GBI RACING

TIMEFORM 1-2-3

Wednesday 4th February

LUDLOW

1.13	RACING TO SCHOOL JUVENILE HURDLE (4) 1m7f169y (3170 Metres)
RACE 1	(6) TALAKAN | (3) KING AL | (7) WOLF RAYET
1.48	C M BESPOKE CARE MARES' MAIDEN HURDLE (4) 2m5f55y (4270 Metres)
RACE 2	(4) DIAMOND DU BERLAIS | (8) KHUTULUN KHAN | (9) NO FLIES ON HER
2.23	LUDLOW MEMBERS NOVICES' HURDLE (4) 1m7f169y (3170 Metres)
RACE 3	(6) KIWI RUSH | (11) FIRST CANDIDATE | (8) SHERMINATOR
2.58	ATTWOOD MEMORIAL TROPHY HANDICAP CHASE (3) 2½m11y (4030 Metres)
RACE 4	(1) RODNEY | (8) REGAL RENAISSANCE | (6) TOOTHLESS
3.33	LATE ROY KNELLER 85th BIRTHDAY MARES' HANDICAP HURDLE (Series Final) (4) 2m5f55y (4270 Metres)
RACE 5	(8) SALLYVILLE LADY | (2) MASKED DANCE | (9) HARD DEALT
4.07	WATCH RACINGTV HANDICAP HURDLE (5) 2m5f55y (4270 Metres)
RACE 6	(2) FOLLOWING CHAPTER | (1) UNLEASH THE BEAST | (8) SHUIL CEOIL
4.42	PLYVINE CATERING CHASE MEREDITH MEMORIAL OPEN HUNTERS' CHASE (4) 2m7f171y (4780 Metres)
RACE 7	(2) BARTON SNOW | (4) JEFFERY'S CROSS | (3) WHAT A GLANCE

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.

1.13 RACE 1

RACING TO SCHOOL JUVENILE HURDLE (4) 4yo £10,000
1m7f169y (3170 Metres)

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

Ludlow is a sharp, right-handed, oval track, with a nine-fence chase circuit about a mile and a half and a run-in of 250 yards, requiring riders to steer left after the last to avoid taking the wrong course. Probably on account of so may races being well run the fences claim far more casualties than might be expected, Ludlow sitting comfortably in the top half dozen for fallers and unseats. The hurdle course, which runs on the outside of the chase course, has easier turns. Whereas the chase course is flat, the hurdle course has slight undulations but they rarely provide difficulties for a long-striding horse.

Pace Information: **Very Weak**

1 **DOWN TO BUSINESS (18)** t **96**
34 **4** 11-0 | 69.9kg
Dan Skelton *Harry Skelton*
Fair maiden on the (stays 1¼m) in Ireland for Andrew Oliver. Looks the part for hurdling and he did better with his hurdling debut under his belt with a tongue strap added when fourth of 10 in juvenile hurdle at Ascot (15.7f, soft) 18 days ago. Can do better again if brushing up his jumping.

2 **GALLIVANTED (FR)** t
4 11-0 | 69.9kg
Harry Derham *Paul O'Brien*
Fairly useful 1½m winner on Flat, value for extra when making a successful return from 8 months off in a 7-runner Kempton maiden (12f) in May. Acquired by upwardly-mobile jumps outfit for 70,000 gns in July and confidence behind him would look significant having been gelded/undergone wind surgery.

3 **KING AL (25)** **99**
52 **4** 11-0 | 69.9kg
Alan King *Tom Bellamy*
Fairly useful Flat winner (stays 1¼m) who built on a promising hurdling debut display when second of 8 in juvenile hurdle at Kempton (16f, good) 25 days ago, the sounder surface likely to have shown him to advantage. Encounters forecast softer ground here but he has the form to play a part.

4 **LASSWADE** h+t
4 11-0 | 69.9kg
Ed de Giles *Ben Poste*
No form in varied events on Flat and hard to envisage him playing a part on hurdles bow.

5 **MADAME DE LABRUNIE (FR) (36)** t **88**
372F1493 **4** 11-0 | 69.9kg
Fergal O'Brien *Jonathan Burke*
Fair form over hurdles in France, including a 17.5f Auteuil claiming success in September. Low-key start for new yard at Newbury in November but more like it when third of 11 in a Taunton juvenile (16.5f) 5 weeks ago, outpaced before keeping on. Will need to step up again on that form, however.

6 **TALAKAN (FR) (18)** ★ **100**
3 **4** 11-0 | 69.9kg
Toby Lawes *K. Brogan*
Fairly useful on Flat in France, won 14f maiden on final outing for Francis-Henri Graffard. Sold for €40,000 later in November and solid start debuting in this sphere when third of 10 in juvenile hurdle at Ascot (15.7f, soft) on NH debut 18 days ago. Can build on that effort now.

7 **WOLF RAYET (IRE) (53)** t **99**
24 **4** 11-0 | 69.9kg
Samuel Drinkwater *Robert Dunne*
Just modest form in 3 Flat outings for Donnacha O'Brien in 2024. Changed hands for 32,000 gns after and encouragement to glean from 2 hurdle runs this winter, equipped with a tongue tie when fourth in Triumph Trial at Cheltenham (16.8f) in December. Possibilities back in calmer waters.

8 **SILVEREEN (46)**
47 **4** 10-7 | 66.7kg
Henry Daly *Sam Twiston-Davies*
Silverwave filly who displayed poor form in finishing midfield in a couple of bumpers during second half of last year. Bred for longer trips and she's passed over now attentions switch to hurdling.

8 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

11-4 King Al, **9-2** Wolf Rayet, **5-1** Talakan, **5-1** Down To Business, **11-2** Gallivanted, **14-1** Madame De Labrunie, **28-1** Silvereen, **200-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

This looks a competitive opener but there was enough encouragement to glean from TALAKAN's hurdles debut third at Ascot to think he can play a lead role with his sights lowered, and he shades preference over Kempton runner-up King Al. Wolf Rayet also has the form to play a part, whilst market confidence behind hurdles newcomer Gallivanted would also look significant for the stable who landed this race 12 months ago.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. TALAKAN 2. KING AL 3. WOLF RAYET

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025	**Viyanni** 4-11-7	2-7f	Harry Derham	Paul O'Brien	10
2024	**Royal Way** 4-11-7	10-11f	Gary Moore	Niall Houlihan	11

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

1.48 RACE 2

C M BESPOKE CARE MARES' MAIDEN HURDLE (4) 4yo+ fillies and mares £10,000 2m5f55y (4270 Metres)

GBI RACING

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

Ludlow is a sharp, right-handed, oval track, with a nine-fence chase circuit about a mile and a half and a run-in of 250 yards, requiring riders to steer left after the last to avoid taking the wrong course. Probably on account of so may races being well run the fences claim far more casualties than might be expected, Ludlow sitting comfortably in the top half dozen for fallers and unseats. The hurdle course, which runs on the outside of the chase course, has easier turns. Whereas the chase course is flat, the hurdle course has slight undulations but they rarely provide difficulties for a long-striding horse.

Pace Information: **Even**

1 **AFANCY GETAWAY (IRE) (47)** t **68**
34 **6** 11-5 | 72.1kg
Ben Pauling *Ben Jones*
Irish point winner who has made little impact both starts over hurdles. Tongue strap on for 1st time.

2 **BORNA GEM (IRE) (38)** **66**
62-3 **7** 11-5 | 72.1kg
Nigel & Willy Twiston-Davies *James Turner* (5lb/2kg)
:Point winner who ran below expectations on both bumper outings. Shaped with some encouragement switched to hurdling when third in 5-runner seller at Leicester in December but needs a lot more here.

3 **CATWALK GIRL (IRE)** **67**
6 11-5 | 72.1kg
Max Comley *David Bass*
Walk In The Park mare. Half-sister to fair French hurdler Benkhov. Point winner, runner-up last time (May 2025).

4 **DIAMOND DU BERLAIS (FR) (249)** t ★ **100**
32554-P38 **5** 11-5 | 72.1kg
W. P. Mullins, Ireland *Mr P. W. Mullins*
Fairly useful maiden hurdler in France who has been placed several times, including when third of 10 in Group 3 Prix Christian de Tredern at Auteuil in May. Sold out of R. Collet's yard for €160,000 in July and stands out on form for all-conquering yard.

5 **FEELING FRISKY (FR) (114)** **65**
86-8638 **6** 11-5 | 72.1kg
Sophie Leech *Roisin Leech* (7lb/3kg)
Didn't show much in a couple of bumpers for Kieran Burke and poor form at best over hurdles.

6 **JAX BELLE (150)** s **65**
03 **6** 11-5 | 72.1kg
Lucy Wadham *Brendan Powell*
Has shown little in a brace of bumpers so hard to enthuse over on this switch to hurdling.

7 **JURASSIC PET (IRE)** t **66**
6 11-5 | 72.1kg
Sara Bradstock *Miss Lily Bradstock* (7lb/3kg)
£28,000 5-y-o, Sholokhov mare. Sister to fair hurdler/useful chaser Sholokjack, and half-sister to 3 winners, including useful chaser Another Stowaway. Off mark in Irish points at third attempt (Apr 2025). Wears tongue strap for Rules debut having already undergone a breathing operation.

8 **KHUTULUN KHAN (IRE) (24)** **67**
30/5 **7** 11-5 | 72.1kg
Lucy Wadham *Tom Cannon*
Promising third on Ascot bumper debut in February 2024 but well held at Cheltenham 2 months later. First run since (off 21 months) when fifth of 9 in novice at Fontwell on hurdles bow 24 days ago and likely to come on for that.

9 **NO FLIES ON HER (IRE) (49)** **67**
63F **6** 11-5 | 72.1kg
Fergal O'Brien *Jonathan Burke*
Point winner who showed some in a couple of bumpers and was probably set to show modest form when falling heavily 2 out on C&D hurdling debut in December.

10 **PORRIDGE (IRE) (89)** **64**
0PP347-PP **6** 11-5 | 72.1kg
Tracey Leeson *Mr Joseph Stevenson* (7lb/3kg)
Little form in varied events over hurdles and easily passed over.

11 **WARRIORESS (IRE) (97)** **65**
P **6** 11-5 | 72.1kg
Alex Hales *Kielan Woods*
Soldier of Fortune mare. Half-sister to numerous winners, including fairly useful hurdler/useful chaser Capuccimix and fairly useful French chaser Espressa. Runner-up sole start in Irish point but showed little aptitude for hurdling when pulled at Stratford on Rules debut in October.

12 **WISHFUL WINGS (IRE) (12)** **60**
P0 **5** 11-5 | 72.1kg
Sheila Lewis *Sean Houlihan*
Runner-up on second of 2 outings in Irish points but down the field completed start over hurdles.

12 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

2-5 Diamond Du Berlais, **12-1** Afancy Getaway, **16-1** No Flies On Her, **16-1** Khutulun Khan, **16-1** Catwalk Girl, **28-1** Borna Gem, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

DIAMOND DU BERLAIS stands out a mile on her French form so should prove very hard to beat on first outing for Willie Mullins. Khutulun Khan and No Flies On Her can battle it out for minor honours.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. DIAMOND DU BERLAIS 2. KHUTULUN KHAN 3. NO FLIES ON HER

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025	**Jasmine Bliss** 6-11-5	11-10f	Harry Derham	Paul O'Brien	11
2024	**Looking As You Are** 5-11-5	4-1	Alex Hales	Harry Bannister	13
2022	**Lassue** 6-11-0	9-4f	Fergal O'Brien	Paddy Brennan	8

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

2.23 RACE 3

LUDLOW MEMBERS NOVICES' HURDLE (4) 4yo+ £10,000
1m7f169y (3170 Metres)

GBI RACING

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

Ludlow is a sharp, right-handed, oval track, with a nine-fence chase circuit about a mile and a half and a run-in of 250 yards, requiring riders to steer left after the last to avoid taking the wrong course. Probably on account of so may races being well run the fences claim far more casualties than might be expected, Ludlow sitting comfortably in the top half dozen for fallers and unseats. The hurdle course, which runs on the outside of the chase course, has easier turns. Whereas the chase course is flat, the hurdle course has slight undulations but they rarely provide difficulties for a long-striding horse.

Pace Information: **Even**

1 **CAN U FEEL IT (IRE) (25)** h **70**
5097 **5** 11-0 | 69.9kg
Christian Williams *Jack Tudor*
Made frame in an Irish point but well held in in bumper/trio of novice hurdles.

2 **EMERALD TIME (270)** **87**
4-2 **5** 11-0 | 69.9kg
Dominic Elsworth *Tom Bellamy*
Stepped up on his debut form when second of 5 in bumper (11/2) at Warwick (16f, good) 9 months ago. Makes hurdle bow.

3 **FANNY MOON (FR) (20)** **75**
9-767 **6** 11-0 | 69.9kg
Mel Rowley *Charlie Deutsch*
Looks one for handicaps after this run.

4 **JOEYBOTTLES (IRE) (2)** t **87**
3-74 **5** 11-0 | 69.9kg
Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero *Craig Nichol*
Encouraging debut third of 13 in bumper at Perth in April and offered more than he had on hurdles debut with a tongue tie added when fourth of 10 in a Southwell maiden (15.8f) on Monday. Overall profile suggests he's going to be one more for handicaps after this.

5 **KADO SACREE (FR) (13)** **89**
466 **6** 11-0 | 69.9kg
Olly Murphy *K. Brogan*
Irish point winner who made a sound start to his hurdle career when fourth of 12 in novice at Exeter (17f, good to soft) in November. Hasn't quite matched that form since but has unlikely shown all he can yet.

6 **KIWI RUSH (IRE) (34)** (D) t ★ **100**
612-45 **6** 11-0 | 69.9kg
Harry Derham *Paul O'Brien*
Winner of the second of his 3 starts in bumpers. Promising fourth on 20.5f Newbury hurdle debut in November and better than result in maiden at Cheltenham on New Year's Day, stumbling badly 3 out. Retains potential.

7 **LEJO DU SEUIL (FR) (21)** **86**
29 **5** 11-0 | 69.9kg
Ian Williams *Robert Dunne*
Cheekpieces on when a promising hurdling debut second at Fontainebleau (17.6f, soft) in October. Changed hands for €70,000 but ran a long way below that level on first start for this yard at Newbury 3 weeks ago.

8 **SHERMINATOR (GER) (54)** t **97**
4211-F **5** 11-0 | 69.9kg
Harry Fry *Bryan Carver*
Built on bumper promise when winning 7-runner juvenile at Newbury (16.3f, good to soft) on hurdles bow in January on final run for Emma Lavelle. Followed in ready fashion at Taunton in March and departed just as he was being asked for his effort at Cheltenham on his return in December. Respected.

9 **DRAKARIS (IRE) (40)** **87**
23 **5** 10-7 | 66.7kg
Dan Skelton *Tristan Durrell*
Just modest form in a pair of bumpers, so improvement needed on this switch to hurdling.

10 **FINAL ESCAPE (IRE) (532)** **75**
2/P7- **7** 10-7 | 66.7kg
Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero *Toby Wynne*
Down the field completed start in maiden hurdles. Off 17 months.

11 **FIRST CANDIDATE (44)** t **94**
F5 **6** 10-7 | 66.7kg
Dan Skelton *Harry Skelton*
Irish point winner who was a given a considerate return from a 2-month break (in a first-time tongue strap) when fifth of 15 in mares novice at Huntingdon 44 days ago, not knocked about. Merits consideration.

12 **JESSIE'S GIANT (35)** **79**
67 **5** 10-7 | 66.7kg
Tom Ellis *Jack Andrews*
Little promise in 2 bumpers.

12 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

9-4 Kiwi Rush, **3-1** Sherminator, **9-2** First Candidate, **10-1** Kado Sacree, **18-1** Joeybottles, **20-1** Emerald Time, **22-1** Drakaris, **28-1** Lejo Du Seuil, **66-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

Bumper winner KIWI RUSH has shaped with clear promise on both his hurdle starts to date, each in slightly stronger company than he tackles today, so he's an appealing candidate for an in-form stable. First Candidate and Sherminator look the other key players on form.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. KIWI RUSH 2. FIRST CANDIDATE 3. SHERMINATOR

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025	**Vanderpoel** 6-11-7	1-8f	Ben Pauling	Ben Jones	7
2024	**Rossbridge** 5-11-0	12-1	Donald McCain	Theo Gillard	8
2022	**Fortunedefortunata** 5-11-0	25-1	David Bridgwater	Brendan Powell	15

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

2.58 RACE 4

ATTWOOD MEMORIAL TROPHY HANDICAP CHASE (3) 5yo+ (Rated 0-125) £16,000 2½m11y (4030 Metres)

GBI RACING

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

Ludlow is a sharp, right-handed, oval track, with a nine-fence chase circuit about a mile and a half and a run-in of 250 yards, requiring riders to steer left after the last to avoid taking the wrong course. Probably on account of so may races being well run the fences claim far more casualties than might be expected, Ludlow sitting comfortably in the top half dozen for fallers and unseats. The hurdle course, which runs on the outside of the chase course, has easier turns. Whereas the chase course is flat, the hurdle course has slight undulations but they rarely provide difficulties for a long-striding horse.

Pace Information: **Even**

1 **RODNEY (IRE) (23)** t ★ **100**
P611-F511 **7** 12-0 | 76.2kg
Kerry Lee — ***Charlie Deutsch***
Dual hurdles winner who has raised his game since tackling the larger obstacles, making it third time lucky in this sphere at Leicester during the Christmas period before following up in good style at Hereford (21f, soft). 10 lb rise for latest win looks manageable and another bold show anticipated.

2 **JOKER DE MAI (FR) (37)** **90**
22/31F-P64 **7** 11-13 | 75.7kg
Clive Boultbee-Brooks — ***Richard Patrick***
Fairly useful performer who was twice a winner over fences in France in 2023. Also successful twice on these shores, latterly landing a Leicester hunter last March, and this step back up in trip looks a good move judged on his encouraging fourth in a 6-runner handicap chase at Newbury last time.

3 **CHARLES RITZ (52)** (D) **98**
1636/P2-1 **10** 11-12 | 75.3kg
Tom George — ***Jonathan Burke***
Fairly useful winning hurdler/chaser who notched second success in this sphere when coming from off the pace to land a 7-runner Southwell handicap chase (20.4f, good to soft) back from a 13-month absence in December. Things rather went his way on that occasion, though, and this is tougher up 4 lb.

4 **PALAMON (IRE) (18)** **97**
2P20-2U69 **6** 11-12 | 75.3kg
Dan Skelton — ***Tristan Durrell***
Fairly useful hurdler and positive start over fences when runner-up at Wexford last summer. Safely held on final run for Paul Nolan in October and recent debut for this yard at Haydock (first run following a wind op) wasn't up to much but still has time on his side.

5 **TAX FOR MAX (GER) (34)** **95**
16/03385 **9** 11-11 | 74.8kg
Nigel & Willy Twiston-Davies — ***J. J. Slevin***
Useful hurdler/chaser for Willie Mullins and stepped up on low-key stable debut when third in a Newton Abbot handicap hurdle in October. However, it's fair to say he has failed to build on that since, including on first chase start for this yard following a wind op at Windsor on New Year's Day.

6 **TOOTHLESS (FR) (34)** (D) s+t **99**
5P222/1-51 **8** 11-10 | 74.4kg
Paul Nicholls — ***Jay Tidball*** (5lb/2kg)
Understandably looked in need of the run back from a lengthy absence at Wincanton in December, and subsequently took a step firmly back in right direction when accounting for 6 rivals at Windsor (20.2f, good) early last month. 5 lb rise fair enough and he's a must for the shortlist.

7 **PEPE LE MOKO (FR) (23)** (D) s **97**
6463-F423 **8** 11-2 | 70.8kg
Mrs Jane Williams — ***Ciaran Gethings***
Well treated on peak form and produced best effort for a while when going close in a soft-ground C&D handicap on penultimate start. However, he was beaten 20 lengths into third behind Rodney at Hereford next time and it's unlikely that a 10 lb pull will be sufficient to elicit a role reversal.

8 **REGAL RENAISSANCE (49)** (C, D) ✓ **98**
14622-23F **8** 11-0 | 69.9kg
Henry Daly — ***Sam Twiston-Davies***
Successful at Warwick last season and decent second there on return in November. Ran no sort of a race at Bangor next time but she goes well here and surely would've gone close had she not departed at the second-last in a C&D handicap last time. Key player off the same mark.

8 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

5-2 Rodney, **4-1** Toothless, **5-1** Charles Ritz, **11-2** Regal Renaissance, **11-1** Pepe Le Moko, **14-1** Joker De Mai, **20-1** Palamon, **28-1** Tax For Max

TIMEFORM VIEW:

Though cases can be realistically made for several of these, RODNEY is firmly on the up and is taken to complete the hat-trick following commanding victories at Leicester and Hereford. Regal Renaissance may well have won had she stayed on all fours here in December and is feared most ahead of Toothless, who regained the winning thread at Windsor on New Year's Day. Joker de Mai is also worth a second look.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. RODNEY 2. REGAL RENAISSANCE 3. TOOTHLESS

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025	**Post Chaise** 8-10-13	10-1	Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero	Toby Wynne (3)	7
2024	**Demnat** 7-11-4	15-2	Venetia Williams	Charlie Deutsch	5
2022	**Isolate** 6-10-12	5-2f	Alan King	Tom Cannon	6

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

3.33 RACE 5

LATE ROY KNELLER 85th BIRTHDAY MARES' HANDICAP HURDLE (Series Final) (4) 4yo+ fillies and mares (Rated 0-120) £9,000 2m5f55y (4270 Metres)

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

Ludlow is a sharp, right-handed, oval track, with a nine-fence chase circuit about a mile and a half and a run-in of 250 yards, requiring riders to steer left after the last to avoid taking the wrong course. Probably on account of so may races being well run the fences claim far more casualties than might be expected, Ludlow sitting comfortably in the top half dozen for fallers and unseats. The hurdle course, which runs on the outside of the chase course, has easier turns. Whereas the chase course is flat, the hurdle course has slight undulations but they rarely provide difficulties for a long-striding horse.

Pace Information: **Strong**

1 **GREYVAL (FR) (39)** **99**
2511-5206 **7** 12-0 | 76.2kg
Fergal O'Brien — ***Jonathan Burke***
Landed 2m4f handicap hurdles at Chepstow/Cheltenham last spring. Below form in a couple of runs over fences this term before posting a creditable sixth of 10 back in this sphere at Kempton (3m) in December. Needs considering off a 3 lb lower mark.

2 **MASKED DANCE (FR) (49)** (CD) **98**
930P-2251 **8** 11-12 | 75.3kg
Mel Rowley — ***Charlie Deutsch***
Resumed winning ways with a career best in 7-runner handicap hurdle over C&D (soft) 49 days ago. Up 5 lb but that form has been franked so she's not taken lightly.

3 **DRAMATIC ENCORE (IRE) (60)** s **97**
4412-34 **6** 11-8 | 73.5kg
Harry Derham — ***Paul O'Brien***
Made a winning hurdles debut at Huntingdon last February but lightly raced since and she came in a well-held fourth of 7 in 2m4f Sandown handicap in December. More is needed with cheekpieces added.

4 **PISMO BEACH (IRE) (35)** t **96**
6243-1543 **6** 11-7 | 73.0kg
Stuart Edmunds — ***Charlie Hammond***
Returned to win 2m4f novice at Hexham in October and not discredited when third of 12 in novice at Warwick (21f, good to soft) 35 days ago. In the mix with a tongue strap now fitted.

5 **NOTNOWLINDA (IRE) (74)** **90**
2814/22-09 **9** 11-7 | 73.0kg
Dan Skelton — ***Tristan Durrell***
Winless since early 2024 and she's yet to fire after 18 months off in a pair of handicap hurdles at Newbury and Ascot this November. Has work to do.

6 **MAGICAL MAGGIE (63)** (C) **98**
1435/563-4 **9** 11-7 | 73.0kg
Alastair Ralph — ***Ciaran Gethings***
Course winner who wasn't disgraced after 17 months off the track when fourth of 6 in handicap hurdle here (15.8f, good to soft) 63 days ago, fading from last flight. Can build on it here.

7 **OUR BILL'S AUNT (IRE) (62)** t **90**
6/233121-4 **10** 11-6 | 72.6kg
Alex Hales — ***Toby McCain-Mitchell*** (5lb/2kg)
Signed off last term with 2m4f victory at Wetherby in February but off 9 months before coming in a remote fourth in 2m4f Leicester handicap 62 days ago. Needs to take a major step forward.

8 **SALLYVILLE LADY (IRE) (47)** ★ **100**
32 **6** 11-5 | 72.1kg
Dan Skelton — ***Harry Skelton***
Irish point winner who has shown some promise when placed in a pair of novice hurdles at Warwick and Uttoxeter this winter, second of 5 in 22f event on latter occasion. Goes into handicaps on a handy-looking mark so she's a player for top yard.

9 **HARD DEALT (IRE) (40)** **98**
642-1622 **6** 11-2 | 70.8kg
Henry Daly — ***David Bass***
Irish point winner who has made an encouraging start to her Rules career, landing 2½m Worcester novice last spring. Good second of 7 in 2m4f Aintree handicap on Boxing Day too so must enter calculations.

10 **HELLFIRE PRINCESS (77)** s **97**
961/24-01 **9** 10-11 | 68.5kg
Kerry Lee — ***Conor O'Farrell***
Back to form with a bang to win Ffos Las mares' handicap (2¾m, soft) in November, albeit very much suited by the way that developed. A 6 lb rise might leave her vulnerable here though.

11 **VICTORIA MILANO (IRE) (18)** (CD) t **92**
8P/62653-F **8** 10-11 | 68.5kg
Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero — ***Craig Nichol***
Dual 2m/2m5f hurdles winner in 2023/24 for Alastair Ralph. Generally below par last season though and again for his new yard on back of a wind op in 2m5f Haydock handicap 18 days ago. Others are more appealing all the same.

11 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

9-2 Masked Dance, **6-1** Sallyville Lady, **6-1** Hellfire Princess, **15-2** Magical Maggie, **8-1** Hard Dealt, **9-1** Pismo Beach, **12-1** Dramatic Encore, **16-1** Victoria Milano, **22-1** Greyval, **25-1** Notnowlinda, **33-1** Our Bill's Aunt

TIMEFORM VIEW:

A case can be made for lots of these but Dan Skelton's SALLYVILLE LADY looks to have got in quite lightly for her handicap bow so edges the vote from C&D scorer Masked Dance. In-form pair Hard Dealt and Pismo Beach can also have a say, while Magical Maggie completes the shortlist.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. SALLYVILLE LADY 2. MASKED DANCE 3. HARD DEALT

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025	**Looking As You Are** 6-11-13	4-1	Alex Hales	Kielan Woods	8
2024	**Della Casa Lunga** 6-11-8	18-1	Clive Boultbee-Brooks	Richard Patrick	7
2022	**Bellatrixsa** 5-10-12	11-8f	Venetia Williams	Harry Bannister	6

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

4.07 RACE 6

WATCH RACINGTV HANDICAP HURDLE (5) 4yo+ (Rated 0-100) £7,000 2m5f55y (4270 Metres)

GBI RACING

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

Ludlow is a sharp, right-handed, oval track, with a nine-fence chase circuit about a mile and a half and a run-in of 250 yards, requiring riders to steer left after the last to avoid taking the wrong course. Probably on account of so may races being well run the fences claim far more casualties than might be expected, Ludlow sitting comfortably in the top half dozen for fallers and unseats. The hurdle course, which runs on the outside of the chase course, has easier turns. Whereas the chase course is flat, the hurdle course has slight undulations but they rarely provide difficulties for a long-striding horse.

Pace Information: **Even**

1 UNLEASH THE BEAST (IRE) (75) **99**
56527-7 **7** 12-0 | 76.2kg
Fergal O'Brien — ***Jonathan Burke***
Race-by-race progress in trio of maiden hurdles at around 16f. Hasn't been seen to best effect sent handicapping last 2 starts, needing a stiffer test when well held at Chepstow (16.1f, soft) on return, so he could get back on the up over this longer trip.

2 FOLLOWING CHAPTER (35) ★ **100**
954-41 **6** 12-0 | 76.2kg
Alastair Ralph — ***Gavin Sheehan***
Making second start in handicaps, looked suited by the step back up in trip when opening account at Warwick (19f, good to soft) 5 weeks ago. Form from last time has been boosted since and he's a major player with more to offer over this longer distance.

3 WINDSOR BLUE (IRE) (49) **93**
3-46354 **5** 12-0 | 76.2kg
Henry Daly — ***Sam Twiston-Davies***
Made the frame in both bumper outings and promise at this C&D on second of 3 quick runs in maiden hurdles this season. However, wasn't able to improve on handicap debut when fourth of 7 back here (soft) in December, so she has something to find.

4 MOORLAND RAMBLER (26) s **98**
2741-7473 **8** 11-13 | 75.7kg
Mrs Jane Williams — ***Ciaran Gethings***
Doubled his tally on second start in cheekpieces when winning at Ffos Las 11 months ago. Form has been mixed this season, though one of better efforts when third at Exeter (21.6f, soft) 26 days ago. Task is now to back up his latest run.

5 LION OF THE DESERT (IRE) (18) h **93**
0-8957309 **6** 11-13 | 75.7kg
Grace Harris — ***Joe Anderson*** (3lb/1kg)
Some promise in Irish maidens for previous yard, but offered little on stable/handicap debut at Exeter in December and was let down by jumping at Taunton (23.9f, soft) 18 days ago. Looks to be up against it.

6 TIMES A WASTIN (IRE) (46) **94**
3-3455775 **7** 11-12 | 75.3kg
Tony Carroll — ***Robert Dunne***
Largely campaigned in bumpers (fair form) in Ireland but went the wrong way in 3 starts over hurdles for Fergal O'Brien. Seemed unsuited by drop back in trip on stable debut when fifth of 15 in handicap at Hereford (16.2f, soft) in December, though improvement required.

7 MOONLIGHTINTHEPARK (IRE) (36) t **91**
467 **5** 11-12 | 75.3kg
Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero — ***Craig Nichol***
Runner-up sole start in Irish points and looks to have been brought gradually in 3 novice hurdles, in first-time hood when seventh of 10 at Haydock (15.6f, good) 36 days ago. Bred for longer trips so she's capable of better with tongue strap added for handicap bow.

8 SHUIL CEOIL (IRE) (26) (D) v **97**
54125-032 **8** 11-12 | 75.3kg
Neil Mulholland — ***Bradley Harris*** (3lb/1kg)
Took advantage of reduced mark when striking back in this sphere at Fontwell (21.8f) a year ago. After a couple of lesser efforts to start the current campaign, returned to form in first-time visor when second at Exeter (21.6f, soft) last time, so he could be in the mix.

9 OCEAN WALZ (FR) (231) **73**
22/280-6 **6** 11-6 | 72.6kg
Rosemary Gasson — ***Ben Poste***
Runner-up all 3 outings in bumpers but well held in 2 starts over hurdles for Tom Symonds last winter. Likely needed the run when down the field at Worcester (16f, good to firm) on stable debut in June and, while off again since, handicaps should be more suitable.

10 MY FORTUNE (IRE) (25) **94**
0-65F4 **6** 11-4 | 71.7kg
Ben Pauling — ***Ben Jones***
Didn't offer much in a bumper and first 3 starts over hurdles, but showed more when fourth of 7 in novice at Kempton (16f, good) 25 days ago. Still looked a work in progress last time and is open to further progress upped in trip for handicap debut.

11 GETAWAY SAM (IRE) (23) **69**
5-U0P8P **6** 10-6 | 66.2kg
Matt Sheppard — ***Ned Fox*** (5lb/2kg)
Mid-field in a bumper for Nigel Twiston-Davies but little form over hurdles for current yard, though shaped like a non-stayer when pulled up on handicap debut at Hereford (25.5f, soft) 23 days ago. Others still more persuasive.

12 CATBOY (FR) (35) **95**
6P0F87U0 **6** 10-4 | 65.3kg
Christian Williams — ***Jack Tudor***
Sole victory came back in September 2024 and form has been mixed this season, though there were better signs before unseating over fences at this course (16f) in November. Well held back hurdling at Uttoxeter last time, but he's on a handy mark if on a going day.

13 OUTBACK FRONTIERS (IRE) (73) s **88**
9P-05042P **10** 10-2(9-9) | 64.4kg (61.2kg)
John O'Shea — ***Fern O'Brien*** (5lb/2kg)
Eleven runs since last win in 2024 and has been below his best during the current campaign, including tried again over fences last 3 starts. Reverts to hurdling but has enough to prove from 7 lb out of the weights.

13 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

5-2 Following Chapter, **11-2** Shuil Ceoil, **9-1** Unleash The Beast, **9-1** Moorland Rambler, **14-1** Moonlightinthepark, **14-1** Catboy, **16-1** My Fortune, **16-1** Times A Wastin, **18-1** Ocean Walz, **22-1** Windsor Blue, **28-1** Getaway Sam, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

FOLLOWING CHAPTER showed improved form when making his second handicap start a winning one at Warwick last time and, with this step up in trip promising to suit, he is taken to score again now that he's up and running. Unleash The Beast also looks interesting over this longer distance and could be the main danger, ahead of Shuil Ceoil.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. FOLLOWING CHAPTER 2. UNLEASH THE BEAST 3. SHUIL CEOIL

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

4.42 RACE 7

PLYVINE CATERING CHASE MEREDITH MEMORIAL OPEN HUNTERS' CHASE (4) 6yo+ £6,600 2m7f171y (4780 Metres)

GBI RACING

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

Ludlow is a sharp, right-handed, oval track, with a nine-fence chase circuit about a mile and a half and a run-in of 250 yards, requiring riders to steer left after the last to avoid taking the wrong course. Probably on account of so may races being well run the fences claim far more casualties than might be expected, Ludlow sitting comfortably in the top half dozen for fallers and unseats. The hurdle course, which runs on the outside of the chase course, has easier turns. Whereas the chase course is flat, the hurdle course has slight undulations but they rarely provide difficulties for a long-striding horse.

Pace Information: **Very Weak**

1 **BARDENSTOWN LAD (266)** (D, BF) **97**
1P510UF-P **11** 12-6 | 78.9kg
Warwick Ryan-Beswick ***Mr Darren Andrews*** (3lb/1kg)
Point winner last February and followed up back under Rules in a 3m Fakenham hunter later that month. Two of his 4 subsequent starts have been in top hunters at the big festivals but it's hard to defend his latest display at Newton Abbot where he jumped poorly. Debut for new yard.

2 **BARTON SNOW (IRE) (250)** **97**
686/741-11 **9** 12-6 | 78.9kg
J. J. O'Shea ***Mr Henry Crow*** (5lb/2kg)
Made it 3-3 in hunters when doing the job well at Stratford last May. Proved his wellbeing with a wide-margin victory between the flags 17 days ago and this 9-y-o remains open to improvement in this sphere.

3 **WHAT A GLANCE (327)** t **98**
2/110- **11** 12-6 | 78.9kg
Tom Britten ***Mr Frederick Philipson-Stow*** (7lb/3kg)
Would have a big chance if able to reproduce his form from a couple of seasons back and while he failed to fire on sole start under Rules last term, that was in the Foxhunters at the Cheltenham Festival. Spin between the flags in December will have blown away the cobwebs and he needs a second look.

4 **JEFFERY'S CROSS (IRE) (63)** (CD) **100**
P41-23332 **10** 12-2 | 77.1kg
Dan Skelton ***Mr Sean O'Connor*** (5lb/2kg)
Winner of first hunter over C&D last spring and solid second at Cheltenham next time. Has performed with credit on 2 of his 3 starts in handicap chases this season and he's a big player for last year's winning yard.

5 **PROHUS YANK (IRE) (1339)**
11 11-12 | 75.3kg
Miss H. Brookshaw ***Miss Amber Jackson-Fennell*** (7lb/3kg)
Didn't show much in a handful of points last winter and not seen out under Rules since finishing well held in an Irish bumper back in June 2022.

6 **REWRITETHERULES (IRE) (392)** (D) **74**
P3PPP/P9F- **12** 11-12 | 75.3kg
Fred Timmis ***Mr Huw Edwards*** (3lb/1kg)
Multiple point winner but rarely shows his form in hunters, struggling when falling 4 out in latest start in this sphere at Taunton last January.

6 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

6-5 Barton Snow, **13-8** Jeffery's Cross, **15-2** What A Glance, **12-1** Bardenstown Lad, **66-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

The vote goes to BARTON SNOW, who is unbeaten in three hunters and proved his wellbeing when sauntering home in an open point last month. Jeffery's Cross looks rock-solid in this context and he is clearly the main danger, with What A Glance best of the rest.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. BARTON SNOW 2. JEFFERY'S CROSS 3. WHAT A GLANCE

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025	**Frere d'Armes** 8-12-6	11-4	Dan Skelton	Miss Heidi Palin (5)	5
2024	**Captain Tommy** 10-12-6	20-1	Fred Timmis	Mr Huw Edwards (7)	5
2022	**Pont Aven** 9-11-12	6-4f	J. P. Owen	Alex Chadwick (7)	9

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race