

Wednesday 17th March

# CHELTENHAM





1.20	BALLYMORE NOVICES' HURDLE (Baring Bingham) (Grade 1) (1) 2m5f (4220 Metres)
RACE 1	<b>(3) BRAVEMANSGAME (FR)   (5) GAILLARD DU MESNIL (FR)   (2) BOB OLINGER (IRE)</b>
1.55	BROWN ADVISORY NOVICES' CHASE (Broadway) (Grade 1) (1) 3m80y (4900 Metres)
RACE 2	<b>(4) MONKFISH (IRE)   (6) THE BIG BREAKAWAY (IRE)   (2) EKLAT DE RIRE (FR)</b>
2.30	CORAL CUP HANDICAP HURDLE (Grade 3) (1) 2m5f (4220 Metres)
RACE 3	<b>(12) CRAIGNEICHE (IRE)   (23) GUARD YOUR DREAMS   (26) WITNESS PROTECTION (IRE)</b>
3.05	BETWAY QUEEN MOTHER CHAMPION CHASE (Grade 1) (1) 1m7f199y (3200 Metres)
RACE 4	<b>(1) CHACUN POUR SOI (FR)   (5) NOTEBOOK (GER)   (7) POLITOLOGUE (FR)</b>
3.40	GLENFARCLAS CHASE (CROSS COUNTRY) (2) 3¾m37y (6070 Metres)
RACE 5	<b>(5) EASYSLAND (FR)   (12) SOME NECK (FR)   (13) TIGER ROLL (IRE)</b>
4.15	JOHNNY HENDERSON GRAND ANNUAL CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP CHASE (Grade 3) (1) 1m7f199y (3200 Metres)
RACE 6	<b>(4) IBLEO (FR)   (11) EMBITTERED (IRE)   (3) CHOSEN MATE (IRE)</b>
4.50	WEATHERBYS CHAMPION BUMPER (STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT) (Grade 1) (1) 2m87y (3300 Metres)
RACE 7	<b>(6) KILCRUIT (IRE)   (9) SIR GERHARD (IRE)   (10) THREE STRIPE LIFE (IRE)</b>

## 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.

**1.20****BALLYMORE NOVICES' HURDLE (Baring Bingham) (Grade 1) (1) 4yo+ £93,750 2m5f (4220 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: **Even****SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

**1 BEAR GHYLLS (IRE) (66) 96**  
1-111 6 11-7 | 73.0kg



Nicky Martin

**Matt Griffiths**

Unbeaten in 4 starts, readily defying a BHA mark of 130 in 2m2f Exeter handicap in January to complete his hat-trick over hurdles. Step up in trip in his favour and shouldn't be underestimated.

**2 BOB OLINGER (IRE) (63) 98**  
1-211 6 11-7 | 73.0kg



Henry de Bromhead, Ireland

**Rachael Blackmore**

Smart novice, making it 2-3 when convincing winner of Grade 1 Lawlor's at Naas (2m4f) by 6½l from Blue Lord. Sure to go well again with more in the pipeline.

**3 BRAVEMANSGAME (FR) (78) (D) 100**  
36-2111 6 11-7 | 73.0kg



Paul Nicholls

**Harry Cobden**

Big improver who completed his hat-trick in fine style in Grade 1 Challow at Newbury (2m4f) by 10l from Star Gate. Top-class prospect and clear pick of the home contingent. Leading claims.

**4 DOES HE KNOW (31) (CD) 94**  
22-111R8 6 11-7 | 73.0kg



Kim Bailey

**David Bass**

Point winner who completed quick hat-trick in Grade 2 hurdle over C&D in November. Ran out at Newbury next time and well held in hood on handicap bow at Exeter latest. Very hard to make a case for.

**5 GAILLARD DU MESNIL (FR) (39) 99**  
21222-211 5 11-7 | 73.0kg



W. P. Mullins, Ireland

**P. Townend**

Ex-French gelding who has made rapid progress in his three runs over hurdles, hooded when easily bagging Grade 1 novice at Leopardstown (2m6f) last time. Top prospect with promise of more to come.

**6 KESKONRISK (FR) (80) 95**  
1-13 6 11-7 | 73.0kg



Joseph Patrick O'Brien, Ireland

**Donagh Meyler**

Lost his unbeaten record but took his form up a notch when 12½ lengths third of 9 to Appreciate It in Grade 1 at Leopardstown in December. Open to even more progress, so no forlorn hope.

**7 OPTIMISE PRIME (IRE) (24) 87**  
8113 5 11-7 | 73.0kg



Ben Pauling

**Daryl Jacob**

Bagged a pair of 2m4f novice hurdles at Hereford before Christmas and better form when third in listed race at Market Rasen 24 days ago. This is a totally different ball game, though.

7 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**9-4** Bob Olinger, **5-2** Gaillard Du Mesnil, **3-1** Bravemansgame, **11-1** Bear Ghylls, **14-1** Keskonrisk, **50-1** bar

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

BRAVEMANSGAME, Gaillard du Mesnil and Bob Olinger have all achieved a similar level of form, but it is the first named who edges the vote in a fascinating clash. He's highly regarded and open to plenty more improvement after winning the Challow Hurdle at Newbury in good style.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. BRAVEMANSGAME (FR) 2. GAILLARD DU MESNIL (FR) 3. BOB OLINGER (IRE)**

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2020	<b>Envoi Allen</b> 6-11-7	4-7f	Gordon Elliott	Davy Russell	12
2019	<b>City Island</b> 6-11-7	8-1	Martin Brassil	M. P. Walsh	16
2018	<b>Samcro</b> 6-11-7	8-11f	Gordon Elliott	J. W. Kennedy	14
2017	<b>Willoughby Court</b> 6-11-7	14-1	Ben Pauling	David Bass	15
2016	<b>Yorkhill</b> 6-11-7	3-1	W. P. Mullins	R. Walsh	11







**1.55****BROWN ADVISORY NOVICES' CHASE (Broadway) (Grade 1)  
(1) 5yo+ £131,250 3m80y (4900 Metres)**

RACE 2

**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: **Weak**

<b>1</b>	<b>DICKIE DIVER (IRE) (78)</b>	<b>87</b>
	214/2 <b>8</b> 11-4   71.7kg Nicky Henderson <i>Aidan Coleman</i> Winning pointer/useful hurdler who made light of long absence when highly-promising second in Newbury novice handicap (2m6f) on chasing bow. Interesting, but this is tough ask given his inexperience.	
<b>2</b>	<b>EKLAT DE RIRE (FR) (45) (D)</b>	<b>92</b>
	21-11 <b>7</b> 11-4   71.7kg Henry de Bromhead, Ireland <i>Rachael Blackmore</i> Looked most exciting prospect when jumping well and comfortably making all in Grade 3 novice chase at Naas (3m) by 1¾ from Escaria Ten. Very lightly raced and open to further improvement.	
<b>3</b>	<b>FIDDLERONTHEROOF (IRE) (60)</b>	<b>88</b>
	110-21222 <b>7</b> 11-4   71.7kg Colin Tizzard <i>Robbie Power</i> Tolworth winner last season and off the mark over fences at Exeter in November. Good runner-up efforts in Grade 2s since, latest over 3m at Warwick, but he needs to take his form up a notch now.	
<b>4</b>	<b>MONKFISH (IRE) (38) (C, D)</b>	<b>100</b>
	22111-111 <b>7</b> 11-4   71.7kg W. P. Mullins, Ireland <i>P. Townend</i> Albert Bartlett winner who has continued progress over fences this season, winning all 3 starts, notably Grade 1 events at Leopardstown the last twice. Most exciting and will prove very hard to beat.	
<b>5</b>	<b>SPORTING JOHN (IRE) (39)</b>	<b>92</b>
	1117-31 <b>6</b> 11-4   71.7kg Philip Hobbs <i>Richard Johnson</i> Really impressed when landing first 3 starts over hurdles last season but disappointed in the Ballymore. Left chase bow well behind when winning Scilly Isles at Sandown. Lacks jumping experience.	
<b>6</b>	<b>THE BIG BREAKAWAY (IRE) (81) (CD)</b>	<b>90</b>
	114-122 <b>6</b> 11-4   71.7kg Colin Tizzard <i>Harry Cobden</i> Ballymore Novice Hurdle fourth. Scored on chasing bow over C&D before not seen to best effect in 2 subsequent starts, notably when runner-up in Kauto Star at Kempton. Remains with potential.	

6 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**1-2** Monkfish, **8-1** The Big Breakaway, **9-1** Eklat De Rire, **14-1** Sporting John, **22-1** Dickie Diver, **33-1** Fiddlerontheroof

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

An impressive winner of the Albert Bartlett, MONKFISH has made a seamless transition to chasing this winter, making it 3 from 3 in the Grade 1 Flogas at Leopardstown last month. Open to further progress, Timeform's highest-rated novice chaser is expected to prove very hard to beat. The Big Breakaway may emerge as the chief threat, ahead of Eklat de Rire.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. MONKFISH (IRE) 2. THE BIG BREAKAWAY (IRE) 3. EKLAT DE RIRE (FR)**

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2020	<b>Champ</b> 8-11-4	4-1	Nicky Henderson	Barry Geraghty	10
2019	<b>Topofthegame</b> 7-11-4	4-1	Paul Nicholls	Harry Cobden	12
2018	<b>Presenting Percy</b> 7-11-4	5-2f	Patrick G. Kelly	Davy Russell	10
2017	<b>Might Bite</b> 8-11-4	7-2f	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boinville	12
2016	<b>Blaklion</b> 7-11-4	8-1	Nigel Twiston-Davies	Ryan Hatch	8

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

**2.30****CORAL CUP HANDICAP HURDLE (Grade 3) (1) 4yo+  
£75,000 2m5f (4220 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: **Strong**

**1 THOMAS DARBY (IRE) (67) (C)** **96**  
12/2313-33 **8** 11-12 | 75.3kg



**Ollly Murphy** **Aidan Coleman**  
Runner-up in Supreme Novices' Hurdle in 2019. Landed a strong Ascot handicap last term and latest effort in Grade 2 company was solid, but present mark may prove beyond his reach. Cheekpieces on.

**2 GRAND ROI (FR) (45)** **96**  
31411-312 **5** 11-6 | 72.6kg



**Mrs Denise Foster, Ireland** **J. W. Kennedy**  
Limerick Grade 2 winner in good style on penultimate start in December. Brushed aside by Bachasson at Naas (15.7f) since but he advanced his form in the process. Handicap debut up in trip.

**3 KOSHARI (FR) (38)** **98**  
02/16 **9** 11-3 | 71.2kg



**W. P. Mullins, Ireland** **P. Townend**  
Looked as good as ever when landing a Cork handicap hurdle on return from a lengthy absence in January. Wasn't seen to best effect at Leopardstown since and this low-mileage 9-y-o needs considering.

**4 JANIKA (FR) (53)** **98**  
24/14442-9 **8** 11-2 | 70.8kg



**Nicky Henderson** **James Bowen**  
Grade 2 winner over fences last term and wasn't disgraced on British hurdles debut here in January 2020. However, he was disappointing in Ascot race won by stablemate Craigneiche on belated return.

**5 MONTE CRISTO (FR) (81) (D)** **98**  
662141-81 **5** 11-2 | 70.8kg



**Nicky Henderson** **Daryl Jacob**  
French recruit who left low-key reappearance well behind when landing a competitive Kempton handicap (21f) in good style on Boxing Day. Up 12 lb for that, but this 5-y-o likely has more to offer.

**6 BIRCHDALE (IRE) (34) (C, D)** **98**  
11P/38-U63 **7** 11-1 | 70.3kg



**Nicky Henderson** **Nico de Boinville**  
Very promising earlier in his career and shaped quite well when eighth in this race off a 2 lb higher mark last year. Chasing didn't really go to plan but he's certainly in the right hands.

**7 SAYO (38)** **96**  
P300-8187 **7** 11-0 | 69.9kg



**W. P. Mullins, Ireland** **B. J. Cooper**  
Resumed winning ways at Kilbeggan last summer, but hasn't posed a threat in completed starts subsequently and finished out with the washing off a similar mark in this race 12 months ago.

**8 SAINT SONNET (FR) (88) (BF)** **96**  
56317-FPP **6** 11-0 | 69.9kg



**Paul Nicholls** **Harry Cobden**  
Ex-French recruit who made a promising start for this yard over fences last season. Has failed to complete all 3 starts this time round but he is in top hands on this return to timber.

**9 BOTOX HAS (FR) (53) (C)** **98**  
2/121-1406 **5** 10-13 | 69.4kg



**Gary Moore** **Joshua Moore**  
Has failed to make a real impact since switched to handicaps, beaten 16½ lengths when sixth to Craigneiche at Ascot last time. However, he's 2-3 here and this stiffer test could be what he needs.

**10 TEA CLIPPER (IRE) (43) (BF)** **98**  
1112-155 **6** 10-12 | 68.9kg



**Tom Lacey** **Jonathan Burke**  
Improved again when bagging a Grade 3 Chepstow handicap in October. Has come up short in 2 subsequent runs (in a jumpers bumper last time) but unwise to think limit has necessarily been reached.

**11 BURBANK (IRE) (43) (D)** **96**  
4/1518P-13 **9** 10-11 | 68.5kg



**James Moffatt** **Charlotte Jones (5lb/2kg)**  
Unsuccessful at the last 4 Festivals, but wasn't disgraced when seventh off 3 lb higher in this race in 2018. In good form in jumpers bumpers for new yard this season but this is a different ask.

**12 CRAIGNEICHE (IRE) (53) (D)** **99**  
131-1 **7** 10-10 | 68.0kg



**Nicky Henderson** **Tom Cannon**  
Doncaster maiden hurdle winner last term and big step forward when landing a competitive Ascot handicap (19.3f) in good style on return in January. Up 12 lb, but he remains with serious potential.

**13 BOREHAM BILL (IRE) (67) (D)** **98**  
7/10-34331 **9** 10-10 | 68.0kg



**Emma Lavelle** **Ben Jones (3lb/1kg)**  
Right back to form returned to this sphere at Kempton the last time, placed in 21f handicap in November prior to landing the Lanzarote. Merits respect despite 7 lb rise.

**14 GARO DE JUILLEY (FR) (38)** **96**  
7F-821F31 **9** 10-10 | 68.0kg



**Sophie Leech** **Felix de Giles**  
Hasn't won on these shores since October 2018, but has hit the target twice in France this season, including a listed contest over 20.4f at Pau last month. Doesn't possess the scope of a few of these.

**15 HEAVEN HELP US (IRE) (38) (C)** **93**  
7-2175441 **7** 10-9 | 67.6kg



**Paul Hennessy, Ireland** **Richard Condon (7lb/3kg)**  
Looked better than ever back in this sphere when landing a valuable mares' handicap in first-time cheekpieces at Leopardstown (2¼m) last month. New mark demands another jolt of progress.

**16 BLUE SARI (FR) (39)** **82**  
12/14P-P **6** 10-9 | 67.6kg



**W. P. Mullins, Ireland** **M. P. Walsh**  
Looked good early in career, runner-up in the 2019 Champion Bumper. Lightly raced since, running no sort of race on reappearance/handicap debut last month so top connections reach for a tongue tie.

**17 DYSART DIAMOND (IRE) (38) (BF)** **95**  
433-11410 **6** 10-8 | 67.1kg



**W. P. Mullins, Ireland** **D. E. Mullins**  
Fitted with a tongue tie and advanced her form when making a winning handicap debut over 2m at Leopardstown in December. Easy to excuse last month's run (hindered) and she has more to offer.

**18 SNEAKY GETAWAY (IRE) (79) (D)** **93**  
21/13-115P **8** 10-8 | 67.1kg



**Emmet Mullins, Ireland** **B. Hayes**  
Useful on the Flat (ran on AW latest) and bright start to hurdles career last year, scoring at Roscommon and Fairyhouse. However, well held last 2 starts in this sphere and cheekpieces now employed.

**19 PALMERS HILL (IRE) (24) (CD)** **98**  
1/2-40 **8** 10-6 | 66.2kg



**Jonjo O'Neill** **Jonjo O'Neill Jr.**  
Winner of a big-field C&D handicap hurdle in November 2018. Cracking effort at Kempton on sole start last term, but below par in a 2 runs so far this season and he clearly comes with risks attached.

**20 SHAKEM UP'ARRY (IRE) (24)** **96**  
F220-1428 **7** 10-6 | 66.2kg



**Ben Pauling** **David Bass**  
Scored at Ffos Las in November and has continued in good form, 12l eighth to Soaring Glory in Betfair Hurdle at Newbury last time and now back up in trip.

**21 OUR POWER (IRE) (25) (D)** **96**  
6331-634P **6** 10-6 | 66.2kg



**Nigel Twiston-Davies** **Gavin Sheehan**  
Landed big-field handicap at Kempton last spring and creditable efforts on first 3 starts of this season, including over C&D in October. Bombed out last time, but he's pretty reliable on the whole.

**22 SHANG TANG (IRE) (26)** **96**  
20-31FP51 **7** 10-6 | 66.2kg



**Emma Lavelle** **Tom Bellamy**  
Shaped well until stamina gave way in the River Don (24.4f) and resumed winning ways in clear-cut fashion at Fakenham last month. Revised mark calls for more back in a handicap.

**2.30****CORAL CUP HANDICAP HURDLE (Grade 3) (1) 4yo+  
£75,000 2m5f (4220 Metres)**

RACE 3

**Racing TV****23 GUARD YOUR DREAMS (24)** h  **100**

2-14116 5 10-6 | 66.2kg



Nigel Twiston-Davies

*Sam Twiston-Davies*

Progressive type who made a winning handicap debut at Sandown in January. Further progress when sixth of 23 in the Betfair Hurdle at Newbury (16.3f) since and this step up in trip looks a good move.

**24 NELSON RIVER (96) (C)** **96**

164/559-47 6 10-4 | 65.3kg



Tony Carroll

*Harry Bannister*

Excelled himself when fourth in the 2019 Triumph. AW winner in January prior to a brace of heavy defeats and he may lack the class and/or stamina back hurdling in a race of this nature.

**25 DANS LE VENT (FR) (25)** **97**

230/U2-144 8 10-3 | 64.9kg

Evan Williams *Isabel Williams (5lb/2kg)*

Better than ever when narrowly landing 7-runner handicap back hurdling following 13 months off at Hereford (19.5f) in December. Brace of fourth-place finishes since confirm he's in good nick.

**26 WITNESS PROTECTION (IRE) (67)** **98**

342-121 8 10-1 | 64.0kg



Martin Keighley

*James Best*

Promise in bumpers and successful twice in novice company this season, latterly strong at the finish at Chepstow in January. More to come in handicaps and return to this sort of trip should suit.

**RESERVES****27 BREFFNIBOY (FR) (31) (C)** **98**

13111124 7 10-1 | 64.0kg



Johnny Farrelly

*Reserve*

Much-improved handicapper, gaining a fifth win of the campaign here (2m) in December. Much better than the result in the mud at Exeter following a break last month. Up in trip. RESERVE.

**28 ENCORE CHAMPS (IRE) (18) (D)** **99**

78/2617F-5 7 10-0 | 63.5kg

Dan Skelton *Reserve*

Fairly useful winning hurdler who matched that form over fences last term for Warren Greatrex. Had a breathing op and not unduly punished starting out for new yard 18 days ago. RESERVE.

26 DECLARED RUNNERS (2 RESERVES)

**BETTING FORECAST:****7-1** Grand Roi, **9-1** Koshari, **10-1** Craigneiche, **16-1** Monte Cristo, **18-1** Guard Your Dreams, **18-1** Botox Has, **20-1** Thomas Darby, **22-1** Birchdale, **25-1** Sneaky Getaway, **28-1** Tea Clipper, **28-1** Boreham Bill, **28-1** Witness Protection, **28-1** Dysart Diamond, **28-1** Blue Sari, **33-1** Janika, **33-1** Dans Le Vent, **33-1** Shakem Up'arry, **33-1** Shang Tang, **33-1** Heaven Help Us, **40-1** bar**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

Nicky Henderson has won the last two renewals of this and saddles four in his bid for the hat-trick. Comfortably the most persuasive of them is CRAIGNEICHE, who was expertly prepared to make a winning return from a year off in January and his revised mark still underestimates him with this trip promising to suit. Guard Your Dreams and Witness Protection are a couple of many potential threats.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:****1. CRAIGNEICHE (IRE) 2. GUARD YOUR DREAMS 3. WITNESS PROTECTION (IRE)****WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2020	<b>Dame de Compagnie</b>	7-10-12	5-1f	Nicky Henderson	Barry Geraghty	25
2019	<b>William Henry</b>	9-11-10	28-1	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boinville	25
2018	<b>Bleu Berry</b>	7-11-2	20-1	W. P. Mullins	M. P. Walsh	26
2017	<b>Supasundae</b>	7-11-4	16-1	Mrs J. Harrington	Robbie Power	25
2016	<b>Diamond King</b>	8-11-3	12-1	Gordon Elliott	Davy Russell	26

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race


**3.05****BETWAY QUEEN MOTHER CHAMPION CHASE (Grade 1) (1)**  
**5yo+ £300,000 1m7f199y (3200 Metres)**


RACE 4

**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** **CHACUN POUR SOI (FR) (39)** (D)  **100**  
1/121-111 9 11-10 | 74.4kg

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

Top-class chaser who made it 3-3 this term with impressive display in Dublin Chase (2/5) at Leopardstown last month. Late defector in last year's Champion Chase and set to make amends now.

**2** **CILAOS EMERY (FR) (17)** (D) h **95**  
1/11F14-21 9 11-10 | 74.4kg

W. P. Mullins, Ireland **B. J. Cooper**

Top-class chaser who got right back on track when easily making all in Grade 3 at Naas last month. Has something to find with his stablemate Chacun Pour Soi but he's no forlorn hope.

**3** **FIRST FLOW (IRE) (53)** (D) **95**  
32111-111 9 11-10 | 74.4kg

Kim Bailey **David Bass**

Has progressed into a top-class chaser, given attacking ride when making it 6 wins in a row with ready 7l success over Politologue in Clarence House at Ascot. This demands more but still respected.

**4** **GREANETEEN (FR) (24)** (D) **92**  
01114-123 7 11-10 | 74.4kg



Paul Nicholls

**Bryony Frost**

Stylish winner of Exeter's Haldon Gold Cup and has raised his game further when placed in Tingle Creek and Game Spirit. Strong pace will suit this keen-going sort. Lively outsider.

**5** **NOTEBOOK (GER) (39)** (D) t **95**  
11116-123 8 11-10 | 74.4kg

Henry de Bromhead, Ireland **Rachael Blackmore**

Top-class chaser. Wide-margin winner at Naas and good placed efforts, though no match for Chacun Pour Soi, in Grade 1s at Leopardstown both runs since. Bold-jumping front-runner. Should be in the mix.

**6** **NUBE NEGRA (SPA) (80)** (D) t **93**  
B36/1122-1 7 11-10 | 74.4kg

Dan Skelton **Harry Skelton**

Announced himself a high-class chaser when 20/1-winner of Desert Orchid Chase at Kempton in December by 3½ lengths from below-par Altior. Another chunk of improvement needed to follow up here, though.

**7** **POLITOLOGUE (FR) (53)** (CD, BF) t  **96**  
422/251-12 10 11-10 | 74.4kg



Paul Nicholls

**Harry Cobden**

Readily made all in this event 12 months ago and captured a second Tingle Creek this term before creditable second to First Flow in Clarence House at Ascot. Should give a good account.

**8** **ROUGE VIF (FR) (80)** (CD) t  **90**  
14213-134 7 11-10 | 74.4kg




Harry Whittington

**Gavin Sheehan**

Smart chaser who readily landed handicap over C&D in October. Good third in the Tingle Creek after but well held behind Nube Negra in Desert Orchid Chase at Kempton. This is a very tough ask.

**9** **SCEAU ROYAL (FR) (24)** (CD)  **94**  
25-1124f1 9 11-10 | 74.4kg

Alan King **Daryl Jacob**

Very smart hurdler/chaser who arrives on the back of Game Spirit win at Newbury by 2l from Champ. Has come up short in the last 2 runnings of this, though, and it'll likely be the same again.

**10** **PUT THE KETTLE ON (IRE) (80)** (CD)  **94**  
111211-13 7 11-3 | 71.2kg

Henry de Bromhead, Ireland **Aidan Coleman**

Arkle winner. Returned with third C&D victory in Shloer Chase and good third to Chacun Pour Soi in Grade 1 at Leopardstown over Christmas. Likeable front-runner who goes well here.

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**4-5** Chacun Pour Soi, **9-1** Nube Negra, **10-1** Politologue, **12-1** Put The Kettle On, **14-1** Cilaos Emery, **18-1** First Flow, **28-1** Sceau Royal, **33-1** Rouge Vif, **40-1** bar

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

CHACUN POUR SOI has produced a couple of outstanding displays in Grade 1 company at Leopardstown this winter and he'll surely be too good if showing up in anything like the same form. Notebook has found the selection much too strong on his last 2 starts but he is undoubtedly a high-class chaser and represents a bit of value to hit the forecast spot ahead of last year's winner Politologue.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. CHACUN POUR SOI (FR) 2. NOTEBOOK (GER) 3. POLITOLOGUE (FR)**

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2020	<b>Politologue</b>	9-11-10	6-1	Paul Nicholls	Harry Skelton	5
2019	<b>Altior</b>	9-11-10	4-11f	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boinville	9
2018	<b>Altior</b>	8-11-10	evsf	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boinville	9
2017	<b>Special Tiara</b>	10-11-10	11-1	Henry de Bromhead	Noel Fehily	10
2016	<b>Sprinter Sacre</b>	10-11-10	5-1	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boinville	10

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

10 DECLARED RUNNERS

**3.40**

**GLENFARCLAS CHASE (CROSS COUNTRY) (2) 5yo+ £48,750**  
**3¼m37y (6070 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: **Even**

<b>1</b>	<b>ALPHA DES OBEAUX (FR) (31)</b> 333-595PP 11 11-4   71.7kg	b+t	<b>84</b>
	Mrs Denise Foster, Ireland <b>Sean Flanagan</b> Smart chaser at his best, but this season has been something of a write-off and it'll be something of a surprise were this 11-y-o to make a winning debut in this discipline.		
<b>2</b>	<b>ARTIC PEARL (31)</b> P1/U44-05 10 11-4   71.7kg	t	<b>74</b>
	Martin Brassil, Ireland <b>D. J. O'Keeffe</b> Stepped up on poor reappearance when fifth of 17 in a cross-country event at Punchestown last month, but big step forward needed if he's to make an impact here.		
<b>3</b>	<b>BALKO DES FLOS (FR) (49) (C)</b> 73/44-4764 10 11-4   71.7kg		<b>95</b>
	Henry de Bromhead, Ireland <b>Rachael Blackmore</b> High-class chaser at best, but largely below par since landing the Ryanair at the 2018 Festival. Still, he would be a serious player if the switch to this idiosyncratic course sparks a revival.		
<b>4</b>	<b>DEFI DES CARRES (FR) (73)</b> 3151U-52P 8 11-4   71.7kg		<b>81</b>
	Charlie Mann <b>Harry Bannister</b> A specialist in cross-country events in France and caught in the shadow of the post by Some Neck on debut for this yard over C&D in December. Subsequent display at Plumpton was poor, though.		
<b>5</b>	<b>EASYSLAND (FR) (124) (CD, BF)</b> 11/11111-4 7 11-4   71.7kg	s+t	<b>100</b>
	David Cottin, France <b>Felix de Giles</b> Top-notch on the cross-country scene, most impressive winner of this race 12 months ago. Below par sole start since behind Kingswell Theatre here in November, but will have been primed for this.		
<b>6</b>	<b>HOGAN'S HEIGHT (IRE) (25)</b> 3P11/715-P 10 11-4   71.7kg	t	<b>91</b>
	Jamie Snowden <b>Gavin Sheehan</b> Made it 4-9 over fences when landing the Grand Sefton (21f) at Aintree last season. Seen out just twice since (over hurdles, well held on each occasion) and improvement needed on cross-country debut.		
<b>7</b>	<b>KINGS TEMPTATION (30)</b> 14-111P65 9 11-4   71.7kg	t	<b>85</b>
	Ben Case <b>Bryan Carver</b> Returned in the form of his life over fences last year, rattling off Uttoxeter hat-trick at up to 3¼m. However, he failed to make an impact on first run over this C&D in November. Stiff task.		
<b>8</b>	<b>KINGSWELL THEATRE (96) (CD)</b> 556PSP-17 12 11-4   71.7kg	s	<b>88</b>
	Michael Scudamore <b>Tom Scudamore</b> Put track experience to good use when making a winning reappearance over C&D in November. Well beaten back here in race won by Some Neck next time, though, and he's opposable on balance.		
<b>9</b>	<b>LE BREUIL (FR) (39) (C, BF)</b> P750-4334 9 11-4   71.7kg		<b>90</b>
	Ben Pauling <b>Kielan Woods</b> Smart staying chaser who landed NH Chase at this meeting in 2019. Expensive to follow since and was rather disappointing at Musselburgh last time, but he's another with an each-way chance.		
<b>10</b>	<b>OUT SAM (31)</b> 63P-F54F8 12 11-4   71.7kg	v+t	<b>87</b>
	Mrs Denise Foster, Ireland <b>Jody McGarvey</b> Talented on his day, but none too reliable and was beaten 35 lengths when third to Easysland in this race 12 months ago. Typically in-and-out since and it's easy enough to look elsewhere.		

<b>11</b>	<b>POTTERS CORNER (IRE) (31) (D)</b> 5P011-37P 11 11-4   71.7kg	s	<b>98</b>
	Christian Williams <b>Non Runner</b> Winner of the Welsh National last term and decent first attempt over this C&D in November when third to Kingswell Theatre. Low-key over hurdles since. NON RUNNER.		
<b>12</b>	<b>SOME NECK (FR) (16) (CD)</b> 52PF-6310 10 11-4   71.7kg	s	<b>91</b>
	John McConnell, Ireland <b>Richard Johnson</b> Third on cross-country debut at Punchestown in November prior to narrowly prevailing over this C&D the following month. Recent hurdles spin should have left him spot-on and not without each-way hope.		
<b>13</b>	<b>TIGER ROLL (IRE) (24) (CD)</b> 4111/52-P6 11 11-4   71.7kg	b+t	<b>94</b>
	Mrs Denise Foster, Ireland <b>Keith Donoghue</b> Winner of this race prior to Grand National victories in 2018 and 2019. However, left trailing by Easysland in last year's renewal of this contest and well below his best in 3 starts this season.		
<b>14</b>	<b>VIVAS (FR) (96)</b> 5950-2PSP 10 11-4   71.7kg	b+t	<b>83</b>
	Charlie Longsdon <b>Charlie Deutsch</b> Well established as a useful chaser and wasn't disgraced when fifth to Kingswell Theatre over C&D in November. Pulled up back here in race won by Some Neck a month later, though.		

14 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**4-5 Easysland, 5-1 Tiger Roll, 12-1 Some Neck, 20-1 Balko Des Flos, 25-1 Le Breuil, 25-1 Alpha Des Obeaux, 50-1 bar**

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

EASYSLAND saw off Tiger Roll to win this last year and with the dual Grand National winner seemingly not the force of old at 11 it's hard to see David Cottin's charge not doubling up. December's C&D winner Some Neck may provide the main threat, while Tiger Roll should still be good for another placed effort.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. EASYSLAND (FR) 2. SOME NECK (FR) 3. TIGER ROLL (IRE)**

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2020	<b>Easysland</b> 6-11-4	3-1	David Cottin	Jonathan Plouganou	14
2019	<b>Tiger Roll</b> 9-11-4	5-4f	Gordon Elliott	Keith Donoghue	15
2018	<b>Tiger Roll</b> 8-11-4	7-1	Gordon Elliott	Keith Donoghue	16
2017	<b>Cause of Causes</b> 9-11-4	4-1	Gordon Elliott	Mr J. J. Codd	16
2016	<b>Josies Orders</b> 8-11-4	15-8f	Enda Bolger	Miss N. Carberry	16

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

4.15

**JOHNNY HENDERSON GRAND ANNUAL CHALLENGE CUP  
HANDICAP CHASE (Grade 3) (1) 5yo+ £82,500 1m7f199y  
(3200 Metres)**

RACE 6

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 DUC DES GENIEVRES (FR) (53) (CD)** h+t **98**  
482F5-237 8 11-12 | 75.3kg

Paul Nicholls **Lorcan Williams (31b/1kg)**  
Arkle winner in 2019 for Willie Mullins. Just about best run since when second in C&D Grade 2 on reappearance/yard debut but not in same form next 2 starts. Handicap debut.

**2 SIZING POTTSIE (FR) (39) (D)** t **96**  
11F-521F5 7 11-10 | 74.4kg

Mrs J. Harrington, Ireland **Robbie Power**  
Out of his depth in a Grade 1 last time but was impressive when winning his sole start in a handicap at Fairyhouse in December, beating Entoucas by 6 lengths. Trainer knows how to win this race.

**3 CHOSEN MATE (IRE) (38) (CD)** t **98**  
411-04P60 8 11-10 | 74.4kg

Mrs Denise Foster, Ireland **Jordan Colin Gainford (71b/3kg)**  
Landed a gamble when impressive winner of this (on the other course) last season off 9 lb lower. Winner on the Flat in the summer but down the field back over jumps since. Much better expected now.

**4 IBLEO (FR) (47) (D)** **100**  
112-2211 8 11-8 | 73.5kg

Venetia Williams **Charlie Deutsch**  
Low-mileage 8-y-o who has taken form to a new level this season, runner-up to Sky Pirate here before winning handicaps at Sandown and Doncaster. Open to further improvement over fences.

**5 SKY PIRATE (30) (CD)** t **99**  
F22-25112 8 11-6 | 72.6kg

Jonjo O'Neill **Nick Scholfield**  
Well suited by the drop to 2m when winning handicap chases at Cheltenham (beat Ibleo) and Warwick. Excuses in Grade 2 at latter track since and this scenario should play more to his strengths.

**6 BUN DORAN (IRE) (53) (CD)** **99**  
521F3-75P 10 11-4 | 71.7kg

Tom George **Jonathan Burke**  
Kempton Grade 2 winner last winter. Also third in Champion Chase later that season. Below par all 3 starts this term but is potentially well handicapped. Runner-up in this 2 years ago.

**7 US AND THEM (IRE) (109) (D)** b+t **97**  
7883-08F7 8 11-1 | 70.3kg

Joseph Patrick O'Brien, Ireland **J. J. Slevin**  
Has been largely disappointing since his novice campaign (runner-up in the Arkle) but there's no doubt he's potentially on a good mark having finished third in this last season off 1 lb higher.

**8 MOONLIGHTER (39) (D)** **98**  
U142-2F51 8 11-1 | 70.3kg

Nick Williams **David Bass**  
Won at Newbury last term and took another step forward when runner-up in Haldon Gold Cup on return. Resumed progress with gutsy win at Sandown under this rider and should give another good account.

**9 GLEN FORSA (IRE) (67) (D)** **98**  
11UP/3-F74 9 11-1 | 70.3kg

Mick Channon **Tom Scudamore**  
Very smart novice in 2018/19. Lightly raced since and mostly disappointing, though latest fourth at Wincanton was at least a step back in the right direction. Has had a wind op since.

**10 AMOOLA GOLD (GER) (60) (D)** **98**  
3725-1122 8 11-0 | 69.9kg

Dan Skelton **Bridget Andrews**  
Having an excellent season, making winning return at Wetherby before defying 5 lb rise at Ascot. Even better form when runner-up both starts since, 2¼ lengths behind Sky Pirate at Warwick last time.

**11 EMBITTERED (IRE) (39) (D)** t **99**  
5363-2244 7 11-0 | 69.9kg

Joseph Patrick O'Brien, Ireland **Rachael Blackmore**  
Ran a cracker when third in County Hurdle last season and seems at least as good over fences despite not winning from 4 attempts, out of his depth in Grade 1s last twice. Much better expected here.

**12 ZANZA (IRE) (95) (D)** **98**  
6F60-421F 7 10-13 | 69.4kg

Philip Hobbs **Richard Johnson**  
Useful hurdler and no surprise to see him do better over fences given physique, off the mark at Newbury in November. Yet to be asked for effort when falling 3 out here since, so claims off same mark.

**13 ENTOUCAS (FR) (39) (D)** **99**  
213-22244 7 10-11 | 68.5kg

Joseph Patrick O'Brien, Ireland **M. P. Walsh**  
Yet to win over fences this season but deserves credit for his consistency, and latest fourth of 20 in competitive handicap at Leopardstown (strong form) was a career best.

**14 ON THE SLOPES (36) (D)** t **97**  
33311-553 7 10-8 | 67.1kg

Chris Gordon **Tom Cannon**  
Did well over fences last season, third in red-hot 20f Timeform novice handicap before winning twice at Kempton. Shaped well here on return but disappointed both starts since (jumpers bumper latest).

**15 ASHUTOR (FR) (17) (D)** t **98**  
0-3121132 7 10-7 | 66.7kg

Paul Nicholls **Harry Cobden**  
Taken well to fences this season, landing the odds in a couple of handicaps in the summer. Progress has rather stalled since, however, placed at Fontwell 6 months apart. Yard has won this 4 times.

**16 NOT THAT FUISSIE (FR) (43) (D)** **98**  
462-13421 8 10-5 | 65.8kg

Dan Skelton **Harry Skelton**  
Useful chaser who won a jumpers bumper at Newcastle 6 weeks ago. Career best required but strongly-run 2m should be ideal (strong traveller).

**17 WESTERN MILLER (IRE) (36) (D)** s+t **95**  
1-1682F69 10 10-5 | 65.8kg

Charlie Longsdon **Paul O'Brien (31b/1kg)**  
Useful chaser on his day, as shown when runner-up over C&D off 2 lb higher in December. Better form since but consistency has always been an issue.

**18 THEINVAL (FR) (44) (D)** s **98**  
36/FPS-577 11 10-4 | 65.3kg

Nicky Henderson **Non Runner**  
Lightly raced in recent years and not much of an impact this season but has a good record in this race which has presumably been the target. NON RUNNER.

**19 CAPUCCIMIX (FR) (39) (D)** **95**  
U215-8677 8 10-4 | 65.3kg

Henry de Bromhead, Ireland **D. J. O'Keefe**  
Below par this season but latest seventh of 20 in handicap chase at Leopardstown 39 days ago was a step back in the right direction. Needs to improve off this mark but remains low mileage.

**20 OR JAUNE DE SOMOZA (FR) (39) (D)** s **98**  
195-F6756 9 10-4 | 65.3kg

Mrs Denise Foster, Ireland **J. W. Kennedy**  
Useful handicap chaser for Henry de Bromhead and similar form for this stable but hasn't shown enough to suggest he can win a race as competitive as this.

20 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**7-1** Embittered, **8-1** Sky Pirate, **8-1** Entoucas, **17-2** Zanza, **14-1** Ibleo, **14-1** Chosen Mate, **20-1** Us And Them, **22-1** Amoola Gold, **22-1** Moonlighter, **22-1** On The Slopes, **22-1** Sizing Pottsie, **28-1** Duc Des Genievres, **28-1** Glen Forsa, **33-1** Bun Doran, **33-1** Not That Fuisse, **33-1** Ashutor, **33-1** Capuccimix, **40-1** bar

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

A few of these are potentially well handicapped but IBLEO is arguably the most progressive in the field so could still be ahead of his mark. The Irish hold a strong hand as usual, headed by Joseph O'Brien's trio Embittered, Entoucas and Us And Them, along with last year's impressive winner Chosen Mate, while Bun Doran makes each-way appeal at bigger odds.



4.15

RACE 6

**JOHNNY HENDERSON GRAND ANNUAL CHALLENGE CUP  
HANDICAP CHASE (Grade 3) (1) 5yo+ £82,500 1m7f199y  
(3200 Metres)**



**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. IBLEO (FR) 2. EMBITTERED (IRE) 3. CHOSEN MATE (IRE)**

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2020	<b>Chosen Mate</b>	7-11-4	7-2f	Gordon Elliott	Davy Russell	18
2019	<b>Croco Bay</b>	12-10-12	66-1	Ben Case	Kielan Woods	19
2018	<b>Le Prezien</b>	7-11-8	15-2	Paul Nicholls	Barry Geraghty	22
2017	<b>Rock The World</b>	9-11-5	10-1	Mrs J. Harrington	Robbie Power	24
2016	<b>Solar Impulse</b>	6-11-0	28-1	Paul Nicholls	Sam Twiston-Davies	24

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

**4.50**

RACE 7

**WEATHERBYS CHAMPION BUMPER (STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT) (Grade 1) (1) 4, 5 and 6yo £56,250 2m87y (3300 Metres)**



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**

<b>1</b>	<b>CHEMICAL ENERGY (IRE) (39)</b> (D)	<b>89</b>
	Mrs Denise Foster, Ireland <b>Robbie Power</b>	
	Promising when landing the odds impressively at Roscommon and Down Royal first 2 starts, though could only plug on for minor money behind Kilcruit at Leopardstown last month and suddenly needs more.	
<b>2</b>	<b>COOL JET (IRE) (30)</b>	<b>82</b>
	W. P. Mullins, Ireland <b>B. Hayes</b>	
	Improved to open account in the mud at Thurles last month, tanking through the race and quickening clear. May do even better, but down the yard's pecking order judged on riding arrangements.	
<b>3</b>	<b>CREGGAN WHITE HARE (IRE) (37)</b> (D)	<b>74</b>
	Sean Conway <b>Jamie Bargary</b>	
	Off the mark in re-fitted tongue tie at Newcastle last month. That form falls miles short of what will be required to get competitive in this.	
<b>4</b>	<b>FINE CASTING (IRE) (56)</b> (D)	<b>83</b>
	Ben Pauling <b>Daryl Jacob</b>	
	Made all in good style to land gamble at Newbury 8 weeks ago. Plenty more needed again to follow up in this far more competitive contest.	
<b>5</b>	<b>JACK'S A LEGEND (122)</b>	<b>87</b>
	Alan Jones <b>Tom O'Brien</b>	
	Has reached a useful level in bumpers without success, going close in steadily-run contest here in November. Would be a very surprising winner after 4 months off/wind op.	
<b>6</b>	<b>KILCRUIT (IRE) (39)</b> (D)	<b>100</b>
	W. P. Mullins, Ireland <b>P. Townend</b>	
	Looks out of the top drawer, sauntering to victory for new yard at Navan and Leopardstown (Grade 2, impressively beat Letsbeclearaboutit by 12 lengths). Yard dominate this and he's the one to beat.	
<b>7</b>	<b>RAMILLIES (IRE) (39)</b> (D)	<b>87</b>
	W. P. Mullins, Ireland <b>B. J. Cooper</b>	
	Successful return after a year off in Leopardstown bumper over Christmas and shaped well behind stablemate Kilcruit in Grade 2 there subsequently, emptying late on. Can do better still.	
<b>8</b>	<b>SHEARER (IRE) (76)</b> (D)	<b>86</b>
	Paul Nicholls <b>A. P. Heskin</b>	
	Shaped really well on debut before going one better with easy success in the mud at Warwick on New Year's Eve. Rare runner in the race for top yard and needs more to score, though may have it in him.	
<b>9</b>	<b>SIR GERHARD (IRE) (89)</b> (D)	<b>96</b>
	W. P. Mullins, Ireland <b>Rachael Blackmore</b>	
	£400,000 wide-margin point winner who has stormed to victory in 2 bumpers for Gordon Elliott, powering away from Letsbeclearaboutit in listed Navan contest in December. Likely has lots more to come.	
<b>10</b>	<b>THREE STRIPE LIFE (IRE) (47)</b> (D)	<b>93</b>
	Mrs Denise Foster, Ireland <b>J. W. Kennedy</b>	
	From a useful jumps family and landed a gamble in good style on debut at Navan 7 weeks ago. Could have a lot more to offer and he figures high on the shortlist.	

<b>11</b>	<b>WONDERWALL (IRE) (89)</b>	<b>86</b>
	Richard Spencer <b>James Bowen</b>	
	Landed gamble at Ascot on debut in November and ran well in listed contest back there following month, again having quite a hard race. Plenty more needed to make an impact, but not totally discounted.	
<b>12</b>	<b>ELLE EST BELLE (123)</b> (CD)	<b>89</b>
	Dan Skelton <b>Harry Skelton</b>	
	Accounted for 4 previous winners on debut at Aintree in October and followed up when dead-heating in the gloom in listed contest here in November. Wouldn't dismiss.	
<b>13</b>	<b>GRANGEE (FR) (38)</b> (D)	<b>92</b>
	W. P. Mullins, Ireland <b>D. E. Mullins</b>	
	Took another step forward when resuming winning ways in Grade 2 mares' event at Leopardstown last month. 1 of 5 for yard with best record in the race but they have a couple of far stronger candidates.	
<b>14</b>	<b>I LIKE TO MOVE IT (24)</b>	<b>90</b>
	Nigel Twiston-Davies <b>Sam Twiston-Davies</b>	
	Clear-cut winner of Aintree/Wincanton bumpers first 2 starts and ran a fine race in second in listed Newbury contest last month. More needed again but that isn't out of the question.	
<b>15</b>	<b>SUPER SIX (40)</b> (D)	<b>85</b>
	Nigel Twiston-Davies <b>Tom Bellamy</b>	
	Defending an unbeaten record after wins at Hereford and Chepstow, forging clear for an impressive success in Wales last month. Likely has even more to offer.	

15 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

15-8 Sir Gerhard, 2-1 Kilcruit, 10-1 Three Stripe Life, 22-1 Ramillies, 25-1 Elle Est Belle, 28-1 Grangee, 28-1 I Like To Move It, 33-1 Wonderwall, 40-1 bar

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

Expect Willie Mullins to dominate this once again, with KILCRUIT taken to get the better of new stablemate Sir Gerhard in a tantalising clash. Both look hugely-promising, but it's not hard to side with Kilcruit, the most impressive winner of a bumper for many a year in a Grade 2 at Leopardstown, also landed by the 2018 and 2019 winners of this race. Three Stripe Life is another key player.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

1. KILCRUIT (IRE) 2. SIR GERHARD (IRE) 3. THREE STRIPE LIFE (IRE)

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2020	<b>Ferny Hollow</b> 5-11-5	11-1	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	23
2019	<b>Envoi Allen</b> 5-11-5	2-1f	Gordon Elliott	Mr J. J. Codd	14
2018	<b>Relegate</b> 5-10-12	25-1	W. P. Mullins	Ms K. Walsh	23
2017	<b>Fayonagh</b> 6-10-12	7-1	Gordon Elliott	Mr J. J. Codd	22
2016	<b>Ballyandy</b> 5-11-5	5-1	Nigel Twiston-Davies	Sam Twiston-Davies	23

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race