

11.45

BETFRED NIFTY 50 CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier) (4) 2¼m191y (3800 Metres)

 RACE 1 **(3) BRUCIO | (2) LE YACHT | (8) POUNDS AT THE TIME**

12.20

BETFRED 'BET BUILDER' 'CHASING EXCELLENCE' BEGINNERS' CHASE (3) 2m3f203y (4010 Metres)

 RACE 2 **(2) BILL JOYCE | (1) AYIKO | (4) LARIO**

12.55

BETFRED SUPPORTS JACK BERRY HOUSE HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier) (3) 1m7f144y (3150 Metres)

 RACE 3 **(7) IRISH BLAZE | (4) COBBLER'S BOY | (5) SALIGO BAY**

1.30

BETFRED HAT TRICK HEAVEN HANDICAP CHASE (3) 2m67y (3280 Metres)

 RACE 4 **(7) MASTER BREFFNI | (2) ESCAPEANDEVADE | (8) MY NOBLE LORD**

2.05

BETFRED TOMMY WHITTLE HANDICAP CHASE (2) 3m1f125y (5140 Metres)

 RACE 5 **(10) GRAND GESTE | (8) JACKS PARROT | (2) TOP OF THE BILL**

2.40

BETFRED 'THE CLASSIC BOOKMAKER' MARES' NOVICES' HURDLE (Abram) (Listed) (1) 2¼m191y (3800 Metres)

 RACE 6 **(8) SUPREME MALINAS | (1) JACKIE HOBBS | (5) LA ZOUBIDA**

3.15

BETFRED MERRY CHRISTMAS HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier) (3) 3m58y (4880 Metres)

 RACE 7 **(4) ERNEST GRAY | (3) SECRET TRIX | (1) SUPER SURVIVOR**
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.

11.45

RACE 1

BETFRED NIFTY 50 CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier) (4) 3yo+ (Rated 0-120) £10,000 2¼m191y (3800 Metres)



Going: **Soft**

Left handed, flat. Conditions are often gruelling during winter, placing emphasis on stamina. Conversely, conditions at the Swinton Meeting in May usually place the emphasis on speed, with a tendency to favour those ridden prominently as a result. Formerly held an undeserved reputation as one of the hardest courses to jump around, something not backed up by statistics, though perversely the data suggests that the chase course nowadays is a more demanding test, that possibly on account of more races being well run.

Pace Information: **Weak**

1	A DIFFERENT KIND (IRE) (20) (C, D) 11115/80-8 8 12-2 77.1kg Donald McCain <i>William Maggs (3lb/1kg)</i> Useful chaser back in 2023 but well below form in 3 starts last year (following a lay-off) and fared no better back over hurdles at Carlisle last month following another absence/breathing operation. Plenty to prove now tried in tongue strap.	t	97
2	LE YACHT (FR) (21) 51-51 4 12-0 76.2kg Tom Lacey <i>Cameron Iles (3lb/1kg)</i> Beat Walkadina to make a winning start over hurdles at Ludlow in February and stepped forward from reappearance fifth when making a successful handicap debut at Doncaster (16.6f, soft) 3 weeks ago, finding plenty for pressure. Further improvement likely over this longer trip.		97
3	BRUCIO (35) 0/30534-35 7 11-13 75.7kg Tom Ellis <i>Jack Andrews</i> Fairly useful hurdler to Stuart Crawford, winning mares listed handicap in February last year. Unable to match that form over fences and has been brought along gradually by new yard this season. On a handy mark for hurdles return and interesting if supported with first-time cheekpieces on.	s+t	92
4	SUPER FREDDIE (26) 9-23 4 11-5 72.1kg Nigel & Willy Twiston-Davies <i>Toby McCain-Mitchell (3lb/1kg)</i> Showed much more than on sole bumper start when no match for improving, odds-on stablemate on hurdles bow at Bangor last month. Looked far from the finished article when third at Ludlow latest and remains with potential now handicapping over a longer trip.	★	100
5	ACHNAMARA (9) (D) 2P171U-4F 6 11-3 71.2kg Philip Kirby <i>Joe Williamson</i> Won twice at a lower level last season but has a patchy record over Flat and Jumps of late, falling heavily at fifth on reappearance 9 days ago. Remains with questions to answer.	s	91
6	NORTH PARADE (IRE) (11) 452847-84 10 11-1 70.3kg Joel Parkinson & Sue Smith <i>Oscar Palmer (5lb/2kg)</i> Ran well to place in a couple of better handicaps on soft ground last season but yet to fire this campaign, typical mistakes/sticking to the inside not helping his cause when well held over a longer trip at Uttoxeter (23.3f) 11 days ago. Can be competitive if back on a going day.	🏇	94
7	HAARAR (17) (BF) P23213-23 6 10-13 69.4kg Sam England <i>Tom Midgley (3lb/1kg)</i> Consistent last season and made a solid reappearance when runner-up at Aintree last month. A few in-behind improved next-time-out but he disappointed when well held third in a 6-runner C&D handicap last time. Too soon to write off given his previous form.		98
8	POUNDS AT THE TIME (IRE) (29) 629-34 5 10-12 68.9kg Toby Lawes <i>Benjamin Macey (3lb/1kg)</i> Runner-up in a bumper for P. Tobin in Ireland and showed much more on second start for new yard when a staying on fourth in a 2m novice at Chepstow last month. Should improve upped in distance on handicap debut and makes plenty of appeal.		99
9	EL JEFE (IRE) (38) (CD) 71/87060-3 8 10-10 68.0kg Andrew Hamilton <i>Conor Rabbitt</i> Scored 5 times in 2023/24 season (including this race), culminating in a career-best display at the Aintree Grand National meeting. No show last season but better signs when 40/1 third on return at Ayr. This a stronger race than he need contest but interesting to see if supported off falling mark.	h+t	92

9 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

7-2 Le Yacht, 4-1 Super Freddie, 9-2 Pounds At The Time, 6-1 Haarar, 10-1 North Parade, 10-1 Brucio, 16-1 El Jefe, 20-1 A Different Kind, 50-1 bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

A few could be underestimated by their current marks, including BRUCIO who is one to be interested in if the market expects first-time cheekpieces to have the desired effect. Le Yacht is open to plenty of improvement now tackling a longer trip, as are unexposed handicap debutants Pounds At The Time and Super Freddie.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. BRUCIO 2. LE YACHT 3. POUNDS AT THE TIME

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2024	Gege Ville 8-10-10	15-2	Nicky Richards	Conor Rabbitt (3)	7
2023	El Jefe 6-10-4	15-2	Andrew Hamilton	Conor Rabbitt	8

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

12.20

RACE 2

BETFRED 'BET BUILDER' 'CHASING EXCELLENCE'
BEGINNERS' CHASE (3) 4yo+ £18,400 2m3f203y (4010 Metres)



Going: **Soft**

Left handed, flat. Conditions are often gruelling during winter, placing emphasis on stamina. Conversely, conditions at the Swinton Meeting in May usually place the emphasis on speed, with a tendency to favour those ridden prominently as a result. Formerly held an undeserved reputation as one of the hardest courses to jump around, something not backed up by statistics, though perversely the data suggests that the chase course nowadays is a more demanding test, that possibly on account of more races being well run.

Pace Information: **Uncontested**

1	AYIKO (14) 0753/213-U 6 11-5 72.1kg Stuart Crawford, Ireland Fairly useful winning 3m Irish hurdler who was hampered when unseated rider 9th in handicap hurdle at Navan (25.4f, heavy) 14 days ago. Can't be discounted now going chasing.	t	81
2	BILL JOYCE (IRE) (233) (D) 10/1132F-0 6 11-5 72.1kg Jonjo & A.J. O'Neill A useful dual 2m4f novice hurdle winner. Off since coming in a below-par fourteenth of 23 in 3m handicap hurdle at Punchestown 7 months ago but this successful pointer is a likely player on his debut in this sphere.	★	100
3	LARGY BELTER (IRE) (33) 2-55 5 11-5 72.1kg Dan Skelton Made a promising start under Rules when runner-up in a Fairyhouse bumper. Acquired by new connections for £85,000 but well held in a couple of maiden chases this season. Could still do better though for top yard.	h+t	80
4	LARIO (GER) (253) 1330/3227- 6 11-5 72.1kg Harry Derham Maiden winner for Anthony Charlton and in good form in handicap hurdles for his current yard last term until only seventh in first-time cheekpieces at Ayr (2m) final run. Goes chasing now and no surprise to see him bounce back.	t	80

4 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

5-6 Bill Joyce, 5-1 Ayiko, 11-2 Largy Belter, 11-2 Lario

TIMEFORM VIEW:

Not an easy race to assess but BILL JOYCE had some useful winning hurdles form to his name last term and this successful pointer is fancied to go in at the first time of asking over fences. Irish raider Ayiko could emerge as the chief threat ahead of fellow chasing debutant Lario.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. BILL JOYCE 2. AYIKO 3. LARIO

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

12.55

RACE 3














BETFRED SUPPORTS JACK BERRY HOUSE HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier) (3) 3yo+ (Rated 0-130) £15,000
1m7f144y (3150 Metres)



Going: **Soft**

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Pace Information: **Even**

1	NO ORDINARY JOE (IRE) (8) (D)	t	96
	Faye Bramley Useful on his day for Nicky Henderson, but winless since 2022 and there have been few positives to take from his 4 efforts for present connections.	Benjamin Macey (7lb/3kg)	
2	MILLDAM (FR) (28) (CD)	h+t	96
	Jamie Snowden Better than ever when landing this race off 4 lb lower 12 months ago, but a repeat appears unlikely judged on a poor reappearance display back here 28 days ago.	Gavin Sheehan	
3	JOLTIN N JIVING (IRE) (32)		96
	Donald McCain £40,000 Irish point winner who confirmed Rules debut promise when landing a 17f Carlisle novice hurdles in good style in February. Unsurprisingly struggled in an Aintree Grade 1 next time, but back on track when second on return/handicap bow at Kelso (16.2f, heavy). Each-way chance off same mark.	Brian Hughes	
4	COBBLER'S BOY (IRE) (224) (D)	t	94
	Dan Skelton Cost £115,000 after finishing runner-up in an Irish point and, having shaped well when second on hurdles debut in March, he went one better when landing the odds in first-time tongue strap (also first run following a wind op) at Warwick (2m, good) in May. Further progress likely now handicapping.	Tristan Durrell	
5	SALIGO BAY (IRE) (35) (D)		97
	Sam England Likeable type arrives in the form of his life, making it four wins from last 5 starts (including a victory on the Flat) when successful in an 8-runner handicap hurdle at Wetherby (2m, soft) last month, getting the better of an unexposed type. Should go well bidding for a hat-trick off 6 lb higher.	Richie McLernon	
6	HOW ABOUT NO (FR) (48) (D)		99
	Lizzie Quinlan Fairly useful winner on Flat for Joseph O'Brien and opened hurdles account in a Catterick novice (15.7f, good to soft) on second start for new yard in January. Performed above market expectations (66/1) when fifth of 13 on return/handicap debut in this sphere at Carlisle and he's one to consider.	Sean Quinlan	
7	IRISH BLAZE (IRE) (353) (D)	h	100
	Nicky Richards Proved more miss than hit over fences last year and failed to complete both starts in handicap hurdles during what turned out to be a truncated 2024/25 campaign. On the upside, this Irish import makes debut for new connections on a potentially handy mark and needs a close look in the betting.	Danny McMenamin	
8	KING ULANDA (IRE) (28) (D, BF)	t	99
	Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero Betting than ever when winning impressively at Carlisle (17.2f, good to firm) on return following breathing operation. Hit the frame twice since, latterly on softer ground at Huntingdon, and will be a player if he goes to post for this. Engaged 2.25 Ascot Friday.	Ben Smith (7lb/3kg)	
9	IP UP (FR) (20) (D)		99
	Jedd O'Keeffe Well treated on peak form and has made the frame both starts since returning from a break/wind op, latterly finishing third in an 8-runner Leicester handicap (15.5f, soft). Likely to be on the premises once again.	Craig Nichol	

9 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

9-4 Cobbler's Boy, 9-2 Saligo Bay, 7-1 Joltin N Jiving, 8-1 Milldam, 10-1 Ip Up, 12-1 King Ulanda, 14-1 How About No, 16-1 Irish Blaze, 40-1 bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

Despite misgivings in respect of how much ability he retains, IRISH BLAZE is nevertheless tempting on his first run for the in-form Nicky Richards yard. The 9-y-o ended his time with Cian Collins on a downer, but resumes here for new connections on a mark that he'll surely be able to exploit should the change of scenery help spark a revival. The unexposed Cobbler's Boy is an obvious danger now pitched into a handicap, while the hat-trick seeking Saligo Bay is also accorded respect.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. IRISH BLAZE 2. COBBLER'S BOY 3. SALIGO BAY

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2024 Milldam 6-12-0 5-2 Jamie Snowden Gavin Sheehan 8

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

1.30

RACE 4












BETFRED HAT TRICK HEAVEN HANDICAP CHASE (3) 4yo+
(Rated 0-130) £20,000 2m67y (3280 Metres)



Going: **Soft**

Left handed, flat. Conditions are often gruelling during winter, placing emphasis on stamina. Conversely, conditions at the Swinton Meeting in May usually place the emphasis on speed, with a tendency to favour those ridden prominently as a result. Formerly held an undeserved reputation as one of the hardest courses to jump around, something not backed up by statistics, though perversely the data suggests that the chase course nowadays is a more demanding test, that possibly on account of more races being well run.

Pace Information: **Even**

1	PRIMOZ (IRE) (35) (D)	t	96
	Lucinda Russell & Michael Scudamore Barely came out of second gear when beating the re-opposing Escapeandevade in a match at Kelso in February, which was his second success over fences. Solid second back at Kelso in September, but has proved disappointing in 2 subsequent starts and now finds himself with a bit to prove.	Derek Fox	
2	ESCAPEANDEVADE (IRE) (28) (D, BF)	s	100
	Harry Derham Generally below par for James Ewart last season, but his mark eased as a result and has found just one too good both starts for new yard, latterly coming home a clear second in a C&D handicap. That form has been given a handsome boost since and, still on a good mark up 4 lb, he's a big player.	Paul O'Brien	
3	CABHFULFUNGI (IRE) (34) (D)	t	97
	Kerry Lee Fair hurdles winner who found improvement sent chasing last term, confirming previous promise when landing the odds in a Southwell handicap on New Year's Day. Wasn't disgraced when fifth on return at Cheltenham (2m, soft) and should be competitive with that run under his belt.	Conor O'Farrell	
4	NETYWELL (FR) (28) (CD)		96
	Lucinda Russell & Michael Scudamore The first-leg of his hat-trick during 2023/24 campaign was in this very race and back on-song following a string of below-par efforts when runner-up at Kelso in March. However, he hasn't reproduced that level of form since and others make more appeal on this occasion.	Patrick Wadge	
5	PONY SOPRANO (IRE) (33) (BF)		97
	Dan Skelton  Didn't go on as expected following hurdles debut win at Exeter last term, but there were positives to take from his first run over fences at Worcester. Not so good back at Exeter since, but if able to iron out the jumping deficiencies that were apparent there he has potential from this sort of mark.	Tristan Durrell	
6	SUNNYVILLA (IRE) (28) (CD)		98
	Nicky Richards  A three-time winner in Ireland who advanced his form when making a winning start for Nicky Richards over C&D (heavy) last December. Almost 20 lengths adrift of second-placed Escapeandevade when fourth on return back here last month, but he is at least entitled to come on for that run.	Danny McMenamin	
7	MASTER BREFFNI (IRE) (29) (D)		96
	Micky Hammond Improved when bagging back-to-back small-field handicap chases in February. Early faller in his hat-trick bid the following month, but delivered an assured enough round of jumping when third on return at Catterick (19.2f, good). Goes on soft ground and he's an appealing candidate.	Brian Hughes	
8	MY NOBLE LORD (USA) (24) (D)	t	95
	Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero Four-time Flat winner for Michael Bell in 2024 and successful start over hurdles for this yard in a juvenile race at Chepstow last October. Runner-up on chase debut/return at Wetherby (15.2f, good to soft) last month and this 4-y-o is open to improvement in this sphere.	Craig Nichol	

8 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

10-3 Escapeandevade, 9-2 My Noble Lord, 5-1 Cabhfulfungi, 13-2 Sunnyvilla, 17-2 Pony Soprano, 10-1 Primoz, 12-1 Master Breffni, 18-1 Netywell

TIMEFORM VIEW:

Cases can be made for most of these and the suggestion is MASTER BREFFNI, who was progressive switched to fences last term and shaped well all things considered on return at Catterick. The forecast slower ground here won't be an issue, neither will the drop in trip given that this promises to be a strongly-run affair. The form of Escapeandevade's latest C&D effort looks very solid and he is a much-respected main danger. The 4-y-o My Noble Lord and Cabhfulfungi are others to consider.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. MASTER BREFFNI 2. ESCAPEANDEVADE 3. MY NOBLE LORD

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2024	Sunnyvilla 9-10-13	13-2	Nicky Richards	Danny McMenamin	8
2023	Netywell 6-10-8	7-4	Lucinda Russell	Patrick Wadge (3)	4
2021	Shakem Up'arry 7-11-12	6-5f	Ben Pauling	Luca Morgan (5)	6
2020	Equus Millar 7-11-0	17-2	Nigel Twiston-Davies	Sam Twiston-Davies	6

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

2.05

RACE 5
















BETFRED TOMMY WHITTLE HANDICAP CHASE (2) 4yo+
(Rated 0-145) £50,000 3m1f125y (5140 Metres)





Going: **Soft**

Left handed, flat. Conditions are often gruelling during winter, placing emphasis on stamina. Conversely, conditions at the Swinton Meeting in May usually place the emphasis on speed, with a tendency to favour those ridden prominently as a result. Formerly held an undeserved reputation as one of the hardest courses to jump around, something not backed up by statistics, though perversely the data suggests that the chase course nowadays is a more demanding test, that possibly on account of more races being well run.

Pace Information: **Weak**

1		VELVET ELVIS (IRE) (34) P1/028-P 9 12-2 77.1kg John McConnell, Ireland <i>Alex Harvey (3lb/1kg)</i> A smart winning chaser if not the most consistent for Gavin Cromwell. Pulled up on his yard bow in Troytown Handicap at Navan (24f, heavy) 34 days ago so has a bit to prove here.	97
2		TOP OF THE BILL (IRE) (28) (CD) s  1131/4P1-1 9 12-2 77.1kg Nigel & Willy Twiston-Davies <i>Toby McCain-Mitchell (5lb/2kg)</i> Has proved temperamental but he signed off last term with success at Ffos Las and returned from 8 months off with a comfortable all-the-way victory over C&D last month. Hiked up 9 lb but not taken lightly in his current mood.	97
3		FAMOUS BRIDGE (IRE) (28) (CD) s 4/231d6P-77 9 11-4 71.7kg Nicky Richards  <i>Sean Quinlan</i> Goes particularly well here and took this prize in 2023. Dropped away quickly from 3 out when seventh of 10 to Top of The Bill in handicap chase over C&D 28 days ago. Sort to bounce back though.	99
4		O'TOOLE (IRE) (27) t 1-2 9 11-3 71.2kg Stuart Crawford, Ireland <i>Sam Ewing</i> Low-mileage winning hurdler/chaser who shaped well after 11 months off when second of 15 in handicap chase at Cork (21.2f, soft) 27 days ago. Up 7 lb but this Irish challenger must enter calculations.	96
5		GRAND ALBERT (IRE) (21) s 3212/313-4 7 10-8 67.1kg Donald McCain <i>Brian Hughes</i> Lightly-raced sort but he's won over both hurdles and fences and returned from 10 months off with a respectable fourth of 8 in handicap chase at Bangor (24.1f, heavy) 21 days ago, despite making mistakes. No forlorn hope with cheekpieces added.	97
6		SALADINS SON (IRE) (28) (D) 99 272/1P11-2 7 10-5 65.8kg Anthony Honeyball <i>Ben Godfrey</i> Improved switched to Anthony Honeyball last season, scoring three times, and he ran well on his seasonal return when 7 lengths second of 10 to Top of The Bill over C&D four weeks ago. Enjoys a 9 lb pull in the weights here so is very much one to consider.	
7		MY SILVER LINING (IRE) (28) (D) 98 0/PP3P4-43 9 10-3 64.9kg Emma Lavelle  <i>James Best</i> Winless since January, 2024, but she got back on track from a reduced mark when third of 12 in handicap chase at Ascot (29.3f, good to soft) 28 days ago. Possibilities.	
8		JACKS PARROT (FR) (38) (BF) s+t 97 11/72435-4 6 10-2 64.4kg Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero <i>Craig Nichol</i> Runner-up in this event 12 months ago and he wasn't disgraced after 9 months off when fourth on his hurdling bow at Bangor (23f) 38 days ago. Firmly in the picture with that run under his belt.	
9		BRUCEJACK (IRE) (20) 96 4/3252F-44 8 10-2(10-0) 64.4kg (63.5kg) P. A. Fahy, Ireland <i>Gavin Sheehan</i> Winless since 2023 but he comes here on the back of a good fourth of 15 in handicap chase at Fairyhouse (30f, soft) 20 days ago. 9 lb higher in the weights here though.	
10		GRAND GESTE (IRE) (21) (BF) s  100 02334P-22 6 10-2(10-0) 64.4kg (63.5kg) Joel Parkinson & Sue Smith  <i>Danny McMenamin</i> Maiden hurdler who is much improved sent chasing, coming in an excellent second (around 2m4f) at Carlisle and Newcastle last month. Up 7 lb here (including 2 lb out of the handicap) but another bold showing is on the cards back up in trip.	

11		LATENIGHTRUMBLE (51) s+t 95 573122P-5 8 10-2(9-13) 64.4kg (63.0kg) Tom Ellis <i>Jack Andrews (3lb/1kg)</i> Made a winning handicap chase debut at Wetherby (3m) last December but has been well below par on his last two outings, including on his return in 2m3f Stratford handicap chase in October. Cheekpieces are reached for now.
12		FENLAND TIGER (20) (D) 96 13117/72 9 10-2(9-9) 64.4kg (61.2kg) Sam England <i>Harry Atkins (7lb/3kg)</i> A three-time chase winner (at up to 3m2f) in 2023/24. Only twice raced since but he posted a good second of 8 in handicap chase at Carlisle (24.5f, soft) 20 days ago. 7 lb out of the weights here but promising conditional booked.

12 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

11-2 Saladins Son, 13-2 Grand Geste, 13-2 Jacks Parrot, 8-1 Famous Bridge, 9-1 Top of The Bill, 9-1 O'toole, 10-1 My Silver Lining, 12-1 Brucejack, 18-1 Fenland Tiger, 28-1 Grand Albert, 28-1 Latenightrumble, 33-1 Velvet Elvis

TIMEFORM VIEW:

Lots with chances but GRAND GESTE rates the pick of the weights (despite being 2 lb out of the handicap) on the back of a fine second at Newcastle and can go one better now to continue the fine form of Joel Parkinson and Sue Smith. Last year's runner-up Jacks Parrot (second choice) looks primed for another bold showing after a recent spin over hurdles at Bangor, while Top of The Bill and Saladins Son came home 1-2 over C&D last time and seem sure to have a say too in a cracking Tommy Whittle.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. GRAND GESTE 2. JACKS PARROT 3. TOP OF THE BILL

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:				
2024	Egbert 7-11-4	16-1	Alan King	Gavin Sheehan 9
2023	Famous Bridge 7-11-9	5-2f	Nicky Richards	Sean Quinlan 9
2021	Enqarde 7-10-9	8-1	Dr Richard Newland	Charlie Hammond 16
2020	Sam's Adventure 8-11-4	14-1	Brian Ellison	Brian Hughes 10

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

2.40

RACE 6










BETFRED 'THE CLASSIC BOOKMAKER' MARES' NOVICES' HURDLE (Abram) (Listed) (1) 4yo+ fillies and mares £45,000 2¼m191y (3800 Metres)



Going: **Soft**

Left handed, flat. Conditions are often gruelling during winter, placing emphasis on stamina. Conversely, conditions at the Swinton Meeting in May usually place the emphasis on speed, with a tendency to favour those ridden prominently as a result. Formerly held an undeserved reputation as one of the hardest courses to jump around, something not backed up by statistics, though perversely the data suggests that the chase course nowadays is a more demanding test, that possibly on account of more races being well run.

Pace Information: **Very Strong**

1	JACKIE HOBBS (44) 119-1 5 11-3 71.2kg  £130,000 point winner started 2-2 in bumpers prior to finding less than looked likely in the Nickel Coin at Aintree. Straight back on track when winning with a bit in hand on hurdles debut/return at Newbury (carries 3 lb penalty here). That form has worked out well and she looks sure to improve. <i>Paul O'Brien</i>	99
2	AMELIA'S STAR (IRE) (39) 218-2 5 11-0 69.9kg  Progressive in bumpers, running creditably in Grade 2 at Aintree final start last season and showed plenty on hurdles bow when runner-up at Huntingdon (15.8f) last month, pulling clear of the remainder. May improve upped in trip. <i>Nick Slatter</i>	88
3	A PATH TO RONDA (IRE) (33) 14-12 5 11-0 69.9kg  Went the right way in bumpers prior to readily scoring on her hurdling debut at Stratford (22f) on reappearance. Backed that up under a penalty but no match for Supreme Malinas in an Exeter novice (18.5f) last time. Still early days but will need to improve despite a 7 lb pull at the weights here. <i>Gavin Sheehan</i>	98
4	BITTALEMOM (119) 45181 4 11-0 69.9kg  Fair 1½m Flat winner for William Haggas who showed similar form to land a pair of Cartmel novices over the summer, latterly when putting her experience to good use against a clutch of hurdling first-timers. Remains to be seen how she fares away from that track in better company. <i>Charlotte Jones</i>	94
5	LA ZOUBIDA (FR) (13) 210-11 5 11-0 69.9kg  Got off the mark in a Market Rasen bumper in February (before finding Grade 2 company too hot) but justified support to make a winning hurdles debut at Sedgefield. Followed up with bit in hand under a penalty at Kelso last time and improving mare merits respect in bid for hat-trick. <i>Sean Quinlan</i>	99
6	PARK PRINCESS (IRE) (44) 149/1 5 11-0 69.9kg  Looked a good prospect when winning a Newbury bumper on debut in December 2023 (not disgraced in better company after) and enhanced yard's fine record with horses making seasonal return when winning on hurdles bow at Ludlow last month. Open to improvement in first-time tongue tie. <i>Ben Godfrey</i>	93
7	ROSES ALL THE WAY (IRE) (37) 2230-3 6 11-0 69.9kg  Second on sole start in points and fairly useful runner-up in listed bumper behind Supreme Malinas last season. Shaped as if better for the run when third behind La Zoubida on reappearance/hurdle debut at Sedgefield and may have more to offer on first start since wind surgery (wears tongue tie). <i>Brian Hughes</i>	81
8	SUPREME MALINAS (IRE) (33) (D) 2135-1 5 11-0 69.9kg  Irish point winner whose bumper form had plenty of substance and she made an impressive start over hurdles when seeing off A Path To Ronda by 4 lengths at Exeter last month, quickened clear and well on top at finish. In excellent hands and looks sure to progress. <i>Tristan Durrell</i>	100
9	WALKS THE TALK (IRE) (42) 32411 6 11-0 69.9kg  Walk In the Park mare who made a promising start over hurdles when justifying support at Roscommon and followed up under a penalty against geldings when making all (jumped well) to land a Kelso novice, only kept up to work late on. Could be more to come as she bid for hat-trick. <i>Alex Harvey</i>	96

BETTING FORECAST:

3-1 Supreme Malinas, 3-1 Jackie Hobbs, 7-1 A Path To Ronda, 7-1 Walks The Talk, 15-2 La Zoubida, 12-1 Park Princess, 33-1 Bittalemon, 33-1 Amelia's Star, 33-1 Roses All The Way

TIMEFORM VIEW:

SUPREME MALINAS built on the promise she showed in bumpers with an impressive hurdling debut success at Exeter last month and she's fancied to follow up. Jackie Hobbs looks the main danger in her bid to make it 2-2 over hurdles, the form of her Newbury success working out well, while hat-trick seeking La Zoubida is another to note in a field stacked with potential improvers.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. SUPREME MALINAS 2. JACKIE HOBBS 3. LA ZOUBIDA

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2024	Holloway Queen	4-11-0	4-5f	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boinville	5
2023	Pawapuri	4-11-0	6-1	Nicky Henderson	James Bowen	9
2021	Haute Estime	4-11-0	11-1	Lucinda Russell	Derek Fox	6
2020	Nada To Prada	5-11-0	9-4	Michael Scudamore	Richard Patrick	5

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

3.15

RACE 7















BETFRED MERRY CHRISTMAS HANDICAP HURDLE
(Qualifier) (3) 3yo+ (Rated 0-130) £15,000 3m58y
(4880 Metres)



Going: **Soft**

Left handed, flat. Conditions are often gruelling during winter, placing emphasis on stamina. Conversely, conditions at the Swinton Meeting in May usually place the emphasis on speed, with a tendency to favour those ridden prominently as a result. Formerly held an undeserved reputation as one of the hardest courses to jump around, something not backed up by statistics, though perversely the data suggests that the chase course nowadays is a more demanding test, that possibly on account of more races being well run.

Pace Information: **Weak**

1	SUPER SURVIVOR (IRE) (27) (D)	s	96
	Jamie Snowden  A dual 3m winner last term who resumed from 7 months off with a good second of 5 in handicap hurdle at Windsor (24f, good to soft) 27 days ago. Must enter calculations despite a 2 lb rise.	Gavin Sheehan	
2	IDEM (FR) (42)		98
	Lucinda Russell & Michael Scudamore Not seen to ideal effect when a staying-on fifth of 7 in handicap hurdle at Aintree (24.7f, good) 42 days ago, needing stronger gallop. One to consider off the same mark.	Patrick Wadge	
3	SECRET TRIX (9) (CD)	t  	100
	Olly Murphy C&D winner who arrives in better form than his recent form figures suggest, set a lot to do when eighth of 11 in handicap hurdle at Taunton (19f, good) 9 days ago. Merits serious consideration now stepping back up in trip.	Aidan Weaver (71b/3kg)	
4	ERNEST GRAY (IRE) (55) (D)	s	99
	Alan King Much improved on the back of a wind op this term and landed 12-runner handicap hurdle at Aintree (24.7f, good) in October. Up 4 lb but that form has been franked so he's a likely player.	Tom Cannon	
5	SAINT PALAIS (FR) (27) (D)		98
	Richard Bandey Lightly raced in recent seasons and he went backwards from his reappearance when last of 5 in handicap hurdle at Windsor (24f, good to soft) 27 days ago. Needs to bounce back.	Jack Quinlan	
6	IMPERIAL MERLIN (IRE) (35) (CD)		99
	John & Sean Quinn C&D winner who posted a creditable fourth of 9 in handicap hurdle at Wetherby (21.2f, soft) 35 days ago. Not ruled out off the same mark.	Brian Hughes	
7	CAUGHTINYOURTRANCE (IRE) (6)	s+t	93
	James Moffatt Showed a good attitude when landing a double over 2m6f at Cartmel in the summer. Shaped as if in need of the run after 4 months off when last of 6 in handicap at Carlisle (25f, soft) 6 days ago and can take a step forward now.	Charlotte Jones	
8	JALISCO STAR (IRE) (11) (D)	t	98
	Laura Horsfall Well below par in a couple of runs over fences last month but she bounced back to form reverted to hurdles with emphatic success in 5-runner handicap at Uttoxeter (23.3f, heavy) 11 days ago. Up 7 lb but ought to be thereabouts.	Benjamin Macey (71b/3kg)	
9	GEGE VILLE (FR) (299) (C)		99
	Nicky Richards  Opened his hurdles account here last December but off the track since posting a good second of 8 in handicap hurdle at Ayr (20.4f, heavy) 9 months ago. Yard is going well though so can't be ruled out on his seasonal return.	Danny McMenamin	
10	GWENNIE MAY STAR (FR) (31)	s	99
	Olly Murphy Failed to go on over fences for Dan Skelton but made a winning start for new yard back hurdling in 9-runner handicap at Warwick (25f, soft) 31 days ago, getting up on line. Usual cheekpieces go back on now and needs considering.	Lewis Saunders (51b/2kg)	

BETTING FORECAST:

9-2 Ernest Gray, 9-2 Super Survivor, 11-2 Gwennie May Star, 6-1 Jalisco Star, 15-2 Idem, 12-1 Gege Ville, 14-1 Imperial Merlin, 16-1 Secret Trix, 33-1 Caughtinyourtrance, 40-1 bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

A competitive finale and it could go the way of Alan King's ERNEST GRAY who arrives on the up and is taken to bag a third win of the season with the form of his recent Aintree victory having been well advertised since. Secret Trix should prove suited by this return to 3m and rates a big threat though, while Super Survivor, Idem and Gwennie May Star all need factoring in too. Imperial Merlin completes the shortlist.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. ERNEST GRAY 2. SECRET TRIX 3. SUPER SURVIVOR

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2024	Supremely West 6-12-0	7-2	Dr Richard Newland & Jamie Insole	Charlie Hammond	9
2023	Bushypark 9-10-12	11-2	Philip Kirby	Joe Williamson (5)	6
2021	Jesuitique 6-10-11	11-4jf	Dr Richard Newland	C. M. Leonard (5)	12

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race