

**1.20** JCB TRIUMPH HURDLE (Grade 1) (1) 2m179y (3380 Metres)

RACE 1 **(11) MINELLA STUDY | (17) HIGHLAND CRYSTAL | (15) PROACTIF**

**2.00** WILLIAM HILL COUNTY HANDICAP HURDLE (PREMIER HANDICAP) (1) 2m179y (3380 Metres)

RACE 2 **(21) TELLHERTHENAME | (23) SECRET SQUIRREL | (11) SIXANDAHALF**

**2.40** MRS PADDY POWER MARES' CHASE (Liberthine) (Grade 2) (1) 2½m127y (4140 Metres)

RACE 3 **(7) PANIC ATTACK | (2) DINOBLUE | (1) SPINDLEBERRY**

**3.20** ALBERT BARTLETT NOVICES' HURDLE (Spa) (Grade 1) (1) 2m7f213y (4820 Metres)

RACE 4 **(8) KAZANSKY | (2) DOCTOR STEINBERG | (18) THEDEVILUNO**

**4.00** BOODLES CHELTENHAM GOLD CUP CHASE (Grade 1) (1) 3¼m70y (5290 Metres)

RACE 5 **(8) JANGO BAIE | (3) GAELIC WARRIOR | (11) THE JUKEBOX MAN**

**4.40** PRINCESS ROYAL CHALLENGE CUP OPEN HUNTERS' CHASE (2) 3¼m70y (5290 Metres)

RACE 6 **(13) PANDA BOY | (4) CON'S ROC | (7) ITS ON THE LINE**

**5.20** MARTIN PIPE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP HURDLE (2) 2½m56y (4070 Metres)

RACE 7 **(21) ROC DINO | (8) KEL HISTOIRE | (6) KARL DES TOURELLES**

#### KEY TO SYMBOLS

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

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

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

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

**1.20****JCB TRIUMPH HURDLE (Grade 1) (1) 4yo £150,000**  
**2m179y (3380 Metres)**

RACE 1

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

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

Pace Information: **Very Strong**

**1 APOLON DE CHARNIE (FR) (181) 84**  
2 4 11-2 | 70.8kg



W. P. Mullins, Ireland **Mr P. W. Mullins**  
Last of 6 in maiden only outing on Flat but much more like it when 6 lengths second of 18 to Proactif in newcomers race at Auteuil on hurdling debut. Willie Mullins has acquired both and while this one hasn't raced since, that's no concern given yard he represents.

**2 BERTO RAMIREZ (19) 77**  
574 4 11-2 | 70.8kg



Andrew McNamara, Ireland **D. J. O'Keefe**  
Has garnered plenty of experience on the level without winning and right up against this on what he's achieved over hurdles.

**3 FANTASY WORLD (IRE) (20) 81**  
43 4 11-2 | 70.8kg



Nicky Henderson **Nico de Boinville**  
A useful performer on Flat who signed off for Andrew Balding with victory in 1m6f Ascot listed race in October. Changed hands for 600,000 gns after and looks expensive on what he's achieved both starts over hurdles. Cheekpieces go on and he is in expert hands.

**4 FORTY FIFTY (FR) (163) (BF) 77**  
4 4 11-2 | 70.8kg



W. P. Mullins, Ireland **Jonathan Burke**  
Tongue tied when 7¼ lengths fourth of 14 to Macho Man in newcomers hurdle at Auteuil. Has left N. George & A. Zetterholm and another to transfer to Willie Mullins. Quite a tall order on the face of it but yard won the race with a hurdles newcomer a year ago.

**5 INDIAN RIVER (IRE) (47) (D) 86**  
111 4 11-2 | 70.8kg



Adrian Keatley **Kielan Woods**  
Shaped well in a pair of 1m4f maidens in Ireland for John Joseph Murphy and has taken extremely well to hurdling for his new yard, able to shrug aside mistakes when completing the hat-trick on handicap debut at Sedgfield. This is a totally different environment but he's promising.

**6 KAI LUNG (FR) (47) 84**  
1 4 11-2 | 70.8kg



W. P. Mullins, Ireland **S. F. O'Keefe**  
Fairly useful Flat winner for Francois Rohaut who took advantage of a significant mistake from Mon Creuset when making a winning hurdles debut fitted with a hood at Naas in January. Could do with settling down and that aforementioned runner looks more interesting.

**7 LORD BYRON (IRE) (13) 88**  
244 4 11-2 | 70.8kg



Faye Bramley **Ben Jones**  
Fairly useful form when runner-up on second of 2 Flat starts for Aidan O'Brien and sound start over hurdles for new connections, 4 lengths fourth to Maestro Conti in Grade 2 Finesse at Cheltenham. Later errors told when occupying same spot at Kelso (with cheekpieces on) and limit looks established.

**8 MACHO MAN (FR) (58) (BF) 97**  
12 4 11-2 | 70.8kg



W. P. Mullins, Ireland **B. Hayes**  
Decisive winner of 14-runner juvenile at Auteuil for Gabriel Leenders and having joined Willie Mullins, he shaped well when second of 8 to stablemate Proactif at Fairyhouse in January. Expected to build on that and helps form a very strong hand for the yard.

**9 MAESTRO CONTI (FR) (48) (CD) 97**  
111 4 11-2 | 70.8kg



Dan Skelton **Harry Skelton**  
Made a winning debut in France for Noel George & Amanda Zetterholm and looked a smart recruit for Dan Skelton when readily following up at Kempton over Christmas. Overcame keenness and a slightly troubled passage to follow up in the Finesse on Trials Day and he could be smart.

**10 MINELLA ACADEMY (IRE) (110) 77**  
1 4 11-2 | 70.8kg



W. P. Mullins, Ireland **D. E. Mullins**  
Heavily backed and ran out an 8-length winner on debut at Cork for John Nallen in November. Bare form is ordinary but since transferred to Willie Mullins so he's open to plenty of progress.

**11 MINELLA STUDY (90) (CD) 100**  
111 4 11-2 | 70.8kg



Adam Nicol **Ryan Mania**  
Unbeaten in 3 hurdles (trained by John Nallen in Ireland for first win) making all in listed Wensleydale at Wetherby in October on first run for Adam Nicol. Improved again to comfortably see off a useful one over C&D in December and that form right up there with best on offer.

**12 MON CREUSET (FR) (47) (BF) 84**  
14 4 11-2 | 70.8kg



W. P. Mullins, Ireland **Harry Cobden**  
French bumper winner who was much better than end result starting out over hurdles for Willie Mullins at Naas in January, making a very serious error 2 out and not knocked about after. Backed at big prices for this and he could be a big improver.

**13 NORTH SHORE (FR) (39) 92**  
34 4 11-2 | 70.8kg



Gavin Patrick Cromwell, Ireland **Keith Donoghue**  
Useful on the Flat and made encouraging start in this sphere when 11 lengths third of 10 to Narciso Has in juvenile hurdle at Leopardstown on Boxing Day. Matched that form when fourth to that rival but has work to do with Selma de Vary.

**14 ONE HORSE TOWN (IRE) (20) (CD) 94**  
1111322 4 11-2 | 70.8kg



Harry Derham **Paul O'Brien**  
Fair Flat winner for this yard and won first 4 stats over hurdles, including making all in a Grade 2 here in November. Trio of placed efforts since suggests his form has levelled off and his ceiling has been ascertained.

**15 PROACTIF (FR) (58) 98**  
11 4 11-2 | 70.8kg



W. P. Mullins, Ireland **M. P. Walsh**  
Big-field winner at Auteuil and acquired by leading connections after, he looked potentially smart when delivering a very professional performance at Fairyhouse in January, 2¾ lengths too good for Macho Man. Demands respect.

**16 WOLF RAYET (IRE) (37) 84**  
243 4 11-2 | 70.8kg



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 3 hurdles runs this winter, albeit this is asking a lot.

**17 HIGHLAND CRYSTAL (IRE) (34) (D) 99**  
111 4 10-9 | 67.6kg



Gordon Elliott, Ireland **J. W. Kennedy**  
Looked a filly with a bright future when making a winning debut at PuncHESTOWN in November and continued theme of big race-by-race progress when completing the hat-trick at Naas last month. Runner-up that day emphatically boosted the form on Tuesday so she's on the shortlist.

**18 NOEMIE DE LA VIS (FR) (57) (BF) 84**  
2-2 4 10-9 | 67.6kg



W. P. Mullins, Ireland **D. King**  
Tongue tied and a big price when runner-up at Compiègne in April for Mme P. Butel & J-L. Beaunez. Unable to advance her form when occupying same spot starting out for Willie Mullins at Fairyhouse in January but she definitely has a bigger performance in her.

**19 SELMA DE VARY (FR) (39) 99**  
2-512 4 10-9 | 67.6kg



W. P. Mullins, Ireland **P. Townend**  
French recruit who won 13-runner fillies juvenile at Auteuil in November by 9 lengths. Transferred to Willie Mullins and very promising start when runner-up to stablemate Narciso Has pitched into the Spring Juvenile Hurdle at Leopardstown last month. Can improve again.

**20 TENTER LE TOUT (FR) (48) (D) 91**  
4116 4 10-9 | 67.6kg



Chester Williams **Gavin Sheehan**  
Supplemented hurdles debut success in the Grade 2 Finale at Chepstow over Christmas. That wasn't a deep race by Grade 2 standards and was put in her place by a couple of these in the Triumph Hurdle Trial (Finesse) over C&D latest.

20 DECLARED RUNNERS

**1.20****JCB TRIUMPH HURDLE (Grade 1) (1) 4yo £150,000  
2m179y (3380 Metres)**

RACE 1

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**7-2** Proactif, **9-2** Selma De Vary, **13-2** Minella Study, **8-1** Macho Man, **17-2** Maestro Conti, **10-1** Highland Crystal, **16-1** Mon Creuset, **33-1** Minella Academy, **40-1** bar

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

Willie Mullins saddles nearly half of the field but the British-trained MINELLA STUDY may trump them all for his small yard having created a very favourable impression over C&D in December. The runner-up that day did plenty for the form of that race on Tuesday and his limit hasn't been reached. Highland Crystal beat the Fred Winter winner last time so she demands respect, with Proactif perhaps the pick of the Closutton battalion.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. MINELLA STUDY 2. HIGHLAND CRYSTAL 3. PROACTIF**

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2025	<b>Poniros</b> 4-11-2	100-1	W. P. Mullins	Jonjo O'Neill Jr.	17
2024	<b>Majborough</b> 4-11-2	6-1	W. P. Mullins	M. P. Walsh	12
2023	<b>Lossiemouth</b> 4-10-9	11-8f	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	15
2022	<b>Vauban</b> 4-11-0	6-4f	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	12
2021	<b>Quilixios</b> 4-11-0	2-1	Henry de Bromhead	Rachael Blackmore	8

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

**2.00****WILLIAM HILL COUNTY HANDICAP HURDLE (PREMIER HANDICAP) (1) 5yo+ £110,000 2m179y (3380 Metres)**

RACE 2

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

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

Pace Information: **Very Strong**

**1 NDAAWI (111)** s **96**  
 3136/22-13 **6** 12-0 | 76.2kg



Gordon Elliott, Ireland

*J. H. Williamson (51lb/2kg)*

Very solid record in top-end handicaps, runner-up in Galway Hurdle and this race in 2024/25, prior to a career-best performance when awarded latest renewal of former race in July. Encouraging spin on Flat last month will put him spot on for this and he should give his running again.

**2 ABSURDE (FR) (327) (CD)**  **98**  
 16P41/31- **8** 11-13 | 75.7kg



W. P. Mullins, Ireland

*Mr P. W. Mullins*

Won with race in 2024 (third last year) and proved better than ever when very smart winner of Sussex Champion Hurdle in April. Unable to better previous efforts in Melbourne Cup when eighth in 2025 renewal but looks sure to be in the shake up on his return.

**3 BOWENSONFIRE (FR) (40) (D)** h **96**  
 U4333211 **6** 11-11 | 74.8kg



Gordon Elliott, Ireland

*J. W. Kennedy*

Thoroughly likeable type who is thriving on racing, finding marked improvement to win back-to-back handicaps at Leopardstown, latterly when knuckling down well to see off gambled-on I Started A Joke. Cannot be discounted in his bid for a hat-trick.

**4 KARBAU (FR) (47) (BF)** **95**  
 2/14103-32 **6** 11-8 | 73.5kg



W. P. Mullins, Ireland

*P. Townend*

Lightly-raced 6-y-o whose only blip came in last year's Supreme, and he was seemingly better than ever when runner-up in Grade 2 Limestone Lad at Naas on seasonal reappearance. That was a near-smart effort and given he's the pick of Paul Townend, it's highly likely there's better to come.

**5 HELLO NEIGHBOUR (IRE) (40)** h **95**  
 116-357 **5** 11-6 | 72.6kg



Gavin Patrick Cromwell, Ireland

*Keith Donoghue*

Progressive as a juvenile, sixth in the Triumph prior to finishing third in Grade 1 Champion 4-Y-O at Punchestown in May. Didn't come on for his reappearance when seventh in listed handicap last time, and while this has likely been the long-term target, his mark leaves little room for manoeuvre.

**6 WILFUL (IRE) (56) (BF)** **98**  
 84P1-2312 **7** 11-2 | 70.8kg



Jonjo &amp; A.J. O'Neill

*Jonjo O'Neill Jr.*

As good as ever this season, finishing ahead of Alexei/Mondo Man when successful in a race run to suit at Ascot in December and ran at least as well to finish runner-up in another valuable handicap at Windsor the following month. The form of the latter has taken a few knocks, however.

**7 PINOT GRIS (IRE) (40) (D)** b+t **96**  
 31/21287-0 **6** 11-1 | 70.3kg



Henry de Bromhead, Ireland

*D. J. O'Keeffe*

Had been off for 11 weeks prior to finishing eighth in this race for Gavin Cromwell last year (effort flattened out) and while he should be cherry ripe this time (had a pipe-opener at Leopardstown last month), minor honours likely beckon again.

**8 MURCIA (FR) (40) (D)** t **98**  
 18281-434 **5** 11-0 | 69.9kg



W. P. Mullins, Ireland

*D. E. Mullins*

Much-improved winner of Aintree Grade 1 as a juvenile and following a highly creditable reappearance behind Talk The Talk, wasn't seen to best effect when fourth in listed handicap at Leopardstown last month. Likely player for connections who won this race in 2025 with another very useful mare.

**9 TRIPOLI FLYER (IRE) (55) (D)** s **98**  
 116-3U452 **7** 11-0 | 69.9kg



Fergal O'Brien

*Fern O'Brien (51lb/2kg)*

Very useful bumper/novice hurdler who was back to his best when runner-up over longer trip on handicap bow at Ascot in January. Disappointing run on the Flat behind Constitution Hill since and while on a fair mark, he needs plenty to fall right in a very competitive race.

**10 HELVIC DREAM (IRE) (225)** t **97**  
 49/3252-51d **9** 10-13 | 69.4kg



Noel Meade, Ireland

*Donagh Meyler*

One-time very smart Flat performer who seemed hard done by when demoted in last year's Galway Hurdle, having beaten Ndaawi a head to finish first past the post. That was a career best and it's safe to assume this has been the target following trio of mid-field finishes on Flat last autumn.

**11 SIXANDAHALF (IRE) (74) (D)** **97**  
 2/112-324 **6** 10-11 | 68.5kg



Gavin Patrick Cromwell, Ireland

*C. Stone-Walsh (31lb/1kg)*

Powered through the race when collared late in Dawn Run over C&D last season but hasn't hit those heights since, finding less than looked likely over 2½m at Leopardstown in December. Makes first start in a big-field handicap now, though, and she should find this much more to her liking.

**12 JUBILEE ALPHA (IRE) (34) (C, D)** **99**  
 1181-2522 **7** 10-11 | 68.5kg



Paul Nicholls

*Harry Cobden*

Capped fine 2024/25 season with success in mares' listed novice over this course, and while second-best in three of 4 starts this campaign (again seemingly outstayed over 2½m at Warwick last time), a big-field handicap should suit her strong-travelling style.

**13 WILLIETHEBUILDER (IRE) (41)** **97**  
 8-3632114 **7** 10-10 | 68.0kg



Christian Williams

*Jack Tudor*

Perhaps surprisingly, has looked an improved model since leaving Dan Skelton, winning back-to-back 2m handicaps at Kempton and running at least as well in defeat when fourth in 'Scottish County' in late-January. Pitched into much deeper waters now but will likely benefit from a stronger pace.

**14 STICKTOTHEPLAN (FR) (83) (D)** t **96**  
 82121130 **6** 10-10 | 68.0kg



Olly Murphy

*Sean Bowen*

Off since finishing well held on handicap bow at Ascot in December and while subsequent breathing operation (also wears tongue strap) suggests all wasn't right that day, his handicap mark probably still overstates the value of his Persian War success earlier in the season.

**15 CRACKING RHAPSODY (IRE) (13)** **98**  
 0171-0666 **7** 10-8 | 67.1kg



Ewan Whillans

*Craig Nichol*

Gave his running when seventh in the 2025 County, though doesn't arrive on the back of a Morebattle success this time around, only sixth when bidding for a hat-trick in the race at Kelso last time. Hard to envisage him playing a leading role.

**16 JOYEUSE (FR) (55) (D)** s **99**  
 2169-2294 **7** 10-7 | 66.7kg



Nicky Henderson

*Nico de Boinville*

Impressive winner of William Hill Hurdle at Newbury last year and while disappointing over fences this season, confirmed she's very much working her way back to form in Grade 2 at Ascot last time. Could be in the mix if building on that performance.

**17 GIBBS ISLAND (41) (D)** h **97**  
 11P8-1057 **5** 10-6 | 66.2kg



Tom Lacey

*Stan Sheppard*

Last season's Victor Ludorum winner hasn't kicked on from a successful reappearance at Chepstow in October and has plenty to prove in top-end handicap.

**18 HAMLET'S NIGHT (IRE) (13) (D)** **96**  
 211220 **5** 10-6 | 66.2kg



James Owen

*James Bowen*

Ran a blinder behind Rubaud in Grade 2 Elite at Wincanton and having again displayed his speed when successful on all-weather, there's plenty of mitigation for his Morebattle run in soft conditions. Handicap mark looks on the stiff side, though.

**19 BALKO D'ANGE (FR) (40)** **96**  
 43-4513F6 **6** 10-6 | 66.2kg



Philip Fenton, Ireland

*B. Hayes*

Useful hurdler who has chased home thriving Bowensfire on previous two completed starts, though he was beaten a lot further by that rival at Leopardstown last month and it's hard to see him featuring prominently in an even deeper handicap.

**20 BOWMORE (IRE) (90) (D)** **97**  
 F9433-213 **8** 10-6 | 66.2kg



Charlie Longsdon

*Daire McConville (71lb/3kg)*

Back to his useful-best returned to front running tactics this season, beating a subsequent winner at Newbury before creditable third (behind Williethebuilder) at Doncaster in December. Subsequent absence isn't a concern given his record when fresh, for all he's likely to fall short in this company.

**2.00****WILLIAM HILL COUNTY HANDICAP HURDLE (PREMIER HANDICAP) (1) 5yo+ £110,000 2m179y (3380 Metres)**

RACE 2

**21 TELLHERTHENAME (IRE) (148) (BF)** **100**  
1P10/4P5-3 **7** 10-5 | 65.8kg

Dan Skelton

**Kielan Woods**

Promising novice for Ben Pauling in 2023/24 but has clearly had his problems since, found to have bled when turned over on chase debut/final start for O'Neill stable in October. New yard more than capable of reviving one, however, and he's potentially well treated if back on song.

**22 SINNATRA (IRE) (21)** **95**  
14-22131 **6** 10-5 | 65.8kg

Dan Skelton

**Harry Skelton**

Impressive bumper winner who finished runner-up in a strong maiden on hurdle/stable debut and while his two wins since have been simple tasks, he's also shaped well behind promising Act of Innocence. No surprise to see this lightly-raced, exuberant type improve for the switch to handicaps.

**23 SECRET SQUIRREL (27) (D)** **99**  
215/3F1F-3 **7** 10-5 | 65.8kg

Hughie Morrison

**Jonathan Burke**

Rock-solid form in top-end handicaps last season, in the frame when falling either side of a hands-and-heels victory over now-improved Kabral Du Mathan at Windsor in December 2024. Shaped as if retaining all ability on reappearance in Kingwell last month and remains one to be interested in.

**24 OOH BETTY (IRE) (55)** **97**  
1303-0001 **8** 10-4 | 65.3kg t

Ben Clarke

**Ben Jones**

Likeable type has been a credit to connections, showing a very willing attitude when landing valuable Grade 2 mares' hurdle at Ascot in January, though she's typically found life tougher in top-quality handicaps.

**RESERVES****25 CAPTAIN RYAN MATT (IRE) (71) (D)** **95**  
522-15631 **6** 10-4 | 65.3kg

Henry de Bromhead, Ireland

**Reserve**

Well backed/much improved when notching second success at Tramore on New Year's Day and while further progress isn't ruled out on just his fourth start in a handicap, this represents a marked step up in class. RESERVE.

**26 WELLINGTON ARCH (34) (D)** **98**  
12121-392 **7** 10-4 | 65.3kg

Jonjo &amp; A.J. O'Neill

**Reserve**

Signed off last season with an enthusiastic front-running win in valuable 2m4f Aintree handicap and emerged with plenty of credit under a more patient ride when runner-up in a slog of a William Hill Hurdle last time. Would likely find a return to Liverpool easier than this, though. RESERVE.

24 DECLARED RUNNERS (2 RESERVES)

**BETTING FORECAST:****6-1** Karbau, **15-2** Murcia, **14-1** Absurde, **14-1** Sinnatra, **16-1** Tellherthename, **16-1** Sixandahalf, **16-1** Hello Neighbour, **20-1** Jubilee Alpha, **20-1** Wilful, **20-1** Bowensonfire, **25-1** Joyeuse, **28-1** Secret Squirrel, **28-1** Ndaawi, **33-1** Helvic Dream, **40-1** bar**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

An ultra-competitive renewal and a chance is taken on TELLHERTHENAME who created a very good impression as a novice and could be revitalised by a switch to the outstanding Dan Skelton yard. It's hard to knock Secret Squirrel's form in top-end handicaps and he's feared following an encouraging return in the Kingwell, while this test could bring out the best in strong-travelling Sixandahalf, who was narrowly denied at the Festival 12 months ago.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:****1. TELLHERTHENAME 2. SECRET SQUIRREL 3. SIXANDAHALF****WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2025	<b>Kargese</b> 5-11-3	3-1f	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	16
2024	<b>Absurde</b> 6-10-10	12-1	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	17
2023	<b>Faivoir</b> 8-10-7	33-1	Dan Skelton	Bridget Andrews	24
2022	<b>State Man</b> 5-11-1	11-4f	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	26
2021	<b>Belfast Banter</b> 6-10-0	33-1	Peter Fahey	K. C. Sexton	25

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

**2.40****MRS PADDY POWER MARES' CHASE (Liberthine) (Grade 2)**  
**(1) 5yo+ mares £130,000 2½m127y (4140 Metres)**

RACE 3

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

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

Pace Information: **Very Strong**

**1 SPINDLEBERRY (IRE) (39) (D) 95**  
2/5111-11P 8 11-7 | 73.0kg



W. P. Mullins, Ireland

**P. Townend**

Has thrived since going chasing, winning Grade 1 against the males at Fairyhouse in April. Made it 5 wins on the spin when outclassing rivals at Doncaster in December and easy to forgive latest run in Irish Gold Cup (failed to settle upped in trip). Player despite giving weight all round.

**2 DINOBLUE (FR) (34) (CD) 100**  
2411-1211 9 11-5 | 72.1kg t



W. P. Mullins, Ireland

**M. P. Walsh**

Made amends for her defeat in this the previous year when justifying favouritism in good style 12 months ago and has looked as good as ever this season, landing the odds last 2 starts. Looks the one to beat again.

**3 JULY FLOWER (FR) (77) (C) 93**  
3/315-5113 7 11-5 | 72.1kg



Henry de Bromhead, Ireland

**D. J. O'Keefe**

Unsuited by steady pace when fifth in Mares' Hurdle at this meeting last season. Looked a natural when making a winning chase bow at Limerick before producing a smart effort to follow up in Grade 2 here (2m). Not disgraced against the males in Grade 1 at Leopardstown on Boxing Day and respected.

**4 ONLY BY NIGHT (IRE) (76) 94**  
31112-215 8 11-5 | 72.1kg s



Gavin Patrick Cromwell, Ireland

**Keith Donoghue**

Won first 3 starts over fences last season before excellent second in Arkle at this meeting. Made a winning return in Grade 3 at Naas in November and probably best to forgive latest run in this headgear. Up in trip but should stay (point winner).

**5 ALL THE GLORY (36) (D) 84**  
360-26334 9 11-2 | 70.8kg s



Jonjo &amp; A.J. O'Neill

**Jonjo O'Neill Jr.**

Useful over hurdles but not quite as good in this sphere and big shock if she broke her chasing duck in this.

**6 DIVA LUNA (IRE) (92) (C, D) 94**  
1/21237-11 7 11-2 | 70.8kg



Ben Pauling

**Ben Jones**

Won a Grade 2 bumper and easily best effort over hurdles last season when very good third in Dawn Run at this meeting. Has taken form to another level sent chasing this campaign, outclassing her rivals to win a couple of listed events (for mares). Should hold her own at this higher level.

**7 PANIC ATTACK (IRE) (58) (CD) 98**  
3312-111 10 11-2 | 70.8kg



Dan Skelton

**Harry Skelton**

Has won all 4 starts over fences since joining this yard, including Paddy Power Gold Cup here and Coral Gold Cup at Newbury. Simple task for the seasonal hat-trick back at Newbury 8 weeks ago and looks primed for another huge run.

**8 PIPER PARK (IRE) (36) 84**  
3/6-2 7 11-2 | 70.8kg t



Tom Lacey

**Stan Sheppard**

Expensive point recruit who has made the track only 3 times in the last 2 years. Showed much improved form sent chasing after 14 months off when second in listed mares event at Huntingdon 5 weeks ago but another huge step forward is required.

**9 TELEPATHIQUE (74) 93**  
11211-242 8 11-2 | 70.8kg



Lucy Wadham

**Tom Cannon**

Likeable type who won 4 of her 5 starts over fences last season and similar form this time around without winning, proving no match for Spindleberry in listed chase at Doncaster latest. Firmly up against it at this level.

9 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**7-4** Dinoblue, **9-2** Panic Attack, **5-1** Spindleberry, **17-2** Only By Night, **9-1** Diva Luna, **11-1** July Flower, **40-1** bar

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

A deeper renewal than usual with the vote going to PANIC ATTACK, who has been transformed by this yard and receives weight from most of her rivals. Last year's winner Dinoblue has looked as good as ever this season and is the obvious threat, with her stablemate Spindleberry also on the shortlist.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:****1. PANIC ATTACK 2. DINOBLUE 3. SPINDLEBERRY****WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2025	<b>Dinoblue</b> 8-11-7	6-4f	W. P. Mullins	M. P. Walsh	9
2024	<b>Limerick Lace</b> 7-11-2	3-1	Gavin Patrick Cromwell	Keith Donoghue	9
2023	<b>Impervious</b> 7-11-5	15-8	Colm A. Murphy	B. Hayes	9
2022	<b>Elimay</b> 8-11-2	9-4	W. P. Mullins	M. P. Walsh	8
2021	<b>Colreevy</b> 8-11-7	9-4	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	11

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

**3.20****ALBERT BARTLETT NOVICES' HURDLE (Spa) (Grade 1) (1)**  
**5yo+ £154,650 2m7f213y (4820 Metres)**

RACE 4

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

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

Pace Information: **Extreme**

**1 DOCTOR DU MESNIL (FR) (46) (BF)** t **88**  
1-22 6 11-7 | 73.0kg

W. P. Mullins, Ireland **D. E. Mullins**

Most impressive when an 11-length winner on only start in bumpers at Cork (19f) last spring and resumed with a promising second in big-field Leopardstown maiden (2m) over Christmas. No match for The Passing Wife at Punchestown (19f) since but retains potential now upped to 3m. Tongue tie applied.

**2 DOCTOR STEINBERG (IRE) (39)** ★ **100**  
3/2-15111 6 11-7 | 73.0kg

W. P. Mullins, Ireland **P. Townend**

Useful bumper scorer who arrives a perfect 3-3 over hurdles, building on his Navan Grade 2 victory (form franked) in no uncertain terms when impressively landing Leopardstown Grade 1 last month (Kazansky second). Needs to contain his exuberance upped to 3m but looks to have plenty going for him.

**3 ESPRESSO MILAN (IRE) (54)** **94**  
42-711 6 11-7 | 73.0kg

W. P. Mullins, Ireland **Mr P. W. Mullins**

Fair form in bumpers for Fergal O'Brien and very bright start hurdling switched to Willie Mullins, having no problem with the markedly longer trip when impressive taking his record to 2-2 in a Thurles novice (22f) in January. Jumping requires some polish but ready for this higher grade.

**4 FRUIT DE MER (IRE) (63)** **88**  
1d-13 6 11-7 | 73.0kg

Henry de Bromhead, Ireland **Sean Flanagan**

Point winner who was first past the post (subsequently demoted) in bumper last March. Again looked a good prospect when making a successful start to his hurdles career at Naas in November prior to a good third in Grade 1 back there in January. Stoutly bred so step up to 3m expected to suit.

**5 HIPOP DE LOIRE (FR) (226)** **86**  
2-1 9 11-7 | 73.0kg

W. P. Mullins, Ireland **Harry Cobden**

Useful stayer on Flat who opened his account at second attempt over hurdles in ready fashion at Galway (22f) last summer. Acquitted himself well on 2 of his 3 starts in ultra-competitive contests on the level thereafter and won't be lacking for fitness given stable he represents.

**6 JALON D'OUDAIRIES (FR) (34)** **92**  
113/221 7 11-7 | 73.0kg

Gordon Elliott, Ireland **Danny Gilligan**

One of the leading bumper performers of the 2023/24 season who cemented positive start since returning from a lengthy absence when opening hurdles account at Naas (18.4f) 5 weeks ago, making all and jumping soundly. This requires more up in class but he's likeable.

**7 JOHNNY'S JURY (IRE) (25)** **94**  
3-11 6 11-7 | 73.0kg

Jamie Snowden **Gavin Sheehan**

Promising son of Jukebox Jury who shaped well when third on sole hurdles run for Nicky Henderson last term and further progress for new yard, staying on well to supplement his Exeter reappearance victory at Carlisle (17f) 25 days ago. Likely to stay this far.

**8 KAZANSKY (IRE) (39)** **98**  
B112 6 11-7 | 73.0kg

Gordon Elliott, Ireland **Jordan Colin Gainford**

Brought down on hurdles bow in October but not looked back since, building on his Cork maiden victory when taking Limerick Grade 2 (23f, heavy) over Christmas. Improved further without proving a match for Doctor Steinberg in Leopardstown Grade 1 but he looks tailor-made for demands of this test.

**9 KICOUR LA (FR) (48)** t **88**  
114 6 11-7 | 73.0kg

Ben Pauling **Callum Pritchard**

Runner-up sole start in Irish points and promising start under Rules, landing back-to-back 2½m Leicester maiden/novice hurdles last year. Gave a good account when fourth behind Thedeviluno in River Don subsequently but he needs to progress again to feature here.

**10 KING'S BUCKS (FR) (75) (BF)** **84**  
2-432 6 11-7 | 73.0kg

Henry de Bromhead, Ireland **D. J. O'Keefe**

Promising type who was much improved from hurdling debut when third in Grade 2 here (21f) in November. Ran to a similar level when runner-up back in maiden company over that trip at Limerick and he needs to find improvement for the step up to 3m.

**11 KRIPTICJIM (FR) (48) (C)** t **93**  
421-2111 6 11-7 | 73.0kg

Joe Tizzard **Brendan Powell**

Useful bumper winner who has quickly built up a healthy strike rate over hurdles (now 3-4), overcoming the rise in class equipped with a first-time tongue tie when edging Grade 2 Classic here on Trials Day. Evidently on the up and his attitude looks a real asset.

**12 MONDOU'BOY (FR) (27)** **91**  
2-611 6 11-7 | 73.0kg

Ben Pauling **Ben Jones**

Promise in a couple of bumpers for Harry Derham last season. Changed hands for £115,000 in October and confirmed positives of Ludlow hurdles debut success when following up in clear-cut style in class 2 novice at Ascot (19.3f) last month. Will stay 3m and there's better to come.

**13 MONEYGARROW (IRE) (56) (D)** **86**  
122-3511 6 11-7 | 73.0kg

Dan Skelton **Harry Skelton**

Well-related point/bumper winner who posted solid form in pair of graded hurdles this season prior to readily opening his account at Warwick (21f) in December. Looked well suited by step up to 3m when following up in Windsor novice in January and he's an each-way player.

**14 ROAD EXILE (IRE) (61) (BF)** **89**  
21-312 6 11-7 | 73.0kg

Gordon Elliott, Ireland **Sam Ewing**

Bumper winner who left hurdling debut form behind when landing big-field Navan maiden (2m) in December. Chased home a smart ex-Flat recruit in Grade 2 Moscow Flyer at Punchestown (16.5f) on latest start and he remains type to do better now stamina is drawn out.

**15 SPINNINGAYARN (IRE) (46)** **91**  
14-311 6 11-7 | 73.0kg

Gordon Elliott, Ireland **J. W. Kennedy**

Successful on first of 2 starts in bumpers and has quickly looked every inch a smart prospect over hurdles this winter, again impressing with his response to pressure when making it 2 wins from 3 starts in a Punchestown novice (19f) in January. Better still to come now stamina is tested further.

**16 SWINDON VILLAGE (IRE) (24)** **85**  
136-3131 6 11-7 | 73.0kg

Charlie Longsdon **David Bass**

Six-figure point purchase who was highly tried after making a winning bumper debut last season. Bright start over hurdles, looking well suited by return to a more galloping track when registering second success in novice at Newbury (2½m) last month. However, this clearly requires more.

**17 TACKLETOMMYWOOWOO (IRE) (39) (D)** t **86**  
7-2F16117 6 11-7 | 73.0kg

Declan Queally, Ireland **Mr D. L. Queally**

Progressed well during second half of last year, gaining a third hurdles success in listed company at Cork (3m) in November. Set a stiff task on return when well-held seventh on return behind Doctor Steinberg at Leopardstown last month and expected to come up short again.

**18 THEDEVILUNO (IRE) (48) (D)** **95**  
622-2121 7 11-7 | 73.0kg

Paul Nolan, Ireland **S. F. O'Keefe**

Fairly useful bumper performer who defeated a subsequent Grade 1 scorer on hurdles bow at Gowran (2m) in November. Improved without being seen to best effect when second next time and he relished step up to 3m when landing River Don at Doncaster latest. Looks a fine prospect and worth considering.

**19 THE PASSING WIFE (46)** **93**  
2/311-3351 7 11-7 | 73.0kg

Gavin Patrick Cromwell, Ireland **Keith Donoghue**

Useful bumper performer who has reached a similar level over hurdles following a lengthy absence, his best effort yet when third in Grade 2 Royal Bond at Fairyhouse (2m) in November. Capitalised on drop in class when easily landing Punchestown maiden (19f) in January.

**20 THE PRICE OF PEACE (IRE) (48) (D)** **87**  
215 7 11-7 | 73.0kg

Rebecca Curtis **Sean Bowen**

Winning pointer who built on hurdling debut promise (second in strong Ffos Las maiden) when easily landing the odds in 8-runner novice hurdle at Chepstow (23.6f) in December. Appeared caught out by rise in class when fifth behind Thedeviluno in River Don since, however.

**3.20****ALBERT BARTLETT NOVICES' HURDLE (Spa) (Grade 1) (1)**  
**5yo+ £154,650 2m7f213y (4820 Metres)**

RACE 4

**21 UBATUBA (IRE) (27) 90**

112 6 11-7 | 73.0kg



Olly Murphy

**Ben Sutton**

Ready winner of maiden/novice hurdles at Leicester (2½m) and cemented what had already been a promising start when second in Haydock Grade 2 last month, finishing with real purpose having been shuffled back approaching home turn. Could surprise at long odds.

**22 PARK PRINCESS (IRE) (13) (D) t 89**

149/12171 6 11-0 | 69.9kg



Anthony Honeyball

**Sam Twiston-Davies**

Has made up into a fairly useful hurdler this winter, back on the up in no uncertain terms tackling this trip for the first time when successful in mares' listed event at Doncaster 2 weeks ago. In receipt of mares allowance now pitched into Grade 1 company but she needs to raise her game again.

22 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**4-1** Doctor Steinberg, **5-1** Thedeviluno, **12-1** The Passing Wife, **14-1** Spinningayarn, **16-1** Kazansky, **16-1** Mondouï'boy, **18-1** Espresso Milan, **18-1** Jalon D'oudairies, **20-1** Moneygarrow, **25-1** King's Bucks, **28-1** Kripticjim, **28-1** Doctor Du Mesnil, **40-1** bar

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

KAZANSKY finished 8 lengths adrift of reopposing Doctor Steinberg when the pair met at the Dublin Racing Festival last month but appeals as the type who will be tailor-made by the demands of this race and at forecast odds, he could be worth siding with for the stable that landed this 2 years ago. Doctor Steinberg (3-3 over hurdles) has looked every inch a smart prospect and is highly respected, as is River Don scorer Thedeviluno. Spinningayarn and Mondouï'boy are also worth a look.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:****1. KAZANSKY 2. DOCTOR STEINBERG 3. THEDEVILUNO****WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2025	<b>Jasmin de Vaux</b> 6-11-7	6-1	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	20
2024	<b>Stellar Story</b> 7-11-7	33-1	Gordon Elliott	Sam Ewing	13
2023	<b>Stay Away Fay</b> 6-11-7	18-1	Paul Nicholls	Harry Cobden	20
2022	<b>The Nice Guy</b> 7-11-8	18-1	W. P. Mullins	S. F. O'Keefe	16
2021	<b>Vanillier</b> 6-11-5	14-1	Gavin Patrick Cromwell	M. P. Walsh	16

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

**4.00****BOODLES CHELTENHAM GOLD CUP CHASE (Grade 1) (1)**  
**5yo+ £625,000 3¼m70y (5290 Metres)**

RACE 5

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

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

Pace Information: **Even**

**1 ENVOI ALLEN (FR) (132) (C)** **96**  
3224/1U3-1 **12** 11-10 | 74.4kg



Henry de Bromhead, Ireland

**D. J. O'Keeffe**

His record at this meeting is enviable having notched third Festival success in the 2023 Ryanair and placed in the next 2 renewals. Got the better of subsequent Savills Chase winner Affordale Fury at Down Royal on return, but you have to go back to 1969 for the last time a 12-y-o landed this prize.

**2 FIREFOX (IRE) (39)** **94**  
32362-124 **8** 11-10 | 74.4kg



Gordon Elliott, Ireland

**J. W. Kennedy**

Smart novice last season, unable to add to chase debut success but giving a good account at the highest level and sixth of 19 in the Golden Miller at this meeting. Landed the odds at Down Royal on return, but task is now to build on his fourth in the Irish Gold Cup upped further in trip.

**3 GAELIC WARRIOR (GER) (39) (C)** **100**  
22311-132 **8** 11-10 | 74.4kg



W. P. Mullins, Ireland

**P. Townend**

Boasts a fine record at this meeting having finished second over hurdles at the 2022 and 2023 Festivals before going one better in the 2024 Arkle. Better than ever this season, landing the John Durkan before losing little in defeat at Kempton and Leopardstown, so he can make his presence felt.

**4 GOLD TWEET (FR) (20) (C)** **86**  
54U-26525 **9** 11-10 | 74.4kg



Gabriel Leenders, France

**Clement Lefebvre**

Winner of the Grade 2 Cleeve Hurdle here in 2023 and has won 5 times over fences in France, including a Grade 2 when last successful in this sphere back in December 2023. However, he was put in his place on sole previous chase start on these shores and looks to face a difficult task.

**5 GREY DAWNING (IRE) (48) (C, BF)** **97**  
13/2P12-13 **9** 11-10 | 74.4kg



Dan Skelton

**Harry Skelton**

Golden Miller winner at 2024 Festival and resumed with a comfortable success in the Betfair Chase at Haydock. Bad mistake 2 out proved costly when third to Spillane's Tower here on Trials Day and less testing conditions should be in his favour this time, but a step forward will be required.

**6 HAITI COULEURS (FR) (34) (C)** **97**  
1311-1P11 **9** 11-10 | 74.4kg



Rebecca Curtis

**Sean Bowen**

Successful in the National Hunt Chase at this meeting and Irish Grand National last spring. Flopped in the Betfair Chase in November but has otherwise continued to progress this season, winning the Denman Chase at Newbury in convincing fashion last month. Has proven stamina and could be in the mix.

**7 INOTHEWAYURTHINKIN (IRE) (39) (CD)** **99**  
1/7541-59F **8** 11-10 | 74.4kg



Gavin Patrick Cromwell, Ireland

**M. P. Walsh**

Kim Muir winner in 2024 and made it 2-2 at the Festival when coming out on top against Galopin des Champs in this race 12 months ago. Well below his best in 3 runs so far this season and, while it's possible that he'll again peak at this meeting, a major bounce back is needed with cheekpieces added.

**8 JANGO BAIE (FR) (77) (C, BF)** **97**  
22/1213-14 **7** 11-10 | 74.4kg



Nicky Henderson

**Nico de Boinville**

Winner here on chase debut last season and made it 2-2 at this venue when charging home in the Arkle. Impressive Grade 2 Ascot reappearance success was followed by a close fourth in the King George and another bold show is expected with this further step up in trip promising to suit.

**9 L'HOMME PRESSE (FR) (34) (C)** **95**  
24/31P-222 **11** 11-10 | 74.4kg



Venetia Williams

**Charlie Deutsch**

Decisive winner of the Broadway Novices' Chase at the 2022 Festival and fourth in this race 2 years later. Clearly retains plenty of ability, aged 11, judged on this season's efforts but he was comprehensively outpointed by Haiti Couleurs in the Denman Chase last time.

**10 SPILLANE'S TOWER (IRE) (48) (C)** **97**

1/125-2931 **8** 11-10 | 74.4kg

James Joseph Mangan, Ireland

**Harry Cobden**

Grade 1-winning novice chaser who showed top-class form when runner-up in the 2024 John Durkan at Punchestown. After a couple of runs over hurdles, back on the scoresheet in 4-runner Cotswold Chase here in January, though he found a well-run King George a bit too much last season.

**11 THE JUKEBOX MAN (IRE) (77)** **98**

1322/11-11 **8** 11-10 | 74.4kg

Ben Pauling

**Ben Jones**

Smart novice hurdler (went close in the Albert Bartlett at 2024 Festival) and successful both starts over fences last season, notably the Grade 1 Kauto Star. Again shone at Kempton on Boxing Day when making it 4-4 over fences in the King George and he's not taken lightly with more still to offer.

11 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**7-2** Gaelic Warrior, **4-1** Jango Baie, **9-2** The Jukebox Man, **7-1** Inothewayurthinkin, **8-1** Haiti Couleurs, **14-1** Grey Dawning, **16-1** Spillane's Tower, **22-1** Envoi Allen, **28-1** Firefox, **66-1** bar

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

An open-looking renewal, with preference for JANGO BAIE who ran as well as ever when a close fourth in the King George, despite the track not looking ideal for him. Upped further in distance, he is taken to reverse the Kempton form with Gaelic Warrior, who is respected given his Festival record for his leading trainer, while The Jukebox Man is unlikely to give up his unbeaten record over fences without a fight.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. JANGO BAIE 2. GAELIC WARRIOR 3. THE JUKEBOX MAN**

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2025	<b>Inothewayurthinkin</b>	7-11-10	15-2	Gavin Patrick Cromwell	M. P. Walsh	9
2024	<b>Galopin des Champs</b>	8-11-10	10-11f	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	11
2023	<b>Galopin des Champs</b>	7-11-10	7-5f	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	13
2022	<b>A Plus Tard</b>	8-11-10	3-1f	Henry de Bromhead	Rachael Blackmore	11
2021	<b>Minella Indo</b>	8-11-10	9-1	Henry de Bromhead	J. W. Kennedy	12

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

4.40

**PRINCESS ROYAL CHALLENGE CUP OPEN HUNTERS' CHASE**  
**(2) 5yo+ £50,000 3¼m70y (5290 Metres)**

RACE 6

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

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

Pace Information: **Even**

<b>1</b>	<b>BARTON SNOW (IRE) (37)</b> (C)	<b>95</b>
	86/741-111 <b>9</b> 12-0   76.2kg J. J. O'Shea Strong-travelling 9-y-o who made it 4-4 in hunters at Ludlow last month, again winning in a style that suggests he's well worth his place in this sort of company.	<b>Mr Henry Crow</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>CARNFUNNOCK (IRE) (77)</b>	<b>89</b>
	60/4256-P6 <b>9</b> 12-0   76.2kg Stuart Crawford, Ireland Never looked a threat when sixth in 2025 renewal of this race and while a winner of previous 4 starts in points (latest in January), he looks held by the market principals on form.	<b>Mr S. Connor</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>CHEMICAL ENERGY (IRE) (226)</b> (C)	<b>94</b>
	P3P046-50 <b>10</b> 12-0   76.2kg Gordon Elliott, Ireland Runner-up in the National Hunt Challenge Cup at this meeting in 2023 and shaped much better than beaten distance when sixth in Cross Country last year. Confirmed himself in good heart with couple of point victories over the winter and could be suited by the switch to hunters.	<b>Mr B. O'Neill</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>CON'S ROC (IRE) (77)</b> (BF)	<b>98</b>
	1-13 <b>9</b> 12-0   76.2kg Terence O'Brien, Ireland Successful pointer looked a good prospect when making it 2-2 in hunter chases at Fairyhouse in November and was coming back for more when third behind It's On The Line in a race not ideally run to suit at Downpatrick last time. Remains one to be positive about and should improve for cheekpieces.	<b>Mr Darragh Allen</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>GOLDEN SON (FR) (29)</b>	<b>97</b>
	6F/93P3-11 <b>8</b> 12-0   76.2kg Paul Nicholls Useful chaser who made it 2-2 in hunters with a taking success at Taunton last month, and while he faces a much sterner task in this company, he has the inherent ability to make his presence felt.	<b>Miss Olive Nicholls</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>GRACCHUS DE BALME (FR) (57)</b>	<b>96</b>
	062P1-21P <b>10</b> 12-0   76.2kg J. J. O'Shea Right back to his useful best when landing the Foxhunters at Aintree last season. Backed that up with a decisive win at Stratford in May, though his tendency to hang left, coupled with a disappointing reappearance, makes him one to treat with a degree of caution.	<b>Mr P. A. King</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>ITS ON THE LINE (IRE) (77)</b>	<b>99</b>
	21/1232-11 <b>9</b> 12-0   76.2kg Emmet Mullins, Ireland Runner-up in previous three renewals of this race, travelling with more zest than previously when narrowly denied last year. Went on to make it a hat-trick of successes in hunter chase at Punchestown festival subsequently and looks sure to go close again following win at Downpatrick on Boxing Day.	<b>Mr D. O'Connor</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>KING ALEX (FR) (326)</b>	<b>84</b>
	P5- <b>12</b> 12-0   76.2kg G. Ahern, Ireland Veteran who was let down by his jumping when last seen under Rules at Cork in April and while clearly in fine heart in points since (3 lengths third to Wonderwall in November), this is a much stiffer test.	<b>Mr J. P. Ahern</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>KINGS JET (IRE) (112)</b>	<b>82</b>
	1P6 <b>6</b> 12-0   76.2kg C. W. J. Farrell, Ireland Surprise winner on Rules debut at Down Royal in May but disappointing in hunter chases since, latest when well behind Con's Roc at Fairyhouse in November. Second in a point last month but faces another uphill task in this sphere.	<b>Mr T. A. Halford</b>

<b>10</b>	<b>LIFT ME UP (IRE) (27)</b>	<b>80</b>
	P/3210-P <b>10</b> 12-0   76.2kg Miss M. Filby Multiple point winner who has won twice in this sphere, though finished well held in this contest 12 months ago and looked out of sorts on reappearance last month.	<b>Miss Heidi Palin</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>LINELEE KING (FR) (289)</b> (BF)	<b>94</b>
	4/1-2 <b>11</b> 12-0   76.2kg Olly Murphy Veteran who made a winning start in hunters at Southwell before shaping best when runner-up in a similar race at Cartmel when last seen under Rules in May. Enhanced his excellent record fresh when seeing off Music Drive in a point last month but wouldn't be a sure thing to confirm that form.	<b>Mr James King</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>MUSIC DRIVE (FR) (315)</b> (CD)	<b>94</b>
	4-1 <b>9</b> 12-0   76.2kg Kelly Morgan Shaped with a fair amount of encouragement when fourth behind Wonderwall last March, prior to making the most of a good opportunity over C&D in May. Turned over by Linelee King in a point on reappearance but highly likely that was a stepping stone to another crack at this race.	<b>Miss Ellie Callwood</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>PANDA BOY (IRE) (34)</b>	<b>100</b>
	0/703U-811 <b>10</b> 12-0   76.2kg Martin Brassil, Ireland Useful type who has relished the switch to hunter chases/more positive tactics, jumping well when making it 2-2 in this sphere in determined fashion at Naas last month and that's usually a race worth following (won by Billaway/It's On The Line previously). Leading claims.	<b>Mr J. L. Gleeson</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>PAUL MARVEL (FR) (17)</b>	<b>86</b>
	5427/P-211 <b>9</b> 12-0   76.2kg J. J. O'Shea Fairly useful performer for Willie Mullins in 2023/24 who chased home Golden Son at Warwick prior to landing pair of hunters at Leicester last month. Shapes as though a return to this trip will be in his favour but pitched into significantly deeper waters for hat-trick bid.	<b>Miss Amber Jackson-Fennell</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>PYLEIGH COURT (17)</b>	<b>89</b>
	3/31P-12 <b>11</b> 12-0   76.2kg R. C. Pudd Landed second hunter chase victory in heavy ground at Wincanton in January and while this step back up in distance will likely suit, he has plenty to find at the weights.	<b>Miss Ella Herbison</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>SHEARER (IRE) (27)</b> (C, BF)	<b>96</b>
	11/115-3 <b>10</b> 12-0   76.2kg Paul Nicholls Lost an unbeaten record over fences when fifth in the 2025 renewal of this race and having failed to justify favouritism on reappearance at Haydock last time, he'll probably have to settle for minor honours again this year.	<b>Miss Gina Andrews</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>SOLITARY MAN (IRE) (54)</b>	<b>91</b>
	12PP-6434 <b>8</b> 12-0   76.2kg Enda Bolger, Ireland Proved he's still capable of useful form when well backed third in listed handicap chase at Killarney last summer and won twice in points prior to finishing fourth behind Panda Boy on hunter debut at Thurles in January. Could outrun forecast odds now fitted with more severe headgear.	<b>Miss A. B. O'Connor</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>STATTLER (IRE) (28)</b> (C)	<b>97</b>
	624P/21 <b>11</b> 12-0   76.2kg Faye Bramley One-time high-class chaser for Willie Mullins who nearly defied a 22-month absence on hunter/yard debut, prior to making the most of a good opportunity at Fakenham last time. This is much more competitive but addition of cheekpieces/retention of Patrick Mullins can only be viewed as positives.	<b>Mr P. W. Mullins</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>TAKE ALL (IRE) (27)</b>	<b>92</b>
	25F1-4432 <b>11</b> 12-0   76.2kg Myles Osborne Going better than most when falling 3 out in this race 12 months ago, though he can flatter to deceive, typically looking less than straightforward under pressure in pair of hunter chases this year.	<b>Mr Samuel Scott</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>WHAT A GLANCE (37)</b> (C)	<b>93</b>
	2/110-F <b>11</b> 12-0   76.2kg Tom Britten Looked progressive before disappointing in last year's renewal and while recent second in a point has confirmed his well-being, he's probably up against it back under Rules.	<b>Miss Clara Brewitt</b>

**4.40****PRINCESS ROYAL CHALLENGE CUP OPEN HUNTERS' CHASE**  
**(2) 5yo+ £50,000 3¼m70y (5290 Metres)**

RACE 6

**21 WILLEWONGA (344) 90**  
P/122P- 10 12-0 | 76.2kg

J. J. O'Shea

**Mr Thomas Easterby**

Can be a clumsy jumper, as was the case when pulled up in last year's Foxhunter at Aintree. Odds on defeat in 3-runner point in November hardly inspires confidence, either.

**22 WILLITGOAHEAD (IRE) (54) (BF) 97**  
2130-P2U 8 12-0 | 76.2kg

Gordon Elliott, Ireland

**Mr H. C. Swan**

Useful third in corresponding race last year (briefly threatened better) and cannot be judged harshly on his non completions either side of a respectable seasonal reappearance behind Its On The Line on Boxing Day. Likely to be in the mix again.

**23 WONDERWALL (IRE) (364) (CD) 99**  
P0/334321- 10 12-0 | 76.2kg

S. Curling, Ireland

**Mr R. James**

Made his third visit to the Festival a winning one when successful in corresponding race last year. This will have been the target since winning a point in November (goes well fresh) and he should make a bold bid to defend his crown.

**24 WRAPPEDUPINMAY (IRE) (421) 86**  
2251/3P- 8 12-0 | 76.2kg

S. Curling, Ireland

**Mr D. Doyle**

Useful bumper/fairly useful hurdle winner for Paul Nicholls and though he didn't set the world alight in two chase starts, he's won back-to-back points for yard who won this race last year.

24 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:****7-1** Its On The Line, **15-2** Wonderwall, **9-1** Panda Boy, **11-1** Con's Roc, **14-1** Golden Son, **16-1** Willitgoahead, **16-1** Stattler, **16-1** Barton Snow, **16-1** Wrappedupinmay, **18-1** Shearer, **20-1** Music Drive, **20-1** Chemical Energy, **33-1** Gracchus De Balme, **40-1** bar**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

PANDA BOY looks tailor-made for this and he's fancied to maintain his unbeaten record in hunter chases. Con's Roc is less exposed than most in this sphere and may prove the main danger, while Its On The Line has finished runner-up in the previous three renewals of this race and can fare best of last year's protagonists.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:****1. PANDA BOY 2. CON'S ROC 3. ITS ON THE LINE****WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2025	<b>Wonderwall</b>	9-12-0	28-1	S. Curling	Mr R. James	24
2024	<b>Sine Nomine</b>	8-11-7	8-1	Fiona Needham	Mr John Dawson	12
2023	<b>Premier Magic</b>	10-12-0	66-1	Bradley Gibbs	Mr Bradley Gibbs	23
2022	<b>Billaway</b>	10-12-0	13-8f	W. P. Mullins	Mr P. W. Mullins	19
2021	<b>Porlock Bay</b>	10-12-0	16-1	Will Biddick	Lorcan Williams	18

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

**5.20**

RACE 7

**MARTIN PIPE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP HURDLE**  
**(2) 4yo+ (Rated 0-145) £75,000 2½m56y (4070 Metres)****GBI RACING**Going: **Good (Good to Soft in places)**

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

Pace Information: **Very Strong****1 ITS BILBO (FR) (74) 93**

4/1522-431 5 11-12 | 75.3kg



Henry de Bromhead, Ireland

*M. P. O'Connor*

Got back on the up returned to hurdling after a stint chasing with a gutsy success in 2m listed handicap at Limerick in late December. Hiked up 12 lb so needs to take another step forward.

**2 NURSE SUSAN (FR) (19) (CD) 95**

11/09-9114 9 11-11 | 74.8kg



Dan Skelton

*Tristan Durrell*

Low-mileage mare firmly back in the groove this season, supplementing her handicap success here in listed event at Sandown. Not at her best in the National Spirit at Fontwell last time but caught the eye in this last year and no surprise to see her bounce back.

**3 AIR OF ENTITLEMENT (IRE) (74) (C, D, BF) 97**

1/7117-20 7 11-10 | 74.4kg



Henry de Bromhead, Ireland

*Patrick Michael O'Brien*

Impressive winner of Dawn Run here in 2025. Very lightly raced since and she failed to build on an encouraging reappearance second at Fairyhouse when held in handicap at Leopardstown just after Christmas. Probably worth another chance back at the Festival.

**4 SA FUREUR (IRE) (27) (D) 96**

1000-4742 9 11-9 | 73.9kg



Gordon Elliott, Ireland

*E. Staples*

Has acquitted himself well over hurdles this term without winning, posting a good fourth in handicap at Navan in January. Also ran well back chasing when second of 4 in Red Mills Chase at Gowran (2m3f) last month. Fourth when backed for the Grand Annual in 2024 and could figure.

**5 FARFROMNOWHERE (IRE) (76) (D) 92**

1/1-201P24 8 11-9 | 73.9kg



Paul Nolan, Ireland

*C. Stone-Walsh*

Landed conditions hurdle at Listowel in September and arrives in good nick over fences, fourth of 7 in Grade 2 at Limerick when last seen out just after Christmas. Tongue tie goes on now.

**6 KARL DES TOURELLES (FR) (47) 99**

237-46464 6 11-9 | 73.9kg



Philip Fenton, Ireland

*Gavin Peter Brouder*

Winless since his hurdling debut at Gowran in February 2024 though he was a good seventh in the Pertemps here last year. Sent chasing this term and recorded his best effort when fourth in Naas handicap in January. Can go very well off a handy-looking mark back in this sphere.

**7 ZILLOW (40) 96**

4370-110F 6 11-9 | 73.9kg



W. P. Mullins, Ireland

*Sean Cleary-Farrell*

Progressive when completing a cross-code hat-trick last autumn in 2m listed handicap at Fairyhouse. Shaped like a non-stayer over 2½m at Leopardstown in December and fell early there last month. Has his stamina to prove here.

**8 KEL HISTOIRE (FR) (27) 97**

1/128-55 6 11-8 | 73.5kg



W. P. Mullins, Ireland

*M. J. Kenneally*

French bumper scorer who landed Cork maiden on his debut for this yard in 2024. Has been brought along steadily this term, best effort when a staying-on fifth of 7 in Grade 3 at Gowran (2m) 27 days ago. Likely plenty more to come now stepping up in trip for his handicap debut. Player.

**9 FIERCELY PROUD (IRE) (27) (C) 97**

F61PP-501 7 11-8 | 73.5kg



Ben Pauling

*Callum Pritchard*

Ended last term under a cloud but bounced back to form in some style when bagging 2m3f Ascot handicap last month, seeming well suited by the step up in trip. Shouldn't be underestimated.

**10 EAST INDIA EXPRESS (IRE) (71) (CD) 99**

1171-FP92 7 11-8 | 73.5kg



Nicky Henderson

*Freddie Gordon*

A three-time winner in 2024/25, his third victory coming over C&D. Subdued start to the present campaign until posting an excellent second of 12 in 2½m handicap at Windsor on New Year's Day. Up 4 lb but needs considering for his in-form yard.

**11 DA CAPO GLORY (IRE) (27) (D) 97**

377/9-FP33 9 11-8 | 73.5kg



Padraig Butler, Ireland

*C. M. Quirke*

Useful winning hurdler in 2024. Lightly raced since and sent chasing this season, coming in a good third of 8 in 2m3f maiden at Gowran last month. Others appeal more in this environment.

**12 INTELLOTTO (IRE) (27) (D) 88**

714/3-1334 6 11-6 | 72.6kg



Daisy Hitchens

*Robbie David*

A useful winning hurdler/chaser at his best for Joseph O'Brien. Faced a stiff task for his new yard in the Kingwell Hurdle at Wincanton 27 days ago. Hard to warm to from this mark.

**13 ACT OF AUTHORITY (FR) (27) (D) 99**

4327-4348 8 11-6 | 72.6kg



Olly Murphy

*Lewis Saunders*

Runner-up in this 12 months ago and in good nick without winning this term until only eighth in 2m3f Ascot handicap last month. Merits consideration back here with cheekpieces added.

**14 WENDROCK (FR) (39) 98**

7653-745P 5 11-5 | 72.1kg



Gordon Elliott, Ireland

*C. P. Millar*

Scored at Leopardstown (2m) in December 2024 but he saw his run of good form come to an end when pulled up in 3m handicap at Leopardstown last month. Ran well in the Fred Winter last season.

**15 OPEN SECRET (22) 95**

42142 5 11-4 | 71.7kg



Gordon Elliott, Ireland

*James Smith*

A fair Flat winner for Charlie Johnston and largely progressive over hurdles, scoring at Naas in December. Good efforts in graded company over C&D and at Thurles (2m5f) since but even more needed now.

**16 STEDE BONNET (IRE) (26) 94**

21162113 5 11-4 | 71.7kg



Gordon Elliott, Ireland

*J. H. Williamson*

Dual bumper winner who bagged a pair of 2m novice hurdles at Tramore and Ayr in January. Posted a good third of 4 in Punchestown listed hurdle last month. No forlorn hope now stepping up in trip for his first go in handicaps.

**17 JUMP ALLEN (FR) (321) (D) 94**

1543121- 7 11-4 | 71.7kg



W. P. Mullins, Ireland

*A. McGuinness*

Useful bumper winner who progressed well once sent handicapping last season, going 2-3 at Sandown last April. Off since but hails from top yard and must be respected.

**18 ANDASHAN (IRE) (74) (D) 99**

3/U315-321 6 11-4 | 71.7kg



Chris Gordon

*Dylan Johnston*

Advanced his form when resuming winning ways in 2½m handicap hurdle at Newbury just after Christmas. Up 6 lb but he remains unexposed at this trip and could make his presence felt with relatively few miles still on the clock.

**19 BALLYKINLAR (IRE) (146) (D) 95**

26111432 7 11-3 | 71.2kg



Mickey Bowen

*Shane Fenelon*

Completed a hat-trick in handicap at Sligo in August and improved again when second in 2m5f listed event at Limerick when last seen out in October on his final run for Donncha Duggan. More still is required starting out for a new yard here.

**20 SAINT LE FORT (FR) (39) (D) 95**

1-5984531 6 11-3 | 71.2kg



Philip Fenton, Ireland

*Niall Moore*

Took a big step forward when opening account for the season in 3m handicap hurdle at Leopardstown last month. Drops back in trip now from a much higher mark so this demands another personal best.

**5.20**

RACE 7

**MARTIN PIPE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP HURDLE**  
**(2) 4yo+ (Rated 0-145) £75,000 2½m56y (4070 Metres)****GBI RACING****21 ROC DINO (FR) (43)**  **100**  
723-22 5 11-2 | 70.8kgW. P. Mullins, Ireland  **J. P. Shinnick**

Placed twice over hurdles in France (for Gabriel Leenders) and has shaped with plenty of promise after 10 months off when second in a pair of big-field 2m maidens at Fairyhouse and Thurles in January. Looks capable of a fair bit better now venturing into handicaps over a long trip. Interesting.

**22 CHARLUS (IRE) (20)** h+t **97**  
10-2FP 5 11-1 | 70.3kgDan Skelton  **Harry Atkins**

Fairly useful Flat/hurdles winner for Willie Mullins. Raced freely before being pulled up on his yard debut in 2m5f Kempton handicap last month. Needs to get back on track in first-time tongue tie.

**23 HOT FUSS (IRE) (13)** v **97**  
144-6241P 5 11-1 | 70.3kgTom Dascombe **Joe Anderson**

Useful on Flat and has shown similar form over hurdles, gaining a deserved success in 2m handicap at Windsor in January. Pulled up in Morebattle at Kelso since but up in trip now and he's the sort to bounce back.

**24 SAINTE LUCIE (FR) (40)** **93**  
3/1885-700 5 11-0 | 69.9kgW. P. Mullins, Ireland  **C. G. O'Dwyer**

Hasn't kicked on from a promising stable debut victory as a juvenile and has been well held in 2m handicaps at Leopardstown on her last two runs.

**RESERVES****25 HE CAN'T DANCE (IRE) (39)** s+t **97**  
138-33233 6 11-0 | 69.9kgGordon Elliott, Ireland **Reserve**

Winless over hurdles but he got back on track in first-time cheekpieces when third of 21 in 3m handicap at Leopardstown last month. Needs to take a big step forward if he's to gain a breakthrough victory here. RESERVE.

**26 GLYNN BRAE (IRE) (20) (D)** **97**  
2115-1544 6 11-0 | 69.9kgNigel & Willy Twiston-Davies **Reserve**

Showed a willing attitude to land 2½m Sandown handicap on reappearance in November. Hasn't kicked on since but not discredited when fourth in 2m Chepstow handicap 20 days ago. Others are much preferred. RESERVE.

24 DECLARED RUNNERS (2 RESERVES)

**BETTING FORECAST:**

7-1 Roc Dino, 15-2 Kel Histoire, 12-1 Andashan, 12-1 Air of Entitlement, 14-1 East India Express, 16-1 Fiercely Proud, 16-1 Jump Allen, 20-1 Act of Authority, 20-1 Wendrock, 22-1 Nurse Susan, 22-1 Its Bilbo, 25-1 Open Secret, 28-1 Sa Fureur, 33-1 Karl Des Tourelles, 33-1 Stede Bonnet, 40-1 bar

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

A wide open finale. Willie Mullins saddles five and his lightly-raced ex-French recruit ROC DINO appeals as a major improver now stepping into handicap company on his first go over this trip so edges the vote from stablemate Kel Histoire, who also looks primed to take a big step forward on his handicap debut. Karl des Tourelles reverts to this sphere after a spell chasing on a good mark and could also have a big say, while Andashan and East India Express look the pick of the home contingent.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:****1. ROC DINO 2. KEL HISTOIRE 3. KARL DES TOURELLES****WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2025	<b>Wodhooh</b> 5-11-8	9-2	Gordon Elliott	Danny Gilligan	24
2024	<b>Better Days Ahead</b> 6-11-7	5-1	Gordon Elliott	Danny Gilligan	21
2023	<b>Iroko</b> 5-11-5	6-1	Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero	A. P. Kelly	21
2022	<b>Banbridge</b> 6-11-3	12-1	Joseph Patrick O'Brien	M. M. McDonagh	23
2021	<b>Galopin des Champs</b> 5-11-9	8-1	W. P. Mullins	S. F. O'Keefe	22

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race