

Saturday 10th January

KEMPTON



12.20 JOIN CORAL BET £10 GET £50 NOVICES' HURDLE (3) 2m (3220 Metres)

RACE 1 **(2) BARON NOIR | (6) GAMBINO | (4) SWINGIN SAFARI**

12.55 CORAL "DAILY REWARDS SHAKER" HANDICAP CHASE (3) 2½m110y (4120 Metres)

RACE 2 **(4) LEADER IN THE PARK | (5) OLD COWBOY | (6) PESO**

1.30 CORAL RACING CLUB JOIN FOR FREE JUVENILE HURDLE (3) 2m (3220 Metres)

RACE 3 **(1) PRECIOUS MAN | (6) POURQUOI PAS PAPA | (8) WERTPOL**

2.05 CORAL "NEW" HORSE RACING BET BUILDER HANDICAP CHASE (2) 3m (4830 Metres)

RACE 4 **(3) THE DOYEN CHIEF | (4) WELCOM TO CARTRIES | (1) SOUL ICON**

2.40 CORAL SILVINIACO CONTI CHASE (Grade 2) (1) 2½m110y (4120 Metres)

RACE 5 **(3) KALIF DU BERLAIS | (4) EDWARDSTONE | (1) MASTER CHEWY**

3.17 CORAL LANZAROTE HANDICAP HURDLE (2) 2m5f (4220 Metres)

RACE 6 **(6) LANESBOROUGH | (12) A PAI DE NOM | (1) FRENCH SHIP**

3.53 CORAL "PIPPED-AT-THE-POST" PAYOUTS HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier) (3) 2m (3220 Metres)

RACE 7 **(2) RARE EDITION | (6) QUAVISTE | (4) WE'RE RED AND BLUE**

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.

12.20**JOIN CORAL BET £10 GET £50 NOVICES' HURDLE (3) 5yo+
£15,000 2m (3220 Metres)**

RACE 1

GBI RACINGGoing: **Good (Good to Soft in places)**

Right handed, flat. It's a very fair course but, whilst the fences aren't necessarily regarded as stiff, the casualty rate has been high in recent seasons. Can represent a much stiffer test of stamina than expected on soft/heavy going.

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

Pace Information: **Weak****1 SHABALCO D'HERM (FR) (35) (D) 93**

2-115 6 11-10 | 74.4kg



Nigel & Willy Twiston-Davies

Sam Twiston-Davies

£140,000 recruit after easily winning Irish point and he went 2-2 in novice hurdles this winner at Uttoxeter and Bath. Faced a stiff task when last of 5 in Sandown listed hurdle last time but in the mix back in these calmer waters.

2 BARON NOIR (IRE) (32) (D) 100

38/13-121 6 11-6 | 72.6kg



Alan King

Tom Bellamy

Useful dual bumper scorer who has taken very well to hurdling, building on Warwick second when going one better at Uttoxeter (2m, heavy) last month. Had a bit in hand there and looks capable of better again. Player.

3 KOCKTAIL BLEU (FR) (42) 93

23-15 6 11-6 | 72.6kg



Chris Gordon

Freddie Gordon

Placed both outings in bumpers and made a winning start over hurdles in 2m2f maiden at Fontwell in November. Perhaps stretched by 20.5f trip when only fifth at Newbury later that month so better expected returned to 2m.

4 SWINGIN SAFARI (IRE) (25) 96

2/144-F1 6 11-6 | 72.6kg



Paul Nicholls

Harry Cobden

Useful bumper winner who got off the mark in this sphere in 18-runner at Wincanton (15.2f, soft) 25 days ago, staying on well. Open to improvement and very much one to consider.

5 CAN U FEEL IT (IRE) (24) h 77

509 5 11-0 | 69.9kg



Christian Williams

Toby McCain-Mitchell (5lb/2kg)

Made frame in an Irish point but well held in bumper/novice hurdles this winter. Sort to better over further in due course.

6 GAMBINO (IRE) 58

5 11-0 | 69.9kg



Dan Skelton

**Harry Skelton**

Gowran maiden winner on Flat debut for Noel Meade in April and he ran a cracker when runner-up in 1m4f Flat handicap there 4 months later. Rates an interesting prospect now going hurdling for top yard.

7 MY FORTUNE (IRE) (24) 58

0-65F 6 11-0 | 69.9kg



Ben Pauling

Ben Jones

Son of Milan who beat just one in 2m novices at Sandown and Leicester in November. Fell first at Newbury 24 days ago so not easy to make a case for.

8 THE EGYPTIAN GINGE (IRE) (49) h 99

942-55 5 11-0 | 69.9kg



Nigel & Willy Twiston-Davies

Mr Jamie Neild (7lb/3kg)

Fair form in bumpers last season. Well held in a useful Cheltenham conditions race and Haydock Grade 2 since switching to hurdles but he must enter calculations now his sights are lowered.

8 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

2-1 Baron Noir, **7-2** Swingin Safari, **4-1** Gambino, **9-1** Cocktail Bleu, **11-1** The Egyptian Ginge, **11-1** Shabalko D'herm, **66-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

A few of these offer potential but the vote goes to BARON NOIR who holds the clear edge on form and looked to have something left in the tank when going in at Uttoxeter last time out. Dan Skelton's new recruit Gambino was a fairly useful winner on the Flat and could emerge as the main danger starting out in this sphere, although Wincanton scorer Swingin Safari and Nigel and Willy Twiston-Davies' pair The Egyptian Ginge and Shabalko d'Herm can't be discounted either.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. BARON NOIR 2. GAMBINO 3. SWINGIN SAFARI

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:2024 **Gentle Slopes** 7-11-0

4-5f Nicky Henderson

James Bowen

10









12.55**CORAL "DAILY REWARDS SHAKER" HANDICAP CHASE (3)
5yo+ (Rated 0-140) £22,000 2½m110y (4120 Metres)**

RACE 2

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

Right handed, flat. It's a very fair course but, whilst the fences aren't necessarily regarded as stiff, the casualty rate has been high in recent seasons. Can represent a much stiffer test of stamina than expected on soft/heavy going.

Pace Information: **Even**

	1	OUTLAW PETER (IRE) (65) (CD, BF)	t		88
		23112/95-3 10 12-0 76.2kg			
		Paul Nicholls		Freddie Gingell	
		Enjoyed a fruitful first campaign over fences but raced only twice last season and turned in a lacklustre effort when last of 3 at Newbury on return. Bit to prove now.			
	2	GO WEST (IRE) (28) (C, D)			96
		5111P-12 8 11-12 75.3kg			
		Paul Nicholls		Harry Cobden	
		Completed the hat-trick over hurdles when making all in a 3-runner Kempton novice (21f, good) in April and looked a natural when winning a match race on chase bow at Warwick on return. Only just edged out at Doncaster since and remains of interest.			
	3	LOOKAWAY (IRE) (24)			97
		2035/13-33 9 11-12 75.3kg			
		Neil King		Jack Quinlan	
		Useful hurdler who achieved a similar level of form in 2 chases 14 months ago, winning at Uttoxeter before third in Grade 2 novice at Cheltenham. Off 11 months (had wind op), showed he retains his ability when third in hurdle at Uttoxeter and chase at Newbury both starts this season.			
	4	LEADER IN THE PARK (IRE) (42) (CD)			100
		14/51136-2 8 11-9 73.9kg			
		Ben Pauling		Ben Jones	
		Improved to land back-to-back novice handicaps over C&D/Warwick last season. Shaped with plenty of encouragement when second at Newbury on return and looks the type to win handicaps this season.			
	5	OLD COWBOY (12) (D)			99
		334132-31 6 11-3 71.2kg			
		Gary & Josh Moore		Freddie Mitchell (3lb/1kg)	
		Fairly useful novice hurdler last season and already a better chaser, leaving chase bow/return well behind when winning at Newbury 12 days ago, impressing in all respects and value for extra over the result. Will go on improving.			
	6	PESO (IRE) (24)			93
		412-4 7 11-1 70.3kg			
		Jonjo & A.J. O'Neill		Jonjo O'Neill Jr.	
		Placed in an Irish point and he showed fairly useful form in 3 starts over hurdles last season. Shaped encouragingly after 11 months off when fourth on chase bow at Newbury last month and sure to come on for that.			

6 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

11-4 Old Cowboy, **7-2** Leader In The Park, **9-2** Go West, **5-1** Lookaway, **7-1** Peso, **14-1** Outlaw Peter

TIMEFORM VIEW:

LEADER IN THE PARK had a couple of subsequent winners behind him when an excellent second at Newbury on return and this C&D winner shades the vote over Old Cowboy, who impressed when winning on his second chase start at Newbury. Peso made an eye-catching return at the same track and could also figure.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. LEADER IN THE PARK 2. OLD COWBOY 3. PESO

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2024	Pepe Le Moko	6-10-10	5-6f	Mrs Jane Williams	David Noonan	5
2023	Quick Draw	7-10-9	5-4f	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boinville	7
2022	Falco Blitz	8-11-12	7-1	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boinville	7
2021	Smarty Wild	7-11-2	5-2f	Philip Hobbs	Richard Johnson	8

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

1.30**CORAL RACING CLUB JOIN FOR FREE JUVENILE HURDLE (3)
4yo £15,000 2m (3220 Metres)**

RACE 3

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

Right handed, flat. It's a very fair course but, whilst the fences aren't necessarily regarded as stiff, the casualty rate has been high in recent seasons. Can represent a much stiffer test of stamina than expected on soft/heavy going.

Pace Information: **Even**

1 **PRECIOUS MAN (FR) (56)** (BF) t **100**
2-12 4 11-0 | 74.4kg



Dan Skelton **Harry Skelton**
Looked highly promising in France for Daniela Mele when winning second of 2 starts over hurdles at Auteuil (17.5f, soft) last May. Yard debut second in Triumph Hurdle trial at Cheltenham (16.5f) was most encouraging and he's the one to beat despite his 10 lb penalty. Had wind surgery.

2 **CHARTWELL JOCK (14)** **69**
6 4 11-0 | 69.9kg



Seamus Mullins **Daniel Sansom (3lb/1kg)**
A fairly useful 9.5f winner on Flat for Andrew Balding but finished a remote sixth when 50/1 for his C&D hurdle debut over Christmas.

3 **DISSIDENT (29)** b **85**
31 4 11-0 | 69.9kg



Gary & Josh Moore **Conor O'Farrell**
Proved regressive on the Flat but all the better for hurdle debut experience with first-time blinkers added when bagging 8-runner juvenile maiden at Doncaster (16.4) 29 days ago.

4 **FRANK STAMPER (25)** h **53**
3 4 11-0 | 69.9kg



Warren Greatrex **James Bowen**
Fair maiden on the Flat (stays 1½m) for Jamie Osborne. Shaped better than a remote third suggests on last month's Catterick hurdle debut for Warren Greatrex, paying for an overly aggressive ride. Has a hood added now. Capable of better.

5 **KING AL (36)** **91**
5 4 11-0 | 69.9kg



Alan King **Tom Bellamy**
Fairly useful Flat winner. 8/1, ran to a fair level when 8 lengths fifth of 8 in 2m Sandown juvenile (soft) on hurdle debut 5 weeks ago. Entitled to improve.

6 **POURQUOI PAS PAPA (FR) (36)** (BF) **96**
22 4 11-0 | 69.9kg



Paul Nicholls **Harry Cobden**
Promising second in newcomers hurdle at Clairefontaine in June and, following a €200,000 sale from David Cottin yard, again offered plenty when runner-up in a 2m juvenile hurdle at Sandown (soft) on stable debut last month. Bold show likely. Engaged 1.32 Exeter Friday.

7 **SENATOR (FR)** 4 11-0 | 69.9kg



Jamie Snowden **Joe Anderson (3lb/1kg)**
Fair form when third both outings on the Flat in France. Changed hands for €140,000 last summer. Joined a good stable for his hurdle career and it'll be interesting to see what the betting makes of him.

8 **WERTPOL (IRE) (11)** (D) **92**
1 4 11-0 | 69.9kg



Harry Derham **Paul O'Brien**
Fair maiden on Flat in Ireland (stays 1¾m) who overcame a few scruffy leaps to make a successful yard/hurdles switch in 11-runner Taunton juvenile 11 days ago, jumping right last and drawing clear. In good hands and he's very much the type to improve.

9 **WISE COUNSELLOR** 4 11-0 | 69.9kg



Daniel Steele **Jack Quinlan**
Fairly useful maiden at best on Flat (stays 1¾m), well held last 3 starts. Sold from Andrew Balding 6,000 gns in October and now goes hurdling.

9 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

evens Precious Man, **9-2** Pourquoi Pas Papa, **8-1** Wertpol, **8-1** King Al, **14-1** Dissident, **25-1** Senator, **50-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

PRECIOUS MAN looked a smart recruit for Dan Skelton when second in a Cheltenham Grade 2 juvenile in November and will take a bit of stopping here if improving as expected. Pourquoi Pas Papa made a promising start for Paul Nicholls when second at Sandown last month and is second choice ahead of Wertpol.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**1. PRECIOUS MAN 2. POURQUOI PAS PAPA 3. WERTPOL****WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**2024 **Kalif du Berlais** 4-11-8 4-5f Paul Nicholls Harry Cobden 6**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race









2.05

RACE 4

CORAL "NEW" HORSE RACING BET BUILDER HANDICAP CHASE (2) 5yo+ (Rated 0-145) £35,000 3m (4830 Metres)Going: **Good (Good to Soft in places)**

Right handed, flat. It's a very fair course but, whilst the fences aren't necessarily regarded as stiff, the casualty rate has been high in recent seasons. Can represent a much stiffer test of stamina than expected on soft/heavy going.

Pace Information: **Very Weak**

1	SOUL ICON (63) (C, BF)	t	98
	2241629-U 9 12-0 76.2kg Keiran Burke Prolific over hurdles and won a Grade 2 handicap chase here (2m) last Christmas. Failed to build on that in 3 subsequent runs last term but best not judged on his reappearance when unseating in the Badger Ales at Wincanton (25.1f) in November. This can see him in a better light.		Sam Twiston-Davies
2	YOUR DARLING (IRE) (50)		99
	91P/1-4 11 11-9 73.9kg Ben Pauling Often finds less than looks likely but he is a 4-time winner over fences, latterly at Uttoxeter (20f) in spring 2024. Shaped as if retaining his ability despite his old failings being in evidence when last of 4 on belated return at Ascot (21f) in November and that has to be a concern ahead of this.		Ben Jones
3	THE DOYEN CHIEF (IRE) (29) (CD)	 	100
	33211-2P5 9 11-9 73.9kg Alan King On the up with handicap wins over C&D and Warwick last March and shaped well when second on return at Bangor. Easy to overlook his Newbury run next time and he was quickly back to form when fifth at Cheltenham (26.3f) 4 weeks ago, his stamina ebbing away late. Interesting back at 3m.		Tom Bellamy
4	WELCOM TO CARTRIES (FR) (36) (D)	t	97
	128/442-61 8 11-5 72.1kg Paul Nicholls Useful hurdler and similar standard over larger obstacles, leaving his reappearance run in his wake when prevailing in a narrow finish at Sandown (24.2f) 5 weeks ago. Definite possibilities with a repeat having been nudged up 4 lb.		Harry Cobden
5	BEACHCOMBER (FR) (14) (CD)	b	97
	32P16-3PP 8 11-5 72.1kg Jonjo & A.J. O'Neill Career best when landing a C&D handicap in first-time blinkers last Christmas. Signed off with a good third in Pat Taaffe Chase at Punchestown in May but he's yet to fire in pair of starts so far this winter. Has it to prove at present.		Jonjo O'Neill Jr.
6	SEA INVASION (IRE) (37)	b+t	95
	236321-16 8 10-2(9-13) 64.4kg (63.0kg) Anthony Honeyball Went back-to-back at Plumpton (25.7f) in the spring. Without headgear mix and looked rusty after 7 months off when sixth of 7 in handicap chase at Wincanton (20.2f, soft) 37 days ago and this tougher again up in class from out of the weights. Blinkers/tongue tie refitted.		Ben Godfrey

6 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

5-2 Welcom To Cartries, **3-1** The Doyen Chief, **7-2** Soul Icon, **15-2** Your Darling, **10-1** Sea Invasion, **12-1** Beachcomber

TIMEFORM VIEW:

C&D winner THE DOYEN CHIEF ran well for a long way when fifth in a much deeper handicap at Cheltenham 4 weeks ago, only finding his stamina ebbing away late in the day. A return to this less demanding track can see Alan King's strong-travelling type to much better effect and he can strike. Sandown scorer Welcome to Cartries and Soul Icon could be the dangers.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. THE DOYEN CHIEF 2. WELCOM TO CARTRIES 3. SOUL ICON

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2024	Flegmatik 9-11-5	7-2	Dan Skelton	Tristan Durrell (3)	7
2023	Annsam 8-11-6	7-2	Evan Williams	Adam Wedge	7
2022	Caribbean Boy 8-11-12	9-2	Nicky Henderson	James Bowen	8
2021	Double Shuffle 11-11-2	4-1	Tom George	James Bowen	11

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race








2.40**CORAL SILVINIACO CONTI CHASE (Grade 2) (1) 5yo+
£80,000 2½m110y (4120 Metres)**

RACE 5

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

Right handed, flat. It's a very fair course but, whilst the fences aren't necessarily regarded as stiff, the casualty rate has been high in recent seasons. Can represent a much stiffer test of stamina than expected on soft/heavy going.

Pace Information: **Uncontested**

1	MASTER CHEWY (IRE) (15) (C)	96
	F3156-247 9 11-8 73.5kg Nigel & Willy Twiston-Davies Out of his depth since a good second in Old Roan Chase (19.9f) at Aintree on his return in October. In slightly calmer waters now, however, and has been successful at this course before. Not out of things.	<i>Sam Twiston-Davies</i>
2	BOOMBAWN (IRE) (34) (C, D)	 98
	315245-44 9 11-5 72.1kg Dan Skelton  Useful hurdler and proved even better switched to fences last term, bagging the Grade 2 Rising Stars at Wincanton. Mostly creditable efforts in defeat since but needs to bounce back from a disappointing effort in the Peterborough Chase last month.	<i>Harry Skelton</i>
3	KALIF DU BERLAIS (FR) (64) (C, BF)	 100
	13/F1141-4 6 11-5 72.1kg Paul Nicholls Developed into one of the leading novice 2m chasers last season, winning 3 times, including Grade 1 at Aintree on final start, again impressing with jumping. Proved somewhat disappointing when third in Haldon Gold Cup at Exeter on return but has been freshened up since and remains with potential.	<i>Harry Cobden</i>
4	EDWARDSTONE (34) (C)	99
	3F2354-42 12 11-2 70.8kg Alan King Smart chaser who has registered 7 victories over the larger obstacles. Put below-par Cheltenham return behind him when creditable second in Peterborough Chase at Huntingdon (19.9f, soft) last month and receives weight from all his rivals here.	<i>Tom Cannon</i>

4 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

5-6 Kalif Du Berlais, 7-2 Edwardstone, 7-1 Boombawn, 7-1 Master Chewy

TIMEFORM VIEW:

KALIF DU BERLAIS remains a top-class prospect over fences despite his Exeter reverse and looks ready for another crack at this longer trip. He can get back on track here. Edwardstone acquitted himself well behind Djelo at Huntingdon last month and is feared most.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. KALIF DU BERLAIS 2. EDWARDSTONE 3. MASTER CHEWY

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2024	Banbridge 8-11-5	3-1	Joseph Patrick O'Brien	J. J. Slevin	5
2023	Pic d'Orhy 8-11-8	6-4f	Paul Nicholls	Harry Cobden	6
2022	Mister Fisher 8-11-6	15-8f	Nicky Henderson	James Bowen	4
2021	Master Tommytucker 10-11-0	2-1	Paul Nicholls	Harry Cobden	4

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

3.17

CORAL LANZAROTE HANDICAP HURDLE (2) 4yo+ £100,000
2m5f (4220 Metres)

RACE 6



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

Right handed, flat. It's a very fair course but, whilst the fences aren't necessarily regarded as stiff, the casualty rate has been high in recent seasons. Can represent a much stiffer test of stamina than expected on soft/heavy going.

Pace Information: **Strong**

1	FRENCH SHIP (42) (D) 12141-F11 6 12-0 76.2kg Philip Hobbs & Johnson White <i>Callum Pritchard (3lb/1kg)</i> Three-time novice hurdle winner last season and has taken it up another notch in handicaps on his return, winning big-field events at Cheltenham in October and Newbury (20.5f, good to soft) in November. His new mark demands a very smart performance but no surprise were he to find it.	99
2	CAPTAIN TEAGUE (IRE) (407) (D, BF) 1210/14- 8 11-7 73.0kg Paul Nicholls <i>Harry Cobden</i> Grade 1 novice hurdle winner in 2023/24 season. Walked over in Exeter novice chase in November 2024 so effectively making his chase debut when fourth in Newbury Grade 2 novice later that month. Absent since. Reverts to hurdles on return from a mark which is workable on his peak form.	97
3	DOUBLE POWERFUL (IRE) (9) (D) h 1233-3UFU 7 11-4 71.7kg Neil Mulholland <i>Conor O'Farrell</i> Progressive over hurdles last season but things haven't gone to plan since a promising chase debut on reappearance, extending a run of non-completions through no fault of his own (badly hampered) when unseating back over hurdles 9 days ago. Definite player at his best.	96
4	IBERICO LORD (FR) (29) (C) ★ P/1F40-099 8 11-4 71.7kg Nicky Henderson <i>James Bowen</i> Former Greatwood and Betfair Hurdle winner but hard to know much of that ability remains as he's been below par back hurdling since a fall over fences at Ascot last December, including at Cheltenham last month. It remains to be seen whether a step up in trip helps to spark a revival.	100
5	BEAT THE BAT (IRE) (36) 12/2754-53 8 11-2 70.8kg Harry Fry <i>Bryan Carver</i> Useful hurdler who shaped with promise after 7 months off third of 4 in maiden at Exeter (17.5f, soft) on his debut over fences 5 weeks ago. Returns to timber now and he's no stranger to good runs in competitive handicap hurdles (including fourth in last season's Coral Cup at Cheltenham Festival).	98
6	LANESBOROUGH (IRE) (28) 557221-1 7 10-12 68.9kg Ben Pauling <i>Ben Jones</i> Firmly on the upgrade since sent handicapping, bolting up when sent off a heavily-backed 5/4 favourite on 16.5f Doncaster reappearance in December. Has form at up to 19.5f. Almost certainly capable of better again and even a 14 lb rise may not stop him.	99
7	WRECKLESS ERIC (21) 1/F12620-7 6 10-10 68.0kg Jonjo & A.J. O'Neill <i>Kielan Woods</i> Won strong novice handicap at Cheltenham last November. Ran another cracker when narrowly denied in Imperial Cup at Sandown last March and presumably needed his first run for 9 months when mid-field in 2m Ascot handicap just before Christmas. Stamina a concern (below par over 2½m last season).	97
8	KING OF THE LAKE (14) (D) t 77111-341 8 10-10 68.0kg Jeremy Scott <i>Chad Bament (7lb/3kg)</i> Made it 4 wins in his last 6 starts when accounting for 9 rivals at Chepstow (23.5f) 14 days ago. A further 5 lb rise means he'll need a career best if he's to enhance his good recent strike-rate.	96
9	IKE SPORT (FR) (15) h 4054-2052 8 10-9 67.6kg Neil Mulholland <i>Sam Twiston-Davies</i> Best effort since returning to action when second of 9 over an extended 3m at Wincanton on Boxing Day. This looks a more competitive race.	97
10	KRAK (FR) (15) 3331-637 6 10-7 66.7kg Nigel & Willy Twiston-Davies <i>J. J. Slevin</i> Handicap hurdle winner at Cork last April on his final start for Stuart Crawford. Well held in Persian War at Chepstow on reappearance/stable debut. Has run a bit better in a couple of handicap chases since without recapturing the level of last season's hurdle form. Others are more obvious.	89

11	GOODWIN (IRE) (22) (D) v 6-P014512 8 10-7 66.7kg Chris Gordon <i>Rian Corcoran (7lb/3kg)</i> Front-runner who landed his second handicap win of the season when seeing off 8 rivals in 20.5f Plumpton handicap in November. Just as good when second of 12 at Ascot (21.5f) since.	97
12	A PAI DE NOM (37) (D) 25-1211 6 10-6 66.2kg Dan Skelton <i>Harry Skelton</i> Made it 3-4 over hurdles when cosily seeing off 5 rivals in 2m Leicester novice last month. Prior to that he won a big-field handicap at Cheltenham over this trip. Almost certainly capable of even better and major player for a top stable seeking a third successive win in this race.	97
13	JUST ENNEMI (FR) (38) (BF) 16/1-3 6 10-6 66.2kg Harry Derham <i>Paul O'Brien</i> Quick to make into useful hurdler in France, winning twice at Auteuil. Changed hands for €320,000 after but off for 15 months prior to finishing last of 3 in Haydock maiden chase in December. Entitled to strip fitter now back hurdling but he's a hard one to be confident about at present.	95
14	CAME FROM NOWHERE (IRE) (21) t 1/33-321 7 10-6 66.2kg Jeremy Scott <i>Lorcan Williams</i> Lightly raced 7yo who has improved over hurdles since handicapping, building on 2m Wincanton second when going one better at Hereford (19.5f, soft) with a tongue tie added. Could be more to come.	97
15	FASOL (9) s+t 9123-5511 7 10-5 65.8kg Paul Nicholls <i>Miss Olive Nicholls (5lb/2kg)</i> Useful winning stayer on Flat in France. It's taken a bit of time but he looks to be on his way to reaching a similar level over hurdles, following November's Wetherby novice success with a win in 2½m Musselburgh handicap on New Year's Day. Respected up 6 lb.	97
16	YELLOW STAR (FR) (30) (D) s 74/435F-71 6 10-3 64.9kg Gary & Josh Moore <i>Freddie Mitchell (3lb/1kg)</i> Ran no sort of race on hurdle return in November but totally different proposition when a 4-length winner at Warwick (21f, soft) last month. Did that comfortably but his overall record raises doubts about him backing it up.	97
17	JUST A ROSE (FR) (30) 1P-5 7 10-3 64.9kg Paul Nicholls <i>Freddie Gingell</i> Point winner who looked a useful recruit to hurdling when scoring at Taunton last January. Found the Dawn Run at the Cheltenham Festival a shock to the system next time but back on track with sights lowered when fifth in 19f Taunton handicap on reappearance in December. Entitled to build in that.	98

17 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

11-2 Lanesborough, **8-1** A Pai De Nom, **9-1** French Ship, **12-1** Captain Teague, **12-1** Just Ennemi, **14-1** Beat The Bat, **14-1** Fasol, **16-1** Came From Nowhere, **20-1** Iberico Lord, **20-1** Double Powerful, **22-1** Yellow Star, **22-1** Goodwin, **22-1** King of The Lake, **25-1** Wreckless Eric, **28-1** Just A Rose, **28-1** Ike Sport, **66-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

LANESBOROUGH was very impressive on his Doncaster reappearance and is taken to cope with a 14 lb hit from the handicapper. A Pai de Nom is another very progressive sort and is likely to make a bold bid to provide Dan Skelton with a hat-trick of wins in this race. French Ship, Beat The Bat and Fasol also make the shortlist.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. LANESBOROUGH 2. A PAI DE NOM 3. FRENCH SHIP

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2024	Jay Jay Reilly 8-11-3	33-1	Dan Skelton	Tristan Durrell (3)	19
2023	West Balboa 7-10-11	12-1	Dan Skelton	Bridget Andrews	20
2022	Cobblers Dream 6-10-10	10-1	Ben Case	Jack Quinlan	19
2021	Boreham Bill 9-11-0	66-1	Emma Lavelle	Ben Jones (3)	20

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

3.53

RACE 7

CORAL "PIPPED-AT-THE-POST" PAYOUTS HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier) (3) 4yo+ (Rated 0-130) £18,000 2m (3220 Metres)Going: **Good (Good to Soft in places)**

Right handed, flat. It's a very fair course but, whilst the fences aren't necessarily regarded as stiff, the casualty rate has been high in recent seasons. Can represent a much stiffer test of stamina than expected on soft/heavy going.

Pace Information: **Strong****1 WILLIETHEBUILDER (IRE) (14) (CD) 94**

948-36321 7 12-2 | 77.1kg

Christian Williams

Toby McCain-Mitchell (5lb/2kg)

Wetherby handicap winner for Dan Skelton last November. Better with each of his 4 runs new yard this season, most recently landing a C&D handicap under a well-judged ride from Toby McCain-Mitchell a fortnight ago. 8 lb rise elevates him to a career-high mark but he's impossible to discount.

2 RARE EDITION (IRE) (21) (CD) s ★ 100

0124F-24P 9 11-13 | 75.7kg

Charlie Longsdon

Daire McConville (7lb/3kg)

Good second to the hugely progressive Thistle Ask on return in a Kelso handicap chase in October. Not in the same form next 2 starts (pulled up latest) but very interesting back hurdling here (2-2 over timber at this course; 4-10 overall as a hurdler) off an attractive mark. Cheekpieces refitted.

3 WASHINGTON (14) (D) 93

1100-1075 10 11-13 | 75.7kg

Harry Derham

Megan Fox (7lb/3kg)

Registered a third victory for current yard when bagging a 6-runner handicap hurdle on return at Chepstow (2m, good to firm) in October. However, consistency not his strong suit in recent seasons and little impact since, including when well held in recent C&D handicap won by Williethebuilder.

4 WE'RE RED AND BLUE (34) (D) 95

21P187-01 6 11-6 | 72.6kg

Jonjo & A.J. O'Neill

Jonjo O'Neill Jr.

Free-going sort won a maiden/novice hurdle last term. Unable to showcase his hurdling ability on reappearance at Aintree (omitted hurdles) but showed the benefit of that seasonal curtain-raiser when striking at Huntingdon (15.8f, soft) last month. 6 lb rise fair enough and he's one to consider.

5 KING WILLIAM RUFUS (FR) (22) (D) ✓ 94

16601-4P0 9 11-5 | 72.1kg

Chris Gordon

Freddie Gordon

Ended last season on a high, winning a Cheltenham handicap hurdle and started present campaign by finishing an encouraging fourth of 12 in another during the autumn. However, he has failed to fire in both subsequent starts and is likely to come up short once again.

6 QUAVISTE (FR) (15) (D) 97

10-8U2 6 10-11 | 68.5kg

Dan Skelton

Harry Skelton

Looked useful when winning a Huntingdon bumper on debut last February. Disappointing favourite on hurdles debut in October but has shown greater promise since, recently finishing second in what looked a decent Market Rasen novice (16.6f, good). In top hands and mark for this handicap bow looks fair.

7 COURAGEOUS STRIKE (29) (D) h 96

21-152 5 10-11 | 68.5kg

Paul Nicholls

Harry Cobden

Fair on the Flat in Ireland and won 2 of his 3 starts over hurdles for this yard last spring. Wasn't disgraced when runner-up on second run of this season/in handicap company in a 3-runner affair at Doncaster (16.6f, soft) and first-time hood worn that day is retained. Still, improvement is needed.

8 OAKLEY'S WAY (IRE) (25) (BF) t 96

3F/44-2613 6 10-2(10-1) | 64.4kg (64.0kg)

Anthony Honeyball

Ben Godfrey

Jumped with more fluency when making his second handicap start a winning one at Taunton (19f, good to firm) in November. Backed that up when third in a better race at Wincanton since but this handicap is stronger still. Looks vulnerable for win purposes.

8 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

10-3 Quaviste, **4-1** Williethebuilder, **9-2** We're Red And Blue, **11-2** Rare Edition, **15-2** Oakley's Way, **8-1** Courageous Strike, **28-1** King William Rufus, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

RARE EDITION's latest effort over fences at Ascot was poor but it could be that the return to hurdles will help provide a spark. Indeed, he is 2-2 here, his latest success coming in this race off a 7 lb higher mark in 2024, and he appears to be pretty versatile ground-wise. Handicap debutant Quaviste looks dangerous and is feared most ahead of last-time-out scorers We're Red And Blue and Williethebuilder.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. RARE EDITION 2. QUAVISTE 3. WE'RE RED AND BLUE

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2024	Rare Edition 7-12-0	11-8f	Charlie Longsdon	Harry Cobden	6
2023	Deere Mark 6-11-1	15-8f	Sam Thomas	Sam Twiston-Davies	7
2022	First Street 5-11-12	11-2	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boinville	10
2021	Millers Bank 7-11-5	7-1	Alex Hales	Harry Bannister	8

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race