

Saturday 11th April

AINTREE





12.45	HALLGARTEN & NOVUM WINES MAGHULL NOVICES' CHASE (Grade 1) (1) 1m7f176y (3180 Metres)
RACE 1	(7) SALVATOR MUNDI (4) MIGHTY BANDIT (8) KALA CONTI
1.20	WILLIAM HILL HANDICAP HURDLE (PREMIER HANDICAP) (1) 3m149y (4960 Metres)
RACE 2	(17) HOLD THE SERVE (15) FORTUNE TIMMY (21) KAKA'S COUSIN
1.55	TURNERS MERSEY NOVICES' HURDLE (Grade 1) (1) 2½m (4020 Metres)
RACE 3	(2) BOSSMAN JACK (1) BALLYFAD (10) SOLDIER REEVES
2.30	WILLIAM HILL HANDICAP CHASE (Freebooter) (PREMIER HANDICAP) (1) 3m210y (5020 Metres)
RACE 4	(16) MR HOPE STREET (11) BRAVE FORTUNE (1) LEAVE OF ABSENCE
3.05	JET2 LIVERPOOL HURDLE (Grade 1) (1) 3m149y (4960 Metres)
RACE 5	(10) AIR OF ENTITLEMENT (6) HONESTY POLICY (5) HOME BY THE LEE
4.00	RANFOX GRAND NATIONAL HANDICAP CHASE (PREMIER HANDICAP) (1) 4¼m74y (6910 Metres)
RACE 6	(33) JOHNNYWHO (22) JAGWAR (1) I AM MAXIMUS
5.00	WEATHERBYS nhstallions.co.uk STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT (Grade 2) (1) 2m209y (3410 Metres)
RACE 7	(2) BASS HUNTER (14) RISKY OBSESSION (12) ONE KNIGHT

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.

12.45

HALLGARTEN & NOVUM WINES MAGHULL NOVICES' CHASE
(Grade 1) (1) 5yo+ £120,000 1m7f176y (3180 Metres)

RACE 1



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

The Grand National course is triangular with its apex (at the Canal Turn) the furthest point from the stands. Inside is the Mildmay course which has birch fences. A major feature of the Mildmay course is its sharpness, though the fences are stiff and it's a tough jumping test. The Grand National is run over two complete circuits taking in sixteen spruce fences first time around and fourteen the second. Alterations to the fences in recent times have had the effect of making it a less severe test of jumping than used to be case. Since 2013, the run to the first fence in the Grand National was reduced in a bid to also improve safety, resulting in the overall race distance shortening from the usual 4½m, though the run-in is still 494 yards long and includes an elbow.

Pace Information: **Even**

1 ALNILAM (FR) (85) (D) h **92**
125-11P43 7 11-7 | 73.0kg

Olly Murphy *Sean Bowen*
Useful hurdler who has bettered that form over fences, following up Uttoxeter chase debut success with a convincing victory at Cheltenham. Came in a remote last of 3 in Grade 2 at Windsor when last seen in January and needs a subsequent breathing operation to spark a resurgence. Hood refitted.

2 BE AWARE (FR) (31) (BF) h+t **98**
388-12220 7 11-7 | 73.0kg

Dan Skelton *Harry Skelton*
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. Proved too keen when in mid-field in Grand Annual at Cheltenham and could bounce back in new hood/tongue tie combination.

3 KING OF KINGSFIELD (IRE) (134) (D) s+t **95**
54-1131P6 8 11-7 | 73.0kg

Gordon Elliott, Ireland *Danny Gilligan*
Useful hurdler and similar form over fences, gaining a third win in Punchestown Grade 3 in October. However, he's been off since coming in last of 6 in Grade 3 at Newbury following month. Cheekpieces fitted after a break.

4 MIGHTY BANDIT (IRE) (42) **99**
9P/OP-2111 6 11-7 | 73.0kg

Warren Greatrex *James Bowen*
A fairly useful hurdles winner for Gordon Elliott who has made an excellent start over fences for his current yard, easily completing a hat-trick of 2m handicap wins at Doncaster in February. This is much tougher but he shouldn't be underestimated.

5 MIRABAD (FR) (45) (D, BF) t **92**
10-813U22 7 11-7 | 73.0kg

Dan Skelton *Tristan Durrell*
Fairly useful winning hurdler who has advanced his form over fences for current yard, making a winning chase debut at Exeter in December and runner-up in Warwick Grade 2 in February. Off since coming in a remote odds-on second of 3 in Bangor novice 45 days ago though.

6 NO QUESTIONS ASKED (IRE) (32) (D) s **98**
210-12310 8 11-7 | 73.0kg

Ben Pauling *Ben Jones*
Has developed into a smart chaser this season, scoring at Ascot in November and Windsor in January. Well held in the Plate at Cheltenham last time however so needs to bounce back in first-time cheekpieces.

7 SALVATOR MUNDI (FR) (65) (C, D) t **100**
1151-2261 6 11-7 | 73.0kg

W. P. Mullins, Ireland *P. Townend*
Won the Grade 1 Top Novices' Hurdle here 12 months ago. Has quickly matched that level of form sent chasing this season, very easily making all at Thurles in February. Kept fresh for this and looks the one to beat.

8 KALA CONTI (FR) (70) (D) **99**
12270-112 6 11-0 | 69.9kg

Gordon Elliott, Ireland *J. W. Kennedy*
Very useful over hurdles and she won her first 2 starts over fences at Cork before Christmas, latterly a Grade 3. Not disgraced when 5 lengths second of 4 to Sixmilebridge in Scilly Isles at Sandown only run since. Solid form claims.

8 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

2-1 Salvator Mundi, **7-2** Mighty Bandit, **11-2** Kala Conti, **7-1** No Questions Asked, **10-1** Be Aware, **25-1** Mirabad, **25-1** Alnilam, **33-1** King of Kingsfield

TIMEFORM VIEW:

SALVATOR MUNDI enjoyed his finest hour as a hurdler when landing a Grade 1 at this meeting a year ago and can repeat the feat over fences after bypassing the Cheltenham Festival following his wide-margin Thurles success. Mighty Bandit continues to thrive for Warren Greatrex and isn't easily dismissed in his bid for a 4-timer. Kala Conti and Be Aware can fight it out for the minor honours.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. SALVATOR MUNDI 2. MIGHTY BANDIT 3. KALA CONTI

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025	Kalif du Berlais 5-11-7	15-8	Paul Nicholls	Harry Cobden	5
2024	Found A Fifty 7-11-7	11-8f	Gordon Elliott	J. W. Kennedy	10
2023	Jonbon 7-11-7	2-11f	Nicky Henderson	Aidan Coleman	4
2022	Gentleman de Mee 6-11-4	7-2	W. P. Mullins	M. P. Walsh	6
2021	Shishkin 7-11-4	1-8f	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boynville	5

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

1.20

WILLIAM HILL HANDICAP HURDLE (PREMIER HANDICAP) (1)
4yo+ £75,000 3m149y (4960 Metres)










RACE 2









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

The Grand National course is triangular with its apex (at the Canal Turn) the furthest point from the stands. Inside is the Mildmay course which has birch fences. A major feature of the Mildmay course is its sharpness, though the fences are stiff and it's a tough jumping test. The Grand National is run over two complete circuits taking in sixteen spruce fences first time around and fourteen the second. Alterations to the fences in recent times have had the effect of making it a less severe test of jumping than used to be case. Since 2013, the run to the first fence in the Grand National was reduced in a bid to also improve safety, resulting in the overall race distance shortening from the usual 4½m, though the run-in is still 494 yards long and includes an brow.

Pace Information: **Even**

1	JERIKO DU REPONET (FR) (30) (BF)	s	97
	532-12250 7 12-0 76.2kg Nicky Henderson <i>Nico de Boynville</i> Smart winner of Punchestown listed handicap hurdle (in cheekpieces) last May, but he was let down by his jumping on handicap chase debut in the Kim Muir last month having been well backed after 3 eye-catching efforts and will need to defy a career-high mark on hurdles return.		
2	SUPREME WEST (IRE) (30) (D)		99
	163-35461 8 11-11 74.8kg Dan Skelton <i>Harry Skelton</i> Had excuses for all bar one of his runs following encouraging stable debut third behind Ma Shantou/Electric Mason and duly produced a career-best performance when a decisive winner of the Pertemps Final at Cheltenham last time. Hard to discount despite a 9 lb rise.		
3	EAGLE FANG (IRE) (76)	v	96
	23705-157 6 11-10 74.4kg William Durkan, Ireland <i>Patrick Michael O'Brien (5lb/2kg)</i> Useful sort has gone backwards from a successful chase bow at Thurles (well beaten both starts in January) and is likely to come up short on hurdles return, even if a first-time visor revives him.		
4	HARBOUR LAKE (IRE) (100) (CD)		96
	312P2-1P4 10 11-9 73.9kg Alan King <i>Tom Bellamy</i> Successful in C&D handicap last season and again in valuable handicap at Haydock last spring. Well held following a breathing operation at Cheltenham on New Year's Day but could be closer to form this time.		
5	CHART TOPPER (FR) (31)		97
	122-63PF0 7 11-7 73.0kg W. P. Mullins, Ireland <i>B. Hayes</i> Was in the process of running a cracker when falling in Pertemps Qualifier at Haydock on return, but headgear quickly shelved here, having disappointed with his finishing effort (in first-time cheekpieces) in the BetMGM Cup at Cheltenham.		
6	ACE OF SPADES (FR) (30) (C, D)		94
	142-14210 7 11-6 72.6kg Dan Skelton <i>Sam Twiston-Davies</i> Made a winning reappearance at this track and was still progressing when landing weak Huntingdon contest in January. Made no impression behind stablemate Supreme West in the Pertemps Final at Cheltenham, though.		
7	MINELLA RESCUE (IRE) (31)	s	95
	320-12840 8 11-3 71.2kg Gary Hanmer <i>Ben Jones</i> Well placed when second at 50/1 in the Grade 1 Sefton over C&D last year. Cheekpieces go on having been well beaten in the BetMGM Cup at Cheltenham last time.		
8	WADE OUT (IRE) (32) (D)	b	94
	1616-1146 7 11-2 70.8kg Olly Murphy <i>Gavin Sheehan</i> Has found life tougher since winning first 2 starts over fences, finishing distant sixth in the National Hunt Chase at Cheltenham. Looks the type to benefit from more severe headgear on hurdles return, for all he's unlikely to be good enough.		
9	ABSOLUTELY DOYEN (IRE) (30) (D)		96
	42-111118 6 11-2 70.8kg Paul Nicholls <i>Harry Cobden</i> Progressed again to make it 5-5 for Paul Nicholls in a fairly useful Musselburgh novice, and he's very much worth treating as if still in top form despite finishing eighth (beaten 7¼ lengths) behind Supreme West in the Pertemps Final. One to consider.		

10	PUSH THE BUTTON (IRE) (42)		97
	668-12273 7 11-2 70.8kg Mark Walford <i>Rian Corcoran (5lb/2kg)</i> Creditable sixth in this race 12 months ago for the Twiston-Davies stable (bought for £105,000 by new yard) but his jumping hasn't passed the test over fences recently following a promising start and he may be found wanting back hurdling.		
11	KIKIJO (FR) (30)		94
	5412-4110 6 11-2 70.8kg Philip Hobbs & Johnson White <i>Callum Pritchard (3lb/1kg)</i> Low-mileage 6-y-o confirmed himself an out-and-out stayer when landing second leg of a double at Sandown (solid form) but was found wanting for speed on good ground in the Pertemps at Cheltenham, and it's likely to be a similar story here.		
12	IKARAK (FR) (30) (D)		97
	P152-1313 8 11-1 70.3kg Olly Murphy <i>K. Brogan</i> Dual winner this season and ran a cracker to finish third behind Supreme West at Cheltenham. Should give his running again, although Sean Bowen looks elsewhere.		
13	GOOD TO BE ALIVE (IRE) (42) (BF)		99
	145-2212 5 11-0 69.9kg Olly Murphy <i>J. W. Kennedy</i> Lightly-raced 5-y-o progressed again when useful second at Kelso (21f) in late-February, and while this is a much deeper race, he looks sure to benefit from the step up in trip and should continue on the upgrade.		
14	DUKE SILVER (IRE) (30)		96
	72410176 6 11-0 69.9kg Joseph Patrick O'Brien, Ireland <i>H. J. Horgan (5lb/2kg)</i> On the up when winning staying handicaps at Listowel and Leopardstown this season and though better than ever when 7½ lengths sixth behind Supreme West at Cheltenham (50/1), he may find a few too good again.		
15	FORTUNE TIMMY (IRE) (31)		100
	13130 6 10-13 69.4kg Chris Gordon <i>Tom Cannon</i> Improving novice finished promising third in Grade 2 at Cheltenham on Trials Day and having lacked the speed to get involved in Grade 1 Baring Bingham (21f) there last time, makes appeal tackling 3m off a potentially lenient mark.		
16	GET ON GEORGE (IRE) (35)		96
	24141P2 6 10-13 69.4kg Joel Parkinson & Sue Smith <i>Jack Tudor</i> Confirmed himself a useful hurdler when runner-up behind impressive winner in EBF Novices' Final at Sandown last month, and with stamina looking his strong suit, he's well worth another try over this sort of trip.		
17	HOLD THE SERVE (IRE) (49)		97
	0111 6 10-11 68.5kg Olly Murphy <i>Sean Bowen</i> Successful sole start in points and has proved most progressive since undergoing breathing operation following debut flop, finding plenty to land a hat-trick on handicap debut at Kempton in February. Shapes as though 3m will bring out further improvement, and he may well land a 4-timer.		
18	BOLD ENDEAVOUR (30)		97
	40/07PP-37 10 10-11 68.5kg Nicky Henderson <i>James Bowen</i> Veteran has fallen a long way in the weights and gave his all when seventh in the Pertemps on second start since rejoining Nicky Henderson. Probably vulnerable to less-exposed types, though.		
19	QUANTUM QUEST (IRE) (125) (D)		95
	5462-1152 6 10-10 68.0kg Henry de Bromhead, Ireland <i>J. J. Slevin</i> Low-mileage stayer underlined his consistency when runner-up in Grade 3 novice at Cork in December, though faces no easy task off this mark on return to a handicap.		
20	IDEM (FR) (30)		97
	140-25825 8 10-9 67.6kg Lucinda Russell & Michael Scudamore <i>Patrick Wadge</i> Backed up his Musselburgh second when 7¼ lengths fifth in the Pertemps at Cheltenham last time (travelled well), though this tricky customer will probably need another strongly-run race to be competitive here.		

1.20

WILLIAM HILL HANDICAP HURDLE (PREMIER HANDICAP) (1)
4yo+ £75,000 3m149y (4960 Metres)

RACE 2



21 KAKA'S COUSIN (IRE) (35) (BF) 99
 1214 6 10-9 | 67.6kg



Jonjo & A.J. O'Neill *Jonjo O'Neill Jr.*
 £160,000 Irish pointer underlined a promising start over hurdles when fourth in EBF Novices' Final at Sandown on handicap bow. That performance can be marked up and he's very much unexposed tackling 3m for the first time.

22 LIHYAN (IRE) (22) (D) h 96
 37333291 8 10-9 | 67.6kg



Rebecca Menzies *William Maggs (31b/1kg)*
 Strong-travelling sort was delivered late to land 6-runner handicap at Newbury last time, and while this is significantly more competitive, he could pick up some pieces if getting a well-run race.

22 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

9-2 Supremely West, **7-1** Hold The Serve, **8-1** Fortune Timmy, **12-1** Kaka's Cousin, **16-1** Jeriko Du Reponet, **16-1** Absolutely Doyen, **20-1** Good To Be Alive, **25-1** Duke Silver, **25-1** Get On George, **28-1** Ace of Spades, **33-1** Ikarak, **33-1** Harbour Lake, **33-1** Kikijo, **33-1** Wade Out, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

Olly Murphy's fast-improving HOLD THE SERVE shapes as though he'll relish 3m and may defy a rise in grade to make it 4 wins from 5 starts. Fortune Timmy and Kaka's Cousin are similarly unexposed and both merit serious consideration in a fascinating renewal.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. HOLD THE SERVE 2. FORTUNE TIMMY 3. KAKA'S COUSIN

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025	Deep Cave 7-11-2	28-1	Christian Williams	Jack Tudor	17
2024	Gwennie May Boy 6-10-8	9-2	Dan Skelton	Charlie Todd	21
2023	West Balboa 7-11-2	9-2f	Dan Skelton	Harry Skelton	22
2022	Party Business 6-10-10	11-2	Ian Williams	Charlie Todd (3)	21
2021	Hometown Boy 6-11-0	6-1f	Stuart Edmunds	Ciaran Gethings	19

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

1.55

TURNERS MERSEY NOVICES' HURDLE (Grade 1) (1) 4yo+ £100,000 2½m (4020 Metres)

RACE 3



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

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Pace Information: **Strong**

1 BALLYFAD (IRE) (31) 98
11120 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. Improved form in defeat when narrowly denied in Grade 1 at the same course in February and could bounce back from a below-par effort at Cheltenham given yard's excellent record in this race.

2 BOSSMAN JACK (31) 100
1-3116 6 11-7 | 73.0kg

Dan Skelton **Harry Skelton**
Impressive in his bumper and confirmed hurdling debut promise with a decisive success in a Ffos Las novice. Comfortably landed the odds at Chepstow next time, before looking at home upped in grade when sixth of 21 in the Baring Bingham at Cheltenham, despite bad mistake at the last. Major player.

3 CAME FROM NOWHERE (IRE) (22) (D, BF) 93
1/33-32112 7 11-7 | 73.0kg

Jeremy Scott **Lorcan Williams**
Lightly raced 7-y-o who showed much improved form sent handicapping, scoring at Hereford in December and following up in a higher grade at Ascot. Back in novice company (had a breathing operation), a mistake at the last cost him at Newbury 3 weeks ago and he remains with potential.

4 KOSAC D'OUDAIRIES (FR) (42) 91
531-1212 6 11-7 | 73.0kg

Jamie Snowden **Gavin Sheehan**
Point/bumper winner who has struck twice over hurdles, defying a penalty in game style in a Catterick novice in January. Good effort when 6½ lengths second of 10 to Montemares in Grade 2 at Kelso 6 weeks ago and this longer distance promises to suit.

5 MASKED MAN (FR) (119) (D) 86
121 5 11-7 | 73.0kg

Nigel & Willy Twiston-Davies **J. J. Slevin**
Wide-margin point winner who looked a good prospect when scoring easily in a Chepstow novice on hurdling debut. Promising second in Grade 2 at Haydock next time, before having little trouble landing short odds in novice at Lingfield in December. Better still to come.

6 MONTEMARES (42) (D) 96
1141 5 11-7 | 73.0kg

Tom Lacey **Stan Sheppard**
Has quickly developed into a useful novice, making it 3 wins from 4 starts when landing Premier Novices' Hurdle at Kelso 6 weeks ago by 6½ lengths from Kosac d'Oudairies. Has progressed with each run so far and he's well worth another try at this level.

7 ONLYFORFRANKIE (IRE) (49) 83
4173116 6 11-7 | 73.0kg

Alastair Ralph **Ciaran Gethings**
Bumper winner in Ireland who made a bright start over hurdles for current yard, making it back-to-back wins in a Musselburgh novice in February. However, found things tougher upped in grade when mid-field in the Dovecote at Kempton later the same month.

8 ROOSTER CROWING (FR) (20) 98
P-4111513 5 11-7 | 73.0kg

M. Seror, France **Bryony Frost**
Has plenty of experience over hurdles in France, recording his fourth win of 2025 (also successful on the Flat) in 4-y-o handicap at Compiègne in October. Creditable third of 6 in Group 2 Prix La Barka at Auteuil on his latest outing 20 days ago.

9 SCORPIO RISING (IRE) (35) (D) 93
33-1111 6 11-7 | 73.0kg

Olly Murphy **Sean Bowen**
Has been most progressive this season, making it 4 from 4 for the campaign when landing 17-runner EBF Novices' Handicap Hurdle Final at Sandown 5 weeks ago. Scored with something to spare last time and it remains to be seen where the ceiling of his ability lies.

10 SOLDIER REEVES (IRE) (31) 99
31234 5 11-7 | 73.0kg

Dan Skelton **Tristan Durrell**
Placed in point/bumper before making winning start over hurdles in a Cheltenham maiden in November. Has progressed in defeat in 3 subsequent outings, suited by the step up in trip when fourth in the Baring Bingham back at Cheltenham. Respected with more still to offer.

11 ZANNDABAD (IRE) (133) (D) 90
022/26-211 7 11-7 | 73.0kg

A. J. Martin, Ireland **Daniel King**
Useful on the Flat and belatedly matched that level over hurdles when easily winning a Sedgefield handicap in October. Followed up back in novice company at Newcaste 6 weeks later, but this is a much tougher ask after 4 months off.

12 CHARISMA CAT (21) 93
210-22121 6 11-0 | 69.9kg

Alan King **Tom Bellamy**
3-time bumper winner who opened her hurdles account at the third attempt at Chepstow in January. Improved form fitted with cheekpieces in 2 starts since, relishing the step up to this trip when landing a valuable event on handicap debut at Newbury 3 weeks ago.

13 LORD BYRON (IRE) (29) 95
2445 4 10-11 | 68.5kg

Faye Bramley **Harry Cobden**
Runner-up on second of 2 Flat starts for Aidan O'Brien. Yet to hit the target in 4 outings in this sphere but excelled himself at big odds (80/1) when fifth of 20 in the Triumph at Cheltenham. Will need to find more again in this contest, though.

13 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

10-3 Bossman Jack, **9-2** Ballyfad, **7-1** Soldier Reeves, **9-1** Montemares, **9-1** Scorpio Rising, **16-1** Charisma Cat, **18-1** Rooster Crowing, **18-1** Masked Man, **22-1** Lord Byron, **22-1** Kosac D'oudairies, **28-1** Zannabad, **33-1** Came From Nowhere, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

BOSSMAN JACK improved further on his first start at the highest level when sixth in the Baring Bingham at Cheltenham and he is taken to resume winning ways with more still to offer at this trip. Gordon Elliott has landed this prize for the last 4 years so Ballyfad is well worth another chance, with Soldier Reeves also in the mix.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. BOSSMAN JACK 2. BALLYFAD 3. SOLDIER REEVES

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025	Honesty Policy 5-11-7	5-1	Gordon Elliott	M. P. Walsh	9
2024	Brighterdaysahead 5-11-0	6-5f	Gordon Elliott	J. W. Kennedy	8
2023	Irish Point 5-11-7	5-1	Gordon Elliott	Davy Russell	14
2022	Three Stripe Life 6-11-4	5-2f	Gordon Elliott	Davy Russell	12
2021	My Drogo 6-11-4	5-4f	Dan Skelton	Harry Skelton	12

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

2.30

WILLIAM HILL HANDICAP CHASE (Freebooter) (PREMIER HANDICAP) (1) 5yo+ £100,000 3m210y (5020 Metres)












RACE 4















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

The Grand National course is triangular with its apex (at the Canal Turn) the furthest point from the stands. Inside is the Mildmay course which has birch fences. A major feature of the Mildmay course is its sharpness, though the fences are stiff and it's a tough jumping test. The Grand National is run over two complete circuits taking in sixteen spruce fences first time around and fourteen the second. Alterations to the fences in recent times have had the effect of making it a less severe test of jumping than used to be case. Since 2013, the run to the first fence in the Grand National was reduced in a bid to also improve safety, resulting in the overall race distance shortening from the usual 4½m, though the run-in is still 494 yards long and includes an elbow.

Pace Information: **Even**

1	LEAVE OF ABSENCE (FR) (32) (D)	t	98
	221-1P235 9 12-0 76.2kg Anthony Honeyball Won a 25f Cheltenham novice chase on reappearance. Better form in defeat since, including narrowly denied by Deep Cave in Silver Cup at Ascot (3m, good to soft) in December. Creditable fifth of 22 in Ultima at Cheltenham latest. Tongue tie back on. Player for yard which won this in 2022.	Sam Twiston-Davies 	
2	LOOKAWAY (IRE) (49) (C)		96
	35/13-3311 9 12-0 76.2kg Neil King Likeable front-runner who bagged a big pot at Kempton 7 weeks ago, staying on well tackling 3m for the first time. A 6 lb rise demands more again but he has a good history at this meeting, having won a Grade 2 bumper and finished third in Grade 1 novice hurdle.	Jack Quinlan	
3	KONFUSION (32)		97
	12-1U113F 8 12-0 76.2kg Joel Parkinson & Sue Smith Has taken his form to another level this season, winning 3 times, including the Rehearsal at Newcastle and Rowland Meyrick at Wetherby. Also a good third to Imperial Saint off this mark in Peter Marsh at Haydock in January. Fell around halfway in the Ultima at Cheltenham since.	Gavin Sheehan	
4	IMPERIAL SAINT (FR) (32) (C)		98
	1342-5618 8 11-13 75.7kg Philip Hobbs & Johnson White NON RUNNER.	Non Runner	
5	AMIRITE (IRE) (37) (D)	t	97
	744-P140P 10 11-13 75.7kg Henry de Bromhead, Ireland NON RUNNER.	Non Runner	
6	BAD (FR) (49)	s	97
	1P5-15423 7 11-12 75.3kg Ben Pauling Hasn't always been a strong finisher but has won 3 times at up to 20.5f at Kempton in the last 14 months. Another good run there (20.5f again) when 5 lengths third on latest outing 7 weeks ago. Cheekpieces back on. Whether he possesses the stamina for this trip remains to be seen.	Ben Jones	
7	AIN'T THAT A SHAME (IRE) (42) (D)		91
	9P16/F 12 11-11 74.8kg Tom Ellis Sixth in 2024 Grand National for Henry de Bromhead but tailed off when falling at the last in a Kelso listed race at the end of February on his first outing since. Can only watch. Reserve in the Grand National (4.00 Aintree Saturday).	Jack Andrews	
8	MYRETOWN (IRE) (32) (D)		98
	1F11-F4P0 9 11-9 73.9kg Lucinda Russell & Michael Scudamore Looked a smart prospect when a runaway winner of the Ultima at last season's Cheltenham Festival but has lost his way completely since, with his tendency to clout the odd fence not helping.	Non Runner	
9	CRUZ CONTROL (FR) (120) (CD)	t	99
	11/47P1-6P 9 11-9 73.9kg Tom Lacey  Has won the last 2 runnings of this race. No impact in 2 outings before Christmas but has dipped to only 1 lb above last year's winning mark. No surprise were he to bounce back to form with a bang.	Stan Sheppard	

10	DEEP CAVE (IRE) (49) (C, D)		97
	5461-1150 8 11-9 73.9kg Christian Williams  Finished last season with success in the 3m handicap hurdle on this card and further progress back chasing this winter making it a cross-code hat-trick in Silver Cup at Ascot in December. Winning run ended in slightly laboured fashion at Doncaster but excuse (bad early mistake) at Kempton since.	Jack Tudor	
11	BRAVE FORTUNE (IRE) (83) (D, BF)		95
	1315-3142 7 11-7 73.0kg Joseph Patrick O'Brien, Ireland A useful winning hurdler who signed off for Pat Doyle with a stylish victory in 25f Roscommon maiden chase last June. Made a promising start to his handicap career for new yard when second of 14 at Thurles (21f, good to soft) in January. Will be suited by the step back up in trip. Considered.	J. J. Slevin	
12	UNCLE BERT (77) (C)		97
	23159-1F7 9 11-6 72.6kg Nigel & Willy Twiston-Davies Useful hurdler who resumed his chase career with victory in 2½m course handicap in December. Failed to get home in Welsh National at Chepstow before let down by his jumping at Cheltenham (20.5f) in January.	Toby McCain-Mitchell (5lb/2kg) 	
13	IN LOVE (FR) (35)	b	99
	56P-373U4 8 11-3 71.2kg Hugo Merienne, France Very smart chaser in France but gone over 2 years without a win. Looks on a competitive mark for his first start in Britain but others are still preferred.	Jordan Colin Gainford	
14	STOLEN SILVER (FR) (32)	t	95
	9/P64-0P30 11 11-2 70.8kg Georgina Nicholls Very smart chaser at his best but lost his way for Sam Thomas last term and well beaten all 4 outings this season.	Miss Olive Nicholls (5lb/2kg)	
15	JOSH THE BOSS (42) (C)	t	97
	8211262P 7 11-0 69.9kg Nigel & Willy Twiston-Davies Multiple hurdle winner who also scored twice over fences in November. Also runner-up over 2½m here and at Newcastle since but needs to shrug off a poor run in the Greatwood at Newbury. Back up in trip.	Mr Jamie Neild (7lb/3kg)	
16	MR HOPE STREET (IRE) (35)	★	100
	21123-634 8 10-13 69.4kg Dan Skelton  Progressive over hurdles last term. Useful effort on second chase start when third to The Jukebox Man and Iroko in a Haydock graduation event in November and possibly needed it after 4 months off when fourth in 2½m Sandown novice handicap 5 weeks ago. Remains open to progress now back up in trip.	Harry Skelton	
17	GLENGOULY (FR) (30)	v+t	97
	P0341PPP 10 10-12 68.9kg Faye Bramley Sprung a 33/1 surprise in the December Gold Cup at Cheltenham (20.5f, good). Has shaped better than being pulled up suggests on all 3 starts since but leap of faith still needed after a breathing operation. Also visored first time.	Sean Bowen	
18	CHANCE ANOTHER ONE (IRE) (49)	t	97
	12191400 7 10-12 68.9kg Emmet Mullins, Ireland Won first 2 chases, including a 3m Kempton handicap in November, but below-par in a big-field race back there last time. Has a tongue tie refitted now.	Donagh Meyler	

18 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

4-1 Mr Hope Street, **8-1** Brave Fortune, **9-1** Deep Cave, **10-1** Myretown, **11-1** Lookaway, **12-1** Cruz Control, **14-1** Leave of Absence, **16-1** Uncle Bert, **18-1** Chance Another One, **20-1** Konfusion, **22-1** Josh The Boss, **25-1** Bad, **33-1** In Love, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

MR HOPE STREET looks well handicapped on the form of his Haydock third in November and can prove the point now tackling 3m+ for the first time over fences. Brave Fortune is another lightly-raced chaser who likely has more to offer and is second choice ahead of Leave of Absence. The shortlist is completed by Cruz Control, who bids for a third successive win in this.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. MR HOPE STREET 2. BRAVE FORTUNE 3. LEAVE OF ABSENCE

2.30

WILLIAM HILL HANDICAP CHASE (Freebooter) (PREMIER HANDICAP) (1) 5yo+ £100,000 3m210y (5020 Metres)

RACE 4



WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025	Cruz Control	8-10-11	10-1	Tom Lacey	Stan Sheppard	12
2024	Cruz Control	7-10-10	9-1	Tom Lacey	Stan Sheppard	13
2023	Midnight River	8-11-7	15-2	Dan Skelton	Harry Skelton	15
2022	Sam Brown	10-11-4	28-1	Anthony Honeyball	Aidan Coleman	14
2021	Happygolucky	7-11-7	11-4f	Kim Bailey	David Bass	13

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

3.05

JET2 LIVERPOOL HURDLE (Grade 1) (1) 4yo+ £250,000
3m149y (4960 Metres)










RACE 5





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

The Grand National course is triangular with its apex (at the Canal Turn) the furthest point from the stands. Inside is the Mildmay course which has birch fences. A major feature of the Mildmay course is its sharpness, though the fences are stiff and it's a tough jumping test. The Grand National is run over two complete circuits taking in sixteen spruce fences first time around and fourteen the second. Alterations to the fences in recent times have had the effect of making it a less severe test of jumping than used to be case. Since 2013, the run to the first fence in the Grand National was reduced in a bid to also improve safety, resulting in the overall race distance shortening from the usual 4½m, though the run-in is still 494 yards long and includes an elbow.

Pace Information: **Even**

1	DODDIETHEGREAT (IRE) (30) 21-23453P 10 11-10 74.4kg	s+t	93
	Nicky Henderson Winner of Pertemps Final at the Cheltenham Festival last year and has advanced his form in graded events this season, though at the same time having his limitations exposed. Usual cheekpieces reapplied but looks an easy swerve kept to this company.	Sam Twiston-Davies	
2	HAPPY JACKY (IRE) (225) (D) 5271-3711 12 11-10 74.4kg		93
	Mark Fahey, Ireland NON RUNNER.	Non Runner	
3	HEWICK (IRE) (30) (D) 718-71457 11 11-10 74.4kg	b	93
	John Joseph Hanlon, Ireland High-class chaser (winner of the 2023 King George at Kempton) and no slouch in this sphere either but evidence this season suggests his best days are behind him.	Paddy Hanlon	
4	HIDDENVALLEY LAKE (IRE) (62) (CD) F13/271-95 9 11-10 74.4kg		98
	Henry de Bromhead, Ireland Smart staying hurdler who was successful in this race last season. Tends to go well fresh but proved easy to back and failed to fire on return at Navan in February. Leap of faith required to get involved but he's certainly capable.	D. J. O'Keeffe	
5	HOME BY THE LEE (IRE) (30) 11UP-6411 11 11-10 74.4kg	b	100
	Joseph Patrick O'Brien, Ireland Seemingly as good as ever at the age of 11, becoming the first in history to win a Championship race at the Cheltenham Festival at the fifth time of asking when landing last month's Stayers' Hurdle. Shouldn't be underestimated despite his advancing years.	J. J. Slevin	
6	HONESTY POLICY (IRE) (30) (C) 2111-235 6 11-10 74.4kg	t	98
	Gordon Elliott, Ireland Completed hat-trick in 2½m Grade 1 novice at this meeting last year and has advanced his form in defeat this season, a falsely-run race on undemanding ground preventing him raising his game sufficiently in Stayers' Hurdle last month. Tongue tie applied and remains capable of better.	M. P. Walsh	
7	IMPOSE TOI (FR) (30) (CD) 24-21112P 8 11-10 74.4kg	s	98
	Nicky Henderson 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 in January but simply failed to fire in Stayers' Hurdle last month. Hopes pinned on reapplied cheekpieces.	Nico de Boinville	
8	JINGKO BLUE (FR) (31) (D) 1P/11U-721 7 11-10 74.4kg		99
	Nicky Henderson Very useful novice over hurdles who quickly made up into a smart chaser in 2024/25, successful on both completed starts. Back in this sphere this season and landed a significant gamble when making every yard in BetMGM Cup at Cheltenham last month and he's not dismissed back at this level.	James Bowen	
9	STRONG LEADER (77) (CD) 1042-1226 9 11-10 74.4kg	s+t	98
	Olly Murphy Won this in 2024 (also second last year) and has proved better than ever this season, winning Grade 2 at Wetherby on reappearance prior to finishing runner-up to Impose Toi at Newbury/Ascot. Tailed off in Cleeve Hurdle in January but better anticipated here in a first-time tongue tie.	Sean Bowen	

10	AIR OF ENTITLEMENT (IRE) (29) 1/7117-201 7 11-3 71.2kg		99
	Henry de Bromhead, Ireland Lightly-raced 7-y-o who delivered at the Cheltenham Festival for the second year in succession when landing Martin Pipe last month, showing improvement to win such a competitive race on only her second handicap start. Upped to 3m for the first time and should have more to offer. Interesting.	J. W. Kennedy	
11	LAVIDA ADIVA (IRE) (30) (C, D) 12-341432 7 11-3 71.2kg		90
	Ruth Jefferson Consistent mare who resumed winning ways in 3m listed hurdle at Doncaster in December. Produced a career best with the hood quickly discarded on her return to a handicap when runner-up in Pertemps Final last month but she's a big outsider on her first crack at Grade 1 level.	Harry Cobden	
12	TAKE NO CHANCES (IRE) (30) (D) 335-62334 8 11-3 71.2kg		95
	Dan Skelton Landed a mares Grade 2 at Ascot (2½m) last season and came in a good third to Lossiemouth at this meeting. Running well in defeat this season, though was a little off her game for once when fourth in David Nicholson Mares' Hurdle last month. Hard to see her featuring.	Harry Skelton	

12 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

7-2 Honesty Policy, **9-2** Strong Leader, **7-1** Jingko Blue, **7-1** Hiddenvalley Lake, **15-2** Home By The Lee, **8-1** Impose Toi, **14-1** Air of Entitlement, **33-1** Take No Chances, **33-1** Hewick, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

The staying hurdle scene has lacked a standout performer in recent seasons, so it could pay to take a chance on AIR OF ENTITLEMENT, who made it back-to-back Cheltenham Festival wins in the Martin Pipe last month and Henry de Bromhead's mare could well have even more to offer now stepping up to 3m. Honesty Policy was behind Home By The Lee in the Stayers' Hurdle last month, but he's fancied to reverse those placings here, while Jingko Blue looks another interesting contender, also.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. AIR OF ENTITLEMENT 2. HONESTY POLICY 3. HOME BY THE LEE

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025	Hiddenvalley Lake 8-11-10	12-1	Henry de Bromhead	D. J. O'Keeffe	11
2024	Strong Leader 7-11-10	8-1	Olly Murphy	Sean Bowen	10
2023	Sire du Berlais 11-11-10	8-1	Gordon Elliott	M. P. Walsh	10
2022	Sire du Berlais 10-11-7	16-1	Gordon Elliott	M. P. Walsh	8
2021	Thyme Hill 7-11-7	5-2f	Philip Hobbs	Tom O'Brien	15

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

4.00

RANDOX GRAND NATIONAL HANDICAP CHASE (PREMIER HANDICAP) (1) 7yo+ £1,000,000 4¼m74y (6910 Metres)

RACE 6



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

The Grand National course is triangular with its apex (at the Canal Turn) the furthest point from the stands. Inside is the Mildmay course which has birch fences. A major feature of the Mildmay course is its sharpness, though the fences are stiff and it's a tough jumping test. The Grand National is run over two complete circuits taking in sixteen spruce fences first time around and fourteen the second. Alterations to the fences in recent times have had the effect of making it a less severe test of jumping than used to be case. Since 2013, the run to the first fence in the Grand National was reduced in a bid to also improve safety, resulting in the overall race distance shortening from the usual 4½m, though the run-in is still 494 yards long and includes an elbow.

Pace Information: **Strong**

1	I AM MAXIMUS (FR) (68) (CD)	s		96
	11/P82-925 10 11-12 75.3kg			
	W. P. Mullins, Ireland		P. Townend	
	2024 Grand National hero who made a bold bid to become just the second back-to-back winner in the last 50 years, going down only to stablemate Nick Rockett. Has shown enough in Grade 1s this winter to think he's still as good as ever. Bold bid likely in refitted cheekpieces (wore once in 2022).			
2	NICK ROCKETT (IRE) (25) (CD)			96
	273/4111-3 9 11-11 74.8kg			
	W. P. Mullins, Ireland		Non Runner	
	NON RUNNER.			
3	BANBRIDGE (IRE) (30) (C)	v		95
	4U17-4423 10 11-11 74.8kg			
	Joseph Patrick O'Brien, Ireland		J. J. Slevin	
	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. The headgear didn't have the same impact when only 12 lengths third in the Ryanair at Cheltenham since. Stamina far from assured.			
4	GRANGECLARE WEST (IRE) (49)			96
	2535-8481 10 11-10 74.4kg			
	W. P. Mullins, Ireland		Mr P. W. Mullins	
	High-class chaser who was third to stablemates Nick Rockett and I Am Maximus 12 months ago. Deservedly got his head back in front when seeing off Gerri Colombe in the Bobbyjo at Fairyhouse 7 weeks ago but he's 3 lb higher than last year and Townend looks elsewhere again.			
5	GERRI COLOMBE (FR) (25) (C)	s		94
	221/3-P321 10 11-10 74.4kg			
	Gordon Elliott, Ireland		J. W. Kennedy	
	Dual Grade 1 winner at this meeting but lightly raced in recent years and hard to be sure he's the force of old. Took step back in right direction when second to Grangeclare West in Bobbyjo before making the most of a good opportunity at Down Royal. The mount of Jack Kennedy from the Elliott team.			
6	HAITI COULEURS (FR) (29) (C)			95
	311-1P11P 9 11-10 74.4kg			
	Rebecca Curtis		Sean Bowen	
	Bidding for a unique National hat-trick having won the Irish and Welsh versions in the last 12 months. Being pulled up in the Gold Cup at Cheltenham was hardly the ideal prep but he appeals as one who could take well to these fences. Bidding to become the first Welsh-trained winner since 1905.			
7	SPILLANE'S TOWER (IRE) (2)			92
	125-2931P 8 11-8 73.5kg			
	James Joseph Mangan, Ireland		Non Runner	
	NON RUNNER.			
8	FIREFOX (IRE) (29)	t		97
	2362-1246 8 11-4 71.7kg			
	Gordon Elliott, Ireland		Keith Donoghue	
	Smart chaser who landed the odds in a 19.5f Down Royal Grade 2 on his reappearance. Very good fourth when stepped up to 3m for the Irish Gold Cup in February but 3¼m seemed to tax his stamina in the Cheltenham Gold Cup since.			
9	MONTY'S STAR (IRE) (68)			97
	2254-3056 9 11-3 71.2kg			
	Henry de Bromhead, Ireland		D. J. O'Keeffe	
	Just a maiden win to his name over fences but he has been campaigned almost exclusively at Grade 1 level since. Better than the result when 25½ lengths sixth of 12 to Fact To File in Irish Gold Cup at Leopardstown latest, making effort earlier than ideal. Good jumper who could take to this course.			

10	SPANISH HARLEM (FR) (49)	s+t		95
	4C4-11PUP 8 11-3 71.2kg			
	W. P. Mullins, Ireland		B. Hayes	
	Won the Kerry National at Listowel in September and looked set to add the Thyestes at Gowran (25f, heavy) in January only to unseat at the last. Shaped as if amiss when pulled up in the Bobbyjo at Fairyhouse since, though.			
11	LECKY WATSON (IRE) (49)			95
	111-F77P8 8 11-2 70.8kg			
	W. P. Mullins, Ireland		S. F. O'Keeffe	
	Grade 1 novice chase winner last season but has had a disappointing second campaign over fences, finishing tailed off in the Bobbyjo last time. Leap of faith required.			
12	CHAMP KIELY (IRE) (68)			96
	413-12557 10 11-1 70.3kg			
	W. P. Mullins, Ireland		D. E. Mullins	
	Caused an upset when recording a first Grade 1 success over fences at Punchestown last spring. Ran at least as well giving weight away when close second in 2m Naas Grade 3 on reappearance in November but hasn't reproduced that on both completed starts since. Stamina a big worry.			
13	IROKO (FR) (32)	t		97
	2F424-210 8 11-1 70.3kg			
	Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero		Jonjo O'Neill Jr.	
	Shaped very well from a long way back when fourth in this race 12 months ago. His defeat of Firefox in an Ascot graduation event in December shows he's as good as ever but he had a disappointing prep for this (didn't jump well) when only midfield in the Ultima at Cheltenham.			
14	FAVORI DE CHAMPDOU (FR) (31) (BF)	b		97
	10-05F112 11 11-1 70.3kg			
	Gordon Elliott, Ireland		Danny Gilligan	
	Now in the veteran stage but never been better, running out the 66/1 winner of 28-runner Paddy Power Chase at Leopardstown over Christmas before following up on the cross-country course at Cheltenham in January. Good 2¼ lengths second of 14 to Final Orders at the Festival there since. Chance.			
15	THREE CARD BRAG (IRE) (49) (BF)	s		96
	130-82127 9 11-0 69.9kg			
	Gordon Elliott, Ireland		Jordan Colin Gainford	
	Improved performer this season, building on his second to Spanish Harlem in Kerry National with a win at Cheltenham. Excellent second in Coral Gold Cup at Newbury in November and might have needed his first outing since when well behind Grangeclare West in Bobbyjo at Fairyhouse. Eleventh last year.			
16	OSCARS BROTHER (IRE) (31)			97
	3F-221114 8 10-13 69.4kg			
	Connor King, Ireland		Daniel King	
	Has progressed into a smart novice chaser, winning 3m Grade 2s in the mud at Punchestown and Naas this winter. Good 5½ lengths fourth of 14 to Kitzbuhel in Brown Advisory at Cheltenham (25f, good) 31 days ago, doing his best work at the finish. Makes handicap debut in the biggest one of them all.			
17	MR VANGO (IRE) (49) (D)	s+t		95
	3P/111-2PP 10 10-12 68.9kg			
	Sara Bradstock		Jack Tudor	
	Won all 3 starts last season, culminating in the Midlands Grand National at Uttoxeter. Excellent short-head second to Twig in the Becher here on reappearance but has pulled up on both starts since. All his best efforts on soft/heavy and easy to look elsewhere unless significant rain arrives.			
18	HIGH CLASS HERO (34)			95
	22123-2PP 9 10-11 68.5kg			
	W. P. Mullins, Ireland		James Bowen	
	Developed into a smart chaser last season. Shaped encouragingly after 7 months off when runner-up in 21f Punchestown handicap in November but pulled up in the Thyestes and Leinster National since. Something to prove.			
19	STELLAR STORY (IRE) (49)	b+t		97
	1422-3383 9 10-11 68.5kg			
	Gordon Elliott, Ireland		Robert Dunne	
	Won Albert Bartlett at Cheltenham in 2024. His chase career has been a bit up and down but he reacted well to a new headgear combination when 14½ lengths third of 9 to Grangeclare West in Bobbyjo at Fairyhouse (3¼m, heavy) 7 weeks ago. This is his first start in a handicap and he'll stay.			
20	BEAUPORT (IRE) (56) (D)	t		96
	P/1320-4P4 10 10-11 68.5kg			
	Nigel & Willy Twiston-Davies		Sam Twiston-Davies	
	Smart hurdler/chaser who was better than the result when twelfth in this race 12 months ago, weakening from the home turn having raced close to the pace. Not at best over hurdles in recent starts (had breathing operation prior to latest) and tongue tied first time back chasing.			

4.00

RANDOX GRAND NATIONAL HANDICAP CHASE (PREMIER HANDICAP) (1) 7yo+ £1,000,000 4¼m74y (6910 Metres)

RACE 6



21 CAPTAIN CODY (IRE) (49) 43U1-37F5 **8** 10-10 | 68.0kg **Jonathan Burke**
 W. P. Mullins, Ireland
 Landed Scottish Grand National last season. Promising third in Drinmore at Fairyhouse on return but hasn't really built on that since, finishing well behind a few of these in the Bobbyjo. The stable has more obvious contenders.

22 JAGWAR (FR) (32) (BF) 11311-322 **7** 10-10 | 68.0kg **s+t** **99** **M. P. Walsh**
 Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero
 Very progressive since switched to fences, including win in the Plate at 2025 Cheltenham Festival. Survived an early blunder to finish excellent ½-length second of 22 to Johnnywho in Ultima (25f) at this year's Festival. Has first-time cheekpieces added to his usual tongue tie. On a good mark.

23 PERCEVAL LEGALLOIS (FR) (100) 86411F-P4 **9** 10-9 | 67.6kg **98** **Harry Cobden**
 Gavin Patrick Cromwell, Ireland
 Came of age last season with valuable handicap chase and hurdle wins around 3m at Leopardstown. Fell at first Valentines' in this 12 months ago but it looks like he's had his campaign geared around another tilt, hinting at a revival when fourth at Tramore on New Year's Day. Player under Cobden.

24 GORGEOUS TOM (IRE) (40) (BF) F144-4245 **8** 10-9 | 67.6kg **97** **Sean Flanagan**
 Henry de Bromhead, Ireland
 Shaped well when fourth of 24 in Coral Gold Cup at Newbury (3¼m, good to soft) in November. Not seen again until 6 lengths fifth of 16 in a 21f listed handicap at Leopardstown last month, his absence seeming to tell late on. Live outsider for a yard which has tasted recent success in this.

25 THE REAL WHACKER (IRE) (100) U1454-256 **10** 10-9 | 67.6kg **95** **Gavin Sheehan**
 Patrick Neville
 Grade 1 winner at Cheltenham Festival as a novice chaser. Added the Charlie Hall at Wetherby last season but has largely found life tough since, including over hurdles last time. His claims aren't obvious.

26 QUAI DE BOURBON (FR) (40) 31UB3-PP3 **7** 10-9 | 67.6kg **s** **96** **Donagh Meyler**
 W. P. Mullins, Ireland
 Ended his first season over fences with a good third to Haiti Couleurs in Irish Grand National. Pulled up in Troytown and Thyestes on first 2 outings back but fared much better with cheekpieces added (retained) when 3 lengths third of 16 in listed handicap at Leopardstown (21.5f, soft) 40 days ago.

27 ANSWER TO KAYF (49) 4510-6144 **10** 10-8 | 67.1kg **93** **John Shinnick**
 Terence O'Brien, Ireland
 Again flourished in the mud when landing 19-runner Troytown at Navan in November. Creditable 16 lengths fourth of 9 to Grangeclare West in Bobbyjo at Fairyhouse (3¼m, heavy) 49 days ago. Significantly up in trip.

28 JORDANS (FR) (40) U252-85P0 **7** 10-8 | 67.1kg **90** **Ben Jones**
 Joseph Patrick O'Brien, Ireland
 Second in a 25f Grade 1 novice at this meeting last year but has yet to fire this season. Others are much more obvious.

29 FINAL ORDERS (31) P-3P63151 **10** 10-5 | 65.8kg **98** **C. Stone-Walsh**
 Gavin Patrick Cromwell, Ireland
 Has taken really well to cross-country chasing, scoring twice at Cheltenham this season, latterly seeing off Favori de Champdou in the Glenfarclas at the Festival. Not certain to be suited by this longer distance and took a crashing fall on his only other go over these fences.

30 MARBLE SANDS (FR) (106) 6/13250-12 **10** 10-5 | 65.8kg **95** **Kielan Woods**
 David Killahena & Graeme McPherson
 Very useful chaser who was fit from the Flat and better than ever when landing 10-runner handicap at Cheltenham (27f) in November. Respectable second in 4-runner Rowland Meyrick at Wetherby over Christmas. Kept fresh for this since. Got round in the Topham last year but wasn't at his best.

31 PANIC ATTACK (IRE) (29) 3312-1113 **10** 10-5 | 65.8kg **98** **Harry Skelton**
 Dan Skelton
 Has won 4 of her 5 chases since joining Dan Skelton, including becoming just the fourth to complete the prestigious handicap double of the Paddy Power and Coral Gold Cups. Creditable third in the Mares' Chase at Cheltenham last month but Nickel Coin in 1951 was the last mare to win this.

32 TOP OF THE BILL (IRE) (56) 31/4P1-192 **10** 10-5 | 65.8kg **s** **95** **Toby McCain-Mitchell**
 Nigel & Willy Twiston-Davies
 Has proved temperamental on occasions but hasn't done much wrong this season, winning at Haydock in November and second in the Grand National Trial over 3¼m there 8 weeks ago. Should have the stamina for this test but others look better handicapped.

33 JOHNNYWHO (IRE) (32) 3325-5351 **9** 10-4 | 65.3kg **s+t** **100** **Richie McLernon**
 Jonjo & A.J. O'Neill
 Several good efforts in top handicap chases, returning from a breathing operation to fend off the reopposing Jagwar in the Ultima at Cheltenham (25f, good to soft) last month. Cheekpieces worn on that occasion are retained. Already has experience of these fences and has plenty going for him.

34 TWIG (28) (C) 2P770-117 **11** 10-4 | 65.3kg **s** **95** **Beau Morgan**
 Ben Pauling
 Veteran but as good as ever when winning his first 2 starts this season, latterly edging out Mr Vango in the Becher over these fences. Warmed up for this with a respectable effort over hurdles last month but he was only tenth off the same mark in last year's National.

35 PIED PIPER (31) U32569FF **8** 10-3 | 64.9kg **s+t** **93** **Non Runner**
 Gordon Elliott, Ireland
 NON RUNNER.

RESERVES

36 IMPERIAL SAINT (FR) (32) (C) 1342-5618 **8** 10-2 | 64.4kg **97** **Reserve**
 Philip Hobbs & Johnson White
 Won 3 times over fences at Aintree last term and back to best when narrow winner of Peter Marsh at Haydock under Callum Pritchard. Can have a line put through his subsequent run in the Ultima at Cheltenham having been badly hampered and he's not without a chance.

37 AMIRITE (IRE) (37) 744-P140P **10** 10-2 | 64.4kg **t** **96** **Reserve**
 Henry de Bromhead, Ireland
 In good form last summer, ending a losing run in 25f handicap chase at Kilbeggan before a good fourth of 22 in Galway Plate. However, tailed off on the cross-country course at Cheltenham in December and pulled up over hurdles at Thurles last month. Hard to fancy.

38 AIN'T THAT A SHAME (IRE) (42) 9P16/F **12** 10-2 | 64.4kg **88** **Reserve**
 Tom Ellis
 Smart chaser who was sixth in this for Henry de Bromhead in 2024 but not seen again until falling at the last when tailed off in a Kelso listed chase at the end of February. RESERVE.

39 DEEP CAVE (IRE) (49) (C) 5461-1150 **8** 10-2(9-13) | 64.4kg (63.0kg) **94** **Reserve**
 Christian Williams
 Finished last season with valuable hurdle success at this meeting and further progress back chasing this season, making it a cross-code hat-trick in Silver Cup at Ascot in December. Bit laboured when fifth in Great Yorkshire next time but had an excuse (bad mistake) at Kempton since. RESERVE.

40 BUDDY ONE (IRE) (31) P57-66P40 **9** 10-2(9-12) | 64.4kg (62.6kg) **s** **93** **Reserve**
 Paul John Gilligan, Ireland
 Not at his best this term (mainly chasing), including at last month's Cheltenham Festival. Not the most fluent jumper of fences and little appeal over this trip. RESERVE.

35 DECLARED RUNNERS (5 RESERVES)

BETTING FORECAST:

9-1 Jagwar, **11-1** I Am Maximus, **12-1** Johnnywho, **14-1** Panic Attack, **16-1** Grangeclare West, **18-1** Iroko, **20-1** Perceval Legallois, **22-1** Final Orders, **25-1** Stellar Story, **25-1** Haiti Couleurs, **28-1** Monty's Star, **28-1** Oscars Brother, **28-1** Captain Cody, **28-1** Jordans, **33-1** Gorgeous Tom, **33-1** Favori De Champdou, **33-1** Quai De Bourbon, **40-1** bar

4.00

RANDEX GRAND NATIONAL HANDICAP CHASE (PREMIER HANDICAP) (1) 7yo+ £1,000,000 4¼m74y (6910 Metres)

RACE 6



TIMEFORM VIEW:

Willie Mullins saddled an unprecedented 1-2-3 in this 12 months ago and it's possible J P McManus could repeat the feat as an owner, so strong is his hand this year. JOHNNYWHO and Jagwar are both ahead of their marks after finishing 1-2 in the Ultima at Cheltenham and can lead home 2024 winner I Am Maximus. Perceval Legallois is yet another likely type in the famous green and gold silks, while, at bigger odds, Gorgeous Tom and Favori de Champdou also have plenty to recommend them.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. JOHNNYWHO 2. JAGWAR 3. I AM MAXIMUS

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025	Nick Rockett 8-11-8	33-1	W. P. Mullins	Mr P. W. Mullins	34
2024	I Am Maximus 8-11-6	7-1jf	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	32
2023	Corach Rambler 9-10-5	8-1f	Lucinda Russell	Derek Fox	39
2022	Noble Yeats 7-10-10	50-1	Emmet Mullins	Mr Sam Waley-Cohen	40
2021	Minella Times 8-10-3	11-1	Henry de Bromhead	Rachael Blackmore	40

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

5.00

RACE 7

WEATHERBYS nhstallions.co.uk STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT (Grade 2) (1) 4, 5 and 6yo £50,000 2m209y (3410 Metres)



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

The Grand National course is triangular with its apex (at the Canal Turn) the furthest point from the stands. Inside is the Mildmay course which has birch fences. A major feature of the Mildmay course is its sharpness, though the fences are stiff and it's a tough jumping test. The Grand National is run over two complete circuits taking in sixteen spruce fences first time around and fourteen the second. Alterations to the fences in recent times have had the effect of making it a less severe test of jumping than used to be case. Since 2013, the run to the first fence in the Grand National was reduced in a bid to also improve safety, resulting in the overall race distance shortening from the usual 4½m, though the run-in is still 494 yards long and includes an elbow.

Pace Information: **Very Strong**

1	BARACHIEL (IRE) (18) 0-62 5 11-4 71.7kg Robert Stephens <i>Robert Dunne</i>	h+t	78
	Posted his best effort yet on the back of an 11-month absence (had breathing operation in interim) when second in small-field bumper at Taunton recently but is surely biting off more than he can chew at this level. Wears first-time hood and tongue strap combination.		
2	BASS HUNTER (FR) (31) 113 6 11-4 71.7kg Chris Gordon <i>Harry Cobden</i>	★	100
	Irish point winner who impressed when making all on first 2 bumper starts, including in an Ascot listed race (good to soft) just before Christmas. Improved further when excellent third in Champion Bumper last month and sets a clear standard on that form.		
3	CHICKER (31) 1160 5 11-4 71.7kg Fergal O'Brien <i>Jonathan Burke</i>		88
	Looked good when winning his first 2 starts but has had his limitations exposed since, including when soundly beaten in the Champion Bumper last time.		
4	COOLTOBECARELESS (IRE) (57) 21 5 11-4 71.7kg Dan Skelton <i>Tristan Durrell</i>		84
	Won sole outing in Irish points and confirmed bumper debut promise with victory in 6-runner event at Fakenham (2m, soft) in February, looking value for a bit extra over the result. This demands a whole lot more, however.		
5	FORTHFACTOR (IRE) (113) 1-15 5 11-4 71.7kg Dan Skelton <i>Miss Heidi Palin</i>		89
	Did the job well when making a winning debut for Tom Weston in a Hereford bumper and impressive turn of foot when following up under a penalty having moved to Dan Skelton at Hexham in November. Made effort earlier than ideal behind Bass Hunter at Ascot on latest start and in with an each-way shout.		
6	GOVERNORS ROCK (IRE) (63) (D) 8110 5 11-4 71.7kg Warren Greatrex <i>James Bowen</i>		87
	Improved on debut form to land a weak affair at Wexford last July and took another step forward when following up at Ballinrobe on sole outing for Mark Fahey. Changed hands for £100,000 but was well held up in grade at Newbury in February.		
7	LE ROI REMI (FR) (49) 16 5 11-4 71.7kg Tom Ellis <i>Jack Andrews</i>		88
	Passed the post second in a void race on his only start in points and quickly settled matters in the manner of an above-average prospect in 9-runner bumper at Sandown in November. Disappointed bearing in mind that promise at Kempton 3 months later, though.		
8	LOOK ME (FR) (49) (D) 2-1 5 11-4 71.7kg W. P. Mullins, Ireland <i>P. Townend</i>		90
	Confirmed debut promise for Stuart Crawford 10 months earlier when landing the odds in 4-runner bumper at Fairyhouse in February. The third has boosted that form subsequently and further improvement certainly possible now stepping up in grade.		
9	MAKINGPLANSFOR (111) 292 5 11-4 71.7kg David Evans <i>Gavin Sheehan</i>		79
	Has finished runner-up on 2 of his 3 starts in bumpers but the form is only fair and very hard to make a case for at this level.		

10	MERRY AWAY (IRE) (34) 1 5 11-4 71.7kg Ben Pauling <i>Lorcan Williams</i>		92
	Finished third on his sole start in Irish points and looked a good prospect in going 2 places better in a 2m Warwick bumper on Rules debut last month, responding well. That likeable attitude should stand him in good stead now tackling better company.		
11	MOMENTS AWAY (IRE) (27) 232 5 11-4 71.7kg Martin Keighley <i>Sam Twiston-Davies</i>	t	82
	Steady progress in 3 bumper runs (the first 2 in Ireland for David Harry Kelly) but it's hard to see him figuring prominently at this level. Tongue tied for the first time.		
12	ONE KNIGHT (IRE) (17) 0/1-1 6 11-4 71.7kg Emma Lavelle <i>Jack Tudor</i>		95
	Left his debut run (for Toby Lawes) well behind when landing 9-runner bumper at Southwell in December 2024 and was even more impressive when defying a penalty at Hereford 16 months later. Well worth considering up in grade.		
13	RICES POOL (IRE) (44) (D) 1 5 11-4 71.7kg Ben Pauling <i>Ben Jones</i>		90
	€32,000 yearling. €92,000 3-y-o. Milan gelding. Runner-up in an Irish point and created a good impression when going one better at Taunton on Rules debut in February, just kept up to work. Tidy prospect and the choice of Ben Jones.		
14	RISKY OBSESSION (IRE) (63) 16 5 11-4 71.7kg Dan Skelton <i>Harry Skelton</i>		92
	£190,000 No Risk At All gelding who won his sole start in Irish points and looked an excellent prospect when following up in 9-runner bumper at Warwick (2m) in December. Worth forgiving his subsequent run at Newbury on heavy going and retains potential.		
15	RONNIE RUSSET (86) (D) 511 5 11-4 71.7kg Jedd O'Keeffe <i>Sean Quinlan</i>		94
	Has improved appreciably with each run to date, showing encouraging speed considering his breeding when defying a penalty in quite taking fashion at Newcastle. From a useful family the yard has had success with and is an interesting contender up in grade.		
16	SMILE JOHN BOY (IRE) (49) 124 5 11-4 71.7kg Ben Pauling <i>Charlie Hammond</i>		89
	Made a winning debut in taking fashion in 14-runner bumper at Hereford in November. No match for Risky Obsession under a penalty at Warwick next time though, and again had his limitations exposed at Kempton on most recent outing.		
17	THELASTMANFROMPENR (57) 1 6 11-4 71.7kg L J Morgan <i>Sean Bowen</i>		82
	Passing Glance gelding who was lacking nothing in fitness when making a successful debut in 9-runner event at Kelso in February. Sean Bowen booked but needs appreciably more at this much higher level.		
18	THE PERFECT POET (28) 1 5 11-4 71.7kg Ben Pauling <i>Callum Pritchard</i>		89
	£42,000 Poet's Word gelding who justified support in decisive fashion in 5-runner bumper at Fontwell (17.7f) on debut last month. Open to improvement and well worth a try in this higher grade.		
19	MERLIN ALLEN (FR) (49) (CD, BF) 13 4 10-10 68.0kg Mrs Jane Williams <i>Ciaran Gethings</i>		89
	Choeur du Nord gelding who emulated his dam in making a winning bumper debut in a well-run affair over C&D (good) in November, soon going clear in the manner of a good prospect. Ran to a similar level in defeat in better company at Kempton 4 months later but this is even tougher.		
20	NIGHTFLYER (GER) (16) 154 4 10-10 68.0kg Jonjo & A.J. O'Neill <i>Jonjo O'Neill Jr.</i>		83
	Showed an encouraging amount of stamina considering his breeding when making a winning debut at Catterick (for Adrian Keatley) in January. Returned to a similar level after disappointing on yard debut when fourth at Warwick (2m) on most recent outing but has his work firmly cut out up in grade.		

5.00

RACE 7

WEATHERBYS nhstallions.co.uk STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT (Grade 2) (1) 4, 5 and 6yo £50,000 2m209y (3410 Metres)



BETTING FORECAST:

11-4 Bass Hunter, **7-1** Look Me, **11-1** Ronnie Russet, **12-1** One Knight, **12-1** The Perfect Poet, **14-1** Risky Obsession, **20-1** Rices Pool, **22-1** Merry Away, **22-1** Forthfactor, **28-1** Merlin Allen, **28-1** Smile John Boy, **33-1** Le Roi Remi, **33-1** Cooltobecareless, **33-1** Moments Away, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

BASS HUNTER sets a clear standard on his excellent third in the Champion Bumper and is difficult to oppose considering this race has always promised to be a better fit given his style of racing. Risky Obsession created a notably good impression on his Rules debut at Warwick and is well worth another chance to build on that back under less testing conditions, with the promising One Knight and the fast-improving Ronnie Russet completing the shortlist.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. BASS HUNTER 2. RISKY OBSESSION 3. ONE KNIGHT

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025	Green Splendour 5-11-4	10-3f	W.P. Mullins	Mr P.W. Mullins	15
2024	Horaces Pearl 6-11-4	14-1	Fergal O'Brien	Connor Brace	18
2023	Florida Dreams 5-11-6	18-1	Nicky Richards	Danny McMenamin	20
2022	Lookaway 5-11-4	28-1	Neil King	Jack Quinlan	18
2021	Knappers Hill 5-11-4	8-1	Paul Nicholls	Megan Nicholls	18

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race