

1.30 JCB TRIUMPH HURDLE (Grade 1) (1) 2m179y (3380 Metres)

RACE 1 **(8) APPLE'S SHAKIRA (FR) | (4) REDICEAN | (9) STORMY IRELAND (FR)**

2.10 RANDOX HEALTH COUNTY HANDICAP HURDLE (Grade 3) (1) 2m179y (3380 Metres)

RACE 2 **(16) FLYING TIGER (IRE) | (22) SMAOINEAMH ALAINN (IRE) | (1) BLEU ET ROUGE (FR)**

2.50 ALBERT BARTLETT NOVICES' HURDLE (Spa) (Grade 1) (1) 2m7f213y (4820 Metres)

RACE 3 **(5) CHRIS'S DREAM (IRE) | (18) SANTINI | (4) CHEF DES OBEAUX (FR)**

3.30 TIMICO CHELTENHAM GOLD CUP CHASE (Grade 1) (1) 3¼m70y (5290 Metres)

RACE 4 **(9) MIGHT BITE (IRE) | (11) NATIVE RIVER (IRE) | (12) OUR DUKE (IRE)**

4.10 ST. JAMES'S PLACE FOXHUNTER CHALLENGE CUP OPEN HUNTERS' CHASE (2) 3¼m70y (5290 Metres)

RACE 5 **(23) WONDERFUL CHARM (FR) | (3) BURNING AMBITION (IRE) | (6) FOXROCK (IRE)**

4.50 MARTIN PIPE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP HURDLE (2) 2½m56y (4070 Metres)

RACE 6 **(21) DEAL D'ESTRIVAL (FR) | (2) SIRE DU BERLAIS (FR) | (16) DIESE DES BIEFFES (FR)**

5.30 JOHNNY HENDERSON GRAND ANNUAL CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP CHASE (Grade 3) (1) 2m62y (3280 Metres)

RACE 7 **(5) VANITEUX (FR) | (2) FOREST BIHAN (FR) | (19) BOUVREUIL (FR)**

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**JCB TRIUMPH HURDLE (Grade 1) (1) 4yo £125,000
2m179y (3380 Metres)**

RACE 1

GBI RACING

BRITISH AND IRISH RACING

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

Left handed, undulating. Stiff fences that place a premium on sound jumping. The last half mile is uphill, although the lead changes hands on the run-in less frequently than expected. Horses who race prominently often fare well on the chase course, especially in shorter-distance races. 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.

Pace Information: **Strong****1 FARCLAS (FR) (40)** t **98**

22 4 11-0 | 69.9kg



Gordon Elliott, Ireland

J. W. Kennedy

Flat winner in France and has found just one too good on each of his 2 starts in this sphere, latterly forcing Mr Adjudicator to dig deep in the Spring Juvenile Hurdle at Leopardstown. Merits respect.

2 GUMBALL (FR) (63) (D) t **92**

3-1122 4 11-0 | 69.9kg



Philip Hobbs

Richard Johnson

Produced dominant displays when scoring at Stratford and Chepstow on first 2 starts for Philip Hobbs. However, couldn't lay a glove on Apple's Shakira here in November and may need a stiffer test.

3 MR ADJUDICATOR (40) **99**

11 4 11-0 | 69.9kg



W. P. Mullins, Ireland

**P. Townend**

Decent handicapper on the Flat and has quickly made up into a smart hurdler, making it 2-2 in this sphere with a battling display in a Leopardstown Grade 1 last month. Very much one to consider.

4 REDICEAN (20) **97**

111 4 11-0 | 69.9kg



Alan King

**Wayne Hutchinson**

Useful Flat performer who has looked the part in winning a trio of juvenile hurdles at Kempton, particularly in the Adonis last time (more slick in the jumping department). Leading contender.

5 SALDIER (FR) (27) **89**

1 4 11-0 | 69.9kg



W. P. Mullins, Ireland

**D. J. Mullins**

French recruit who made a bright start to hurdling career when easily landing a Gowran maiden 27 days ago. Clearly a good prospect but in much deeper waters now.

6 SAYO (47) **89**

21 4 11-0 | 69.9kg



W. P. Mullins, Ireland

**Noel Fehily**

Runner-up on hurdles debut in France and duly went one better starting out for new yard at Naas. Further improvement highly likely but may be biting off more than he can chew on this occasion.

7 SUSSEX RANGER (USA) (69) (BF) **95**

112 4 11-0 | 69.9kg



Gary Moore

Jamie Moore

Decisive winner of first 2 starts in this sphere and lost no caste in defeat when chasing home We Have A Dream in a Chepstow Grade 1. Arguably lacks the star potential of some of these, though.

8 APPLE'S SHAKIRA (FR) (48) (CD) **100**

1111 4 10-7 | 66.7kg



Nicky Henderson

**Barry Geraghty**

Maintained unbeaten record with a clear-cut victory in the C&D trial in January. No telling quite how good she could turn out to be and major player for yard that has won 3 of the last 9 renewals.

9 STORMY IRELAND (FR) (90) **98**

2-21 4 10-7 | 66.7kg



W. P. Mullins, Ireland

**R. Walsh**

Runner-up both starts over hurdles in France and couldn't have been more impressive when making a winning debut for Willie Mullins in December. This is much tougher but she's clearly a smart prospect.

9 DECLARED RUNNERS

TIMEFORM VIEW:

This looks a cracking renewal with a whole host arriving with unbeaten records to protect. Chief amongst them, APPLE'S SHAKIRA has landed 3 small-field contests, latterly the Triumph Hurdle Trial, but there has been plenty to like about the manner of her victories and she can come out on top with further progress anticipated. Adonis-winner Redicean is feared though, along with Stormy Ireland.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**1. APPLE'S SHAKIRA (FR) 2. REDICEAN 3. STORMY IRELAND (FR)****WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2017	Defi du Seuil 4-11-0	5-2f	Philip Hobbs	Richard Johnson	15
2016	Ivanovich Gorbatov 4-11-0	9-2f	Aidan O'Brien	Barry Geraghty	15
2015	Peace And Co 4-11-0	2-1f	Nicky Henderson	Barry Geraghty	16
2014	Tiger Roll 4-11-0	10-1	Gordon Elliott	Davy Russell	15
2013	Our Conor 4-11-0	4-1	D. T. Hughes	B. J. Cooper	17

BETTING FORECAST:

5-2 Apple's Shakira, **9-2** Redicean, **6-1** Stormy Ireland, **7-1** Mr Adjudicator, **7-1** Farclas, **12-1** Saldier, **22-1** Sussex Ranger, **25-1** Sayo, **40-1** bar

2.10**RANDOX HEALTH COUNTY HANDICAP HURDLE (Grade 3) (1)**
5yo+ £100,000 2m179y (3380 Metres)

RACE 2


















GBI RACING
















BRITISH AND IRISH RACING

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

Left handed, undulating. Stiff fences that place a premium on sound jumping. The last half mile is uphill, although the lead changes hands on the run-in less frequently than expected. Horses who race prominently often fare well on the chase course, especially in shorter-distance races. 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.

Pace Information: **Very Strong**

1	BLEU ET ROUGE (FR) (34)	t	99
	F5/1U4-042 7 11-12 75.3kg W. P. Mullins, Ireland  Barry Geraghty Things didn't go to plan when tried over fences last season, but much more like it back in this sphere, making the frame in big-field handicaps at Ascot and Newbury (rock-solid Betfair Hurdle form).		
2	JENKINS (IRE) (34) (D, BF)	b	96
	141-77110 6 11-9 73.9kg Nicky Henderson  James Bowen (31b/1kg) Different proposition initially fitted with blinkers, winning at Kempton and Ascot in January. Headgear his undoing in the Betfair Hurdle (far too free) so lot depends on how he settles.		
3	IVANOVICH GORBATOV (IRE) (41) (CD)	t	98
	4336-0070 6 11-6 72.6kg Joseph Patrick O'Brien, Ireland J. J. Slevin (31b/1kg) Smart novice, winner of the Triumph Hurdle on this day 2 years ago. Fair to say he hasn't scaled the heights anticipated since, but on a potentially-handy mark if bouncing back.		
4	TIGRIS RIVER (IRE) (41)	t	97
	5-7119060 7 11-5 72.1kg Joseph Patrick O'Brien, Ireland Jody McGarvey Very useful form when completing a cross-code hat-trick in a 20-runner handicap hurdle at Galway in August. Failed to fire over the winter and likely remains too high in the weights.		
5	LAGOSTOVEGAS (IRE) (27) (D, BF)		97
	624-P3113 6 11-4 71.7kg W. P. Mullins, Ireland  D. E. Mullins Did well on the level and over hurdles in 2017, and shaped as though she'd be better for the run when third in a Gowran Grade 3 back from a break last month. Big-field handicap right up her street.		
6	LE RICHEBOURG (FR) (40) (D)		93
	32-111628 5 11-3 71.2kg Joseph Patrick O'Brien, Ireland Mark Walsh Quickly reached a useful level in novice hurdles early this season, completing hat-trick at Galway. Limitations at Grade-1 level exposed since and opening mark does look to be too high.		
7	A HARE BREATH (IRE) (97) (CD)		99
	1P/41370-1 10 11-3 71.2kg Ben Pauling Daryl Jacob Good record when fresh and looked better than ever when taking a strong Sandown handicap on return in December. 6 lb rise tolerable and, having been saved for this, is one to consider.		
8	SANDESEND (FR) (47) (D)		98
	1-31 5 11-3 71.2kg W. P. Mullins, Ireland  P. Townend All the better for reappearance when landing a Naas Grade 3 in January, despite mistakes at last 2 flights. Will need to jump with greater proficiency in this environment but he's full of potential.		
9	REMILUC (FR) (11) (CD)	t	95
	U3222152 9 11-2 70.8kg Chris Gordon Harry Reed (51b/2kg) In form of his life this term, deservedly getting head back in front over C&D in January. Better than result in the Betfair Hurdle and nothing wrong with latest second at Lingfield. Exposed, though.		
10	STERNRUBIN (GER) (112) (D)		95
	P30/150-22 7 11-1 70.3kg Philip Hobbs Richard Johnson Useful performer on the Flat and over hurdles. Sound start to chase career at Exeter in October, but looked laboured the following month. Third in this race from 1 lb lower in 2016.		

11	MOON RACER (IRE) (34) (CD)	t	98
	211P6-0 9 11-0 69.9kg David Pipe Tom Scudamore 2015 Champion Bumper winner. Won first 2 starts over hurdles the following year, including a Grade 2 here, but career blighted by problems since. Hard to know what to expect.		
12	BRELADE (90) (BF)	t	97
	368-22243 6 10-13 69.4kg Gordon Elliott, Ireland Mark Enright Bumper/big-field maiden hurdle winner to end 2016. Frustrating that he's been unable to add to tally over fences, but appeals as type to do better in big-field handicaps back over timber. Tongue tied.		
13	MERI DEVIE (FR) (23)		93
	43-022451 5 10-13 69.4kg W. P. Mullins, Ireland  R. Walsh Ex-French mare who doubled tally for Willie Mullins in a 6-runner listed hurdle against her own sex at Punchestown last month. Switches from the Mares race to this and isn't obviously well treated.		
14	WHISKEY SOUR (IRE) (40) (D)		98
	114 5 10-13 69.4kg W. P. Mullins, Ireland  D. J. Mullins Won first 4 starts for Willie Mullins, posting a very useful effort on the level at Galway in August but was clearly lucky in Grade 1 Champions Novices' Hurdle. Not seen to best effect last time.		
15	DIVIN BERE (FR) (34)	t	98
	12/2122-00 5 10-13 69.4kg Paul Nicholls Sam Twiston-Davies Smart juvenile for Nicky Henderson last term, including runner-up in Fred Winter and Grade 1 at Aintree. Very low-key start for Paul Nicholls, but could easily come good and now sports a tongue tie.		
16	FLYING TIGER (IRE) (27) (CD)		99
	1414-3344 5 10-12 68.9kg Nick Williams  Noel Fehily Fred Winter winner from 6 lb lower at this meeting 12 months ago. Acquitted himself well in good company this season, fourth in a Wincanton Grade 2 latest and the assessor has given him a big chance.		
17	ALL SET TO GO (IRE) (461) (D)		87
	4011/2341- 7 10-12 68.9kg Kevin Frost Jamie Bargaray (31b/1kg) Took it up a notch when landing 10-runner handicap hurdle at Doncaster for Paul Nicholls in December 2016. Same mark, but absent since and has changed yards, so has a lot to prove in a race like this.		
18	CHESTERFIELD (IRE) (11) (CD)		99
	0211-0041 8 10-12 68.9kg Seamus Mullins Daniel Sansom (51b/2kg) Very progressive last term, winning conditionals' handicap at Aintree and Scottish Champion Hurdle at Ayr. Warmed up for this by landing a Kempton jumpers bumper recently and he's on a fair mark.		
19	SPIRITOFHETGAMES (IRE) (34)	s	97
	1421-123 6 10-11 68.5kg Dan Skelton Harry Skelton Picked up where he left off when winning 19.5f Lingfield handicap in November. Better form still in defeat since, placed in the Lanzarote and Betfair Hurdle handicaps this winter. That's strong form.		
20	BEN DUNDEE (IRE) (41)		97
	7245-1620 6 10-11 68.5kg Gordon Elliott, Ireland Davy Russell Consistent on the whole so easy to forgive his below-par display at Leopardstown last time. Clear of the rest when runner-up in competitive handicap on penultimate start so he merits respect.		
21	MOHAAYED (80) (D)	t	98
	4173-1023 6 10-11 68.5kg Dan Skelton Bridget Andrews (31b/1kg) Good third in Scottish Champion Hurdle on final start last term and winner of a "match" at Market Rasen in May. Presumably saved for this following sound third of 4 in Grade 1 Christmas Hurdle.		
22	SMAOINEAMH ALAINN (IRE) (91) (CD)	h	100
	356421-11 6 10-9 67.6kg Robert Walford James Best Fair form in Irish bumpers and fitted with a hood, has made faultless start to his hurdles career for Robert Walford, completing hat-trick over C&D in December. Subsequent 8 lb rise could be lenient.		

2.10**RANDOX HEALTH COUNTY HANDICAP HURDLE (Grade 3) (1)
5yo+ £100,000 2m179y (3380 Metres)**

RACE 2

GBI RACING

BRITISH AND IRISH RACING

23 DUCA DE THAIX (FR) (47) t 97

4211-416 5 10-8 | 67.1kg

Gordon Elliott, Ireland

J. W. Kennedy

Bumper/hurdles winner for Guy Cheral in France and got it right at the second attempt for new connections in a Grade 3 in December. Disappointing soon after but he's in the right hands. Tongue tied.

24 BRAHMS DE CLERMONT (FR) (11) (C, D, BF) 93

2-1321144 7 10-7 | 66.7kg

Paul Nicholls

Harry Cobden

Ended 2017 with a pair of 2m Taunton novice wins but comfortably held on hat-trick bid at Musselburgh last month. Fit from an AW spin, but revised mark looks to be too high.

25 WILLIAM H BONNEY (34) (CD) 97

8107-6568 7 10-5 | 65.8kg

Alan King

Wayne Hutchinson

Caught the eye when fifth in the Greatwood here in November, but failed to deliver what might have been expected from him off the bridle twice since, so others are more persuasive.

26 I SHOT THE SHERIFF (IRE) (62) 90

0/3P-PP 11 10-4 | 65.3kg

Fergal O'Brien

Non Runner

NON RUNNER.

RESERVES**27 KRUGERMAC (IRE) (9) (BF) 81**

212/87-6 7 10-0(8-13) | 63.5kg (56.7kg)

Gary Moore

Reserve

Looked a smart prospect when scoring on hurdling debut at Ascot in December 2015. Lightly raced and disappointing since, so readily opposed from miles out of the weights. RESERVE.

26 DECLARED RUNNERS (1 RESERVE)

BETTING FORECAST:

10-1 Bleu Et Rouge, **14-1** Flying Tiger, **14-1** Sandsend, **16-1** A Hare Breath, **18-1** Ivanovich Gorbato, **18-1** Duca De Thaix, **18-1** Meri Devie, **20-1** Smaoineamh Alainn, **22-1** Chesterfield, **22-1** Moon Racer, **22-1** Lagostovegas, **22-1** Ben Dundee, **25-1** Mohaayed, **25-1** Jenkins, **28-1** Whiskey Sour, **28-1** William H Bonney, **28-1** Spiritofthegames, **28-1** Tigris River, **28-1** Le Richebourg, **33-1** Divin Bere, **33-1** Remiluc, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

FLYING TIGER won the Fred Winter last year, and has been far from disgraced in small-field contests this season. He can up his game in this big-field/strong pace scenario and his mark could be lenient. Smaoineamh Alainn may well go slightly under the radar given her connections but she's promising, with Bleu Et Rouge perhaps the pick of the Irish.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. FLYING TIGER (IRE) 2. SMAOINEAMH ALAINN (IRE) 3. BLEU ET ROUGE (FR)














WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:
















2017	Arctic Fire 8-11-12	20-1	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	25
2016	Superb Story 5-10-12	8-1	Dan Skelton	Harry Skelton	26
2015	Wicklow Brave 6-11-4	25-1	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	24
2014	Lac Fontana 5-10-11	11-1	Paul Nicholls	Daryl Jacob	28
2013	Ted Veale 6-10-6	10-1	A. J. Martin	B. J. Cooper	28

2.50**ALBERT BARTLETT NOVICES' HURDLE (Spa) (Grade 1) (1)**
4yo+ £136,260 2m7f213y (4820 Metres)**RACE 3****GBI RACING****BRITISH AND IRISH RACING**Going: **Soft (Heavy in places)**

Left handed, undulating. Stiff fences that place a premium on sound jumping. The last half mile is uphill, although the lead changes hands on the run-in less frequently than expected. Horses who race prominently often fare well on the chase course, especially in shorter-distance races. 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.

Pace Information: **Extreme**

1	BALLYWARD (IRE) (47) 1-41 6 11-5 72.1kg	94
	W. P. Mullins, Ireland  R. Walsh Landed sole bumper start and justified cramped odds when scoring on second hurdle start at Naas (19f) in January. Knuckled down to edge ahead final 100 yds and he likely has more to offer up in trip.	
2	BEYOND THE LAW (IRE) (54) 0-2043114 6 11-5 72.1kg	85
	M. F. Morris, Ireland Robbie Power Improved efforts over timber when coming readily clear to land maiden/minor events at up to 19f in recent months. However, shaped like a non-stayer at Thurles (22.3f) and this much tougher again.	
3	CALETT MAD (FR) (40) (CD) 952-11541 6 11-5 72.1kg	96
	Nigel Twiston-Davies Daryl Jacob Smart chaser and has reached a similar standard since reverting to this sphere, winner of a 3¼m handicap at Musselburgh last month. More needed back in novice company but definite each-way claims.	
4	CHEF DES OBEAUX (FR) (27) 57/2-2111 6 11-5 72.1kg	98
	Nicky Henderson  Noel Fehily Had to play second fiddle to stablemate Santini on debut in this sphere at Newbury, but has won each of his 3 subsequent starts, including a Grade 2 at Haydock last time. Needs considering.	
5	CHRIS'S DREAM (IRE) (24) (D) 00-6211 6 11-5 72.1kg	93
	Henry de Bromhead, Ireland Mark Walsh Limerick maiden hurdle winner on final start for Eugene O'Sullivan and bolted up in a Clonmel Grade 3 on debut for new yard last month. More on his plate now but he's not short of potential.	
6	CRUCIAL ROLE (50) (D, BF) 4-P142212 6 11-5 72.1kg	90
	Henry Daly Richard Johnson Improver switched to handicaps over hurdles, bolting up over 23.8f at Ludlow in January. Solid second under a penalty at Warwick but finds himself pitched into much deeper waters here.	
7	DORTMUND PARK (FR) (41) 1-16114 5 11-5 72.1kg	91
	Gordon Elliott, Ireland Davy Russell 2-2 in bumpers and improved with each start over hurdles, landing novice contests at Fairyhouse/Thurles up to 22f. By no means disgraced in Grade 1 latest and step up to 3m rates a plus now.	
8	ENNISCOFFEY OSCAR (IRE) (48) (D) 12-47311 6 11-5 72.1kg	95
	Emma Lavelle Leighton Aspell Smart in bumpers (second in Aintree Grade 2 in April). Slowly come to hand over hurdles, overcoming interference to land Grade 2 River Don at Doncaster (3m) last time. Interesting.	
9	FABULOUS SAGA (FR) (41) (D, BF) 21123117 6 11-5 72.1kg	92
	W. P. Mullins, Ireland  D. E. Mullins Useful hurdler who didn't need to improve to land Graded contests at 3m in December. Clearly not 100% at Leopardstown (22f) last month but type to bounce back.	
10	KILBRICKEN STORM (IRE) (76) (CD) 3113 7 11-5 72.1kg	94
	Colin Tizzard Harry Cobden Landed 2 of his 4 starts including Grade 2 Bristol novice here in December, rallying to lead final 100 yds. Failed to confirm that form at Newbury later that month and he's not easy to weigh up.	

11	MR WHIPPED (IRE) (40) (BF) 1112 5 11-5 72.1kg	98
	Nicky Henderson  Jeremiah McGrath Irish point winner who was impressive when landing first 3 starts over hurdles, including 21f Warwick Grade 2. Perhaps found run coming bit soon when turned over at Musselburgh 3 weeks later.	
12	MULCAHYS HILL (IRE) (48) (BF) 27-1124 6 11-5 72.1kg	95
	Warren Greatrex A. P. Heskin Bumper/maiden hurdle winner 6 months apart but easily best effort when a narrow second in the Grade 1 Challow Hurdle (20.5f) in December. Can be forgiven his disappointment here in January.	
13	OK CORRAL (IRE) (35) 2/121 8 11-5 72.1kg	96
	Nicky Henderson  Barry Geraghty One of the best around in bumpers in 2014/15, and made it 2-3 in this sphere when running away with a 21f novice event at Kempton last time. This is a much tougher assignment but he's unexposed.	
14	PAISLEY PARK (IRE) (36) (BF) 2-122 6 11-5 72.1kg	98
	Emma Lavelle Nick Scholfield Made a winning hurdling debut at Hereford in December and progressed in defeat subsequently, runner up to Mr Whipped in Grade 2 at Warwick and Doncaster novice. Good prospect now tackling 3m.	
15	POETIC RHYTHM (IRE) (76) (C) 15330-131 7 11-5 72.1kg	94
	Fergal O'Brien Paddy Brennan Well held in the Neptune at this meeting last year but has improved this season, narrowly prevailing in a Grade 2 at Newbury in December. Versatile ground-wise and he's in with an each-way shout.	
16	REAL STEEL (FR) (40) 2-1F5 5 11-5 72.1kg	93
	W. P. Mullins, Ireland  P. Townend Thurles maiden winner on debut for new yard and still bang there when falling at the last in Leopardstown Grade 1 next time. However, limitations seemingly exposed in the Deloitte last month.	
17	ROBIN WATERS (FR) (41) 331 5 11-5 72.1kg	93
	Dan Skelton Harry Skelton Wide-margin point winner who has made an excellent start over hurdles, making it third time lucky in effortless fashion at Wetherby (21f) last month. This obviously much tougher but he's improving.	
18	SANTINI (48) (C) 11 6 11-5 72.1kg	100
	Nicky Henderson  Nico de Boynville Wide-margin winner of sole start between the flags and made it 2-2 under Rules when landing a Grade 2 here (20.2f) in January. Looks a smart prospect and this stiffer test will be right up his street.	
19	TALKISCHEAP (IRE) (34) (D) 0233-1141 6 11-5 72.1kg	94
	Alan King  Wayne Hutchinson Done little wrong in career to date and made it 3-4 over hurdles when landing a competitive Newbury handicap on first crack at this trip last month. Live each-way claims with further progress likely.	
20	TOWER BRIDGE (IRE) (41) 4-11041 5 11-5 72.1kg	94
	Joseph Patrick O'Brien, Ireland J. J. Slevin 2-3 in bumpers and left previous hurdling efforts behind when landing Grade 1 novice (22f) at Leopardstown recently. That was a muddling affair but he remains with potential going forward.	

20 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

6-1 Santini, **13-2** Chris's Dream, **7-1** Chef Des Obeaux, **14-1** Ok Corral, **14-1** Poetic Rhythm, **14-1** Tower Bridge, **16-1** Ballyward, **18-1** Calett Mad, **20-1** Real Steel, **22-1** Enniscoffey Oscar, **25-1** Paisley Park, **25-1** Mr Whipped, **25-1** Dortmund Park, **33-1** Talkischeap, **33-1** Fabulous Saga, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

Plenty in here with claims. CHRIS'S DREAM found a chunk of improvement to make a winning yard debut in a Clonmel Grade 3 last month, a race his handler's Monalee took prior to a fine second in this race 12 months ago. There is no doubt Nicky Henderson holds a strong hand though, with Santini and Chef des Obeaux both highly respected. Enniscoffey Oscar is also in with a shout at a bigger price.

2.50**ALBERT BARTLETT NOVICES' HURDLE (Spa) (Grade 1) (1)**
4yo+ £136,260 2m7f213y (4820 Metres)

RACE 3



BRITISH AND IRISH RACING

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**1. CHRIS'S DREAM (IRE) 2. SANTINI 3. CHEF DES OBEAUX (FR)****WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2017	Penhill	6-11-5	16-1	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	15
2016	Unowhatimeanharry	8-11-5	11-1	Harry Fry	Noel Fehily	19
2015	Martello Tower	7-11-7	14-1	Ms Margaret Mullins	A. P. Heskin	19
2014	Very Wood	5-11-7	33-1	Noel Meade	Paul Carberry	18
2013	At Fishers Cross	6-11-7	11-8f	Rebecca Curtis	A. P. McCoy	13

3.30**TIMICO CHELTENHAM GOLD CUP CHASE (Grade 1) (1) 5yo+
£649,380 3¼m70y (5290 Metres)**

RACE 4

















GBI RACING












BRITISH AND IRISH RACING

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

Left handed, undulating. Stiff fences that place a premium on sound jumping. The last half mile is uphill, although the lead changes hands on the run-in less frequently than expected. Horses who race prominently often fare well on the chase course, especially in shorter-distance races. 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.

Pace Information: **Strong**

1	AMERICAN (FR) (48) 316/111-P2 8 11-10 74.4kg Harry Fry Unbeaten in 3 starts as a novice and left inauspicious reappearance effort well behind when chasing home Definitly Red here in January. However, big step forward needed if he's to take this.			92	<i>Noel Fehily</i>
2	ANIBALE FLY (FR) (40) P142-591F 8 11-10 74.4kg A. J. Martin, Ireland Produced a career best when landing the valuable Paddy Power Chase in good style at Leopardstown during the Christmas period. Looked held when falling 2 out in the Irish Gold Cup next time, though.		t	93	<i>Barry Geraghty</i>
3	BACHASSON (FR) (74) 28U/F21-11 7 11-10 74.4kg W. P. Mullins, Ireland Easy winner of small-field listed events at Thurles and Tramore this season. Strong possibility that there's even better to come from this 7-y-o, but stamina to prove and others are more convincing.			93	<i>D. J. Mullins</i>
4	DEFINITLY RED (IRE) (48) (C, D) 31U1P-311 9 11-10 74.4kg Brian Ellison Largely progressive since switched to fences and put himself in the picture for this when landing the Cotswold Chase in January. Each-way claims, particularly with ground in his favour.			97	<i>Danny Cook</i>
5	DJAKADAM (FR) (40) 21342-2P3 9 11-10 74.4kg W. P. Mullins, Ireland Runner-up in the 2016 renewal, and not beaten far when fourth 12 months ago. However, not at his best in 3 starts so far this season and there's an air of vulnerability about him now.			95	<i>Mr P. W. Mullins</i>
6	DOUBLE SHUFFLE (IRE) (80) P512P-222 8 11-10 74.4kg Tom George Bettered anything he'd previously achieved by some way when making a race of it with Might Bite in the King George. However, it's hard to envisage him reversing the placings with that rival here.		h	97	<i>A. P. Heskin</i>
7	EDWULF (40) U21F1P-P1 9 11-10 74.4kg Joseph Patrick O'Brien, Ireland Scaled new heights when collaring Outlander close home in the Irish Gold Cup at Leopardstown, albeit he was somewhat fortunate on the day given the last-fence fall of Killultagh Vic. More needed.		t	97	<i>Mr Derek O'Connor</i>
8	KILLULTAGH VIC (IRE) (40) (C) 111/1F 9 11-10 74.4kg W. P. Mullins, Ireland Appeared to have the measure of several of these rivals when falling at the last in the Irish Gold Cup at Leopardstown last month. Remains unexposed in this sphere and he's an intriguing contender.			97	<i>R. Walsh</i>
9	MIGHT BITE (IRE) (80) (C) 21F111-11 9 11-10 74.4kg Nicky Henderson Last season's top staying novice and cemented position at the head of the ante-post market for this when landing the King George at Kempton. Seemingly possesses all the right attributes for this test.			100	<i>Nico de Boinville</i>
10	MINELLA ROCCO (IRE) (40) (C) 3FU2-4P4F 8 11-10 74.4kg Jonjo O'Neill Outpointed Native River in the 4m amateur riders' novices' chase here in 2016, and cracking effort when runner-up in this last term. Hasn't fired so far this season, though, and needs to bounce back.		s+t	95	<i>Mark Walsh</i>

11	NATIVE RIVER (IRE) (34) (D) 21/2113-1 8 11-10 74.4kg Colin Tizzard Brought the curtain down on last season's excellent campaign by finishing third to Sizing John and Minella Rocco in this race. Did the job well on return at Newbury and another bold show anticipated.		s		99	<i>Richard Johnson</i>
12	OUR DUKE (IRE) (27) 3/1121-741 8 11-10 74.4kg Mrs J. Harrington, Ireland Impressive winner of the Irish National as a novice last term. Below par when fourth to Edwulf at Leopardstown on penultimate start, but back on track when scoring at Gowran and he's a big player.				98	<i>Robbie Power</i>
13	OUTLANDER (IRE) (40) 10P-61332 10 11-10 74.4kg Gordon Elliott, Ireland Classy chaser who has posted solid efforts in defeat in Leopardstown Grade 1s won by Road To Respect and Edwulf the last twice. However, struggled in this race last year and may again come up short.		s		96	<i>J. W. Kennedy</i>
14	ROAD TO RESPECT (IRE) (78) (C) 32211-121 7 11-10 74.4kg Noel Meade, Ireland Winner of a handicap at this meeting 12 months ago and produced best effort yet when landing a Grade 1 at Leopardstown in December (Outlander and Minella Rocco behind). Not to be underestimated.		h		98	<i>Sean Flanagan</i>
15	SAPHIR DU RHEU (FR) (34) (C) 5/3F215F-3 9 11-10 74.4kg Paul Nicholls Looked as good as ever when fifth in the 2017 renewal of this, but reportedly sustained an injury when falling in the Grand National next time and well adrift of Native River on return at Newbury.		t		93	<i>Sam Twiston-Davies</i>
16	SHANTOU FLYER (IRE) (3) (C) P-5PP2222 8 11-10 74.4kg Richard Hobson Runner-up in couple of big 21f handicaps here in January, and close second in the Ultima on Tuesday. Looks out of his depth in this, however.		v+t		91	<i>James Bowen</i>
17	TEA FOR TWO (48) 41U1-943P 9 11-10 74.4kg Nick Williams Aintree Grade 1 winner last term and better than ever when third behind Might Bite and Double Shuffle in the King George on Boxing Day. Ran poorly in the Cotswold Chase here next time, though.				96	<i>Lizzie Kelly</i>
18	TOTAL RECALL (IRE) (40) (D) 4U105-111 9 11-10 74.4kg W. P. Mullins, Ireland Has improved since joining Willie Mullins, winning big handicap chases on first 2 starts this season prior to landing a nice pot back over hurdles last time. Each-way claims.				93	<i>P. Townend</i>

18 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

4-1 Might Bite, **9-2** Native River, **9-1** Our Duke, **10-1** Road To Respect, **12-1** Definitly Red, **14-1** Killultagh Vic, **18-1** Edwulf, **22-1** Total Recall, **28-1** Bachasson, **33-1** Double Shuffle, **33-1** Outlander, **33-1** Minella Rocco, **33-1** Djakadam, **33-1** American, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

MIGHT BITE has his quirks, as shown when nearly throwing away the RSA at this meeting last season, but there's no doubting he's one of the very best chasers around at the moment and is the one they all have to beat. Native River has had an ideal preparation and should make a bold bid to better last year's third, while Our Duke heads a strong team from Ireland.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. MIGHT BITE (IRE) 2. NATIVE RIVER (IRE) 3. OUR DUKE (IRE)

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2017	Sizing John 7-11-10	7-1	Mrs J. Harrington	Robbie Power	13
2016	Don Cossack 9-11-10	9-4f	Gordon Elliott	B. J. Cooper	9
2015	Coneygree 8-11-10	7-1	Mark Bradstock	Nico de Boinville	16
2014	Lord Windermere 8-11-10	20-1	J. Culloty	Davy Russell	13
2013	Bobs Worth 8-11-10	11-4f	Nicky Henderson	Barry Geraghty	9

4.10

RACE 5















ST. JAMES'S PLACE FOXHUNTER CHALLENGE CUP OPEN HUNTERS' CHASE (2) 5yo+ £45,000 3¼m70y (5290 Metres)**GBI RACING**













BRITISH AND IRISH RACING

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

Left handed, undulating. Stiff fences that place a premium on sound jumping. The last half mile is uphill, although the lead changes hands on the run-in less frequently than expected. Horses who race prominently often fare well on the chase course, especially in shorter-distance races. 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.

Pace Information: **Strong**

	1	BALNASLOW (IRE) (280) P9/P2521-2 11 12-0 76.2kg Graham McKeever, Ireland Wasn't beaten far in this last year prior to finishing second at Aintree and then landing the Champion Hunter at Punchestown. Pulled up in a heavy-ground point recently, so rain would be a concern.			95	Mr Derek O'Connor
	2	BAREL OF LAUGHS (IRE) (315) (CD) P4/213-1 12 12-0 76.2kg Philip Rowley Clearly goes well here, close third in this last season prior to going 2 places better over same C&D in May. Should be cherry-ripe following a couple of runs between the flags, winning last month.	s		94	Mr Alex Edwards
	3	BURNING AMBITION (IRE) (33) 12 7 12-0 76.2kg Pierce Michael Power, Ireland Multiple point winner who won maiden hunter at Limerick in decisive fashion. Much better form when second to Gilgamboa at Punchestown and he possesses untapped potential in this discipline.			95	Mr J. J. Codd
	4	CAID DU BERLAIS (FR) (365) (C) 81P45F8- 9 12-0 76.2kg Mrs Rose Loxton Useful hurdler/chaser who wasn't disgraced in the Pertemps Final at this meeting last year. Winner of each of his 3 starts between the flags for new yard and a player if seeing this trip out.	t		97	Mr William Biddick
	5	COUSIN PETE (38) (C, BF) 1-2 10 12-0 76.2kg Mrs Elizabeth Brown Won all 6 completed starts in points (including last month) and overcame mistakes when landing 14-runner hunter here in April 2016. Runner-up effort at Market Rasen needs improving on to contend.	t		88	Mr Nick Phillips
	6	FOXROCK (IRE) (54) 551111P-2 10 12-0 76.2kg Alan Fleming, Ireland Formerly a smart chaser and won 4 times on the bounce switched to hunters last season. Chased Gilgamboa home on return/debut for new yard at Thurles so has a big form shout.	b+t		100	Ms K. Walsh
	7	GRAND VISION (IRE) (43) 3120-121 12 12-0 76.2kg Colin Tizzard Won veterans handicap at Lingfield in December and better than ever when also landing handicap at Wincanton last time, suited by emphasis on stamina down in trip. Bold jumper and this test will suit.			99	Mr Barry O'Neill
	8	MINELLA FOR VALUE (IRE) (284) (BF) 63-22 12 12-0 76.2kg Declan Queally, Ireland Lightly raced under Rules in recent times (won a point recently), failing to justify favouritism in a brace of hunters last term. Sixth in this race last year and will do well to repeat that outcome.			92	Mr D. Queally
	9	ON THE FRINGE (IRE) (117) (CD) 11/124P5-P 13 12-0 76.2kg Enda Bolger, Ireland One of the best hunters around in recent years, bagging this prize in 2015 and 2016 before finishing fourth 12 months ago. Disappointing since, however, suggesting that his powers are on the wane.			94	Miss N. Carberry
	10	PACHA DU POLDER (FR) (23) (CD, BF) 6/334114-3 11 12-0 76.2kg Paul Nicholls Very smart in his prime and repelled strong-finishing stablemate Wonderful Charm to land this race in 2017. Ought to be spot on following reappearance at Doncaster and shouldn't be far away.			96	Miss Harriet Tucker


	11	PREMIER PORTRAIT (IRE) (28) (BF) 10U-1U 11 12-0 76.2kg Dr Charles Levinson Fit from a point win and ran right up to his best back under Rules when landing 10-runner hunter at Taunton (23f) in January, helped by strongly-run race. Hampered and unseated at Fakenham since.	v		85	Mr Gus Levinson
	12	SADDLERS ENCORE (IRE) (25) (BF) 51PP/3-2 9 12-0 76.2kg Miss Chloe Newman Built for fences and won on point debut, but failed to land the odds in an ordinary hunter at Lingfield last month. Right up against it.			79	Mr Joshua Newman
	13	SHANTOU MAGIC (IRE) (371) 5P04U/F5- 11 12-0 76.2kg Will Ramsay Fairly useful at his best for Charlie Longsdon around 3m. Added to tally between the flags last month but he's up against it on the balance of his form.			89	Mr Will Ramsay
	14	SHOTAVODKA (IRE) (27) (D) 503736-12 12 12-0 76.2kg Miss H. Brookshaw Smart handicap chaser at his best and added to good record fresh with victory in Hereford hunter under this pilot in January. Closely matched with Virak on recent Haydock class.			93	Mr Hugh Nugent
	15	SIR JACK YEATS (IRE) (29) 14P05311 7 12-0 76.2kg Richard Spencer Multiple winner over hurdles/fences last year and 2-3 switched to hunters in recent months. Improvement needed if he's to emerge on top here, but this 7-y-o may well have a part to play up in trip.	b		92	Mr James King
	16	TOP WOOD (FR) (372) F/05U7542- 11 12-0 76.2kg Miss Kelly Morgan Unreliable sort but a useful staying chaser on his day for David Pipe. Landed a couple of points in ready fashion for new handler this winter but a lot depends on the mood he's in.	v+t		93	Mr Samuel Davies-Thomas
	17	UNIONISTE (FR) (19) (C, D) 0/0009-211 10 12-0 76.2kg Paul Nicholls Useful chaser at his peak back in good form in hunters, completing a couple of simple tasks without alarm in recent weeks. Thorough stayer and forms part of a strong Nicholls team.			93	Mr David Maxwell
	18	VINCITORE (FR) (43) (D) 5P540-462 12 12-0 76.2kg Miss Sarah Rippon Isn't the force of old and is well out of his depth.	t		69	Miss Sarah Rippon
	19	VIRAK (FR) (27) 2/56456-11 9 12-0 76.2kg Paul Nicholls Proved disappointing last season but switch to hunter chases has proved just the tonic this time round, scoring at Ludlow and Haydock (seeing off Shotavodka). Any further rain would be in his favour.			93	Mr Lorcan Williams
	20	VOLNAY DE THAIX (FR) (250) (BF) 52/5P3-933 9 12-0 76.2kg Stuart Morris Smart hurdler/chaser for Nicky Henderson on his day. Largely below par last season but wide-margin winner of couple of points this year and it's not hard to envisage him taking a hand in the finish.	s		97	Mr Jack Andrews
	21	WARDEN HILL (IRE) (23) (D) 3/U20-31 10 12-0 76.2kg Mrs H. Connors Once-useful chaser for Mick Channon and runner-up on hunter debut at Fakenham a year ago. Well held in this a year ago, but a recent win at Doncaster at least confirms he's in good nick.	s		86	Mr Tom Chatfield-Roberts
	22	WELLS DE LUNE (FR) (26) 413165-21 7 12-0 76.2kg Mickey Bowen Won a brace of handicap chases for Charlie Longsdon at up to 19.4f in 2016/17. Free-going nature a huge concern over this trip, but he looked good at Ffos Las last month (20.9f).	h+t		93	Mr Peter Bryan

4.10

RACE 5

ST. JAMES'S PLACE FOXHUNTER CHALLENGE CUP OPEN HUNTERS' CHASE (2) 5yo+ £45,000 3¼m70y (5290 Metres)**GBI RACING**

BRITISH AND IRISH RACING

23 WONDERFUL CHARM (FR) (41) (D) s+t  **97**
P7/1120-31 10 12-0 | 76.2kg

Paul Nicholls

Mr Sam Waley-Cohen

Left with plenty to do when a strong-finishing second in this race 12 months ago. Warmed up for repeat bid with a smooth victory at Musselburgh and this 10-y-o has to be high on any shortlist.

24 YOUNG HURRICANE (IRE) (280) (D) **90**
3/02-11 12 12-0 | 76.2kg

G. C. Brewer

Mr John Dawson

Better than ever aged 11 in 2017, landing back-to-back staying hunters. Runner-up in a point last month and stamina his forte, but he does lack the class of a few.

24 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:**4-1** Burning Ambition, **7-1** Wonderful Charm, **9-1** Foxrock, **16-1** Caid Du Berlais, **18-1** Pacha Du Polder, **18-1** On The Fringe, **18-1** Virak, **22-1** Grand Vision, **22-1** Sir Jack Yeats, **25-1** Volnay De Thaix, **25-1** Balnaslow, **25-1** Unioniste, **25-1** Wells De Lune, **28-1** Barel of Laughs, **40-1** bar**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

WONDERFUL CHARM was probably an unlucky loser behind stablemate Pacha du Polder in this race 12 months ago, and compensation could well be forthcoming with a ready win at Musselburgh last month likely to have put him spot on for this. 7-y-o Burning Ambition is the up-and-comer in this division, while Foxrock is classy but his previous record at this track is slightly off-putting.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**1. WONDERFUL CHARM (FR) 2. BURNING AMBITION (IRE) 3. FOXROCK (IRE)****WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2017	Pacha du Polder	10-12-0	16-1	Paul Nicholls	Bryony Frost	23
2016	On The Fringe	11-12-0	13-8f	Enda Bolger	Miss N. Carberry	24
2015	On The Fringe	10-12-0	6-1	Enda Bolger	Miss N. Carberry	24
2014	Tammys Hill	9-12-0	15-2	Liam Lennon	Mr J. J. Smyth	24
2013	Salsify	8-12-0	2-1f	Rodger Sweeney	Mr C. J. Sweeney	23

4.50**MARTIN PIPE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP HURDLE**
(2) 4yo+ (Rated 0-145) £70,000 2½m56y (4070
Metres)

RACE 6











GBI RACING













BRITISH AND IRISH RACING

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

Left handed, undulating. Stiff fences that place a premium on sound jumping. The last half mile is uphill, although the lead changes hands on the run-in less frequently than expected. Horses who race prominently often fare well on the chase course, especially in shorter-distance races. 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.

Pace Information: **Very Strong**

1	BLOW BY BLOW (IRE) (22) (D)	b+t	94
	11/1-32161 7 11-10 74.4kg Gordon Elliott, Ireland Found Grade 1 company too hot at Naas in January, but firmly back on track when running away with a Thurles Grade 3 next time. Ground in his favour and remains open to improvement in this sphere.	<i>Donagh Meyler</i>	
2	SIRE DU BERLAIS (FR) (20)	t	100
	3130-2 6 11-10 74.4kg Gordon Elliott, Ireland Hurdles winner in France and shaped very well when runner-up on return at Fairyhouse last month. 9 lb higher here but he's still unexposed and yard saddled the winner of this last year. Tongue tied.	<i>D. J. McInerney</i>	
3	FLAXEN FLARE (IRE) (50) (C, D)	b	96
	1/3U-2320P 9 11-9 73.9kg Gordon Elliott, Ireland Well held this winter but has good form at the Festival, winning the Fred Winter as a 4-y-o and fifth in the County Hurdle the following season. Leap of faith required, though.	<i>Ciaran Gethings</i>	
4	DREAM BERRY (FR) (321)	t	96
	11/P61322- 7 11-9 73.9kg Jonjo O'Neill Went close in a couple ultra-competitive handicaps at the Aintree/Punchestown Festivals last season but not seen since. Still worthy of respect.	<i>Jonjo O'Neill (3lb/1kg)</i>	
5	EARLY DOORS (FR) (40)		94
	13-1129 5 11-8 73.5kg Joseph Patrick O'Brien, Ireland Struggled in the Deloitte at Leopardstown last time, but prior to that he landed a Naas Grade 3 and was runner-up in the Royal Bond at Fairyhouse. Merits respect.	<i>J. J. Slevin</i>	
6	NO HASSLE HOFF (IRE) (27)		98
	3224-1493 6 11-6 72.6kg Dan Skelton Looked one to follow after landing 23f Uttoxeter handicap on return but the bubble burst in a big way at Warwick. Ran as well as could be expected in Grade 2 at Haydock since.	<i>Fergus Gregory (3lb/1kg)</i>	
7	BRELAN D'AS (FR) (33) (D)	h+t	98
	141P/1-335 7 11-6 72.6kg Paul Nicholls Useful hurdler who failed to progress over fences after a promising comeback. Back over timber now and remains with potential in this sphere.	<i>Bryony Frost</i>	
8	TOMMY RAPPER (IRE) (27)	t	99
	238-72111 7 11-6 72.6kg Dan Skelton Maiden/novice winner who completed hat-trick in 23f Haydock handicap by neck. Idled in front and could still be fairly treated after 5 lb rise.	<i>Bridget Andrews</i>	
9	BRILLARE MOMENTO (IRE) (36) (CD)	s	96
	U11-21841 7 11-5 72.1kg Martin Keighley First start following a wind operation when landing a 7-runner Towcester handicap (19f, soft) from the front last month. 4 lb rise fair and he's 2-3 over hurdles here, so there's cause for optimism.	<i>Harry Stock (3lb/1kg)</i>	
10	COEUR DE LION (104)		99
	12217-50 5 11-5 72.1kg Alan King Won twice in juvenile company over hurdles and far from disgraced when seventh in the Triumph Hurdle. Improved performer on the level since though disappointed on latest hurdling start at Newbury.	<i>Kevin Dowling (5lb/2kg)</i>	


11	CARTER MCKAY (41)		97
	1106-133 7 11-4 71.7kg W. P. Mullins, Ireland Useful in bumpers though disappointed when favourite for the Champion Bumper last season. Has taken well to hurdles, good third in Grade 1 at Leopardstown latest. Type to be suited by well-run race.	<i>Jamie Bargary</i>	
12	DELIRE D'ESTRIVAL (FR) (30)		96
	3232-4131 5 11-4 71.7kg Ben Pauling Landed a listed novice hurdle at Haydock (15.6f) in November and resumed winning ways in Towcester novice. Opening mark requires further improvement.	<i>Richard Patrick</i>	
13	MR BIG SHOT (IRE) (345)		99
	1/11- 7 11-4 71.7kg David Pipe Maintained 100% record with a facile success over hurdles at Carlisle (17f) last spring. Clearly goes well fresh and this stiffer test may help unlock improvement now pitched into a handicap.	<i>Michael Heard</i>	
14	ARTHINGTON (41)		94
	33-112212 5 11-3 71.2kg Seamus Mullins Modest in bumpers but a totally different proposition over hurdles, winning first 2 starts and adding to tally again at Leicester in December. Good second next time but opening mark looks high enough.	<i>Daniel Sansom (3lb/1kg)</i>	
15	FLAWLESS ESCAPE (40) (D)		95
	1213 5 11-3 71.2kg Gordon Elliott, Ireland Confirmed hurdles debut promise when landing a 15-runner Leopardstown maiden in December. Good third in valuable 3m handicap there since and likely to make a bold bid for last year's winning yard.	<i>Jonathan Moore</i>	
16	DIESE DES BIEFFES (FR) (62) (BF)		98
	5-1125 5 11-3 71.2kg Nicky Henderson Stylish winner of a couple of novice events in November and good effort for one so inexperienced when fifth of 16 in the Lanzarote at Kempton (21f, soft) last time. Has to be high on the shortlist.	<i>James Bowen</i>	
17	LOUGH DERG SPIRIT (IRE) (34)		99
	141P-26 6 11-3 71.2kg Nicky Henderson Irish point winner who was successful on 2 of first 3 starts over hurdles last season. Solid effort when runner-up on return/handicap bow at Wincanton but remote sixth in Betfair Hurdle since.	<i>Ned Curtis</i>	
18	BURROWS SAINT (FR) (54) (D)	t	96
	62/2742-12 5 11-3 71.2kg W. P. Mullins, Ireland Ex-French who made winning start for new connections in 19-runner novice hurdle at Punchestown on return. Similar form when runner-up at Thurles next time and likely to have more to offer.	<i>Lizzie Kelly</i>	
19	AMOUR DE NUIT (IRE) (41)	h	98
	1-2121533 6 11-3 71.2kg Paul Nicholls Scored for a fourth time over timber when taking small-field listed event at Kempton in October. Solid efforts in defeat since and type to benefit from demands of big-field handicap.	<i>Stan Sheppard</i>	
20	MELROSE BOY (FR) (41) (C)		97
	6/323-1313 6 11-3 71.2kg Harry Fry Useful effort when landing Cheltenham novice in November. Completed simple task at Fontwell in January but latest third in a 23.5f handicap was another career best. Likely to give his running again.	<i>Kieron Edgar</i>	
21	DEAL D'ESTRIVAL (FR) (41)		97
	432-12 5 11-2 70.8kg W. P. Mullins, Ireland French import who landed a Tramore maiden hurdle on debut for Willie Mullins. Runner-up in valuable, big-field Leopardstown handicap subsequently and likely there's better to come from this 5-y-o.	<i>L. P. Gilligan (5lb/2kg)</i>	
22	POPPY KAY (34) (D)		97
	1P12-1310 8 11-2 70.8kg Philip Hobbs Won a couple of small-field events this season, including 19f Mares' listed event at Sandown, but found an ultra-competitive handicap at Newbury a bit of a shock to her system last time.	<i>Sean Houlihan</i>	


4.50

RACE 6


MARTIN PIPE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP HURDLE
(2) 4yo+ (Rated 0-145) £70,000 2½m56y (4070
Metres)**GBI RACING**


BRITISH AND IRISH RACING

23 DISCORAMA (FR) (19) 93
2-1237 5 11-2 | 70.8kg
 Paul Nolan, Ireland *Dylan Robinson*
Made a winning hurdling debut at Fairyhouse and excellent second at Limerick next time. Found Grade 2 too much at Naas 19 days ago work to do off this opening mark.

24 BRAVE EAGLE (IRE) (76) (D) 96
11-21 6 11-2 | 70.8kg
 Nicky Henderson *Alan Doyle (5lb/2kg)*
Won both starts over hurdles last term. Lost unbeaten record when second in 17f Exeter handicap on return but resumed winning ways in Newbury handicap, finding plenty. Remains unexposed.

RESERVES

25 ARTHUR'S GIFT (IRE) (27) (C, D) 97
42111444 7 11-1 | 70.3kg
 Nigel Twiston-Davies *Reserve*
Completed a quick-fire hat-trick at up to 3m at the end of last year. Creditable efforts in defeat since but will need to pull out more to defy this mark. RESERVE.

26 KILDISART (IRE) (27) (BF) 95
2-2125 6 11-1 | 70.3kg
 Ben Pauling *Reserve*
Jumped well when making second hurdles start a winning one in Ascot maiden in November. Found only a well-treated rival too good on handicap bow soon after but only fifth of 9 since. RESERVE.

24 DECLARED RUNNERS (2 RESERVES)

BETTING FORECAST:

10-1 Flawless Escape, **11-1** Diese Des Bieffes, **12-1** Sire Du Berlais, **12-1** Deal D'estruval, **18-1** Amour De Nuit, **18-1** Delire D'estruval, **20-1** Mr Big Shot, **20-1** Carter Mckay, **20-1** Blow By Blow, **22-1** Tommy Rapper, **22-1** Brave Eagle, **22-1** Early Doors, **25-1** Coeur De Lion, **25-1** Melrose Boy, **28-1** Lough Derg Spirit, **28-1** Brillare Momento, **33-1** No Hassle Hoff, **33-1** Dream Berry, **33-1** Burrows Saint, **33-1** Discorama, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

Willie Mullins tends to run some of his better horses in this race and DEAL D'ESTRIVAL could be the pick of his trio. He was unlucky to bump into one even better treated when second over 2m on his handicap debut at Leopardstown last time and remains capable of better, especially back up in trip. Sire du Berlais and Diese des Bieffes head a long list of potential dangers.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. DEAL D'ESTRIVAL (FR) 2. SIRE DU BERLAIS (FR) 3. DIESE DES BIEFFES (FR)

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2017	Champagne Classic 6-11-3	12-1	Gordon Elliott	J. J. Slevin	23
2016	Ibis du Rheu 5-11-7	14-1	Paul Nicholls	Jack Sherwood	24
2015	Killultagh Vic 6-11-1	7-1	W. P. Mullins	L. P. Dempsey	21
2014	Don Poli 5-11-8	12-1	W. P. Mullins	M. P. Fogarty (3)	24
2013	Salubrious 6-11-8	16-1	Paul Nicholls	Harry Derham (3)	23

5.30**JOHNNY HENDERSON GRAND ANNUAL CHALLENGE CUP
HANDICAP CHASE (Grade 3) (1) 5yo+ £110,000 2m62y
(3280 Metres)**

RACE 7












GBI RACING
















BRITISH AND IRISH RACING

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

Left handed, undulating. Stiff fences that place a premium on sound jumping. The last half mile is uphill, although the lead changes hands on the run-in less frequently than expected. Horses who race prominently often fare well on the chase course, especially in shorter-distance races. 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.

Pace Information: **Extreme**

1	GARDE LA VICTOIRE (FR) (129) (CD)		96
	F/12318-24 Philip Hobbs Smart hurdler/chaser at his peak, winner of the Arkle Trial here back in 2015. Runner-up on return over hurdles in France, but well held back in this sphere next time and he's on a stiff mark.		<i>Richard Johnson</i>
2	FOREST BIHAN (FR) (13) (D)	s	96
	152-1P341 Brian Ellison Smart chaser at his best and back to winning ways at Kelso (17f) in October. Didn't convince next 3 starts but latest Jumpers' bumper victory confirms he's in back in good heart.		<i>Danny Cook</i>
3	ROCK THE WORLD (IRE) (61) (CD)	t	98
	8014-2504 Mrs J. Harrington, Ireland Third in 2016 edition of this and emerged victorious in last year's renewal. However, has found life tougher since and, 6 lb higher this time round, he may prove vulnerable.		<i>Robbie Power</i>
4	GINO TRAIL (IRE) (41) (CD)	s	96
	216-31121 Kerry Lee Bold-jumping front runner who made it 3 wins from 5 starts this term when gamely holding off an unexposed rival at Sandown (15.5f) last month. This tougher from 4 lb higher.		<i>Jamie Moore</i>
5	VANITEUX (FR) (79) (D)	b	97
	814-75742 David Pipe Twice a winner over fences for Nicky Henderson last term. Best effort for new connections when chasing home Politologue in a Kempton Grade 2 in December and he's lurking on a dangerous mark.		<i>Tom Scudamore</i>
6	NORTH HILL HARVEY (34) (CD)	s	95
	4/100-1123 Dan Skelton Winner of first 2 starts over fences prior to finishing second in Sandown Grade 1 in December. Below par at Warwick since but very much of interest now pitched into a handicap in this sphere.		<i>Harry Skelton</i>
7	LE PREZIEN (FR) (90) (CD)	t	96
	1138P-238 Paul Nicholls Grade 2 winner here as a novice. Good placed efforts in strong handicaps here first 2 starts this term but his jumping has never been the most assured and mistakes cost him last time.		<i>Barry Geraghty</i>
8	DON'T TOUCH IT (IRE) (41) (D)	s	96
	1221-546U Mrs J. Harrington, Ireland Did well last term, a campaign which culminated on a high at Punchestown. Well held sole completed start this year but appears to have been targeted at this race by last year's winning yard.		<i>Mark Walsh</i>
9	TOP GAMBLE (IRE) (41) (D, BF)	s+t	98
	3346-P244 Kerry Lee Multiple Grade 2 winner perhaps not the force of old, again below his best when fourth behind stablemate Gino Trail at Sandown (15.5f) last time. Handicapper has relented at least.		<i>Davy Russell</i>
10	VALDEZ (34) (D)		96
	3 Alan King Smart novice in 2013/14. Travelled well for long way on return from lengthy layoff when last of 3 behind Altior and Politologue in Newbury Grade 2. Merits respect off a potentially lenient mark.		<i>Wayne Hutchinson</i>

11	DOLOS (FR) (41) (D)	t	97
	212-20132 Paul Nicholls Useful hurdler who has taken well to fences, successful on debut in this sphere at Ascot and clear of the rest when going down narrowly in Sandown handicap last month. Remains with potential.		<i>Harry Cobden</i>
12	SIZING PLATINUM (IRE) (139) (D)	t	96
	294F07-13 Colin Tizzard Ran poorly in this race 12 months ago but capitalised on drop in to calmer waters at Newton Abbot (2m) in October. Good third over C&D later that month but he may find this too tough again.		<i>Tom O'Brien</i>
13	EASTLAKE (IRE) (139) (CD)	s+t	94
	1/PP1P0P-0 Jonjo O'Neill Very hard to predict nowadays though did shape encouragingly under a sympathetic ride when well held on return at Cheltenham in October. Has had a wind operating since latest outing.		<i>Jonjo O'Neill (71b/3kg)</i>
14	SOME PLAN (IRE) (41) (D)	t	95
	1166-483F Henry de Bromhead, Ireland Last year's Irish Arkle winner who only really has one effort of note subsequently, third in a 2m handicap at Fairyhouse in December. Seemingly coming under pressure when falling last time.		<i>Noel Fehily</i>
15	THREE STARS (IRE) (41) (D)	s	95
	5P5-35502 Henry de Bromhead, Ireland Perked up by application of cheekpieces when second in big-field handicap at Leopardstown (17f). Not without claims with a repeat for all he's 7 lb higher now.		<i>J. J. Slevin (31b/1kg)</i>
16	TOWNSHEND (GER) (41) (D)	t	96
	1F-1145U7 W. P. Mullins, Ireland Useful hurdler who landed 3 maiden/novice chases at 2m during 2017. Largely underwhelming efforts more recently, but latest Leopardstown seventh may have instilled some confidence.		<i>P. Townend</i>
17	DRESDEN (IRE) (24) (D)		95
	264-63711 Henry Oliver Let down by jumping over Grand National fences in December but more like it in landing back-to-back 2m handicaps. However, mark in 140's may leave him vulnerable in this much stronger contest.		<i>James Davies</i>
18	FOXTAIL HILL (IRE) (48) (CD)		96
	1F92-1868 Nigel Twiston-Davies Won Grade 3 handicap here (20.7f) last January and resumed winning ways under a superb ride back at this venue in October. Well below par since but will be a danger to all if able to bounce back.		<i>Jamie Bargaray (31b/1kg)</i>
19	BOUVREUIL (FR) (104)	t	99
	24/5630-76 Paul Nicholls Smart chaser who has performed with great credit at this meeting for the last 3 years, third of 24 in the Plate off a 3 lb higher mark 12 months ago. Claims if coping with the drop back in trip.		<i>Sam Twiston-Davies</i>
20	THE GAME CHANGER (IRE) (61) (D)	t	86
	0211P447 Gordon Elliott, Ireland Ended long losing run at Ballinrobe (17f) in August and followed up over hurdles at Listowel a month later. Went off the boil thereafter though, and others rate stronger.		<i>J. W. Kennedy</i>
21	THEINVAL (FR) (74) (D)	s	100
	2227-4F36 Nicky Henderson Not at his best so far this season, but generally consistent and dangerous to discount given that he was beaten just 2 lengths off the same mark in this race 12 months ago. Best away from the mud.		<i>Jeremiah McGrath</i>
22	BORN SURVIVOR (IRE) (83)	s	95
	43F60-133 Dan Skelton Useful hurdler who made an impressive start over fences at Wetherby (15f) on return. Good third at Haydock next time but not for the first time finished weakly at that venue in December.		<i>Bridget Andrews (31b/1kg)</i>

5.30

RACE 7

**JOHNNY HENDERSON GRAND ANNUAL CHALLENGE CUP
HANDICAP CHASE (Grade 3) (1) 5yo+ £110,000 2m62y
(3280 Metres)****GBI RACING**

BRITISH AND IRISH RACING

23 BRIGHT NEW DAWN (IRE) (20) (D) 95

3437F-6RF 11 10-11 | 68.5kg



Venetia Williams

Alain Cawley

Largely consistent last season. Not disgraced at Cheltenham on return in November, but refused to race at Leicester 2 starts back and fell early at Chepstow last time. Best overlooked.

24 DOITFORTHEVILLAGE (IRE) (22) (CD, BF) t 96

2F1-9614Z 9 10-11 | 68.5kg



Paul Henderson

Paddy Brennan

Scored off 4 lb lower mark over C&D in November. Unable to cash in off lower hurdles mark subsequently (albeit not disgraced) and he's no forlorn hope for each-way purposes back over fences.

RESERVES**25 BUN DORAN (IRE) (62) (D, BF) 97**

3/31P63-23 7 10-11 | 68.5kg



Tom George

Reserve

Some strong form to his name as a novice, and shaped well both starts earlier this season, a late error impacting his chances at Wetherby (15f) in January. Reserve 1.

26 VOSNE ROMANEE (11) (D) s+t 96

P1123145 7 10-10 | 68.0kg



Dr Richard Newland

Reserve

Multiple winner over hurdles/fences, taking 7-runner handicap chase at Worcester (2m) in September. Shaped ok over hurdles/Jumpers' bumper last time but this will require more. Reserve 2.

24 DECLARED RUNNERS (2 RESERVES)

BETTING FORECAST:**11-1** Don't Touch It, **12-1** North Hill Harvey, **14-1** Theinval, **14-1** Vaniteux, **16-1** Rock The World, **18-1** Dolos, **18-1** Gino Trail, **20-1** Bouvreuil, **20-1** Top Gamble, **20-1** Le Prezien, **20-1** Forest Bihan, **22-1** Valdez, **22-1** Foxtail Hill, **25-1** Some Plan, **25-1** Three Stars, **25-1** Born Survivor, **28-1** Garde La Victoire, **28-1** Townshend, **33-1** Sizing Platinum, **33-1** Eastlake, **40-1** bar**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

A leap of faith is required in supporting VANITEUX, but there were signs a revival could be close to hand when second in the Desert Orchid at Kempton in December. The handicapper has given him a chance and he could be worth chancing. Jumpers' bumper scorer Forest Bihan arrives on his last winning mark, with Bouvreuil, Don't Touch It and last year's winner Rock The World completing the shortlist.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**1. VANITEUX (FR) 2. FOREST BIHAN (FR) 3. BOUVREUIL (FR)****WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2017	Rock The World 9-11-5	10-1	Mrs J. Harrington	Robbie Power	24
2016	Solar Impulse 6-11-0	28-1	Paul Nicholls	Sam Twiston-Davies	24
2015	Next Sensation 8-11-2	16-1	Michael Scudamore	Tom Scudamore	20
2014	Savello 8-11-5	16-1	A. J. Martin	Davy Russell	23
2013	Alderwood 9-10-11	3-1f	Thomas Mullins	A. P. McCoy	23