

1.20 JCB TRIUMPH HURDLE (Grade 1) (1) 2m179y (3380 Metres)

RACE 1 **(3) EAST INDIA DOCK | (7) LULAMBA | (5) HELLO NEIGHBOUR**

2.00 WILLIAM HILL COUNTY HANDICAP HURDLE (PREMIER HANDICAP) (1) 2m179y (3380 Metres)

RACE 2 **(7) KARGESE | (13) LARK IN THE MORNIN | (12) VALGRAND**

2.40 MRS PADDY POWER MARES' CHASE (Liberthine) (Grade 2) (1) 2½m127y (4140 Metres)

RACE 3 **(1) DINOBLUE | (4) ALLEGORIE DE VASSY | (2) BRIDES HILL**

3.20 ALBERT BARTLETT NOVICES' HURDLE (Spa) (Grade 1) (1) 2m7f213y (4820 Metres)

RACE 4 **(20) THE BIG WESTERNER | (18) WINGMEN | (9) JASMIN DE VAUX**

4.00 BOODLES CHELTENHAM GOLD CUP CHASE (Grade 1) (1) 3¼m70y (5290 Metres)

RACE 5 **(4) GALOPIN DES CHAMPS | (2) BANBRIDGE | (6) INOTHEWAYURTHINKIN**

4.40 ST. JAMES'S PLACE FESTIVAL CHALLENGE CUP OPEN HUNTERS' CHASE (2) 3¼m70y (5290 Metres)

RACE 6 **(24) ANGELS DAWN | (22) WILLITGOAHEAD | (7) FAIRLY FAMOUS**

5.20 MARTIN PIPE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP HURDLE (2) 2½m56y (4070 Metres)

RACE 7 **(3) NO ORDINARY JOE | (8) KOPECK DE MEE | (16) PARK OF KINGS**

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**JCB TRIUMPH HURDLE (Grade 1) (1) 4yo £150,000
2m179y (3380 Metres)**

RACE 1

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: **Very Strong****1 BLUE LEMONS (IRE) (27) 82**

W. P. Mullins, Ireland

Rachael Blackmore

Useful 7f/1m performer on Flat for Richard Hannon and looked a good prospect for his new handler when ready winner of juvenile hurdle at Gowran Park last month. Has lots of potential so shouldn't be underestimated.

2 CHARLUS (IRE) (47) 82

W. P. Mullins, Ireland

S. F. O'Keefe

Won 3 of his 4 starts on the Flat in France and made a winning debut over hurdles for his new yard after 8 months off in 16-runner juvenile at Naas in January. Potentially a very useful recruit. Considered.

3 EAST INDIA DOCK (48) (CD) 100

James Owen

Sam Twiston-Davies

Useful staying handicapper on the Flat for James Fanshawe. Has looked a fine prospect over hurdles, totally dominant when going 3-3 in Triumph Hurdle Trial over C&D in January. A fluent jumper and he'll take plenty of stopping.

4 GIBBS ISLAND (27) (D) 93

Tom Lacey

Stan Sheppard

Fairly useful Flat winner for Andrew Oliver in Ireland and he has looked a smart prospect when bagging maiden hurdle at Sedgefield and juvenile at Haydock for his new handler. Free-going sort can do better still. Possibilities.

5 HELLO NEIGHBOUR (IRE) (41) h 96

Gavin Patrick Cromwell, Ireland

Keith Donoghue

Has taken extremely well to hurdling, landing Leopardstown Grade 2 on his debut before following up there (hooded) in Spring Juvenile Hurdle by ¾ length from Galileo Dame. This useful Flat winner has more to offer and is well in the mix.

6 LARZAC (FR) (163) (BF) t 87

W. P. Mullins, Ireland

M. P. Walsh

3/1 and tongue tied, made a highly promising start when a short-head second of 17 in newcomers hurdle at Auteuil in October. This son of No Risk At All has since joined top connections and rates an interesting prospect.

7 LULAMBA (FR) (55) 95

Nicky Henderson

Nico de Boinville

Looked a fine prospect when a debut scorer at Auteuil and again for his new connections when impressively landing Ascot juvenile in January. A major player with promise of lots more to come.

8 MARCHE D'ALIGRE (FR) (27) 83

Jamie Snowden

Gavin Sheehan

Fairly useful Flat winner in France and struck at the first time of asking over hurdles in 2m Wetherby juvenile in November. Pitched into a Grade 2 and ran a cracker when second at Chepstow a month later but well beaten at Haydock since. More needed.

9 MONDO MAN (20) (BF) h 88

Gary & Josh Moore

Brian Hughes

Smart on the Flat in France (fifth in the Prix du Jockey Club) and picked up for €520,000 in October. Shaped very well when runner-up to Lulamba on hurdles debut at Ascot before an excellent third of 5 in Adonis at Kempton. Has more to offer. Enters calculations.

10 PAPPANO 4 11-2 | 70.8kg

W. P. Mullins, Ireland

Sean Flanagan

A useful 14f Flat scorer who signed off for John & Thady Gosden with a very good third in listed race at Ascot in October. This is a tough introduction but he brings lots of potential to this sphere for his top yard.

11 PONIROS (BF) 4 11-2 | 70.8kg

W. P. Mullins, Ireland

Jonjo O'Neill Jr.

A useful handicapper on Flat (stays 1½m) for Ralph Beckett this summer. Changed hands for 200,000 gns in October and he brings a lot of potential to this sphere. No forlorn hope for top connections.

12 TOO BOSSY FOR US (IRE) 4 11-2 | 70.8kg

W. P. Mullins, Ireland

Harry Cobden

A useful 10f scorer on Flat (stays 1¾m) this summer for Kevin Philippart de Foy. Changed hands for 330,000 gns in the autumn and he's another newcomer for top yard that can't be discounted now going hurdling.

13 WILLY DE HOUELLE (FR) (41) h+t 93

W. P. Mullins, Ireland

B. Hayes

A very useful winning hurdler in France but yet to kick on for his current yard, despite posting a solid fourth to Hello Neighbour in Spring Juvenile Hurdle at Leopardstown last time. No forlorn hope.

14 LADY VEGA ALLEN (FR) (41) 123 4 10-9 | 67.6kg 95

W. P. Mullins, Ireland

P. Townend

Debut hurdle winner in France and has shown very useful form for his new yard when twice placed, beaten 1½ lengths by Hello Neighbour in Spring Juvenile Hurdle at Leopardstown (16f) on latter occasion. One of 11 for his trainer and not taken lightly with Paul Townend up.

15 LUMIERE DU LARGE (FR) (93) (BF) t 83

W. P. Mullins, Ireland

K. C. Sexton

Made a winning debut in 13f minor event on Flat in October before posting a useful effort on his hurdling bow when second in newcomers race at Pau (17f) in December. Not without interest on his debut for top yard.

16 OPEC (20) (D) F11175 4 10-9 | 67.6kg 85

James Owen

Sean Bowen

Has left her Flat form behind since switched to hurdles, winning first 3 completed starts in this sphere, including a fillies' listed race at Newbury in November. Well-beaten last of 5 in Adonis Juvenile Hurdle at Kempton last time though so needs to bounce back.

17 PLACE DE LA NATION (FR) (37) 32 4 10-9 | 67.6kg 83

W. P. Mullins, Ireland

J. W. Kennedy

Fairly useful form shown when placed over hurdles at Auteuil in September and Fairyhouse nearly 5 months later. Can do better still but he needs to in this company.

18 SAINTE LUCIE (FR) (41) (D, BF) h 93

W. P. Mullins, Ireland

D. E. Mullins

French recruit made a highly impressive winning debut in Punchestown juvenile in December but he came in last of 8 to Hello Neighbour in Spring Juvenile Hurdle at Leopardstown (16f) since. He's well worth another chance.

18 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:**2-1 East India Dock, 10-3 Lulamba, 5-1 Hello Neighbour, 14-1 Lady Vega Allen, 20-1 Gibbs Island, 28-1 Sainte Lucie, 40-1 bar****TIMEFORM VIEW:**

James Owen continues on the rise in the training ranks and his likeable front-runner EAST INDIA DOCK can showcase his undoubted talents further by gaining his biggest prize yet and extending his unbeaten run to four. Nicky Henderson has an excellent record in this and his unexposed French recruit Lulamba could emerge as the biggest danger. although Irish-challengers Hello Neighbour and Lady Vega Allen both bring very solid form to the table and can also have a say in a fascinating Triumph.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**1. EAST INDIA DOCK 2. LULAMBA 3. HELLO NEIGHBOUR****WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2024	Majborough 4-11-2	6-1	W. P. Mullins	M. P. Walsh	12
2023	Lossiemouth 4-10-9	11-8f	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	15
2022	Vauban 4-11-0	6-4f	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	12
2021	Quilixios 4-11-0	2-1	Henry de Bromhead	Rachael Blackmore	8
2020	Burning Victory 4-10-7	12-1	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	13

1.20

**JCB TRIUMPH HURDLE (Grade 1) (1) 4yo £150,000
2m179y (3380 Metres)**

RACE 1



SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

2.00

WILLIAM HILL COUNTY HANDICAP HURDLE (PREMIER HANDICAP) (1) 5yo+ £110,000 2m179y (3380 Metres)

RACE 2



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 DADDY LONG LEGS (FR) (40) (D) 97**
 1-1501352 **6** 12-0 | 76.2kg
W. P. Mullins, Ireland **S. F. O'Keefe**
 Handicap hurdle winner at the Punchestown Festival last season and bagged a Grade 3 hurdle at Tipperary (16.2f) in October. Has fallen short in Grade 1 company on his last couple of outings, flattered when chasing home State Man at Leopardstown last month. Tough ask off top weight.
- 2 ABSURDE (FR) (364) (CD) 99**
 16P41- **7** 11-8 | 73.5kg
W. P. Mullins, Ireland **D. E. Mullins**
 Very useful in both codes, enjoyed a stellar 2024 winning this corresponding race (heavy) under an ice-cool ride before a productive spell on the Flat, culminating in an excellent fifth in the Melbourne Cup. Has been targeted at this race again and he's a major player on even more favourable ground.
- 3 FILS D'OUDAIRIES (FR) (40) 96**
 0134-4P44 **10** 11-7 | 73.0kg
Gordon Elliott, Ireland **Sam Ewing**
 Grade 3 hurdle winner in October 2023 but hasn't been in that kind of form this season, albeit mixing it in Grade 1 company, well held behind State Man at Leopardstown last month. He doesn't look obviously well-handicapped and appears to be the stable second string.
- 4 ETHICAL DIAMOND (IRE) (39) 94** h
 060-01 **5** 11-5 | 72.1kg
W. P. Mullins, Ireland **Mr P. W. Mullins**
 Useful winner on the Flat (placed in the Duke of Edinburgh handicap at Royal Ascot) and is proving equally as good in this code, putting up a no-nonsense display to break his hurdles duck last month. Remains unexposed in this sphere and one to consider.
- 5 PINOT GRIS (IRE) (77) (D) 98** b+t
 3431-212 **5** 11-5 | 72.1kg
Gavin Patrick Cromwell, Ireland **Keith Donoghue**
 Useful on the Flat and has proved progressive over hurdles, notably since the addition of blinkers (retained). Runner-up on only second start in a handicap (Leopardstown, 2m), having been ridden aggressively from the front. He's in very good hands and there could well be more improvement to come.
- 6 HANSARD (IRE) (27) (D) 98** s
 54/215-483 **7** 11-4 | 71.7kg
Gary & Josh Moore **Niall Houlihan**
 2023 Gerry Feilden winner shaped well on reappearance at Kempton, but disappointed in a valuable Windsor handicap next time. Not disgraced when third of 4 in the Grade 2 Kingwell Hurdle (15.2f) last month and will be much better suited by this test. Makes each-way appeal in first-time cheekpieces.
- 7 KARGESE (FR) (55) (BF) 99** h
 2/12122-12 **5** 11-3 | 71.2kg
W. P. Mullins, Ireland **P. Townend**
 Strong-travelling mare was runner-up in 2024 Triumph prior to chasing home Sir Gino at Aintree before securing further Grade 1 success in Champion Juvenile at Punchestown. Showed plenty on reappearance at Ascot and is likely to improve with a big-field handicap expected to bring out the best in her.
- 8 NDAAWI (225) 97**
 53136-2 **5** 11-2 | 70.8kg
Gordon Elliott, Ireland **J. W. Kennedy**
 Useful Flat performer who goes well in big fields in this sphere, third in last year's Boodles and most recent effort over hurdles was a very creditable second in a Grade 3 at the Galway Festival. Each-way claims if back to his best.
- 9 CRACKING RHAPSODY (IRE) (5lb/2kg ex) (13) 98**
 113-40101 **6** 10-13 | 69.4kg
Ewan Whillans **Craig Nichol**
 Improving sort enhanced his Kelso record to 4 wins from 5 visits when digging in to defend his Morebattle crown from a 13 lb higher mark earlier this month. Has a fine attitude but more on his plate under a penalty here.

- 10 MCLAUREY (IRE) (40) 98**
 0-2311 **6** 10-12 | 68.9kg
Emmet Mullins, Ireland **M. P. Walsh**
 Followed up his December maiden success in impressive fashion, landing a 2m Listed handicap hurdle at Leopardstown last month, justifying strong support and looking value for more than the winning margin in the process. Appeals as the type to go on improving and merits serious consideration.
- 11 OUR CHAMP (IRE) (34) (CD) 99** t
 713-61358 **7** 10-11 | 68.5kg
Chris Gordon **Freddie Gordon (31b/1kg)**
 Back to his best to win 2m Ascot handicap in November before very creditable third in the Gerry Feilden later that month. Not in the same form on two subsequent starts and this looks a tough ask stepping into a better race off a career-high mark. Tongue tie back on.
- 12 VALGRAND (FR) (77) (CD) 99**
 24-111207 **6** 10-10 | 68.0kg
Dan Skelton **Harry Skelton**
 Emphatic winner of Grade 2 hurdle at Cheltenham's October meeting, putting on a fine display of jumping under a front-running ride while also clocking an impressive timefigure. Hasn't been able to match that form in 3 runs since but this will have been his long-term target. Bold showing anticipated.
- 13 LARK IN THE MORNIN (GER) (77) (CD, BF) 100** ★
 2631-57 **5** 10-8 | 67.1kg
Joseph Patrick O'Brien, Ireland **J. J. Slevin**
 Travelled powerfully when a decisive winner of last year's Boodles but not seen to best effect on final run of last season when fifth in the Swinton faced with much quicker conditions. Reappearance at Leopardstown gave the impression he'll spot on again for this meeting. Big chance.
- 14 IRISH PANTHER (40) 98** h+t
 32/23-2833 **8** 10-4 | 65.3kg
Eddie & Patrick Harty, Ireland **Cian Cullinan (71b/3kg)**
 Lightly-raced for his age and has made an encouraging start for new connections, placing on stable debut at Leopardstown (2m) before a very creditable third (wore first-time hood) behind McLaurey over the same C&D last month. Tongue tie added and patiently-ridden type could well run into a place.
- 15 SPIRIT D'AUNOU (FR) (49) 98** s
 1005-F643 **6** 10-3 | 64.9kg
Gary & Josh Moore **Freddie Mitchell (51b/2kg)**
 Landed a 2m Sandown handicap (off 1 lb lower) on heavy ground last season and finished his campaign with a creditable fifth of 19 at Aintree (2m4f), seeing out the extra distance well. Has shown he retains plenty of ability this season but dropping back in distance, he may find this test too sharp.
- 16 NORMAN FLETCHER (41) (D) 97**
 207-213P9 **6** 10-3 | 64.9kg
Nigel Twiston-Davies **Sam Twiston-Davies**
 Useful novice hurdler has proved an even better handicapper, resuming winning ways at Huntingdon in November and losing little in defeat when third at Doncaster (16.6f) a month later. Seemingly tapped for toe in a weaker race at Musselburgh (15.6f) last time. Tough ask stepping up in class.

16 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

3-1 Kargese, 13-2 Absurde, 7-1 Lark In The Mornin, 7-1 McLaurey, 8-1 Valgrand, 14-1 Ethical Diamond, 25-1 Hansard, 25-1 Irish Panther, 28-1 Pinot Gris, 28-1 Ndaawi, 40-1 bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

This could be run to suit the strong-travelling KARGESE who would benefit from a similarly ice-cool ride as Absurde was given when landing this race 12 months ago. It's a vote of confidence that Paul Townend switches allegiances and she can give Willie Mullins an unprecedented eighth County Hurdle. 2024 Boodles winner Lark In The Morning looks primed to run another huge race at the Festival, while Valgrand may fare best of the home team.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. KARGESE 2. LARK IN THE MORNIN 3. VALGRAND

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2024	Absurde 6-10-10	12-1	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	17
2023	Favoir 8-10-7	33-1	Dan Skelton	Bridget Andrews	24
2022	State Man 5-11-1	11-4f	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	26
2021	Belfast Banter 6-10-0	33-1	Peter Fahey	K. C. Sexton	25
2020	Saint Roi 5-10-13	11-2f	W. P. Mullins	Barry Geraghty	24

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

2.40

RACE 3

**MRS PADDY POWER MARES' CHASE (Liberthine) (Grade 2)
(1) 5yo+ fillies and mares £130,000 2½m127y (4140
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: **Weak**

1 **DINOBLUE (FR) (34)** t  **100**
1122-3241 8 11-7 | 73.0kg



W. P. Mullins, Ireland

M. P. Walsh

Very smart chaser who shaped best when runner-up to Limerick Lace in this last year (conceded first run). Has been mixing it with Grade 1 two milers this season before resuming winning ways back down in class in listed mares race at Naas last month. The one to beat despite a Grade 1 penalty.

2 **BRIDES HILL (IRE) (36)** (D, BF) **94**
PF/111-132 8 11-5 | 72.1kg



Gavin Patrick Cromwell, Ireland

Keith Donoghue

Smart chaser who completed 4-timer with another career best in Grade 2 at Punchestown in May. Excuses both starts this season and no surprise if she put up a good show.

3 **LIMERICK LACE (IRE) (72)** (CD) s **96**
3/12110-52 8 11-5 | 72.1kg



Gavin Patrick Cromwell, Ireland

J. W. Kennedy

Had an excellent campaign last season, winning 3 times, notably when getting first run on Dinoblu in this. However, well below par both starts this term, hinting at temperament when remote second to Allegorie de Vassy in Grade 3 at Fairyhouse 10 weeks ago. Bit to prove now with headgear applied.

4 **ALLEGORIE DE VASSY (FR) (34)** (D, BF) t **99**
1214-4412 8 11-2 | 70.8kg



W. P. Mullins, Ireland

P. Townend

Failed to meet expectations in this last year but back to best with front-running tactics readopted when winning Grade 3 at Fairyhouse. Emerged with plenty of credit when edged out by Dinoblu in listed chase at Naas since. 1 lb worse off with winner here but this longer trip more suitable.

5 **FONTAINE COLLONGES (FR) (27)** b **88**
OP/U19-1PP 10 11-2 | 70.8kg



Venetia Williams

Charlie Deutsch

Recorded a smart handicap performance when easy winner at Haydock (25.5f, heavy) in November. However, has an all-or-nothing profile and ran poorly in high-end marathon events since. Plenty to prove dropped markedly in trip with headgear applied.

6 **JE T'AI PORTE (IRE) (173)** h **90**
1210272F 7 11-2 | 70.8kg



Gavin Patrick Cromwell, Ireland

Shane Fitzgerald

Enthusiastic front runner who is a much better chaser than hurdler. However, not seen since falling at Listowel in September and this is a tough ask even if at her best.

7 **MAYHEM MYA (33)** **85**
24-4PU126 8 11-2 | 70.8kg



Chris Honour

Bryan Carver

Fairly useful chaser who arrives in form but is out of her depth at this level.

8 **ROYALE MARGAUX (FR) (34)** (D) t **86**
43-472431 7 11-2 | 70.8kg

Tom Symonds **Ben Poste**

Prolific in France but took 15 goes to get off the mark for this yard when surprise winner of listed hurdle at Warwick last month. Chucked into the deep end back over fences now and easy to oppose.

9 **SHECOULDBEANYTHING (IRE) (77)** (D) t **92**
92111153 8 11-2 | 70.8kg



Gordon Elliott, Ireland

Sam Ewing

Taken well to fences this season, completing 4-timer in listed event at Bangor in November. Not disgraced upped in class both starts since but has a bit to find with the principals here.

9 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

11-10 Dinoblu, **4-1** Allegorie De Vassy, **7-1** Limerick Lace, **15-2** Brides Hill, **20-1** Shecouldbeanything, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

DINOBLUE would likely have defied her Grade 1 penalty in this last year had she not conceded first run to Limerick Lace and she's fancied to make amends having looked as good as ever this season. Allegorie de Vassy pushed her stablemate close at Naas 5 weeks ago so rates the main threat, while Brides Hill looks the pick of Gavin Cromwell's trio with last year's winner Limerick Lace arriving on the back of a couple of lacklustre efforts.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. DINOBLUE 2. ALLEGORIE DE VASSY 3. BRIDES HILL

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2024	Limerick Lace 7-11-2	3-1	Gavin Patrick Cromwell	Keith Donoghue	9
2023	Impervious 7-11-5	15-8	Colm A. Murphy	B. Hayes	9
2022	Elimay 8-11-2	9-4	W. P. Mullins	M. P. Walsh	8
2021	Colreevy 8-11-7	9-4	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	11

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race











3.20**ALBERT BARTLETT NOVICES' HURDLE (Spa) (Grade 1) (1)**
Syo+ £150,000 2m7f213y (4820 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: **Extreme**

1	ARGENTO BOY (IRE) (39) 10-62P1 6 11-7 73.0kg	93
	W. P. Mullins, Ireland Debut bumper winner who was gaining his first win since landing the odds in 23f Punchestown maiden hurdle last month. Needs to step forward to figure here though.	Rachael Blackmore
2	BALLYBOW (IRE) (29) (D) 10211 6 11-7 73.0kg	95
	Gordon Elliott, Ireland Son of Flemensfirth has improved with each of his four runs in this sphere, bagging maiden at Naas (2m3f) and Grade 3 at Clonmel (3m) in 2025. Capable of better still so he's one to consider with his stamina proven.	Sam Ewing
3	DERRYHASSEN PADDY (IRE) (56) (D) 1-11 6 11-7 73.0kg	94
	Lucinda Russell Won his sole start in Irish points/bumpers and has looked a bright prospect in going 2-2 over hurdles at Uttoxeter and Windsor. Battled well on latter occasion and is the sort to go on improving. Lively outsider.	Derek Fox
4	FIRST CONFESSION (IRE) (27) 3171 6 11-7 73.0kg	89
	Joe Tizzard Points winner came in last of 7 in the Challow Hurdle at Newbury but bounced back to make it 2-4 in this sphere in 2m3f Ascot novice hurdle last month. This step up in trip should suit but others possess better form.	Brendan Powell
5	FISHERY LANE (FR) (57) 25-031 6 11-7 73.0kg	86
	W. P. Mullins, Ireland Very useful bumper performer who built on his hurdling promise to land 20f Fairyhouse novice in January. This represents a big step up but he's open to further progress.	S. F. O'Keefe
6	FLICKER OF HOPE (FR) (41) (D) 94-118113 6 11-7 73.0kg	97
	Mark Fahey, Ireland Is enjoying a fine season and garnered his fourth handicap success at Navan (25f) in December. Took another step forward when third of 25 in 3m handicap at Leopardstown last time. Shouldn't be underestimated.	Keith Donoghue
7	INN AT THE PARK (IRE) (54) 336-14 7 11-7 73.0kg	86
	W. P. Mullins, Ireland Walk In The Park gelding got off to a successful start in 23f novice hurdle at Fairyhouse in December. Failed to build on that in the expected manner when fourth of 5 in 22f novice at Thurles following month. Shouldn't be written off for top stable though.	D. E. Mullins
8	INTENSE APPROACH (41) (CD) P-F211211 6 11-7 73.0kg	96
	John McConnell, Ireland Enjoyed an excellent summer/autumn when three times a hurdles scorer and also a fine second in Persian War at Chepstow. Resumed from a three-month break with a cosy 3m novice success at Musselburgh and he's no forlorn hope.	Sean Bowen
9	JASMIN DE VAUX (FR) (41) (C) 11-8144 6 11-7 73.0kg	97
	W. P. Mullins, Ireland 2024 Champion Bumper winner and he made a winning hurdling debut in maiden at Navan in December. Cheekpieces on when a solid fourth in Nathaniel Lacy & Partners Solicitors Novices' Hurdle at Leopardstown (22.2f) last time. The choice of Paul Townend from his yard's half dozen and he can go well.	P. Townend
10	JAX JUNIOR (36) 023-7113 6 11-7 73.0kg	93
	Lucy Wadham Hasn't looked back since undergoing breathing surgery, making all in novice events at Doncaster and Ascot either side of Christmas. Advanced his form when third of 6 in listed hurdle at Huntingdon (2m4f) last month. Likeable sort who hasn't stopped improving yet.	Tom Cannon

11	JET BLUE (FR) (90) (CD) U313-3121 6 11-7 73.0kg	98
	David Cottin, France Very useful French hurdler who bagged a third success on his first outing for David Cottin in Grade 2 Bristol Novice Hurdle over C&D in December. Off since but he's much respected with his stamina proven.	James Reveley
12	JIG'S FORGE (IRE) (48) 14 6 11-7 73.0kg	88
	Ben Pauling Winning Irish pointer who made a successful start in this sphere in 2m4f novice at Ffos Las in November. Not disgraced when a well-held fourth of 6 in River Don Novices' Hurdle at Doncaster (3m). Remains with potential.	Ben Jones
13	MA SHANTOU (IRE) (48) (BF) 310-2113 6 11-7 73.0kg	92
	Emma Lavelle Progressive sort who bagged novice hurdles (around 2m4f) at Warwick and Windsor before Christmas before posting an excellent third of 6 in River Don Novices' Hurdle (3m) in January. No forlorn hope.	Harry Cobden
14	NATIVEHILL (IRE) (12) 21 7 11-7 73.0kg	80
	Nicky Henderson Changed hands for £260,000 after winning between the flags and he built on a promising hurdling debut Newbury second when landing the odds in 2m5f novice at Huntingdon 12 days ago. That form leaves him with lots to find here but remains with considerable potential now his stamina is unlocked more.	Nico de Boynville
15	PORT JOULAIN (FR) (46) 1-0P31 6 11-7 73.0kg	92
	W. P. Mullins, Ireland Useful bumper scorer who got off the mark at the third attempt in this sphere in 5-runner novice hurdle at Punchestown (19.2f) in January. Needs this big step up in trip to spark improvement.	B. Hayes
16	SOUNDS VICTORIOUS (IRE) (41) 214-4215 6 11-7 73.0kg	92
	W. P. Mullins, Ireland Fourth in Champion bumper and improving over hurdles, scoring at Fairyhouse (20f) on New Year's Day before a very good fifth of 12 in Nathaniel Lacy and Partners' Hurdle at Leopardstown (22f). A real staying type who has more to offer here.	Mr P. W. Mullins
17	WENDIGO (FR) (30) 311-2121 6 11-7 73.0kg	99
	Jamie Snowden Has quickly made up into a very useful hurdler, 4¾ lengths second to The New Lion in Challow Novices' Hurdle at Newbury before easily landing the odds in 2m4f Wetherby novice last month. Needs considering now stepping up to 3m.	Gavin Sheehan
18	WINGMEN (IRE) (41) 13-11232 7 11-7 73.0kg	98
	Gordon Elliott, Ireland Smart bumper winner who got off to the perfect start over hurdles at Navan in November. Has improved with each of his three runs since, though no match for Final Demand when runner-up in Nathaniel Lacy & Partners Solicitors Novices' Hurdle at Leopardstown (22.2f) last time. Holds solid claims.	J. W. Kennedy
19	YELLOW CAR (IRE) (48) (D) 121531 7 11-7 73.0kg	92
	David Killahena & Graeme McPherson  Point winner who has progressed steadily over hurdles, winning 2 of his first 3 starts at Newton Abbot and Fontwell. Took another step forward when narrowly landing River Don Novices' Hurdle at Doncaster (3m) in January and this likeable sort is respected.	Nick Slatter
20	THE BIG WESTERNER (IRE) (78) 11 6 11-0 69.9kg	100
	Henry de Bromhead, Ireland Westerner mare made a winning start in points and quickly made up into a smart hurdler when bagging novice at Punchestown then Grade 2 at Limerick (23ft) by 4¾ lengths from Mozzies Sister. Open to further improvement. and she rates a big player receiving 7 lb all round.	D. J. O'Keefe

20 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

7-2 The Big Westerner, **9-1** Jet Blue, **10-1** Wingmen, **12-1** Jasmin De Vaux, **16-1** Wendigo, **16-1** Flicker of Hope, **16-1** Intense Approach, **16-1** Ballybow, **16-1** Derryhassen Paddy, **20-1** Argento Boy, **28-1** Jax Junior, **28-1** Sounds Victorious, **33-1** Yellow Car, **33-1** Fishery Lane, **40-1** bar

3.20**ALBERT BARTLETT NOVICES' HURDLE (Spa) (Grade 1) (1)**
5yo+ £150,000 2m7f213y (4820 Metres)

RACE 4

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

This looks wide open but Henry de Bromhead last won this with his Gold Cup hero Minella Indo and his smart mare THE BIG WESTERNER can use her 7 lb sex allowance to telling effect and retain her unbeaten record over hurdles. Gordon Elliott's Wingmen found only Final Demand too good in a Leopardstown Grade 1 last time and heads the list of dangers, although Jasmin de Vaux (choice of Paul Townend), Wendigo and Ballybow all command plenty of respect too. Derryhassen Paddy completes the shortlist.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**1. THE BIG WESTERNER 2. WINGMEN 3. JASMIN DE VAUX****WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2024	Stellar Story 7-11-7	33-1	Gordon Elliott	Sam Ewing	13
2023	Stay Away Fay 6-11-7	18-1	Paul Nicholls	Harry Cobden	20
2022	The Nice Guy 7-11-8	18-1	W. P. Mullins	S. F. O'Keefe	16
2021	Vanillier 6-11-5	14-1	Gavin Patrick Cromwell	M. P. Walsh	16
2020	Monkfish 6-11-5	5-1	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	19

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

4.00**BOODLES CHELTENHAM GOLD CUP CHASE (Grade 1) (1)**
5yo+ £646,880 3¼m70y (5290 Metres)

RACE 5

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 **AHOY SENOR (IRE) (54)** (C) **80**
P4362-3PP 10 11-10 | 74.4kg



Lucinda Russell

Derek Fox

Not a fluent jumper of fences but top-class on his day. Shaped as if as good as ever when third in Old Roan at Aintree on reappearance but has pulled up on both runs since. Has had wind surgery.

2 **BANBRIDGE (IRE) (78)** (C) **95**
21/19-14U1 9 11-10 | 74.4kg



Joseph Patrick O'Brien, Ireland

J. J. Slevin

Raced mostly at shorter but there's stamina in his pedigree and he proved suited by the return to 3m when overhauling Il Est Francois in the King George at Kempton. This race asks a different question but he's good enough to ensure Galopin Des Champs doesn't have things all his own way.

3 **CORBETTS CROSS (IRE) (27)** (C, BF) **92**
12B13-262 8 11-10 | 74.4kg



Emmet Mullins, Ireland

J. W. Kennedy

High-class chaser who landed the National Hunt Chase at last year's Festival before a fine third to Gerri Colombe in Bowl at Aintree (25f, soft) in April. Operating a little below that level this season but will at least find this test more suitable than the 21f he ran over at Ascot last time.

4 **GALOPIN DES CHAMPS (FR) (41)** (CD) **100**
3111-2311 9 11-10 | 74.4kg



W. P. Mullins, Ireland

P. Townend

Dual Cheltenham Gold Cup winner. Only third on 2½m Punchestown reappearance but has comfortably won a pair of Grade 1s at Leopardstown since returned to 3m. Sure to take all the beating as he bids to become only the fifth three-time winner of this race.

5 **GENTLEMANS GAME (48)** **91**
1/21P5-433 9 11-10 | 74.4kg



M. F. Morris, Ireland

D. J. O'Keeffe

Landed the 2023 Charlie Hall at Wetherby. Back to that sort of form when third of 9 to Galopin Des Champs in Savills at Leopardstown (3m) just after Christmas but below par when a well-held third in the Cotswold Chase here in January. Pulled up in this last year.

6 **INOTHEWAYURTHINKIN (IRE) (41)** (CD) **92**
23911-754 7 11-10 | 74.4kg



Gavin Patrick Cromwell, Ireland

M. P. Walsh

Won the Kim Muir at this meeting last year before adding a Grade 1 novice at Aintree. Has found life tougher in top open company since but he did stay on well when 7¼ lengths fourth to Galopin Des Champs in the Irish Gold Cup (3m) 6 weeks ago and this longer trip will play to his strengths.

7 **MONTY'S STAR (IRE) (41)** **89**
1P/312-225 8 11-10 | 74.4kg



Henry de Bromhead, Ireland

Rachael Blackmore

Second to Fact To File and Spillane's Tower in Grade 1 novices here and at Punchestown last spring. Better effort this season when 7½ length fifth (Inothewayurthinkin neck ahead in fourth) to Galopin Des Champs in the Irish Gold Cup at Leopardstown last month. Longer trip now should suit.

8 **ROYALE PAGAILLE (FR) (27)** **91**
26F/1F-1P6 11 11-10 | 74.4kg



Venetia Williams

Charlie Deutsch

Mud lover who landed a second Betfair Chase at Haydock in November. Not so good away from testing ground when a remote sixth in the Grand National Trial there last month and he's unlikely to get his ideal conditions here this afternoon.

9 **THE REAL WHACKER (IRE) (78)** (C) **89**
P42P5-U14 9 11-10 | 74.4kg



Patrick Neville

Brian Hughes

Won the Brown Advisory at the 2023 Festival. Back to that sort of level when making all in the Charlie Hall at Wetherby (3m, good) in November and respectable fourth of 11 in King George since. If he's allowed to get into a good rhythm in front he might outrun big odds.

BETTING FORECAST:

8-15 Galopin Des Champs, **11-2** Banbridge, **11-1** Inothewayurthinkin, **20-1** Monty's Star, **22-1** Corbetts Cross, **50-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

GALOPIN DES CHAMPS landed a third Irish Gold Cup last month and can cement his place among the greats by repeating that feat in chasing's blue riband event. Banbridge is a top-class chaser in his own right and December's King George hero has the potential to give the reigning champion plenty to think about with ground conditions likely to be ideal for him. Inothewayurthinkin, who was supplemented for £25,000 last weekend, can complete his Grand National preparations by staying on for third.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. GALOPIN DES CHAMPS 2. BANBRIDGE 3. INOTHEWAYURTHINKIN

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2024	Galopin des Champs	8-11-10	10-11f	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	11
2023	Galopin des Champs	7-11-10	7-5f	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	13
2022	A Plus Tard	8-11-10	3-1f	Henry de Bromhead	Rachael Blackmore	11
2021	Minella Indo	8-11-10	9-1	Henry de Bromhead	J. W. Kennedy	12
2020	Al Boum Photo	8-11-10	10-3f	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	12

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

9 DECLARED RUNNERS

4.40

RACE 6

**ST. JAMES'S PLACE FESTIVAL CHALLENGE CUP OPEN
HUNTERS' CHASE (2) 5yo+ £50,000 3¼m70y (5290
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: **Even**

1 ALLMANKIND (132) (C) h+t **89**
700/334 **9** 12-0 | 76.2kg



Mrs J. Owen

Mr Alex Chadwick

Smart hurdler and high-class chaser during his time with Dan Skelton. Missed 20 months but fair bit of ability remains judged on his 3 efforts in handicaps this term. Successful both starts in points, soundly beating only other finisher on second of them, but stamina a concern here.

2 ANGELS BREATH (IRE) (36) (BF) **85**
27445P-12 **11** 12-0 | 76.2kg



Tim Vaughan

Mr Edward Vaughan

Ended last season with a heavy defeat in the Martin Pipe but having warmed up with a run between the flags in December, he made a winning reappearance for new yard back chasing in a Taunton hunter (21.7f) in January. Disappointing at Ffos Las since.

3 AU FLEURON (FR) (294) s **50**
4800/96-07 **8** 12-0 | 76.2kg



Max Comley

Miss Aimee Jones

Fairly useful hurdler for Gordon Elliott and a point winner, but little to shout about of late.

4 BARDENSTOWN LAD (28) (C) s **89**
46-611P51 **10** 12-0 | 76.2kg



David Loughnane

Mr E. Mahon

Winner of a handicap hurdle and maiden chase for Gavin Cromwell at Kilbeggan in 2024 and displayed a willing attitude from the front when landing 5-runner hunter for new yard last month. This a different examination.

5 CARNFUNNOCK (IRE) (209) **80**
3/3560-425 **8** 12-0 | 76.2kg



Stuart Crawford, Ireland

Mr S. Connor

Fairly useful hurdles winner who has made an encouraging start over fences, making the frame at Down Royal (19.7f) in May before bumping into a good prospect at Wexford. Won 2 of last 3 starts in points but this a tough ask tackling a new trip.

6 D'JANGO (FR) (17) t **79**
144-3P554 **12** 12-0 | 76.2kg



Miss V. Collins

Mr Darren Andrews

Had plenty of exposure over fences and won a hunter for this yard in January 2024. Mixed bag since but he did finish fourth at huge odds in this a year ago.

7 FAIRLY FAMOUS (IRE) (287) (CD, BF) **93**
5/1P-13 **8** 12-0 | 76.2kg



Mrs G. Andrews

Miss Gina Andrews

Prolific in points and produced his best effort in this sphere when readily landing C&D event in May. Warmed up for this with another success between the flags in January and this thorough stayer can go well.

8 GO ON CHEZ (28) s **85**
221-14644 **9** 12-0 | 76.2kg



F. A. Hutsby

Mr Tom Hutsby

Back-to-back hunter winner last spring. Jumped right and folded quite tamely, even allowing for fact he may have needed the run on last month's return to action for new handler. Doesn't always look straightforward.

9 HAVEN'T TIME (IRE) (24) **85**
878/513-32 **11** 12-0 | 76.2kg



Miss S. McQueen

Miss Lucy Turner

Won a Southwell hunter this time last year and stuck to his task really well when second to Shearer having made a bad mistake at Taunton last month. Should stay this far but huge career best required.

10 ITS ON THE LINE (IRE) (34) (BF) **95**
1/1121-123 **8** 12-0 | 76.2kg



Emmet Mullins, Ireland

Mr D. O'Connor

Dual winner of the Champion Hunters Chase at Punchestown, latterly in May. Below that level when odds-on twice to add to his tally in that sphere during the winter but he's twice finished runner-up in this race so is more than capable of making his presence felt.

11 LIFT ME UP (IRE) (53) s **87**
1/P-321 **9** 12-0 | 76.2kg



Miss M. Filby

Mr Jack Andrews

Multiple-point winner who took a step forward on just his fourth start under Rules when second to What A Glance in a good-quality hunter at Stratford in May. Fitted with cheekpieces and matched that form when scoring at Warwick in January. This asks a different question.

12 LISLEIGH LAD (IRE) (54) **80**
67-515 **7** 12-0 | 76.2kg



Miss Eleanor Broderick, Ireland

Mr Darragh Allen

Lightly-raced 7-y-o who got off the mark in 6-runner hunter at Fairyhouse in November. Held back by jumping 2 months later and this a different environment to what he's used to.

13 MUSIC DRIVE (FR) (807) t **87**
51329/ **8** 12-0 | 76.2kg



Kelly Morgan

Miss Ellie Callwood

Fairly useful in bumpers and bright start over hurdles in 2022, off the mark in a Galway maiden (19f) prior to improved efforts in defeat at Cheltenham. Left Gordon Elliott and has no chasing experience to call upon under Rules but has won both starts in points this year.

14 ONTHEROPES (IRE) (34) **86**
PP75-80F2 **11** 12-0 | 76.2kg



Thomas Mullins, Ireland

Mr Charlie Mullins

Smart handicap chaser at best for Willie Mullins and having won a point, he stuck to his task pretty well when runner-up to Ryehill on hunter debut at Naas last month. Task is to now build on that.

15 PLAN OF ATTACK (IRE) (685) b **91**
76P7FP/ **12** 12-0 | 76.2kg



Henry de Bromhead, Ireland

Mr B. O'Neill

Very useful chaser at his peak for leading yard. Didn't really take to the cross-country discipline in 2023 but fit from a point win last month. Jury out as to how much ability he retains.

16 ROCKY'S HOWYA (IRE) (75) (BF) **80**
4/4 **9** 12-0 | 76.2kg



Declan Queally, Ireland

Mr D. Queally

Looked limited for most of his career but hit a purple patch in points and carried on the excellent work when fourth in the 2023 renewal of this race. Failed to meet expectations only Rules start since at Limerick in December. Added to tally between the flags in January.

17 RYEHILL (IRE) (34) **92**
21-41 **8** 12-0 | 76.2kg



Ross O'Sullivan, Ireland

Mr L. P. Shanahan

Chased home Angel's Dawn in a point in December and left previous hunter form trailing in his wake when forging clear to land 9-runner contest at Naas from Ontheropes. These stiffer fences ask a new challenge but he brings untapped potential to the table.

18 SHEARER (IRE) (24) (C) s+t **93**
1U88/11-11 **9** 12-0 | 76.2kg



Paul Nicholls

Miss Olive Nicholls

Took well to fences with 2 novice handicap wins in summer 2023 and showed he's still very talented when scoring easily in a Ffos Las hunter back from a long absence in February. Turned out 12 days later and workmanlike at Taunton but he's a player with this trip expected to suit.

19 TAKE ALL (IRE) (27) h+t **87**
735-86825 **10** 12-0 | 76.2kg



M. Osborne

Mr Martin McIntyre

Useful chaser in Ireland at his peak and confirmed he retains a chunk of his ability when second on hunter debut at Taunton in January. Won a point after but failed to jump with much fluency back under Rules at Haydock last month. Up in trip.

20 WEST OF CARRIG (IRE) (58) **79**
380/058-33 **8** 12-0 | 76.2kg



Don Browne, Ireland

Mr A. J. Browne

Surpassed hurdles form in this code this winter with a brace of third-place finishes this winter. 16-length winner of a point last month and he's unexposed, but this is a tall order.

21 WHAT A GLANCE (287) (C) t **89**
P3/2-11 **10** 12-0 | 76.2kg



Tom Britten

Mr Toby McCain-Mitchell

Progressive form in hunters for this yard, supplementing his Cheltenham win at Stratford (both in May). Failed to win last 2 starts in points and this demands a career best.

4.40

RACE 6

**ST. JAMES'S PLACE FESTIVAL CHALLENGE CUP OPEN
HUNTERS' CHASE (2) 5yo+ £50,000 3¼m70y (5290
Metres)**

22 WILLITGOAHEAD (IRE) (54) 89

21 7 12-0 | 76.2kg



Gordon Elliott, Ireland

Mr J. L. Scallan

Multiple point winner and plenty to like about his switch to Rules this winter, shaping best when second at Limerick before readily going one place better at Thurles 8 weeks ago. Jumped and travelled with plenty of purpose that day and well worth a shot at this for Gordon Elliott.

23 WONDERWALL (IRE) (237) t 85

BPO-33432 9 12-0 | 76.2kg



S. Curling, Ireland

Mr R. James

Fairly useful hurdler/lightly raced over fences. Sold for £33,000 and successful both starts in points in late-2024 and now tackles this discipline for the first time. Tongue tie goes on and this probably on the limit of his stamina.

24 ANGELS DAWN (IRE) (365) (CD) 100

1U16/273F- 10 11-7 | 73.0kg



S. Curling, Ireland

Mr P. A. King

Career highlight when winning the 2023 Kim Muir and would have been placed in last year's renewal when falling 2 out (both under this rider). Successful both starts in points this winter, beating Ryehill by 6 lengths on second of them and she's a very classy recruit to this sphere. Leading claims.

24 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

9-2 Angels Dawn, **5-1** Its On The Line, **13-2** Willitgoahead, **10-1** Shearer, **11-1** Ryehill, **22-1** Allmankind, **22-1** Music Drive, **25-1** Rocky's Howya, **28-1** Fairly Famous, **33-1** Bardenstown Lad, **33-1** What A Glance, **33-1** Ontheropes, **33-1** Wonderwall, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

ANGELS DAWN is the class act and her Cheltenham Festival form under Patrick King stacks up, having been successful in the 2023 Kim Muir over C&D and in the process of running well when departing 2 out bidding for the follow-up last year. She ticks all the boxes and can come out on top. Willitgoahead is unexposed and very interesting for Gordon Elliott after his Thurles success. C&D winner Fairly Famous is a player at bigger odds while Its On The Line, second in 2023 and 2024, must be feared.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. ANGELS DAWN 2. WILLITGOAHEAD 3. FAIRLY FAMOUS

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2024	Sine Nomine 8-11-7	8-1	Fiona Needham	Mr John Dawson	12
2023	Premier Magic 10-12-0	66-1	Bradley Gibbs	Mr Bradley Gibbs	23
2022	Billaway 10-12-0	13-8f	W. P. Mullins	Mr P. W. Mullins	19
2021	Porlock Bay 10-12-0	16-1	Will Biddick	Lorcan Williams	18
2020	It Came To Pass 10-12-0	66-1	Eugene M. O'Sullivan	Miss M. O'Sullivan	21

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

5.20

RACE 7

MARTIN PIPE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP HURDLE
(2) 4yo+ (Rated 0-145) £75,000 2½m56y (4070
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: **Very Strong****1 TOUNSIVATOR (FR) (40) 97**

6-7215197 6 11-12 | 75.3kg
W. P. Mullins, Ireland **Kieran Callaghan**
Saw off Tuesday's Supreme third Romeo Coolio to win the Grade 2 Royal Bond at Fairyhouse in December. Has only managed midfield finishes in a couple of hot Leopardstown handicaps since and will require a really smart effort under top weight.

2 WODHOOH (FR) (90) (CD) 96

11111-1 5 11-8 | 73.5kg
Gordon Elliott, Ireland **D. J. Gilligan**
Unbeaten in 6 runs over hurdles since joining this yard, making light of an 11-month absence as she came clear readily in mares' handicap over C&D in December. Presumably saved for this since and can make a bold bid for 7 in a row.

3 NO ORDINARY JOE (IRE) (34) (D) 100

7/P837-574 9 11-5 | 72.1kg
Nicky Henderson **Freddie Gingell**
Lightly raced 9-y-o who was second in this in 2023 and shaped a lot better than result when seventh 12 months ago. Latest 21f Warwick fourth suggests he's coming to the boil again. Worth chancing in a first-time tongue tie.

4 NO QUESTIONS ASKED (IRE) (23) 92

16-13121 7 11-5 | 72.1kg
Ben Pauling **Callum Pritchard**
Point winner who showed useful form in bumpers last term and has won 3 of his 5 starts in novice hurdles this winter. Unexposed now moving into his first handicap but this demands further improvement.

5 MINELLA SIXO (IRE) (27) 96

12123F 6 11-4 | 71.7kg
Gordon Elliott, Ireland **Jake Coen**
Maiden/novice hurdle winner who recorded good placed efforts in a pair of Graded novices in December. Fourth when falling 3 out on 3m Haydock handicap debut 4 weeks ago. The drop in trip isn't sure to suit but still not discounted.

6 THE ENABLER (IRE) (40) (D) 93

115-2P210 6 11-3 | 71.2kg
Gordon Elliott, Ireland **James Smith**
Fairly useful hurdler, winning a 2½m maiden at the Leopardstown Christmas meeting. Well beaten in a 2m handicap there at the Dublin Racing Festival but this return to a longer trip may see him in a better light.

7 UNCLE BERT (27) (D) 96

17-3P2315 8 11-3 | 71.2kg
Nigel Twiston-Davies **James Turner**
Useful hurdler who has done his winning on soft/heavy ground, including over 3m at Haydock in January. Creditable fifth of 13 back there (3m again) since but it underlines that he needs more off this mark.

8 KOPECK DE MEE (FR) (310) 97

3211-1 5 11-3 | 71.2kg
W. P. Mullins, Ireland **A. P. Kelly**
Progressive over hurdles in France last spring, completing a hat-trick when driven 4½ lengths clear in 2¼m Auteuil listed race last May. Subsequently purchased by J P McManus and seemingly saved for this day since. No surprise were he to be well ahead of his mark.

9 TAPONTHEGO (IRE) (22) (D) 96

21233 6 11-2 | 70.8kg
Henry de Bromhead, Ireland **M. P. O'Connor**
Useful form, winning a 20.5f Tipperary maiden in November and good placed efforts on his next 2 starts. Below par when 24 lengths third in 2m Punchestown listed novice last month but this step back up in trip should suit now handicapping.

10 KARAFON (FR) (40) 94

35-147 5 11-2 | 70.8kg
W. P. Mullins, Ireland **Tiernan Power Roche**
French recruit who returned from 11 months off to open his account at Clonmel in December. Ran to similar level when fourth in Grade 1 novice at Leopardstown in December but well beaten in a similar race there at the Dublin Racing Festival. Steps back up in trip for handicap debut.

11 PUSH THE BUTTON (IRE) (33) (D) 97

1/141-5P20 6 11-2 | 70.8kg
Nigel Twiston-Davies **Finn Lambert**
Bumper winner and went 2-3 in novice hurdles last season. Has struggled for consistency in handicaps this time round but his penultimate 3m Windsor second is solid form.

12 ACT OF AUTHORITY (FR) (34) (D) 99

316-91143 7 11-1 | 70.3kg
Olly Murphy **Lewis Saunders**
Three-time winner as a novice and improved again to land 2½m handicaps at Sandown and Wetherby within the space of 6 days in November. Creditable efforts in defeat at Aintree and Warwick since. Possible a big-field scenario will suit this hold-up performer.

13 NURSE SUSAN (FR) (418) (CD) 98

711- 8 11-0 | 69.9kg
Dan Skelton **Tristan Durrell**
Lightly raced but talented mare, returning from an absence to win handicaps over C&D and at Lingfield (23f) last winter. Off a further 13 months but still no surprise were she to make her presence felt.

14 DOYEN QUEST (IRE) (20) (CD, BF) 97

211-21467 7 11-0 | 69.9kg
Dan Skelton **Harry Atkins**
Improved again when landing a 3m course handicap in November but found out off marks in the 130s 3 times since. Needs to find some improvement for first-time cheekpieces.

15 ELECTRIC MASON (IRE) (47) 97

120-21351 6 10-13 | 69.4kg
Chris Gordon **Caolin Quinn**
Bumper winner who has landed maiden/novice hurdles at Fontwell this winter. Useful effort when 9 lengths fifth of 7 in Grade 1 Challow at Newbury (20.5f, good to soft) in December. Potential improver in handicaps.

16 PARK OF KINGS (IRE) (75) (D) 97

5-0061022 7 10-13 | 69.4kg
Paul Nolan, Ireland **C. Stone-Walsh**
Winner over 2½m at Gowran in October and even better form when runner-up in listed handicaps at Naas and Leopardstown (both 2½m again) at the end of 2024. Presumably saved for this since and got to be high on the shortlist.

17 RAGLAN ROAD (IRE) (55) 96

F2/4451P-5 7 10-12 | 68.9kg
Henry de Bromhead, Ireland **Gavin Peter Brouder**
Improved to win a 19f Naas handicap last March. Pulled up at Fairyhouse final start but made a sound return to action with a tongue tie added (off now) when fifth of 19 at Navan (2½m) in January. Not fully exposed.

18 FLASH COLLONGES (FR) (321) 89

2231F/0PP- 10 10-12 | 68.9kg
Sophie Leech **J. Hogan**
Useful chase winner for Paul Nicholls in March 2023 but lost his way badly last season and has plenty to prove back hurdling for new yard after 11 months off.

19 PUNCTUATION (20) (C, D) 97

4P1/855-43 8 10-12 | 68.9kg
Nicky Henderson **Freddie Mitchell**
Five-time hurdle winner for Fergal O'Brien and ended his time with that yard with victory in 2m Flat handicap at Goodwood last May. Has started out for Nicky Henderson with creditable in-frame efforts at Doncaster (19.5f) and Kempton (21f) in recent months.

20 STORMBREAKER (40) 96

21620 6 10-11 | 68.5kg
W. P. Mullins, Ireland **Sean Cleary-Farrell**
Lightly-raced winner over hurdles. Good second in 19f Punchestown handicap at the turn of the year and possibly unsuited by the drop to 2m when well held in Leopardstown handicap last month.

5.20

RACE 7

**MARTIN PIPE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP HURDLE
(2) 4yo+ (Rated 0-145) £75,000 2½m56y (4070
Metres)****GBI RACING****21 MORDOR (FR) (41) 98**

3-3212120 5 10-11 | 68.5kg



Gordon Elliott, Ireland

T. P. Harney

In good form in the summer, winning 2 hurdles and a Flat maiden. Didn't appear to stay 3m in a handicap at the Dublin Racing Festival on last month's return from a break. Should find this test more suitable.

22 EAST INDIA EXPRESS (IRE) (78) 97

1/142-U11 6 10-10 | 68.0kg



Nicky Henderson

Freddie Gordon

Lightly-raced 5-y-o who returned to win twice in quick succession around 21f at Ascot and Kempton (both good to soft) in December. Has seemingly been kept fresh for this since. Likely type and part of a strong hand for his stable.

23 HARSH (19) s 97

16094600 5 10-9 | 67.6kg



Gordon Elliott, Ireland

F. Brickley

Some decent efforts in handicaps to end 2024 but needs to shrug off 2 poor runs last month. The stable has more obvious candidates elsewhere.

24 WILDE ABOUT OSCAR (IRE) (633) (D) s+t 91

03P60/6- 10 10-7 | 66.7kg



Sophie Leech

Dylan Johnston

Useful at his best for Dan Skelton but well beaten in France in June 2023 (only run for Rebecca Menzies) and not seen since. Has cheekpieces and a tongue tie combined for the first time. Would be a shock winner.

RESERVES**25 ASTON MARTINI (55) s 97**

1114-202 6 10-7 | 66.7kg



Nicky Henderson

Reserve

Bumper winner who also landed her first 2 starts over hurdles last winter. Further progress in handicaps this season, shaping as if this slightly longer trip will play to her strengths when second of 11 in 19f Ascot handicap in January. Cheekpieces go on. Respected if getting a run. RESERVE.

26 TIMMY TUESDAY (IRE) (33) (D) 94

3R/0213 7 10-6 | 66.2kg



Gordon Elliott, Ireland

Reserve

Got off the mark on his handicap debut at Ayr (20.5f, soft) in January. Ran to a similar level, despite the return to a shorter trip not looking in his favour, when second in 18.5f Exeter novice since. Low-mileage sort from a top yard. RESERVE.

24 DECLARED RUNNERS (2 RESERVES)

BETTING FORECAST:

4-1 Kopeck De Mee, 15-2 Wodhoo, 12-1 East India Express, 14-1 Taponthego, 18-1 No Ordinary Joe, 18-1 Minella Sixo, 18-1 No Questions Asked, 22-1 Park of Kings, 22-1 The Enabler, 25-1 Act of Authority, 25-1 Electric Mason, 28-1 Karafon, 33-1 Mordor, 33-1 Punctuation, 40-1 bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

NO ORDINARY JOE has shaped well in the last 2 runnings of this and is selected to make it third time lucky. His ownermate Kopeck de Mee is very much an unknown quantity and it would be no surprise were he to be well ahead of his mark. Park of Kings completes a very strong hand for J P McManus and is next on the list ahead of the unbeaten Wodhoo and the selection's stablemate East India Express.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**1. NO ORDINARY JOE 2. KOPECK DE MEE 3. PARK OF KINGS****WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2024	Better Days Ahead 6-11-7	5-1	Gordon Elliott	D. J. Gilligan	21
2023	Iroko 5-11-5	6-1	Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero	A. P. Kelly	21
2022	Banbridge 6-11-3	12-1	Joseph Patrick O'Brien	M. M. McDonagh	23
2021	Galopin des Champs 5-11-9	8-1	W. P. Mullins	S. F. O'Keefe	22
2020	Indefatigable 7-11-9	25-1	Paul Webber	Rex Dingle	23

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race