

CHELTENHAM RACECOURSE MEDIA RELEASE

*for immediate release, Friday, November 6, 2009*

## **KING DUO ON GREATWOOD HURDLE MISSION**

**Meeting:** *The Open*

**Dates:** *Friday, Saturday & Sunday - November 13, 14 & 15*

**Gates Open:** *10.00am Friday & Saturday, 11.00am Sunday*

**First Race:** *1.15pm Friday, 12.50pm Saturday, 1.10pm Sunday*

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

Alan King is likely to be double-handed in the £100,000 Grade Three Greatwood Hurdle (2.20pm) at Cheltenham on Sunday, November 15, with the Barbury Castle trainer's **Medermid** and **Squadron** set to contest the feature event on day three of The Open.

Both horses will be making their seasonal debut in the extended two-mile contest before moving into the novice chase sphere.

Medermid was a high-class novice hurdler last term, winning a Grade Two contest at Ascot, as well as finishing the neck runner-up to Go Native in the Grade One williamhill.com Supreme Novices' Hurdle over the course and distance at The Festival in March. Squadron was fourth to **Numide** in last year's running of the Greatwood Hurdle.

King revealed this morning: "Medermid and Squadron are both intended runners in the Greatwood Hurdle. The plan is to go novice chasing with Medermid but I wanted to take in this race first and then go on from there, so the Greatwood has always been his target.

"Squadron ran very well in the race last year and he would probably go chasing after the race as well. They both worked this morning and everything is fine."

The Open offers three days of excellent racing from Friday, November 13, to Sunday, November 15. The feature race at The Open is the prestigious £150,000 Grade Three Paddy Power Gold Cup (2.35pm), staged over an extended two and a half miles, which takes place on Saturday, November 14. The King-trained **Tarotino** is 7/1 second favourite for the race with the sponsor, behind the Paul Nicholls-trained 6/1 joint favourites **Poquelin** and **Chapoturgeon**.

Five-day confirmations for the Paddy Power Gold Cup and the Greatwood Hurdle take place on Monday, November 9.

## **LATEST GOING AT CHELTENHAM**

**Chase & Hurdle Course:** Good, Good to Soft in places

**Cross Country Course:** Good, Good to Firm in places

Simon Claisse, Cheltenham's Clerk of Course & Director of Racing, commented today: "The forecast for the week leading up to The Open is for generally unsettled conditions.

"I am happy with the condition of the course at the moment - it is looking very good."

***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)***