - Tricky colt that ran 5th of 12 in a 2700m Class E at Le Croise-Laroche on 25 November. David Thomain in the bike this time and, while not a priority, should still not be written off
4. **LEGACY JIEL** - 6th of 12, a place behind LE TAJ MAHAL (3), in a 2700m Class E at Le Croise-Laroche on re-entry late last month. Races with pads for first time and must not be underestimated
5. **L'AMIRAL DU SAPTEL** - Quickly sanctioned in 5 December race of reference. Has evident ability however and will have a part to play if he gets off on the right foot
6. **LEONARDO DE LOU** - Runner-up in 2 before being sanctioned in a 2700m Class E here on 5 December. Left a good impression though and will be dangerous if he stays in stride
7. **LATHOS DE VIVOIN** - Useful type but failed to fire in a 2800m Chartres Class E 3.5 weeks ago, coming 4th of 6 finishers, and even with front pads fitted is unlikely to spring any surprises
8. **LUCIFER DU PONT** - Makes first appearance since winning a 2000m Saint-Galmier Class E 5 months ago and will need the outing
9. **LUC PAASLOO** - Opened his account at Le Croise-Laroche before faulting in a 2700m Class E at the same venue on 25 November. Takes on a better bunch this time though and others preferred
10. **LEADER MESLOIS** - 6th of 7 finishers in a 2700m Class E conditioner here on 5 December. Has significant promise and should take well to the shorter trip. Place chance
11. **LULLY DES IRIS** - Not without merit but has been disappointing recently, latterly sanctioned in 5 December race of reference, and must get his house in order
12. **LEOLIO** - 8th of 10 in a 2850m Class E over the short course on 27 November. Has done nothing noteworthy since returning from his break and will have little to offer
13. **LAGO DE PERVENCHE** - Good 3rd of 6 in a Class E over course and distance 3 weeks ago despite not having raced for 2.5 months. Will have progressed for the run and looks significantly more competitive this time around
14. **LEONARD DE VINCI** - Beaten only by a good horse in a 2700m Class E, on comeback here, a month ago. Has had time to come on and enjoys a realistic chance of getting that maiden monkey off his back
15. **LARGO DE JOUDES** - Steps up in class after running 7th of 14 in a 2100m claimer here 3.5 weeks ago and is out of his depth in this company

Summary: Runner-up in his first 3 starts, LEONARD DE VINCI (14) returned from his break last month only to run 2nd once more, but he will be fitted with front pads for the first time and can finally break his duck. Also in search of a maiden victory, LEONARDO DE LOU (6) showed his form despite being sanctioned here earlier in the month and has been reconfigured in his bid for redemption. LAGO DE PERVENCHE (13) left a decent impression on comeback here late-November and sports 4 pads this time. LEADER MESLOIS (10) should not be hastily-condemned for his recent performance here and can be backed with confidence.

SELECTIONS

LEONARD DE VINCI (14) - LEONARDO DE LOU (6) - LAGO DE PERVENCHE (13) - LEADER MESLOIS (10)

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C2 - PRIX DE LIMAY - 2700m (a1m1/2) - Class D Race - Mounted - EUR € 46,000

1. JOLIE DU CEBE - Back under the saddle after coming 4th of 11 in a 2100m harness Class E here 10 days ago and is unlikely to spring any surprises

2. MISS JAJA - Monte debutante that ran 4th to DAYTONA DI CECCO (12) in a 2875m Enghien harness Class D early-October. Has form over course and distance but looks an outsider this time

3. JIRELLITA - Going well when sanctioned in a Class D over course and distance 3 weeks ago, just like the time before. Sports a new configuration which may prove just the ticket. First 5

4. MANSKENSTOSEN - Very hard to fault at home in Sweden, most recently 2nd of 8 over 2140m in Solvalla, but has never produced the goods at Vincennes and is not about to start

5. JERIKA DE KERYANN - Very hard to fault for past 4 months, latterly runner-up to JILANZA DU MOULIN (10) in a 2200m Class E here 3.5 weeks ago. Has ground to make up though and not a priority

6. JAVA DU CHERISAY - 3rd of 11 finishers to JOYEUSE ENTREE (11) in a 2175m Class E here 10 days ago. Is clearly useful but would have better prospects in a less-exalted field

7. JUNE DE RODREY - Last of 7 on return from a break in a Class D over course and distance 3 weeks ago and appears to need another run

8. JUST ONE NIGHT - Quality mare making first appearance for new trainer not having raced since faulting in a 2200m Class D here last April. Shod to preference for the occasion and must not be underestimated

9. JASMINE DE JYR - Makes ridden debut after having finished last of 11 in a 2100m harness Class D here a fortnight ago. Sports pads for the occasion, has been entrusted to Eric Raffin, and must be taken seriously

10. JILANZA DU MOULIN - Made short work of a 2200m Class E here 3.5 weeks ago. Is a tough nut to crack when focused and has already won 4 times for Mathieu Mottier. Chance

11. JOYEUSE ENTREE - Convincing winner of a 2175m Class E here, first time under the saddle, 10 days ago. Returns with morale intact and a realistic chance of repeating

12. DAYTONA DI CECCO - Failed to confirm 111/1 Enghien victory when 9th of 14 in a 2100m harness Class C on 25 October. Hind shoes off for just 2nd start in the discipline and will be worth monitoring

13. JADE DU PARC - Sent for a spell after completing the hat-trick and returned on 18 November with a decent 3rd of 8 in a Class D under these conditions. Has displayed a good turn of foot and is unlikely to disappoint

14. JOY FOR US - Would have won here 3 weeks ago had she not faulted in the straight. Bit off too much when sanctioned in a 2850m Class B here 2 weeks ago but at this level, and with application, can put things right

Summary: Julien Dubois could not have hoped for a better entry for his difficult but talented JOY FOR US (14) who drops in category with a reasonable chance of winning this, provided of course that Guillaume Martin keeps her mind on the game. He will still need to keep a close eye on JOYEUSE ENTREE (11) who made short work of her ridden debut here recently, and JUST ONE NIGHT (8) who makes her first start for Damien Bonne. JILANZA DU MOULIN (10), sporting front pads this time, has delivered just once over the main track but imposed with such ease over the inner course late last month that Mathieu Mottier can be confident of another big run.

SELECTIONS

JOY FOR US (14) - JOYEUSE ENTREE (11) - JUST ONE NIGHT (8) - JILANZA DU MOULIN (10)

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C3 - PRIX DE CONCHES - 2175m (a1m1/4) - Class E Race - Harness - EUR € 35,000

- 1. LOVELY JENILOU** - 10th of 13 behind LAMTARA BUISSONAY (14) in a 2200m Class E here on 11 December. Unlucky that day when clearly in shape, but still no more than a minor place chance
- 2. LADY DE JANEIRO** - Has 2 races under her belt, most recently 6th of 10 in a Class E over course and distance 3 weeks ago, and can expect to have few takers
- 3. LADY OF DURBUY** - Ran 4th in a 2100m claimer here before finishing 7th of 13 behind LAMTARA BUISSONAY (14) in a 2200m Class E here 10 days ago, and is not about to create an upset
- 4. LUCKY STAR JIEL** - Has not been seen out since finishing 10th of 14 in a 2150m Enghien Class D mid-August. Shoes on and poses no danger
- 5. LAURE DE MORANZY** - 5th of 13 behind LAMTARA BUISSONAY (14) in a 2200m Class E here on 11 December. Paul Ploquin back in the wagon though and must be taken more seriously this time
- 6. LIFE IS BRIGHT** - Sanctioned in last 2, latterly a 2850m Class E here on 28 November. Receives a Yoann Lebourgeois drive this time and can start to make up for lost time
- 7. LUNA DE MALAC** - Unraced since finishing 10th of 13 in a 2150m Enghien Class D late -October. Gets a new chance with 3rd trainer and the engagement of Mathieu Mottier speaks volumes. Claim
- 8. LITTLE ROAD** - 9th of 11 on re-entry in a 2575m Saint-Brieuc Class E a fortnight ago. Will have progressed for the run and warrants respect
- 9. LAST CHANCE** - Last of 5 finishers in a 2850m Class E here on 28 November and even with shoes back on has no realistic chance
- 10. LADY D'ECOTAY** - Got off the mark in a 2850m Mauquenchy Class F 2.5 weeks ago. Races shod this time though and best to wait
- 11. LANAE DE CONROS** - Won 2 of last 3, most recently a 2400m Borely Class F a month ago. Is new to the venue and steps up in category but in present form is easy to like
- 12. LA COMTESSE MADRIK** - 6th of 9 in a 2200m Class E conditioner here on 12 December. Is still in conditioning-mode though and not a priority
- 13. LOUBIANA DU BOURG** - Made it 3 straight sanctions when faulting in a 2700m Class E here a fortnight ago. Has won 2 of the 3 races she has finished though and, on good behaviour can play a leading role
- 14. LAMTARA BUISSONAY** - Ran 5th in a claimer before coming 3rd of 13, at 57/1, in a 2200m Clas E here 10 days ago. A repeat, however, looks unlikely
- 15. LILY ROSE MYSTIC** - Sanctioned in a 2850m Class E over the short course on 28 November. Remarkably tough when focused and looks a serious proposition

Summary: The useful but occasionally contrary LUNA DE MALAC (7) may not have been seen out for almost 2 months but she debuts fresh for her new handler, with Mathieu Mottier in the bike, and can impose if she takes to the new conditions. Sanctioned more often than not, LOUBIANA DU BOURG (13) may not be the easiest of horses to handle but she has bags of ability and with application, will be no shrinking violet. Ideally-engaged here, and clearly in cracking form, LILY ROSE MYSTIC (15) takes to the main track this time and can make a big splash. Just once out of the picture when focused, LIFE IS BRIGHT (6) gets a top pilot on this occasion and will be competitive if she stays in stride.

SELECTIONS

LUNA DE MALAC (7) - LOUBIANA DU BOURG (13) - LILY ROSE MYSTIC (15) - LIFE IS BRIGHT (6)

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C4 - PRIX D'EVREUX - 2700m (a1m1/2) - Class C Race - Harness - EUR € 53,000

- 1. JUNE D'ERABLE** - Disappointing 9th of 15 behind JET SOCIETY (6) in a Class C under these conditions early last month. Shoes back on and no threat
- 2. JOYCE DES GRANGES** - Form has regressed lately, most recently 8th of 11 behind JALOUZ D'OLIVERIE (4) in a 2100m Class D here a fortnight ago, and appears to have no possible chance
- 3. JALMAROSA** - Out of sorts since returning to competition, most recently sanctioned in a 2100m Class D here 2 weeks ago, and must first reaffirm
- 4. JALOUZ D'OLIVERIE** - 2nd of 11 in a 2100m Class D here a fortnight ago. Is behind in earnings, excels with Eric Raffin reining, and can open her winter account
- 5. JULIA QUESNOT** - 4th of 11 behind JALOUZ D'OLIVERIE (4) in a 2100m Class D here a fortnight ago. Finds herself in more exalted company on this occasion and chances appear limited
- 6. JET SOCIETY** - 6th of 9 finishers behind JOIA DU CITRUS (12) in a Class C over course and distance on 29 November. Sports shoes this time though and best to hold off
- 7. JOMA OV** - In the frame in last 2, latterly 3rd of 11 behind JALOUZ D'OLIVERIE (4) in a 2100m Class D here a fortnight ago. Unlikely to repeat but should nevertheless give another honourable account
- 8. JOY JENILOU** - 2nd over 2850m here prior to finishing 8th of 15 behind JET SOCIETY (6) in a Class C under these conditions early last month. Is clearly capable but represents no more than a minor place chance
- 9. JOLIE INDIENNE** - Remarkable 59/1 winner of a Class D over course and distance on 18 November. Not a priority this time but will still have her supporters
- 10. JALOUSIE DE L'ISLE** - Starts for first time since running 5th of 11 in a 3000m Borely Class D 3 months ago. Barefoot for comeback but others easier to support
- 11. JAVA D'ANAMA** - Has not been seen out since running 8th of 14 in a 2750m Class B at Les Sables 2 months ago. Appreciates these conditions, is barefoot for the occasion, and can impose
- 12. JOIA DU CITRUS** - Sprang a 45/1 surprise when 3rd of 9 finishers in a Class C over course and distance 3 weeks ago, however confirmation seems most improbable
- 13. JOURNEE REVEE** - Good, consistent campaigner that was surprisingly sanctioned in 29 November race of reference. Shod to preference this time and looks a decent first-5 prospect
- 14. JAMAICA** - Very unlucky 7th of 9 behind JOIA DU CITRUS (12) in a Class C over course and distance 3 weeks ago. Mathieu Mottier in the bike and has a decent chance of finishing closer this time
- 15. JUSTICIA GLAM** - Was full of running when sanctioned in a 2700m Class C here 3 weeks ago. Is confirmed over track and trip and, in similar form and with stride maintained, can play a leading role
- 16. JET SET** - 5th of 9 behind JOIA DU CITRUS (12) in a Class C over course and distance on 29 November. Is plainly in fine shape and has a realistic chance of making the frame this time

Summary: Hard to knock when focused and barefoot, JALOUZ D'OLIVERIE (4) put on a fine show here 2 weeks ago and considering how well she goes for Eric Raffin, she is very easy to like for the win. A similar caveat applies to the returning JAVA D'ANAMA (11) who has already imposed 3 times under these conditions. Both nicely-entered at the limit of earnings, neither JUSTICIA GLAM (15) nor JET SET (16) is likely to be far off the mark.

SELECTIONS

JALOUZ D'OLIVERIE (4) - JAVA D'ANAMA (11) - JUSTICIA GLAM (15) - JET SET (16)

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C5 - PRIX DE LECTOURE - 2850m (a2m) - Class E Race - Harness - EUR € 49,000

1. **IN AMERICA** - 6th of 14 in race of reference at 110/1 but with pads fitted is unlikely to spring any surprises
2. **INCONTOURNABLE** - Placed at Le Mont-Saint-Michel before running 4th to IN TO MARANCOURT (7) in a 2850m Mauquenchy Class F on 24 November. 25m better off but still not a player
3. **ILMENITE** - Sanctioned on return to competition in a 3125m Angers Class F 12 days ago. Top driver at the helm this time and can make a big impact
4. **IMPACT SPORT** - Pleasant 3rd of 12 in a 2700m Class E here 9 days ago but on this occasion is being aimed too high
5. **INCOGNITO FAC** - Won 2 on the trot before coming 2nd of 13 in a 3000m Nantes Class F 2.5 weeks ago. Unlikely to rattle any cages but can still pick up some prizemoney
6. **IDEAL MOSSA** - 3rd of 13 in a 2850m Mauquenchy Class F 2.5 weeks ago. Is proven here but would have better prospects a level down
7. **IN TO MARANCOURT** - Made it 2 straight successes when securing a 2100m amateurs Class G here 9 days ago. Barefoot this time but still seems to be facing a tough task
8. **IGGY DU LOISIR** - Has not been seen out since running 4th of 12 in a 2100m Class E here on 11 October. Nicely-placed on front line and is reunited with Eric Raffin. First 5
9. **IQUEM** - 3rd to INSTANT D'HAUFOR (12) last month before being sanctioned, when full of running, in 7 December race of reference. Is plainly in good shape and will not be far from the action if he deigns to keep his action together
10. **I STILL LOVING YOU** - Yet to show any of his 2021 form, latterly sanctioned in race of reference. Reconfigured but still a rank outsider
11. **INHERIT** - Beat a number of these when 3rd of 14 in a Class E under these conditions 2 weeks ago. Imposed over course and distance 2 months ago and will have his chances
12. **INSTANT D'HAUFOR** - Terrific winner over 2700m before enduring a woeful trip, finishing last but one behind INHERIT (11) in a Class E over course and distance a fortnight ago. Form is not in question however and can win this
13. **INSTINCTIF** - 4th of 14 behind INHERIT (11) in a Class E over course and distance 2 weeks ago. Unlikely to have his day in the sun but has the wherewithal to finish in the mix
14. **IBIS PETTEVINIERE** - Could have finished closer than 5th of 14 behind INHERIT (11) in a Class E over course and distance 2 weeks ago had he not encountered traffic problems but can more than make amends if he is kept out of trouble

Summary: One of the more open races of the day, it is difficult to ignore back-row starters IBIS PETTEVINIERE (14) who is well-entered here and clearly in form, and INSTANT D'HAUFOR (12) who did not enjoy the best of runs when 13th to his 5th here a fortnight ago. The spirited ILMENITE (3) is 25m better off and will be no pushover if Gabi Gelormini manages to keep him focused. At the top of his game, INHERIT (11) imposed in this configuration at Enghien and must also be regarded a major player.

SELECTIONS

IBIS PETTEVINIERE (14) - INSTANT D'HAUFOR (12) - ILMENITE (3) - INHERIT (11)

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C6 - PRIX DE STRASBOURG - 2700m (a1m1/2) - Class B Race - Harness - EUR € 75,000

- 1. EMENCOURT D'AZIF** - Back under harness after being sanctioned in a monté Class B over course and distance on 5 December. Is no slouch on a good day but this is not about to be one of them
- 2. GOAL STAR** - 2nd in a Toulouse Gr.3 before finishing last of 12 in a 2850m Gr.2 here 3 weeks ago. Should not be hastily-judged though, races barefoot this time and can finish in the mix
- 3. FONZY D'HERIPRE** - Made it 5 straight sanctions when faulting in a Class B over track and trip on 23 November. Plainly showed his form though and with application can figure prominently
- 4. ESTEBAN JIEL** - Out of the picture in last 3, most recently 8th of 12 to GRINDELWALD (5) in a Class B over course and distance on 23 November and can expect to have few friends
- 5. GRINDELWALD** - Set personal best in a Class B over course and distance on 23 November, winning superbly at 38/1. Cousin Matthieu in the bike this time and must be taken more seriously on this occasion
- 6. GOLD DAIRPET** - 7th of 12 to GRINDELWALD (5) in a Class B over course and distance on 23 November. Will have progressed for the run but others still preferred
- 7. FUN QUICK** - Drops in class after finishing last of 11 in a 2850m Gr.3 here last Sunday but still has no possible chance
- 8. GUIDE MOI FORGAN** - Came close to pulling off his first objective of the winter, running 2nd to GRINDELWALD (5) in a Class B over course and distance on 23 November. Is plainly close to his race though and will be no easy touch
- 9. GRECO BELLO** - Consistently performant since the spring, latterly 3rd of 11 in a Class A over course and distance on 18 November. Thrives over 2700m here and will be expected to fight out the finish
- 10. GALBA RINGEAT** - 4th of 5 in a 2400m Ajaccio Class D early last month. Makes first appearance for new trainer and should not be written off
- 11. EUREKA VRIE** - Pleasant 6th of 11 behind GRECO BELLO (9) in a Class A over course and distance on 18 November. Stars are liming up for him here and victory may well be in the offing

Summary: On paper, this is anyone's race but preference nevertheless goes to the well-engaged EUREKA VRIE (11) who put in a good effort on his recent re-entry. He is shod to preference this time, simply excels with Eric Raffin, and could just turn the tables on the consistent GRECO BELLO (9) who finished ahead of him that day. GUIDE MOI FORGAN (8) gave a reassuringly good account late last month and he too can exact revenge on his nemesis, GRINDELWALD (5), who pulled off quite the coup that day.

SELECTIONS

EUREKA VRIE (11) - GRECO BELLO (9) - GUIDE MOI FORGAN (8) - GRINDELWALD (5)

SATURDAY, 21/12/24

C7 - PRIX JULES LEMONNIER - 2175m (a1m1/4) - Gr2 Race - Mounted - EUR € 120,000

1. INTOUCHABLE - Takes first competitive ridden steps after finishing 6th of 9 in a 2850m harness Class D here 3 weeks ago. Mathieu Mottier aboard and although not a contender can still figure prominently

2. GOLD VOICE - Steps up in category after running a courageous 2nd to Filwell in a Gr.3 over track and trip 10 days ago. Has previously won at this level and will generate some interest

3. DEUS ZACK - Debuts in the discipline after coming last but one in a 2100m harness Class A here on 5 December. Is confirmed at the venue and with Eric Raffin reining will be afforded every chance. First 5

4. INA DU RIB - High-class mare that finished 13th of 15 in Gr.2 Prix du Bourbonnais here a fortnight ago. Is being prepared for the Cornulier and can be passed over

5. EDITION GEMA - Tenacious 2nd of 8 to IDEALE DU CHENE (8) in 2850m Gr.2 Prix Paul Buquet here late-November. Sports a fresh configuration for the re-match and must be respected accordingly

6. HIRONDELLE DU RIB - 6th in Prix Reynolds before repeating in 2850m Gr.2 Prix Paul Buquet here on 28 November. Shoes on this time and will have little to offer

7. HANNA DES MOLLES - Faithful mare that ran 3rd of 7, a place behind GRANVILLAISE BLEUE (9), in Gr.2 Prix Reynolds over course and distance early-November. Boasts excellent speed and looks principal danger to IDEALE DU CHENE (8)

8. IDEALE DU CHENE - Got right back in the game on first ridden start for 8 months, winning 2850m Gr.2 Prix Paul Buquet here late-November. Will have progressed and should be able to widen the gap this time

9. GRANVILLAISE BLEUE - Runner-up in Gr.2 Prix Reynolds before coming a beaten 4th of 8 to IDEALE DU CHENE (8) in 2850m Gr.2 Prix Paul Buquet here late last month. Is still a quality element and has the wherewithal to make the frame once more

Summary: Unseen under the saddle since winning the Gr.1 Prix des Centaures last March, IDEALE DU CHENE (8) got straight down to business in the Gr.2 Prix Paul Buquet late last month and is going to take all the beating. HANNA DES MOLLES (7) finished a place behind GRANVILLAISE BLEUE (9) in the Gr.2 Prix Reynolds but the latter's latest performance augurs better for Alexandre Abrivard's mare.

SELECTIONS

IDEALE DU CHENE (8) - HANNA DES MOLLES (7) - GRANVILLAISE BLEUE (9) - EDITION
GEMA (5)

SATURDAY, 21/12/24

C8 - PRIX DE PIERREFONDS - 2175m (a1m1/4) - Class C Race - Harness - EUR € 46,000

- 1. KORALIA DE CROUAY** - Found the going tougher when 6th of 13 behind KRACKMANIA (7) in a 2700m Class C here 10 days ago and has a lot more to find
- 2. KIM FOREVER** - Pulled off quite the coup, securing a a Class D under these conditions a week ago. Will not be at 78/1 this time but is unlikely to confirm either
- 3. KIPHYLE DESBOIS** - Last of 13 behind KRACKMANIA (7) in a 2700m Class C here 10 days ago. Races barefoot this time but cannot be considered a player
- 4. KATE MESLOISE** - Sprang a minor surprise when 3rd of 11 finishers in a 2700m Class B here 3 weeks ago. Has never delivered over the distance but is still easy to recommend for a first-5 payout
- 5. KIVALA RENARDIER** - Was blocked by a fading horse when 8th of 11 finishers behind KATE MESLOISE (4) in a 2700m Class B here 3 weeks ago, but is one of the best horses here and, given the opportunity, can wrap this up
- 6. KOSANOSTRA** - Put 2 sanctions behind him before running 5th of 13 behind KRACKMANIA (7) in a 2700m Class C here 10 days ago. Unlikely to create an upset but can still play a small role
- 7. KRACKMANIA** - 9th in race of reference prior to running 3rd of 13 in a 2700m Class C here 10 days ago. Steps back up in category but is still capable of getting a look-in
- 8. KISS ME DE NAVARY** - Very consistent filly that ran 5th in race of reference. Has previously won over course and distance and should again be competitive for a slice of the pie
- 9. KANAKA DE BUSSET** - 7th of 11 finishers behind KATE MESLOISE (4) in a 2700m Class B here 3 weeks ago and latest numbers do little to inspire confidence
- 10. KAVALA DE PADD** - Quality filly that left a very good impression after losing her action in 30 November race of reference and should appreciate this shorter trip. Chance
- 11. KISS ME HONEY** - Switches back to the harness code after being sanctioned in a 2175m monté Gr.2 here on 1 December. Has twice won under these conditions and it's only a question of time before she gets back in the game
- 12. KOUVOLA** - 4th of 11 finishers behind KATE MESLOISE (4) in a 2700m Class B here 3 weeks ago. Has solid course-and-distance credentials and the superb engagement will only work to her advantage

Summary: KIVALA RENARDIER (5) was unlucky not to get a run here late last month after having left a good impression at Nantes, but with Eric Raffin back in the sulky, she can impose this time. Sanctioned that day, KAVALA DE PADD (10) nevertheless put on a very good show and, seldom disappointing here, will be expected to make amends. As good in one code as the other, the reconfigured KOUVOLA (12) ran 4th in the race of reference and will have come on for the run. KISS ME HONEY (11) has been struggling of late but races barefoot at a more reasonable level and Gabriele Gelormini gets the nod.

SELECTIONS

KIVALA RENARDIER (5) - KAVALA DE PADD (10) - KOUVOLA (12) - KISS ME HONEY (11)

SATURDAY, 21/12/24

C9 - PRIX DU MERLERAULT - 2175m (a1m1/4) - Class A Race - Harness - EUR € 62,000

1. LANSKY VALLEE - Flattering 4th of 5 finishers, behind LOVE GLYCINES (4), in a 2700m Class B here 3 weeks ago and is unlikely to trouble the judge

2. LABEL DE TILLARD - Sanctioned in a 2700m Class B here on 12 December. Has other priorities and can be passed over

3. LOUISON - Made up for November sanction when 4th of 10, a place behind LEWIS RIVER (7), in a 2700m Class B here 9 days ago. Will not be sent out at 53/1 this time but is no priority either

4. LOVE GLYCINES - Versatile and improving type that ran 2nd to a very good horse in a 2700m Class B here 3 weeks ago. Eric Raffin in the bike this time and a place on the podium is not out of the question

5. LUCIFERMORNINGSTAR - 5th of 8 behind LIZZANO D'ALOUETTE (9) in a 2700m Class A on comeback on this time last month. Has been afforded ample time to recuperate and looks a decent place prospect this time around

6. LISSANDRO - Won a Class B under these conditions on 8 November. Sports hind pads again and has a reasonable chance of confirming

7. LEWIS RIVER - Has hardly put a foot wrong since his victorious debut, most recently 3rd of 10 in a 2700m Class B here 9 days ago and can again finish close

8. LEADER D'AIMTE - Did not enjoy the best of trips but nevertheless ran 3rd of 12 in a 2850m Gr.3 here 3 weeks ago. Is not a leading contender but has considerable merit and can trot his way into the money

9. LIZZANO D'ALOUETTE - Carefully-campaigned colt that missed out by little in a 2700m Class A here on 22 November. Enjoys a golden entry and can make this his own

Summary: Just 75 Euros from elimination and improving with every run, LIZZANO D'ALOUETTE (9) missed out by little here last month and is eminently capable of imposing this time. That said, LISSANDRO (6) won on re-entry over course and distance and steps up in category with a lot to contribute. 5th to Gabriele Gelormini's colt on comeback a month ago, the promising LUCIFERMORNINGSTAR (5) should logically be more competitive this time.

SELECTIONS

LIZZANO D'ALOUETTE (9) - LISSANDRO (6) - LUCIFERMORNINGSTAR (5) - LEWIS RIVER (7)