

Friday 17th April

AYR

1.45 SLATER MENSWEAR HANDICAP HURDLE (3) 2m (3220 Metres)

RACE 1 **(1) CASTLE IVERS | (9) TRIPLE CROWN TED | (10) GINGER MAIL**

2.20 IRISH THOROUGHBRED MARKETING NOVICES' LIMITED HANDICAP CHASE (3) 2m110y (3320 Metres)

RACE 2 **(4) THE GRAFTER | (3) RISK DE PLUIE | (6) MARTY MCFLY**

2.55 ABBOTT RISK CONSULTING LTD MAIDEN HURDLE (4) 2m (3220 Metres)

RACE 3 **(5) LIRION | (2) DROPEMATTHESTATION | (1) BOHEMOND ANTIOCH**

3.30 HILLHOUSE QUARRY HANDICAP CHASE (2) 2½m110y (4120 Metres)

RACE 4 **(4) DONNACHA | (6) JIPCOT | (5) IL RIDOTO**

4.05 CORAL HANDICAP HURDLE (2) 2m5f91y (4310 Metres)

RACE 5 **(4) CAME FROM NOWHERE | (10) A PERFECT DAY | (11) EAGLES REPRIEVE**

4.43 GET HOME SAFE WITH THISTLE CABS HANDICAP HURDLE (3) 3m70y (4890 Metres)

RACE 6 **(15) SOCIETY SOLDIER | (9) ALENTEJO | (2) WOODLAND PARK**

5.15 JARDINE UTILITIES RACE TO REPAIR 'HANDS & HEELS' HANDICAP HURDLE (Conditional Jockeys & Amateur Riders) (Series Final) (4) 2½m100y (4110 Metres)

RACE 7 **(9) TRAVIS WHEATLEY | (1) GUCHEN | (8) BALBOA**

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.

1.45

SLATER MENSWEAR HANDICAP HURDLE (3) 4yo+ (Rated 0-130) £18,000 2m (3220 Metres)

RACE 1



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

The Ayr course is a left-handed circuit of one and a half miles comprising nine fences. It has well-graduated turns and a steady downhill run to the home turn before a gentle rise to the finish. There is a run-in of approximately one furlong. When the going is firm the course is sharp, but conditions regularly get extremely gruelling in mid-winter, that in itself explaining why the chase course claims similar numbers of casualties to such as Cheltenham and Haydock.

Pace Information: **Very Strong**

1 CASTLE IVERS (IRE) (512) (D) **100**
1310/1- **7** 12-0 | 76.2kg

Olly Murphy **Sean Bowen**
Cost £95,000 having won an Irish point easily and having run to a useful level when winning 2 of his 4 bumper starts, he quickened in good fashion to make a successful start over hurdles at Warwick in November 2024. Has proven himself capable when fresh and looks on a potentially lenient mark.

2 THE GRAY GHOST (IRE) (34) **96**
7-6454414 **7** 12-0 | 76.2kg

Robbie Llewellyn **Callum Pritchard (31lb/1kg)**
Made it 2-2 at Newcastle to open his account for the season before underlining his consistency when fourth in a well-contested Kempton handicap last time. Should give his running again, though could be vulnerable to some less-exposed types in here.

3 BIBE MUS (FR) (38) (D) **97**
132210 **4** 11-13 | 75.7kg

Paul Nicholls **Harry Cobden**
Solid record over hurdles for Ross O'Sullivan and having found improvement to make a winning start for Paul Nicholls at Sandown, shaped as if still in good form (before quick turnaround seemingly told) when mid-field in the Fred Winter subsequently.

4 CABALLO DE GUERRA (IRE) (48) (D) **98**
337-14445 **5** 11-12 | 75.3kg

Lucinda Russell & Michael Scudamore **Jack Power (51lb/2kg)**
No surprise to see hood refitted having not been seen to best effect when distant fifth of 10 in Grade 2 novice at Kelso last time, but the handicapper has at least offered some respite from a stiff-looking opening mark.

5 MAGNA VICTOR (76) (D) **95**
6/53-411 **7** 11-11 | 74.8kg

Alastair Ralph **Ciaran Gethings**
Low-mileage 7-y-o was improved again when making it 2-2 in handicaps at Musselburgh in late-January and while he bids for the hat-trick in a much deeper race, further progress cannot be ruled out.

6 BERTIE'S BALLET (48) (D) **95**
62312-740 **8** 11-11 | 74.8kg

Dianne Sayer **Ryan Mania**
Held his form well last season but was no match for less-exposed pair Triple Crown Ted/Lance Les Des at Kelso before flying too high in the Morebattle there last time.

7 SECRET FORCE (IRE) (76) (D) **95**
144 **4** 11-10 | 74.4kg

Gavin Patrick Cromwell, Ireland **Keith Donoghue**
Again below the form of his impressive hurdle debut success when fourth of 6 in a listed juvenile at Musselburgh in late-January, and while a big-field handicap ought to suit better, his opening mark leaves little margin for error.

8 NEWTOWN RAMBLER (IRE) (40) (D) **96**
P-6P33781 **7** 11-10 | 74.4kg

Adrian Keatley **Danny McMenamin**
Always holding when doubling his hurdle tally at Warwick last time and while this is much more competitive, he hasn't been long with capable new yard.

9 TRIPLE CROWN TED (IRE) (41) (D, BF) **99**
22-31412 **6** 11-8 | 73.5kg

Lucinda Russell & Michael Scudamore **Derek Fox**
Solid form in novices prior to winning more takingly than the bare margin would imply on handicap bow at Kelso. Still looked in top form when chasing home an unexposed stablemate over C&D last time and remains capable of better.

10 GINGER MAIL (FR) (28) (CD) **98**
PP-643P30 **10** 11-4 | 71.7kg

N. W. Alexander **Bruce Lynn**
Veteran finished 1¼ lengths behind Triple Crown Ted at Ayr but finished well beaten with visor refitted in a competitive handicap at Musselburgh last time. Usual cheekpieces go back on and could outrun his odds from a tumbling mark.

11 LANCE LES DES (FR) (42) (CD) **97**
53/37-3321 **7** 11-3 | 71.2kg

N. W. Alexander **Sean Quinlan**
Bit flattered by his proximity to Triple Crown Ted when runner-up on handicap bow but remains progressive in his own right, getting off the mark under hands and heels in an Ayr maiden last time. That form has worked out well, and he needs considering back in a handicap.

12 RAVENS CRAIG CASTLE (28) (D) **97**
5-9145354 **8** 11-2 | 70.8kg

Iain Jardine **William Maggs (31lb/1kg)**
Fifth in this race 12 months ago and ran as well as could be expected when fourth of 14 in a Go North Series Final handicap at Musselburgh last time. Isn't the easiest to win with, though, and this looks every bit as competitive.

13 DANCE THIEF (IRE) (26) (CD) **97**
1233-5P19 **8** 10-13 | 69.4kg

R. Mike Smith **Richie McLernon**
Third in this race in 2024 and was back on his last successful mark when landing a third course win in a 5-runner handicap chase last month. Not in the same form at Carlisle subsequently, however, and this looks a deep renewal.

14 TUPPENGE (FR) (28) **95**
U/408-24 **6** 10-6 | 66.2kg

Lucinda Russell & Michael Scudamore **Mr Lucas Murphy (71lb/3kg)**
Lightly-raced maiden has shaped more promisingly than her form figures might suggest, probably doing too much too soon over a longer trip at Musselburgh last time, though Triple Crown Ted is seemingly the yard's leading hope.

15 BELAYA RIVER (FR) (16) (D) **98**
54125 **4** 10-5 | 65.8kg

Harry Derham **Paul O'Brien**
Fair Catterick maiden hurdle winner wasn't anywhere near his best on handicap debut at Sedgefield last time (easy to back and made mistakes) and he could be worth another chance in receipt of a handy 4-y-o allowance.

15 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

6-1 Castle Ivers, **13-2** Triple Crown Ted, **8-1** Magna Victor, **10-1** Bibe Mus, **12-1** Lance Les Des, **12-1** Secret Force, **14-1** Belaya River, **14-1** Newtown Rambler, **16-1** The Gray Ghost, **20-1** Caballo De Guerra, **25-1** Ravenscraig Castle, **25-1** Dance Thief, **28-1** Tuppenge, **33-1** Ginger Mail, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

CASTLE IVERS goes handicapping from what looks a lenient opening mark and is in the right hands to overcome an absence. He's taken to make it 2-2 over hurdles, while it's unlikely we've seen the best of Triple Crown Ted, either, and he rates the main danger in an ultra-competitive renewal. Veteran Ginger Mail looks a plausible contender of those at bigger prices.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. CASTLE IVERS 2. TRIPLE CROWN TED 3. GINGER MAIL

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025	Wilful 6-11-9	9-2	Jonjo & A.J. O'Neill	Jonjo O'Neill Jr.	12
2024	Primoz 6-11-1	15-2	Lucinda Russell	Derek Fox	13
2023	Afadil 4-11-1	9-2	Paul Nicholls	Harry Cobden	15
2022	Platinumcard 7-9-9	2-1f	Gordon Elliott	Sean Bowen	7
2021	Torigni 5-12-1	4-1	Harry Whittington	Daryl Jacob	8
Dubai Days 7-11-3	10-1	N. W. Alexander	Bruce Lynn (5)	Bruce Lynn	8

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

2.20

RACE 2

**IRISH THOROUGHBRED MARKETING NOVICES' LIMITED
HANDICAP CHASE (3) 5yo+ (Rated 0-125) £15,500
2m110y (3320 Metres)**



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

The Ayr course is a left-handed circuit of one and a half miles comprising nine fences. It has well-graduated turns and a steady downhill run to the home turn before a gentle rise to the finish. There is a run-in of approximately one furlong. When the going is firm the course is sharp, but conditions regularly get extremely gruelling in mid-winter, that in itself explaining why the chase course claims similar numbers of casualties to such as Cheltenham and Haydock.

Pace Information: **Weak**

- 1 PLEASINGTON (IRE) (48) (D)** **99**
 117-352FP **8** 11-10 | 74.4kg s
Olly Murphy **Sean Bowen**
 Fairly useful winning 2m hurdler but he's proved hit and miss over fences this season, pulled up at Newbury 7 weeks ago. Since undergone a breathing operation. Cheekpieces also added.
- 2 THROATLASH (IRE) (62) (BF)** **99**
 23P-111F **7** 11-9 | 73.9kg t
Donald McCain **Theo Gillard**
 Progressed very well to bag a hat-trick of handicap chases this season, latterly at Haydock in January. Didn't jump anywhere near so well though and already held when falling 3 out back there a month later. Could bounce back now freshened up, however.
- 3 RISK DE PLUIE (FR) (33) (BF)** **100**
 22-263212 **7** 11-7 | 73.0kg t
Ben Clarke **Sam Twiston-Davies**
 Reliable sort who got off the mark in this sphere at Chepstow (19f) in February. Took his form up a notch when second of 5 in another 19f handicap there last month. Weighted to go well off an unchanged mark.
- 4 THE GRAFTER (IRE) (55) (D)** **99**
 422225-11 **7** 11-6 | 72.6kg t
Sam England **Richie McLernon**
 Has taken extremely well to fences this season and really impressed when making it 2-2 in 2m Newcastle handicaps 55 days ago. Hiked up 7 lb but this strong traveller has a fair bit more to offer. Big shout.
- 5 KOUKEO (FR) (27) (D)** **99**
 P18-11375 **6** 11-5 | 72.1kg t
Jonjo & A.J. O'Neill **Jonjo O'Neill Jr.**
 Bagged a pair of 2m handicap chases at Windsor and Haydock in January but his form has tailed off, last of five in 2m Newbury handicap last time.
- 6 MARTY MCFLY (IRE) (26) (D)** **99**
 1P741111 **8** 11-4 | 71.7kg s+t
Sandy Thomson **Danny McMenamin**
 Has thrived for switch to the larger obstacles this season, completing a four-timer in 2m Carlisle handicap last month. Up another 7 lb but he's not taken lightly in his current mood.
- 7 STUNTMAN STEVE (IRE) (27) (D)** **73**
 29007945 **7** 11-4 | 71.7kg t
Gavin Patrick Cromwell, Ireland **Keith Donoghue**
 A fairly useful 2m hurdles winner but there hasn't been much promise in his 4 starts over fences this season. This Irish challenger has plenty to prove.
- 8 BALLYFORT (IRE) (41) (CD)** **97**
 149-13162 **8** 10-5 | 65.8kg h+t
N. W. Alexander **Bruce Lynn**
 C&D winner in January and he got back on track when second of 5 in handicap chase over C&D last month. This rates tougher, however.
- 9 TANKING ALONG (IRE) (26) (D)** **90**
 55-621416 **7** 10-5(9-11) | 65.8kg (62.1kg) t
Patrick Neville **Charlie Maggs (3lb/1kg)**
 Improved model equipped with cheekpieces/tongue tie, scoring at Sedgfield over hurdles in November and fences in March. Jumped left and did too much too soon when sixth in 2m Carlisle handicap last time and not written off back on left-handed track despite being 8 lb "wrong" at the weights.

9 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

4-1 Throatlash, **9-2** The Grafter, **9-2** Marty Mcfly, **6-1** Risk De Pluie, **17-2** Pleasington, **10-1** Ballyfort, **14-1** Koukeo, **22-1** Stuntman Steve, **33-1** Tanking Along

TIMEFORM VIEW:

THE GRAFTER created a really good impression when bagging a pair of Newcastle handicaps earlier this year and can make light of a 7 lb weights rise to maintain his unbeaten record in this sphere. Risk De Pluie figures on a good mark so should ensure Sam England's upwardly-mobile sort doesn't have things all his own way. Marty McFly and Throatlash can't be discounted either.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. THE GRAFTER 2. RISK DE PLUIE 3. MARTY MCFLY

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025 Asta La Pasta 7-11-10	6-4f Dan Skelton	Harry Skelton	4
2024 Rath Gaul Hill 6-10-11	5-2f Samuel Drinkwater	Robert Dunne	6
2023 Whodini 6-10-7	4-1 Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero	Henry Brooke	6
2022 Dubai Days 8-11-1	4-6f N. W. Alexander	Bruce Lynn (5)	4
2021 Slanelough 9-11-0	4-1 Rose Dobbin	Conor O'Farrell	6

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

2.55**ABBOTT RISK CONSULTING LTD MAIDEN HURDLE (4) 4yo+
£10,000 2m (3220 Metres)**

RACE 3

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

The Ayr course is a left-handed circuit of one and a half miles comprising nine fences. It has well-graduated turns and a steady downhill run to the home turn before a gentle rise to the finish. There is a run-in of approximately one furlong. When the going is firm the course is sharp, but conditions regularly get extremely gruelling in mid-winter, that in itself explaining why the chase course claims similar numbers of casualties to such as Cheltenham and Haydock.

Pace Information: **Even****1 BOHEMOND ANTIOCH (112) 99**

2443-22U 5 11-6 | 72.6kg

Donald McCain

Theo Gillard

Fair hurdler who posted a good second at Kelso (2m) before hampered and unseated rider 3 out in 17f Sedgfield maiden later in December. This reliable sort can't be ruled out after a break.

2 DROPEMATTHESTATION (48) t ★ 100

4433 6 11-6 | 72.6kg

Ben Pauling

Callum Pritchard (3lb/1kg)

Winning pointer who has shown fair form on all 3 outings over hurdles, including in a first-time tongue strap when third at Doncaster on latest outing. Has since undergone a breathing operation and holds very good form claims.

3 GREEN ANGEL (IRE) (66) t 90

44 5 11-6 | 72.6kg

Stuart Crawford, Ireland

J. J. Slevin

Twice-raced Irish maiden who failed to progress from debut effort when fourth of 9 in maiden hurdle here 66 days ago. Needs to take a step forward down in trip.

4 LINALENE (FR) (53) 97

339-U472 5 11-6 | 72.6kg

Lucinda Russell & Michael Scudamore

Patrick Wadge

Fair bumper performer. Hasn't been the most fluent jumper but ran his best race when pushing an odds-on winner all the way in a C&D novice 53 days ago.

5 LIRION (FR) (53) (BF) 5

2-2 5 11-6 | 72.6kg

Olly Murphy

Sean Bowen

Debut bumper second at Huntingdon (for Tom Weston) last March and shaped well after nearly 12 months off when filling same position in bumper here in February. Interesting hurdling debutant for leading yard.

6 MAGNA PATCH (50) 61

04 6 11-6 | 72.6kg

Alastair Ralph

Jonathan Burke

Made mistakes when a well-held fourth of 7 in novice hurdle at Ludlow (2m) on his hurdles bow 50 days ago. Lots more is required.

7 CULZEAN (23) 5

674P 5 10-13 | 69.4kg

Ian Duncan

Callum Bewley

Has offered little in a pair of bumpers and maiden hurdles, pulled up at Hexham 23 days ago.

8 PENN AVENUE (26) 94

343339 4 10-5 | 65.8kg

David Pipe

Harry Cobden

Fair Flat winner who was in good form without scoring over hurdles until ninth in 17f Carlisle handicap 26 days ago. The sort to bounce back though.

8 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

7-2 Dropemattestation, **4-1** Bohemond Antioch, **5-1** Green Angel, **11-2** Linalene, **11-2** Lirion, **8-1** Penn Avenue, **50-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

Olly Murphy's LIRION has shaped well in finishing runner-up on both starts in bumpers, most recently here, and is taken to make a winning start over hurdles at the chief expense of Dropemattestation who has had a breathing operation since his good Doncaster third. Both Bohemond Antioch and Penn Avenue also have the form to play a part.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. LIRION 2. DROPEMATTHESTATION 3. BOHEMOND ANTIOCH

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025	Roxanne 5-11-4	10-3	Dan Skelton	Kielan Woods	5
2024	Lily du Berlais 8-11-4	5-2	Stuart Crawford	J. J. Slevin	7

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

3.30

HILLHOUSE QUARRY HANDICAP CHASE (2) 5yo+ £50,000
2½m110y (4120 Metres)

RACE 4



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

The Ayr course is a left-handed circuit of one and a half miles comprising nine fences. It has well-graduated turns and a steady downhill run to the home turn before a gentle rise to the finish. There is a run-in of approximately one furlong. When the going is firm the course is sharp, but conditions regularly get extremely gruelling in mid-winter, that in itself explaining why the chase course claims similar numbers of casualties to such as Cheltenham and Haydock.

Pace Information: **Strong**

1 TWINJETS (IRE) (27) (D) 99
 52P-11UP2 **9** 12-0 | 76.2kg

Paul Nicholls **Jay Tidball (5lb/2kg)**
 Returned better than ever this season, winning at Fontwell and Newbury in the autumn, and got back on track granted an easier time of things up front when second at Newbury on latest start. Nudged up 1 lb.

2 CALIFET EN VOL (IRE) (34) (D, BF) 98
 216-23514 **7** 11-7 | 73.0kg

Nicky Henderson **Nico de Boinville**
 Listed novice hurdle winner last season and it all clicked at the fourth time of asking over fences when seeing off 8 rivals at Kempton in February. Let down by his jumping in a similar event there last time, though.

3 MYRETOWN (IRE) (38) (D) 99
 1F11-F4P0 **9** 11-6 | 72.6kg

Lucinda Russell & Michael Scudamore **Derek Fox**
 Most progressive form in handicap chases in 2024/25, bounding clear to take the Ultima Handicap on final outing. Undone by a bad mistake in the Peter Marsh at Haydock in January but put up a tepid effort in latest renewal of aforementioned race on most recent outing. Something to prove.

4 DONNACHA (IRE) (83) (D) 100
 3411-3221 **8** 11-3 | 71.2kg

Nigel Hawke **James Davies**
 Has progressed notably well over fences, proving better than ever when opening his account for the season in 11-runner premier handicap at Cheltenham (20.6f, soft) in January, holding on gamely. Has to be taken seriously from 5 lb higher mark in follow-up bid.

5 IL RIDOTO (FR) (36) (D) s+t 97
 807-28720 **9** 11-2 | 70.8kg

Paul Nicholls **Harry Cobden**
 Landed last season's Paddy Power Gold Cup. Record mixed subsequently but a drop back in trip promises to suit after failing to stay in the Kim Muir at the Cheltenham Festival on latest start.

6 JIPCOT (FR) (38) (D) t 98
 340P-3140 **7** 10-12 | 68.9kg

Jonjo & A.J. O'Neill **Jonjo O'Neill Jr.**
 Opened chase account when making all at Leicester in January and acquitted himself well when fourth in the Swinley at Ascot the following month, jumping notably fluently. Possibly found the race coming too soon in the Plate at Cheltenham and remains capable of better.

7 HOE JOLY SMOKE (55) s+t 99
 151P-3356 **8** 10-10 | 68.0kg

Dan Skelton **Harry Skelton**
 Dual winner last season who found more off the bridle than has been the case when third in Paddy Power Gold Cup at Cheltenham in November. However, reverted to type in first-time cheekpieces at Kempton on latest start and has since undergone another breathing operation.

8 DUBAI DAYS (IRE) (13) (CD) h+t 97
 12U2-4816 **12** 10-6 | 66.2kg

N. W. Alexander **Bruce Lynn**
 3-time C&D winner, latest in February. Not seen to best effect back in a higher grade when sixth of 17 in veterans handicap chase (22/1) at Haydock (2½m, good) on latest start, having been left poorly placed.

9 HOMBRE DE GUERRA (IRE) (48) (C) t 94
 177/211-486 **8** 10-4 | 65.3kg

Lucinda Russell & Michael Scudamore **Patrick Wadge**
 Made a seamless transition to fences last season, bagging back-to-back 2m course handicaps. Little impact in 3 starts this campaign, albeit not ideally placed on first start for this yard at Kelso latest. Up in trip.

9 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

7-2 Donnacha, **11-2** Califet En Vol, **13-2** Jipcot, **7-1** Twinjets, **8-1** Hoe Joly Smoke, **17-2** Myretown, **10-1** Il Ridoto, **16-1** Hombre De Guerra, **18-1** Dubai Days

TIMEFORM VIEW:

DONNACHA is a thoroughly likeable sort who is taken to defy a 5 lb rise in the weights for his Cheltenham triumph in January. Jipcot possibly found the race coming too soon in the Plate at the Cheltenham Festival and remains capable of better, with Il Ridoto another to consider from a falling mark back over a more suitable trip.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. DONNACHA 2. JIPCOT 3. IL RIDOTO

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025	Riskintheground 8-11-4	13-2	Dan Skelton	Harry Skelton	11
2024	Outlaw Peter 8-11-12	7-2jf	Paul Nicholls	Harry Cobden	10
2023	Richmond Lake 7-11-4	7-2	Donald McCain	Brian Hughes	7
2022	Beakstown 9-10-12	9-4f	Dan Skelton	Harry Skelton	7
2021	Nietzsche 8-10-2	6-1	Brian Ellison	Jonathan Burke	6

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

4.05

**CORAL HANDICAP HURDLE (2) 4yo+ (Rated 0-150)
£30,000 2m5f91y (4310 Metres)**

RACE 5




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


The Ayr course is a left-handed circuit of one and a half miles comprising nine fences. It has well-graduated turns and a steady downhill run to the home turn before a gentle rise to the finish. There is a run-in of approximately one furlong. When the going is firm the course is sharp, but conditions regularly get extremely gruelling in mid-winter, that in itself explaining why the chase course claims similar numbers of casualties to such as Cheltenham and Haydock.

Pace Information: **Strong**

1 PHANTOMOF THE POINTS (IRE) (54) (D) s+t 98
874-3F415 8 12-0 | 76.2kg

 **David Pipe** *Rian Corcoran (5lb/2kg)*
Useful hurdler who produced a career best to win handicap at Warwick (21f) in February. Out of depth in a Fontwell Grade 2 since and should be a lot more competitive back in a handicap.

2 JONY R (IRE) (40) h 94
37-1F7144 7 11-11 | 74.8kg

 **Stuart Crawford, Ireland** *J. J. Slevin*
Fairly useful maiden/novice winner over 17f at Down Royal this season. Creditable fourth at listed/Grade 3 level over 2m on last 2 outings and has some unexposed potential now moving into his first handicap back up in trip.

3 THE FOUR SIXES (IRE) (27) (CD) 99
1-161P607 8 11-11 | 74.8kg

 **Olly Murphy** *Sean Bowen*
Made all in corresponding race in 2025. Also scored twice over fences at the end of last year. Below par returned to hurdles in recent months but dangerous to rule out a revival given he's dipped to 5 lb below the mark he defied 12 months ago.


4 CAME FROM NOWHERE (IRE) (28) (BF) t 100
1/33-32112 7 11-11 | 74.8kg

 **Jeremy Scott** *Lorcan Williams*
Lightly raced 7-y-o who has been much improved since handicapping, winning around 19f at Hereford and Ascot in midwinter. Travelled powerfully and likely would have won but for a mistake at last when second in 20.5f Newbury novice since. Open to further progress back in a handicap. Gets the vote.


5 SPECTACULARSUNRISE (48) (BF) 98
44-311269 6 11-6 | 72.6kg

 **Nigel & Willy Twiston-Davies** *Sam Twiston-Davies*
Imposing sort who has taken well to hurdling, winning Bangor novice and Kelso handicap. However, only ninth when backed into 3/1 favourite for the ultra-competitive Morebattle back at Kelso at the end of February and this isn't much easier. Races beyond around 2m for the first time here.


6 SANILAM (IRE) (28) (C) h 96
15-631411 6 11-6 | 72.6kg

 **Sandy Thomson** *Conor O'Farrell*
Landed the third success of a productive first campaign over hurdles when seeing off 9 rivals in a Go North series final at Musselburgh (2½m, good) last month, his first start in a handicap. Also scored over 2m here on soft at the turn of the year. Progressive and unexposed at this trip.

7 SARACEN BEAU (IRE) (35) (C) 97
3/1P3-231 7 11-6 | 72.6kg

 **Nicky Richards** *Danny McMenamin*
Low-mileage 7-y-o who added to his 2024 course novice win when comfortably seeing off 6 rivals in a 21f Doncaster handicap (good to soft) last month. Raised 7 lb for that but further progress can't be discounted with his yard in tremendous form.


8 SERIOUS OPERATOR (IRE) (48) (CD) t 97
0/06-43120 9 11-5 | 72.1kg

 **Lucinda Russell & Michael Scudamore** *Patrick Wadge*
Capitalised on a sliding mark in 6-runner handicap at Newcastle (2½m, good to soft) in November. Good second of 8 at Aintree (2½m again) next time and found 2m on the sharp side in the Morebattle at Kelso since. Should be happier back up in trip but this a warm race.


9 IRANDANDO HAS (FR) (2) 99
121P 7 11-3 | 71.2kg

 **Sam Allwood** *Toby Wynne*
French recruit who has won 2m maiden/novice hurdles for current handler but made a disappointing start to his handicap career at Haydock on Thursday.


10 A PERFECT DAY (IRE) (34) (D) 99
1-31352 6 11-2 | 70.8kg

 **Ben Clarke** *Tom Bellamy*
Won 23f Lingfield handicap (good) in December and has encouragingly in defeat on much softer ground since, going down only to subsequent Aintree winner Wellington Arch at Uttoxeter (2½m) last time. Likely to give another good account.

11 EAGLES REPRIEVE (IRE) (27) 99
122-2121 5 10-13 | 69.4kg

 **Lucinda Russell & Michael Scudamore** *Jack Power (5lb/2kg)*
Bumper winner who has made nice progress over hurdles, winning twice over 21f at Kelso this season, latterly a novice by 9 lengths 4 weeks ago. Likely capable of even better now moving into his first handicap.


12 CAPTAIN BUTLER (IRE) (27) 97
1/15-26454 8 10-13 | 69.4kg

 **Ruth Jefferson** *Jamie Hamilton*
Bumper/maiden hurdle winner for Pauline Robson. Mostly creditable efforts in defeat in handicap hurdles/chases this season, shaping well (not clear run) when fourth of 14 in a Go North series final over hurdles at Kelso (21f, good to soft) last month. Another who has to enter calculations.

13 MINELLA MISSILE (IRE) (34) (D) 97
00-0455P7 8 10-10 | 68.0kg

 **Mrs C. Williams** *Conor Ring*
Impressive winner of 21f Grade 2 at Cheltenham as novice in 2023 but has largely since, including finishing well behind the reopposing A Perfect Day at Uttoxeter last time.

14 KNOMOREDIAMONDS (FR) (60) 97
436-1U243 6 10-10 | 68.0kg

 **Lucinda Russell & Michael Scudamore** *Alan Doyle (3lb/1kg)*
Won a 2½m Hexham handicap (heavy) and has run with credit in defeat on all 3 completed starts since. Will almost certainly need to find a bit of improvement if he's to win a race as competitive as this, though.

14 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

6-1 Eagles Reprieve, **7-1** Came From Nowhere, **8-1** A Perfect Day, **8-1** Saracen Beau, **8-1** Sanilam, **12-1** Spectacularsunrise, **14-1** Phantomofthepoints, **16-1** Captain Butler, **18-1** Knomorediamonds, **20-1** The Four Sixes, **25-1** Serious Operator, **25-1** Jonny R, **33-1** Irlandando Has, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

Several possibilities in a very well-contested handicap. CAME FROM NOWHERE may have completed a hat-trick but for losing momentum with a last-flight mistake back in novice company at Newbury last time and can show he's still ahead of his mark returned to a handicap. A Perfect Day, whose latest Uttoxeter second was boosted when the winner followed up at Aintree last week, is second choice ahead of unexposed handicap newcomer Eagles Reprieve and the progressive Sanilam.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. CAME FROM NOWHERE 2. A PERFECT DAY 3. EAGLES REPRIEVE

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025	The Four Sixes 7-11-10	4-1	Olly Murphy	Sean Bowen	10
2024	Punta Del Este 5-11-7	25-1	Dan Skelton	Kielan Woods	14
2023	Serious Operator 6-10-13	6-5f	Lucinda Russell	Patrick Wadge (5)	7
2022	Bass Rock 6-11-0	11-10f	Sandy Thomson	Ryan Mania	4
2021	Bass Rock 5-10-1	17-2	Sandy Thomson	Danny McMenamin	7

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

4.43**GET HOME SAFE WITH THISTLE CABS HANDICAP HURDLE (3)**
4yo+ (Rated 0-130) £16,000 3m70y (4890 Metres)

RACE 6

GBI RACINGGoing: **Soft (Good to Soft in places)**

The Ayr course is a left-handed circuit of one and a half miles comprising nine fences. It has well-graduated turns and a steady downhill run to the home turn before a gentle rise to the finish. There is a run-in of approximately one furlong. When the going is firm the course is sharp, but conditions regularly get extremely gruelling in mid-winter, that in itself explaining why the chase course claims similar numbers of casualties to such as Cheltenham and Haydock.

Pace Information: **Even**

1 HIDDEN HISTORY (34) s **96**
7212-1679 8 12-0 | 76.2kg



Dan Skelton

Harry Skelton

Dual winner in this sphere and opened chase account in 25f Aintree handicap chase on return in November. However, he's struggled since, including back hurdling following a breathing operation at Uttoxeter last month, and hopes now pinned on the first-time cheekpieces sparking a return to form.

2 WOODLAND PARK (IRE) (50) (BF) **98**
31/21-3322 7 12-0 | 76.2kg



Olly Murphy

Sean Bowen

Bumper winner who landed the odds on second run over hurdles in a Leicester maiden in November. Beaten favourite all 4 starts since switched to handicaps but, at the same time, he has performed with credit on each occasion and the form of his latest Wetherby second when upped to 3m is solid.

3 WHISTLE STOP TOUR (IRE) (55) (C, D) s+t **96**
P5-52535P 8 11-13 | 75.7kg



Lucinda Russell & Michael Scudamore

Gregor Walkingshaw (10lb/5kg)

Progressed when winning back-to-back handicap chases at Kelso and this course (both at around 3m on soft/heavy) last term. Pulled up following breathing operation in the Eider at Newcastle last time but placed in C&D handicaps both starts over hurdles this season and he's not without each-way hope.

4 DRACO MALFOY (IRE) (41) **96**
435-1218 6 11-12 | 75.3kg



Kim Bailey & Mat Nicholls

Tom Bellamy

Successful at Huntingdon/Hereford either side of being outstayed in a 19.5f Doncaster novice in December. No surprise that he struggled on handicap debut in a Sandown Grade 3 last time but, though now in calmer waters, his stamina (untried beyond 21.5f under Rules) has to be taken on trust.

5 KENT DE THAIX (FR) (21) (D) **95**
051P51 6 11-12 | 75.3kg



Sam England

Richie McLernon

Progressed with each start in novice/maiden hurdles, off the mark at third attempt at Carlisle in December. Resumed winning ways on second run in a handicap/debut for this yard at Wetherby (3m, good) 3 weeks ago but more on his plate up 4 lb in this tougher race.

6 BILLY BOI BLUE (35) (CD) s+t **96**
13P51-73P 9 11-11 | 74.8kg



David Killahena & Graeme McPherson

Sam Twiston-Davies

Notched third victory in this sphere when gamely seeing off 12 rivals in this race last year. On the same mark this time round but, on the downside, he needs to bounce back in a major way following a poor display back from a break at Doncaster last month.

7 EYED (38) (D) t **93**
1224-275P 9 11-11 | 74.8kg



Hughie Morrison

Jonathan Burke

Improved chaser last term, winning 3 times, and positive start to present campaign when runner-up in this sphere at Kempton (21f, good to soft). Has found things tougher back over fences since and while the return to hurdles may help, his current mark leaves little margin for error.

8 JUST ENNEMI (FR) (97) t **95**
16/1-30 6 11-11 | 74.8kg



Harry Derham

Paul O'Brien

Useful hurdler in France, winning twice at Auteuil. Changed hands for €320,000 after but hasn't shown much in 2 starts for present connections, including on handicap bow at Kempton in January, and now moves up in trip with a first-time tongue strap enlisted. Has undergone a breathing operation.

9 ALENTEJO (FR) (69) b+t **99**
122/8P0-P2 7 11-7 | 73.0kg



Nicky Henderson

James Bowen

Failed to reproduce anything akin to peak French hurdles form when pulled up on chase/stable debut at Ffos Las in January. However, the blinkers he sported for the first time there were retained when runner-up back over hurdles at Newbury (3m, heavy) since and he's a big player off the same mark.

10 ROCHEVAL (FR) (78) (C) **98**
42F-6P644 6 11-5 | 72.1kg



Lucinda Russell & Michael Scudamore

Patrick Wadge

Yet to fulfil promise he showed at the start of his career (winner of a bumper and first 2 starts over hurdles) but has at least edged down the weights and conclusively proved that he stays this trip when fourth in the C&D handicap won by Shoeshine Boy last time. Place possibilities.

11 I AM MAX (IRE) (13) (C) t **96**
4-1045527 8 11-5 | 72.1kg



Sandy Thomson

Conor O'Farrell

Novice hurdle winner here back in February 2024 and opened chase account on return at Hexham during the autumn. Best effort since when runner-up in this sphere at Doncaster on penultimate start but others make more appeal on balance.

12 IRISH CHAMP (IRE) (31) h+t **93**
4327 6 11-4 | 71.7kg



Stuart Crawford, Ireland

J. J. Slevin

Point winner who showed promise in each of his first 3 starts in this sphere. However, he failed to improve for the switch to handicaps when seventh of 19 at Down Royal and will likely come up short once again.

13 HAWTHORN STREET (IRE) (31) (BF) **96**
4-414 7 11-3 | 71.2kg



Jonjo & A.J. O'Neill

Jonjo O'Neill Jr.

Fetched £155,000 after winning a maiden point and made it third time lucky over hurdles at Catterick (25f, soft) in February. Lack of experience appeared to catch him out against battle-hardened rivals when fourth of 10 on subsequent handicap bow at Wetherby, though, and this isn't any easier.

14 PATRIOTIK (FR) (81) (D) s **97**
13-006065 7 11-0 | 69.9kg



Mrs C. Williams

Conor Ring

Successful at Doncaster last March before finishing a fine third of 17 in a valuable handicap at Uttoxeter later that month. However, he hasn't hit the high notes so far this season and is likely to come up short once more.

15 SOCIETY SOLDIER (IRE) (42) (C) **100**
5-31 6 10-12 | 68.9kg



Lucinda Russell & Michael Scudamore

Derek Fox

Third sole start between the flags and has taken sizeable steps forward with each of her 3 starts over hurdles, most recently landing a mares novice in good style upped to 20.4f here (soft) last month. Unexposed and further progress likely now faced with an even stiffer test on this handicap debut.

16 DON RAFAEL (IRE) (30) **96**
946-31331 6 10-9 | 67.6kg



Samuel Drinkwater

Benjamin Macey (5lb/2kg)

Twice successful for Martin Keighley last year and has continued what has become something of a love affair with Hereford, notching her third success there (and second for this yard) over 25.5f last time. However, 3 lb rise could find him out in this stronger race.

17 SHOESHINE BOY (IRE) (66) (CD) t **95**
9-832F113 10 10-7 | 66.7kg



Donald Whillans

Sean Quinlan

Back-to-back winner of C&D handicaps in January (4-time C&D winner in total) but put in his place when third of 9 off this mark back here the following month. Likely to find one or two too good once again.

17 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

4-1 Society Soldier, 11-2 Woodland Park, 7-1 Alentejo, 12-1 Hawthorn Street, 14-1 Don Rafael, 18-1 Rocheval, 20-1 Kent De Thaix, 22-1 Billy Boi Blue, 22-1 Shoeshine Boy, 25-1 Hidden History, 25-1 Eyed, 28-1 Patriotik, 28-1 Draco Malfoy, 33-1 I Am Max, 33-1 Whistle Stop Tour, 40-1 bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

Despite the large field this can be whittled down to 3 chief protagonists, namely SOCIETY SOLDIER, Alentejo and Woodland Park, in that order of preference. The cases for the trio in question are all compelling but from a potential standpoint Society Soldier is the clear pick. Indeed, it was a decent mares novice that she won with plenty of authority here last time and she should have plenty more to offer now pitched into a handicap over a trip that promises to be right up her street.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. SOCIETY SOLDIER 2. ALENTEJO 3. WOODLAND PARK

4.43

**GET HOME SAFE WITH THISTLE CABS HANDICAP HURDLE (3)
4yo+ (Rated 0-130) £16,000 3m70y (4890 Metres)**

RACE 6



WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

Year	Winner	Age	Sex	Trainer	Jockey	Time
2025	Billy					8-11-
11	12-1					
2024	Catch Him Derry	6-10-10		David Killahena & Graeme McPherson	Kielan Woods	13
2023	Off To A Flyer	6-11-3		5-6f Dan Skelton	Harry Skelton	16
2022	Stringtoyourbow	5-10-4		9-2f Joe Tizzard	Brendan Powell	13
2021	I'd Better Go Now	8-11-9		3-1f Christian Williams	Jack Tudor	9
				11-2jf Dan Skelton	Harry Skelton	12

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

5.15

RACE 7

JARDINE UTILITIES RACE TO REPAIR 'HANDS & HEELS' HANDICAP HURDLE (Conditional Jockeys & Amateur Riders) (Series Final) (4) 4yo+ (Rated 0-120) £10,000 2½m100y (4110 Metres)



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

The Ayr course is a left-handed circuit of one and a half miles comprising nine fences. It has well-graduated turns and a steady downhill run to the home turn before a gentle rise to the finish. There is a run-in of approximately one furlong. When the going is firm the course is sharp, but conditions regularly get extremely gruelling in mid-winter, that in itself explaining why the chase course claims similar numbers of casualties to such as Cheltenham and Haydock.

Pace Information: **Strong**

1 GUCHEN (FR) (49) (D) t **98**
33-858411 6 12-2 | 77.1kg

Kim Bailey & Mat Nicholls **Aamilah Aswat (31b/1kg)**
Improved when off the mark at Kempton (21f) at the start of February and advanced his form even further sporting a first-time tongue strap when recording a 19-length victory in a 13-runner event at Newbury (20.5f) later that month. Respected from 10 lb higher.

2 KAP BOY (FR) (89) (D) **99**
P442-1339 7 11-13 | 75.7kg

Olly Murphy **Tom Hutsby (31b/1kg)**
Improved when successful on handicap/stable debut at Perth (2½m, heavy) in October. Backed that up when third at Cheltenham but found 2m5f on good ground around Kempton too sharp next time. Unable to sustain his effort from off the pace over 3m at Windsor last time and now back down in trip.

3 PASO DOBLE (IRE) (54) s+t **98**
722-13293 9 11-12 | 75.3kg

Paul Nicholls **Mr Lucas Murphy (31b/1kg)**
Back over hurdles, made a winning return at Fontwell (19f) in October and ran well next 2 starts. Disappointing at Kempton on Boxing Day though and might have found conditions too testing when third in a 4-runner race back at Fontwell (2¾m) last time, so bounce back is called for.

4 NICE ONE ERIC (46) **91**
4871 5 11-7 | 73.0kg

Ben Pauling **Elliott England**
Promise when in the frame in a Worcester bumper and has improved with each run over hurdles, jumping fluently to capitalise on the departure of an odds-on favourite in a 9-runner maiden at Southwell last month (2m). No chances taken with opening mark but he's unexposed now stepping into handicaps.

5 WESTOFTIGNES (IRE) (31) h **94**
66409421 7 11-6 | 72.6kg

John McConnell, Ireland **D. A. Kidd (31b/1kg)**
Improved when a close second at Gowran in February on his final start for Adrian Murray and went one better starting out for this yard at Wexford (2m, heavy) last month. Jumped and travelled well there and he's respected going back up in trip despite 14 lb rise. Hood on 1st time.

6 SUMMERGROUNDS (75) (CD) **96**
211-52225 10 11-6 | 72.6kg

Nicky Richards **Mr Harvey James (51b/2kg)**
Won this race last season and proved better than ever at beginning of this campaign, notching 3 consecutive second-placed efforts. Bit below form when fifth of 12 at Musselburgh (2½m, good to soft) 75 days ago and others perhaps hold stronger overall claims.

7 THANKYOUANDPLEASE (FR) (25) (BF) ★ **100**
1207412U 6 11-2 | 70.8kg

Syd Hosie **Oscar Palmer**
Kept busy this season, scoring at Leicester (15.5f, heavy) in December before doubling his tally at Wincanton (15f) last month. Perhaps unlucky not to follow up at Taunton next start and hadn't been asked for effort when hampered and unseating last time, though longer trip not certain to suit.

8 BALBOA (25) **98**
38-857433 6 11-0 | 69.9kg

Seamus Mullins **Mr Jack Stenhouse (31b/1kg)**
Been a long time since his sole win but has proved more competitive from reduced marks of late, quickly returning to form after a bit of a blip when third at Wincanton (24.7f, good) 25 days ago. Equally capable over this trip and he should be in the mix again.

9 TRAVIS WHEATLEY (IRE) (17) s **97**
44F-4P681 6 10-11 | 68.5kg

Adam Nicol **Rian Corcoran**
Edged down the weights after joining the upwardly-mobile Adam Nicol yard before getting off the mark in fine style from the front in a 13-runner handicap hurdle (17f, good) at Newcastle 17 days ago. Up 9 lb but had plenty in hand there and should go well again.

10 RICKETY GATE (26) (D) **91**
641-60334 11 10-2(9-11) | 64.4kg (62.1kg)

Nicky Richards **Ella McGarry (31b/1kg)**
Veteran finished 2025 in good form, making it back-to-back thirds at Kelso in November. Added to a decent record fresh on the back of a 4-month break when fourth at Carlisle (19f) last month but more needed to score from out of the weights here.

10 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

11-4 Guchen, **5-1** Nice One Eric, **15-2** Travis Wheatley, **8-1** Westoftignes, **12-1** Balboa, **14-1** Thankyouandplease, **14-1** Kap Boy, **14-1** Summergrounds, **20-1** Paso Doble, **25-1** Rickety Gate

TIMEFORM VIEW:

TRAVIS WHEATLEY was an impressive winner from the front at Newcastle at the end of last month and he looks the one beat if proving as effective over this longer trip. Guchen arrives seeking a hat-trick under Aamilah Aswat and is shortlisted, alongside the well-treated Balboa.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. TRAVIS WHEATLEY 2. GUCHEN 3. BALBOA

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025	Summergrounds 9-10-10	11-1	Nicky Richards	Ella McGarry (5)	13
2024 ^l	Plaisir des Flos 5-10-9	11-4	Fergal O'Brien	Miss Fern O'Brien	9
2024 ^{ll}	Presenting Nelly 7-11-1	5-1	Dan Skelton	Mr Sean O'Connor (3)	8
2023	Voix du Reve 11-12-0	7-1	Iain Jardine	Dylan Johnston	7
2022	Getareason 9-11-7	9-2	Rebecca Menzies	Peter Coleman (3)	10
2021	Floating Rock 6-11-8	4-1	Mark Walford	Mr Nathan Brennan	11

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race