

Wednesday 11th February

## WETHERBY

**1.51** WATCH RACING TV IN STUNNING HD 'CHASING EXCELLENCE' NOVICES' CHASE (3) 2m3f85y (3900 Metres)

RACE 1 **(1) GAMESTERS GUY | (2) I AM MAX**

**2.21** [wetherbyracing.co.uk](http://wetherbyracing.co.uk) NOVICES' HURDLE (4) 2m3f154y (3960 Metres)

RACE 2 **(1) BOBBY'S NELSON | (3) SWINDON VILLAGE | (2) BOSSMAN JACK**

**2.51** BOOK TICKETS NOW AT [wetherbyracing.co.uk](http://wetherbyracing.co.uk) JUVENILE HURDLE (Qualifier) (4) 2m (3220 Metres)

RACE 3 **(2) MERCI MAM | (1) KLYCOT | (3) LOVE SONNET**

**3.21** [racingtv.com](http://racingtv.com) HANDICAP CHASE (Qualifier) (4) 3m45y (4870 Metres)

RACE 4 **(7) EXPRESS SURPRISE | (6) PADDY O'MAHLER | (2) HEEZTHEBOY**

**3.51** WETHERBY RACECOURSE & CONFERENCE CENTRE HANDICAP HURDLE (3) 2m3f154y (3960 Metres)

RACE 5 **(2) TORMUND GIANTS BANE | (6) CAPTAIN BUTLER | (3) WOODLAND PARK**

**4.21** FOLLOW [@racingtv](http://racingtv) ON X 'HANDS AND HEELS' HANDICAP HURDLE (Conditional Jockeys & Amateur Riders) (5) 2m3f154y (3960 Metres)

RACE 6 **(7) DE DELI COUNTER | (3) ANOTHER HIGH FIVE | (6) SCAIRP DUBH**

## 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.

**1.51**

RACE 1

**WATCH RACING TV IN STUNNING HD 'CHASING EXCELLENCE'**  
**NOVICES' CHASE (3) 5yo+ £15,000 2m3f85y (3900**  
**Metres)**

**GBI RACING**Going: **Soft (Heavy in places (prec inspection 8am))**

Left handed, galloping. Nine fences to a circuit again now, though the four in the home straight have been switched to the inside of the hurdles track after problems caused by the realignment of the nearby A1. The signs are the fences still punish those who aren't accurate. It's a very fair test for any horse but is ideal for the free-running, long-striding sort.

Pace Information: **Very Weak**

**1 GAMESTERS GUY (26) (D)**  **100**

1/2142-315 7 11-10 | 74.4kg



Oliver Greenall &amp; Josh Guerriero

Dual bumper winner who showed useful form over hurdles last season. Confirmed chasing début promise when beating sole rival at Doncaster (24f, soft) in December, before shaping better than result when last of 5 in handicap at Windsor 26 days ago. Leading claims.

**2 I AM MAX (IRE) (46)**  **88**

2234-1045 8 11-10 | 74.4kg

Sandy Thomson 

Developed a positive record over hurdles last season and made a winning return tried again over fences in handicap at Hexham (20.1f, good) in October. However, he hasn't been in the same form since so looks to face a difficult task.

2 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:****2-9 Gamesters Guy, 4-1 I Am Max****TIMEFORM VIEW:**

This looks a good opportunity for GAMESTERS GUY to double his tally over fences having paid the price for racing too keenly on handicap chase début at Windsor last time. Back down in trip he can get the better of I Am Max, who hasn't gone on from making a winning start this season.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:****1. GAMESTERS GUY 2. I AM MAX****SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

2.21

wetherbyracing.co.uk NOVICES' HURDLE (4) 4yo+  
£10,000 2m3f154y (3960 Metres)

RACE 2

GBI RACING

## Going: Soft (Heavy in places (prec inspection 8am))

Left handed, galloping. Nine fences to a circuit again now, though the four in the home straight have been switched to the inside of the hurdles track after problems caused by the realignment of the nearby A1. The signs are the fences still punish those who aren't accurate. It's a very fair test for any horse but is ideal for the free-running, long-striding sort.

## Pace Information: Even

1	<b>BOBBY'S NELSON (IRE) (34)</b> (D)	2/21	7	11-9   73.9kg	 100
	Philip Hobbs & Johnson White				<b>Sean Houlihan</b>
	Promising individual who improved further to get off the mark at the third time of asking over hurdles in 12-runner novice (10/3) at Ffos Las (20f, heavy) 20 days ago, impressing with the way he jumped/travelled up in trip. Sort to go on progressing and looks capable of defying a penalty.				
2	<b>BOSSMAN JACK (34)</b>	1-31	6	11-9   73.9kg	96
	Dan Skelton				<b>Harry Skelton</b>
	Impressive winner of sole outing in bumpers at Wincanton and confirmed hurdling debut promise when mastering a previous winner after the last in 11-runner novice at Ffos Las (15.8f, heavy) 34 days ago, well on top finish. Bred to be at least as effective over this trip and open to more improvement.				
3	<b>SWINDON VILLAGE (IRE) (26)</b>	136-313	6	11-9   73.9kg	98
	Charlie Longsdon				<b>David Bass</b>
	6-figure point purchase who was highly tried after making a winning bumper debut last season. Excellent start over hurdles, third in a strong Ffos Las maiden before running out a decisive winner at Leicester (20.5f). Seemed not to get home upped in trip at Windsor since and remains with potential.				
4	<b>AU PLAISIR (FR) (27)</b>	0300	5	11-2   70.8kg	t 70
	Rebecca Menzies				<b>Nathan Moscrop</b>
	Some promise in bumpers but looks one for the longer term in this sphere judged on his opening effort at Newcastle last month.				
5	<b>FOREVER LOUIE (51)</b>	62	5	11-2   70.8kg	86
	Rebecca Menzies				<b>Ross Chapman</b>
	Half-brother to 3 winners, including bumper winner/fairly useful hurdler Ryedale Racer. Built on debut promise when second in 7-runner bumper at Musselburgh (15.6f, good to soft) in December, lacking pace of winner. Longer trip should suit now hurdling.				
6	<b>JONNY SETASIDE (FR)</b>	5	11-2   70.8kg	86	
	Tom Ellis				<b>Jack Andrews</b>
	€45,000 3-y-o, Dink gelding. Dam unraced half-sister to smart hurdler/high-class chaser (winner around 2m) Hinterland and French hurdler/chase winner (17f-214m winner) Lotte Place. Yard in good form and needs a close look in the betting ahead of debut.				
7	<b>KING KODIAK (IRE) (45)</b>	75U-0P	7	11-2   70.8kg	s 70
	George Bewley				<b>Jonathon Bewley</b>
	Looks decidedly limited on early evidence. First-time cheekpieces now tried.				
8	<b>NORDIC GIFT (IRE)</b>	7	11-2   70.8kg	79	
	Rebecca Menzies				<b>Mr Philip Thomas (7lb/3kg)</b>
	Frozen Fire gelding. Dam failed to complete all 3 starts in points. Makes little appeal on paper and most likely best watched unless the betting suggests otherwise.				
9	<b>PASSING DIAMOND (IRE) (63)</b>	436	6	11-2   70.8kg	85
	Ben Haslam				<b>K. Brogan</b>
	Fair form when in the frame in a pair of bumpers for David O'Brien in Ireland last summer but finished a remote sixth on Hereford hurdle debut on sole outing for Neil Mulholland in December.				
10	<b>THE FOREMAN (1376)</b>	8	11-2   70.8kg	79	
	Joel Parkinson & Sue Smith				<b>Peter Kavanagh</b>
	Beat only one home in a Haydock bumper on debut back in May 2022 and not seen since.				

## BETTING FORECAST:

2-1 Bobby's Nelson, 5-2 Swindon Village, 3-1 Bossman Jack, 16-1 Jonny Setaside, 18-1 Forever Louie, 40-1 bar

## TIMEFORM VIEW:

Previous winners BOBBY'S NELSON, Swindon Village and Bossman Jack look the trio to concentrate on, with narrow preference for the first named, who impressed with the way he jumped and travelled when opening his account at Ffos Las on his most recent outing and looks up to defying a penalty.

## TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. BOBBY'S NELSON 2. SWINDON VILLAGE 3. BOSSMAN JACK

## WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025 Wendigo 6-11-9 1-11f Jamie Snowden Gavin Sheehan 10

## SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

**2.51****BOOK TICKETS NOW AT [wetherbyracing.co.uk](http://wetherbyracing.co.uk) JUVENILE HURDLE (Qualifier) (4) 4yo £10,000 2m (3220 Metres)**

RACE 3

**GBI RACING****Going: Soft (Heavy in places (prec inspection 8am))**

Left handed, galloping. Nine fences to a circuit again now, though the four in the home straight have been switched to the inside of the hurdles track after problems caused by the realignment of the nearby A1. The signs are the fences still punish those who aren't accurate. It's a very fair test for any horse but is ideal for the free-running, long-striding sort.

**Pace Information: Very Weak**

**1 KLYCOT (FR) (20) (D)**  
4121 4 11-12 | 75.3kg

  **100**

Richard Bandey

**Harry Bannister**

Fairly useful winner on Flat in France who is proving steadily progressive over hurdles, defying a penalty at the second attempt in emphatic fashion over C&D last month. Likeable type who must be respected despite having to concede weight all round.

**2 MERCI MAM (FR) (104)**  
1 4 11-7 | 73.0kg

**96**

Dan Skelton

**Harry Skelton**

Made a successful hurdling debut in 11-runner juvenile at Lyon Parilly (16.9f, heavy) for Hugo Merienne in November. Sold for a whopping €520,000 subsequently and seems sure to improve having joined a top yard.

**3 LOVE SONNET (IRE) (56) (D)**  
211 4 11-5 | 72.1kg

**94**

Tim Vaughan

**James Davies**

Progressive 2-time scorer on the Flat in Ireland and has made a bright start to her hurdle career, improving further to follow up from Hereford in 10-runner juvenile at Newbury (16.3f) in December, suited by way race developed. Limit may not yet have been reached.

**4 CAPTAIN CONNOR (FR) (20)**  
348 4 11-0 | 69.9kg

**78**

Mark Walford

**Jamie Hamilton**

Placed sole outing in bumpers but has achieved little both starts over hurdles. Handicaps presumably up after this.

**5 BLONDINA (IRE) (41)**  
9 4 10-7 | 66.7kg

**56**

Adam Nicol

**Joshua Thompson (5lb/2kg)**

Modest maiden on the Flat for Jim Bolger who offered little sent hurdling after 7 months off when down the field in juvenile hurdle at Musselburgh (15.6f, good to soft) on New Year's Day. Low-grade handicaps sure to be more her bag further down the line.

**5 DECLARED RUNNERS****BETTING FORECAST:**

5-4 Merci Mam, 9-4 Klycot, 11-4 Love Sonnet, 66-1 bar

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

MERCI MAM was purchased for an eye-watering €520,000 after making a successful hurdling debut in France in November and, open to plenty of improvement on first outing for the Skeltons, he's fancied to maintain his unbeaten record before going on to better things. Klycot and Love Sonnet have taken well to this discipline and warrant obvious respect.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:****1. MERCI MAM 2. KLYCOT 3. LOVE SONNET****WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**2025 **Live Conti** 4-11-7 1-9f Dan Skelton Harry Skelton 8**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

**3.21****racingtv.com HANDICAP CHASE (Qualifier) (4) 5yo+  
(Rated 0-120) £10,000 3m45y (4870 Metres)**

RACE 4

**GBI RACING**Going: **Soft (Heavy in places (prec inspection 8am))**

Left handed, galloping. Nine fences to a circuit again now, though the four in the home straight have been switched to the inside of the hurdles track after problems caused by the realignment of the nearby A1. The signs are the fences still punish those who aren't accurate. It's a very fair test for any horse but is ideal for the free-running, long-striding sort.

Pace Information: **Very Weak**

<b>1</b>	<b>PIMLICO POINT (IRE) (13)</b> (D) 1U/2SP-2SP 9 11-12   75.3kg	b+t	<b>95</b>
	Kerry Lee Runner-up at Worcester last summer but hasn't built on that in only 2 starts since, looking rusty after 3 months off when pulled up at Wincanton (25.1f, heavy) 13 days ago. However, he's now dropped below last winning mark if blinkers have a positive effect.	<b>Tom Cannon</b>	
<b>2</b>	<b>HEEZTHEBOY (IRE) (22)</b> (CD, BF) 66-12113 9 11-8   73.5kg		<b>98</b>
	Gary Hanmer Much improved since joining current yard, winning 4 of first 5 starts this season including over C&D in November. Run of good form halted when well-beaten third at Leicester (22.7f, soft) 22 days ago, but it's too soon to be writing him off.	<b>J. Hogan</b>	
<b>3</b>	<b>EATON ANNE (IRE) (71)</b> (BF) 241175-47 8 11-7   73.0kg		<b>99</b>
	Olly Murphy Won back-to-back handicap hurdles last winter but progress has stalled since, again prominent in the market when last of 7 at Southwell (24.3f, good to soft) in December. However, was successful in his only Irish point, so he's not ruled out now chasing.	<b>Sean Bowen</b>	
<b>4</b>	<b>LATENIGHTRUMBLE (24)</b> (CD) 3122P-588 9 11-7   73.0kg	s+t	<b>95</b>
	Tom Ellis Made a winning handicap chase debut at this C&D in December 2024, but ended last term on a low key note and is yet to fire this season, eighth of 16 at Windsor (28.7f, soft) 24 days ago. Drops in grade though others more persuasive at present.	<b>Jack Andrews</b>	
<b>5</b>	<b>FENLAND TIGER (15)</b> 3117/7204 10 11-5   72.1kg	s	<b>98</b>
	Sam England Three-time chase winner in 2023/24 and making second start back from a lengthy absence he proved that he retains ability when runner-up at Carlisle in November. Stiff task next time, but lesser effort at Newcastle (23.4f, heavy) 15 days ago. Cheekpieces now reached for.	<b>Jonathan England</b>	
<b>6</b>	<b>PADDY O'MAHLER (IRE) (43)</b> (C, D) 5145-2211 8 11-5   72.1kg	s	<b>99</b>
	Joel Parkinson & Sue Smith Has quickly developed into a better chaser than hurdler in 4 starts this season, making it back-to-back wins when knuckling down well for success at Haydock (25.6f, good) 6 weeks ago. The front pair pulled clear last time and he's not taken lightly.	<b>Danny McMenamin</b>	
<b>7</b>	<b>EXPRESS SURPRISE (IRE) (24)</b> (CD) 3143-3114 7 11-2   70.8kg	t	<b>100</b>
	Clive Boulbee-Brooks	<b>Ned Fox (3lb/1kg)</b>	
	Took a step forward when doubling his tally at this C&D in December, before following up at Uttoxeter later the same month. Continued in good form when fourth of 16 at Windsor (28.7f, soft) 24 days ago and he's a major player back down slightly in grade.		

7 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**15-8** Paddy O'Mahler, **5-1** Heeztheboy, **13-2** Express Surprise, **13-2** Eaton Anne, **8-1** Pimlico Point, **9-1** Fenland Tiger, **16-1** Latenightrumble

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

Preference is for EXPRESS SURPRISE who has taken his form up a notch this season, recording back-to-back wins before running well when fourth in a competitive contest at Windsor last time. He can gain a second C&D success, though Paddy O'Mahler is respected in his hat-trick bid, with Heeztheboy also in the mix as he bids for a fifth win of the campaign.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. EXPRESS SURPRISE 2. PADDY O'MAHLER 3. HEEZTHEBOY**

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2025 **Sound And Fury** 8-12-1 13-2 Ben Pauling Kielan Woods 8

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

3.51

RACE 5

**WETHERBY RACECOURSE & CONFERENCE CENTRE HANDICAP**  
**HURDLE (3) 4yo+ (Rated 0-130) £17,500 2m3f154y**  
**(3960 Metres)**
**GBI RACING****Going: Soft (Heavy in places (prec inspection 8am))**

Left handed, galloping. Nine fences to a circuit again now, though the four in the home straight have been switched to the inside of the hurdles track after problems caused by the realignment of the nearby A1. The signs are the fences still punish those who aren't accurate. It's a very fair test for any horse but is ideal for the free-running, long-striding sort.

**Pace Information: Weak**

1	<b>INTO THE PARK (IRE) (33)</b>	14/029-24P	7	12-0   76.2kg	s	96
	Philip Hobbs & Johnson White				<b>Toby McCain-Mitchell</b> (5lb/2kg)	
	Low-mileage sort who has shaped well after 8 months off when in the frame in 2m4f handicap hurdles at Uttoxeter and Sandown this winter. Should make a chaser but ran no sort of race with cheekpieces on for his first try at Exeter last month and quickly reverts to hurdles.					
2	<b>TORMUND GIANTS BANE (IRE) (68)</b>	(D)	12-14	6   11-13   75.7kg		99
	Dan Skelton				<b>Harry Skelton</b>	
	Bumper winner who made a successful hurdling debut at Carlisle in November. Matched that stepping up markedly in class when fourth of 5 in Grade 2 hurdle at Sandown (13/2) the following month and looks a potential improver now handicapping for his top yard.					
3	<b>WOODLAND PARK (IRE) (42)</b>	(BF)	31/21-332	7   11-12   75.3kg		96
	Olly Murphy				<b>Sean Bowen</b>	
	Has stepped up his game since returning from a 12-month absence last November, latest when second of 8 in handicap hurdle at Uttoxeter (11/10 fav) 6 weeks ago, taking a while to knuckle down and wandering before the last. Nudged up another 2 lb but knocking at the door.					
4	<b>BARATABLET (IRE) (44)</b>	(D, BF)	22/131-14	6   11-10   74.4kg		97
	Nicky Richards				<b>Brian Hughes</b>	
	Progressed again when landing a 13-runner Newcastle handicap (20.3f, good to soft) in good style on his seasonal reappearance in December. The race may have come too soon when failing to land the odds at Kelso 18 days later and this 6-y-o may well get back on track here.					
5	<b>BERTIE'S BALLET (25)</b>		P362312-7	8   11-9   73.9kg		98
	Dianne Sayer				<b>Sean Quinlan</b>	
	Returned from 11 months off when seventh of 8 in handicap hurdle at Haydock (9/1) 25 days ago, shaping as if as good as ever but given considerate ride. Back up in trip and worth keeping an eye on having finished second in this corresponding race last season (now 3 lb lower).					
6	<b>CAPTAIN BUTLER (IRE) (25)</b>		1/15-2645	8   11-8   73.5kg		100
	Ruth Jefferson				<b>Craig Nichol</b>	
	Point winner who landed a Newcastle bumper and Kelso maiden hurdle for Pauline Robson. Good start for this yard when runner-up in Ayr handicap hurdle off this mark on reappearance in November. Below that level in 2 chases since but more like it reverted to hurdles since. Back up in trip a plus.					
7	<b>KINGSTON NARCISSUS (FR) (2)</b>	(D)	22/1-3317	7   11-7   73.0kg	t	95
	Rebecca Menzies				<b>Ross Chapman</b>	
	Returned to winning ways in handicap hurdle at Sedgefield (17/2) on Boxing Day, a first-time tongue strap replacing his usual hood helping him settle. Normally a consistent type but turned in a rare poor effort at Catterick on Monday.					
8	<b>BALLYGEARY (IRE) (47)</b>	(D)	284-3967	9   11-1   70.3kg		91
	Mike Sowersby				<b>William Maggs</b> (5lb/2kg)	
	Winless since June 2024 and fared no better after another breathing operation when seventh of 8 in handicap hurdle at Market Rasen (22/1) 47 days ago, carrying head awkwardly and never dangerous. Plenty to prove.					
9	<b>NORTH PARADE (IRE) (53)</b>		52847-844	11   10-9   67.6kg		97
	Joel Parkinson & Sue Smith				<b>Peter Kavanagh</b>	
	Without a win in nearly 2 years, inadequate test when fourth of 9 in handicap hurdle at Haydock (11/1) 53 days ago, making bad mistakes at fifth and 3 out before keeping on late without threatening. Poor jumping makes him a risky proposition.					

9 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**9-4** Tormund Giantsbane, **11-4** Woodland Park, **8-1** Baratablet, **10-1** Captain Butler, **12-1** Kingston Narcissus, **14-1** Bertie's Ballet, **14-1** Into The Park, **28-1** North Parade, **100-1** bar

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

Preference is for TORMUND GIANTS BANE, who wasn't suited by the way the race developed when down the field in a Sandown Grade 2 in December and Dan Skelton's charge can get back on the up now handicapping. His main danger may emerge from Captain Butler, who shaped encouragingly reverted to this sphere at Haydock recently and this step back up in trip should suit. Woodland Park has been knocking at the door this season and rounds off the shortlist.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. TORMUND GIANTS BANE 2. CAPTAIN BUTLER 3. WOODLAND PARK**

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2025	West To The Bridge	12-11-12	17-2	Dan Skelton	11
2024	Uncle Bert	7-11-7	7-2f	Nigel Twiston-Davies	James Turner (7)

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

4.21

RACE 6

**FOLLOW @racingtv ON X 'HANDS AND HEELS' HANDICAP  
HURDLE (Conditional Jockeys & Amateur Riders) (5) 4yo+  
(Rated 0-105) £6,000 2m3f154y (3960 Metres)**

**GBI RACING****Going: Soft (Heavy in places (prec inspection 8am))**

Left handed, galloping. Nine fences to a circuit again now, though the four in the home straight have been switched to the inside of the hurdles track after problems caused by the realignment of the nearby A1. The signs are the fences still punish those who aren't accurate. It's a very fair test for any horse but is ideal for the free-running, long-striding sort.

**Pace Information: Weak**

<b>1</b>	<b>KELLS PRIORITY (IRE) (125)</b>	<b>93</b>
080P36-07	9 12-0   76.2kg	
	<b>Olly Murphy</b>	<b>Mr Johnathan Rees (5lb/2kg)</b>
Fair handicap hurdler at best who never threatened on chasing debut when seventh of 10 in maiden chase at Tramore (18/1) 4 months ago, struggling from 3 out. Cheekpieces removed and certainly worth a market check starting out for a new yard back hurdling.		
<b>2</b>	<b>SPOT ON SOPH (IRE) (90) (D)</b>	<b>91</b>
32241325	10 11-13   75.7kg	t
	<b>Sam England</b>	<b>Miss Rebecca Hitchen (3lb/1kg)</b>
Won at Sedgefield in September and ran well when second at Bangor the following month, just no match for a younger rival. Ran a shocker at Market Rasen (4/1) when last seen 3 months ago so needs to get back on track but can.		
<b>3</b>	<b>ANOTHER HIGH FIVE (IRE) (44)</b>	<b>94</b>
5-23	6 11-10   74.4kg	
	<b>Lucinda Russell &amp; Michael Scudamore</b>	<b>Gregor Walkingshaw (3lb/1kg)</b>
Improving with each outing over hurdles, latest when third of 10 in maiden at Kelso (9/1) just over 6 weeks ago. Gave the strong impression he'll benefit from longer trips when handicapping that day, so he looks an interesting candidate.		
<b>4</b>	<b>JUSTUS (IRE) (19)</b>	<b>87</b>
012P/64P	8 11-7   73.0kg	s
	<b>Micky Hammond</b>	<b>Freddie Keighley</b>
Out of sorts since winning in April 2024, pulled up at Doncaster (16/1) 19 days ago. Isn't one to be interested in at present.		
<b>5</b>	<b>PRINCESSE MILANIA (IRE) (26) (C)</b>	<b>91</b>
80911338	6 11-6   72.6kg	
	<b>Mark Walford</b>	<b>Oscar Palmer</b>
Ran well in the autumn, including when scoring at this course. Run of good form came to an abrupt halt when tailed-off eighth of 9 in handicap hurdle at Market Rasen (13/2) 26 days ago but is the type to bounce back quickly.		
<b>6</b>	<b>SCAIRP DUBH (27)</b>	<b>93</b>
276564	6 11-2   70.8kg	
	<b>Joel Parkinson &amp; Sue Smith</b>	<b>Miss Venetia Thompson (5lb/2kg)</b>
Attracted support and left previous efforts behind when fourth of 16 in handicap hurdle at Newcastle (17/2) 27 days ago, albeit well positioned the way things panned out. That improved effort suggests he can be competitive in this grade.		
<b>7</b>	<b>DE DELI COUNTER (10)</b>	<b>100</b>
46PU2	5 10-10   68.0kg	v
	<b>Mark Walford</b>	<b>Mr Jack Stenhouse (3lb/1kg)</b>
Left previous hurdling efforts behind under a change of tactics when second of 9 in handicap at Market Rasen (25/1) 10 days ago, edged out in the final 50 yards having made most. Every chance he can go one better from the same mark.		
<b>8</b>	<b>NATUS VINCERE (IRE) (22) (BF)</b>	<b>61</b>
559-5	7 10-6   66.2kg	t
	<b>Olly Murphy</b>	<b>Mr Josh Myers (5lb/2kg)</b>
Joined present yard from Laura Morgan having shown little and having been gambled on, never featured on stable/handicap debut at Leicester (4/1 fav) just over 3 weeks ago. Interesting to see if her supports return from this unchanged mark.		
<b>9</b>	<b>WOT YOU WEARING (IRE) (31) (D)</b>	<b>85</b>
6P0P4P5-P	9 10-5   65.8kg	s+t
	<b>Fergal O'Brien</b>	<b>Miss Kayla Ruddy (5lb/2kg)</b>
Showed no more than he had been doing for his previous yard returning after 9 months off at Fontwell (3/1) 31 days ago, weakening from 3 out. Hard to make a case for.		
<b>10</b>	<b>GOLD RING (47)</b>	<b>83</b>
0608/POP-0	9 10-2(9-9)   64.4kg (61.2kg)	
	<b>Neil Mechie</b>	<b>Miss Natasha Cookson (3lb/1kg)</b>
It's been a while since he's shown anything worthwhile in either code, off 10 months prior to his Boxing Day return here. Easy swerve from out of the weights.		

10 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**3-1** Spot On Soph, **9-2** Kells Priory, **6-1** Scairp Dubh, **15-2** De Deli Counter, **15-2** Another High Five, **10-1** Princesse Milania, **20-1** Natus Vincere, **20-1** Wot You Wearing, **40-1** bar

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

DE DELI COUNTER left previous hurdling efforts behind under a change of tactics when runner-up at Market Rasen 10 days ago and Mark Walford's 5-y-o is fancied to go one better at the expense of Another High Five, who is improving with each run and gave the impression he'll benefit from a longer trip now handicapping at Kelso last time. Scairp Dubh can edge out stable-switcher Kells Priory for minor honours.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. DE DELI COUNTER 2. ANOTHER HIGH FIVE 3. SCAIRP DUBH**

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2025 **Farmer Jimmy** 5-11-9 12-1 Mark Walford Mr Paddy Barlow 8

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race