

Saturday 14th December

DONCASTER



11.55 bet365 NOVICES' HURDLE (3) 2m3f88y (3900 Metres)

RACE 1 **(1) HORACES PEARL | (6) OFF THE JURY | (3) JAX JUNIOR**

12.25 bet365 NOVICES' LIMITED HANDICAP CHASE (3) 2m3f31y (3850 Metres)

RACE 2 **(2) BUCKSY DES EPEIRES | (4) THE KALOOKI KID | (1) CLASSIC KING**

12.55 NEVER ORDINARY AT bet365 HANDICAP CHASE (Qualifier) (4) 2m78y (3290 Metres)

RACE 3 **(3) NO RISK WITH LOU | (4) SNOWY CLOUDS | (7) FIRST ANGEL**

1.30 BET BOOST AT bet365 HANDICAP HURDLE (4) 3m84y (4900 Metres)

RACE 4 **(5) FIERCE WARRIOR | (7) ADVERAM | (6) JETEYE**

2.05 bet365 HANDICAP CHASE (2) 2m7f214y (4820 Metres)

RACE 5 **(12) GABORIOT | (5) FORWARD PLAN | (2) DOES HE KNOW**

2.40 bet365 DONCASTER MARES' HURDLE (Listed) (1) 3m84y (4900 Metres)

RACE 6 **(3) WEST BALBOA | (1) GALE MAHLER | (2) OTTIZZINI**

3.15 bet365 HANDICAP HURDLE (2) 2m128y (3340 Metres)

RACE 7 **(7) DEPLOY TO SPY | (3) ALTOBELLI | (4) NORMAN FLETCHER**

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.

11.55**bet365 NOVICES' HURDLE (3) 4yo+ £10,700 2m3f88y
(3900 Metres)**

RACE 1

GBI RACINGGoing: **Chase course: Good to Soft (Good in places), Hurdles course: Good to Soft (Soft 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 HORACES PEARL (FR) (21) 91**

1/11-1 6 11-6 | 72.6kg

Fergal O'Brien

Connor Brace

One of the best around in bumpers last season, signing off with a Grade 2 win at Aintree, and proved a class apart on Huntingdon hurdling debut (15.8f, soft) 3 weeks ago. Open to significant improvement.

2 FORSA BAY (IRE) (14) 82

0-7 4 11-0 | 69.9kg

L J Morgan

Brian Hughes

Well held sole outing in bumpers and never figured on hurdling debut after 10 months off at Newcastle 2 weeks ago. Probably a staying chaser of the future.

3 JAX JUNIOR (43) 39

023-7 5 11-0 | 69.9kg

Lucy Wadham

Tom Cannon

Fair form when placed on 2 of 3 starts in bumpers. Finished well held on Uttoxeter hurdling debut at the start of last month but probably needed the run. Has had a breathing operation since.

4 MAXIBOY DAGROSTIS (FR) (20) 72

07 5 11-0 | 69.9kg

Richard Hobson

Danny McMenamin

Placed both starts in points but well beaten in a maiden/novice hurdle under Rules.

5 NUBE DE TRUENO (IRE) (22) 68

0 5 11-0 | 69.9kg

Dan Skelton

Fergus Gillard

Proved very green when well held in a maiden hurdle at Chepstow (19.4f, good, 40/1) on debut 22 days ago and surely one for the longer term.

6 OFF THE JURY (IRE) (35) 100

243-2 5 11-0 | 69.9kg

Alan King

Mr David Maxwell

Point winner in Ireland and fair form when reaching the frame in 3 bumpers earlier in the year. Promising second to a decent prospect on hurdling bow at Aintree (2½m, good) last month and should make a bold bid to go one better here.

7 THIRTY BOB (IRE) (63) 73

4 4 11-0 | 69.9kg

Dianne Sayer

Henry Brooke

£44,000 3-y-o, Leading Light gelding. Half-brother to 3 winners, including useful hurdler/very smart staying chaser Lake View Lad (by Oscar). Hit the frame without shaping particularly well in a Hexham bumper on debut in October.

8 BRIERY BUTTERFLY (51) 73

99-9 5 10-7 | 66.7kg

Henry Daly

Stan Sheppard 

Unplaced in a couple of bumpers at big tracks and looks more one for later on based on October's Ludlow hurdling debut.

9 KENMYA (FR) (22) 47

95 4 10-7 | 66.7kg

Dan Skelton

Kielan Woods

A fair 5-time winner on Flat in France (stays 10f) but has offered little both starts back over hurdles.

9 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:**8-11** Horaces Pearl, **15-8** Off The Jury, **18-1** Jax Junior, **40-1** bar**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

HORACES PEARL and Off The Jury look set to dominate, with preference for the former, who proved a class apart on his recent Huntingdon hurdling debut and has scope for major progress based on his good-quality bumper form. Jax Junior could be the one to fill the places.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**1. HORACES PEARL 2. OFF THE JURY 3. JAX JUNIOR****WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2023	Lucky Place 4-11-0	6-1	Nicky Henderson	James Bowen	17
2022	Tommy Cullen 4-11-0	10-11f	Charlie Longsdon	Jack Quinlan	4
2021	Mucho Mas 5-10-12	5-1	Ben Pauling	Kielan Woods	8

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

12.25**bet365 NOVICES' LIMITED HANDICAP CHASE (3) 4yo+
(Rated 0-130) £35,000 2m3f31y (3850 Metres)**

RACE 2

Going: **Chase course: Good to Soft (Good in places), Hurdles course: Good to Soft (Soft 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 CLASSIC KING (IRE) (14) (CD) 99
222F2-U81 6 11-10 | 74.4kg



Emma Lavelle

Richard Patrick

Fairly useful novice hurdler last season who left previous efforts in this sphere well behind when winning 5-runner C&D handicap 14 days ago, overcoming 2 serious late errors in the process. Jumping remains a concern but he has the chance to improve further.

2 BUCKSY DES EPEIRES (FR) (22) (D) 100
2/124F92-1 5 11-9 | 73.9kg



Venetia Williams

Ned Fox (5lb/2kg)

Ended last term with a good second over hurdles and improved immediately for switch to chasing/after 8 months off when taking 4-runner handicap at Ascot (18.8f) 3 weeks ago, with bit in hand. Rider takes off handy 5 lb and big shout with prospect of more to come.

3 LORD OF CHESHIRE (FR) (31) (D) 96
12F7-18 7 11-9 | 73.9kg



Nigel Twiston-Davies

James Turner (5lb/2kg)

Overcame some mistakes to make a winning chasing debut in 4-runner handicap at Fontwell (19.5f, good to soft) in October. However, found things tougher when finishing midfield at Bangor (20.3f) 31 days ago and others appeal more for win purposes.

4 THE KALOOKI KID (42) (BF) 97
7/311485-2 6 11-7 | 73.0kg



Nicky Richards

Danny McMenamin

Dual winner of novice hurdles who shaped well after 7 months off when second on handicap chase bow at Ayr (16.5f) 6 weeks ago, staying on well having conceded first run. Return to this longer trip rates a plus and he merits consideration.

5 HIDALGO DE L'ISLE (FR) (28) 98
24-301242 7 11-4 | 71.7kg



Donald McCain

Brian Hughes

Dual hurdles winner who showed improved form to make a winning chase debut at Newton Abbot (16.3f) in August and similar form all 3 starts since, left with lot to do when runner-up at Wetherby (15.1f) 4 weeks ago.

6 SEA INVASION (IRE) (26) (BF) 94
353413-2 6 11-2 | 70.8kg



Anthony Honeyball

Rex Dingle

Steadily progressive over hurdles for Chris Gordon last season and bright start for new yard behind a more experienced rival when second in 3-runner handicap chase at Plumpton (19.8f) 26 days ago. Open to improvement with that under his belt.

7 PARK ANNONCIADE (FR) (21) (D) 97
11465-PF7 6 10-11 | 68.5kg



Stuart Crawford, Ireland

Sean Flanagan

Useful Irish hurdler who has yet to complete in 2 tries chasing but there has been promise and she lines up here having not been seen to best effect back over hurdles at Haydock 3 weeks ago. Remains open to improvement back in this sphere.

8 PINNACLE PEAK (28) 75
P63/1414-0 9 10-9 | 67.6kg



Martin Keighley

James Best

Productive over hurdles during a light 2023 campaign, winning twice prior to a sound fourth in big-field handicap at Cheltenham (21f). Likely needed first start for 12 months back at that venue in November but he didn't convince in 2 previous chase tries earlier in his career.

9 BOLD REACTION (FR) (28) 96
3526/220-3 7 10-9 | 67.6kg



Charles & Adam Pogson

Paul O'Brien

Bumper winner who was fair over hurdles for Nicky Henderson. Creditable start for new yard/after 7 months off when third of 4 on handicap chase debut at Wetherby (15.2f, good) 4 weeks ago but his task is to build on that back up in trip. Tongue strap on 1st time.

BETTING FORECAST:

3-1 Bucky Des Epeires, **5-1** Classic King, **11-2** Sea Invasion, **13-2** The Kalooki Kid, **9-1** Hidalgo De L'isle, **14-1** Park Annonciade, **14-1** Lord of Cheshire, **14-1** Bold Reaction, **18-1** Pinnacle Peak

TIMEFORM VIEW:

BUCKSY DES EPEIRES made the perfect start over fences when landing a small-field contest at Ascot 3 weeks ago and, very much appealing as the type to go on improving in this sphere, Venetia Williams' 5-y-o is fancied to make another bold bid. The Kalooki Kid is another open to improvement in this sphere and he's feared. Recent C&D winner Classic King and Sea Invasion are others worth a look.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. BUCKSY DES EPEIRES 2. THE KALOOKI KID 3. CLASSIC KING

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2023 **Glory And Honour** 7-11-2 14-1 Sam England Jonathan England 9

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

12.55**NEVER ORDINARY AT bet365 HANDICAP CHASE (Qualifier)
(4) 4yo+ (Rated 0-120) £8,900 2m78y (3290 Metres)**

RACE 3

GBI RACINGGoing: **Chase course: Good to Soft (Good in places), Hurdles course: Good to Soft (Soft 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: **Strong**

1 EL BORRACHO (IRE) (35) (D) t **98**
34-044365 9 12-2 | 77.1kg



Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero

Henry Brooke

Become well handicapped but not scored for some time and seems in a lull at the moment.

2 SIR TIVO (FR) (50) (CD) s+t **96**
3-985424P 10 12-2 | 77.1kg



Gary Hanmer

J. Hogan (3lb/1kg)

C&D winner but pulled up in handicap chase at Cheltenham (15.9f, good) 50 days ago. Headgear on and has a bit to prove.

3 NO RISK WITH LOU (FR) (15) (D) h **100**
95/6135-1U 7 12-0 | 76.2kg



Alex Hales

Kielan Woods

Point/hurdles winner who took chase record to 2-4 and enhanced good record fresh in process when winning 6-runner handicap chase at Huntingdon (16.5f, good) on seasonal bow. Seemed in the process of building on that when unseating over C&D 2 weeks ago so worth another chance.

4 SNOWY CLOUDS (IRE) (603) (BF) **99**
1311F/ 8 11-10 | 74.4kg



Nicky Richards

Danny McMenamin

Progressive winning chaser in early 2023 but he's been off for 20 months since taking a heavy fall 3 out at Ayr when looking the likely winner. Potentially well handicapped on this belated comeback and market should reveal expectations.

5 STORMIN CROSSGALES (IRE) (15) (D) **89**
P6-125444 7 11-10 | 74.4kg



Charles & Adam Pogson

Richard Patrick

Unreliable sort for Tom George and just respectable efforts both starts for this yard. More is needed.

6 CAPTAIN IVAN (IRE) (47) (D) t **91**
6413/114-7 10 11-4 | 71.7kg



Ewan Whillans

Brian Hughes

Has won 3 of his last 6 starts but offered little starting out for a new yard after 16 months off (formerly with L J Morgan) at Ayr in October.

7 FIRST ANGEL (FR) (478) s **98**
324/1231- 8 11-1 | 70.3kg



Martin Keighley

James Best

Drew a blank for Laura Morgan but struck at the first time of asking for present yard at Stratford in May 2023. Beaten favourite next 2 starts but back to winning ways in first-time cheekpieces at Stratford (17f, good) when last seen 15 months ago. Betting can guide on return.

8 MOUNT GALLION (IRE) (22) **92**
8551P-26U 6 11-0 | 69.9kg



Mark Walford

Stan Sheppard

Lightly raced in points and fair form when making breakthrough over hurdles in a Huntingdon maiden (15.8f) in March. Below that level on 2 of his 3 starts since but was still in touch when unseating rider 2 out on chase bow at Catterick 3 weeks ago.

9 TOMMY CULLEN (IRE) (364) (C) h **97**
63175/742- 6 10-13 | 69.4kg



Matt Crawley

Jack Quinlan

Hurdles winner here 2 years ago and best effort over fences last season when second in this race when last seen. Has since left Charlie Longsdon. Hood on 1st time.

9 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

7-2 No Risk With Lou, **9-2** Snowy Clouds, **9-2** First Angel, **6-1** Mount Gallion, **9-1** Tommy Cullen, **14-1** El Borracho, **18-1** Stormin Crossgales, **25-1** Sir Tivo, **28-1** Captain Ivan

TIMEFORM VIEW:

NO RISK WITH LOU seemed in the process of building on his winning comeback when departing 4 out over C&D 2 weeks ago so remains of strong interest. Snowy Clouds and First Angel both have an absence to defy but are potentially on nice marks if retaining their ability.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. NO RISK WITH LOU 2. SNOWY CLOUDS 3. FIRST ANGEL

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2023 **Onemorefortheroad** 8-12-2 9-2 Neil King Jack Quinlan 9

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

1.30**BET BOOST AT bet365 HANDICAP HURDLE (4) 3yo+ (Rated 0-115) £7,700 3m84y (4900 Metres)**



RACE 4

GBI RACINGGoing: **Chase course: Good to Soft (Good in places), Hurdles course: Good to Soft (Soft 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 ERNEST GRAY (IRE) (24) (CD) v  **96**
3/7142-652 7 12-2 | 77.1kg

 Alan King  **Tom Cannon**
Won 3m handicap chase at Southwell in January but ran another moody race back there in May and again looked hard work returned to hurdling at Exeter a month ago. Shaped better when second at Warwick 24 days ago but hung left that day and flattered by proximity to winner. Chance if on a going day.


2 CLOUD DANCER (IRE) (24) s **98**
71/3328-24 5 11-13 | 75.7kg

 Gary & Josh Moore **Caolin Quinn**
Well backed and shaped encouragingly after 5 months off when second of 8 in handicap hurdle at Fontwell (17.7f, good) in September, closing all way to line. Failed to build on that promise when below par at Warwick 24 days ago. Step up to 3m could help but needs to bring out some improvement.


3 VELASCO (IRE) (35) (CD) s+t **95**
711P1-456 8 11-12 | 75.3kg

 Susan Corbett **Nathan Moscrop**
C&D winner. Thrived towards the end of last season, winning three times at up to 3m. Shaped as if needing the run after 6 months off when fourth at Hexham (23.3f in October, prior to slipping up a circuit out at Newcastle (23.7f). Well held at Kelso 35 days ago and plenty to prove now.



4 MIDNIGHTREFLECTION (21) (CD) s  **97**
16857-P84 9 11-12 | 75.3kg

 Ben Case **Mr Charlie Case (71b/3kg)**
C&D winner who built on comeback run when fourth of 8 at Ascot over 3m three weeks ago. Possibly not the force of old but well-treated if rediscovering her best form.


5 FIERCE WARRIOR (IRE) (221)  **100**
5/1515-7 5 11-6 | 72.6kg

 Nicky Henderson **Paul O'Brien**
Interesting contender with a standout effort over hurdles (beat smart sort from Alan King Yard at Plumpton in December over 2m 4 furlongs). Possible excuses last twice and remains unexposed now stepped up in trip.

6 JETEYE (IRE) (15) (BF) v+t  **96**
71974223 7 11-1 | 70.3kg

 Sam England  **Jonathan England**
Has developed into a consistent sort, hitting the frame on last 4 runs, Ran over C&D latest and posted another respectable effort. Should go well again.

7 ADVERAM (25) s **98**
792633-14 5 10-10 | 68.0kg

 Ian Duncan **Brian Hughes**
Winless last term but proved consistent and deservedly opened his hurdles account on return at Ayr. Shaped better than the distance beaten suggested from 4 lb higher (fortunate not to hit the deck after 2 out) at Carlisle (24.6f, good to soft) last month so fancied to be in the mix.

7 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

7-2 Adveram, **4-1** Fierce Warrior, **4-1** Jeteye, **5-1** Ernest Gray, **15-2** Cloud Dancer, **9-1** Midnightreflection, **33-1** Velasco

TIMEFORM VIEW:

A trappy event in which a few have decent claims. A chance is taken on FIERCE WARRIOR who posted a standout effort at Plumpton in December, and with possible excuses the last twice, he remains of interest now upped in trip. Adveram was unlucky not to finish closer last time and he should go well again. The consistent Jeteye should also be in the mix.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. FIERCE WARRIOR 2. ADVERAM 3. JETEYE

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

2.05

**bet365 HANDICAP CHASE (2) 4yo+ (Rated 0-150)
£50,000 2m7f214y (4820 Metres)**

RACE 5



Going: **Chase course: Good to Soft (Good in places), Hurdles course: Good to Soft (Soft 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 ELVIS MAIL (FR) (49) t **97**
1/17371P-1 **10** 12-0 | 76.2kg

N. W. Alexander **Bruce Lynn**
Rather hit-and-miss last term but still managed to win twice and continued his love affair with Kelso (yet to finish out of the frame in 14 visits to the track) when making a successful reappearance in typically game fashion there (26.2f, good to soft) in October. 3 lb rise fair but this is tougher.

2 DOES HE KNOW (27) (C, D) s **98**
3/P451P-44 **9** 12-0 | 76.2kg

Kim Bailey **Ciaran Gethings**
Smart chaser who returned to form when landing the Grimthorpe in first-time cheekpieces here during the spring. Respectable efforts in valuable Cheltenham handicaps both starts this season and he has to enter calculations for the yard responsible for the winner of this in both 2020 and 2021.

3 KINONDO KWETU (14) (D) t **97**
0-PP112P5 **8** 11-5 | 72.1kg

Sam England **Jonathan England**
Back on-song when bagging handicaps at Uttoxeter and Worcester during the summer. Followed that brace with a solid second at Perth in September and by no means disgraced in the Rehearsal Chase at Newcastle (23.4f, good) recently. However, a clear career-best will be needed if he's to take this.

4 CHASING FIRE (49) (D) s **98**
3/14U421-7 **7** 11-4 | 71.7kg

Ollly Murphy **Brian Hughes**
Notched second success over fences when accounting for 5 rivals in 23.8f Perth handicap on final run of last season. Effort proved short-lived on return at Cheltenham in October but that spin will have blown away the cobwebs and perhaps the addition of cheekpieces here will help give him a lift.

5 FORWARD PLAN (IRE) (35) (CD) t **100**
32/61213-4 **8** 11-2 | 70.8kg

Anthony Honeyball **Ben Godfrey**
Progressive chaser who landed this race off 12 lb lower last year on the back of a pipe-opener in the Badger Beer at Wincanton. Follows the exact same route this time round and another very bold show could be on the way.

6 KITTY'S LIGHT (21) (D) **91**
05759-69P **8** 11-2 | 70.8kg

Christian Williams **Richard Patrick**
Scottish National hero in 2022/23 and an excellent fifth in Grand National last term. Well held all 3 runs so far this season, though, and it could be that his campaign is again being fine-tuned around another trip to Aintree during the spring.

7 SAIL AWAY (FR) (37) (D) t **91**
56449-PPF **8** 11-1 | 70.3kg

Dan Skelton **Fergus Gillard**
Dual winner on good ground in 2022/23 and shaped well on several occasions in defeat last term. However, ran poorly on return at Chepstow in October and, though yet to be asked for this effort when falling 4 out at Newbury since, this 8-y-o now has a bit to prove.

8 PULL AGAIN GREEN (IRE) (31) (D) t **97**
P4-703322 **8** 11-0 | 69.9kg

Fergal O'Brien **J. Hogan (3lb/1kg)**
Just the one success over fences so far, namely a Bangor handicap back in 2023, but it's hard to fault his string of place efforts since returning from a short break in August. Probably doesn't hold any secrets from the handicapper but he's a solid each-way candidate nonetheless.

9 STRAW FAN JACK (28) s **99**
44/23036-8 **9** 10-13 | 69.4kg

Sheila Lewis **Sean Houlihan**
Smart form as a novice and standout effort of an otherwise low-key campaign last season was his fine third in the 20.6f Plate at the Cheltenham Festival. Ran about as well as could've been expected when 6 lb 'wrong' on return in the Paddy Power there last month. Stamina to prove now upped to 3m.

10 ERNE RIVER (IRE) (31) (CD) b **90**
8/0P15P-PP **9** 10-11 | 68.5kg

Nick Kent **Tom Broughton (5lb/2kg)**
Responded well to the first-time cheekpieces when scoring over C&D last December before finishing fifth of 18 in the Great Yorkshire Handicap back here the following month. Pulled up all 3 starts since but it'll be interesting to see if the new headgear (first-time blinkers) has the desired effect.

11 WHISTLEINTHEDARK (IRE) (167) **97**
1/84809-98 **9** 10-9 | 67.6kg

L J Morgan **Harry Reed**
Winner of 4 of his 11 starts in this sphere and wasn't beaten at all far when fourth to Forward Plan off a 12 lb higher mark in this race last year. Dangerous to discount on that basis but it's been a struggle for the most part since.

12 GABORIOT (FR) (35) (CD) s **99**
1131U-113 **8** 10-7 | 66.7kg

Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero **Henry Brooke**
Superb strike rate in recent times, scoring 5 times since October 2023 (3 hunters and a couple of open handicaps). Nothing wrong with his reappearance third of 13 in the Grand Sefton at Aintree (21f, good) last month and it's not at all hard to envisage this C&D winner playing a leading role.

13 BALLYCOOSE (IRE) (21) t **96**
421242-7 **7** 10-6 | 66.2kg

Stuart Crawford, Ireland **Sean Flanagan**
Successful start over fences at Ayr in January and runner-up on 2 of his next 3 starts, notably second in a pretty valuable handicap when returned to Ayr for the Scottish National meeting. However, he didn't show much spark on his seasonal reappearance at Punchestown.

14 DOC PICKED ME (IRE) (20) (C, D) s+t **98**
771PP-663 **8** 10-6 | 66.2kg

Richard Hobson **Callum Pritchard (7lb/3kg)**
Successful over fences at Wetherby in January but disappointing all 3 subsequent starts in this sphere. Left low-key reappearance run behind when third in a handicap hurdle at Uttoxeter last time but whether he'll be in the same form back chasing remains to be seen.

15 CHARLIE UBERALLES (35) (D) **97**
P6-217542 **8** 10-2(9-13) | 64.4kg (63.0kg)

Dianne Sayer **Danny McMenamin**
Fairly useful chaser who was as good as ever when scoring at Cartmel in June. Best effort since when finding just one too good at Kelso (21.6f, good to soft) last time but he will need to produce a bigger and better effort in order to take this from 3 lb out of the handicap.

15 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

5-1 Forward Plan, 11-2 Gaboriot, 7-1 Does He Know, 9-1 Chasing Fire, 11-1 Elvis Mail, 12-1 Pull Again Green, 16-1 Sail Away, 18-1 Erne River, 22-1 Charlie Uberalles, 25-1 Kitty's Light, 28-1 Straw Fan Jack, 28-1 Kinondo Kwetu, 28-1 Ballycoose, 33-1 Docpickedme, 33-1 Whistleinthedark

TIMEFORM VIEW:

GABORIOT looks set for another productive campaign judged on his solid reappearance third in the Grand Sefton at Aintree where he shaped as though the return to this trip was very much in order. He is marginally preferred to last year's winner Forward Plan, who is greatly respected given his broadly progressive profile and despite the fact that he is 12 lb higher in the weights this time. Does He Know is also high on the shortlist and don't be surprised to see Erne River go well at a price.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. GABORIOT 2. FORWARD PLAN 3. DOES HE KNOW

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2023	Forward Plan 7-10-8	6-1	Anthony Honeyball	Ben Godfrey (3)	11
2021	Two For Gold 8-11-12	3-1jf	Kim Bailey	David Bass	7
2020	Rocky's Treasure 9-11-4	17-2	Kim Bailey	David Bass	8
2019	My Old Gold 9-11-8	4-1	Nicky Richards	Brian Hughes	4

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

2.40**bet365 DONCASTER MARES' HURDLE (Listed) (1) 4yo+ fillies and mares £35,000 3m84y (4900 Metres)**

RACE 6



Going: **Chase course: Good to Soft (Good in places), Hurdles course: Good to Soft (Soft 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 GALE MAHLER (IRE) (29) 93

11111123 5 11-2 | 70.8kg



Adrian Keatley

Henry Brooke

Likeable mare who made it 6 wins on the spin in listed hurdle at Galway (2m) in July. Below par on her last two runs though, a well-held third of five in Grade 2 novice at Cheltenham last time. Can bounce back.

2 OTTIZZINI (IRE) (21) (D) 91

3P124-71P 7 11-0 | 69.9kg



Stuart Crawford, Ireland

Sean Flanagan

Fairly useful Irish hurdler who resumed winning ways at Ayr in November. Pulled up in handicap at Haydock (24.3f, heavy) 21 days ago. Sort to get back on track though.

3 WEST BALBOA (IRE) (31) (D) 100

1/10863-45 8 11-0 | 69.9kg



Dan Skelton

Kielan Woods

Very useful winning hurdler. Sent chasing this term and almost unseated rider last when fourth at Worcester before considerably handled when fifth at Bangor. Leading form claims reverted to this sphere.

4 WYENOT (28) 91

3/11P13-14 5 11-0 | 69.9kg



Henry Daly

Alice Stevens

Resumed with success in 2m4f handicap at Cheltenham in October before backing it up with a good fourth of 10 there 28 days ago. Not dismissed.

5 FIREBALL FRENZY (IRE) (30) 73

P2 4 10-13 | 69.4kg



Stuart Edmunds

Ciaran Gethings

Won sole start in Irish points and posted a fairly useful effort on just her second hurdles run when second of 8 in novice at Market Rasen (20.6f, good) 30 days ago. This is a very tough ask though.

5 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

4-6 West Balboa, **9-2** Gale Mahler, **15-2** Wyenot, **17-2** Ottizzini, **100-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

WEST BALBOA holds major form claims sent back hurdling after failing to hit top form in a couple of chasing runs this term so looks the way to go. Multiple-winner Gale Mahler hasn't been at her best the last twice but still merits consideration, with Irish-raider Ottizzini and in-form Wyenot both in the mix too.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. WEST BALBOA 2. GALE MAHLER 3. OTTIZZINI

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

3.15**bet365 HANDICAP HURDLE (2) 3yo+ £50,000 2m128y
(3340 Metres)**

RACE 7

GBI RACINGGoing: **Chase course: Good to Soft (Good in places), Hurdles course: Good to Soft (Soft 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 PEMBROKE (13) (D) 90
411336-67 7 12-0 | 76.2kg



Dan Skelton

Fergus Gillard

Useful novice chaser last term but form dipped towards the end of the season and he hasn't fired back over hurdles since returning.

2 JUNGLE JACK (31) (D) 97
19/P260-24 8 11-13 | 75.7kg



Donald McCain

Brian Hughes

6/1, creditable fourth of 11 in handicap hurdle at Bangor (19.6f, soft) 31 days ago. Blinkers back on. Should put up a solid effort.

3 ALTABELLI (IRE) (308) (D) 100
119/230- 6 11-12 | 75.3kg



Harry Fry

**Rex Dingle**

Won twice (including first time up) in 2022/23 and ran right up to best when placed in a pair of 2m Ascot handicaps at the end of last year. Ended last season with a disappointing run in the Betfair Hurdle at Newbury but his overall record is positive.

4 NORMAN FLETCHER (32) (D) 97
211207-21 5 11-11 | 74.8kg



Nigel Twiston-Davies

James Turner (5lb/2kg)

Showed fairly useful form when landing a maiden/novice hurdle last winter and got firmly back on track when knuckling down well to land a 5-runner handicap at Huntingdon last month. Deserves respect.

5 BRUCIO (42) 94
3F1180-30 6 11-9 | 73.9kg



Stuart Crawford, Ireland

Ben Bromley (5lb/2kg)

Fairly useful hurdler. Thirteenth of 18 in handicap hurdle at Down Royal (16.9f, good to soft, 16/1) 42 days ago. Has a bit to prove and mark still looks stiff.

6 LILY DU BERLAIS (21) (D) 95
243P/21-15 8 11-8 | 73.5kg



Stuart Crawford, Ireland

Sean Flanagan

Dual-bumper winner who doubled her hurdling tally at Kelso in the spring but returned with a tame effort in Newton Novices' Hurdle at Haydock three weeks ago. Could strip fitter for that.

7 DEPLOY TO SPY (35) (D) 98
2-B111 6 11-7 | 73.0kg



Olly Murphy

Kielan Woods

Runner-up in sole bumper and has won each of his three completed starts over hurdles, well on top at the finish when landing an Aintree handicap last month. Looks the one to beat with further progress on the cards.

8 LEMONCELLO (FR) (31) 90
2122321-P 5 11-2 | 70.8kg



Venetia Williams

Ned Fox (5lb/2kg)

Fairly useful form over hurdles and fences in France in 2023. Off over a year prior to laboured effort at Bangor on British debut, so needs to put that firmly behind him.

8 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

5-2 Deploy To Spy, **7-2** Altobelli, **6-1** Norman Fletcher, **7-1** Jungle Jack, **12-1** Pembroke, **14-1** Brucio, **16-1** Lemoncello, **18-1** Lily Du Berlais

TIMEFORM VIEW:

DEPLOY TO SPY is firmly on the up and was going away at the finish when winning at Aintree, so he gets the nod over Altobelli, who should be tuned up for this reappearance. Norman Fletcher is another one to consider in an interesting contest.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. DEPLOY TO SPY 2. ALTABELLI 3. NORMAN FLETCHER

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2023	Geromino 7-10-2	14-1	Donald McCain	Charlie Maggs (10)	11
2021	Tommy's Oscar 6-11-12	3-1f	Ann Hamilton	Brian Hughes	9
2020	Wild Max 5-11-11	5-2	Paul Nicholls	Angus Cheleda (7)	7
2019	Blu Cavalier 9-11-12	14-1	Ali Stronge	Jonjo O'Neill Jr.	8

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race