

Following months of skilful training, Grand National hopes reach peak condition for the world's toughest steeplechase.

At Middleham, Goosander (winner of Haydock's 3 1/2 mile trial) is led by Much Obligated - another entry. Both are trained by Neville Crump - who has won the race twice since the war.

Another Northern hope is Glorious Twelfth. He has already performed ~~well over Aintree's stiff fences~~

well over Aintree's stiff fences - so his supporters should have little grouse - whatever the result.

ONE OF THE favourites "Sundew" won in impressive style at Sandown.

If Rose Park does run for the National - he'd represent real class - and the same applies to Ireland's Sam Brownthorn.

Of the other Irish hopes - Fahrenheit blotted his copybook at Leopardstown.

Can Virginus give trainer Vincent O'Brien his fourth post-war National triumph?

One of Ireland's dark horses is surely Tutto. Recently, at Leopardstown - he cantered home a four-lengths winner of the Handicap Chase. ~~His past record is three wins~~ A GOOD LONG SHOT.

If there's heavy going at Aintree - you can rely on Sandy Jane II to make light work of it. Watch how she ploughed through the mud - to win by nine lengths at Gowran Park!

For those who prefer a proved Aintree performer. Remember the leader - first time round last year?

It was Armorial III - and he stayed in the lead until the 26th jump - just four from home.

Will he go on to win this year? WHO WILL BE FIRST PAST THE POST?

~~Remember - unless you go to Aintree - you can only see the Grand National on your cinema screen~~ Remember - unless you go to Aintree - you can only see the Grand National on your cinema screen