

Monday 26th January

HEREFORD

2.00	HEREFORD EASTER MONDAY FAMILY FUN RACEDAY NOVICES' HURDLE (4) 2m5f163y (4370 Metres)
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RACE 1 (1) DRACO MALFOY | (4) HANDIN MANYPOCKETS | (2) BIG TICKET

2.30	HEREFORD QUARRIES NOVICES' HANDICAP CHASE (4) 2½m194y (4200 Metres)
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RACE 2 (1) FOLLOWCATO | (2) SKI LODGE | (4) RISK DE PLUIE

3.00	GREEN DRAGON HOTEL HANDICAP CHASE (4) 2m8y (3230 Metres)
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RACE 3 (2) MON CHAMPION | (4) PASSING KATE | (1) ROYAL MER

3.30	SILVERSHINE TURF SERVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier) (3) 2m53y (3270 Metres)
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RACE 4 (5) LATIN VERSE | (4) NOWMELAD | (2) OUT OF OFFICE

4.00	JUMPRITE OPEN HUNTERS' CHASE (5) 2½m194y (4200 Metres)
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RACE 5 (6) STATTLER | (4) QUEL DESTIN | (2) A JET OF OUR OWN

4.30	HEREFORD LADIES DAY SATURDAY 7th MARCH MARES' HANDICAP HURDLE (5) 2m3f147y (3960 Metres)
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RACE 6 (2) PRINCESS KERI | (1) GOWER SPIRIT | (4) CHOSEN BAE

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

HEREFORD EASTER MONDAY FAMILY FUN RACEDAY
NOVICES' HURDLE (4) 4yo+ £10,000 2m5f163y (4370 Metres)
GBI RACING**Going: Soft (Heavy 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	DRACO MALFOY (IRE) (28)	99
435-12	6 11-12 75.3kg	
	Tom Bellamy	
Winning hurdling debut at Huntingdon in December and advanced his form under a penalty when a clear second of 7 in novice hurdle at Doncaster (19.4f, good) 28 days ago. Firmly in the picture.		
2	BIG TICKET (38)	100
22P	5 11-5 72.1kg	
	Sam Twiston-Davies	
Easily won his sole start in Irish points in May and promising second placings in novices (around 2m4f) at Aintree and Ascot. Pulled up in hot 2m5f Ascot maiden last time but reportedly suffered an overreach and well worth another chance.		
3	ERCALL FOX (67)	81
5	5 11-5 72.1kg	
	Jonathan Burke	
Encouraging fifth of 13 in strong novice hurdle at Warwick (16f, good to soft, 200/1) on debut 67 days ago, not knocked about. Significantly up in trip. Needs a big step forward.		
4	HANDIN MANYPOCKETS (IRE) (25)	97
4	5 11-5 72.1kg	
	Rex Dingle	
Changed hands for £55,000 after finishing third in point in November. Made a promising start in this sphere when fourth of 7 in novice hurdle at Cheltenham (20.2f, good) 25 days ago and a likely player here with better to come.		
5	STAR OF HONOUR (IRE) (46)	85
69	6 10-12 68.9kg	
	David Bass	
Successful twice from 4 starts between the flags and not disgraced starting out under Rules when sixth in 2m3f Warwick novice in November. Well beaten there since and probably one for handicaps.		

5 DECLARED RUNNERS**BETTING FORECAST:**

11-8 Draco Malfoy, **2-1** Big Ticket, **7-2** Handin Manypockets, **25-1** Ercall Fox, **66-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

DRACO MALFOY took a step forward when a clear runner-up at Doncaster last time and can quickly resume winning ways to thwart Handin Manypockets who shaped well when a debut hurdling fourth at Cheltenham and rates a major threat. Big Ticket can also play a part if back on song.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. DRACO MALFOY 2. HANDIN MANYPOCKETS 3. BIG TICKET

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2024 ¹ Below The Radar 6-11-5	11-4 Paul Nicholls	Harry Cobden	8
2024 ¹ Menaggio 5-11-5	11-2 Alan King	Tom Cannon	9
2023 Atlanta Brave 5-11-12	5-6f Kerry Lee	Richard Patrick	12
2022 Zestful Hope 5-11-8	3-1 Charlie Longsdon	Paul O'Brien	6

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

2.30**HEREFORD QUARRIES NOVICES' HANDICAP CHASE (4) 5yo+
(Rated 0-120) £8,900 2½m 194y (4200 Metres)**

RACE 2

GBI RACING**Going: Soft (Heavy 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	FOLLOWCATO (IRE) (17) 5373-U511	98
	7 11-8 73.5kg	
	Ben Pauling	<i>Kielan Woods</i>
	Runner-up in an Irish point and on the up over fences since the cheekpieces went on, bagging 2m4f handicap chases at Ludlow and Exeter either side of Christmas. Up 6 lb but merits serious consideration in his hat-trick bid.	
2	SKI LODGE (IRE) (27) (BF) 21/71-222	97
	7 11-6 72.6kg	
	Alan King	<i>Tom Bellamy</i>
	Progressive winning hurdler and he has started out well in this sphere, runner-up in 3m handicaps at Uttoxeter and Haydock last month. Another bold showing is on the cards.	
3	EPINEPHRINE (FR) (67) 3/4416-6	95
	6 11-5 72.1kg	
	Venetia Williams	<i>Ned Fox (5lb/2kg)</i>
	Got off the mark in 2m handicap hurdle at Kempton in February but tailed off next 2 starts, including at Warwick on her return in November. Goes chasing with plenty to prove.	
4	RISK DE PLUIE (FR) (17) 54/322-263	100
	7 11-4 71.7kg	
	Ben Clarke	<i>Sam Twiston-Davies</i>
	Winning pointer/hurdler. Yet to score in this sphere but he comes here in good nick, third of 11 in 2m1f Exeter handicap 17 days ago. Enters calculations off the same mark.	
5	HURRICANE HIGHWAY (IRE) (18) 32P/2P7-75	96
	8 11-2 70.8kg	
	Evan Williams	<i>Ben Jones</i>
	Winning pointer/hurdler but that was back in 2022 and he has offered little under both codes this winter. Needs to take a big step forward.	

5 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

2-1 Followcato, **11-4** Risk De Pluie, **7-2** Ski Lodge, **7-1** Hurricane Highway, **12-1** Epinephrine

TIMEFORM VIEW:

FOLLOWCATO's form is on the up and he can defy a 6 lb rise here to complete a hat-trick at the chief expense of in-form Ski Lodge, who could have to settle for runner-up spot once more. Risk de Pluie can also have a big say in his bid to gain a breakthrough chasing victory.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. FOLLOWCATO 2. SKI LODGE 3. RISK DE PLUIE

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2024	Henry's Friend 7-11-7	7-4f	Ben Pauling	7
2023	Honneur d'Ajond 6-11-7	10-3	Mrs Jane Williams	7
2022	Orrisdale 8-11-0	3-1	Jonjo O'Neill	4

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

3.00

RACE 3

GREEN DRAGON HOTEL HANDICAP CHASE (4) 5yo+ (Rated 0-115) £8,900 2m8y (3230 Metres)**GBI RACING****Going: Soft (Heavy 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 ROYAL MER (FR) (17) (D) 653227-22 8 11-13 | 75.7kg t **98**

 David Pipe **Rian Corcoran (7lb/3kg)**
Notched 5 wins over fences on heavy ground in 2023/24. Winless since but turn may not be far away judged on 2 runner-up efforts this season.

2 MON CHAMPION (FR) (28) 1222U-626 6 11-12 | 75.3kg **93**

 Paul Nicholls **Freddie Gingell**
A fairly useful hurdles winner in France who also showed similar form over fences last term. Finished well held on British/stable debut at Sandown after 11 months off but fared much better when second there last month. Disappointed at Newbury since but will find this ground more suitable.

3 WEWILLGOWITHPLANB (IRE) (17) (D) 1/02PF-488 9 11-8 | 73.5kg **99**

 Evan Williams **Conor Ring**
Fairly useful winner over fences for Richard Bandey and made a respectable return at Leicester but underlined his inconsistency for current connections when running poorly next 2 starts.

4 PASSING KATE (17) 81P1-2225 9 11-6 | 72.6kg  **100**

 Matt Sheppard **Ned Fox (5lb/2kg)**
Won 2 of her 3 starts switched to chasing last season and has returned in fine heart, making it a hat-trick of runner-up finishes when no match for well-backed winner at Chepstow. Shaped as if still in form at Exeter since and small fields like this probably more her thing.

5 HORS JEU (FR) (36) 124P97-4U 6 11-2 | 70.8kg t **91**

 Clive Boultbee-Brooks **Richard Patrick**
A fairly useful 17f hurdles winner in France last spring. Hasn't cut much ice over both sets of obstacles since arriving in Britain but unseated just as the race was departing on second chase start at Lingfield (2m) 5 weeks ago. Not dismissed out of hand.

5 DECLARED RUNNERS**BETTING FORECAST:**

5-2 Passing Kate, **5-2** Royal Mer, **7-2** Mon Champion, **9-2** Hors Jeu, **22-1** We Will Go With Plan B

TIMEFORM VIEW:

It could be worth chancing MON CHAMPION, who's potentially well handicapped on his French form and will find this ground more suitable. In-form pair Passing Kate and Royal Mer are obvious threats.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. MON CHAMPION 2. PASSING KATE 3. ROYAL MER

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2024	Guy 9-12-1	4-1	Nigel Twiston-Davies	8
2023	Galop de Chasse 7-12-0	18-5	Venetia Williams	11
2022	Prince Escalus 7-11-1	5-4f	Jonjo O'Neill Jr.	3

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

3.30

RACE 4

SILVERSHINE TURF SERVICES HANDICAP HURDLE
(Qualifier) (3) 4yo+ (Rated 0-130) £10,700 2m53y
(3270 Metres)
GBI RACING**Going: Soft (Heavy 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	L'ASTROBOY (GER) (51) (D) 6 9 12-0 76.2kg	95
	 Evan Williams	<i>Gavin Sheehan</i>
	Landed Ffos Las bumper/maiden hurdle in 2022 before a fine runner-up in Grade 1 Tolworth at Sandown in early 2023. Only twice raced since though and came in a well-held sixth of 8 in 2m Sandown handicap last month. Has it to prove now.	
2	OUT OF OFFICE (IRE) (57) (D) F2/3 8 11-8 73.5kg	99
	 Evan Williams	<i>Ben Jones</i>
	Point/hurdles scorer in 2022 but very lightly raced subsequently. Hooded after 2 years off when a respectable third of 8 in 2m1f Carlisle handicap hurdle in November. Not ruled out if building on it here.	
3	COL DU PRE' (FR) (27) 414-U7 5 11-2 70.8kg	90
	 Venetia Williams	<i>Ned Fox (5lb/2kg)</i> 
	A fair winner on the Flat and over hurdles in France in 2024. Seen out just twice for his current yard in 2m handicap hurdles at Newbury and Haydock this winter and well held on each occasion. Not easy to make a case for.	
4	NOWMELAD (IRE) (31) (CD) 1249-4622 7 11-2 70.8kg	100
	 Henry Oliver	<i>Lee Edwards</i>
	C&D winner who arrives in good form, second of 8 in 2m2f handicap hurdle at Market Rasen 31 days ago. Needs considering despite a 3 lb rise.	
5	LATIN VERSE (356) (D) P2/67260F- 6 11-0 69.9kg	95
	 Olly Murphy 	<i>Joshua Bryan</i>
	Reliable sort who was in the process of running well when falling last in 2m Taunton handicap hurdle in February on his final run for Anthony Charlton. Starts out for leading yard off a lenient mark so very much one to consider despite his absence.	
6	UKANTANGO (IRE) (185) (D) 32/43-5244 9 10-6 66.2kg	98
	 Olly Murphy 	<i>Lewis Stones (3lb/1kg)</i>
	It's now 14 runs since his last win in 2022 and he's been off the track for 6 months since posting a creditable fourth at Uttoxeter (2m4f). Needs to hit the ground running.	

6 DECLARED RUNNERS**BETTING FORECAST:**

3-1 Nowmelad, **10-3** Out of Office, **4-1** Ukantango, **11-2** L'astroboy, **6-1** Latin Verse,
18-1 Col Du Pre'

TIMEFORM VIEW:

Not the easiest race to assess and it could pay to side with Olly Murphy's new recruit LATIN VERSE to capitalise on a handy-looking mark on his return from 11 months off. In-form C&D scorer Nowmelad has no fitness concerns and rates a big danger with Out Of Office another to consider if taking a step forward from his Carlisle reappearance third.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. LATIN VERSE 2. NOWMELAD 3. OUT OF OFFICE

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2024 Black Hawk Eagle 6-11-3 11-8f Kerry Lee Richard Patrick 8

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

4.00**JUMPRITE OPEN HUNTERS' CHASE (5) 5yo+ £5,000**
2½m194y (4200 Metres)

RACE 5

GBI RACING**Going: Soft (Heavy 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	CAMINO ROCIO (IRE) (191) 1P113-P3P	8 12-6 78.9kg	s	81
		E. M. Rees	<i>Mr Edward Vaughan (5lb/2kg)</i>	
		Fit from points but out of sorts early this season and easy to oppose in this company giving weight all round.		
2	A JET OF OUR OWN (IRE) (18) 1P25-3P	9 12-2 77.1kg	s+t	91
		Mrs N. Sheppard	<i>Mr Frederick Philipson-Stow (7lb/3kg)</i>	
		Fairly useful hunter chase winner who posted a solid third of 7 in hunter chase at Cheltenham (16.3f, good) in May. Ran too bad to be true at Taunton 18 days ago but has work to do on these terms.		
3	IMPORTANT NOTICE (IRE) (269) 3	8 11-12 75.3kg	t	82
		J. Newman	<i>Mr Joshua Newman</i>	
		From the family of Cheltenham Gold Cup winner Denman and this multiple point winner showed ability when third of 10 in hunter chase at Cheltenham on Rules debut in May. However, needs to step up significantly here and was well held on point return last month.		
4	QUEL DESTIN (FR) (352) 8114P/P4-	11 11-12 75.3kg	b	94
		Paul Nicholls	<i>Miss Olive Nicholls</i>	
		Won 2 heavy-ground handicaps 25 months ago but not in same form in handful of runs since. Still, likely player in this company after 11 months off.		
5	SNIPE (IRE) (31) 3F4-4487	9 11-12 75.3kg	s	92
		Dan Skelton	<i>Mr Dominic Lewis (7lb/3kg)</i>	
		On a losing run and has disappointed this season. Down in class but bit to prove all the same.		
6	STATTLER (IRE) (653) (D) 624P/	11 11-12 75.3kg	t	100
		Faye Bramley	<i>Mr Nick Orpwood (3lb/1kg)</i>	
		Quickly developed into a high-class novice over fences, running out a ready winner of the NH Chase in 2022. Not seen since pulled up in Grand National at Aintree in 2024 (has left Willie Mullins) but is the class act here switched to a hunter.		

6 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

8-11 Stattler, **5-1** Quel Destin, **9-1** Snipe, **9-1** A Jet of Our Own, **22-1** Important Notice, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

STATTLER lost his way for Willie Mullins when last seen 2 seasons ago but he's likely to be a force in this company if all is well. Quel Destin is another who will appreciate the drop in class and is feared most.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. STATTLER 2. QUEL DESTIN 3. A JET OF OUR OWN

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2024	Time Leader	10-12-6	9-4	Miss Hannah Roach	Mr Huw Edwards (7)	8
2023	Bennys King	12-11-12	20-1	Dan Skelton	Miss Heidi Palin (7)	11
2022	Wagner	7-11-6	8-1	Matthew Hampton	Beau Morgan (7)	8

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

4.30

RACE 6

**HEREFORD LADIES DAY SATURDAY 7th MARCH MARES'
HANDICAP HURDLE (5) 4yo+ fillies and mares (Rated
0-100) £6,150 2m3f147y (3960 Metres)**
GBI RACING**Going: Soft (Heavy 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	GOWER SPIRIT (14) (D) 3-P417P82	93
	6 12-0 76.2kg	Richard Patrick
	Matt Sheppard	
	Sprung 28/1 surprise in Uttoxeter maiden (heavy) in November and unlucky to bump into a progressive rival when second to Jamaicaine (winner again since) over this C&D a fortnight ago. Seemingly the one most likely to make a race of it with Princess Keri	
2	PRINCESS KERI (IRE) (8) (D, BF) 513-4211U	100
	6 11-10 74.4kg	Ben Jones
	Evan Williams	
	In fine form since reverted to hurdles, landing handicaps at Lingfield (2m) and Ludlow (21f) in November. The hat-trick was firmly in sight recently at Fakenham (2½m, soft) where she unseated rider shortly after the final flight and she'll prove very hard to beat off the same mark here.	
3	EZMERELDA (IRE) (37) 42F/4544-F	93
	6 11-0 69.9kg	James Best
	Sarah-Jayne Davies	
	Modest hurdler at best for Alan King and she hasn't fared much better in 2 starts since joining present yard. Hopes pinned on the addition of cheekpieces sparking improvement.	
4	CHOSEN BAE (IRE) (26) (D) 801-79868	90
	7 10-2(10-0) 64.4kg (63.5kg)	Ben Poste
	Ryan Potter	
	Scored on her handicap bow at Bangor (19.6f, heavy) last February but well below that level in handful of starts this term. Needs to bounce back with hood refitted.	

4 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

4-6 Princess Keri, 2-1 Gower Spirit, 14-1 Chosen Bae, 33-1 Ezmerellda

TIMEFORM VIEW:

PRINCESS KERI is a step ahead of the handicapper turned out again before being reassessed for her final-flight departure at Fakenham, where she had matters firmly under control when her claimer became unbalanced soon after the last and eventually exited the saddle. Gower Spirit is the clear pick for forecast purposes, given that Chosen Bae is out of form and Ezmerellda needs to raise her game significantly.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. PRINCESS KERI 2. GOWER SPIRIT 3. CHOSEN BAE

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race