

RACING POST

Friday, January 11, 2013 Issue No. 8,905

racingpost.com/ipad

£1.90



Channel 4's plan to introduce on-screen stopwatch Page 3
James Pyman puts the clock on handicap hurdlers Page 6



TODAY'S CARDS **Huntingdon** 12.50 **46** **Sedgefield** 12.40 **24** **Lingfield** 12.30 **30** **Wolverhampton** 4.00 **38** **Jebel Ali** 10.15 **20** **Dundalk** 5.50 **56**

FOR OUR BEST ODDS TALK TO VICTOR
BETVICTOR
Online and mobile



MURRAY MINT
MONEY BACK IF MURRAY WINS

Australian Open 2013
Monday 14th - Sunday 27th January

Bet now at www.betvictor.com

@BetVictor

*Applies to all Men's Single Outright Winner market bets only and the win part of each-way bets placed before the start of the second round on Wednesday 16th January. The maximum total refund is £250 real cash per person or household. Single bets only. Bets placed both pre-event and in-running will count. Should Andy Murray win the tournament, all accounts will be credited with their cash back within 24 hours of the trophy being lifted. Visit www.betvictor.com for full terms and conditions. 18+ Please gamble sensibly www.gamblersaware.co.uk

C4 hoping to add on-screen stopwatch to coverage

THE 2013 Flat season could become the first in which terrestrial television viewers see races accompanied by a stopwatch and sectional times as the norm after Channel 4 Racing's new executive producer Carl Hicks revealed his strong desire to make the clock an integral part of the coverage, writes *Lee Mottershead*.

Hicks, who has returned to the sport having previously been the BBC's long-term racing editor, is keen to see Channel 4's IMG Sports Media-produced programming provide an opportunity for pundits and viewers to quickly and usefully analyse performances based on

the evidence provided by an on-screen stopwatch.

Channel 4 is now understood to be in talks with potential commercial partners as the sport's new exclusive terrestrial broadcaster attempts to bring to fruition an addition to coverage that has long been advocated by Betfair.

Hicks, who in tomorrow's *Racing Post* gives his first major interview since switching from the BBC to Channel 4, said: "I was athletics editor at the BBC for over ten years and I would never have dreamed of showing a race without a clock on screen. In racing that hasn't

happened to any great extent, yet surely it should form some part of the analysis framework?"

"When I was in the industry ten years ago we were working with TurfTrax on timings but there's been a lack of funding and investment and it hasn't gone a long way during the six to seven years in which I haven't been involved in the sport.

"This is an area ripe for development and I'd like to think we could have something on screen during the Flat season. That is my ambition. Channel 4 and racing are looking for a partner and it should be a good commercial

opportunity for whoever joins us."

Hicks added: "Interpreting times for the viewer can be fraught with danger and we don't want to confuse people. However, we shouldn't be scared of the clock and it need not be dull.

"I don't want us to end up with a screen full of data, as you get in the States, but times can provide a benchmark of exceptional quality, an example being Frankel's sub-11sec furlong in the middle of the 2,000 Guineas.

"It allows a visual impression to be backed up by data and that surely cannot be a bad thing."