

**1.30** JCB TRIUMPH HURDLE (Grade 1) (1) 2m179y (3380 Metres)

RACE 1 **(14) LOSSIEMOUTH (FR) | (12) GALA MARCEAU (FR) | (4) BLOOD DESTINY (FR)**

**2.10** McCOY CONTRACTORS COUNTY HANDICAP HURDLE (PREMIER HANDICAP) (1) 2m179y (3380 Metres)

RACE 2 **(1) SHARJAH (FR) | (8) HUNTERS YARN (IRE) | (14) FILEY BAY (IRE)**

**2.50** ALBERT BARTLETT NOVICES' HURDLE (Spa) (Grade 1) (1) 2m7f213y (4820 Metres)

RACE 3 **(3) CORBETTS CROSS (IRE) | (19) THREE CARD BRAG (IRE) | (17) STAY AWAY FAY (IRE)**

**3.30** BOODLES CHELTENHAM GOLD CUP CHASE (Grade 1) (1) 3¼m70y (5290 Metres)

RACE 4 **(6) GALOPIN DES CHAMPS (FR) | (3) BRAVEMANSGAME (FR) | (13) STATTLER (IRE)**

**4.10** ST. JAMES'S PLACE FESTIVAL CHALLENGE CUP OPEN HUNTERS' CHASE (2) 3¼m70y (5290 Metres)

RACE 5 **(23) VAUCELET (FR) | (9) FAMOUS CLERMONT (FR) | (1) BILLAWAY (IRE)**

**4.50** MRS PADDY POWER MARES' CHASE (Liberthine) (Grade 2) (1) 2½m127y (4140 Metres)

RACE 6 **(3) IMPERVIOUS (IRE) | (1) ALLEGORIE DE VASSY (FR) | (6) JEREMYS FLAME (IRE)**


**5.30** MARTIN PIPE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP HURDLE (2) 2½m56y (4070 Metres)


RACE 7 **(12) SPANISH HARLEM (FR) | (8) IROKO (FR) | (5) IMAGINE (FR)**

#### 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.

**1.30****JCB TRIUMPH HURDLE (Grade 1) (1) 4yo £139,209  
2m179y (3380 Metres)**

RACE 1

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

Left handed, undulating. Stiff fences that place a premium on sound jumping. The last half mile is uphill, although the lead changes hands on the run-in less frequently than might be expected. Prominent-racers often fare well on the chase course, especially in races up to 3m. On the New Course, the hurdles track has just two flights in the last six furlongs, resulting in more emphasis on stamina; large-field races over two miles often go to hold-up horses, as there can be a tendency to go for home too soon. Jockeys often steer a wide course in the winter months searching for better ground and this can lead to trouble in-running towards the stand rail in the straight.

Pace Information: **Very Strong****1 ACTIVE DUTY (FR) (24) (BF) 77**  
343 4 11-2 | 70.8kg

Ben Pauling

**Tom Cannon**

Fairly useful maiden on Flat (stays 1½m) in Ireland. Fair start over hurdles for new yard this year but looks totally up against it in this.

**2 ALMUHIT (IRE) (34) 78**  
6266 4 11-2 | 70.8kg

Denis Hogan, Ireland

**Donagh Meyler**

Useful Flat winner who had hinted at temperament in that code and ran a moody race sporting blinkers for the first time in this sphere at Naas last month. Little appeal in this company.

**3 ASCENDING (IRE) (41) 85**  
24 4 11-2 | 70.8kg

Henry de Bromhead, Ireland

**Rachael Blackmore**

Fairly useful Flat winner for Clive Cox who made a promising start in this sphere when second in big-field Leopardstown contest over Christmas, but no match for Gala Marceau and Lossiemouth in Grade 1 there last time and vulnerable here after that.

**4 BLOOD DESTINY (FR) (62) (D) 97**  
2-11 4 11-2 | 70.8kg

W. P. Mullins, Ireland

**Mr P. W. Mullins**

Has made a very good start over hurdles for new yard, scoring at Cork and Fairyhouse (still novicey with his jumping but bolted up in good time). He won't get away with too many mistakes here but he's clearly a top prospect.

**5 GUST OF WIND (FR) (41) 84**  
15 4 11-2 | 70.8kg

W. P. Mullins, Ireland

**S. F. O'Keefe**

Useful form when landing newcomers' hurdle at Auteuil in September and shaped as if better for run behind stablemate Gala Marceau and co in Leopardstown Grade 1 last month. Can improve but is down the Willie Mullins' pecking order in this.

**6 HYPOTENUS (20) 92**  
2 4 11-2 | 70.8kg

John McConnell, Ireland

**Sean Bowen**

Useful on the Flat in France and was a €215,000 buy for connections before shaping well behind Zenta on hurdles debut at Fairyhouse 3 weeks ago fitted with hood/tongue strap. Should improve but this is a big step up.

**7 JACOVEC CAVERN (27) 76**  
606 4 11-2 | 70.8kg

Paul Hennessy, Ireland

**Sean Flanagan**

Fairly useful Flat winner who hasn't matched that in 3 runs over hurdles for new yard this year and can't be fancied in this company.

**8 JIPCOT (FR) (26) 89**  
240U11 4 11-2 | 70.8kg

Ben Pauling

**Luca Morgan**

Fairly useful improving winner over hurdles in France, seeking a hat-trick starting out for new connections but has plenty to find to get in the mix.

**9 JUPITER DU GITE (FR) (48) (D) 88**  
3-16 4 11-2 | 70.8kg

Gary Moore

**Niall Houlihan**

Caused a major upset when making all on British/hurdles debut at Newbury in December but proved far too free and well beaten in the Trial over C&amp;D 7 weeks ago, jumping well but a spent force by the home turn. Could do better but clearly a bit of a handful.

**10 RIGHTSOTOM (GER) (129) 80**  
2 4 11-2 | 70.8kg

Thomas Mullins, Ireland

**Jack Foley**

Shaped well behind another good prospect from the Willie Mullins stable in Fairyhouse event in November. Open to progress but this surely beyond him on just his second start.

**11 CINSA (FR) (41) 80**  
4-6 4 10-9 | 67.6kg

W. P. Mullins, Ireland

**B. Hayes**

Fairly useful form in a couple of races over hurdles 10 months apart (trained in France on debut), not knocked about behind Gala Marceau and co in Leopardstown Grade 1 last month. More to come but others from her yard way more likely here.

**12 GALA MARCEAU (FR) (41) 99**  
1-121 4 10-9 | 67.6kg

W. P. Mullins, Ireland

**D. E. Mullins**

Two from 2 over hurdles in France and has made a fine start for new connections, finding just Lossiemouth too good at Leopardstown at Christmas then turning the tables on her back there 6 weeks ago, seen to much better effect but also keen and seeing things out well. Big player with hood fitted.

**13 JE GARDE (FR) (159) 85**  
3 4 10-9 | 67.6kg

W. P. Mullins, Ireland

**M. J. M. O'Sullivan**

Made a promising start when third behind a couple of subsequent winners in Auteuil event in October. Joined top connections and likely to improve but she looks up against it here.

**14 LOSSIEMOUTH (FR) (41) (BF) 100**  
1-112 4 10-9 | 67.6kg

W. P. Mullins, Ireland

**P. Townend**

Saw off Gala Marceau in good style in Leopardstown Grade 2 at Christmas and would surely have made it 4-4 but for meeting significant interference just as things were hotting up back there last month, her old rival not for catching in the end. More to come and can get back to winning ways.

**15 ZENTA (FR) (20) (D) 95**  
11 4 10-9 | 67.6kg

W. P. Mullins, Ireland

**M. P. Walsh**

Made it 2-2 over hurdles (first start for new connections) when seeing off Hypotenus in Fairyhouse Grade 3 recently, still looking rough around the edges. Better to come and she's one of the more tempting Mullins' outsiders.

15 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

2-1 Lossiemouth, 9-4 Blood Destiny, 9-2 Gala Marceau, 16-1 Zenta, 28-1 Hypotenus, 33-1 Jupiter Du Gite, 50-1 bar

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

LOSSIEMOUTH looks one of the best seen in this division for several years and would be unbeaten had she got better luck behind Gala Marceau at Leopardstown. She can improve further and make it 2-1 against her stablemate who is also capable of better and won't go down easily now fitted a hood. Blood Destiny needs to cut out the mistakes but is another very exciting juvenile and can make it another 1-2-3 this week for Willie Mullins.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

1. LOSSIEMOUTH (FR) 2. GALA MARCEAU (FR) 3. BLOOD DESTINY (FR)

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2022	<b>Vauban</b> 4-11-0	6-4f	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	12
2021	<b>Quilixios</b> 4-11-0	2-1	Henry de Bromhead	Rachael Blackmore	8
2020	<b>Burning Victory</b> 4-10-7	12-1	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	13
2019	<b>Pentland Hills</b> 4-11-0	20-1	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boinville	14
2018	<b>Farclas</b> 4-11-0	9-1	Gordon Elliott	J. W. Kennedy	9

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

**2.10**


RACE 2

**McCOY CONTRACTORS COUNTY HANDICAP HURDLE  
(PREMIER HANDICAP) (1) 5yo+ £100,000 2m179y (3380  
Metres)****Racing TV**Going: **Soft (Good to Soft in places)**

Left handed, undulating. Stiff fences that place a premium on sound jumping. The last half mile is uphill, although the lead changes hands on the run-in less frequently than might be expected. Prominent-racers often fare well on the chase course, especially in races up to 3m. On the New Course, the hurdles track has just two flights in the last six furlongs, resulting in more emphasis on stamina; large-field races over two miles often go to hold-up horses, as there can be a tendency to go for home too soon. Jockeys often steer a wide course in the winter months searching for better ground and this can lead to trouble in-running towards the stand rail in the straight.

Pace Information: **Very Strong**

**1 SHARJAH (FR) (27) (BF)** t  **100**  
32/211-232 10 12-0 | 76.2kg

W. P. Mullins, Ireland  **Mr P. W. Mullins**

Smashing 10-y-o who has twice finished runner-up in Champion Hurdle and whilst he may not be quite the force of old, he's acquitted himself with plenty of credit all 3 starts in Graded events this campaign. Very interesting connections pitch him in here on just his second start in handicaps.

**2 PIED PIPER (40) (CD)** t **98**  
1131d-1154 5 11-13 | 75.7kg

Gordon Elliott, Ireland **Davy Russell**

Smart sort (third in last season's Triumph) who won a C&D conditions' event and a Down Royal Grade 2 in the autumn. Bounced back from a poor run at Leopardstown over Christmas when 6½ lengths fourth to State Man in Irish Champion last month and he's respected given his good record here.

**3 WINTER FOG (IRE) (80)** **97**  
51/4240-51 9 11-11 | 74.8kg

W. P. Mullins, Ireland  **Kieran Callaghan (71lb/3kg)**

9-y-o who boasts some very solid form in big-field handicaps (fourth in last year's Pertemps) and had little trouble dropping back to 2m as he made a winning debut for Willie Mullins at Leopardstown over Christmas. Mark has risen considerably but he's very low-mileage for his age.

**4 SAINT SAM (FR) (12) (D, BF)** h **96**  
513U-6152 6 11-11 | 74.8kg

W. P. Mullins, Ireland  **Jack Foley (31lb/1kg)**

Useful novice hurdler during 2020/21 season who didn't always convince with his jumping over fences. Back on track over hurdles this term, albeit unable to justify cramped odds having raced freely in small field event at Leopardstown (18.3f) 12 days ago. Return to big-field scenario may well help.

**5 FIRST STREET (27) (D, BF)** t  **95**  
51325-133 6 11-11 | 74.8kg

Nicky Henderson **Nico de Boinville**

Mighty efforts in Betfair and this race last term and resumed with a win in the Gerry Feilden at Newbury (2m) in November. Matched that level when keeping-on third in Grade 2 Relkeel here (2½m) on New Year's Day and whilst below that level in Kingwell last time, this rates more suitable. Had wind op

**6 BALLYADAM (IRE) (40) (D)** t **96**  
4/F2505-03 8 11-7 | 73.0kg

Henry de Bromhead, Ireland  **Rachael Blackmore**

Runner-up in 2021 Supreme on debut for this yard and following mixed bag last winter returned to form when fifth from 4 lb lower mark in this race 12 months ago. Confirmed himself in good heart back from an absence when third in Leopardstown handicap last month and he rates an each-way player.

**7 AUCUNRISQUE (FR) (34) (D)** **99**  
1141-1221 7 11-6 | 72.6kg

Chris Gordon  **Tom Cannon**

Upwardly-mobile as a novice (Grade 2 winner) and, following bright start over fences, took his form up another notch when landing Betfair Hurdle by a length from Filey Bay, well ridden under conditions that tested speed to the full. 9 lb higher here but boasts smashing attitude and not dismissed.

**8 HUNTERS YARN (IRE) (33) (D)** **96**  
31/411-311 6 11-6 | 72.6kg

W. P. Mullins, Ireland  **P. Townend**

Three-time bumper winner who opened his account at third attempt over hurdles at Naas (15.9f) in January and improved further to land listed novice at Navan (2m) 5 weeks ago. Excellent yard has won 2 of last 3 renewals of this race and this low-mileage sort is shortlisted making handicap debut.

**9 PRAIRIE DANCER (IRE) (103) (D)** b **95**  
21173135 5 11-3 | 71.2kg

Joseph Patrick O'Brien, Ireland **Brendan Powell**

Improved over hurdles last summer, third in Galway Hurdle prior to scoring unchallenged at Listowel (2m) in September. Struggled up in grade thereafter, well-beaten fifth behind Marine Nationale in Royal Bond over Christmas. This more suitable and yard no stranger to success at this meeting.

**10 GLORY AND FORTUNE (IRE) (34) (C, D)** t **98**  
2144-4U30 8 11-3 | 71.2kg

Tom Lacey  **Stan Sheppard**

Much improved hurdler last season, bagging Betfair Hurdle from 1 lb lower mark prior to a creditable fourth in Champion Hurdle. Doesn't arrive here in same groove though, not convincing with his jumping over fences late on last year and well held in first-named race 5 weeks ago.

**11 HIGHWAY ONE O TWO (IRE) (34)** **96**  
512P-2137 8 11-2 | 70.8kg

Chris Gordon  **Mr Freddie Gordon (71lb/3kg)**

Like many from this yard, returned in excellent form in the autumn, adding to his tally from an 8 lb lower mark at Ascot (15.9f) in October. Overfaced in Christmas Hurdle next start and he could finish only midfield in Betfair Hurdle on his most recent outing. Likely vulnerable to a few again here.

**12 ANNA BUNINA (FR) (23) (D)** t **96**  
12196042 7 11-2 | 70.8kg

John McConnell, Ireland **B. W. Harvey (51lb/2kg)** 

Classy mare who tasted success twice over hurdles last year and added to her tally on Flat at Killarney (14f) in August. Shade underwhelming around Christmas but back on track in recent weeks, respectable second in Grade 3 Quevega Mares' Hurdle (20.4f) last time. Mark looks about right, however.

**13 MILKWOOD (IRE) (30)** h  **98**  
1/245-F244 9 11-0 | 69.9kg

Neil Mulholland **Sam Twiston-Davies**

Ran a stormer when third in this race 2 years ago prior to landing Scottish Champion Hurdle at Ayr a month later. Somewhat typically been lightly raced since, shaping encouragingly on back of 3 months off when fourth at Wetherby (19.7f) 4 weeks ago. Return to this shorter trip a plus. Hood fitted.

**14 FILEY BAY (IRE) (34) (D, BF)** t **99**  
6/5633-112 7 11-0 | 69.9kg

Emmet Mullins, Ireland **M. P. Walsh**

Another very good advert for his shrewd yard, bagging handicaps at Doncaster/Wincanton prior to big career-best effort when runner-up to Aucunrisque in last month's Betfair Hurdle, comfortably faring best of those held up. Long way clear of remainder then and 8 lb higher mark looks well within reach

**15 PINKERTON (IRE) (81) (D, BF)** t **99**  
1133-323 7 11-0 | 69.9kg

Noel Meade, Ireland **Sean Flanagan**

Bumper/maiden hurdle winner during 2021/22 campaign. Progressed again in handicaps this season, beaten only by another unexposed sort at Fairyhouse (2m) in December. Small-field scenario likely didn't play to his strengths at Limerick (20f) next time and this rates more suitable.

**16 PATH D'OROUX (FR) (55) (D)** **94**  
11P41 6 11-0 | 69.9kg

Gavin Patrick Cromwell, Ireland **Keith Donoghue**

Bumper/maiden hurdle winner who struggled to make an impact in pair of Grade 1s in December. Returned to form back in calmer waters to land Navan novice (15.7f, soft) in January (3 main market rivals fell) but it remains relatively early days with him now attentions switch to handicaps.

**17 PETIT TONNERRE (FR) (27) (D)** **96**  
111P-32P5 5 10-13 | 69.4kg

Jonjo O'Neill **Jonjo O'Neill Jr.**

Made winning handicap debut for this yard 13 months ago and even better form in defeat this campaign, not seen to best effect in Lanzarote on penultimate start and quickly back to best when fifth at Ascot (19.2f) 4 weeks ago. Remains relatively unexposed at around 2m and eased 1 lb ahead of this.

**18 HIGHLAND CHARGE (IRE) (33)** **95**  
62211-3P8 8 10-12 | 68.9kg

Noel Meade, Ireland **Sam Ewing**

Confirmed himself a useful performer over hurdles when taking Naas Grade 3 this time last year. Fairly low-key start over fences initially this term but this more suitable than latest assignment in Grade 2 Boyne Hurdle in February. Handicap debut.

**19 GANAPATHI (FR) (48)** s+t **92**  
51133254 7 10-9 | 67.6kg

Patrick Neville **Alan Doyle (51lb/2kg)**

Bumper/hurdles winner who landed pair of small-field novice chases for Willie Mullins last summer. Has seemingly found his level in that sphere though and others make more appeal on balance ahead of this return to timber. Cheekpieces added to usual tongue tie.

**2.10**

RACE 2

**McCOY CONTRACTORS COUNTY HANDICAP HURDLE  
(PREMIER HANDICAP) (1) 5yo+ £100,000 2m179y (3380  
Metres)****Racing TVi****20** **MAGNOR GLORY (IRE) (175)** (D) h **96**  
5351-6101 7 10-9 | 67.6kg

Terence O'Brien, Ireland

**M. J. M. O'Sullivan** (31b/1kg)

Steadily progressive 7-y-o who surpassed previous form to land Listowel handicap (2m) in September, deserving of extra credit given he came from further back than other principals. Presumably kept fresh for a tilt at this and excellent value claimer takes off handy 3 lb.

**21** **PEMBROKE (48)** (BF) **95**  
1-7112 6 10-9 | 67.6kg

Dan Skelton

**Harry Skelton**

Bumper winner who left hurdles debut form in his wake when landing back-to-back novice contests late last year. Progressed further when second in Grade 2 over 2½m here in January and another worth a look from this sort of mark for yard that has landed this race twice since 2018.

**22** **GIN COCO (FR) (124)** (D, BF) **99**  
22/1-212 7 10-8 | 67.1kg

Harry Fry

**Jonathan Burke**

Lightly-raced 7-y-o who made light of lengthy absence to land Fontwell maiden for this yard 12 months ago prior to good second on handicap bow at Punchestown (2m). Absent since finishing fine second in Greatwood Hurdle here in November (clear of remainder). That unlikely to prove his limit.

**23** **FAIVOIR (FR) (34)** (CD) **98**  
223305-4P 8 10-7 | 66.7kg

Dan Skelton

**Bridget Andrews**

Talented hurdler/chaser who finished midfield in this race 12 months ago before good fifth in Aintree handicap final start. Returned with creditable fourth at Kempton (2m) over Christmas but not in anything like the same form when pulled up in last month's Betfair Hurdle. Others make more appeal.

**24** **GLAN (IRE) (175)** (D) h **96**  
3251-P04P 8 10-7 | 66.7kg

Gordon Elliott, Ireland

**L. P. Dempsey**

Big effort on back of a short break to land 17-runner Fairyhouse handicap (2m) last April. Proved more miss-than-hit either side of another good run in Galway Hurdle, pulled up in race won by Magnor Glory when last seen in September.

**25** **WONDERWALL (IRE) (112)** s **95**  
137/21F-3 7 10-7 | 66.7kg

Richard Spencer

**Sean Bowen**

Useful bumper performer and reached a similar level in 3 starts over hurdles, in process of running well when falling last in listed race at Huntingdon last February. Promise sole start over fences at Newbury in November and whilst absent since he remains unexposed. Cheekpieces on for handicap bow.

**26** **LUTTRELL LAD (IRE) (13)** (D) **94**  
14/1222-0P 7 10-6 | 66.2kg

Tom Lacey

**Harry Cobden**

Useful bumper winner and of a similar standard over hurdles last season. Did disappoint on Flat for previous yard last summer but best not judged too harshly on recent return/yard debut at Kelso, (rider lost irons early). Still, this looks a big ask.

**RESERVES****27** **TEDDY BLUE (GER) (13)** (BF) **97**  
20-21d3136 5 10-3 | 64.9kg

Gary Moore

**Reserve**

Free-goer who landed short odds in 2m Lingfield maiden before running well for 12 lengths third of 16 in Betfair Hurdle at Newbury on penultimate start. Jumped none too fluently in Morebattle Hurdle at Kelso since and he'll need to be sharper in that department here. RESERVE.

**28** **NIBIRU (IRE) (40)** (D) t **95**  
27-511062 8 10-3 | 64.9kg

A. J. Martin, Ireland

**Non Runner**

Flat/dual hurdles winner during second half of last year and out ran big odds when second in 17-runner Liffey handicap hurdle on latest outing in February. This understandably tougher from career-high mark if getting a run. NON RUNNER.

27 DECLARED RUNNERS (1 RESERVE)

**BETTING FORECAST:****13-2** Filey Bay, **9-1** Hunters Yarn, **11-1** Sharjah, **11-1** Gin Coco, **11-1** Pembroke, **14-1** Aucunrisque, **18-1** Pied Piper, **18-1** Winter Fog, **18-1** Path D'oroux, **22-1** Wonderwall, **22-1** First Street, **28-1** Petit Tonnerre, **28-1** Ballyadam, **28-1** Magnor Glory, **33-1** Milkwood, **33-1** Saint Sam, **40-1** bar**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

Willie Mullins has compiled a fine record in this race in recent years, and as one of a 4-pronged attack, the highly-admirable SHARJAH could provide the Closutton handler with further success. Twice a runner-up in the Champion Hurdle, he's run well all 3 starts in Graded company so far this term and this sort of mark may well be within reach. Low-mileage stablemate Hunters Yarn is a major threat however along with Betfair Hurdle second Filey Bay. Pembroke and Pied Piper complete the shortlist.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:****1. SHARJAH (FR) 2. HUNTERS YARN (IRE) 3. FILEY BAY (IRE)****WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2022	<b>State Man</b> 5-11-1	11-4f	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	26
2021	<b>Belfast Banter</b> 6-10-0	33-1	Peter Fahey	K. C. Sexton	25
2020	<b>Saint Roi</b> 5-10-13	11-2f	W. P. Mullins	Barry Geraghty	24
2019	<b>Ch'tibello</b> 8-11-5	12-1	Dan Skelton	Harry Skelton	24
2018	<b>Mohaayed</b> 6-10-11	33-1	Dan Skelton	Bridget Andrews (3)	24

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race



**2.50****ALBERT BARTLETT NOVICES' HURDLE (Spa) (Grade 1) (1)**  
**5yo+ £135,000 2m7f213y (4820 Metres)**

RACE 3

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

Left handed, undulating. Stiff fences that place a premium on sound jumping. The last half mile is uphill, although the lead changes hands on the run-in less frequently than might be expected. Prominent-racers often fare well on the chase course, especially in races up to 3m. On the New Course, the hurdles track has just two flights in the last six furlongs, resulting in more emphasis on stamina; large-field races over two miles often go to hold-up horses, as there can be a tendency to go for home too soon. Jockeys often steer a wide course in the winter months searching for better ground and this can lead to trouble in-running towards the stand rail in the straight.

Pace Information: **Extreme****1 AFFORDALE FURY (IRE) (68) 92**  
11F6 5 11-7 | 73.0kg

Noel Meade, Ireland

*Sam Ewing*

Successful on sole outing in points/bumpers and also made a winning hurdling debut at Galway in late October. Still held a narrow advantage when taking a tired-looking fall at the last at Navan next time but was found out in better company at Naas 6 weeks later and looks set for another struggle.

**2 CHIANTI CLASSICO (IRE) (69) 93**  
210-111 6 11-7 | 73.0kg

Kim Bailey

*David Bass*

Bumper winner who has passed each of 3 tests over hurdles so far with flying colours, just about to assert when left clear 2 out at Wincanton in January (21.4f). 3m could unLuck more but this is clearly a different ask.

**3 CORBETTS CROSS (IRE) (19) (D) 99**  
3-512111 6 11-7 | 73.0kg

Emmet Mullins, Ireland

*M. P. Walsh*

Highly-promising sort who improved again when completing hat-trick in Grade 2 company at Naas on first start for Emmet Mullins last month (2m). Very versatile regards trip and his limit hasn't been reached so he demands a place high on the shortlist having been purchased by leading owner since.

**4 DAWN RISING (IRE) (68) 97**  
3113 6 11-7 | 73.0kg

Joseph Patrick O'Brien, Ireland

*L. P. Dempsey*

Useful winner at 12f on Flat. Won 4-runner Monksfield Novices' Hurdle at Navan (20f, heavy, 10/1) 42 days ago by 8 lengths from American Mike, suited by way race developed. Shaped like a stayer when third to Champ Kiely in Lawlor's of Naas Novices' Hurdle last time, again doing best work late on.

**5 EMBASSY GARDENS (54) 96**  
15-241 7 11-7 | 73.0kg

W. P. Mullins, Ireland

*P. Townend*

Fairly useful bumper winner who took hurdles form to a whole new level when landing the odds by 35 lengths in 5-runner novice at Thurles (23f) in January. Will stay 3m and further progress very much on the cards so very dangerous to underestimate.

**6 FAVORI DE CHAMPDOU (FR) (80) 96**  
2-111 8 11-7 | 73.0kg

Gordon Elliott, Ireland

*Jordan Colin Gainford*

Bumper winner who went from strength to strength during latter part of 2022, completing the hat-trick with a smooth success at Limerick in December (23f). Very professional type but may lack the scope of a couple of these.

**7 HIDDENVALLEY LAKE (IRE) (29) (D, BF) 97**  
112 6 11-7 | 73.0kg

Henry de Bromhead, Ireland

*Rachael Blackmore*

Big-field maiden winner on debut at Naas in November and took step up in class in his stride when following up at Cork a month later (Grade 3). Unable to concede 6 lb to a stablemate at Clonmel but it was another very good effort on the figures. Stamina for 3m assured. Tongue tie on first time.

**8 IDALKO BIHOUE (FR) (48) 91**  
13P 5 11-7 | 73.0kg

Nigel Twiston-Davies

*Jordan Nailor*

From family of fairly useful chaser Bagad Bihoue and finished alone on his sole start in Irish points. Easy winner in the mud at Worcester in October and cracking effort in defeat upped to Grade 1 level in the Challow. That gruelling race may have left a mark given heavy defeat in the River Don.

**9 LETSBECLEARABOUTIT (IRE) (60) (D) 93**  
1221/2421 8 11-7 | 73.0kg

Gavin Patrick Cromwell, Ireland

*Keith Donoghue*

Talented triple-bumper winner who made the most of a big drop in grade when landing the odds in maiden company at Punchestown in January (24.5f). Dominating this field a completely different ask but he's useful.

**10 MONTY'S STAR (IRE) (29) (D) 94**  
4-21 6 11-7 | 73.0kg

Henry de Bromhead, Ireland

*Sean Flanagan*

Promise in points and a bumper and very encouraging start over hurdles when second to Shanbally Kid at Navan in January. Upped in class and trip and that didn't prevent him going one place better in the Surehaul Mercedes-Benz Novices' Hurdle at Clonmel, fending off stablemate Hiddenvalley Lake.

**11 ROCK MY WAY (IRE) (48) (C) 94**  
21 5 11-7 | 73.0kg

Syd Hosie

*Nick Scholfield*

Winning Irish pointer who was unconsidered in the market (66/1) but looked a useful prospect nonetheless when runner-up on hurdling debut here (20.3f) on New Year's Day, pulling miles clear of the remainder. Still looked green when going one place better over same C&D and limit not yet reached.

**12 SAINT PALAIS (FR) (27) (D) 91**  
2/11141-5F 6 11-7 | 73.0kg

Richard Bandy

*Harry Bannister*

Progressed into a smart chaser last season, winning 4 of his 5 starts. However, proved bitterly disappointing returned to hurdling after 8 months off at Bangor in November. Was in process of showing more at Haydock but he took a heavy fall at the last.

**13 SANDOR CLEGANE (IRE) (41) 95**  
122-7213 6 11-7 | 73.0kg

Paul Nolan, Ireland

*S. F. O'Keefe*

Useful bumper winner who opened his account over hurdles in stylish fashion in Punchestown maiden (21.7f) in November. Upped to Grade 1 company and ran a fine race when third in Nathaniel Lacy & Partners Solicitors Novices' Hurdle at Leopardstown. Wouldn't be as strong a stayer as some of these.

**14 SEABANK BISTRO (IRE) (47) 96**  
14-6321 6 11-7 | 73.0kg

W. P. Mullins, Ireland

*Mr P. W. Mullins*

Naas bumper winner (fourth in the Champion Bumper) who landed the odds in a maiden hurdle on the same card a year later in January. Longer trip may bring about further progress.

**15 SEARCH FOR GLORY (IRE) (29) 94**  
133 6 11-7 | 73.0kg

Gordon Elliott, Ireland

*Davy Russell*

Landed the odds in a bumper at Fairyhouse on Rules debut in November and shaped like a stayer when third on hurdles bow at Leopardstown a month later. Work to do with Monty's Star and Hiddenvalley Lake on Clonmel running last month.

**16 SHANBALLY KID (IRE) (55) 96**  
01-41 6 11-7 | 73.0kg

W. P. Mullins, Ireland

*D. E. Mullins*

Fair bumper winner who confirmed the promise of his hurdling debut with victory in 14-runner maiden at Navan (20f) in January, well suited by longer trip. This is a big step up in class but he's in excellent hands and open to further progress.

**17 STAY AWAY FAY (IRE) (48) (BF) 91**  
12 6 11-7 | 73.0kg

Paul Nicholls

*Harry Cobden*

Underwent breathing surgery after winning his only outing in Irish points and made the perfect start over hurdles at Newbury (20.5f) in November. 9 weeks on he emerged with plenty of credit when second in the River Don and stamina is clearly his forte.

**18 THOMAS MOR (IRE) (27) (D) 97**  
11P1 6 11-7 | 73.0kg

David Pipe

*Adam Wedge*

Took 5 goes to get off the mark in points but looked an above-average staying prospect during the autumn, winning at Worcester and Wincanton. Found the Grade 1 Challow at Newbury too much but that race worked out very well and he was well on top upped to 23.5f when adding to his tally at Ascot.

**19 THREE CARD BRAG (IRE) (51) 100**  
1-1321 6 11-7 | 73.0kg

Gordon Elliott, Ireland

*A. P. Heskin*

Bumper winner on his sole start in that sphere and he responded well when doubling hurdles tally in novice company at Fairyhouse in January. Looks all about stamina so 3m is expected to unLuck more for his top yard. Massive player.

**20 WEVEALLBEENCAUGHT (IRE) (41) (C) 94**  
1-318 6 11-7 | 73.0kg

Nigel Twiston-Davies

*Sam Twiston-Davies*

Point/useful bumper winner who shaped with plenty of encouragement thrown in at the deep end on hurdling debut and saw off Rock My Way when getting off the mark here (20.2f) on New Year's Day. Can't have been right given bow easily he was brushed aside, albeit in Grade 1 company at Leopardstown.

**2.50****ALBERT BARTLETT NOVICES' HURDLE (Spa) (Grade 1) (1)**  
**5yo+ £135,000 2m7f213y (4820 Metres)**

RACE 3



20 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**9-2** Three Card Brag, **5-1** Corbetts Cross, **9-1** Embassy Gardens, **11-1** Hiddenvally Lake, **16-1** Seabank Bistro, **18-1** Sandor Clegane, **18-1** Monty's Star, **20-1** Favori De Champdou, **22-1** Letsbeclearaboutit, **25-1** Shanbally Kid, **25-1** Search For Glory, **28-1** Dawn Rising, **28-1** Rock My Way, **28-1** Stay Away Fay, **50-1** bar

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

Very open by Grade 1 standards but there's an air of star quality surrounding CORBETTS CROSS, who has been acquired by J.P.McManus having taken another step forward when scoring on debut for Emmet Mullins at Naas last month. There will be no hiding place regarding stamina here and, with that in mind, Three Card Brag is a massive threat, while those looking for one at longer odds, we certainly haven't seen the best of Stay Away Fay.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. CORBETTS CROSS (IRE) 2. THREE CARD BRAG (IRE) 3. STAY AWAY FAY (IRE)**

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2022	<b>The Nice Guy</b> 7-11-8	18-1	W.P. Mullins	S.F. O'Keeffe	16
2021	<b>Vanillier</b> 6-11-5	14-1	Gavin Patrick Cromwell	M. P. Walsh	16
2020	<b>Monkfish</b> 6-11-5	5-1	W.P. Mullins	P. Townend	19
2019	<b>Minella Indo</b> 6-11-5	50-1	Henry de Bromhead	Rachael Blackmore	20
2018	<b>Kilbricken Storm</b> 7-11-5	33-1	Colin Tizzard	Harry Cobden	20

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

**3.30**

**BOODLES CHELTENHAM GOLD CUP CHASE (Grade 1) (1)**  
**5yo+ £625,000 3¼m70y (5290 Metres)**

RACE 4



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

Left handed, undulating. Stiff fences that place a premium on sound jumping. The last half mile is uphill, although the lead changes hands on the run-in less frequently than might be expected. Prominent-racers often fare well on the chase course, especially in races up to 3m. On the New Course, the hurdles track has just two flights in the last six furlongs, resulting in more emphasis on stamina; large-field races over two miles often go to hold-up horses, as there can be a tendency to go for home too soon. Jockeys often steer a wide course in the winter months searching for better ground and this can lead to trouble in-running towards the stand rail in the straight.

Pace Information: **Even**

**1** **AHOY SENOR (IRE) (48)** (C) **94**  
 2121-5351 **8** 11-10 | 74.4kg

Lucinda Russell **Derek Fox**  
 Initially found the transition from top novice to contender at the highest level a bit of a struggle, but he pieced it all together with a defeat of Sounds Russian, Noble Yeats and Protektorat in the Cotswold Chase here in January. More needed now but his yard is in flying form.

**2** **A PLUS TARD (FR) (118)** (CD, BF) **t** **99**  
 212/121-P **9** 11-10 | 74.4kg

Henry de Bromhead, Ireland **Rachael Blackmore**  
 One of the best Gold Cup winners of recent years when beating stable-companion Minella Indo by 15 lengths 12 months ago. Pulled up in Betfair at Haydock in November on his only outing since. Clearly hard to be confident but a threat to all if back on song.

**3** **BRAVEMANSGAME (FR) (81)** **97**  
 2/11114-11 **8** 11-10 | 74.4kg

Paul Nicholls **Harry Cobden**  
 Disappointed in Aintree Grade 1 novice on final start last season but that's his only defeat in 7 outings over fences, taking his form to another level in King George at Kempton in December, well in control when left clear at last. Saved for this since. Big player.

**4** **CONFLATED (IRE) (79)** **94**  
 U211F2-31 **9** 11-10 | 74.4kg

Gordon Elliott, Ireland **Davy Russell**  
 Top-class chaser who has been kept fresh for this since readily landing the Grade 1 Savills at Leopardstown over Christmas. That wasn't the strongest of Grade 1s, though, and he'll need a bigger performance here. Not a certain stayer, either.

**5** **ELDORADO ALLEN (FR) (34)** (C) **s+t** **89**  
 2137-2245 **9** 11-10 | 74.4kg

Joe Tizzard **Brendan Powell**  
 Very smart but his limitations have been exposed at the highest level. Did too much too soon under a change of tactics when fading into a below-form fifth in Denman Chase at Newbury last month. Big outsider.

**6** **GALOPIN DES CHAMPS (FR) (41)** (C) **100**  
 1/111F1-11 **7** 11-10 | 74.4kg

W. P. Mullins, Ireland **P. Townend**  
 Would be unbeaten over fences but for coming down at last when clear in the Turners at this meeting 12 months ago. Proved himself at 3m with an 8-length defeat of Stattler in Irish Gold Cup at Leopardstown last month. Another 2f further to travel now but he'll be hard to beat if his stamina holds.

**7** **HEWICK (IRE) (153)** **s** **93**  
 21P1-21U1 **8** 11-10 | 74.4kg

John Joseph Hanlon, Ireland **Jordan Colin Gainford**  
 Has got better and better over fences, ending last season with win in bet365 Gold Cup and adding Galway Plate in July. Landed another significant victory when taking Grand National Hurdle in America in October. Couldn't have found a much tougher task for first venture into Graded company, though.

**8** **MINELLA INDO (IRE) (75)** (CD) **96**  
 41/3P22-P1 **10** 11-10 | 74.4kg

Henry de Bromhead, Ireland **M. P. Walsh**  
 Won this in 2021 and chased home stablemate A Plus Tard 12 months ago. Only scrambled home in receipt of 8 lb from Stattler in Tramore Grade 3 on his reappearance on New Year's Day but his very good Festival record (2 wins and 2 seconds from 4 runs) means it would no shock if he goes well.

**9** **NOBLE YEATS (IRE) (48)** **s** **94**  
 P291-P113 **8** 11-10 | 74.4kg

Emmet Mullins, Ireland **Sean Bowen**  
 Last season's Grand National winner and has progressed again over conventional fences this time round, winning Wexford listed and Aintree Grade 2 before third to Ahoy Senior (Sounds Russian second) in Cotswold here. Cheekpieces back on for the first time since Aintree. Each-way claims.

**10** **PROTEKTORAT (FR) (48)** (C, BF) **t** **95**  
 21/2134-14 **8** 11-10 | 74.4kg

Dan Skelton **Harry Skelton**  
 Expertly trained to gain a second Grade 1 success of his career in Betfair Chase on return at Haydock in November. Not at best when fourth of 6 to Ahoy Senior in Cotswold here in January but no surprise were he to bounce back and record another good run in this (third last year).

**11** **ROYALE PAGAILLE (FR) (81)** **92**  
 16/21255-2 **9** 11-10 | 74.4kg

Venetia Williams **Charlie Deutsch**  
 High-class chaser who was a creditable 14 lengths second to Bravemansgame in King George on his reappearance but he's finished sixth and fifth in the last 2 runnings of this race and it's likely he'll find at least a few too strong again.

**12** **SOUNDS RUSSIAN (IRE) (48)** (D) **92**  
 1112-1422 **8** 11-10 | 74.4kg

Ruth Jefferson **Sean Quinlan**  
 Hasn't looked back since sent over fences, gaining a fourth success in Kelso handicap on reappearance. Better form in defeat since, notably 1½ lengths second to Ahoy Senior (Noble Yeats third, Protektorat fourth) in Cotswold Chase at this course (25f, good to soft) last time. Vulnerable here, though.

**13** **STATTLER (IRE) (41)** (C) **94**  
 34/3111-22 **8** 11-10 | 74.4kg

W. P. Mullins, Ireland **Mr P. W. Mullins**  
 National Hunt Chase winner at this meeting last year and has improved again in defeat this time round, only narrowly failing to concede 8 lb to Minella Indo on his reappearance before chasing home stablemate Galopin Des Champs in Irish Gold Cup. Slightly longer trip now will play to his strengths.

13 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**6-4** Galopin Des Champs, **13-2** Bravemansgame, **9-1** A Plus Tard, **11-1** Noble Yeats, **11-1** Stattler, **18-1** Protektorat, **20-1** Conflated, **22-1** Ahoy Senior, **25-1** Minella Indo, **33-1** Sounds Russian, **40-1** bar

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

GALOPIN DES CHAMPS would be unbeaten over fences but for falling at last year's Festival. The way he forged clear in the Irish Gold Cup suggests the slightly longer trip this afternoon should be within range and he's very much the one to beat. Bravemansgame is another who has suffered only one defeat over fences and is feared most after his impressive King George success. Last year's National Hunt Chase winner Stattler will relish the return to a longer trip and looks best of the rest.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. GALOPIN DES CHAMPS (FR) 2. BRAVEMANSGAME (FR) 3. STATTLER (IRE)**

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2022	<b>A Plus Tard</b> 8-11-10	3-1f	Henry de Bromhead	Rachael Blackmore	11
2021	<b>Minella Indo</b> 8-11-10	9-1	Henry de Bromhead	J. W. Kennedy	12
2020	<b>Al Boum Photo</b> 8-11-10	10-3f	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	12
2019	<b>Al Boum Photo</b> 7-11-10	12-1	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	16
2018	<b>Native River</b> 8-11-10	5-1	Colin Tizzard	Richard Johnson	15

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

4.10

**ST. JAMES'S PLACE FESTIVAL CHALLENGE CUP OPEN  
HUNTERS' CHASE (2) 5yo+ £50,000 3¼m70y (5290  
Metres)**

RACE 5

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

Left handed, undulating. Stiff fences that place a premium on sound jumping. The last half mile is uphill, although the lead changes hands on the run-in less frequently than might be expected. Prominent-racers often fare well on the chase course, especially in races up to 3m. On the New Course, the hurdles track has just two flights in the last six furlongs, resulting in more emphasis on stamina; large-field races over two miles often go to hold-up horses, as there can be a tendency to go for home too soon. Jockeys often steer a wide course in the winter months searching for better ground and this can lead to trouble in-running towards the stand rail in the straight.

Pace Information: **Strong**

**1 BILLAWAY (IRE) (34) (CD)** b+t **99**  
5/2211-121 **11** 12-0 | 76.2kg



W. P. Mullins, Ireland **Mr P. W. Mullins**  
Long been one of the leading lights in hunter chases and was a game winner (beat Winged Leader) of this 12 months ago having finished runner-up the previous 2 years. However, signs of decline this season, despite last month's Naas success, so probably one to take on for the win in new headgear.

**2 BLACK OP (IRE) (387)** t **92**  
4967/F564- **12** 12-0 | 76.2kg



Mrs Emma Clark **Mr John Dawson**  
Smart chaser at best, little impact in 2021/22. However, stretched unbeaten record in points to 4 since leaving Tom George (Jan 15, latest).

**3 BOB AND CO (FR) (364) (D)** t **99**  
1U1/122F- **12** 12-0 | 76.2kg



Harry Derham **Miss Alice Stevens**  
Enhanced good strike rate in this sphere in Champion Hunters at Punchestown in April 2021 but let down by jumping in last 2 renewals of this. Off 12 months. First run for yard after leaving Paul Nicholls.

**4 BRAIN POWER (IRE) (880) (C)** **89**  
6/ **12** 12-0 | 76.2kg



Warren Ewing, Ireland **Mr Dara McGill**  
Smart hurdler/chaser for Nicky Henderson. Won 4 of last 5 completed starts in points, including latest (Jan 28) but stamina very much to prove.

**5 CAT TIGER (FR) (119) (BF)** t **98**  
3/252102-5 **9** 12-0 | 76.2kg



Paul Nicholls **Mr Charlie Sprake**  
Useful chaser who was let down by jumping in this last year but bounced back with a good second in Foxhunters' Chase at Aintree. Well held on comeback at Ascot in November, however.

**6 CHRIS'S DREAM (IRE) (414)** **95**  
25PU/U0- **11** 12-0 | 76.2kg



Henry de Bromhead, Ireland **Miss M. O'Sullivan**  
High-class chaser at one time and has won all 3 of his starts in points (latest Jan 15). Difficult to know how much ability he retains but must be respected.

**7 DANDY DAN (IRE) (294) (CD)** **94**  
20P/P-13 **10** 12-0 | 76.2kg



J. Bourne **Mr James King**  
Temperamental sort for Kim Bailey who made a winning start for new yard in hunter chase over C&D 11 months ago. Not seen to best effect when 10½ lengths third to Vaucelet in similar event at Stratford following month. Dual point winner, third last time (Feb 26). Up against it.

**8 DORKING COCK (IRE) (81)** s+t **94**  
02/1-32 **9** 12-0 | 76.2kg



Stuart Crawford, Ireland **Mr B. G. Crawford**  
Useful hunter chaser who should have won when neck second of 8 to Vaucelet at Down Royal (24f, soft) 81 days ago, headed close home after idling markedly. Headgear back on now.

**9 FAMOUS CLERMONT (FR) (27)** **97**  
3R3/1-P11 **8** 12-0 | 76.2kg



C. R. Barber **Mr William Biddick**  
Multiple point winner and useful form in hunter chases, overcoming erratic round of jumping when winning at Wincanton (by 4 lengths from Shantou Flyer) last month. Followed up at Haydock without coming off the bridle so enters calculations.

**10 GO GO GERONIMO (294)** s+t **90**  
22 **8** 12-0 | 76.2kg



Kelly Morgan **Mr Tom Chatfeild-Roberts**  
Fairly useful form in pair of hunter chases for G. T. H. Bailey. Multiple point winner, by wide margin on both starts in January.

**11 I K BRUNEL (24)** **95**  
807/3156-1 **9** 12-0 | 76.2kg



Alan Hill **Miss Izzie Marshall**  
Fairly useful chase winner (at 23f) for Olly Murphy last season and made a successful transition to hunters (winning pointer) at Taunton. This a tough ask, however.

**12 ITS ON THE LINE (IRE) (122) (BF)** s **91**  
41-1P2 **6** 12-0 | 76.2kg



Emmet Mullins, Ireland **Mr D. O'Connor**  
Won last 2 of 6 starts in points (Feb 19, second one). Fairly useful form in hunter chases though didn't impress with head carriage when 12 lengths second of 6 to Ferns Lock at Fairyhouse (23.7f, heavy) 122 days ago. Headgear now applied.

**13 LE MALIN (FR) (34)** **86**  
2 **9** 12-0 | 76.2kg



Sean McParlan, Ireland **Mr N. McParlan**  
Three-time hurdle winner (for Francois Nicolle) and successful on last of 4 starts in points (Feb 26). Fairly useful form in chases, ½-length second of 5 to Billaway in hunter at Naas in February.

**14 MIGHTY STOWAWAY (IRE) (322)** s+t **92**  
0360/33-P **12** 12-0 | 76.2kg



Alan Hill **Mr Ben Sutton**  
Multiple point winner who ran a cracker when third in this last year for Gordon Elliott. However, well beaten for this yard here in April and in a point when last seen on New Year's Eve.

**15 MORATORIUM (IRE) (41)** s **88**  
84PP/82-22 **10** 12-0 | 76.2kg



M. Osborne **Mr Martin McIntyre**  
Failed to take to chasing for Gordon Elliott but fairly useful form in hunters for this yard and has done well in points. This surely too demanding, however.

**16 MYTH BUSTER (IRE) (344) (D)** s **93**  
501/03510- **10** 12-0 | 76.2kg



Mrs Sara V. Bradstock **Miss Lily Bradstock**  
One-time useful chaser (for Henry de Bromhead) and easy winner of a Musselburgh hunter 13 months ago. Well held in Foxhunters' at Aintree since but was wide-margin winner of a point last month.

**17 NOT THAT FUISSE (FR) (24) (BF)** **94**  
3B111-412 **10** 12-0 | 76.2kg



Dan Skelton **Mr Jack Andrews**  
Useful chaser who completed his hat-trick in 5-runner hunter chase at Fakenham in April. Smooth winner at Wetherby on return last month before left with too much to do at Taunton. Could outrun his odds.

**18 PREMIER MAGIC (IRE) (364)** s+t **90**  
1/3P- **10** 12-0 | 76.2kg



Bradley Gibbs **Mr Bradley Gibbs**  
Multiple point winner, including last time (Feb 5). Fairly useful form in hunter chases but produced a tame effort in this last year.

**19 ROCKY'S HOWYA (IRE) (516)** **62**  
46894F59- **7** 12-0 | 76.2kg



Declan Queally, Ireland **Mr M. C. O'Donovan**  
Just a fair maiden under Rules but easy winner all 5 starts in points (latest Feb 5). Capable of much better back under Rules and one to note.

**20 SECRET INVESTOR (28)** s+t **97**  
101/611 **11** 12-0 | 76.2kg



Paul Nicholls **Miss Natalie Parker**  
Just useful nowadays but had little trouble landing the odds in 5-runner hunter chases at Bangor and Kelso last month. More needed in new headgear here but not taken lightly.

**21 SHANTOU FLYER (IRE) (43) (C, D)** b+t **94**  
423U/21-52 **13** 12-0 | 76.2kg



S. Loxton **Miss Olive Nicholls**  
Has run some excellent races at this meeting over the years, including when twice placed in this event. Still retains plenty of ability but had no answer to Famous Clermont in hunter at Wincanton (25.1f, good to soft) 43 days ago. Failed to complete in point more recently.

**22 THE STORYTELLER (IRE) (81) (C, BF)** s **98**  
11225/7P-7 **12** 12-0 | 76.2kg




Gordon Elliott, Ireland **Mr J. J. Codd**  
Very smart hurdler/high-class chaser at best. Let down by jumping when 26¾ lengths seventh of 8 to Vaucelet in hunter at Down Royal in December. Won first 3 starts in points, runner-up last time (Feb 12).



**4.10**

RACE 5

**ST. JAMES'S PLACE FESTIVAL CHALLENGE CUP OPEN HUNTERS' CHASE (2) 5yo+ £50,000 3¼m70y (5290 Metres)****Racing TV**

**23 VAUCELET (FR) (81)**  **100**  
 11131-211 8 12-0 | 76.2kg  
 David Christie, Ireland **Mr B. O'Neill**  
 Won 3 of last 4 starts in points and pushed Billaway close in Champion Hunter at Punchestown in April. Enhanced excellent strike rate back under Rules in hunter chase at Down Royal (24f) 81 days ago, winning by neck from the idling Dorking Cock. Stiffer test here will suit and high on shortlist.

**24 WOTIZNAME (IRE) (67)** t **84**  
 3-125 13 12-0 | 76.2kg  
 Mrs Diane Ward **Miss Megan Bevan**  
 Useful hurdler/chaser at his peak but offered little on his return and last of 6 finishers in a point last time (Feb 26).

24 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**4-1** Vaucelet, **8-1** Famous Clermont, **9-1** Billaway, **11-1** Chris's Dream, **16-1** Secret Investor, **20-1** Rocky's Howya, **20-1** Bob And Co, **22-1** Dorking Cock, **22-1** The Storyteller, **28-1** Its On The Line, **33-1** Cat Tiger, **33-1** Black Op, **33-1** Le Malin, **33-1** Brain Power, **40-1** bar

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

VAUCELET improved on his excellent strike rate back under Rules when beating the idling Dorking Cock at Down Royal on Boxing Day and is just about the form pick with this stiffer test sure to suit. Famous Clermont was most impressive at Haydock last month and rates the main threat ahead of last year's winner Billaway.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. VAUCELET (FR) 2. FAMOUS CLERMONT (FR) 3. BILLAWAY (IRE)**

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2022	<b>Billaway</b> 10-12-0	13-8f	W. P. Mullins	Mr P. W. Mullins	19
2021	<b>Porlock Bay</b> 10-12-0	16-1	Will Biddick	Lorcan Williams	18
2020	<b>It Came To Pass</b> 10-12-0	66-1	Eugene M. O'Sullivan	Miss M. O'Sullivan	21
2019	<b>Hazel Hill</b> 11-12-0	7-2f	Philip Rowley	Alex Edwards	24
2018	<b>Pacha du Polder</b> 11-12-0	25-1	Paul Nicholls	Harriet Tucker	24

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

**4.50****MRS PADDY POWER MARES' CHASE (Liberthine) (Grade 2)**  
**(1) 5yo+ mares £120,000 2½m127y (4140 Metres)**

RACE 6

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

Left handed, undulating. Stiff fences that place a premium on sound jumping. The last half mile is uphill, although the lead changes hands on the run-in less frequently than might be expected. Prominent-racers often fare well on the chase course, especially in races up to 3m. On the New Course, the hurdles track has just two flights in the last six furlongs, resulting in more emphasis on stamina; large-field races over two miles often go to hold-up horses, as there can be a tendency to go for home too soon. Jockeys often steer a wide course in the winter months searching for better ground and this can lead to trouble in-running towards the stand rail in the straight.

Pace Information: **Strong**

**1 ALLEGORIE DE VASSY (FR) (54) (D)** t **99**  
P52/311-11 6 11-5 | 72.1kg



W. P. Mullins, Ireland

**P. Townend**

Arrives unbeaten in 4 starts since joining Willie Mullins, bolting up in Grade 2 mares' novice chases at Limerick and Thurles this winter. Her tendency to jump right at the latter track is a slight concern now switching to a left-handed course but she's a hugely exciting prospect.

**2 ELIMAY (FR) (34) (CD)** b+t **94**  
1/3211-244 9 11-5 | 72.1kg



W. P. Mullins, Ireland

**M. P. Walsh**

Edged out Pink Legend to win this race last year but her 2 runs this winter have been underwhelming. No big surprise were she to revive in first-time blinkers (replacing cheekpieces) but Allegorie de Vassy has to be considered the stable number one.

**3 IMPERVIOUS (IRE) (61)** **100**  
11565-111 7 11-5 | 72.1kg



Colm A. Murphy, Ireland

**B. Hayes**

3-3 over fences, taking her form up another notch stepping up to 2½m for the first time in this discipline when proving ½ length too strong for Journey With Me (won since) in Punchestown Grade 3 last time. Likely there's even more to come. Leading claims.

**4 RIVIERE D'ETEL (FR) (110) (BF)** **97**  
112253-24 6 11-5 | 72.1kg



Gordon Elliott, Ireland

**Davy Russell**

Smart chaser who won her first 3 outings over fences last season. Respectable reappearance fourth at Navan in November but ran poorly when a remote last of 4 in a Carlisle listed event a fortnight later. Given a break since.

**5 DOLCITA (FR) (75) (D)** **93**  
52121-312 8 11-2 | 70.8kg



W. P. Mullins, Ireland

**D. E. Mullins**

Bounced back to best to win 9-runner listed chase at Clonmel (20.5f, heavy) in November. Very good 4¾ lengths second of 5 to Scarlet And Dove in Grade 3 at Fairyhouse on New Year's Day but even that leaves her with a bit to find here.

**6 JEREMYS FLAME (IRE) (49)** h **99**  
3F-631151 9 11-2 | 70.8kg



Gavin Patrick Cromwell, Ireland

**Keith Donoghue**

Improved performer this season, making it 3 wins in last 4 starts when seeing off the reopposing Zambella by 6½ lengths in 2½m Huntingdon listed chase 7 weeks ago. That form doesn't leave her too much to find with market leaders here.

**7 MAGIC DAZE (IRE) (34)** t **96**  
3138-1221 7 11-2 | 70.8kg



Henry de Bromhead, Ireland

**Rachael Blackmore**

Showed a really good attitude when posting a smart effort to win a 2m Naas listed event last month, forcing pace and finding extra when tackled after 2 out. Stamina isn't assured stepping back up in trip.

**8 PINK LEGEND (33) (CD)** **95**  
1F22-6341 9 11-2 | 70.8kg



Venetia Williams

**Charlie Deutsch**

Beaten ½ length by Elimay in this 12 months go. A 3m Exeter listed win last month shows she arrives in good form again but it looks a stronger race this year.

**9 ZAMBELLA (FR) (49) (D, BF)** **95**  
2143-2112 8 11-2 | 70.8kg



Nigel Twiston-Davies

**Daryl Jacob**

Has bagged listed chases at Carlisle and Doncaster this winter but Jeremy's Flame proved too strong for her at Huntingdon last time. Fourth in this last year and suspicion she'll find a few too good again.

9 DECLARED RUNNERS

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

A fascinating clash between 2 young chasers who could be very smart. IMPERVIOUS really impressed when claiming the scalp of Journey With Me at Punchestown in January and is narrowly preferred to Allegorie de Vassy, who has been a very easy winner of her 2 starts over fences. Jeremys Flame looks best of the rest.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:****1. IMPERVIOUS (IRE) 2. ALLEGORIE DE VASSY (FR) 3. JEREMYS FLAME (IRE)****WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2022	<b>Elimay</b> 8-11-2	9-4	W. P. Mullins	M. P. Walsh	8
2021	<b>Colreevy</b> 8-11-7	9-4	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	11

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**5-4** Allegorie De Vassy, **9-4** Impervious, **8-1** Jeremys Flame, **16-1** Magic Daze, **28-1** Riviere D'etel, **28-1** Zambella, **33-1** Elimay, **40-1** bar

**5.30**

RACE 7

**MARTIN PIPE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP HURDLE**  
**(2) 4yo+ (Rated 0-145) £75,000 2½m56y (4070 Metres)****Racing TV**Going: **Soft (Good to Soft in places)**

Left handed, undulating. Stiff fences that place a premium on sound jumping. The last half mile is uphill, although the lead changes hands on the run-in less frequently than might be expected. Prominent-racers often fare well on the chase course, especially in races up to 3m. On the New Course, the hurdles track has just two flights in the last six furlongs, resulting in more emphasis on stamina; large-field races over two miles often go to hold-up horses, as there can be a tendency to go for home too soon. Jockeys often steer a wide course in the winter months searching for better ground and this can lead to trouble in-running towards the stand rail in the straight.

Pace Information: **Extreme**

**1 FELIX DESJY (FR) (55)** **97**  
00-148702 **10** 11-12 | 75.3kg



Gordon Elliott, Ireland

**Corey McGivern**

Grade 1 winner earlier in his career and finally took advantage of a lenient mark at Punchestown 11 months ago. Bit of a mixed bag since, one of his better recent efforts when runner-up at Navan in January, but wouldn't be sure to be in the same mood here.

**2 MIGHT I (IRE) (48)** **98**  
15/1232-82 **7** 11-12 | 75.3kg



Harry Fry

**Lorcan Murtagh**

Finished runner-up in 2½m Aintree Grade 1 on his final start last term and having raced too freely upped to 3m on return, ran a stormer back down a mile in trip on just his second start in handicaps when second at this track (16.8f) in January. Shortlisted in first-time tongue tie.

**3 COOL SURVIVOR (IRE) (41) (D)** **96**  
26-61124 **6** 11-7 | 73.0kg



Gordon Elliott, Ireland

**Sam Ewing**

Fair form in bumpers and won first 2 starts over hurdles. Took his form up a notch when fourth in Grade 1 Nathaniel Lacy & Partners Solicitors Novices' Hurdle at Leopardstown 6 weeks ago and he's a handicap debutant to note from a top yard.

**4 MOLLY OLLYS WISHES (34)** **97**  
51P8-1352 **9** 11-7 | 73.0kg



Dan Skelton

**Fergus Gillard**

Likeable mare who has built up a good strike rate, taking Wetherby mares' listed hurdle for second year running in October. Not in same form since, though, and this is a tricky assignment for a rare start in handicap company.

**5 IMAGINE (FR) (33)** **99**  
1-1222 **5** 11-6 | 72.6kg



Gordon Elliott, Ireland

**B. W. Harvey**

Made a winning hurdling debut at Wexford in October and has filled the runner-up spot on all 3 subsequent outings. No surprise should he take his form up a notch now tackling 2½m for the first time on handicap debut. One to consider.

**6 MARK OF GOLD (20)** **97**  
415-171F1 **6** 11-6 | 72.6kg



Gary Moore

**Caolin Quinn**

Fairly useful winner on the Flat who has taken very well to hurdling, making it 6 wins in 12 starts when easily seeing off 8 rivals over 21f at Kempton last month. Hit with a 10 lb rise but on an upward trajectory and warrants plenty of respect.

**7 NO ORDINARY JOE (IRE) (34) (D)** **97**  
14/113P-19 **7** 11-6 | 72.6kg



Nicky Henderson

**Luca Morgan**

Placed in the Greatwood here last season and took his form up another notch when making a successful reappearance at Kempton (2m, soft) over Christmas. Better than the result when mid-field at Newbury (16.3f) since and now steps back up in trip.

**8 IROKO (FR) (62)** **99**  
4244-11 **5** 11-5 | 72.1kg



Oliver Greenall &amp; Josh Guerriero

**Aidan Kelly**

Justified good support to make a winning return/handicap debut at Wetherby in November and followed up in even more impressive fashion back there in January. Up 10 lb for that success but yet to finish improving and folly to ignore.

**9 SPIRIT OF LEGEND (FR) (20) (D)** **97**  
812B6 **6** 11-4 | 71.7kg



Henry de Bromhead, Ireland

**M. P. O'Connor**

Made a winning start in this sphere at Navan in November and better form when runner-up in handicap next start. Below that level for no obvious reason at Fairyhouse last month but he's worth another chance.

**10 SAYLAVEE (IRE) (48)** **94**  
24-111515 **6** 11-4 | 71.7kg



W. P. Mullins, Ireland

**Jack Foley**

Dual bumper winner who is already useful over hurdles after just a handful of starts, landing a listed mares' novice at Punchestown in December. Found things tough under a penalty upped in grade at Fairyhouse since and she looks up against it.

**11 WEST TO THE BRIDGE (IRE) (5lb/2kg ex) (10) (D)** **97**  
15-095321 **10** 11-4 | 71.7kg



Dan Skelton

**Tristan Durrell**

Enjoyed a purple patch early last year, completing 4-timer at Newton Abbot (26.5f) in March. Steadily found his form this term, building on placed efforts to score at Sandown (19.8f, soft) for the second year running 10 days ago. This is a very different test under a penalty, however.

**12 SPANISH HARLEM (FR) (36) (BF)** **100**  
1322 **5** 11-2 | 70.8kg



W. P. Mullins, Ireland

**M. J. M. O'Sullivan**

Proving expensive to follow, placed all 3 outings for this yard having made a winning debut at Auteuil last June. However, his all-conquering trainer took a similar route when winning this in 2021 with Galopin des Champs, so he rates as a major player on handicap debut under top conditional.

**13 AU FLEURON (FR) (76)** **98**  
412378-04 **6** 11-2 | 70.8kg



Gordon Elliott, Ireland

**Kieren Buckley**

Shaped as if amiss sent chasing but took a step back in the right direction when fourth in a big-field handicap at Punchestown (19.6f, heavy) on New Year's Eve. Yard appears to have stronger candidates.

**14 IRISH HILL (GER) (27) (D)** **97**  
231-22111 **5** 11-1 | 70.3kg



Paul Nicholls

**Angus Cheleda**

Fairly useful on the Flat in Germany and going from strength-to-strength over hurdles, overcoming a rise in class when completing a hat-trick at Ascot (19.3f) last month. Not yet finished improving so looks worthy of his place in this stronger company on that evidence.

**15 FIRM FOOTINGS (IRE) (33)** **93**  
312331 **5** 11-1 | 70.3kg



Gordon Elliott, Ireland

**Shane Fitzgerald**

Bumper winner at the second attempt who knuckled down well to break his duck over hurdles in 16-runner maiden at Navan (2m) 33 days ago, rallying to regain lead run-in. Longer trip promises to suit but he needs a lot more now upped markedly in grade.

**16 WONDERWALL (IRE) (112)** **96**  
137/21F-3 **7** 11-1 | 70.3kg



Richard Spencer

**Non Runner**

NON RUNNER.

**17 IMPULSIVE ONE (USA) (30)** **97**  
174-51431 **5** 11-0 | 69.9kg



Nicky Henderson

**Ben Bromley**

Showed benefit of second wind op when resuming winning ways at Huntingdon (15.8f) in November and notched his second success of the campaign at Wetherby (19.7f) last month, doing well to peg back a recent winner. Nudged up 4 lb and may feature.

**18 IN FROM THE COLD (IRE) (103)** **94**  
13404-8P **6** 11-0 | 69.9kg



Gordon Elliott, Ireland

**Danny Gilligan**

Lightly-raced hurdler who disappointed on first start for this yard but took a step back in the right direction on the Flat when third at Dundalk last month. Needs to build on that back over hurdles now.

**19 HAXO (FR) (46) (D)** **95**  
08/1626-71 **6** 10-13 | 69.4kg



W. P. Mullins, Ireland

**Kieran Callaghan**

Bumper winner in France who showed improved form to get off the mark over timber at Punchestown (20.3f, heavy) in January, taking advantage of the runner-up's late error. Not beyond the realms that he has more to offer on handicap debut.

**20 BUDDY ONE (IRE) (22) (D)** **96**  
706122 **6** 10-12 | 68.9kg



Paul John Gilligan, Ireland

**Jack G. Gilligan**

Off the mark at Fairyhouse in January and resumed progress to a significant extent when going down by just a short head in a Grade 3 at Thurles (20.7f) just over 3 weeks ago, not going down without a fight. This just his second start in handicaps so not dismissed.

**5.30****MARTIN PIPE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP HURDLE**  
**(2) 4yo+ (Rated 0-145) £75,000 2½m56y (4070**  
**Metres)**

RACE 7

**Racing TVi****21 GROZNI (FR) (41) (D) 97**03101412 7 10-11 | 68.5kg  
Charles Byrnes, Ireland  
NON RUNNER.**Non Runner****22 HOLLOW SOUND (IRE) (26) 93**

0426-P52 8 10-10 | 68.0kg

Luke Comer, Ireland **C. G. O'Dwyer**

Yet to taste success over hurdles but put up a career best when runner-up in maiden at Punchestown (20f, good to soft) last month. Plenty more required back in handicap company.

**23 HEY JOHNNY (IRE) (19) 96**

31UP4153 6 10-8 | 67.1kg

Thomas Mullins, Ireland **Non Runner**

Doubled his account for the season at Thurles in January and improved again when third at Naas (15.5f) last month. Steps up in trip and this a much tougher assignment. NON RUNNER.

**24 FIFTY BALL (FR) (27) 97**

345021-P0 8 10-7 | 66.7kg

Gary Moore **Niall Houlihan**

Cashed in off reduced mark over extended 21f at Ascot on final start last season and having shaped as if the run was needed on return, he's been left with a bit to prove following a lacklustre effort back there (19.3f) since.

**25 INNATENDUE (FR) (19) (BF) t 92**

122-63275 5 10-6 | 66.2kg

A. J. Martin, Ireland **Non Runner**

Bumper winner in France but yet to get his head in front in this sphere, having no real excuses when fifth in maiden hurdle at Naas (15.5f, good to soft) 19 days ago. This step up in trip needs to bring out some significant improvement. NON RUNNER.

**26 VULTAN (IRE) (19) t 87**

21-0P0 6 10-5 | 65.8kg

A. J. Martin, Ireland **Non Runner**

Won on final outing for Joseph O'Brien but little show in 3 starts for current yard this season, latest after 5 months off. Significantly back up in trip but best watched. NON RUNNER.



26 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:****9-2** Spanish Harlem, **6-1** Imagine, **8-1** Iroko, **8-1** Cool Survivor, **14-1** Might I, **20-1** Irish Hill, **20-1** Haxo, **25-1** Firm Footings, **28-1** Mark of Gold, **33-1** Au Fleuron, **33-1** Impulsive One, **33-1** Felix Desjy, **33-1** Buddy One, **40-1** bar**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

Willie Mullins took this in 2021 with Galopin des Champs and SPANISH HARLEM is fancied to tread a similar path and make a winning handicap debut under Michael O'Sullivan who has hit the headlines already here this week. Iroko, who continues to go from strength to strength, looks sure make a bold bid for the hat-trick so he heads up the dangers, while Imagine and Cool Survivor look the pick of Gordon Elliott's sextet in an ultra-competitive final race of the Festival.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:****1. SPANISH HARLEM (FR) 2. IROKO (FR) 3. IMAGINE (FR)****WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2022	<b>Banbridge</b>	6-11-3	12-1	Joseph Patrick O'Brien	M. M. McDonagh	23
2021	<b>Galopin des Champs</b>	5-11-9	8-1	W. P. Mullins	S. F. O'Keefe	22
2020	<b>Indefatigable</b>	7-11-9	25-1	Paul Webber	Rex Dingle	23
2019	<b>Early Doors</b>	6-11-10	5-1	Joseph Patrick O'Brien	Jonjo O'Neill Jr.	24
2018	<b>Blow By Blow</b>	7-11-10	11-1	Gordon Elliott	Donagh Meyler	23

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race