

Wednesday 11th March

# CHELTENHAM



**1.20** TURNERS NOVICES' HURDLE (Baring Bingham) (Grade 1) (1) 2m5f (4220 Metres)

RACE 1 **(12) NO DRAMA THIS END | (2) BALLYFAD | (9) KING RASKO GREY**

**2.00** BROWN ADVISORY NOVICES' CHASE (Broadway) (Grade 1) (1) 3m1f (5030 Metres)

RACE 2 **(10) ROMEO COOLIO | (4) KAID D'AUTHIE | (6) KOKTAIL DIVIN**

**2.40** BETMGM CUP HANDICAP HURDLE (PREMIER HANDICAP) (1) 2m5f (4220 Metres)

RACE 3 **(3) STORM HEART | (14) KATEIRA | (11) IBERICO LORD**

**3.20** GLENFARCLAS CROSS COUNTRY CHASE (LIMITED HANDICAP) (2) 3m5f56y (5890 Metres)

RACE 4 **(9) DESERTMORE HOUSE | (1) STUMPTOWN | (2) FAVORI DE CHAMPDOU**

**4.00** BETMGM QUEEN MOTHER CHAMPION CHASE (Grade 1) (1) 1m7f199y (3200 Metres)

RACE 5 **(8) MAJBOROUGH | (4) IL ETAIT TEMPS | (6) L'EAU DU SUD**

**4.40** DEBENHAMS JOHNNY HENDERSON GRAND ANNUAL CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP CHASE (PREMIER HANDICAP) (1) 1m7f199y (3200 Metres)

RACE 6 **(8) JAZZY MATTY | (4) BE AWARE | (9) VANDERPOEL**

**5.20** WEATHERBYS CHAMPION BUMPER (STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT) (Grade 1) (1) 2m87y (3300 Metres)

RACE 7 **(9) LOVE SIGN D'AUNOU | (8) KEEP HIM COMPANY | (1) BASS HUNTER**

## 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****TURNERS NOVICES' HURDLE (Baring Bingham) (Grade 1)**  
**(1) 4yo+ £150,000 2m5f (4220 Metres)**

RACE 1

**GBI RACING**Going: **Good to Soft**

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

Pace Information: **Extreme**

**1 ACT OF INNOCENCE (IRE) (34) 92**  
341-121 6 11-7 | 73.0kg



Nicky Henderson

*Nico de Boinville*

Promising in bumpers for Paul Nicholls and made a winning stable/hurdle debut in notable Newbury maiden in November. Beaten at long odds-on over the same C&D next time but confirmed he's a smart novice in the making when a smooth winner upped up 19.6f at Huntingdon (listed). More to come

**2 BALLYFAD (IRE) (38) 98**  
1112 5 11-7 | 73.0kg



Gordon Elliott, Ireland

*J. W. Kennedy*

Point winner who landed both bumpers before making successful switch to hurdling at Leopardstown. Lost his unbeaten record but improved a good chunk in the process when short-head second to Talk The Talk in Grade 1 there (heavy) last month. That puts him right in the mix with this trip a plus, too.

**3 BOSSMAN JACK (26) 93**  
1-311 6 11-7 | 73.0kg



Dan Skelton

*Harry Skelton*

Impressive in his bumper and confirmed hurdling debut promise when mastering a previous winner after the last in 11-runner novice at Ffos Las. Totally outclassed the opposition despite mistakes at Chepstow and he can leave bare form behind up in trip (related to winners over this far and beyond).

**4 CAME FROM NOWHERE (IRE) (53) 93**  
1/33-3211 7 11-7 | 73.0kg



Jeremy Scott

*Lorcan Williams*

Lightly raced 7-y-o who has improved over hurdles since handicapping, supplementing his Hereford success (19.7f, tongue tie fitted) when seeing off an established sort at Ascot, pair nicely clear, in January. Since had a breathing operation and goes up in class/trip.

**5 FORTUNE TIMMY (IRE) (46) 88**  
1313 6 11-7 | 73.0kg



Chris Gordon

*Freddie Gordon*

Winning hurdles debut at Fontwell (19.1f) and gave a good account when third behind Old Park Star at Kempton. Didn't need to improve to land the odds in 4-runner Fontwell novice on Boxing and stuck to it well when third upped to 20.3f (behind Taurus Bay) here on Trials Day.

**6 FREE SPIRIT (FR) (59) 85**  
2-13 5 11-7 | 73.0kg



W. P. Mullins, Ireland

*M. P. Walsh*

Winner of hurdle at Dieppe (17f) in June. Not seen again until last of 3 in the Grade 2 Moscow Flyer at Punchestown (16.5f, heavy) in January and while this trip will suit, this looks a big ask at this stage of his career.

**7 HURRICANE PAT (IRE) (53) 96**  
131-112 6 11-7 | 73.0kg



Gary &amp; Josh Moore

*Caolin Quinn*

Dual bumper winner last season and made it 2 from 2 over hurdles at Sandown when barely coming off the bridle in a listed novice on Tingle Creek day. No disgrace in finding Old Park Too good in the Rossington Main Novices' Hurdle at Haydock and this ex-pointer should stay 21f.

**8 I'LL SORT THAT (IRE) (61) (D) 96**  
7112-1111 6 11-7 | 73.0kg



Declan Queally, Ireland

*Mr D. L. Queally*

Won twice in bumpers last winter and a real success story over hurdles this term, landing Grade 3 at Navan in November and provided his owner/trainer with first Grade 1 success at Naas in January. Stays the trip and established as useful, which may take him so far.

**9 KING RASKO GREY (FR) (38) 98**  
4-213 6 11-7 | 73.0kg



W. P. Mullins, Ireland

*P. Townend*

Shaped well in bumpers at Punchestown a year apart and, after a further 8 months off, looked useful when making a winning hurdle debut at Limerick in December. More than confirmed that promise when ½-length third of 12 to Talk The Talk (Ballyfad second) in Grade 1 Brave Inca at Leopardstown since.

**10 KLIMT MADRIK (FR) (72) (D) 95**  
412 6 11-7 | 73.0kg



Toby Lawes

*K. Brogan*

In the frame in points and confirmed the promise of his debut fourth to Kalkbrenner in maiden hurdle at Ffos Las when reversing form with that rival at Newbury. Inexperience still evident but took level up several notches when 1¼ lengths second of 6 to No Drama This End in Challow Novices' Hurdle.

**11 LAURETS D'ESTRIVAL (FR) (34) 86**  
2-21 5 11-7 | 73.0kg



W. P. Mullins, Ireland

*B. Hayes*

Runner-up first 2 starts (made debut for H. & G. Lageneste & Macaire in France) prior to readily landing the odds at Thurles last month (16.2f). Bare form is ordinary in the context of this and not a certain stayer on pedigree but he couldn't be in better hands.

**12 NO DRAMA THIS END (IRE) (72) (CD) 100**  
19-111 6 11-7 | 73.0kg



Paul Nicholls

*Harry Cobden*

Acquitted himself well in Champion Bumper a year ago and has created a superb impression over hurdles, landing a brace of Grade 2s (including over C&D) before enhancing his yard's excellent record in the Challow Hurdle in December. Kept fresh for this since and he's a major player.

**13 RISKAWAY (FR) (37) 91**  
2-42124 6 11-7 | 73.0kg



Gordon Elliott, Ireland

*Sam Ewing*

Laid a solid foundation for hurdles in bumpers and made a successful start over obstacles at Thurles in November. Better form in defeat since but 14½ lengths fourth of 8 to Doctor Steinberg in Nathaniel Lacy & Partners Solicitors Novices' Hurdle shows his limitations somewhat at this level.

**14 SAINT BACO (FR) (61) 85**  
3-16 5 11-7 | 73.0kg



W. P. Mullins, Ireland

*S. F. O'Keefe*

Half-brother to yard's high-class jumper Saint Roi and this French recruit struck at the first time of asking for Willie Mullins in Navan maiden hurdle in December. Possibly amiss when failing to see out 2½m behind I'll Sort That and this a tough environment to bounce back in.

**15 SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY (FR) (45) 88**  
1/935-P721 6 11-7 | 73.0kg



Thomas Cooper, Ireland

*D. King*

Very talented bumper performer (third in last year's race at this meeting) who clearly wasn't himself to begin with over hurdles but much more like it since a tongue tie has gone on, impressive when opening his account at Naas in January (18.7f). Needs to improve again up in distance.

**16 SKYLIGHT HUSTLE (IRE) (74) 99**  
4-211 6 11-7 | 73.0kg



Gordon Elliott, Ireland

*Danny Gilligan*

Son of Jukebox Jury who confirmed hurdling debut promise when easy winner of 24-runner maiden hurdle at Fairyhouse in November. Fast-tracked to Grade 1 company and took advantage of Talk The Talk's final-flight fall to follow up at Leopardstown a month later. Increased emphasis on stamina will suit.

**17 SOBER (FR) (59) 93**  
11 7 11-7 | 73.0kg



W. P. Mullins, Ireland

*Mr P. W. Mullins*

Smart on the Flat in France and outclassed rivals in the Queen Alexandra at Royal Ascot last summer having also landed the odds on hurdles debut for yard prior to that. Maintained unbeaten record in the Grade 2 Moscow Flyer in January and while he has an unusual profile for this, he's interesting.

**18 SOLDIER REEVES (IRE) (53) (C) 94**  
3123 5 11-7 | 73.0kg



Dan Skelton

*Tristan Durrell*

Placed in point/bumper before making winning start to hurdle career in maiden at this venue in November. Behind Hurricane Pat both starts since but they were over 2m and he looks more than ready for this distance now.

**19 SORTUDO (IRE) (61) (BF) 94**  
12271-12 6 11-7 | 73.0kg



W. P. Mullins, Ireland

*D. E. Mullins*

Smart dual-bumper winner (seventh in the Champion Bumper a year ago) who made a smooth winning start to his hurdles career at Cork (2m) in November. Excellent 2½ lengths second of 10 to I'll Sort That in Slaney Novices' Hurdle at Naas, clear of the rest. Hood left off.

**20 TAURUS BAY (IRE) (46) 93**  
112 5 11-7 | 73.0kg



Ben Pauling

*Ben Jones*

Imposing sort who cost £155,000 after his point and was a ready winner on hurdles bow at Stratford (form worked well). Impressed again when dispatching a pair of last-time-out winners at Aintree (17f) and was a short-head second of 7 to Kripticjim in Classic Novices' Hurdle here latest.

**1.20****TURNERS NOVICES' HURDLE (Baring Bingham) (Grade 1)  
(1) 4yo+ £150,000 2m5f (4220 Metres)**

RACE 1

**21 WALKS IN JUNE (IRE) (72) 88**

35-161 6 11-7 | 73.0kg



Henry de Bromhead, Ireland

**D. J. O'Keeffe**

Bred to stay well and having been brushed aside in the Grade 3 Monksfield Novice Hurdle in November he got back on track when making a winning handicap debut at Leopardstown (20.5f) in December. This looks a pretty tall order, though.

**22 ZEUS POWER (GER) (53) 91**

23211 5 11-7 | 73.0kg



Joseph Patrick O'Brien, Ireland

**J. J. Slevin**

Progressing fast over hurdles, winning maiden at Thurles before proving himself useful when following up under a penalty at Navan a month ago. Good attitude will continue to hold him in good stead and this trip also in his favour but he may lack the class of a few of these.

22 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**9-2** No Drama This End, **7-1** Ballyfad, **8-1** Skylight Hustle, **8-1** King Rasko Grey, **9-1** Sober, **14-1** Act of Innocence, **18-1** Sortudo, **20-1** I'll Sort That, **22-1** Bossman Jack, **28-1** Shuttle Diplomacy, **40-1** bar

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

A maximum field in what looks a very deep renewal. NO DRAMA THIS END was behind a few of these in the Champion Bumper a year ago but has passed each test over hurdles with flying colours and can provide Paul Nicholls with an overdue first win in this race. There are a plethora of Irish dangers, notably Ballyfad and King Rasko Grey, while Sober brings a different profile to the table.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:****1. NO DRAMA THIS END 2. BALLYFAD 3. KING RASKO GREY****WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2025	<b>The New Lion</b> 6-11-7	3-1	Dan Skelton	Harry Skelton	11
2024	<b>Ballyburn</b> 6-11-7	1-2f	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	7
2023	<b>Impaire Et Passe</b> 5-11-7	5-2	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	10
2022	<b>Sir Gerhard</b> 7-11-7	8-11f	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	9
2021	<b>Bob Olinger</b> 6-11-7	6-4f	Henry de Bromhead	Rachael Blackmore	7

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

**2.00****BROWN ADVISORY NOVICES' CHASE (Broadway) (Grade 1)**  
**(1) 5yo+ £206,000 3m1f (5030 Metres)**

RACE 2

**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: **Strong**

**1 ARGENTO BOY (IRE) (45) 94**  
P107-5F11 7 11-7 | 73.0kg

W. P. Mullins, Ireland **D. E. Mullins**

Fell on chase debut but made no mistake in another maiden at Punchestown (3m, soft) at the end of December. Produced a smart performance to follow up in 3m Grade 3 at Naas (heavy) a month later and looks capable of better again.

**2 FINAL DEMAND (IRE) (38) (BF) 97**  
113-1113 7 11-7 | 73.0kg

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

Dual Grade 1 winning hurdler who easily made it 2-2 over fences in Limerick Grade 1 over Christmas. Lost his unbeaten chase record when a disappointing 12¼ lengths third of 4 to Kaid D'authie in Grade 1 at Leopardstown (21.5f) last month but he's better than that.

**3 JOYSTICK (FR) (53) 90**  
41P27-461 7 11-7 | 73.0kg

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

Made it third time lucky over fences when making all in 3m Navan maiden (heavy) in January but he'll need to raise his game a fair bit again to play a prominent role here.

**4 KAID D'AUTHIE (FR) (38) 99**  
F14P-1211 6 11-7 | 73.0kg

W. P. Mullins, Ireland **M. P. Walsh**

Has quickly bettered his useful hurdles form over fences, making it 2-3 with a 4¼-length defeat of Western Fold (below-par Final Demand third) in a Grade 1 novice at Leopardstown (21.5f, soft) last month. 3m should be within range and he looks capable of even better.

**5 KITZBUHEL (FR) (39) (BF) 95**  
2/1153-11U 6 11-7 | 73.0kg

W. P. Mullins, Ireland **Harry Cobden**

Smart over hurdles and quickly reached the same level over fences, producing a bold-jumping performance from the front when seeing off 3 of today's rivals in the Kauto Star (Grade 1) at Kempton on Boxing Day. Jumped right and unseated in another Grade 1 at Sandown since.

**6 KOKTAIL DIVIN (FR) (73) 98**  
1/2314-221 6 11-7 | 73.0kg

Henry de Bromhead, Ireland **D. J. O'Keefe**

Bumped into Romeo Coolio and Oscars Brother in his first 2 chases (Grade 2 against the latter) and duly made no mistake when a wide-margin winner of a 21f maiden at Leopardstown over Christmas. More to come and can make his presence felt back at Graded level.

**7 NOW IS THE HOUR (IRE) (48) (D) 93**  
54FP-3841 9 11-7 | 73.0kg

Gavin Patrick Cromwell, Ireland **Keith Donoghue**

In contention when falling 2 out in National Hunt Chase at last year's Festival and finally pieced it all together over fences with a win in the Thyestes at Gowran (25f, heavy) in January. That was a smart effort but an even better one will be needed here.

**8 OSCARS BROTHER (IRE) (31) 98**  
13F-22111 8 11-7 | 73.0kg

Connor King, Ireland **D. King**

Maiden chase winner at Galway in October and smart efforts to win 3m Grade 2s at Punchestown (soft) and Naas (heavy) since. Likeable type who should continue to go the right way.

**9 PREDATORS GOLD (FR) (59) (BF) 94**  
1225/3-13 7 11-7 | 73.0kg

W. P. Mullins, Ireland **Mr P. W. Mullins**

Very useful hurdle winner who was impressive after 19 months off when taking 16-runner maiden chase at Navan (21f, heavy) on debut over fences. 4¼ lengths third in 19.5f Punchestown Grade 3 since. Up in trip.

**10 ROMEO COOLIO (37) 100**  
2132-1111 7 11-7 | 73.0kg

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

Grade 1 novice hurdle winner last season and unbeaten in 4 starts over fences this time round, including 17f Grade 1s at Leopardstown the last twice, digging deep to edge out Kargese at the Dublin Racing Festival. Proven at 2½m and shapes as if he'll stay further. Hooded first time.

**11 RUSHMOUNT (IRE) (81) 90**  
0410-4551 9 11-7 | 73.0kg

Jonathan Sweeney, Ireland **S. F. O'Keefe**

Left his maiden chase form behind when bolting up on his Thurles handicap chase debut just before Christmas. That was a very good performance but this is a big jump in class.

**12 SALVER (FR) (52) 94**  
F232-3141 6 11-7 | 73.0kg

Gary & Josh Moore **Caolin Quinn**

Smart hurdler and similar standard over fences, winning 3m Grade 2s at Sandown (good to soft) and Windsor (soft) this winter. Fourth to Kitzbuhel in Kauto Star at Kempton in between. Likely to come up a little short.

**13 THOMAS MOR (IRE) (75) (D) 93**  
140-12 9 11-7 | 73.0kg

Philip Hobbs & Johnson White **Ben Jones**

Useful hurdler who disappointed on his chase debut last season but proved a different proposition with win in 21f Ascot maiden on reappearance. Followed that with excellent 2¾ lengths second to Kitzbuhel (Wendigo third, Salver fourth) in Kauto Star (Grade 1) at Kempton on Boxing Day.

**14 WENDIGO (FR) (41) 95**  
1215-2131 7 11-7 | 73.0kg

Jamie Snowden **Gavin Sheehan**

Useful novice hurdler last term and has taken really well to chasing, winning novices at Newbury (2½m Grade 2 on good) in November and 3m Ayr (heavy) in January. Good third to Kitzbuhel in Kauto Star (Grade 1) at Kempton in between. More to come as his stamina is drawn out.

**15 WESTERN FOLD (IRE) (38) 97**  
32-111132 7 11-7 | 73.0kg

Gordon Elliott, Ireland **Danny Gilligan**

Went 0-5 over fences last season but has been a totally different proposition in the first half of this campaign, winning 4 times, including Galway Plate and Gowran Grade 2. Back from a break with a creditable 4¼ lengths second of 4 to Kaid D'authie in Grade 1 novice at Leopardstown last month.

**16 THE BIG WESTERNER (IRE) (74) 97**  
112P-21 7 11-0 | 69.9kg

Henry de Bromhead, Ireland **M. P. O'Connor**

Grade 2 novice winner at Limerick on his second hurdle start and repeated the feat over fences when seeing off Jade de Grugy over an extended 2¾m there at the Christmas meeting. Runner-up in the Albert Bartlett at last year's Festival and could be primed for another bold bid at this meeting.

16 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**4-1** Romeo Coolio, **4-1** Final Demand, **11-2** Kaid D'authie, **10-1** Cocktail Divin, **11-1** Wendigo, **12-1** The Big Westerner, **20-1** Oscars Brother, **22-1** Western Fold, **25-1** Kitzbuhel, **40-1** bar

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

The biggest field in this race for years. ROMEO COOLIO has sidestepped the Arkle in favour of an attempt at this much longer distance and, though his latest pair of Grade 1 wins have been gained around 2m, he's long since left the impression this sort of trip could suit him. Kaid d'Authie looked good when seeing off Western Fold and Final Demand at the Dublin Racing Festival and is second choice ahead of Henry de Bromhead pair Cocktail Divin and The Big Westerner.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. ROMEO COOLIO 2. KAID D'AUTHIE 3. KOKTAIL DIVIN**

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2025	<b>Lecky Watson</b> 7-11-7	20-1	W. P. Mullins	S. F. O'Keefe	7
2024	<b>Fact To File</b> 7-11-7	8-13f	W. P. Mullins	M. P. Walsh	6
2023	<b>The Real Whacker</b> 7-11-7	8-1	Patrick Neville	Sam Twiston-Davies	10
2022	<b>L'Homme Presse</b> 7-11-4	9-4f	Venetia Williams	Charlie Deutsch	9
2021	<b>Monkfish</b> 7-11-4	1-4f	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	6

**SMART FISHS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

**2.40****BETMGM CUP HANDICAP HURDLE (PREMIER HANDICAP) (1)**  
**4yo+ £110,000 2m5f (4220 Metres)**

RACE 3

**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 THE YELLOW CLAY (IRE) (73)** s **98**  
11112-F25 **7** 12-0 | 76.2kg

 **Gordon Elliott, Ireland** **M. J. Kenneally** (5lb/2kg)  
Very smart hurdler who scored four times (including in a Grade 1) last season, when also second in the Turners here. Struggled in the Christmas Hurdle last time but ran well at Navan before that and of firm interest now going handicapping fitted with cheekpieces under good conditional.

**2 BALLYADAM (IRE) (70)** t  **98**  
13327/13-6 **11** 11-11 | 74.8kg

 **Henry de Bromhead, Ireland** **Patrick Michael O'Brien** (5lb/2kg)  
A regular here, second in the 2021 Supreme and placed in the last two runnings of this but has been kept mainly to the Flat in a light campaign this term, third in Dundalk handicap last month. Can't be dismissed given his excellent Festival record.

**3 STORM HEART (FR) (25)** **95**  
125/42-11 **6** 11-10 | 74.4kg

 **W. P. Mullins, Ireland** **D. E. Mullins**  
Smart hurdler who arrives on a hat-trick after wins in conditions event at Limerick in December and Grade 3 at Gowran last month, doing well on latter occasion having conceded first run. Remains relatively lightly raced and he merits serious consideration back up in trip here.

**4 LUCKY PLACE (FR) (69) (C)** **96**  
4/1174-323 **7** 11-10 | 74.4kg

 **Nicky Henderson** **Brian Hughes**  
Dual Grade 2 hurdle winner last season, including in the Relkeel here. Didn't look a natural in 2 chase outings this term but got back on track reverted to this sphere when third bidding for a repeat in the Relkeel on New Year's Day. Fourth in this in 2024 and not dismissed.

**5 BUDDY ONE (IRE) (25) (C)** s **96**  
3P57-66P4 **9** 11-8 | 73.5kg

 **Paul John Gilligan, Ireland** **Jack Gilligan** (5lb/2kg)  
Course winner who was a good fifth in last year's Stayers' Hurdle. Not at his best this term (mainly chasing) but no doubt he'll be primed for another big Festival run.

**6 FARREN GLORY (IRE) (25)** s **93**  
9/21233-33 **9** 11-7 | 73.0kg

 **Gordon Elliott, Ireland** **J. W. Kennedy**  
Useful winning hurdler/chaser who has been campaigned lightly this term, posting a good third to Storm Heart in Grade 3 Red Mills at Gowran (2m) 25 days ago. Wouldn't dismiss back up in trip for his handicap debut for yard with good record in this event. Cheekpieces added.

**7 COLONEL MUSTARD (FR) (31)** **96**  
254-51184 **11** 11-7 | 73.0kg

 **Mrs Lorna Fowler, Ireland** **J. P. Shinnick** (5lb/2kg)  
Won Grade 2 Lismullen at Navan in November and not discredited when fourth of 6 in another Grade 2 event there last month. Posted a very good fifth in this 12 months ago (also third in the 2022 County) so worth considering on his first go in handicap company since.

**8 PUTURHANDSTOGETHER (IRE) (101) (C)** **97**  
1213-6026 **5** 11-5 | 72.1kg

 **Joseph Patrick O'Brien, Ireland** **J. J. Slevin**  
Impressive Fred Winter winner here last season and landed a gamble on Flat in the Irish Cesarewitch in September. Not seen to best effect back in this sphere when sixth in 2m Fairyhouse handicap in November. Stamina to prove but merits plenty of respect after a break.

**9 KOPECK DE MEE (FR) (95)** **96**  
3211/102-F **6** 11-4 | 71.7kg

 **W. P. Mullins, Ireland** **M. P. Walsh**  
A very useful juvenile winner in France. Well held (5/2) in Martin Pipe last year but posted smart effort when second in Aintree handicap subsequently. Considerately handled but held when fell last only run this term on his chasing bow at Navan in December. Remains with lots of potential.

**10 JINGKO BLUE (FR) (69) (D)**  **100**  
11P/11U-72 **7** 11-3 | 71.2kg

 **Nicky Henderson** **James Bowen**  
Very useful novice over hurdles who quickly made up into a smart chaser last term, successful twice. Back in this sphere this season and posted a good second in Relkeel here on New Year's Day. Has room for improvement in his jumping but handily weighted returned to handicaps.

**11 IBERICO LORD (FR) (60) (C, D)** **99**  
1F40-0991 **8** 11-3 | 71.2kg

 **Nicky Henderson** **Nico de Boynville**  
Greatwood/Betfair Hurdle winner in 2023/24 who capitalised on a falling mark when cosily landing Lanzarote at Kempton (2m5f) in January despite challenging wide. Back up 8 lb but he's unexposed over this sort of trip and can't be taken lightly for stable with excellent record in this event.

**12 GUARD DUTY (47) (D)** **98**  
U2119-231 **9** 11-1 | 70.3kg

 **Emma Lavelle** **Ben Jones**  
Bagged three hurdle wins last season and has continued in very good form this term, landing 4-runner handicap at Doncaster (2m3f) in January. This is tougher but this reliable sort is no forlorn hope if keeping the mistakes down.

**13 CHART TOPPER (FR) (25)** s **96**  
1122-63PF **7** 11-0 | 69.9kg

 **W. P. Mullins, Ireland** **B. Hayes**  
Dual 2m hurdles winner last term and he looked right back to his best when falling 2 out (likely to have finished second) in 3m handicap at Haydock 25 days ago. Remains low mileage and in the mix with cheekpieces added.

**14 KATEIRA (25) (D)** **98**  
152-14389 **9** 11-0 | 69.9kg

 **Dan Skelton** **Harry Skelton**  
Landed a match in listed mares event at Wetherby (2m) in November before a good fourth in Ascot Grade 2. Not at all knocked about back in handicaps at Musselburgh and Ascot on her last two runs. Big player off an easing mark for yard with excellent record in this.

**15 SONY BILL (FR) (38)** t **91**  
4/F2350-F8 **5** 11-0 | 69.9kg

 **W. P. Mullins, Ireland** **S. F. O'Keefe**  
Ex-French winning hurdler but below par when fancied for Fred Winter here 12 months ago. Running well when fell last in Punchestown Grade 1 in May and not discredited after 9 months off when eighth of 19 in 2m listed handicap at Leopardstown last month. No forlorn hope taking a big step up in trip.

**16 GIVE IT TO ME OJ (75) (C)** **97**  
21411-156 **5** 10-13 | 69.4kg

 **Gary & Josh Moore** **Caolin Quinn**  
Went on a winning spree over hurdles and on the Flat in 2025, including a 2m conditions event here in October. Well held in the face of stiffer tasks in the Gerry Feilden at Newbury and Kempton Christmas Hurdle since but not totally dismissed now.

**17 RAMBO T (IRE) (25) (D)** **98**  
151-31980 **9** 10-13 | 69.4kg

 **Olly Murphy** **Sean Bowen**  
Has enjoyed plenty of success in handicap hurdles around 2½m, bagging Silver Trophy at Chepstow in October. His form has dipped since though, only tenth at Ascot (2m3f) last month. Others appeal more.

**18 DARGIANNINI (IRE) (102) (D)** t **95**  
01/5425-1P **11** 10-13 | 69.4kg

 **Harry Derham** **Paul O'Brien**  
Resumed winning ways after 9 months off at Uttoxeter in October but pulled up at Newbury following month. Given a break since but this demands a big step forward.

**19 FRANCISCAN ROCK (IRE) (48)** **97**  
36-833495 **9** 10-12 | 68.9kg

 **M. F. Morris, Ireland** **J. H. Williamson** (5lb/2kg)  
Winless since 2024 and he's been below par this season since reverted to hurdles, beating only one in Grade 2 at Gowran (23.5f) last time. Fifth in this in 2024 however so can't be totally dismissed.

**20 BECKETT ROCK (IRE) (25) (BF)** **97**  
026-00542 **7** 10-12 | 68.9kg

 **Henry de Bromhead, Ireland** **M. P. O'Connor**  
Useful hurdler who made a low-key start over fences earlier this term but produced easily his most encouraging effort to date switched to a handicap when runner-up at Gowran (2m3f) 25 days ago. Sixth in this last year so not out of things back hurdling.

**2.40****BETMGM CUP HANDICAP HURDLE (PREMIER HANDICAP) (1)**  
**4yo+ £110,000 2m5f (4220 Metres)**

RACE 3

**GBI RACING****21 BUNTING (FR) (38) 95**

7/92P60-49 6 10-12 | 68.9kg



W. P. Mullins, Ireland

*Harry Cobden*

Improved on Flat when third in Cesarewitch last October and returned to this sphere with a very good fourth in listed handicap at Leopardstown at Christmas. Failed to build on it when ninth in similar company there last month though and is winless since 2023.

**22 MINELLA RESCUE (IRE) (11) 93**

2320-1284 8 10-12 | 68.9kg



Gary Hanmer

*Gavin Sheehan*

Second in the Grade 1 Sefton at Aintree and scored at Uttoxeter (2m7f) in May. Possibly unsuited by conditions after 4 months off at Doncaster recently but this is surely too much of an ask.

**23 FORTY COATS (IRE) (52) (BF) s 99**

1/2224-73 7 10-11 | 68.5kg



Henry de Bromhead, Ireland

*D. J. O'Keefe*

Very useful hurdler who came in a good fourth in the Baring Bingham here 12 months ago. Only seen twice this season and well below par when an odds-on third in Thurles novice in January. Needs to bounce back on handicap debut in first-time cheekpieces.

**24 HMS SEAHORSE (IRE) (184) b 96**

5/00-12FU 8 10-11 | 68.5kg



Paul Nolan, Ireland

*E. Staples (5lb/2kg)*

Useful hurdler who won conditions event at Clonmel in June in first-time blinkers. Similar form when second on chase debut at Wexford after but unseated 4 out returned to this sphere at Galway in September. Fourth in the 2022 Fred Winter and has won when fresh but this is tough.

**RESERVES****25 I STARTED A JOKE (IRE) (38) (BF) 97**

160-43412 7 10-11 | 68.5kg



Charles Byrnes, Ireland

*Reserve*

Fast-improving hurdler who readily landed the odds in 2m maiden at Punchestown before posting a fine second on his handicap debut at Leopardstown (2m) last month, travelling strongly long way. Should prove as effective over this longer trip and a big run could be forthcoming. RESERVE.

**26 INTENSE APPROACH (11) (C, D) s 95**

11P8-15U5 7 10-10 | 68.0kg



John McConnell, Ireland

*Reserve*

A four-time winning hurdler (including here) at up to 3m last season. Failed to go on over fences after a winning chasing bow at Galway in August and back hurdling here in first-time cheekpieces with a bit to prove. RESERVE.

24 DECLARED RUNNERS (2 RESERVES)

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**7-1** Kateira, **7-1** Storm Heart, **11-1** Puturhandstogether, **12-1** Iberico Lord, **12-1** Kopeck De Mee, **14-1** Jingko Blue, **14-1** The Yellow Clay, **20-1** Guard Duty, **22-1** Bunting, **25-1** Lucky Place, **28-1** Ballyadam, **33-1** Beckett Rock, **33-1** Chart Topper, **33-1** Farren Glory, **40-1** bar

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

STORM HEART did well to score at Gowran and could be the way to go back up in trip in a typically well-contested renewal of this handicap. Dan Skelton has enjoyed great success in this race and his Kateira rates a big threat on the back of a couple of eye-catching efforts. Nicky Henderson's Iberico Lord and Jingko Blue are also well in the mix along with Puturhandstogether, The Yellow Clay, Kopeck de Mee and Farren Glory.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:****1. STORM HEART 2. KATEIRA 3. IBERICO LORD****WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2025	<b>Jimmy du Seuil</b>	6-11-7	16-1	W. P. Mullins	D. E. Mullins	26
2024	<b>Langer Dan</b>	8-11-8	13-2	Dan Skelton	Harry Skelton	21
2023	<b>Langer Dan</b>	7-11-4	9-1	Dan Skelton	Harry Skelton	26
2022	<b>Commander of Fleet</b>	8-11-10	50-1	Gordon Elliott	S. Fitzgerald (5)	23
2021	<b>Heaven Help Us</b>	7-10-9	33-1	Paul Hennessy	R. J. Condon (7)	26

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

**3.20**

**GLENFARCLAS CROSS COUNTRY CHASE (LIMITED HANDICAP)  
(2) 5yo+ £75,000 3m5f56y (5890 Metres)**

RACE 4



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**

	<b>1</b>	<b>STUMPTOWN (IRE) (150)</b> (CD)	b		<b>99</b>
		3/U111P-1 9 11-10   74.4kg Gavin Patrick Cromwell, Ireland Very likeable sort and has clearly been transformed by cross-country fences, making it 2-2 over C&D when emerging on top in this race 12 months ago. Added another notable feather to his cap when taking the Velka Pardubicka on latest start in October and should make a bold bid to retain his crown.			<i>Keith Donoghue</i>
	<b>2</b>	<b>FAVORI DE CHAMPDOU (FR) (46)</b> (CD)	b		<b>100</b>
		310-05F11 11 11-5   72.1kg Gordon Elliott, Ireland Now in the veteran stage of his career but never been better, running out the 66/1 winner of 28-runner Paddy Power Chase at Leopardstown over Christmas before following up over this C&D on Trials Day. Raised 8 lb for that but has to be feared for a yard with a fine recent record in this race.			<i>J. W. Kennedy</i>
	<b>3</b>	<b>FINAL ORDERS (46)</b> (CD)			<b>97</b>
		2P-3P6315 10 10-9   67.6kg Gavin Patrick Cromwell, Ireland Has taken well to this discipline, building on his solid Punchestown third when landing Crystal Cup over this C&D in December, jumping boldly and cruising clear. However, he was beaten 16 lengths when fifth to Favori de Champdou back here the following month.			<i>C. Stone-Walsh (3lb/1kg)</i>
	<b>4</b>	<b>VANILLIER (FR) (35)</b> (C)	b+t		<b>99</b>
		9130-U631 11 10-7   66.7kg Gavin Patrick Cromwell, Ireland Smart chaser at best and did really well under the circumstances when third to stablemate Stumpton in this 12 months ago, having forfeited plenty of ground when almost taking the wrong course at an early stage. Warmed up for a repeat bid with a decisive success at Punchestown last month.			<i>Sean Flanagan</i>
	<b>5</b>	<b>CONFLATED (IRE) (35)</b>	s+t		<b>95</b>
		58708P-43 12 10-7   66.7kg Gordon Elliott, Ireland Dual Grade 1-winning chaser in his pomp and (fit from points) he put in a good shift with a first-time tongue strap added when third to Vanillier at Punchestown on return last month. On the downside, his losing run stretches back to December 2022 and he struggled on sole previous run over this C&D.			<i>Danny Gilligan</i>
	<b>6</b>	<b>PIED PIPER (48)</b> (C)	s+t		<b>97</b>
		0U32569F 8 10-7   66.7kg Gordon Elliott, Ireland Smart hurdler whose best effort this season came when fifth in Troytown at Navan in November. Well held both completed starts since, though, including in the valuable Leopardstown handicap won by re-opposing stablemate Favori de Champdou over Christmas. First run in a cross-country race.			<i>Sam Ewing</i>
	<b>7</b>	<b>FAKIR D'OUDAIRIES (FR) (35)</b> (C)	t		<b>97</b>
		50740-4 11 10-7   66.7kg Enda Bolger, Ireland Very smart chaser on his day but best form was at around 2½m and he was well held in 2024 running of the C&D Crystal Cup won by Stumpton on sole previous attempt over these obstacles. Again appeared to run out of petrol going beyond when 3m when fourth to Vanillier at Punchestown last month.			<i>D. J. O'Keefe</i>
	<b>8</b>	<b>VELVET ELVIS (IRE) (48)</b>	v		<b>92</b>
		P1/028-P7P 10 10-4   65.3kg John McConnell, Ireland Runner-up in the valuable Thyestes Handicap Chase for Gavin Cromwell in January 2025 but has failed by a long way to reproduce that level of form in 4 subsequent starts.			<i>Gavin Sheehan</i>
	<b>9</b>	<b>DESERTMORE HOUSE (IRE) (73)</b>	t		<b>99</b>
		4300P-21P 11 10-2   64.4kg Martin Brassil, Ireland Took well to this discipline when second in La Touche Cup at Punchestown last spring and, following a point success, scored comfortably in 15-runner contest back there in November. Pulled up in a handicap hurdle at Leopardstown over Christmas but will be much more at home back in this environment.			<i>R. A. Doyle</i>

	<b>10</b>	<b>HORANTZAU D'AIRY (FR) (169)</b>	t		<b>90</b>
		29990-28P 9 10-2(10-1)   64.4kg (64.0kg) Stuart Edmunds Placed in Kerry and Munster Nationals for Willie Mullins in 2024, and good second in a Uttoxeter handicap chase on final start for Michael Keady last May. However, he ran poorly when last seen at Warwick in September (second run for Sara Bradstock) and he's opposable on debut for another new yard.			<i>Charlie Hammond</i>
	<b>11</b>	<b>MINELLA CROONER (IRE) (18)</b>	s		<b>92</b>
		P/1P65P-8P 10 10-2(9-13)   64.4kg (63.0kg) Sarah Humphrey Smart Irish chaser at best for Gordon Elliott but he was pulled up in this 12 months ago and again failed to complete on belated seasonal reappearance/debut for present yard at Newcastle 18 days ago.			<i>James Best</i>
	<b>12</b>	<b>LATENIGHTPASS (46)</b> (CD)			<b>97</b>
		03U20-779 13 10-2(9-11)   64.4kg (62.1kg) Tom Ellis C&D winner in December 2023 and produced a fine effort when runner-up in this race last year. However, followed that with a low-key effort at Aintree (subsequently underwent a breathing operation) and nowhere near his best in 3 runs so far this season.			<i>Miss Gina Andrews</i>
	<b>13</b>	<b>THE GOFFER (IRE) (35)</b>	s+t		<b>98</b>
		543-50272 9 10-2(9-11)   64.4kg (62.1kg) Gordon Elliott, Ireland Useful chaser who performed with credit when fourth to Stumpton in this race last season. On the back of a win between the flags in October he has finished second in Punchestown cross-country races won by Desertmore House and Vanillier but may again prove vulnerable for win purposes.			<i>J. H. Williamson (5lb/2kg)</i>
	<b>14</b>	<b>FAMOUS BRIDGE (IRE) (81)</b>	s		<b>88</b>
		231d6P-770 10 10-2(9-8)   64.4kg (60.8kg) Nicky Richards Talented handicap chaser at his best and posted creditable efforts in the Ultima at this meeting in 2024 and last year. Has shown little in a handful of starts so far this season, though, and hopes now pinned on the switch to this idiosyncratic track sparking a revival. 8 lb out of weights.			<i>Sean Quinlan</i>

14 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**11-4** Favori De Champdou, **7-2** Stumpton, **5-1** Desertmore House, **9-1** Vanillier, **11-1** Final Orders, **16-1** The Goffer, **22-1** Conflated, **25-1** Pied Piper, **28-1** Fakir D'oudairies, **66-1** bar

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

Runner-up in the La Touche Cup on debut in this sphere last spring, DESERTMORE HOUSE improved on that form under an assertive ride when going one place better at Punchestown in November. His subsequent hurdle run over Christmas is best ignored and he's very much of interest for his very shrewd stable. Last year's winner Stumpton arrives on the back of success in the Velka Pardubicka and is a big threat along with Trials Day scorer Favori de Champdou. Vanillier completes the shortlist.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. DESERTMORE HOUSE 2. STUMPTOWN 3. FAVORI DE CHAMPDOU**

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2025	<b>Stumpton</b> 8-11-10	5-2f	Gavin Patrick Cromwell	Keith Donoghue	16
2023	<b>Delta Work</b> 10-11-7	11-10f	Gordon Elliott	Keith Donoghue	16
2022	<b>Delta Work</b> 9-11-4	5-2f	Gordon Elliott	J. W. Kennedy	16
2021	<b>Tiger Roll</b> 11-11-4	9-2	Mrs Denise Foster	Keith Donoghue	13

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

4.00

**BETMGM QUEEN MOTHER CHAMPION CHASE (Grade 1) (1)**  
**5yo+ £400,000 1m7f199y (3200 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: **Strong**

**1 BROOKIE (IRE) (109) (D)** t **84**  
 17312-43P 9 11-10 | 74.4kg



**Anthony Honeyball** *Sam Twiston-Davies*  
 Smart chaser but pulled up at Ascot when last seen in November and, having yet to win outside of handicap company, there's little in his record to suggest he can play a prominent role here.

**2 CAPTAIN GUINNESS (IRE) (17) (CD)** s **77**  
 P563-2P63 11 11-10 | 74.4kg



**Henry de Bromhead, Ireland** *Jordan Colin Gainford*  
 Good record in this race, winning in 2024 and placed in 2023 and 2025. Has yet to fire this winter so this 11-y-o's hopes are pinned on first-time cheekpieces and a return to Cheltenham sparking a revival.

**3 FOUND A FIFTY (IRE) (11) (D, BF)** **92**  
 51-411434 9 11-10 | 74.4kg



**Gordon Elliott, Ireland** *J. W. Kennedy*  
 Followed up win in Fortria at Navan by defeating a returning Majborough in the Hilly Way at Cork. A recent short-priced defeat over 20.5f at Navan can likely be forgiven (raced too close to a strong pace) but he was no match for Majborough at the Dublin Racing Festival.

**4 IL ETAIT TEMPS (FR) (53) (D, BF)** t **96**  
 131/11-11F 8 11-10 | 74.4kg



**W. P. Mullins, Ireland** *P. Townend*  
 Returned with wins in Clonmel Oil and Tingle Creek. Readily defeated Jonbon in the latter but looked beaten in behind that same rival when falling heavily 2 out at Ascot since. That was hardly an ideal preparation but he'll be a threat if back to his best. Regular hood off (tongue tie remains).

**5 IRISH PANTHER (75) (D)** h **87**  
 8330-3112 9 11-10 | 74.4kg



**Eddie & Patrick Harty, Ireland** *Kieren Buckley*  
 Pretty useful hurdler who has taken really well to fences, building on opening Navan maiden success when 1/2-length second of 9 to Romeo Coolio in Grade 1 novice at the Leopardstown Christmas meeting. His sound jumping provides hope that he can cope stepping outside of novice company.

**6 L'EAU DU SUD (FR) (95) (CD)** t **93**  
 111143-13 8 11-10 | 74.4kg



**Dan Skelton** *Harry Skelton*  
 Grade 1 novice chase winner last term and improved again when proving way too strong for Jonbon in the Grade 2 Shloer on his C&D reappearance. Not at the same level when 18 lengths third to Il Etait Temps in Tingle Creek at Sandown 3 weeks later but kept fresh for this since and could bounce back.

**7 LIBBERTY HUNTER (32) (CD)** **85**  
 23/12F-U43 10 11-10 | 74.4kg



**Evan Williams** *Sean Bowen*  
 Hold-up performer who has won twice over fences here and was also second in the Grand Annual over C&D at the 2024 Festival. Best effort this term when 7/4 lengths third of 6 to Lulamba in Game Spirit at Newbury (16.5f, soft) 32 days ago. Something to find on form at this level.

**8 MAJBOROUGH (FR) (38) (C, D)** s **100**  
 1/113-1231 6 11-10 | 74.4kg



**W. P. Mullins, Ireland** *M. P. Walsh*  
 Held back by jumping errors on occasions over fences but put it all together with cheekpieces fitted (retained) when proving 19 lengths too strong for Marine Nationale and Found A Fifty in a Grade 1 at last month's Dublin Racing Festival. He'll be very hard to beat if in a similar mood.

**9 QUILIXIOS (364) (C, D)** **92**  
 6185/124F- 9 11-10 | 74.4kg



**Henry de Bromhead, Ireland** *D. J. O'Keeffe*  
 High-class chaser. Not seen since his late fall in this 12 months ago (looked set for second behind Marine Nationale) but he does have a good record fresh.

**10 SAINT SEGAL (FR) (32) (D)** t **87**  
 331-12122 8 11-10 | 74.4kg



**Mrs Jane Williams** *Ciaran Gethings*  
 Having an excellent season, winning twice and runner-up on his other 3 starts, including to Lulamba in the Game Spirit at Newbury last month. Place shout.

10 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**10-11** Majborough, **9-2** Il Etait Temps, **6-1** L'eau Du Sud, **12-1** Quilixios, **22-1** Found A Fifty, **22-1** Irish Panther, **80-1** bar

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

If MAJBOROUGH can avoid mistakes again and is in anything like the same form as when routing a couple of these at the Dublin Racing Festival he'll be extremely hard to beat. Assuming Il Etait Temps has suffered no ill effects from his fall in the Clarence House he's clear-second best as his two defeats of Jonbon at Sandown last year represent top-class form. Shloer winner L'Eau du Sud, who has been freshened up since the Tingle Creek, can take third.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. MAJBOROUGH 2. IL ETAIT TEMPS 3. L'EAU DU SUD**

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2025	<b>Marine Nationale</b>	8-11-10	5-1	Barry Connell	Sean Flanagan	8
2024	<b>Captain Guinness</b>	9-11-10	17-2	Henry de Bromhead	Rachael Blackmore	6
2023	<b>Energumene</b>	9-11-10	6-5f	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	7
2022	<b>Energumene</b>	8-11-10	5-2	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	7
2021	<b>Put The Kettle On</b>	7-11-3	17-2	Henry de Bromhead	Aidan Coleman	9

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

4.40

RACE 6

**DEBENHAMS JOHNNY HENDERSON GRAND ANNUAL  
CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP CHASE (PREMIER HANDICAP) (1)**  
**5yo+ £150,000 1m7f199y (3200 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 TOUCH ME NOT (IRE) (17) (D) 95**  
 2254-4232 7 12-0 | 76.2kg


**Gordon Elliott, Ireland** *James Smith (5lb/2kg)*  
 Likeable type who won a Grade 2 as a novice and plenty of good efforts in defeat since. However, his consistency means he's getting no respite from the handicapper.

**2 CALICO (GER) (32) (CD) 98**  
 13432-114 10 11-12 | 75.3kg


**Dan Skelton** *Tristan Durrell*  
 Brilliantly primed to win 2 £100k handicaps over C&D and Ascot this autumn. Shaped as if needing the run back from 11 weeks off in Game Spirit at Newbury last month and should be spot on now.

**3 RUBAUD (FR) (25) (D) 96**  
 215-51132 8 11-7 | 73.0kg


**Paul Nicholls** *Harry Cobden*  
 Front runner who bagged a Grade 2 novice chase at Kempton last season. Won the Elite Hurdle for a third year running at Wincanton in November and good placed efforts in Grade 1 at Kempton/Grade 2 at Wincanton since. Potentially on a nice mark back over fences.

**4 BE AWARE (FR) (54) (D, BF) 100**  
 2388-1222 7 11-6 | 72.6kg


**Dan Skelton** *Harry Skelton*  
 Useful hurdler who has improved switched to fences this season (has become a free-going front runner), winning Stratford handicap on return and even better form when runner-up in small-field graded novices next 3 starts, including over C&D on first of them. Got to be of interest back handicapping.

**5 INTHEPOCKET (37) (D) 99**  
 2/13-F555 9 11-5 | 72.1kg


**Henry de Bromhead, Ireland** *M. P. Walsh*  
 Very talented novice hurdler in 2022/23, fourth in the Supreme Hurdle at this meeting before winning Grade 1 at Aintree. Hasn't stood much racing switched to fences over the last 2 years but caught the eye in a very competitive Leopardstown handicap last month and better ground here will suit.

**6 BOOTHILL (IRE) (74) (D) 89**  
 F4/2F4-P53 11 11-4 | 71.7kg


**Harry Fry** *Bryan Carver*  
 Lightly raced in recent seasons and no longer the force of old.

**7 ADDRAGOOLE (IRE) (37) (D) 96**  
 00321413 7 11-4 | 71.7kg


**Gavin Patrick Cromwell, Ireland** *Keith Donoghue*  
 Profile over fences is a progressive one, bagging a big-field handicap at Leopardstown on Boxing Day before good third off 10 lb higher there 5 weeks ago. However, his one disappointing run this season came over C&D in October.

**8 JAZZY MATTY (FR) (52) (CD) 96**  
 2216-P056 7 11-2 | 70.8kg


**Cian Michael Collins, Ireland** *Danny Gilligan*  
 Showed much improved form when winning this race last year off 8 lb lower, bagging himself another Cheltenham Festival handicap in the process (Fred Winter winner in 2023). The way he has been campaigned this season suggests this has been the target once again (headgear on).

**9 VANDERPOEL (IRE) (67) (D) 98**  
 11P-3211 7 11-0 | 69.9kg


**Ben Pauling** *Ben Jones*  
 Took a big step forward on third chase start when winning at Ascot in December and confirmed that form when following up in another small-field handicap at Sandown. Seems very well suited by a soundly-run race and this unexposed sort is on the shortlist.

**10 WESTERN DIEGO (IRE) (37) (D) 95**  
 4625-8314 9 11-0 | 69.9kg


**W. P. Mullins, Ireland** *B. Hayes*  
 Mixed record over fences but is coming good at the right time, posting a career best when opening account in this sphere at Fairyhouse before backing that up with a fourth at Leopardstown off 8 lb higher 5 weeks ago despite things not panning out quite so well. Yard still seeking first win in this.

**11 THE OTHER MOZZIE (IRE) (56) (D) 96**  
 6171-0770 7 11-0 | 69.9kg


**L J Morgan** *Brian Hughes*  
 Ended last season in top form, not seen to best effect when seventh in the Golden Miller at this meeting before winning Premier Handicap at Ayr. Respectable return in the Paddy Power Gold Cup here but well held next 2 starts and has since left Gavin Cromwell. Tongue tie back on.

**12 SPECIAL CADEAU (102) (D) 98**  
 015-25236 8 11-0 | 69.9kg


**Henry de Bromhead, Ireland** *M. P. O'Connor*  
 Consistent rather than progressive over fences since making a winning debut in this sphere in maiden at Thurles over a year ago, though underperformed returned to softer ground in listed handicap at Fairyhouse when last seen in November.

**13 MARTATOR (FR) (39) 97**  
 7608-529U 9 10-12 | 68.9kg


**Venetia Williams** *Charlie Deutsch*  
 Most progressive when landing 5-timer in 2024. Has come back down weights and showed ability remains when second at Ascot in November but that very much a standout effort this season. Never involved when tenth in this last year off 8 lb higher. Change of headgear.

**14 BALLY SAX HANK (IRE) (37) 96**  
 15-231286 7 10-12 | 68.9kg


**Gavin Patrick Cromwell, Ireland** *James Bowen*  
 Versatile performer who just failed to land American Grand National at Far Hills (hurdle,21f) in October. Shaped better than bare result the bare result in listed handicaps at Leopardstown next 2 starts and this has likely been the target.

**15 PERSONAL AMBITION (IRE) (22) 97**  
 423P-4P51 7 10-11 | 68.5kg


**Ben Pauling** *Kielan Woods*  
 Bounced back to form when winning 3-runner novice at Newbury (2m) 3 weeks ago, seeming to relish the combination of first-time blinkers and drop back in trip under a typically attacking ride. Will find this much harder to dominate, however.

**16 JOUR D'EVASION (FR) (47) (D) 96**  
 2215-5111 7 10-10 | 68.0kg


**Henry Daly** *Sam Twiston-Davies*  
 Winning hurdler who has quickly made up into an even better chaser this season, defying a further 10 lb rise when bringing up the hat-trick at Warwick 7 weeks ago, overcoming some slightly scruffy jumping. Progressing well, though it remains to be seen how he copes in a bigger field.

**17 BREAK MY SOUL (IRE) (24) (D) 97**  
 224-41472 7 10-9 | 67.6kg


**Ian Patrick Donoghue, Ireland** *Sam Ewing*  
 Outran her odds when fourth in the Aintree Hurdle on second start for this yard last season. Mixed record switched to fences this term, though latest second in small-field novice at Punchestown was one of her better efforts. Opening mark in this sphere looks no more than fair.

**18 RELIEVED OF DUTIES (IRE) (24) (D) 95**  
 04-F51254 7 10-9 | 67.6kg


**Gordon Elliott, Ireland** *J. W. Kennedy*  
 Failed to build on a promising start over hurdles and it's a similar story over fences so far, well held at Punchestown last 2 starts after a promising second in C&D novice in October. Opening mark in this sphere looks no more than fair.

**19 JASKO DES DAMES (FR) (37) 96**  
 1255-0220 7 10-9 | 67.6kg


**Henry de Bromhead, Ireland** *D. J. O'Keefe*  
 Quickly proved himself a better chaser than hurdler last season (decent fifth in this off 5 lb lower). Resumed progress with good runner-up efforts at Listowel/Cheltenham in the autumn and shaped as if needing the run back from 3 months off at Leopardstown 5 weeks ago. Better expected now.

**20 RELEASE THE BEAST (IRE) (75) (BF) 97**  
 84/3166-22 7 10-9 | 67.6kg


**Paul Nolan, Ireland** *Sean Flanagan*  
 Didn't go on as expected after winning a novice at Limerick last season but firmly back on track when runner-up in Wexford/Leopardstown handicaps this campaign. May ideally prefer further than this but respected all the same. Hood added.

RESERVES

4.40

RACE 6

**DEBENHAMS JOHNNY HENDERSON GRAND ANNUAL  
CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP CHASE (PREMIER HANDICAP) (1)**  
**5yo+ £150,000 1m7f199y (3200 Metres)**

**21 GOLDEN JOY (FR) (37) v+t 97**

90517-P42 7 10-7 | 66.7kg



Gordon Elliott, Ireland

*Reserve*

Sole win for this yard came in a maiden chase at Leopardstown over a year ago. Has been let down by jumping since but took a big step back in the right direction in this headgear when second in listed handicap at Leopardstown 5 weeks ago. RESERVE.

**22 RYAN'S ROCKET (IRE) (74) (D, BF) 99**

14126U-1U 8 10-7 | 66.7kg



Fergal O'Brien

*Reserve*

Successful as a novice over fences and better than ever when picking off the pacesetters at Newbury on return. Still tanking along when unseating in Desert Orchid at Kempton over Christmas, albeit too far out to say with confidence where he would have finished. Remains of interest. RESERVE.

20 DECLARED RUNNERS (2 RESERVES)

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**7-1** Be Aware, **17-2** Vanderpoel, **9-1** Inthepocket, **12-1** Jazzy Matty, **14-1** Release The Beast, **14-1** Ballysax Hank, **16-1** Personal Ambition, **18-1** Jasko Des Dames, **18-1** Jour D'evasion, **18-1** Addragoole, **22-1** Break My Soul, **22-1** Relieved of Duties, **25-1** Calico, **28-1** Rubaud, **28-1** Western Diego, **33-1** Special Cadeau, **33-1** Touch Me Not, **50-1** bar

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

Plenty to consider in what is a typically-intriguing renewal. JAZZY MATTY won this decisively as a novice last season and has likely had this race as his long-term target again having been campaigned mainly over hurdles. First-season chasers could have a major say once more, with Be Aware and Vanderpoel prominent on the shortlist. Several of the Irish runners clashed in a Leopardstown handicap five weeks ago, with Inthepocket and Ballysax Hank shaping best.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:****1. JAZZY MATTY 2. BE AWARE 3. VANDERPOEL****WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2025	<b>Jazzy Matty</b> 6-10-7	15-2	Cian Michael Collins	Danny Gilligan	20
2024	<b>Unexpected Party</b> 9-10-10	12-1	Dan Skelton	Harry Skelton	16
2023	<b>Maskada</b> 7-11-1	22-1	Henry de Bromhead	D. J. O'Keefe	19
2022	<b>Global Citizen</b> 10-10-6	28-1	Ben Pauling	Kielan Woods	16
2021	<b>Sky Pirate</b> 8-11-6	14-1	Jonjo O'Neill	Nick Scholfield	19

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

**5.20**

RACE 7

**WEATHERBYS CHAMPION BUMPER (STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT) (Grade 1) (1) 4, 5 and 6yo £80,000 2m87y (3300 Metres)****GBI RACING**Going: **Good to Soft**

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

Pace Information: **Extreme**

<b>1</b>	<b>BASS HUNTER (FR) (82)</b> (D)	<b>98</b>
	Chris Gordon Irish point winner who has made all on both bumper starts for Chris Gordon, latterly fending off the repossing Tally Ho Back by a length in an Ascot listed race (good to soft) just before Christmas. While it won't be easy to dominate this he looks an exciting prospect.	<b>Freddie Gordon</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>BOYCETOWN (IRE) (75)</b>	<b>94</b>
	Gavin Patrick Cromwell, Ireland Produced a promising first effort under Rules when second at Punchestown and easily went one better at Down Royal (soft) on Boxing Day. Tongue tied first time. Looks useful.	<b>Keith Donoghue</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>BROADWAY TED (IRE) (37)</b> (D)	<b>97</b>
	Gordon Elliott, Ireland Well-bred Getaway gelding who is 2-2 in bumpers, latterly edging out repossing stablemate With Nolimit in a Grade 2 at the Dublin Racing Festival. More to come.	<b>Sean Bowen</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>CHARISMATIC KID (IRE) (37)</b> (D, BF)	<b>94</b>
	Gordon Elliott, Ireland Overcame inexperience to score easily in 8-runner bumper at Navan (heavy) on debut for Colm Ryan. Purchased for £300,000 on the back of that and made a sound start for Gordon Elliott when 2½ lengths third to repossing stablemates Broadway Ted and With Nolimit in a Grade 2 at Leopardstown.	<b>Sam Ewing</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>CHICKER (115)</b> (CD)	<b>88</b>
	Fergal O'Brien Promising Frontiersman gelding who won at Worcester and over C&D in the autumn. Lost his unbeaten record when 10½ lengths sixth of 13 to Saint Clovis in C&D listed event in November, weakening late as if the soft ground may have stretched him. Kept fresh for this since.	<b>Jonathan Burke</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>DIAMANT DORE (FR) (57)</b> (D)	<b>96</b>
	Adrian Keatley Held every chance when falling at the last in an Irish point in November. Bought for £125,000 after and created a very good impression when sprinting right way from 7 rivals in an Ayr bumper (heavy) in January. Has a hood added here.	<b>Brian Hughes</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>IT'S ONLY A GAME (FR) (37)</b> (D)	<b>93</b>
	Martin Brassil, Ireland Well-backed runner-up on debut at Punchestown last spring and travelled strongly/quickenied clear to go one better in first-time tongue tie there (17f, soft) on return in November. Creditable 3½ lengths fourth of 7 to Broadway Ted in Leopardstown Grade 2 since. Trainer/jockey won this in 2023.	<b>Mr J. L. Gleeson</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>KEEP HIM COMPANY (FR) (72)</b> (D)	<b>98</b>
	Gordon Elliott, Ireland Won sole start in points and stretched his unbeaten record to 3 with wins in bumpers at Fairyhouse (soft) and Leopardstown (good to soft) at the end of 2025. The mount of Jack Kennedy from the Gordon Elliott runners. Should go well.	<b>J. W. Kennedy</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>LOVE SIGN D'AUNOU (FR) (45)</b>	<b>100</b>
	W. P. Mullins, Ireland Won sole point last spring and made all with ease in a heavy-ground Naas bumper on his Rules debut in January. The mount of Patrick Mullins from the stable quintet. Gets the vote.	<b>Mr P. W. Mullins</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>OF LAND AND SEA (IRE) (29)</b>	<b>87</b>
	Paul Hennessy, Ireland Crystal Ocean gelding who made it third time lucky in bumpers when seeing off 6 rivals at Limerick (heavy) last month but has lots to find on form here.	<b>Richard Condon</b>

<b>11</b>	<b>TALLY HO BACK (52)</b> (BF)	<b>94</b>
	Nigel & Willy Twiston-Davies Left debut form well behind when length second to Bass Hunter in a listed event at Ascot in December, suited by the stamina. Underperformed in a steadily-run race at Windsor but this sort of test should see him to better effect.	<b>Sam Twiston-Davies</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>THE IRISH AVATAR (IRE) (53)</b> (D)	<b>95</b>
	W. P. Mullins, Ireland Bought for £200,000 after finishing runner-up only outing in points and comfortably landed short odds in a Navan bumper (heavy) on Rules debut in January. Definitely more to come.	<b>Harry Cobden</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>THE MOURNE RAMBLER (IRE) (75)</b> (D)	<b>95</b>
	Noel Meade, Ireland Second in a point before making a winning start to his Rules career in a Leopardstown bumper (good) over Christmas. That was a useful performance and he's capable of even better with Colin Keane doing the steering.	<b>C. T. Keane</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>THE SKECHER (FR) (41)</b> (D)	<b>92</b>
	Dan Skelton Runner-up on second of 2 outings in Irish points and looked a good prospect in justifying strong market support in heavy-ground Ayr bumper at the end of January. Looks sure to go on to better things but Harry Skelton seems to prefer Mets Ta Ceinture.	<b>Tristan Durrell</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>THE WAGER (IRE) (56)</b> (D)	<b>87</b>
	W. P. Mullins, Ireland Showed plenty when second of 6 on Punchestown debut last winter and returned to go one place better for new trainer Willie Mullins at Fairyhouse in January. The yard looks to have more obvious contenders elsewhere.	<b>Miss J. Townend</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>VANGO CAN GO (IRE) (82)</b>	<b>89</b>
	Dan Skelton £85,000 buy after finishing second in his sole point and went one place better in a Southwell bumper in November. Stayed on for 5 lengths third to Bass Hunter (Tally Ho Back second) in listed event at Ascot the following month. Off since.	<b>Charlie Todd</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>WILDE'S LEGACY (IRE) (34)</b> (D)	<b>91</b>
	Jamie Snowden Poet's Word gelding from very good Flat family who has won bumpers at Lingfield and Huntingdon (heavy) this winter. Useful effort when forging clear to defy a penalty at the latter and has earned a go at this, the stiffer test likely to suit.	<b>Gavin Sheehan</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>WITH NOLIMIT (FR) (37)</b> (D)	<b>96</b>
	Gordon Elliott, Ireland £250,000 purchase after winning sole start in points. Off the mark at the second time of asking in bumpers when making all at Fairyhouse on New Year's Day and left that form behind when short-head second to stablemate Broadway Ted in Grade 2 at Leopardstown since, rallying well.	<b>Mr H. C. Swan</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>MOONVERRIN (IRE) (38)</b> (D)	<b>95</b>
	Martin Hassett, Ireland Well-bred mare who has made good progress, albeit she was fortunate to win a Grade 2 mares bumper at Leopardstown last month as the rider of the runner-up misjudged the winning post. She could do better again.	<b>Mr Finian Maguire</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>OUR TRIGGER (IRE) (48)</b> (D)	<b>96</b>
	W. P. Mullins, Ireland Brother to smart hurdler/top-class chaser Gaelic Warrior and looked a good prospect when drawing clear to land odds of 2/5 on his Gowran bumper debut in January. Sure to improve.	<b>D. E. Mullins</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>QUIRYN (FR) (61)</b> (D)	<b>94</b>
	W. P. Mullins, Ireland Sottsass gelding who scored by 9 lengths on his Naas debut (soft) in January. Another Willie Mullins winner in this line-up who has the potential for plenty of improvement.	<b>P. Townend</b>

**5.20**

RACE 7

**WEATHERBYS CHAMPION BUMPER (STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT) (Grade 1) (1) 4, 5 and 6yo £80,000 2m87y (3300 Metres)****22 METS TA CEINTURE (FR) (132) 96**  
121 4 10-4 | 65.3kg

Dan Skelton

*Harry Skelton*

Winner of 2 bumpers around 1½m in France, including a Grade 3 at Lyon Parilly. Also second in Grade 2 at Saint-Cloud in between. New connections went to a whopping €710,000 to acquire her in November. Goes without the tongue tie she wore in France. Interesting runner getting plenty of weight.

22 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**9-2** Love Sign D'aunou, **10-1** The Irish Avatar, **11-1** Keep Him Company, **12-1** The Mourne Rambler, **12-1** Quirynd, **14-1** Bass Hunter, **14-1** Our Trigger, **18-1** Broadway Ted, **20-1** Mets Ta Ceinture, **25-1** Charismatic Kid, **25-1** It's Only A Game, **28-1** Diamant Dore, **28-1** The Skecher, **33-1** With Nolimmit, **33-1** Boycetown, **40-1** bar

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

Willie Mullins saddles five as he bids for a record-extending 15th success in this, with easy Naas winner LOVE SIGN D'AUNOU taken to come out on top under Patrick Mullins. Keep Him Company, the mount of Jack Kennedy from the Gordon Elliott quartet, is second choice ahead of Chris Gordon's listed scorer Bass Hunter and The Mourne Rambler. Quirynd, The Irish Avatar and Our Trigger are other Mullins runners who looked very promising when making winning bumper debuts.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:****1. LOVE SIGN D'AUNOU 2. KEEP HIM COMPANY 3. BASS HUNTER****WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2025	<b>Bambino Fever</b> 5-11-0	4-1	W. P. Mullins	Miss J. Townend	17
2024	<b>Jasmin de Vaux</b> 5-11-7	9-2	W. P. Mullins	Mr P. W. Mullins	19
2023	<b>A Dream To Share</b> 5-11-7	7-2	John E. Kiely	Mr J. L. Gleeson	21
2022	<b>Facile Vega</b> 5-11-5	15-8f	W. P. Mullins	Mr P. W. Mullins	20
2021	<b>Sir Gerhard</b> 6-11-5	85-40	W. P. Mullins	Rachael Blackmore	14

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race