

Saturday 29th January

CHELTENHAM



12.15 SSS SUPER ALLOYS HANDICAP HURDLE (2) 2m179y (3380 Metres)

RACE 1 **(4) CORMIER (IRE) | (5) HYSTERY BERE (FR) | (10) BYZANTINE EMPIRE**

12.45 JCB TRIUMPH TRIAL JUVENILE HURDLE (Finesse) (Grade 2) (1) 2m179y (3380 Metres)

RACE 2 **(1) ICEO (FR) | (7) PIED PIPER | (2) INTERNE DE SIVOLA (FR)**

1.20 TIMEFORM NOVICES' HANDICAP CHASE (2) 2½m127y (4140 Metres)

RACE 3 **(3) OSCAR ELITE (IRE) | (1) IMPERIAL ALCAZAR (IRE) | (4) WHEN YOU'RE READY (IRE)**

1.55 PADDY POWER CHELTENHAM COUNTDOWN PODCAST HANDICAP CHASE (Grade 3) (1) 2½m127y (4140 Metres)

RACE 4 **(6) FARINET (FR) | (5) SPIRITOFTHEGAMES (IRE) | (2) COOLE CODY (IRE)**

2.30 PADDY POWER COTSWOLD CHASE (Grade 2) (1) 3m1f56y (5080 Metres)

RACE 5 **(2) CHANTRY HOUSE (IRE) | (5) SIMPLY THE BETTS (IRE) | (1) AYE RIGHT (IRE)**

3.05 WELSH MARCHES STALLIONS AT CHAPEL STUD CLEEVE HURDLE (Grade 2) (1) 2m7f213y (4820 Metres)

RACE 6 **(1) CHAMP (IRE) | (2) MCFABULOUS (IRE) | (3) PAISLEY PARK (IRE)**

3.40 BALLYMORE NOVICES' HURDLE (Classic) (Grade 2) (1) 2½m56y (4070 Metres)


RACE 7 **(1) HILLCREST (IRE) | (3) BALCO COASTAL (FR) | (2) A DIFFERENT KIND (IRE)**


4.15 ALAN SWINBANK MARES' STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT (Listed) (1) 2m179y (3380 Metres)

RACE 8 **(7) NELL'S BELLS (IRE) | (8) NOS NA GAOITHE (IRE) | (1) FLIRTATIOUS GIRL (IRE)**

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.

12.15

**SSS SUPER ALLOYS HANDICAP HURDLE (2) 4yo+ £30,000
2m179y (3380 Metres)**

RACE 1



Going: **Good**

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 MASTERS LEGACY (IRE) (19)** (D, BF) t **97**
 11/46-1252 **7** 11-12 | 75.3kg
 Philip Hobbs **Michael Nolan**
 Scored on return at Chepstow (2m) in October and filled runners-up spot on 2 of his 3 starts since, albeit no match for an easy winner latest. Mark may be about right but he should go well again.
- 2 THE WIDOW MAKER (33)** (D) h+t **98**
 783110-15 **8** 11-10 | 74.4kg
 Colin Tizzard **Brendan Powell**
 Looked better than ever on back of a wind up when successful on return at Wincanton (15.2f) in December. Possibly did a bit much in front at Kempton since and this mark unlikely to prove beyond him.
- 3 GEROMINO (FR) (28)** t **96**
 2-3411127 **6** 11-9 | 73.9kg
 Donald McCain **Brian Hughes**
 Rattled off a novice/handicap hurdle hat-trick late prior to going down fighting behind Tommy's Oscar at Doncaster (16.5f) in December. Raced freely at Musselburgh since and had wind up since.
- 4 CORMIER (IRE) (76)** t **97**
 P1170-240 **6** 11-6 | 72.6kg
 Brian Ellison **Jonathan Burke**
 Dual winner on Flat last term who ran well to finish fourth in Welsh Champion Hurdle in October. Significant error caught him out in the Greatwood Hurdle next time and he's worth a look here.
- 5 HYSTERY BERE (FR) (34)** t **96**
 4221213-1 **5** 11-4 | 71.7kg
 Tom Symonds **Aidan Coleman**
 Fairly useful hurdler in France who confirmed his opening mark lenient when successful on return at Fontwell (17.7f) last month. This understandably deeper but that may not prove his limit.
- 6 GLORY AND HONOUR (IRE) (73)** t **98**
 11333-02F **6** 11-2 | 70.8kg
 Tom Lacey **Stan Sheppard**
 Good second in 2m Taunton handicap hurdle last month but came down heavily at the ninth on debut over fences at Ffos Las next time and he's back up class returned to timber now.
- 7 KHAVAH (11)** t **97**
 68321 **5** 11-0 | 69.9kg
 Adrian Keatley **Conor O'Farrell**
 Progressive over hurdles this winter, taking a marked step forward in form terms when landing a novices' handicap at Newcastle (16.2f) 11 days ago, easily. Assessor has reacted, though.
- 8 HYDROPLANE (IRE) (21)** (D) t **98**
 315211-P1 **6** 11-0 | 69.9kg
 Ian Williams **Tom Scudamore**
 Progressive last term, notching up 4 victories and quickly back from a blip when regaining winning ways at Sandown (2m) 3 weeks ago, well-served by prominent tactics on the day. 3 lb higher now.
- 9 SEVERANCE (34)** (D) **100**
 153-94 **6** 10-12 | 68.9kg
 Ben Pauling **Kielan Woods**
 Useful on Flat and made an impressive winning debut over hurdles in 17f Carlisle maiden 14 months ago. 2m5f probably not his bag so far this term and mark has eased if bouncing back returned to 2m.
- 10 BYZANTINE EMPIRE (50)** (D) t **95**
 5-31211 **5** 10-12 | 68.9kg
 Fergal O'Brien **Paddy Brennan**
 Made an excellent start over hurdles for present yard, gaining third success from last 4 starts at Doncaster (16.5f) latest, coming clear with runner-up. Feasible to think that won't prove his limit.

- 11 LIVELY CITIZEN (IRE) (50)** (CD) **99**
 512233-31 **7** 10-7 | 66.7kg
 D. J. Jeffreys **Archie Bellamy** (71lb/3kg)
 Consistent, prominent racer who showed greater resolution than the runner-up when doubling hurdles tally over C&D in December. No reason why he won't give another good account of himself.
- 12 ASHUTOR (FR) (15)** (D) t **94**
 32955-P55 **8** 10-2 | 64.4kg
 Sophie Leech **Sean Houlihan**
 Justified cramped odds in a couple of small-field handicap chases in summer 2020 for Paul Nicholls. However, hasn't been enough in 3 starts for present stable to make him of interest back over hurdles

12 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

11-2 Byzantine Empire, **7-1** Lively Citizen, **8-1** Hystery Bere, **9-1** Kihavah, **10-1** Hydroplane, **10-1** Masters Legacy, **10-1** Cormier, **11-1** The Widow Maker, **11-1** Geromino, **14-1** Glory And Honour, **16-1** Severance, **50-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

A really intriguing handicap to kick off, with the narrow vote in favour of CORMIER. Undone by a significant error in the Greatwood Hurdle when last seen, he appeals as being on a workable mark on the balance of his hurdle form and he's expected to go well. Easy Fontwell winner Hystery Bere and Byzantine Empire are just a couple of others to consider.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. CORMIER (IRE) 2. HYSTERY BERE (FR) 3. BYZANTINE EMPIRE

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2020	Back On The Lash 6-10-8	13-2	Martin Keighley	Jonathan Burke	11
2019	Benny's Bridge 6-9-13	8-1	Fergal O'Brien	Paddy Brennan	12
2018	Remiluc 9-11-12	20-1	Chris Gordon	Harry Reed (7)	11
2017	William H Bonney 6-10-11	5-1	Alan King	Wayne Hutchinson	14

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

12.45**JCB TRIUMPH TRIAL JUVENILE HURDLE (Finesse) (Grade 2)**
(1) 4yo £60,000 2m179y (3380 Metres)

RACE 2

Racing TVGoing: **Good**

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 ICEO (FR) (33) (D) h  **100**
11 4 11-3 | 71.2kg



Paul Nicholls

Harry Cobden

Won well at Dieppe on hurdling debut in the summer and looked potentially smart when following up for this yard at Kempton last month, drawing well clear straight. Sure to go on to better things.

2 INTERNE DE SIVOLA (FR) (49) (CD) **91**
31 4 11-3 | 71.2kg



Nick Williams

Chester Williams

Related to plenty of winners and built on an encouraging start in this sphere when running out a convincing winner over C&D in December. Likely to progress further.

3 BOULETTE (IRE) (31) t **84**
25122 4 11-0 | 69.9kg



Nigel Hawke

David Noonan

Fair maiden on Flat who opened his hurdle account at Fontwell in November. Solid efforts both starts since, including on handicap debut at Doncaster last time, but has plenty to find at this level.

4 FOREVER WILLIAM (33) (D) **94**
13 4 11-0 | 69.9kg



Alan King

Tom Cannon

Fairly useful maiden on Flat who struck at first time of asking over hurdles at Newbury in December. Bettered that form when third to Porticello in Chepstow Grade 1 and should run well again.

5 MOKA DE VASSY (FR) (45) **81**
63 4 11-0 | 69.9kg

Mrs Jane Williams **Jonathan Burke**

Half-brother to 5 winners, including useful chaser Saint de Vassy. Much improved from debut when 6 lengths third of 9 to Forever William at Newbury (16.3f), though still has something to learn.

6 MOULINS CLERMONT (FR) (21) **91**
3-61 4 11-0 | 69.9kg



Gary Moore

Jamie Moore

Made the most of a good opportunity on second start for this yard in 4-runner affair at Sandown (16f, heavy) 3 weeks ago, pushed out. Open to further improvement.

7 PIED PIPER (29) **94**
1 4 11-0 | 69.9kg



Gordon Elliott, Ireland

Davy Russell

Useful on Flat for John & Thady Gosden. Sold for 225,000 gns and looked an exciting recruit to hurdling when scoring on debut at Punchestown last month, jumping fluently in main. Sure to progress.

8 SILVER SHADE (FR) (14) **83**
1 4 11-0 | 69.9kg



Milton Harris

Kevin Jones

Fairly useful on Flat (stays 1¾m). Bought for 18,000 gns and made a winning start over hurdles in 5-runner event at Kempton (2m, heavy) 2 weeks ago. This asks for plenty more, but he'll improve.

8 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

11-8 Iceo, **10-3** Pied Piper, **13-2** Interne De Sivola, **9-1** Forever William, **16-1** Moulins Clermont, **20-1** Silver Shade, **28-1** Moka De Vassy, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

ICEO looked a smart prospect when scoring by a wide margin on first start for Paul Nicholls at Kempton last month, and with the performance backed up by the clock, he's fully expected to take this step up in grade in his stride. Pied Piper created a good impression at Punchestown and rates a big threat, while Interne de Sivola is not taken lightly on the back of a convincing display over C&D.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. ICEO (FR) 2. PIED PIPER 3. INTERNE DE SIVOLA (FR)

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2020	Galahad Quest 4-11-0	6-1	Nick Williams	Harry Cobden	6
2019	Fakir d'Oudairies 4-11-0	4-1	Joseph Patrick O'Brien	J. J. Slevin	9
2018	Apple's Shakira 4-10-12	1-7f	Nicky Henderson	Barry Geraghty	6
2017	Defi du Seuil 4-11-7	1-5f	Philip Hobbs	Barry Geraghty	4

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

1.20**TIMEFORM NOVICES' HANDICAP CHASE (2) 5yo+ £30,000**
2½m127y (4140 Metres)

RACE 3

Racing TVGoing: **Good**

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

Pace Information: **Even**

1 IMPERIAL ALCAZAR (IRE) (33) (D) t **99**
221/910-22 8 11-12 | 75.3kg



Fergal O'Brien

Paddy Brennan

Useful hurdler who has made a satisfactory start over fences, runner-up on both occasions (switched to a handicap at Chepstow last time). Jumping requires some refining but he's one for the shortlist.

2 SOLO (FR) (33) t **99**
45040-223 6 11-7 | 73.0kg



Paul Nicholls

Harry Cobden

One-time exciting hurdler who got back on track switched to fences after a wind up when runner-up on first 2 starts this term. Not disgraced upped in grade since so could feature back in a handicap.

3 OSCAR ELITE (IRE) (28) t **100**
19323-F34 7 11-5 | 72.1kg



Colin Tizzard

Brendan Powell

Useful hurdler who was in the mix when coming to grief 3 out on return/chase debut here in November. Not gone on from that since but on a potentially lenient mark with yard back amongst the winners.

4 WHEN YOU'RE READY (IRE) (33) (BF) s **99**
3213-8312 8 10-12 | 68.9kg



Jonjo O'Neill

Jonjo O'Neill Jr.

Generally progressive over hurdles last season and all the better for chase debut when scoring at Chepstow last month. Similar form albeit not with the same fluency when runner-up since so respected.

5 BEAKSTOWN (IRE) (18) (D) s+t **99**
2435/392 9 10-12 | 68.9kg



Dan Skelton

Jack Andrews (5lb/2kg)

Back to form after a disappointing effort over C&D last month when runner-up at Doncaster 18 days ago, though typically letting himself down off the bridle (carried head awkwardly). Others preferred.

6 JAVA POINT (IRE) (19) (D) t **97**
52215-021 7 10-9 | 67.6kg



Tom George

Jonathan Burke

Fairly useful winning hurdler for Kim Bailey who justified support to get score at the third attempt over fences at Ludlow earlier this month. Upped in grade and a career best required to feature.

7 YOUR DARLING (IRE) (34) **98**
1P/34-1153 7 10-8 | 67.1kg



Ben Pauling

Kielan Woods

Bumper winner who tasted success over hurdles in May and surpassed that with chase debut win at Huntingdon in October. Previous weak finishing tendencies displayed last time so tough to support.

8 GOA LIL (FR) (10) (D) **98**
93121231 6 10-6 | 66.2kg



Nigel Twiston-Davies

Sam Twiston-Davies

Been in good form in handicaps, both in this sphere and over hurdles. Somewhat fortuitous to gain a third win of busy campaign at Newbury 10 days ago but warrants respect nonetheless up just 2 lb.

8 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

11-2 Solo, **11-2** Goa Lil, **11-2** Java Point, **6-1** Oscar Elite, **7-1** Imperial Alcazar, **15-2** When You're Ready, **8-1** Beakstown, **9-1** Your Darling

TIMEFORM VIEW:

It's fair to say that OSCAR ELITE's chasing career hasn't got off to the best of starts, crashing out 3 from home when looking sure to have a say in proceedings back in November. With his latest effort excused and the yard back firing, he gets the verdict to make a winning start to life in handicaps. Imperial Alcazar and When You're Ready look the main dangers in a competitive renewal.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. OSCAR ELITE (IRE) 2. IMPERIAL ALCAZAR (IRE) 3. WHEN YOU'RE READY (IRE)

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2020	Simply The Betts	7-11-5	11-2	Harry Whittington	Gavin Sheehan	12
2019	Kildisart	7-11-7	9-2	Ben Pauling	Daryl Jacob	8
2018	Mister Whitaker	6-10-8	6-1	Mick Channon	A. P. Heskin	7
2017	Royal Vacation	7-11-9	12-1	Colin Tizzard	Paddy Brennan	14

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

1.55

RACE 4

**PADDY POWER CHELTENHAM COUNTDOWN PODCAST
HANDICAP CHASE (Grade 3) (1) 5yo+ £100,000 2½m127y
(4140 Metres)****Racing TVi**Going: **Good**

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**

1 **MAGIC SAINT (FR) (28)** (C) **98** s+t 



Paul Nicholls

Tom Buckley (5lb/2kg)

Course winner who took a step back in right direction fitted in headgear when fourth in similar event here on New Year's Day, though again shaping as if this trip stretches him. Becoming well treated.

2 **COOLE CODY (IRE) (28)** (CD, BF) **96** 



Evan Williams

Adam Wedge

Tough front runner who has bagged a couple of similar events around here, including Racing Post Gold Cup last month. Not in same form here on New Year's Day but type to bounce back.

3 **WHATMORE (427)** (BF) **95** 

Henry Daly **Richard Patrick**

Proved a useful and consistent novice chaser last season and took his form to a new level when runner-up in 2 good quality handicaps at Ascot and Newcastle this term. Another bold showing expected.

4 **GAEK COAST (FR) (28)** (D) **95** 

Donald McCain **Brian Hughes**

Good record at Musselburgh but has struggled when tackling more competitive handicaps. Others preferred.

5 **SPIRITOFTHEGAMES (IRE) (28)** (D) **99** 

Dan Skelton **Jack Andrews** (5lb/2kg)

Regular in competitive handicaps and finished with running left when mid-field in the Paddy Power here. Easy enough to excuse next 2 starts and went close in this 2 years ago off 149. No easy ride.

6 **FARINET (FR) (21)** **100** 

Venetia Williams **Miss Lucy Turner** (7lb/3kg)

Ex-French chaser who lost a shoe when pulled up in similar event here on return. Resumed progress when ready winner at Sandown 3 weeks ago and likely to progress again. Big shout.

7 **SHE'SASUPERMACK (IRE) (27)** (D) **95**



Iain Jardine

Conor O'Farrell

Useful chaser who showed no ill effect from her fall when resuming winning ways in 5-runner handicap at Ayr (3m). Shorter trip no issue but career-high mark may well be.

8 **JACAMAR (GER) (34)** (D) **96** 



Milton Harris

Paddy Brennan

Useful hurdler and even better form over fences, going down only narrowly at Wincanton before going one better fitted with this headgear at Kempton, overcoming a mixed round of jumping. This tougher.

9 **GALAHAD QUEST (FR) (28)** (C) **96** 



Nick Williams

David Noonan

Opened his account over fences at Haydock (20f) on final start last season and has returned in good nick, finishing fifth and sixth in similar events. No forlorn hope.

10 **TORN AND FRAYED (FR) (30)** **96**



Nigel Twiston-Davies

Sam Twiston-Davies

Dual hurdles winner last term who has made a promising start over fences, beaten only by My Drogo in C&D novice in November. Seemed unsuited by heavy ground at Haydock since.

11 **EDEN DU HOUX (FR) (12)** **97** 



David Pipe

Tom Scudamore

Useful hurdler who opened his account over fences on the back of a wind up in 2m Ffos Las handicap in November. Good second of 4 at Chepstow 10 weeks later and not taken lightly.

11 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

4-1 Magic Saint, **11-2** Farinet, **13-2** Galahad Quest, **9-1** Coole Cody, **10-1** Whatmore, **12-1** Eden Du Houx, **14-1** Torn And Frayed, **16-1** Spiritofthegames, **16-1** Jacamar, **18-1** She'sasupermack, **33-1** Gaelik Coast

TIMEFORM VIEW:

FARINET had excuses when pulled up in the Racing Post Gold Cup here on return and looked one to keep on the right side of when resuming winning ways at Sandown. He gets the vote in a race lacking in progressive types. Spiritofthegames is no doubt hard to win with but he went close in this 2 years ago and is lurking on a dangerous mark, while Coole Cody has a good record in similar events here.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. FARINET (FR) 2. SPIRITOFTHEGAMES (IRE) 3. COOLE CODY (IRE)

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2020	Cepage 8-11-12	8-1	Venetia Williams	Charlie Deutsch	10
2019	Siruh du Lac 6-10-9	6-1	Nick Williams	Lizzie Kelly (3)	11
2018	Frodon 6-11-12	13-2	Paul Nicholls	Bryony Frost (5)	14
2017	Foxtail Hill 8-10-3	12-1	Nigel Twiston-Davies	Jamie Bargary (3)	13

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race








2.30**PADDY POWER COTSWOLD CHASE (Grade 2) (1) 5yo+
£120,000 3m1f56y (5080 Metres)**

RACE 5

Racing TViGoing: **Good**

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 Weak**

1	AYE RIGHT (IRE) (63) 326230-51 9 11-6 72.6kg		95
	Harriet Graham Has developed into a very smart chaser and finally put an end to his status as one of the highest-achieving bridesmaids of recent times when narrow winner of Rehearsal Chase at Newcastle. Respected.	Callum Bewley	
2	CHANTRY HOUSE (IRE) (34) (C, D, BF) 3/13111-1P 8 11-6 72.6kg	s	 100
	Nicky Henderson Ended excellent novice chase campaign with Grade 1 successes at Cheltenham/Aintree Festivals. Easy win in a match at Sandown on return but disappointed in King George at Kempton. Headgear applied.	Nico de Boinville	
3	KAUTO RIKO (FR) (28) 2510/4P-2P 11 11-2 70.8kg	t	86
	Tom Gretton Winless since 2018 and went backwards from his reappearance when pulled up in Grade 3 handicap here on New Year's Day. Tough ask.	Brian Hughes	
4	SANTINI (50) (CD) 112/253P-4 10 11-2 70.8kg		91
	Polly Gundry Won this 2 years ago before just denied in Gold Cup in his peak years for Nicky Henderson but not the same force last season and made a low-key start for this yard in Grade 3 handicap here on return.	Nick Scholfield	
5	SIMPLY THE BETTS (IRE) (28) (C) 1211/6-6P2 9 11-2 70.8kg		99
	Paul Nicholls Major improver over fences during 2019/20 season. Shaped well on return for new yard and looked better than ever when runner-up off 153 in Grade 3 handicap here on New Year's Day. Should stay.	Harry Cobden	

5 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

10-11 Chantry House, 7-2 Aye Right, 4-1 Simply The Betts, 11-1 Santini, 100-1 bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

CHANTRY HOUSE ran no sort of race when favourite for the King George at Kempton on Boxing Day but he was one of the leading novice chasers last season and this looks a good opportunity for him to get back on track with headgear applied. Simply The Betts ran a mighty race on his third start for this yard when second off 153 in a Grade 3 handicap here on New Year's Day and rates the main threat.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. CHANTRY HOUSE (IRE) 2. SIMPLY THE BETTS (IRE) 3. AYE RIGHT (IRE)

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2021	Native River 11-11-6	13-2	Colin Tizzard	Richard Johnson	6
2020	Santini 8-11-4	13-8f	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boinville	6
2019	Frodon 7-11-6	9-4	Paul Nicholls	Bryony Frost	6
2018	Definitely Red 9-11-6	7-1	Brian Ellison	Danny Cook	8
2017	Many Clouds 10-11-10	8-1	Oliver Sherwood	Leighton Aspell	7

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

3.05

RACE 6

**WELSH MARCHES STALLIONS AT CHAPEL STUD CLEEVE
HURDLE (Grade 2) (1) 5yo+ £70,000 2m7f213y (4820
Metres)****Racing TV**Going: **Good**

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 Weak**

1 **CHAMP (IRE) (42)** (C, D)  **100**
11F1/2P-1 **10** 11-6 | 72.6kg



Nicky Henderson

Jonjo O'Neill Jr.

RSA Chase winner here who showed he's still equally as effective over hurdles when seeing off Thyme Hill (Paisley Park third) to win Grade 1 Long Walk at Ascot last month. The one to beat.

2 **MCFABULOUS (IRE) (28)** **98**
11/13128-2 **8** 11-6 | 72.6kg



Paul Nicholls

Harry Cobden

Pair of Grade 2 wins last season. Creditable reappearance second to Stormy Island in Relkeel here on New Year's Day. Now steps up to 3m for just the second time in his career. Likely to go well.

3 **PAISLEY PARK (IRE) (42)** (CD) **98**
7/213P-333 **10** 11-6 | 72.6kg



Emma Lavelle

Aidan Coleman

Dual winner of this and the Stayers' over this C&D but possibly not quite the force of old, finishing 5¼ lengths behind the reopposing Champ in the Long Walk at Ascot last month.

4 **DANDY MAG (FR) (34)** (D) **85**
50/8107-8P **9** 11-0 | 69.9kg



Fergal O'Brien

Paddy Brennan

Pretty smart hurdler at his best for Willie Mullin but has struggled in recent starts, including pulling up on Wincanton yard debut on Boxing Day. Not up to this level even if back to his best.

5 **LISNAGAR OSCAR (IRE) (42)** (CD) **95**
472F8-35P **9** 11-0 | 69.9kg



Rebecca Curtis

Adam Wedge

2020 Stayers' hero over C&D but winless since, running particularly poorly behind Champ and Paisley Park at Ascot last month. First-time cheekpieces will need to help spark a major revival.

5 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

4-6 Champ, 4-1 Paisley Park, 5-1 Mcfabulous, 22-1 Lisnagar Oscar, 50-1 bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

If CHAMP is in the same form as when accounting for Thyme Hill and the reopposing Paisley Park in the Long Walk then it's hard to see past him. McFabulous can build on his reappearance second in the Relkeel and give Nicky Henderson's charge most to think about.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. CHAMP (IRE) 2. MCFABULOUS (IRE) 3. PAISLEY PARK (IRE)

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2020	Paisley Park	8-11-6	4-6f	Emma Lavelle	Aidan Coleman	8
2019	Paisley Park	7-11-6	10-3f	Emma Lavelle	Aidan Coleman	12
2018	Agrapart	7-11-6	9-1	Nick Williams	Lizzie Kelly	9
2017	Unowhatimeanharry	9-11-8	10-11f	Harry Fry	Barry Geraghty	15

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

3.40**BALLYMORE NOVICES' HURDLE (Classic) (Grade 2) (1) 4yo+
£50,000 2½m56y (4070 Metres)**

RACE 7

Racing TVGoing: **Good**

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**

1 HILLCREST (IRE) (28) (CD)  **100**
21-111 7 11-10 | 74.4kg

Henry Daly **Richard Patrick**

Big chasing type who completed a hat-trick over hurdles in 7-runner listed novice over C&D (soft) 4 weeks ago, asserting near finish after finding extra. Concedes weight all round but more to come.

2 A DIFFERENT KIND (IRE) (16) **92**
11111 5 11-8 | 73.5kg

Donald McCain **Brian Hughes**

Promising novice who landed both starts in bumpers and maintained his 100% record over hurdles when landing 4-runner event at Catterick (19.3f) 16 days ago. Remains open to further improvement.

3 BALCO COASTAL (FR) (38) **98**
17-11 6 11-5 | 72.1kg



Nicky Henderson

Nico de Boinville

Useful bumper winner who looks another potentially smart novice for his yard, showing a willing attitude to make it 2-2 over hurdles at Ludlow (15.8f) last month. Can progress again up in trip.

4 HARPER'S BROOK (IRE) (57) (D) **92**
3-14 6 11-5 | 72.1kg



Ben Pauling

Kielan Woods

£70,000 point winner. Third in a bumper and created a good impression when winning on his 2½m Carlisle hurdle debut in October, but failed to progress up in grade at Sandown last time.

5 NORTH LODGE (IRE) (56) **95**
1 5 11-5 | 72.1kg



Alan King

A. P. Heskin

Well related son of Presenting who produced a professional display to see off a pair of previous winners in a close finish at Aintree (17f) in December. Will stay 2½m and open to further progress.

6 PICANHA (51) **90**
1/31 8 11-5 | 72.1kg



Richard Phillips

Daniel Hiskett

Point/bumper winner who confirmed the promise of his hurdling debut when landing a 21f maiden at Warwick in early December. More needed upped in grade here, but open to further improvement.

6 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

7-4 Balco Coastal, **2-1** Hillcrest, **7-1** A Different Kind, **15-2** North Lodge, **14-1** Picanha, **22-1** Harper's Brook

TIMEFORM VIEW:

HILLCREST has to concede weight all round to some promising types, but there was a lot to like about the way he saw off the challenge of the favourite from the last over C&D last time and can maintain his unbeaten record over hurdles. Balco Coastal is another exciting novice hurdler for Nicky Henderson and is considered the main threat, ahead of A Different Kind.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. HILLCREST (IRE) 2. BALCO COASTAL (FR) 3. A DIFFERENT KIND (IRE)

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2020	Harry Senior 6-11-5	4-1	Colin Tizzard	Robbie Power	8
2019	Birchdale 5-11-5	2-1	Nicky Henderson	Barry Geraghty	5
2018	Santini 6-11-5	4-1	Nicky Henderson	Jeremiah McGrath	9
2017	Wholestone 6-11-10	11-4f	Nigel Twiston-Davies	Daryl Jacob	10

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

4.15

**ALAN SWINBANK MARES' STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT
FLAT (Listed) (1) 4, 5 and 6yo fillies and mares £20,000
2m179y (3380 Metres)**

RACE 8

Going: **Good**

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 FLIRTATIOUS GIRL (IRE) (322) 96
121- 6 11-6 | 72.6kg



Kim Bailey

David Bass

From a successful NH family and started well in this sphere last season, making it 2 wins from 3 starts when seeing off 15 rivals in Sandown listed in March. 4 lb penalty but still much respected.

2 BETTY'S BELLE (77) 86
10 5 11-2 | 70.8kg



Ben Pauling

Kielan Woods

Schiaparelli filly who made a successful start at Warwick but seemed to find this grade beyond her when only tenth to Bonttay here a couple of months ago. Others preferred.

3 FAIRY GEM (IRE) (47) 88
1 6 11-2 | 70.8kg



Harry Fry

Jonathan Burke

Related to the smart chaser Angels Breath and made the ideal start when narrowly scoring from a poor tactical position at Plumpton last month. Open to improvement with a tongue strap applied.

4 HIDDEN BEAUTY (73) 94
1 5 11-2 | 70.8kg



Fergal O'Brien

Paddy Brennan

Kapgarde filly who looked a good prospect when breezing through to make a winning start at Ffos Las in November. That form might not be all that strong, but she has potential.

5 MISTRAL NELL (12) 94
1 5 11-2 | 70.8kg



Lucy Wadham

Aidan Coleman

Made a winning debut in a Fakenham bumper 12 days ago. That was a weak race but she did it with authority and there should be more to come.

6 MULLENBEG (IRE) (19) 94
1 5 11-2 | 70.8kg



Milton Harris

Mitchell Bastyan

Placed both starts in points, then cruised through to land a Ludlow bumper in ready fashion earlier this month. Looks a useful prospect for yard enjoying a tremendous season.

7 NELL'S BELLS (IRE) (48) (D) 100
4-1 6 11-2 | 70.8kg



Donald McCain

Brian Hughes

Confirmed debut promise in no uncertain terms when powering away to land a Carlisle event by a wide margin 7 weeks ago. More than capable of making mark at higher level on that evidence.

8 NOS NA GAOITHE (IRE) (69) 93
15 5 11-2 | 70.8kg



W. P. Mullins, Ireland

Mr P. W. Mullins

Won 9-runner bumper at Sligo on debut in August. Better form when 5 lengths fifth of 12 in Navan listed just over 3 months later. Potential for better again for top yard which won this in 2020.

9 NOTNOWLINDA (IRE) 94
5 11-2 | 70.8kg



Dan Skelton

Jack Andrews

Bought for £85,000 after winning her sole Irish point in November. Pitched in at the deep end on Rules debut but worth keeping an eye on in the betting all the same.

10 TINTERN ABBEY (IRE) (38) 89
3-1 5 11-2 | 70.8kg



Alastair Ralph

Nick Scholfield

Promising third at Punchestown last spring prior to making a winning start for Alastair Ralph in Ludlow bumper just before Christmas. Yet another in this field with the potential for better.

11 WALK IN THE STORM (IRE) (21) 89
2-01 5 11-2 | 70.8kg



Ian Williams

Tom Scudamore

Walk In The Park filly who confirmed her debut promise at the second attempt when landing a Newcastle bumper 3 weeks ago. This step up in grade demands a step forward, though.

12 CHIC AVENUE (28) 89
39 4 10-3 | 64.9kg



Pam Sly

Paul O'Brien

Showed promise amidst greenness when third on Wetherby debut but found a course listed too hot on New Year's Day. Yard won this last year but it's unlikely this one will stage a repeat.

12 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

7-2 Nell's Bells, **9-2** Nos Na Gaoithe, **13-2** Hidden Beauty, **17-2** Flirtatious Girl, **12-1** Mistral Nell, **14-1** Mullenbeg, **16-1** Fairy Gem, **18-1** Notnowlinda, **20-1** Tintern Abbey, **25-1** Walk In The Storm, **33-1** Betty's Belle, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

Lots with chances. NELL'S BELLS pulled well clear at Carlisle last month so she gets the nod to continue the good run of the Donald McCain/Brian Hughes combination. Willie Mullins won this in 2020 and Nos Na Gaoithe has to be on the shortlist given the yard's excellent bumper record. Flirtatious Girl, already a winner at this level, Hidden Beauty and Mullenbeg are others to consider.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. NELL'S BELLS (IRE) 2. NOS NA GAOITHE (IRE) 3. FLIRTATIOUS GIRL (IRE)

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2021	Eileendover 4-10-3	11-8f	Pam Sly	Paul O'Brien	7
2020	Panic Attack 4-10-3	5-2f	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	9
2019	Who What When 4-10-3	12-1	Murty McGrath	Joshua Moore	6
2018	Dissavril 5-11-0	8-1	Emma Lavelle	Gavin Sheehan	11

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race