

CHELTENHAM RACECOURSE MEDIA RELEASE

embargoed until noon, Wednesday, December 2, 2009

SEA TOPS WEIGHTS FOR Boylesports.com GOLD CUP - TIZZARD AIMING OSCAR AT £150,000 CHASE

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 for further information

Tranquil Sea tops the weights on 11st 12lb for the Grade Three £150,000 Boylesports.com Gold Cup, run over two miles and five furlongs at Cheltenham on Saturday, December 12, the second day of the Boylesports International.

Trained in Ireland by Edward O'Grady, Tranquil Sea was successful last time out in the Grade Three Paddy Power Gold Cup at Cheltenham on November 12, becoming the first Irish-trained horse to win that contest since Bright Highway in 1980.

Boylesports have opened the market on the Boylesports.com Gold Cup and make Tranquil Sea the 6/1 favourite. If successful, the seven-year-old would become the ninth horse to win both the Boylesports.com Gold Cup and the Paddy Power Gold Cup and only the fourth to complete the double in the same season.

One horse heading to the Boylesports.com Gold Cup is **Mount Oscar** (10st 9lb), trained by Colin Tizzard. One of the most improved horses in training, Mount Oscar has won on his last two starts, in a beginners' chase at Fontwell and in a competitive handicap at Newbury on November 28. The 10-year-old is a 14/1 chance with Boylesports.

Tizzard commented: "We are hoping to run Mount Oscar in the Boylesports.com Gold Cup. I can't believe what he has achieved already this season and he looks in the form of his life so we decided to give him a chance in a top handicap chase.

"I thought that Paddy Brennan was very cool on him at Newbury - he didn't really have a real go at the horse until halfway up the run-in and Mount Oscar stayed on well. I think that he will stay three miles in time but he also seems to have plenty of pace to go with it.

“He’s gone up to 140, which would give us a lovely weight if the horses at the top of the handicap take their chances. He will enjoy running over two miles and five furlongs in a really fast run handicap - his stamina came into play at Newbury.

“He has had leg trouble over the years but he showed some sparkling form over hurdles for Richard Rowe before seeming to lose his way a bit. He has not had a huge amount of racing and he certainly seems to be in good form at the moment,

“He is still a novice over fences and we will run him in the Boylesports.com Gold Cup to see where we are with him. If he runs really well at Cheltenham, then he could take his chance in the Feltham Novices’ Chase at Kempton Park on Boxing Day.

“He has taken his two races really well, although his win at Fontwell was little more than a canter. We are not going to wait around forever with him and I think that he deserves to take his chance in some of the top chases.”

Poquelin (11st 6lb, 7/1) finished the four-and-a-half length runner-up behind Tranquil Sea in the Paddy Power Gold Cup and could now re-oppose that rival on 4lb better terms. The six-year-old is one of three Paul Nicholls-trained possibles along with **Chapoturgeon** (11st 8lb, 7/1), an early faller in the Paddy Power Gold Cup but successful in the Listed Jewson Novices’ Handicap Chase at The Festival last season, and **Gwanako** (11st 10lb, 10/1).

Also prominent in the betting with Boylesports is the Tim Vaughan-trained **Atouchbetweenacara** (11st 3lb, 7/1) who was last seen out when taking the Grade Two Silver Trophy at Cheltenham’s April Meeting. **Hold Em** (10st 3lb, 10/1) finished third in the Paddy Power Gold Cup and trainer Keith Goldsworthy has confirmed the Boylesports.com Gold Cup as the nine-year-old’s next target.

Tamarinbleu (11st 8lb, 10/1) caused the biggest-ever upset in the race when winning the 2007 Boylesports.com Gold Cup at 22/1 and is one of four possible runners for trainer David Pipe alongside **Our Vic** (11st 10lb, 20/1), who was last seen out when finishing sixth in the Paddy Power Gold Cup, **Pablo Du Charmil** (11st 5lb, 16/1), **Seven Is My Number** (10st 8lb, 10/1) and **I’m So Lucky** (10st 4lb).

The 11 Irish-trained contenders also include **J’Y Vole** (11st 6b, 10/1) and **Scotsirish** (11st 9lb, 10/1), while another possible starter is **Something Wells** (11st 5lb, 14/1) who was last seen out when triumphant in the Freddie Williams Festival Plate over the course and distance on March 12.

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.

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.

Leon Blanche of Boylesports commented: "We are delighted to once again support the Boylesports.com Gold Cup.

"This year's race looks to be as competitive as ever and we are thrilled with the entries.

"It is a great honour to be associated with Cheltenham Racecourse and we are also proud to support the £150,000 Boylesports.com International, one of the leading trials for the Smurfit Kappa Champion Hurdle."

For further information please contact Andy Clifton, Communications Manager at Cheltenham Racecourse, on 07876 330090, or visit the website at www.cheltenham.co.uk

Boylesports.com Gold Cup - opening Boylesports prices: 6/1 Tranquil Sea, 7/1 Atouchbetweenacara, 7/1 Chapoturgeon, 7/1 Poquelin, 10/1 Gwanako, 10/1 Hold Em, 10/1 J'Y Vole, 10/1 Scotsirish, 10/1 Seven Is My Number, 10/1 Tamarinbleu, 12/1 Pop, 12/1 Razor Royale, 14/1 Lord Henry, 14/1 Mount Oscar, 14/1 Skippers Brig, 14/1 Something Wells, 14/1 Tarotino, 16/1 Au Courant, 16/1 From Dusk To Dawn, 16/1 Isn't That Lucky, 16/1 My Petra, 16/1 Pablo Du Charmil, 16/1 Pomme Tiepy, 16/1 Snowy Morning, 20/1 Bible Lord, 20/1 Bringbackthebiff, 20/1 Calgary Bay, 20/1 Horner Woods, 20/1 Jayo, 20/1 Or Bleu, 20/1 Our Vic, 20/1 Shazand, 20/1 Sky's The Limit, 20/1 Stan, 20/1 the Last Derby, 25/1 Bar

THE Boylesports.com GOLD CUP

Class One, Grade Three, £150,000 Total Prize Fund. 2.25pm, Cheltenham, Saturday, December 12, 2009. For four-year-olds & upwards, two miles & five furlongs. Penalties: after November 28, a winner of a chase 5lb - no penalty to increase a horse's weight above 11st 12lb. Entries closed November 24, entries released November 25 (45 entries), weights revealed December 2, five-day confirmation stage December 7, final declaration stage, 10.00am, December 10. For figures supplied by Weatherbys and are correct up to & including the racing of Monday, November 30.

Form Horse Age/Wgt Owner Trainer

556-211 **TRANQUIL SEA (IRE)** 7-11-12 Nelius Hayes/D Cox Edward O'Grady IRE
U125F-U **GWANAKO (FR)** 6-11-10 The Stewart Family Paul Nicholls
11/PP4-6 **OUR VIC (IRE)** 11-11-10 David Johnson David Pipe
21354-35 **SCOTSIRISH (IRE)** 8-11-09 Double R Stables LLP Syndicate Willie Mullins IRE

3/2030-2 **TAMARINBLEU (FR)** 9-11-08 The Arthur White Partnership
David Pipe
211F2-F **CHAPOTURGEON (FR)** 5-11-08 David Johnson Paul Nicholls
1300-12 **POQUELIN (FR)** 6-11-06 The Stewart Family Paul Nicholls
33/04-10 **J'Y VOLE (FR)** 6-11-06 Hammer & Trowel Syndicate Willie
Mullins IRE
13606-4 **PABLO DU CHARMIL (FR)** 8-11-05 Joe Moran David Pipe
202021- **SOMETHING WELLS (FR)** 8-11-05 Favourites Racing XVIII
Venetia Williams
1P04PF- **STAN (NZ)** 10-11-03 Paul Beck Tim Vaughan
1F/2F21- **ATOUCHBETWEENACARA (IRE)** 8-11-03 Paul Beck Tim
Vaughan
F20-6110 **SNOWY MORNING (IRE)** 9-11-02 Quayside Syndicate Willie
Mullins IRE
100P-3P **KNOWHERE (IRE)** 11-11-01 Raymond Mould Nigel Twiston-
Davies
64U5-34 **LORD HENRY (IRE)** 10-11-00 Karola Vann Philip Hobbs
3P11-1P **TAROTINO (FR)** 7-11-00 J B Webb Alan King
1F60-01 **SHAZAND (FR)** 6-10-13 Simon Tindall Edward O'Grady IRE
12FP-PP **MY PETRA** 6-10-12 Richard & Lizzie Kelvin Hughes Nicky
Henderson
06FF-1F **BIBLE LORD (IRE)** 8-10-12 Martin Tedham Andrew Turnell
21204-P0 **CALGARY BAY (IRE)** 6-10-11 Camilla Radford Henrietta
Knight
544/30-P **SKY'S THE LIMIT (FR)** 8-10-11 Exors of the Late Raymond
Rooney Edward O'Grady IRE
1145-15 **JAYO (FR)** 6-10-10 Peter Garvey Willie Mullins IRE
2P1341P **THE LAST DERBY (FR)** 5-10-09 John Brennan Eoin Griffin
IRE
F313-01 **RAZOR ROYALE (IRE)** 7-10-09 Colin Cornes Nigel Twiston-
Davies
F212-P00 **HORNER WOODS (IRE)** 7-10-09 Howard Spooner Jessica
Harrington IRE
25020-11 **MOUNT OSCAR (IRE)** 10-10-09 Jean Bishop Colin Tizzard
00-1114 **SEVEN IS MY NUMBER (IRE)** 7-10-08 David Johnson David
Pipe
1/F2410- **BRINGBACKTHEBIFF (NZ)** 7-10-08 Thomas Barr Edward
O'Grady IRE
13445-0 **POMME TIEPY (FR)** 6-10-06 Susannah Ricci Willie Mullins
IRE
P2/P40-0 **IL DUCE (IRE)** 9-10-06 Mrs Peter Prowting Renee Robeson
2/31/21-3 **FROM DAWN TO DUSK** 10-10-05 Charles Lloyd-Baker Philip
Hobbs
1341/P0/- **IDOLE FIRST (IRE)** 10-10-05 D and J Racing Ltd Venetia
Williams
12500-P **I'M SO LUCKY** 7-10-04 Sheila Brookhouse David Pipe
1231FP-4 **POP (FR)** 6-10-04 Robert Kirkland Henry Daly
1///1P2P1-5 **AU COURANT (IRE)** 9-10-04 Michael Buckley Nicky
Henderson

0//1141-3 **SKIPPERS BRIG (IRE)** 8-10-04 Ashleybank Investments
Limited Nicky Richards
1/41104-F **OR BLEU (FR)** 7-10-04 The Kingpins Philip Hobbs
6P0353 **HOLD EM (IRE)** 7-10-03 David Hughes Mike Evans & Partners
Keith Goldsworthy
5F-262U **THE SAWYER (BEL)** 9-10-03 D R Fear Bob Buckler
141P-25 **WATCH MY BACK** 8-10-01 Tony Ambler Ferdy Murphy
2162-52 **SAPHIR DES BOIS (FR)** 5-10-01 F Lloyd Jonjo O'Neill
4/2120-60 **AKILAK (IRE)** 8-10-01 ADA Partnership Howard Johnson
430PF-6 **BUCK THE LEGEND (IRE)** 7-10-01 Alan Parker, C Fell & A
Harris Nigel Twiston-Davies
10P52-0 **PRIVATE BE** 10-9-13 David and Daphne Walsh Philip Hobbs
24121-P0 **ISN'T THAT LUCKY** 6-9-13 Valda Burke Jonjo O'Neill

45 Entries

11 Irish-trained