

CHELTENHAM RACECOURSE MEDIA RELEASE

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# WEST HOPING GOLAN CAN SHOW THE WAY AT CHELTENHAM ONCE AGAIN

**Meeting:** *The Boylesports International*

**Dates:** *Friday & Saturday - December 11 & 12*

**Gates Open:** *10.00am both days*

**First Race:** *12.05pm Friday, 12.10pm Saturday*

*Admission prices from £9. Go to [www.cheltenham.co.uk](http://www.cheltenham.co.uk) for further information*

Trainer Sheena West is looking forward to seeing her crack hurdler **Golan Way** return to Cheltenham to contest the extended two and a half mile £42,500 Grade Two Unicorn Homes Relkeel Hurdle (3.40pm), the final race on the second day of the Boylesports International, Saturday, December 12.

The five-year-old was victorious on his first four starts over hurdles last season, culminating in a game all-the-way success at Cheltenham in the Grade Two Sharp Novices' Hurdle at The Open in November, 2008.

A mistake at the fourth flight cost Golan Way momentum when coming home 11th in the Grade One Supreme Novices' Hurdle at The Festival in March, but he made a pleasing seasonal return at Chepstow on October 24, finding only Mr Thriller too strong in a Listed Handicap Hurdle over two and a half miles.

West reported today: "Golan Way is heading to Cheltenham next weekend for the Unicorn Homes Relkeel Hurdle. He worked this morning and I was pleased with him - he's ready to race and pretty versatile regarding the ground.

"I thought that his run at Chepstow was pretty good at the time and, looking back, it was certainly no great sin to be beaten by Mr Thriller. Golan Way just seems to be all stamina nowadays and the step up in distance suited him there.

"Ultimately, he could want three miles but I want to step him up in increments to see how he progresses. It's very difficult to find races over two and a half miles for hurdlers like him - there aren't too many handicaps open to him so he has to go up against the top horses now. The track suits him and a real stamina test will play to his strengths.

"I think that we are now noticing how good he was last season. Although he won over two miles, he hasn't really got the high cruising speed that you need

in the top two-mile races. He wants another season over hurdles before we go chasing with him and I can see him becoming a proper chaser as a six-year-old.”

The fantastic seven-race card on Saturday, December 12, also features one of the season’s top Smurfit Kappa Champion Hurdle Trials in the shape of the two mile, one furlong £150,000 Grade Two Boylesports.com International (3.05pm), which the reigning Smurfit Kappa Champion Hurdler Punjabi plus runner-up Celestial Halo are on target for, as well as the prestigious £150,000 Grade Three Boylesports.com Gold Cup (2.25pm) over two miles, five furlongs.

Friday’s seven-race programme features the £50,000 Listed Neptune Investment Management Handicap Chase (1.50pm) over an extended three miles, one furlong, which was won in 2008 by subsequent John Smith’s Grand National hero Mon Mome.

***For further information please contact Andy Clifton, Communications Manager at Cheltenham Racecourse, on 07876 330090, or visit the website at [www.cheltenham.co.uk](http://www.cheltenham.co.uk)***