

Racing TVi



2022

Aintree Grand National Meeting Guide



*All times BST

Day 3 -Saturday 9th April 2022

START TIMES*	RACE	DISTANCE	TYPE
1:45	EFT Construction Handicap Hurdle (Grade 3)	4900m	Hurdle
2:25	Betway Mersey Novices' Hurdle (Grade 1)	4000m	Hurdle
3:00	Poundland Maghull Novices' Chase (Grade 1)	3200m	Chase
3:35	JRL Group Liverpool Hurdle (Grade 1)	4900m	Hurdle
4:15	Betway Handicap Chase (Grade 3)	5000m	Chase
5:15	Randox Grand National Handicap Chase (Grade 3)	6900m	National
6:20	Weatherbys nhsstallions.co.uk Standard Open NHF Race (Grade 2)	3400m	Flat

Saturday 9th April Randox Grand National

DAY 3 RACE BY RACE

*All times BST

1:45pm: EFT Construction Handicap Hurdle (Grade 3) (4900m)

Racing TVi *The RTVi Verdict*

A newly hooded **WINTER FOG** kept on in the closing stages when fourth to **Third Wind** in the Pertemps Network Final at Cheltenham, a race which also featured **Mill Green** (third), **If The Cap Fits** (sixth), **Whatsnotoknow** (seventh) and others. That was a second rock-solid run in a row for such a lightly raced horse, and he could have even more left in the locker. Returning to a more suitable trip, the early season Grade 3 Haydock winner **Dans Le Vent** also makes appeal.

1-2-3: 1 WINTER FOG 2 Dans Le Vent 3 Remastered

The Super Stat

Jonjo O'Neill has saddled the race winner four times – Sudden Shock (2002), Refinement (2006), Albertas Run (2007) and Ringaroses (2010) - over the last 20 years. Two of the last three winners have been favourite.

2:25pm: Betway Mersey Novices' Hurdle (Grade 1) (4000m)

The Super Stat

Since 2011, **Nicky Henderson**, **Willie Mullins**, and **Colin Tizzard** have all trained the winner of this race on two separate occasions. Tizzard - Finian's Oscar (2017) and Reserve Tank (2019) - the most recent to do so.

Racing TVi *The RTVi Verdict*

Colonel Mustard produced a career-best when third to State Man in the County Hurdle at Cheltenham, but the form book also dictates that he has work to do with **THREE STRIPE LIFE**. Gordon Elliott's six-year-old emerged with real credit despite unsuccessfully issuing a challenge to Sir Gerhard at Leopardstown (Tattersalls Ireland Novice) and Cheltenham (Ballymore Novices'). **Stage Star** now has questions to answer, while Nicky Henderson's impressive Newbury winner **Walking On Air** is the unknown commodity.

1-2-3: **1 THREE STRIPE LIFE** **2 Colonel Mustard** **3 Walking On Air**

3:00pm: Poundland Maghull Novices' Chase (Grade 1) (3200m)

Racing TVi *The RTVi Verdict*

Third Time Lucki arrives fresh after side-stepping the Cheltenham Festival, but with the Sporting Life Arkle winner **EDWARDSTONE** as his nemesis. A superb fencer for a novice, it is highly commendable that Alan King's charge has been able to consistently perform to such a high standard. **Gentleman De Mee** has regularly bossed matters over fences in Ireland - Navan's Grade 3 Flyingbolt last time - but adopting such an approach here will play straight into the hands of Tom Cannon aboard the selection.

1-2-3: **1 EDWARDSTONE** **2 Third Time Lucki** **3 Gentleman De Mee**

The Super Stat

Paul Nicholls has saddled the Maghull winner on eight previous occasions. Flagship Uberalles (1999) being his first winner of the race, and Diego Du Charmil (2018) his most recent.

3:35pm: JRL Group Liverpool Hurdle (Grade 1) (4900m)

The Super Stat

The Liverpool Hurdle was promoted to Grade 1 status in 2010, coinciding with the dominance of Big Buck's. **Paul Nicholls** superstar landed this race four times in succession between 2009 and 2012.

Racing TVi *The RTVi Verdict*

FLOORING PORTER became the first horse since Big Buck's to win the Paddy Power Stayers' Hurdle (Cheltenham) in back-to-back seasons. Making all, he pinged the final flight, bounding clear of **Thyme Hill** (second) and **Champ** (fourth). With conditions to suit, it is tough to envisage either reversing those Cheltenham placings, even allowing for the fact that Aintree is the favoured stomping ground of the former (winner of last year's Liverpool Hurdle).

1-2-3: **1 FLOORING PORTER** **2 Champ** **3 Thyme Hill**

4:15pm: Betway Handicap Chase (Grade 3) (5000m)

Racing TVi *The RTVi Verdict*

SHAN BLUE was in the process of running a massive race (clear) when falling three out in the Charlie Hall Chase at Wetherby. On that evidence, he is a well-handicapped horse. The season hasn't taken off for **Espoir De Romay** yet – in front when falling late in the 2021 Grade 1 Mildmay Novices' Chase – but he catches the eye, while a second bout of wind surgery has shown Grand National reserve **Commodore** in a better light.

1-2-3: 1 SHAN BLUE 2 Commodore 3 Espoir De Romay

The Super Stat

Three of the last ten winners have started favourite – Battle Group (2013), Thomas Patrick (2018) and Happygolucky (2021).

5:15pm: Radox Grand National Handicap Chase (Grade 3) (6900m)

The Super Stat

Four favourites or joint-favourites – Hedgehunter (2005), Comply or Die (2008), Don't Push It (2010) and Tiger Roll (2019) - have won the Grand National since the turn of the Century.

Racing TVi *The RTVi Verdict*

Irish dominance looks set to continue. **Delta Work** is the pick of the Gigginstown five, thriving over unconventional fences at Cheltenham (Glenfarclas Chase). Fine margins separated **Any Second Now** and **Escaria Ten** at Fairyhouse, with the former - a luckless third in 2021 - fancied to finish ahead of **Minella Times** this time. However, the casting vote lands with the Goffs Thyestes Chase hero **LONGHOUSE POET**. This second-season, stamina-laden chaser will relish any further rain to fall on the hallowed turf. Martin Brassil has tasted Grand National glory in the past (Numbersixvalverde), and this eight-year-old ticks all the required boxes.

1-2-3: 1 LONGHOUSE POET 2 Delta Work 3 Any Second Now

6:20pm: Weatherbys nhsstallions.co.uk Standard Open NHF Race (Grade 2) (3400m)

Racing TVi *The RTVi Verdict*

A fascinating bumper. The tenacious looking **Henri The Second** follows the same path into this race as 2021 winner Knappers Hill, while **Chianti Classico** (Kim Bailey) and **Ernest Gray** (on first start for Alan King) were impressive scorers at Market Rasen and Warwick, respectively. However, the suggestion is the white-faced Willie Mullins-trained **RATH GAUL BOY** who powered clear in the closing stages when landing the odds at Leopardstown five weeks ago.

1-2-3: 1 RATH GAUL BOY 2 Chianti Classico 3 Henri The Second

The Super Stat

Paul Nicholls has saddled the winner twice in succession, with McFabulous (2019) and Knappers Hill (2021). The Ditchheat handler relies upon the Ascot winner **Henri The Second** this time around.

Spotlight on some 2022 Randox Grand National contenders

Racing TVi

Minella Times

FORM: 221-FP

TRAINER: HENRY DE BROMHEAD

JOCKEY: RACHAEL BLACKMORE

Minella Times and Rachael Blackmore etched their names in the Grand National history books 12 months ago and return to defend their crown from a 15lb higher mark (161). The JP McManus-owned nine-year-old has endured a frustrating season, falling - returned stiff and sore - in the John Durkan Memorial Chase at Punchestown, before toiling at Leopardstown. Henry De Bromhead and his staff have since "worked hard to sweeten him up."



Any Second Now

FORM: 13-961

TRAINER: TED WALSH

JOCKEY: MARK WALSH

2019 Cheltenham Festival winner (Kim Muir Challenge Cup) who was badly hampered mid-race before staying on to finish third to Minella Times in last year's National. He's rated 7lb higher (159) this time around but was brave and determined in edging out Gordon Elliott's Escaria Ten in the four-runner Grade 3 Bobbyjo Chase at Fairyhouse six weeks ago.



Delta Work

FORM: 3-4661

TRAINER: GORDON ELLIOTT

JOCKEY: JACK KENNEDY

Top-class Irish staying chaser - Savills Chase (2019) and Paddy Power Irish Gold Cup (2020) winner. Mixed fortunes this season until returning to near peak form when spoiling the party for illustrious stablemate Tiger Roll in the Glenfarclas Cross Country Chase at Cheltenham. Holds a clear and obvious chance from this handicap mark (160) if able to make the seamless transition to the Grand National fences.



Enjoy D'Allen

FORM: 23-735

TRAINER: CIARAN MURPHY

JOCKEY: CONOR ORR

Finished a close third - to shock winner Freewheelin Dylan - in last year's BoyleSports Irish Grand National (Fairyhouse) and ran to a similar level (placed) over fences at Leopardstown during the Christmas period. Sports the well-known green and yellow silks of J P McManus and has been a popular choice among the punters since an eye-catching recent hurdles pipe-opener. Should be fresh and well after a light campaign.



Snow Leopardess

FORM: 46-111

TRAINER: CHARLIE LONGSDON

JOCKEY: AIDAN COLEMAN

Injured after winning over hurdles in France in 2017 but has progressed swiftly over fences since returning from foaling duties. She is a mare who possesses stamina in abundance, and with a clear preference for soft ground remains unbeaten in three starts during the current season. The Grand National fences hold few fears, as she demonstrated when a game winner of the Becher Chase (5400m) in December, although she will have to defy a career high mark (146).



Escaria Ten

FORM: 23P-82

TRAINER: GORDON ELLIOTT

JOCKEY: ADRIAN HESKIN

Fine third to Galvin in the Grade 2 National Hunt Novices' Chase (6000m) at the 2021 Cheltenham Festival. Looked to need the run - seasonal reappearance - when eighth of 18 to Longhouse Poet in the Thyestes Chase (Gowran Park), but much more competitive subsequently when headed in the shadow of the post by Delta Work in the Bobbyjo at Fairyhouse. There is every likelihood of more to come (1-7 over fences) from this unexposed eight-year-old.



Longhouse Poet

FORM: 31-717

TRAINER: MARTIN BRASSIL

JOCKEY: DARRAGH O'KEEFFE

Second-season chaser who fended off Run Wild Fred in a Beginners' Chase at Punchestown in late 2020. Off for 12 months thereafter and very lightly raced - three starts; ran over hurdles last time - this term. Particularly gritty when winning the competitive Goffs Thyestes Chase at Gowran Park in January, and just the type to relish the prospect of rain-softened Aintree ground. His trainer Martin Brassil won the Grand National in 2006 with Numbersixvalverde.



Fiddlerontheroof

FORM: 23-122

TRAINER: COLIN TIZZARD

JOCKEY: BRENDAN POWELL

Grade 1 winning hurdler (Tolworth at Sandown) who took time to warm to the task over fences. Runner-up to Monkfish in the Brown Advisory Novices' Chase at the 2021 Cheltenham Festival. Colin Tizzard's charge has enjoyed a productive season, winner of the Colin Parker Memorial (Carlisle), and just repelled in the Ladbrokes Trophy (Newbury). Trained with the Grand National as primary aim, but quite what he'll make of the larger obstacles remains to be seen.



2022 Randox Grand National –

The Full Field of Runners and Riders...



1. **MINELLA TIMES**, Henry De Bromhead, Rachael Blackmore
2. **DELTA WORK**, Gordon Elliott, Jack Kennedy
3. **EASYSLAND**, Jonjo O'Neill, Jonjo O'Neill Jnr
4. **ANY SECOND NOW**, Ted Walsh, Mark Walsh
5. **RUN WILD FRED**, Gordon Elliott, Davy Russell
6. **LOSTINTRANSLATION**, Colin Tizzard, Harry Cobden
7. **BRAHMA BULL**, Willie Mullins, Brian Hayes
8. **BURROWS SAINT**, Willie Mullins, Paul Townend
9. **MOUNT IDA**, Gordon Elliott, Denis O'Regan
10. **LONGHOUSE POET**, Martin Brassil, Darragh O'Keeffe
11. **FIDDLERONTHEROOF**, Colin Tizzard, Brendan Powell
12. **TWO FOR GOLD**, Kim Bailey, David Bass
13. **SANTINI**, Polly Gundry, Nick Scholfield
14. **SAMCRO**, Gordon Elliott, Sean Bowen
15. **ESCARIA TEN**, Gordon Elliott, Adrian Heskin
16. **GOOD BOY BOBBY**, Nigel Twiston-Davies, Daryl Jacob
17. **LORD DU MESNIL**, Richard Hobson, Kielan Woods
18. **COKO BEACH**, Gordon Elliott, Sean Flanagan
18. **DE RASHER COUNTER**, Emma Lavelle, Adam Wedge
20. **KILDISART**, Ben Pauling, James Bowen
21. **DISCORAMA**, Paul Nolan, Bryan Cooper
22. **TOP VILLE BEN**, Philip Kirby, Thomas Dowson
23. **ENJOY D'ALLEN**, Ciaran Murphy, Conor Orr
24. **ANIBALE FLY**, Tony Martin, Luke Dempsey
25. **DINGO DOLLAR**, Sandy Thomson, Ryan Mania
26. **FREEWHEELIN DYLAN**, Dermot A McLoughlin, Ricky Doyle
27. **CLASS CONTI**, Willie Mullins, Sam Twiston-Davies
28. **NOBLE YEATS**, Emmet Mullins, Sam Waley-Cohen
29. **MIGHTY THUNDER**, Lucinda Russell, Derek Fox
30. **CLOTH CAP**, Jonjo O'Neill, Tom Scudamore
31. **SNOW LEOPARDESS**, Charlie Longsdon, Aidan Coleman
32. **AGUSTA GOLD**, Willie Mullins, Danny Mullins
33. **PHOENIX WAY**, Harry Fry, Kevin Brogan
34. **DEISE ALBA**, Philip Hobbs, Tom O'Brien
35. **BLAKLION**, Dan Skelton, Harry Skelton
36. **POKER PARTY**, Henry De Bromhead, Robbie Power
37. **DEATH DUTY**, Gordon Elliott, Jordan Gainford
38. **DOMAINE DE L'ISLE**, Sean Curran, Harry Bannister
39. **ÉCLAIR SURF**, Emma Lavelle, Tom Bellamy
40. **FORTESCUE**, Henry Daly, Hugh Nugent

RESERVES

41. **COMMODORE**, Venetia Williams, Charlie Deutsch
42. **SCHOOL BOY HOURS**, Noel Meade, Sean Flanagan
43. **ROMAIN DE SENAM**, David Pipe, Philip Armson
44. **ROI MAGE**, Patrick Griffin, James Reveley

AINTREE RACECOURSE: KEY TRENDS

TOP JOCKEYS (ALL MEETINGS OVER LAST FIVE SEASONS)

Jockey	Wins	Rides	Win %	Return (£1 Stake)
Harry Skelton	21	112	19	+£76.75
Sam Twiston-Davies	11	75	15	-£6.54
Nico de Boinville	10	55	18	-£25.50
Aidan Coleman	10	67	15	-£12.50
Richard Johnson	9	62	15	-£14.11

TOP TRAINERS (ALL MEETINGS OVER LAST FIVE SEASONS)

Trainer	Wins	Runs	Win %	Return (£1 Stake)
Dan Skelton	23	134	17	+£61.55
Nicky Henderson	17	98	17	-£41.00
Paul Nicholls	12	94	13	-£29.46
Alan King	7	44	16	+£7.87
Nigel Twiston-Davies	7	73	10	-£39.50

RECENT ROLL OF HONOUR

2021	MINELLA TIMES , Henry De Bromhead, Rachael Blackmore
2020	No Race
2019	TIGER ROLL , Gordon Elliott, Davy Russell
2018	TIGER ROLL , Gordon Elliott, Davy Russell
2017	ONE FOR ARTHUR , Lucinda Russell, Derek Fox
2016	RULE THE WORLD , Mouse Morris, David Mullins



FACTS & FIGURES

- **Rachael Blackmore** (Minella Times, 2021) was the first female jockey to win the Grand National.
- **Neptune Collonges** (2012) was the last grey horse to win the Grand National.
- No mare has managed to win the Grand National since **Nickel Coin** (1951).
- **Dick Saunders** is the oldest jockey to have won the Grand National (aged 48; Grittar 1982).
- **Bruce Hobbs** is the youngest jockey to have won the Grand National (aged 17; Battleship 1938).
- Both the late **Trevor Hemmings** - Hedgehunter (2005), Ballabriggs (2011), Many Clouds (2015) and **Gigginstown House Stud** - Rule The World (2016), Tiger Roll (2018 & 2019) - have each owned three Grand National winners.
- Four women have trained the winner of the Grand National: **Jenny Pitman**, **Venetia Williams**, **Sue Smith**, and **Lucinda Russell**.
- **Nine** is the most common age for a Grand National winning horse.