

Saturday 16th May

UTTOXETER



5.20	QUINNBET CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP CHASE (Qualifier) (5) 2½m189y (4200 Metres)
RACE 1	(7) UNIVERSAL SECRET (5) KING OF THE STORY (10) ROCKVALE
5.50	CARLSBERG NOVICES' HURDLE (4) 2m3f207y (4010 Metres)
RACE 2	(1) BEAU QUALI (6) MANALISHI (4) DOUBLE TIGER
6.20	1664 BIERE NOVICES' HANDICAP HURDLE (5) 2m7f70y (4690 Metres)
RACE 3	(3) PEPITE DE SAPHIR (6) GALWAY REEL (4) CRACK OPS
6.50	EATON HALL SHOOTING GROUND HANDICAP HURDLE (2) 2m7f70y (4690 Metres)
RACE 4	(8) GEEZER ROCKSTAR (6) SECRET TRIX (7) WA WA
7.20	CHEMIQUE BONDED FOR VICTORY CUP NOVICES' LIMITED HANDICAP CHASE (3) 2½m (4020 Metres)
RACE 5	(5) STANNERS GLEN (2) BLACK HAWK EAGLE (4) ORDEROFTHE DAY
7.55	SOMERSBY HANDICAP HURDLE (5) 2m3f207y (4010 Metres)
RACE 6	(3) FIGHTING FALCON (4) VICTORIA MILANO (5) GOOD BOY GRIFF
8.30	HOBGOBLIN HANDICAP HURDLE (5) 1m7f168y (3170 Metres)
RACE 7	(6) MODERN STYLE (1) SPARTAN TIMES (7) COLLANISI

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.

5.20 **QUINNBET CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP CHASE**
(Qualifier) (5) 5yo+ (Rated 0-100) £7,000 2½m189y
(4200 Metres)



Going: **Good**

Left handed, sharp. Although tight in nature, the track has a reputation for gruelling conditions during the winter, ability to see out the trip being of paramount importance. When the going is on the firm side it often pays to race prominently, especially on the chase course. Fences below average in terms of numbers of fallers/unseats.

Pace Information: **Even**

1 INDEPENDENT JIMMY (169) (BF) s **97**
 9/4221236- 7 12-0 | 76.2kg
 Donald McCain *William Maggs (31b/1kg)*
 Winner of handicap hurdle at Bangor last autumn. Also placed over fences on next 2 outings. Freshened up since a lesser effort at Musselburgh in November.



2 IRONICA DE THAIX (FR) (23) s **96**
 PPP- 8 12-0 | 76.2kg
 Venetia Williams *Ned Fox (31b/1kg)*
 French bumper winner in 2021 but he has made the track only 6 times since, pulling up on all 3 outings last season (fences last twice). Plenty to prove at present.



3 JIAIR MADRIK (FR) (32) h+t **93**
 8P2F44- 7 11-12 | 75.3kg
 Donald McCain *Charlie Maggs (31b/1kg)*
 Fair hurdler/chaser in France. Yet to reproduce that level in Britain but his mark continues to slide.



4 QUICKASICAN (IRE) (14) s+t **95**
 P/8PF2-P 9 11-8 | 73.5kg
 Jessica Bedi *Elizabeth Gale*
 Placed first 3 starts over hurdles in 2022/23 for Rebecca Menzies. Best for new yard after huge absence when second in 2½m Newcastle handicap last month but pulled up at Hexham since.



5 KING OF THE STORY (IRE) (22) t **96**
 411P1PP4- 10 11-8 | 73.5kg
 Polly Gundry *Callum Pritchard*
 Can makes mistakes but it didn't prevent him landing a trio of 2½m handicaps chases in the first half of last season. Returned from a break with a creditable fourth of 12 at Fontwell (19f, good) 22 days ago. Likely to be on the premises.



6 BEEP BEEP BECKY (IRE) (73) t **96**
 6607- 5 11-7 | 73.0kg
 Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero *Tristan Durrell*
 Failed to pull up any trees in 4 runs over hurdles but was runner-up in a point earlier in her career and could fare better now switching to chasing with a first-time tongue strap enlisted. One to note in the betting.



7 UNIVERSAL SECRET (IRE) (45) (BF) s+t **100** ★
 2P43/PP12- 9 11-4 | 71.7kg
 Helen Nelmes *Dylan Johnston*
 Took advantage of a much-reduced mark back from 3 months off (had another breathing operation) when seeing off 8 rivals at Wincanton (2½m, soft) in February. Even better form when runner-up on good ground there since. Likely to give another good account.



8 KING OF CONG (IRE) (33) v+t **94**
 0P2430PP- 8 11-2 | 70.8kg
 Sam England *Lewis Stones*
 Responded well to the addition of cheekpieces when runner-up in handicap chase at Hexham (3m, good to soft) in November but has lost his way since, including pulling up twice back at Hexham this spring. Remains to be seen if a change of headgear (first-time visor for blinkers) makes a difference.



9 ANNIE NAIL (IRE) (12) (D) **95**
 6726312-3 9 10-8 | 67.1kg
 Tracey Leeson *Oscar Palmer (31b/1kg)*
 Won a 23f Fakenham handicap hurdle over Easter. Runner-up in a chase there next time but finished at remote third at the same venue (fences again) 12 days ago.



10 ROCKVALE (IRE) (28) **92**
 7069/86- 7 10-8 | 67.1kg
 Sam Allwood *Freddie Keighley*
 Lightly-raced sort who has yet to better poor form under Rules, although he did move comfortably for a long way in 3m Bangor handicap chase last time and this return to 2½m may suit.



11 SAWPIT SAMANTHA (51) b+t **92**
 7835/0P38- 8 10-2(10-1) | 64.4kg (64.0kg)
 Jo Davis *Benjamin Macey*
 Remains a maiden after 17 runs and only eighth of 9 in handicap chase at Warwick (2½m) 51 days ago. Blinkers go on for the first time.



11 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

3-1 Universal Secret, **9-2** Independent Jimmy, **8-1** Annie Nail, **9-1** King of The Story, **10-1** Beep Beep Becky, **11-1** Rockvale, **14-1** King of Cong, **14-1** Jiair Madrik, **25-1** Quickasican, **33-1** Ironica De Thaix, **50-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

UNIVERSAL SECRET has had the form of his latest Wincanton second boosted by the winner since and can show he's still on a good mark. King of The Story made a solid return from a break at Fontwell last month and is second choice ahead of Rockvale, who may benefit from the drop back to 2½m

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. UNIVERSAL SECRET 2. KING OF THE STORY 3. ROCKVALE

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

5.50

CARLSBERG NOVICES' HURDLE (4) 4yo+ £10,000
2m3f207y (4010 Metres)

RACE 2



Going: **Good**

Left handed, sharp. Although tight in nature, the track has a reputation for gruelling conditions during the winter, ability to see out the trip being of paramount importance. When the going is on the firm side it often pays to race prominently, especially on the chase course. Fences below average in terms of numbers of fallers/unseats.

Pace Information: **Weak**

1 BEAU QUALI (FR) (22) (D) **100**
 15258221- 6 11-10 | 74.4kg

Christian Williams *Sean Bowen*
 Runner-up twice in handicap hurdles this spring before gaining a long overdue first success over hurdles in 19f Chepstow novice 22 days ago. Has made a positive start for the Christian Williams yard and taken to defy a penalty.

2 FINAL SURPRISE (IRE) (14) (C) **82**
 755-1 5 11-10 | 74.4kg

Alastair Ralph *Ciaran Gethings*
 Fair form in bumpers and made a winning start to his hurdle career in 2m course novice (good) 14 days ago. More will be needed to defy a penalty over this longer trip but he is open to improvement.

3 CHICKER (35) **82**
 11600- 5 11-3 | 71.2kg

Fergal O'Brien *Fern O'Brien (5lb/2kg)*
 Looked good when winning his first 2 bumpers. Limitations exposed in good company since but should still be capable of making an impact in a race like this now hurdling. Has had a breathing operation.

4 DOUBLE TIGER (50) **82**
 8/52- 7 11-3 | 71.2kg

Warren Greatrex *Paul O'Brien*
 Stepped up on his hurdling bow when second of 15 in novice at Wetherby (2m) 50 days ago. Goes back up in trip and likely to improve again.

5 EXECUTIVE PRODUCER (IRE) (35) h+t **70**
 575- 6 11-3 | 71.2kg

Jessica Bedi *Conor O'Farrell*
 Placed on the second of 2 starts in Irish points but hasn't shown much in 2 bumpers and a novice hurdle under Rules.

6 MANALISHI (IRE) (32) **92**
 2/32- 7 11-3 | 71.2kg

Richard Phillips *Harry Bannister*
 Shaped well when second in a bumper at Chepstow last April. Placed in 2 hurdles since, showing fair form when runner-up over 21f at Market Rasen (good) 32 days ago. May do better again.

7 SOLO ECLIPSE (66) t **80**
 26- 6 11-3 | 71.2kg

David Killahena & Graeme McPherson *Nick Slatter (3lb/1kg)*
 Runner-up on Huntingdon bumper debut (heavy) in February but not in the same form when only sixth there on less testing ground 5 weeks later. Makes hurdle debut.

8 THE HOSTAGE (FR) (30) **70**
 60- 5 11-3 | 71.2kg

Warren Greatrex *Joe Anderson (3lb/1kg)*
 Beaten a long way in 2 bumpers this spring and Double Tiger looks the stable first string here.

9 EMERALD OCEAN (IRE) (63) t **70**
 0- 5 10-10 | 68.0kg

Dominic Elsworth *Brendan Powell*
 12/1 and hooded, last of 12 in bumper at this course (2m, soft) on debut 63 days ago. Hood off and tongue tie on now hurdling. Can only watch.

9 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

2-1 Beau Quali, **11-4** Manalishi, **6-1** Double Tiger, **6-1** Chicker, **12-1** Final Surprise, **22-1** Solo Eclipse, **50-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

It took BEAU QUALI a long time to get off the mark over hurdles but he might be good for back-to-back successes now. Manalishi and Double Tiger are open to progress after runner-up efforts last time, while Chicker's bumper ability suggests he could also have a say if taking to his new discipline.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. BEAU QUALI 2. MANALISHI 3. DOUBLE TIGER

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025	Walk On High 8-11-10	4-11f	Harry Fry	Rex Dingle	4
2024	Miss Maverick 7-11-3	4-1	Gary Hammer	James Davies	9
2023	Lookaway 6-11-10	1-5f	Neil King	Jack Quinlan	6
2022	Hidden Heroics 5-11-10	2-13f	Dan Skelton	Harry Skelton	5
2021	Inishbiggle 6-11-1	2-9f	Barry Leavy	Daryl Jacob	4

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

6.20

1664 BIERE NOVICES' HANDICAP HURDLE (5) 4yo+ (Rated 0-105) £7,000 2m7f70y (4690 Metres)

RACE 3



Going: **Good**

Left handed, sharp. Although tight in nature, the track has a reputation for gruelling conditions during the winter, ability to see out the trip being of paramount importance. When the going is on the firm side it often pays to race prominently, especially on the chase course. Fences below average in terms of numbers of fallers/unseats.

Pace Information: **Weak**

1 BARRY FIFE (IRE) (14) 98

55277-3 7 12-0 | 76.2kg



Gary Hanmer **J. Hogan**

Fair form when runner-up on C&D hurdle debut in March 2025. Hasn't reproduced that level over shorter trips here in his 2 comeback outings this spring but the return to a longer distance should suit now handicapping.

2 COUNTRY MOUSE (IRE) (23) 97

0/0346P- 6 11-8 | 73.5kg



Alastair Ralph **Ciaran Gethings**

Point winner. Reached the frame twice in mares' novice hurdles in December but has struggled in 2 handicaps this spring.

3 PEPITE DE SAPHIR (448) t ★ 100

462/ 6 11-8 | 73.5kg



Rebecca Menzies **Nathan Moscrop**

Lightly-raced sort who has been off for 14 months but did show promise in maiden/novice hurdles for Dr Richard Newland & Jamie Insole. Interesting on yard/handicap debut with a tongue tie also added.

4 CRACK OPS (28) (BF) 97

216322- 4 11-0 | 69.9kg



Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero **Tristan Durrell**

Bumper winner. Fair form over hurdles this spring, including 10 lengths second on 2½m Bangor handicap debut 4 weeks ago, although he once again didn't help his cause with mistakes. The cheekpieces he's worn the last twice are left off now.

5 GETUPTHEYARD (IRE) (170) (BF) 96

2/226FF45- 7 10-12 | 68.9kg



Nigel Hawke **David Noonan**

Still a maiden but runner-up 3 times in handicaps last spring, including C&D. Off since a poor effort at Taunton in November. Has had a breathing operation.

6 GALWAY REEL (IRE) (163) s 99

2/26U3182- 7 10-12 | 68.9kg



Ian Williams **Sean Bowen**

Capitalised on falling mark when scoring at third time of asking over fences in 3m Market Rasen handicap last September. Close second in chase at Leicester (23f, good to soft) in December. Freshened up since. Slightly lower mark back hurdling and Sean Bowen rides.

7 DEXPERADO (FR) (425) s 92

7556/ 7 10-8 | 67.1kg



Nick Kent **Charlie Hammond**

Runner-up twice at Market Rasen in spring 2024 but disappointed on next 4 starts and not seen since March 2025. A watching brief is the percentage call.

7 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

2-1 Crack Ops, **3-1** Galway Reel, **6-1** Pepite De Saphir, **8-1** Barry Fife, **12-1** Country Mouse, **12-1** Getuptheyard, **25-1** Dexperado

TIMEFORM VIEW:

It might be worth chancing the returning PEPITE DE SAPHIR on her handicap debut for new trainer Rebecca Menzies, with confidence in her chance increased should the betting vibes be strong. The booking of Sean Bowen suggests Galway Reel could be ready to roll after a break and he's second choice ahead of Crack Ops.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. PEPITE DE SAPHIR 2. GALWAY REEL 3. CRACK OPS

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025	Miss Goldfire	6-12-0	evsf	Harry Fry	C. P. O'Shea (7)	6
2024	Clatterbridge	7-10-9	16-1	Stella Barclay	Luke Scott	10

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

6.50

EATON HALL SHOOTING GROUND HANDICAP HURDLE (2)
4yo+ (Rated 0-145) £18,600 2m7f70y (4690 Metres)

RACE 4



Going: **Good**

Left handed, sharp. Although tight in nature, the track has a reputation for gruelling conditions during the winter, ability to see out the trip being of paramount importance. When the going is on the firm side it often pays to race prominently, especially on the chase course. Fences below average in terms of numbers of fallers/unseats.

Pace Information: **Very Weak**

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025	Minella Rescue 7-12-0	2-1f	Gary Hanmer	James Bowen	6
2024	Take No Chances 6-11-7	2-1f	Dan Skelton	Fergus Gillard	8
2023	Twig 8-11-8	7-4f	Ben Pauling	Beau Morgan (7)	9
2022	Eglantine du Seuil 8-12-0	5-1	Paul Nicholls	Angus Cheleda (5)	9
2021	Lord Accord 6-10-11	10-3	Neil Mulholland	Brendan Powell	7

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

1 SUPER SURVIVOR (IRE) (42) (D) s **97**
 1109/2118- 10 12-0 | 76.2kg



Jamie Snowden **Gavin Sheehan**
 Likeable stayer who enhanced his already positive strike rate with back-to-back wins last season. Looked uncomfortable with the pace at Haydock (3m) last month and this may also fail to place enough emphasis on stamina for this thorough stayer.

2 MINELLA RESCUE (IRE) (35) (CD) **99**
 20/128400- 8 11-9 | 73.9kg



Gary Hanmer **James Davies**
 Placed in Grade 1 company as a novice and strong in the betting back down in class when doubling tally over hurdles in this race a year ago. Found a pair of high-end spring handicaps too much last time but this is a much more realistic assignment.

3 SKYJACK HIJACK (IRE) (22) (D) **96**
 111115/P6- 8 11-6 | 72.6kg



Jennie Candlish **William Shanahan (5lb/2kg)**
 Front-running hurdler who enjoyed a remarkable 2024 when completing a 6-timer at Newcastle. Looked rusty after 15 months off when pulled up in handicap at Kelso in February and failed to come on a great deal for that Perth 3 weeks ago. Needs to raise his game back up in trip.

4 LIHYAN (IRE) (35) (CD) h **98**
 73332917- 8 11-4 | 71.7kg



Rebecca Menzies **William Maggs (3lb/1kg)**
 Strong-travelling sort was delivered late to land 6-runner handicap at Newbury in March. Raised in class but typically have his running when seventh at Aintree (displaying usual head carriage) and he can give it another good go from the same mark.

5 KAYF DANCER (55) (D) **98**
 31/4081- 8 10-11 | 68.5kg



Philip Hobbs & Johnson White **Callum Pritchard**
 Strong maiden form prior to landing odds in 3-runner maiden at Exeter last spring. Didn't get it right immediately in handicaps but better than ever returned to that venue when doubling tally in March (23f). 4 lb rise fine but now needs to back that up.

6 SECRET TRIX (42) (CD) s+t **99**
 21589723- 9 10-10 | 68.0kg



Olly Murphy **Sean Bowen**
 C&D winner back in 2024 and having dropped in the weights, he's back on reasonable heart, placed the last time (underwent breathing surgery in between). Same mark here and Shaun Bowen takes over here, so he's on the shortlist.

7 WA WA (IRE) (22) (D) s+t **99**
 1/2233472- 11 10-4 | 65.3kg



Olly Murphy **Paul O'Brien**
 Veteran four-time winner in Ireland and off the mark for this yard at Perth in April 2025. Plenty of solid placed efforts to his name since, including when second in repeat bid last month. Nudged up 4 lb but likely to give it a good go.

8 GEEZER ROCKSTAR (IRE) (45) s+t **100**
 5PP2/871- 7 10-4 | 65.3kg



Harry Fry **Bryan Carver**
 Finally put it all together in handicaps when a decisive winner at Wincanton (21f) last month. 5 lb ruse could be lenient and hopes are high that he'll stay this far.

8 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

10-3 Geezer Rockstar, **9-2** Secret Trix, **11-2** Wa Wa, **11-2** Kayf Dancer, **13-2** Lihyan, **12-1** Minella Rescue, **16-1** Super Survivor, **20-1** Skyjack Hijack

TIMEFORM VIEW:

This is a higher band of handicap for GEEZER ROCKSTAR but he was impressive at Wincanton last month and on that evidence, a 5 lb rise is well within range assuming he sees this new trip out. Olly Murphy saddles 2 in-form rivals in the shape of Secret Trix and Wa Wa.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. GEEZER ROCKSTAR 2. SECRET TRIX 3. WA WA

7.20

**CHEMIQUE BONDED FOR VICTORY CUP NOVICES' LIMITED
HANDICAP CHASE (3) 5yo+ £12,800 2½m (4020 Metres)**

RACE 5



Going: **Good**

Left handed, sharp. Although tight in nature, the track has a reputation for gruelling conditions during the winter, ability to see out the trip being of paramount importance. When the going is on the firm side it often pays to race prominently, especially on the chase course. Fences below average in terms of numbers of fallers/unseats.

Pace Information: **Weak**

1 QUEENSBURY BOY (IRE) (4) t **96**
1/545526-1 7 11-10 | 74.4kg



Mickey Bowen **Brendan Powell**
Bumper/dual hurdle winner for Harry Derham and had been steadily progressive over fences for this yard until a wayward display at Kelso in February. Walked over at Hereford 4 days ago.

2 BLACK HAWK EAGLE (IRE) (30) (BF) **100**
52/92631F- 8 11-6 | 72.6kg



Kerry Lee **Conor O'Farrell**
Flat/hurdles winner who belatedly confirmed the promise of his chasing debut when taking 3-runner handicap at Chepstow (2m, good to soft) in March. Still going as well as any when exiting before the longer trip came into play at Hereford since and remains of interest.

3 THAT'S NICE (IRE) (40) (BF) **96**
141/752P- 6 11-2 | 70.8kg



Nicky Henderson **Nico de Boinville**
Point winner who won 2 of her 3 starts over hurdles. Well held first 2 runs over fences last season but back on track when second at Newbury (23f) in March. Eased out of the race after a bad mistake at the fourth at Hereford since.

4 ORDEROFTHE DAY (IRE) (85) (BF) **99**
22/1343- 6 11-1 | 70.3kg



Olly Murphy **Sean Bowen**
Showed plenty when runner-up in 2 bumpers and went one better on Bangor hurdling debut/reappearance (17f) in November. Has shown better form in defeat in 3 runs since and possesses all the hallmarks of a useful staying novice chaser.

5 STANNERS GLEN (IRE) (54) t **99**
1321- 7 10-7 | 66.7kg



Harry Fry **Bryan Carver**
Point/bumper winner in Ireland who got off the mark at the third time of asking over hurdles in maiden at Wincanton (15f, good) in March. Bred to make a useful chaser and his opening mark could certainly underestimate him, particularly with the longer trip likely to suit.

5 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

2-1 Black Hawk Eagle, **10-3** Stanners Glen, **9-2** That's Nice, **5-1** Orderoftheday, **13-2** Queensbury Boy

TIMEFORM VIEW:

STANNERS GLEN got off the mark at the third time of asking over hurdles with a bit up his sleeve at Wincanton in March and with the switch to chasing and step up in trip likely to bring about further improvement, he's taken to capitalise on what could be a very generous opening mark. Black Hawk Eagle was going as well as any when exiting at Hereford on his latest start and should be adding to his chase tally this spring/summer, while Orderoftheday is another interesting newcomer to this sphere.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. STANNERS GLEN 2. BLACK HAWK EAGLE 3. ORDEROFTHE DAY

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

7.55

**SOMERSBY HANDICAP HURDLE (5) 4yo+ (Rated 0-100)
£7,000 2m3f207y (4010 Metres)**

RACE 6




Going: **Good**


Left handed, sharp. Although tight in nature, the track has a reputation for gruelling conditions during the winter, ability to see out the trip being of paramount importance. When the going is on the firm side it often pays to race prominently, especially on the chase course. Fences below average in terms of numbers of fallers/unseats.

Pace Information: **Weak**


1 KINGDOM OF STARS (FR) (40) (BF) s **91**
PU63P- 5 12-0 | 76.2kg

 **Kerry Lee** *Conor O'Farrell*
Fairly useful Flat performer but hasn't really looked a natural over hurdles so far, losing touch before the race fully took shape on handicap debut last month (2m). Cheekpieces go on back up in trip.



2 NITTY GRITTY (IRE) (10) (D) s **96**
10P7P5P-2 6 12-0 | 76.2kg

 **Mark Walford** *Charlie Maggs (31b/1kg)*
Fair winning hurdler for Joseph O'Brien who offered more than previously for current yard when fifth in 10-runner handicap at Wetherby on Boxing Day. Tame effort at Market Rasen but quickly back on his game with cheekpieces back on when second at Kelso.


3 FIGHTING FALCON (IRE) (124) s+t **97**
08/95P- 5 11-13 | 75.7kg

 **Stuart Edmunds** *Charlie Hammond*
Minor promise only in Ireland for Josh Halley but has joined a yard with a good record with new recruits. One to monitor very closely in the market with cheekpieces added to tongue tie.

4 VICTORIA MILANO (IRE) (42) t  **100**
62653/F8P- 8 11-12 | 75.3kg

 **Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero**  *Tristan Durrell*
Dual 2m/2m5f hurdles winner in 2023/24 for Alastair Ralph. Lightly raced since, failing to jump with any fluency when well backed over fences at Haydock last month. Return to hurdling in her favour and she lurks on a dangerous mark.


5 GOOD BOY GRIFF (28) **95**
6795542- 5 11-11 | 74.8kg

 **Gary Hanmer** *Sean Bowen*
Showed improved form when going close on handicap debut at Bangor (2½m) last month, headed dying strides. Not yet exposed so expected to give it another good go with Bowen booked.


6 WHENTHEMUSICSTOPS (IRE) (36) t **92**
252- 5 11-10 | 74.4kg

 **Jennie Candlish** *Luke Scott (31b/1kg)*
Failed to build on promising hurdling debut second at Plumpton in September both starts since, latterly back from a break at Sedgefield last month. In very capable hands and now goes handicapping with a tongue strap on.


7 LEGENDARY DAY (27) s **95**
1473/46F- 8 11-7 | 73.0kg

 **Barry Brennan** *James Best*
Winner on the Flat for this yard in February 2025. Not in top form in either code since, falling 4 out at Stratford 4 weeks ago.


8 SUMATRAN TIGER (FR) (169) **92**
429- 9 11-5 | 72.1kg

 **Richard Phillips** *Harry Bannister*
Multiple winner on Flat in Jersey and made the frame in a couple of novice hurdles since joining Richard Phillips. Low-key handicap debut at Doncaster in November and has undergone breathing surgery ahead of reappearance.


9 ESKIMO SAM (42) h+t **95**
9898/56- 7 10-9 | 67.6kg

 **Alastair Ralph** *Ciaran Gethings*
Failed to come on for her handicap/stable debut when sixth of 7 at Newton Abbot last time. Now tried over a longer trip in a refitted tongue tie, but it's hard to be confident.


10 STAY HOPEFUL (IRE) (140) s **57**
899- 6 10-8 | 67.1kg

 **Henry Oliver** *Lee Edwards*
Got off mark in Irish points at fourth attempt (April 2025) but well beaten in his qualifying runs. Handicaps upped in trip more suitable, at least. Cheekpieces also on.


11 SAINT VIC (FR) (14) **95**
497737/7-2 7 10-6 | 66.2kg

 **Anthony Day** *Lewis Stones (31b/1kg)*
Maiden who seemingly hasn't been the easiest to train but he ran right up to his best when second of 8 over 23f here 2 weeks ago.

12 EARLOFBRACKENSTOWN (IRE) (191) (BF) **91**
SPP0P- 7 10-3 | 64.9kg

 **Jessica Bedi** *J. Hogan*
Modest ex-Irish maiden who offered little in a quartet of starts for Phil Kirby.

13 SCRUMPYJACK (22) b **95**
0/P00- 5 10-2(9-6) | 64.4kg (59.9kg)

 **Charlie Longsdon** *Gavin Sheehan*
Has looked very limited so far but headgear now employed from his basement mark.

13 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

11-2 Good Boy Griff, **15-2** Nitty Gritty, **8-1** Victoria Milano, **9-1** Fighting Falcon, **9-1** Whenthemusicstops, **9-1** Kingdom of Stars, **11-1** Saint Vic, **14-1** Stay Hopeful, **16-1** Scrumpyjack, **25-1** Eskimo Sam, **28-1** Earlofbrackentown, **33-1** Legendary Day, **33-1** Sumatran Tiger

TIMEFORM VIEW:

A case can be made for several but Stuart Edmunds has a good record with new recruits so ex-Irish FIGHTING FALCON could be the answer on his British debut. Victoria Milano is back hurdling off a very dangerous mark so he demands respect, with Good Boy Griff also of some interest.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. FIGHTING FALCON 2. VICTORIA MILANO 3. GOOD BOY GRIFF

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025	Rock On Tommy 10-10-9	5-2f	Olly Murphy	Sean Bowen	8
2024	Jasmin de Grugy 5-11-8	11-10f	Anthony Honeyball	Richie McLernon	13
2023	Steal My Sunshine 6-11-3	7-1	Dan Skelton	Bridget Andrews	11
2022	Jack of All Shapes 6-10-8	25-1	Gillian Boanas	Nathan Moscrop	14

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

8.30

**HOBGOBLIN HANDICAP HURDLE (5) 4yo+ (Rated 0-105)
£7,000 1m7f168y (3170 Metres)**

RACE 7



Going: **Good**

Left handed, sharp. Although tight in nature, the track has a reputation for gruelling conditions during the winter, ability to see out the trip being of paramount importance. When the going is on the firm side it often pays to race prominently, especially on the chase course. Fences below average in terms of numbers of fallers/unseats.

Pace Information: **Even**

1 SPARTAN TIMES (14) (CD) 99
517-1 5 12-0 | 76.2kg



Jennie Candlish *William Shanahan (5lb/2kg)*
Looked favourably handicapped on pick of Flat form and shrugged off any thoughts of rustiness with a battling display when making a winning handicap hurdle debut in 16-runner event over C&D earlier in the month. 5 lb rise doesn't look insurmountable so obvious player.

2 ZAFAN (IRE) (180) 97
335/2325- 6 11-12 | 75.3kg



Charlie Clover *Sean Bowen*
Still to score over hurdles but shaped encouragingly in first-time cheekpieces and hood combination when second of 7 in a C&D handicap in October. Failed to build on that promise at Plumpton the following month, though.

3 ASK A SAINTE (42) 91
3/9945- 6 11-10 | 74.4kg



Olly Murphy *Lewis Stones (3lb/1kg)*
Placed in a bumper on debut and showed more under a positive ride second time up over hurdles when fourth of 18 at Wincanton (15f) in December. Possibly needed the run when well held at Newton Abbot 4 months later and has since made an interesting yard switch (previously trained by David Brace).

4 ROARIN' SUCCESS (81) 94
624- 6 11-9 | 73.9kg



Donald McCain *Charlie Maggs (3lb/1kg)*
Fairly useful performer on the level (stays 1¼m). Showed more than first time up over hurdles when second in 17f maiden at Newcastle in January but failed to repeat that effort at Catterick next time. Needs more now entering handicaps fit from the Flat.

5 MERRY SHUIL (IRE) (81) 95
34/9725- 8 11-6 | 72.6kg



Jennie Candlish *I. J. Power*
Maiden who produced much her best effort under a marked change of tactics when second of 5 in 2m handicap at Catterick in February. Failed to reproduce that form with patient tactics readopted back there later in the month, though.

6 MODERN STYLE (24) 100
3P011- 4 11-1 | 70.3kg



Nigel Hawke *James Best*
Made it 2 wins from as many starts in handicaps hurdles in 10-runner event at Taunton (19f, good) 24 days ago, going with enthusiasm. Looks capable of completing the hat-trick.

7 COLLANISI (IRE) (50) 95
3/9954- 6 11-0 | 69.9kg



Ben Pauling *Callum Pritchard*
Shaped well when third in a Ffos Las bumper on debut. Best effort over hurdles when fourth of 15 in maiden at Wetherby (2m, good) in March and brings an unexposed profile to his handicap debut.

8 CASTLE QUARTER (IRE) (53) (CD) 97
P/14P3P6- 10 10-11 | 68.5kg



Neil Mulholland *Bradley Harris (3lb/1kg)*
Opened his hurdles account on second run following a lengthy absence over C&D last spring. Mixed bag since, though did take a step back in the right direction when sixth of 13 in 2m handicap at Taunton on latest start.

9 GENBU (14) (D) 97
P436680-3 4 10-2 | 64.4kg



Sarah-Jayne Davies *Charlie Price*
Bounced back to form on just second start for current connections when 2 lengths third of 16 to Spartan Times in C&D handicap (good, 66/1) a fortnight ago. Meets that rival on 4 lb better terms but that may not be enough to reverse the form.

9 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

9-4 Modern Style, **9-2** Spartan Times, **9-1** Ask A Sainte, **10-1** Collanisi, **12-1** Zafaan, **12-1** Genbu, **12-1** Castle Quarter, **14-1** Roarin' Success, **18-1** Merry Shuil

TIMEFORM VIEW:

MODERN STYLE has taken off since switching to handicaps and looks up to completing the hat-trick. Spartan Times, a recent C&D winner, still has scope on the pick of his Flat form and needs considering, along with handicap newcomer Collanisi.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. MODERN STYLE 2. SPARTAN TIMES 3. COLLANISI

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025	Maple 4-11-9	2-1	Ruth Jefferson	Jamie Hamilton	6
2024	Strutter 5-11-12	9-2	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boenville	11
2023	Getaway Tom 5-11-4	4-1	Tom Lacey	Stan Sheppard	10
2022	Master Malachy 6-12-0	18-1	Donald McCain	Theo Gillard (3)	7
2021	Ever So Cool 6-11-12	11-4f	Dan Skelton	Harry Skelton	13

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race