

GRAND NATIONAL PROSPECTS:

On to the sands at Elyl come trainer Sol Parker's string - led by Mr. R.D. Darragh's Grand National entry Pippykin. In the recent bad weather the seashore has proved a blessing - for come snow or rain, March the 24th is the day. And at Aintree Mrs. Topham makes sure that on the Day, her course will be in tip-top condition.

On the stable doors at Aintree are the names of past winners of the world's greatest steeplechase. Whose name will be added this year?

Perhaps it will be Sundew, seen here with trainer Frank Hudson. At Haydock in February, Sundew beat last Year's winner Quare Times by half a length - and they'll meet again at Aintree.

Over to T.F. Rimmell's stables, where another possible is in training - Mrs. L. Carver's R.S.B. Stable apprentice John Pullen mounts him for a canter at the head of the string.

But it's from Ireland again that the big challenge comes - here's Royal Tan, the 1954 winner, with his trainer Vincent O'Brien and jockey T. Taaffe. O'Brien achieved the impossible by training the last three National winners - here he is with Early Mist in 1953.

With Royal Tan in 1954.

And with Quare Times last year. All three are running again - two trained by him. Can he pull off a fourth victory?