



# NORTHUMBERLAND PLATE FESTIVAL

SAT 29 JUNE

## BETTING GUIDE



**RACE 1**

Jenningsbet 200 Shops Nationwide Handicap (Class 2) **6f**

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**PRIZE MONEY**  
**£50,000**

**RACE 2**

Jenningsbet Nun Street Newcastle Open Now Chipchase Stakes (Group 3) **6f**

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**PRIZE MONEY**  
**£90,000**

**RACE 3**

Jenningsbet Festival Northumberland Vase Handicap (Class 2) **2m**

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**PRIZE MONEY**  
**£75,000**

**RACE 4**

Jenningsbet Northumberland Plate Handicap (Class 2) **2m**

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**PRIZE MONEY**  
**£150,000**

**RACE 5**

Download The Raceday Ready App Handicap (Class 2) **7f**

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**PRIZE MONEY**  
**£50,000**

**RACE 6**

Winners Wear Skopes Menswear EBF Novice Stakes (Class 2) **5f**

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**PRIZE MONEY**  
**£32,500**

**RACE 7**

Free Digital Racecard At [raceday-ready.com](http://raceday-ready.com) Handicap (Class 3) **1m2f**

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**PRIZE MONEY**  
**£35,000**

**RACE 8**

Get The Inside Track With [raceday-ready.com](http://raceday-ready.com) Handicap (Class 5) **1m4f**

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**PRIZE MONEY**  
**£20,000**

The richest 2 mile Handicap in Europe is here, as this Saturday see's a huge field go to post in the Northumberland Plate at Newcastle. The lineup also features the Group 3 Chipchase Sprint, as well as the Northumberland Vase Consolation handicap before the featurerace – all of which promise to provide ultra-competitive betting heats!





# EXPERT TIPS

BY DECLAN RIX

## CITY HOUSE

1.35 - Jenningsbet  
200 Shops Nationwide Handicap  
(Class 2) (3yo+) - 6f



Much focus in the James Fanshawe yard this weekend will be on Irish Derby-bound Ambiente Friendly, but **CITY HOUSE** may kick off Northumberland Plate Day with a win before Sunday's big race at the Curragh.

The well-bred son of Night Of Thunder is still unexposed after seven runs and while it's maybe too soon to pigeonhole him, he has the makings of an all-weather specialist on what we have seen of him so far in his career.

City House has undoubtedly showed his best form on an artificial surface and bounced back to form at Kempton 17 days ago after two lacklustre efforts on turf. His closing style should be suited to Newcastle's track in a race that has plenty of pace on so here's hoping his widest-of-all-draw in 13 doesn't prove to be an inconvenience.

## ALBASHEER

2.04 - Jenningsbet Chipchase Stakes  
(Group 3) (3yo+) - 6f



A field of 11 go forward for this Group 3 on Newcastle's all-weather surface and it is a seriously competitive contest; should you find the winner, it will be rewarding, as so many appear to have chances.

The old boy Kinross returns after a 252-day break, with previous all-weather and course experience in the bag; he is respected, but at a bigger price, the Newcastle-loving **ALBASHEER** is worth chancing to improve on his good course record.

Archie Watson's inmate has form figures of 3117 here and that seventh was a run where he hit the gates too well, failing to get cover and over-raced. To be fair, he has shown himself to be tactically versatile in the past, but this track is often best ridden with plenty of cover and a good lead.

If Sky Sports Racing Ambassador Hollie Doyle can get the six-year-old to miss the gates and come with a late flourish, the previous pace he has shown over 5f will stand him well in a race that may not be run at a strong gallop.

Drawn bang in the middle in stall five, it gives Doyle options of following the best pace, depending on where the race may develop.

## GRAND PROVIDENCE

3.10 - Jenningsbet  
Northumberland Plate Handicap  
(Class 2) (3yo+) - 2m56y



Just the 20 runners to deal with in this Heritage Handicap. There doesn't appear to be an out-and-out front-runner in here, but with the first bend coming up relatively quick, I envisage a strong opening half-mile before the pace steadies.

Proper hold-up horses may have a bit on as they turn for home if this scenario plays out so horses who race prominently hopefully get the perfect trip. **GRAND PROVIDENCE** never settles too far from the gallop so as long as she gets away on terms from stall 15, she holds strong each-way claims.

She missed the gates in her last run in the Chester Cup, and was then rushed up to get a good early position. That, along with the buzz of the big crowd, saw her just over-race for too long in a competitive handicap. To stick around and finish a close-up fifth under those circumstances was a big effort.

The ground on Chester Cup Day was likely quicker than ideal for this big filly too, so Newcastle's kinder all-weather surface will suit her more, and she is already a winner on an artificial surface at Kempton.

## SOLENT GATEWAY

3.10 - Jenningsbet  
Northumberland Plate Handicap  
(Class 2) (3yo+) - 2m56y



**SOLENT GATEWAY** was third to Trueshan off 90 in this race two years ago and returns off the same mark, 90. The son of Awtaad ran some big races off higher ratings last season, and while he started 2024 slowly, he has been running himself into form.

His latest second in unsuitably soft ground at Haydock suggests he is now in top order. Trying to give 6lb to subsequent Ascot Stakes runner-up Divine Comedy is now looking an impossible task, but Hugo Palmer's inmate was the only horse to give the winner any sort of race, for all he was no match for him late on.

Sure, he is vulnerable to less exposed runners in this, but at 25/1, with good course and distance form in the book, Solent Gateway is worth backing each-way on the back of his latest effort.



# GUIDE TO THE NORTHUMBERLAND PLATE

BY JAMIE LYNCH

Sky Sports Racing's **Jamie Lynch** gives his verdict on the Jenningsbet Northumberland Plate at 15:10

**TASHKHAN** J: BEN ROBINSON T: BRIAN ELLISON



A big weight needn't bother him remembering that he carried 10-2 when third in last year's Cesarewitch, after which he got bronze again in a Group 1 in France, a class component which rationalises a mark of 111, which could be higher still on some calculation, but his task is magnified by coming on cold, withdrawn from the Queen Alexandra last weekend because of the fast ground: this will be his first start on All-Weather since getting his grounding at Dundalk way back in 2020.

**YASHIN** J: SCOTT MCCULLAGH T: JOHN HARRINGTON



Mostly keeps pattern company these days and off the same mark here as when seventh in last year's Ebor, when shaping like 2m may well be up his street (first try here). Messing with a tuning-up Kyrios on both starts this year, not to take that too literally, but it suggests if not shows that he's in the form of his life, and the distance upscale could well be what he's wanted all along.

**SPARTAN ARMY** J: BILLY LOUGHNANE T: ALAN KING



Ultimately underwhelming over hurdles but suddenly surged when setting foot on synthetics and completed a hat-trick prior to checking in third in the Final on Good Friday. Both that and his following fifth at Newbury indicates his mark is at its maximum, and difficult draw to overcome in 18.

**ZOFFEE** J: HARRY DAVIS T: HUGO PALMER



Had been circling around a big one for a long time and eventually nailed the landing in the Chester Cup last month. Lessons learnt from last year (when running flat in the Plate) by missing Royal Ascot this time around to give him more time to target this, having won the consolation Vase in 2022. He's spirited and straightforward but, tellingly, he's 0/8 when his mark exceeds 90.

**ONESMOOTHOPERATOR** J: CONNOR BEASLEY T: BRIAN ELLISON



Has done his best work at Newcastle, successful in the rearranged November Handicap around here at the end of last year, that over 12f, but he's equally effective at this trip as highlighted at Southwell last time when splitting Prydwen and Pledgeofallegiance, a performance which looks all the better in light of the Ascot Stakes. If it turns tactical, there are few faster than him in the finish.

**TRUE LEGEND** J: CIEREN FALLON T: SIR MARK PRESCOTT



A great nudger who has nudged up his rating for over a year, beginning off 63 and now over 2 stone higher after incremental improvement, but all at shorter trips, never before tackling 2m, maybe on purpose with an eye on this big day. This is the deepest field he has faced by far.

**TOO FRIENDLY** J: CALLUM SHEPHERD T: JAMES OWEN



The gamble of the Chester Cup but looked a non-stayer there, though it may have more a trait than the trip as he hasn't found much for pressure twice since over shorter. One remaining ray of light is the All-Weather as the best he has ever looked on the Flat was his Kempton win in March.

**ZEALANDIA** J: JOSEPHINE GORDON T: IAN WILLIAMS



Produced a lifetime best on New Year's Day to win over this course and distance from classy companion Enemy, but the consequence has been a mark in the 90s, which might be beyond him given his dull displays since, the latest in the Chester Cup.

**SPIRIT MIXER** J: GEORGE ROOKE T: ANDREW BALDING



Chased home heavyweight Trueshan in the memorable 2022 renewal but it has basically been downhill ever since, and his latest third was a hollow placing (beaten 8 lengths). There's no recommending him right now.

**DUKE OF OXFORD** J: TYLER HEARD T: MICHAEL BELL



Up-and-coming stayer who ran a blinder over course and distance when beating all bar Prydwen in the Final on Good Friday. Easy to put a line through the Chester Cup when he was dropped out from a wide draw but he's out of luck in that regard yet again, drawn 20 of 20, but for which he'd be amongst the favourites when his age and progressive profile.

**SOLENT GATEWAY** J: ROWAN SCOTT T: HUGO PALMER



Rebounded from a reduced mark last time at Haydock when runner-up to the thriving Divine Comedy, though never laid a glove on her, and it's still a stretch to say he's the same now as when third in this race in 2022.

**GRAND PROVIDENCE** J: DAVID PROBERT T: ANDREW BALDING



Has been racing for little over a year and still pushing upwards but has inevitably found it harder in the leagues she's now playing, fifth in the Chester Cup last time (when having more chance than most from her prominent position). There's a suspicion she'll be better with stiffer tests than an All-Weather 2m provides.

**ISLAND BRAVE** J: ETHAN JONES T: HEATHER MAIN



Has previously had two cracks at a Northumberland Plate including a fourth off 100 in 2021 but his efforts this year suggests age has caught up with him, and he's due to drop a further 3 lb.

### TROOPER BISDEE J: HOLLIE DOYLE T: SIR MARK PRESCOTT



Surface stats of 6/9 in handicaps tells a tale of his trajectory and his trainer, and, without knowing the specifics (reassessed mark yet to be published), generally he's well-in here under a penalty as he'll be going up a good bit more than 5 lb for his Pontefract win by 4 lengths, which could have been double that had the rider wanted. He's coming in hot, but he's missing a few rungs of the ladder to swing at this high-end handicap, plus he hasn't run on the All-Weather since his 2-y-o groundwork.

### EVALUATION J: ANDREW MULLEN T: LUCINDA RUSSELL



Took advantage of circumstances to win a 0-85 at Wolverhampton last time, on just his second start for the stable. This sort of mark has been beyond him in the past – he finished fourth in the Vase off 89 in 2022 – and stall 19 only compounds matters.

### HOWTH J: MARCO GHIANI T: MICHAEL APPLEBY



First go at 2m when fourth in the Final here on Good Friday, but not seen since. Seems at last to be undergoing a Mick Appleby makeover but probably biting off more than he can chew in a race like this.

### GOLDEN FLAME J: DURAN FENTIMAN T: DEBORAH FAULKNER



Trainer had the runner-up last year with Golden Rules, though that one had proven his worth in the spring whereas Golden Flame hasn't been seen since October 2022 (for Charlie Johnston).

### FORZA ORTA J: JAMES SULLIVAN T: KEVIN RYAN



Won on his first attempt at 2m at York's Ebor meeting but hasn't kicked on from that, albeit beaten only 4 lengths in the Chester Cup (eighth). Making All-Weather debut here, from a difficult draw.

### RATHGAR J: CAM HARDIE T: JACK CHANNON



Has raised his game since coming to 1¼m, but these are challenging circumstances for his first go at this far, from 2 lb out of the handicap in a race as well-contested as this. Best hope is a falsely run race, which isn't out of the question looking at the pace projection.

### ARTISAN DANCER J: ANDREW BRESLIN T: CHARLIE JOHNSTON



One of the horses of the All-Weather season for his dependability and durability, and maintaining standards into the turf season, but he has never been in a race like this, and he's 3 lb out of the weights.

## VERDICT

The presence of team-mate Tashkhan at the head of the handicap helps **ONESMOOTHOPERATOR**, who has already bagged a big one around here (the rearranged November Handicap) and still looks well handicapped based on how his Southwell second has worked out.

There's less pace signed on than usual for a field of this size and that too tips the scales in his favour as Onesmoothoperator has more speed than most stayers.



# HOLLIE DOYLE

Two years ago the gallant Trueshan gave me one of my proudest days in the saddle when he ground out a record-breaking victory in the Jenningsbet Northumberland Plate, one of the toughest and most famous handicaps in the racing calendar.

## RIZG



My boss Imad Alsagar's **Rizg** is a horse we have always thought a lot of so it's good to see him back from a lengthy absence in the opening **Jenningsbet 200 Shops Nationwide Handicap (1.35)**.

## ALBASHEER



My old friend **Albasheer** had no luck in a steadily run Wokingham Stakes at Royal Ascot last weekend but it will hopefully be a different story in the **Jenningsbet Nun Street Newcastle Open Now Chipchase Stakes (2.04)**.

Archie Watson's gelding is rated 10lb better on the All-Weather than he is on turf so stepping into Group 3 company shouldn't be a negative for a horse who won twice at this track back in the winter.

It's a red hot renewal with dual Group 1 winner Kinross making his belated re-appearance but Albasheer is capable of a big run in this grade if he's on a going day and has match fitness on his side.

He's quirky, so needs everything to go his way, but rattled home off a strong pace in a good handicap over course and distance in March and is entitled - on ratings alone - to be in the shake-up.

## ALPHONSE LE GRANDE



I also have a favourite's chance in the 2m **Jenningsbet Festival Northumberland Vase Handicap (2.35)** on Cathy O'Leary's progressive Irish raider **Alphonse Le Grande**.

This talented gelding brings perfect credentials to the race having won the Chester Plate in May for Tony Martin. He's 8lb higher now but is clearly thriving and is no stranger to the All-Weather with two Dundalk handicaps under his girth this year.

Stall 12 looks okay for him, too. He's a strong traveller who managed to win well on the Roodee despite not getting the clearest of runs from a much lower starting position.

## TROOPER BISDEE



To be back on Saturday with another favourite's chance on **Trooper Bisdee (3.10)**, will bring those memories back into sharp focus and it would be amazing to repeat the feat for another brilliant trainer, Sir Mark Prescott.

The progressive four-year-old is at the head of the markets for the 2m Tapeta marathon so I couldn't wish for a better chance.

With a 5lb penalty for last weekend's win at Pontefract - his fourth in just five starts - Trooper Bisdee gets in off just 8st 6lb and looks fairly drawn in stall 10. Hopefully he'll have the tactical speed to be in the right place at the right time.

His stamina knows no bounds as he demonstrated over that demanding 2m2f at the West Yorkshire track and though he has little experience of synthetics he does act on a sound surface on turf and this big track should really suit him.



# NORTHUMBERLAND PLATE STATS & TRENDS

BY **PAUL JONES**

Favourites have a solid record overall as in only one of the last 12 years they have not recorded a top-six placing. Although there has been a good smattering of winning market leaders down the years with 11 favourites or joint-favourites proving successful since 1986, it was the 33/1 outsider, Nicholas T, that emerged on top in 2021. At the age of nine Jim Goldie's stalwart became the oldest winner since the 19th century so he certainly wasn't one for trends followers when coming from last to first wearing a first-time hood.

## NORTHUMBERLAND PLATE



CALLING THE WIND – 2023 WINNER

### POSITIVES

Drawn 10+

By a trainer primarily known for jumps racing

The Favourite

### NEGATIVES

Carrying under 9st

Not won over 1m6f+ on the flat

Finished worse than fifth last time out

## CHIPCHASE STAKES



TIBER FLOW – 2023 WINNER

Eight of the last 13 winners had won earlier in the season though and nine of the last ten winners had run no more than three times beforehand during the same campaign.

### POSITIVES

Won earlier in the season

The favourite

Drawn 1-3

Trained by William Haggas

BHA Rated 106+

### NEGATIVES

Penalised

More than three runs this season

BHA Rated under 100

# TIMEFORM TIPS

(Credit: timeform.com)

RACE  
1

1st **CITY HOUSE** (13)  
2nd **WILTSHIRE** (5)  
3rd **ALMARADA PRINCE** (12)

RACE  
2

1st **MONTASSIB** (5)  
2nd **KINROSS** (4)  
3rd **SPYCATCHER** (9)

RACE  
3

1st **ALPHONSE LE GRANDE** (3)  
2nd **MARBUZET** (13)  
3rd **BELGOPRINCE** (7)

RACE  
4

1st **TROOPER BISDEE** (14)  
2nd **TOO FRIENDLY** (7)  
3rd **ONESMOOTHOPERATOR** (5)

RACE  
5

1st **UNITED APPROACH** (10)  
2nd **ELDRICKJONES** (7)  
3rd **LOCAL HERO** (12)

RACE  
6

1st **INVITED** (7)  
2nd **ARDENNES** (1)  
3rd **DUTCH FINALE** (6)

RACE  
7

1st **SEA LEGEND** (6)  
2nd **BYSTANDER** (8)  
3rd **FORCEFUL SPEED** (3)

RACE  
8

1st **BALTIC** (13)  
2nd **SHIFTER** (11)  
3rd **SQUEEZEBOX** (6)



MONTASIBB (RACE 2)



KINROSS (RACE 2)



TOO FRIENDLY (RACE 4)

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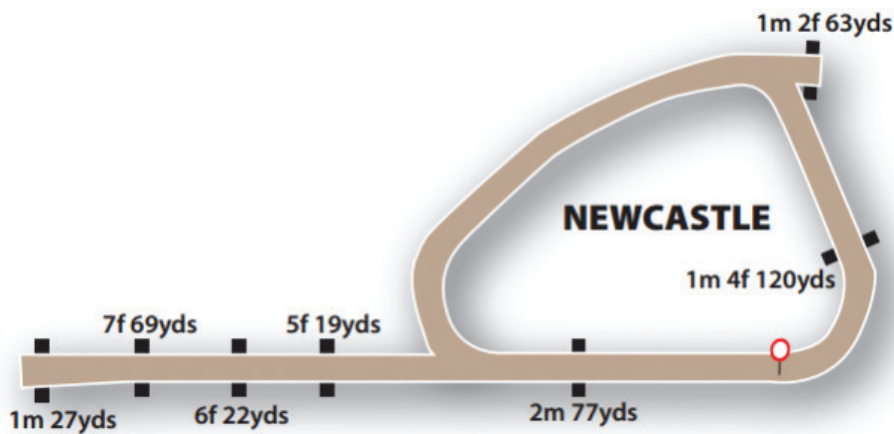
# GUIDE TO NEWCASTLE

By Classic-winning jockey and Sky Sports Racing presenter **Jason Weaver**

(Credit: timeform.com)

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“ It’s a massive advantage to get anywhere near the fence in races on the round course at Newcastle, especially in an event like the Northumberland Plate, because the turns are long and, if you’re more than three or four deep, you’re forfeiting loads of ground. You need to be on a very good one to win from a wide berth. There’s a bit of a run off on the round track, too, where the ground tends to fall away from you quite steeply towards the initial bend. It’s a very fair track, though, beautiful to ride. ”



## TIMEFORM

Left-handed, oval. Newcastle switched from turf to all-weather during the winter of 2015/16, and like Wolverhampton, the surface it uses is Tapeta. It differs from the majority of the all-weather tracks in that as well as a round course, it has a floodlit straight mile.

