

Friday 27th February

DONCASTER



1.50	VIRGIN BET CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier) (5) 2m3f88y (3900 Metres)
RACE 1	(10) LAKE TIBERIAS (12) PECKFORTON HILLS (8) BRIDGE
2.20	VIRGIN BET NOVICES' HANDICAP CHASE (Qualifier) (4) 2m3f31y (3850 Metres)
RACE 2	(3) LYLIAN (2) SIGN AGAIN (4) CUBAN COURT
2.50	VIRGIN BET DAILY EXTRA PLACES NOVICES' HURDLE (3) 3m84y (4900 Metres)
RACE 3	(4) TORMUND GIANTSBANE (2) QUAY ITEM (5) SLEEDAGH
3.22	VIRGIN BET HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier) (4) 2m128y (3340 Metres)
RACE 4	(5) KING ULANDA (7) LEAUMEC DE MEE (9) AS FAST AS WIND
3.57	VIRGIN BET DONCASTER HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier) (5) 3m84y (4900 Metres)
RACE 5	(7) MR GRIFFITHS (8) SCAIRP DUBH (4) LES'S DESTINY STAR
4.30	VIRGIN BET SUPPORTS SAFE GAMBLING HANDICAP CHASE (Qualifier) (5) 2m3f31y (3850 Metres)
RACE 6	(3) COUNT ADHEMAR (1) REHILL RELIC (4) BRAVETHE WAVES
5.05	VIRGIN BET A GOOD BET VETERANS' HANDICAP CHASE (3) 2m7f214y (4820 Metres)
RACE 7	(9) IF NOT FOR DYLAN (3) SAINTE DOCTOR (6) MAGNA SAM

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.

1.50

RACE 1

VIRGIN BET CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier) (5) 4yo+ (Rated 0-105) £6,150 2m3f88y (3900 Metres)
Going: Chase: Good-Good to Soft in places; Hurdle: Good to Soft-Good in places

Left handed, essentially flat and most galloping in nature. It's an extremely well-draining course, underfoot conditions often less testing than at many other courses in midwinter. Surprisingly for such a galloping track, plenty of chases are well run, though the opposite tends to be true of races on the hurdles course, things often starting in earnest only approaching the third last.

Pace Information: Even
1 DIAMOND KODA (IRE) (76) 99

323222-45 7 12-0 | 76.2kg

Nick Kent

Tom Broughton



Placed on no less than 8 occasions from 11 starts over hurdles but remains a maiden (0-14 overall) and his jumping again let him down tried in first-time cheekpieces (retained) here when last seen in December.

2 CAMARRATE (IRE) (61) 96

1/13503-20 6 12-0 | 76.2kg

Donald McCain

Charlie Maggs (3lb/1kg)



Fit from the Flat and returned to form when second in a 6-runner Wetherby handicap in October. Reproduction of that would give him a fighting chance but subsequent effort at Catterick was not so good.

3 RYEBRIDGE (IRE) (134) 92

0-324 6 12-0 | 76.2kg

Joel Parkinson & Sue Smith

Oscar Palmer (6lb/3kg)



Much improved from his hurdling debut and well suited by the step up in trip when runner-up in a 2½m Hexham novice last summer. Drop to 17.2f counted against him on sole subsequent start at Carlisle in October and he's interesting back up in trip for this handicap debut.

4 RAFFERTY'S RETURN (24) (D) 93

76068-687 11 11-13 | 75.7kg

Rebecca Menzies

Ellis Collier



Landed a pair of handicap hurdles a couple of seasons back but it was a struggle last term and he hasn't fared much better in a handful of appearances this time round.

5 MAGGIES BOY (IRE) (250) 96

5292-3235 7 11-12 | 75.3kg

Jennie Candlish

William Shanahan



Fair hurdler who was runner-up twice in handicaps last spring and also went close in a 2¾m Cartmel maiden last May. However, he was below par on latest appearance 8 months ago and this maiden may again find one or two too good.

6 ROCK ON CASSIE (IRE) (22) 95

P5 10 11-11 | 74.8kg

Richard Armon

Philip Armon



Mares' maiden hurdle winner for previous connections in Ireland in January 2022 but efforts for present yard since returning from a lengthy absence have not been inspiring.

7 TIGGA TIME (IRE) (82) 98

54/292-517 7 11-11 | 74.8kg

Sarah Humphrey

Jamie Gambin (8lb/4kg)



Point winner who stepped forward from his seasonal/stable debut when opening Rules account in a 20.7f Huntingdon handicap in November. Too keen when down the field over the same C&D next time but will be a threat if settling better this time.

8 BRIDGE (22) 98

13372/274 6 11-9 | 73.9kg

Gary & Josh Moore

Freddie Mitchell



Just failed on return from 20-month absence at Fontwell in December and, though beaten a fair way next time, he did well under the circumstances when fourth in a 5-runner Lingfield handicap (2m, heavy) earlier this month (late mistakes proved costly). One to consider.

9 EASTER ICON (70) 96

U/8913U-00 7 11-8 | 73.5kg

Gary Brown

Joe Anderson



Remains 10 lb above the mark off which he made a winning handicap debut in this sphere at Fontwell in August 2024 and he has failed to fire in 2 starts so far this season (also safely held back on the Flat last time).

10 LAKE TIBERIAS (IRE) (59) 90

3666 6 11-8 | 73.5kg

Harry Derham

Tristan Durrell



Placed sole start in bumpers and there have been encouraging signs in his 3 runs in maiden/novice company, leaving the strong impression that there will be better to come now pitched into a handicap. Interesting.

11 JACK HOOLA (37) (D) 96

475-12128 6 11-7 | 73.0kg

Tom Lacey

Cameron Iles (3lb/1kg)



On the up since fitted with headgear in handicaps this term, scoring at Huntingdon and Southwell, but it was disconcerting to see him back out of things so meekly at Catterick last time.

12 PECKFORTON HILLS (IRE) (23) 100

518-0673 6 10-12 | 68.9kg

Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero

Ben Smith (6lb/3kg)



Winner of a Carlisle bumper last February and predictably stepped up on low-key novice form when third of 7 on handicap bow at Sedgefield (19.8f, soft), for all that he didn't totally convince with his attitude under pressure. Now tried in a tongue strap and he needs considering.

12 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

4-1 Lake Tiberias, 11-2 Peckforton Hills, 6-1 Bridge, 8-1 Jack Hoola, 10-1 Ryebidge, 11-1 Tigga Time, 12-1 Diamond Koda, 12-1 Maggies Boy, 14-1 Camarrate, 28-1 Easter Icon, 66-1 bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

The most interesting of these by some way is LAKE TIBERIAS, who has looked a work in progress in his qualifying runs and promises to show himself in a better light now venturing down the handicap route. Peckforton Hills may not be entirely straightforward but he is respected nonetheless on the back of a creditable handicap debut third at Sedgefield. Bridge and Tigga Time are other plausible candidates.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. LAKE TIBERIAS 2. PECKFORTON HILLS 3. BRIDGE

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025 **Horsesomeharry** 7-11-12 4-1 Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero Henry Brooke 8

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

2.20**VIRGIN BET NOVICES' HANDICAP CHASE (Qualifier) (4)
5yo+ (Rated 0-120) £12,000 2m3f31y (3850 Metres)**

RACE 2

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

Left handed, essentially flat and most galloping in nature. It's an extremely well-draining course, underfoot conditions often less testing than at many other courses in midwinter. Surprisingly for such a galloping track, plenty of chases are well run, though the opposite tends to be true of races on the hurdles course, things often starting in earnest only approaching the third last.

Pace Information: **Weak**

1 NOAHSGREATRAINBOW (IRE) (46) 98
12/87-521P 7 12-0 | 76.2kg



Harry Derham

Paul O'Brien

Useful bumper performer but never really fulfilled that promise over hurdles. Right back on track when making a successful chasing debut in a 7-runner handicap at Wincanton (20.2f, soft) in December but possibly amiss at Hereford since (also raced closer to a brisk pace than ideal).

2 SIGN AGAIN (IRE) (63) t 99
4114-063 6 11-11 | 74.8kg



Charlie Longsdon

David Bass

Dual hurdles winner last season who got back on track to an extent when third of 7 in a handicap at Sedgefield on Boxing Day, though again didn't see things out especially well despite a first-time tongue tie being applied. Former point winner, so respected switching to the larger obstacles.

3 LYLIAN (FR) (27) ★ 100
366-12343 5 11-6 | 72.6kg



Gary & Josh Moore

Freddie Mitchell (3lb/1kg)

Bright start to his chase career in France last summer (changed hands for €95,000) and seemingly finding his feet for current connections, taking a step back in the right direction when third of 5 at Sandown (16/1) last month. This represents a drop in grade and he could take some pegging back.

4 CUBAN COURT (IRE) (41) (C, D) s+t 98
3311-4616 8 10-9 | 67.6kg



Neil King

Jack Quinlan

Three-time winner over hurdles last season who got off the mark at the first time of asking in this sphere when scoring at this course (16.4f) in December. Not in same form at Taunton since but can't be ruled out.

4 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

2-1 Sign Again, 11-4 Cuban Court, 3-1 Noahsgreatrainbow, 5-1 Lyliau

TIMEFORM VIEW:

Impossible to rule out any of the quartet but the vote goes to LYLIAN, who has been finding his feet for new connections and his latest third at Sandown was a significant step in the right direction. Sign Again won a point earlier in his career so he's taken to edge out Cuban Court for the forecast spot on chase debut.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. LYLIAN 2. SIGN AGAIN 3. CUBAN COURT

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

2.50**VIRGIN BET DAILY EXTRA PLACES NOVICES' HURDLE (3)**
4yo+ £15,000 3m84y (4900 Metres)

RACE 3

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

Left handed, essentially flat and most galloping in nature. It's an extremely well-draining course, underfoot conditions often less testing than at many other courses in midwinter. Surprisingly for such a galloping track, plenty of chases are well run, though the opposite tends to be true of races on the hurdles course, things often starting in earnest only approaching the third last.

Pace Information: **Very Weak**

1 BREEZETHROUGHLIFE (IRE) (50) **93**
3152P 5 11-11 | 74.8kg t



Neil King

Jack Quinlan

Confirmed promise of Irish maiden hurdle debut when making successful start for Neil King in Fakenham maiden in October. Hit or miss since, runner-up effort over C&D in December flanked by lesser efforts.

2 QUAY ITEM (IRE) (32) **99**
31 6 11-11 | 74.8kg



Nicky Henderson

**James Bowen**

Placed both starts in Irish points and confirmed the promise of his placed effort in a 20.8f course maiden when successful at Plumpton a month ago, forging clear. In top hands and there should be more to come, particularly over 3m.

3 SUNSET BOULEVARD (IRE) (25) **73**
85-10 6 11-11 | 74.8kg



Venetia Williams

Charlie Deutsch

Shaped like a stayer in bumpers and relished the step up in trip when making a successful hurdle debut for Willie Mullins at Tramore (21.8f, good to soft) in May. Switched yard after and no impact at Kempton but this is easier and yard going better now.

4 TORMUND GIANTSBANE (IRE) (84) **100**
12-14 6 11-11 | 74.8kg



Dan Skelton

Harry Skelton

Bumper winner who made a successful hurdling debut at Carlisle in November. Matched that stepping up markedly in class when fourth of 5 in Grade 2 hurdle at Sandown (13/2) the following month and he's a likely improver with 3m expected to suit.

5 SLEEDAGH (IRE) (27) **98**
2-2223 6 11-5 | 72.1kg



Lucinda Russell & Michael Scudamore

**Derek Fox**

£80,000 point recruit who has been placed all 5 outings under Rules, most recently in 23.8f novice at Musselburgh a month ago. Should give his running with stamina looking his forte.

5 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

13-8 Quay Item, **7-4** Tormund Giantsbane, **4-1** Sleedagh, **20-1** Sunset Boulevard, **22-1** Breezethroughlife

TIMEFORM VIEW:

TORMUND GIANTSBANE and Quay Item are a couple of pretty useful staying prospects for their leading yards, with marginal preference for the Dan Skelton in-mate.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. TORMUND GIANTSBANE 2. QUAY ITEM 3. SLEEDAGH

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025 **Thank You Ma'am** 6-11-10 8-13f Georgina Nicholls Miss Olive Nicholls (7) 3

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

3.22**VIRGIN BET HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier) (4) 4yo+
(Rated 0-120) £7,700 2m128y (3340 Metres)**

RACE 4

GBI RACINGGoing: **Chase: Good-Good to Soft in places; Hurdle: Good to Soft-Good in places**

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Pace Information: **Weak****1 PARRAMOUNT (70) (CD)** s **96**

PPO/7-26 10 12-1 | 76.7kg



Charlie Longsdon

Daire McConville (7lb/3kg)

Shaped well (having first jumps start for 13 months) when runner-up under a positive ride over this C&D in November. Respectable sixth of 15 in a warm race at Ascot next time but he's failed to beat a rival home on the Flat both starts since the turn of the year.

2 A DIFFERENT KIND (IRE) (41) (D) t **99**

115/80-853 9 11-13 | 75.7kg



Donald McCain

Theo Gillard

Useful hurdler/chaser earlier in career. Proved that a good chunk of his ability remains when third in an 8-runner Haydock handicap (15.6f, good to soft) last time (since undergone another wind op) and will be a threat granted a strong pace to aim at.

3 MINELLA JURY (IRE) (35) (D, BF) **90**

32113 6 11-12 | 75.3kg



Nigel & Willy Twiston-Davies

Brian Hughes

Fairly useful effort when bagging Wexford bumper in October and, having changed hands for £80,000, he looked a good prospect when making a winning hurdling debut at Uttoxeter. Shade disappointing when third of 8 over this C&D last month but since undergone a wind op and he remains of interest.

4 NORTH OF RICHMOND (IRE) (44) (D) **97**

12-134 6 11-9 | 73.9kg



Alex Hales

Bryan Carver

£75,000 buy who was runner-up sole outing in points and went one better on Rules debut in Bangor bumper in October 2024. Also made a winning start over hurdles on return at Fakenham in October and not disgraced in novice events at Leicester and Newbury since. Worth a second look on handicap bow.

5 KING ULANDA (IRE) (69) (BF) t **98**

6133-1242 6 11-8 | 73.5kg



Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero

Craig Nichol

Betting than ever when winning impressively at Carlisle (17.2f, good to firm) on return following breathing op. Thereabouts on each of his 3 subsequent starts, most recently chasing home an in-form rival off this mark at Haydock, and he's high on the shortlist.

6 LIGHT FANDANGO (IRE) (43) (CD) t **98**

5313P-518 7 11-7 | 73.0kg



Neil Mulholland

Bradley Harris (3lb/1kg)

Won a novice hurdle at Uttoxeter in summer 2024 and struck in a handicap over this C&D at the end of December. Failed to reproduce form akin to that at Wincanton next time, though, and he's probably worth taking on.

7 LEAUMEC DE MEE (FR) (44) (D) **98**

2-214 5 11-4 | 71.7kg



Dan Skelton

Kielan Woods

Shaped well when runner-up only start in bumpers and positive start over hurdles this winter, confirming promise of Fontwell second when going one better at Sedgefield in December. Creditable fourth on handicap bow at Newbury next time and he remains open to improvement.

8 KILLYCARN (IRE) (41) **98**

93816 6 11-0 | 69.9kg



Joel Parkinson & Sue Smith

Peter Kavanagh

Runner-up sole completed start in Irish points and, having hinted at promise in a trio of novice hurdles, he took a step forward when striking on handicap debut at Catterick (15.7f, good) on New Year's Day. Stamina stretched upped to 21.2f at Haydock since and he's a player back down in trip here.

9 AS FAST AS WIND (IRE) (27) **100**

2-3133662 6 10-10 | 68.0kg



Tristan Davidson

Robert Dunne

Struck for first time in this sphere at Kempton in October for Daisy Hitchins. Placed on 2 of her 4 starts for present yard, finding just one too good at Musselburgh (15.6f, good to soft) last time, and she has to enter calculations.

9 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

4-1 Leaume de Mee, **9-2** Minella Jury, **11-2** King Ulanda, **6-1** As Fast As Wind, **15-2** A Different Kind, **10-1** Killycarn, **12-1** North of Richmond, **22-1** Light Fandango, **25-1** Parramont

TIMEFORM VIEW:

All things considered, KING ULANDA did well to finish as close as he did to a thriving type at Haydock in the run-up to Christmas and he is appealing back from a short break. Leaume de Mee is in good hands and is feared most given his obvious scope for improvement, while As Fast As Wind and A Different Kind both hold solid each-way claims. Handicap debutant Minella Jury also enters calculations.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**1. KING ULANDA 2. LEAUMEC DE MEE 3. AS FAST AS WIND****WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2025	Cavern Club 5-11-8	13-2	James Owen	Gavin Sheehan	10
2024	Densworth 7-12-0	11-2	Ben Pauling	Ben Jones	12
2023	Whizz Kid 7-12-0	5-2jf	Dr Richard Newland	Luke Scott (7)	7
2022	Universal Folly 7-11-6	13-2	Nicky Richards	Conor Rabbitt (10)	9
2021	Ginistrelli 5-11-6	33-1	Olly Murphy	Fergus Gregory (3)	8

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

3.57**VIRGIN BET DONCASTER HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier) (5)
4yo+ (Rated 0-105) £6,150 3m84y (4900 Metres)**

RACE 5

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

Left handed, essentially flat and most galloping in nature. It's an extremely well-draining course, underfoot conditions often less testing than at many other courses in midwinter. Surprisingly for such a galloping track, plenty of chases are well run, though the opposite tends to be true of races on the hurdles course, things often starting in earnest only approaching the third last.

Pace Information: **Very Weak**

1 BE THE DIFFERENCE (IRE) (17) (D) 90
3311163P 10 12-0 | 76.2kg



Philip Kirby **Freddie Keighley (51lb/2kg)**
Completed the hat-trick in decisive fashion at Sedgefield in December but he ran no sort of a race at Ayr recently and he's hard to recommend on the back of that display.

2 Highbury Hill (31) 89
3725-2371 5 11-10 | 74.4kg



Nigel Hawke **Bryan Carver**
Bounced back from a rare poor effort at Uttoxeter in December when opening her account in 19.4f Chepstow handicap. 2 lb nudge fair enough and there can be hope that this trip will be within her range but the quality of the opposition here may be a stumbling block.

3 SWIFT JET (IRE) (35) s 89
5366-P3FF 8 11-10 | 74.4kg



Richard Phillips **Harry Bannister**
Fair maiden hurdler who recorded a good third at Ludlow in first-time cheekpieces in December. Has followed that with a couple of non-completions, though, and others are more appealing.

4 LES'S DESTINY STAR (IRE) (35) (C) t 89
12/0-4P8 7 11-9 | 73.9kg



Ben Pauling **Kielan Woods**
Bumper winner on debut here in December 2024 and while he hasn't made much of an impact in 3 qualifying runs over hurdles at up to 21.7f, improvement could be on the way now upped in trip for this handicap bow.

5 JONQUILLA (FR) (68) 86
4-22 7 11-9 | 73.9kg



Sarah Humphrey **James Bowen**
Fetched €95,000 as a 3-y-o and was an encouraging fourth on bumper debut in February. Runner-up both starts since switched to hurdles but she will need to take a significant step forward in order to go one better now handicapping.

6 GEORDIE NIGHT (62) t 89
52235-166 7 11-6 | 72.6kg



Nick Kent **Tom Broughton (51lb/2kg)**
Had wind op (also tongue tied) before getting off the mark in 7-runner handicap hurdle at Uttoxeter (23f, good to soft) last May. However, below par both starts since returning from a break in November and others look stronger.

7 MR GRIFFITHS (FR) (7) ★ 100
745-811 6 11-4 | 71.7kg



Jonjo & A.J. O'Neill **Jonjo O'Neill Jr.**
Major improver switched to handicaps the last twice, following his Fontwell breakthrough success with an emphatic display in a race for conditions and amateurs at Warwick (3¼m, soft) last week. Escapes a penalty for that and will take the world of beating.

8 SCAIRP DUBH (11) 96
2765641 6 11-3 | 71.2kg



Joel Parkinson & Sue Smith **Jack Power (51lb/2kg)**
Has gradually progressed since making his way in handicaps, scoring with a bit to spare at Carlisle (19.3f, soft) recently. With no penalty to carry and this stiffer test likely to be in his favour, he should make his presence felt.

9 POOROLDMACKLEY (IRE) (68) 90
11-34513P 7 10-11 | 68.5kg



Evan Williams **Miss Eleanor Williams (71lb/3kg)**
Better than ever when recording third career success in an 11-runner Worcester handicap hurdle (23f, good) at the end of August. Found things too competitive over fences next time, though, and then ran poorly back in this sphere at Fakenham.

10 STAR VANTAGE (IRE) (62) t 90
4-42F6465 9 10-11 | 68.5kg



Rebecca Menzies **Charlie Maggs (31lb/1kg)**
Long-standing maiden and while he boasts several pieces of form that suggest winning off this mark wouldn't be out of the question, it will be something of a surprise should he get his head in front here.

BETTING FORECAST:

4-5 Mr Griffiths, **15-2** Scairp Dubh, **10-1** Highbury Hill, **12-1** Les's Destiny Star, **20-1** Jonquilla, **25-1** Star Vantage, **28-1** Geordie Night, **33-1** Pooroldmackley, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

Officially 12 lb 'well-in' after routing the opposition at Warwick last week, MR GRIFFITHS is hard to oppose. Indeed, a reproduction of that would almost certainly be good enough but it's highly likely that this lightly raced and progressive 6-y-o is capable of better still. Scairp Dubh is also unpenalised for his recent Carlisle success (due to go up 5 lb for that) and he is clear second choice ahead of handicap debutant Les's Destiny Star.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. MR GRIFFITHS 2. SCAIRP DUBH 3. LES'S DESTINY STAR

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

4.30

**VIRGIN BET SUPPORTS SAFE GAMBLING HANDICAP CHASE
(Qualifier) (5) 5yo+ (Rated 0-100) £8,200 2m3f31y
(3850 Metres)**

RACE 6



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

Left handed, essentially flat and most galloping in nature. It's an extremely well-draining course, underfoot conditions often less testing than at many other courses in midwinter. Surprisingly for such a galloping track, plenty of chases are well run, though the opposite tends to be true of races on the hurdles course, things often starting in earnest only approaching the third last.

Pace Information: **Weak**

1 REHILL RELIC (IRE) (33) s **95**
4721-F413 7 12-0 | 76.2kg



Sam Allwood

Tom Bellamy

Has been going the right way sent chasing this season, jumping well when winning at Huntingdon in December. Continued in good heart when 2 lengths third of 5 at Sedgefield (19.3f, soft) last month and he's respected.

2 LINE OF DESCENT (IRE) (25) (D) t **98**
13U253/5-6 8 11-13 | 75.7kg



Warren Greatrex

James Bowen

Three-time winner over fences who shaped as if needing the run after 21-month absence when sixth of 7 in handicap at Southwell (20.4f, soft) 25 days ago. One to note having eased further in the weights.

3 COUNT ADHEMAR (IRE) (9) ★ **100**
63-3552 6 11-8 | 73.5kg



Donald McCain

Theo Gillard

Showed ability in maiden/novice hurdles and built on promise of chasing debut effort when second of 8 in handicap at Ludlow (16f, soft) 9 days ago. Could be ready to open his account.

4 BRAVETHEWAVES (37) (C, D) s+t **95**
1P-779147 9 10-9 | 67.6kg



Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero

Toby Wynne

Pair of chase wins early last year and bounced back to form switched to more positive tactics when scoring at Southwell (20.4f, good to soft) in November. Lesser efforts the last twice, but he's capable if on a going day.

5 MISTERODDSOCKS (IRE) (58) s+t **89**
803-9P3P6 6 10-8 | 67.1kg



Ben Case

Ciaran Gethings

Remains a maiden and has gone backwards from his third at Market Rasen (21.4f) in 2 subsequent outings, last of 6 at Warwick (16.2f, good to soft) in December. Tongue strap reapplied with cheekpieces on first time.

6 ELUSIVE KNIGHT (IRE) (28) **89**
580405 6 10-7 | 66.7kg



Evan Williams

Conor Ring

Point winner but little promise over hurdles and, in first-time cheekpieces (now discarded), fared no better sent chasing when last of 5 in handicap at Catterick (15.7f, soft) 28 days ago. Back up in trip.

6 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

5-4 Count Adhemar, **15-8** Rehill Relic, **13-2** Bravethewaves, **16-1** Line of Descent, **22-1** Elusive Knight, **28-1** Misteroddssocks

TIMEFORM VIEW:

COUNT ADHEMAR has taken well to chasing, staying on for second behind the odds-on favourite at Ludlow 9 days ago, and he can go one better with more still to offer. Rehill Relic has also made an encouraging start over fences this season and is feared most, ahead of Bravethewaves.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. COUNT ADHEMAR 2. REHILL RELIC 3. BRAVETHEWAVES

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025	Gentle Frank 9-11-13	9-2	Henry Oliver	Lee Edwards	4
2024	Pilgrims King 8-11-5	11-8f	Peter Bowen	James Bowen	4
2023	Mongol Emperor 8-11-8	6-5f	Neil Mulholland	Sam Twiston-Davies	6
2022	Numitor 8-11-12	5-4f	Heather Main	Tom Scudamore	5
2021	Ravenhill Road 10-11-8	5-1	Sue Smith	Ryan Mania	7

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

5.05

VIRGIN BET A GOOD BET VETERANS' HANDICAP CHASE (3)
10yo+ (Rated 0-125) £20,000 2m7f214y (4820 Metres)

RACE 7



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

Left handed, essentially flat and most galloping in nature. It's an extremely well-draining course, underfoot conditions often less testing than at many other courses in midwinter. Surprisingly for such a galloping track, plenty of chases are well run, though the opposite tends to be true of races on the hurdles course, things often starting in earnest only approaching the third last.

Pace Information: **Even**

1 ERNE RIVER (IRE) (76) (CD) s+t **100**
 PU4443P-P 11 12-1 | 76.7kg



Nick Kent *Kielan Woods*
 Latest win came over C&D in December 2023 and while he's fallen a long way in the weights, he'll need to go with more fluency in a change of headgear to capitalise.

2 CHAVEZ (IRE) (41) **89**
 55FP/0-P 10 12-0 | 76.2kg



Venetia Williams *Charlie Deutsch*
 Missed whole of 2025 but shaped as though a fair amount of ability remains on first start since leaving Willie Mullins at Ascot last month. Yard going much better now but needs to prove he can back that up.

3 SAINTE DOCTOR (FR) (40) s+t **99**
 531112-32 10 11-12 | 75.3kg



Neil Mulholland *Richie McLernon*
 Reliable sort who picked up where she left off last season when second in strongly-run handicap on her comeback at Fakenham (21.2f) last month and she isn't fully exposed over this sort of trip. Solid claims.

4 ALMAZHAR GARDE (FR) (98) (D) s+t **96**
 P1-351142 11 11-12 | 75.3kg



Charlie Longsdon *David Bass*
 Has continued in fine heart since landing a double at Worcester last summer, only going down to a less-exposed rival in a thin handicap at Catterick in November. Should give his running on just his second start in veterans' company.

5 NORTHERN POET (IRE) (317) (CD) **97**
 5/22P11PP- 11 11-8 | 73.5kg



Nick Gifford *James Davies*
 Dug deep to land first-leg of a double in similar race over C&D in the spring but ran a pair of stinkers to close out last season. Has gone well fresh previously but hard to be confident at this stage of his career.

6 MAGNA SAM (67) (D) s **98**
 P/PP31P-66 12 11-7 | 73.0kg



Alastair Ralph *Ciaran Gethings*
 Dual Edinburgh National winner who ran creditably over C&D following a breathing operation last season and may well leave behind his comeback run following another wind surgery.

7 LADRONNE (FR) (37) (CD) t **96**
 411-61241 12 11-7 | 73.0kg



Joel Parkinson & Sue Smith *Jack Power (51b/2kg)*
 Winner of two of his 4 starts since his reappearance, justifying support in veterans' handicap at Catterick last month. May prove vulnerable back up in class.

8 AUTONOMOUS CLOUD (IRE) (80) (D) s+t **94**
 4328-618P 10 11-4 | 71.7kg



Harry Derham *Paul O'Brien*
 Still fairly useful last season but didn't look the force of old in pair of handicaps for Fergal O'Brien this winter. Not out of the question that switch to veterans' company/new yard could spark some improvement.

9 IF NOT FOR DYLAN (IRE) (31) (D) t **98**
 613-3U43 11 11-1 | 70.3kg



Lucinda Russell & Michael Scudamore *Alan Doyle (31b/1kg)*
 Made all/jumped soundly when winning off 2 lb higher at Newcastle last January. Has still showed plenty of spark this season and he's expected to make a bold bid with yard back in form.

10 STRATAGEM (FR) (26) (C, D) s+t **89**
 44/4P-46P 10 10-10 | 68.0kg



Mickey Bowen *James Bowen*
 Regressed for Paul Nicholls and similar story for new connections this season, undergoing another breathing operation since pulling up at Market Rasen last month.

10 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

3-1 Sainte Doctor, **5-1** If Not For Dylan, **6-1** Ladronne, **8-1** Almazhar Garde, **10-1** Magna Sam, **10-1** Chavez, **12-1** Erne River, **16-1** Autonomous Cloud, **33-1** Stratagem, **66-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

IF NOT FOR DYLAN could be difficult to peg back if getting into a rhythm on the front-end, while reliable mare Sainte Doctor is relatively unexposed around 3m and looks a danger. Magna Sam bypassed this year's Edinburgh National but may make more of an impact following another breathing operation.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. IF NOT FOR DYLAN 2. SAINTE DOCTOR 3. MAGNA SAM

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025	Northern Poet 10-11-8	5-1	Nick Gifford	Tabitha Worsley	5
2024	Ladronne 10-10-13	5-2	Tjade Collier	William Maggs (3)	5
2023	Flying Verse 11-10-9	11-1	David Dennis	Ned Fox (3)	10
2022	First Figaro 12-10-1	11-4	Venetia Williams	Ned Fox (10)	6
2021	Psychedelic Rock 10-12-0	11-1	Ian Williams	Charlie Todd (3)	7

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race