

Thursday 13th March

# CHELTENHAM



**1.20** RYANAIR MARES' NOVICES' HURDLE (Dawn Run) (Grade 2) 2m179y (3380 Metres)

RACE 1 **(21) SIXANDAHALF | (12) KAROLINE BANBOU | (9) JUBILEE ALPHA**

**2.00** JACK RICHARDS NOVICES' LIMITED HANDICAP CHASE (Golden Miller) (Grade 2) (1) 2½m127y (4140 Metres)

RACE 2 **(2) FIREFOX | (6) ASIAN MASTER | (8) NURBURGRING**

**2.40** PERTEMPS NETWORK FINAL HANDICAP HURDLE (PREMIER HANDICAP) (1) 2m7f213y (4820 Metres)

RACE 3 **(8) FEET OF A DANCER | (4) WIN SOME LOSE SOME | (10) JERIKO DU REPONET**

**3.20** RYANAIR CHASE (Festival Trophy) (Grade 1) (1) 2½m127y (4140 Metres)

RACE 4 **(3) FACT TO FILE | (6) IL EST FRANCAIS | (9) PROTEKTORAT**

**4.00** PADDY POWER STAYERS' HURDLE (Grade 1) (1) 2m7f213y (4820 Metres)

RACE 5 **(14) TEAHUPOO | (7) HOME BY THE LEE | (9) LUCKY PLACE**

**4.40** TRUSTATRADER PLATE HANDICAP CHASE (PREMIER HANDICAP) (1) 2½m127y (4140 Metres)

RACE 6 **(13) JAGWAR | (14) THECOMPANYSERGEANT | (9) MASACCIO**

**5.20** FULKE WALWYN KIM MUIR CHALLENGE CUP AMATEUR JOCKEYS' HANDICAP CHASE (2) 3¼m (5230 Metres)

RACE 7 **(6) MINT BOY | (2) YEAH MAN | (4) JOHNNYWHO**

## 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

**RYANAIR MARES' NOVICES' HURDLE (Dawn Run) (Grade 2) 4yo+ fillies and mares £105,000 2m179y (3380 Metres)****GBI RACING**Going: **Good to Soft (Soft in places)**

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**

<b>1</b>	<b>AIR OF ENTITLEMENT (IRE) (77)</b> 1-71 6 11-4   71.7kg	<b>91</b>
	Henry de Bromhead, Ireland Successful on first of 2 starts in bumpers during the spring and created a good impression after 8 months off when winning 15-runner maiden at Down Royal (20f) in December. Looks sure to progress for all this is a tall ask second time up in this sphere.	<b>Rachael Blackmore</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>AURORA VEGA (IRE) (47) (D)</b> 114-31P11 7 11-4   71.7kg	<b>97</b>
	W. P. Mullins, Ireland Fantastically bred very useful bumper winner who proved her Wexford running all wrong back from a break when registering back-to-back victories in mares' hurdles at Fairyhouse in January. Boasts an already excellent strike rate and she's of interest with further progress in the offing.	<b>P. Townend</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>BLUEY (IRE) (23) (D)</b> 1-4121 6 11-4   71.7kg	<b>93</b>
	Emma Lavelle Successful only start in bumpers last spring and excellent start over hurdles this term, making it 2 wins from 4 starts from the front in 5-runner mares' novice at Market Rasen (16.6f) 23 days ago, unchallenged. This a whole different ball game but she's going the right way.	<b>Ben Jones</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>BRENDAS ASKING (IRE) (54)</b> 442-P1325 7 11-4   71.7kg	<b>87</b>
	Kim Bailey & Mat Nicholls Has really found her feet this season building on a creditable second at Ludlow in December when up in class, fifth of 7 in a Grade 2 mares races at Ascot the following month, having enjoyed the run of the race. Conditions unlikely to be as favourable again and tough ask facing better opposition.	<b>Tom Bellamy</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>DISCO DANCER (IRE) (21) (D)</b> 3254F145 6 11-4   71.7kg	<b>91</b>
	Gordon Elliott, Ireland Looks fairly exposed as a hurdler and although she posted a career best when placed in a handicap on penultimate start, she was very disappointing when tailed-off in a Listed hurdle at Punchestown (16f, soft) 3 weeks ago. This looks a very tough assignment.	<b>Danny Gilligan</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>DIVA LUNA (IRE) (48) (C, D, BF)</b> 11-212 6 11-4   71.7kg	<b>94</b>
	Ben Pauling 2-2 in bumper, including an Aintree Grade 2 last term. Promising hurdles bow when runner-up at Lingfield in December and no trouble going one place better in maiden company here (20.2f) on New Year's Day. Creditable second followed in novice at Sandown latest but this will demand further progress.	<b>Kielan Woods</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>HOLLYGROVE CHA CHA (IRE) (28) (D)</b> 11-1121 5 11-4   71.7kg	<b>92</b>
	Jamie Snowden Won both starts in bumpers last spring and continued good work sent hurdling this term, benefiting as expected from the return to further when taking her career tally to 5 wins from 6 starts in Grade 2 mares' hurdle at Sandown last month. Drop back in trip may not suit.	<b>Gavin Sheehan</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>JANE EIRE (IRE) (130)</b> 421 5 11-4   71.7kg	<b>88</b>
	Henry de Bromhead, Ireland Balko mare who has improved with each outing to date, beaten on the nod at Gowran (2m) in October prior to deservedly going one place better in Cork maiden (16.3f) a month later. Faces her toughest assignment yet back from 4 months off but in excellent hands and unlikely we've seen best of her yet.	<b>Sean Bowen</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>JUBILEE ALPHA (IRE) (53) (D)</b> 12-311 6 11-4   71.7kg	<b>97</b>
	Paul Nicholls Flemensfirth mare who was successful on first of 2 starts in bumpers and created a good impression over hurdles, showing too many gears for her rivals when making it 2 from 3 in this sphere at Windsor (2m) in January. One of the likelier types representing the home team.	<b>Harry Cobden</b>

<b>10</b>	<b>JUST A ROSE (FR) (54)</b> 1 6 11-4   71.7kg	<b>93</b>
	Paul Nicholls Won sole start in points (Dec 2023) and marked herself out as a mare of considerable potential when taking apart a 12-runner Taunton maiden on hurdles bow 54 days ago. Strength of that race is questionable but significant that leading yard pitch her in here having only second hurdles start.	<b>Freddie Gingell</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>KARAMOJA (FR) (28)</b> 323-3P1 5 11-4   71.7kg	<b>85</b>
	W. P. Mullins, Ireland Placed in Listed newcomers' hurdle in France in 2023 and showed promise on stable debut when third at Clonmel (19.4f) in December. Race may have come too soon when pulled-up later that month but returned to form when landing an 18-runner novice hurdle at Clonmel (19f). This is a much tougher test.	<b>J. W. Kennedy</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>KAROLINE BANBOU (FR) (36)</b> 12212-21 5 11-4   71.7kg	<b>94</b>
	W. P. Mullins, Ireland Dual French bumper winner who confirmed promise of her hurdles debut second in December when scoring with commensurate ease in mares' maiden at Fairyhouse (2m) last month. Clearly held in high regard and feasible to think there's more to come. Shortlisted.	<b>M. P. Walsh</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>KIMI DE MAI (FR) (61) (BF)</b> 21-113 5 11-4   71.7kg	<b>82</b>
	W. P. Mullins, Ireland Completed a hat-trick in shorter-distance French bumpers but failed to justify support on hurdling debut for this yard when a distant third behind the promising Sixandahalf. She's entitled to come for that but needs to improve significantly.	<b>S. F. O'Keefe</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>KITTY FOYLE (IRE) (73) (D)</b> 1253 5 11-4   71.7kg	<b>88</b>
	Daisy Hitchens Fairly useful on the Flat (stays 2m) and has been steadily progressive in this sphere, finishing a creditable third behind Jubilee Alpha in a Listed event at Taunton (16.5f) in December. Underwhelming effort back on the Flat last month and faces an uphill task pitched into this company.	<b>Harry Reed</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>LAGERTHA (FR) (44)</b> 64-971 5 11-4   71.7kg	<b>82</b>
	Katy Price Useful bumper performer left previous hurdles form behind when looking a different proposition at Chepstow (2m, heavy) last time. Step into graded company may prove a bridge too far.	<b>Shane Fitzgerald</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>MAGIC MCCOLGAN (IRE) (59)</b> 412-021 6 11-4   71.7kg	<b>83</b>
	W. P. Mullins, Ireland Encouraging second on hurdles bow at Cork and built on that promise when justifying market confidence to land a novice hurdle at Punchestown (19.6f, soft) in January, having jumped left in the home straight. Remains to be seen if she can mix it in better company dropping back in distance.	<b>D. E. Mullins</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>MAUGHREEN (IRE) (45)</b> 1-1 6 11-4   71.7kg	<b>92</b>
	W. P. Mullins, Ireland Won sole start in bumpers and maintained her unbeaten record after 12 months off in 12-runner mares' maiden hurdle at Punchestown (19.2f) with plenty to spare. From the family of Festival winner Faugheen and no surprise to see marked improvement. Merits respect in first-time hood.	<b>Mr P. W. Mullins</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>METKAYINA (IRE) (40) (BF)</b> 314-2152 6 11-4   71.7kg	<b>89</b>
	Noel Williams Not disgraced when fifth behind Jubilee Alpha in a mares Listed race at Taunton, having raced keenly. Turned over at odds-on back in a novice hurdle at Wetherby last month, having been let down by her jumping and would need to step up considerably on that form.	<b>Jonathan Burke</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>MYSTICAL GODDESS (IRE) (47) (D)</b> 164 6 11-4   71.7kg	<b>89</b>
	Henry de Bromhead, Ireland Winning pointer made perfect start to career under Rules when successful in a Clonmel maiden in October. Not disgraced in a couple of Graded mares events subsequently, fourth of 8 behind Aurora Vega at Fairyhouse (18.2f) latest, in first-time tongue tie. Will likely prove better over further.	<b>D. J. O'Keefe</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>QUEENIE ST CLAIR (IRE) (26)</b> 7685 5 11-4   71.7kg	<b>67</b>
	E. Sheehy, Ireland Well-beaten last of 8 behind Aurora Vega at Fairyhouse in January and again looked out of her depth when comfortably held in the Grade 3 Red Mills at Gowran last month. Racing back against her own sex but difficult to be positive about her chances.	<b>Sean Flanagan</b>

**1.20**

RACE 1

**RYANAIR MARES' NOVICES' HURDLE (Dawn Run) (Grade 2) 4yo+ fillies and mares £105,000 2m179y (3380 Metres)****21 SIXANDAHALF (IRE) (61) (D) 98**

2-11 5 11-4 | 71.7kg



Gavin Patrick Cromwell, Ireland

**Keith Donoghue**

Wide-margin winner in bumper prior to developing into a useful stayer on the level last year. Looked potentially smart as she made an impressive winning hurdles debut in Fairyhouse mares' maiden (18.4f) in January. Very interesting pitched up in grade with significant progress anticipated.

**22 TOUR OVALIE (FR) (37) (D) 86**

54311191 6 11-4 | 71.7kg



Evan Williams

**Isabel Williams**

Progressive mare landed a hat-trick in a Newbury handicap (16.3f) in December and after facing a stiff task from 6 lb out of the weights in a better-quality race at Windsor, quickly regained the winning thread in a lesser event at Taunton. Most likely out of her depth in this company.

**23 VENUSIENNE (FR) (541) 88**

2- 5 11-4 | 71.7kg



W. P. Mullins, Ireland

**B. Hayes**

Authorized mare who showed plenty of ability when second in newcomers' listed hurdle at Auteuil (17.9f) only start in 2023. Absent since but that was a sound start and feasible to think she can improve on that now starting out for Willie Mullins.

**24 GALILEO DAME (IRE) (40) 100**

22 4 10-8 | 67.1kg



Joseph Patrick O'Brien, Ireland

**J. J. Slevin**

Useful Flat winner who finished an encouraging second on hurdles debut in a Leopardstown juvenile in December and much-improved under change of tactics when staying-on second in Grade 1 Spring Juvenile back at that venue 6 weeks ago. Much respected in receipt of weight all round.

24 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**4-1** Sixandahalf, **11-2** Karoline Banbou, **6-1** Maughreen, **13-2** Galileo Dame, **11-1** Jubilee Alpha, **18-1** Aurora Vega, **22-1** Diva Luna, **22-1** Just A Rose, **25-1** Air of Entitlement, **28-1** Venusienne, **40-1** bar

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

The biggest field ever assembled in this contest and it's every bit as competitive as you would expect. SIXANDAHALF developed into a useful stayer on the Flat last season and continued that progression over hurdles when routing some decent horses at Fairyhouse in January. Smart French bumper winner Karoline Banbou could hardly have been more impressive when shedding her maiden tag last month and remains completely unexposed, while Jubilee Alpha is a serious contender for the home team.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:****1. SIXANDAHALF 2. KAROLINE BANBOU 3. JUBILEE ALPHA****WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2024	<b>Golden Ace</b> 6-11-2	10-1	Jeremy Scott	Lorcan Williams	8
2023	<b>You Wear It Well</b> 6-11-7	16-1	Jamie Snowden	Gavin Sheehan	21
2022	<b>Love Envoi</b> 6-11-7	15-2	Harry Fry	Jonathan Burke	19
2021	<b>Telmesomethinggirl</b> 6-11-2	5-1	Henry de Bromhead	Rachael Blackmore	15
2020	<b>Concertista</b> 6-11-2	9-2	W.P. Mullins	Daryl Jacob	22

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

**2.00**

RACE 2

**JACK RICHARDS NOVICES' LIMITED HANDICAP CHASE  
(Golden Miller) (Grade 2) (1) 5yo+ £125,000 2½m127y  
(4140 Metres)****GBI RACING**Going: **Good to Soft (Soft in places)**

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** **SPRINGWELL BAY (71)** (CD) **98**  
142U-1321 **8** 11-12 | 75.3kg



Jonjo &amp; A.J. O'Neill

**Jonjo O'Neill Jr.**

Very useful hurdler who made a winning return/chase debut at Chepstow in October. Not ideally suited by muddling pace in small-field novice events next 2 starts but then showed what he can do with an emphatic C&D success in a Grade 3 handicap on New Year's Day. One to consider despite a 9 lb hike.

**2** **FIREFOX (IRE) (40)** **100**  
432-21323 **7** 11-8 | 73.5kg



Gordon Elliott, Ireland

**J. W. Kennedy**

Very smart novice hurdler last term, placing in Grade 1s at the 3 big spring festivals. Jumped well when making a winning return/chase debut in November and hasn't done much wrong against classy novices since. Good chance he has an even bigger performance in him now venturing into handicap company.

**3** **CALDWELL POTTER (FR) (55)** (BF) **98**  
63/211-132 **7** 11-4 | 71.7kg



Paul Nicholls

**Harry Cobden**

Reached a smart level over hurdles (Grade 1 winner) for Gordon Elliott and perfect start in this sphere for new connections (€740,000 buy) in 2m Carlisle novice chase in December. However, beaten favourite here and at Windsor since, not finding a great deal at the business end on either occasion.

**4** **DEE CAPO (FR) (46)** **95**  
21P-04F14 **6** 11-4 | 71.7kg



Gordon Elliott, Ireland

**Danny Gilligan**

Bumper/dual hurdles winner who opened his chase account at the third attempt in a handicap at Leopardstown during the Christmas period. Stamina seemingly stretched upped to 25f on heavy ground at Naas next time and this scenario will be more suitable, albeit he will need to raise his game.

**5** **ANSWER TO KAYF (46)** (D) **99**  
2314-2451 **9** 11-3 | 71.2kg



Terence O'Brien, Ireland

**John Shinnick (31lb/1kg)**

Useful hurdler but bettered anything he achieved in that sphere when making it third time lucky over fences with a power-packed front-running display in 2½m Naas handicap (heavy) in January. Now finds himself in a tougher race off 15 lb higher but this Irish raider shouldn't be underestimated.

**6** **ASIAN MASTER (IRE) (61)** **98**  
2/4114-533 **8** 11-2 | 70.8kg



W. P. Mullins, Ireland

**Mr Thomas Costello (71lb/3kg)**

Winning pointer who was 2-4 over hurdles last season and plenty of promise strong maiden chases at Fairyhouse this winter, third to smart stablemate Majborough on first occasion. Promises to be suited by this stiffer test now pitched into a handicap for the first time and he's strongly considered.

**7** **INSURRECTION (IRE) (39)** (D) **97**  
2331-2331 **8** 11-0 | 69.9kg



Paul Nicholls

**Jonathan Burke**

Dual winner over hurdles who was a good second of 5 in listed novice at Chepstow on chasing debut in October. No joy next 2 starts but then improved when coming home 16 lengths clear of his nearest pursuer in a 7-runner Musselburgh handicap (2½m, good to soft). 8 lb rise could find him out here.

**8** **NURBURGRING (IRE) (76)** **93**  
134-31339 **5** 10-13 | 69.4kg



Joseph Patrick O'Brien, Ireland

**J. J. Slevin**

Quickly made up into a smart hurdler, the highlight being his Galway Hurdle success in August. Promise on first 2 starts in this sphere and, though never a threat at Leopardstown (17f) last time, much better is expected now upped in trip for this handicap chase debut. Also has cheekpieces refitted.

**9** **O'MOORE PARK (IRE) (26)** **96**  
3/312-0FF4 **8** 10-12 | 68.9kg



W. P. Mullins, Ireland

**S. F. O'Keefe**

Useful hurdler who, despite falling on his first 2 starts over fences, is essentially a good jumper, as he demonstrated when fourth of 11 in a Gowran maiden chase (2½m, heavy) last month. Will need to improve on that if he's to play a major role here but better can be expected now handicapping.

**10** **ANYWAY (GER) (75)** **94**  
1PF12855 **7** 10-11 | 68.5kg



David Kenneth Budds, Ireland

**D. J. O'Keefe**

Winner of 3 of his 12 starts over hurdles and bright start in this sphere when ½-length second to The Other Mozzie at Galway in October. However, it's fair to say that he has failed to build on that since, most recently beaten around 10 lengths in the Leopardstown maiden won by Dee Capo.

**11** **SAN SALVADOR (IRE) (77)** **96**  
F741144F **9** 10-11 | 68.5kg



Joseph Patrick O'Brien, Ireland

**Richard Deegan**

Got it together over fences with back-to-back wins at Listowel and Roscommon within the space of 8 days last September. Looked held when falling 2 out on latest chase start at Leopardstown on Boxing Day and, though successful on the Flat since, he looks vulnerable here.

**12** **THE OTHER MOZZIE (IRE) (67)** **97**  
53-001U61 **6** 10-10 | 68.0kg



Gavin Patrick Cromwell, Ireland

**C. Stone-Walsh (31lb/1kg)**

Made a winning reappearance/chase debut at Galway in October. Beaten a fair way here the following month but back on track in first-time cheekpieces when landing a 2m Naas handicap in good style last time. Much more on his plate off an 11 lb higher mark in this ultra-competitive contest, though.

**13** **WHAT'S UP DARLING (IRE) (26)** **99**  
264-24235 **8** 10-10 | 68.0kg



Gordon Elliott, Ireland

**Sam Ewing**

Grade 3 hurdles winner last term and far from disgraced when sixth of 21 in the Martin Pipe at this meeting 12 months ago. Below par last time at Gowran but has otherwise made a positive start to life over fences and improvement could be on the way now pitched into a handicap in this sphere.

**14** **PIC ROC (IRE) (33)** **98**  
52122-F22 **7** 10-9 | 67.6kg



Ben Pauling

**Ben Jones**

Useful winning hurdler who failed to complete on chase debut in November but no problems in the jumping department since, finishing second in novice handicaps at Exeter (19f, heavy) and Newbury (23f, soft). Remains open to improvement as a chaser and could have a part to play.

**15** **DENS WORTH (IRE) (85)** **96**  
11P/1P-5TP **8** 10-8 | 67.1kg



Ben Pauling

**Callum Pritchard (51lb/2kg)**

Three-time hurdle winner who left his reappearance/chase debut well behind when landing a 5-runner Wetherby handicap (19.5f, good) in November. However, he was subsequently pulled up at Newbury, adding to an in-and-out record. Has subsequently had wind surgery. Cheekpieces also go on.

**16** **MOON D'ORANGE (FR) (47)** (CD) **98**  
310-33421 **7** 10-7 | 66.7kg



John McConnell, Ireland

**Sean Bowen**

Novice hurdle winner during short stint with Fergal O'Brien and has taken well to fences for new yard, making the frame 4 times on the bounce prior to opening chase account in a C&D handicap in January, doing well to survive a last-fence mistake. More will be needed having gone up 6 lb for that.

**17** **LORD OF THUNDER (IRE) (33)** **98**  
P211-F421 **7** 10-6 | 66.2kg



Joe Tizzard

**Brendan Powell**

Progressive over hurdles last term and on the up in this sphere, too, building on promise of first 3 efforts in this sphere when proving 1½ lengths too good for Pic Roc at Newbury (23f, soft) last month. 5 lb rise fair enough and he should have more to offer.

**18** **ES PERFECTO (IRE) (28)** (D) **99**  
2338-1641 **10** 10-4 | 65.3kg



Alan King

**Tom Bellamy**

Off the mark at fifth attempt over fences in a Kempton handicap on return in November. Below par over the same C&D on Boxing Day but back on the right track equipped with cheekpieces the last twice, latterly scoring in good style at Sandown (2½m, good to soft). More on his plate here up 7 lb.

**19** **RYAN'S ROCKET (IRE) (47)** **97**  
021-14126 **7** 10-2 | 64.4kg



Fergal O'Brien

**J. Hogan (31lb/1kg)**

£110,000 Irish point winner who made bright start over hurdles last season, winning twice during the spring, and left disappointing reappearance effort behind when scoring on chase debut at Chepstow in November. However, he didn't appear to get home in the C&D handicap won by Jagwar last time.

**20** **SHANBALLY KID (IRE) (40)** **93**  
7/483-8090 **8** 10-2(10-1) | 64.4kg (64.0kg)



W. P. Mullins, Ireland

**B. Hayes**

Capable of useful form over hurdles, as he demonstrated when third in the 21-runner Coral Cup at the 2024 Festival. Hasn't come close to matching that level of form in 4 starts since switched to fences, though, and it's probably best to look elsewhere.

**2.00**

RACE 2

**JACK RICHARDS NOVICES' LIMITED HANDICAP CHASE  
(Golden Miller) (Grade 2) (1) 5yo+ £125,000 2½m127y  
(4140 Metres)****RESERVES****21 GALUNGGUNG (FR) (38) 96**  
2/11-16321 9 10-2(10-1) | 64.4kg (64.0kg)

Donald McCain

**Reserve**

Progressive, dual hurdles winner who made perfect start over fences when winning 4-runner handicap at Perth last spring. Added to that when accounting for 5 rivals at Carlisle (2m, soft) last month but this will be an entirely different ball game. RESERVE.

**22 THE FAMOUS FIVE (FR) (13) (BF) 93**  
11-731522 7 10-2(9-6) | 64.4kg (59.9kg)

Venetia Williams

**Reserve**

Won 2m Newbury handicap chase in December. Just as good when runner-up at Chepstow (19.5f) and back at Newbury (2m) on his last 2 outings but faces a stiffish task here from out of the handicap if getting a run. RESERVE.

20 DECLARED RUNNERS (2 RESERVES)

**BETTING FORECAST:****7-1** Asian Master, **9-1** Nurburgring, **10-1** Firefox, **10-1** Answer To Kayf, **12-1** Pic Roc, **12-1** Lord of Thunder, **16-1** Springwell Bay, **20-1** Moon D'orange, **20-1** Caldwell Potter, **22-1** What's Up Darling, **25-1** Es Perfecto, **28-1** O'moore Park, **28-1** San Salvador, **33-1** The Other Mozzie, **33-1** Ryan's Rocket, **33-1** Insurrection, **33-1** Dee Capo, **50-1** bar**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

FIREFOX has lots of good efforts to his name at Graded level over hurdles and fences and can make his class tell now moving into his first handicap. Asian Master and Nurburgring are other Irish-trained runners who brings obvious potential to their handicap chase debuts, while Springwell Bay is one who carries solid handicap form having won a hot race here on New Year's Day.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:****1. FIREFOX 2. ASIAN MASTER 3. NURBURGRING****WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2024	<b>Grey Dawning</b> 7-11-7	5-2jf	Dan Skelton	Harry Skelton	11
2023	<b>Stage Star</b> 7-11-7	15-2	Paul Nicholls	Harry Cobden	7
2022	<b>Bob Olinger</b> 7-11-4	6-5	Henry de Bromhead	Rachael Blackmore	4
2021	<b>Chantry House</b> 7-11-4	9-1	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boinville	8
2020	<b>Samcro</b> 8-11-4	4-1	Gordon Elliott	Davy Russell	12

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race





**2.40****PERTEMPS NETWORK FINAL HANDICAP HURDLE (PREMIER HANDICAP) (1) 5yo+ £110,000 2m7f213y (4820 Metres)**












RACE 3

**GBI RACING**Going: **Good to Soft (Soft in places)**

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: **Very Strong**

<b>1</b>	<b>THOMAS MOR (IRE) (47)</b> (D)	<b>97</b>
	11P15/14 8 12-0   76.2kg Philip Hobbs & Johnson White Showed no ill effects from 22 months off as he proved better than ever to make a winning start for a new stable (had left David Pipe) at Wincanton (24.7f, soft) in December, staying on well. Disappointing on his first try at chasing at Doncaster since but that shouldn't be held against him here.	<i>Sean Houlihan</i>
<b>2</b>	<b>KARL DES TOURELLES (FR) (76)</b> (BF)	<b>98</b>
	122-7923 5 11-10   74.4kg Philip Fenton, Ireland Is yet to add to his debut success but got well and truly back on the up contesting his first handicap over an even longer trip when second of 15 at Punchestown (24.1f) in November. Showed similar form when third in 5-runner minor event at Limerick (20f) since and remains unexposed at 3m.	<i>B. Hayes</i>
<b>3</b>	<b>BUGISE SEAGULL (IRE) (39)</b>	<b>97</b>
	1133-2P32 7 11-10   74.4kg Charlie Longsdon Irish point recruit who won first 2 starts over hurdles last term and ended campaign with good third in Aintree Grade 1 novice. Chasing didn't go to plan but back on track over hurdles when third of 6 at Doncaster (24.4f) in December and again ran well when runner-up at Musselburgh since.	<i>David Bass</i>
<b>4</b>	<b>WIN SOME LOSE SOME (IRE) (75)</b>	<b>97</b>
	7-1310141 6 11-9   73.9kg Padraig Roche, Ireland Most progressive sort who notched a fourth win of the season in 20-runner handicap at Leopardstown (23.4f, good, 7/2) in December, suited by step up to 3m. Has to be shortlisted.	<i>M. P. Walsh</i>
<b>5</b>	<b>HARBOUR LAKE (IRE) (106)</b> (BF)	<b>97</b>
	5/P552-312 9 11-8   73.5kg Alan King Strong traveller who resumed his progress when landing 8-runner handicap hurdle at Aintree (24.7f, good) in November before succumbing to the late rally of Supreme Gift from a 6 lb higher mark at Market Rasen. Has been kept fresh for this since which is no bad thing given his overall record.	<i>Tom Cannon</i>
<b>6</b>	<b>SUPREME GIFT (IRE) (40)</b>	<b>97</b>
	P213-7150 8 11-7   73.0kg Henry Daly Showed the benefit of his reappearance as he recorded a fifth career success over hurdles in game fashion at Market Rasen (23f) in November. Below form both starts since, however. First-time blinkers replace usual visor.	<i>Stan Sheppard</i>
<b>7</b>	<b>DART DART (FR) (88)</b> (BF)	<b>97</b>
	1240-0132 6 11-7   73.0kg Thomas Cooper, Ireland Resumed his progress in no uncertain terms when winning 11-runner handicap hurdle at Punchestown (20f, good) in October. Good third at Navan the following month and improved again when second in 9-runner handicap at Carlisle (25f) in December. Most likeable and seems sure to run another big race.	<i>Tiernan Power Roche (5lb/2kg)</i>
<b>8</b>	<b>FEET OF A DANCER (FR) (75)</b>	<b>99</b>
	1013-1333 6 11-7   73.0kg Paul Nolan, Ireland Progressive sort who shaped well back in a handicap on her first go at 3m when 4½ lengths third of 20 to Win Some Lose Some in Leopardstown Handicap (23.4f, good) over the Christmas period. Yard took this with Mrs Milner in 2021 and she's an interesting contender.	<i>S. F. O'Keefe</i>
<b>9</b>	<b>LUCKY LYREEN (IRE) (18)</b> (D)	<b>97</b>
	211-P0863 7 11-6   72.6kg Gordon Elliott, Ireland Confirmed he's back to his best when 6¾ lengths third of 19 to Will The Wise in handicap hurdle at Naas (23.1f, heavy) 18 days ago. Should give another good account.	<i>Sam Ewing</i>

<b>10</b>	<b>JERIKO DU REPONET (FR) (32)</b> (BF)	<b>100</b>
	111P-P53 6 11-6   72.6kg Nicky Henderson Point scorer who also won first 3 starts over hurdles, including a Grade 2. Ran no sort of race on Sandown chase bow but better signs since returned to hurdling, including when third to Catch Him Derry on his first try at around this trip at Exeter last time. Interesting in first-time cheekpieces.	<i>Nico de Boinville</i>
<b>11</b>	<b>PATTER MERCHANT (IRE) (18)</b>	<b>97</b>
	17-135454 6 11-5   72.1kg Gordon Elliott, Ireland Galway maiden winner who has shaped well since switched to handicap company, rallying after flattening 2 out when 7¼ lengths fourth of 19 to Will The Wise at Naas (23.1f, heavy) on most recent outing. Interesting contender.	<i>J. W. Kennedy</i>
<b>12</b>	<b>HENRI THE SECOND (FR) (40)</b> (BF)	<b>99</b>
	142P/4-412 8 11-5   72.1kg Paul Nicholls Grade 2 winner as a novice and built on good comeback run after 12 months off with dominant victory at Sandown (23.4f) in December, finding plenty in testing conditions. Thwarted only by a less exposed 8-y-o in a valuable event back there 8 weeks later and still unexposed as a stayer.	<i>Harry Cobden</i>
<b>13</b>	<b>WILL THE WISE (IRE) (18)</b>	<b>97</b>
	126311 6 11-5   72.1kg Gavin Patrick Cromwell, Ireland Is progressing well and supplemented his sign-off win in maidens with a performance laced with stamina when forging clear late on in 19-runner handicap at Naas (23.1f) 18 days ago. Has an 11 lb higher mark and a quick turnaround to contend with but remains unexposed.	<i>Keith Donoghue</i>
<b>14</b>	<b>ONE BIG BANG (IRE) (26)</b> (D)	<b>97</b>
	P11-22461 7 11-4   71.7kg James Owen Won first 2 starts for James Owen and improved when second in valuable Betfair Stayers Handicap at Haydock (3m, heavy) in November. Poor effort in first time cheekpieces at Ffos Las but resumed progress when landing 13-runner event at aforementioned track last month. Hit with 7 lb rise.	<i>Jamie Brace (5lb/2kg)</i>
<b>15</b>	<b>SUPER SURVIVOR (IRE) (49)</b> (D)	<b>97</b>
	3/2P82-311 9 11-2   70.8kg Jamie Snowden Built on his reappearance to win his first race for 2 years in 6-runner handicap at Doncaster (24.4f) in December, overcoming pace bias. Well backed when following up in 10-runner event at Huntingdon (25f) and is clearly as good as ever.	<i>Gavin Sheehan</i>
<b>16</b>	<b>J'AI FROID (IRE) (19)</b> (D)	<b>96</b>
	P812148-1 12 11-2   70.8kg L J Morgan Veteran who gained his seventh handicap win for current connections in typically gutsy fashion after 10 months off in 13-runner event at Chepstow (23.6f) 19 days ago, keeping on well. Has more on his plate from a 5 lb higher mark here, however.	<i>Harry Reed</i>
<b>17</b>	<b>MAXI MAC GOLD (FR) (18)</b>	<b>97</b>
	3-1430482 6 11-2   70.8kg Paul Nolan, Ireland Cork maiden winner who hit the frame for the second time in 3 handicaps starts when 2½ lengths second of 19 to Will The Wise in handicap hurdle (25/1) at Naas (23.1f, heavy) 18 days ago. 7 lb higher mark makes life tougher but could go well again.	<i>Sean Flanagan</i>
<b>18</b>	<b>SHANAGH BOB (IRE) (33)</b> (CD)	<b>97</b>
	114-5525 7 11-2   70.8kg Nicky Henderson Grade 2 Cheltenham novice hurdle winner last term and, following a couple of disappointing runs over fences, got back on track returned to this sphere when runner-up to Super Survivor in 25f Huntingdon handicap in January. Unsusited by drop in trip at Warwick (21f) since and remains of interest.	<i>Paul O'Brien</i>
<b>19</b>	<b>DODDIETHEGREAT (IRE) (26)</b>	<b>98</b>
	2407-SPP2 9 11-2   70.8kg Nicky Henderson Returned to form from out of the blue in first-time cheekpieces when 2¼ lengths second of 13 to One Big Bang in handicap hurdle at Haydock (24.3f, good to soft) 26 days ago. However, has a history of tame finishes and the headgear isn't certain to work so well this time.	<i>Brian Hughes</i>
<b>20</b>	<b>CATCH HIM DERRY (IRE) (32)</b> (D)	<b>98</b>
	3121-1P61 7 11-0   69.9kg Dan Skelton Won 3 of his first 4 handicaps, including hard held on 21.5f Newton Abbot reappearance in October. Disappointing when pulled up in the valuable Betfair Stayers at Haydock in November but very much back on the up when winning 12-runner handicap at Exeter (23.1f) last month. Respected.	<i>Harry Skelton</i>

**2.40****PERTEMPS NETWORK FINAL HANDICAP HURDLE (PREMIER HANDICAP) (1) 5yo+ £110,000 2m7f213y (4820 Metres)**

RACE 3

**GBI RACING****21 GUARD THE MOON (19) (BF) 96**

322-11228 7 10-13 | 69.4kg



Nigel Twiston-Davies

*Sam Twiston-Davies*

Off the mark in a Hexham maiden in May and improved when following up on Warwick handicap debut (21f) 5 months later. Good runner-up efforts at Aintree and Newbury followed and was possibly unsuited by a change of tactics when below form at Chepstow last time. Needs more, nonetheless.

**22 ZAIN NIGHTS (49) (CD) 97**

411-13P84 6 10-13 | 69.4kg



Lucy Wadham

*Charlie Deutsch*

Useful stayer on Flat for Harry & Roger Charlton and much improved over hurdles last spring, completing a handicap hat-trick in a big-field contest at Haydock in May. Returned with a good third here in October and back on track when fourth to Super Survivor at Huntingdon latest.

**23 IDEM (FR) (39) 97**

F5-128R14 7 10-13 | 69.4kg



Lucinda Russell

*Patrick Wadge*

Made the most of a drop in class in 11-runner handicap hurdle at Kelso (22.7f, good to soft) in December, travelling well and needing only to be pushed out. Ran at least as well in defeat from a career high mark at Musselburgh since, despite a ropey round of jumping, but this demands more.

**24 AMERICAN SNIPER (IRE) (29) (C, D) 98**

77-091636 7 10-9 | 67.6kg



David Pipe

*Jack Tudor*

Back to best with cheekpieces refitted when gamely landing 4-runner handicap at Newbury (24.2f, good to soft) in November. Solid efforts next 2 outings but found good run coming to a halt at Wetherby on most recent outing. Bounce back required.

**RESERVES****25 LONG DRAW (IRE) (77) (CD, BF) 95**

4-1222214 6 10-12 | 68.9kg



Olly Murphy

*Reserve*

Resumed his progress with a deserved win in 9-runner handicap over C&D in December. Shaped as if still in good form from a 7 lb higher mark when 7 fourth of 10 to reopposing Thomas Mor at Wincanton (24.7f) on Boxing Day and seems likely to give another good account. RESERVE.

**26 UP FOR PAROL (IRE) (33) (D) 97**

20323-215 9 10-12 | 68.9kg



Jamie Snowden

*Reserve*

Ended a long losing sequence in 9-runner handicap hurdle at Ffos Las (23.9f, heavy) in January, quickening clear. Wasn't in the same form at Newbury subsequently, though, and has even more on his plate here. RESERVE.

24 DECLARED RUNNERS (2 RESERVES)

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**7-1** Jeriko Du Reponet, **9-1** Win Some Lose Some, **12-1** Will The Wise, **14-1** Feet of A Dancer, **16-1** Patter Merchant, **16-1** D Art D Art, **18-1** Catch Him Derry, **20-1** Shanagh Bob, **22-1** Henri The Second, **22-1** Karl Des Tourelles, **22-1** Lucky Lyreen, **22-1** Super Survivor, **25-1** One Big Bang, **28-1** Doddiethegreat, **28-1** Bugise Seagull, **28-1** Maxi Mac Gold, **28-1** Harbour Lake, **28-1** Guard The Moon, **33-1** Zain Nights, **50-1** bar

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

FEET OF A DANCER shaped well on her first try at this trip when third at Leopardstown in December and has a very similar profile to that of Mrs Milner who went on to win this race for the yard in 2021, having also made the frame in the same qualifier, so she's an appealing candidate, not least given her good record when fresh. Win Some Lose Some is proving most progressive and has to be shortlisted, with Jeriko du Reponet and D Art D Art others to note.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:****1. FEET OF A DANCER 2. WIN SOME LOSE SOME 3. JERIKO DU REPONET****WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2024	<b>Monmiral</b>	7-10-12	25-1	Paul Nicholls	Harry Cobden	22
2023	<b>Good Time Jonny</b>	8-11-9	9-1	A. J. Martin	L. A. McKenna (5)	23
2022	<b>Third Wind</b>	8-10-11	25-1	Hughie Morrison	Tom O'Brien	22
2021	<b>Mrs Milner</b>	6-10-9	12-1	Paul Nolan	B. J. Cooper	22
2020	<b>Sire du Belais</b>	8-11-12	10-1	Gordon Elliott	Barry Geraghty	24

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

**3.20****RYANAIR CHASE (Festival Trophy) (Grade 1) (1) 5yo+  
£375,000 2½m127y (4140 Metres)**

RACE 4

Going: **Good to Soft (Soft in places)**

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 DJELO (FR) (33) 97**

F238-2121 7 11-10 | 74.4kg



Venetia Williams

**Charlie Deutsch**

Built on an eye-catching reappearance at Exeter when cruising to success at the expense of Protektorat in the Peterborough Chase at Huntingdon. That one got his revenge at Windsor next time but was quickly back on song when landing Grade 2 at Newbury last month. Place claims probably his best hope.

**2 ENVOI ALLEN (FR) (77) (CD) 97**

14/3224-10 11 11-10 | 74.4kg



Henry de Bromhead, Ireland

**Rachael Blackmore**

Three-time winner at the Festival and second in this last year. Drew a blank last season but back to winning ways when seeing off Hewick in 3m Down Royal Grade 1 on reappearance. On the retreat when departing in the back straight in the King George but no surprise to see a better showing back here.

**3 FACT TO FILE (FR) (40) (C) 100**

2/2111-123 8 11-10 | 74.4kg



W. P. Mullins, Ireland

**M. P. Walsh**

Top-class chaser who had Galopin des Champs behind when winning the John Durkan at Punchestown on reappearance but his stablemate proved too strong on both subsequent starts, latest when run out of second close home in Irish Gold Cup. Switched to this as a result and sets the standard.

**4 HANG IN THERE (IRE) (131) (C, D) 92**

152-21324 11 11-10 | 74.4kg



Emma Lavelle

**Harry Cobden**

Veteran who scored at Uttoxeter last June and posted a good second of 6 in handicap chase at Worcester (23f) a couple of months later. Shaped as if still in form by making his presence felt stepping outside handicaps in Charlie Hall Chase but faces a very stiff task at this level 4 months on.

**5 HEART WOOD (FR) (75) 93**

2/2213-124 7 11-10 | 74.4kg



Henry de Bromhead, Ireland

**D. J. O'Keeffe**

Very smart chaser who doubled his tally over the larger obstacles at Wexford in October. Did all he could contesting his first Grade 1 in open company when fourth at Leopardstown over Christmas and he'll need to raise his game if he's to feature in this back in trip.

**6 IL EST FRANCAIS (FR) (77) 98**

5/1115-1P2 7 11-10 | 74.4kg



N. George &amp; A. Zetterholm, France

**James Reveley**

Bold-jumping front runner who travels strongly and sparkled in the Kauto Star at Kempton last term. It's rather been feast or famine since but back to best when second in King George on Boxing Day, looking the most likely winner for much of the way. Capable of making a bold bid back down in trip.

**7 JUNGLE BOOGIE (IRE) (82) (D) 93**

416-1 11 11-10 | 74.4kg



Henry de Bromhead, Ireland

**D. E. Mullins**

Won bumper, hurdle and chase on first 3 starts for Willie Mullins. Added a fourth victory to his tally at Tramore (Grade 3) on New Year's Day last year and made a winning return at Ascot in December (favourite fell early). Very lightly raced for his age and surely has more to offer.

**8 MASTER CHEWY (IRE) (33) 93**

14F2-4F31 8 11-10 | 74.4kg



Nigel Twiston-Davies

**Sam Twiston-Davies**

Made up into a very smart chaser last term and signed off with a smashing second in Aintree Grade 1. Good efforts in handicaps this term before gutsy winner of the Game Spirit at Newbury last month. Will need to find a fair bit of improvement for the extra distance in this company, however.

**9 PROTEKTORAT (FR) (53) (CD) 97**

32313-621 10 11-10 | 74.4kg



Dan Skelton

**Harry Skelton**

Won this corresponding event last year and looked at least as good as ever switched back to front-running tactics when bolting up in the Fleur de Lys at Windsor in January, turning the tables with previous conqueror Djelo in no uncertain terms. Big player in his title defence.

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**6-4** Fact To File, **7-2** Il Est Francais, **11-2** Protektorat, **11-1** Djelo, **12-1** Jungle Boogie, **22-1** Envoi Allen, **25-1** Heart Wood, **66-1** bar

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

FACT TO FILE has lost little in defeat behind his mighty stable-companion Galopin des Champs since his victory in the John Durkan and with the drop back in trip looking ideal he can notch up a second Festival victory. The dangers are Il Est Francais, who should prove a real sight on his first go over the Cheltenham fences, and last year's winner Protektorat, who is sure to be up with the pace from the off also.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:****1. FACT TO FILE 2. IL EST FRANCAIS 3. PROTEKTORAT****WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2024	<b>Protektorat</b>	17-2	Dan Skelton	Harry Skelton	11
2023	<b>Envoi Allen</b>	13-2	Henry de Bromhead	Rachael Blackmore	9
2022	<b>Allaho</b>	4-7f	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	7
2021	<b>Allaho</b>	3-1f	W. P. Mullins	Rachael Blackmore	11
2020	<b>Min</b>	2-1	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	8

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race



4.00

**PADDY POWER STAYERS' HURDLE (Grade 1) (1) 4yo+**  
**£325,000 2m7f213y (4820 Metres)**

RACE 5

Going: **Good to Soft (Soft in places)**

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 BOB OLINGER (IRE) (75) (C)** **97**  
53/1122-22 **10** 11-10 | 74.4kg

Henry de Bromhead, Ireland

**Rachael Blackmore**

Most kept to hurdles since winning the Turners here 3 years ago, picking up a couple of Grade 2s last season, including here (20f). Runner-up both starts this term, though shaped as if this trip is a bit of a stretch for him when 6 lengths behind Home By The Lee in Christmas Hurdle at Leopardstown.

**2 BUDDY ONE (IRE) (49) (CD)** **93**  
42-41343P **8** 11-10 | 74.4kg

Paul John Gilligan, Ireland

**Jack G. Gilligan**

Surpassed expectations when fourth in this last year and backed that up when second in Liverpool Hurdle. Struggled to match that form sent chasing this term and well held back hurdling latest (reportedly made a respiratory noise). Tongue strap re-fitted now but will do well to make the frame again.

**3 CRAMBO (47) (D)** **94**  
7/13198-15 **8** 11-10 | 74.4kg

Fergal O'Brien

**Jonathan Burke**

Made up into a smart hurdler last term, notably landing the Long Walk at Ascot. Disappointed in Grade 1s after (including this race) but back on track when again taking the Long Walk on his seasonal return. Failed to recover from a bad mistake in Cleeve Hurdle here since. Others stronger.

**4 FRANCISCAN ROCK (IRE) (49) (D)** **89**  
75-636113 **8** 11-10 | 74.4kg

M. F. Morris, Ireland

**Gavin Peter Brouder**

Useful hurdler who was fifth in the Coral Cup here last season. In good heart this season, winning twice, but limitations once again exposed when third to Rocky's Diamond in Grade 2 at Gowran.

**5 GA LAW (FR) (33) (C)** **64**  
71P2-2295 **9** 11-10 | 74.4kg

Jamie Snowden

**Gavin Sheehan**

Known as a smart chaser but arrives on the back of 2 lacklustre efforts in that sphere. Thrown into the deep end making a rare start over hurdles and easy to look elsewhere.

**6 GOWEL ROAD (IRE) (47) (CD)** **89**  
346-22221 **9** 11-10 | 74.4kg

Nigel Twiston-Davies

**Sam Twiston-Davies**

A regular around here and finally gained reward for his consistency when making all in the Cleeve Hurdle over C&D 7 weeks ago. Should run his race again but that would still leave him well short of what will be required.

**7 HOME BY THE LEE (IRE) (75) (D)** **97**  
P/353-3611 **10** 11-10 | 74.4kg

Joseph Patrick O'Brien, Ireland

**J. J. Slevin**

Running in this for the third time, his best effort coming when third last year. Has looked as good as ever this season, winning a Grade 2 at Navan on comeback before following up in Grade 1 at Leopardstown over Christmas. Can make his presence felt once more.

**8 LANGER DAN (IRE) (55) (C)** **96**  
90132-355 **9** 11-10 | 74.4kg

Dan Skelton

**Harry Skelton**

Became the first dual winner of the Coral Cup here 12 months ago before excellent placed efforts in Graded company. Hasn't fired in 3 starts this winter but this is the time of year he comes good. Doesn't have too much to find on best form and should stay this far.

**9 LUCKY PLACE (FR) (71) (C)** **93**  
221224-11 **6** 11-10 | 74.4kg

Nicky Henderson

**Nico de Boinville**

Signed off last term with an excellent fourth of 21 to Langer Dan in the Coral Cup here and has continued on the upgrade this season, winning Grade 2s at Ascot and Relkeel Hurdle here (20f). Likely to stay so must be respected given his rate of progress.

**10 MONMIRAL (FR) (47) (CD)** **91**  
74415-322 **8** 11-10 | 74.4kg  
Paul Nicholls  
NON RUNNER.

b+t

**Non Runner****11 MYSTICAL POWER (IRE) (74)** **92**  
11121-166 **6** 11-10 | 74.4kg

W. P. Mullins, Ireland

h

**P. Townend**

Smart novice hurdler last season, runner-up in the Supreme here before going one better in Grade 1s at Aintree and Punchestown. However, most disappointing both starts this term and now has a bit to prove up markedly in trip.

**12 NEMEAN LION (GER) (18)** **95**  
2167-2111 **8** 11-10 | 74.4kg

Kerry Lee

**Richard Patrick**

Likeable sort who appreciated the drop in class when winning at Hereford (handicap) and Windsor (class 2 conditions race) this winter. Gamely completed hat-trick in Grade 2 at Fontwell 18 days ago but struggled at this level last season. Also has stamina to prove.

**13 ROCKY'S DIAMOND (IRE) (49) (D)** **92**  
01-5131 **5** 11-10 | 74.4kg

Declan Queally, Ireland

**Shane Fitzgerald**

Lightly-raced winner over hurdles who proved there was absolutely no fluke about his Christmas Hurdle effort (third behind Home By The Lee) when winning Grade 2 at Gowran 7 weeks ago. Still not the finished article but suspicion is this sort of challenge is a year too soon for him.

**14 TEAHUPOO (FR) (102) (CD)** **100**  
1134/11-12 **8** 11-10 | 74.4kg

Gordon Elliott, Ireland

**J. W. Kennedy**

High-class hurdler who landed this race in decisive fashion 12 months ago. Followed up with a fourth Grade 1 in Champion Stayers at Punchestown in May and lost little in defeat when second in Hutton's Grace on return. Likely to prove a tough nut to crack again (goes especially well fresh).

**15 THE WALLPARK (IRE) (82) (CD)** **91**  
3-0911114 **7** 11-10 | 74.4kg

Gordon Elliott, Ireland

**M. P. Walsh**

Progressive Irish hurdler who completed his 4-timer in 12-runner C&D handicap in October, Better form stepped up in class when fourth in the Long Walk at Ascot since, the slow early fractions counting against him. Still has more to offer so not taken lightly.

15 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**6-4** Teahupoo, **6-1** Home By The Lee, **7-1** Lucky Place, **9-1** The Wallpark, **20-1** Langer Dan, **22-1** Mystical Power, **22-1** Rocky's Diamond, **25-1** Gowel Road, **28-1** Bob Olinger, **40-1** bar

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

Previous winners have an excellent record in this and last year's decisive victor TEAHUPOO looks the one to beat again having followed the same route (kept fresh for this). Home By The Lee was a good third last year and arrives in better form this time around, so rates the main threat. Lucky Place and The Wallpark are also respected given their rate of progress.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:****1. TEAHUPOO 2. HOME BY THE LEE 3. LUCKY PLACE****WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2024	<b>Teahupoo</b>	7-11-10	5-4f	Gordon Elliott	J. W. Kennedy	12
2023	<b>Sire du Berlais</b>	11-11-10	33-1	Gordon Elliott	M. P. Walsh	11
2022	<b>Flooring Porter</b>	7-11-10	4-1	Gavin Patrick Cromwell	D. E. Mullins	10
2021	<b>Flooring Porter</b>	6-11-10	12-1	Gavin Patrick Cromwell	D. E. Mullins	15
2020	<b>Lisnagar Oscar</b>	7-11-10	50-1	Rebecca Curtis	Adam Wedge	15

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

**4.40****TRUSTATRADER PLATE HANDICAP CHASE (PREMIER HANDICAP) (1) 5yo+ £150,000 2½m127y (4140 Metres)**

RACE 6

**GBI RACING**Going: **Good to Soft (Soft in places)**

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: **Very Strong**

**1** **CONFLATED (IRE) (40)** (D) s  **95**  
32-6U5870 **11** 12-0 | 76.2kg



Gordon Elliott, Ireland

**Mr R. James** (71lb/3kg)

Very classy at best, finishing third in the Gold Cup and Ryanair at the last 2 Festivals. However, he has looked a shadow of his former self so far this season, including last of 10 in Irish Gold Cup latest. The drop in class could be liberating but a leap of faith still required.

**2** **GINNY'S DESTINY (IRE) (47)** (CD, BF)  **92**  
11122-P30 **9** 11-6 | 72.6kg



Paul Nicholls

**Harry Cobden**

Excellent first campaign over fences last term, winning 3 times on the bounce here prior to a fine effort in defeat in the Turners at this meeting 12 months ago. Hard to fathom why he's performed so badly in 3 starts so far this season and now finds himself with a bit to prove.

**3** **JORDANS (FR) (75)** h **97**  
4265-21U2 **6** 11-5 | 72.1kg



Joseph Patrick O'Brien, Ireland

**J. J. Slevin**

French recruit who won Grade 3 Punchestown novice chase in October. Didn't get far at the same course next time but back on track when a fine second to Impaire Et Passe in a Limerick Grade 1 in December. Mark has suffered as a result of that, though, and more needed on handicap bow in this sphere.

**4** **FUGITIF (FR) (33)** (CD) s+t  **97**  
413PP-536 **10** 11-5 | 72.1kg



Richard Hobson

**Sean Bowen**

Has produced several very good efforts here, not least when chasing Seddon home in the 2023 running of this and winning the December Gold Cup last season. Not at his very best in 3 runs so far this term but has edged down to an attractive mark as a result and he's dangerous to discount.

**5** **PATH D'OROUX (FR) (61)** (C) t **96**  
2233-5132 **8** 11-2 | 70.8kg



Gavin Patrick Cromwell, Ireland

**Keith Donoghue**

Belatedly opened chase account on the Old Course here in October, narrowly prevailing in that 4-runner 2m novice. Safely held at Carlisle next time but returned to form with a good second in a valuable Grade 3 Fairyhouse handicap (17f, soft) and this step up in trip may well work in his favour.

**6** **SHAKEM UP'ARRY (IRE) (33)** (CD) s+t  **98**  
4/P6110-F5 **11** 11-2 | 70.8kg



Ben Pauling

**Kielan Woods**

Very good C&D record, including a third in this in 2023 and a win last year. Things haven't gone to plan so far this term but he's just 2 lb higher compared to 12 months ago and this will have been the target all along. Also has first-time cheekpieces added to his regular tongue tie.

**7** **IL RIDOTO (FR) (47)** (CD) b+t **97**  
308P-5168 **8** 11-2 | 70.8kg



Paul Nicholls

**Freddie Gingell** (31lb/1kg)

Has come up short in the last 2 renewals of this but he has landed 2 valuable handicaps at this course, including the Paddy Power Gold Cup in November. Not in same form since but the drying ground will aid his cause. First-time blinkers (in place of cheekpieces) could give also him a lift.

**8** **LA MALMASON (IRE) (20)** (CD) **96**  
3144P-123 **7** 11-1 | 70.3kg



Gavin Patrick Cromwell, Ireland

**Sean Flanagan**

Has returned an improved model this season, winning 9-runner Fairyhouse handicap chase before an excellent second in listed handicap at Limerick over Christmas. Stamina seemingly stretched over 3m on deep ground at Exeter since and should show herself in a better light back down in trip here.

**9** **MASACCIO (IRE) (47)** (D) s **99**  
510-21233 **8** 11-1 | 70.3kg



Alan King

**Tom Cannon**

Successful twice over hurdles last season and justified support when making winning chase debut in 2½m Newbury handicap in November. Solid 3¼ lengths third to Jagwar over C&D last time and a reproduction of that effort would put him firmly in the picture. Wears first-time cheekpieces.

**10** **GEMIRANDE (FR) (47)** (CD) **98**  
2d/550-1167 **9** 10-13 | 69.4kg



Venetia Williams

**Charlie Deutsch**

Respectable fifth in the Grand Annual at this meeting 12 months ago and positive start to this season, winning handicaps at Ascot and over this C&D in November/December. Better than bare result here on latest start in January (bad mistake 3 out cost him any chance) but others preferred all the same.

**11** **SEDDON (IRE) (71)** (CD)  **98**  
11/23-8P53 **12** 10-12 | 68.9kg



John McConnell, Ireland

**Alex Harvey** (51lb/2kg)

2023 winner of this. Two Flat wins at the end of last summer and a pair of respectable efforts over C&D this winter show there's still plenty of life in his legs but still a suspicion this veteran will prove vulnerable to younger rivals.

**12** **TAHMURAS (FR) (19)** s **96**  
7/3122-54P **8** 10-12 | 68.9kg



Paul Nicholls

**Jonathan Burke**

Winner of 3 of his 5 starts over hurdles, including the Grade 1 Tolworth. Conversely, just the one win since switched to fences and his antics off the bridge were a cause for concern when fourth at Wetherby on Boxing Day. Worse still at Kempton since and he needs to get back on track.

**13** **JAGWAR (FR) (47)** (CD) t  **100**  
5145-1131 **6** 10-10 | 68.0kg



Oliver Greenall &amp; Josh Guerriero

**Jonjo O'Neill Jr.**

Good-looking sort who has taken really well to fences, taking record in this sphere to 3-4 when landing a C&D novice handicap (soft) in decisive fashion. 7 lb rise to contend but there could easily be more to come from this 6-y-o and he's an appealing candidate.

**14** **THECOMPANYSERGEANT (54)** (BF) **99**  
4-2213643 **8** 10-10 | 68.0kg



Gavin Patrick Cromwell, Ireland

**C. Stone-Walsh** (31lb/1kg)

Consistent over hurdles and has proven himself to be equally reliable in this sphere, creditable fourth in a Grade 3 novice on final start for Denis Hogan in November. Solid start for new yard when third in a big-field Navan handicap hurdle and makes handicap debut over fences on a workable mark.

**15** **PERSONAL AMBITION (IRE) (55)** s **98**  
3116-2423 **6** 10-8 | 67.1kg



Ben Pauling

**Ben Jones**

Useful novice hurdler last term, winning 3 times, and looked set to make it third time lucky over fences in a Grade 2 at Ascot in December before a final-fence mistake caused him to lose all momentum. Below par at Windsor since but could bounce back in first-time cheekpieces.

**16** **RIAN (IRE) (39)** s **92**  
1442P-004 **8** 10-7 | 66.7kg



Gordon Elliott, Ireland

**Danny Gilligan**

Good second in a big Leopardstown handicap last February and finished fourth of 16 in first-time cheekpieces in the same race this time round. However, his overall profile is not the most convincing and he was pulled up in this 12 months ago.

**17** **MARS HARPER (11)** s+t **96**  
78P52004 **9** 10-7 | 66.7kg



Gordon Elliott, Ireland

**Sam Ewing**

Has posted some creditable efforts in defeat in some pretty valuable handicaps this season, including when fourth of 13 at Leopardstown (21.5f, good to soft) recently. On the downside, he hasn't got his head in front since September 2023 and was well held in this race 12 months ago.

**18** **AN PEANN DEARG (IRE) (40)** h+t **98**  
84634211 **8** 10-5 | 65.8kg



Paul Nolan, Ireland

**S. F. O'Keefe**

Has raised his game since returning from a break in October, going close at Wexford prior to winning back-to-back 17f Leopardstown handicaps, latterly taking a valuable listed event in good style. Stepping back up in trip unlikely to be an issue but this 12 lb higher mark could prove problematic.

**19** **LORD OF THUNDER (IRE) (33)** t **96**  
P211-F421 **7** 10-5 | 65.8kg



Joe Tizzard

**Non Runner**

NON RUNNER.

**20** **DEMNET (FR) (20)** (BF) **95**  
139P-32 **8** 10-2(9-12) | 64.4kg (62.6kg)



Venetia Williams

**Ned Fox** (31lb/1kg)

Made light of a 32-month absence on his yard debut when easily landing 5-runner handicap chase at Ludlow last February. Struggled in the Kim Muir here and at the big Aintree meeting last spring, though, and others make more appeal, for all that he has performed with credit both starts this season.

**4.40****TRUSTATRADER PLATE HANDICAP CHASE (PREMIER HANDICAP) (1) 5yo+ £150,000 2½m127y (4140 Metres)**

RACE 6

**21 INDIVIDUALISTE (FR) (46) (D) 90**

4PP-04114 7 10-2(9-7) | 64.4kg (60.3kg)



Gavin Patrick Cromwell, Ireland

**Patrick Michael O'Brien** (71b/3kg)

Produced a career-best when winning 12-runner handicap chase at Navan (20.5f, good to soft) in December but came unstuck when bidding for the hat-trick at Naas last time and others look stronger from 9 lb out of the handicap.

21 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:****5-1 Jagwar, 8-1 Thecompanysergeant, 10-1 Masaccio, 12-1 Ginny's Destiny, 14-1 An Peann Dearg, 16-1 Jordans, 16-1 Path D'oroux, 18-1 Fugitif, 22-1 Gemirande, 25-1 Personal Ambition, 25-1 Shakem Up'arry, 28-1 Seddon, 28-1 Il Ridoto, 28-1 Riaan, 33-1 La Malmason, 33-1 Conflated, 33-1 Demnat, 40-1 bar****TIMEFORM VIEW:**

JAGWAR won what is traditionally a very strong C&amp;D novice handicap in January and a 7 lb rise doesn't look enough to stop him up against largely older and more exposed opposition. Thecompanysergeant started out for Gavin Cromwell with a good third over hurdles and could have more to offer for his good new stable so he's second choice. Masaccio ran well for third behind the selection here last time and also makes the shortlist along with Path D'Oroux and last year's winner Shakem Up'arry.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:****1. JAGWAR 2. THECOMPANYSERGEANT 3. MASACCIO****WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2024	<b>Shakem Up'arry</b>	10-11-5	8-1	Ben Pauling	Ben Jones	21
2023	<b>Seddon</b>	10-11-0	20-1	John McConnell	B. W. Harvey (5)	23
2022	<b>Coole Cody</b>	11-11-2	22-1	Evan Williams	Adam Wedge	15
2021	<b>The Shunter</b>	8-10-12	9-4f	Emmet Mullins	Jordan Colin Gainford (7)	21
2020	<b>Simply The Betts</b>	7-11-4	10-3f	Harry Whittington	Gavin Sheehan	23

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

**5.20**

RACE 7

**FULKE WALWYN KIM MUIR CHALLENGE CUP AMATEUR  
JOCKEYS' HANDICAP CHASE (2) 5yo+ (Rated 0-145)  
£75,000 3¼m (5230 Metres)**


Going: **Good to Soft (Soft in places)**

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**

<b>1</b>	<b>FANTASTIC LADY (FR) (57)</b>	s	<b>96</b>
	3/5P61-423 <b>10</b> 12-0   76.2kg Nicky Henderson <i>Mr J. W. Hendrick (3lb/1kg)</i> Better than ever when landing Grade 2 Oaksey Chase at Sandown (22.8f, good) on final start last season. Campaigned in listed company this term, finishing placed in a couple of small-field events but this may place too much emphasis in stamina. Cheekpieces on for the first time.		
<b>2</b>	<b>YEAH MAN (IRE) (26)</b>	s	<b>100</b>
	2F219-34U <b>8</b> 12-0   76.2kg Gavin Patrick Cromwell, Ireland <i>Mr D. G. Lavery</i> Won the 2024 Grand National Trial at Haydock and took his form to a new level when third on the Troytown on November's reappearance (3m). Hampered early and shaped as though still in good heart when fourth at Gowran before unseating rider before the race took shape back at Haydock last month.		
<b>3</b>	<b>SA MAJESTE (FR) (36)</b>		<b>98</b>
	6/106-2151 <b>7</b> 11-12   75.3kg W. P. Mullins, Ireland <i>Mr P. W. Mullins</i> Pretty useful winner over hurdle at up to 20f (well backed for 2024 Coral Cup) and wasted little time surpassing that form over fences at up to 3m. Helped by a bad blunder from the runner-up for latest win in 5-runner minor event at Fairyhouse but he commands plenty of respect given connections.		
<b>4</b>	<b>JOHNNYWHO (IRE) (53)</b>	t	<b>99</b>
	4484-1333 <b>8</b> 11-10   74.4kg Jonjo & A.J. O'Neill <i>Mr D. O'Connor</i> Ended hurdling campaign with good fourth on handicap debut at Aintree and bettered that form when taking 3-runner novice at Carlisle on return/debut over fences. Hasn't really carried on the good work since, his jumping an issue, but feeling is that he has a bigger performance in him,		
<b>5</b>	<b>GELINO BELLO (FR) (40)</b>		<b>88</b>
	11FP/6P <b>9</b> 11-8   73.5kg Paul Nicholls <i>Miss Olive Nicholls (3lb/1kg)</i> Smart form when winning 2 novice chases at the end of 2022 but very lightly raced since. Had wind op/off 23 months before a fair sixth of 10 in 3m Wincanton handicap hurdle in December but he recoiled from that effort returned to fences at Sandown.		
<b>6</b>	<b>MINT BOY (IRE) (21)</b>		<b>95</b>
	5217-3703 <b>7</b> 11-8   73.5kg Gavin Patrick Cromwell, Ireland <i>Mr B. O'Neill</i> Useful dual-winning hurdler at up to 3m in Ireland and ran his most encouraging race yet over fences when third of 8 in a maiden chase at Punchestown (22.7f). Looks the type to flourish in handicaps as his stamina is drawn out so he makes the shortlist.		
<b>7</b>	<b>WEVEALLBEENCAUGHT (IRE) (12) (C)</b>	v+t	<b>98</b>
	60-32P515 <b>8</b> 11-6   72.6kg Nigel Twiston-Davies <i>Mr Toby McCain-Mitchell (3lb/1kg)</i> Following a relatively short stint for Christian Williams, he belatedly opened his chase account on first run since rejoining Nigel Twiston-Davies at Doncaster in January (3m). Seemed to find 8 lb rise in a better race beyond him in the Grimthorpe a fortnight ago. New headgear employed.		
<b>8</b>	<b>CLEATUS POOLAW (21)</b>	s	<b>92</b>
	129-4F476 <b>7</b> 11-5   72.1kg Gordon Elliott, Ireland <i>Mr H. C. Swan</i> Sole success under Rules came in a maiden hurdle at Naas in January 2024. Plenty of pretty useful effort in defeat and he took a step back in the right direction when mid-field at Punchestown last month. Expensive point winner may have more to offer with cheekpieces employed.		
<b>9</b>	<b>MANOTHEPEOPLE (IRE) (39) (CD)</b>	s	<b>97</b>
	2U821-3P5 <b>10</b> 11-5   72.1kg Fergal O'Brien <i>Miss Gina Andrews</i> Signed off last term in the perfect fashion with a C&D win in April and resumed with a good third at Chepstow. Wasn't on a "going" day returned to this venue next time but shaped a lot better than end result would suggest in the Edinburgh National last month, finishing tired.		

<b>10</b>	<b>SINE NOMINE (77) (CD)</b>		<b>94</b>
	31/2111-UF <b>9</b> 11-3   71.2kg Fiona Needham <i>Mr John Dawson</i> Confirmed herself one of the best hunters around when landing the Festival Challenge Cup at Cheltenham Festival (26.3f, heavy) a year ago. Let down by jumping both starts this term and this race will test her in that regard.		
<b>11</b>	<b>GIT MAKER (FR) (26)</b>	s	<b>97</b>
	11/1623-04 <b>9</b> 11-3   71.2kg Jamie Snowden <i>Mr William Biddick</i> Tough chaser who ended last season with an excellent effort in Scottish National (third) at Ayr. Sound-enough effort from out of the weights when fourth in Grand National Trial at Haydock last month and stamina his forte, but he'll need to jump better this time to be a factor in first-time headgear.		
<b>12</b>	<b>NINE GRACES (60)</b>	t	<b>98</b>
	3305-3021 <b>8</b> 11-3   71.2kg Barry Connell, Ireland <i>Mr Finian Maguire</i> Progressive hurdler and now getting his act together over fences, runner-up at Fairyhouse in December before going one place better at Punchestown a month later. Unexposed as a staying chaser.		
<b>13</b>	<b>MIDNIGHT OUR FRED (IRE) (76)</b>	t	<b>99</b>
	50222-312 <b>8</b> 11-2   70.8kg J. P. Flavin, Ireland <i>Mr N. McParlan</i> Huge career best when a 14-length winner of 6-runner handicap at Gowran in October and 2 months later, he backed that up from revised mark when second in good-quality contest at Leopardstown. Stays well and a reliable proposition. Jockey won this in 2018.		
<b>14</b>	<b>MUSIC OF TARA (38)</b>	s+t	<b>97</b>
	81-434413 <b>8</b> 11-2   70.8kg Gordon Elliott, Ireland <i>Mr R. James (3lb/1kg)</i> Left Henry De Bromhead but joined another top yard and was better than ever when winning 19-runner handicap hurdle at Navan (20f, soft) in January. Matched that form when third returned to fences at Punchestown (22f) last month but has never really shaped as though wanting this far.		
<b>15</b>	<b>WHERE IT ALL BEGAN (IRE) (21)</b>	b	<b>87</b>
	32148-P0F <b>9</b> 11-2   70.8kg Gordon Elliott, Ireland <i>Mr J. L. Scallan (5lb/2kg)</i> Relished step up to 27f when landing 15-runner Grand National Trial at Punchestown in February 2024. Hasn't come close to that since, looking increasingly temperamental and he fell in last month's repeat bid.		
<b>16</b>	<b>WESTERNINTHEPARK (IRE) (51)</b>		<b>96</b>
	3115-1232 <b>7</b> 11-2   70.8kg Olly Murphy <i>Mr James King</i> Bumper/dual-hurdles winner who made a successful start in this sphere at Punchestown (20.9f) in October and has remained in form since, placed in small fields next 3 starts. Shapes as though worth a try over this stiffer test of stamina.		
<b>17</b>	<b>WISEGUY (IRE) (26)</b>		<b>98</b>
	51466P-16 <b>9</b> 11-0   69.9kg Nicky Henderson <i>Mr Joshua Newman</i> Ended 2023/24 in tame fashion but well prepared by leading stable to make a winning reappearance/return to chasing in 11-runner contest at Newbury in November. Way he shaped over 23.8f at Ascot last time suggests he's ready for this trip.		
<b>18</b>	<b>DAILY PRESENT (IRE) (60) (BF)</b>	b+t	<b>97</b>
	47715P-33 <b>8</b> 11-0   69.9kg Paul Nolan, Ireland <i>Mr B. T. Stone (7lb/3kg)</i> Lightly raced for his age but having opened his chase account at Down Royal in January 2024, he shaped as though still in top form when fifth in this race 12 months ago. Couple of solid third-place finishes in handicaps since returning, latterly in blinkers, but he's 3 lb higher this year.		
<b>19</b>	<b>GALOP DE CHASSE (FR) (34)</b>		<b>96</b>
	P23/1-23P4 <b>9</b> 11-0   69.9kg Venetia Williams <i>Miss Lucy Turner</i> Won his only start of last season at Newbury (19.9f) and resumed from 12 months off with respectable placed efforts at Wetherby/Newbury. Reportedly bled when pulled up at Ascot and latest Kempton run hardly brimming with promise. Upped markedly in trip with lots to prove.		
<b>20</b>	<b>NOW WHERE OR WHEN (IRE) (51)</b>	s+t	<b>94</b>
	P/57496-71 <b>10</b> 11-0   69.9kg Stuart Crawford, Ireland <i>Mr S. Connor (3lb/1kg)</i> All the better for reappearance tackling a more suitable distance (3m) when cashing in on a falling mark at Down Royal in January. Revised British mark to contend with and he's more exposed than some of these.		



**5.20**

RACE 7

**FULKE WALWYN KIM MUIR CHALLENGE CUP AMATEUR  
JOCKEYS' HANDICAP CHASE (2) 5yo+ (Rated 0-145)  
£75,000 3¼m (5230 Metres)****GBI RACING****21 PATS FANCY (IRE) (40) 94**

0/6-6 10 11-0 | 69.9kg



Rebecca Curtis

**Mr Jack Andrews**

Developed into a useful chaser in 2021/22 but fleeting appearances since and he looks on the downgrade.

**22 GROZNI (FR) (56) 97**

22665-P15 9 10-13 | 69.4kg



James Owen

**Mr Alex Chadwick**

Change of headgear when gaining his first win for his current yard in handicap hurdle at Wetherby (21.2f) in December. Sound-enough effort since kept to timber and he was sixth from 2 lb higher in this race a year ago. Change of headgear.

**23 WALKING ON AIR (IRE) (47) 98**

59/2P-P63F 8 10-13 | 69.4kg



Gary Brown

**Mr Alan O'Sullivan (51lb/2kg)**

Dual-winning hurdler for Nicky Henderson and posted a career best when runner-up on chase debut at Newbury in December 2023 off much higher mark. Low-key start for current connections but in the process of reviving when falling last at Doncaster (may well have won). Suddenly of major interest.

**24 DOM OF MARY (FR) (31) 97**

546138-P2 9 10-11 | 68.5kg



David Bridgwater

**Mr Tom Hutsby (71lb/3kg)**

Looked rusty after 8 months off/wind up when pulled up in handicap chase at Ascot (29.4f) but enhanced good record in the Sussex National when runner-up last month. Eighth in this race from the same mark a year ago.

**RESERVES****25 SAINTE DONA (FR) (38) 97**

621-385P2 8 10-6 | 66.2kg



Thomas Cooper, Ireland

**Reserve**

Front runner who went with typical enthusiasm when second of 8 at Punchestown (22f) last month. Dominating this field over a new trip a totally different ask, though. RESERVE.

**26 AWORKINPROGRESS (IRE) (30) 97**

9861-1111 6 10-5 | 65.8kg



Nick Gifford

**Reserve**

From a low initial base, he's made seamless progress in handicaps, opening his account over hurdles ago and has returned with a quartet of further wins over fences this term. Had plenty to spare at Lingfield and while he's up 7 lb in a deeper race, his limit has not yet been reached. RESERVE.

24 DECLARED RUNNERS (2 RESERVES)

**BETTING FORECAST:****11-2** Johnnywho, **9-1** Sa Majeste, **9-1** Walking On Air, **11-1** Midnight Our Fred, **12-1** Mint Boy, **16-1** Yeah Man, **20-1** Nine Graces, **20-1** Git Maker, **22-1** Daily Present, **22-1** Westerninthepark, **25-1** Music of Tara, **25-1** Cleatus Poolaw, **28-1** Fantastic Lady, **33-1** Weveallbeencaught, **40-1** bar**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

Gavin Cromwell landed an almighty punt in this race a year ago and has a couple of very live chances in MINT BOY and Yeah Man. There's slightly more substance to the latter's form but the former could take off over this sort of trip, so is marginally preferred. Johnnywho certainly won't lack for assistance from the saddle so he's feared, with Manofthepeople one to consider at longer odds with her rider having won this race before.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:****1. MINT BOY 2. YEAH MAN 3. JOHNNYWHO****WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2024	<b>Inothewayurthinkin</b> 6-12-0	13-8f	Gavin Patrick Cromwell	Mr D. O'Connor	22
2023	<b>Angels Dawn</b> 8-11-0	10-1	S. Curling	Mr P. A. King	23
2022	<b>Chambard</b> 10-11-1	40-1	Venetia Williams	Miss Lucy Turner (3)	20
2021	<b>Mount Ida</b> 7-11-9	3-1f	Mrs Denise Foster	J.W. Kennedy	21
2020	<b>Milan Native</b> 7-11-8	9-1	Gordon Elliott	Mr R. James (7)	23

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race