

Friday 3rd January

12.27 LIVESCORE BET CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP CHASE (Qualifier) (5) 2m7f138y (4750 Metres)

RACE 1 **(2) NIGHTS IN VENICE | (4) TOROSAY | (5) GIPSY LEE ROSE**

12.57 LIVESCORE BET BEST ODDS DAILY MAIDEN HURDLE (4) 2m7f180y (4790 Metres)

RACE 2 **(4) MALICASH | (2) FLAWLESS CLARITY | (1) CLEARISTHEWATER**

1.27 LIVESCORE BET NOVICES' LIMITED HANDICAP CHASE (3) 2m7f138y (4750 Metres)

RACE 3 **(1) INOX ALLEN | (2) ROGER POL | (4) LEADING FORCE**

1.57 VIRGIN BET DAILY EXTRA PLACES HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier) (4) 2m3f171y (3980 Metres)

RACE 4 **(7) SUMMERGROUNDS | (3) KLITSCHKO | (1) PARK ANNONCIADE**

2.27 VIRGIN BET DAILY PRICE BOOSTS HANDICAP HURDLE (5) 1m7f124y (3130 Metres)

RACE 5 **(5) GAME MANAGEMENT | (2) BASHFUL | (4) HEART ABOVE**

2.57 VIRGIN BET EVERY SATURDAY MONEY BACK HANDICAP CHASE (Qualifier) (4) 1m7f182y (3180 Metres)

RACE 6 **(6) CHASE A FORTUNE | (5) THISTLE ASK | (2) MINT GOLD**

3.27 VIRGIN BET OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT (Qualifier) (4) 1m7f124y (3130 Metres)

RACE 7 **(7) CABALLO DE GUERRA | (1) BEYOND THE VERGE | (4) SOLDIER IN MAYO**

KEY TO SYMBOLS

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

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

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

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

12.27

LIVESCORE BET CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP CHASE (Qualifier) (5) 5yo+ (Rated 0-100) £7,000 2m7f138y (4750 Metres)

RACE 1



Going: **Soft (Good to Soft in places)**

A right-handed oval track a little over a mile and a quarter in extent, almost flat with sharp bends, favouring handy types as opposed to gallopers, especially as it's a quick-draining course that tends to produce less testing ground than most tracks in midwinter. A polytrack strip was installed on the bend running away from the stands towards the end of 2012 in order to protect ground which tended to get worn and bare due to overuse. The two-mile start is on a spur on the last bend. There are eight fences (four in each straight) to a circuit and, whilst not stiff, they do claim more casualties than might be expected, a lot of the handicaps catering for low-graders.

Pace Information: **N/A**

1 WHOSMYDADDY (IRE) (19) (CD) s 97

80611-5P3 7 12-0 | 76.2kg



Stuart Coltherd

Alan Doyle

No significant impact in maiden/novice hurdles but proved a different proposition sent handicap chasing in headgear when winning over 3m at Musselburgh and Ayr. Below par since but seemed stretched by the longer trip at Carlisle on yard debut 3 weeks ago.

2 NIGHTS IN VENICE (27) ★ 100

2/764143-P 9 11-12 | 75.3kg



Donald Whillans

Murray Dodd (51b/2kg)

Fair handicap hurdler who built on an encouraging chase bow when getting off the mark in a 6-runner handicap at Ayr (20.5f, heavy) in February. Almost certainly needed the run after 8 months off at Wetherby last month and better expected now.

3 GOODTIMES BADTIMES (IRE) (75) (C, D) s 95

2/9-4332 10 11-10 | 74.4kg



Sandy Thomson

Lewis Dobb (61b/3kg)

Modest winner at 3m over hurdles and similar form over fences last 4 starts, good second at Sedgfield latest, albeit not looking straightforward off the bridle. Remains easy to oppose from a win perspective.

4 TOROSAY (IRE) (33) 99

3/0P3221-6 7 11-9 | 73.9kg



Lucinda Russell

Conner McCann (81b/4kg)

Showed ability over hurdles and really got the hang of things over fences during the spring, running out an emphatic winner at first crack at 3m at Hexham in April. Shaped as if needing the run on comeback at Carlisle and remains unexposed at this sort of trip.

5 GIPSY LEE ROSE (FR) (19) s+t 95

31561-P12 11 11-8 | 73.5kg



N. W. Alexander

Bruce Lynn (31b/1kg)

Hit the target twice last season, taking a small-field 2½m Newcastle handicap in March. All the better for return when winning at Carlisle last month and backing that up with good second there 3 weeks ago. Should go well again.

6 WEARELONGTERM (IRE) (25) s 88

4635/44-P7 8 11-4 | 71.7kg



Dianne Sayer

Patrick Wadge

Winning pointer who showed ability on chase bow and over hurdles after. Given a considerate return after 18 months off on just his second outing over fences at Carlisle and possibly still needed the run over C&D last month.

7 EVEQUE (FR) (28) 98

P3U2150-7 11 10-9 | 67.6kg



Jane Walton

Peter Kavanagh

Just failed in this last year before finally off the mark at Sedgfield (27f, heavy). Below par next 3 starts, including on return, but not dismissed back at this venue.

8 UNCLE MAC (IRE) (35) h+t 96

7/34-65P05 7 10-5 | 65.8kg



Paul Robson

Non Runner

NON RUNNER.

9 ONENIGHTINTOWN (IRE) (29) s+t 90

312P-P45P 11 10-3 | 64.9kg



Micky Hammond

Alice Stevens

Unreliable sort who has yet to fire this term and easy to oppose.

9 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

7-2 Gipsy Lee Rose, **5-1** Torosay, **11-2** Goodtimes Badtimes, **6-1** Whosmydaddy, **7-1** Nights In Venice, **10-1** Eveque, **11-1** Wearelongterm, **22-1** Onenightintown

TIMEFORM VIEW:

NIGHTS IN VENICE is back on a winning mark and should strip fitter for his comeback run, so could be the answer. Torosay is another who's expected to come on for his reappearance and is next best ahead of the in-form Gipsy Lee Rose.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. NIGHTS IN VENICE 2. TOROSAY 3. GIPSY LEE ROSE

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2024 **So They Say** 8-11-10 2-1f Lucinda Russell Patrick Wadge (3) 7

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

12.57**LIVESCORE BET BEST ODDS DAILY MAIDEN HURDLE (4) 5yo+
£7,000 2m7f180y (4790 Metres)**

RACE 2

Going: **Soft (Good to Soft in places)**

A right-handed oval track a little over a mile and a quarter in extent, almost flat with sharp bends, favouring handy types as opposed to gallopers, especially as it's a quick-draining course that tends to produce less testing ground than most tracks in midwinter. A polytrack strip was installed on the bend running away from the stands towards the end of 2012 in order to protect ground which tended to get worn and bare due to overuse. The two-mile start is on a spur on the last bend. There are eight fences (four in each straight) to a circuit and, whilst not stiff, they do claim more casualties than might be expected, a lot of the handicaps catering for low-graders.

Pace Information: **N/A**

1 CLEARISTHEWATER (IRE) (18) 85
6492 6 11-2 | 70.8kg



Archie Watson

Miss Brodie Hampson (3lb/1kg)

Winning Irish pointer. No great shakes in bumpers but showed an aptitude for hurdling when second in 12-runner novice hurdle at Plumpton (15.8f) last month. Upped markedly in trip.

2 FLAWLESS CLARITY (IRE) 85
6 11-2 | 70.8kg



D. J. Jeffreys

Kielan Woods

£30,000 5-y-o, Diamond Boy gelding. Dam, unraced, closely related to useful hurdler/chaser (stayed 3m) Drumacoo. Runner-up completed start in Irish points in April and needs a market check now switching to Rules.

3 HIGH DANCER (27) 89
34 5 11-2 | 70.8kg



James Ewart

Ryan Mania

Off the mark in Irish points at third attempt in May and sound start to hurdles career when third of 10 at Kelso in October. Not in same form at Wetherby subsequently but it remains early days. Upped markedly in trip.

4 MALICASH (IRE) (35) 100
3628-254 6 11-2 | 70.8kg t



Donald McCain

Brian Hughes

Fair form in bumpers for Ewan Whillans and made a positive start over hurdles for new connections when second of 10 at Carlisle (17f, soft) in October. Below that level both starts since but still sets a clear standard. Tongue strap on for 1st time.

5 REFLECTION OF YOU (26) (C) 80
10-63 6 10-9 | 67.6kg



Lucinda Russell

Derek Fox

Won sole start in Irish points (Oct 2023) and followed up in 6-runner bumper here first time out under Rules in April. Hasn't come close to that form in 2 starts over hurdles, though.

5 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

evens Malicash, **11-2** High Dancer, **6-1** Clearisthewater, **13-2** Flawless Clarity, **9-1** Reflection of You

TIMEFORM VIEW:

MALICASH sets a clear standard on his hurdling debut form and should prove hard to beat if returning to anywhere near that level in a first-time tongue strap. Flawless Clarity finished runner-up on his completed start in Irish points and could be the one to give the selection most to think about.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. MALICASH 2. FLAWLESS CLARITY 3. CLEARISTHEWATER

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2024	Chosen Templar	6-11-2	11-4	D. J. Jeffreys	Jonathan Burke	6
2023	Community Rebel	7-11-2	17-2	James Ewart	Edward Austin (5)	7

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

1.27**LIVESCORE BET NOVICES' LIMITED HANDICAP CHASE (3)
5yo+ (Rated 0-130) £12,000 2m7f138y (4750 Metres)**

RACE 3

Going: **Soft (Good to Soft in places)**

A right-handed oval track a little over a mile and a quarter in extent, almost flat with sharp bends, favouring handy types as opposed to gallopers, especially as it's a quick-draining course that tends to produce less testing ground than most tracks in midwinter. A polytrack strip was installed on the bend running away from the stands towards the end of 2012 in order to protect ground which tended to get worn and bare due to overuse. The two-mile start is on a spur on the last bend. There are eight fences (four in each straight) to a circuit and, whilst not stiff, they do claim more casualties than might be expected, a lot of the handicaps catering for low-graders.

Pace Information: **N/A**

1 INOX ALLEN (FR) (40) t **98**
1134-3 7 11-10 | 74.4kg



Lucinda Russell

Derek Fox

Scored twice in a light campaign over hurdles last term. Off 8 months and resumed with a promising third of 5 in handicap chase at Uttoxeter (24f, heavy) on his debut over fences 40 days ago, closing up late. Can take a sizeable step forward now. Interesting.

2 ROGER POL (IRE) (34) **98**
2122P0-13 7 11-8 | 73.5kg



Jamie Snowden

Gavin Sheehan

Went in at the first attempt over fences at Southwell in October and backed it up with a good staying-on third of 5 in handicap chase at Doncaster (19.1f, good) 34 days ago. Merits serious consideration back up in trip.

3 AUTUMN RETURN (IRE) (20) (C) **97**
1238-151P 8 11-6 | 72.6kg



Ruth Jefferson

Brian Hughes

Likeable hurdler who gained a second success in this sphere in a match at Newcastle (2m4f) in November. Pulled up in handicap chase at Cheltenham (20.6f, good to soft) 20 days ago but she's the sort to bounce back.

4 LEADING FORCE (IRE) (25) s+t **100**
326-12974 8 10-8 | 67.1kg



Sandy Thomson

Ryan Mania

Off 4 months/had wind up before a creditable fourth of 6 in handicap chase here (20.3f, good to soft) 25 days ago. This fair 2m5f chase scorer is a likely player eased 2 lb with that run under his belt.

5 CARDAMON HILL (IRE) (25) (CD) s **99**
27634113 8 10-5 | 65.8kg



Dianne Sayer

Henry Brooke

C&D winner in November and comes here on the back of a solid third of 6 in handicap chase here (20.3f, good to soft) 25 days ago. Enters calculations off an unchanged mark.

5 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

7-4 Inox Allen, **3-1** Roger Pol, **7-2** Cardamon Hill, **7-1** Leading Force, **14-1** Autumn Return

TIMEFORM VIEW:

Lucinda Russell's INOX ALLEN caught the eye on his chasing bow when a patiently-ridden third at Uttoxeter so looks the way to go here. Roger Pol has made a good start to life over fences too and rates a big danger though, with Leading Force also weighted to have a say in an interesting contest.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. INOX ALLEN 2. ROGER POL 3. LEADING FORCE

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

1.57

RACE 4

**VIRGIN BET DAILY EXTRA PLACES HANDICAP HURDLE
(Qualifier) (4) 4yo+ (Rated 0-115) £8,000 2m3f171y
(3980 Metres)**
GBI RACING

 Going: **Soft (Good to Soft in places)**

A right-handed oval track a little over a mile and a quarter in extent, almost flat with sharp bends, favouring handy types as opposed to gallopers, especially as it's a quick-draining course that tends to produce less testing ground than most tracks in midwinter. A polytrack strip was installed on the bend running away from the stands towards the end of 2012 in order to protect ground which tended to get worn and bare due to overuse. The two-mile start is on a spur on the last bend. There are eight fences (four in each straight) to a circuit and, whilst not stiff, they do claim more casualties than might be expected, a lot of the handicaps catering for low-graders.

 Pace Information: **N/A**
1 **PARK ANNONCIADE (FR) (20)** t  **100**
 1465-PF7F 7 12-0 | 76.2kg


Stuart Crawford, Ireland

J. J. Slevin

Fairly useful hurdler who was in the process of running well (in second at the time) when falling 3 out in handicap chase at Doncaster (19f) 3 weeks ago. Player back in this sphere. Engaged 1.10 Ayr Thursday.

2 **BRINGBACKMEMORIES (FR) (2) (C)** t **98**
 31620/69P 6 11-13 | 75.7kg


Iain Jardine

Brian Hughes

Scored 4 times on the Flat in 2024 but ridden with more restraint back hurdling and could never land a blow at Carlisle in November. Hasn't built on that promise in 2 subsequent outings, however, again held up at Musselburgh on Wednesday.

3 **KLITSCHKO (6)** h+t **98**
 21/3275-54 7 11-13 | 75.7kg


Lucinda Hughes

Jamie Hamilton

Not straightforward but ran much better than for a while in a first-time tongue strap when fourth of 7 in handicap hurdle at Catterick (19.3f, good) last week, left poorly placed. Can't be dismissed.

4 **RORY THE CAT (IRE) (27) (C)** b+t **98**
 61165-6 5 11-9 | 73.9kg


Lucinda Russell

Derek Fox

Dual winner of juvenile hurdles here last winter and added to his tally on the Flat returned to this venue in August. However, ran below form back in this sphere at Wetherby last month and improvement needed now stepping up in trip.

5 **KILBRAINY (IRE) (51) (D)** t **96**
 416-80014 9 11-7 | 73.0kg


Sandy Thomson

Ryan Mania

Capitalised on a falling mark at Carlisle in October and ran at least as well in defeat when fourth at Ayr (20.4f, good to soft) the following month.

6 **HOSTILE HOTELIER (IRE) (15)** t **99**
 21P-33434 7 11-7 | 73.0kg


Jennie Candlish

Sean Quinlan

Ran only respectably in a first-time visor when fourth of 7 in handicap hurdle (10/3) at Ffos Las (20f, heavy) 15 days ago, looking short of speed.

7 **SUMMERGROUNDS (51)** **97**
 445-13232 9 10-9 | 67.6kg

 Nicky Richards 
Danny McMenamin

Winner at Market Rasen in May and has held his form well since, finishing runner-up at Ayr (19.5f) on most recent outing. Likely to give another good account.

7 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:
3-1 Summergrounds, **9-2** Hostile Hotelier, **5-1** Park Annonciade, **6-1** Klitschko, **13-2** Kilbrainy, **9-1** Bringbackmemories, **16-1** Rory The Cat

TIMEFORM VIEW:

SUMMERGROUNDS has held his form well this season and is taken to notch a second career win. Klitschko and Park Annonciade are feared most.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:
1. SUMMERGROUNDS 2. KLITSCHKO 3. PARK ANNONCIADE
WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

 2024 **Duyfken** 5-11-2 11-4 N. W. Alexander Danny McMenamin 8

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

2.27

**VIRGIN BET DAILY PRICE BOOSTS HANDICAP HURDLE (5)
4yo+ (Rated 0-100) £7,000 1m7f124y (3130 Metres)**

RACE 5



Going: **Soft (Good to Soft in places)**

A right-handed oval track a little over a mile and a quarter in extent, almost flat with sharp bends, favouring handy types as opposed to gallopers, especially as it's a quick-draining course that tends to produce less testing ground than most tracks in midwinter. A polytrack strip was installed on the bend running away from the stands towards the end of 2012 in order to protect ground which tended to get worn and bare due to overuse. The two-mile start is on a spur on the last bend. There are eight fences (four in each straight) to a circuit and, whilst not stiff, they do claim more casualties than might be expected, a lot of the handicaps catering for low-graders.

Pace Information: **N/A**

1 SEA LEGEND (FR) (35) s+t **98**
42 5 12-0 | 76.2kg

Donald McCain *Brian Hughes*
Fairly useful handicapper on Flat (stays 1¼m) and showed an aptitude for hurdling when fourth on debut in this sphere Sedgefield in October. Understandably put in his place by Wise Owl (winner again since) following a wind op over C&D next time and cheekpieces enlisted for this handicap bow.

2 BASHFUL (13) (CD) s+t **100**
34/411-855 7 11-13 | 75.7kg

Iain Jardine *Conor O'Farrell*
Winner of back-to-back C&D handicaps last February (the latest off 1 lb lower). Subsequently struggled on the Flat and little impact in 3 starts since returned to this sphere in October but he's dangerous to discount having slipped back down the weights and given that he's 2-2 over this C&D.

3 TRAILBLAZER (59) **95**
23-177408 6 11-10 | 74.4kg

Adam Nicol *Jamie Hamilton*
Gained breakthrough success from 4 lb higher mark at Perth in July but hasn't been able to reproduce that level of form in 5 subsequent appearances.

4 HEART ABOVE (36) (CD) **98**
83723121 7 11-7 | 73.0kg

Dianne Sayer *Henry Brooke*
Opened hurdles account in a 12-runner handicap at Perth (2m, soft) in September before a solid second at Kelso. Added to his tally over this C&D at the end of November and while a shade more is needed up 5 lb, he looks a big player in current form.

5 GAME MANAGEMENT (17) (D) **98**
13 4 11-1 | 70.3kg

Lizzie Quinlan *Sean Quinlan*
Flat winner for Kevin Ryan who made a successful start over hurdles for new yard when seeing off 6 rivals at Catterick in November. Didn't do much wrong when third under a penalty over the same C&D since (the runner-up won next time) and he may have more to offer on handicap debut in this sphere.

6 SKIDDAW (IRE) (36) t **99**
0/57PF-45 7 11-0 | 69.9kg

N. W. Alexander *Bruce Lynn*
Signs of ability in maiden hurdles last term and bettered previous handicap efforts when fifth in the 10-runner C&D contest won by Heart Above. Finished 8 lengths behind that rival and now 7 lb better off, so entitled to close the gap, but others preferred for win purposes all the same.

7 LA QUARITE (FR) (20) **97**
5526-8666 5 10-13 | 69.4kg

Chris Grant *Danny McMenamin*
Much-improved in the first-time hood when a neck second to Bashful over C&D last February. Has failed to reproduce that level of since, though, and probably worth taking on, for all that he has edged down to an attractive mark.

8 BREADALBANE LASS (23) **95**
6P-55 5 10-11 | 68.5kg

R. Mike Smith *Ben Smith (7lb/3kg)*
Telescope filly who showed ability when sixth in a Newcastle bumper in December but no impact as yet over hurdles. Entirely possible that she'll be seen in a better light now handicapping and worth a peek in the betting.

9 MILAJESS (IRE) (8) v+t **95**
347-92745 8 10-8 | 67.1kg

Micky Hammond *Joshua Thompson (7lb/3kg)*
Boasts some pretty decent pieces of form, not least when finding just one too strong at Uttoxeter (15.7f, good) in June, but it's hard to ignore the fact that her record stands at 0-20 over hurdles.

10 DON'T LOOK BACK (36) **97**
6085UP86 7 10-2(10-0) | 64.4kg (63.5kg)

William Young Jnr *Derek Fox*
Winner of just one of his 13 starts on the Flat and took hurdles record to 0-19 when sixth of 19 to Heart Above over C&D last time. Looks vulnerable once more.

11 INOUE (IRE) (38) t **74**
06UP668 5 10-2(9-8) | 64.4kg (60.8kg)
 Paul Robson *NON RUNNER.* **Non Runner**

11 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

11-4 Heart Above, **4-1** Game Management, **11-2** Sea Legend, **8-1** Bashful, **12-1** La Quarite, **14-1** Skiddaw, **18-1** Trailblazer, **22-1** Milajess, **25-1** Breadalbane Lass, **28-1** Don't Look Back

TIMEFORM VIEW:

The one who appeals most is GAME MANAGEMENT, who followed his winning hurdles debut at Catterick with an arguably even better effort under a penalty at the same course next time. The 4-y-o makes his handicap debut in this sphere off what looks a workable mark. Bashful may well return to form back at this venue and, if so, he will be a threat off a mark just 1 lb higher than for the second of his two C&D wins last winter. The in-form Heart Above and Sea Legend are others to consider.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. GAME MANAGEMENT 2. BASHFUL 3. HEART ABOVE

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2024 **Sunday Soldier** 6-11-9 11-8f David Killahena & Graeme McPherson Richie McLernon 13

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

2.57

RACE 6

VIRGIN BET EVERY SATURDAY MONEY BACK HANDICAP CHASE (Qualifier) (4) 5yo+ (Rated 0-120) £10,000 1m7f182y (3180 Metres)Going: **Soft (Good to Soft in places)**

A right-handed oval track a little over a mile and a quarter in extent, almost flat with sharp bends, favouring handy types as opposed to gallopers, especially as it's a quick-draining course that tends to produce less testing ground than most tracks in midwinter. A polytrack strip was installed on the bend running away from the stands towards the end of 2012 in order to protect ground which tended to get worn and bare due to overuse. The two-mile start is on a spur on the last bend. There are eight fences (four in each straight) to a circuit and, whilst not stiff, they do claim more casualties than might be expected, a lot of the handicaps catering for low-graders.

Pace Information: **N/A**

1 GUA DU LARGE (FR) (26) (D) h+t **85**
2/5F1-844P 9 12-2 | 77.1kg



R. Mike Smith

Ben Smith (71b/3kg)

Useful at his best in Ireland for Henry de Bromhead but form has gone the wrong way this season, making second start for current yard when pulled up at Kelso on his latest outing. Dropped in grade but has enough to prove at present.

2 MINT GOLD (IRE) (28) (CD) t **95**
1F22-34 11 11-13 | 75.7kg



Lucinda Russell

Derek Fox

Made light of a lengthy absence when successful over C&D back in November 2023. Ran well on this season's reappearance, before respectable fourth of 5 at Sandown 28 days ago. Merits consideration returned to this venue.

3 CHAPEL GREEN (IRE) (35) (CD) s **94**
F34-51581 8 11-9 | 73.9kg



Lucinda Russell

Alan Doyle (51b/2kg)

Back down in grade and ridden by Alan Doyle, doubled his tally for the season when scoring at this C&D (good to soft) in November. However, his form hasn't been the most consistent, so task is now to build on his latest effort.

4 LIVELY CITIZEN (IRE) (21) (D) **93**
F27146-P9 10 11-6 | 72.6kg



D. J. Jeffreys

Kielan Woods

Confirmed previous promise when winning his first race over hurdles for 2 years at Ffos Las in March last season. Below form both starts during the current campaign, so others more persuasive despite his lower mark back over fences.

5 THISTLE ASK (IRE) (67) (D) h+t **100**
4271/2 8 11-2 | 70.8kg



James Ewart

Brian Hughes

Improved form when winning maiden hurdle at Ayr in March 2023. After 20-month absence (had wind op), shaped as if retaining plenty of ability when runner-up back at Ayr on chasing debut in October. Enters calculations.

6 CHASE A FORTUNE (55) (D) s **98**
3135-3F24 7 11-1 | 70.3kg



Chris Grant

Danny McMenamin

Made a winning chase debut at Catterick in February last year and back on track after 4 months off when runner-up at Sedgefield in October. Not in the same form when fourth of 6 at Kelso last time, but he could make a bold bid with cheekpieces added.

7 CAPTAIN IVAN (IRE) (20) (D) t **92**
413/114-75 11 11-0 | 69.9kg



Ewan Whillans

Craig Nichol

Won back-to-back handicap chases in June 2023 when trained by L J Morgan, but after 16 months off he hasn't offered much in 2 starts for current trainer this season, well-beaten fifth of 9 at Doncaster 20 days ago.

8 FOSTERED PHIL (IRE) (597) (D) **96**
234/2- 11 10-12 | 68.9kg



James Ewart

Ryan Mania

Returned from a long absence to reach the frame in a trio of handicap hurdles in 2022/23. Continued in good heart when runner-up at Perth on chasing debut in May 2023 and he's not ruled out given his good record fresh (has had another breathing operation).

8 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

3-1 Chapel Green, **4-1** Thistle Ask, **5-1** Chase A Fortune, **11-2** Mint Gold, **6-1** Fostered Phil, **11-1** Lively Citizen, **22-1** Gua Du Large, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

Having made most on his chasing debut last season, CHASE A FORTUNE produced a good effort when runner-up at Sedgefield in October and he is taken to bounce back from a lesser run last time with cheekpieces applied. He can see off the challenge of Thistle Ask, who made an encouraging seasonal/chase debut, while Mint Gold could also go well back at this C&D.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**1. CHASE A FORTUNE 2. THISTLE ASK 3. MINT GOLD****WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2024	Hold Onto The Line	7-11-11	11-4f	James Ewart	Ryan Mania	7
2023	Arthur's Quay	9-12-4	11-8f	Ben Haslam	Richie McLernon	6

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

3.27**VIRGIN BET OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT (Qualifier) (4) 4, 5 and 6yo £5,000 1m7f124y (3130 Metres)**

RACE 7

GBI RACINGGoing: **Soft (Good to Soft in places)**

A right-handed oval track a little over a mile and a quarter in extent, almost flat with sharp bends, favouring handy types as opposed to gallopers, especially as it's a quick-draining course that tends to produce less testing ground than most tracks in midwinter. A polytrack strip was installed on the bend running away from the stands towards the end of 2012 in order to protect ground which tended to get worn and bare due to overuse. The two-mile start is on a spur on the last bend. There are eight fences (four in each straight) to a circuit and, whilst not stiff, they do claim more casualties than might be expected, a lot of the handicaps catering for low-graders.

Pace Information: **N/A**

1 BEYOND THE VERGE (55) 92
12 6 11-9 | 73.9kg



Susan Corbett

Nathan Mascrop

Has an ordinary pedigree but belied odds of 18/1 and looked potentially above average when scoring at Kelso first time out in September. Acquitted himself well under a penalty when runner-up back there just under 8 weeks ago and he should be in the shake up again.

2 GALLUS NORMAN h 82
6 11-2 | 70.8kg



Jim Goldie

Henry Brooke

Telescope gelding. Dam (h137) 2m-2½m hurdle winner (stayed 3m), also 5f-1¾m winner who stayed 2¼m on Flat. Hooded on debut.

3 NOBLE GEORGE (IRE) (28) 89
2 5 11-2 | 70.8kg



Jennie Candlish

Sean Quinlan

Order of St George gelding who offered something to work on when second of 6 in bumper at Sedgefield (16.8f, soft) on debut 4 weeks ago, shaping as if more of a test will suit. That was a weak race, so he will need to improve to go one better.

4 SOLDIER IN MAYO (IRE) 88
5 11-2 | 70.8kg



Donald McCain

Brian Hughes

£40,000 4-y-o, Soldier of Fortune gelding. Dam fairly useful hurdler (2m-2½m winner). Successful on second of 2 starts in Irish points (Nov 3). Needs keeping a close eye on.

5 WILD REIVER (IRE) (51) h 82
6 6 11-2 | 70.8kg



Iain Jardine

Conor Rabbitt (51b/2kg)

Valirann gelding who was hooded and ran as if in need of the outing for fitness and experience when last of 6 in bumper at Ayr (16f, good to soft) in November. He may well leave that behind (has had a breathing operation since).

6 CENTURION'S SISTER (IRE) (53) 84
8 5 10-9 | 67.6kg



Nicky Richards

Danny McMenamin

Getaway filly who shaped better than bare result on debut when eighth of 11 in bumper at Carlisle (17.2f, good to soft) in November and should come on for that experience. Not discounted.

7 CABALLO DE GUERRA (IRE) (27) (BF) ★ 100
3 4 10-3 | 64.9kg



Lucinda Russell

Conner McCann (71b/3kg)

Soldier of Fortune gelding who shaped promisingly amidst greenness when third of 9 in bumper at Wetherby (16f, heavy) on debut just under 4 weeks ago, doing well to last as long in the conditions as he did given the hold he took. One to be interested in on the back of that.

8 LESTER MAIL (FR) 83
4 10-3 | 64.9kg



N. W. Alexander

Bruce Lynn

€13,000 3-y-o, Great Pretender gelding. Brother to useful hurdler/smart chaser Elvis Mail. Dam, raced once over hurdles in France, also maiden on Flat, half-sister to French hurdler/chaser (17f-21f winner) True Love Mail. Betting should guide expectations.

8 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

13-8 Caballo De Guerra, **7-2** Beyond The Verge, **11-2** Noble George, **13-2** Soldier In Mayo, **14-1** Centurion's Sister, **25-1** Lester Mail, **33-1** Gallus Norman, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

CABALLO DE GUERRA shaped with promise amidst greenness when third at Wetherby on debut recently and, with improvement on the cards, Lucinda Russell's 4-y-o may well take some stopping. Beyond The Verge already has a bumper win to his name, so he can give the selection most to think about under a penalty, with Irish point winner Soldier In Mayo a Rules debutant worth keeping a close eye on, too.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**1. CABALLO DE GUERRA 2. BEYOND THE VERGE 3. SOLDIER IN MAYO****WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2024	Lieutenant Mayne 5-11-2	3-1	John McConnell	B. W. Harvey (3)	7
2023	Florida Dreams 5-11-2	11-1	Nicky Richards	Danny McMenamin	13
2022	Holmes St Georges 5-11-0	13-8f	Stuart Crawford	James Bowen	11
2020	Elios d'Or 6-11-2	12-1	Nicky Richards	Ryan Day	10

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race