

Friday 14th November

CHELTENHAM



1.10

LYCETTS INSURANCE BROKERS CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier) (3) 2m5f (4220 Metres)

RACE 1 **(15) WALKADINA | (12) MARLACOO | (8) LUCKY MANIFEST**

1.45

UNIBET MIDDLE DISTANCE VETERANS' CHASE SERIES VETERANS' HANDICAP CHASE (2) 2½m44y (4060 Metres)

RACE 2 **(1) GUNSIGHT RIDGE | (2) FUGITIF | (3) ELDORADO ALLEN**

2.20

THE SUN'S "SAVE OUR BETS" NOVICES' CHASE (Listed) (1) 3m1f (5030 Metres)

RACE 3 **(1) LEAVE OF ABSENCE | (2) DOUBLE POWERFUL | (5) WADE OUT**

2.55

SHLOER CHASE (Grade 2) (1) 1m7f199y (3200 Metres)

RACE 4 **(1) JONBON | (2) L'EAU DU SUD | (3) BROOKIE**

3.30

ALBERT BARTLETT NOVICES' HURDLE (Grade 2) (1) 2m5f (4220 Metres)

RACE 5 **(4) HEADS UP | (9) WELONLYHAVEDONE | (8) NO DRAMA THIS END**

4.00

VALDA ENERGY NOVICES' HANDICAP HURDLE (3) 2m87y (3300 Metres)

RACE 6 **(1) FORTUNE DE MER | (18) ALPHONSE LE GRANDE | (2) JACK HYDE**

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.

1.10

RACE 1

LYCETTS INSURANCE BROKERS CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier) (3) 3yo+ (Rated 0-125) £20,000 2m5f (4220 Metres)**GBI RACING**Going: **Good to Soft (Good 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 KALIUM (FR) (237) 96
121151- 5 12-0 | 76.2kg



Tim Vaughan *Roisin Leech (71lb/3kg)*
Debut Irish bumper winner for Sean Thomas Doyle (sold for £100,000) who improved to make it 4 wins from six outings when battling to land a 9-runner handicap hurdle at Newbury (18.8f) in March. That form is working out well and he merits plenty of respect upped in distance on return.

2 LUTTRELL LAD (IRE) (58) 96
4174-4425 9 11-11 | 74.8kg v+t



Tom Lacey *Non Runner*
NON RUNNER.

3 KNOCKANORE (IRE) (19) 93
2133160-P 8 11-11 | 74.8kg s



Ryan Potter *Freddie Mitchell*
Campaigning over fences last season, posting a career best when a wide-margin winner of Newcastle's Eider in February. Well held since, including in the Old Roan on reappearance last month and has something to prove back over hurdles (off a 5 lb lower mark).

4 NORMAN FLETCHER (21) (BF) 97
13P906-5P 6 11-11 | 74.8kg



Nigel & Willy Twiston-Davies *James Turner (31lb/1kg)*
Enjoyed a productive start to last season but found life tougher in deeper handicaps. Unlikely to have been lacking for fitness when well held on return at Chepstow prior to being pulled up with an irregular heartbeat here last month. Remains to be seen if he can get back on track upped in trip.

5 I SPY A DIVA (28) (D) 98
17/9-6 8 11-10 | 74.4kg



Kim Bailey & Mat Nicholls *Isabelle Ryder (31lb/1kg)*
Four-time winner over hurdles but presumably hasn't been the easiest to train. Shaped as if retaining all her ability (lost all momentum when blundering 3 out) on her reappearance at Uttoxeter (19.9f) last month and could be interesting off this sort of mark if she can back that up.

6 KAP VERT (FR) (22) 99
51336-72 5 11-9 | 73.9kg



Philip Hobbs & Johnson White *Freddie Keighley (31lb/1kg)*
Beat a useful one when successful on second hurdle start at Exeter (heavy) last season. Wasn't disgraced on handicap debut at Punchestown (19.2f) in April and shaped well following 6 months off when a clear second at Fontwell last time. Up 2 lb but could do better back up in trip.

7 BECTIVE ABBEY (IRE) (164) (BF) 94
91/P1-2 7 11-8 | 73.5kg



Nicky Henderson *Freddie Gordon (31lb/1kg)*
Point winner hasn't stood much racing but improved following a wind operation when landing a Ffos Las handicap (2½m, soft) in April. Finished second in a 4-runner handicap on chase debut next time and no surprise to see him take a step forward over hurdles with yard starting to hit top gear.

8 LUCKY MANIFEST (IRE) (20) (D) 95
867P-11 5 11-7 | 73.0kg



Tom Lacey *Toby McCain-Mitchell*
Proved a different proposition upped in trip to win a Kelso novice on final start for James Ewart (sold for £25,000 subsequently) and looked well ahead of his mark when an easy winner on handicap/stable debut at Kelso (22.7f). In deeper waters but surely more to come as he bids for a hat-trick.

9 AVALO (IRE) (30) (BF) 95
81623322 6 11-7 | 73.0kg



Peter Fahey, Ireland *Jake Coen*
Strong-travelling sort got off the mark in a maiden hurdle at Wexford and has been knocking on the door in handicaps, placing for the fifth consecutive race when runner-up behind a stable switcher over 2½m at Punchestown. Off 6 lb higher British mark here but not dismissed in current vein of form.

10 EL CAPITAIN (IRE) (27) 96
9F/P-1 7 11-5 | 72.1kg



Kayley Woollacott *Tiernan Power Roche*
Had been prolific in Point-to-Points prior to making a winning return to Rules for new stable at Newton Abbot (21.6f) 27 days ago, just holding on from runner-up who disappointed at Kempton earlier this week. Will need to improve to follow up in a better race.

11 THE JAM MAN (IRE) (19) (D) 96
6000 12 11-5 | 72.1kg



Ryan Potter *Ned Fox*
One-time useful dual-purpose performer but has offered little in 4 handicap hurdles for Ryan Potter since returning from a long absence. Could only consider if backed.

12 MARLACOO (IRE) (34) (BF) 99
32F213-32 5 11-5 | 72.1kg t



Tom Lacey *Cameron Iles (31lb/1kg)*
Bumper winner opened his hurdles account at Ayr in February and ran his best race in a handicap on return (following wind surgery) when second at Chepstow last month, travelled well having again been supported. One to consider with tongue tie retained for connections who also saddle Lucky Manifest.

13 ROCKTOWN GIRL (IRE) (13) 94
F70-U0424 7 11-5 | 72.1kg t



Anthony McCann, Ireland *Eoghan Finegan (51b/2kg)*
Hadh't been asked for everything when falling 3 out in C&D Grade 2 novice last season. Encouraging fourth over hurdles at Navan on first start of this campaign but had little chance in a Grade 2 novice chase latest. Races off inflated British mark but this looks more realistic on hurdle return.

14 A PAI DE NOM (16) 94
25-12 5 11-5 | 72.1kg



Dan Skelton *Tristan Durrell (31lb/1kg)*
Lengthy gelding made a successful start to his hurdle career in a Newton Abbot maiden (21.6f, soft) on reappearance, comfortably justifying strong market support. Unsusited by slow pace when runner-up over the same C&D next time and likely to be capable of better in this big field on handicap bow.

15 WALKADINA (FR) (237) 100
22/14324- 6 11-4 | 71.7kg t



David Pipe *Rian Corcoran (101lb/5kg)*
Impressed to win on hurdles bow and solid form when fourth in listed company next time. Ran well for a long way on second start since a wind up when fourth on handicap debut at Kelso (16.2f), having raced up with a strong pace. Likely more to come from this lightly raced 6-y-o now upped in trip.

16 KING OF THE ROAD (IRE) (37) 93
1/46126-43 6 11-4 | 71.7kg



Ben Pauling *Beau Morgan (31lb/1kg)*
Won a class 4 handicap hurdle at Taunton last November and has remained in form over hurdles this year, for all his jumping was again far from foot perfect when third in a 6-runner handicap at Ludlow (21f) last month. Should hold his own in a better race back up in trip.

17 LORD OF ALL SAINTS (FR) (252) (D, BF) 94
F46/4111P- 5 11-4 | 71.7kg h+t



Harriet Dickinson *Bradley Harris (31lb/1kg)*
Looked progressive in handicaps last season, completing a hat-trick in good style at Sandown (19.8f, soft) in January, Marlacoo franking the form since. Amiss (scoped dirty) when pulled up at Ayr subsequently but interesting if market suggests he's back to his best following an 8-month break.

18 TIME INTERVAL (110) 93
1425-1123 7 11-3 | 71.2kg t



David Dennis *Charlie Maggs*
Landed back-to-back handicap hurdles at Stratford and Warwick in May and remained in fine form, committing for home a bit sooner than ideal when third at Uttoxeter (15.8f) in July. Upped in grade and has stamina to prove over this longer trip on softening ground.

19 PRIORY PARK (IRE) (51) 96
0/P-61PP15 9 11-2 | 70.8kg



Edward F. Power, Ireland *Eoin Staples (61b/3kg)*
Value for extra when making a successful return to hurdling on stable debut at Ballinrobe (22f, soft) in September and shaped well from a less-than-ideal position when a well-backed fifth in a 3m Listowel handicap last time. Tougher ask back down in trip off a 6 lb higher mark.

20 AS LEGENDS HAVE IT (14) 98
21/233-2 6 11-2 | 70.8kg s



Ben Pauling *Callum Pritchard (31lb/1kg)*
Fairly useful bumper winner who showed promise when placed in a trio of hurdles last season. Produced her best effort when runner-up on handicap debut/reappearance at Uttoxeter (19.9f) leading briefly before 2 out having travelled smoothly. Could improve again in first-time cheekpieces.

1.10

RACE 1

**LYCETTS INSURANCE BROKERS CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS'
HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier) (3) 3yo+ (Rated 0-125)
£20,000 2m5f (4220 Metres)**



20 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

9-1 Marlacoo, **9-1** Lucky Manifest, **10-1** Walkadina, **10-1** A Pai De Nom, **12-1** Kap Vert, **12-1** Bective Abbey, **14-1** El Capitaine, **16-1** As Legends Have It, **16-1** Kalium, **16-1** Avalo, **20-1** Lord of All Saints, **25-1** Norman Fletcher, **28-1** Priory Park, **28-1** King of The Road, **33-1** Rockstown Girl, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

Another ultra-competitive renewal. Impressive novice winner WALKADINA had some very solid form last season and is completely unexposed over this longer trip. She's fancied to make a winning return, though Tom Lacey has a strong hand with 5-y-o pair Marlacoo and Lucky Manifest both remaining capable of better. Of the rest, Kap Vert is on a workable mark for his second start of the season, while Dan Skelton's A Pai de Nom has scope to improve in a big field on handicap debut.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. WALKADINA 2. MARLACOO 3. LUCKY MANIFEST

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2024	Double Powerful 5-11-3	3-1f	Neil Mulholland	Dylan Johnston	16
2023	American Sniper 5-11-9	16-1	David Pipe	Fergus Gillard	20
2022	Sweet Will 5-11-4	8-1	Gavin Patrick Cromwell	K. E. Buckley	18
2021	Art Approval 5-11-2	10-3	Fergal O'Brien	Peter Kavanagh (5)	20
2020	Castle Robin 5-11-7	13-2	Charlie Longsdon	Paul O'Brien	17

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

1.45

RACE 2

UNIBET MIDDLE DISTANCE VETERANS' CHASE SERIES
VETERANS' HANDICAP CHASE (2) 10yo+ (Rated 0-150)
£40,000 2½m44y (4060 Metres)
Going: **Good to Soft (Good 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: **Strong**

1 GUNSIGHT RIDGE (225) s+t **100**
 F231/FP14- 10 12-0 | 76.2kg



Ollly Murphy

Sean Bowen

Lightly raced in recent seasons but looked as good as ever when winning at Sandown in February. Backed that up with a solid fourth in Red Rum at Aintree final start and big player back down in class on return (likely to have won at this meeting on comeback last season but for falling at the last).

2 FUGITIF (FR) (212) (CD) t **98**
 3PP/53608- 10 12-0 | 76.2kg



Richard Hobson

Charlie Maggs (5lb/2kg)

Has produced several good efforts here, not least when winning the December Gold Cup 2 years ago. Not at that level last season but will find this less demanding than the company he usually keeps.

3 ELDORADO ALLEN (FR) (209) (C) s+t **99**
 P0/234705- 11 11-11 | 74.8kg



Joe Tizzard

Brendan Powell

One-time very smart chaser but on long losing run (including in veteran events). However, has a good record fresh and starts the new season off a career-low mark with his yard in form.

4 MISTER COFFEY (FR) (247) **97**
 4263/225- 10 11-11 | 74.8kg



Nicky Henderson

Nico de Boinville

Hard to believe that he's still without a win over fences given the number of solid performances he's delivered (runner-up 8 times and third on 3 occasions from 16 starts in this sphere). Raced exclusively in cross-country events last season, however, and opposable on return.

5 NUMITOR (19) (CD) **98**
 6/P11P1P-P 11 11-9 | 73.9kg



Heather Main

James Bowen

Won 3 veteran events last season (including on the New Course here) but pulled up last 2 starts 6 months apart, labouring early final circuit at Aintree on return.

6 DREAL DEAL (IRE) (48) (D) t **98**
 P06-76124 10 11-3 | 71.2kg



P. J. Rothwell, Ireland

Tiernan Power Roche (3lb/1kg)

Made a winning start for this yard at Killarney in July and better form when second there following month. Decent fourth back over hurdles at Listowel since but may find this too competitive.

7 ESCARIA TEN (FR) (20) b **96**
 P0/P4480-P 11 10-12 | 68.9kg



Martin Keighley

Freddie Keighley (7lb/3kg)

Not the force of old and losing run stretches back almost 5 years.

8 LORD BADDESLEY (IRE) (7lb/3kg ex) (8) (D) t **99**
 274/6483-1 10 10-11 | 68.5kg



Anthony Honeyball

Rex Dingle

Ended losing run (after having breathing operation) in 3-runner event at Newbury on return last week, easily coming clear. This will be tougher under a penalty but respected all the same.

9 CAN YOU CALL (19) (D) t **98**
 332/0522-7 10 10-2 | 64.4kg



Evan Williams

Brian Hughes

Runner-up on his last 2 outings last season but offered little at Fontwell on return last month.

9 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

10-3 Fugitif, **9-2** Gunsight Ridge, **11-2** Lord Baddesley, **7-1** Eldorado Allen, **8-1** Mister Coffey, **11-1** Can You Call, **16-1** Dreal Deal, **18-1** Numitor, **22-1** Escaria Ten

TIMEFORM VIEW:

GUNSIGHT RIDGE looked as good as ever last season and might well have made a winning reappearance at this meeting 12 months ago had he not departed at the last, so gets the vote tackling a veterans event for the first time. Fugitif has a good record here and is another who will appreciate the drop in class, while Eldorado Allen runs well fresh and is on a career-low mark.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. GUNSIGHT RIDGE 2. FUGITIF 3. ELDORADO ALLEN

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2024	Numitor	10-10-13	10-1	Heather Main	James Bowen	10
2023	Cepage	11-11-1	11-2	Venetia Williams	Charlie Deutsch	9
2022	Magic Dancer	10-10-10	7-2	Kerry Lee	Richard Patrick	9

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

2.20**THE SUN'S "SAVE OUR BETS" NOVICES' CHASE (Listed) (1)**
5yo+ £40,000 3m1f (5030 Metres)

RACE 3

Going: **Good to Soft (Good 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 Weak**

1 LEAVE OF ABSENCE (FR) (20) (CD) t **100**
221-1 8 11-7 | 73.0kg



Anthony Honeyball

Rex Dingle

Hasn't stood much racing but has looked talented when he has made the track, finishing second in Grade 2 Reynoldstown before bagging a 3m Newbury handicap in March. Picked up where he left off when successful in a C&D novice 3 weeks ago and that just about sets the standard.

2 DOUBLE POWERFUL (IRE) (20) (C) h **99**
1111233-3 6 11-4 | 71.7kg



Neil Mulholland

Conor O'Farrell

Made great strides over hurdles last term, winning first 4 starts of that campaign prior to a series of fine efforts in defeat, culminating in a third-placed finish in a valuable Aintree handicap (24.7f). Matched that form when third on chase debut here (20.2f) and he's capable of better up in trip.

3 ISAAC DES OBEAUX (FR) (244) s **92**
13P3/5P33- 7 11-4 | 71.7kg



Paul Nicholls

Harry Cobden

Back-to-back hurdles winner last winter and signed 2023/24 campaign off by finishing a close third in 3m handicap at Taunton. Last season was disappointing over fences, third of 9 in cheekpieces at Uttoxeter in March but he's in leading hands and has since undergone breathing surgery.

4 ONE BIG BANG (IRE) (197) **97**
1/224615-3 7 11-4 | 71.7kg



James Owen

Alex Chadwick

Useful 3m hurdle winner who was last seen finishing a good third of 23 in a 3m listed handicap at the Punchestown Festival in May. A point background provides hope that he'll take to fences for his excellent yard.

5 WADE OUT (IRE) (23) **97**
1/121716-1 6 11-4 | 71.7kg



Olly Murphy

Sean Bowen

Three novice hurdle wins last season and this point winner immediately improved for the switch to chasing when landing 5-runner maiden at Worcester 3 weeks ago (20f) holding on gamely. Way he shapes suggests this trip will be within range and he can do better.

5 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

9-4 Leave of Absence, **11-4** Wade Out, **3-1** Double Powerful, **17-2** Isaac Des Obeaux,
9-1 One Big Bang

TIMEFORM VIEW:

LEAVE OF ABSENCE picked up where he left off when doubling his chase tally over C&D 3 weeks ago and he looks capable of conceding 3 lb all round. Double Powerful and Wade Out made positive starts to their chase career recently and both should improve for this trip, so are feared most.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. LEAVE OF ABSENCE 2. DOUBLE POWERFUL 3. WADE OUT

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2024	Hyland 7-11-7	2-1jf	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boinville	4
2023	Broadway Boy 5-11-4	9-4jf	Nigel Twiston-Davies	Tom Bellamy	6
2022	The Real Whacker 6-11-2	10-1	Patrick Neville	Gavin Sheehan	5
2021	Threeunderthruive 6-11-8	11-4	Paul Nicholls	A. P. Heskin	5
2020	The Big Breakaway 5-11-0	4-9f	Colin Tizzard	Robbie Power	5

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

2.55**SHLOER CHASE (Grade 2) (1) 4yo+ £100,000 1m7f199y (3200 Metres)**

RACE 4

Going: **Good to Soft (Good 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: **Weak**

1 JONBON (FR) (202) (CD, BF) **100**
11/111212- **9** 11-10 | 74.4kg



Nicky Henderson

Nico de Boinville

Top-class and supremely consistent chaser who gained a fourth victory of last term in ready fashion in the Melling Chase at Aintree in the spring. Returns after a wind up and he is impossible to oppose in his bid for a hat-trick in this race.

2 L'EAU DU SUD (FR) (223) (CD, BF) **93**
25/111143- **7** 11-7 | 73.0kg



Dan Skelton

Harry Skelton

Quick to make his mark over fences last term and completed a four-timer in Grade 2 Kingmaker at Warwick in February. Posted a good fourth in the Arkle here after and this C&D winner shouldn't be underestimated on his return for a yard well among the winners.

3 BROOKIE (IRE) (21) (D) **92**
P/17312-43 **8** 11-4 | 71.7kg



Anthony Honeyball

Sam Twiston-Davies

Made great strides as a novice over fences last season, winning twice, and he shaped well after 5 months off when third of 9 in handicap chase over C&D 21 days ago, faring best of those held up. This demands much more but he's no forlorn hope.

4 EDWARDSTONE (202) (CD) **96**
F3/3F2354- **11** 11-4 | 71.7kg



Alan King

Tom Cannon

A very smart chaser but he went without a win last term and signed off with a below-par fourth in the Celebration Chase at Sandown in the spring. This veteran C&D scorer has been placed in the past two runnings of this though so can't be totally dismissed.

5 HADDEX DES OBEAUX (FR) (706) (D) **83**
F3/ **8** 11-4 | 71.7kg



Donald McCain

Brian Hughes

Proved most progressive over fences in 2022/23 for Gary Moore when a dual 2m scorer at Doncaster/Warwick and also a fine third to Jonbon in Tingle Creek at Sandown. Resumes after 23 months off for his new stable here though so others are preferred on this occasion.

6 LIBBERTY HUNTER (247) (CD) **92**
F1123/12F- **9** 11-4 | 71.7kg



Evan Williams

Harry Cobden

Smart chaser who scored over C&D on his return last term and was running well when fell 3 out in Queen Mother Champion Chase over C&D in March. Remains quite low mileage so he can't be totally dismissed.

7 MATATA (IRE) (21) (CD) **96**
0/212133-7 **7** 11-4 | 71.7kg



Nigel & Willy Twiston-Davies

J. J. Slevin

Headstrong sort but developed into a very smart chaser last season when winning over C&D and at Windsor. Had a rare off day on his reappearance when seventh of 9 over C&D three weeks ago but it would come as no surprise to see him get back on track now.

7 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

8-11 Jonbon, **6-1** Libberty Hunter, **13-2** L'eau Du Sud, **12-1** Edwardstone, **16-1** Matata, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

Nicky Henderson's top-notch JONBON has yet to finish out of the first two throughout his distinguished career and is confidently expected to return in style from breathing surgery and bag a hat-trick in this Grade 2 chase. Dan Skelton has his string in great nick so his progressive second-season chaser L'Eau du Sud could prove the pick of the rest, although Brookie also looks to have better days ahead of him and shouldn't be underestimated in the battle for minor honours.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. JONBON 2. L'EAU DU SUD 3. BROOKIE

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2024	Jonbon 8-11-10	1-3f	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boinville	4
2023	Jonbon 7-11-10	4-9f	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boinville	4
2022	Nube Negra 8-11-10	1-10f	Dan Skelton	Harry Skelton	3
2021	Nube Negra 7-11-6	9-4	Dan Skelton	Harry Skelton	4
2020	Put The Kettle On 6-10-10	7-4	Henry de Bromhead	Aidan Coleman	4

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

3.30**ALBERT BARTLETT NOVICES' HURDLE (Grade 2) (1) 4yo+
£80,000 2m5f (4220 Metres)**

RACE 5

GBI RACINGGoing: **Good to Soft (Good 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: **Strong**

1 DESTINATION DUBAI (IRE) (30) **93**
112-11 **6** 11-2 | 70.8kg



David Killahena & Graeme McPherson

Kielan Woods

No impact in maiden points, but has looked a different proposition under Rules, winning 2 of his 3 starts in bumpers (sole defeat when second in an Aintree Grade 2) and made it 2-2 over hurdles when landing a 4-runner Wetherby novice (19.7f, good to firm) on return last month. Each-way chance.

2 FOUNTAINS BLENHEIN (22) **99**
10-1 **6** 11-2 | 70.8kg



Anthony Honeyball

Sam Twiston-Davies

From a family which has served the yard well and has won a bumper and maiden hurdle at Fontwell, either side of a no-show in a Grade Aintree bumper during the spring. Looks a decent prospect all in all, but arguably lacks the potential of several of these rivals.

3 GREAT FLEET (IRE) (20) **99**
19-32 **5** 11-2 | 70.8kg



Dan Skelton

Harry Skelton

Bumper winner who has shaped encouragingly in novice hurdles won by Conman John at Kelso and most recently over 3m at this course (good to soft). Dropping back in trip looks a good move and he needs considering with the promise of better to come. Yard also saddles Moneygarrow.

4 HEADS UP (50) **100**
42122-1 **5** 11-2 | 70.8kg



John McConnell, Ireland

M. M. McDonagh

Smart in bumpers last season, culminating with an excellent second in the Champion Bumper here during the spring. Perfect start over hurdles when landing a 2m Listowel maiden in September (second has won since) and he looks sure to progress and win more races.

5 IMPERFECTLYPERFECT (IRE) (34) **89**
31-1 **5** 11-2 | 70.8kg



Lucinda Russell & Michael Scudamore

Derek Fox

£70,000 recruit from the Irish pointing field who won a 7-runner Hexham bumper in March. Followed up when landing the odds on return/hurdles debut there (16.2f, good) last month and he's open to improvement, but this demands a sizeable step forward.

6 KING'S BUCKS (FR) (20) **85**
2-4 **5** 11-2 | 70.8kg



Henry de Bromhead, Ireland

D. J. O'Keeffe

Point winner who finished second on Rules debut in a Gowran bumper in March. Again shaped with promise when fourth in a 15-runner Galway maiden hurdle (16.4f, good to soft) on return 20 days ago, but stepping into Grade 2 company at this stage of his career could be a bridge too far.

7 MONEYGARROW (IRE) (35) **97**
122-3 **5** 11-2 | 70.8kg



Dan Skelton

Tristan Durrell

Won sole start in Irish points and powered clear in the manner of a useful prospect in a Chepstow bumper last October. Placed both subsequent starts in that sphere and also on return/hurdles debut in the Grade 2 Persian War back at Chepstow. Should improve, but Harry Skelton prefers Great Fleet.

8 NO DRAMA THIS END (IRE) (247) **99**
19- **5** 11-2 | 70.8kg



Paul Nicholls

Harry Cobden

Bolted up in a point in February 2024 and impressive winner of a soft-ground Warwick bumper on Rules debut last December. Far from disgraced when mid-field in the Champion Bumper here next time and this stiffer test promises to suit now switched to hurdles.

9 WELONLYHAVEDONE (IRE) (19) **99**
81F **5** 11-2 | 70.8kg



Gavin Patrick Cromwell, Ireland

Keith Donoghue

Point winner during the spring and winning start in this sphere when taking a 5-runner Galway maiden hurdle (17f, soft) last month. Probably would've made it 2-2 over hurdles had he completed upped to 20.7f at the same course next time and this 5-y-o remains open to improvement.

10 INTOSOMETHINGGOOD (12) **97**R0-112152 **4** 11-1 | 70.3kg

Nigel & Willy Twiston-Davies

Nico de Boinville

Won 3 times during the summer and went down all guns blazing when finding just one too strong in a Carlisle novice (2½m, soft) recently, a solid effort considering that he was attempting to concede 7 lb to the winner. Not without each-way hope, but he's up against some very promising types here.

10 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

11-4 Heads Up, **5-1** No Drama This End, **6-1** Welonlyhavedone, **13-2** Great Fleet, **10-1** Moneygarrow, **14-1** Fountains Blenheim, **18-1** Destination Dubai, **20-1** King's Bucks, **22-1** Intosomethinggood, **28-1** Imperfectlyperfect

TIMEFORM VIEW:

Irish raiders HEADS UP and Welonlyhavedone both look very promising and they could be the pair to concentrate on. Marginal preference is for the former, who tables the best piece of bumper form courtesy of his second in the Champion Bumper here in March and he barely put a foot wrong on debut in this sphere at Listowel. Welonlyhavedone is unlucky not to be 2-2 over hurdles and he's greatly respected. No Drama This End could be the pick of the home team ahead of Great Fleet.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**1. HEADS UP 2. WELONLYHAVEDONE 3. NO DRAMA THIS END****WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2024	Potters Charm 5-11-5	7-4	Nigel Twiston-Davies	Sam Twiston-Davies	5
2023	Minella Missile 5-11-2	22-1	Evan Williams	Adam Wedge	8
2022	Hermes Allen 5-11-2	9-4	Paul Nicholls	Harry Cobden	7
2021	Blazing Khal 5-11-0	9-2	Charles Byrnes	D. J. McNerney	6
2020	Does He Know 5-11-3	11-8f	Kim Bailey	David Bass	7

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

4.00**VALDA ENERGY NOVICES' HANDICAP HURDLE (3) 3yo+
(Rated 0-125) £20,000 2m87y (3300 Metres)**

RACE 6

GBI RACINGGoing: **Good to Soft (Good 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: **Strong**

1 FORTUNE DE MER (IRE) (21) (CD) h 99
2140-31 5 12-0 | 76.2kg



Dan Skelton **Harry Skelton**
Useful bumper winner last term and, in first-time hood, was much improved from seasonal/hurdling debut when leading close home in Grade 2 Sharp Novices' Hurdle at this C&D in October. Big-field scenario should suit and he's a major player on handicap bow.

2 JACK HYDE (IRE) (21) (D) t 98
43114-155 7 11-12 | 75.3kg



Fergal O'Brien **Tom Broughton (5lb/2kg)**
Fairly useful novice last season, scoring twice at Southwell, and landed the odds at Newton Abbot on return. Has run well in Grade 2 events the last twice, beaten 2¾ lengths by Fortune de Mer when fifth of 12 here 3 weeks ago, and he could be in the mix with tongue tie back on.

3 DOCTOR GLIDE (FR) (7) 86
32/P589P-P 7 11-8 | 73.5kg



Tim Vaughan **Lorcan Williams**
Fair maiden hurdler in Ireland but no better than mid-division tried chasing last season. Pulled up back over hurdles on final outing last term and, after 7 month-absence, offered little on stable debut at Fontwell last week. Looks to be up against it.

4 AMANCIO (22) (D) t 91
P621-2 4 11-8 | 73.5kg



Faye Bramley **Isabelle Ryder (7lb/3kg)**
Made a winning stable debut in Chepstow maiden hurdle in April, before following up on the Flat 3 weeks later. After 4 months off, progressed further back hurdling when narrowly denied in novice at Ludlow 22 days ago, but will need to find more again now handicapping.

5 FRONTIER PRINCE (35) (D) 86
2317-21 4 11-8 | 73.5kg



Fergal O'Brien **Jonathan Burke**
Off the mark in bumpers at third attempt and shaped well when second on hurdling debut in May. After 5 months off, built on that promise when rallying for success in 15-runner novice at Chepstow 5 weeks ago and he's open to further improvement starting off in handicaps.

6 SHADE OF WINTER (IRE) (278) (BF) h 89
2/322- 5 11-4 | 71.7kg



Evan Williams **Harry Cobden**
Runner-up only start in bumpers and showed promise when placed at Chepstow all 3 outings over hurdles last season, clear of the rest when second in a maiden (19.4f) on final outing. Improvement required as he makes handicap debut after 9 months off.

7 QUINT MAJOR (IRE) (27) (D) 89
3596P3-04 7 11-3 | 71.2kg



Mark Molloy, Ireland **Keith Donoghue**
Remains a maiden over hurdles, but fit from the Flat he returned to form when fourth of 11 in handicap at Limerick last month, faring best of those held up. However, he has work to do if he's to open his account in this contest.

8 FRENCH EMPEROR (FR) (23) (D) 94
337-1 5 11-3 | 71.2kg



Nicky Martin **James Bowen**
Encouragement when third in 2m novice/maiden hurdles on first 2 starts under Rules. Lesser effort upped in trip final outing last term, but after 9 months off he got back on the up when winning at Worcester (2m) 23 days ago. Yard has won with all 4 runners so far this season.

9 SAGE GREEN (IRE) (13) (D) h 90
512-6 5 11-2 | 70.8kg



Syd Hosie **James Best**
Irish point winner who stepped forward from his bumper run when making a successful hurdling debut at Warwick in March. Ran to similar level when second the following month, before possibly needing the run sent handicapping at Ascot (19.3f) 13 days ago. This is tougher.

10 THE EXPENSIVE ONE (IRE) (21) (D) 94
6/13-21P 5 11-1 | 70.3kg



Nigel & Willy Twiston-Davies **Sam Twiston-Davies**
Half-brother to The New One and confirmed previous promise over hurdles when making all in novice handicap at Stratford (18.7f) in October. Pulled up in handicap at this course (19.9f) last time, though had a lot of use made of him and he remains with potential.

11 PURE GOLD (13) (D) 92
P441211F 5 11-0 | 69.9kg



Lisa Harrison **Peter Kavanagh**
Improving mare who made it 3 wins from 4 starts when cruising clear in 5-runner handicap at Hexham in October. Looked a big threat when falling at the last at Wetherby 13 days ago, so she's not ruled out even though she'll need to jump better than last time.

12 KATAKANA (FR) (29) h+t 91
6473-0691 5 10-13 | 69.4kg



Henry de Bromhead, Ireland **D. J. O'Keefe**
Had been struggling for form to start the current campaign (including over fences), but after 12 weeks off she got back on track with a ready success in 18-runner handicap hurdle at Thurles last month. Task is now to build on latest effort.

13 LUCKY BERE (FR) (23) 94
2233-3 4 10-13 | 69.4kg



Kayley Woollacott **Jack Tudor**
Fair 1½m Flat winner in France and similar form in 4 juvenile hurdles last season. After 8 months off (had wind op), ran well when a strong-finishing third in a Worcester handicap 23 days ago, beaten 2¾ lengths by French Emperor, and he can give another good account.

14 BRUANT (152) 87
B8-1 4 10-12 | 68.9kg



A. J. Martin, Ireland **Sean Bowen**
Fairly useful on the Flat in France and left first 2 efforts over hurdles behind when winning a Downpatrick novice (17.8f) in June. Hasn't made much impact on the level since, but he could yet do better back in this sphere as he goes handicapping.

15 AEROPLANE BLONDE (29) 95
3/9U-42 5 10-11 | 68.5kg



Samuel Drinkwater **Kielan Woods**
Some encouragement in bumpers, though unseated at the first on hurdling debut. However, he has shown promise in 2 starts this season, conceding first run when second in a Carlisle novice (17.2f) last month. Could still have more to offer now switched to handicaps.

16 BOBBY'S FORTUNE (IRE) (118) 94
P494P6-16 6 10-3 | 64.9kg



Evan Williams **Isabel Williams**
Had excuses final 2 starts last season, before showing improved form when opening his hurdles account at Ffos Las (2m) in June. However, seemed unsuited by the sharper track when sixth of 11 at Cartmel (17.2f) next time. Others preferred after 4 months off.

17 FARHH ECHO (IRE) (23) s 89
74P-9540 4 10-3 | 64.9kg



D. J. Jeffreys **Finn Lambert (3lb/1kg)**
Showed more than previously over hurdles when fourth of 12 in a Worcester maiden in July. However, he finished well held on handicap debut in race won by French Emperor back at the same C&D last time. Cheekpieces now reached for.

18 ALPHONSE LE GRANDE (IRE) (718) (D) t 100
036/ 6 10-2(10-0) | 64.4kg (63.5kg)



A. J. Martin, Ireland **Daniel King**
Useful on the Flat, winning 4 times in 2024 including the Cesarewitch. Didn't have things go his way a couple of times this year, before finishing eighth of 19 back in the Cesarewitch last time. On a handy mark back hurdling with tongue strap retained from the level.

18 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

6-1 Alphonse Le Grande, **13-2** Fortune De Mer, **9-1** Bruant, **11-1** French Emperor, **14-1** Jack Hyde, **14-1** Lucky Bere, **14-1** Frontier Prince, **16-1** The Expensive One, **16-1** Katakana, **16-1** Shade of Winter, **18-1** Pure Gold, **22-1** Aeroplane Blonde, **22-1** Amancio, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

This could go the way of FORTUNE DE MER, who showed the benefit of his hurdling debut when winning a Grade 2 novice at this C&D last month, travelling strongly with a hood applied. He can progress further in handicaps and is preferred to Alphonse le Grande, who has developed into a useful stayer on the Flat since last seen over hurdles. Jack Hyde and The Expensive One complete the shortlist.

4.00**VALDA ENERGY NOVICES' HANDICAP HURDLE (3) 3yo+**
(Rated 0-125) £20,000 2m87y (3300 Metres)

RACE 6

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:****1. FORTUNE DE MER 2. ALPHONSE LE GRANDE 3. JACK HYDE****WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2024	Wreckless Eric	4-11-10	11-2	Jonjo & A.J. O'Neill	Kielan Woods	15
2023	Impose Toi	5-11-12	2-1f	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boinville	17
2022	Contrapposto	8-10-12	28-1	R. Donohoe	M. J. M. O'Sullivan (5)	19
2021	Mc Alpine	7-11-5	33-1	P.J. Rothwell	J. P. O'Sullivan (5)	18
2020	Lively Citizen	5-10-8	33-1	D. J. Jeffreys	Charlie Deutsch	17

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race