

Cheltenham prospects are bright

By THE SCOUT

PROSPECTS for racing at Cheltenham this afternoon were considered excellent when the stewards went round the course at midday yesterday.

Monday's rain, followed by a thaw, has cleared the snow from off the course.

Only a severe ground frost at night can prevent racing from being certain today.

Feature event will be the four miles Stakes, followed by the Champion Chase.

The locally trained Comedian has a sound chance, improved by the fact that

parities who watched the race than it was for us.

FOR the "Race of the Year" I go back to Hurst Park's Hyperion Stakes on August 20.

We saw in opposition the two best fillies in training—Rockie and Solar Flower. Rockie, hailed as "the best since Pretty Polly," when winning the Oaks, had a run after Ascot, where, carrying 10st. 10lbs. and thought slightly off-colour, she was unplaced in the Coronation Stakes.

Solar Flower, Solario's most handsome daughter, won the Coronation Stakes with 8st. 10lbs. gave weight away all round in Goodwood's Gratwick Stakes, and then proceeded to a second-place in the Nottingham.

The Newmarket filly improved with each victory, and although Rockie had "run rings around" Columella in her final gallop at Lambourn, the majority opinion was that she would not be able to concede 3lbs. to Solar Flower.

There were three other starters, but they were lightly dismissed.

IN a race of this sort racing men etc. are apt to take sides keenly, and out of opinion, they may be heavily on their favourite. Money made Solar Flower favourite at evens, but her backers must have been impressed with Rockie's career to the post.

Have you ever seen Bradman crack a bat? You will remember the impression of speed, ease and certainty as they have watched the two drawing right away. Quashed the two drawing right away. Quashed the two drawing right away.

She made the running—the race was thirteen furlongs—at a slow pace, her four cars cocked.

Half a mile from the finish Solar Flower began to move up. At the distance the two were level. For fifty yards (about three seconds in time) they raced together against her, she topped past the stands on her way to

win. The greatest thrill of 1937 was reserved for the Middle Park Stakes, when the Scottish Union and Gordon Richards set about the "impossible" task of catching Mirza II. in the last furlong.

Shirley, on brilliant non-staying Mirza II, rightly but stock-still to give his fading mount every chance to last to the winning post, while Richards rode his efforts and in the very last stride pushed Scottish Union's nose past that of his rival.

The sensation attendant on Bois Roussel's lightning run past this year's Middle Park Stakes, 1938 Derby was rather one of astonishment rather than of excitement.

The Cambridge finish, with little Holleniga matching stride against the giant Khanandah and Domaha to achieve a French triumph, was no doubt, more thrilling for her com-

petitors who watched the race than it was for us.

TRAINING has been against strong training, but reports from Daily Express resident correspondents at the various racing centres speak favourably of the chances of the following horses for the Cheltenham meeting.

Blue Shirts will be fitter than most in the two mile, while our Epsom correspondent, and should be fit to race at any place which may be worked hard and successfully during the past season.

Blue Shirts (3.30) is fancied each way, our Malton correspondent.

While the cold and wet weather has been a boon to the favourites, it has been a curse to the underdogs.

Provided we do not get the pneumonia, it will be pleasant to feel the springy turf underfoot this afternoon.

For betting purposes, I suggest Brave Heart (3.30) as the best bet, 1/20. The Black Abbe (3.30) ran well at Leicester and may be able to turn the placings on

Fluvier Dore.

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Brighter news from J. Possey, of Earl's Court Rangers. Was reported to have broken his jaw at Brighton on Monday night. Not so bad as that, though. "Bunny" Abner was presented with a happy Christmas present by his wife. Around six o'clock on Boxing Night a new Aneurine joined the family—a bonny boy.

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They play hockey like you or I might play amateur football. Pay their "sub" of ten shillings and pay for their own gear. The skipper, R. Wilson, hopes enthusiastic youngsters, mostly Englishmen. Supplies sweaters, sticks, and allows them to pay him on the spot. Two youngsters to watch are the eighteen-year-olds, K. Perrin, an engineer, and S. Simon, a cabinet-maker, and both are Redwings.

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CHELTENHAM		SAFETY HIT: 3-1—Fluvier Dore.	
1.0.	2.0.	3.0.	4.0.
THE SCOUT	Saint Christopher	Heave Mic (H of ab Cactus II)	Comedian
WHAT THE HUBB	Rolling Pin	Ituba Topaze	Red Knight II
TATTENHAM (S. Express)	Montague (H of ab Cactus II)	Helle Amie II (H of ab Cactus II)	St. George II (H of ab Cactus II)

Probables and jockeys

Stewards: Mr H. Clive, Mr F. Whittington, Mr S. Howard, Mr P. Hammett. TOTE DOUBLE: 2.0 and 3.0. Trains: DOUBLES, 8.22 a.m. 9.50 a.m. TUESDAY: 8.22 a.m. 9.50 a.m.

1.0.	2.0.	3.0.	4.0.
WINDHOLM (H of ab Cactus II)	Ituba Topaze	Helle Amie II (H of ab Cactus II)	St. George II (H of ab Cactus II)
Ituba Topaze	Helle Amie II (H of ab Cactus II)	St. George II (H of ab Cactus II)	Red Knight II
Helle Amie II (H of ab Cactus II)	St. George II (H of ab Cactus II)	Red Knight II	Comedian
St. George II (H of ab Cactus II)	Red Knight II	Comedian	Noce Argent (H of ab Cactus II)

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Helle Amie II (H of ab Cactus II)	St. George II (H of ab Cactus II)	Red Knight II	Comedian
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