GBI RACING

TIMEFORM 1-2-3

Thursday 12th March

CHELTENHAM

1.20	RYANAIR MARES' NOVICES' HURDLE (Dawn Run) (Grade 2) (1) 2m179y (3380 Metres)
RACE 1	(3) BAMBINO FEVER | (15) OLDSCHOOL OUTLAW | (12) KINGSTON QUEEN
2.00	JACK RICHARDS NOVICES' LIMITED HANDICAP CHASE (Golden Miller) (Grade 2) (1) 2½m127y (4140 Metres)
RACE 2	(10) JORDANS CROSS | (7) WINGMEN | (2) SIXMILEBRIDGE
2.40	CLOSE BROTHERS MARES' HURDLE (David Nicholson) (Grade 1) (1) 2½m56y (4070 Metres)
RACE 3	(7) WODHOOH | (3) JADE DE GRUGY | (6) TAKE NO CHANCES
3.20	PADDY POWER STAYERS' HURDLE (Grade 1) (1) 2m7f213y (4820 Metres)
RACE 4	(2) BOB OLINGER | (11) TEAHUPOO | (7) HONESTY POLICY
4.00	RYANAIR CHASE (Festival Trophy) (Grade 1) (1) 2½m127y (4140 Metres)
RACE 5	(3) FACT TO FILE | (1) BANBRIDGE | (6) JONBON
4.40	PERTEMPS NETWORK FINAL HANDICAP HURDLE (PREMIER HANDICAP) (1) 2m7f213y (4820 Metres)
RACE 6	(7) SUPREMELY WEST | (6) KIKIJO | (18) CHAMPAGNE CHIC
5.20	ROSCONN GROUP FULKE WALWYN KIM MUIR CHALLENGE CUP AMATEUR RIDERS' HANDICAP CHASE (2) 3¼m70y (5290 Metres)
RACE 7	(7) PRENDS GARDE A TOI | (11) WATERFORD WHISPERS | (1) JERIKO DU REPONET

KEY TO SYMBOLS

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

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

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

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

1.20 RACE 1

RYANAIR MARES' NOVICES' HURDLE (Dawn Run) (Grade 2) (1) 4yo+ fillies and mares £105,000 2m179y (3380 Metres)

GBI RACING

Going: **Good to Soft**

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

Pace Information: **Extreme**

1 AL FONCE (FR) (72) (D) **83**
2113 **5** 11-4 | 71.7kg
N. George & A. Zetterholm, France — ***Jordan Colin Gainford***
Fair hurdler, successful twice on heavy at Lyon Parilly in the autumn. Ran well under a penalty at Taunton over Christmas but this looks beyond her. Usual headgear removed.

2 AMEN KATE (IRE) (82) **90**
144-431U1 **6** 11-4 | 71.7kg
Thomas Cooper, Ireland — ***J. W. Kennedy***
Likeable and straightforward mare who tapped into her fairly useful bumper form as she made her first completed start at listed level a winning one at Thurles (2m) before Christmas. This demands another jolt of improvement but she can go on again.

3 BAMBINO FEVER (IRE) (57) (C, D) t **100**
111-121 **6** 11-4 | 71.7kg
W. P. Mullins, Ireland — ***P. Townend***
Winner of all 4 starts in bumpers, notably Champion Bumper and Grade 1 at Punchestown. Beaten only by a race-fit Oldschool Outlaw when clear second on hurdles debut and landed the odds with the minimum of fuss at Fairyhouse. Will leave that bare form well behind and looks the call. Tongue tie on.

4 BLUE VELVET (IRE) (45) **86**
173-21 **6** 11-4 | 71.7kg
W. P. Mullins, Ireland — ***S. F. O'Keeffe***
Bumper winner who has made a promising start over hurdles, benefiting from both a more fluent round of jumping and the step up in trip as she landed the odds at Punchestown (19f, heavy) 6 weeks ago. More to come (will be a stayer) but down the pecking order for the stable here.

5 CARRIGMOORNASPRUCE (IRE) (75) (D) **97**
1132-1122 **6** 11-4 | 71.7kg
Declan Queally, Ireland — ***James Bowen***
Useful bumper winner who was an impressive scorer on hurdles debut at Listowel in September. Better form when runner-up twice in graded company since, latterly 5 lengths second in Future Champions Novice at Leopardstown. Has plenty of experience and could be in the mix if it becomes a stamina test.

6 CHOSEN COMRADE (IRE) (91) (D) **87**
114 **5** 11-4 | 71.7kg
Peter Fahey, Ireland — ***Sam Ewing***
Bred to stay well and seemed unsuited by the steady pace as she met with defeat for the first time in 19f listed mares novice hurdle at Punchestown 3 months ago. Had looked potentially useful at Limerick and remains one to be positive about, although this is surely too tough at this stage.

7 DIAMOND DU BERLAIS (FR) (36) t **92**
2554-P381 **5** 11-4 | 71.7kg
W. P. Mullins, Ireland — ***Mr P. W. Mullins***
Plenty of tries without success in France but fetched €160,000 in July and made no mistake starting out for top yard at Ludlow (21f) last month, coming clear with plenty in hand. Could do better and has place claims down in trip.

8 ECHOING SILENCE (IRE) (91) (D) **92**
51-11 **6** 11-4 | 71.7kg
Henry de Bromhead, Ireland — ***D. J. O'Keeffe***
Confirmed the promise of her debut when landing 12-runner bumper a year ago and made it 2 from 2 over obstacles in listed company at Punchestown in December. Looks ready and able for a higher grade.

9 FULL OF LIFE (FR) (132) (D) **93**
243P-1421 **7** 11-4 | 71.7kg
Henry de Bromhead, Ireland — ***M. P. O'Connor***
Landed the odds at Tramore last summer and back from a spell chasing in the autumn, she caused a bit of a surprise in 9-runner Grade 3 at Down Royal by 1¼ lengths from Carrigmoornaspruce, holding on gamely.

10 FUTURE PROSPECT (IRE) (62) (D) h **94**
153-61 **6** 11-4 | 71.7kg
W. P. Mullins, Ireland — ***Harry Cobden***
Didn't go on in bumpers after a win but got her career firmly back on track with a taking hurdling debut success after 8 months off at Naas (2m) 2 months ago, asserting on the long run-in. Task is to build on that now.

11 JACKIE HOBBS (48) (D) **87**
119-141 **6** 11-4 | 71.7kg
Harry Derham — ***Paul O'Brien***
Dual-bumper winner who had a bit in hand when making a successful hurdles debut/return at Newbury. Showed similar form when fourth of 9 in listed event at Haydock the following month and cemented excellent start over hurdles for latest win back in a novice at Warwick (19f).

12 KINGSTON QUEEN (IRE) (33) (D) s **94**
32113-131 **6** 11-4 | 71.7kg
David Pipe — ***Jack Tudor***
Progressed well in bumpers last season and it's been a similar story over hurdles, no match for Old Park Star here before taking 19f Warwick Grade 2 (beat White Noise ¾ length) last month. Open to further improvement, and worth her place at this level (cheekpieces could well sharpen her up).

13 LA CONQUIERE (FR) (54) (D, BF) **95**
22-112 **7** 11-4 | 71.7kg
Jamie Snowden — ***Gavin Sheehan***
Useful in bumpers and looked good prospect when winning first 2 starts over hurdles, latterly in listed company at Newbury in November. Cemented excellent start when second to a more-experienced rival in Warfield Mares' Hurdle at Ascot and could be more to come if keeping errors down.

14 LOUVE D'IRLANDE (FR) (159) (D) h **82**
101 **5** 11-4 | 71.7kg
Paul Nolan, Ireland — ***C. Stone-Walsh***
Met with defeat just once in France (in Grade 1 bumper), switching to Paul Nolan after a successful hurdles debut at Fontainebleau in October. Open to improvement but this is surely a bridge too far at this stage.

15 OLDSCHOOL OUTLAW (IRE) (37) **99**
27-111 **6** 11-4 | 71.7kg
Gordon Elliott, Ireland — ***M. P. Walsh***
Listed bumper winner who had race fitness on her side when seeing off Bambino Fever on hurdles debut at Naas in December, the pair clear. Maintained unbeaten record for this yard with a strong-travelling performance in Grade 3 Solerina 5 weeks ago and demands plenty of respect.

16 PLACE DE LA NATION (FR) (37) **99**
325-112 **5** 11-4 | 71.7kg
W. P. Mullins, Ireland — ***Danny Gilligan***
Not beaten far when 200/1 for the Triumph last year and started this season with 2 wins in thin races. Jumped well but readily outspeeded by Oldschool Outlaw in the Solerina at Fairyhouse last month and hard to see her turning that form around.

17 SCAVENGERS REIGN (IRE) (35) (BF) **79**
33-2U313 **6** 11-4 | 71.7kg
James Owen — ***Sam Twiston-Davies***
Justified heavy support against her own sex at Wetherby on Boxing Day. Shaped quite well in a handicap at Doncaster last month but this is a very tall order.

18 ST IRENE (IRE) (72) (D) **87**
1630-211 **6** 11-4 | 71.7kg
Nick Scholfield — ***Jack Quinlan***
Easy winner of a Southwell bumper on her debut for Ben Brookhouse. Built on hurdling debut second for new yard with an impressive success in 7-runner novice hurdle at Wincanton and took step up to listed class in her stride when following up at Taunton. Lots more needed.

19 WHITE NOISE (IRE) (33) (D) t **92**
3-1112 **6** 11-4 | 71.7kg
Kim Bailey & Mat Nicholls — ***Tom Bellamy***
Completed a hat-trick in a first-time tongue strap in 8-runner 2m handicap at Newbury in December. Had her winning run ended but lost very little in defeat (short of room briefly) behind Kingston Queen in Grade 2 at Warwick last month and there could be more to come.

20 CHARME DE FAUST (FR) (42) **92**
21 **4** 10-8 | 67.1kg
W. P. Mullins, Ireland — ***D. E. Mullins***
Second of 18 in newcomers hurdle at Auteuil for Gabriel Leenders and acquired by leading connections, she looked a useful prospect when hammering 11 rivals at Thurles (2m) in January. Expected to leave bare form of that well behind.

1.20 RACE 1

RYANAIR MARES' NOVICES' HURDLE (Dawn Run) (Grade 2) (1) 4yo+ fillies and mares £105,000 2m179y (3380 Metres)

21 **MANGANESE (FR) (47)** (D) **94**
1111 **4** 10-8 | 67.1kg

Max Comley *David Bass*

French bumper winner who is unbeaten in 3 juvenile hurdles for Max Comley, including defeating Manlaga in a fillies listed event at Doncaster in January. Well-bred mare who will stay further when required.

22 **MILLE ET UNE VIES (FR) (299)** **89**
32-2 **4** 10-8 | 67.1kg

Dan Skelton *Harry Skelton*

Fairly useful form over hurdles, placed all 3 starts at Auteuil, best effort when 8 lengths second of 10 to Olga de Kiev in Group 3 Prix Sagan when last seen in May. Has left Francois Nicolle and joined very powerful British stable.

22 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

15-8 Bambino Fever, **10-3** Oldschool Outlaw, **16-1** Carrigmoornaspruce, **18-1** Place De La Nation, **20-1** La Conquiere, **20-1** Echoing Silence, **28-1** Kingston Queen, **33-1** Future Prospect, **33-1** Charme De Faust, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

Last year's Champion Bumper heroine BAMBINO FEVER wasn't troubled when landing very short odds at Fairyhouse and with more improvement to come she ticks plenty of boxes. Oldschool Outlaw is the only horse to have beaten her and looks the biggest danger bidding to go 3-3 over hurdles. Kingston Queen was sent off favourite when third to Old Park Star here in December and stamped her class when taking a Grade 2 at Warwick subsequently. She could be in the mix in first-time cheekpieces.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. BAMBINO FEVER 2. OLDSCHOOL OUTLAW 3. KINGSTON QUEEN

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025	**Air of Entitlement** 6-11-4	16-1	Henry de Bromhead	Rachael Blackmore	23
2024	**Golden Ace** 6-11-2	10-1	Jeremy Scott	Lorcan Williams	8
2023	**You Wear It Well** 6-11-7	16-1	Jamie Snowden	Gavin Sheehan	21
2022	**Love Envoi** 6-11-7	15-2	Harry Fry	Jonathan Burke	19
2021	**Telmesomethinggirl** 6-11-2	5-1	Henry de Bromhead	Rachael Blackmore	15

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

2.00 RACE 2

JACK RICHARDS NOVICES' LIMITED HANDICAP CHASE (Golden Miller) (Grade 2) (1) 5yo+ £125,000 2½m127y (4140 Metres)

GBI RACING

Going: **Good to Soft**

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 GOLD DANCER (FR) (32) t **94**
P0-111224 **7** 11-12 | 75.3kg
W. P. Mullins, Ireland — ***Anna McGuinness*** (7lb/3kg)
Completed a hat-trick in Grade 3 at Tipperary in October over this trip. Found Grade 1 company too hot next two runs but not discredited when last of 4 in Grade 2 at Navan (3m) last month, fading from last and not knocked about. No forlorn hope dropping back in trip. One of 5 for Willie Mullins.

2 SIXMILEBRIDGE (IRE) (40) (CD) t **98**
2111d9-111 **7** 11-10 | 74.4kg
Fergal O'Brien — ***Kielan Woods***
Front runner who has looked a smart recruit to chasing this term, completing a hat-trick in 4-runner Scilly Isles at Sandown in January having earlier won at Ayr and over C&D. Has more to offer on his handicap debut and a likely player.

3 SLADE STEEL (IRE) (54) (C, BF) t **97**
21/322-2B2 **8** 11-6 | 72.6kg
Henry de Bromhead, Ireland — ***D. J. O'Keeffe***
2024 Supreme Hurdle victor. Quite lightly raced since but has shown smart form over fences despite failing to win, fading late when runner-up for the fourth time in 3m Navan novice in January. Could still do better though now going into handicap company reverted in trip.

4 REGENT'S STROLL (IRE) (70) (D, BF) h **96**
14212-312 **7** 11-5 | 72.1kg
Paul Nicholls — ***Harry Cobden***
Useful winning hurdler who built on his chasing debut promise when easily winning a match at Wincanton in December. Again hooded but failed to go on as expected when a free-going second of 5 in C&D novice following month. Jumps well and remains with potential if becoming more tractable.

5 OL MAN DINGLE (IRE) (102) s+t **96**
11145-115 **7** 11-5 | 72.1kg
Eoin Griffin, Ireland — ***R. A. Doyle***
Progressed into a useful hurdler last term and took it up another notch over fences when bagging Galway maiden and Cork Grade 3. Came in a well-held fifth in Drinmore Chase at Fairyhouse when last seen in November though. More needed on his first go in handicaps with cheekpieces added.

6 KING ALEXANDER (IRE) (26) **93**
81903-231 **8** 11-4 | 71.7kg
W. P. Mullins, Ireland — ***D. E. Mullins***
A useful and versatile winning hurdler who has made a positive start in this sphere, comfortably landing the odds in 2m3f novice at Gowran last month. Likely capable of better on his first go in a handicap chase and shouldn't be underestimated.

7 WINGMEN (IRE) (70) (D) **99**
23206-232 **8** 11-2 | 70.8kg
Gordon Elliott, Ireland — ***J. W. Kennedy***
Winless since his debut over hurdles but he's shown very useful form in a trio of runs sent chasing this term, runner-up for the second time in 2m5f novice at Fairyhouse in January. A likely player now venturing into handicaps for the first time on a lenient-looking mark.

8 KISS WILL (FR) (25) (BF) **96**
2/171-322 **6** 11-1 | 70.3kg
W. P. Mullins, Ireland — ***J. J. Slevin***
Useful 3m winner over hurdles who has progressed with each of his 3 runs over fences this season. pulling clear of rest when second of 7 in novice at Punchestown (2m7f) last month. Can do better still now going handicapping. Another of the Mullins quintet.

9 MOON ROCKET (IRE) (53) (D) t **95**
1122P-126 **6** 11-0 | 69.9kg
Kim Bailey & Mat Nicholls — ***Tom Bellamy***
Quick to get off the mark sent chasing this term, easily taking 3m handicap at Doncaster in November. Beaten in a match there next time though and failed to convince with his jumping when last of 6 in 3m Grade 2 at Windsor in January. Has since undergone breathing surgery (also tongue tied).

10 JORDANS CROSS (IRE) (47) (CD) t **98**
212-1F11 **6** 11-0 | 69.9kg
Anthony Honeyball — ***Sam Twiston-Davies***
Irish point winner was quick to switch to fences and he's looked an exciting prospect, going 3-4 (might be unbeaten but for last-fence fall here) in Timeform Novices' Handicap over C&D in January, getting up late having conceded first run. That form has worked out very well so big shout.

11 MEETMEBYTHESEA (IRE) (33) **96**
1113-116 **6** 10-13 | 69.4kg
Ben Pauling — ***Ben Jones***
Progressive hurdler last season (won 3 times) and continued his improvement switched to fences when scoring (around 2m) at Wetherby and Ayr either side of Christmas. Found Game Spirit Chase at Newbury too tough last month but the sort to bounce back reverted to handicap company.

12 INTENSE APPROACH (12) (C, D) s **92**
11P8-15U5 **7** 10-11 | 68.5kg
John McConnell, Ireland — ***Alex Harvey*** (3lb/1kg)
Useful 3m winning hurdler. Made a winning start over fences at Galway (22.5f) in August but disappointed here in October and came in a well-beaten last of 5 in Grade 3 at Navan last month. Cheekpieces are reached for now and he has plenty to prove.

13 STENCIL (44) h **97**
11620-521 **5** 10-11 | 68.5kg
N. George & A. Zetterholm, France — ***Jonathan Burke***
Useful winning 2m French hurdler and he has made a bright start in this sphere, runner-up at Ascot before easily going one better in 2m novice at Chepstow in January. Well in the mix with more still to come on his first go over this trip.

14 WESTERN KNIGHT (IRE) (26) t **96**
12U8-4112 **7** 10-10 | 68.0kg
Joe Tizzard — ***Brendan Powell***
Went off the boil over hurdles but progressing over fences, landing novices at around this trip at Haydock and Doncaster before a very good second of 3 in Reynoldstown at Ascot (3m) 26 days ago. First go in a handicap and possibilities.

15 OLD COWBOY (19) (D) **96**
4132-31F3 **6** 10-9 | 67.6kg
Gary & Josh Moore — ***Non Runner***
NON RUNNER.

16 THE BLUESMAN (FR) (26) (D) t **96**
31/13-121 **7** 10-8 | 67.1kg
Olly Murphy — ***Sean Bowen***
Maiden hurdle winner for Paul Nicholls who is much improved over fences for his current yard, readily going 2-3 in handicap at Haydock over this trip last month. Up 8 lb but capable of better still and one to consider.

17 WHERE'S MY JET (IRE) (39) **94**
12-U47F06 **7** 10-7 | 66.7kg
W. P. Mullins, Ireland — ***S. F. O'Keeffe***
Useful hurdles winner who posted his best effort over fences when sixth of 23 in 2m5f Leopardstown handicap last month, travelling strongly long way. Can do better but looks one of the outsiders of the Mullins quintet.

18 KDEUX SAINT FRAY (FR) (19) (CD) t **97**
152-F1243 **6** 10-5 | 65.8kg
Anthony Honeyball — ***Rex Dingle***
Got off the mark over fences here in November and fine efforts in defeat in the frame in good handicaps since, unlucky behind Jordans Cross back here in January and keeping on when third in another deep event at Kempton 3 weeks ago. One to consider.

19 DR EGGMAN (FR) (35) **92**
3/2129-833 **8** 10-4 | 65.3kg
W. P. Mullins, Ireland — ***J. P. Shinnick*** (3lb/1kg)
Useful 2m3f winning hurdler. Brought along steadily in maidens in this sphere, third of 10 at Thurles 35 days ago. Has more to offer on his handicap debut for all he'll be one of the longer-priced runners for Willie Mullins.

20 BEN SOLO (IRE) (75) (BF) ★ **100**
2228-512U **7** 10-2(10-1) | 64.4kg (64.0kg)
Rebecca Curtis — ***Brian Hughes***
Much improved for the switch to fences this term, making all in 2m3f Chepstow handicap in November. Looked set to bag a second success there when unseated rider 3 out (in front) just after Christmas. That form has worked out well and he's not dismissed having been kept fresh since.

20 DECLARED RUNNERS

2.00 RACE 2

JACK RICHARDS NOVICES' LIMITED HANDICAP CHASE (Golden Miller) (Grade 2) (1) 5yo+ £125,000 2½m127y (4140 Metres)

BETTING FORECAST:

7-1 Jordans Cross, **9-1** Regent's Stroll, **9-1** Meetmebythesea, **11-1** Sixmilebridge, **11-1** Stencil, **11-1** Slade Steel, **14-1** The Bluesman, **16-1** Wingmen, **16-1** King Alexander, **22-1** Kiss Will, **25-1** Kdeux Saint Fray, **28-1** Gold Dancer, **33-1** Ben Solo, **33-1** Western Knight, **33-1** Ol Man Dingle, **33-1** Dr Eggman, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

JORDANS CROSS earmarked himself for this ultra-competitive contest when a last-gasp winner of the Timeform Novices' Handicap over C&D in January. That race has thrown up plenty of Cheltenham Festival winners and this highly progressive sort is fancied to become another. Gordon Elliott's handicap debutant Wingmen figures on a handy-looking mark and seems sure to be on the premises, while Sixmilebridge, Kdeux Saint Fray, Stencil, and Ben Solo all need factoring in too.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. JORDANS CROSS 2. WINGMEN 3. SIXMILEBRIDGE

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025	**Caldwell Potter** 7-11-4	7-1	Paul Nicholls	Harry Cobden	19
2024	**Grey Dawning** 7-11-7	5-2jf	Dan Skelton	Harry Skelton	11
2023	**Stage Star** 7-11-7	15-2	Paul Nicholls	Harry Cobden	7
2022	**Bob Olinger** 7-11-4	6-5	Henry de Bromhead	Rachael Blackmore	4
2021	**Chantry House** 7-11-4	9-1	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boinville	8

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

2.40 RACE 3

CLOSE BROTHERS MARES' HURDLE (David Nicholson) (Grade 1) (1) 4yo+ fillies and mares £125,000 2½m56y (4070 Metres)

Going: **Good to Soft**

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

Pace Information: **Weak**

1 **DREAM ON BABY (IRE) (47)** **92**
5-5P22132 **6** 11-5 | 72.1kg
Emmet Mullins, Ireland *Donagh Meyler*
Back to winning ways in listed mares event at Kempton (2m5f) in November and has improved her form when placed in Grade 3 at Leopardstown (behind Wodhooh) and Grade 2 at Doncaster (beaten 2l by Feet of A Dancer) since. No forlorn hope.

2 **FEET OF A DANCER (FR) (47)** (D) **94**
33343-121 **7** 11-5 | 72.1kg
Paul Nolan, Ireland *S. F. O'Keeffe*
Reliable sort who resumed with listed hurdle success at Punchestown (2m2f) and gained a first win in graded company in Yorkshire Rose at Doncaster (3m) in January. Runner-up to Wodhooh at Leopardstown inbetween so she can't be totally dismissed.

3 **JADE DE GRUGY (FR) (53)** (D) **99**
41/12-1321 **7** 11-5 | 72.1kg
W. P. Mullins, Ireland *P. Townend*
Smart winning hurdler who has shown similar form sent over fences this season, easily making all in Grade 2 at Thurles in January. Runner-up to Lossiemouth in this 12 months ago and she shouldn't be taken lightly reverted to this sphere as the sole representative of Willie Mullins.

4 **JETARA (IRE) (47)** (D) b **92**
3143-3373 **8** 11-5 | 72.1kg
Mrs J. Harrington, Ireland *Sam Ewing*
Landed Grade 2 mares' hurdle at Doncaster last season when also a good fourth in this event. Winless this term but returned to form when third to Feet of A Dancer back in Yorkshire Rose at Doncaster (3m) in January. Blinkers replace usual cheekpieces and she looks set for minor honours again here.

5 **SUNSET MARQUESA (IRE) (54)** (D) t **86**
161F-3143 **7** 11-5 | 72.1kg
Joe Tizzard *Brendan Powell*
Notched a third success over hurdles in a 2m4f mares handicap at Sandown in December. Took a step forward when third in Grade 2 at Ascot (2m) following month but a big personal best is required in this company.

6 **TAKE NO CHANCES (IRE) (55)** **96**
1335-6233 **8** 11-5 | 72.1kg
Dan Skelton *Harry Skelton*
Landed a mares Grade 2 at Ascot (2m4f) last term and also came in a good third to Lossiemouth in this event. Running well without winning this season, third in 2m4f Windsor conditions event in January. Place prospects once more for this reliable mare.

7 **WODHOOH (FR) (73)** (CD) **100**
111/112-11 **6** 11-5 | 72.1kg
Gordon Elliott, Ireland *J. W. Kennedy*
Smart Irish mare who took last season's Martin Pipe over C&D at the Cheltenham Festival in good style. Has returned as good as ever with cosy wins (around 2m4f) in Ascot Grade 2 and Leopardstown Grade 3 either side of Christmas. Beaten only once over hurdles and a big player back here.

7 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

4-5 Wodhooh, **4-1** Jade De Grugy, **8-1** Feet of A Dancer, **11-1** Take No Chances, **25-1** Dream On Baby, **28-1** Jetara, **66-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

WODHOOH has met with defeat just once over hurdles and, with Lossiemouth switching at the eleventh hour to the Champion Hurdle, Gordon Elliott's smart and likeable mare gets a confident vote to maintain her unbeaten record this season. Willie Mullins relies on Jade de Grugy in the absence of his star mare and, just like 12 months ago, she could be set to fill the runner-up spot again. Take No Chances, Feet of A Dancer and Jetara can fight it out for minor honours.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. WODHOOH 2. JADE DE GRUGY 3. TAKE NO CHANCES

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025	**Lossiemouth** 6-11-5	4-6f	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	10
2024	**Lossiemouth** 5-11-5	8-13f	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	11
2023	**Honeysuckle** 9-11-5	9-4jf	Henry de Bromhead	Rachael Blackmore	9
2022	**Marie's Rock** 7-11-5	18-1	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boinville	12
2021	**Black Tears** 7-11-5	11-1	Mrs Denise Foster	J. W. Kennedy	10

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

3.20 RACE 4

PADDY POWER STAYERS' HURDLE (Grade 1) (1) 4yo+
£325,000 2m7f213y (4820 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 **BALLYBURN (IRE) (74)** (C, BF) h **98**
11215-223 **8** 11-10 | 74.4kg
W. P. Mullins, Ireland — ***P. Townend***
Won Baring Bingham at this meeting 2 years ago. Ultimately failed to meet lofty expectations as a novice chaser but made a very good return to hurdling when just denied by Teahupoo in Hatton's Grace on return, looking unlucky having met trouble. However, only third in Christmas Hurdle since. Hooded.

2 **BOB OLINGER (IRE) (74)** (CD) **99**
1122/221-2 **11** 11-10 | 74.4kg
Henry de Bromhead, Ireland — ***D. J. O'Keeffe***
Comes alive here and took his unbeaten record at the track to 4 (including 3 Festival wins) when proving 1¾ lengths too strong for Teahupoo in this race last year. Looked as good as ever when chasing home that rival in Christmas Hurdle at Leopardstown on return and another huge run expected.

3 **DODDIETHEGREAT (IRE) (47)** (CD) b+t **92**
P21-23453 **10** 11-10 | 74.4kg
Nicky Henderson — ***James Bowen***
Winner of Pertemps Final at this meeting last year. Advanced his form in graded events this season, though at the same time having his limitations exposed. Change of headgear.

4 **GWENNIE MAY BOY (IRE) (82)** (D) **90**
F35196-7P **8** 11-10 | 74.4kg
Christian Williams — ***Charlie Todd***
Posted career best when landing Grade 2 Rendlesham at Haydock for Dan Skelton last season but well held since, including both starts for Olly Murphy this term. Has since changed yards again.

5 **HEWICK (IRE) (104)** (D) b **90**
5718-7145 **11** 11-10 | 74.4kg
John Joseph Hanlon, Ireland — ***P. Hanlon***
High-class chaser (winner of the 2023 King George at Kempton) and no slouch in this sphere either but evidence this season suggest his best days are behind him.

6 **HOME BY THE LEE (IRE) (49)** (D) b **95**
611UP-641 **11** 11-10 | 74.4kg
Joseph Patrick O'Brien, Ireland — ***J. J. Slevin***
Running in this for the fifth consecutive year, his best placing when third to Teahupoo in 2024, though was unlucky to unseat his rider 12 months ago. Not far off his very best when winning Grade 2 at Gowran 7 weeks ago but likely to find a few too good in this once again.

7 **HONESTY POLICY (IRE) (82)** (BF) **97**
2111-23 **6** 11-10 | 74.4kg
Gordon Elliott, Ireland — ***M. P. Walsh***
Completed hat-trick in 2½m Grade 1 novice at Aintree in April. Proved stamina for this trip when close second in Grade 1 novice at Punchestown later that month and made an encouraging return when 1½ lengths third to Impose Toi in Long Walk Hurdle at Ascot. More to come.

8 **IMPOSE TOI (FR) (47)** (C, D, BF) **96**
124-21112 **8** 11-10 | 74.4kg
Nicky Henderson — ***Nico de Boinville***
Progressive over 3m this season, completing hat-trick in Grade 1 Long Walk at Ascot in December. Looked unsuited by emphasis on stamina when 7 lengths behind Ma Shantou in Cleeve Hurdle over C&D since and drying ground would be in his favour.

9 **KABRAL DU MATHAN (FR) (70)** (C) t **96**
11/1222-11 **6** 11-10 | 74.4kg
Dan Skelton — ***Harry Skelton***
Progressive around 2m for Paul Nicholls and took it up another notch for this yard when easily winning 19f handicap at Haydock on reappearance. Had plenty in hand when following up in the Relkeel here on New Year's Day and probably hasn't finished improving yet. Likely to stay 3m.

10 **MA SHANTOU (IRE) (47)** (CD) **97**
1137-1011 **7** 11-10 | 74.4kg
Emma Lavelle — ***Harry Cobden***
Much improved this season, winning all 3 starts over C&D, including when beating Impose Toi (gave 6 lb) by 7 lengths in the Cleeve Hurdle 7 weeks ago. Faces his toughest task to date but should hold his own.

11 **TEAHUPOO (FR) (74)** (CD) **100**
11/122-111 **9** 11-10 | 74.4kg
Gordon Elliott, Ireland — ***J. W. Kennedy***
High-class hurdler who landed this race in decisive fashion in 2024. Denied by Bob Olinger in this last year but has returned better than ever to bag 3 more Grade 1s (7 in total), including Christmas Hurdle at Leopardstown by 7 lengths from the returning Bob Olinger. Sure to make another bold bid.

11 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

11-4 Teahupoo, **11-2** Honesty Policy, **11-2** Kabral Du Mathan, **15-2** Ma Shantou, **9-1** Bob Olinger, **11-1** Ballyburn, **14-1** Impose Toi, **33-1** Home By The Lee, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

Previous winners have an excellent record in this and last year's decisive victor BOB OLINGER looks the value call ahead of 2024 winner Teahupoo, who was unable to match the selection's turn of foot when runner-up 12 months ago. This does look a deep renewal, however, with progressive trio Honesty Policy, Kabral du Mathan and Ma Shantou all on the shortlist.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. BOB OLINGER 2. TEAHUPOO 3. HONESTY POLICY

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025	**Bob Olinger** 10-11-10	8-1	Henry de Bromhead	Rachael Blackmore	13
2024	**Teahupoo** 7-11-10	5-4f	Gordon Elliott	J. W. Kennedy	12
2023	**Sire du Berlais** 11-11-10	33-1	Gordon Elliott	M. P. Walsh	11
2022	**Flooring Porter** 7-11-10	4-1	Gavin Patrick Cromwell	D. E. Mullins	10
2021	**Flooring Porter** 6-11-10	12-1	Gavin Patrick Cromwell	D. E. Mullins	15

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

4.00 RACE 5

RYANAIR CHASE (Festival Trophy) (Grade 1) (1) 5yo+ £375,000 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: **Strong**

1 **BANBRIDGE (IRE) (76)** (C, D) v **96**
14U17-442 **10** 11-10 | 74.4kg
Joseph Patrick O'Brien, Ireland — ***Sean Bowen***
Classy chaser who returned to form in a first-time visor when failing by a whisker to retain his King George crown at Kempton on Boxing Day. Solid each-way chance on form, but he was well held in this race in 2024 and in the Gold Cup at this meeting last year.

2 **CROKE PARK (IRE) (39)** s **88**
1127-3330 **8** 11-10 | 74.4kg
Gordon Elliott, Ireland — ***J. W. Kennedy***
Dual winner of Grade 1 novice chases last term but has a fair bit to find with some of these rivals judged on this season's exploits.

3 **FACT TO FILE (FR) (38)** (CD) **100**
1231-4261 **9** 11-10 | 74.4kg
W. P. Mullins, Ireland — ***M. P. Walsh***
Registered fourth success at the highest level over fences with an impressive display in this 12 months ago. Things didn't go to plan in the King George on Boxing Day but he put that right when landing the Irish Gold Cup at Leopardstown (24.4f, soft) last month and sets a very good standard.

4 **HEART WOOD (FR) (70)** **95**
1242P-141 **8** 11-10 | 74.4kg
Henry de Bromhead, Ireland — ***D. J. O'Keeffe***
Bettered anything he previously achieved when a clear second to Fact To File in this race 12 months ago, albeit he was comprehensively outpointed by the winner. Successful twice in Grade 3s this season but sizeable step forward will be needed if he's to record his first top-flight success.

5 **IMPAIRE ET PASSE (FR) (26)** (C, D) s **94**
11/1131-B1 **8** 11-10 | 74.4kg
W. P. Mullins, Ireland — ***P. Townend***
High-class performer over hurdles who posted his best effort over the larger obstacles when running out a good winner of the Grade 1 Manifesto Chase at Aintree last spring. Warmed up for this by taking the Red Mills Chase on return at Gowran last month and he should make his presence felt.

6 **JONBON (FR) (26)** (C, D) s **97**
1212-2211 **10** 11-10 | 74.4kg
Nicky Henderson — ***Nico de Boinville***
Has remarkably yet to finish out of the top 2 in twenty-seven career starts under Rules, rallying for a second successive win in the Clarence House at Ascot in January before adding a twelfth Grade 1 to his tally back there last month. Consistent but has been beaten on 4 of 6 visits here.

7 **JPR ONE (IRE) (40)** (D) s+t **92**
3405-3321 **9** 11-10 | 74.4kg
Joe Tizzard — ***Brendan Powell***
Winner of Haldon Gold Cup in 2024 and has worked his way back to that level this season, back on the scoresheet with a ready success in the Scottish Champion Chase at Musselburgh last time. However, he struggled over fences at this meeting both in 2024 and last year.

8 **MASTER CHEWY (IRE) (33)** **88**
156-24725 **9** 11-10 | 74.4kg
Nigel & Willy Twiston-Davies — ***Sam Twiston-Davies***
Back to form with a Kempton Grade 2 second in January but has struggled either side of that and was well held in this last year despite running close to his best.

9 **MATATA (IRE) (53)** (CD) **91**
133-73315 **8** 11-10 | 74.4kg
Nigel & Willy Twiston-Davies — ***J. J. Slevin***
Headstrong sort but developed into a very smart chaser last term, winning a brace of 2m handicaps, and registered first success beyond that trip under Rules when landing a valuable C&D contest on New Year's Day. However, he was well held at Windsor next time and looks up against it at this level.

9 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

4-5 Fact To File, **7-1** Banbridge, **8-1** Jonbon, **17-2** Impaire Et Passe, **10-1** Heart Wood, **50-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

FACT TO FILE was imperious when landing the Irish Gold Cup last month and with connections again opting to swerve Friday's blue riband event, Willie Mullins' top-drawer chaser is strongly fancied to go back-to-back in this and add a sixth top-level success to his CV. Banbridge couldn't have gone any closer to defending his King George crown at Kempton on Boxing Day, so he heads up the opposition ahead of Jonbon and Impaire et Passe.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. FACT TO FILE 2. BANBRIDGE 3. JONBON

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025	**Fact To File** 8-11-10	6-4f	W. P. Mullins	M. P. Walsh	9
2024	**Protektorat** 9-11-10	17-2	Dan Skelton	Harry Skelton	11
2023	**Envoi Allen** 9-11-10	13-2	Henry de Bromhead	Rachael Blackmore	9
2022	**Allaho** 8-11-10	4-7f	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	7
2021	**Allaho** 7-11-10	3-1f	W. P. Mullins	Rachael Blackmore	11

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

4.40 RACE 6

PERTEMPS NETWORK FINAL HANDICAP HURDLE (PREMIER HANDICAP) (1) 5yo+ £110,000 2m7f213y (4820 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 STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT (IRE) (32) (D) b **94**
099-31121 **8** 12-0 | 76.2kg
Gordon Elliott, Ireland — ***J. W. Kennedy***
In the form of his life this winter, winning for a third time when seeing off stablemate Better Days Ahead in the Grade 2 Boyne Hurdle at Navan (2¾m, heavy) 32 days ago. A high-class handicap performance will be needed to defy clear top weight here, though.

2 GOWEL ROAD (IRE) (19) (CD) ✓ **97**
18-037442 **10** 11-10 | 74.4kg
Nigel & Willy Twiston-Davies — ***Toby McCain-Mitchell*** (5lb/2kg)
Smart hurdler who landed last season's Cleeve Hurdle over C&D.and good fourth of 6 to Ma Shantou in this year's renewal of that race. Creditable second in 3m Chepstow handicap last month on a rare outing away from Cheltenham.

3 ELECTRIC MASON (IRE) (110) (D) **98**
135107-21 **7** 11-1 | 70.3kg
Chris Gordon — ***Freddie Gordon***
Landed maiden/novice hurdles at Fontwell last winter and has taken it up another notch in handicaps this season, finishing second to Ma Shantou in a qualifier here before landing the valuable Betfair Stayers' at Haydock (3m, good to soft) in November. Kept fresh for this since.

4 ACE OF SPADES (FR) (49) (C) **96**
1142-1421 **7** 11-1 | 70.3kg
Dan Skelton — ***Kielan Woods***
Steadily progressive over hurdles, getting back to winning ways in 25f Huntingdon handicap (soft) in January. Harry Skelton prefers Supremely West this time but this 7-y-o is still capable of giving a good account.

5 MINELLA SIXO (IRE) (18) v **96**
23F0-9762 **7** 10-13 | 69.4kg
Gordon Elliott, Ireland — ***Sam Ewing***
Easily best effort this season when edged out by the reopposing Melbourne Shamrock in 23f Naas handicap (heavy) 18 days ago, although he hung left under pressure. Jack Kennedy switches to Staffordshire Knot this time.

6 KIKIJO (FR) (96) (CD) **98**
1/5412-411 **6** 10-11 | 68.5kg
Philip Hobbs & Johnson White — ***Callum Pritchard*** (3lb/1kg)
Chase winner over 2½m last winter and has progressed again back hurdling this season, winning here before seeing off Turndlightsdownlow by ¾ length (pair clear) in a qualifier for this race at Sandown (3m, soft) in December. Seemingly saved for this since and his mark is still workable.

7 SUPREMELY WEST (IRE) (76) (D) ★ **100**
3163-3546 **8** 10-11 | 68.5kg
Dan Skelton — ***Harry Skelton***
Encouraging reappearance third to Ma Shantou and Electric Mason here in October on his first start for Dan Skelton. Has had excuses for a couple of his defeats since and very well handicapped on that reappearance form for a yard with strong record in handicap hurdles at this meeting.

8 ABSOLUTELY DOYEN (IRE) (40) (D) **95**
242-11111 **6** 10-11 | 68.5kg
Paul Nicholls — ***Harry Cobden***
Made it 5-5 for Paul Nicholls when seeing off 4 rivals in 3m Musselburgh novice at the end of January. Has a lot more on his plate back in a handicap but he's almost certainly capable of better again.

9 RED DIRT ROAD (IRE) (26) **94**
2/511P-P4 **9** 10-10 | 68.0kg
Jonjo & A.J. O'Neill — ***Jonjo O'Neill Jr.***
Relished the step up in trip when bagging a major pot at Sandown (23.5f) last February. Pulled up on next 2 outings but took a step back in the right direction when 13½ lengths fourth of 13 to Champagne Chic at Haydock (3m, good to soft) 26 days ago. Will need to build on that again.

10 CLASSIC KING (IRE) (76) **95**
1U132-464 **8** 10-10 | 68.0kg
Emma Lavelle — ***Ben Jones***
Dual 19f hurdles/chase winner last term. Creditable efforts on all 3 starts this season (10½ lengths fourth of 9 to Absolutely Doyen at Wincanton latest) but doesn't obviously have anything in hand off his mark.

11 LAVIDA ADIVA (IRE) (26) (D) **96**
412-34143 **7** 10-9 | 67.6kg
Ruth Jefferson — ***Brian Hughes***
Successful twice last season and took advantage of some below-par rivals when bagging 5-runner listed event at Doncaster in December. Found life tougher in Grade 2 company since and races off a career-high mark back in a handicap.

12 IKARAK (FR) (69) (D) s **97**
1P152-131 **8** 10-9 | 67.6kg
Olly Murphy — ***Sean Bowen***
Made it 4 wins from 8 starts since joining Olly Murphy when seeing off 9 rivals at Ayr (3m, soft) in January. Hard to knock that record but he'll require a big career best to land another victory here off 6 lb higher.

13 DUKE SILVER (IRE) (38) (D) **93**
27241017 **6** 10-9 | 67.6kg
Joseph Patrick O'Brien, Ireland — ***H. J. Horgan*** (5lb/2kg)
Career best when beating Yeah Man to win 18-runner handicap at the Leopardstown Christmas meeting (23f, good). Heavy ground possibly stretched his stamina when a well-held seventh over 3m there at the Dublin Racing Festival. His mark demands improvement.

14 YEAH MAN (IRE) (26) s **93**
9U-9622P6 **9** 10-9 | 67.6kg
Gavin Patrick Cromwell, Ireland — ***C. Stone-Walsh*** (3lb/1kg)
Second in the Troytown at Navan in November and shaped well from his lower hurdle mark when chasing home the reopposing Duke Silver at Leopardstown (23f, good) over Christmas. Found 2m too sharp for him in Gowran Grade 3 hurdle latest and better can be expected back over further.

15 MELBOURNE SHAMROCK (IRE) (18) b **94**
3P-4241 **7** 10-8 | 67.1kg
Emmet Mullins, Ireland — ***Donagh Meyler***
Lightly-raced sort who qualified for this race when edging out Minella Sixo over 23f in the mud at Navan 18 days ago. First-time blinkers now replace the cheekpieces he wore on that occasion. Open to further improvement.

16 IDY WOOD (FR) (70) **96**
8241-1410 **8** 10-8 | 67.1kg
Jamie Snowden — ***Gavin Sheehan***
Made a successful return to hurdling at Uttoxeter (2½m) in September. Went in again at Kempton in November but his run of good form came to a halt at Windsor on New Year's Day. Has stamina to prove racing beyond 21f for the first time.

17 LETOS (FR) (62) **98**
7242-2120 **6** 10-8 | 67.1kg
Anthony Mullins, Ireland — ***D. E. Mullins***
Won a 2½m Naas handicap in November and improved again when second of 6 at Carlisle (25f, soft) in December. Flying too high in a Naas Grade 1 novice last time but boasts a progressive profile in handicaps.

18 CHAMPAGNE CHIC (IRE) (26) (D) s **97**
6140-6211 **6** 10-7 | 66.7kg
Jeremy Scott — ***Lorcan Williams***
Very much going the right way, defeating Turndlightsdownlow (pair clear) at Wincanton (heavy) in January before proving 5½ lengths too strong for Minella Emperor at Haydock (3m, good to soft). Another 7 lb higher now but he appeals as one who can continue to progress.

19 C'EST DIFFERENT (FR) (57) (D) **97**
654711-11 **6** 10-7 | 66.7kg
Sam Thomas — ***Dylan Johnston***
Rapid improver who made it 4-4 in handicaps when seeing off 16 rivals at Newbury (3m, good to soft) in January. Likely capable of even better and a must for the shortlist.

20 MINELLA EMPEROR (IRE) (26) s **96**
351P4322 **7** 10-6 | 66.2kg
Emmet Mullins, Ireland — ***Mr M. J. O'Neill*** (7lb/3kg)
Fairly useful bumper winner who has shaped with plenty of encouragement all 4 completed starts over hurdles, particularly when second to Champagne Chic in 3m Haydock handicap last month. Refitted with the cheekpieces he wore in bumpers. One of 2 interesting contenders for Emmet Mullins.

4.40 RACE 6

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

21 **BOLD ENDEAVOUR (49)** s **99**
640/07PP-3 **10** 10-6 | 66.2kg
Nicky Henderson — ***James Bowen***
Struggled last season but showed much of his old spark when third of 6 Ace of Spades in 25f Huntingdon handicap hurdle on reappearance 7 weeks ago. Fourth in this race off 13 lb higher in 2024 so he's dangerously well treated if staging a full-scale revival.

22 **ONEWAYWEST (IRE) (49)** **96**
2052-11F2 **7** 10-5 | 65.8kg
Ben Pauling — ***Elliott England*** (7lb/3kg)
Much improved over hurdles this season, winning at Warwick/Wetherby in quicky succession in November. Set to go close to completing the hat-trick when falling at the last at Kempton on Boxing Day and showed he's none the worse when second to Ace of Spades over 25f at Huntingdon 7 weeks ago.

23 **IDEM (FR) (39)** **96**
R140-2582 **8** 10-4 | 65.3kg
Lucinda Russell & Michael Scudamore — ***Patrick Wadge***
Largely consistent sort who shrugged off a lesser effort at Haydock just before Christmas when second of 13 over 3m at Musselburgh (good to soft) last month. Yard going well.

24 **IKE SPORT (FR) (45)** h **94**
54-205266 **8** 10-3 | 64.9kg
Neil Mulholland — ***Conor O'Farrell***
Second to Absolutely Doyen at Wincanton on Boxing Day. Another good effort when sixth of 15 in Lanzarote at Kempton in January but disappointed at Plumpton latest.

RESERVES

25 **LIHYAN (IRE) (39)** h **97**
13733329 **8** 10-2 | 64.4kg
Rebecca Menzies — ***Reserve***
Suited by speed test when landing fifth win for current connections at Huntingdon (25f) last May. Mostly creditable efforts since (including second over C&D in December) but looks vulnerable in a race as competitive as this. RESERVE.

26 **TURNDLIGHTSDOWNLOW (IRE) (56)** (BF) **95**
421122 **6** 10-2(10-1) | 64.4kg (64.0kg)
Martin Keighley — ***Reserve***
Low-mileage, progressive sort who readily landed a brace of 21f Kempton handicaps in the autumn. Improved again when second to Kikijo and Champagne Chic over 3m at Sandown and Wincanton since. Would enter calculations if getting a run. RESERVE.

24 DECLARED RUNNERS (2 RESERVES)

BETTING FORECAST:

8-1 Supremely West, **12-1** C'est Different, **14-1** Electric Mason, **14-1** Champagne Chic, **16-1** Kikijo, **16-1** Minella Emperor, **16-1** Melbourne Shamrock, **18-1** Absolutely Doyen, **20-1** Ace of Spades, **22-1** Bold Endeavour, **25-1** Gowel Road, **25-1** Lavida Adiva, **25-1** Staffordshire Knot, **28-1** Minella Sixo, **33-1** Letos, **33-1** Ikarak, **33-1** Onewaywest, **33-1** Yeah Man, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

SUPREMELY WEST has had possible excuses for a couple of his defeats since his promising third to Ma Shantou and the reopposing Electric Mason here in October (strong form) and is well treated if recapturing that level. Kikijo looks to have been kept fresh for this since winning twice at the end of 2025 and is second choice. Champagne Chic, C'est Different, Bold Endeavour, Absolutely Doyen and Emmet Mullins pair Melbourne Shamrock and Minella Emperor are others with plenty to recommend them.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. SUPREMELY WEST 2. KIKIJO 3. CHAMPAGNE CHIC

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025	**Doddiethegreat** 9-11-2	25-1	Nicky Henderson	Brian Hughes	24
2024	**Monmiral** 7-10-12	25-1	Paul Nicholls	Harry Cobden	22
2023	**Good Time Jonny** 8-11-9	9-1	A. J. Martin	L. A. McKenna (5)	23
2022	**Third Wind** 8-10-11	25-1	Hughie Morrison	Tom O'Brien	22
2021	**Mrs Milner** 6-10-9	12-1	Paul Nolan	B. J. Cooper	22

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

5.20 RACE 7

ROSCONN GROUP FULKE WALWYN KIM MUIR CHALLENGE CUP AMATEUR RIDERS' HANDICAP CHASE (2) 5yo+ (Rated 0-145) £75,000 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 JERIKO DU REPONET (FR) (53) s **95**
P532-1225 **7** 12-0 | 76.2kg
Nicky Henderson — ***Mr D. O'Connor***
Made up into a smart hurdler last term, finishing a fine second in the Pertemps Final at this meeting before going one better at Punchestown (in cheekpieces both starts). Clear promise over fences this season and remains with potential back in a handicap with the headgear reapplied.

2 MONBEG GENIUS (IRE) (26) b+t **97**
241P6-P57 **10** 11-10 | 74.4kg
Jonjo & A.J. O'Neill — ***Mr J. L. Scallan*** (5lb/2kg)
Proved as good as ever when winning at Uttoxeter last February and creditable sixth in major handicap at Sandown to end the campaign. However, he hasn't been at the same level this season, seventh of 11 in the Grand National Trial at Haydock (3½m, good to soft) on latest outing.

3 THE ENABLER (IRE) (46) t **99**
1006-3143 **7** 11-9 | 73.9kg
Gordon Elliott, Ireland — ***Mr R. James***
Confirmed promise of chasing debut when winning a Fairyhouse novice in November and, while he has come up short at Grade 3 level both subsequent outings, this 7-y-o is an interesting candidate as he makes his handicap debut in this sphere.

4 INSURRECTION (IRE) (40) (BF) t **97**
233188-38 **9** 11-7 | 73.0kg
Paul Nicholls — ***Miss Gina Andrews***
Dual winner over hurdles and better form sent chasing last season, running out a wide-margin winner of a 2½m Musselburgh novice handicap. However, his form has been mixed in 4 starts since, going backwards from his reappearance when well beaten at the same course 6 weeks ago.

5 SANDOR CLEGANE (IRE) (75) s **96**
4408-7760 **9** 11-7 | 73.0kg
Paul Nolan, Ireland — ***Mr J. W. Hendrick*** (3lb/1kg)
Smart novice chaser at his best in this sphere. However, he's now without a win since April 2023 and hasn't gone with much promise back over fences this season, fifteenth of 28 in valuable handicap at Leopardstown (3m, good) in December. Cheekpieces need to help spark a revival.

6 IL RIDOTO (FR) (70) (C) s+t **98**
6807-2872 **9** 11-7 | 73.0kg
Paul Nicholls — ***Miss Olive Nicholls***
Regular fixture here who landed last season's Paddy Power Gold Cup. Record mixed subsequently but he shaped as if back in form when runner-up over 20.6f here on New Year's Day. Drying ground in his favour from reduced mark, though step up in trip poses a question mark.

7 PRENDS GARDE A TOI (FR) (25) s **100**
54-2P14F4 **7** 11-6 | 72.6kg
Gordon Elliott, Ireland — ***Mr B. O'Neill***
Came good over fences in a Naas maiden in December and got back to that sort of form when fourth of 14 in the valuable Grand National Trial at Punchestown (27.3f, heavy) 25 days ago. Should prove suited by the demands of this race and he makes plenty of appeal.

8 HERAKLES WESTWOOD (FR) (70) (C) **98**
1137-5241 **9** 11-6 | 72.6kg
Warren Greatrex — ***Mr Finian Maguire***
Dual 3m scorer in 2024/25 and wasn't disgraced when mid-field in the National Hunt Challenge Cup at this meeting. Has kicked on again this season, most recently landing a 25.2f handicap here and can give another good account having had a breathing operation.

9 KING'S THRESHOLD (IRE) (73) (D) t **97**
5111P-041 **9** 11-6 | 72.6kg
Emma Lavelle — ***Mr H. C. Swan***
Recorded a hat-trick last season and also successful over this trip at Newbury just after Christmas, travelling easily and scoring with something to spare. 6 lb rise fair enough, though another personal best will be required if he's to follow up here.

10 WEVEALLBEENCAUGHT (IRE) (75) (C) s+t **99**
51544-420 **9** 11-6 | 72.6kg
Eric McNamara, Ireland — ***Mr J. C. Barry***
Just the one win to his name from 16 chase starts but has posted a good number of creditable efforts in defeat, not least when fourth in this race off a similar mark last year. Below form at Leopardstown last time but has otherwise made a positive start for this yard. Cheekpieces back on.

11 WATERFORD WHISPERS (IRE) (39) **98**
2/P27-4363 **8** 11-6 | 72.6kg
Henry de Bromhead, Ireland — ***Mr Alan O'Sullivan*** (3lb/1kg)
Dual hurdles winner who was a fine second in the Martin Pipe at this meeting in 2024. Yet to get his head in front in this sphere but it's still early days and he shaped well when third of 23 in a major Leopardstown handicap (21.5f, soft) back from a break last month. Respected up in trip.

12 UNCLE BERT (47) **97**
23159-1F7 **9** 11-6 | 72.6kg
Nigel & Willy Twiston-Davies — ***Miss Amber Jackson-Fennell*** (5lb/2kg)
Useful hurdler who resumed his chase career with victory in 2½m handicap at Aintree in December. Failed to get home in Welsh National at Chepstow before let down by his jumping at this course (20.6f) in January.

13 DAILY PRESENT (IRE) (38) (CD) b+t **98**
5P/331P-0P **9** 11-5 | 72.1kg
Paul Nolan, Ireland — ***Mr B. T. Stone*** (5lb/2kg)
Scaled new heights when recording second success over fences in this race 12 months ago. Hasn't offered much in 2 starts back over hurdles this season, but presumably he's been campaigned with this race again in mind. No surprise to see him fare better.

14 OLYMPIC MAN (FR) (74) s **89**
4617P-P6P **9** 11-5 | 72.1kg
John McConnell, Ireland — ***Mr D. Doyle*** (3lb/1kg)
Useful hurdler at best. Regressed as a chaser, pulled up on final 2 outings in this sphere, but showed he retains ability on the Flat during the autumn. However, he went the wrong way again in 2 starts over hurdles to end 2025. First run after leaving Willie Mullins.

15 EXCELLO (FR) (70) s **98**
23740-30F **7** 11-1 | 70.3kg
Nicky Henderson — ***Mr Henry Main*** (5lb/2kg)
Promising reappearance third in the Grand Sefton at Aintree in November was followed by a heavy defeat in the Becher Chase. Absent since taking a nasty fall here on New Year's Day and others make more appeal.

16 GLENGOULY (FR) (12) (C) **97**
PP0341PP **10** 11-0 | 69.9kg
Faye Bramley — ***Mr Dara McGill***
Useful chaser for Willie Mullins in 2024/25 and back to near that level when causing a surprise in December Gold Cup at this course. Possible excuses when pulled up both outings since, racing up with the strong pace at Newbury (2½m) 12 days ago, but others more persuasive back up in trip.

17 ROAD TO HOME (IRE) (38) **98**
31F-3533P **7** 11-0 | 69.9kg
W. P. Mullins, Ireland — ***Mr P. W. Mullins***
Hexham maiden hurdle winner last spring and improved for the switch to handicap company in this sphere when third at Doncaster and Newbury. Seemed to find the test too much in a 3m handicap hurdle at Leopardstown (heavy) last time but return to better ground could help.

18 CAVE COURT (IRE) (26) **96**
7214-7208 **9** 11-0 | 69.9kg
Noel C. Kelly, Ireland — ***Mr O. McGill***
Dual winner over hurdles last season who ran well back over fences when second in a 21.2f Cartmel handicap in June. Found things tougher at Galway next time, though, before finishing well held reverted to hurdles at Haydock on return last month.

19 KIM ROQUE (FR) (39) **97**
6-1B42245 **6** 11-0 | 69.9kg
Joseph Patrick O'Brien, Ireland — ***Mr J. L. Gleeson***
French import who has shaped well all 3 starts for present yard, including when fourth in December Gold Cup here on penultimate outing. Fared best of those who raced close up in another major handicap at Leopardstown (21.5f, soft) last time and can make his presence felt.

20 GERICAULT ROQUE (FR) (26) s+t **99**
30-82 **10** 10-12 | 68.9kg
David Pipe — ***Mr B. Lawless*** (7lb/3kg)
Dual hurdles winner who has yet to taste success over fences but among his solid placed efforts in this sphere was a second in the 2022 Ultima at this meeting. Also runner-up in a valuable Ascot handicap last month (wore first-time cheekpieces) and each-way shout granted a reproduction of that.

5.20 RACE 7

ROSCONN GROUP FULKE WALWYN KIM MUIR CHALLENGE CUP AMATEUR RIDERS' HANDICAP CHASE (2) 5yo+ (Rated 0-145) £75,000 3¼m70y (5290 Metres)

21 **NO TIME TO WAIT (IRE) (19)** b+t **95**
439-22U04 **8** 10-12 | 68.9kg

John McConnell, Ireland ***Mr Josh Halford*** (3lb/1kg)

Error-prone sort was runner-up twice in novice/maiden company last summer. Faced stiff tasks in valuable handicaps back from a break this winter and looks to be up against it, for all he ran creditably when fourth of 8 in a Fairyhouse novice (3¼m) 19 days ago.

22 **ASK BREWSTER (IRE) (96)** (C) **96**
38P511-15 **7** 10-11 | 68.5kg

Mrs C. Williams ***Mr S. Cotter*** (7lb/3kg)

Ended last season with back-to-back wins (latterly over 3½m at this course) and continued his progression with success in Chepstow handicap on reappearance. However, after another rise in the weights he could finish only fifth of 6 at Sandown on latest outing in December.

23 **HUNG JURY (IRE) (26)** (C) s **98**
6-14812P0 **11** 10-10 | 68.0kg

Martin Keighley ***Mr James King***

Much improved when winning 4m hunter at this course on first chase start and doubled his tally in amateurs handicap (25f) back here in November. Pulled up in Welsh National at Chepstow since, though, and fared no better back over hurdles at Ascot last time.

24 **LORD ACCORD (IRE) (110)** (C, D) b+t **97**
3P-062412 **11** 10-10 | 68.0kg

Neil Mulholland ***Mr N. McParlan***

Has gradually worked his way back to form this season, making most over this trip at Fontwell in October. Backed up that effort when second in Berkshire National at Ascot (29.3f), though will need to pick up where he left off following 3-month absence.

RESERVES

25 **J'ARRIVE DE L'EST (FR) (47)** (BF) s **99**
214U17-22 **7** 10-9 | 67.6kg

Emmet Mullins, Ireland ***Reserve***

Useful ex-French chaser for Daniela Mele (dual cross-country scorer) who has acquitted himself well both starts for new connections, finishing second on the cross-country track here in December/January. Very much of interest for his shrewd yard. RESERVE.

26 **HUNTER LEGEND (FR) (26)** s **96**
51-683325 **9** 10-9 | 67.6kg

Venetia Williams ***Reserve***

Five-time winner over fences who soon bounced back from a lesser run when third of 6 at Ludlow in December. However, he hasn't been able to build on that effort in 3 subsequent outings, fifth of 11 in Swinley Handicap Chase at Ascot last month. RESERVE.

24 DECLARED RUNNERS (2 RESERVES)

BETTING FORECAST:

11-2 Jeriko Du Reponet, **6-1** Waterford Whispers, **11-1** Kim Roque, **16-1** Prends Garde A Toi, **16-1** Herakles Westwood, **16-1** Road To Home, **16-1** Daily Present, **22-1** Weveallbeencaught, **22-1** Gericault Roque, **22-1** The Enabler, **22-1** Sandor Clegane, **28-1** Excello, **28-1** Il Ridoto, **28-1** King's Threshold, **28-1** Ask Brewster, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

Preference is for PRENDS GARDE A TOI, who returned to form when making the frame at Punchestown last month and has more to offer as a staying chaser. Waterford Whispers could improve again on just his third handicap start in this sphere, with Jeriko du Reponet and Kim Roque completing the shortlist.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. PRENDS GARDE A TOI 2. WATERFORD WHISPERS 3. JERIKO DU REPONET

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025	**Daily Present** 8-11-0	12-1	Paul Nolan	Mr B. T. Stone (7)	23
2024	**Inothewayurthinkin** 6-12-0	13-8f	Gavin Patrick Cromwell	Mr D. O'Connor	22
2023	**Angels Dawn** 8-11-0	10-1	S. Curling	Mr P. A. King	23
2022	**Chambard** 10-11-1	40-1	Venetia Williams	Miss Lucy Turner (3)	20
2021	**Mount Ida** 7-11-9	3-1f	Mrs Denise Foster	J. W. Kennedy	21

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race