



Mark Kelly Racing

-Hello, Syndicate Members!

**A big welcome to all our new and longstanding syndicate members. We're now into the business end of the National Hunt season with The Cheltenham Festival only a couple of weeks away shortly followed by The Grand National Meeting at our beloved Aintree Race Course. Sandwiched in-between will be The Go North Series Finals at Musselburgh featuring our own Kensington Art. As you can see from the topics below in this edition, it's going to be a fantastic Spring.**

Whats in this months edition?

**OUR FIRST SYNDICATE WINNER - KENSINGTON ART**

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YouNeverWalkAlone Update

Stable Visit

**MARK KELLY RACING SCARF LAUNCH-**

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Cheltenham Preview and Podcast

ITV7 Winners

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, TikTok.

Website updates

**OUR FIRST SYNDICATE WINNER -  
KENSINGTON ART Wins at Huntingdon**



"We do go South" were the words from Donald McCain when we were discussing Kensington Art's options early February. Most courses had suffered dreadful amounts of rain the previous 2 weeks and options looked limited.

Huntingdon was the best option, the race was first on the card and the fresh unused ground made the difference. Peter Kavanagh again took the ride and initially his instructions were to lead from the front. As you can see from the race link below, it never quite turned out that way as there were a couple of very eager horses willing to lead them around. Being the joint top rated horse in the line up meant Kensington art would be carrying top weight, so the conditional jockey allowance looked very helpful on paper.

It was irrelevant as Kensington Art travelled very strongly and again jumped to his consistently high standards. Approaching the last 2 fences, he had strung most of the field out and pulled impressively clear after a brilliant jump at the last. He got a little excited for a few strides and moved over to the inside rail but after a little reminder from Peter, he kicked on again and was very much going away from the 2nd place horse.

This has been a brilliant novice season for Kensington Art with 3 very impressive wins, the latest on very testing ground which bodes well for his development next season. Not many horses have wins across the board from Good, Good to Soft and Soft. (Most horses don't win 3 times in their careers never mind in one season).

After the race Donald, Steve and myself had a discussion on the target for the rest of this season and it's been agreed that The Go North Series Finals weekend at Musselburgh (Scotland) will be the target. This is very much a step up in class (Class 2) but the ground will hopefully be much quicker and his new handicap mark of 116 should keep him well weighted. There is an option for the conditional hurdle race at The Grand National Festival 2 weeks later but we'll have to wait and see on ground and entries etc.

It's the first time myself and Steve have been present when a horse has won for us. The last victory was during lockdown so we had to be content with watching it live on RacingTV. This experience was so different, especially being able to share the excitement with our Kensington Art Syndicate members. After posing for winning photographs with race sponsors, we were all invited into the winning connections suit to watch the race back and celebrate with a glass of champagne.

Once we have more information on Kensington Art's confirmed next run (Musselburgh 25/03/2022) we will send out race day details and owner ticket

applications for any interested members.

Shares are still available in our Kenny for only £33 at:

<https://markkellyracing.co.uk/buy-shares/ols/products/kensington-art-share>

### A Great Mothers Day Gift

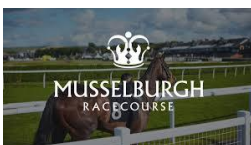
Full Race Video:

<https://www.racingtv.com/results/uk/376082-huntingdon/10-Feb-2022/1325>

Link to winners enclosure: : [https://fb.watch/bxXfiVZqn\\_/](https://fb.watch/bxXfiVZqn_/)

Winning Jockey Interview (Peter Kavanagh)

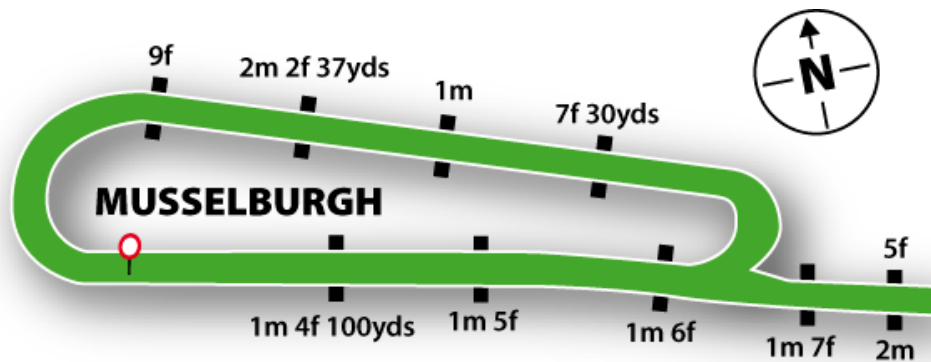
<https://www.facebook.com/738797946/videos/1431822220553173/>



## Go North Series Final Weekend

It's a long drive from Cheshire, an even longer drive for some of our Southern members but all roads lead to Musselburgh Race Course for this year's GO NORTH SERIES FINAL WEEKEND starting Friday 25th March 2022. Kensington Art is

being aimed at the 2m1f Hurdle final after his impressive win last month. As soon as we have confirmation of his entry, admin will email all members involved in his syndicate an owners ticket application. I'm not sure on the allocation numbers for owner's badges but with it being such a small course, it would be great if we could get as many members up there as possible to support the team and all enjoy a fantastic afternoon together. I will enquire to the availability of discounted tickets for any members not selected in the ballot. I've visited the course once before and it's a wonderful place. I've chosen Musselburgh for this months race course guide.



Racing has taken place at the Scottish course since 1816 and Musselburgh stages racing under both codes during the year. Due to its location close to the coast, the track has a reputation of beating harsh weather during cold snaps when other meetings are abandoned.

Musselburgh's feature races on the flat both fall in June. The Edinburgh Castle Stakes, a Class 2 event for two-year-olds and run over the minimum trip has been won by some smart youngsters, whilst the Scottish Sprint Cup, staged at the second June meeting, is a hotly-contested sprint handicap which is so popular that a consolation race is held for horses eliminated at the 48-hour declaration stage.

In recent years Musselburgh has successfully established Scottish Trials day ahead of the Cheltenham Festival. The meeting comprises of a mix of novice races and handicaps with the feature races being the Triumph Hurdle Trial and Scottish County Hurdle.

### **Timeform**

A right-handed oval track a little over a mile and a quarter in extent, almost flat with sharp bends, favouring handy types as opposed to gallopers. A polytrack strip was installed on the bend running away from the stands towards the end of 2012 in order to protect ground which tended to get worn and bare due to



overuse. There are eight fences (four in each straight) or six flights of hurdles (three in each straight nowadays) to a circuit. The two-mile start is on a spur on the last bend.



**View from the saddle:  
Mick Fitzgerald**

The last four furlongs at Musselburgh feel as if they're downhill and if you see a horse that comes from way off the pace there, the chances are it's a good one. I always think a novice who wins round there, especially if it's been ridden from behind, could be well handicapped when it goes somewhere else. Generally, it pays to be handy, especially when conditions are quick, and horses unable to make ground from off the pace can get disappointed. When it gets soft, you can afford to be a bit more patient.





## **YouNeverWalkAlone Update**

Our last trainer report has coincided with next month's stable visit to Fergal O'Brien Racing. The venue has not yet been confirmed as Fergal is not sure if YouNeverWalkAlone will be at Martins Hill or Ravenwell training facility.

He is continuing to progress well with a mixture of speed and stamina training currently contributing to the majority of his workload. I've not had any confirmation of him schooling over hurdles as of yet but I'm sure we will get a better idea once we visit the stables on the 23rd April 2022.

YouNeverWalkAlone has always been aimed at a Spring bumper which (unless I hear different) is still the plan.

Stable Visit. Again Steve and I would like to invite all successful stable applicants to a late breakfast on the 23rd April. Tea and Coffee facilities will be provided by the yard and Martins Hill has recently begun work on a new owners room. We will inform all attendees of the breakfast venue closer the time.

## **O'Brien McPherson Racing Website Launch:**

Currently both training facilities have their own racing websites. We have been advised that a new website is just about to be launched incorporating both facilities. Included will be horses in training including our very own YouNeverWalkAlone.

**Mark Kelly Racing  
Official Merchandise**

**Syndicate Scarf**

**Double Face Jacquard -  
18x150cm with Acrylic Fringe**

**ONLY £7.50!**



LIMITED EDITION



BUY HERE:

<https://markkellyracing.co.uk/buy-shares/ols/products/mkr-syndicate-colours-scarf>

Mark Kelly Racing scarves are now back in stock. we had a fantastic response and sold out the first 100 within 2 weeks. New orders will be dispatched this week via recorded delivery.



## **Both trainers in top form ahead of Cheltenham and Aintree Festivals**

Donald McCain has moved onto 129 wins including 128 placed horses so far

this season from 544 runs. The yard has also a good number entered for various races at Cheltenham, Aintree and Musselburgh over the next month.

Donald McCain's recent interview:

<https://t.co/N80oyXjN1V>

Fergal O'Brien has moved onto 110 wins from 620 runners with a further 163 horses being placed. Fergal has 20 entries for the Cheltenham festival next week, with quite a few with an outside chance. Fergal's Spring horses have recently come back into training and his yard will again be the one to follow once both festivals are out the way.



Our ITV7 competition is growing rapidly with many regular participants performing outstandingly (unlike myself who keeps forgetting to submit our entry). To spice things up for the month of February we offered the top 6 monthly contestants the opportunity to join the Mark Kelly Racing Team for a day at the races. A big congratulations to the the members below and of course a big thank you to Craig Jackson for setting it all up. All will be joining us for an all expenses day at one of our local race tracks.

- 1 Craig Barrass
- 2 Peter Appleton
- 3 Paul Kirby
4. Kevin Kingston
- 5 Anthony Morley



6 Ross Baker

Mark Kelly Racing Racing Tipsters:

Over the next couple of weeks we will be launching our weekly tipster page via Facebook. For those of you involved in our Whatsapp tipping page the group seems to be getting quite a lot of winners. I will email out a write up next week about our new tipsters and also add it to our social media platforms.

It's not too late to get involved in our ITV7 competition. Even if you only get a chance to enter once a week, it's a bit of fun and adds a bit of interest to the weekend.

The Group Code is 16B9BK

Just Click on ITV7 via google and register your interest.





## 2022 CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL PREVIEW

Undisputedly The home of National Hunt racing, Cheltenham and its four-day Festival represent the pinnacle of the sport. Put simply, no horse can be considered a jumps 'champion' without proving itself on the biggest stage of all in the Cotswolds in March.

For most professionally-involved in the sport, leading in or riding a winner at the Festival is an achievement equal or greater than any other, be it in a blue riband event such as the Champion Hurdle or Gold Cup or in one of the clutch of competitive handicaps that are an equal hallmark of the meeting.

Cheltenham's position at the top of the tree is further boosted by its racing calendar outside of the Festival, which is possible due to the course having two tracks – the 'Old' and 'New' courses - at its disposal. The opening October meeting is viewed by many as the unofficial start of the season, whilst the standard of the three-day Open meeting a month later is almost as high as the Festival itself. Valuable races are staged at the mid-December and New Year meetings whilst the late January fixture is rightly billed as 'Trials Day'. After the Festival there is also a popular two-day meeting in April and the season ends with the Hunter Chase evening in early May.

### Timeform

Left handed, undulating. Stiff fences; the fourth last comes soon after a turn at the top of the hill and catches out plenty. The last half mile is uphill, although the lead changes hands on the run-in less frequently than expected. Horses who race prominently often fare well on the chase course, especially in races up to 2m 4f 100yds. The hurdles course has just two flights in the last six furlongs, resulting in more emphasis on stamina; large-field races over two miles often go to hold-up horses, as there can be a tendency to go for home too soon.

**View from the saddle:**  
**Mick Fitzgerald**

To the naked eye, or to the layman, Cheltenham looks very stiff, but the two courses are actually totally different and I rate the Old Course much the quicker. So, especially on that, you need a horse that can travel easily within itself. Without one of those, you invariably find yourself snookered, because you're always trying to get into a position to improve. Ideally, therefore, you need a horse that can get into a gap as soon as one appears, because there's so little time to manoeuvre. If you have to think about going for a gap, nine times out of ten it's too late - someone else will have got into it before you. As for the uphill finish, it only rides really testing if you're on one that's tying up. Then, it feels like an eternity from the last to the line.

Below is a link to the experts bankers for this weeks festival.

<https://twitter.com/i/status/1502680465400119296>



Mark Kelly Racing Horses to follow:\*\*:

We all love a tip, especially Festival week but how many times have we heard of a horse nailed on to win but doesn't complete the race. "Your bosses friends gardener knows a trainer etc" Apart from maybe Honeysuckle most of the races are very competitive and with many horses coming over from Ireland and many unexposed many races are a lottery. Our team initially planned a 4 day podcast but with the amount of Irish horses running this year and with only a 2 day declaration we've decided to just record a Gold Cup edition via our new podcast and offer a daily write up via email and social media.

DAY 1: TUESDAY 15th March 2021

**1.30pm - 2m<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>f (2m87y) (Old) Sky Bet Supreme Novices' Hurdle (Grade 1) (GBB Race) (Class 1) (4yo+)**

All the talk has been about Constitution Hill for Nicky Henderson but you cant rule out many of the other horses in the race. I have liked the look of Dysart Dynamo, Kilcruit and obviously JonBon (Half Brother to YouNeverWalkAlone). This is the opening race to the festival and is always fast and furious. I just feel that Constitution Hill's lack of races might find him a little exposed against the more experienced Desert Dynamo, Jonbon and Kilcruit.

### **VERDICT**

This is a cracker to get the Festival under way and CONSTITUTION HILL has shown he has the pace to sprint clear from the field. BUT I think the race will be run at a much faster race than he's use too and it will need to be a horse that can stay the pace from a long way out so I'm going for Dysart Dynamo.

1st: Dysert Dynamo  
2nd Jonbon  
3rd CONSTITUTION HILL  
4th Kilcruit

### **2.10pm - 2m (1m7f199y) (Old) Sporting Life Arkle Challenge Trophy Novices' Chase (Grade 1) (GBB Race) (Class 1) (5yo+)**

### **VERDICT**

The suggestion is RIVIERE D'ETEL (nap), unfortunate behind Blue Lord last time. is being tipped by the racing post but I like the each way chances of War Lord at a good price of 40/1. Edwardstoen and Blue Lord are difficult to move away from but I believe the pace will be electric and the Cheltenham Hill will be the undoing a few fancies in this race. Edwardstone doesn't have a great record here and Blue Lord fell at the last fence 12 months ago when 6 lengths down and staying on in the Supreme Novices' Hurdle (Grade 1).

A very busy race with good solid horses but I feel the Irish Horses again will deliver the goods leaving the British trained horses fighting it out for the minor prizes.

1st Blue Lord  
2nd Riviere D'etel  
3rd War Lord  
4th EDWARDSTONE

### **2.50pm - 3m1f (Old) Ultima Handicap Chase (Grade 3) (GBB Race) (Class 1) (5yo+)**

The first long distance race of the meeting and some would say a card filler. 24

runners some greats (Frodon / Death Duty) but as its a handicapp I have a feeling this will throw up either a Big odds winner or something will come out of the pack that's no one's heard of and romp home. Its all about the weight for me in this race along side the horses finishing kick. The top weighted horses Frodon, LostInTranslation and does He Know all carrying Top weights will have to be at their best to be there at the end. I like the look of 4 horses headed up by Kitealy Briggs and Full Back. These 2 would be my winning bets followed by 2 consistant types in Fantastikas and Gericault Rogue.

## **VERDICT**

1st/2nd Kitealy Briggs / Full Back  
3rd Gericault Rogue  
4th Fantastikas

3.30pm - 2m<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>f (2m87y) (Old) Unibet Champion Hurdle Challenge Trophy (Grade 1) (GBB Race) (Class 1) (4yo+)

Honeysuckle, Honeysuckle and Honeysuckle. That's everyone's opinion for the Champion Hurdle on Tuesday. One of my favourites Appreciate It is probably the closest challenger with Teahupoo running him close for 2nd.

In years gone by we have had favourites fall in big races but this mare has absolute class and I think this is everyone's Day 1 banker.

1st Honeysuckle  
2nd Appreciate It  
3rd Teahupoo

4.10pm - 2m4f (2m3f200y) (Old) Close Brothers Mares' Hurdle (Registered as The David Nicholson Mares' Hurdle) (Grade 1) (GBB Race) (Class 1) (4yo+)

The Mares race with some very good horses on show. I believe Rachel Blackmore's and Telmesomethinggirl will be up there challenging but my pick of the race is Stormy Ireland. A winner here in on New Years Day (beat the progressing McFabulous) and should be closely followed home by Echoes In Rain. The WILLY MULLINS team will be looking for a 1-2. Nicky Henderson's Marie's Rock will be a good each way bet.

1st Stormy Ireland  
2nd Echoes In Rain  
3rd Telmesomethinggirl  
4th Marie's Rock



4.50pm - 2m 1/2f Boodles Juvenile Handicap hurdle.

Saint Segal e/w only

5.30pm - 3m6f (3m5f201y) (Old) Ukraine Appeal National Hunt Challenge Cup  
Amateur Jockeys' Novices' Chase (Grade 2) (GBB Race) (Class 1) (5yo+)

Cheltenham's London marathon. Not the greatest race and I would be surprised if any horse outside the top 3 in the betting contested any part of the race,

### **Verdict**

The Irish national second place is my fancy (Run Wild Fred) followed by Stattler and Vanillier. Not a race that fills you with excitement and best stick to the low odds horses. for this race.

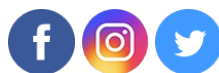
1st Run Wild Fred

2nd Stattler

3rd Vanillier

Stay tuned to our Facebook pages over the coming days for more horses to follow and don't forget to post your Cheltenham pic and videos if your lucky enough to be attending this week.

**Kind regards,  
Mark Kelly Racing**



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