

Friday 12th April

AINTREE



1.45 HUYTON ASPHALT FRANNY BLENNERHASSETT MEMORIAL MILDMAY NOVICES' CHASE (Grade 1) (1) 3m210y (5020 Metres)

RACE 1 **(5) INOTHEWAYURTHINKIN | (4) HEART WOOD | (2) CHIANTI CLASSICO**

2.20 WILLIAM HILL HANDICAP HURDLE (PREMIER HANDICAP) (1) 2½m (4020 Metres)

RACE 2 **(22) MAKING HEADWAY | (16) OCASTLE DES MOTTES | (6) KATEIRA**

2.55 TRUSTATRADER TOP NOVICES' HURDLE (Grade 1) (1) 2m103y (3310 Metres)

RACE 3 **(5) MYSTICAL POWER | (1) FIREFOX | (7) DYSART ENOS**

3.30 MY PENSION EXPERT MELLING CHASE (Grade 1) (1) 2m3f200y (4010 Metres)

RACE 4 **(4) JONBON | (6) PIC D'ORHY | (7) PROTEKTORAT**

4.05 RANDOX SUPPORTS RACE AGAINST DEMENTIA TOPHAM HANDICAP CHASE (PREMIER HANDICAP) (1) 2m5f19y (4240 Metres) (Nat.)

RACE 5 **(3) SHAKEM UP'ARRY | (11) LIFE IN THE PARK | (20) BILL BAXTER**

4.40 CAVANI SARTORIAL MENSWEAR SEFTON NOVICES' HURDLE (Grade 1) (1) 3m149y (4960 Metres)

RACE 6 **(5) READIN TOMMY WRONG | (7) THE JUKEBOX MAN | (6) SHANAGH BOB**

5.15 ALDER HEY HANDICAP HURDLE (CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' AND AMATEUR RIDERS' RACE) (2) 2m103y (3310 Metres)

RACE 7 **(14) ZEEBAND | (9) MAIDENSTREETPRINCE | (17) EAGLES REIGN**

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.

1.45

RACE 1

HUYTON ASPHALT FRANNY BLENNERHASSETT MEMORIAL MILD MAY NOVICES' CHASE (Grade 1) (1) 5yo+ £120,000 3m210y (5020 Metres)



Going: **Soft (Heavy in places), National: Heavy (Soft in places)**

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

The Grand National course is triangular with its apex (at the Canal Turn) the furthest point from the stands. Inside is the Mildmay course which has birch fences. A major feature of the Mildmay course is its sharpness, though the fences are stiff and it's a tough jumping test. The Grand National is run over two complete circuits taking in sixteen spruce fences first time around and fourteen the second. Alterations to the fences in recent times have had the effect of making it a less severe test of jumping than used to be the case. Since 2013, the run to the first fence in the Grand National was reduced in a bid to also improve safety, resulting in the overall race distance shortening from the usual 4½m, though the run-in is still 494 yards long and includes an elbow.

Pace Information: **Very Weak**

1 BROADWAY BOY (IRE) (90) (C, D) s **98**
U11-12113 6 11-7 | 73.0kg



Nigel Twiston-Davies

Sam Twiston-Davies

Made a successful start over fences in a Worcester novice and has scored twice at Cheltenham since, the form of his handicap win in December boosted by the second and third subsequently. Faced a tough ask having to concede weight when third of 5 at Warwick in January. Cheekpieces reached for.

2 CHIANTI CLASSICO (IRE) (31) (D) t **98**
111P-1121 7 11-7 | 73.0kg



Kim Bailey

David Bass

Completed a hat-trick over hurdles last season and has quickly developed into a smart chaser, making it 3 wins from 4 starts in this sphere with an assured display in the Ultima Handicap Chase at Cheltenham. Up in grade but he has the potential of even more still to offer over fences.

3 GIOVINCO (IRE) (30) (CD) **98**
11-U12P13 7 11-7 | 73.0kg



Lucinda Russell

Stephen Mulqueen

Unbeaten in 3 starts over hurdles and largely progressive sent chasing this season, winning novice handicap at this C&D on his second outing of the campaign. Soon back on track in a match at Newcastle in February, before an excellent third in the Broadway Chase at Cheltenham. Not discounted.

4 HEART WOOD (FR) (68) **99**
2261/2-221 6 11-7 | 73.0kg



Henry de Bromhead, Ireland

Rachael Blackmore

Winner over hurdles in France and shaped encouragingly when runner-up in maiden chases on his first 3 starts for current yard. Switched to handicapping, proved a different proposition when landing the Leopardstown Chase in February in impressive style. Well worth his place at this level.

5 INOTHEWAYURTHINKIN (IRE) (29) ★ **100**
434-22391 6 11-7 | 73.0kg



Gavin Patrick Cromwell, Ireland

M. P. Walsh

Useful novice hurdler and even better form over fences, justifying strong support when opening his chase account in the Kim Muir at Cheltenham under a confident ride (form of his third to Gaelic Warrior at Limerick in December boosted in the Arkle). Major player with further progress to come.

6 IROKO (FR) (29) t **93**
44/1113-15 6 11-7 | 73.0kg



Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero

Jonjo O'Neill Jr.

Thrived over hurdles in 2022/23, successful in the Martin Pipe at Cheltenham and good third in the Sefton at this meeting. Easy winner of a Warwick novice on his seasonal/chase debut, before mid-field in the Golden Miller at Cheltenham after a 4-month absence. Remains open to improvement.

6 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

5-2 Inothewayurthinkin, **7-2** Chianti Classico, **9-2** Iroko, **6-1** Heart Wood, **8-1** Broadway Boy, **8-1** Giovinco

TIMEFORM VIEW:

INOTHEWAYURTHINKIN recorded a first success over fences in fine style when landing the Kim Muir at the Cheltenham Festival, relishing the step up in trip, and he can continue his progression to follow up returned to Grade 1 company. Heart Wood also showed improved form when winning a major handicap at Leopardstown on his latest outing and is feared most, ahead of Chianti Classico.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. INOTHEWAYURTHINKIN 2. HEART WOOD 3. CHIANTI CLASSICO

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2023	Gerri Colombe 7-11-7	4-6f	Gordon Elliott	Davy Russell	6
2022	Ahoy Senior 7-11-4	4-1	Lucinda Russell	Derek Fox	4
2021	Chantry House 7-11-4	11-8f	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boinville	7
2019	Lostintranslation 7-11-4	3-1	Colin Tizzard	Robbie Power	6

2.20

WILLIAM HILL HANDICAP HURDLE (PREMIER HANDICAP) (1)
4yo+ £75,000 2½m (4020 Metres)

RACE 2



Going: **Soft (Heavy in places), National: Heavy (Soft in places)**

The Grand National course is triangular with its apex (at the Canal Turn) the furthest point from the stands. Inside is the Mildmay course which has birch fences. A major feature of the Mildmay course is its sharpness, though the fences are stiff and it's a tough jumping test. The Grand National is run over two complete circuits taking in sixteen spruce fences first time around and fourteen the second. Alterations to the fences in recent times have had the effect of making it a less severe test of jumping than used to be case. Since 2013, the run to the first fence in the Grand National was reduced in a bid to also improve safety, resulting in the overall race distance shortening from the usual 4½m, though the run-in is still 494 yards long and includes an elbow.

Pace Information: **Very Strong**

1 SPRINGWELL BAY (68) (D, BF) t 96
 13116-142 7 12-0 | 76.2kg

Jonjo O'Neill Jr.
 Scored over 21f at Cheltenham in November and resumed his progress when going down by a neck in 3m handicap at Musselburgh in February. No surprise were he to pull out more again but a really smart effort will be needed under top weight.

2 ICARE ALLEN (FR) (29) h 95
 00-84353P 6 11-11 | 74.8kg

Richie McLernon
 Smart hurdler at his peak. Caught the eye when a running-on third of 11 in 3m course handicap in November but pulled up at the Cheltenham Festival 4 months later (final start for Willie Mullins). New stable removes his regular tongue tie and replaces it with a first-time hood.

3 SONIGINO (FR) (28) (CD) t 97
 813-3410P 7 11-10 | 74.4kg

Freddie Gingell (51b/2kg)
 Three wins last season and built on good in-frame efforts in the Silver Trophy at Chepstow and Greatwood at Cheltenham in autumn when scoring over C&D (heavy) in December. Has struggled in Lanzarote at Kempton and Martin Pipe at Cheltenham since, though.

4 MIGHT I (IRE) (30) t 89
 824-52130 8 11-9 | 73.9kg

Jonathan Burke
 Useful hurdler. Showed similar form over fences before Christmas (won a match race at Exeter) but his jumping was an issue and he also made mistakes back hurdling at Cheltenham last month, finishing mid-field in the Coral Cup. Others are preferred.

5 JANGO BAIE (FR) (41) (C, BF) 99
 1122 5 11-8 | 73.5kg

Nico de Boinville
 Irish point recruit who won first 2 starts over hurdles, latterly the Grade 1 Formby over 2m here on Boxing Day. Not at best when runner-up in small field at Huntingdon in February but back to form when ½-length second in 2¼m Kelso Grade 2 6 weeks ago. His opening handicap mark looks workable.

6 KATEIRA (27) ★ 100
 5/1112-324 7 11-5 | 72.1kg

Harry Skelton
 Three-time novice hurdle winner last season and ended her campaign with excellent second in a C&D Grade 1 novice at this meeting. Below par in 2 comeback runs in November but back on form when fourth of 11 over 21f at Kempton 4 weeks ago. Much respected.

7 SANTOS BLUE (27) (D) t 97
 13-272101 7 11-5 | 72.1kg

Mr Ben Sutton (71b/3kg)
 Likeable type who has regained the progressive thread lately, producing another career best to score over this trip at Uttoxeter (heavy) last time. Should remain competitive up 4 lb.

8 WHAT'S UP DARLING (IRE) (28) 98
 3-121526 7 11-5 | 72.1kg

J. W. Kennedy
 Bumper winner last spring who was having only his second start over hurdles when landing a 2m Navan Grade 3 (heavy) in November. Bettered that form when second in a Grade 3 at Gowran in February and made a sound start to his handicap career when sixth of 21 in Martin Pipe at Cheltenham (2½m).

9 GUARD YOUR DREAMS (30) (D) 98
 1323U/540 8 11-4 | 71.7kg

Sam Twiston-Davies
 Developed into a smart and likeable hurdler in 2021/22 but has yet to show he retains that ability in 3 comeback outings this term, on the latest finishing down the field in the Coral Cup at Cheltenham.

10 UNCLE BERT (20) (D) 96
 14F5P211 7 11-4 | 71.7kg

James Turner (71b/3kg)
 Nigel Twiston-Davies
 Made a winning handicap debut at Perth in September. Struggled immediately after that but firmly back on the up with wins in the mud at Wetherby and Bangor in recent months. 8 lb higher in a deeper race now but he will be at home on this ground.

11 BOOMBAWN (IRE) (27) (CD) 96
 2/12629-11 7 11-4 | 71.7kg

Kielan Woods
 Largely progressive sort who scored over C&D (good) last May and followed up in a 21f Kempton handicap (good to soft) 10 months later. Much fresher than most for this stage of the season but testing ground a slight question mark and Harry Skelton is on Kateira this time.

12 SPIRIT D'AUNOU (FR) (34) 96
 1111-4100 5 11-4 | 71.7kg

Niall Houlihan
 Gary Moore
 His success on heavy ground at Sandown (2m) in December was his fifth win in 6 starts. His run of good form has come to a halt in the Betfair at Newbury and Imperial Cup at Sandown this spring and his hopes are pinned on a step up in trip helping him to regain the progressive thread.

13 THEATRE MAN (IRE) (29) (D, BF) 97
 2121-232F 8 11-2 | 70.8kg

Harry Bannister
 Richard Bandey
 Useful, dual-winning hurdler who has bettered that form in defeat over fences this term, notably second to Ginny's Destiny in the Timeform Novices' Handicap at Cheltenham in January. Fell in the Plate there since and now reverts to hurdles.

14 PLAYFUL SAINT (FR) (13) t 98
 1/4213-26 9 11-2 | 70.8kg

Fergus Gillard
 Dan Skelton
 Lightly-raced 9-y-o who returned better than ever when neck second of 5 to Milldam in 2m handicap at Stratford (heavy) in March but failed to back it up at Haydock since. Steps up in trip now. The stable has other stronger candidates.

15 KAMSIAS (FR) (27) 97
 13-121601 7 11-1 | 70.3kg

Paddy Brennan
 Fergal O'Brien
 Had Making Headway behind in second when landing Haydock Grade 2 in November. Shaped as if he'd be suited by longer trip when mid-field in Betfair at Newbury and he duly got back to winning ways when stepped up to 21f at Kempton (novice) last month. Unexposed now tackling only his second handicap.

16 OCASLE DES MOTTES (FR) (28) h 98
 4471-P185 5 11-1 | 70.3kg

P. Townend
 W. P. Mullins, Ireland
 Dual 2¼m winner in France. Didn't get close to justifying favouritism in Betfair on yard debut but more promising signs when fifth of 21 in Martin Pipe at Cheltenham since, the fact he only weakened late on encouraging given he pulled hard. Could have big say if refitted hood helps him to settle.

17 SERIOUS OPERATOR (IRE) (41) (D) t 97
 161-79151 7 11-0 | 69.9kg

Patrick Wadge (31b/1kg)
 Lucinda Russell
 Enhanced good strike rate over hurdles when successful at Kelso (21f, soft) 6 weeks ago. His fifth of 19 in the Lanzarote at Kempton prior to that shows he can mix it in competitive handicaps but he's gone up another 5 lb for Kelso.

18 WEST TO THE BRIDGE (IRE) (20) (C, D) t 99
 196-2F544 11 11-0 | 69.9kg

Tristan Durrell (31b/1kg)
 Dan Skelton
 Better than ever when landing Sandown handicap (soft) last spring and good second at Uttoxeter (23f, good to soft) on return in October. Hasn't reproduced that since (19¾ lengths fourth to Uncle Bert at Bangor latest) but he is starting to look well handicapped.

19 CHAMPAGNE TWIST (IRE) (34) (D) 97
 4211 6 11-0 | 69.9kg

Ben Jones
 Ben Pauling
 Irish point winner and going the right way over hurdles for new connections, making a successful handicap debut in the very competitive EBF Final at Sandown (2½m, soft) last month. Raised 7 lb for that but there's almost certainly more to come.

20 TRONADOR (IRE) (154) (CD) 97
 P08/00-3P5 8 10-13 | 69.4kg

Danny Gilligan (31b/1kg)
 Gordon Elliott, Ireland
 Won this race in 2021 but has rarely threatened over jumps since. Did score on the Flat last summer but pulled up back hurdling at Chepstow in October and given a break since finishing a well-held fifth on chase debut in November. Others are more obvious.

2.20

WILLIAM HILL HANDICAP HURDLE (PREMIER HANDICAP) (1)
4yo+ £75,000 2½m (4020 Metres)

RACE 2



21 **INTHEWATERSIDE (FR) (55)** (CD, BF) h **99**

11-1412 6 10-12 | 68.9kg



Paul Nicholls

Harry Cobden

Imposing sort who was unbeaten in 2 bumper runs and has taken well to hurdling this season, winning an Ascot maiden and Lingfield handicap around 2½m. Good second of 6 in Ascot novice latest and unexposed for top yard now tackling only his second handicap. Hooded first time.

22 **MAKING HEADWAY (IRE) (34)** s **99**

12414 6 10-11 | 68.5kg



Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero

Henry Brooke

Irish point winner who has done well over hurdles for new connections, winning pair of novices around 2m. Good start to his handicap career when fourth of 16 in Imperial Cup at Sandown (2m again) and he leaves the firm impression there'll be more to come now stepped up to 2½m. Cheekpieces added.

22 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

10-1 Making Headway, **10-1** Champagne Twist, **12-1** Kateira, **12-1** Inthewaterside, **16-1** Jango Baie, **18-1** Ocastle Des Mottes, **18-1** Serious Operator, **18-1** Springwell Bay, **20-1** Kamsinas, **20-1** Boombawn, **20-1** Uncle Bert, **22-1** Theatre Man, **22-1** Tronador, **25-1** Santos Blue, **25-1** Might I, **28-1** What's Up Darling, **28-1** Sonigino, **33-1** Playful Saint, **33-1** Icare Allen, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

An ultra-competitive handicap. MAKING HEADWAY is one who should have more to offer now stepping up to 2½m so he's the suggestion on the back of his good run in the Imperial Cup. If the refitting of a hood helps Ocastle des Mottes to settle better he could pose a big threat. Kateira, one of five for Dan Skelton, bounced back to form at Kempton recently and ran a blinder at this meeting last year so she's also on the shortlist along with Formby winner Jango Baie and Fergal O'Brien Kamsinas.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. MAKING HEADWAY 2. OCASTLE DES MOTTES 3. KATEIRA

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2023	Fennor Cross 6-11-1	8-1	John McConnell	B. W. Harvey (5)	20
2022	Langer Dan 6-11-1	4-1jf	Dan Skelton	Harry Skelton	21
2021	Tronador 5-10-4	22-1	Mrs Denise Foster	J. W. Kennedy	22
2019	Three Musketeers 9-10-5	8-1	Gordon Elliott	J. W. Kennedy	21

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

2.55

TRUSTATRADER TOP NOVICES' HURDLE (Grade 1) (1) 4yo+ £100,000 2m103y (3310 Metres)









RACE 3



Going: **Soft (Heavy in places), National: Heavy (Soft in places)**

The Grand National course is triangular with its apex (at the Canal Turn) the furthest point from the stands. Inside is the Mildmay course which has birch fences. A major feature of the Mildmay course is its sharpness, though the fences are stiff and it's a tough jumping test. The Grand National is run over two complete circuits taking in sixteen spruce fences first time around and fourteen the second. Alterations to the fences in recent times have had the effect of making it a less severe test of jumping than used to be case. Since 2013, the run to the first fence in the Grand National was reduced in a bid to also improve safety, resulting in the overall race distance shortening from the usual 4½m, though the run-in is still 494 yards long and includes an elbow.

Pace Information: **Even**

1	FIREFOX (IRE) (31) (D)	99
	4211-1143 6 11-7 73.0kg Gordon Elliott, Ireland <i>J. W. Kennedy</i>	
	Useful, 3-time bumper winner who has reached a smart level over hurdles, successful in a Fairyhouse maiden prior to finishing fourth in Naas Grade 1 in January. Improved again without being seen to best advantage when third in last month's Supreme at Cheltenham and he has to enter the reckoning.	
2	LOOKAWAY (IRE) (62) (C, D)	94
	46-111220 7 11-7 73.0kg Neil King <i>Jack Quinlan</i>	
	Likeable sort who has shown improved form this season, completing a hat-trick in Cheltenham Grade 2 in October and ran another cracker when second in Challow at Newbury (20.5f) in December. Type to bounce back from below par display in Betfair Hurdle but this looks a tough ask. Cheekpieces on.	
3	LUMP SUM (FR) (48) (D)	91
	13-1121 6 11-7 73.0kg Sam Thomas <i>Sam Twiston-Davies</i>	
	Won first of 2 starts in bumpers and quick to make his mark over hurdles this term, taking his record to 3 wins from 4 starts with a ready victory in the Grade 2 Dovecote at Kempton (2m) in February. Remains with a good deal of untapped potential.	
4	MISTERGIF (FR) (31) (D)	96
	52-15 5 11-7 73.0kg W. P. Mullins, Ireland <i>P. Townend</i>	
	Fair form in couple of hurdle runs in France but different proposition when making winning start for new yard in maiden at Limerick (2m) in January. Acquitted himself with plenty of credit up in markedly in grade when fifth in last month's Supreme and that unlikely to prove his limit.	
5	MYSTICAL POWER (IRE) (31) (D)	100
	1112 5 11-7 73.0kg W. P. Mullins, Ireland <i>M. P. Walsh</i>	
	5-y-o out of top-class mare Annie Power who has been brought along steadily, landing first 3 starts including Grade 2 Moscow Flyer in January prior to a fine second in first-time hood (retained here) in Supreme last month, outstayed late on. Sound claims with prospect of more to come.	
6	PERSONAL AMBITION (IRE) (41) (D)	93
	1311 5 11-7 73.0kg Ben Pauling <i>Kielan Woods</i>	
	Placed in an Irish point and quickly built up a good record over hurdles, looking more polished than previously when landing Grade 1 Premier novices' hurdle at Kelso (18f) 6 weeks ago. Worthy of his place here but further progress required if he's to play a lead role.	
7	DYSART ENOS (IRE) (75) (C, D)	96
	111-111 6 11-0 69.9kg Fergal O'Brien <i>Paddy Brennan</i>	
	Won all 3 bumper outings, including a Gr 2 in decisive fashion here 12 months ago. Also unbeaten in 3 novice hurdles, scoring in an excellent time at Cheltenham in December prior to completing simple task at Doncaster a month later. Had to miss Festival (lame) but well worth her place here.	
8	GOLDEN ACE (29) (D)	97
	152-111 6 11-0 69.9kg Jeremy Scott <i>Lorcan Williams</i>	
	Fairly useful in bumpers (runner-up to Dysart Enos final start) and, on the back of a breathing op, has landed each of her 3 starts over hurdles, suited by emphasis on speed when a good winner of Gr 2 mares' novice at the Festival 4 weeks ago. Good advert for her yard and likely better to come.	

8 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

2-1 Mystical Power, **10-3** Firefox, **11-2** Dysart Enos, **10-1** Golden Ace, **10-1** Mistergif, **14-1** Lump Sum, **22-1** Lookaway, **25-1** Personal Ambition

TIMEFORM VIEW:

A son of the illustrious mare Annie Power, MYSTICAL POWER has quickly reached a smart level over hurdles, enhancing his form further when runner-up in last month's Supreme at the Cheltenham Festival, and he looks to hold sound claims of resuming winning ways with the prospect of more to come on the back of just 4 career starts. Firefox, not seen to best effect when a place behind the selection that day, is another of firm interest. Dysart Enos and Golden Ace are others who can feature.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. MYSTICAL POWER 2. FIREFOX 3. DYSART ENOS

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2023	Inthepocket 6-11-7	3-1f	Henry de Bromhead	Rachael Blackmore	12
2022	Jonbon 6-11-4	evsf	Nicky Henderson	Aidan Coleman	9
2021	Belfast Banter 6-11-4	9-1	Peter Fahey	K. C. Sexton	10
2019	Felix Desjy 6-11-4	7-2	Gordon Elliott	J. W. Kennedy	7

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

3.30**MY PENSION EXPERT MELLING CHASE (Grade 1) (1) 5yo+
£250,000 2m3f200y (4010 Metres)**

RACE 4

Going: **Soft (Heavy in places), National: Heavy (Soft in places)**

The Grand National course is triangular with its apex (at the Canal Turn) the furthest point from the stands. Inside is the Mildmay course which has birch fences. A major feature of the Mildmay course is its sharpness, though the fences are stiff and it's a tough jumping test. The Grand National is run over two complete circuits taking in sixteen spruce fences first time around and fourteen the second. Alterations to the fences in recent times have had the effect of making it a less severe test of jumping than used to be case. Since 2013, the run to the first fence in the Grand National was reduced in a bid to also improve safety, resulting in the overall race distance shortening from the usual 4½m, though the run-in is still 494 yards long and includes an elbow.

Pace Information: **Even**

1 **CONFLATED (IRE) (29)** (D) **96**
13P-53U03 **10** 11-10 | 74.4kg



Gordon Elliott, Ireland

J. W. Kennedy

Top-class chaser on his day whose only success in last 2 seasons came in Savills Chase last term. Would have gone close had more use been made of him when third to Protektorat in Ryanair (20.6f, soft) last month and interesting connections have opted for this instead of the National.

2 **EASY GAME (FR) (195)** (D) **93**
10111-101 **10** 11-10 | 74.4kg



W. P. Mullins, Ireland

**P. Townend**

Prolific winning chaser who was back on song after his Galway Plate flop when landing Grade 2 PWC Champion Chase (for a third time) at Gowran (20f, heavy) 6 months ago. Will need a career best to trouble the principles, but he's gone well fresh prior and is Willie Mullins' sole representative.

3 **ENVOI ALLEN (FR) (29)** (D, BF) **96**
31714-322 **10** 11-10 | 74.4kg



Henry de Bromhead, Ireland

Rachael Blackmore

Notched his third Cheltenham Festival success when seeing of Shishkin in Ryanair last season. Back to that level when neck second to Gerri Colombe in 3m Down Royal Grade 1 in November and ran a cracker when finding only Protektorat too strong in corresponding former event most recently.

4 **JONBON (FR) (76)** (C, BF) **100**
11211-112 **8** 11-10 | 74.4kg



Nicky Henderson

Nico de Boinville

Grade 1 winning hurdler and a top-class chaser, with his only defeat in his first 8 starts over fences coming at the hands of El Fabiolo in last year's Arkle. A shocking mistake 4 out provides an excuse when beaten narrowly at Cheltenham on Trials Day and he can regain the winning thread.

5 **MINELLA DRAMA (IRE) (41)** (D) **89**
3113-2372 **9** 11-10 | 74.4kg



Donald McCain

Brian Hughes

Smart performer who returned with a good second in the Old Roan Chase over C&D. Poor efforts next 2 starts but back on track when 7 lengths second to Thunder Rock in listed chase at Kelso (23.4f, soft) just under 6 weeks ago. This considerably tougher though, so can only be watched.

6 **PIC D'ORHY (FR) (55)** (CD) **96**
11121-121 **9** 11-10 | 74.4kg



Paul Nicholls

Harry Cobden

Only defeat in 2022/23 campaign came at the hands of Shishkin in Ascot Chase and added another Grade 1 to his CV when landing that corresponding race in February, making the most of superior jumping and a tactical advantage. Won this last season and there's plenty to like arriving fresh.

7 **PROTEKTORAT (FR) (29)** (CD) **97**
145-43231 **9** 11-10 | 74.4kg



Dan Skelton

Harry Skelton

Won Betfair Chase at Haydock in 2022/23 and having been campaigned as a stayer since, found the drop back in trip liberating when adding a Ryanair Chase to his CV at Cheltenham (20.6f, soft) last month, beating Envoi Allen by 4 lengths. Seemingly no reason why he won't be in the shake-up again.

7 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

9-4 Jonbon, **10-3** Protektorat, **10-3** Pic D'orhy, **6-1** Envoi Allen, **16-1** Conflated, **20-1** Easy Game, **50-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

The 1-2-3 from this year's Ryanair again do battle but it's a notable absentee from the Cheltenham Festival JONBON who's selected to regain the winning thread having been undone by a rare jumping blip in the rearranged Clarence House on Trials Day in January. Confidence would only heighten should the yard's handful of runners go well on Thursday. Last year's winner Pic d'Orhy arrives fresh, so he may provide most resistance, ahead of recent Ryanair-scorer Protektorat.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**1. JONBON 2. PIC D'ORHY 3. PROTEKTORAT****WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2023	Pic d'Orhy 8-11-10	4-1	Paul Nicholls	Harry Cobden	7
2022	Fakir d'Oudairies 7-11-7	10-11f	Joseph Patrick O'Brien	M. P. Walsh	10
2021	Fakir d'Oudairies 6-11-7	2-1f	Joseph Patrick O'Brien	M. P. Walsh	7
2019	Min 8-11-7	2-1f	W. P. Mullins	R. Walsh	6

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

4.05

RACE 5















RANDOX SUPPORTS RACE AGAINST DEMENTIA TOPHAM HANDICAP CHASE (PREMIER HANDICAP) (1) 5yo+ £150,000 2m5f19y (4240 Metres) (Nat.)


















Going: **Soft (Heavy in places), National: Heavy (Soft in places)**

The Grand National course is triangular with its apex (at the Canal Turn) the furthest point from the stands. Inside is the Mildmay course which has birch fences. A major feature of the Mildmay course is its sharpness, though the fences are stiff and it's a tough jumping test. The Grand National is run over two complete circuits taking in sixteen spruce fences first time around and fourteen the second. Alterations to the fences in recent times have had the effect of making it a less severe test of jumping than used to be case. Since 2013, the run to the first fence in the Grand National was reduced in a bid to also improve safety, resulting in the overall race distance shortening from the usual 4½m, though the run-in is still 494 yards long and includes an elbow.

Pace Information: **Extreme**

1	CLASSIC GETAWAY (IRE) (26) (BF)	99
	P/2d14-12P3 8 12-0 76.2kg W. P. Mullins, Ireland  <i>Mr P. W. Mullins</i> Kicked off this term with success at Thurles in November but failed to get home when an odds-on third of 5 in conditions event at Down Royal (26.2f, soft) 26 days ago. Can make his presence felt back in trip for yard with good record in this.	
2	JAMES DU BERLAIS (FR) (29) (D)	97
	6643-4437 8 11-10 74.4kg W. P. Mullins, Ireland  <i>P. Townend</i>  Consistent sort but he's been winless in this sphere since his debut in January, 2023. Creditable seventh of 21 to Shakem Up'arry in handicap chase at Cheltenham (20.6f, soft) 29 days ago. Can give another good account.	
3	SHAKEM UP'ARRY (IRE) (29)	100
	1534-P611 10 11-8 73.5kg Ben Pauling <i>Ben Jones</i> Jumped very well as usual when bagging 2m4f handicap chases at Cheltenham this year, on the latter occasion in the Plate when always holding on. Up another 6 lb but big shout in his hat-trick bid.	
4	EMPIRE STEEL (IRE) (56)	98
	2/7018-321 10 11-4 71.7kg Sandy Thomson <i>Ryan Mania</i> Resumed winning ways on the back of a wind op in 5-runner handicap chase at Kelso (21.6f, soft) 56 days ago. Much respected despite taking a 3 lb weights rise.	
5	FANTASTIC LADY (FR) (105)	96
	3U/1023-5P 9 11-3 71.2kg Nicky Henderson <i>Nico de Boinville</i> Made up into a useful winning chaser last term but pulled up in listed chase at Doncaster (20.5f, soft) 105 days ago. Runner-up in this 12 months ago and she's the sort to bounce back after a break.	
6	EMBITTERED (IRE) (29)	97
	P-071P030 10 11-2 70.8kg Gordon Elliott, Ireland <i>Sam Ewing</i> Back to winning ways at Navan in December. Respectable eleventh of 21 to Shakem Up'arry in the Plate at Cheltenham (20.6f, soft) 29 days ago. In the picture.	
7	RICHMOND LAKE (IRE) (56) (C)	96
	211-1149F 8 11-2 70.8kg Donald McCain <i>Theo Gillard</i> Course winner who was running creditably when fell last in handicap chase at Kelso (21.6f, soft) 56 days ago. Possibilities.	
8	FLEGMATIK (FR) (27)	96
	26-U23142 9 11-2 70.8kg Dan Skelton <i>Harry Skelton</i> Ended a near 2-year losing run when scoring at Kempton in January. Took his form up a notch when an excellent runner-up there (2m4f) last time so can go well again.	
9	KANDOO KID (FR) (41) (BF)	98
	37-2212P2 8 11-1 70.3kg Paul Nicholls <i>Harry Cobden</i> Back to winning ways at Newbury in December and posted a good second of 9 in handicap chase there (19.8f, soft) 41 days ago. Needs considering.	
10	AIME DESJY (FR) (34)	96
	34-103521 9 11-0 69.9kg W. P. Mullins, Ireland  <i>D. E. Mullins</i> Has taken well to chasing and readily landed the odds in novice chase at Gowran (20f, heavy) 34 days ago. Not without interest now going into handicaps.	

11	LIFE IN THE PARK (IRE) (29)	98
	33-330504 7 10-13 69.4kg Henry de Bromhead, Ireland <i>Rachael Blackmore</i> Tongue strap on for 1st time when very good fourth of 21 to Shakem Up'arry in the Plate at Cheltenham (20.6f, soft) 29 days ago. This Irish raider is weighted to go well nudged up 1 lb.	
12	QUEL DESTIN (FR) (48)	96
	1323-8114 9 10-11 68.5kg Paul Nicholls <i>Bryony Frost</i> Made it 2-2 in a change of headgear (blinkers replaced cheekpieces) in 4-runner Chepstow handicap chase in December. Only fourth of five back there since but he's the sort to bounce back.	
13	CELEBRE D'ALLEN (FR) (29) (C)	98
	3408-145U 12 10-10 68.0kg Philip Hobbs & Johnson White <i>Micheal Nolan</i> Course winner in October. 50/1, still going well when hampered and unseated rider 17th in Kim Muir at Cheltenham (26f, soft) 29 days ago. Holds solid claims.	
14	YOUR DARLING (IRE) (140) (D)	98
	3P4/15P-91 9 10-10 68.0kg Ben Pauling <i>Kielan Woods</i> Unreliable sort but he posted a career best when winning 8-runner handicap chase at Ascot (21f, good to soft) 140 days ago by 9 lengths from Flegmatik. In the mix if on his A-game again.	
15	ARIZONA CARDINAL (43)	96
	463-1PP11 8 10-10 68.0kg Stuart Edmunds  <i>Ciaran Gethings</i> Arrives on a hat-trick after 23f handicap chase wins at Leicester and Ludlow this year. Hiked up 9 lb but still can't be dismissed in his current mood.	
16	SHANTREUSSE (IRE) (47)	95
	0/4259-272 8 10-9 67.6kg Henry de Bromhead, Ireland <i>D. J. O'Keefe</i> Still to win over fences but he comes here on the back of a good second of 10 in handicap chase at Naas (20f, heavy) 47 days ago. One for the shortlist.	
17	LOUNGE LIZARD (40)	96
	311-33521 7 10-9 67.6kg Henry Daly  <i>Jonathan Burke</i> Unreliable sort but he got off the mark for the season in 8-runner handicap chase at Huntingdon (19.9f, heavy) 40 days ago, just holding on. Others remain more persuasive though.	
18	THE EDGAR WALLACE (IRE) (48) (D, BF)	97
	2P48-1122 9 10-9 67.6kg Kim Bailey <i>David Bass</i> Is enjoying a good season and scored around 2m4f at Wetherby and Leiceser before Christmas. Recorded a good second of 4 in handicap chase at Newcastle (20.1f, soft) 48 days ago so he can't be dismissed.	
19	GOOD BOY BOBBY (IRE) (24)	95
	04-511735 11 10-8 67.1kg Nigel Twiston-Davies <i>Sam Twiston-Davies</i> Dual scorer (at up to 3m) earlier this term but unsuited by drop in trip when fifth of 7 in handicap chase at Exeter (19.2f, heavy) 24 days ago, Not ruled out back over further.	
20	BILL BAXTER (IRE) (41) (CD, BF)	99
	F11-38486 8 10-7 66.7kg Warren Greatrex <i>James Bowen</i> Took this 12 months ago but he turned in a laboured effort when only sixth of 9 in handicap chase (9/2) at Newbury (19.8f, soft) 41 days ago. Cheekpieces go on now so he still merits consideration.	
21	FRANCKY DU BERLAIS (FR) (63) (D)	95
	05238425 11 10-7 66.7kg Peter Bowen <i>Robert Dunne</i> Won the 2022 Summer Plate at Market Rasen and some good efforts since, including when runner-up in a cross-country event at Cheltenham in December. Possibly needed the run when well held at Kempton last time but others still appeal more.	
22	GRANDADS COTTAGE (IRE) (48)	96
	121-0314 9 10-7 66.7kg Olly Murphy  <i>Sean Bowen</i> Irish point/hurdles winner who added to his tally in a first-time tongue strap at Leicester in January. Backed it up with a good fourth of 6 in handicap chase at Kempton (20.5f, soft) 48 days ago. No forlorn hope.	

4.05

**RANDOX SUPPORTS RACE AGAINST DEMENTIA TOPHAM
HANDICAP CHASE (PREMIER HANDICAP) (1) 5yo+
£150,000 2m5f19y (4240 Metres) (Nat.)**

RACE 5



23 FRERO BANBOU (FR) (29) 99

0-3232P66 9 10-4 | 65.3kg



Venetia Williams

Charlie Deutsch

Winless for over 2 years but consistent sort who recorded a good sixth of 21 to Shakem Up'arry in the Plate at Cheltenham (20.6f, soft) 29 days ago. Not taken lightly off a falling mark.

24 CIEL DE NEIGE (FR) (29) s 93

07U-60070 9 10-3 | 64.9kg



Ben Haslam

Richie McLernon

Smart chaser at his peak for Willie Mullins but he's yet to fire in 3 outings for his present stable and he's hard to make a case for.

25 KILLER KANE (IRE) (29) t 95

153-53380 9 10-2(10-1) | 64.4kg (64.0kg)



Joe Tizzard

Brendan Powell

Winless since early 2023 and cheekpieces tried for the first time when fifteenth of 21 to Shakem Up'arry in the Plate at Cheltenham (20.6f, soft) 29 days ago. Others are preferred.

25 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

17-2 Shakem Up'arry, **10-1** Bill Baxter, **14-1** Your Darling, **14-1** Life In The Park, **16-1** Kandoo Kid, **16-1** Arizona Cardinal, **18-1** Aime Desjy, **20-1** James Du Berlais, **20-1** Lounge Lizard, **22-1** Empire Steel, **25-1** Frero Banbou, **25-1** Fantastic Lady, **28-1** The Edgar Wallace, **28-1** Flegmatik, **28-1** Richmond Lake, **33-1** Classic Getaway, **33-1** Celebre D'allen, **33-1** Quel Destin, **33-1** Shantreusse, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

Plenty are in with a shout. SHAKEM UP'ARRY impressed when landing the Plate at last month's Festival and with his jumping an asset he can complete a hat-trick in this prestigious event. Irish-challenger Life In The Park could emerge as the main danger after coming home a very good fourth behind Ben Pauling's upwardly-mobile chaser at Cheltenham, although a solid case can also be made for last year's winner Bill Baxter and the Willie Mullins-trained duo Classic Getaway and James du Berlais.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. SHAKEM UP'ARRY 2. LIFE IN THE PARK 3. BILL BAXTER

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2023	Bill Baxter 7-10-4	20-1	Warren Greatrex	Sam Twiston-Davies	29
2022	Mac Tottie 9-10-0	8-1	Peter Bowen	Sean Bowen	29
2021	Livelovelaugh 11-11-0	15-2	W. P. Mullins	Mr P. W. Mullins	26
2019	Cadmium 7-11-2	8-1	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	27

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

4.40**CAVANI SARTORIAL MENSWEAR SEFTON NOVICES' HURDLE
(Grade 1) (1) 4yo+ £100,000 3m149y (4960 Metres)**

RACE 6

GBI RACINGGoing: **Soft (Heavy in places), National: Heavy (Soft in places)**

The Grand National course is triangular with its apex (at the Canal Turn) the furthest point from the stands. Inside is the Mildmay course which has birch fences. A major feature of the Mildmay course is its sharpness, though the fences are stiff and it's a tough jumping test. The Grand National is run over two complete circuits taking in sixteen spruce fences first time around and fourteen the second. Alterations to the fences in recent times have had the effect of making it a less severe test of jumping than used to be the case. Since 2013, the run to the first fence in the Grand National was reduced in a bid to also improve safety, resulting in the overall race distance shortening from the usual 4½m, though the run-in is still 494 yards long and includes an elbow.

Pace Information: **Even**

1 BALLYBENTRAGH (IRE) (21) (BF) 82
122 7 11-8 | 73.5kg



Gary Moore

Mr David Maxwell

Irish point winner who made a successful start over hurdles at Sandown in January. Good second at Newbury both subsequent starts but faces a stiff task in this.

2 CROKE PARK (IRE) (91) 92
2117 6 11-8 | 73.5kg



Gordon Elliott, Ireland

J. W. Kennedy

Winning point who, having shaped well in a bumper, created a good impression in landing his first two starts over hurdles. Disappointed upped in grade at Naas last time but given a break since and longer trip should pose no issue.

3 DANCING CITY (FR) (28) 97
2/12-5113 7 11-8 | 73.5kg



W. P. Mullins, Ireland

D. E. Mullins

Highly progressive hurdler who produced another likeable display when third to Stellar Story (one place behind The Jukebox Man) at Cheltenham last time. Should give another good account.

4 KYNTARA (29) (CD) 92
2/27-11222 8 11-8 | 73.5kg



Mel Rowley

Charlie Deutsch

Is going the right way for his new yard, winning staying handicaps in good style at Lingfield and Aintree before Christmas. Excellent second the last twice, notably in the 22-runner Pertemps Final at Cheltenham on latest. Should give his running but one or two might have more ability.

5 READIN TOMMY WRONG (IRE) (28) (BF) 96
1111P 6 11-8 | 73.5kg



W. P. Mullins, Ireland

P. Townend

Authorized gelding who added weight to the theory that he's a smart prospect when a rallying winner of 7-runner Lawlor's of Naas Novices' Hurdle at Naas in January. Not himself in when losing his unbeaten record in the Albert Bartlett at Cheltenham but no surprise if he bounces back.

6 SHANAGH BOB (IRE) (118) 94
11 6 11-8 | 73.5kg



Nicky Henderson

Nico de Boinville

Winning pointer who has extended his unbeaten run since switched to hurdling, latterly when forging away in a Grade 2 at Cheltenham before Christmas. Has loads of potential and the testing conditions should bring his stamina into play.

7 THE JUKEBOX MAN (IRE) (28) 100
21-1132 6 11-8 | 73.5kg



Ben Pauling

Kielan Woods

Point winner who has made an excellent start under Rules, winning a bumper and 2 hurdles (all at Ffos Las on testing ground). Placed in Grade 1 company on both starts since, latest when runner-up in Albert Bartlett at Cheltenham, and another bold showing is on the cards.

8 CHERIE D'AM (FR) (57) (C, BF) 91
1-1212 6 11-1 | 70.3kg



Dan Skelton

Harry Skelton

Point winner who has looked progressive over hurdles, taking another step forward when runner-up to Springtime Promise in the Jane Seymour Mares' Novices' Hurdle at Sandown 57 days ago. This might prove a step too far, however.

9 PINOT ROUGE (IRE) (41) (D) 79
31 6 11-1 | 70.3kg



Susan Corbett

Edward Austin

Successful on sole outing in Irish points and built on a promising hurdling debut when landing a listed event at Doncaster last time, looking well suited by the longer trip. Likely out of her depth in this company, though.

9 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

11-4 The Jukebox Man, **4-1** Readin Tommy Wrong, **9-2** Dancing City, **11-2** Shanagh Bob, **12-1** Kyntara, **16-1** Croke Park, **18-1** Cherie D'am, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

READIN TOMMY WRONG arrived as a warm order to land the Albert Bartlett at Cheltenham and, while he produced a tame display, he's worth a chance to set the record straight at the possible expense of The Jukebox Man, who was runner-up in that race. Shanagh Bob has plenty of potential and, having missed the Festival, he arrives fresh with solid claims.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. READIN TOMMY WRONG 2. THE JUKEBOX MAN 3. SHANAGH BOB

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2023	Apple Away 6-11-1	16-1	Lucinda Russell	Stephen Mulqueen	15
2022	Gelino Bello 6-11-7	7-2	Paul Nicholls	Harry Cobden	14
2021	Ahoy Senior 6-11-4	66-1	Lucinda Russell	Derek Fox	12
2019	Champ 7-11-4	9-4f	Nicky Henderson	M. P. Walsh	12

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

5.15

RACE 7

ALDER HEY HANDICAP HURDLE (CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' AND AMATEUR RIDERS' RACE) (2) 4yo+ £50,000 2m103y (3310 Metres)



Going: **Soft (Heavy in places), National: Heavy (Soft in places)**

The Grand National course is triangular with its apex (at the Canal Turn) the furthest point from the stands. Inside is the Mildmay course which has birch fences. A major feature of the Mildmay course is its sharpness, though the fences are stiff and it's a tough jumping test. The Grand National is run over two complete circuits taking in sixteen spruce fences first time around and fourteen the second. Alterations to the fences in recent times have had the effect of making it a less severe test of jumping than used to be case. Since 2013, the run to the first fence in the Grand National was reduced in a bid to also improve safety, resulting in the overall race distance shortening from the usual 4½m, though the run-in is still 494 yards long and includes an elbow.

Pace Information: **Extreme**

1	BALLEE (IRE) (11) (D, BF) 52-311U 5 12-0 76.2kg Philip Hobbs & Johnson White <i>Mr Callum Pritchard (7lb/3kg)</i>	h	99
	Looked progressive when winning a brace of 2m Taunton novice events during the winter. Unseated Micheal Nolan at the second flight back from a break at Chepstow recently, though, and his headstrong ways may present a challenge with a comparatively inexperienced rider aboard for this handicap bow.		
2	JUNGLE JACK (20) (D) 12219-P26 8 11-13 75.7kg Donald McCain <i>Peter Kavanagh (3lb/1kg)</i>	s	96
	Developed into a useful handicap hurdler last season and left his disappointing reappearance effort well behind following a wind up when going close at Kelso (2m, soft) in February. However, he checked out rather tamely at Bangor next time and now has a point to prove.		
3	GO DANTE (34) (D) 5418-6131 8 11-13 75.7kg Olly Murphy <i>Dylan Johnston (5lb/2kg)</i>	s+t	97
	Only eighth in this race 12 months ago and 7 lb higher this time round but it's justified given the improvement he has shown this season. Indeed, last-gasp victory in the Imperial Cup at Sandown (2m, soft) last month represented a career-best and he has to enter calculations.		
4	TED HASTINGS (IRE) (108) (D) 21116-382 8 11-11 74.8kg Gordon Elliott, Ireland <i>Danny Gilligan (3lb/1kg)</i>		96
	Irish raider who has won 4 of his 9 in this sphere and was a solid second in a 7-runner handicap over 2½m here when last seen on Boxing Day. Couldn't be sure that this drop back in trip will be in his favour, though, and others look stronger in any case.		
5	BRUCIO (41) 5-653F11B 6 11-11 74.8kg Stuart Crawford, Ireland <i>Ben Bromley (5lb/2kg)</i>	t	94
	Clearly going the right way over hurdles, winning a 2m Catterick maiden in January and big-field 2¼m Leopardstown listed handicap the following month. Didn't get the chance to show what she can do in a Grade 2 Kelso novice last time (brought down at the first) and she remains with potential.		
6	AFADIL (FR) (28) (D) 21-7P3315 5 11-9 73.9kg Paul Nicholls <i>Freddie Gingell (5lb/2kg)</i>	s	96
	Comfortable winner at the Ayr Scottish National meeting last spring and back on track equipped with cheekpieces in recent months, quickening well to take 13-runner Musselburgh handicap (15.5f, good to soft) in February. By no means disgraced off this mark at Cheltenham since and he's a player.		
7	DENSWORTH (IRE) (41) (D) 0/15211P-1 7 11-9 73.9kg Ben Pauling <i>Beau Morgan (5lb/2kg)</i>	t	100
	Improved when bagging 2m novices at Newcastle and Southwell last term prior to misfiring in this race 12 months ago. Firmly back on track with a wide-margin success on belated reappearance at Doncaster (16.6f, heavy) and though now 10 lb higher in a stronger race, he commands respect.		
8	LUTTRELL LAD (IRE) (76) (D, BF) 85-441523 8 11-8 73.5kg Tom Lacey <i>Cameron Iles (7lb/3kg)</i>	s+t	97
	Resumed winning ways at Cartmel last summer and has acquitted himself well all 3 starts since returning from a break in November. On the downside, his current mark leaves very little margin for error and it's not hard to think that one or two of these are better treated.		
9	MAIDENSTREETPRINCE (IRE) (12) (D) 43U313-0F 7 11-7 73.0kg Charles Byrnes, Ireland <i>P. Byrnes (3lb/1kg)</i>		97
	Limerick maiden winner last season and while his reappearance effort at Galway was uninspiring, he was making a real race of it with the long odds-on winner when departing 2 out at Cork (2m, heavy) recently. More needed but that's not out of the question given his low mileage.		

10	REWIRE (41) (D) 22214-11P 6 11-6 72.6kg Dr Richard Newland & Jamie Insole <i>Luke Scott (5lb/2kg)</i>		94
	Winner of 2m handicaps at Doncaster and Taunton on first 2 starts of this season but the wheels came off on soft ground at Kelso last time. Opposable off the same mark here with similar conditions forecast.		
11	PIKAR (FR) (359) (D) 2F5/16315- 7 11-6 72.6kg Dan Skelton <i>Fergus Gillard</i>	t	98
	Winner of decent novice events at Chepstow and Warwick last season. Wasn't disgraced on the back of a wind up when fifth of 9 at Cheltenham on final outing of that campaign (since undergone another wind up) but this is a big ask following almost 12 months off. Yard also represented by Skycutter.		
12	YOUR HONOR (IRE) (48) (D) 7-375619P 5 11-5 72.1kg James A. Nash, Ireland <i>Gavin Peter Brouder (3lb/1kg)</i>	s	95
	Did the job well when landing a heavy-ground listed handicap at Limerick in December. However, both efforts since have been poor and the addition of cheekpieces (well held sole start on the Flat in this headgear) may not be enough to help turn the tide.		
13	KARUMA GREY (GER) (108) (D) P051P-473 6 11-4 71.7kg Christian Williams <i>M. J. M. O'Sullivan</i>		92
	Galway maiden hurdle winner last spring has made the frame on 2 of his 3 starts switched to fences for Ellmarie Holden this season. On a tough-looking mark back in this sphere for new connections (changed hands for £40,000), though, and it's probably best to look elsewhere.		
14	ZEEBAND (IRE) (19) (D) 75032611 7 11-1 70.3kg Paul John Gilligan, Ireland <i>Jack G. Gilligan (7lb/3kg)</i>	t	94
	Pretty useful stayer on the Flat and things have clicked for him over hurdles of late, winner of a Leopardstown maiden and Limerick handicap on his last 2 starts. Has shot up the weights as a consequence but it would be unwise to rule out further progress from this 7-y-o.		
15	PARTY VIBES (IRE) (20) (D) 22116 6 11-0 69.9kg Henry Daly <i>Alice Stevens (5lb/2kg)</i>		93
	Runner-up in an Irish point and confirmed previous promise under Rules when opening her account in Wincanton novice on Boxing Day. Followed up at Market Rasen next time and stamina perhaps to blame for her recent Newbury defeat upped to 20.5f. Not discounted back down in trip here.		
16	SKYCUTTER (FR) (41) (D, BF) 1829/2413 6 11-0 69.9kg Dan Skelton <i>Tristan Durrell (3lb/1kg)</i>		97
	Having only his third start for the Dan Skelton stable when comfortably seeing off 10 rivals over 17f at Carlisle (soft) in February. Backed that up with a good third at Kelso and there's more races to be won with him, providing he can cut out the mistakes.		
17	EAGLES REIGN (IRE) (31) (D) 72312 4 10-13 69.4kg Ross O'Sullivan, Ireland <i>Shane O'Callaghan (5lb/2kg)</i>		97
	Modest maiden on the Flat but has proved himself a much better hurdler, showing a good attitude to get off the mark on handicap debut at Punchestown in January. Fine second in the Fred Winter at the Cheltenham Festival (16.4f, heavy) last time and he's a serious contender.		
18	LIVELY CITIZEN (IRE) (7lb/3kg ex) (12) (D) 4-164F271 9 10-12 68.9kg D. J. Jeffreys <i>Harry Atkins (7lb/3kg)</i>		95
	In good heart since returning to this sphere following a stint over the larger obstacles, back on the scoreboard with a determined display at Ffos Las (15.8f, heavy) 12 days ago. Looks vulnerable under a penalty back in much deeper waters here, though.		
19	EL JEFE (IRE) (13) (D) 11438127 7 10-2 64.4kg Andrew Hamilton <i>Ben Smith (7lb/3kg)</i>	h+t	95
	Enhanced his terrific strike rate at Sedgefield last month and backed that up when finding just one too strong at Bangor next time. Can be excused for his latest display at Newbury where a chance-ending mistake 4 out		

19 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

15-2 Go Dante, 8-1 Maidenstreetprince, 10-1 Brucio, 11-1 Densworth, 12-1 Skycutter, 12-1 Eagles Reign, 14-1 Ballee, 14-1 Afadil, 18-1 Pikar, 18-1 Zeeband, 22-1 Ted Hastings, 22-1 Party Vibes, 25-1 Luttrell Lad, 28-1 Karuma Grey, 40-1 bar

5.15

RACE 7

ALDER HEY HANDICAP HURDLE (CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' AND AMATEUR RIDERS' RACE) (2) 4yo+ £50,000 2m103y (3310 Metres)**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

It wouldn't be any great surprise were the Irish raiders to dominate with ZEEBAND spearheading the half-a-dozen challengers from across the pond. He has got his act together over hurdles in recent weeks and there could be even more to come from him given his exploits on the Flat a few years ago. Maidenstreetprince was going toe-to-toe with Sir Gerhard when falling 2 out at Cork last time and he is greatly respected, while Eagles Reign and the unexposed Brucio are others to consider.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**1. ZEEBAND 2. MAIDENSTREETPRINCE 3. EAGLES REIGN****WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2023	Punctuation 6-11-5	40-1	Fergal O'Brien	Liam Harrison (3)	20
2022	Hacker des Places 5-11-2	10-1	Paul Nicholls	Angus Cheleda (5)	16
2021	Rowland Ward 5-10-1	12-1	Stuart Edmunds	Charlie Hammond	22
2019	Chief Justice 4-11-2	13-2	Gordon Elliott	Mr J. J. Codd	19

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race