

**1.20** HOWDEN INSURANCE BROKERS MAIDEN HURDLE (4) 2½m116y (4130 Metres)

RACE 1 **(3) CATCH ON ME | (6) QUAY ITEM | (1) ALAN BRESIL**

**1.50** LEGENDARY JIMMY JAMES 90th BIRTHDAY NOVICES' HURDLE (4) 1m7f195y (3200 Metres)

RACE 2 **(4) EDDIE MY EAGLE | (1) AMBIENTE FRIENDLY | (2) LOOPING D'ARC**

**2.20** SOUTHERN CRANES HANDICAP CHASE (5) 2m219y (3420 Metres)

RACE 3 **(1) SUPERSTYLIN | (4) APPLICATIONOFCASH | (3) SANITISER**

**2.50** SOUTHERN CRANES HANDICAP HURDLE (3) 2½m116y (4130 Metres)

RACE 4 **(6) PATRIOTIK | (1) IKE SPORT | (2) GOOD TO BE ALIVE**

**3.20** KALM CLUB MARES' HANDICAP HURDLE (4) 3m217y (5030 Metres)

RACE 5 **(4) KEPPEL QUEEN | (1) GETAWAY THEATRE | (3) EITHER OR**

**3.50** TYSERS INSURANCE BROKERS HANDICAP CHASE (4) 3m1f157y (5170 Metres)

RACE 6 **(3) GEORGES SAINT | (1) MINELLA BLUEWAY | (2) SHANTOU LUCKY**

**4.20** BACKING BENTSWOOD HUB HANDICAP HURDLE (5) 1m7f195y (3200 Metres)

RACE 7 **(4) FRANK STAMPER | (5) EPHYRA | (6) SUZY WOOD**

## KEY TO SYMBOLS

**Top Rated:** The horse with the best chance based solely on past form, specially tailored to a 0-100 scale.

**Horses For Courses:** A suitable track for the horse, compared to its lifetime record on similar courses as defined by Timeform's course data.

**Jockey Uplift:** The engaged rider has a notably higher Timeform Jockey Ranking than those who've ridden the horse on its most recent starts

**Trainer Form:** A hot trainer to follow, based on Timeform ratings-related measurements looking at the recent performance of runners.

1.20

RACE 1









HOWDEN INSURANCE BROKERS MAIDEN HURDLE (4) 4yo+  
£10,000 2½m116y (4130 Metres)



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

Left handed, tight and undulating. Despite the undulations, it's essentially a course which favours handy sorts thanks to the sharp turns. Races on the hurdles course often begin in earnest early on the final circuit, the complexion changing quickly at this point. Ranks surprisingly highly for proportion of casualties on the chase course, especially as the average field size is low, this figure probably reflective of the low standard of horses rather than the stiffness of the fences, though the first in the back straight falls away and has long since been tricky. Beware those horses who stick to the inside on the hurdles track when the ground is testing, better going often found by racing wide.

Pace Information: **Weak**

1	<b>ALAN BRESIL (44)</b>	s	<b>87</b>
	344 6 11-6   72.6kg Nick Scholfield Shaped with promise first 2 starts but took a slight backward step on quick switch to handicaps at Lingfield last month. Not yet exposed, however, and warrants respect with headgear now added.		<i>Harry Reed</i>
2	<b>BLAZING SAINT (47)</b>		<b>75</b>
	9 5 11-6   72.6kg Christian Williams 150/1, no short-term promise when ninth of 11 in Hereford maiden hurdle on last month's debut. This son of Order of St George can do better in due course.		<i>Jack Tudor</i>
3	<b>CATCH ON ME (FR) (26)</b>	★	<b>100</b>
	537-33 6 11-6   72.6kg Venetia Williams Matched pick of French hurdling form, on third start for Venetia Williams, when third of 8 in handicap at Uttoxeter (19.9f, soft) 26 days ago, racing closer to pace than ideal. Sets a good standard.		<i>Charlie Deutsch</i>
4	<b>HIALEAH (IRE) (69)</b>		<b>75</b>
	8 6 11-6   72.6kg Sheena West Modest maiden on Flat in Ireland who made an unpromising start in this sphere for new yard at Lingfield in November. Best watched.		<i>Marc Goldstein</i>
5	<b>LIRONE DU SEUIL (FR) (72)</b>		<b>82</b>
	6/2-8 5 11-6   72.6kg Dan Skelton Second in 4-y-o event at Fontainebleau on hurdle debut last February but easy to back and finished well held at Wetherby in November on his first start for Dan Skelton. Still very early days but probably best watched here unless the betting hints that better is expected now.		<i>Tristan Durrell</i>
6	<b>QUAY ITEM (IRE) (59) (BF)</b>		<b>92</b>
	3 6 11-6   72.6kg Nicky Henderson Placed both starts in Irish points and ran with plenty of promise when third of 6 in novice hurdle at Doncaster (20.8f, good to soft, 6/4) on NH debut 59 days ago. Likely more to come yet.		<i>Nico de Boinville</i>
7	<b>LOLA DE MAGNY (FR)</b>		<b>82</b>
	5 10-13   69.4kg Andy Irvine £30,000 4-y-o, Jeu St Eloi mare. Dam, 17f hurdle winner, half-sister to useful hurdler/fairly useful chaser (15f-17f winner) Flogasorte. Successful on last of 4 starts in Irish points and is worth monitoring in market on Rules debut.		<i>Caolin Quinn</i>
8	<b>WILLSHEBE COURT (IRE) (42)</b>	t	<b>80</b>
	60 6 10-13   69.4kg Nick Gifford Down the field in both bumper starts last year and needs to find plenty of improvement to take a hand on hurdles debut.		<i>James Davies</i>

8 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

11-8 Catch On Me, 11-4 Quay Item, 11-2 Alan Bresil, 14-1 Lola De Magny, 14-1 Lirone Du Seuil, 33-1 Willshebe Court, 100-1 bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

This can go to CATCH ON ME, who posted his best effort for new connections when third at Uttoxeter last month and likely remains capable of better. Quay Item and Alan Bresil look the likeliest dangers.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. CATCH ON ME 2. QUAY ITEM 3. ALAN BRESIL

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025	<b>Serious Challenge</b>	5-11-10	10-3	Fergal O'Brien	Jonathan Burke	6
2024	<b>Westerninthe</b> <b>park</b>	6-11-10	4-6f	Anthony Charlton	Bradley Harris (3)	12
2023	<b>Hermino Aa</b>	6-11-10	5-4f	Gary Moore	Jamie Moore	10
2022	<b>Hecouldbethe</b> <b>one</b>	5-11-11	2-9f	Gary Moore	Jamie Moore	6
2021	<b>African Dance</b>	6-11-8	1-8f	Olly Murphy	Lewis Stones (7)	3

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

1.50

RACE 2

LEGENDARY JIMMY JAMES 90th BIRTHDAY NOVICES' HURDLE (4) 4yo+ £10,000 1m7f195y (3200 Metres)



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

Left handed, tight and undulating. Despite the undulations, it's essentially a course which favours handy sorts thanks to the sharp turns. Races on the hurdles course often begin in earnest early on the final circuit, the complexion changing quickly at this point. Ranks surprisingly highly for proportion of casualties on the chase course, especially as the average field size is low, this figure probably reflective of the low standard of horses rather than the stiffness of the fences, though the first in the back straight falls away and has long since been tricky. Beware those horses who stick to the inside on the hurdles track when the ground is testing, better going often found by racing wide.

Pace Information: **Weak**

1	<b>AMBIENTE FRIENDLY (IRE) (35)</b> (D)	h		<b>100</b>
	416 5 11-12   75.3kg James Owen	<i>Alex Chadwick (3lb/1 kg)</i>		
Very smart performer at best on the Flat, runner-up in 2024 Epsom Derby. Hooded and built on hurdling debut promise when making all in Huntingdon novice (15.8f) last month. Couldn't build on that, sent handicapping, over same C&D 15 days later but must enter calculations here.				
2	<b>LOOPING D'ARC (FR) (14)</b> (D, BF)			<b>93</b>
	21R 5 11-12   75.3kg Warren Greatrex	<i>James Bowen</i>		
Built on bumper second when making a winning debut over hurdles in 14-runner novice at Southwell (15.8f) last month. Hung badly and ran out early on at Hereford since but reverts to left-handed track now and is not taken lightly.				
3	<b>BACK ON TRACK (IRE) (46)</b>	P		
	6 11-5   72.1kg Lawney Hill	<i>Sean Houlihan</i>		
Made the frame both starts between the flags but went with little promise on first start over timber at Warwick last month.				
4	<b>EDDIE MY EAGLE (IRE) (52)</b>	h		<b>94</b>
	242 6 11-5   72.1kg Dan Horsford	<i>Philip Armson (3lb/1 kg)</i>		
Built on hurdling debut promise when second of 9 in Sedgefield maiden (16.8f, soft) last month. Open to further progress and is one for the shortlist.				
5	<b>GOLDEN PRINCE (IRE) (27)</b>			<b>82</b>
	646 5 11-5   72.1kg Christian Williams	<i>Jack Tudor</i>		
Not disgraced when sixth of 10 in novice hurdle at Haydock (15.6f, good) 27 days ago but is likely one for handicaps down the line.				
6	<b>LAND OF PUNT (IRE) (62)</b>			<b>79</b>
	95 5 11-5   72.1kg Tom Lacey	<i>Stan Sheppard</i>		
Offered more than on hurdling debut when fifth of 10 in novice at Hereford (16.2f, good) 62 days ago. Further improvement will be needed if he is to get involved here, however.				
7	<b>RETETI (42)</b>	h		<b>92</b>
	36/3-642 6 11-5   72.1kg Sheena West	<i>Marc Goldstein</i>		
Modest Flat maiden who took a step forward over hurdles when second of 6 in novice over C&D (good to soft) last month. Can't be dismissed.				
8	<b>CANOPUS (IRE)</b>			
	4 10-6   66.2kg Gary & Josh Moore	<i>Caoilin Quinn</i>		
Fairly useful maiden at around a mile on the Flat for Ed Walker. Makes hurdles debut for new connections here and interesting to see how he fares in the market.				
9	<b>NORTHWEST PASSAGE (40)</b>			<b>82</b>
	7 4 10-6   66.2kg Roger Teal	<i>James Davies</i>		
Fairly useful winner at 10f on Flat but well below that level when seventh of 10 in juvenile hurdle at Newbury (16.3f, good to soft, 4/1) on NH debut 40 days ago.				

9 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

11-4 Looping D'arc, 4-1 Ambiente Friendly, 6-1 Eddie My Eagle, 7-1 Reteti, 15-2 Northwest Passage, 9-1 Canopus, 25-1 Land of Punt, 28-1 Golden Prince, 100-1 bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

EDDIE MY EAGLE finished clear of the remainder when runner-up at Sedgefield last month and remains open to improvement. He can get off the mark. Ambiente Friendly and Looping d'Arc rate the principal dangers.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. EDDIE MY EAGLE 2. AMBIENTE FRIENDLY 3. LOOPING D'ARC

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025	<b>Dotties Star</b> 6-11-5	25-1	Pat Phelan	Sean Houlihan	4
2024	<b>Junkanoo</b> 7-11-5	2-9f	Gary Moore	Caoilin Quinn (3)	6
2023	<b>Poncho</b> 5-11-5	5-6f	Gary Moore	Jamie Moore	8
2022	<b>Coolnaugh Haze</b> 4-10-7	9-4	Philip Hobbs	Tom O'Brien	10
2021	<b>Khan</b> 7-11-4	5-1	Milton Harris	Harry Reed (3)	5

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

2.20

RACE 3

SOUTHERN CRANES HANDICAP CHASE (5) 5yo+ (Rated 0-100) £8,000 2m219y (3420 Metres)



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

Left handed, tight and undulating. Despite the undulations, it's essentially a course which favours handy sorts thanks to the sharp turns. Races on the hurdles course often begin in earnest early on the final circuit, the complexion changing quickly at this point. Ranks surprisingly highly for proportion of casualties on the chase course, especially as the average field size is low, this figure probably reflective of the low standard of horses rather than the stiffness of the fences, though the first in the back straight falls away and has long since been tricky. Beware those horses who stick to the inside on the hurdles track when the ground is testing, better going often found by racing wide.

Pace Information: **Very Weak**

1	<b>SUPERSTYLIN (IRE) (31)</b> (D)	t		<b>100</b>
	24-152321 9 12-0   76.2kg			
	Chris Gordon		<b>Freddie Gordon</b>	
	Second win since joining Chris Gordon when easily seeing off 2 rivals at Fontwell on Boxing Day. A 5lb rise is unlikely to prevent another prominent showing.			
2	<b>KNOWN WARRIOR (FR) (36)</b>			<b>97</b>
	4-8486 6 11-13   75.7kg			
	Richard Bandy		<b>Harry Bannister</b>	
	Fourth in a bumper and maiden hurdle career but made a disappointing start to his handicap career when tailed off at Lingfield (20.5f) last month. Underwent wind surgery after that and now switches to fences in a bid to get his career back on track.			
3	<b>SANITISER (62)</b>	b		<b>98</b>
	322132-44 7 11-12   75.3kg			
	Gary & Josh Moore		<b>Freddie Mitchell (3lb/1kg)</b>	
	Won 2m Kempton handicap hurdle in November 2024. More miss than hit on the Flat in 2025 but has finished a respectable fourth in handicap chases at Fontwell and Hereford since returning to the jumps. Enters calculations.			
4	<b>APPLICATIONOFCASH (IRE) (35)</b>	t		<b>88</b>
	U9084/P-3 8 11-7   73.0kg			
	David Brace		<b>Liam Harrison</b>	
	Modest maiden hurdler in Ireland. Pulled up in Worcester handicap hurdle in July 2024 (only run for Robbie Llewellyn) but made promising return from absence for new yard when third in 2½m Huntingdon handicap chase 5 weeks ago. The way he shaped on that occasion suggests this shorter trip will suit.			
5	<b>SEA THRIFT (IRE) (39)</b>			<b>99</b>
	5-972313F 7 11-0   69.9kg			
	Daisy Hitchins		<b>Robbie David (7lb/3kg)</b>	
	Placed first 2 starts in handicap hurdles and built on those efforts when landing a Stratford seller (19f, good to soft) in October. Backed that up with a solid third at Lingfield 12 days later and still close up in second when falling 3 out on Exeter chase debut since.			

5 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

11-10 Superstylin, 7-2 Sanitiser, 5-1 Sea Thrift, 6-1 Applicationofcash, 33-1 Known Warrior

TIMEFORM VIEW:

SUPERSTYLIN has done well since joining Chris Gordon and might be good for another win. Applicationofcash made quite a promising start to his chase career after an absence when third over 2½m at Huntingdon before Christmas and, with this shorter trip probably a help, is second choice ahead of Sanitiser.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. SUPERSTYLIN 2. APPLICATIONOFCASH 3. SANITISER

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025 Miss Fedora 6-9-9 18-1 Seamus Mullins Ellis Collier (7) 6

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

2.50

RACE 4









**SOUTHERN CRANES HANDICAP HURDLE (3) 4yo+ (Rated 0-140) £23,825 2½m116y (4130 Metres)**



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

Left handed, tight and undulating. Despite the undulations, it's essentially a course which favours handy sorts thanks to the sharp turns. Races on the hurdles course often begin in earnest early on the final circuit, the complexion changing quickly at this point. Ranks surprisingly highly for proportion of casualties on the chase course, especially as the average field size is low, this figure probably reflective of the low standard of horses rather than the stiffness of the fences, though the first in the back straight falls away and has long since been tricky. Beware those horses who stick to the inside on the hurdles track when the ground is testing, better going often found by racing wide.

Pace Information: **Very Weak**

1	<b>IKE SPORT (FR) (16)</b>	h	<b>97</b>
	054-20526 8 12-0   76.2kg Neil Mulholland Back to form when second of 9 over an extended 3m at Wincanton on Boxing Day. Ran about as well could be expected when sixth of 15 in the very competitive Lanzarote at Kempton (21f) since. Should go well back in calmer waters.	<b>Bradley Harris (3lb/1kg)</b>	
2	<b>GOOD TO BE ALIVE (IRE) (37)</b>		<b>96</b>
	145-22 5 11-13   75.7kg Olly Murphy Didn't go on from a hurdle debut success in Ireland for Gordon Elliott last season but has got his career firmly back on track when runner-up in a pair of handicaps for Olly Murphy in recent months. Likely to give another good account.	<b>Sean Bowen</b>	
3	<b>LUCKY MANIFEST (IRE) (45) (D, BF)</b>		<b>96</b>
	867P-1128 6 11-10   74.4kg Tom Lacey Ended his time with James Ewart with a Kelso maiden hurdle success last May and improved again to follow up on handicap debut for new yard for 5 months. Better form in defeat in Cheltenham handicaps since and likely to have a say in this slightly less competitive environment.	<b>Stan Sheppard</b>	
4	<b>THE FAMOUS FIVE (FR) (37)</b>		<b>96</b>
	1/731522-5 8 11-8   73.5kg Venetia Williams Won 2m Newbury handicap chase last winter. Just as good when runner-up at Chepstow (19.5f) and back at Newbury (2m) on his final 2 outings of last season but Ascot reappearance before Christmas was disappointing. Now reverts to hurdling.	<b>Charlie Deutsch</b>	
5	<b>PRETENDING (IRE) (8) (D)</b>	s	<b>96</b>
	854P3-57P 7 11-3   71.2kg Lucy Wadham On a losing run and recent efforts have been disappointing, pulling up at Fakenham only 8 days ago.	<b>Tom Cannon</b>	
6	<b>PATRIOTIK (FR) (9)</b>	s	 <b>100</b>
	813-00606 7 11-2   70.8kg Evan Williams 3m winner at Doncaster last March. Bettered that form when third of 17 in a valuable handicap at Uttoxeter later that month. Has yet to fire this season but went with more zest with cheekpieces added (retained) when sixth of 10 in Ascot Class 2 handicap latest. Given a chance by the handicapper.	<b>Isabel Williams</b>	
7	<b>HE'S A LATCHICO (IRE) (23)</b>		<b>96</b>
	63/61-7157 8 11-1   70.3kg Gary & Josh Moore Notched fourth hurdles success when striking at Leicester at the end of November. Gave it a good shot when beaten just over 2 lengths into fifth in a big-field handicap at Ascot before Christmas but needs to shrug off a lesser run at Sandown since.	<b>Tom Queally</b>	

7 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

5-2 Lucky Manifest, 11-4 Good To Be Alive, 11-2 Ike Sport, 10-1 The Famous Five, 11-1 Patriotik, 12-1 He's A Latchico, 14-1 Pretending

TIMEFORM VIEW:

It might be worth chancing PATRIOTIK as he did hint at a revival at Ascot and a further 4 lb drop in his mark since then could prove generous. Ike Sport should find this easier than the Lanzarote and is second choice ahead of Good To Be Alive and Lucky Manifest.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. PATRIOTIK 2. IKE SPORT 3. GOOD TO BE ALIVE

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

3.20

RACE 5

KALM CLUB MARES' HANDICAP HURDLE (4) 4yo+ fillies and mares (Rated 0-110) £10,000 3m217y (5030 Metres)



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

Left handed, tight and undulating. Despite the undulations, it's essentially a course which favours handy sorts thanks to the sharp turns. Races on the hurdles course often begin in earnest early on the final circuit, the complexion changing quickly at this point. Ranks surprisingly highly for proportion of casualties on the chase course, especially as the average field size is low, this figure probably reflective of the low standard of horses rather than the stiffness of the fences, though the first in the back straight falls away and has long since been tricky. Beware those horses who stick to the inside on the hurdles track when the ground is testing, better going often found by racing wide.

Pace Information: **Very Weak**

1	<b>GETAWAY THEATRE (IRE) (26)</b>	s+t	<b>98</b>
	64/5P41-23 8 11-11   74.8kg		
	Stuart Edmunds <b>Charlie Hammond</b>		
	Ended last term with 3m success at Chepstow and resumed with a very good second of 9 in handicap at Warwick (25f, soft) in November. Subsequent third at the same venue on New Year's Eve wasn't so good but, at the same time, it wasn't a bad effort and this stiff track will play to her strengths.		
2	<b>TANKARDSTOWN DIVA (IRE) (36) (BF)</b>		<b>94</b>
	5272112F 7 11-11   74.8kg		
	Tom Ellis <b>Jack Andrews (31lb/1kg)</b>		
	Ex-Irish mare who is thriving for her current yard, scoring over hurdles at Market Rasen and Ludlow before an excellent second back chasing at Huntingdon (23.6f, soft) on penultimate start. Resumes in this sphere falling a heavy fall at Fakenham and current mark probably sums her up.		
3	<b>EITHER OR (IRE) (45)</b>	t	<b>99</b>
	1P3/P44-61 8 11-9   73.9kg		
	Nicky Henderson <b>James Bowen</b>		
	Returned to form with first-time tongue strap enlisted at Doncaster (24.4f, soft) where she made all and battle well to hold on in the closing stages. Hard to be confident that she'll build on that given her hit-and-miss profile but 5 lb rise fair enough and she's unexposed as a stayer.		
4	<b>KEPPEL QUEEN (26) (BF)</b>	s	<b>100</b>
	2F234-21P 7 11-5   72.1kg		
	Olly Murphy <b>Sean Bowen</b>		
	Placed several times in handicaps for previous stable and made the most of a good opportunity when taking Warwick maiden hurdle (21f, good to firm) on debut for new yard in October. Didn't jump at all well tried over fences for the second time at Uttoxeter since and better expected back hurdling.		
5	<b>PIPERS CROSS (IRE) (17) (D)</b>	s	<b>98</b>
	33313-533 9 11-2   70.8kg		
	Emma Lavelle <b>Cameron Johnstone-Baker (10lb/5kg)</b>		
	Dual winner in spring 2024 for Robbie Llewellyn and got the job done at the fifth attempt for present yard at Fontwell last March. Placed on 2 of her 3 starts so far this season and while more will be needed if she's to emerge on top here, this 9-y-o should make her presence felt.		

5 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

11-4 Either Or, 10-3 Keppel Queen, 7-2 Getaway Theatre, 5-1 Pipers Cross, 11-2 Tankardstown Diva

TIMEFORM VIEW:

Presumably any aspirations held for KEPPEL QUEEN as a chaser have been abandoned following her display on New Year's Eve at Uttoxeter where her jumping was ponderous at best having not got far on her sole previous run over fences last year. Conversely, she did the job well starting out for the Olly Murphy yard in this sphere at Warwick during the autumn and this mark should be within reach. There isn't much to choose between the others, with Getaway Theatre feared most ahead of Either Or.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. KEPPEL QUEEN 2. GETAWAY THEATRE 3. EITHER OR

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:						
2025	<b>Midnightreflection</b>	10-12-1	7-2	Ben Case	Mr Charlie Case (7)	5
2024	<b>Ilovethe<b>nightlife</b></b>	6-11-13	7-2	Joe Tizzard	Brendan Powell	7
2023	<b>Jerrash</b>	6-11-11	5-1	Gary Moore	Jamie Moore	9

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

3.50

RACE 6

**TYSERS INSURANCE BROKERS HANDICAP CHASE (4) 5yo+**  
**(Rated 0-120) £11,000 3m1f157y (5170 Metres)**



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

Left handed, tight and undulating. Despite the undulations, it's essentially a course which favours handy sorts thanks to the sharp turns. Races on the hurdles course often begin in earnest early on the final circuit, the complexion changing quickly at this point. Ranks surprisingly highly for proportion of casualties on the chase course, especially as the average field size is low, this figure probably reflective of the low standard of horses rather than the stiffness of the fences, though the first in the back straight falls away and has long since been tricky. Beware those horses who stick to the inside on the hurdles track when the ground is testing, better going often found by racing wide.

Pace Information: **Very Weak**

1	<b>MINELLA BLUEWAY (IRE) (9)</b>	s		<b>100</b>
	52711-P3F 8 11-11   74.8kg			
	Evan Williams		<i>Isabel Williams</i>	
	Benefited from application of cheekpieces when ending last term with wins at Ludlow and Uttoxeter. Has failed to complete on 2 of his 3 starts this season, falling at the first at Ascot recently, but he'll have a big chance eased in grade here, provided that his jumping passes the test.			
2	<b>SHANTOU LUCKY (IRE) (25) (CD)</b>	v+t		<b>98</b>
	11318427 9 11-10   74.4kg			
	James Owen		<i>Nathan Howie (3lb/1kg)</i>	
	Five wins since joining the prolific James Owen yard at the end of the summer, including over this C&D in November. Went close off this mark at Fakenham on penultimate start and probably best to forgive Windsor flop 11 days later, as the race probably came too soon. Player with visor refitted.			
3	<b>GEORGES SAINT (FR) (26)</b>			<b>99</b>
	34/5653-33 10 11-4   71.7kg			
	Venetia Williams		<i>Charlie Deutsch</i>	
	Won a pair of handicap chases at the end of 2023. Hasn't managed to scale the same heights since but his mark has reduced to what is now an attractive level and he's of strong interest here on the back of a creditable third at Warwick (3m, good to soft) on New Year's Eve.			
4	<b>LUMI PLUGIN (31) (C)</b>			<b>69</b>
	202312-78 7 11-2   70.8kg			
	Gary & Josh Moore		<i>Caoilin Quinn</i>	
	Progressive in handicap hurdles last winter, including a win over 20.5f at this course. However, it would be something of an understatement to say he hasn't looked a complete natural in 2 starts over fences so far this season.			

4 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

13-8 Georges Saint, 9-4 Minella Blueway, 5-2 Shantou Lucky, 20-1 Lumi Plugin

TIMEFORM VIEW:

Going beyond 3m promises to suit GEORGES SAINT judged on his latest third over that trip at Warwick where he rallied well in the closing stages. He is lurking on an attractive mark and is taken to see off Minella Blueway and Shantou Lucky.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. GEORGES SAINT 2. MINELLA BLUEWAY 3. SHANTOU LUCKY

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025	<b>Invincible Nao</b> 7-11-11	5-2f	Gary & Josh Moore	Caoilin Quinn	6
2024	<b>Morfee</b> 8-11-11	5-4f	Seamus Mullins	James Best	6
2023	<b>Sublime Heights</b> 7-11-6	9-2	Toby Lawes	Tom Cannon	9
2022	<b>Putdecashonthedash</b> 9-11-5	15-2	Keiran Burke	Tom Bellamy	6
2021	<b>I See You Well</b> 8-11-1	3-1	Seamus Mullins	Kevin Jones (3)	6

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race



4.20

RACE 7









BACKING BENTSWOOD HUB HANDICAP HURDLE (5) 4yo+  
(Rated 0-100) £7,250 1m7f195y (3200 Metres)



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

Left handed, tight and undulating. Despite the undulations, it's essentially a course which favours handy sorts thanks to the sharp turns. Races on the hurdles course often begin in earnest early on the final circuit, the complexion changing quickly at this point. Ranks surprisingly highly for proportion of casualties on the chase course, especially as the average field size is low, this figure probably reflective of the low standard of horses rather than the stiffness of the fences, though the first in the back straight falls away and has long since been tricky. Beware those horses who stick to the inside on the hurdles track when the ground is testing, better going often found by racing wide.

Pace Information: **Uncontested**

1	<b>KILL THE GROOVE (IRE) (42)</b>	t	<b>86</b>
	09-333P6 6 12-0   76.2kg Karen Jewell Fair form shown in bumpers/hurdles for Ben Pauling but looks to be going the wrong way, finishing well beaten in a pair of 20.5f course handicap hurdles since joining Karen Jewell.	<b>Tom Cannon</b>	
2	<b>OUR PAPA SMURF (49) (D)</b>	s	<b>90</b>
	561-6 5 11-12   75.3kg Gary & Josh Moore Flat winner who got off the mark in this sphere at Warwick (2m, heavy) last December. Off 12 months before a well-held sixth on handicap debut at Fontwell 49 days ago but he should be sharper for the run. Cheekpieces are also refitted.	<b>Caolin Quinn</b>	
3	<b>DOTTIES STAR (65) (CD)</b>		<b>93</b>
	714-8P 7 11-6   72.6kg Pat Phelan Modest maiden on Flat. Caused a surprise when winning a weak C&D novice last January but hasn't reproduced that since, including pulling up at Huntingdon latest. A return to Plumpton needs to help spark a revival.	<b>Sean Houlihan</b>	
4	<b>FRANK STAMPER (16)</b>	h	 <b>100</b>
	34 4 11-5   72.1kg Warren Greatrex Fair maiden on the Flat (stays 1½m) for Jamie Osborne. Better over hurdles when fourth in 2m Kempton juvenile 16 days ago and could be a class above now making a quick switch to handicaps.	<b>James Bowen</b>	
5	<b>EPHYRA (15)</b>		<b>92</b>
	575 5 11-3   71.2kg Andy Irvine A fair maiden on the Flat for David Menuisier. Well held in qualifying runs over hurdles but has the potential for better now handicapping.	<b>Chad Bament (71b/3kg)</b>	
6	<b>SUZY WOOD (56)</b>		<b>82</b>
	07F-37 7 11-2   70.8kg Andy Irvine Showed more than previously when picking up the pieces to finish a well held third in a C&D novice on reappearance. Not unduly punished when never involved back here since and could come into her own in low-grade handicaps.	<b>Freddie Mitchell (31b/1kg)</b>	
7	<b>MASTER DUNRAVEN (IRE) (26)</b>		<b>92</b>
	904-870 6 11-0   69.9kg Neil Mulholland Fairly useful winner over 1¼m on the Flat in Ireland for Johnny Murtagh but yet to get anywhere near that level over hurdles, including in 3 handicaps. Could only consider if backed.	<b>Conor O'Farrell</b>	

7 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

10-11 Frank Stamper, 11-2 Our Papa Smurf, 15-2 Ephyra, 12-1 Suzy Wood, 14-1 Dotties Star, 16-1 Master Dunraven, 33-1 Kill The Groove

TIMEFORM VIEW:

FRANK STAMPER's opening hurdle mark of 100 looks generous, particularly as there is almost certainly more to come from him. Andy Irvine pair Ephyra and Suzy Wood also appeal as possible improvers now handicapping for the first time over hurdles and may give Warren Greatrex's charge most to think about.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. FRANK STAMPER 2. EPHYRA 3. SUZY WOOD

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:						
2025	<b>Mount Washington</b>	6-11-10	9-1	Evan Williams	Conor Ring	7
2024	<b>Good Lord</b>	5-10-11	10-1	Billy Aprahamian	Gavin Sheehan	14
2023	<b>Inferno Sacree</b>	5-10-2	5-1	Nigel Hawke	Tom Buckley (3)	13
2022	<b>Global Wonder</b>	7-10-12	9-4f	Suzi Best	Nick Scholfield	13
2021	<b>Mr Jack</b>	9-11-12	3-1	Andy Irvine	Niall Houlihan (5)	9