



From left to right: Cyname, Harry Cobden, Clan des Obeaux, Paul Nicholls, Politologue

Newbury Racecourse Media Release

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Clan Des Obeaux set for clash with Native River in Betfair Denman Chase

Paul Nicholls set **Clan Des Obeaux** on the same path as Kauto Star and Denman on Tuesday as he committed the King George VI Chase winner to another head-to-head with Cheltenham Gold Cup winner **Native River** in the Betfair Denman Chase at Newbury on Saturday.

Nicholls trained Kauto Star in 2007 and Denman in 2008 to win the Grade 2 prize who make up two of the four horses to capture the Newbury three mile feature and Cheltenham Gold Cup in the same year.

The other two, **Native River**, twice winner of the Denman Chase, and **Coneygree** who is also engaged in the £50,000 contest.

Clan Des Obeaux was one of eight horses to parade at Nicholls's Manor Farm Stables in Ditcheat, Somerset at a media morning to promote this weekend's Betfair Super Saturday and the Betfair Ascot Chase to be run at Ascot on February 16.

"**Clan Des Obeaux** schooled this morning and jumped very well so we are looking forward to running him on Saturday," said Nicholls.

"I didn't really want to get into a scrap with **Native River** but there are not any options for him and we have always done well running at Newbury and going on to the Gold Cup with Denman and Kauto Star.

"I think it's hard for a horse to run at Kempton and then go in the Gold Cup and expect them to run their very best. I've always thought a prep run when they are going to improve will do them good. We've worked him away quietly, haven't been that hard on him, he's in good shape but he will improve from Saturday to the Gold Cup."

"I can remember running Kauto Star in it and had a bit of a scare when he only just beat L'Ami and he just improved from there to when he went and won the Gold Cup. You don't want them at their best but you want them fit enough to do themselves justice which is where **Clan Des Obeaux** is at the moment."

"**Native River** is a Gold Cup winner who will be hard to beat. Colin [Tizzard] will have him fully wound up without a doubt because he will be wanting to win on Saturday. It's going to be interesting. Everything about him at home I think he is just beginning to become a proper horse, grown up mentally and physically. We are thrilled with him."

Nicholls is mounting a twin assault on the £155,000 Betfair Hurdle, the richest handicap hurdle run in Britain, headed by **Getaway Trump**, the sponsor's 9-2 second favourite.

"**Getaway Trump** has been a mightily improved horse this year, really progressive," he said. "He would have gone close to winning at Chepstow first time up when he made a mistake four out, then he won his next two, and then he was second to Champ in the Challow Hurdle at Newbury over Christmas."

"So he has Grade 1 form, he's obviously improving. On Saturday soft ground and a good gallop will suit him because he stays. He is second favourite and I would like to think he has every chance. He's the same sort of horse as Movewiththetimes who was second two years ago and the novices do quite well in these races as Kalashnikov and **Ballyandy** the year before showed."

With Harry Cobden on **Getaway Trump** stable conditional Lorcan Williams will partner **Mont Des Avaloirs**.

“He ran very well in the Gerry Feilden,” Nicholls said. “He wasn’t beaten very far. Put a line through his last run at Ascot. I ran him too quick from Newbury and he ran a bit too free. We’ve kept him particularly for this race because he likes a fast run race - a big field will suit and Lorcan Williams will take 5lb off. He’s on a mark he is capable of going very close off.”

Waiting Patiently and Un De Sceaux among strong entry for Betfair Exchange Game Spirit Chase

Waiting Patiently, last seen unseating when hampered in the King George VI Chase, and multiple Grade 1 winner **Un De Sceaux** feature among a strong entry for the Grade 2 Betfair Exchange Game Spirit Chase.

The race drew a total of 11 horses after it was reopened until Tuesday also attracting **Fox Norton** and the novice chaser **Kalashnikov**, winner of the Betfair Hurdle on Betfair Super Saturday 12 months ago.

Paul Nicholls has included **Dolos**, winner of a handicap chase at Sandown last Saturday, in the race he has won seven times.

“**Dolos** won on Saturday and I think he is going to run in the Game Spirit,” he said. “He loves soft ground and two miles suits him well. He is rated 154 after last Saturday so he is not one to run in the Grand Annual.”

“I see **Un De Sceaux** is in the race and there are a few others and some that probably won’t run but if there is a small field we will let him take his chance on Saturday. If there are three or four runners he could run well and run into some money.”



Cyrname, Paul Nicholls and Politologue

Difficult choice for Cobden in the Betfair Ascot Chase

Paul Nicholls believes stable jockey Harry Cobden will have a difficult task choosing between **Politologue** and **Cyrname** in the Grade 1 Betfair Ascot Chase.

Politologue, who finished fourth in the the three mile King George VI Chase last time, is an established Grade 1 campaigner while **Cyrname** earned a crack at the top level after winning an Ascot handicap by 21 lengths last time.

"**Politologue** loves Ascot and going right-handed." said the trainer. "He didn't quite stay in the King George. He got a little bit out of his ground after he made a mistake at one of the fences down the back and then he was on the back foot all the time."

"He looked like finishing third jumping the last and then got outstayed by **Native River**. It looks to me like middle distance is what he likes so two and a half miles is probably ideal for him."

"He will go to the Ascot Chase and have every chance. He will get a good gallop and hopefully he won't end up in front too soon because he always idles a bit in front and the idea after that is to go for the Ryanair Chase and onto Aintree for the two and a half mile race he won last year.

"Harry will have a tough decision next week deciding which to go for. My gut feeling would be if **Politologue** is going to the Ryanair you stick with him because the other horse won't go to the Ryanair. He can always get back on **Cyrname** if he doesn't ride him.

“There is no point making a decision till next week but there is not a lot between them. **Cyrname** did look like a Grade 1 winner waiting to happen the way he won the other day.”

Nicholls said Sean Bowen was likely to ride **Cyrname** if Cobden opted for **Politologue**.

“**Cyrname** hasn’t been the easiest to train but in the last three months he has settled down enormously. He was a tearaway. We can train him normally and that may have brought the improvement out we had the other day.

“That was a huge performance at Ascot to win as far as he did off that mark. So he’s off to the Betfair Ascot Chase where the two miles five will suit him. Obviously it’s a step up in class but he loves going round that track. I’d say he’d have every chance and look forward to him running.”

Nicholls to run two in Newbury Listed Bumper

Chepstow bumper winners **Ask For Glory** and **McFabulous** are set to represent Paul Nicholls in the Listed Best Odds On The Betfair Exchange Bumper.

“**Ask For Glory** went to Chepstow on Welsh National day and bolted in.” Nicholls said. “He was very impressive. He’s got to step up again on Saturday because it’s a listed race but this is a horse we really like. I suspect Saturday will probably be his last run of the season if he won.”

“**McFabulous** is a half-brother to **Waiting Patiently**. He won very nicely at Chepstow first time out then he didn’t run so well at Cheltenham the next day. He didn’t come down the hill, didn’t act on the track and had a month off with really bad sore shins.

“We’ve given him loads of time. He’s gone upwards and improved. He’ll run tidy on Saturday. We are going to work them both against each other on Thursday morning not that that will tell us much. We’ve always thought **Ask For Glory** was a little bit in front of him.”

Newbury going soft after snow and rain

Clerk of the course Keith Ottesen expects the ground to be between soft and good to soft by the weekend if the forecast proves accurate.

“We had quite a lot of snow last Friday and since that melted along with a bit of rain at the weekend that came to a measurable 26mm in the rain gauge,” he said. “That made the ground soft yesterday after the rain melted.”

“Looking at it again this morning after a dry night I would still leave it at soft but there is almost a bit of good to soft in there. We have outbreaks of rain for the rest of the week, particularly Tuesday night, and some showers on Wednesday. It may be dry Thursday with a few more

showers on Friday. Hopefully Saturday is going to be a dry and brighter day but there still could be some showers then."

"That should keep us towards soft ground, somewhere between soft with a little bit of good to soft if we get some breaks in the weather."

About Newbury Racecourse

Newbury Racecourse held its first race in 1905 and has long been one of Britain's leading tracks, staging up to 30 days of top class Jump and Flat racing annually, with at least one raceday in every month of the year.

The highlight of Newbury's Jump racing season is the £250,000 Ladbrokes Trophy, a handicap chase over an extended three and a quarter miles, which takes place on November 30 in 2019.

On the Flat, Newbury's high-quality programme includes the Al Shaqab Locking Stakes on May 18, with the Group One race over a mile worth £350,000.

The racecourse is also a thriving events venue, hosting a huge range of activities including weddings, concerts, and conferences for 20 to 1,000 attendees for a wide spectrum of businesses and organisations in stunning surroundings. In addition, it runs a successful private nursery, providing a safe, happy and stimulating learning environment for many pre-school children.

Newbury is now home to a major housing development by David Wilson Homes, allowing people to live in a unique location alongside a world-renowned sporting venue, which also benefits from a Nuffield Health Club.

Over the past five years the racecourse has undergone significant development, nearing completion it comprises of a new Eastern Entrance, 36-bedroom hotel, The Lodge, re-landscaped parade ring and winner's enclosure, as well as a number of new bars.

For more details and tickets visit www.newburyracecourse.co.uk or call 01635 40015.

To view availability or to book a room at The Lodge, please visit www.thelodgenewbury.co.uk

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About Ascot Racecourse

Ascot Racecourse was founded in 1711 by Queen Anne and is constituted under a statutory trust contained in the Ascot Authority Act 1913. Three trustees (the “Ascot Authority”) are appointed by the Monarch and are ultimately responsible for the stewardship of the trust. The statutory purpose of the trust is to act for the benefit of racing at Ascot. All returns are reinvested in the business for the benefit of Horsemen (Owners, Breeders, Trainers, Jockeys and Stable Staff), racegoers and off course followers, both in the UK and Internationally.

Underneath the Trust, a corporate structure runs the business which employs around 200 people full time (directly and through our food & beverage joint venture with Sodexo known as 1711 by Ascot) and up to 6000 casual raceday staff.

Ascot hosts around 600,000 racegoers a year across 26 racedays (flat and jumps), 300,000 of whom come to Royal Ascot - a pivotal event on the racing and fashion calendar and a semi-state occasion - which equates to roughly 10% of the total number of racegoers attending in the UK from about 1.5% of the fixtures.

Ascot stages nine of the country’s Group One (elite) flat races in the summer, and a further four on the industry owned QIPCO British Champions Day. The Royal Meeting is the most international race meeting in Europe, regularly attracting runners from Australia, the USA and Asia and from within Europe.

Ascot currently turns over around £90m per annum and generates around £20m in net cash, all of which is reinvested into the business (1) to repay debt following the 2004-2006 £220m redevelopment (now under £60m), (2) in infrastructure and venue experience (currently around £7m per annum), (3) in prize money and (4) in general business development.

Alongside racing, Ascot runs a £2m a year conference and events business and from July 2013 will run its own pool betting business, AscotBet, in conjunction with the Tote.

Ascot’s overall direct economic impact has been measured by Deloitte as being around £150m per annum (excluding the very substantial off course betting).

Ascot is broadcast live in over 175 territories worldwide; at home on ITV and overseas, including NBC. International reach is pivotal to Ascot’s future business development and as a shop window for international investment in British Racing’s £3bn per annum industry.

Ascot engages with its wider community in a range of ways. Around 250 charities benefit in some way from Ascot’s support each year. Property Raceday, hosted at Ascot each year raises just under £200,000 per annum for children’s charities and from 2015 - 2018, Ascot raised £1.3m for The Prince’s Countryside Fund. Ascot partners with the Berkshire Community Foundation to directly benefit regional charities.

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