GBI RACING

TIMEFORM 1-2-3

Saturday 28th November

NEWCASTLE

11.40	DANE ARCHITECTURAL SYSTEMS MILLIONAIRE EBF 'NATIONAL HUNT' MAIDEN HURDLE (Qualifier) (4) 2m190y (3390 Metres)
RACE 1	**(8) NIKOLAVS OTTO | (5) LEADER ALLEN | (7) MEASURE OF A MAN**
12.15	J&D PIERCE STEELING THE RACE HANDICAP CHASE (3) 3m5f190y (6010 Metres)
RACE 2	**(3) RED DELTA | (5) PASSENGERONTHESHIP | (2) IMPATIENT**
12.50	WEATHERBYS AND BIRDIE CALENDARS 'THE FRENCH FURZE' NOVICES' HURDLE (2) 2¾m (4430 Metres)
RACE 3	**(5) OLD COAST ROAD | (2) SPLENDID FELLOW | (7) LAUVERGNAT**
1.25	SES ENGINEERING POWERING PAST THE REHEARSAL HANDICAP CHASE (PREMIER HANDICAP) (1) 3m (4830 Metres)
RACE 4	**(3) JORDANS CROSS | (7) CREST OF FORTUNE | (10) ALCEDO**
2.00	BOWMER AND KIRKLAND WE BUILD AS ONE FIGHTING FIFTH HURDLE (Grade 1) (1) 2m190y (3390 Metres)
RACE 5	**(1) ALEXEI | (4) MYDADDYPADDY | (6) GOLDEN ACE**
2.35	RYDER & CUNDALL DESIGNED TO GO THE DISTANCE HANDICAP HURDLE (3) 2½m62y (4080 Metres)
RACE 6	**(8) CAVE BRIDGE | (3) THE KALOOKI KID | (6) LAS CANALS**
3.18	JODIE STANDING'S POINT-TO-POINT RECRUITS HANDICAP CHASE (Qualifier) (4) 2½m19y (4040 Metres)
RACE 7	**(2) ALBIE LITTLEWOOD | (4) LOOKING SPLENDID | (7) DIAMOND MIX**

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.

11.40 RACE 1

DANE ARCHITECTURAL SYSTEMS MILLIONAIRE EBF 'NATIONAL HUNT' MAIDEN HURDLE (Qualifier) (4) 4, 5 and 6yo £11,000 2m190y (3390 Metres)

GBI RACING

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

Left handed, galloping with a steady uphill rise from the home turn. Stiff nature often results in steadily-run affairs, especially on the hurdles course, many races really beginning in earnest only once in line for home. As such, races often fail to represent the test of stamina they might, though there's a clear emphasis on jumping over fences, the data suggesting that Newcastle represents one of the stiffest examinations in the country in this regard. A position towards the stand rail in the home straight can be an advantage in hurdles races, no coincidence that's where the senior northern jockeys usually head.

Pace Information: **Very Weak**

1 **BELUGA LAGOON (IRE)** (22) **72**
5 **4** 11-4 | 71.7kg
Tim Easterby *Mr Thomas Easterby* (7lb/3kg)
Winning Irish pointer who shaped like a stayer when well held in Hexham maiden.

2 **CAPE WARRIOR** (19) **82**
22-255 **4** 11-4 | 71.7kg
Micky Hammond & Becky Smith *Danny McMenamin*
Runner-up in 3 bumpers and shaped much better on second start over hurdles when fifth in maiden at Carlisle. Handicaps likely to be more his thing, though.

3 **DILRISK (FR)** (19) **64**
43-00 **5** 11-4 | 71.7kg
Nicky Richards *Callum Bewley*
Showed promise in 2 bumpers in the spring but has made a discouraging start to his hurdling career this autumn.

4 **L'APPEL DU LARGE (FR)** (198) t
90-P **5** 11-4 | 71.7kg
N. W. Alexander *Bruce Lynn*
Well held in a pair of bumpers here last season and no promise sent hurdling in May. Has since had a breathing operation.

5 **LEADER ALLEN (FR)** (119) **99**
2152/2 **5** 11-4 | 71.7kg
W. P. Mullins, Ireland *B. Hayes*
Useful in bumpers in France in 2024/25, successful on his second run and going close in Group 3 at Saint-Cloud. Shaped well when second behind his odds-on stablemate on his yard/hurdles debut on belated return at Galway this summer and obvious claims with likely more to come.

6 **MAGICAL MAJOR (IRE)** (19) **69**
8 **4** 11-4 | 71.7kg
Stuart Coltherd *Sean Quinlan*
£60,000 recruit from the Irish pointing field but was given a considerate introduction to hurdling at Carlisle recently and probably needs more time.

7 **MEASURE OF A MAN (IRE)** (28) **86**
2 **4** 11-4 | 71.7kg
Ruth Jefferson *Brian Hughes*
Runner-up on second of 2 starts in Irish points and showed promise when second of 6 in novice at Wetherby on Rules debut 4 weeks ago. Likely improver with yard ending losing spell earlier this week.

8 **NIKOLAVS OTTO (IRE)** (44) **100**
5 **5** 11-4 | 71.7kg
Dan Skelton *Harry Skelton*
€40,000 3-y-o, £130,000 4-y-o, Walk In The Park gelding. Shaped well in a Perth maiden that has worked out very well on Rules debut last month and plenty of improvement looks on the cards. Can put it up to the favourite.

9 **RHYTHM OF THE RYE (IRE)** (23) **36**
6 **5** 11-4 | 71.7kg
Tim Easterby *Jamie Hamilton*
Runner-up on his sole start in point bumpers but looks to be being brought along gradually judged on his Rules debut here.

10 **WINGS OF THE GLEN (IRE)** (10) **74**
37 **5** 11-4 | 71.7kg
Rebecca Menzies *Shane Fitzgerald*
Wings of Eagles gelding who looks to be being brought along gradually.

10 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

4-7 Leader Allen, **7-2** Nikolavs Otto, **12-1** Measure of A Man, **50-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

NIKOLAVS OTTO caught the eye in a Perth maiden that has worked out very well and could be the value play up against Willie Mullins' Leader Allen, who's likely to be a warm order.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. NIKOLAVS OTTO 2. LEADER ALLEN 3. MEASURE OF A MAN

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

12.15 RACE 2

J&D PIERCE STEELING THE RACE HANDICAP CHASE (3) 4yo+ (Rated 0-130) £20,000 3m5f190y (6010 Metres)

GBI RACING

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

Left handed, galloping with a steady uphill rise from the home turn. Stiff nature often results in steadily-run affairs, especially on the hurdles course, many races really beginning in earnest only once in line for home. As such, races often fail to represent the test of stamina they might, though there's a clear emphasis on jumping over fences, the data suggesting that Newcastle represents one of the stiffest examinations in the country in this regard. A position towards the stand rail in the home straight can be an advantage in hurdles races, no coincidence that's where the senior northern jockeys usually head.

Pace Information: **Very Weak**

1 **KI WOO (FR) (21)** s+t **98**

2P15-12P2 **6** 12-1 | 76.7kg

Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero ***Lewis Saunders*** (5lb/2kg)

Doubled his chasing tally at Cartmel (25f) in May. Back on track with second of 4 in handicap at Kelso (23f) 3 weeks ago. Not out of things eased 1 lb with yard going well.

2 **IMPATIENT (FR) (20)** t **96**

3/425124-1 **8** 11-6 | 72.6kg

Jonjo & A.J. O'Neill ***Jonjo O'Neill Jr.***

Resumed from 9 months off as good as ever with victory in 6-runner handicap chase at Ffos Las (3m, good) 20 days ago. Up 7 lb but very much one to consider on his first go over this trip.

3 **RED DELTA (41)** s **100**

1521306-4 **7** 11-5 | 72.1kg

Fiona Needham ***Brian Hughes***

A dual chase winner last season who also posted an excellent third in Eider Chase over (33f) here. Resumed from 6 months off with a promising fourth behind Passengerontheship at Sedgefield (29f, good) last month. That form has worked out well so he rates a big player.

4 **I WISH YOU (FR) (44)** (BF) s **99**

4/524313-U **6** 11-3 | 71.2kg

Lucinda Russell & Michael Scudamore ***Derek Fox***

Winning hurdler who got off the mark in this sphere at Wetherby (3m) in February. Off 6 months, making an encouraging return (in third) when unseated 3 out in handicap at Perth (3m, soft) last month. Can make his presence felt.

5 **PASSENGERONTHESHIP (IRE) (27)** s+t **98**

15722211 **7** 11-0 | 69.9kg

Sam England ***Harry Skelton***

Rattled off a quick-fire 5-timer in May/June and back on the up with wins in the Durham National at Sedgefield (29f) and 8-runner handicap chase at Carlisle (3¼m, good) recently. Up another 4 lb but not taken lightly in his current mood.

6 **PINOT ROUGE (IRE) (10)** s+t **97**

F5F4-72P4 **8** 10-10 | 68.0kg

Jessica Bedi ***Kevin Healy*** (7lb/3kg)

Hit-and-miss performer who has offered little in 2 runs for her new yard at Galway and Hexham this season. Lots to prove in a headgear change.

6 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

11-4 Impatient, **10-3** I Wish You, **7-2** Passengerontheship, **11-2** Red Delta, **6-1** Ki Woo, **100-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

RED DELTA shaped well when fourth behind Passengerontheship at Sedgefield (boosted form since) on his return and showed his liking for this track when an excellent third in last season's Eider Chase so gets the vote on these revised terms. The latter named rates a big threat though in his hat-trick bid, while Impatient and I Wish You can also play a prominent role in this intriguing handicap.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. RED DELTA 2. PASSENGERONTHESHIP 3. IMPATIENT

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025	**Dom of Mary** 9-11-8	15-2	James Owen	Richie McLernon	9
2024	**Ilikedwayurthinkin** 10-11-8	9-4f	Ben Haslam	Richie McLernon	7

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

12.50 RACE 3

WEATHERBYS AND BIRDIE CALENDARS 'THE FRENCH FURZE' NOVICES' HURDLE (2) 4yo+ £20,000 2¾m (4430 Metres)

GBI RACING

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

Left handed, galloping with a steady uphill rise from the home turn. Stiff nature often results in steadily-run affairs, especially on the hurdles course, many races really beginning in earnest only once in line for home. As such, races often fail to represent the test of stamina they might, though there's a clear emphasis on jumping over fences, the data suggesting that Newcastle represents one of the stiffest examinations in the country in this regard. A position towards the stand rail in the home straight can be an advantage in hurdles races, no coincidence that's where the senior northern jockeys usually head.

Pace Information: **Weak**

1 **GENTLE OCEAN (IRE)** (21) **93**

11 **5** 11-8 | 73.5kg

Nigel & Willy Twiston-Davies — ***Brian Hughes***

Runner-up sole start Irish points. Beat more than he did on Rules debut when following up with an improved success at Kelso (23f), proving more professional/coping well with emphasis on speed. Needs plenty more again to make it a hat-trick in better company.

2 **SPLENDID FELLOW (IRE)** (23) (BF) t **100**

4326-213 **5** 11-8 | 73.5kg

Henry de Bromhead, Ireland — ***B. Hayes***

Steadily-improving 5-y-o from excellent Irish yard. Backed up his Kilbeggan maiden success with an encouraging third (well backed) in a Pertemps Qualifier at Newbury, no impression on a very useful pair (beaten 6¾ lengths). Sets the standard back in maiden company.

3 **DREAM ON MICK (IRE)** (213) **93**

1-P **5** 11-5 | 72.1kg

Philip Kirby — ***Joe Williamson***

Irish point winner who downed a fairly useful type when successful on hurdling debut at Carlisle in April. Now back in calmer waters after being highly tried in Grade 1 company at Punchestown later that month. Still has something to find, though.

4 **ELUSIVE DREAMS (IRE)** (22) **93**

1 **6** 11-5 | 72.1kg

Ann Hamilton — ***Danny McMenamin***

Defied a 13-month absence to follow up his Irish point win in good style at Hexham (2½m) earlier this month. Raw type can improve for this longer trip, without troubling the form principals.

5 **OLD COAST ROAD (IRE)** (21) **99**

21 **5** 11-5 | 72.1kg

Dan Skelton — ***Harry Skelton***

Well-bred individual who won a solid-looking Irish point last November. Found only a front runner with experience too good in a Chepstow bumper prior to dispatching a last-time-out winner in a match on hurdling bow at Aintree (2½m). Improvement to come for top yard and excellent claims to follow up.

6 **BAY RUNNER (IRE)** (28) **90**

2-3 **5** 11-0 | 69.9kg

Lizzie Quinlan — ***Sean Quinlan***

Lightly-raced pointer who was pipped by a next-time-out winner in course bumper. Shaped encouragingly when third on hurdling debut (beaten 2½ lengths) in an above-average race at Ayr (2m) on return. Unexposed over significantly longer trip, though perhaps finds a couple from top stables too classy.

7 **LAUVERGNAT (FR)** (27) **96**

2 **5** 11-0 | 69.9kg

Lucinda Russell & Michael Scudamore — ***Derek Fox***

Imposing staying type who won a point at the second attempt. Pushed a Skelton-trained favourite all the way in a slow-motion finish on hurdling debut at Carlisle (2½m). May find a couple too speedy, even with step up in trip expected to suit.

7 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

5-2 Splendid Fellow, **5-2** Old Coast Road, **13-2** Lauvergnat, **9-1** Gentle Ocean, **10-1** Elusive Dreams, **14-1** Bay Runner, **16-1** Dream On Mick

TIMEFORM VIEW:

A tough call to split OLD COAST ROAD and Splendid Fellow on these terms. Dan Skelton's unbeaten hurdler perhaps has the greater potential and is narrowly preferred to the Irish standard-setter.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. OLD COAST ROAD 2. SPLENDID FELLOW 3. LAUVERGNAT

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025	**Zanndabad** 6-11-5	10-3	A. J. Martin	D. King	8
2024	**Skyjack Hijack** 6-11-8	10-11f	Jennie Candlish	Sean Quinlan	6
2022	**Tiger Jet** 6-11-5	4-1	Brian Ellison	Jonathan Burke	4
2021	**Mr Glass** 5-11-3	5-6f	Paul Nicholls	Sean Bowen	4

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

1.25 RACE 4

SES ENGINEERING POWERING PAST THE REHEARSAL HANDICAP CHASE (PREMIER HANDICAP) (1) 4yo+ £80,000 3m (4830 Metres)

GBI RACING

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

Left handed, galloping with a steady uphill rise from the home turn. Stiff nature often results in steadily-run affairs, especially on the hurdles course, many races really beginning in earnest only once in line for home. As such, races often fail to represent the test of stamina they might, though there's a clear emphasis on jumping over fences, the data suggesting that Newcastle represents one of the stiffest examinations in the country in this regard. A position towards the stand rail in the home straight can be an advantage in hurdles races, no coincidence that's where the senior northern jockeys usually head.

Pace Information: **Even**

1 **IL EST FRANCAIS (FR) (45)** (D) **98**
261/3PPP-5 **8** 12-0 | 76.2kg
Dan Skelton *Harry Skelton*
Shaped like a horse with major problems when pulled up all 3 starts for Tom George last season. However, he's potentially thrown-in on his best form (runner-up in the King George at Kempton in 2024) and he offered plenty to work on starting out for this yard at Ffos Las on return.

2 **KONFUSION (7)** (C, D) **96**
U113F3-5P **8** 11-6 | 72.6kg
Joel Parkinson & Sue Smith *Callum Bewley*
Took his form to another level last season, winning 3 times, notably this race off 18 lb lower and Rowland Meyrick at Wetherby. Looked in need of the run at Aintree on reappearance before out of his depth in the Betfair Chase at Haydock last week.

3 **JORDANS CROSS (IRE) (232)** t **100**
12/1F118B- **6** 11-2 | 70.8kg
Anthony Honeyball *Rex Dingle*
Ended last season out of luck (has since had a breathing operation) but he looked an exciting prospect when recording his third win over fences in Timeform Novices' Handicap at Cheltenham in January. That race typically worked out well and looks set for another good campaign.

4 **FIRST CONFESSION (IRE) (17)** (D) **96**
P/335F10-1 **7** 11-1 | 70.3kg
Joe Tizzard *Dylan Johnston*
Advanced his form sent chasing last season, off the mark at the fifth attempt in maiden at Carlisle. Failed to see out marathon trip at Cheltenham Festival but resumed winning ways in good style dropped back in trip at Bangor on return and remains one to be positive about.

5 **APPLE AWAY (IRE) (27)** (D) **97**
221P/31-62 **9** 10-12 | 68.9kg
Lucinda Russell & Michael Scudamore *Derek Fox*
Useful staying chaser who raced only twice last season, winning 4-runner listed mares event at Perth in April. Well held in Grade 1 hurdle in France the following month, but shaped well over an inadequate trip at Carlisle on return.

6 **KING TURGEON (FR) (22)** (D) s+t **96**
13PP/66F-2 **8** 10-12 | 68.9kg
David Pipe *Rian Corcoran* (5lb/2kg)
Landed a chasing hat-trick in 2024/25 (including a Premier Handicap at Cheltenham) but failed to fire in a light 2025/26 campaign. Made much more of an impact off his reduced mark when second at Aintree on return but task now is to build on that.

7 **CREST OF FORTUNE (27)** s+t **99**
13/24635-2 **6** 10-11 | 68.5kg
Anthony Honeyball *Brian Hughes*
Placed in Grade 1 novice over hurdles and at least as good over fences, though has essentially been overfaced since chase bow last season. However, beaten only by this year's Albert Bartlett winner in maiden at Worcester on return and capable of making an impact back in a handicap. Cheekpieces on.

8 **LAURENS BAY (FR) (314)** (D) **98**
22141/133- **7** 10-11 | 68.5kg
Jamie Snowden *Conor O'Farrell*
Strong at the finish when landing EBF Final over hurdles at Sandown 2 seasons ago. Better form in a light campaign over fences last winter, though again produced a mixed round of jumping when third in Grade 2 novice at Windsor. Potentially on a good mark making handicap debut in this sphere.

9 **INTENSE APPROACH (28)** (D) s **94**
U50-06P21 **7** 10-8 | 67.1kg
John McConnell, Ireland *C. D. Smithers* (5lb/2kg)
Useful winning hurdler/chaser at his best and belatedly back to that level last 2 starts, beating a subsequent winner when scoring at Down Royal 4 weeks ago. Will do well to follow up in a race like this, though.

10 **ALCEDO (IRE) (259)** (C) s **98**
413/9122P- **8** 10-2(10-1) | 64.4kg (64.0kg)
Venetia Williams *Murray Dodd* (5lb/2kg)
Low-mileage 8-y-o who responded well to this headgear when a narrow winner at this meeting last year. Backed that up with runner-up efforts at Doncaster and Warwick before stamina stretched in the Midlands National final start. This trip probably his optimum and yard has good record in this.

10 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

5-1 Jordans Cross, **7-1** Il Est Francais, **7-1** Apple Away, **8-1** Crest of Fortune, **17-2** Laurens Bay, **9-1** First Confession, **10-1** Alcedo, **12-1** King Turgeon, **14-1** Konfusion, **18-1** Intense Approach

TIMEFORM VIEW:

Anthony Honeyball holds a solid hand here with JORDANS CROSS and Crest of Fortune, the former taken to get back on track with the form of his Cheltenham win at the start of the year proving strong. Venetia Williams has a good record in this, so Alcedo is another to consider having won at this meeting 12 months ago.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. JORDANS CROSS 2. CREST OF FORTUNE 3. ALCEDO

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025	**Konfusion** 7-10-1	3-1	Joel Parkinson & Sue Smith	Callum Bewley	8
2024	**Frero Banbou** 9-10-9	17-2	Venetia Williams	Ned Fox (5)	13
2022	**L'Homme Presse** 7-12-0	6-4f	Venetia Williams	Charlie Deutsch	9
2021	**Aye Right** 8-11-5	5-1	Harriet Graham	Callum Bewley	12

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

2.00 RACE 5

BOWMER AND KIRKLAND WE BUILD AS ONE FIGHTING FIFTH HURDLE (Grade 1) (1) 4yo+ £120,000 2m190y (3390 Metres)

GBI RACING

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

Left handed, galloping with a steady uphill rise from the home turn. Stiff nature often results in steadily-run affairs, especially on the hurdles course, many races really beginning in earnest only once in line for home. As such, races often fail to represent the test of stamina they might, though there's a clear emphasis on jumping over fences, the data suggesting that Newcastle represents one of the stiffest examinations in the country in this regard. A position towards the stand rail in the home straight can be an advantage in hurdles races, no coincidence that's where the senior northern jockeys usually head.

Pace Information: **Very Weak**

1 **ALEXEI (GER)** (21) (D) t **100**

2113143-1 **6** 11-10 | 74.4kg

Joe Tizzard — *Jonjo O'Neill Jr.*

Highly progressive when landing the Greatwood Hurdle/Kingwell last season. Didn't look out of place in Grade 1 company subsequently, finishing a place ahead of Golden Ace at both Cheltenham and Aintree. The one to beat following a decisive Grade 2 success on return at Aintree earlier this month.

2 **INDEMNITY (IRE)** (28) (D) **89**

2341-0262 **6** 11-10 | 74.4kg

Emma Lavelle — *Brian Hughes*

Top-end handicapper. Better than ever when second in a solid 11-runner event at Ascot last time, having chased home Alexei in the corresponding race 12 months prior. Step into Grade 1 company surely a bridge too far.

3 **MINELLA STUDY** (233) (D) **88**

11138- **4** 11-10 | 74.4kg

Adam Nicol — *Ryan Mania*

Progressive 4-y-o. Bidding for a hat-trick when cracking third in the Triumph at Cheltenham in March. Evidently still feeling those exertions at Aintree the following month. Connections roll the dice on return, and he has plenty to find on first start against his elders.

4 **MYDADDYPADDY (IRE)** (263) (D) **98**

1/1123- **5** 11-10 | 74.4kg

Dan Skelton — *Harry Skelton*

Most progressive for top yard last season. Comprehensively proved his second in the Formby didn't do him justice when 1½ lengths third to Old Park Star in the Supreme at Cheltenham. Open to further improvement and doesn't have much to find with the likes of Alexei.

5 **NEMEAN LION (GER)** (308) t **96**

2111P/342- **9** 11-10 | 74.4kg

Kerry Lee — *Conor O'Farrell*

Likeable sort. Did all he could when 1¾ lengths third to Golden Ace in last year's renewal of this race. Typically gave his running when no match for The New Lion in the International at Cheltenham in January. Likely to come up short again, even if connections opt to make more use of his stamina.

6 **GOLDEN ACE** (37) (CD, BF) s **99**

221254-23 **8** 11-3 | 71.2kg

Jeremy Scott — *Lorcan Williams*

Smart mare. Avoided misfortune when landing 2025 renewal of this race. As good as ever behind Lossiemouth at Punchestown (back in cheekpieces here) prior to an encouraging comeback third to Wilful at Carlisle. Yard only one winner in last 9 months, though, and a repeat success may just pass her by.

6 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

11-8 Alexei, **7-4** Mydaddypaddy, **5-1** Golden Ace, **25-1** Nemean Lion, **25-1** Minella Study, **100-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

A good opportunity for ALEXEI to land a breakthrough Grade 1 success. Last year's winner of this race Golden Ace was held by Joe Tizzard's charge during the spring, and it could be improving Mydaddypaddy that gives the selection most to think about.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. ALEXEI 2. MYDADDYPADDY 3. GOLDEN ACE

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025	**Golden Ace** 7-11-3	22-1	Jeremy Scott	Lorcan Williams	5
2024	**Sir Gino** 4-11-10	6-5jf	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boinville	7
2022	**Constitution Hill** 5-11-10	1-4f	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boinville	5
2021	**Not So Sleepy** 9-11-7	18-1	Hughie Morrison	Jonathan Burke	6
	Epatante 7-11-0	11-8f	Nicky Henderson	Aidan Coleman	6

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

2.35 RACE 6

RYDER & CUNDALL DESIGNED TO GO THE DISTANCE HANDICAP HURDLE (3) 3yo+ (Rated 0-130) £25,000 2½m62y (4080 Metres)

GBI RACING

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

Left handed, galloping with a steady uphill rise from the home turn. Stiff nature often results in steadily-run affairs, especially on the hurdles course, many races really beginning in earnest only once in line for home. As such, races often fail to represent the test of stamina they might, though there's a clear emphasis on jumping over fences, the data suggesting that Newcastle represents one of the stiffest examinations in the country in this regard. A position towards the stand rail in the home straight can be an advantage in hurdles races, no coincidence that's where the senior northern jockeys usually head.

Pace Information: **Even**

1 **TIDDESLEY WOOD (49)** (D, BF) t **99**
36/31341-4 **6** 12-0 | 76.2kg
Adrian Keatley — ***Brian Hughes***
Capped a promising novice hurdle season with victory at Kempton on final start for Fergal O'Brien in March. Type to do well over fences so chase bow for in-form yard at Hexham on return was most disappointing. Better expected back over hurdles with usual tongue strap re-fitted.

2 **TASHKHAN (IRE) (266)** (D) **98**
13534- **8** 11-12 | 75.3kg
Brian Ellison — ***Sean Quinlan***
Useful stayer on Flat at best and made a winning start over hurdles at Hexham last winter. Mixed record since with his third in Grade 2 novice at Haydock in February being the standout. Fit from the Flat ahead of return to this sphere but ideally needs further than this.

3 **THE KALOOKI KID (14)** (C, D) **98**
118/456P-2 **8** 11-12 | 75.3kg
Nicky Richards — ***Danny McMenamin***
Potentially thrown-in on best chase form and he returned with a solid second back hurdling at Wetherby 2 weeks ago, beaten only by a well-backed handicap debutant from the Gordon Elliott yard.

4 **CANNOCK PARK (168)** h **98**
5445/0-R **8** 11-6 | 72.6kg
Ewan Whillans — ***Callum Bewley***
Promising start to his career is increasingly a distant memory and one to leave alone (refused to race or virtually did last 2 starts).

5 **BRACE FOR LANDING (IRE) (23)** (CD) **98**
42/3550-1 **5** 11-5 | 72.1kg
Dan Skelton — ***Harry Skelton***
Made the frame both starts in France. Yet to improve for current yard, though he made a winning return in C&D maiden early this month.

6 **LAS CANALS (FR) (29)** (D) **99**
13/911-1 **5** 11-5 | 72.1kg
Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero — ***Jonjo O'Neill Jr.***
Bumper winner in France. Left yard debut behind to win last 3 starts, improving again when making a winning return at Uttoxeter last month. Can make another bold bid.

7 **CAPTAIN BUTLER (IRE) (225)** (C) **98**
15/26454P- **8** 11-5 | 72.1kg
Ruth Jefferson — ***Jamie Hamilton***
Bumper/maiden hurdle winner for Pauline Robson. Mostly creditable efforts in defeat in handicap hurdles/chases last season but he's summed up by his mark as a result.

8 **CAVE BRIDGE (IRE) (23)** ★ **100**
11-6 **6** 11-3 | 71.2kg
Harry Derham — ***Ryan Mania***
Irish point winner who won a pair of novices this time last year, looking more polished when defying a penalty at Wetherby. Shaped well following 12 months off when sixth of 16 at Newbury on handicap bow early this month and has more to offer over this longer trip.

9 **DREAM'S KA (FR) (21)** (D) t **98**
7-2121814 **4** 11-2 | 70.8kg
Katie Scott — ***Conor O'Farrell***
Twice a winner for Dan Skelton in early summer. Made a successful start for this yard at Kelso in September and better form when fourth off revised mark there 3 weeks ago.

10 **KOOL RAOUL (FR) (22)** (D) **96**
235785-11 **6** 10-13 | 69.4kg
Lucinda Russell & Michael Scudamore — ***Derek Fox***
Was a long-standing maiden but has returned in top form, winning both his starts at Hexham, scoring with such authority last time that a hat-trick certainly can't be ruled out despite being 6 lb higher in stronger race.

10 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

10-3 Las Canals, **5-1** Brace For Landing, **6-1** Kool Raoul, **13-2** The Kalooki Kid, **15-2** Cave Bridge, **11-1** Tiddesley Wood, **12-1** Dream's Ka, **33-1** Tashkhan, **33-1** Captain Butler, **125-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

CAVE BRIDGE made an encouraging handicap debut after 12 months off when sixth in a big field at Newbury and could be the answer with this longer trip expected to suit. The Kalooki Kid was rather unlucky to bump into one back in this sphere at Wetherby so rates the main threat ahead of the progressive Las Canals.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. CAVE BRIDGE 2. THE KALOOKI KID 3. LAS CANALS

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025	**Serious Operator** 8-10-12	9-4f	Lucinda Russell & Michael Scudamore	Patrick Wadge	6

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

3.18 RACE 7

JODIE STANDING'S POINT-TO-POINT RECRUITS HANDICAP CHASE (Qualifier) (4) 4yo+ (Rated 0-120) £15,000 2½m19y (4040 Metres)

GBI RACING

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

Left handed, galloping with a steady uphill rise from the home turn. Stiff nature often results in steadily-run affairs, especially on the hurdles course, many races really beginning in earnest only once in line for home. As such, races often fail to represent the test of stamina they might, though there's a clear emphasis on jumping over fences, the data suggesting that Newcastle represents one of the stiffest examinations in the country in this regard. A position towards the stand rail in the home straight can be an advantage in hurdles races, no coincidence that's where the senior northern jockeys usually head.

Pace Information: **Weak**

1 **GENOIS (FR) (29)** s **98**
1212-P4UP **10** 12-2 | 77.1kg
Jonjo & A.J. O'Neill — ***Jonjo O'Neill Jr.***
Strong-staying type was still operating at fairly useful level when scoring twice last season. Only 1 lb above last winning mark following lacklustre effort in a much stronger race at Wetherby latest. Needs a market check (same connections landed gamble with similar type earlier in week).

2 **ALBIE LITTLEWOOD (IRE) (38)** (D) ★ **100**
86511-1 **7** 12-0 | 76.2kg
Dan Skelton — ***Harry Skelton***
Strong-travelling 7-y-o who made it 3-3 in handicaps with an impressive display on chasing debut at Worcester last month. Proving highly progressive for top yard and likely to stay ahead of handicapper for a while yet (withdrawn at Wetherby on Wednesday in favour of this).

3 **AUTHORIZED MISSION (253)** (C) **97**
7159/1295- **6** 11-9 | 73.9kg
Nicky Richards — ***Danny McMenamin***
Hacked up in Kelso handicap hurdle on reappearance/stable debut last season. Off appreciably higher marks when failing to see out his race on either start in early-2026. Likely to have benefited from a break ahead of his chasing debut (bred for it) and weighted to be competitive if back on song.

4 **LOOKING SPLENDID (23)** (CD) **99**
113612-31 **8** 11-9 | 73.9kg
Gary Rutherford — ***Dylan Johnston***
Has developed into a bold front-running chaser. Made it 2 wins from 4 starts over fences when beating a next-time-out winner over C&D on return. Should be able to get to the lead here and another good account is expected off 6 lb higher.

5 **GLORY AND HONOUR (IRE) (15)** (CD) b+t ☑ **96**
14723632 **10** 11-4 | 71.7kg
Sam England — ***Jamie Hamilton***
Fair veteran with form figures of 212 over fences at this track (victory in 2024 renewal of this race). Back on his latest winning mark when no match for a less-exposed sort late on at Sedgefield (21f) last time. Probably vulnerable in a deeper race for the grade here.

6 **HEADS OR HARPS (44)** **96**
21/62322-7 **9** 11-0 | 69.9kg
Lucinda Russell & Michael Scudamore — ***Derek Fox***
Frustrating sort who proved expensive to follow last season. On a handy mark if putting it all together, though any confidence tempered by an underwhelming reappearance (when much easier to back) at Perth (25/1) last month.

7 **DIAMOND MIX (IRE) (22)** **98**
7251/13-22 **7** 11-0 | 69.9kg
Ewan Whillans — ***Callum Bewley***
Dual winner over 2m at Hexham for Paul Robson. Shaped as if in good form when 6½ lengths second over the same C&D on reappearance, no impression on well-backed winner. More seasoned horse than when previously tried over this trip and worth a look on second start for a capable yard.

8 **BALLYFORT (IRE) (35)** h+t **97**
9/131622-2 **8** 10-12 | 68.9kg
N. W. Alexander — ***Bruce Lynn***
Doubled last season's tally in a weak Ayr handicap in January. Unable to make it successive winning reappearances when 14 lengths behind Treaty Boy (held when mistake last) at Kelso, despite shaping as if as good as ever. A handful look better treated here.

9 **TREATY BOY (IRE) (23)** (CD) t ☑ **97**
4354-41F1 **9** 10-8 | 67.1kg
Stuart Coltherd — ***Sean Quinlan***
Fell a long way in weights during quiet 2025/6 for yard. Duly capitalised by winning in good style twice this autumn, again travelling smoothly when scoring over C&D last time. A 7 lb rise probably enough to prevent a follow up.

9 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

3-1 Albie Littlewood, **13-2** Looking Splendid, **7-1** Diamond Mix, **8-1** Treaty Boy, **9-1** Ballyfort, **10-1** Genois, **10-1** Glory And Honour, **12-1** Authorized Mission, **16-1** Heads Or Harps

TIMEFORM VIEW:

Progressive ALBIE LITTLEWOOD is fancied to bring up the 4-timer for the Skeltons. Looking Splendid and Diamond Mix both appeal as solid dangers, while class-dropper Genois needs a close look in the betting.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. ALBIE LITTLEWOOD 2. LOOKING SPLENDID 3. DIAMOND MIX

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025	**Alcedo** 7-12-0	8-1	Venetia Williams	Ned Fox (5)	10
2024	**Glory And Honour** 8-11-12	7-2jf	Sam England	Jonathan England	9
2022	**Baron de Midleton** 9-11-6	8-1	Brian Ellison	Jonathan Burke	7
2021	**Scene Not Herd** 6-11-11	15-8f	Charlie Longsdon	Jonathan Burke	10

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race