

RACING

AL ON BRINK OF HISTORY



MAKING A SPLASH: Monkfish and jockey Richie Deegan (right) during the visit to Willie Mullins' stables in Clossutton

BOUMM TIMES

WILLIE MULLINS says Al Boum Photo is bang on target for a third Cheltenham Gold Cup.

But it's 50-1 Champion Hurdle longshot who is getting the trainer excited.

Mullins, responsible for training 13 of the favourites for next month's Cheltenham Festival, is sweet on the chances of the former French-trained James Du Berlais. He will be having his first outing for Mullins in the hurdling crown after recently joining his powerhouse Carlow stables. "He was bought as a novice chaser for next season," said Mullins. "It's a long time to wait so we put him in training. I was delighted to see this morning that he's rated 167, that puts him in there with a shot. It will be a true run race and that will suit him."

Mullins clearly rates the gelding and as the most successful trainer at the Cheltenham Festival with 72 winners, he is not noted for having fanciful runners that are there for a day out.

Having dominated the meeting since Tourist Attraction gave him his first winner in 1999, Mullins hopes Chacoun Pour Soi can make it a full house in the four head-line races by capturing that elusive first Champion Chase. "He's one, if you had to pick from five or six, that we are hoping can bring his A-game there," said Mullins.

"The trainer is also not short of confidence about Al Boum Photo emulating Cottage Rake, Arkle and Best Mate by winning the Cheltenham Gold Cup for the third time.

Mullins is planning a "big bit of work" for Al Boum Photo this week. "The nine-year-old will attempt

Chris GOULDING

to join legends as a three-time winner of the blue riband, with Golden Miller the most successful in the history of the race thanks to his five victories.

Al Boum Photo will head to Cheltenham on March 19 with just one start under his belt this season, having won the Savills New Year's Day Chase on his January return — the same route Mullins plotted for his previous victories in the Festival showpiece, which this year will be run as the WellChild Cheltenham Gold Cup. The trainer admits he did not expect Al Boum Photo to be a staying star following a novice-chase campaign in 2018 which included a fall at the Festival and a dramatic run-out at Punchestown.

Great

Mullins said: "He's in great shape. He worked well last week and he's a big bit of work coming up this week. He's uncomplicated, he's very nice to train."

"I didn't think when we were buying him we'd be in this position, or indeed the day that he ran out in Punchestown, or when he had the mishap with

Ruby (Walsh) jumping the last at Cheltenham.

"He's got a funny back history — but here he is, a double Gold Cup winner going for his third. We're very privileged to have him."

While Mullins has plenty of faith in Al Boum Photo, he is alive to the threat posed by Savills Chase winner A Plus Tard — and last year's top three-mile novice Champ, A Plus Tard had Mullins' Kemboy back in second at Leopardstown over Christmas — while Nicky Henderson's Champ impressed many when second, dropped down to two miles in Sunday's Game Spirit Chase at Newbury.

Mullins said: "I think you have to (take Champ and A Plus Tard seriously)."

"Both are stayers, A Plus Tard is bred to stay; Champ stays all day last year, and he put in a huge performance yesterday. The two of them have put in huge performances as their prep runs." Monkfish,



MASTERPLAN: Mullins has another strong line-up heading to Cheltenham

expected to be lining up in next year's Gold Cup, gets a huge vote of confidence for Mullins in the Brown Advisory Chase.

Winner

"Anyone who rides him says you have so much bonnet out in front of you."

But Mullins has ruled last season's County Hurdle winner Saint Roi out of the Festival.

The six-year-old was Barry Geraghty's final Festival winner when bolting up in handicap company in March, and went into the summer as one of the leading players for the Champion Hurdle.

His season started well with a win at Tipperary in October — but since being stepped up in class, he has been beaten in the Morgiana Hurdle, the Matheson Hurdle and the Irish Champion.

Elsewhere, David Egan, successful in the world's richest race on Mishriff in Saturday's £16.8m Saudi Cup, was clod-bored with an €82,000 fine for excessive use of the whip.

The 21-year-old also received a two-day suspension for striking the John Gosden-trained colt 11 times, one over the permitted limit of 10.

Rules stipulate that 10 per cent is deducted from the prize money won and Egan's slice of the prize money is expected to be €820,000.

Stipendiary steward Phil Tuck said: "We took into account that two hits were down the shoulder in the backhand position and considered that he used his whip 11 times behind the saddle."

Dual champion apprentice Cieren Fallon was also suspended for three days for causing interference in the Riyadh Dirt Sprint after finishing seventh on Oxted.

PLANNING The proposal is consistent with the objectives of the Westmeath County Development Plan 2014-2020, the Athlone Town Development Plan 2014-2020 and the Lissycroghan South Framework Plan 2018-2024, and also contains a statement indicating why permission should be granted for the proposed development, having regard to a consideration specified in section 37(2)(b) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, notwithstanding that the proposed development mutually counteracts a relevant development plan or local area plan other than in relation to the zoning of the land. An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) has been prepared in respect of the development proposal and accompanies the application. The application, together with the Environmental Impact Assessment Report, may be inspected, or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, during public opening hours at the offices of An Bord Pleanála and Westmeath County Council. The application may also be inspected online at the following website set up by the applicant: www.lissywoolenshale. Any person may, within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by An Bord Pleanála of the application and payment of the prescribed fee of €20 (except for certain prescribed bodies), make a submission or observations in writing to An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, relating to the implications of the proposed development, if carried out, for proper planning and sustainable development in the area or areas concerned, and the likely effects on the environment or the likely effects on a European site, as the case may be, of the proposed development, if carried out. Submissions or observations duly made will be considered by An Bord Pleanála in making a decision on the application. Such submissions or observations must also include the following information: (a) the name of the person, authority or body making the submission or observations, the name of that person, if any, acting on behalf of that person, authority or body, and the address to which any correspondence relating to the application should be sent; (b) the subject matter of the submission or observations; and (c) the reasons, considerations and arguments on which the submission or observations is or are based. An Bord Pleanála may grant permission for the strategic housing development as proposed, or may grant permission subject to such modifications as it specifies in its decision, or may grant permission in part only, with or without any other modifications it may specify in its decision, or may refuse to grant permission for the proposed development. An Bord Pleanála may attach to a grant of permission such conditions as it considers appropriate. Any enquiries relating to the application process should be directed to the Strategic Housing Development Section of An Bord Pleanála (Tel. 01-85388100). A person may question the validity of a decision of An Bord Pleanála by way of an application for judicial review under Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Courts (S.I. No. 15 of 1961), in accordance with sections 50 and 50A of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (No. 30 of 2000), as amended. Practical information on the review mechanism can be found in the Judicial Review Notice on the An Bord Pleanála's website: www.pleanala.ie or on the Citizens Information Service website: www.citizensinformation.ie. Signed: Alan Fenton of Delphi Design, Architects & Planning Consultants (Agents) of 13 The Seaport Building, 44-45 Clonard Road, Dublin 3. Date of Publication: 23/02/2021.

PLANNING Planning and Development (Housing) and Residential Tenancies Act 2016 Planning and Development (Strategic Housing Development) Regulations 2017 Notice of Strategic Housing Development Application to An Bord Pleanála Alama Road-bridge Developments Ltd. Intend to apply to An Bord Pleanála for permission for a strategic housing development, on a site of c. 17.64 hectares, located in the townlands of Lissywoollen, Kinnafadage & Reterran, and partially traversing the townlands of Curragh, Cloghantoy (Stram) & Cloghantoy (Hornam), Athlone, County Westmeath. The development site is bisected by the existing Barway residential estate and is generally bounded to the north by the N6, to the south by the Old Rail Trail Greenway, to the west by Scoll na gCathre Máistir, and to the east by undeveloped lands further east of which are ESB Regional Headquarters. Access to the development will be from the Ballynallon roundabout (on the R915 - to the west) and the Garrycastle roundabout (on the R916 - to the east). The development will consist of the following: (1) Construction of 376 no. residential dwellings comprised of 283 no. houses and 291 no. apartments and duplex units consisting of: - 285 no. 2 storey semi-detached & terraced houses (50 no. four beds, 200 no. three beds & 35 no. two beds); - 8 no. apartments & duplexes (4 no. one beds & 4 no. three beds) in Block A (3 storeys); - 8 no. apartments & duplexes (4 no. one beds & 4 no. three beds) in Block B (3 storeys); - 15 no. apartments (15 no. two beds) in Block C (3 storeys); - 16 no. apartments & duplexes (7 no. one beds, 5 no. two beds & 4 no. three beds) in Block D (3 storeys); - 9 no. apartments & duplexes (5 no. one beds, 1 no. two beds & 3 no. three beds) in Block E (3 storeys); - 8 no. apartments & duplexes (4 no. two beds & 4 no. three beds) in Block F (3 storeys); - 4 no. apartments (4 no. one beds) in Block G (2 storeys); - 12 no. apartments & duplexes (12 no. three beds) in Block H (3 storeys); - 21 no. apartments (21 no. two beds) in Block K (3 storeys); - 36 no. apartments (36 no. two beds) in Block L (part 4 storey / part 5 storey); - 20 no. apartments (6 no. one beds, 6 no. two beds & 8 no. three beds) in Block M (part 3 storey / part 4 storey); - 27 no. apartments (27 no. two beds) in Block N (3 storeys); - 43 no. apartments & duplexes (14 no. one beds, 24 no. two beds & 5 no. three beds) in Block O (2 to 4 storeys); - 12 no. apartments (6 no. one beds & 6 no. two beds) in Block P (3 storeys); - 8 no. apartments & duplexes (4 no. two beds & 4 no. three beds) in Block Q (3 storeys); - 18 no. apartments (6 no. one beds & 12 no. two beds) in Block R (3 storeys); - 12 no. apartments & duplexes (6 no. two beds & 6 no. three beds) in Block S (3 storeys); - 14 no. apartments (4 no. one beds & 10 no. two beds) in Block T (3 storeys). (2) Construction of 2 no. creches comprised of a 2 storey creche of c. 321m² located on the ground & first floors of Block C & a 1 storey creche of c. 448m² located on the ground floor of Block T. (3) Construction of 1 no. community hub of c. 101m² located on the ground floor of Block D. (4) Construction of basement level car parking of c. 1089m² comprising 34 no. car parking spaces & 36 no. bicycle parking spaces, forming part of Block L. (5) Construction of an east-west access road through the development site, extending from the Ballynallon roundabout (on the R915 - to the west) to the Garrycastle roundabout (on the R916 - to the east) and all associated road development works. (6) Provision of public open spaces, hard and soft landscaping, public lighting, car & bicycle parking, pedestrian and cyclist connections to Old Rail Trail Greenway, bin storage, 6 no. ESB sub-stations, drainage and attenuation, utility services etc. and all associated site development works. The application contains a statement setting out how

TO PLACE A LEGAL OR PLANNING NOTICE TELEPHONE 01-4999 3414 OR EMAIL: legal@thestar.ie