GBI RACING

TIMEFORM 1-2-3

Tuesday 17th November

CARLISLE

11.50	MARGARET LONG MEMORIAL MAIDEN HURDLE (4) 2m3f218y (4020 Metres)
RACE 1	**(11) THEY'RE CHANCERS | (3) AR AIS ARIS | (4) BARON DU BRIZAIS**
12.20	VESTA WEALTH GALLOPING GAINS 'CHASING EXCELLENCE' NOVICES' CHASE (3) 2m3f210y (4010 Metres)
RACE 2	**(2) BOSSMAN JACK | (6) TORMUND GIANTSBANE | (4) KALKBRENNER**
12.50	CROWN & THISTLE NOVICES' HURDLE (Qualifier) (4) (D.I) 2m1f33y (3450 Metres)
RACE 3	**(3) DOUBLY BLESSED | (10) THROATLASH | (6) HURLYBURLY**
1.25	CROWN & THISTLE NOVICES' HURDLE (Qualifier) (4) (D.II) 2m1f33y (3450 Metres)
RACE 4	**(9) TURBOCHARGED | (3) ONYERBIKE | (1) BISCUIT BILLY**
1.55	SETTLE WITH CLAIMS CARE CONSULTANTS HANDICAP HURDLE (5) 3m123y (4940 Metres)
RACE 5	**(11) COVENTRY | (12) JUNIOR DES MOTTES | (9) KING BERRY**
2.25	DJ BELL CELEBRATION HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier) (4) 2m1f33y (3450 Metres)
RACE 6	**(5) RAZORS EDGE | (2) DOYEN DU BAR | (8) DOUBLE DIGITS**
3.00	HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS HANDICAP HURDLE (5) 2m1f33y (3450 Metres)
RACE 7	**(4) RAFFLES WONDER | (1) LE FABULEUX BUCK'S | (2) BRUCE BANNER**
3.30	LIGHT UP A LIFE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP CHASE (Qualifier) (5) 1m7f207y (3210 Metres)
RACE 8	**(3) MR LINCOLN | (1) AIR APPARENT | (4) GALIDAM**

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.

11.50 RACE 1

MARGARET LONG MEMORIAL MAIDEN HURDLE (4) 4yo+
£10,000 2m3f218y (4020 Metres)

GBI RACING

Going: **Hurdle: Good to Soft-Good in places; Chase: Good-Good to Soft in places**

Right handed, undulating, galloping. Notably stiff track on account of the home straight being uphill, though as a result many races are steadily run and, especially on the chase course, those that are prominent at the bottom of the hill are often not for catching. The fences are notably undemanding, the attrition rate almost always one of the lowest in the country. Invariably extremely testing ground in mid-winter.

Pace Information: **Even**

1 ABSENCE OF EGO (IRE) (21) **93**
7 **5** 11-4 | 71.7kg
Lucinda Russell & Michael Scudamore — ***Patrick Wadge***
Runner-up on his sole outing in Irish points and found the emphasis on speed against him when down the field in Newcastle bumper 3 weeks ago. This step up in trip should help but much more required as he goes hurdling.

2 A MERRY WALK (IRE) h **93**
6 11-4 | 71.7kg
Jennie Candlish — ***Sean Quinlan***
€17,000 3-y-o, Walk In The Park gelding. Half-brother to useful hurdler/smart chaser Ornua (2m-21f winner) and poor chaser Bignorm (23f winner), stayed 3¼m. Made the frame on first start in Irish points but failed to complete both subsequent outings. Wears hood for Rules debut.

3 AR AIS ARIS (IRE) (33) **99**
4-2 **5** 11-4 | 71.7kg
Lucinda Russell & Michael Scudamore — ***Derek Fox***
Promise when making the frame in a Perth bumper and offered something to work on sent hurdling when second of 8 in maiden at the same venue last month. Open to improvement and can make his presence felt.

4 BARON DU BRIZAIS (FR) (234) (BF) **99**
2- **5** 11-4 | 71.7kg
Ben Pauling — ***Ben Jones***
Point winner who couldn't justify favouritism but showed plenty of ability when second in 7-runner bumper at Uttoxeter on Rules debut in March, form boosted by the winner and third since. In good hands and he commands respect on his hurdles bow.

5 BILLY BOB JUNIOR (IRE) **93**
5 11-4 | 71.7kg
Noel C. Kelly, Ireland — ***Mr O. McGill*** (5lb/2kg)
£6,000 5-y-o, Poet's Word gelding. Half-brother to 4 winners, including top-class hurdler The New One and fairly useful chaser The Newest One. Dam lightly raced over hurdles. Placed on first of 3 starts in points, but last of 7 finishers on his final outing in May.

6 BLOFELD (IRE) (319) **94**
1/35- **7** 11-4 | 71.7kg
Rebecca Menzies — ***Charlie Maggs***
Is from a good family and won an Ayr bumper in clear-cut style on debut. Promising third in novice over this C&D sent hurdling, before shaping better than the result when fifth of 11 in an Ayr maiden in January. Remains open to improvement.

7 COCONUT MAN (213) **98**
128- **5** 11-4 | 71.7kg
Dan Skelton — ***Harry Skelton***
All 3 starts under Rules in bumpers at Ayr, making a winning debut before bumping into a useful prospect next time. Lesser effort when last seen in April, but this longer trip promises to suit on first run since leaving the Russell/Scudamore yard (has had a breathing operation).

8 CUSHENDUN (16) **94**
42635-4 **7** 11-4 | 71.7kg
Ian Duncan — ***Callum Bewley***
Fair form in maiden/novice hurdles, making the frame in 3 of his 5 starts last season and running to a similar level when fourth of 8 in novice at this course (2½m) 16 days ago. Has something to find if he's to gain a breakthrough success.

9 KATAGAT (292) t **94**
33- **6** 11-4 | 71.7kg
David Killahena & Graeme McPherson — ***Kielan Woods***
Shaped encouragingly when third in a Wetherby bumper on debut and filled the same position in 7-runner contest at Ayr in January, despite shaping as if needing a stiffer test. Could be in the mix as he goes hurdling over this longer distance (has had a breathing operation).

10 MARBLE SKY (IRE) (257) **70**
09- **5** 11-4 | 71.7kg
Andrew Crook — ***Oscar Palmer*** (7lb/3kg)
Offered little in a Wetherby bumper on debut and was beaten even further at Haydock in March. Off 8 months ahead of hurdles bow.

11 THEY'RE CHANCERS (IRE) (323) (BF) **100**
1/2- **6** 11-4 | 71.7kg
Nicky Richards — ***Danny McMenamin***
Looked a good prospect when winning an Ayr bumper on debut and made a promising start over hurdles when second in 11-runner maiden at Kelso (2m) in December last year. Off a further 10 months since but he returns with his yard amongst the winners. Strong contender.

12 FROMPILLARTOPOST (IRE) **93**
4 11-3 | 71.2kg
Jane Walton — ***Peter Kavanagh***
£10,000 4-y-o, Pillar Coral gelding. Dam, ran once in bumper, half-sister to useful hurdler/chaser (stayed 25f) Darenjan and fairly useful hurdler/chaser (stayed 3m) Jurby. Off the mark in Irish points at third attempt in May, though new yard not known for winning hurdling debutants.

13 GILI ISLAND (IRE) (16) **92**
4-940 **4** 11-3 | 71.2kg
Dan Skelton — ***Tristan Durrell***
Well beaten in a pair of bumpers for Gordon Elliott but some promise when fourth of 6 in a Chepstow novice (2m) on hurdling/stable debut in October. However, he went backwards from that effort at Worcester 16 days ago and needs another run for a handicap mark.

14 MYMATEMAC (IRE) (8) **75**
0 **4** 11-3 | 71.2kg
Martin Todhunter — ***Ryan Mania***
Unseated on his sole outing in Irish points and shaped as if one for further down the line on hurdling debut, well held in maiden at this course (17f) 8 days ago.

15 GALATRONA (IRE) (246) **95**
1- **5** 10-11 | 68.5kg
Charlie Longsdon — ***Jonathan Burke***
Irish point winner at the second attempt and landed the odds in 5-runner bumper at Ffos Las in March, making all to win unchallenged. One to consider as she goes up in trip for her first start over hurdles.

15 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

9-2 They're Chancers, **11-2** Ar Ais Aris, **11-2** Baron Du Brizais, **13-2** Coconut Man, **10-1** Galatrona, **14-1** Katagat, **16-1** Blofeld, **18-1** Cushendun, **22-1** Absence of Ego, **22-1** Billy Bob Junior, **28-1** A Merry Walk, **28-1** Frompillartopost, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

THEY'RE CHANCERS has made a bright start to his career, winning his sole outing in bumpers and beaten only by a fellow well-bred type at Kelso on his hurdling debut. He is fancied to open his hurdles account with improvement to come, Ar Ais Aris next on the list ahead of Baron du Brizais.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. THEY'RE CHANCERS 2. AR AIS ARIS 3. BARON DU BRIZAIS

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

12.20 RACE 2 — VESTA WEALTH GALLOPING GAINS 'CHASING EXCELLENCE' NOVICES' CHASE (3) 4yo+ £15,000 2m3f210y (4010 Metres)

GBI RACING

Going: **Hurdle: Good to Soft-Good in places; Chase: Good-Good to Soft in places**

Right handed, undulating, galloping. Notably stiff track on account of the home straight being uphill, though as a result many races are steadily run and, especially on the chase course, those that are prominent at the bottom of the hill are often not for catching. The fences are notably undemanding, the attrition rate almost always one of the lowest in the country. Invariably extremely testing ground in mid-winter.

Pace Information: **Very Weak**

1 **A PAI DE NOM (248)** (BF) **80**
5/1211312- **6** 11-4 | 71.7kg
Dan Skelton — *Tristan Durrell*
Reached a useful level over hurdles in 2025/26, winning 4 of his 7 starts with his latest success in a 3m Newbury handicap in February. Wasn't able to justify favouritism but shaped best when second of 17 at Uttoxeter the following month. Helps give his yard a very strong hand in this race.

2 **BOSSMAN JACK (220)** (D) ★ **100**
1/31161- **6** 11-4 | 71.7kg
Dan Skelton — *Harry Skelton*
Well-made gelding who developed into a smart novice hurdler last season, winning at Ffos Las and Chepstow before a good sixth in the 21-runner Baring Bingham at Cheltenham. Ended the campaign with Grade 1 success at Aintree and he's a very exciting prospect for chasing.

3 **KAKA'S COUSIN (IRE) (220)** **77**
12140- **6** 11-4 | 71.7kg
Jonjo & A.J. O'Neill — *Jonjo O'Neill Jr.*
£160,000 purchase after finishing second in an Irish point. Made it 2 wins from first 3 starts over hurdles when scoring in a Kelso novice in February and made the frame in the EBF Final at Sandown next time. Below-par effort at Aintree but has the looks to make up into a better chaser.

4 **KALKBRENNER (IRE) (323)** (D) **79**
4/126- **6** 11-4 | 71.7kg
Ben Pauling — *Ben Jones*
£120,000 buy after winning an Irish point and made a promising start over hurdles last season, landing a Ffos Las maiden before edged out by a now-useful type in a Doncaster novice. Failed to give his running in the Challow at Newbury, but he's well worth another chance as he goes chasing.

5 **SWINDON VILLAGE (IRE) (221)** **78**
36/313100- **6** 11-4 | 71.7kg
Charlie Longsdon — *David Bass*
£130,000 4-y-o after finishing runner-up in an Irish point. Successful in novice hurdles at Leicester and Newbury last season, but found things tougher at Cheltenham and Aintree to end the campaign. Boasts the physique to take his form up a level as he goes over fences.

6 **TORMUND GIANTSBANE (IRE) (209)** (C, D) **81**
12/1412- **6** 11-4 | 71.7kg
Dan Skelton — *Charlie Todd*
Point/bumper winner who progressed with each of his 4 starts over hurdles last season, winning novices at this venue (2½m) and Doncaster (3m). Put up a good challenge to No Drama This End in 4-runner listed novice at Perth in April and appeals as the type to make a chaser.

6 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

10-11 Bossman Jack, **6-1** Tormund Giantsbane, **7-1** A Pai De Nom, **8-1** Kalkbrenner, **11-1** Swindon Village, **14-1** Kaka's Cousin

TIMEFORM VIEW:

Every inch a chaser on looks, BOSSMAN JACK was still able to score at the highest level as a novice hurdler and he can go on to even better things now sent over fences. In a field made up of interesting chasing debutants, he is the pick ahead of stablemate Tormund Giantsbane and Kalkbrenner.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. BOSSMAN JACK 2. TORMUND GIANTSBANE 3. KALKBRENNER

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

12.50 RACE 3

CROWN & THISTLE NOVICES' HURDLE (Qualifier) (4) (D.I)
4yo+ £10,000 2m1f33y (3450 Metres)

GBI RACING

Going: **Hurdle: Good to Soft-Good in places; Chase: Good-Good to Soft in places**

Right handed, undulating, galloping. Notably stiff track on account of the home straight being uphill, though as a result many races are steadily run and, especially on the chase course, those that are prominent at the bottom of the hill are often not for catching. The fences are notably undemanding, the attrition rate almost always one of the lowest in the country. Invariably extremely testing ground in mid-winter.

Pace Information: **Even**

1 ABBEY FARMER
5 11-0 | 69.9kg
Nicky Richards — *Danny McMenamin*
Dartmouth gelding. Half-brother to 3 winners, including fairly useful hurdler Abbey Scope (21f-23f winner) and modest chaser Holme Abbey (2½m winner), stayed 2¾m. Dam ran once in bumper. Yard going well and he could be in the mix on debut.

2 AYE OVER TEE (13) **68**
04 **4** 11-0 | 69.9kg
Jonjo & A.J. O'Neill — *Jonjo O'Neill Jr.*
Well held in novice at this course on debut last month and was beaten further when fourth of 13 in maiden at Chepstow 13 days ago. Needs another run for a handicap mark.

3 DOUBLY BLESSED (IRE) (229)
2- **5** 11-0 | 69.9kg
Dan Skelton — *Harry Skelton*
Wide-margin winner of sole outing in Irish points and made an encouraging Rules debut when runner-up in a Kelso bumper in April. Has since left the Russell/Scudamore stable and is a noteworthy hurdling debutant having joined the powerful Skelton yard.

4 GET OUT OF MY WAY (IRE) (2) **100**
12-21 **5** 11-0 | 69.9kg
Fergal O'Brien — *Non Runner*
NON RUNNER.

5 HANDBALL MARADONA (IRE)
4 11-0 | 69.9kg
Sandy Thomson — *Craig Nichol*
£60,000 4-y-o, Affinisea gelding. Half-brother to 9f/9.4f winner in Czech Republic Rabbit Pillar. Dam, unraced, closely related to very smart hurdler/chaser (2m-2¾m winner) Finian's Oscar. Third on second of 2 starts in Irish points and worth a market check with yard showing better signs of late.

6 HURLYBURLY (IRE) (218) **89**
4623- **5** 11-0 | 69.9kg
Jedd O'Keeffe — *Sean Quinlan*
Went the right way in a trio of bumpers and continued a positive start to his career when third in a Hexham novice on hurdling debut in April, beaten only by a pair of previous winners. One to bear in mind on his return.

7 KAPOUTCHINO (FR)
6 11-0 | 69.9kg
N. W. Alexander — *Bruce Lynn*
€28,000 3-y-o, Petillo gelding. Dam, ran twice on Flat in France, half-sister to French hurdler/chaser (15f-19f winner) Brazil de L'Orme. Runner-up sole start in Irish points in May last year.

8 LINALENE (FR) (33) **89**
39/U4722-7 **5** 11-0 | 69.9kg
Lucinda Russell & Michael Scudamore — *Patrick Wadge*
Much improved when finishing runner-up at Ayr on final 2 starts last season. However, after 6 months off (had a breathing operation) he finished tamely when well held on handicap debut at Perth in October. Will need to get back on the up returned to novice company.

9 THE FOREMAN (254) **66**
66- **8** 11-0 | 69.9kg
Joel Parkinson & Sue Smith — *Peter Kavanagh*
Well held in a bumper back in May 2022 before sidelined for the best part of 4 years. Some encouragement in a pair of novice hurdles over this C&D upon his return, but has been off another 8 months and will be more of appeal in handicaps.

10 THROATLASH (IRE) (214) **92**
23P/111F6- **7** 11-0 | 69.9kg
Donald McCain — *Kielan Woods*
Placed in a pair of C&D novice hurdles starting off under Rules before showing improved form over fences, winning his first 3 starts in handicaps last season. Ended the campaign on a low-key note but he enters calculations back here, for all that he's more of a chasing type.

11 LECANVEY LADY (IRE) (12) **74**
P4 **5** 10-7 | 66.7kg
Martin Todhunter — *Callum Bewley*
Unplaced completed start in Irish points before pulled up in novice at this course on hurdling debut last month. Tried in cheekpieces, offered a bit more when fourth of 8 in a Newcastle maiden (2½m) 12 days ago, though looks one for further down the line.

11 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

2-1 Doubly Blessed, **9-2** Throatlash, **7-1** Linalene, **8-1** Hurlyburly, **8-1** Abbey Farmer, **14-1** Kapoutchino, **16-1** Handball Maradona, **22-1** The Foreman, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

DOUBLY BLESSED shaped well when beaten only by a good prospect in a Kelso bumper and he could be capable of going one better as he makes his hurdling/stable debut. Throatlash was placed twice over this C&D prior to going chasing and he is the pick for second back over hurdles, while Hurlyburly is also considered.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. DOUBLY BLESSED 2. THROATLASH 3. HURLYBURLY

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

1.25 RACE 4

CROWN & THISTLE NOVICES' HURDLE (Qualifier) (4) (D.II)
4yo+ £10,000 2m1f33y (3450 Metres)

GBI RACING

Going: **Hurdle: Good to Soft-Good in places; Chase: Good-Good to Soft in places**

Right handed, undulating, galloping. Notably stiff track on account of the home straight being uphill, though as a result many races are steadily run and, especially on the chase course, those that are prominent at the bottom of the hill are often not for catching. The fences are notably undemanding, the attrition rate almost always one of the lowest in the country. Invariably extremely testing ground in mid-winter.

Pace Information: **Weak**

1 **BISCUIT BILLY (IRE)** **88**
5 11-0 | 69.9kg
Sandy Thomson — ***Craig Nichol***
Capri gelding. Half-brother to 1½m winner Neddies Boy. Dam 1½m winner, from family of Queen Mother Champion Chase winner Put The Kettle On. Interesting newcomer and one to monitor closely in the betting.

2 **BOHEMOND ANTIOCH (214)** **89**
2443/22U7- **5** 11-0 | 69.9kg
Donald McCain — ***Kielan Woods***
Much improved on the back of a breathing operation when second in heavy-ground novice at Bangor last November. Ran to a similar level filling same spot at Kelso next time but well beaten on completed start since. Needs to bounce back on return.

3 **ONYERBIKE (IRE)** **90**
7 11-0 | 69.9kg
Lucinda Russell & Michael Scudamore — ***Jack Power*** (5lb/2kg)
€35,000 6-y-o, Jet Away gelding. Dam, maiden pointer, sister to bumper winner (stayed 23f) I Wonder Now. Dual winning Irish pointer, runner-up last time (Apr 2025). Must be respected on Rules debut for in-form yard.

4 **PEDRO THE POET (IRE) (326)** **86**
60- **5** 11-0 | 69.9kg
Nicky Richards — ***Callum Bewley***
Showed little in a pair of Down Royal bumpers for Paul Traymor last season but has shown fair form at up to 1¾m on the Flat subsequently, including for current yard. Has place prospects if taking to this new discipline.

5 **RELUCTANTDEVELOPER (IRE)** **85**
5 11-0 | 69.9kg
Jonjo & A.J. O'Neill — ***Jonjo O'Neill Jr.***
Getaway gelding. Dam (c124/h108), 2m-2½m hurdle/chase winner (stayed 2¾m), half-sister to bumper winner/fairly useful hurdler (2m winner) Road Exile. Fourth on both completed starts in Irish points, pulled up last time (Mar 2026). Market can guide.

6 **ROYAL MARCH (24)** **84**
2-4 **5** 11-0 | 69.9kg
N. W. Alexander — ***Bruce Lynn***
Shaped with encouragement when second of 8 in a bumper at Market Rasen on debut in April and bought for £25,000 from Don Cantillon after. Again showed ability switched to hurdling when fourth of 6 in 2m novice at Kelso last month but is possibly more one for handicaps at longer trips later on.

7 **RUPERT THE PRINCE (IRE) (195)** (D) t **79**
8-2 **4** 11-0 | 69.9kg
Rebecca Menzies — ***Shane Fitzgerald***
Progressive stayer on the level in 2025, successful 3 times. Sold from Paddy Butler's yard for 36,000 gns but has shown decidedly little in 2 runs over hurdles and was again soundly beaten on most recent Flat outing.

8 **ST MICHAEL'S WELL (IRE) (17)** **86**
4 **6** 11-0 | 69.9kg
Joel Parkinson & Sue Smith — ***Danny McMenamin***
Diamond Boy gelding who got off mark in Irish points at third attempt in April and shaped as if in need of a stiffer test of stamina when fourth of 6 in 2m novice at Wetherby 17 days ago, best work finish. Should improve with this stiffer track and slightly longer trip likely to suit better.

9 **TURBOCHARGED (IRE) (257)** ★ **100**
31- **5** 11-0 | 69.9kg
Dan Skelton — ***Harry Skelton***
Well-related 6-y-o who finished third in a solid Newbury bumper on debut last November. Confirmed that promise in spades when justifying support in impressive fashion at Haydock in March. In top hands and rates a useful hurdling prospect.

10 **TEESCOMPONENTS GAL (195)** **70**
6-9 **5** 10-7 | 66.7kg
Gillian Boanas — ***Jamie Hamilton***
Has offered little in a pair of Kelso bumpers.

10 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

7-4 Turbocharged, **11-2** Onyerbike, **6-1** Bohemond Antioch, **15-2** Biscuit Billy, **11-1** Pedro The Poet, **12-1** St Michael's Well, **16-1** Reluctantdeveloper, **22-1** Royal March, **66-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

TURBOCHARGED confirmed his debut promise when landing a Haydock bumper in impressive fashion in March and looks a novice hurdler to follow this season, as reflected by his inclusion in the Timeform Fifty To Follow. Onyerbike is a dual-winning Irish pointer who must be respected despite making a belated switch to Rules, while newcomer Biscuit Billy catches the eye on paper and also warrants a close look in the betting.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. TURBOCHARGED 2. ONYERBIKE 3. BISCUIT BILLY

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

1.55 RACE 5 — SETTLE WITH CLAIMS CARE CONSULTANTS HANDICAP HURDLE (5) 4yo+ (Rated 0-100) £6,750 3m123y (4940 Metres)

GBI RACING

Going: **Hurdle: Good to Soft-Good in places; Chase: Good-Good to Soft in places**

Right handed, undulating, galloping. Notably stiff track on account of the home straight being uphill, though as a result many races are steadily run and, especially on the chase course, those that are prominent at the bottom of the hill are often not for catching. The fences are notably undemanding, the attrition rate almost always one of the lowest in the country. Invariably extremely testing ground in mid-winter.

Pace Information: **Even**

1 EBSELYSEES (24) b **98**
571-15544 **7** 12-0 | 76.2kg
Susan Corbett — *Nathan Moscrop*
Revitalised by a switch of stables when winning back-to-back at Perth in the spring. Not quite in same form off revised mark since but this represents a drop back in class.

2 SHOESHINE BOY (IRE) (26) (CD) **96**
2F1135-P0 **10** 11-13 | 75.7kg
Donald Whillans — *Craig Nichol*
Veteran C&D winner. Won back-to-back at Ayr (heavy) in January. Quicker conditions against him last 2 starts, including on return, and any significant rain would aid his chance.

3 PRINCE DES FICHAUX (FR) (571) s+t **95**
5PP3P45P/ **9** 11-13 | 75.7kg
Ewan Whillans — *Callum Bewley*
Generally struggled in 2024/25 and best watched on belated return to hurdles after 19 months off.

4 SHIGHNESS (182) s **96**
2P/5663F-U **9** 11-12 | 75.3kg
Micky Hammond & Becky Smith — *Joshua Thompson* (5lb/2kg)
Further signs of decline last season and probably best watched despite returning off a career-low mark.

5 WASDELL DUNDALK (FR) (54) (C, D) **96**
84-642P46 **11** 11-12 | 75.3kg
Lisa Harrison — *Danny McMenamin*
Veteran who doesn't look as good as he once was and hasn't shown anything over hurdles for a good while. Breathing operation needs to have a positive effect.

6 HOPELESS DANCER (11) **95**
32232-8 **5** 11-11 | 74.8kg
Tim Reed — *Harry Reed*
Placed all 3 bumper starts. Claimed out of Twiston-Davies yard after being turned over at Ludlow second time up over hurdles in December and didn't show much on belated first start for this yard 11 days ago.

7 RACEVIEW ROAD (IRE) (229) **95**
P5PP/647P- **8** 11-3 | 71.2kg
George Bewley — *Jonathon Bewley*
Has shown little for a while now, including in a handful of starts last season.

8 HALF TRACK (IRE) (26) **99**
36/88U5P-3 **10** 11-2 | 70.8kg
N. W. Alexander — *Bruce Lynn*
Veteran who was out of sorts last season but stopped the slide off his much reduced mark when third here (2½m) on return. Entitled to come on from that so considered off the same mark.

9 KING BERRY (IRE) (27) s+t **96**
5850872-5 **5** 11-1 | 70.3kg
Max Comley — *David Bass*
Maiden but much more of an impact switched to handicaps (tongue strap also applied) last 2 starts, including an encouraging fifth at Worcester on return last month, shaping as if this longer distance will suit. First-time headgear should also sharpen him up and he makes more appeal than most.

10 KALO ATHENA (IRE) (255) (D) **96**
P/6P57124- **7** 11-0 | 69.9kg
James Moffatt — *Leah Noreci* (7lb/3kg)
Point winner who backed up her improved Wetherby success last winter when making the frame next 2 starts but likely to need this after 8 months off with yard relatively quiet.

11 COVENTRY (IRE) (17) (D) ★ **100**
87367-171 **9** 11-0 | 69.9kg
Lisa Harrison — *Peter Kavanagh*
Belatedly capitalised on falling mark following breathing operation when winning at Perth on return. Built on that at the second attempt when resuming winning ways at Ayr late last month and 3 lb rise not insurmountable.

12 JUNIOR DES MOTTES (FR) (17) (D) s **97**
P/3P1132-3 **7** 11-0 | 69.9kg
Leonard Kerr — *Derek Fox*
Proved a different proposition in headgear when winning back-to-back at Fakenham/Plumpton in February. Made a positive start for this yard when 3¼ lengths third to Coventry at Ayr on return and 3 lb better off with the winner now.

12 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

9-2 Coventry, **11-2** Ebselysees, **6-1** King Berry, **13-2** Half Track, **13-2** Junior Des Mottes, **16-1** Kalo Athena, **20-1** Shighness, **22-1** Shoeshine Boy, **22-1** Wasdell Dundalk, **25-1** Raceview Road, **33-1** Hopeless Dancer, **33-1** Prince Des Fichaux

TIMEFORM VIEW:

COVENTRY took his record to 2-3 since a breathing operation at Ayr last time and he remains on a workable mark on old form. Junior des Mottes made a positive start for this yard when third in the same race and is entitled to finish a bit closer on revised terms, while King Berry is an interesting contender stepping up in trip.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. COVENTRY 2. JUNIOR DES MOTTES 3. KING BERRY

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

2.25 RACE 6

DJ BELL CELEBRATION HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier) (4)
3yo+ (Rated 0-120) £8,750 2m1f33y (3450 Metres)

GBI RACING

Going: **Hurdle: Good to Soft-Good in places; Chase: Good-Good to Soft in places**

Right handed, undulating, galloping. Notably stiff track on account of the home straight being uphill, though as a result many races are steadily run and, especially on the chase course, those that are prominent at the bottom of the hill are often not for catching. The fences are notably undemanding, the attrition rate almost always one of the lowest in the country. Invariably extremely testing ground in mid-winter.

Pace Information: **Very Strong**

1 MICK COLLINS (IRE) (194) h **95**
6/512246-2 **5** 12-2 | 77.1kg
Martin Todhunter — ***Ryan Mania***
Flat/hurdle winner for Noel Meade and some promise back on the Flat for this yard, though disappointed last time. Hood back on.

2 DOYEN DU BAR (IRE) (262) (C, D) **99**
1121/3231- **10** 12-2 | 77.1kg
Nicky Richards — ***Danny McMenamin***
Resumed progress on fourth start for this yard when making all in good style at Kelso when last seen in February. Makes a belated return to hurdles (dual winner) but he's potentially very well treated in this sphere.

3 AN MHI (IRE) (17) (D) **92**
26/P-F **9** 12-0 | 76.2kg
William Young Jnr — ***Conor Rabbitt*** (3lb/1kg)
Multiple winner for Gordon Elliott but has clearly been very hard to train in recent years for 4 different yards.

4 HOW ABOUT NO (FR) (208) v **95**
2351/54PP- **6** 11-7 | 73.0kg
Lizzie Quinlan — ***Sean Quinlan***
Flat winner for Joseph O'Brien and opened hurdles account at Catterick in January 2025 on second start for this yard. However, went backwards after a promising comeback last season, shaping as if amiss last 2 starts. Change of headgear.

5 RAZORS EDGE (323) t **100**
34- **6** 11-7 | 73.0kg
Dan Skelton — ***Harry Skelton***
Half-brother to connections' smart hurdler/chase winner My Drogo. Has shown potential on both starts, still learning the ropes and spared a hard race when fourth at Newbury when last seen in December. That form has worked out very well so opening mark may underestimate him.

6 FOSTER'S FORTUNE (605) (D) **97**
1232123P/ **7** 11-6 | 72.6kg
Chris Grant — ***Charlie Maggs***
Was having a good season until pulling up at Kelso 20 months ago and off since.

7 MAREE VERTE (FR) (563) (D) **90**
1/1- **4** 11-6 | 72.6kg
Donald McCain — ***Kielan Woods***
Won a couple of claimers in France in spring 2025. Subsequently claimed for €27,606 but not seen since (has had breathing operation).

8 DOUBLE DIGITS (30) (CD) **98**
4124-2253 **8** 11-5 | 72.1kg
Ann Hamilton — ***Joshua Thompson*** (5lb/2kg)
Left chase bow behind when winning at Sedgefield in February. Some good efforts back over hurdles since and should be spot on now after a couple of comeback runs last month.

9 CAVALIER DU LUY (IRE) (17) t **96**
215-P **5** 11-5 | 72.1kg
N. W. Alexander — ***Bruce Lynn***
Made promising start over hurdles last season, winning at Kelso on second outing. Winning Irish pointer but offered little on chase debut following a breathing operation at Ayr on return last month so bit to prove back hurdling with a tongue strap applied.

10 REWIRED (11) (D) **98**
6013/13-87 **8** 11-4 | 71.7kg
Tristan Davidson — ***Harry Reed***
Won twice over hurdles in spring 2025 but may well be being brought along gradually post-absence judged on his 4 outings this season.

11 MONACO RULES (IRE) (192) **98**
1533P/42-7 **6** 11-4 | 71.7kg
Micky Hammond & Becky Smith — ***Conor O'Farrell***
Posted his best effort for current connections when runner-up at Sedgefield a year ago. Seemingly found a step up to 0-130 company too competitive following lay-off at Hexham in May and now drops back in grade after another 6 months off.

12 CHISUM (IRE) (383) **90**
9/43- **6** 11-0 | 69.9kg
Jennie Candlish — ***William Shanahan*** (5lb/2kg)
Showed ability in a couple of maiden hurdles in Ireland for different yards and type to do better in handicaps.

13 TWO AULD PALS (IRE) (24) (D) **96**
3638-1436 **8** 11-0 | 69.9kg
Lucinda Russell & Michael Scudamore — ***Derek Fox***
Capitalised on a drop in class in emphatic fashion at Hexham (heavy) in May. Mixed record since, though, disappointed at Kelso last time having attracted support.

14 COLEGRAM (FR) (12) **88**
3180 **6** 10-13 | 69.4kg
Dan Skelton — ***Tristan Durrell***
Irish point winner who opened her account under Rules in a weak Bangor maiden, but heavy defeats in handicaps since probably a consequence of a stiff mark.

15 DARK TIDE RISING (IRE) (38) (BF) **98**
3123 **4** 10-13 | 69.4kg
Sam England — ***Jonathan England***
Gifted a clear lead when a wide-margin winner of a bumper at Worcester. Placed in a couple of novice hurdles at Hexham last month and has since made an interesting stable switch.

16 DEE'S GETAWAY (IRE) (17) **95**
P150017-9 **6** 10-11 | 68.5kg
George Bewley — ***Jonathon Bewley***
Inconsistent sort. Won twice at big odds last season (soft/heavy). Shaped as if needing comeback run 17 days ago.

17 TRAVIS WHEATLEY (IRE) (24) (D) s **98**
4P6813-83 **6** 10-10 | 68.0kg
Adam Nicol — ***Jack Power*** (5lb/2kg)
Took advantage of a much reduced mark in first-time headgear at Newcastle in March before creditable third at Ayr in April. Let down by a terrible round of jumping at Kelso following month but shaped better when third there on return.

17 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

5-1 Razors Edge, **6-1** Doyen Du Bar, **9-1** Double Digits, **10-1** Dark Tide Rising, **16-1** Mick Collins, **16-1** Chisum, **16-1** Maree Verte, **18-1** Two Auld Pals, **20-1** Travis Wheatley, **20-1** Cavalier Du Luy, **22-1** Monaco Rules, **33-1** Rewired, **33-1** Foster's Fortune, **33-1** Dee's Getaway, **33-1** How About No, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

The well-connected RAZORS EDGE showed plenty in 2 runs last season with his Newbury form working out particularly well, so he looks the way to go with the prospect of a lot more to come. Doyen Du Bar is the obvious threat off his much lower hurdles rating, while Double Digits should be close to his peak now after a couple of comeback runs.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. RAZORS EDGE 2. DOYEN DU BAR 3. DOUBLE DIGITS

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

3.00 RACE 7

HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS HANDICAP HURDLE (5) 3yo+ (Rated 0-100) £6,750 2m1f33y (3450 Metres)

GBI RACING

Going: **Hurdle: Good to Soft-Good in places; Chase: Good-Good to Soft in places**

Right handed, undulating, galloping. Notably stiff track on account of the home straight being uphill, though as a result many races are steadily run and, especially on the chase course, those that are prominent at the bottom of the hill are often not for catching. The fences are notably undemanding, the attrition rate almost always one of the lowest in the country. Invariably extremely testing ground in mid-winter.

Pace Information: **Even**

1 LE FABULEUX BUCK'S (FR) (236) 98
05539- **5** 12-0 | 76.2kg
Jonjo & A.J. O'Neill — ***Jonjo O'Neill Jr.***
Went the right way in a trio of 2m maiden hurdles but well held on handicap debut at Chepstow (19f, good) in March. Worth another chance back on softer ground as he makes first run since leaving Martin Keighley.

2 BRUCE BANNER (IRE) (8) 97
1P-2 **4** 12-0 | 76.2kg
Rebecca Menzies — ***Shane Fitzgerald***
Bettered his form on the Flat at the first attempt over hurdles, landing a juvenile maiden at Musselburgh a year ago. Pulled up next outing, but after a spell back on the Flat he ran well on handicap debut in this sphere when second of 14 here 8 days ago. Merits consideration.

3 ZAMOND (FR) (30) (D, BF) **96**
2-8212324 **10** 11-13 | 75.7kg
Donald McCain — ***Harry Brown*** (7lb/3kg)
Veteran who added to his tally at Cartmel (17f) in July and has continued in decent heart with 4 in-frame efforts since, fourth of 8 at Sedgefield (2½m) a month ago. Can give his running once more.

4 RAFFLES WONDER (FR) (182) (C, D) h+t **100**
411/6P48-5 **9** 11-12 | 75.3kg
Sam England — ***Jonathan England***
Dual winner over fences for Rebecca Menzies in early 2025, including at this venue, but wasn't in the same form last season. Well held at Hexham on stable debut in May, though he's now dropped below his last winning mark as he returns back over hurdles. One to be interested in.

5 DILLY'S GUNNER (248) 95
25/5750- **5** 11-7 | 73.0kg
Michael & David Easterby — ***Jamie Hamilton***
Showed more than on first 2 starts over hurdles when staying on again for fifth in 8-runner novice at Market Rasen (19f) in January. However, she raced too freely sent handicapping when down the field at Newcastle (2½m) in March. May just be better for this first run in 8 months.

6 LES'S LEGACY (10) s+t **99**
80-4853U3 **9** 11-6 | 72.6kg
Susan Corbett — ***Nathan Moscrop***
Is on a reduced mark and wasted no time leaving behind a lesser effort when third of 11 at Kelso (21f) 10 days ago. It's now 11 runs since his last victory, though.

7 JUSTUS (IRE) (23) b **96**
64P85-245 **8** 11-4 | 71.7kg
Micky Hammond & Becky Smith — ***Joshua Thompson*** (5lb/2kg)
Fared better than for a while over hurdles when runner-up at Hexham in May. However, has run poorly both starts since, returning from nearly 5 months off when well held at Market Rasen 23 days ago.

8 BARRAKILLA VAGE (IRE) (211) h **86**
507544P6- **7** 11-3 | 71.2kg
Stuart Coltherd — ***Peter Kavanagh***
Made the frame on second start over hurdles at Clonmel in December last year, his final run for Edward F. Power. Little impact in 3 outings for present stable, including in a pair of handicaps during the spring, but yard is now showing better signs than it was last season.

9 HOLEHEARTEDLY (IRE) (32) 97
6088-7 **5** 11-3 | 71.2kg
Dan Skelton — ***Harry Skelton***
No better than mid-division in a bumper and first 3 starts over hurdles, before failing to meet market expectations after 7 months off when seventh of 10 on handicap debut at Uttoxeter in October. In top hands so interesting to see if the support returns.

10 WALK ON SON (IRE) (28) t **96**
4P98-4PU4 **6** 11-1 | 70.3kg
Lucinda Russell & Michael Scudamore — ***Derek Fox***
Didn't progress over hurdles in 2025/26 and, after 4 months off, unseated rider early on chasing debut in Perth in September. However, from his reduced mark he ran better than for a while when fourth of 10 in handicap hurdle at Hexham last month.

11 BOLLIN SKITTLE (241) 96
5644- **6** 11-0 | 69.9kg
Donald Whillans — ***Craig Nichol***
Seems to have been brought along gradually so far, offering some encouragement on her third outing over hurdles when fourth of 7 in novice at Kelso (21f) in March. Could do better now switched to handicap company after 8 months off.

12 NATIONAL QUESTION (IRE) (21) (CD) s **93**
251516-58 **6** 10-13 | 69.4kg
Adam Nicol — ***Ryan Mania***
Wasn't the easiest to catch right last season even as he won 3 times, the latest over this C&D in March. Below par on his next 2 starts, before looking rusty after 5 months off when well held at Newcastle 3 weeks ago.

13 SNAPAUDACIAHEROS (IRE) (14) s+t **95**
851-P1735 **6** 10-12 | 68.9kg
Rebecca Menzies — ***Charlie Maggs***
Doubled her tally at Hexham in June but her form has been in and out since, running one of her lesser races when fifth of 11 at Sedgefield 2 weeks ago.

14 ACTION REPLAY (IRE) (23) 56
P580 **4** 10-10 | 68.0kg
Charlie Longsdon — ***Richie McLernon***
Behind when falling in an Irish point and hasn't offered much in 4 maiden hurdles this autumn. However, he's worth a market check as he starts off in handicaps from a lowly mark.

15 BREADALBANE LASS (163) s+t **89**
066641-48 **6** 10-9 | 67.6kg
R. Mike Smith — ***Ben Smith*** (7lb/3kg)
Not straightforward but showed improved form when opening her account with a ready success in handicap at Perth in April. Failed to repeat that effort in 2 starts since, so others more persuasive after 5 months off.

16 KNOCKERANNA ROSE (IRE) (26) 96
4832-4023 **6** 10-8 | 67.1kg
Susan Corbett — ***Conor Rabbitt*** (3lb/1kg)
Remains a maiden but has returned to form on the back of a 3-month break, faring best of those ridden close up when third of 13 at this course (2½m, good to soft) last time. Seems more effective on less testing ground so wouldn't want the rain to arrive.

17 RIBBLE RIVER (IRE) (54) s+t **79**
P5-5668 **5** 10-2(9-13) | 64.4kg (63.0kg)
Lizzie Quinlan — ***Sean Quinlan***
Fair middle-distance Flat winner for Kevin Ryan. However, he hasn't shown much over hurdles for current yard (tailed off back on the Flat penultimate start) and he's 3 lb out of the handicap here.

17 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

13-2 Bruce Banner, **8-1** Holeheartedly, **8-1** Zamond, **11-1** Le Fabuleux Buck's, **14-1** Raffles Wonder, **14-1** Walk On Son, **16-1** Les's Legacy, **16-1** National Question, **18-1** Action Replay, **18-1** Justus, **18-1** Knockeranna Rose, **18-1** Snapaudaciaheros, **22-1** Bollin Skittle, **22-1** Dilly's Gunner, **28-1** Barrakilla Vage, **28-1** Breadalbane Lass, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

Preference is for RAFFLES WONDER who is potentially well handicapped back over hurdles making only his second start for his new yard. He gets the vote ahead of the lightly-raced Le Fabuleux Buck's on his stable debut, with Bruce Banner and Bollin Skittle completing the shortlist.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. RAFFLES WONDER 2. LE FABULEUX BUCK'S 3. BRUCE BANNER

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

3.30 RACE 8

LIGHT UP A LIFE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP CHASE (Qualifier) (5) 4yo+ (Rated 0-105) £7,250 1m7f207y (3210 Metres)

GBI RACING

Going: **Hurdle: Good to Soft-Good in places; Chase: Good-Good to Soft in places**

Right handed, undulating, galloping. Notably stiff track on account of the home straight being uphill, though as a result many races are steadily run and, especially on the chase course, those that are prominent at the bottom of the hill are often not for catching. The fences are notably undemanding, the attrition rate almost always one of the lowest in the country. Invariably extremely testing ground in mid-winter.

Pace Information: **Very Weak**

1 **AIR APPARENT (IRE) (21)** **98**

74530-1 **6** 12-0 | 76.2kg



Seamus Mullins — ***Benjamin Macey***

Modest form in varied events over hurdles last season but bettered that form on his first start over fences when winning a Bangor handicap 3 weeks ago. Capable of another bold bid with improvement to come.

2 **TOMMYS LAW (IRE) (33)** t **75**

2222P/U **7** 11-11 | 74.8kg



Lucinda Russell & Michael Scudamore — ***Gregor Walkingshaw*** (8lb/4kg)

Modest form in maiden/novice hurdles, finishing runner-up on 6 occasions. Is built for chasing, though after a near 2-year absence (had a second breathing operation) he was behind when unseating in handicap at Perth (2½m) in October. This run should reveal more.

3 **MR LINCOLN (38)** (D) s **100**

772-34271 **6** 11-10 | 74.4kg



Iain Jardine — ***Charlie Maggs***

Fairly useful on the Flat but without a win over hurdles. However, fitted with cheekpieces he took well to chasing when scoring in a Hexham handicap last month, impressing with the way he travelled. 7 lb rise might not prevent the follow up.

4 **GALIDAM (FR) (269)** t **97**

S15P/6333- **6** 11-5 | 72.1kg



Micky Hammond & Becky Smith — ***Joshua Thompson*** (3lb/1kg)

Fair winning hurdler in France who shaped well on chasing debut for this yard when third of 6 in handicap at Wetherby a year ago. Didn't kick on from that effort in 2 subsequent outings, though his mark has at least dropped further ahead of his return.

5 **CUZCO DU MATHAN (FR) (78)** v **96**

47644-783 **8** 10-13 | 69.4kg



James Moffatt — ***Leah Noreci*** (8lb/4kg)

Won twice at Cartmel sent chasing in summer 2024 but hasn't managed to get his head in front again since. Fared much better than on first 2 starts this season when third of 6 at the same course in August, though yard has been going through a quiet spell of late.

6 **DIVAS DOYEN (IRE) (157)** (C) s **96**

432443-P3 **9** 10-4 | 65.3kg



Sandy Forster — ***Isabelle Ryder***

Good second at Musselburgh (2½m) a year ago but hasn't been able to build on that since, some way below her best when third of 6 at Hexham (2m) when last seen in June.

6 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

13-8 Mr Lincoln, **11-4** Air Apparent, **13-2** Cuzco Du Mathan, **8-1** Tommys Law, **11-1** Galidam, **11-1** Divas Doyen

TIMEFORM VIEW:

MR LINCOLN improved on his hurdles form at the first attempt over fences with a strong-travelling victory at Hexham and he can build on that effort to score again. The biggest threat looks to be Air Apparent, who is also open to progress after his successful chasing debut at Bangor last month.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. MR LINCOLN 2. AIR APPARENT 3. GALIDAM

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race