

1.30 BALLYMORE NOVICES' HURDLE (Baring Bingham) (Grade 1) (1) 2m5f (4220 Metres)

RACE 1 **(6) SIR GERHARD (IRE) | (7) STAGE STAR (IRE) | (4) JOURNEY WITH ME (IRE)**

2.10 BROWN ADVISORY NOVICES' CHASE (Broadway) (Grade 1) (1) 3m80y (4900 Metres)

RACE 2 **(3) BRAVEMANSGAME (FR) | (1) AHOY SENOR (IRE) | (4) CAPODANNO (FR)**

2.50 CORAL CUP HANDICAP HURDLE (Grade 3) (1) 2m5f (4220 Metres)

RACE 3 **(5) SAINT FELICIEN (FR) | (20) INDIGO BREEZE (FR) | (18) FASTORSLOW (FR)**

3.30 BETWAY QUEEN MOTHER CHAMPION CHASE (Grade 1) (1) 1m7f199y (3200 Metres)

RACE 4 **(7) SHISHKIN (IRE) | (2) ENERGUMENE (FR) | (1) CHACUN POUR SOI (FR)**

4.10 GLENFARCLAS CHASE (CROSS COUNTRY) (2) 3¾m37y (6070 Metres)

RACE 5 **(15) TIGER ROLL (IRE) | (4) DELTA WORK (FR) | (13) SHADY OPERATOR (IRE)**

4.50 JOHNNY HENDERSON GRAND ANNUAL CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP CHASE (Grade 3) (1) 1m7f199y (3200 Metres)

RACE 6 **(2) ANDY DUFRESNE (IRE) | (8) BUDDY RICH (IRE) | (13) THYME WHITE (FR)**


5.30 WEATHERBYS CHAMPION BUMPER (STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT) (Grade 1) (1) 2m87y (3300 Metres)


RACE 7 **(7) FACILE VEGA (IRE) | (2) AMERICAN MIKE (IRE) | (16) REDEMPTION DAY**

KEY TO SYMBOLS

 **Top Rated:** The horse with the best chance based solely on past form, specially tailored to a 0-100 scale.

 **Horses For Courses:** A suitable track for the horse, compared to its lifetime record on similar courses as defined by Timeform's course data.

 **Jockey Uplift:** The engaged rider has a notably higher Timeform Jockey Ranking than those who've ridden the horse on its most recent starts

 **Trainer Form:** A hot trainer to follow, based on Timeform ratings-related measurements looking at the recent performance of runners.

1.30

RACE 1















BALLYMORE NOVICES' HURDLE (Baring Bingham) (Grade 1) (1) 4yo+ £135,000 2m5f (4220 Metres)



Going: **Good to Soft (Soft in places Cross Counrty course)**

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	HAXO (FR) (21) (BF) 08-162 5 11-7 73.0kg  W. P. Mullins, Ireland  S. F. O'Keefe French bumper winner for E. Leray. Off 10 months and runner-up on hurdles debut at Punchestown 3 weeks ago (2m). In top hands but this is a huge ask at this stage of his career.	80
2	HEMLOCK (22) 5-714d22 5 11-7 73.0kg  T. Gibney, Ireland D. J. O'Keefe Eased in class and made sole run for Robert Widger a winning one in bumper at Perth in June. Runner-up both starts over hurdles for current yard this winter but looks out of his depth.	80
3	I AM MAXIMUS (FR) (74) (C, BF) 1-312 6 11-7 73.0kg  Nicky Henderson Nico de Boinville Won sole bumper at this track in 2020. Found wanting for know-how on hurdling debut but made no mistake at Newbury. Took form up another notch when runner-up over 20.3f at listed level here latest.	93
4	JOURNEY WITH ME (IRE) (32) 1-11 6 11-7 73.0kg  Henry de Bromhead, Ireland Rachael Blackmore Wide-margin bumper scorer and made most impressive winning debut over hurdles at Leopardstown (2m4f) in December. That race worked out well and he did his bit for the form at Naas. Exciting prospect.	95
5	SCARFACE (IRE) (25) 54022 5 11-7 73.0kg  Colin Tizzard Brendan Powell Related to hurdling winners and found only one too good on hurdles debut at Exeter in January. Stuck to his task when occupying same spot over 19.3f at Ascot and more to come as stamina is drawn out.	84
6	SIR GERHARD (IRE) (38) (C) ★ 111-311 7 11-7 73.0kg  W. P. Mullins, Ireland  P. Townend £400,000 point recruit who was unbeaten last term, notably in the Champion Bumper. Landed odds both starts over hurdles (2m), looking every inch a top-class prospect despite odd error at Leopardstown.	100
7	STAGE STAR (IRE) (77) (D) 123-111 6 11-7 73.0kg  Paul Nicholls  Harry Cobden Highly-promising bumper winner who is unbeaten over hurdles, taking the step up in class in his stride when slamming the opposition in the Challow Hurdle at Newbury. Limit not yet reached.	96
8	THREE STRIPE LIFE (IRE) (38) 14-122 6 11-7 73.0kg  Gordon Elliott, Ireland  Davy Russell Fourth in the Champion Bumper last year and very positive start over hurdles, successful at Fairyhouse before a brace of runner-up efforts in Grade 1 company over 2m. Promises to stay this far.	96
9	WHATDEAWANT (IRE) (73) 13-15 6 11-7 73.0kg  W. P. Mullins, Ireland  D. E. Mullins Beat Ginto in a bumper and made a successful debut over hurdles at Navan in December. Shaped better than the result suggests in Grade 1 at Naas subsequently, so well worth another chance.	89

9 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

8-11 Sir Gerhard, **6-1** Journey With Me, **7-1** Stage Star, **17-2** Three Stripe Life, **20-1** I Maximus, **28-1** Whatdeawant, **125-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

SIR GERHARD wasn't foot perfect in the Brave Inca at Leopardstown but still proved way too good for the opposition in what has traditionally been the key novice trial for this meeting. That sets the clear standard and, with hopes high that he will stay this trip, he'll take some stopping. Stage Star and Journey With Me have done everything right over hurdles so far and they head the opposition.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. SIR GERHARD (IRE) 2. STAGE STAR (IRE) 3. JOURNEY WITH ME (IRE)

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2021	Bob Olinger 6-11-7	6-4f	Henry de Bromhead	Rachael Blackmore	7
2020	Envoi Allen 6-11-7	4-7f	Gordon Elliott	Davy Russell	12
2019	City Island 6-11-7	8-1	Martin Brassil	M. P. Walsh	16
2018	Samcro 6-11-7	8-11f	Gordon Elliott	J. W. Kennedy	14
2017	Willoughby Court 6-11-7	14-1	Ben Pauling	David Bass	15

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

2.10

RACE 2

BROWN ADVISORY NOVICES' CHASE (Broadway) (Grade 1)
(1) 5yo+ £175,000 3m80y (4900 Metres)



Going: **Good to Soft (Soft in places Cross Counrty course)**

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

Pace Information: **Even**

1	AHOY SENOR (IRE) (39) (D)	98
	211-U121 7 11-4 71.7kg Lucinda Russell <i>Derek Fox</i> Unbeaten hurdler who has looked exciting chasing prospect, second to Bravemansgame at Kempton before readily scoring in Towton Chase at Wetherby. Has more to offer, and shouldn't be underestimated.	
2	BEACON EDGE (IRE) (22)	97
	314-F21F2 8 11-4 71.7kg Noel Meade, Ireland <i>Sean Flanagan</i> Very smart hurdler who has quickly reached that level in this sphere, scoring at Fairyhouse before good second to Farouk d'Alene in Grade 2 at Navan. Wears cheekpieces, and looks a thorough stayer.	
3	BRAVEMANSGAME (FR) (32) (D)	100
	1132-1111 7 11-4 71.7kg Paul Nicholls <i>Harry Cobden</i> Has looked a natural over fences, and he gained a fourth straight success in Newbury handicap after impressively bagging Kempton Grade 1. Superb jumper and top-class stayer in making. Serious player.	
4	CAPODANNO (FR) (38) (D)	99
	3134-112U 6 11-4 71.7kg W. P. Mullins, Ireland <i>M. P. Walsh</i> Impressive scorer at Naas on chasing bow before excellent second to Bob Olinger in Grade 2 at Punchestown. Unseated rider early in Grade 1 at Leopardstown since but he remains with lots of potential.	
5	DUSART (IRE) (42) (D)	88
	13-11 7 11-4 71.7kg Nicky Henderson <i>Nico de Boinville</i> Highly promising hurdler who made it 2-2 over fences with easy victory in 3m Exeter novice last month despite jumping left. Capable of much better, and shouldn't be underestimated for leading yard.	
6	FAROUK D'ALENE (FR) (22) (D)	96
	1/141-1221 7 11-4 71.7kg Gordon Elliott, Ireland <i>Davy Russell</i> Smart chaser who made it 2-4 in Grade 2 at Navan by ¾l from Beacon Edge. Likely to do better still granted a thorough test of stamina. Considered.	
7	FURY ROAD (IRE) (38) (D)	96
	42P-P2315 8 11-4 71.7kg Gordon Elliott, Ireland <i>J. W. Kennedy</i> Smart effort in first-time cheekpieces when winning Grade 1 at Leopardstown in December. Made bad mistake 4 out when well-beaten fifth to Galopin des Champs there since, and others preferred.	
8	GAILLARD DU MESNIL (FR) (38)	96
	2112-1333 6 11-4 71.7kg W. P. Mullins, Ireland <i>P. Townend</i> Runner-up in Ballymore Hurdle 12 months ago. Yet to score in three chasing runs, but very good third to Galopin des Champs in Grade 1 at Leopardstown last month. Likely to do better still up to 3m.	
9	L'HOMME PRESSE (FR) (39) (C)	97
	16-1111 7 11-4 71.7kg Venetia Williams <i>Charlie Deutsch</i> Low-mileage 7-y-o who has made a fine start over fences, following up his Grade 2 Dipper win here with impressive victory in Grade 1 Scilly Isles at Sandown. Excellent jumper. Capable of better still.	
10	STREETS OF DOYEN (IRE) (11) (C, D)	86
	634-713R3 8 11-4 71.7kg John McConnell, Ireland <i>S. D. Torrens</i> Useful chaser who scored at Galway in July. Refused 3 out over C&D before good third in Navan Grade 3 11 days ago. This is a very tall order.	

11

THREEUNDERTHRUFIVE (IRE) (60) (CD)

93

161-2111 7 11-4 | 71.7kg
Paul Nicholls *A. P. Heskin*
Four-time hurdle winner last term who matched that feat in this sphere when readily making all in 3m Warwick Grade 2 in January. This demands plenty more but he comes here more experienced than most.

11 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

85-40 Bravemansgame, 11-2 L'homme Presse, 6-1 Capodanno, 6-1 Ahoy Senior, 11-1 Farouk D'alene, 18-1 Beacon Edge, 22-1 Fury Road, 22-1 Gaillard Du Mesnil, 22-1 Threeunderthrufive, 28-1 Dusart, 300-1 bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

BRAVEMANSGAME has made a brilliant start to life over fences and is fancied to make it 5-5 here with his impeccable jumping sure to stand him in excellent stead for this demanding event. His old foe Ahoy Senior will be well suited by this stamina test and should push Paul Nicholls' top-class prospect close though, with Capodanno likely to prove best of the Irish contingent and claim minor honours.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. BRAVEMANSGAME (FR) 2. AHOY SENOR (IRE) 3. CAPODANNO (FR)

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:						
2021	Monkfish	7-11-4	1-4f	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	6
2020	Champ	8-11-4	4-1	Nicky Henderson	Barry Geraghty	10
2019	Topofthegame	7-11-4	4-1	Paul Nicholls	Harry Cobden	12
2018	Presenting Percy	7-11-4	5-2f	Patrick G. Kelly	Davy Russell	10
2017	Might Bite	8-11-4	7-2f	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boinville	12

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

2.50

RACE 3


















CORAL CUP HANDICAP HURDLE (Grade 3) (1) 4yo+ £100,000 2m5f (4220 Metres)



















Going: **Good to Soft (Soft in places Cross Counrty course)**

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	THE BOSSES OSCAR (IRE) (53) 226-232PP 7 11-12 75.3kg  Gordon Elliott, Ireland  Mr Robert James (7lb/3kg) Smart hurdler who was runner-up in 2021 Pertemps Hurdle here. Has yet to scale the same heights over fences, and pulled up on last two starts. Bounce back is not ruled out reverted to this sphere.	s+t	91
2	ASHDALE BOB (IRE) (22) 91-2U3732 7 11-10 74.4kg  Mrs J. Harrington, Ireland Jack Foley (3lb/1kg) Smart hurdler who comes here on the back of good head second of 9 to Thedevilscoachman in Boyne Hurdle at Navan. One for the shortlist.		94
3	COMMANDER OF FLEET (IRE) (22) (D) 01-5F1P83 8 11-10 74.4kg  Gordon Elliott, Ireland  Shane Fitzgerald (5lb/2kg) Unreliable sort but he ran one of his better races when third to Thedevilscoachman in Boyne Hurdle at Navan 22 days ago. Others are still preferred.	b	95
4	MCFABULOUS (IRE) (46) (D) 1/13128-24 8 11-8 73.5kg  Paul Nicholls  Harry Cobden Dual Grade 2 winner last season. Returned with good second in Relkeel here on New Year's Day before below-par fourth in 3m Cleeve Hurdle. Not taken lightly back in trip now.	s	98
5	SAINT FELICIEN (FR) (45) (BF) 1-12 5 11-7 73.0kg  Gordon Elliott, Ireland  Robbie Power Ex-French winner who scored impressively on yard bow at Gowran before fine second to Darasso in Limestone Lad at Naas. Exciting prospect who has lots more to offer now up in trip. Serious contender.		96
6	GRAND ROI (FR) (22) 1/3120-344 6 11-7 73.0kg  Gordon Elliott, Ireland  Davy Russell Smart hurdler who comes here in decent nick, fourth of 9 to Thedevilscoachman in Boyne Hurdle at Navan (21f, heavy, 6/1) 22 days ago. Not ruled out back in handicap company.	s	95
7	HANG IN THERE (IRE) (151) (C) 662-12127 8 11-6 72.6kg  Emma Lavelle  Joe Anderson (7lb/3kg) Dual 2m winner this season but his run of good form came to an end when only seventh at Ffos Las last time. Hard to see him resuming winning ways here.		95
8	THE SHUNTER (IRE) (38) (C, D) 13112-34U 9 11-6 72.6kg  Emmet Mullins, Ireland M. P. Walsh Smart hurdler/chaser who scored five times last term, including in the Plate here 12 months ago. Has been brought along steadily this term and no surprise to see him take a big step forward here.	h+t	97
9	GOWEL ROAD (IRE) (54) (CD) 4110-6132 6 11-3 71.2kg  Nigel Twiston-Davies  Sam Twiston-Davies C&D winner who arrives on the up, excellent second of 12 to Metier in 2m Lingfield handicap in January. Well worth considering now stepped back up in trip.		94
10	DALY TIGER (FR) (25) 9125-2144 9 11-3 71.2kg  Noel Meade, Ireland E. Walsh (3lb/1kg) Very smart chaser who showed he is still no slouch over hurdles when scoring at Limerick on Boxing Day. In decent form since but others make more appeal at these weights.		90








11	GANAPATHI (FR) (320) 1/1250-F 6 11-3 71.2kg  W. P. Mullins, Ireland  B. J. Cooper Lightly-raced 6-y-o who was running well when falling last in Champion Novices' Hurdle at Punchestown (20f) 10 months ago. In excellent hands and he shouldn't be underestimated despite his absence.	t	97
12	CHRISTOPHER WOOD (IRE) (25) 182-34622 7 11-1 70.3kg  Venetia Williams Harry Bannister Winless this term, but he arrives in excellent form, second to Good Risk At All in handicap at Ascot 25 days ago on his yard debut. Another good run is likely despite 2 lb rise.		97
13	DROP THE ANCHOR (IRE) (38) 18317-095 8 11-1 70.3kg  P. A. Fahy, Ireland S. D. Torrens (3lb/1kg) Best effort this term when fifth of 27 in 2m handicap hurdle at Leopardstown last month, keeping on well late. Seventh in this event 12 months ago, so he merits consideration off 3 lb lower mark now.		99
14	DANS LE VENT (FR) (39) 482-21453 9 11-0 69.9kg  Evan Williams Isabel Williams (3lb/1kg) Bagged valuable 3m Haydock handicap and has continued in excellent form, third of 17 to Green Book in 3m Sandown handicap last time. Versatile sort who is much respected.		95
15	UNEXPECTED PARTY (FR) (53) (D) 2-41221 7 11-0 69.9kg  Dan Skelton  Harry Skelton Low-mileage 7-y-o who arrives firmly on the up, always travelling strongly when easy winner of Ascot handicap in January. Hiked up 12 lb but he's still very much one to consider.		96
16	GARRY CLERMONT (FR) (53) 5/653-1233 7 11-0 69.9kg  Jonjo O'Neill Jonjo O'Neill Jr. Likeable handicap hurdler who has continued his progress this season, good third to Unexpected Party in handicap at Ascot in January. Possibilities.	s	96
17	CALL ME LORD (FR) (39) (C, D) 4453-4P36 9 11-0 69.9kg  Nicky Henderson Daryl Jacob Dual Grade 2 winning hurdler. Didn't take to fences first 2 runs this term but back in form returned to this sphere, sixth of 17 in 3m Sandown handicap last month. No forlorn hope.		95
18	FASTORSLOW (FR) (38) 121/200 6 10-13 69.4kg  Martin Brassil, Ireland D. J. O'Keeffe Ex-French hurdle/chase winner. Made promising start for current yard when second over 20f at Punchestown and not seen to best effect since in 2m Leopardstown handicaps. Bold showing expected now.	t	93
19	CAMPROND (FR) (122) (C) 2-3142114 6 10-12 68.9kg  Philip Hobbs  Aidan Coleman Dual novice winner around 2m4f, including in Grade 2 at Chepstow, but off since good fourth in 2m handicap here in November. Should play a part again back up in trip after his break.		96
20	INDIGO BREEZE (FR) (60) (BF) 128-12 6 10-12 68.9kg  Gordon Elliott, Ireland  Jordan Colin Gainford (3lb/1kg) Lightly-raced 6-y-o who comes here very much on the up, winning 2m Gowran novice before fine second in 2m Fairyhouse conditions event. Sure to progress further as his stamina is drawn out. Player.	h	95
21	CHAMPAGNE GOLD (IRE) (38) 1320-0570 7 10-11 68.5kg  Henry de Bromhead, Ireland Rachael Blackmore Winless since 2020, and below-form fifteenth back over hurdles at Leopardstown after an unsuccessful stint over fences. Needs a big step forward.	t	95
22	TOP MOON (FR) (39) 10F3PP30 7 10-11 68.5kg  Ben Haslam Richie McLernon Very useful chaser for Joseph O'Brien but tailed off back hurdling in 3m handicap at Leopardstown last month. Very hard to make a case for on his yard debut.		91

2.50




RACE 3

CORAL CUP HANDICAP HURDLE (Grade 3) (1) 4yo+ £100,000 2m5f (4220 Metres)



23	MAZE RUNNER (IRE) (39)	92
	01-006 7 10-11 68.5kg W. P. Mullins, Ireland  <i>S. F. O'Keeffe</i> Winless since early sixth of 24 to Good Time Jonny in 3m handicap at Leopardstown last month. Others are more appealing, however.	
24	TRONADOR (IRE) (229)	92
	4139/71-0P 6 10-10 68.0kg Gordon Elliott, Ireland  <i>Sam Ewing (3lb/1kg)</i> Signed off for last season with Aintree handicap win but he failed to fire in three runs in the summer, pulled up at Galway 7 months ago. Others from this yard make plenty more appeal.	s
25	FAIR FRONTIERES (IRE) (32) (D)	92
	2-151 7 10-9 67.6kg Kim Bailey <i>David Bass</i> Lightly raced ex-Irish 7-y-o who made it 2-3 for his new yard when making all in 3-runner novice hurdle at Warwick last month. Goes into handicaps with plenty more on his plate.	
26	MARS HARPER (53) (BF)	94
	23125527 6 10-9 67.6kg Gordon Elliott, Ireland  <i>J. W. Kennedy</i> Back to winning ways at Downpatrick in October and has continued in good nick, seventh of 17 to The Very Man at Navan in January. No forlorn hope after a break for his top yard.	s

RESERVES

27	GOOD RISK AT ALL (FR) (25) (C)	100
	211-2221 6 10-9 67.6kg Sam Thomas <i>Reserve</i> Smart bumper performer who got back to winning ways in fine style in 19f Ascot handicap last month, always travelling strongly. Has plenty more to come now upped in trip. Leading player. RESERVE.	
28	ASK DILLON (IRE) (39) (C)	95
	61-4603P0 9 10-9 67.6kg Fergal O'Brien  <i>Reserve</i> Smart handicap hurdler at his best but he arrives out of sorts, tried in blinkers when well held at Sandown last month. Course winner yet still hard to enthuse over. RESERVE.	b

26 DECLARED RUNNERS (2 RESERVES)

BETTING FORECAST:

13-2 Saint Felicien, **10-1** Unexpected Party, **12-1** Drop The Anchor, **12-1** Camprond, **14-1** The Shunter, **16-1** Mcfabulous, **16-1** Grand Roi, **16-1** Indigo Breeze, **16-1** Gowel Road, **18-1** Fastorslow, **33-1** Garry Clermont, **33-1** Ashdale Bob, **50-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

Gordon Elliott is mob-handed and his SAINT FELICIEN could prove a handicap snip. This exciting ex-French recruit lost his unbeaten record when second to Darasso at Naas but that was still a fine effort and this step up in trip is also a big plus. Good Risk At All (reserve) impressed at Ascot and is next best (if he gets a run) ahead of the selection's stablemate Indigo Breeze and Fastorslow.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. SAINT FELICIEN (FR) 2. INDIGO BREEZE (FR) 3. FASTORSLOW (FR)

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2021	Heaven Help Us	7-10-9	33-1	Paul Hennessy	Richard Condon (7)	26
2020	Dame de Compagnie	7-10-12	5-1f	Nicky Henderson	Barry Geraghty	25
2019	William Henry	9-11-10	28-1	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boinville	25
2018	Bleu Berry	7-11-2	20-1	W. P. Mullins	M. P. Walsh	26
2017	Supasundae	7-11-4	16-1	Mrs J. Harrington	Robbie Power	25

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

3.30

RACE 4

BETWAY QUEEN MOTHER CHAMPION CHASE (Grade 1) (1)
5yo+ £400,000 1m7f199y (3200 Metres)



Going: **Good to Soft (Soft in places Cross Counrty course)**

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) (38) (D)	99
	17/1113-151 10 11-10 74.4kg W. P. Mullins, Ireland <i>Mr P. W. Mullins</i> Has won 6 Grade 1s over fences, including a third Dublin Chase last month. Flopped on both visits to Britain (including in this race 12 months ago) but would add real spice to the mix if at his best.	
2	ENERGUMENE (FR) (53) (D)	99
	11/111-112 8 11-10 74.4kg W. P. Mullins, Ireland <i>P. Townend</i> Went unbeaten in his first 5 starts over fences before worn down only late on by Shishkin in the Clarence House at Ascot. Top-class, bold-jumping front runner who seems sure to go well again.	
3	ENVOI ALLEN (FR) (79) (C,D)	90
	111F-P161 8 11-10 74.4kg Henry de Bromhead, Ireland <i>Rachael Blackmore</i> Champion Bumper/Ballymore winner who fell in the Marsh last year when going for a 4-timer. Not quite as impressive this term, making hard work of it at Leopardstown at Christmas. Has had a wind op.	t
4	FUNAMBULE SIVOLA (FR) (32) (D)	89
	2112-2911 7 11-10 74.4kg Venetia Williams <i>Charlie Deutsch</i> Likeable front-runner who has got back on the up returned to 2m with stylish wins in Doncaster handicap and Game Spirit Chase at Newbury. This is much tougher but he certainly has each-way claims.	
5	NUBE NEGRA (SPA) (102) (CD)	93
	122/12-314 8 11-10 74.4kg Dan Skelton <i>Harry Skelton</i> Returned with impressive C&D win but well below par in Tingle Creek at Sandown only run since. He would have gone very close in this 12 months ago with better luck, but this is a stronger renewal.	t
6	POLITOLOGUE (FR) (122) (CD)	90
	251/124-2 11 11-10 74.4kg Paul Nicholls <i>Harry Cobden</i> Won this in 2020 but very lightly raced since and after another wind op was a below-par second to Nube Negra in Shloer Chase here on sole run this term. Hard to see this veteran playing a major part.	t
7	SHISHKIN (IRE) (53) (CD)	100
	1/11111-11 8 11-10 74.4kg Nicky Henderson <i>Nico de Boinville</i> Retained his unbeaten record over fences when edging out Energumene in the Clarence House at Ascot. Has powered clear to win the Supreme and Arkle at the last 2 Festivals and is the one to beat.	
8	PUT THE KETTLE ON (IRE) (74) (CD)	91
	11/1314-35 8 11-3 71.2kg Henry de Bromhead, Ireland <i>Aidan Coleman</i> Won the 2020 Arkle and this race last year (fourth C&D success) but she's been well beaten in 2 runs this term and it's difficult to see her retaining her crown in first-time cheekpieces.	s

8 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

8-11 Shishkin, 4-1 Energumene, 6-1 Chacun Pour Soi, 25-1 Nube Negra, 33-1 Funambule Sivola, 40-1 bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

A mouth-watering rematch between SHISHKIN and Energumene and Nicky Henderson's star can uphold the Clarence House form and make it 3 Festival wins in a row. Shishkin's strong finish at Ascot proved decisive and that could be the difference again up the Cheltenham Hill which he knows well. Willie Mullins, still seeking a first win in this race, has another strong contender in Chacun Pour Soi.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. SHISHKIN (IRE) 2. ENERGUMENE (FR) 3. CHACUN POUR SOI (FR)

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:						
2021	Put The Kettle On	7-11-3	17-2	Henry de Bromhead	Aidan Coleman	9
2020	Politologue	9-11-10	6-1	Paul Nicholls	Harry Skelton	5
2019	Altior	9-11-10	4-11f	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boinville	9
2018	Altior	8-11-10	evsf	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boinville	9
2017	Special Tiara	10-11-10	11-1	Henry de Bromhead	Noel Fehily	10

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

4.10

RACE 5

GLENFARCLAS CHASE (CROSS COUNTRY) (2) 5yo+ £75,000

3¼m37y (6070 Metres)



Going: **Good to Soft (Soft in places Cross Counrty course)**

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	ALPHA DES OBEAUX (FR) (31) C6P89U80 12 11-4 71.7kg	s+t		82
	Gordon Elliott, Ireland	<i>Jody McGarvey</i>		
Good back in the day but seems to have lost his form, finishing down the field in the Punchestown cross-country won by Midnight Maestro last month. Major revival needed.				
2	BACK ON THE LASH (96) (CD, BF) 0-1171515 8 11-4 71.7kg			85
	Martin Keighley	<i>Sean Bowen</i>		
Relished the step up in trip when making a winning start to cross-country career over C&D in November. Only a respectable fifth to Diesel d'Allier here since and has a bit to find on these terms.				
3	BRAHMA BULL (IRE) (48) 0-102333P 11 11-4 71.7kg	s		94
	W. P. Mullins, Ireland	<i>B. Hayes</i>		
Pulled up in the Thyestes last time (reportedly broke blood vessel) but he's a smart and consistent chaser in the main. Can make the odd mistake but definitely talented enough to have a big say.				
4	DELTA WORK (FR) (39) (C) 15/5U3-466 9 11-4 71.7kg	t		97
	Gordon Elliott, Ireland	<i>J. W. Kennedy</i>		
Five-time Grade 1 winner over regulation fences. Stablemate of Tiger Roll, he has shown he still retains a smart level of ability this term and potential class act if taking to this new discipline.				
5	DIESEL D'ALLIER (FR) (96) (CD) P44236-31 9 11-4 71.7kg	t		86
	Richard Bandey	<i>Harry Bannister</i>		
Better than ever for new yard when edging out Potters Corner in C&D handicap in December. However, he was only remote fourth to Easysland in 2020 and suspicion he'll find a few too strong off levels.				
6	EASYSLAND (FR) (25) (CD) 1111/42-PP 8 11-4 71.7kg	s+t		97
	Jonjo O'Neill	<i>Jonjo O'Neill Jr.</i>		
Beat Tiger Roll in this in 2020 but not in same form when second to him 12 months ago. Showed very little in 2 handicap hurdles for new yard last month. This more his thing but hard to be confident.				
7	MIDNIGHT MAESTRO (31) PF1-42091 10 11-4 71.7kg			87
	Enda Bolger, Ireland	<i>L. P. Dempsey</i>		
Ran disappointingly over this C&D but he bounced back when winning a cross-country event at Punchestown last month by a neck from stablemate Shady Operator. Yard always feared in these events.				
8	MITCHOUKA (FR) (31) 36513-P00 8 11-4 71.7kg			78
	J. T. R. Dreaper, Ireland	<i>Keith Donoghue</i>		
Useful chaser at his best for Gearoid O'Loughlin but ran poorly in 2 starts in the summer and well behind a few of these in Punchestown cross-country event on his yard debut 31 days ago.				
9	PLAN OF ATTACK (IRE) (96) PP8F7-043 9 11-4 71.7kg	b		87
	Henry de Bromhead, Ireland	<i>D. J. O'Keeffe</i>		
Useful chaser who recorded 2 good in-frame efforts in C&D handicaps before Christmas. Likely to give his running again but playing for place money if some of these are at the top of their game.				
10	POKER PARTY (FR) (48) 3U143/00 10 11-4 71.7kg	t		80
	Henry de Bromhead, Ireland	<i>Rachael Blackmore</i>		
Won a Kerry National in autumn 2019 but no show in a handicap hurdle/chase since returning from a long absence. This new discipline needs to spark something in him.				

11	POTTERS CORNER (IRE) (18) (D) PP-76P2P0 12 11-4 71.7kg			85
	Christian Williams	<i>Jack Tudor</i>		
Won the Midlands and Welsh Nationals in 2019. Not so productive since and has failed to build on his C&D second to Diesel d'Allier in 2 subsequent runs.				
12	PRENGARDE (FR) (17) 41-114110 6 11-4 71.7kg			84
	Enda Bolger, Ireland	<i>M. P. Walsh</i>		
Multiple cross-country winner in France. Well held in Naas handicap hurdle on last month's yard debut but likely to prove a different proposition now. Very interesting runner.				
13	SHADY OPERATOR (IRE) (31) F-1609102 9 11-4 71.7kg	s		87
	Enda Bolger, Ireland	<i>Mr D. O'Connor</i>		
Won his first 2 cross-country events at Punchestown and failed only narrowly to make it 3 in a row there last month, going down by a neck to Midnight Maestro. Should go well.				
14	STEP BACK (IRE) (39) 5116-73 12 11-4 71.7kg	s+t		80
	Mark Bradstock	<i>Nico de Boinville</i>		
Useful chaser at his best who was a respectable third in Edinburgh National at Musselburgh last month. Faded into sixth on sole previous attempt over these fences. Likely to find a few too strong.				
15	TIGER ROLL (IRE) (53) (CD) 52/P614-P0 12 11-4 71.7kg	b+t		100
	Gordon Elliott, Ireland	<i>Davy Russell</i>		
Dual Grand National winner who has an outstanding record over these fences as well. Denied a hat-trick in this race by Easysland in 2020 but regained his crown at the expense of same rival last year.				
16	TOUT EST PERMIS (FR) (31) (BF) P4FP-5903 9 11-4 71.7kg	t		85
	Noel Meade, Ireland	<i>Sean Flanagan</i>		
Smart chaser at his best but he was nowhere near that level when third to Midnight Maestro and Shady Operator in a Punchestown cross-country last month. Owner has stronger claims elsewhere.				

16 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

3-1 Tiger Roll, 11-2 Delta Work, 9-1 Brahma Bull, 10-1 Easysland, 10-1 Prengarde, 12-1 Shady Operator, 14-1 Midnight Maestro, 18-1 Diesel D'allier, 25-1 Back On The Lash, 28-1 Plan of Attack, 33-1 Potters Corner, 40-1 bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

This is reportedly TIGER ROLL's last race and how fitting it would be if he could end his remarkable career with a fourth success in this and a sixth Festival win all told. He hasn't shown that much this term but it was a similar story before he bolted up last year and he's taken to see off classy stablemate Delta Work, who makes his cross-country debut. Shady Operator may prove best of the rest.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. TIGER ROLL (IRE) 2. DELTA WORK (FR) 3. SHADY OPERATOR (IRE)

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2021	Tiger Roll	11-11-4	9-2	Mrs Denise Foster	Keith Donoghue	13
2020	Easysland	6-11-4	3-1	David Cottin	Jonathan Plouganou	14
2019	Tiger Roll	9-11-4	5-4f	Gordon Elliott	Keith Donoghue	15
2018	Tiger Roll	8-11-4	7-1	Gordon Elliott	Keith Donoghue	16
2017	Cause of Causes	9-11-4	4-1	Gordon Elliott	Mr J. J. Codd	16

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

4.50

RACE 6

JOHNNY HENDERSON GRAND ANNUAL CHALLENGE CUP
HANDICAP CHASE (Grade 3) (1) 5yo+ £125,000 1m7f199y
(3200 Metres)



Going: Good to Soft (Soft in places Cross Counrty course)

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

Pace Information: Extreme

1	SKY PIRATE (32) (CD)	t		99
	121-24324 9 11-12 75.3kg			
	Jonjo O'Neill		Nick Scholfield	
	Much improved for drop to 2m last season, defying a market drift to land this race from 4 lb lower mark. Hard to knock efforts in defeat this time around and expected to give it another good go.			
2	ANDY DUFRESNE (IRE) (130) (D)			100
	213/113P-2 8 11-11 74.8kg			
	Gordon Elliott, Ireland		M. P. Walsh	
	Low-mileage 8-y-o who landed first 2 starts over fences last term, including Navan Grade 3. Return second at Naas in November right up there with his best efforts and he's interesting now handicapping			
3	EDITEUR DU GITE (FR) (95) (CD)			98
	52P11-U11 8 11-9 73.9kg			
	Gary Moore		Joshua Moore	
	Improving front-running chaser who again jumped boldly when landing a second course handicap in December, keeping on well. Very likeable sort who should go well despite career-high mark.			
4	A WAVE OF THE SEA (IRE) (39) (D)	b		96
	0-P5062F1 6 11-6 72.6kg			
	Joseph Patrick O'Brien, Ireland		Shane Fitzgerald (5lb/2kg)	
	Reacted well to fitting of blinkers, best of those held up when runner-up in Munster National and displayed good attitude to score at Leopardstown (17.2f) last month. 8 lb higher mark to defy now.			
5	EXIT POLL (IRE) (39) (D)			95
	46211326 8 11-5 72.1kg			
	Mrs J. Harrington, Ireland		S. F. O'Keefe	
	Scored twice over fences last year, landing a Roscommon Gr 3 by a neck from Embittered in September. Solid efforts in handicaps next 2 starts but must shrug off lesser effort at Leopardstown latest.			
6	BEFORE MIDNIGHT (47) (CD)			97
	3211-1142 9 11-4 71.7kg			
	Sam Thomas		Sam Twiston-Davies	
	Built up a very solid record over fences, winning on return here in October prior to following up at Ascot (16.7f) a month later. Career-best when second at Doncaster in January and not discounted.			
7	EMBITTERED (IRE) (39) (D)	t		98
	20121365 8 11-1 70.3kg			
	Joseph Patrick O'Brien, Ireland		B. J. Cooper	
	Smart hurdler who fell in this race 12 months ago (well backed) but managed 2 chase victories thereafter, latterly a Gr 3 in October. Well held in graded company since but this likely been his target.			
8	BUDDY RICH (IRE) (109) (BF)	t		98
	15222214 9 11-0 69.9kg			
	Gordon Elliott, Ireland		Davy Russell	
	Dual hurdles winner who landed a Navan maiden chase (17f) in good style in November. Not in same form on handicap bow at Fairyhouse in November but he arrives here fresh and high on shortlist.			
9	ELIXIR DE NUTZ (FR) (33) (C, D)	t		98
	77/2-4211 8 10-13 69.4kg			
	Colin Tizzard		Jonjo O'Neill Jr.	
	Smart hurdler who arrives having landed Plumpton novice (19.7f) in January prior to easily accounting for 3 rivals on handicap debut at Kempton (18f). Remains low-mileage but this much deeper.			
10	AMARILLO SKY (IRE) (24) (D)	t		97
	0-16412F1 6 10-13 69.4kg			
	Colin Tizzard		Brendan Powell	
	Done little wrong since going chasing, gaining second small-field victory in emphatic fashion at Newbury (16.4f) last month, from Shakem Up'arry. Assessor applies further pressure and this tougher.			

11	DANCING ON MY OWN (IRE) (31)	t		96
	416/13F 8 10-13 69.4kg			
	Henry de Bromhead, Ireland		D. J. O'Keefe	
	Made light of lengthy absence to take a Killarney maiden chase (17f) in October. Had plausible excuses in a couple of starts since (fell latest) and not ruled out on handicap bow over fences.			
12	IL RIDOTO (FR) (52)	t		97
	11U2-31P3 5 10-13 69.4kg			
	Paul Nicholls		Harry Cobden	
	Improved markedly on yard debut effort when easy winner from 12 lb lower at Newbury (16.4f) in November. Similar form when third of 4 in Lingfield novice (2m) in January and he may have more to offer			
13	THYME WHITE (FR) (77) (D)			96
	1U907-2U1 6 10-12 68.9kg			
	Paul Nicholls		Bryony Frost	
	Useful handicap hurdler who quickly put his Ascot aberration behind him when landing Doncaster novices' handicap chase (16.3f) in December, impressively. Kept fresh for this and he's interesting.			
14	FRERO BANBOU (FR) (39) (D)			99
	314-43312 7 10-11 68.5kg			
	Venetia Williams		Charlie Deutsch	
	Chased home Editeur du Gite when third here in November prior to tasting success at Lingfield (2m) in January. Form of his subsequent Sandown second looks solid and in with a sound each-way shout.			
15	POSEIDON (IRE) (31) (D)			95
	722U1PU5 8 10-11 68.5kg			
	Charles Byrnes, Ireland		D. E. Mullins	
	Confirmed previous promise to make winning handicap chase debut at Cork (17.7f) in October. Things haven't gone to plan since but this more suitable than his latest Punchestown novice assignment.			
16	GUMBALL (FR) (84) (D)	s		98
	1F403-482 8 10-10 68.0kg			
	Fergal O'Brien		Paddy Brennan	
	Smart hurdler/chaser at his best who struck on the Flat at York (2m) in October. Ran well despite a sluggish start when second at Ludlow (2m) in December and he appeals as being on a handy mark.			
17	CAPUCCIMIX (FR) (39) (D)	t		98
	6776-91F8 9 10-8 67.1kg			
	Henry de Bromhead, Ireland		Jordan Colin Gainford (3lb/1kg)	
	Creditable sixth having helped force pace in this 12 months ago and cashed in off reduced mark at Killarney (17f) in July. Not in same form either start this winter and he needs to keep errors at bay.			
18	FOR PLEASURE (IRE) (32) (C, D)			99
	035-F31F4 7 10-8 67.1kg			
	Alex Hales		Harry Bannister	
	Front runner who opened chase account in 3-runner Plumpton novice (17f) in December. Fell next time but typically went with plenty of zest for all he was last of 4 in Gr 2 latest. This more suitable.			
19	HASANKEY (IRE) (28) (D)	v		97
	2542U111 6 10-7 66.7kg			
	L J Morgan		Lewis Dobb (7lb/3kg)	
	Made excellent strides forward over fences this season, defying another hike in weights when completing hat-trick at Wetherby (15f) last month, just holding on. Understandably more relaxed again.			
20	GLOBAL CITIZEN (IRE) (39) (D)			98
	PPP-92023 10 10-6 66.2kg			
	Ben Pauling		Kielan Woods	
	Smart front-running hurdler/chaser in 2019/20. Confirmed still has plenty to offer over timber this term, third in listed Contenders hurdle at Sandown latest. Will face competition up front, though.			

RESERVES				
21	DESTINED TO SHINE (IRE) (18) (D)	t		96
	U222-3521 10 10-0(9-11) 63.5kg (62.1kg)			
	Kerry Lee		Reserve	
	Fairly useful chaser who paid compliment to Hasankey when accounting for 4-rivals at Chepstow (2m) 18 days ago. Clearly in rude health but more on plate from out of weights if getting a run. Reserve.			

20 DECLARED RUNNERS (1 RESERVE)

4.50

RACE 6

JOHNNY HENDERSON GRAND ANNUAL CHALLENGE CUP
HANDICAP CHASE (Grade 3) (1) 5yo+ £125,000 1m7f199y
(3200 Metres)



BETTING FORECAST:

8-1 Buddy Rich, 9-1 Embittered, 11-1 Frero Banbou, 12-1 Thyme White, 14-1 Andy Dufresne, 14-1 Amarillo Sky, 16-1 Sky Pirate, 18-1 Editeur Du Gite, 18-1 Before Midnight, 18-1 Dancing On My Own, 22-1 For Pleasure, 22-1 Gumball, 22-1 Elixir De Nutz, 22-1 Il Ridoto, 22-1 A Wave of The Sea, 25-1 Exit Poll, 28-1 Hasankey, 28-1 Poseidon, 40-1 bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

A host holding sound claims in a typically intriguing renewal, including low-mileage ANDY DUFRESNE. A dual winner as a novice last term, he ran right up to his best when second at Naas in November, conceding 7 lb to a decidedly smart rival. He can provide JP McManus with his fourth victory in this since 2012. Stablemate Buddy Rich, Thyme White and last year's winner Sky Pirate can also feature.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. ANDY DUFRESNE (IRE) 2. BUDDY RICH (IRE) 3. THYME WHITE (FR)

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2021	Sky Pirate	8-11-6	14-1	Jonjo O'Neill	Nick Scholfield	19
2020	Chosen Mate	7-11-4	7-2f	Gordon Elliott	Davy Russell	18
2019	Croco Bay	12-10-12	66-1	Ben Case	Kielan Woods	19
2018	Le Prezien	7-11-8	15-2	Paul Nicholls	Barry Geraghty	22
2017	Rock The World	9-11-5	10-1	Mrs J. Harrington	Robbie Power	24

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

5.30

RACE 7











WEATHERBYS CHAMPION BUMPER (STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT) (Grade 1) (1) 4, 5 and 6yo £80,000 2m87y (3300 Metres)















Going: **Good to Soft (Soft in places Cross Counrty course)**

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

Pace Information: **Extreme**

1	AIN'T NO SUNSHINE (IRE) (26) (D)	81
	1 6 11-5 72.1kg Keith Dalgleish <i>Danny McMenamin</i> Well-bred 6yo who scored cosily having been well supported at Kelso first time out. More than likely to be outclassed upped markedly in grade, though.	
2	AMERICAN MIKE (IRE) (88) (D)	98
	11 5 11-5 72.1kg Gordon Elliott, Ireland <i>Mr J. J. Codd</i> Expensive point recruit who has sauntered clear twice to maintain an unbeaten record since switched to Rules. Listed success at Navan 88 days ago has been boosted, and there's more in the locker.	
3	AUTHORISED SPEED (FR) (32) (D, BF)	89
	2214 5 11-5 72.1kg Gary Moore <i>Joshua Moore</i> Off the mark in impressive fashion at Newbury in January, then seemed unsuited by a steady pace at the same track next time. Remains with potential, but a place is probably the best he can do.	
4	CALL ME HARRY (IRE) (43) (D)	80
	11 5 11-5 72.1kg Iain Jardine <i>Conor O'Farrell</i> Unbeaten in two to date, well on top at the finish when scoring at Newcastle last time, but this is an entirely different test, and he has plenty to find on form.	
5	CILLIANS CHARM (IRE) (30)	81
	2 5 11-5 72.1kg Anthony McCann, Ireland <i>Jonathan Moore</i> Runner-up in a point and filled the same position on Rules bow in a bumper at Catterick a month ago. Out of his depth in this, though.	
6	ESPERTI (IRE) (154) (D)	81
	2814 5 11-5 72.1kg Peter Fahey, Ireland <i>K. C. Sexton</i> Built on earlier promise to get off the mark in 17-runner bumper at Listowel in September, but disappointing at Punchestown subsequently. Not seen for 154 days, and firmly up against it.	
7	FACILE VEGA (IRE) (39) (D)	100
	11 5 11-5 72.1kg W. P. Mullins, Ireland <i>Mr P. W. Mullins</i> Arrives on the back of two authoritative displays, again looking something potentially special when winning by 12 lengths with more to give at the Dublin Racing Festival. Boasts leading claims.	
8	GODOT (IRE) (33)	77
	37 5 11-5 72.1kg Andy Irvine <i>Brendan Powell</i> Nicely bred and shaped well when third of 14 at Huntingdon on debut. Failed to back it up at Kempton subsequently, so most unlikely he'll make an impact at the top level.	
9	HOULANBATORDECHAI (FR) (136)	
	11 5 11-5 72.1kg W. P. Mullins, Ireland <i>Rachael Blackmore</i> Ready winner of a couple of French races in October. Picked up by top connections since and, while he's been thrown in at the deep end to some degree, he still warrants a market check.	
10	JAMES'S GATE (IRE) (31) (D)	86
	1 5 11-5 72.1kg W. P. Mullins, Ireland <i>S. F. O'Keefe</i> Sent off a strong odds-on favourite before readily making all at Punchestown a month ago. Clearly well regarded and in top hands, so looks well worth his place.	

11	JOYEUX MACHIN (FR) (53) (D)	86
	21 5 11-5 72.1kg Paul Nolan, Ireland <i>B. J. Cooper</i> Confirmed debut promise when comfortably landing a Navan event in February. The level he's achieved to date is some way short of what's required now, though.	
12	MADMANSGAME (22)	84
	1 5 11-5 72.1kg W. P. Mullins, Ireland <i>D. E. Mullins</i> Blue Bresil gelding who was bought for 250,000 gns after winning sole outing in points, then responded well to follow suit in a bumper at Navan. Stiff finish should suit, so he's not ruled out.	
13	MUSIC DRIVE (FR) (17)	87
	21 5 11-5 72.1kg Gordon Elliott, Ireland <i>Davy Russell</i> Point winner who made a promising start when second of 6 in bumper at Leopardstown, then went one better in a first-time tongue strap at Naas 17 days ago. Needs more if he's to play a hand.	
14	OCEAN OF MERCY (IRE) (144)	84
	23 6 11-5 72.1kg Paul Hennessy, Ireland <i>Sam Twiston-Davies</i> Ask gelding who has shown up well to be placed in competitive bumpers, the latter coming at this track 144 days ago. Unlikely that he possesses the ability to get involved in this, however.	
15	OUR JESTER (52) (D)	86
	22-11 6 11-5 72.1kg Hughie Morrison <i>Nico de Boinville</i> Off the mark at Ascot on return, then quickened away from the front to score at Lingfield 52 days ago. This represents a different sort of test, and others have achieved more.	
16	REDEMPTION DAY (78) (D)	95
	1 5 11-5 72.1kg W. P. Mullins, Ireland <i>P. Townend</i> Landed the odds at Leopardstown on debut in late December, seeming to have loads of running left as he powered away. Very bright prospect who demands plenty of respect.	
17	SEABANK BISTRO (IRE) (45)	88
	1 5 11-5 72.1kg W. P. Mullins, Ireland <i>B. Hayes</i> Walk In The Park gelding who scored readily despite showing signs of greenness at Naas first time out. More to come, but lack of experience could be his undoing.	
18	SPANISH PRESENT (IRE) (22) (D)	81
	2-431 6 11-5 72.1kg Martin Keighley <i>Sean Bowen</i> Off the mark in a 7-runner event at Market Rasen 22 days ago but he's way off the level required to feature in this.	
19	TOP DOG (IRE) (32) (D)	91
	2-231 5 11-5 72.1kg Emma Lavelle <i>Tom Bellamy</i> Placed 3 times before opening his account in a listed event at Newbury a month ago. Showed a better attitude that day, but he lacks the talent to trouble some of the big guns.	
20	VIVA DEVITO (IRE) (97) (D)	84
	41 5 11-5 72.1kg W. P. Mullins, Ireland <i>Mr D. O'Connor</i> First run since leaving Gearoid O'Loughlin when winning 9-runner bumper at Tramore, barely coming off the bridle. This demands a lot more, but he has obvious potential.	
21	POETIC MUSIC (74) (C)	93
	111 4 10-2 64.4kg Fergal O'Brien <i>Paddy Brennan</i> Poet's Voice filly who is 3 from 3 in bumpers (left John Butler after debut), overcoming a positional bias to land a listed event 74 days ago. Could go well in receipt of weight once more.	
22	ROSY REDRUM (IRE) (32)	89
	12 4 10-2 64.4kg Milton Harris <i>Mitchell Bastyan</i> Followed a successful start with a good second to Top Dog in a listed event at Newbury. Could turn the tables with that rival, but unlikely to be involved in the finish.	

5.30

RACE 7

WEATHERBYS CHAMPION BUMPER (STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT) (Grade 1) (1) 4, 5 and 6yo £80,000 2m87y (3300 Metres)



BETTING FORECAST:

6-4 Facile Vega, **11-4** American Mike, **15-2** Redemption Day, **22-1** James's Gate, **33-1** Seabank Bistro, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

A potentially strong renewal for which it's hard to oppose FACILE VEGA, who eased to victory on debut, then barely broke sweat to land a Grade 2 event at Leopardstown. American Mike did everything right when scoring by wide margins on his two Rules outings to date, so he's likely to be on the premises for another top Irish yard, and the selection's stablemate, Redemption Day, is also a player.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. FACILE VEGA (IRE) 2. AMERICAN MIKE (IRE) 3. REDEMPTION DAY

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2021	Sir Gerhard 6-11-5	85-40	W. P. Mullins	Rachael Blackmore	14
2020	Ferny Hollow 5-11-5	11-1	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	23
2019	Envoi Allen 5-11-5	2-1f	Gordon Elliott	Mr J. J. Codd	14
2018	Relegate 5-10-12	25-1	W. P. Mullins	Ms K. Walsh	23
2017	Fayonagh 6-10-12	7-1	Gordon Elliott	Mr J. J. Codd	22

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race