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examples

From Cheltenham, a Grade 3 handicap chase, New Year's Day 2017

<b>Shantou Flyer</b>	Has his 1st run for Rebecca Curtis here, ex-Colin Bowe. Best 'recent' runs include 5th to Zabana and Outlander in Champion Novice Chase at the Punchestown Festival over 3m1f in April, not fluent 13th, hard driven approaching 2 out, outpaced under pressure, well held between last 2, kept on after last, no impression but sustained effort to the line. It was a competitive finish, and a bit scrappy, but didn't flinch despite not making the 1st 4. Stayed active through the Summer and, well backed, good nose 2nd to Elegant Statesman in Galway Plate Trial at Down Royal on June 17th, chased clear leader 8th, moved well with leaders approaching 3 out, niggled along after, every chance and disputed lead 2 out, put under pressure, stayed on, pulled clear with winner, hard driven after last, stayed on strongly, could have gone either way but just nosed out post. Lost his place under pressure in the Galway Plate itself when last seen. Among his novice chase wins last season was one at Cheltenham; needs around 5 lbs of improvement but he turns only 7 today and could find it
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*Shortlist: Village Vic, Vaniteux, Shantou Flyer*

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From Doncaster, the Sky Bet Chase, January 2017

<b>Ziga Boy</b>	Last year's winner, making most to beat Coologue. After a promising reappearance at Bangor and a first-fence fall in Becher Chase at Aintree, best so far this season when 3rd to No Duffer and Long Lunch at Doncaster last month, led, disputed it after 7th, in close to 8th, headed 9th, led 11th, disputed it 12th, pushed along and headed 5 out, stuck to task from 4 out, ridden and still half a chance going to 3 out, one pace before 2 out, 2 lengths down last, stuck to task but no extra run-in, lost ground on 1st 2 inside last half furlong. In 1st-time cheekpieces, a contender again
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*Shortlist: Southfield Royale, Ziga Boy, Another Hero, Long Lunch*

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From the Cheltenham Festival, the Martin Pipe Conditional Jockeys' Hurdle, March 2017

**Champagne Classic**

Stayed on well and came well clear to win over 2m6f at Thurles in February, a bit below himself in Grade 3 novice over the same track a fortnight later, made a little ground to chase leader 4 out, niggled along turning out of the back straight, pace increased, steadied into 3 out, travelled best home turn, disputed lead 2 out, ridden, carried head a little high, hard driven going to last, headed nearing it, readily outpaced, faded run-in behind Tin Soldier - might have been produced too soon that time, and there's nothing wrong with the earlier maiden win;

*Shortlist: Tommy Silver, Runfordave,  
Champagne Classic, No Comment*

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From the Grand National:

**One For Arthur**

Improving second-season chaser, winning reappearance at Kelso by a wide margin then good 5<sup>th</sup> in Becher Chase at Aintree, handling the National fences well: held up, tended to jump left, niggled along in last pair 13<sup>th</sup>, headway from 6 out, niggled along and midfield 5 out, further good ground after 3 out, raced wide, got in touch with leaders approaching 2 out, pushed along, kept on, not without hope last, put under pressure, no further impression on leaders, disputed 4<sup>th</sup> at the Elbow, stayed on last 150 yards, closed a little on 1st 3, just failed to get 4<sup>th</sup>, beaten 3 lengths behind Vieux Lion Rouge. Went 4 places better in Classic Chase at Warwick in January when last seen out under another hold-up ride, towards rear, slightly hampered 2<sup>nd</sup>, travelled comfortably when started to pick rivals off 16<sup>th</sup>, got to only 6 or 7 lengths down in 7<sup>th</sup> approaching 4 out, further good ground to chase leader going well home turn, 1st 2 pulled clear approaching 2 out, led there and jumped left, ridden clear, lovely big clean jump last, driven out, stayed on well, decisive by 6 lengths from Goodtoknow. A defeat of Seldom Inn and Blakemount on good ground at Kelso in October 2015 suggests that he doesn't need soft ground to be at his best; I'd like to see him a bit closer to the pace on better going, but proven in a 20-runner field and negotiating traffic, he has to be a strong contender

*Shortlist:*     *The Last Samuri*  
                  *One For Arthur*  
                  *Rogue Angel*  
                  *Raz De Maree*  
                  *Thunder And Roses*

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SELECTIONS DISCLAIMER: It will often turn out to be the case that certain horses shortlisted on the PDFs won't be backed by me, reasons for which might include 'the price wasn't big enough', or 'the horse didn't look well' (if I went to the track). On some days I may back horses other than those given on the PDFs

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