

Saturday 17th January

ASCOT

12.25 BETMGM JUVENILE HURDLE (3) 1m7f157y (3160 Metres)

 RACE 1 **(10) WINSTON JUNIOR | (2) DOWN TO BUSINESS | (7) MACSHADOW DES CRAI**
1.00 BETMGM HANDICAP CHASE (3) 2m7f185y (4800 Metres)

 RACE 2 **(5) THE JUKEBOX KID | (8) LAGANHILL | (4) IN D'OR**
1.40 BETMGM WARFIELD MARES' HURDLE (Grade 2) (1) 1m7f157y (3160 Metres)

 RACE 3 **(1) JOYEUSE | (3) LA CONQUIERE | (2) NURSE SUSAN**
2.20 BET365 HANDICAP CHASE (2) 2m5f13y (4240 Metres)

 RACE 4 **(6) VINCENZO | (4) BAD | (7) SCARFACE**
2.53 BETMGM HOLLOWAY'S HANDICAP HURDLE (2) 2m3f63y (3880 Metres)

 RACE 5 **(9) SURREY LORD | (1) TRIPOLI FLYER | (7) MARCHE D'ALIGRE**
3.30 BETMGM CLARENCE HOUSE CHASE (Clarence House) (Grade 1) (1) 2m172y (3380 Metres)

 RACE 6 **(2) IL ETAIT TEMPS | (4) THISTLE ASK | (3) JONBON**
4.05 BETMGM EBF 'NATIONAL HUNT' NOVICES' HURDLE (Qualifier) (3) 2m5f146y (4360 Metres)

 RACE 7 **(2) LAGUNA BEACH | (4) THE BURREN MAN | (9) WHISKEY YANKEE**

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.

12.25

BETMGM JUVENILE HURDLE (3) 4yo £25,000 1m7f157y (3160 Metres)

RACE 1



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

Right handed, galloping. Jumps course reopened in 2006/7 after major redevelopment work and, whilst the course drains faster than used to be the case, underfoot conditions can still get gruelling. Rather surprisingly, however, the chase course has one of the lowest non-completion records in the country in recent seasons.

Pace Information: **Weak**

10 DECLARED RUNNERS

1 BRAVE GUEST (IRE) (21) 94
22 4 11-0 | 69.9kg



Sheena West *Marc Goldstein*
Poor maiden on the Flat for Jack Channon but has made a promising start to his hurdles career, much improved from his hurdling bow when second in a 9-runner juvenile at Kempton (16f, good) 3 weeks ago. This is typically a hot race, however.

2 DOWN TO BUSINESS (31) (BF) 86
3 4 11-0 | 69.9kg



Dan Skelton *Harry Skelton*
Fair maiden on the (stays 1¼m) in Ireland for Andrew Oliver. Looks the part for hurdling and made a promising start when staying-on third in a well-run 2m juvenile at Newbury last month, yet to be asked for effort when mistake 3 out. Sure to improve in first-time tongue tie for top yard.

3 ELMAN (IRE) (22) 82
F 4 11-0 | 69.9kg



Denis Hogan, Ireland *Jonathan Burke*
Dam half-sister to fairly useful hurdler (stayed 19f) Elishpour. Fair maiden on Flat for John Patrick Murtagh and was weakening when falling 2 out on hurdle/stable debut (100/1) at Limerick on Boxing Day. Has work to do in this company.

4 ENZIYA (IRE) (18) 79
57F 4 11-0 | 69.9kg



Kevin Pickard *Paul O'Brien*
Fair winner up to 1¾m on Flat in Ireland. Highly tried in his both completed starts over hurdles (had wind surgery in-between) prior to falling early at Taunton last time. Looks one for handicaps/longer trips.

5 FLASH MAN (FR) 84
4 11-0 | 69.9kg



Toby Lawes *Tom Cannon*
Fairly useful on Flat (stays 1½m) in France, winner twice in 2025 but down the field on final start for H-A Pantall. Sold privately for €38,000 later in November and market can guide expectations on stable/hurdle debut.

6 GENEALOGY (21) 84
8 4 11-0 | 69.9kg



Denis Hogan, Ireland *Sam Twiston-Davies*
Useful 1m Flat winner as juvenile for Aidan O'Brien. Shaped as if better for the run on hurdle/stable debut when 80/1 eighth in a 19-runner juvenile at Leopardstown (16f, good) last month, not given hard time. Likely to improve at some stage and one to note if market vibes are positive.

7 MACSHADOW DES CRAI (FR) (35) 86
3-446 4 11-0 | 69.9kg



Nicky Henderson *James Bowen*
French form has some merit (reached the frame in bumpers/juvenile hurdle for M.Seror) and he was given a sympathetic ride on reappearance/stable debut when sixth in the Triumph Trial at Cheltenham last time. Remains with potential for leading yard.

8 NOVELISTA (IRE) (D) 84
4 11-0 | 69.9kg



Warren Greatrex *Harry Bannister*
Half-brother to fair 17f hurdle winner Migdam. Dam half-sister to fairly useful hurdler Lyric Street. Fairly useful on Flat (stays 2¼m), won Class 2 handicap at Goodwood last season. Sold from Charlie Johnston 165,000 gns in October and he's one to note on hurdles bow for new connections.

9 TALAKAN (FR) 84
4 11-0 | 69.9kg



Toby Lawes *K. Brogan*
Dam, useful winner up to 11f on Flat in France, half-sister to useful hurdler Tegerek. Fairly useful on Flat in France, won 14f maiden on final outing for Francis-Henri Graffard. Sold for €40,000 later in November and betting should offer plenty of clues with yard also saddling Flash Man.

10 WINSTON JUNIOR (IRE) (35) 100
22 4 11-0 | 69.9kg



Faye Bramley *Harry Cobden*
Useful maiden on Flat (stays 13f) for Jessica Harrington in Ireland and has made a very encouraging start to his hurdle career, improving from his Fontwell second when runner-up in the Triumph Trial at Cheltenham, finishing with running left having pulled hard/met trouble. Sets the standard here.

BETTING FORECAST:

9-4 Winston Junior, **7-2** Down To Business, **7-1** Novelista, **8-1** Macshadow Des Crai, **10-1** Brave Guest, **16-1** Genealogy, **20-1** Talakan, **33-1** Elman, **33-1** Flash Man, **50-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

In a race usually worth noting, WINSTON JUNIOR can cement a highly encouraging start to his hurdles career, having caught the eye when second in the Triumph Trial at Cheltenham last month. Down To Business shaped with plenty of promise on his hurdle debut and looks sure to improve for the Skelton yard, while ex-French recruit Macshadow des Crai is expected to take a step forward from his UK debut run behind Winston Junior.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. WINSTON JUNIOR 2. DOWN TO BUSINESS 3. MACSHADOW DES CRAI

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025	Lulamba 4-11-10	4-5f	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boynville	7
2022	Doctor Parnassus 4-10-12	3-1	Dan Skelton	Harry Skelton	4
2021	Tritonic 4-10-12	5-4f	Alan King	A. P. Heskin	10

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

1.00

BETMGM HANDICAP CHASE (3) 5yo+ (Rated 0-140)
£20,000 2m7f185y (4800 Metres)

RACE 2



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

Right handed, galloping. Jumps course reopened in 2006/7 after major redevelopment work and, whilst the course drains faster than used to be the case, underfoot conditions can still get gruelling. Rather surprisingly, however, the chase course has one of the lowest non-completion records in the country in recent seasons.

Pace Information: **Strong**

1 OUTLAW PETER (IRE) (72) (BF) t **90**
 23112/95-3 10 12-0 | 76.2kg

Paul Nicholls **Freddie Gingell**
 Enjoyed a fruitful first campaign over fences but raced only twice last season and turned in a lacklustre effort when last of 3 at Newbury on return. Bit to prove now for all he's in excellent hands.

2 ISSAM (FR) (28) t **99**
 1/46312-13 8 12-0 | 76.2kg

Tom Symonds **Gavin Sheehan**
 Made it 2-3 over fences when seeing off 5 rivals on Wetherby reappearance (19f, soft) in November. Upped in grade and progressed again when third from 5 lb higher at this venue (18.8f). Lot depends on whether he sees this trip out.

3 WELCOM TO CARTRIES (FR) (43) (C, D) t **97**
 128/442-61 8 11-11 | 74.8kg

Paul Nicholls **Harry Cobden**
 Useful hurdler and similar standard over larger obstacles, leaving his reappearance run in his wake when prevailing in a narrow finish at Sandown (24.2f) 6 weeks ago. Definite possibilities with a repeat having been nudged up 4 lb.

4 IN D'OR (FR) (43) (CD) **98**
 12/01136-3 8 11-11 | 74.8kg

Fergal O'Brien **Jonathan Burke**
 Improved for switch to fences last term, winning twice prior to a good third at Sandown. Early mistake didn't help but still performed well when sixth of 18 upped to 3¾m in the National Hunt Challenge Cup at Cheltenham and having changed yards for £220,000, he shaped promisingly on stable debut.

5 THE JUKEBOX KID (IRE) (35) (BF) ★ **100**
 13-14 7 11-7 | 73.0kg

Ben Pauling **Ben Jones**
 One from 2 over hurdles and he made a big splash when successful on handicap chase debut at Carlisle (20.9f) in November, impressing with how he jumped/travelled. Didn't look so potent back left-handed when fourth at Cheltenham (25.2f) since but looks well worth another chance.

6 KAP VERT (FR) (21) (BF) **97**
 336-72713 6 11-4 | 71.7kg

Philip Hobbs & Johnson White **Sean Houlihan**
 Winning hurdler who looked a natural when making a successful debut over fences at Taunton last month, his sound jumping having his rivals under pressure a long way out. Up 8 lb and subsequent Kempton third was another good effort.

7 CHAVEZ (IRE) (386) (C) **88**
 55FP/0- 10 11-4 | 71.7kg

Venetia Williams **James Bowen**
 Big-field maiden chase winner for Willie Mullins in January 2023. Lightly raced and essentially disappointing in handicaps since for this yard. Off a further 12 months and joined another excellent yard but he has plenty to prove.

8 LAGANHILL (49) **97**
 1173-42 8 11-3 | 71.2kg

Henry Daly **Sam Twiston-Davies**
 Pretty useful dual winner as novice hurdler last season and made a positive start to his chase career in November, pulling clear of the rest when second of 8 at Bangor (3m, heavy) latterly. Open to further progress, particularly as he's unexposed over this sort of trip.

9 EYED (49) (D) t **97**
 F11224-27 9 11-0 | 69.9kg

Hughie Morrison **Tom Cannon**
 Much improved over fences for this yard last season, winning 3 times. Held his form well after and made an encouraging return back over hurdles at Kempton. Never looked that happy in a soundly-run race back over fences at Newbury, making mistakes.

10 MONTREGARD (FR) (21) (CD) v **98**
 613PP-11P 7 10-13 | 69.4kg

Tom Lacey **Stan Sheppard**
 Reacted well to a first-time visor when back to winning ways at Worcester in May and followed up in decisive fashion 7 months later over this C&D. Reportedly has irregular heartbeat when pulling up in hat-trick attempt at Kempton 3 weeks ago.

11 MINELLA BLUEWAY (IRE) (42) (D) s **98**
 652711-P3 8 10-11 | 68.5kg

Evan Williams **Isabel Williams**
 Benefited from application of cheekpieces when ending last term with wins at Ludlow and Uttoxeter. Ran better than on this season's return when third at Chepstow (23.6f, good to soft) 42 days ago and he could take another step forward fitness-wise.

11 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

4-1 The Jukebox Kid, **5-1** Welcom To Cartries, **6-1** Laganhill, **8-1** In D'or, **10-1** Issam, **12-1** Kap Vert, **14-1** Eyed, **16-1** Montregard, **20-1** Minella Blueway, **20-1** Outlaw Peter, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

Having created a very favourable impression on chase debut at Carlisle, THE JUKEBOX KID didn't look at home going left-handed at Cheltenham last month but returned to this configuration, he's well worth another chance. Laganhill has a bigger performance in him over fences so is feared most, though In d'Or is expected to step up on last month's reappearance.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. THE JUKEBOX KID 2. LAGANHILL 3. IN D'OR

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025	In d'Or 7-10-13	2-1	Venetia Williams	Mr David Maxwell	5
2022	Cat Tiger 8-11-12	9-2	Paul Nicholls	Mr David Maxwell (3)	10
2021	Enqarde 7-11-1	4-1	Dr Richard Newland	Charlie Hammond (3)	11

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

1.40**BETMGM WARFIELD MARES' HURDLE (Grade 2) (1) 4yo+ fillies and mares £60,000 1m7f157y (3160 Metres)****RACE 3**Going: **Good to Soft (Soft in places)**

Right handed, galloping. Jumps course reopened in 2006/7 after major redevelopment work and, whilst the course drains faster than used to be the case, underfoot conditions can still get gruelling. Rather surprisingly, however, the chase course has one of the lowest non-completion records in the country in recent seasons.

Pace Information: **Very Weak**

1 JOYEUSE (FR) (28) **100**
32169-229 7 11-6 | 72.6kg



Nicky Henderson

James Bowen

French bumper winner who developed into a useful hurdler last term, the highlight when winning the William Hill Hurdle at Newbury. Failed to fire in 2 runs over fences but wasn't seen to best effect back hurdling in a premier C&D handicap 4 weeks ago, shuffled back home turn. Better expected here.

2 NURSE SUSAN (FR) (14) (D) **97**
711/09-911 9 11-6 | 72.6kg



Dan Skelton

Harry Skelton

Back-to-back winner during 2023/24 campaign and firmly back in the groove this season, supplementing her Cheltenham handicap success in 6-runner listed event at Sandown (19.8f) a fortnight ago. Good claims in hat-trick bid if she continues to stand up to her racing.

3 LA CONQUIERE (FR) (49) (D) **97**
22-11 7 11-4 | 71.7kg



Jamie Snowden

Gavin Sheehan

Useful in bumpers and has looked good prospect both starts over hurdles, winning mares maiden at Uttoxeter (15.8f) and listed mares novice at Newbury (16.3f). Seems sure to go on to better things.

4 OOH BETTY (IRE) (37) (D) **99**
01303-000 8 11-2 | 70.8kg



Ben Clarke

Ben Jones

Bagged 2m handicaps at Sandown and Kempton last season and largely in good nick after. However, has returned from 6 months off with a pair of below-par efforts and has a bit to prove now.

5 SUNSET MARQUESA (IRE) (14) (D) **97**
2161F-314 7 11-2 | 70.8kg



Joe Tizzard

Brendan Powell

Bumper winner who notched a third success over hurdles in a 19.8f mares' handicap at Sandown last month. Seemed to excel herself up in grade when 4 lengths fourth of 6 to the reopposing Nurse Susan in listed event there a fortnight ago, losing third close home. 4 lb better off with that rival here.

5 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

9-4 Nurse Susan, 5-2 La Conquiere, 9-2 Sunset Marquesa, 5-1 Joyeuse, 10-1 Ooh Betty

TIMEFORM VIEW:

JOYEUSE is still on a bit of a revival mission, but she wasn't seen to best effect (shuffled back home turn) in a high-end C&D handicap on most recent outing and looks interesting on these terms back against her own sex. La Conquiere has won both her hurdle starts with something up her sleeve and looks sure to go on improving now stepping up further in grade, with fellow hat-trick seeker Nurse Susan also commanding plenty of respect.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. JOYEUSE 2. LA CONQUIERE 3. NURSE SUSAN

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:2025 **Take No Chances** 7-11-6 13-2 Dan Skelton Kielan Woods 7**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

2.20

BET365 HANDICAP CHASE (2) 5yo+ £100,000 2m5f13y (4240 Metres)

RACE 4



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

Right handed, galloping. Jumps course reopened in 2006/7 after major redevelopment work and, whilst the course drains faster than used to be the case, underfoot conditions can still get gruelling. Rather surprisingly, however, the chase course has one of the lowest non-completion records in the country in recent seasons.

Pace Information: **Even**

1 HITMAN (FR) (41) s+t **98**

3/222P7-13 **10** 12-0 | 76.2kg
 Paul Nicholls **Freddie Gingell**
 Ended a long losing run when landing the Old Roan at Aintree (2½m, good) under Freddie Gingell in October, finding more for pressure than is sometimes the case. Ground was slower than ideal in Peterborough Chase at Huntingdon next time but he looks vulnerable in any case, given his poor strike rate.

2 JUNGLE BOOGIE (IRE) (16) (CD) **98**

416/1P-7 **12** 11-11 | 74.8kg
 Venetia Williams **James Bowen**
 Fragile but highly talented performer who was sixth in 2024 Gold Cup on just his fourth start over fences. Produced a typically bold front-running display when scoring over C&D on his reappearance last term but failed to return with a bang this time round on recent debut for new yard at Cheltenham.

3 ETALON (IRE) (28) (C) s+t **98**

3P41-5291 **9** 11-4 | 71.7kg
 Dan Skelton **Harry Skelton**
 Hit-and-miss last term and failed to build good reappearance effort when well held at Newbury in November. Combination of first-time cheekpieces and a more aggressive ride sparked a return to form when beating Scarface and 7 others (including Bad) over 19f here last time but this is a tougher race.

4 BAD (FR) (28) (BF) **99**

F11P5-154 **7** 11-3 | 71.2kg
 Ben Pauling **Ben Jones**
 Back-to-back winner of Kempton handicap chases last term and made it 3-3 at that track when scoring over 2¼m on return in October. Wasn't far behind Vincenzo when fifth in the Paddy Power at Cheltenham next time before underperforming in the race won by Etalon here last month. Major player.

5 FUGITIF (FR) (36) (D) s+t **96**

P/53608-55 **11** 10-13 | 69.4kg
 Richard Hobson **Charlie Maggs (51b/2kg)**
 Very capable on his day, most notably emerging on top in a major Cheltenham handicap in December 2023, a course where he has also posted a number of fine efforts in defeat. However, he's now at the veteran stage and has not been anywhere near his best so far this season. Has had another wind op.

6 VINCENZO (FR) (35) t **100**

361212-22 **8** 10-13 | 69.4kg
 Sam Thomas **Dylan Johnston**
 Likeable sort who was successful on 2 of his first 3 starts over fences at around 2m last winter and took his form up a notch when second in the Greatwood Gold Cup at Newbury in March. Has resumed this season with big efforts in back-to-back valuable Cheltenham handicaps and he's the one to beat.

7 SCARFACE (IRE) (28) (C, D) s **99**

24021-2P2 **9** 10-9 | 67.6kg
 Joe Tizzard **Brendan Powell**
 Ended last term with a win at Newton Abbot in April and has found just one too good on 2 of his 3 starts this season, including when chasing Etalon home here last month. 4 lb better off with that rival now but he's 6 lb higher compared to when finishing fourth in this race 12 months ago.

8 HELTENHAM (FR) (22) t **98**

21-P8332F **9** 10-7 | 66.7kg
 Dan Skelton **Harry Atkins (71b/3kg)**
 Back to best when winning in good style at Perth last spring but majority of his subsequent efforts have been underwhelming, including last time at Aintree where he looked cooked when falling 2 out. Harry Skelton prefers Etalon.

9 NEON MOON (IRE) (31) (CD) b+t **98**

3624-4514 **10** 10-5 | 65.8kg
 David Pipe **Harry Cobden**
 Stepped up on encouraging reappearance fifth of 12 over 3m here in November when landing a 4-runner C&D handicap (good) 20 days later. However, he reverted to type when finding little under pressure at Ludlow next time, a trait that he has exhibited several times before.

9 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

9-4 Vincenzo, **11-2** Bad, **7-1** Scarface, **15-2** Etalon, **17-2** Hitman, **11-1** Neon Moon, **14-1** Heltenham, **22-1** Fugitif, **25-1** Jungle Boogie

TIMEFORM VIEW:

Having found just one too good in major handicaps on his last three starts, VINCENZO is taken to deservedly get his head in front. A 1 lb rise for his latest fine effort in the December Gold Cup at Cheltenham is negligible and everything looks in place for the 8-y-o to deliver. Bad wasn't at his best behind Etalon and Scarface over C&D last time but will likely emerge as the main danger to Vincenzo if on-song this time, while Scarface may also reverse placings with Etalon on these revised terms.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. VINCENZO 2. BAD 3. SCARFACE

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025	Terresita 8-10-6	15-2	Lucy Wadham	Gavin Sheehan	10
2022	Phoenix Way 9-10-7	7-1	Harry Fry	K. Brogan (3)	7
2021	Dashel Drasher 8-11-10	6-1	Jeremy Scott	Matt Griffiths	14

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

2.53

**BETMGM HOLLOWAY'S HANDICAP HURDLE (2) 4yo+
£30,000 2m3f63y (3880 Metres)**

RACE 5



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

Right handed, galloping. Jumps course reopened in 2006/7 after major redevelopment work and, whilst the course drains faster than used to be the case, underfoot conditions can still get gruelling. Rather surprisingly, however, the chase course has one of the lowest non-completion records in the country in recent seasons.

Pace Information: **Even**

- 1** **TRIPOLI FLYER (IRE) (22)** s **100**
 1116-3U45 **7** 12-0 | 76.2kg
Fergal O'Brien **Fern O'Brien (51b/2kg)**
 Grade 2 novice hurdle winner last season and also third in 20.5f Punchestown Grade 1 final start. Below that level on completed start over fences in the autumn and ought of depth when fifth in Christmas Hurdle at Kempton back over the smaller obstacles on Boxing Day. This much more realistic.
- 2** **FAIVOIR (FR) (28)** (C, D) **99**
 28526/838 **11** 11-6 | 72.6kg
Dan Skelton **Harry Skelton**
 Won the County Hurdle at Cheltenham Festival in 2023. Showed he retains most of that ability when third of 18 in Greatwood at Cheltenham in November and shaped a bit better than eighth of 13 suggests in 2m course handicap since. Races mainly at 2m but chase winner here over this sort of trip.
- 3** **METIER (IRE) (42)** (C) s+t **94**
 0/4 **10** 11-4 | 71.7kg
Harry Fry **Bryan Carver**
 Smart under both codes earlier in his career but hard to be sure how much of that ability remains, finishing a well-held fourth back hurdling at Sandown last month. Has first-time cheekpieces applied to regular tongue tie. His yard also won this race last year.
- 4** **SAMUEL SPADE (GER) (29)** (C, D) s **97**
 38157-978 **7** 10-13 | 69.4kg
Ben Pauling **Ben Jones**
 Five-time winner over hurdles, including a career best here (23.5f) last February. Not at the top of his game in 3 outings this season but is starting to look well handicapped again.
- 5** **CAME FROM NOWHERE (IRE) (28)** (D) t **99**
 1/33-321 **7** 10-12 | 68.9kg
Jeremy Scott **Lorcan Williams**
 Lightly raced 7yo who has improved over hurdles since handicapping, building on 2m Wincanton second when going one better at Hereford (19.5f, soft) with a tongue tie added. Could be more to come.
- 6** **THANKSFORTHEHELP (FR) (16)** (D) b+t **99**
 0/6443-177 **9** 10-12 | 68.9kg
David Pipe **Harry Cobden**
 Career-best effort to land a 25-runner handicap hurdle at Punchestown (19f, good to soft) last April. Might have needed the run when a below-form seventh in 2 comeback runs this winter and the handicapper has cut him a bit of slack. First-time blinkers replace cheekpieces.
- 7** **MARCHE D'ALIGRE (FR) (43)** (BF) **99**
 12420-22 **5** 10-10 | 68.0kg
Jamie Snowden **Gavin Sheehan**
 Fairly useful Flat winner in France and similar standard over hurdles, posting good efforts in 2m handicaps at Wetherby and Sandown (both soft) this winter. Considered.
- 8** **PATRIOTIK (FR) (21)** s **87**
 2813-0060 **7** 10-7 | 66.7kg
Evan Williams **Isabel Williams**
 3m winner at Doncaster last March. Bettered that form when third of 17 in a valuable handicap at Uttoxeter (23f, soft) later that month but has yet to fire this season. It remains to be seen whether this drop back in trip and addition of cheekpieces help to spark a revival.
- 9** **SURREY LORD (IRE) (22)** **97**
 433-61141 **7** 10-6 | 66.2kg
Toby Lawes **K. Brogan**
 Smooth-travelling sort who made it 3 wins in his last 4 starts when seeing off 9 rivals at Kempton (21f, good) on Boxing Day. A 6 lb rise doesn't look enough to prevent another bold bid from this progressive sort.
- 10** **MOVEIT LIKE MINNIE (IRE) (28)** (D) v+t **97**
 36U4-2355 **9** 10-5 | 65.8kg
Nigel & Willy Twiston-Davies **Sam Twiston-Davies**
 Fairly useful hurdler who resumed from 6 months off (had breathing op during absence) with a good second at Chepstow in October. Ran at least as well when third in a strong handicap over 2m here in November but latest Hereford run was poor.

BETTING FORECAST:

9-2 Came From Nowhere, **9-2** Surrey Lord, **11-2** Marche D'aligre, **7-1** Moveit Like Minnie, **8-1** Tripoli Flyer, **9-1** Faivoir, **12-1** Thanksforthehelp, **18-1** Samuel Spade, **22-1** Patriotik, **28-1** Metier

TIMEFORM VIEW:

SURREY LORD is going the right way and is taken to defy the handicapper again. The class-dropping Tripoli Flyer is second choice ahead of Marche d'Aligre, a good second on both starts this season.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. SURREY LORD 2. TRIPOLI FLYER 3. MARCHE D'ALIGRE

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025	Altobelli 7-11-5	3-1	Harry Fry	Bryan Carver	11
2022	Unexpected Party 7-10-13	3-1f	Dan Skelton	Harry Skelton	11
2021	Craigneiche 7-10-6	14-1	Nicky Henderson	Tom Cannon	12

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

3.30**BETMGM CLARENCE HOUSE CHASE (Clarence House) (Grade 1) (1) 5yo+ £175,000 2m172y (3380 Metres)**

RACE 6

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

Right handed, galloping. Jumps course reopened in 2006/7 after major redevelopment work and, whilst the course drains faster than used to be the case, underfoot conditions can still get gruelling. Rather surprisingly, however, the chase course has one of the lowest non-completion records in the country in recent seasons.

Pace Information: **Weak**

1 GIDLEIGH PARK (56) (D) 91
1116/P12-2 8 11-10 | 74.4kg



Harry Fry

Bryan Carver

Improved significantly on his hurdles form when taking the notable scalp of Caldwell Potter in Grade 2 Windsor novice chase this time last year and made a solid start to this campaign when second in 1965 Chase at this course (21.1f) 56 days ago. Will need more to take a hand here, however.

2 IL ETAIT TEMPS (FR) (42) (D) 100
2131/11-11 8 11-10 | 74.4kg h+t



W. P. Mullins, Ireland

P. Townend

Successful 3 times in Grade 1 company as a novice but took his form up another notch when taking the Celebration Chase in April and has returned in tremendous form this term, scoring at Clonmel before an impressive victory in Tingle Creek (Jonbon well held) at Sandown last month. Hard to oppose.

3 JONBON (FR) (42) (CD) 97
111212-22 10 11-10 | 74.4kg s



Nicky Henderson

Harry Cobden

Top-class chaser who added this contest to his impressive CV last season before landing the Melling Chase at Aintree for the second time in April. Rather been put in his place by Il Etait Temps twice since but looks sure to run well again.

4 THISTLE ASK (IRE) (21) (D) 94
21-1111 9 11-10 | 74.4kg h+t



Dan Skelton

Harry Skelton

Dual winner for James Ewart but has left that form well behind since joining Dan Skelton this term, winning all 4 starts including the Haldon Gold Cup and Desert Orchid Chase, the latter in highly impressive fashion. Steps into Grade 1 company now but another bold bid is anticipated.

4 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

8-13 Il Etait Temps, 5-1 Jonbon, 7-1 Thistle Ask, 9-1 Gidleigh Park

TIMEFORM VIEW:

IL ETAIT TEMPS cemented his position as the leading 2m chaser with a smooth victory in the Tingle Creek at Sandown last month and his hold-up style should be suited to the likely strong pace here. He should prove hard to beat. Thistle Ask has been a revelation this season and could be the one to provide the chief threat.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. IL ETAIT TEMPS 2. THISTLE ASK 3. JONBON

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025	Jonbon	9-11-10	8-13f	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boinville	4
2023	Editeur du Gite	9-11-10	14-1	Gary Moore	Niall Houlihan	6
2022	Shishkin	8-11-7	5-6f	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boinville	4
2021	First Flow	9-11-7	14-1	Kim Bailey	David Bass	8

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

4.05

RACE 7

BETMGM EBF 'NATIONAL HUNT' NOVICES' HURDLE (Qualifier) (3) 4, 5, 6 and 7yo £25,000 2m5f146y (4360 Metres)



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

Right handed, galloping. Jumps course reopened in 2006/7 after major redevelopment work and, whilst the course drains faster than used to be the case, underfoot conditions can still get gruelling. Rather surprisingly, however, the chase course has one of the lowest non-completion records in the country in recent seasons.

Pace Information: **Even**

1 KASINO DES MOTTES (FR) (35) **100**
515 6 11-8 | 73.5kg

Joe Tizzard *Brendan Powell*
£130,000 Irish point recruit who showed a willing attitude to get off the mark at the second time of asking over hurdles in a 21f Kempton novice in October. Not disgraced in Cheltenham Grade 2 subsequently but isn't sure to be suited by this drop back in trip.

2 LAGUNA BEACH (FR) (38) **100**
531 5 11-8 | 73.5kg

Nicky Henderson *James Bowen*
Showed promise in a valuable bumper at Punchestown last spring and was much improved from hurdling debut when winning 11-runner novice (11/2) at Hereford (19.7f, good to soft) 38 days ago, staying on to lead final 100 yds. Open to more improvement now his stamina is drawn out further.

3 MINELLA MARATHON (36) t **92**
17 5 11-8 | 73.5kg

Dan Skelton *Harry Skelton*
Fetched £200,000 after winning his sole start between the flags and made a successful hurdling debut with something to spare in 6-runner novice at Lingfield (19.5f, good) in November. Bit below that level in a deeper novice at Cheltenham subsequently but remains with potential.

4 THE BURREN MAN (48) t **98**
1 5 11-8 | 73.5kg

Harry Derham *Paul O'Brien*
€180,000 purchase after finishing second in an Irish point in April. Tongue tied and looked a class above his rivals when easily landing a Carlisle novice hurdle (19.3f, soft) on Rules debut in November. Sure to progress.

5 BETGOODWIN (FR) (69) **75**
P 7 11-2 | 70.8kg

Chris Gordon *Freddie Gordon*
Castle du Berlais gelding who went with no encouragement at Ffos Las on debut in November.

6 MYMILKMAN (IRE) (35) **79**
6P 6 11-2 | 70.8kg

Chris Gordon *Tom Cannon*
€78,000 3-y-o, Getaway gelding. Half-brother to fair hurdler/chaser Glen Cannel. Runner-up both completed starts in Irish points but has shown little in a maiden/novice hurdle to date (irregular heartbeat in latter).

7 TOBYSHILL (IRE) **94**
6 11-2 | 70.8kg

Nigel & Willy Twiston-Davies *Sam Twiston-Davies*
£85,000 5-y-o, Califet gelding. Half-brother to useful hurdler/smart chase winner Mia's Storm. Won sole outing in Irish points in October and well worth a market check ahead of this switch to Rules.

8 UPTOWN DANDY (IRE) (35) (BF) **94**
233-22 6 11-2 | 70.8kg

Ben Pauling *Ben Jones*
Bumper form had plenty of substance and made a promising start over hurdles when chasing home an improving sort at Wetherby (19.7f, soft) on return. Shaped well behind another good prospect at Doncaster (19.4f) subsequently and remains capable of better.

9 WHISKEY YANKEE (302) t **92**
2- 5 11-2 | 70.8kg

Sam Thomas *Dylan Johnston*
Hunter's Light gelding. Brother to useful hurdler Ed Keeper. Dam, French hurdler (2¼m winner). Shaped encouragingly when second in 5-runner bumper at Ffos Las (15.8f) on debut 10 months ago and bred to appreciate this step up in trip now hurdling in a first-time tongue strap.

9 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

3-1 Laguna Beach, **4-1** The Burren Man, **5-1** Kasino Des Mottes, **7-1** Uptown Dandy, **15-2** Whiskey Yankee, **10-1** Tobyshill, **11-1** Minella Marathon, **100-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

The form of LAGUNA BEACH's Hereford win is working out well and, with further improvement in the offing over this still longer trip, he's taken to defy a penalty at the first time of asking. The Burren Man created a good impression at Carlisle and is another horse to be very positive about, with Whiskey Yankee an interesting hurdling debutant for a yard that continues to thrive.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. LAGUNA BEACH 2. THE BURREN MAN 3. WHISKEY YANKEE

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025	Jax Junior 6-11-9	13-2	Lucy Wadham	Tom Cannon	6
2022	Jerrash 5-11-2	20-1	Gary Moore	Jamie Moore	8
2021	Gladiateur Allen 5-11-2	9-2	Mrs Jane Williams	Chester Williams (5)	6

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race