

Wednesday 15th January

# HEREFORD


**1.15** DRAGONBET SUPPORTING BRITISH RACING NOVICES' HURDLE (4) 2m53y (3270 Metres)

 RACE 1 **(2) STARCROSSED LOVER | (1) PALACIO | (6) RENOIR**
**1.45** DRAGONBET BORN FROM THE BETTING RING NOVICES' HANDICAP CHASE (4) 2½m194y (4200 Metres)

 RACE 2 **(1) THE GOOD DOCTOR | (3) MOODOFTHEMOMENT | (4) INTIMATE**
**2.15** DRAGONBET ONCOURSE VALUES ONLINE NOVICES' HURDLE (4) 2m5f163y (4370 Metres)

 RACE 3 **(2) BUCKNA | (1) KING CALIFET | (6) SOLE SOLUTION**
**2.48** DRAGONBET THE INDEPENDENT BOOKMAKER HANDICAP HURDLE (3) 2m3f147y (3960 Metres)

 RACE 4 **(3) KNIGHT OF ALLEN | (2) SANTOS BLUE | (6) JOUR D'EVASION**
**3.23** DRAGONBET REAL PEOPLE, REAL BOOKMAKERS HANDICAP CHASE (4) 2¼m208y (3810 Metres)

 RACE 5 **(5) BOBBI'S BEAUTY | (4) ANOTHER FOLLY | (1) I SHUT THAT D'OR**
**3.58** DRAGONBET STILL BEST ODDS GUARANTEED HANDICAP HURDLE (4) 2m53y (3270 Metres)

 RACE 6 **(5) DOUBLE DRAGON | (1) CHIEF SUNDAY | (2) THANKYOURLUCKYSTAR**

## 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.

1.15

RACE 1












DRAGONBET SUPPORTING BRITISH RACING NOVICES'  
HURDLE (4) 4yo+ £8,000 2m53y (3270 Metres)






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

Hereford's right-handed circuit of about a mile and a half is almost square and has nine fences, of which the first after the winning post is taken on a turn. The home turn, which is on falling ground, is pretty sharp but the other bends are easy. Races have a tendency to be well run and the ground can get very testing in midwinter. The course restarted racing in October 2016 after a four-year hiatus.

Pace Information: **Even**

1	<b>PALACIO (FR) (33)</b> (D)	t	<b>97</b>
	95-13 7 11-10   74.4kg Sam Thomas  <b>Dylan Johnston (31b/1kg)</b> Didn't achieve much in bumpers last season but a different proposition switched to hurdles on his reappearance, making all in a 2m Chepstow novice. Not disgraced at Cheltenham next time (went too hard) and definite player here.		
2	<b>STARCROSSED LOVER (IRE) (31)</b> (D)	★	<b>100</b>
	231 6 11-10   74.4kg Neil Mulholland <b>James Bowen</b> Promising individual. First run since leaving Colm Murphy and 4/1, won 11-runner novice hurdle at Windsor (16f, good to soft) 31 days ago, soon clear. Should progress further and worth a chance to defy the penalty.		
3	<b>KING ULANDA (IRE) (25)</b> (D)		<b>82</b>
	165 5 11-3   71.2kg Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero <b>Henry Brooke</b> Landed a gamble in Huntingdon bumper in May for Tom Weston but yet to build on that over hurdles. Will be of more interest in handicaps.		
4	<b>MIDNIGHT VIEW</b>		<b>79</b>
	5 11-3   71.2kg Matt Sheppard <b>Stan Sheppard</b> Telescope gelding. Dam (c127/h118) 19f/21f hurdle/chase winner. Likely to need some time to get the hang of things.		
5	<b>NATHANAEL GREENE (60)</b>		<b>82</b>
	P-04 6 11-3   71.2kg Alastair Ralph <b>Murray Dodd (71b/3kg)</b> A useful winner on Flat (stays 2m) for William Haggas. Changed hands for 45,000 gns but little promise completed starts over hurdles.		
6	<b>RENOIR (29)</b>		<b>83</b>
	3/8-2 6 11-3   71.2kg Ben Clarke <b>Harry Kimber</b> Made an encouraging bumper debut for Ian Williams when third of 9 at Bangor in April 2023. Yet to build on that, showing only minimal encouragement on hurdling debut. Arrives on the back of a good effort on the Flat, though, and has potential in this sphere.		
7	<b>SOLDIER DAN (IRE) (19)</b>		<b>75</b>
	87 7 11-3   71.2kg L J Morgan <b>Adam Wedge</b> Placed on 2 of 5 starts in points but has shaped like more of a handicap project so far over hurdles.		
8	<b>SONIC GOLD (662)</b>		<b>60</b>
	P/ 9 11-3   71.2kg John O'Shea <b>Brendan Powell</b> Runner-up sole start in points but no promise so far under Rules. Off 22 months.		
9	<b>TRACKING TREASURE (IRE) (64)</b>		<b>79</b>
	7 5 11-3   71.2kg Matt Sheppard <b>Richard Patrick</b> Unplaced both starts in points and failed to beat a rival in a bumper at Fairyhouse for Mary Doyle. Hard to fancy on debut for new yard.		
10	<b>WASHINGTON SINGER (60)</b>		<b>82</b>
	3-8 6 11-3   71.2kg Chris Gordon <b>Harry Reed</b> Some encouragement when third in a bumper at Wincanton but form is ordinary and he was unable to back it up at Uttoxeter 6 months later. Hard to make a strong case for back from a short break.		

11	<b>CINDERELLO (25)</b>		<b>79</b>
	599 5 10-10   68.0kg Alex Hales <b>Harry Bannister</b> Well held in 2 bumpers and she was beaten a long way starting out over hurdles here last month.		
12	<b>DAMZON (25)</b>	b	<b>70</b>
	6-25U6U 6 10-10   68.0kg James Evans <b>Ben Poste</b> Runner-up on the second of 3 bumpers and has shown a bit of promise over hurdles but will be better off in handicaps in due course.		
13	<b>EDMOND (33)</b>		<b>82</b>
	453/1-58 6 10-10   68.0kg Venetia Williams <b>Charlie Deutsch</b> Fair bumper winner for Rod Millman who has made little impact over hurdles.		

13 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

6-4 Starcrossed Lover, 15-8 Palacio, 16-1 Renoir, 22-1 King Ulanda, 25-1 Nathanael Greene, 25-1 Edmond, 28-1 Washington Singer, 50-1 bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

STARCROSSED LOVER made an impressive start for this yard when easily landing a Windsor novice hurdle a month ago and, with further progress on the cards, he's fancied to edge out Palacio in a race that the pair should dominate.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. STARCROSSED LOVER 2. PALACIO 3. RENOIR

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

1.45

RACE 2

DRAGONBET BORN FROM THE BETTING RING NOVICES' HANDICAP CHASE (4) 5yo+ (Rated 0-120) £9,200 2½m194y (4200 Metres)



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

Hereford's right-handed circuit of about a mile and a half is almost square and has nine fences, of which the first after the winning post is taken on a turn. The home turn, which is on falling ground, is pretty sharp but the other bends are easy. Races have a tendency to be well run and the ground can get very testing in midwinter. The course restarted racing in October 2016 after a four-year hiatus.

Pace Information: **Very Weak**

1	<b>THE GOOD DOCTOR (FR) (18)</b>	★	100
	14128P-22 6 12-2   77.1kg		
	Ben Pauling	Ben Jones	
	Fairly useful hurdler who looks the part for chasing and has found just one too strong on both starts in this sphere so far, going down narrowly at Newbury (16.4f, good to soft) 18 days ago. Can make amends here upped to 2½m for the first time.		
2	<b>DENEMETHY (IRE) (2)</b>	t	96
	2716-413 7 12-0   76.2kg		
	Fergal O'Brien	Non Runner	
	NON RUNNER.		
3	<b>MOODOFTHEMOMENT (IRE) (28) (CD)</b>	s	98
	02221141 8 11-8   73.5kg		
	Matt Sheppard	Stan Sheppard	
	Notched third success over fences when decisively seeing off 10 rivals in a 2½m Ludlow handicap 4 weeks ago. Another personal best needed up 8 lb but he's clearly thriving and another bold show may well be on the way.		
4	<b>INTIMATE (FR) (25) (C, BF)</b>		97
	8/23651-24 7 11-8   73.5kg		
	Venetia Williams	Charlie Deutsch	
	Made a promising start over fences when runner-up at Sandown on return last month but was found wanting for pace even in a well-run race on testing ground when fourth of 8 in at Haydock (16.3f, heavy) since. Step up in trip sure to suit and remains with potential.		
5	<b>GOLDEN DE COEUR (FR) (31)</b>		94
	9/23234-P4 9 11-3   71.2kg		
	Warren Greatrex	James Bowen	
	Fair hurdles form and bettered his inauspicious chase debut when fourth of 9 back from a 7-month break at Windsor (20.2f, good to soft) last month. Eased 3 lb since and this dual point winner is probably capable of better in this sphere.		
6	<b>FEVER DREAM (IRE) (31)</b>	t	95
	42-125P48 7 10-11   68.5kg		
	Christian Williams	Adam Wedge	
	Winner over hurdles at Perth in June and followed that with a couple of respectable efforts in defeat. Yet to fire over fences but it's still early days (crying out for return to 3m).		
7	<b>CAPTAIN BOUDET (FR) (40)</b>	s+t	98
	4396-36 6 10-8   67.1kg		
	Jeremy Scott	David Noonan	
	Made a positive return to the fray when third of 18 in 19.5f Chepstow handicap in November and ran to a similar level when sixth of 11 at Exeter (21.6f, heavy) just under 6 weeks ago. Seems to be building up to something and the switch to fences could unlock more. Tongue tie applied.		

7 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

5-2 The Good Doctor, 11-4 Moodofthemoment, 4-1 Intimate, 7-1 Golden De Coeur, 10-1 Captain Boudet, 25-1 Fever Dream

TIMEFORM VIEW:

Cases can be made for most, but the vote goes to THE GOOD DOCTOR, who has found just one too strong on both starts over the larger obstacles so far but Ben Pauling's 6-y-o can make it third time lucky with this extra distance promising to suit. Moodofthemoment made it 3 wins from his last 4 starts when scoring at Ludlow 4 weeks ago so heads up the opposition, with Intimate taken to edge out Golden de Coeur for third.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. THE GOOD DOCTOR 2. MOODOFTHEMOMENT 3. INTIMATE

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

2.15

RACE 3














DRAGONBET ONCOURSE VALUES ONLINE NOVICES' HURDLE  
(4) 4yo+ £8,000 2m5f163y (4370 Metres)



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

Hereford's right-handed circuit of about a mile and a half is almost square and has nine fences, of which the first after the winning post is taken on a turn. The home turn, which is on falling ground, is pretty sharp but the other bends are easy. Races have a tendency to be well run and the ground can get very testing in midwinter. The course restarted racing in October 2016 after a four-year hiatus.

Pace Information: **Very Weak**

1	<b>KING CALIFET (IRE) (28)</b>	96
	1 6 11-10   74.4kg Emma Lavelle  £110,000 Califet gelding. Dam (c111/h110), 17f-3m hurdle/chase winner, half-sister to useful hurdler (stayed 23f) Boreham Bill. Runner-up sole start in Irish points and showed clear promise for all that he ran out a very fortunate winner on his Newbury hurdles debut 4 weeks ago. Can improve.	<b>Joe Anderson (3lb/1kg)</b>
2	<b>BUCKNA (IRE) (28) (BF)</b>	98
	23 5 11-3   71.2kg Warren Greatrex  Changed hands for £350,000 after winning sole start in Irish points and shaped well when runner-up on Rules debut in a Ffos Las novice in November (15.8f, heavy). Went backwards upped in trip at Newbury subsequently but well worth another chance.	<b>James Bowen</b>
3	<b>GAMBLERGO (IRE) (75)</b>	84
	P 6 11-3   71.2kg Toby Lawes Successful on sole outing in Irish points but went with little promise switched to hurdles at Uttoxeter in November. Has had a breathing operation since.	<b>Harry Bannister</b>
4	<b>JOHNNY BOY (FR) (56)</b>	84
	6-7 6 11-3   71.2kg Venetia Williams Well held in a bumper and was always behind when making his hurdles bow at Ffos Las (heavy) 56 days ago. One for the longer term.	<b>Shane Quinlan (3lb/1kg)</b>
5	<b>POETE ARDENT (FR) (34)</b>	65
	P 5 11-3   71.2kg Clive Boulton-Brooks Showed nothing when pulled up in novice hurdle at Warwick (21f, soft, 300/1) on NH debut 34 days ago.	<b>Richard Patrick</b>
6	<b>SOLE SOLUTION (IRE) (41)</b>	 100
	11/62 7 11-3   71.2kg Venetia Williams Dual bumper winner who understandably shaped as if needing the run after almost 2 years off when a well-held sixth at Bangor in November. Subsequently chased home a potentially smart novice in Sixmilebridge at Leicester (20.5f, heavy) and likely to progress further.	<b>Charlie Deutsch</b>
7	<b>STRONG AS STEEL (26)</b>	84
	639-8 6 11-3   71.2kg James Evans Hadn't looked much in bumpers and was never dangerous on last month's hurdling debut at Uttoxeter.	<b>Ben Poste</b>
8	<b>TUSCANY (34)</b>	84
	9 6 11-3   71.2kg Warren Greatrex  Made no impact sole outing in bumpers at Warwick last month. Significantly up in trip for hurdle bow.	<b>Brendan Powell</b>
9	<b>DONTWORRYWEGOTTHIS (28)</b>	65
	088 6 10-10   68.0kg Georgie Howell Offered little only start in bumpers and has fared no better in 2 starts since switched to hurdles.	<b>Tabitha Worsley (3lb/1kg)</b>

9 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

15-8 Sole Solution, 9-4 Buckna, 11-4 King Califet, 28-1 Gamblergo, 33-1 Johnny Boy, 33-1 Tuscany, 40-1 bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

BUCKNA was a bit disappointing upped in trip at Newbury last month, but he's well worth another chance based on his hurdling debut promise, a performance supported by the clock. King Califet ran out a very fortunate winner on his hurdling debut at Newbury but shaped clear second best on the day nonetheless and can be expected to improve, with Sole Solution also of firm interest.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. BUCKNA 2. KING CALIFET 3. SOLE SOLUTION

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

2.48

RACE 4












DRAGONBET THE INDEPENDENT BOOKMAKER HANDICAP HURDLE (3) 4yo+ (Rated 0-140) £20,000 2m3f147y (3960 Metres)



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

Hereford's right-handed circuit of about a mile and a half is almost square and has nine fences, of which the first after the winning post is taken on a turn. The home turn, which is on falling ground, is pretty sharp but the other bends are easy. Races have a tendency to be well run and the ground can get very testing in midwinter. The course restarted racing in October 2016 after a four-year hiatus.

Pace Information: **Weak**

1	<b>STOLEN SILVER (FR) (67)</b>	s+t	<b>85</b>
	U2P0/19-P6 10 12-1   76.7kg Sam Thomas  <b>Dylan Johnston</b> (3lb/1kg) Very smart chaser at his best but made early mistakes when pulled up on his Chepstow return and failed to make an impact back over hurdles at Aintree next time. Has been off a couple of months. Cheekpieces on for 1st time.		
2	<b>SANTOS BLUE (33) (D)</b>	t	<b>99</b>
	3/272101-5 8 11-10   74.4kg Dan Skelton <b>Mr Ben Sutton</b> (5lb/2kg) Likeable type who resumed progress during second half of last term, winning over 2½m in the mud at Wetherby and Uttoxeter. Should strip fitter for last month's Doncaster reappearance and must enter calculations.		
3	<b>KNIGHT OF ALLEN (FR) (53)</b>		<b>98</b>
	C21-33 5 10-11   68.5kg Mrs Jane Williams  <b>David Noonan</b> Lightly-raced hurdler who posted his best effort yet when creditable third of 14 in handicap (14/1) at Haydock (18.9f, soft) 53 days ago. This slightly longer trip promises to suit and he warrants plenty of respect.		
4	<b>KAMAXOS (FR) (34)</b>	h	<b>91</b>
	143-P9 8 10-9   67.6kg Roger Teal <b>James Bowen</b>  Made light of a long absence to comfortably see off 6 rivals in 2m Sandown handicap hurdle in February. Decent efforts in defeat next 2 starts but was found to have bled on return/chase debut at Warwick and offered little back in this sphere at Taunton last month. Also engaged 3.00 Newbury.		
5	<b>LEMONCELLO (FR) (25)</b>		<b>99</b>
	22321-P42 6 10-7   66.7kg Venetia Williams <b>Charlie Deutsch</b> Useful recruit from France who again gave signs of finding his feet for this stable when second in 4-runner affair over C&D 25 days ago, albeit flattered by proximity to winner.		
6	<b>JOUR D'EVASION (FR) (41) (BF)</b>	t	 <b>100</b>
	221P3-U22 6 10-4   65.3kg Henry Daly <b>Stan Sheppard</b> Novice hurdle winner last season and second to smart mare at Sandown (2m) in November. Bettered that effort when second at Wincanton (15.2f, heavy) 41 days ago, chased home idling winner. Respected back up in trip.		
7	<b>ZACONY REBEL (IRE) (28)</b>	s	<b>95</b>
	P4/8U55-05 10 10-2(9-12)   64.4kg (62.6kg) Sarah-Jayne Davies <b>James Best</b> Dual hurdles/chase winner who was largely disappointing during a light 2023/24 campaign for Toby Lawes. Better effort for present yard when fifth of 8 in handicap at Ludlow 4 weeks ago but no banker to build on that.		

7 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

3-1 Knight of Allen, 10-3 Jour D'evasion, 9-2 Lemoncello, 9-2 Santos Blue, 8-1 Stolen Silver, 25-1 Zacony Rebel, 25-1 Kamaxos

TIMEFORM VIEW:

KNIGHT OF ALLEN posted his best effort yet when third in a useful handicap at Haydock towards the end of November and, with the still longer trip sure to suit, he's an appealing candidate to notch a second career success. Santos Blue is a likeable type who should be all the better for his reappearance, while Jour d'Evasion is well worth another try at this trip given how he shaped at Wincanton.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. KNIGHT OF ALLEN 2. SANTOS BLUE 3. JOUR D'EVASION

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

3.23

RACE 5


DRAGONBET REAL PEOPLE, REAL BOOKMAKERS HANDICAP CHASE (4) 5yo+ (Rated 0-110) £9,200 2¼m208y (3810 Metres)



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

Hereford's right-handed circuit of about a mile and a half is almost square and has nine fences, of which the first after the winning post is taken on a turn. The home turn, which is on falling ground, is pretty sharp but the other bends are easy. Races have a tendency to be well run and the ground can get very testing in midwinter. The course restarted racing in October 2016 after a four-year hiatus.

Pace Information: **Even**

1	<b>I SHUT THAT D'OR (FR) (30)</b>	t	<b>97</b>
	<small>P3-P70121 7 12-0   76.2kg</small> <b>Joe Tizzard</b> Has been rejuvenated by the switch to front-running tactics, making it 2 wins from his last 3 starts with a bold-jumping display at Plumpton (19.8f, good to soft) 30 days ago. Capable of another bold bid in his current form.	<b>Brendan Powell</b>	
2	<b>TILLY TOUGHNUT (284)</b>		<b>99</b>
	<small>636155- 8 11-13   75.7kg</small> <b>Henry Daly</b> Much improved when making a successful handicap hurdle debut at Exeter (16.7f, heavy) in February last year. However, wasn't able to repeat that effort in her 2 subsequent outings and off 9 months ahead of chase debut.	<b>Stan Sheppard</b>	
3	<b>ZESTFUL HOPE (FR) (28) (C, BF)</b>	s	<b>98</b>
	<small>244-04423 8 11-13   75.7kg</small> <b>Charlie Longsdon</b> Fair handicap hurdler/chaser who went agonisingly close to getting off the mark in this sphere at Uttoxeter in November. Ran to similar level when third at Ludlow (20f, soft) last time and he can give another good account.	<b>James Bowen</b>	
4	<b>ANOTHER FOLLY (FR) (29)</b>	★	<b>100</b>
	<small>66P3-322 6 11-12   75.3kg</small> <b>Mrs Jane Williams</b> Fair form over hurdles and has matched that level sent chasing this season, bumping into an improver but finishing clear of the rest when second of 9 in handicap at Wincanton (20.2f, soft) in December. Not taken lightly.	<b>David Noonan</b>	
5	<b>BOBBI'S BEAUTY (IRE) (28)</b>		<b>99</b>
	<small>0721P4-41 7 11-2   70.8kg</small> <b>Martin Keighley</b> With reappearance run behind her, showed much improved form when running out a convincing winner at Lingfield (16f, good to soft) in December. Record now stands at 2 from 4 in chases and she can add to her tally with more still to offer.	<b>James Best</b>	
6	<b>RIVER ROBE (IRE) (28)</b>		<b>96</b>
	<small>24735644 6 10-11   68.5kg</small> <b>Sarah-Jayne Davies</b> Yet to score for current yard but showed more than previously over fences when fourth in handicap at Ludlow (20f, soft) 4 weeks ago, a bad mistake 2 out probably costing her third. Task is now to build on latest effort.	<b>Conor Ring</b>	
7	<b>JIKALA (FR) (18) (C, BF)</b>		<b>77</b>
	<small>442514/66 6 10-11   68.5kg</small> <b>Venetia Williams</b> French import who was successful in juvenile hurdle here in March 2023. Some encouragement after 20 month-absence when sixth of 8 in handicap at Leicester (22.7f) on chase debut in December, but never a threat back at Leicester (20.1f) 18 days ago.	<b>Charlie Deutsch</b>	
8	<b>JOHNNY MAC (IRE) (15) (C)</b>	s+t	<b>93</b>
	<small>111-7P337 10 10-2   64.4kg</small> <b>Matt Sheppard</b> Completed a hat-trick for current yard a year ago, including a win at this course (16f), but yet to fire so far this season, in first-time cheekpieces when well held at Warwick (16.2f, soft) 15 days ago. Others more persuasive at present.	<b>Lee Edwards</b>	

8 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

3-1 I Shut That D'or, 7-2 Bobbi's Beauty, 9-2 Zestful Hope, 6-1 Another Folly, 11-1 Jikala, 14-1 River Robe, 16-1 Johnny Mac, 18-1 Tilly Toughnut

TIMEFORM VIEW:

BOBBI'S BEAUTY stepped forward from her return when scoring in good style at Lingfield in December and, after only 4 starts in chases, she can build on that effort to follow up. Another Folly has shown promise over fences this season and is respected, with I Shut That d'Or also in the mix.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. BOBBI'S BEAUTY 2. ANOTHER FOLLY 3. I SHUT THAT D'OR

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race



3.58

RACE 6











DRAGONBET STILL BEST ODDS GUARANTEED HANDICAP HURDLE (4) 4yo+ (Rated 0-110) £8,200 2m53y (3270 Metres)



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

Hereford's right-handed circuit of about a mile and a half is almost square and has nine fences, of which the first after the winning post is taken on a turn. The home turn, which is on falling ground, is pretty sharp but the other bends are easy. Races have a tendency to be well run and the ground can get very testing in midwinter. The course restarted racing in October 2016 after a four-year hiatus.

Pace Information: **Strong**

1	<b>CHIEF SUNDAY (FR) (49)</b> (D)	97
	78-441 5 12-0   76.2kg Nigel Twiston-Davies <i>Mr Toby McCain-Mitchell (71lb/3kg)</i> Left previous form behind when winning 3-runner event at Market Rasen (16.6f, soft) on handicap debut 49 days ago, driven out. Likely to do better again, so merits plenty of respect.	
2	<b>THANKYOURLUCKYSTAR (28)</b> (D)	99
	3/P422-136 9 12-0   76.2kg Alastair Ralph <i>Tabitha Worsley (31lb/1kg)</i> Resumed winning ways at Worcester (2½m, good to soft) in June and backed it up with a good third at Southwell 5 months later. Latest effort best excused and the drop back to 2m could be in his favour.	
3	<b>MONSANT (IRE) (29)</b>	98
	276-67 7 11-13   75.7kg Neil Mulholland <i>Conor O'Farrell</i> Definite promise (fair form) on first 2 starts in maiden hurdles during 2023. Hasn't kicked on from that positive start so far this season, including on debut for this yard at Wincanton a month ago. Has a bit to prove.	
4	<b>ACTIVIST (FR) (45)</b> (D)	97
	6211P-P16 6 11-12   75.3kg David Pipe <i>Gearoid Harney (51lb/2kg)</i> Latest win in hurdle at Leicester in November. 9/2, sixth of 9 in handicap hurdle at Leicester (15.5f, heavy) 45 days ago. Blinkers back on but isn't the most reliable.	b
5	<b>DOUBLE DRAGON (20)</b> (D, BF)	100
	40-3142 5 11-12   75.3kg Anthony Honeyball <i>Chad Bament (10lb/5kg)</i> Stepped up on hurdle debut third when taking a 2m Ffos Las maiden (good) in May and firmly back on track when an excellent second at Wincanton on return. Looks the one to beat if he's in the same form.	★
6	<b>FALCO DES PINS (FR) (28)</b>	95
	7662-P8 5 11-10   74.4kg Venetia Williams <i>Charlie Deutsch</i> Ex-French performer who was steadily progressive last season, best effort yet when second of in juvenile hurdle at Angers (16.9f) in March. Yet to fire for current yard and arrives with something to prove.	
7	<b>CASI CRUDO (26)</b> (D)	94
	12453/22-0 6 11-9   73.9kg Alex Hales <i>Harry Bannister</i> Juvenile hurdle winner in December 2022. Generally consistent subsequently and entitled to need his return from 13 months off at Ascot last month. Could get back on track.	
8	<b>LANESBOROUGH (IRE) (19)</b>	88
	557 6 11-6   72.6kg Ben Pauling <i>Ben Jones</i> Placed both starts in Irish points and looks a likely improver switched to handicaps after three quiet runs over hurdles. Worth a market check.	
9	<b>VOIX DE BOCELLI (20)</b>	95
	33P-48F46 5 11-5   72.1kg Henrietta C Knight <i>Brendan Powell</i> Fair form in France for Francois Nicolle but boasts a mixed record under various codes for present stable. Not disgraced at Wincanton last time but more is required.	
10	<b>DARTMAN (IRE) (25)</b>	94
	95C36 5 11-0   69.9kg Sarah-Jayne Davies <i>Miss Jess Stewart (71lb/3kg)</i> Fair maiden handicapper on Flat and signs of aptitude over hurdles. May strip fitter for sixth in C&D novice last month and opening mark could be lenient.	

11

MISS PEARL (IRE) (546)

66/4674- 9 10-2(9-13) | 64.4kg (63.0kg)

Sheila Lewis

Sean Houlihan

Found to be lame after finishing fourth of 6 in novice hurdle at Uttoxeter (15.8f, good to soft) back in July 2023. Up in distance for her return which should suit but a long absence to overcome so might be best to look elsewhere.

11 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

7-2 Double Dragon, 7-2 Chief Sunday, 6-1 Thankyourluckystar, 17-2 Activist, 14-1 Casi Crudo, 18-1 Voix De Bocelli, 18-1 Dartman, 18-1 Lanesborough, 22-1 Falco Des Pins, 33-1 Monsanto, 33-1 Miss Pearl

TIMEFORM VIEW:

DOUBLE DRAGON returned in top form when second in a 15-runner contest at Wincanton in December and, with a conditional taking off a useful 10 lb, he's worth a chance to go one better at the possible expense of Chief Sunday, who was successful at Market Rasen last time. Thankyourluckystar should benefit from the drop back in trip, so he's another to consider.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. DOUBLE DRAGON 2. CHIEF SUNDAY 3. THANKYOURLUCKYSTAR

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race