

Tuesday 11th March

CHELTENHAM



1.20 MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN SUPREME NOVICES' HURDLE (Grade 1) (1) 2m87y (3300 Metres)

RACE 1 **(5) KOPEK DES BORDES | (6) ROMEO COOLIO | (12) WORKAHEAD**

2.00 MY PENSION EXPERT ARKLE CHALLENGE TROPHY NOVICES' CHASE (Grade 1) (1) 1m7f199y (3200 Metres)

RACE 2 **(3) MAJBOROUGH | (2) L'EAU DU SUD | (5) ONLY BY NIGHT**

2.40 ULTIMA HANDICAP CHASE (PREMIER HANDICAP) (1) 3m1f (5030 Metres)

RACE 3 **(18) KATATE DORI | (17) CREBILLY | (9) SEQUESTERED**

3.20 CLOSE BROTHERS MARES' HURDLE (David Nicholson) (Grade 1) (1) 2m3f200y (4010 Metres)

RACE 4 **(9) LOSSIEMOUTH | (4) JADE DE GRUGY | (6) JOYEUSE**

4.00 UNIBET CHAMPION HURDLE CHALLENGE TROPHY (Grade 1) (1) 2m87y (3300 Metres)

RACE 5 **(2) CONSTITUTION HILL | (6) BRIGHTERDAYSAHEAD | (4) STATE MAN**

4.40 HALLGARTEN AND NOVUM WINES JUVENILE HANDICAP HURDLE (Fred Winter) (PREMIER HANDICAP) (1) 2m87y (3300 Metres)

RACE 6 **(6) PUTURHANDSTOGETHER | (2) MURCIA | (21) HOT FUSS**

5.20 PRINCESS ROYAL NATIONAL HUNT CHALLENGE CUP NOVICES' HANDICAP CHASE (2) 3m5f201y (6020 Metres)

RACE 7 **(6) HAITI COULEURS | (9) TRANSMISSION | (5) NOW IS THE HOUR**

KEY TO SYMBOLS

Top Rated: The horse with the best chance based solely on past form, specially tailored to a 0-100 scale.

Horses For Courses: A suitable track for the horse, compared to its lifetime record on similar courses as defined by Timeform's course data.

Jockey Uplift: The engaged rider has a notably higher Timeform Jockey Ranking than those who've ridden the horse on its most recent starts

Trainer Form: A hot trainer to follow, based on Timeform ratings-related measurements looking at the recent performance of runners.

1.20

RACE 1

MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN SUPREME NOVICES' HURDLE (Grade 1) (1) 4yo+ £150,000 2m87y (3300 Metres)



Going: **Good to Soft**

Left handed, undulating. Stiff fences that place a premium on sound jumping. The last half mile is uphill, although the lead changes hands on the run-in less frequently than might be expected. Prominent-racers often fare well on the chase course, especially in races up to 3m. On the New Course, the hurdles track has just two flights in the last six furlongs, resulting in more emphasis on stamina; large-field races over two miles often go to hold-up horses, as there can be a tendency to go for home too soon. Jockeys often steer a wide course in the winter months searching for better ground and this can lead to trouble in-running towards the stand rail in the straight.

Pace Information: **Extreme**

1 FUNICULI FUNICULA (FR) (55) 87
2-1 5 11-7 | 73.0kg

W. P. Mullins, Ireland **B. Hayes**
Runner-up only start in France in 2023 and looked a very useful prospect starting out for new yard after 15 months off when a ready winner of a Clonmel maiden (17f) in January. Clearly needs to pull out plenty more now sights are raised but he's one of a host of promising ones here for the yard.

2 IRANCY (FR) (116) 88
3-1 7 11-7 | 73.0kg

W. P. Mullins, Ireland **M. P. Walsh**
2021 bumper winner in France who chased home Firefox/Ballyburn on his belated return/hurdles debut last winter. Absent again prior to registering a smooth success from the front in a Punchestown maiden (15.5f) in November and he's an each-way player for his all-conquering yard.

3 KARBAU (FR) (43) (D) 90
2-141 5 11-7 | 73.0kg

W. P. Mullins, Ireland **S. F. O'Keefe**
Successful on second of 2 starts in French bumpers. All the better for yard/hurdles debut run at Naas in December when an authoritative winner (backed up by the timefigure) of a Punchestown maiden (2m) 6 weeks ago and he's well worth his place in this company.

4 KARNIQUET (FR) (37) (D) h 90
22-152 5 11-7 | 73.0kg

W. P. Mullins, Ireland **D. E. Mullins**
Ex-French recruit who made perfect start for current connections when forging clear in a Tramore maiden in November. Next run best excused and quickly back on the up when 13 lengths second behind stablemate Kopek des Bordes 37 days ago. However, hard to envisage him turning the tables. Hood on.

5 KOPEK DES BORDES (FR) (37) (D) h ★ 100
1-11 5 11-7 | 73.0kg

W. P. Mullins, Ireland **P. Townend**
Easy winner of only start in bumpers last term and built on hurdles debut success in no uncertain terms when a striking winner of Grade 1 Brave Inca at Leopardstown (2m) 37 days ago, travelling powerfully with his jumping much more assured. Outstanding prospect and the one to beat. Hood on.

6 ROMEO COOLIO (74) (D) 97
12-5121 6 11-7 | 73.0kg

Gordon Elliott, Ireland **J. W. Kennedy**
Runner-up in last season's Champion Bumper and has looked every inch a smart prospect in this discipline, bolstering his position near the top of the betting for this when a clear-cut winner of Leopardstown Grade 1 (2m) over Christmas. Definite claims with prospect of plenty more to come.

7 SALVATOR MUNDI (FR) (58) (D) h+t 90
2/6-11 5 11-7 | 73.0kg

W. P. Mullins, Ireland **Mr P. W. Mullins**
Promising effort on just second career start when midfield in last season's Triumph Hurdle before easily landing cramped odds in a Tipperary maiden (2m) in May. Got the job done without entirely convincing on return in Grade 2 Moscow Flyer in January but he remains an exciting prospect.

8 SKY LORD (58) 84
92-14 6 11-7 | 73.0kg

Henry de Bromhead, Ireland **D. J. O'Keefe**
Left debut form behind when runner-up in a Fairyhouse bumper on stable debut last February and perfect start in this sphere when easy winner of a Cork maiden (15.6f) in December. Similar form when fourth behind Salvator Mundi in Gr. 2 company in January and much more needed if he's to figure.

9 TRIPOLI FLYER (IRE) (17) (D) 93
512-2111 6 11-7 | 73.0kg

Fergal O'Brien **Jonathan Burke**
Most progressive in bumpers last term and done nothing but improve sent hurdling this time around, taking rise in class in his stride when bringing up the hat-trick in Grade 2 Dovecote at Kempton (2m) 17 days ago. Tendency to jump right a concern but he's well worth his place.

10 TUTTI QUANTI (FR) (31) 82
22-12 5 11-7 | 73.0kg

Paul Nicholls **Harry Cobden**
Runner-up both starts over hurdles last season and improved when going one better in 12-runner novice at Ffos Las (15.8f) in November. Similar form under a penalty when runner-up at Newbury (16.3f) 31 days ago but it's hard to envisage him getting involved here.

11 WILLIAM MUNNY (IRE) (19) (D) h 92
11-3221 7 11-7 | 73.0kg

Barry Connell, Ireland **Sean Flanagan**
Westerner gelding who displayed very useful form in bumpers and sound start over hurdles this winter, runner-up in pair of maidens prior to opening his account with ease in listed novice at Punchestown (2m) 19 days ago. Definite place candidate for stable who took this 2 years ago. Hood on.

12 WORKAHEAD (IRE) (75) (D) 93
31 7 11-7 | 73.0kg

Henry de Bromhead, Ireland **Rachael Blackmore**
Won sole outing in points and confirmed hurdles debut promise when making all in 17-runner Leopardstown maiden (2m) on Boxing Day, proving 7 lengths too good for William Munny. That was an impressive display (including his jumping) and respected for last year's winning stable.

12 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

evens Kopek Des Bordes, **13-2** Romeo Coolio, **10-1** Salvator Mundi, **11-1** Workahead, **12-1** William Munny, **18-1** Irancy, **28-1** Tripoli Flyer, **28-1** Karbau, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

KOPEK DES BORDES stepped forward as expected from his hurdles debut success and looked something out of the ordinary in the process when a striking winner in Grade 1 company at Leopardstown in February. Open to further progress, he's fancied to provide the all-conquering Mullins' yard with their third victory in the curtain raiser since 2019. Romeo Coolio was similarly impressive when taking Grade 1 honours in December and he's feared most. Workahead and William Munny complete the shortlist.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. KOPEK DES BORDES 2. ROMEO COOLIO 3. WORKAHEAD

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2024	Slade Steel 6-11-7	7-2	Henry de Bromhead	Rachael Blackmore	11
2023	Marine Nationale 6-11-7	9-2	Barry Connell	M. J. M. O'Sullivan	14
2022	Constitution Hill 5-11-7	9-4jf	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boynville	9
2021	Appreciate It 7-11-7	8-11f	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	8
2020	Shishkin 6-11-7	6-1	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boynville	15

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

2.00

RACE 2

MY PENSION EXPERT ARKLE CHALLENGE TROPHY NOVICES' CHASE (Grade 1) (1) 5yo+ £200,000 1m7f199y (3200 Metres)Going: **Good to Soft**

Left handed, undulating. Stiff fences that place a premium on sound jumping. The last half mile is uphill, although the lead changes hands on the run-in less frequently than might be expected. Prominent-racers often fare well on the chase course, especially in races up to 3m. On the New Course, the hurdles track has just two flights in the last six furlongs, resulting in more emphasis on stamina; large-field races over two miles often go to hold-up horses, as there can be a tendency to go for home too soon. Jockeys often steer a wide course in the winter months searching for better ground and this can lead to trouble in-running towards the stand rail in the straight.

Pace Information: **Even**

1 JANGO BAIE (FR) (38) (C, D, BF) **94**
11222-12 **6** 11-7 | 73.0kg



Nicky Henderson

Nico de Boinville

Smart novice hurdler last season and has quickly made up into an even better chaser, winning a 20.5f course novice on first attempt before going down only narrowly to Handstands in the Grade 1 Scilly Isles at Sandown (2½m) 38 days ago. Travels well enough to think he can cope with this shorter trip.

2 L'EAU DU SUD (FR) (31) (CD) **97**
P225-1111 **7** 11-7 | 73.0kg



Dan Skelton

Harry Skelton

Really exciting novice chaser who took the step up to Grade 1 level in his stride at Sandown (2m, soft; Touch Me Not second) in December and stretched his unbeaten record over fences when giving weight and a beating to subsequent Grade 2 winner Rubaud in the Kingmaker at Warwick.

3 MAJBOROUGH (FR) (38) (C) **100**
1/31-11 **5** 11-7 | 73.0kg



W. P. Mullins, Ireland

**M. P. Walsh**

Last year's Triumph winner who has made a seamless transition to fences, seeing off a couple of smart stablemates in a Fairyhouse maiden before proving 9 lengths too strong for Touch Me Not in the Irish Arkle at the Dublin Racing Festival. Hard to beat with further progress likely.

4 TOUCH ME NOT (IRE) (38) (D) **94**
3441-2122 **6** 11-7 | 73.0kg



Gordon Elliott, Ireland

**J. W. Kennedy**

Only a maiden win as a hurdler but has quickly developed into a smart chaser, winning a Grade 2 at Punchestown. Good second in Grade 1s at Sandown (to L'Eau Du Sud) and Leopardstown (9 lengths behind Majborough) since. Ought to give his running but his old rivals are likely to be too strong.

5 ONLY BY NIGHT (IRE) (30) (D) **94**
1137-3111 **7** 11-0 | 69.9kg



Gavin Patrick Cromwell, Ireland

Keith Donoghue

Has made a fine start to her chasing career, landing a Cork Grade 2 and extending her unbeaten record in this sphere to 3 when landing the odds in an Exeter listed race last month. Looks capable of even better.

5 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

4-6 Majborough, **7-2** L'eau Du Sud, **11-1** Jango Baie, **14-1** Only By Night, **16-1** Touch Me Not

TIMEFORM VIEW:

Last year's Triumph winner MAJBOROUGH could hardly have been more impressive in his 2 chase starts this winter (had 9 lengths to spare over Touch Me Not in a Grade 1 at the Dublin Racing Festival latterly) and can make it a perfect 3-3 over fences. L'Eau du Sud is 4-4 over the larger obstacles himself, including a Grade 1 success, and is the obvious danger.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. MAJBOROUGH 2. L'EAU DU SUD 3. ONLY BY NIGHT

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2024	Gaelic Warrior 6-11-7	2-1f	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	10
2023	El Fabiolo 6-11-7	11-10f	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	9
2022	Edwardstone 8-11-4	5-2f	Alan King	Tom Cannon	11
2021	Shishkin 7-11-4	4-9f	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boinville	5
2020	Put The Kettle On 6-10-11	16-1	Henry de Bromhead	Aidan Coleman	11

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race










2.40**ULTIMA HANDICAP CHASE (PREMIER HANDICAP) (1) 5yo+
£150,000 3m1f (5030 Metres)**












RACE 3

GBI RACINGGoing: **Good to Soft**

Left handed, undulating. Stiff fences that place a premium on sound jumping. The last half mile is uphill, although the lead changes hands on the run-in less frequently than might be expected. Prominent-racers often fare well on the chase course, especially in races up to 3m. On the New Course, the hurdles track has just two flights in the last six furlongs, resulting in more emphasis on stamina; large-field races over two miles often go to hold-up horses, as there can be a tendency to go for home too soon. Jockeys often steer a wide course in the winter months searching for better ground and this can lead to trouble in-running towards the stand rail in the straight.

Pace Information: **Strong**

1	TRELAWNE (52) 1323F-144 9 12-0 76.2kg	s	96
	Kim Bailey & Mat Nicholls Low-mileage 9-y-o who was sent off favourite (off 8 lb lower) when let down by jumping in this race last year. Returned with success in class 2 at Haydock in November and backed that up with a couple of decent efforts in premier handicaps since. Others look better treated now, though.		Tom Bellamy
2	FAROUK D'ALENE (FR) (332) F52PP- 10 11-12 75.3kg	s+t	85
	Gary Brown Successful over fences as a novice, including Grade 2 in early 2022. Hasn't convinced with his jumping in this sphere since, however, pulled up in Grand National when last seen in April (sold from Gordon Elliott £8,500 soon after). Headgear/tongue strap applied.		Richie McLernon
3	BROADWAY BOY (IRE) (69) (CD, BF) 21135-324 7 11-12 75.3kg		97
	Nigel Twiston-Davies Three wins in a productive novice chase campaign, including a valuable staying handicap here. Better for return when excellent second in Coral Gold Cup at Newbury but fluffed his lines back here on New Year's Day. Worth another chance.		Sam Twiston-Davies
4	ZANAHIYR (IRE) (115) 2145-3254 8 11-12 75.3kg	b+t	95
	Gordon Elliott, Ireland Smart hurdler and similar merit in chases. Decent fourth in the Golden Miller at this meeting last year and ran well on handicap bow when third in Galway Plate. However, has struggled with his jumping since so easy enough to pass over.		Carl Millar (5lb/2kg)
5	STAY AWAY FAY (IRE) (75) (C) 14/113PP-P 8 11-12 75.3kg	t	90
	Paul Nicholls Won Albert Bartlett in 2023. Better form over fences last term, winning twice, but pulled up last 3 starts, including back over hurdles (following a second breathing operation) on return over Christmas. Plenty to prove now.		Harry Cobden
6	VICTORINO (FR) (24) 1174P-311 7 11-11 74.8kg		97
	Venetia Williams Progressive chaser who enhanced his excellent record around at Ascot when winning a couple of premier handicaps last 2 starts. However, Cheltenham hasn't quite looked his thing in 2 tries so far (pulled up in this last year).		Charlie Deutsch
7	SEARCH FOR GLORY (IRE) (37) 1417-1230 8 11-9 73.9kg	s+t	95
	Gordon Elliott, Ireland Made successful chase debut at Galway in October. Unlucky not to follow up in Grade 2 at Punchestown next time before good third in Grade 1 at Limerick. Proved a let-down switched to a handicap at Leopardstown since, his jumping put under pressure. Others more persuasive.		Sam Ewing
8	HENRY'S FRIEND (IRE) (73) 5111P-451 8 11-7 73.0kg	s	96
	Ben Pauling Recorded a hat-trick in novice chases last season, including a Grade 2 at Ascot. Pulled up in National Hunt Chase at this meeting a year ago but looked better than ever when resuming winning ways at Newbury over Christmas. One to consider.		Ben Jones
9	SEQUESTERED (IRE) (37) 09-084412 7 11-6 72.6kg		98
	Paul John Gilligan, Ireland Dual hurdles winner who came good over fences when making a winning handicap debut in this sphere at Leopardstown over Christmas. Improved further when runner-up in Grade 3 handicap there since, again travelling strongly, and must be respected.		Jack G. Gilligan (5lb/2kg)

10	FAMOUS BRIDGE (IRE) (24) 11PU4-231 9 11-4 71.7kg	s	96
	Nicky Richards Dual winner at Haydock last term and jumping was sharpened up by the fitting of first-time headgear when resuming winning ways in Grand National Trial there last month. Respectable fourth in this last year so not taken lightly.		Sean Quinlan
11	RICHMOND LAKE (IRE) (31) 49FO-4232 9 11-4 71.7kg		97
	Donald McCain Yet to score this term but deserves plenty of credit for his consistency this season, yet to finish out of the frame from this mark. Likely to find this too competitive, however.		Brian Hughes
12	MALINA GIRL (IRE) (18) (C) 1F7254-32 8 11-4 71.7kg		97
	Gavin Patrick Cromwell, Ireland Useful chaser who struggled to recapture her best since falling here last winter. However, she took a big step back in the right direction when second of 5 in listed mares chase at Exeter last time so she's no forlorn hope.		Keith Donoghue
13	THE CHANGING MAN (IRE) (24) 442-F2221 8 11-2 70.8kg	t	97
	Joe Tizzard Runner-up in 3 premier handicaps this season before finally off the mark in this sphere in an uncompetitive 4-runner Grade 2 novice at Ascot last month. Should be in the mix once more.		Brendan Powell
14	HAPPYGOLUCKY (IRE) (45) (CD) 309/5 11 11-2 70.8kg		94
	Mel Rowley Took very well to fences in 2020/21, second in this (off 7 lb higher) prior to winning Grade 3 handicap at Aintree. Generally struggled in a handful of runs since, though at least showed something to work on returning from almost 2 years off when fifth on yard debut here in January.		Jonathan Burke
15	KING TURGEON (FR) (37) (C) 52B-1113P 7 11-1 70.3kg	s+t	96
	David Pipe Has taken his form to a new level this season, winning first 3 starts of the campaign, including the Grand Sefton at Aintree and a valuable pot here (26f). Seemed to sulk when ridden with more restraint than usual upped in trip at Musselburgh 5 weeks ago so big field may not suit.		Jack Tudor
16	GRANDEUR D'AME (FR) (45) 514UP-152 9 11-1 70.3kg		96
	Alan King Enhanced good record fresh when scoring at Chepstow on return. Better effort in premier handicaps here since when excellent close second last time, though winner did plenty wrong. Step up in trip could suit.		Tom Cannon
17	CREBILLY (IRE) (32) F4127-036 8 11-0 69.9kg		98
	Jonjo & A.J. O'Neill Did well over fences last term, his highlight coming when a fine second in Plate Handicap off 2 lb higher at this meeting. Efforts this season suggest he's been building up to this so big run expected.		Jonjo O'Neill Jr.
18	KATATE DORI (FR) (17) 33-541121 7 10-13 69.4kg	v+t	100
	Sam Thomas Much improved sent chasing this season, winning 3 of his 4 starts, notably when most impressive in the Ladbrokes Trophy at Kempton 17 days ago. Big hike in the weights is totally justified (12 lb higher) and big shout if this doesn't come too soon.		Dylan Johnston (3lb/1kg)
19	WHISTLE STOP TOUR (IRE) (45) 4413-3115 7 10-12 68.9kg		96
	Lucinda Russell Dual hurdles winner last season and this Irish point scorer is progressing very nicely over fences, supplementing his Kelso success in fine style at Ayr. Drop back in trip against him here since. This is a big test for a lightly-raced novice but his limit has probably not been reached yet.		Derek Fox
20	FRERO BANBOU (FR) (45) P66P-6126 10 10-10 68.0kg		96
	Venetia Williams Took advantage of reduced mark in Rehearsal Chase at Newcastle (by 1¼ lengths from The Changing Man), jumping well over the longest trip he's faced. Beaten only by an unexposed one at Kempton next time but well held in Great Yorkshire at Doncaster since.		Ned Fox (3lb/1kg)

2.40**ULTIMA HANDICAP CHASE (PREMIER HANDICAP) (1) 5yo+
£150,000 3m1f (5030 Metres)**

RACE 3



21 **GUARD YOUR DREAMS (17)** (C) t **96**
00-143474 9 10-8 | 67.1kg



Nigel Twiston-Davies

Kielan Woods

Smart hurdler at his best and made a successful return/chase debut in novices' handicap at Warwick. Has remained in form without building on that success so needs 1st time tongue strap to bring about some improvement.

22 **THE SHORT GO (IRE)** (114) h **96**
161-5342U 8 10-8 | 67.1kg



Henry de Bromhead, Ireland

Rachael Blackmore

Sent off second favourite for the Troytown at Navan (on the back of an excellent in C&D handicap) only to unseat rider at the 12th when yet to be asked for his effort. Kept fresh for this and no surprise to see him go well.

23 **MYRETOWN (IRE)** (25) **98**
4/2F1-51F1 8 10-3 | 64.9kg



Lucinda Russell

Patrick Wadge

Irish point winner. Winning hurdler but built for chasing and stepped up on chase bow/return when comfortable winner of 3-runner handicap at Wetherby. None the worse for Windsor fall when making all at Kelso latest. This is a big test for a lightly-raced novice but remains with potential.

24 **STRAW FAN JACK (32)** (C) s **90**
23036-89P 10 10-3 | 64.9kg



Sheila Lewis

Sean Houlihan

Smart form as a novice and standout effort of an otherwise low-key campaign last season was his fine third (off 6 lb higher) in the 20.6f Plate at this meeting. Has struggled in 4 subsequent starts, though.

24 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

8-1 The Changing Man, **9-1** Katate Dori, **9-1** Broadway Boy, **12-1** Crebilly, **14-1** Whistle Stop Tour, **16-1** Henry's Friend, **18-1** Malina Girl, **22-1** Sequestered, **22-1** Myretown, **22-1** Famous Bridge, **25-1** Victorino, **25-1** King Turgeon, **25-1** The Short Go, **25-1** Trelawne, **25-1** Search For Glory, **28-1** Happygolucky, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

One of the few races Britain has dominated, and they appear to hold the upper hand once again with the thriving KATATE DORI leading the charge for the home team. He continued his remarkable progress when routing his rivals in the Ladbrokes Trophy at Kempton and looks capable of defying a 12 lb rise if that big effort hasn't taken the edge off him. This has likely been the target for Crebilly after his fine second in the Plate last year, while Sequestered looks the pick of the Irish.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**1. KATATE DORI 2. CREBILLY 3. SEQUESTERED****WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2024	Chianti Classico	7-11-4	6-1	Kim Bailey	David Bass	21
2023	Corach Rambler	9-11-5	6-1jf	Lucinda Russell	Derek Fox	23
2022	Corach Rambler	8-10-2	10-1	Lucinda Russell	Derek Fox	24
2021	Vintage Clouds	11-10-11	28-1	Sue Smith	Ryan Mania	16
2020	The Conditional	8-10-6	15-2	David Bridgwater	Brendan Powell	23

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

3.20**CLOSE BROTHERS MARES' HURDLE (David Nicholson)
(Grade 1) (1) 4yo+ £124,200 2m3f200y (4010 Metres)**

RACE 4

GBI RACINGGoing: **Good to Soft**

Left handed, undulating. Stiff fences that place a premium on sound jumping. The last half mile is uphill, although the lead changes hands on the run-in less frequently than might be expected. Prominent-racers often fare well on the chase course, especially in races up to 3m. On the New Course, the hurdles track has just two flights in the last six furlongs, resulting in more emphasis on stamina; large-field races over two miles often go to hold-up horses, as there can be a tendency to go for home too soon. Jockeys often steer a wide course in the winter months searching for better ground and this can lead to trouble in-running towards the stand rail in the straight.

Pace Information: **Even**

1 CASA NO MENTO (13) 84
121-1P441 7 11-5 | 72.1kg



Nigel Twiston-Davies

Sam Twiston-Davies

Developed into a useful hurdler, winning 4 times including listed event at Punchestown (16.4f) in May. Showed benefit of a recent run when easily opening her account over fences at Bangor (17.3f) 2 weeks ago but loads to find on these terms returned to hurdling.

2 DYSART ENOS (IRE) (80) 85
111/111-37 7 11-5 | 72.1kg



Fergal O'Brien

Jonathan Burke

Successful on each of her first 6 outings in bumpers/novice hurdles. Missed Spring Festivals last term but returned from 10 months off with a good third in Greatwood Hurdle here (16.4f) in November. Subdued display at Ascot a month later and this no easy assignment on first crack at this trip.

3 GALA MARCEAU (FR) (31) (BF) 93
23/1336-23 6 11-5 | 72.1kg



W. P. Mullins, Ireland

B. Hayes

Smart mare who was runner up in the Triumph Hurdle 2 years ago. Had little go right when midfield in this race 12 months ago but no match for Lossiemouth at Punchestown in May and whilst she may come on for last month's Warwick return, others hold more pressing claims.

4 JADE DE GRUGY (FR) (19) (D) 95
1/1141-1 6 11-5 | 72.1kg



W. P. Mullins, Ireland

D. E. Mullins

Finished fourth behind Golden Ace in the mares' novice here 12 months ago but unbeaten otherwise, and her reappearance success in Gr 3 Quevega Hurdle at Punchestown (20.1f) 19 days ago was her best effort yet. Very much appeals as the chief threat to Lossiemouth with further progress anticipated.

5 JETARA (IRE) (45) (D) 91
133-21531 7 11-5 | 72.1kg



Mrs J. Harrington, Ireland

Sam Ewing

Useful mare who has won 3 times on Flat/over hurdles since the autumn, returning to her best equipped with first-time cheekpieces (retained here) when narrowly landing mares' Grade 2 at Doncaster (24.4f) 45 days ago. This clearly tougher but not without an each-way squeak.

6 JOYEUSE (FR) (31) 87
1/1-321 6 11-5 | 72.1kg



Nicky Henderson

Nico de Boinville

Half-sister to connections' Champion Hurdle winner Epatante who made a mockery of her opening mark when a mightily impressive winner of the hotly-contested William Hill Handicap at Newbury 31 days ago. Supplemented and while this is much tougher she's clearly very progressive.

7 JULY FLOWER (FR) (72) (D) 92
12P223-31 6 11-5 | 72.1kg



Henry de Bromhead, Ireland

Rachael Blackmore

6-y-o mare who reached a useful level over hurdles in France (placed in Gr. 1) and perfect start for new yard/after 8 months off when taking Leopardstown Grade 3 (19.8f) in December, her stamina shining through in a strongly-run race. Each-way player back up in class.

8 KALA CONTI (FR) (72) 91
11215-122 5 11-5 | 72.1kg



Gordon Elliott, Ireland

J. W. Kennedy

Likeable mare who won 3 of her 5 starts as a novice and improved again this term, successful on return at Down Royal (16.9f) in November. Acquitted herself well in Grade 3 company both starts since, 4 lengths second to July Flower at Leopardstown in December. Still unexposed at this trip.

9 LOSSIEMOUTH (FR) (37) (CD, BF) 100
11/11-112F 6 11-5 | 72.1kg



W. P. Mullins, Ireland

P. Townend

Easy winner of this and a Punchestown Grade 1 last term and showed all her class when winning Gr. 1 Hatton's Grace on return in December. No match for Constitution Hill at Kempton but still going with plenty of zest when falling in Irish Champion 37 days ago. Tough to beat back against her own sex.

10 QUEENS GAMBLE (IRE) (37) (C) 87
120/111-26 7 11-5 | 72.1kg



Harry Derham

Paul O'Brien

Likeable mare who won all 3 starts as a novice and resumed with a good second in Gerry Fielden at Newbury (16.3f) in November. Again ran well without the race getting to the bottom of her when sixth in big-field Leopardstown handicap last month but hard to envisage her playing a lead role here.

11 TAKE NO CHANCES (IRE) (52) (D) 89
1-1431531 7 11-5 | 72.1kg



Dan Skelton

Harry Skelton

Useful mare who bagged a 2m Wetherby listed race at the beginning of November. Found the Grade 1 Fighting Fifth at Newcastle too hot but quickly back to best, proving willing when resuming winning ways in Mares' Grade 2 at Ascot in January. Minor honours probably best she can hope for here, though.

11 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

4-6 Lossiemouth, **5-1** Jade De Grugy, **14-1** July Flower, **14-1** Joyeuse, **22-1** Kala Conti, **28-1** Jetara, **28-1** Take No Chances, **50-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

Last year's heroine LOSSIEMOUTH hasn't had things go to plan following her taking reappearance success in the Hatton's Grace in December yet, re-routed here as opposed to a tilt at the Champion Hurdle, Willie Mullins' mare very much rates the one to beat. Stablemate Jade de Grugy was most impressive when successful on return in the Quevega Hurdle 19 days ago and she can pose the chief threat. Joyeuse and July Flower rate next best, with Kala Conti also making each-way appeal.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. LOSSIEMOUTH 2. JADE DE GRUGY 3. JOYEUSE

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2024	Lossiemouth 5-11-5	8-13f	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	11
2023	Honeysuckle 9-11-5	9-4jf	Henry de Bromhead	Rachael Blackmore	9
2022	Marie's Rock 7-11-5	18-1	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boinville	12
2021	Black Tears 7-11-5	11-1	Mrs Denise Foster	J. W. Kennedy	10
2020	Honeysuckle 6-11-5	9-4	Henry de Bromhead	Rachael Blackmore	9

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

4.00**UNIBET CHAMPION HURDLE CHALLENGE TROPHY (Grade 1)**
(1) 4yo+ £450,000 2m87y (3300 Metres)


RACE 5

GBI RACINGGoing: **Good to Soft**

Left handed, undulating. Stiff fences that place a premium on sound jumping. The last half mile is uphill, although the lead changes hands on the run-in less frequently than might be expected. Prominent-racers often fare well on the chase course, especially in races up to 3m. On the New Course, the hurdles track has just two flights in the last six furlongs, resulting in more emphasis on stamina; large-field races over two miles often go to hold-up horses, as there can be a tendency to go for home too soon. Jockeys often steer a wide course in the winter months searching for better ground and this can lead to trouble in-running towards the stand rail in the straight.

Pace Information: **Even**

1 BURDETT ROAD (24) (CD) t  **85**
112-132 5 11-10 | 74.4kg

James Owen **Sam Twiston-Davies**

Classy dual-purpose performer who won the Greatwood Handicap over C&D before a fine effort behind Constitution Hill in the Christmas Hurdle at Kempton. Golden Ace also had a bit too much for him in the Kingwell at Wincanton since and he's surely playing for place money at best.

2 CONSTITUTION HILL (45) (CD)   **100**
1111/1-11 8 11-10 | 74.4kg




Nicky Henderson

Nico de Boinville


Exceptional unbeaten hurdler who missed last year's Festival after a couple of setbacks but has confirmed he's still very much the one to beat in this division with wins this winter in the Christmas Hurdle at Kempton and International here. Can regain his Champion Hurdle crown.

3 KING OF KINGSFIELD (IRE) (72) (D) **81**
2130-4225 7 11-10 | 74.4kg

Gordon Elliott, Ireland **Danny Gilligan**


Acted as a pacemaker for the same connections' Brighterdaysahead at Leopardstown in December and presumably here to perform the same role again.

4 STATE MAN (FR) (37) (CD) s  **95**
1111-1231 8 11-10 | 74.4kg

W. P. Mullins, Ireland **P. Townend**

Top-class hurdler who took advantage of Constitution Hill's absence to win this last year. Beaten twice by Brighterdaysahead at the end of 2024 but looked back in form when winning the Irish Champion last time, although Lossiemouth's fall made his task a lot simpler. Wears first-time cheekpieces.

5 WINTER FOG (IRE) (37) (D) **85**
1-4143323 11 11-10 | 74.4kg

W. P. Mullins, Ireland **B. Hayes**

Smart hurdler. Picked up the pieces for third behind State Man in the Irish Champion Hurdle at Leopardstown last time and a similar outcome is almost certainly the best he can hope for.

6 BRIGHTERDAYSAHEAD (FR) (72) (D) **98**
11121-111 6 11-3 | 71.2kg

Gordon Elliott, Ireland **J. W. Kennedy**

Beaten at odds on in the Dawn Run at last year's Festival but that's her only defeat. Had State Man behind her when winning the Morgiana at Punchestown in November and Neville Hotels at Leopardstown over Christmas. The one likely to give Constitution Hill most to do.

7 GOLDEN ACE (24) (CD) **86**
2/1111-431 7 11-3 | 71.2kg

Jeremy Scott **Lorcan Williams**

Unbeaten in 4 novice hurdles last season, including the Dawn Run at this meeting (beat Brighterdaysahead). Reached the frame in Grade 2 events on first 2 outings this winter prior to proving ¾ length too strong for Burdett Road in Kingwell at Wincanton.

7 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

8-11 Constitution Hill, 9-4 Brighterdaysahead, 8-1 State Man, 50-1 bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

CONSTITUTION HILL doesn't look quite as invincible as 2 years ago but is still very much the one to beat in this division and can fend off Brighterdaysahead, who was mightily impressive at Leopardstown when last seen over Christmas. Last year's winner State Man looks clear best of the rest.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. CONSTITUTION HILL 2. BRIGHTERDAYSAHEAD 3. STATE MAN

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2024	State Man 7-11-10	2-5f	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	8
2023	Constitution Hill 6-11-10	4-11f	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boinville	7
2022	Honeysuckle 8-11-3	8-11f	Henry de Bromhead	Rachael Blackmore	10
2021	Honeysuckle 7-11-3	11-10f	Henry de Bromhead	Rachael Blackmore	10
2020	Epatante 6-11-3	2-1f	Nicky Henderson	Barry Geraghty	17

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

4.40

RACE 6

HALLGARTEN AND NOVUM WINES JUVENILE HANDICAP HURDLE (Fred Winter) (PREMIER HANDICAP) (1) 4yo
£80,000 2m87y (3300 Metres)**GBI RACING**Going: **Good to Soft**

Left handed, undulating. Stiff fences that place a premium on sound jumping. The last half mile is uphill, although the lead changes hands on the run-in less frequently than might be expected. Prominent-racers often fare well on the chase course, especially in races up to 3m. On the New Course, the hurdles track has just two flights in the last six furlongs, resulting in more emphasis on stamina; large-field races over two miles often go to hold-up horses, as there can be a tendency to go for home too soon. Jockeys often steer a wide course in the winter months searching for better ground and this can lead to trouble in-running towards the stand rail in the straight.

Pace Information: **Extreme****1 WENDROCK (FR) (38) (D) 90**
317 4 11-12 | 75.3kgGordon Elliott, Ireland **J. W. Kennedy**

Chased home Total Look and Beyond Your Dreams starting out over hurdles for new yard at Navan before landing 2m Leopardstown maiden over Christmas. Stiff task in Grade 1 next time and this looks more his level now handicapping. Only runner for top stable with a good record in the race.

2 MURCIA (FR) (31) t 93
3-33182 4 11-12 | 75.3kgW. P. Mullins, Ireland **Rachael Blackmore**

Signed off in France with victory in a listed event and much better effort on second start for Willie Mullins when just failing at Naas last month, doing her best work at the death. That race has a good record of producing the winner of this and she's got to be high on the shortlist.

3 SONY BILL (FR) (38) (D) t 95
114-F235 4 11-12 | 75.3kgW. P. Mullins, Ireland **P. Townend**

Dual winning hurdler in France who has run respectably in graded contests at Leopardstown for new yard. Others have more potential now but she has the tongue tie she wore across the Channel back on and anything from this yard can never be discounted.

4 STENCIL (45) (D) 98
1162 4 11-11 | 74.8kgN. George & A. Zetterholm, France **James Reveley**

Useful hurdler successful at Compiègne in May and October and ran a cracker on first go on these shores in the Triumph Trial here in January, no match for East India Dock but well clear of Torrent in third and putting in a good round of jumping. This scenario will suit and he can go well.

5 TOTAL LOOK (FR) (43) (D) s 95
133 4 11-8 | 73.5kgGavin Patrick Cromwell, Ireland **Keith Donoghue**

Fairly useful Flat performer who has quickly matched that level over hurdles, successful at Navan and going close behind Quantock Hills and Teriferma here before catching the eye with a fast-finishing third behind Slurricane at Punchestown. Fitted with cheekpieces now and big run likely.

6 PUTURHANDSTOGETHER (IRE) (34) 99
312 4 11-6 | 72.6kgJoseph Patrick O'Brien, Ireland **M. P. Walsh**

Fairly useful Flat winner who is improving nicely over hurdles, seeing off a couple of subsequent winners in big-field maiden at Cork before leaving the impression he had more to offer again at Fairyhouse 5 weeks ago. Bound to be suited by this sort of test for yard that took this in 2024 and 2019.

7 SLURRICANE (IRE) (43) (D) 93
32321 4 11-2 | 70.8kgRoss O'Sullivan, Ireland **T. P. Harney (5lb/2kg)**

Flat winner who was rewarded for his consistency with a first success over hurdles at Punchestown 6 weeks ago, though his job was made easier by Out For A Stroll pecking badly at the last (Total Look eye-catcher in third). Looks vulnerable in follow-up bid.

8 ROBBIES ROCK (72) (D) t 93
35814 4 11-2 | 70.8kgGavin Patrick Cromwell, Ireland **C. Stone-Walsh (3lb/1kg)**

Fairly useful Flat winner who landed a gamble on handicap debut at Cork in December under this rider. Struggled after a 14 lb rise in listed handicap at Limerick next time and not seen since. May not have reached his limit.

9 QUANTOCK HILLS (FR) (45) (CD) 97
212115 4 11-2 | 70.8kgWarren Greatrex **Harry Cobden**

Fairly useful winner in France and good start for this yard with victories at Fontwell and Cheltenham (dead-heated with Teriferma after mistake at the last). Held behind a few of these in the Triumph Trial back here in January but did look third best for most of the way. Wouldn't dismiss.

10 TERIFERMA (45) (CD) s+t 97

11214 4 11-2 | 70.8kg

Jack Jones

Sean Bowen

Has taken well to hurdling, successful twice for Joseph O'Brien last summer and dead-heating with Quantock Hills here on first run for new yard in December. Held behind Stencil and Torrent in Grade 2 back here since though and looks vulnerable in this line-up. Cheekpieces back on.

11 HOLY SEE (IRE) (31) (BF) s 92
424 4 11-1 | 70.3kg

William Durkan, Ireland

Oakley Brown (5lb/2kg)

Fairly useful Flat winner in France who gave a decent account of himself when in the frame on first 2 starts over hurdles. Not so good behind Murcia in the traditionally-informative Naas event last time but could do better now handicapping with cheekpieces tried.

12 TURN AND FINISH (IRE) (39) s+t 95
653221 4 11-1 | 70.3kg

Harry Derham

Paul O'Brien

Several good runs in competitive races for Joseph O'Brien, including a second to Puturhandstogether at Cork, before he just got the job done for new yard at Catterick. Tongue tie/cheekpieces go on for handicap debut and he'll need to pull out more.

13 LIAM SWAGGER (83) (D) s+t 98
112 4 11-0 | 69.9kg

James Owen

Sam Twiston-Davies

Tongue tie went on and another from the yard to thrive in juvenile hurdles, scoring at Market Rasen and Wetherby in the autumn, seeing off Static and Torrent in listed event second occasion. Didn't jump too great when turned over at odds on at Newbury next time but has won well on the level since.

14 SOLAR DRIVE (IRE) (38) 95
4122 4 11-0 | 69.9kg

Paul W. Flynn, Ireland

Gavin Peter Brouder (3lb/1kg)

Fair Flat winner who took maiden at Ballinrobe in September and followed that up with good efforts from the front at Punchestown and Musselburgh. Will need a further step forward now handicapping.

15 LUKER'S TIPPLE (IRE) (38) 95
22F 4 10-13 | 69.4kg

Andrew Kinirons, Ireland

S. F. O'Keefe

Fair maiden on the Flat who has made an encouraging debut in this sphere, runner-up at Punchestown and Cork and only a length down when falling at the last in listed Musselburgh event 5 weeks ago. Has the scope to progress further now handicapping.

16 KOOL ONE (SPA) (16) 92
322 4 10-13 | 69.4kg

Conor David Maxwell, Ireland

Mr I. Ryan (7lb/3kg)

Fair Flat winner placed all 3 starts in juvenile hurdles this year, taking a keen hold under this rider. Thrown in at the deep end for handicap debut.

17 MISTER CESSNA (FR) (34) t 94
P3-133P2 4 10-13 | 69.4kg

Fergal O'Brien

Jonathan Burke

Fairly useful juvenile hurdle winner in France and back to that sort of level for this yard with sights lowered when second at Ludlow in re-fitted tongue tie. Goes handicapping now and may have a bit more in the locker.

18 BEYOND YOUR DREAMS (IRE) (87) (D) s 95
221 4 10-13 | 69.4kg

Joseph Patrick O'Brien, Ireland

J. J. Slevin

Fairly useful Flat winner and has made a bright start over hurdles, chasing home Total Look at Navan second start then opening account at Fairyhouse, losing ground at each of the last 2 but picking up well. Will need to jump better here but got to be respected in first-time cheekpieces.

19 MOUTARDE (IRE) (38) (D) 95
241616F 4 10-12 | 68.9kg

Anthony Charlton

Callum Pritchard (5lb/2kg)

Fair Flat winner in Ireland for Gavin Cromwell and started well over hurdles for this yard with victories at Kempton and Taunton. In the process of bouncing back when crashing out at the last in listed juvenile at Musselburgh 5 weeks ago but would be a surprising winner of this.

20 STATIC (FR) (38) 96
3R16225B 4 10-12 | 68.9kg

Donald McCain



Charlie Maggs (5lb/2kg)



Dual winner in claimers over hurdles in France and satisfactory-enough start in Britain in some of the leading juvenile races, albeit starting to feel the pinch and weakening out of the frame by the time he departed at Musselburgh last time. New yard.

4.40


RACE 6


HALLGARTEN AND NOVUM WINES JUVENILE HANDICAP HURDLE (Fred Winter) (PREMIER HANDICAP) (1) 4yo
£80,000 2m87y (3300 Metres)

21 HOT FUSS (IRE) (74) (D) b  **100**
 214 4 10-12 | 68.9kg
 Tom Dascombe *David Bass*
 Chased home subsequent Cheltenham Grade 2 winner and Triumph fancy East India Dock on hurdle debut at Wincanton before making all at Sandown (2m). Stiff task at Chepstow next time and successful on the Flat last month (useful form). Good test at this trip will suit. Player in new headgear.

22 LAVENDER HILL MOB (9) (D, BF) **95**
 24133 4 10-11 | 68.5kg
 James Owen  *Jamie Brace (5lb/2kg)*
 Fairly useful Flat performer who has shown similar form in this sphere, scoring at Warwick in January before a solid third at Haydock. Not so great at Huntingdon recently though and his jumping probably isn't good enough for this. Handicap debut.

RESERVES

23 OUT FOR A STROLL (IRE) (43) (D, BF) b **93**
 55412 4 10-11 | 68.5kg
 Joseph Patrick O'Brien, Ireland *Reserve*
 Off the mark over hurdles fitted with cheekpieces in 2m Limerick maiden in December from subsequent Grade 3 winner and ran well behind Slurricane on handicap debut at Punchestown next time, a stumble on landing at the last perhaps crucial. Respected. 1 of 3 for connections if getting a run. RESERVE.

24 EPHEBUS (IRE) (31) s+t **96**
 323 4 10-11 | 68.5kg
 Denis Hogan, Ireland *Reserve*
 Fairly useful Flat winner for Aidan O'Brien and has made a solid start over hurdles, splitting Murcia and Holy See in the Naas contest last month that has produced the winner of this race 3 times since 2019. Could do better and not without interest if getting a run. RESERVE.

22 DECLARED RUNNERS (2 RESERVES)

BETTING FORECAST:

15-2 Stencil, **9-1** Beyond Your Dreams, **9-1** Total Look, **10-1** Puturhandstogether, **11-1** Murcia, **12-1** Hot Fuss, **20-1** Liam Swagger, **25-1** Quantock Hills, **25-1** Sony Bill, **25-1** Turn And Finish, **28-1** Slurricane, **33-1** Static, **33-1** Solar Drive, **33-1** Luker's Tipple, **33-1** Holy See, **33-1** Wendrock, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

PUTURHANDSTOGETHER left the firm impression we've yet to see the best of him when second at Fairyhouse and can give Joseph O'Brien a third win in 7 runnings. Amazingly for a race that has been dominated by Ireland it is one of the few this week to elude Willie Mullins but he has a strong contender in Murcia. Hot Fuss, Total Look, Beyond Your Dreams and Stencil also make the shortlist.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. PUTURHANDSTOGETHER 2. MURCIA 3. HOT FUSS

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2024	Lark In The Mornin 4-11-0	9-1	Joseph Patrick O'Brien	J. J. Slevin	22
2023	Jazzy Matty 4-10-9	18-1	Gordon Elliott	M. J. M. O'Sullivan (3)	21
2022	Brazil 4-11-9	10-1	Padraig Roche	M. P. Walsh	21
2021	Jeff Kidder 4-10-8	80-1	Noel Meade	Sean Flanagan	22
2020	Aramax 4-11-8	15-2	Gordon Elliott	M. P. Walsh	22

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

5.20

RACE 7

**PRINCESS ROYAL NATIONAL HUNT CHALLENGE CUP
NOVICES' HANDICAP CHASE (2) 5yo+ (Rated 0-145)
£100,000 3m5f201y (6020 Metres)**

Going: **Good to Soft**

Left handed, undulating. Stiff fences that place a premium on sound jumping. The last half mile is uphill, although the lead changes hands on the run-in less frequently than might be expected. Prominent-racers often fare well on the chase course, especially in races up to 3m. On the New Course, the hurdles track has just two flights in the last six furlongs, resulting in more emphasis on stamina; large-field races over two miles often go to hold-up horses, as there can be a tendency to go for home too soon. Jockeys often steer a wide course in the winter months searching for better ground and this can lead to trouble in-running towards the stand rail in the straight.

Pace Information: **Weak**

1	DUFFLE COAT (IRE) (49) (C)	s	96
	421352P4 8 12-0 76.2kg		
	Gordon Elliott, Ireland	James Smith (5lb/2kg)	
	Several solid efforts prior to opening chase account in a 3m listed handicap at Ballinrobe last May. Bettered that when a fine second in the Galway Plate in July. Off 4 months, went without usual cheekpieces (back now) when last of 4 over 20.5f at Ayr 49 days ago. Significantly up in trip.		
2	RESPLENDENT GREY (IRE) (45)		96
	342-11224 7 11-11 74.8kg		
	Olly Murphy	Sean Bowen	
	Ended last season on the up over hurdles and perfect start to chase career when accounting for 5 rivals in a 2½m Uttoxeter handicap in October. Runner-up over 3m on next 2 starts and a drop back to 20.5f looked against him when fourth over 20.5f latest. This trip may suit him.		
3	STUZZIKINI (IRE) (47)	b	97
	25415310 7 11-9 73.9kg		
	Gordon Elliott, Ireland	Sam Ewing	
	Career best when winning the valuable Troytown at Navan (3m, good to soft) in November. Not in anything like the same form in the Thyestes at Gowran 2 months later but this longer distance should suit.		
4	CAPTAIN CODY (IRE) (52)		96
	1241-0443 7 11-9 73.9kg		
	W. P. Mullins, Ireland	D. E. Mullins	
	Useful hurdle winner who has matched that form over fences this season, improving again when third (Now Is The Hour fourth) in a warm Navan maiden chase (3m, soft) last month. This increased stamina test promises to suit. On the shortlist.		
5	NOW IS THE HOUR (IRE) (52)		96
	9F112-654 8 11-8 73.5kg		
	Gavin Patrick Cromwell, Ireland	Keith Donoghue	
	Yet to win over fences but translated his useful hurdle ability to the larger obstacles when 4 lengths fourth (Captain Cody third) in a strong Navan maiden (3m, soft) in January. Very interesting handicap newcomer for an Irish stable with a good Cheltenham record.		
6	HAITI COULEURS (FR) (31) (C)		99
	2411-2113 8 11-4 71.7kg		
	Rebecca Curtis	Ben Jones	
	Won 25f handicap chases at Aintree and here (reopposing Transmission second) towards the end of 2024. Creditable third of 12 in Newbury handicap hurdle last month and open to further progress back chasing. Gets the vote.		
7	IN D'OR (FR) (38)		95
	5312-0113 7 11-3 71.2kg		
	Venetia Williams	Mr David Maxwell	
	French import who has improved for the switch to fences, scoring cosily in handicaps (around 3m) at Taunton and Ascot this winter. Improved again when 4 lengths third of 9 at Sandown (3m, heavy) last month but stamina isn't assured over this far.		
8	HASTHING (FR) (24) (BF)		97
	1176-4114 8 11-2 70.8kg		
	Jonjo & A.J. O'Neill	Jonjo O'Neill Jr.	
	Has taken very well to fences this winter, bagging a pair of handicaps at Windsor either side of Christmas. Proved himself at 3m when fourth in a valuable handicap at Ascot in February. Another 6f further to go now, though.		
9	TRANSMISSION (IRE) (45) (C)	s	100
	1581-2126 8 11-2 70.8kg		
	Neil Mulholland	Mr P. W. Mullins	
	Has taken well to fences here this season, including a 25f handicap win in November. Bettered that form when second to Haiti Couleurs in a novice handicap the following month. Stiff task back hurdling in the Grade 2 Cleeve in January but much better can be expected back chasing. Player.		

10	NO TIME TO WAIT (IRE) (38)	t	95
	87314-P43 7 11-2 70.8kg		
	John McConnell, Ireland	D. J. O'Keefe	
	Bumper/hurdles winner for Gordon Elliott. Improved effort over fences for new yard when length third in 3m Musselburgh handicap last month. First-time tongue tie worn on that occasion is retained. Up in trip.		
11	WILL DO (IRE) (19)	b	97
	6-432562 8 11-1 70.3kg		
	Gordon Elliott, Ireland	J. W. Kennedy	
	Yet to win over fences but latest second of 17 in a strong Punchestown handicap (27f, soft) was a really good effort. The mount of Jack Kennedy from the yard's trio. Enters calculations.		
12	ROCK MY WAY (IRE) (45) (C, BF)	b+t	97
	6232-3142 7 11-1 70.3kg		
	Joe Tizzard	Brendan Powell	
	Useful chaser who won a 3m Doncaster novice handicap for Anthony Charlton in November. Ended his time with that stable with a below-form fourth at Newbury over Christmas but back on form for new yard when runner-up back at Doncaster (3m again) in January. First-time blinkers replace cheekpieces.		
13	GERICAULT ROQUE (FR) (53)	t	96
	53/3 9 11-0 69.9kg		
	David Pipe	Jack Tudor	
	Second to Corach Rambler in Ultima at the 2022 Festival. Another good placed effort in a big handicap when third in Coral Cup at Newbury in November of that year. Not seen again until third of 6 at Windsor in January but it's an effort which suggests he retains most of his ability.		
14	HERAKLES WESTWOOD (FR) (31) (BF)		96
	1442-2113 8 10-12 68.9kg		
	Warren Greatrex	Harry Cobden	
	Has taken well to fences, winning 3m novice handicaps scoring at Newbury in December and Windsor in January. Only a respectable third of 6 back at Newbury last month and will need to resume his progression to get heavily involved.		
15	KLARC KENT (FR) (19)	s	88
	324-POP90 9 10-10 68.0kg		
	W. P. Mullins, Ireland	S. F. O'Keefe	
	Twelve runs since last win in 2022. Proved he stays well when good fourth in last year's Scottish Grand National at Ayr (4m) but he hasn't got near that level in 5 subsequent starts, the latest at Punchestown only 19 days ago. First-time cheekpieces need to make a big difference.		
16	KYNTARA (53)		91
	11222F-44 9 10-8 67.1kg		
	Mel Rowley	Charlie Deutsch	
	Made up into a useful hurdler for this yard last term, winning twice and also second in Pertemps at this meeting. Better effort back over fences this time round when fourth of 6 in 3m Windsor handicap in January but has yet to really convince as a chaser.		
17	CAESAR ROCK (IRE) (80)	s	94
	424532F4 9 10-7 66.7kg		
	M. F. Morris, Ireland	Gavin Peter Brouder (3lb/1kg)	
	Boasts plenty of experience over fences but still a maiden and below form when a remote fourth in Thurles handicap when last seen in December. Others are more obvious.		
18	JUPITER ALLEN (FR) (35)	s	95
	315-514P1 6 10-7 66.7kg		
	Mrs Jane Williams	David Noonan	
	Dual winner over hurdles and has also landed 2 chases wins this season, reacting well to cheekpieces (retained) when shading a close finish at Taunton (23f) last month. Up 4 lb in a significantly stronger race now.		
RESERVES			
19	AWORKINPROGRESS (IRE) (28)		96
	9861-1111 6 10-4 65.3kg		
	Nick Gifford	Reserve	
	Most progressive sort who made it 4-4 in this sphere when comfortably seeing off 7 rivals over 3m at Lingfield (heavy) last month. Raised another 7 lb but almost certainly capable of even better and not discounted if getting a run. RESERVE.		
20	LATENIGHTRUMBLE (27)	s+t	97
	2573122 8 10-2 64.4kg		
	Tom Ellis	Reserve	
	Four-time point winner who surpassed his hurdles form when making a winning handicap chase debut over 3m at Wetherby in December. Would have won there again last month but for sprawling on landing at the last (neck ahead and yet to be asked for effort at the time). Cheekpieces added. RESERVE.		

5.20

RACE 7

**PRINCESS ROYAL NATIONAL HUNT CHALLENGE CUP
NOVICES' HANDICAP CHASE (2) 5yo+ (Rated 0-145)
£100,000 3m5f201y (6020 Metres)**

18 DECLARED RUNNERS (2 RESERVES)

BETTING FORECAST:

9-2 Now Is The Hour, **11-2** Haiti Couleurs, **7-1** Transmission, **7-1** Captain Cody, **14-1** Will Do, **16-1** Hasting, **16-1** Resplendent Grey, **16-1** Gericault Roque, **22-1** Herakles Westwood, **28-1** Kyntara, **33-1** In D'or, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

HAITI COULEURS created a good impression when proving too strong for Transmission (second choice) over 25f here in December. He warmed up for this with a good third over hurdles at Newbury and there should be more to come from him back over the larger obstacles. The shortlist is completed by Now Is The Hour and Captain Cody, who are closely matched on latest Navan maiden form and appeal as likely improvers now stepping up in trip for their handicap chase debuts.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. HAITI COULEURS 2. TRANSMISSION 3. NOW IS THE HOUR

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2024	Corbetts Cross 7-11-7	15-8	Emmet Mullins	Mr D. O'Connor	7
2023	Gaillard du Mesnil 7-11-7	10-11f	W. P. Mullins	Mr P. W. Mullins	10
2022	Stattler 7-11-6	2-1	W. P. Mullins	Mr P. W. Mullins	6
2021	Galvin 7-11-6	7-2	Ian Ferguson	J. W. Kennedy	12
2020	Ravenhill 10-11-6	12-1	Gordon Elliott	Mr J. J. Codd	14

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race