

Wednesday 18th March

# HEREFORD



**2.00** CHARITY PARTNER WE ARE FARMING MINDS HANDICAP CHASE (5) 2½m194y (4200 Metres)

RACE 1 **(5) KAPAMAZOV | (2) KINGCORMAC | (3) KITSILANO**

**2.30** HEREFORD BULL TRAIL LAUNCH 2026 HANDICAP HURDLE (4) 3m1f119y (5140 Metres)

RACE 2 **(6) D'JO DELA BARRIERE | (4) DESPEREAUX | (1) DWIGHT K SCHRUTE**

**3.00** ENJOY CONELEYS FUN FAIR THIS MARCH MARES' NOVICES' HANDICAP HURDLE (5) 2m3f147y (3960 Metres)

RACE 3 **(5) MOORSBROOK | (4) AFTER MANY DAYS | (3) INDEPENDENT LADY**

**3.30** SPA MOTORS HEREFORD NOVICES' HURDLE (4) 2m3f147y (3960 Metres)

RACE 4 **(1) SILVER HILL | (3) GUARDAMI ANCORA | (2) ARGENTO ROYALE**

**4.00** REMEMBERING BRIAN DAVIES AND VOLCANO NOVICES' HANDICAP CHASE (5) 2m8y (3230 Metres)

RACE 5 **(3) JUST AIDAN | (7) FORMEL PARK | (1) FORSA BAY**

**4.30** CONELEYS THEME PARK FUN FAIR HANDICAP HURDLE (4) 2m3f147y (3960 Metres)

RACE 6 **(2) TOP COEUR | (7) FIGHT MY FIRE | (4) CASTELFORT**

**5.00** RICHARD LAYTON CHARITY DAY 16th APRIL HANDICAP CHASE (5) 3m1f44y (5070 Metres)

RACE 7 **(4) CORNISH COMEDY | (8) PRINCE CLENI | (9) DARING PLAN**

## 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.

**2.00**

RACE 1

**CHARITY PARTNER WE ARE FARMING MINDS HANDICAP CHASE (5) 5yo+ (Rated 0-105) £6,150 2½m194y (4200 Metres)**Going: **Good to Soft (Good in places)**

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

Pace Information: **Very Weak**

**1 BALLYFINN (IRE) (78)** t **99**  
587/2-37 8 12-0 | 76.2kg



Anthony Honeyball

**Rex Dingle**

Lightly raced and, after 18-month absence, shaped better than result when third of 4 in handicap at Plumpton (3¼m, good) on chasing debut in November, weakening run-in after mistake at the last. However, went backwards from that when well held at Taunton 6 weeks later.

**2 KINGCORMAC (IRE) (12) (CD)** **98**  
P25-1731 10 11-6 | 72.6kg



Joe Tickle

**Taylor Fisher**

Gained a second C&D success on return in December and also scored at Exeter (19f, soft) 12 days ago. Is now on a career-high mark but can make his presence felt in his current form.

**3 KITSILANO (IRE) (23)** s **97**  
1/6234313 9 11-6 | 72.6kg



David Bridgwater

**Brendan Powell**

Opened his chase account at the seventh attempt when scoring in decisive fashion at Leicester (2m, soft) last month, suited by the emphasis on stamina. Not quite in the same form at Plumpton 23 days ago, but he enters calculations back up in trip.

**4 ZACONY REBEL (IRE) (24)** b+t **90**  
83218944 11 10-13 | 69.4kg



Sarah-Jayne Davies

**James Best**

Veteran who doubled his tally for the season at Huntingdon (3m, soft) in December. However, he has struggled for form since then, well-beaten fourth of 5 at this course (19f, soft) on latest outing 24 days ago.

**5 KAPAMAZOV (57) (BF)** ★ **100**  
3422-7233 9 10-12 | 68.9kg



Tony Carroll

**Charlie Deutsch**

Remains a maiden but promising start for L J Morgan when runner-up at Market Rasen in November and third both outings since, albeit not quite on song at Leicester (23f, soft) in January. Mark has eased further, though, so he's one to note starting out for another new stable.

**6 GREENWAYS (IRE) (17) (C)** s **95**  
1395P5PP 7 10-2(9-12) | 64.4kg (62.6kg)



Ryan Potter

**Conor Ring**

Confirmed his previous chasing promise when winning Uttoxeter handicap (2m, good) in July. His form has gone the wrong way since, though, pulled up 3 of his last 4 starts.

**7 GORCOMBE MOONSHINE (284)** s **85**  
23730-336 9 10-2(9-11) | 64.4kg (62.1kg)



Robert Walford

**Harry Kimber**

Sole success came back in December 2023 and only poor form returned to chasing on his last 3 starts, sixth of 10 in handicap at Worcester (2½m, good to soft) when last seen in June.

7 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**15-8 Kingcormac, 7-2 Kapamazov, 7-2 Kitsilano, 7-1 Ballyfynn, 16-1 Gorcombe Moonshine, 18-1 Zacony Rebel, 28-1 Greenways**

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

KAPAMAZOV shaped well when runner-up at Market Rasen in November and, having placed both starts since, he could be ready to take advantage of his reduced mark on stable debut. Dual C&D winner Kingcormac has proved better than ever this season and is feared most, ahead of Kitsilano.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. KAPAMAZOV 2. KINGCORMAC 3. KITSILANO**

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

**2.30**

**HEREFORD BULL TRAIL LAUNCH 2026 HANDICAP HURDLE  
(4) 4yo+ (Rated 0-110) £7,700 3m1f119y (5140 Metres)**

RACE 2



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

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

Pace Information: **Weak**

<b>1</b>	<b>DWIGHT K SCHRUTE (27)</b> 317-3F432 7 11-11   74.8kg	s		<b>95</b>
	Jamie Snowden  <b>Isabelle Ryder (51b/2kg)</b> Fontwell maiden hurdle winner (19f) this time last year who arrives in good heart since his chasing debut tumble, second of 7 in handicap at Sedgfield (27f, soft) just under 4 weeks ago. Fancied to be in the mix with his usual conditional back on board.			
<b>2</b>	<b>KNOCKANORE (IRE) (25)</b> 160-P0SP7 9 11-10   74.4kg	b		<b>82</b>
	Ryan Potter <b>Freddie Mitchell (31b/1kg)</b> Campaigning over fences last season, posting a career best when a wide-margin winner in Eider Chase at Newcastle. He's struggled for form in both codes since then, properly up against it from 10 lb out of the handicap in that corresponding race last month.			
<b>3</b>	<b>KINTAIL (63)</b> 3PPUSP-SP 7 11-6   72.6kg	b		<b>83</b>
	Mel Rowley <b>Toby McCain-Mitchell (51b/2kg)</b>  Bumper winner who made a successful start over hurdles for Nicky Henderson in 2023/24. However, having been tried over fences his form went the wrong way last season and he's offered nothing on both outings for his new yard. No surprise to see blinkers applied.			
<b>4</b>	<b>DESPEREAUX (FR) (98)</b> (CD) 23-659321 7 11-6   72.6kg	s	 	<b>100</b>
	Mrs Jane Williams  <b>Ciaran Gethings</b> Has gradually worked his way back to top form this season, runner-up at Ludlow in November before going one better over C&D 3 months ago, finding extra. 6 lb rise shouldn't prevent a very bold follow-up bid reunited with Ciaran Gethings provided he's ready to roll.			
<b>5</b>	<b>VEE DANCER (IRE) (28)</b> (CD) P-PPP 11 11-4   71.7kg	s+t		<b>82</b>
	Ryan Potter <b>Ben Poste</b> One-time fair performer on the Flat/over hurdles but has offered little for current yard since returning from 20-month absence in November, pulled up all 3 outings this season (chase debut latest).			
<b>6</b>	<b>D'JO DELA BARRIERE (FR) (28)</b> (C) 55551155 7 11-3   71.2kg			<b>84</b>
	Mrs C. Williams <b>Miss Eleanor Williams (71b/3kg)</b> Won twice in quick succession from this mark in October but looked rusty dropped back in trip after 4 months off when fifth of 8 in handicap at Ludlow (soft) 4 weeks ago. That should've blown away any cobwebs and the handicapper has given him a chance.			
<b>7</b>	<b>DON RAFAEL (IRE) (35)</b> (C) 1946-3133 6 11-2   70.8kg			<b>91</b>
	Samuel Drinkwater <b>Benjamin Macey (51b/2kg)</b> Twice successful for Martin Keighley last year but was fortunate to resume winning ways on reappearance/stable debut here (good) in November, scrambling home having been left in front last. Similar form when third the last time so holds each-way claims if getting this longer trip.			

7 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**13-8** Despereaux, **5-2** Dwight K Schrute, **4-1** Don Rafael, **14-1** D'jo Dela Barriere, **20-1** Kintail, **33-1** Knockanore, **40-1** bar

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

A few of these have questions to answer but promising to be suited by this step back in trip, D'JO DELA BARRIERE gets the tentative vote over Despereaux, who scored over C&D when last seen in November and a 6 lb higher mark shouldn't prove insurmountable. Dwight K Schrute edges the vote over Don Rafael for third.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. D'JO DELA BARRIERE 2. DESPEREAUX 3. DWIGHT K SCHRUTE**

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

**3.00**

RACE 3

**ENJOY CONELEYS FUN FAIR THIS MARCH MARES' NOVICES' HANDICAP HURDLE (5) 4yo+ fillies and mares (Rated 0-100) £6,150 2m3f147y (3960 Metres)**



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

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

Pace Information: **Weak**

<b>1</b>	<b>LYDEARD GIRL (35)</b> 8-75642 5 12-0   76.2kg Kayley Woollacott Well held in bumpers but left previous efforts behind over hurdles switched to a handicap when second of 6 at this course (soft) 5 weeks ago, shaping like a stayer over a markedly longer trip. Bit surprising to see her back down in distance.	<b>94</b>	<i>Ben Godfrey</i>
<b>2</b>	<b>SHANAGOLDEN GIRL (IRE) (24)</b> 0957 6 11-13   75.7kg Fergal O'Brien Runner-up in an Irish point but tailed off in a bumper and not much promise in 3 starts over hurdles. This step back up in trip/switch to a handicap could well see her in a significantly better light, however.	<b>91</b>	<i>James Best</i>
<b>3</b>	<b>INDEPENDENT LADY (GER) (21)</b> 4688 5 11-10   74.4kg Nicky Henderson	<b>94</b>	<i>Nico de Boinville</i>
<b>4</b>	<b>AFTER MANY DAYS (27)</b> 83P-42422 7 11-8   73.5kg Henry Daly	<b>99</b>	<i>Sam Twiston-Davies</i>
<b>5</b>	<b>MOORSBROOK (35)</b> 93/3-094 7 11-8   73.5kg Mel Rowley	<b>100</b>	<i>Charlie Deutsch</i>
<b>6</b>	<b>JLOW (IRE) (234)</b> 366-93346 5 11-7   73.0kg Ryan Potter	<b>98</b>	<i>Ben Poste</i>
<b>7</b>	<b>GETAROSE (IRE) (27)</b> 420684 5 11-3   71.2kg Mrs C. Williams	<b>96</b>	<i>Conor Ring</i>
<b>8</b>	<b>MAKE SUNSHINE (IRE) (28)</b> 43-36FPFF 7 10-13   69.4kg Ryan Potter	<b>98</b>	<i>Ciaran Gethings</i>
<b>9</b>	<b>LITTLE LADY LUCY (IRE) (23)</b> 84P-5599P 5 10-7   66.7kg Neil Mulholland	<b>97</b>	<i>K. Brogan</i>

9 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**9-4** After Many Days, **4-1** Independent Lady, **4-1** Lydeard Girl, **10-1** Jlow, **12-1** Moorsbrook, **16-1** Shanagolden Girl, **25-1** Getarose, **33-1** Make Sunshine, **40-1** bar

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

Preference is for MOORSBROOK, who fared better than previously when fourth here 5 weeks ago and Mel Rowley's charge is fancied to raise her game further now handicapping back up in distance. Long-standing maiden After Many Days has found one too strong on 3 of her last 4 starts and she may have to settle for silver again, while Independent Lady is plainly a stable lesser light but may improve now handicapping under less testing conditions.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. MOORSBROOK 2. AFTER MANY DAYS 3. INDEPENDENT LADY**

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

**3.30**

**SPA MOTORS HEREFORD NOVICES' HURDLE (4) 4yo+  
£10,000 2m3f147y (3960 Metres)**

RACE 4



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

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

Pace Information: **Weak**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
|    | <p><b>1 SILVER HILL (IRE) (15)</b> (D, BF) <span style="float: right;"><b>100</b></span><br/>                 14-5122 <b>6</b> 11-11   74.8kg</p> <p>Jamie Snowden  <span style="float: right;"><b>Sam Twiston-Davies</b></span><br/>                 Bumper winner who was successful on second start over hurdles in a 19f Catterick novice in November. Has shown better form in defeat both outings since, again bumping into an improver when second at Newcastle (2½m, good to soft) 15 days ago. The one to beat.</p> |
|    | <p><b>2 ARGENTO ROYALE (FR) (25)</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>92</b></span><br/>                 3 <b>5</b> 11-4   71.7kg</p> <p>Ryan Potter <span style="float: right;"><b>Freddie Mitchell (3lb/1kg)</b></span><br/>                 Third on both starts in Irish points and fitted with a tongue strap, ran to a fair level when third of 12 in maiden hurdle at Newcastle (17f, good to soft) on Rules debut 25 days ago. Could be in the mix with this longer trip promising to suit.</p>   |
|    | <p><b>3 GUARDAMI ANCORA (FR) (65)</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>92</b></span><br/>                 0226 <b>5</b> 11-4   71.7kg</p> <p>Mrs C. Williams <span style="float: right;"><b>Conor Ring</b></span><br/>                 Has been going the right way with each of his 4 starts in novice hurdles, shaping as if ready for a longer distance when sixth of 14 at this course (2m, soft) in January. Merits consideration.</p>   |
|  | <p><b>4 ITSJUSTHEWAYIAM (IRE)</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>75</b></span><br/>                 5 11-4   71.7kg</p> <p>Christian Williams <span style="float: right;"><b>Jack Tudor</b></span><br/>                 €12,500 3-y-o, £25,000 4-y-o, Affinisea gelding. Dam, lightly raced over hurdles, half-sister to smart hurdler/fairly useful chase winner (stayed 3m) Jennies Jewel. Failed to complete in 3 Irish points, though 3 lengths up when unseated rider last on latest outing in October.</p>  |
|  | <p><b>5 KINGDOM OF STARS (FR) (24)</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>98</b></span><br/>                 PU6 <b>5</b> 11-4   71.7kg</p> <p>Kerry Lee <span style="float: right;"><b>Conor O'Farrell</b></span><br/>                 Fairly useful 2m Flat winner for Tom Ward. Little promise on first 2 starts over hurdles, but in first-time hood he showed a bit more when sixth of 7 in maiden over C&amp;D (soft) 24 days ago. Will be of more interest in handicaps, though.</p>   |
|  | <p><b>6 NO TRICKS AT ALL (FR) (29)</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>75</b></span><br/>                 418 <b>5</b> 11-4   71.7kg</p> <p>Olly Murphy  <span style="float: right;"><b>K. Brogan</b></span><br/>                 Built on the promise she had shown in a bumper when making a winning hurdling debut in mares novice at Worcester (2m, good to soft) in October. After further 4 months off, well held at Market Rasen last time, but it still remains early days for her.</p>                             |
|  | <p><b>7 YELLOW WARNING (IRE)</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>98</b></span><br/>                 5 11-4   71.7kg</p> <p>Sheila Lewis <span style="float: right;"><b>Sean Houlihan</b></span><br/>                 £10,000 4-y-o, Milan gelding. Half-brother to 3 winners on Flat, including 1m-10.4f winner Direct Security. Off the mark in Irish points at the second attempt in October, but may be one for further down the line under Rules.</p>  |

7 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**evens** Silver Hill, **9-2** Guardami Ancora, **5-1** Argento Royale, **11-1** No Tricks At All, **18-1** Yellow Warning, **22-1** Itsjustthewayiam, **28-1** Kingdom of Stars

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

A winner of a Catterick novice in November, SILVER HILL has run to a higher level when second both starts since, pulling well clear of the rest at Newcastle last time, so he looks to hold leading claims. Guardami Ancora has progressed with each start and could be the main danger, with Argento Royale also one to note.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. SILVER HILL 2. GUARDAMI ANCORA 3. ARGENTO ROYALE**

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

**4.00**

RACE 5

**REMEMBERING BRIAN DAVIES AND VOLCANO NOVICES' HANDICAP CHASE (5) 5yo+ (Rated 0-100) £6,150 2m8y (3230 Metres)**



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

**SMART STATS:**

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

No Smart Stats available for this race

Pace Information: **Weak**

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
|    | <p><b>1 FORSA BAY (IRE) (42)</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>88</b></span><br/> <small>0/742P5-3P 6 12-0   76.2kg</small><br/>                     L J Morgan <span style="float: right;"><i>Miss Ellie Callwood (71b/3kg)</i></span><br/>                     Matched best hurdles form at first attempt when third at Market Rasen on return in December. Ran no sort of race with the hood removed at Sedgefield 6 weeks ago and is dropped back in trip with a first-time visor applied.</p>  | v   |
|    | <p><b>2 L'EMPIRE VERT (FR) (11) (D)</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>82</b></span><br/> <small>28-91F4P8 6 11-7   73.0kg</small><br/>                     Sheila Lewis <span style="float: right;"><i>Callum Pritchard (31b/1kg)</i></span><br/>                     Improved when beating a weak field to win a novice handicap chase at Ludlow in November but has been badly let down by his jumping over fences since. Stopped the slide to some degree back over hurdles here earlier this month but others more appealing nonetheless.</p> | t   |
|    | <p><b>3 JUST AIDAN (IRE) (21) (D)</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>100</b></span><br/> <small>3116-P7F1 7 11-6   72.6kg</small><br/>                     Harriet Dickin <span style="float: right;"><i>James Best</i></span><br/>                     Improved when landing back-to-back handicap hurdles last term and displayed no ill-effects from his chasing debut when winning 8-runner handicap at Bangor 3 weeks ago, providing his trainer with her first success in 2026. Bold bid anticipated from 5 lb higher.</p>                   | s  |
|   | <p><b>4 NO GUARANTEE (20) (C, D)</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>85</b></span><br/> <small>38911563 6 11-4   71.7kg</small><br/>                     Alexander Gibbons <span style="float: right;"><i>James Turner (51b/2kg)</i></span><br/>                     Landed back-to-back handicaps in December, the second over C&amp;D. Seems to have gone off the boil in recent weeks, however, and needs this switch to fences to spark a revival (cheekpieces reapplied).</p>  | s+t   |
|  | <p><b>5 RICHFORADAAY (32)</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>81</b></span><br/> <small>900 6 10-9   67.6kg</small><br/>                     Ian Chanin <span style="float: right;"><i>Ciaran Gethings</i></span><br/>                     Runner-up sole completed start in points but tailed off in 3 maiden hurdles at Wincanton. Switch to fences could see him in a better light but likely big outsider.</p>  |   |
|  | <p><b>6 GLANCING BACK (17)</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>84</b></span><br/> <small>6-606 6 10-7   66.7kg</small><br/>                     Emma-Jane Bishop <span style="float: right;"><i>Liam Harrison</i></span><br/>                     Showed promise on first three starts over hurdles but was too free making her handicap debut at Huntingdon earlier in the month. Improvement needed now chasing.</p>  | h   |
|  | <p><b>7 FORMEL PARK (65) (D)</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>89</b></span><br/> <small>3-208F1P7 6 10-4   65.3kg</small><br/>                     Mrs C. Williams <span style="float: right;"><i>Conor Ring</i></span><br/>                     Appeared to be on her way to a winning chase debut when departing 2 out at Ludlow in November. Atoned for that when scoring at Sedgefield 7 days later but made no impact the last twice (back over hurdles last time). Another 2-month break may well have done her good.</p>                  | s   |
|  | <p><b>8 THE BRICKEY RANGER (IRE) (22)</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>83</b></span><br/> <small>2/60-8474P 8 10-2   64.4kg</small><br/>                     Sarah-Jayne Davies <span style="float: right;"><i>Miss Jess Stewart (71b/3kg)</i></span><br/>                     Has no form outside of Irish points/hunters, failing to revive for the fitting of first-time cheekpieces at Leicester last month. Drops back in trip for a new yard and others make much more appeal.</p>   |   |

8 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**6-4** Just Aidan, **9-2** Formel Park, **11-2** Forsa Bay, **10-1** No Guarantee, **12-1** Glancing Back, **16-1** The Brickey Ranger, **20-1** L'empire Vert, **40-1** bar

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

JUST AIDAN produced an effort better than anything he'd shown over hurdles when scoring at Bangor 3 weeks ago and Harriet Dickin's 7-y-o can make it 2-3 over fences. His main danger may emerge from Formel Park, who needs to shrug off a couple of lesser efforts but has been given another couple of months off. Forsa Bay rounds off the shortlist.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. JUST AIDAN 2. FORMEL PARK 3. FORSA BAY**

**4.30**

**CONELEYS THEME PARK FUN FAIR HANDICAP HURDLE (4)  
4yo+ (Rated 0-120) £7,700 2m3f147y (3960 Metres)**

RACE 6



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

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

Pace Information: **Even**

**1 VOL ROYALE (IRE) (25) (C) 97**

44-85117 6 12-0 | 76.2kg  
 Kayley Woollacott *Harry Cobden*  
 Point winner who is going the right way over hurdles, landing 2m maiden/novice at this course in December and January. Looked on a stiff opening mark and shaped accordingly at Chepstow last month and probably needs more help from the handicapper.

**2 TOP COEUR (FR) (88) 89**

3-43 5 11-13 | 75.7kg  
 Christian Williams *Jack Tudor*  
 Placed in bumper and took a step forward from hurdling bow when third of 13 in maiden at Thurles when last seen 3 months ago, headed last having led entering straight. Has since switched yards and he looks a potential improver now handicapping over a longer trip.

**3 BEAU QUALI (FR) (44) (D) 98**

26-215258 6 11-12 | 75.3kg  
 Christian Williams *Toby McCain-Mitchell (5lb/2kg)*  
 Won a match at Warwick on chase debut in October and wasted no time getting back on track reverting to hurdling when good second at Southwell a month later. Heavy defeat at Doncaster in December and it was a similar story on yard debut last time.

**4 CASTELFORT (FR) (25) (BF) 99**

13P-57543 6 11-10 | 74.4kg  
 Mrs Jane Williams *Ciaran Gethings*  
 Didn't take to fences in the autumn but more like it over hurdles more recently, third of 9 at Chepstow (soft) 25 days ago. No forlorn hope off a 1 lb lower mark.

**5 WOLF MOON (97) 98**

2110-47 6 11-10 | 74.4kg  
 Ben Pauling *Ben Jones*  
 Won a pair of novice hurdles last season. Hasn't taken to fences in a couple of starts this season so no surprise to see him back over the smaller obstacles returning from a 3-month break.

**6 EMERALD BREEZE (33) 93**

44-323 6 11-7 | 73.0kg  
 Dominic Elsworth *Sam Twiston-Davies*  
 Reached the frame in a pair of Chepstow bumpers at the beginning of 2025 and translated that ability to hurdles at the second time of asking when second of 7 in 2m Ffos Las novice (heavy) in January. Not so good returned to Chepstow last month and now sent handicapping.

**7 FIGHT MY FIRE (IRE) (69) 100**

68-U134P 5 11-3 | 71.2kg  
 Joe Tizzard *Brendan Powell*  
 Got off the mark 2¼m maiden at Fontwell in October. Sound enough start to his handicap career when fourth of 9 over 2m at Sandown (soft) in December but ran a stinker at Taunton the following month. Every chance if leaving that effort behind.

**8 EL CURAMACH (IRE) (19) 92**

54/1-3 8 10-10 | 68.0kg  
 Ryan Potter *Freddie Mitchell (3lb/1kg)*  
 Took a big step forward on his third start when landing the odds in 2m novice hurdle at Warwick in May 2024 and shaped as if retaining ability before understandably tiring late on when third of 13 in handicap at Newbury last month.

8 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**5-2** Top Coeur, **7-2** Castelfort, **6-1** Emerald Breeze, **17-2** Vol Royale, **12-1** El Curamach, **14-1** Wolf Moon, **16-1** Beau Quali, **20-1** Fight My Fire

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

A few in with chances but TOP COEUR took a step forward from his hurdling bow when third at Thurles in December and having switched yards since last seen, gets the nod to make a winning start to life in handicaps over this longer trip. Fellow 5-y-o Fight My Fire had been going the right way until his Taunton flop, so he's put forward as the main threat, with Castelfort seemingly best of the rest.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. TOP COEUR 2. FIGHT MY FIRE 3. CASTELFORT**

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

**5.00**

RACE 7

**RICHARD LAYTON CHARITY DAY 16th APRIL HANDICAP CHASE (5) 5yo+ (Rated 0-100) £6,150 3m1f44y (5070 Metres)**



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

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

Pace Information: **Weak**

**1 THE MAGUS (IRE) (50) 96**

421-033P6 **6** 12-0 | 76.2kg  
 Mrs C. Williams **Conor Ring**  
 Modest hurdles winner who matched that form sent chasing when third in handicap here (21f) in November. However, he continues to be held back by his jumping, making a bad mistake at the ninth when well beaten at Chepstow (3m, soft) in January.

**2 ATLANTA BRAVE (IRE) (114) (C) 95**

484PP-P85 **8** 12-0 | 76.2kg  
 Kerry Lee **Conor O'Farrell**  
 Lost his way over fences in 2024/25 and has fared little better this season, including back over hurdles the last twice. However, he lurks on a dangerous mark returned to chasing with yard amongst the winners of late.

**3 JOHNNY BOY (FR) (35) 71**

6/764-76P2 **7** 11-8 | 73.5kg  
 Venetia Williams **Charlie Deutsch**  
 Modest form over hurdles and didn't go with much promise on his chasing debut, beaten 21 lengths when second of only 3 finishers in novice handicap over C&D (soft) 5 weeks ago. Has something to find but it remains early days for him in this sphere.

**4 CORNISH COMEDY (77) (BF) 100**

4/682-926 **6** 11-4 | 71.7kg  
 Robbie Llewellyn **Toby McCain-Mitchell (5lb/2kg)**  
 Bred to make a chaser and improved on hurdles form at the first attempt when second in 21f handicap at this course in December. Let down by his jumping at Warwick next time, but worth another chance back here with longer trip promising to suit and good-value claimer on board.

**5 EDGEWELL (IRE) (22) 96**

3P453528 **8** 11-1 | 70.3kg  
 Nick Scholfield **Harry Reed**  
 Hurdles/chase winner for Rebecca Menzies in 2024/25 but has shaped discouragingly mainly campaigned over fences for current yard. Lacklustre effort back hurdling at Catterick last month, so first-time cheekpieces need to help spark a return to form.

**6 TONGAKNOXIE (IRE) (65) 96**

7484-7P **6** 10-12 | 68.9kg  
 Philip Hobbs & Johnson White **Callum Pritchard (3lb/1kg)**  
 Didn't offer much in varied events over hurdles and tended to jump left when pulled up in handicap over C&D (soft) on chasing debut in January. Had a breathing operation since with tongue strap now on first time.

**7 WILD NEPHIN (138) 89**

1-6565840 **7** 10-12 | 68.9kg  
 Ryan Potter **Freddie Mitchell (3lb/1kg)**  
 Notched a first success under Rules in 2m Newcastle handicap hurdle a year ago but has struggled for form since, making little impact in 4 starts over fences including on his last 2 outings. Tongue strap back on.

**8 PRINCE CLENI (FR) (28) 98**

2654-FP25 **8** 10-11 | 68.5kg  
 Christian Williams **Jack Tudor**  
 All 3 career victories over 3m at Southwell. After 5 months off, looked rusty when fifth of 7 in handicap at the same C&D 28 days ago, so he could fare better this time around having dropped below last winning mark.

**9 DARING PLAN (IRE) (21) (BF) 94**

56-3FP363 **8** 10-8 | 67.1kg  
 Susan Gardner **Lucy Gardner**  
 Still looking for a first success, but in first-time cheekpieces ran one of this season's better races when third in novice handicap at Bangor (17f, soft) 3 weeks ago. Has form at this longer distance and he's one to consider having eased further in the weights.

9 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**7-2** Cornish Comedy, **9-2** Daring Plan, **11-2** Johnny Boy, **13-2** Edgewell, **8-1** Atlanta Brave, **11-1** Prince Cleni, **11-1** Tongaknoxie, **16-1** The Magus, **22-1** Wild Nephin

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

CORNISH COMEDY showed improved form when second on chasing debut here in December and, with this longer distance likely to suit based on pedigree, he can leave behind a lesser effort returned to this venue. Next best could be Prince Cleni with his recent run behind him, while Daring Plan is another who is on a handy mark.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. CORNISH COMEDY 2. PRINCE CLENI 3. DARING PLAN**

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race