



Saturday 7th December

AINTREE

11.47	BOYLESPORTS LENGTHEN THE ODDS BEGINNERS' CHASE (2) 2m3f200y (4010 Metres)
RACE 1	(3) JANGO BAIE (2) BEACHCOMBER (1) BALLYMACKIE
12.22	BOYLESPORTS DAILY MONEY BACK MEETINGS NOVICES' HURDLE (Qualifier) (3) 2m209y (3410 Metres)
RACE 2	(1) THE KEMBLE BREWERY (3) WELLINGTON ARCH (5) PIPER PARK
12.57	BOYLESPORTS EXTRA PLACES EVERY DAY NOVICES' HANDICAP HURDLE (4) 3m149y (4960 Metres)
RACE 3	(6) MAGICAL ARTHUR (3) GOLDEN AMBITION (5) CAHER ROES DEN
1.32	BOYLESPORTS HOME OF THE EARLY PAYOUT HANDICAP CHASE (2) 2m3f200y (4010 Metres)
RACE 4	(1) SPRINGWELL BAY (6) NO RISK DES FLOS (2) RICHMOND LAKE
2.07	BOYLESPORTS BECHER HANDICAP CHASE (Premier Handicap) (1) 3m1f188y (5200 Metres)
RACE 5	(7) KING TURGEON (1) CHIANTI CLASSICO (5) CRUZ CONTROL
2.42	BOYLESPORTS ACCA BOOST JUVENILE HURDLE (Listed) (1) 2m209y (3410 Metres)
RACE 6	(1) LIAM SWAGGER (3) STATIC (2) QUANTOCK HILLS
3.17	BOYLESPORTS BEST ODDS GUARANTEED HANDICAP HURDLE (2) 2½m (4020 Metres)
RACE 7	(5) CHOCCABLOC (11) THE NAGGER REIDY (7) TAMAR BRIDGE

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



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



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



BOYLESPORTS LENGTHEN THE ODDS BEGINNERS' CHASE (2) 4yo+ £40,000 2m3f200y (4010 Metres)



Going: Soft, National course: Soft (Heavy in places)

The Grand National course is triangular with its apex (at the Canal Turn) the furthest point from the stands. Inside is the Mildmay course which has birch fences. A major feature of the Mildmay course is its sharpness, though the fences are stiff and it's a tough jumping test. The Grand National is run over two complete circuits taking in sixteen spruce fences first time around and fourteen the second. Alterations to the fences in recent times have had the effect of making it a less severe test of jumping than used to be case. Since 2013, the run to the first fence in the Grand National was reduced in a bid to also improve safety, resulting in the overall race distance shortening from the usual 4½m, though the run-in is still 494 yards long and includes an elbow.

Pace Information: Very Wea	Pace	Information:	Verv	Wea
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BALLYMACKIE (IRE) (21) **6** 11-8 73.5kg 67

Harry Reed Picked up for £160,000 after winning a couple of Irish points early last year. Stiff

task both starts under Rules so far but this is a slightly less taxing scenario.

BEACHCOMBER (FR) (29) (BF) **6** 11-8 73.5kg

80

Jonjo & A.J. O'Neill

Jonjo O'Neill Jr.

Dual 25f hurdles winner who made an encouraging start in this sphere at Chepstow in October and backed that up when good second of 6 in handicap chase at Exeter (24.2f, good, 3/1) 29 days ago. May yet have more to offer.

JANGO BAIE (FR) (239) (C)

 \bigstar 100

5 11-8 73.5kg Nicky Henderson



Irish point recruit who won first 2 starts over hurdles, latterly the Grade 1 Formby over 2m here on Boxing Day. Back on the up when an excellent second in a competitive handicap here on final outing and should make a winning chase

3 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

4-9 Jango Baie, 5-2 Beachcomber, 25-1 Ballymackie

TIMEFORM VIEW:

This is likely between JANGO BAIE and Beachcomber, with the former taken to prevail making his chase debut having signed off last season with an excellent effort over hurdles here.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. JANGO BAIE 2. BEACHCOMBER 3. BALLYMACKIE

SMART STATS:



BOYLESPORTS DAILY MONEY BACK MEETINGS NOVICES' HURDLE (Qualifier) (3) 4yo+ £15,000 2m209y (3410 Metres)



Going: Soft, National course: Soft (Heavy in places)

The Grand National course is triangular with its apex (at the Canal Turn) the furthest point from the stands. Inside is the Mildmay course which has birch fences. A major feature of the Mildmay course is its sharpness, though the fences are stiff and it's a tough jumping test. The Grand National is run over two complete circuits taking in sixteen spruce fences first time around and fourteen the second. Alterations to the fences in recent times have had the effect of making it a less severe test of jumping than used to be case. Since 2013, the run to the first fence in the Grand National was reduced in a bid to also improve safety, resulting in the overall race distance shortening from the usual 4½m, though the run-in is still 494 yards long and includes an elbow.

Pace Information: Very Weak

THE KEMBLE BREWERY (27)

5 11-10 74.4kg









Successful on both starts in bumpers and left hurdling debut form behind after 11 months off when taking 2m Warwick novice in October. Followed up in ready fashion at Ffos Las and has obvious claims of completing the hat-trick under a double penalty.

OUT OUT (IRE) (16)

5 11-0 69.9kg



Dan Skelton

2-0

Fergus Gillard Shaped well amidst inexperience first time up in humper at Warwick in October

2023 but was well held on hurdling debut there 14 months later.

WELLINGTON ARCH (29)

83

71

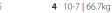
5 11-0 69.9kg Jonjo & A.J. O'Neill





Followed narrow Worcester bumper debut success with a couple of decent efforts in defeat. Struggled in Grade 2 company at Aintree in the spring but showed plenty to work on sent hurdling when second in 3-runner novice at Exeter last month. Open to improvement.

KENMYA (FR) (15) 71





Tristan Durrell (3lb/1kg) Dan Skelton A fair 5-time winner on Flat in France (stays 10f) but has offered little both starts

back over hurdles.

PIPER PARK (IRE) (308) (BF) **5** 10-7 66.7kg

77



Irish point scorer who cost a tidy £205,000 and made an encouraging enough start under Rules with a hood fitted (not on here) in Wetherby bumper in February. Interesting hurdles prospect.

5 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

4-6 The Kemble Brewery, 11-4 Wellington Arch, 13-2 Piper Park, 50-1 bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

THE KEMBLE BREWERY has made a promising start over hurdles and this looks a good opportunity for him to complete the hat-trick. Wellington Arch is considered the main threat, though Piper Park shouldn't be overlooked given she was a 6-figure purchase following an Irish point success and showed promise on her sole outing in bumpers at Wetherby.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. THE KEMBLE BREWERY 2. WELLINGTON ARCH 3. PIPER PARK

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS: 2023 Norman Fletcher 4-11-6 Nigel Twiston-Davies Sam Twiston-Davies 2022 Strong Leader 5-11-6 2-1 Olly Murphy Sean Bowen Alan King 2021 **North Lodge** 4-10-12 14-1 A. P. Heskin 8 2020 Straw Fan Jack 5-11-4 15-2 Sheila Lewis Richard Johnson 2019 Edwardstone 5-11-4 6-5f Alan King Tom Cannon

SMART STATS:



RACE 3

BOYLESPORTS EXTRA PLACES EVERY DAY NOVICES' HANDICAP HURDLE (4) 4yo+ (Rated 0-110) £15,000 3m149y (4960 Metres)



Going: Soft, National course: Soft (Heavy in places)

The Grand National course is triangular with its apex (at the Canal Turn) the furthest point from the stands. Inside is the Mildmay course which has birch fences. A major feature of the Mildmay course is its sharpness, though the fences are stiff and it's a tough jumping test. The Grand National is run over two complete circuits taking in sixteen spruce fences first time around and fourteen the second. Alterations to the fences in recent times have had the effect of making it a less severe test of jumping than used to be case. Since 2013, the run to the first fence in the Grand National was reduced in a bid to also improve safety, resulting in the overall race distance shortening from the usual 41/2m, though the run-in is still 494 yards long and includes an elbow.

Pace Information: Weak

1	STAY II	U WANT	TO (IRE)	22)
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98

8122-1227 **5** 12-0 76.2kg Jonjo & A.J. O'Neill

Benjamin Macey (10lb/5kg)



Fairly useful bumper winner who has made a sound start over hurdles, off the mark in a Hereford maiden in May. Similar form back from 4 months off when second on handicap debut at Wincanton in October but found things a bit too competitive at Cheltenham (21f, good to soft) last time.

NEO KING (FR) (27)

6 11-13 75.7kg 2-36



Evan Williams

Isabel Williams (3lb/1kg)

Multiple point winner and second in a hunter chase at Down Royal (195f) in March. Changed hands for £20,000 and has since posted encouraging efforts in maiden hurdles over 24m/21/2m at Ffos Las, leaving the impression that he'll be suited by this stiffer test on handicap bow.

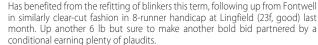
GOLDEN AMBITION (IRE) (25)

99 5P05-U211 5 11-13 75.7kg



Ben Pauling

Callum Pritchard (7lb/3kg)



GALASSIAN (52)

7 11-12 | 75.3kg 2/4-4



Mel Rowley

6 11-11 74.8kg

Charlie Hammond

88



Winning pointer who ran to a fair level when second of 8 in Worcester maiden hurdle in October 2022. Off 18 months but promise when fourth of 7 in novice hurdle at Bangor (23.2f, soft) in April, but ran a very tame race after another 6 months off recently. Best watched on handicap debut.

CAHER ROES DEN (IRE) (51)

98



B. F. Brookhouse Henry Brooke Irish point winner who took his form up a notch after 8 months off when third of 11 on handicap debut at Wincanton (24.7f, good) in October, pulling clear of rest and shaping as though he'll have no trouble landing a race from his sort of



MAGICAL ARTHUR (IRE) (19) (D) 100



6 11-11 74.8kg

Sam Twiston-Davies



mark. Shortlisted.

Continues to progress, making it 3 wins in his last 4 starts at Plumpton (25f, good) 19 days ago, needing every yard to get there under a conditional really making a name for himself. 3 lb higher but may not have finished improving just yet.

GOLDEN COSMOS (IRE) (648) 8 11-9 73.9kg



Dr Richard Newland & Jamie Insole

Oliver Bovden (10lb/5kg)



Yet to get his head in front and looked summed up by his handicap mark when last seen at Catterick in early-2023. Watching brief advised given the absence.

ADVERAM (18)

98



5 11-2 70.8kg 792633-14 Ian Duncan



Winless last term but proved consistent and deservedly opened his hurdles account on return at Ayr. Shaped better than the distance beaten suggested from 4 lb higher (fortunate not to hit the deck after 2 out) at Carlisle (24.6f, good to soft) last month so fancied to be in the mix.

ARCTIC SAINT (IRE) (19) t

029/9-5593 **6** 10-8 67.1kg

Chris Ward (3lb/1kg)



Winless following half-a-dozen attempts between the flags and record under Rules stands at 0-8, running well in form terms but never appearing likely to finish any closer on yard debut when third of 10 in handicap at Leicester (20.5f, good to soft) last month. Heads up in trip.

10 SHE WON'T MIND (35)

6 10-6 | 66.2kg

Tim Reed Raced freely when tailed off sole outing in bumpers and has made little impact in 3 novice hurdles. Hiked up in trip for her handicap debut and it's tough to know what level of ability this point winner possesses.

10 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

11-4 Golden Ambition, 7-2 Magical Arthur, 17-2 Caher Roes Den, 10-1 Adveram, 10-1 Stay If U Want To, 12-1 Arctic Saint, 20-1 Neo King, 20-1 Galassian, 20-1 Golden Cosmos, 33-1 She Won't Mind

TIMEFORM VIEW:

MAGICAL ARTHUR continues to go from strength to strength and Jennie Candlish's 6-y-o is fancied to make it 4 wins from his last 5 outings at the expense of Golden Ambition, who arrives chasing a hat-trick and has the services of a conditional deservedly earning plenty of plaudits in recent weeks. Caher Roes Den and handicap debutant Neo King can fight out minor honours.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. MAGICAL ARTHUR 2. GOLDEN AMBITION 3. CAHER ROES DEN

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2023 Kyntara 7-12-0	10-3	Mel Rowley	Charlie Deutsch	7
2022 Broadway Boy 4-12-0	5-2	Nigel Twiston-Davies	Sam Twiston-Davies	5
2021 My Bobby Dazzler 6-11-12	7-2jf	Mel Rowley	Alex Edwards (3)	11

SMART STATS:

RACE 4

BOYLESPORTS HOME OF THE EARLY PAYOUT HANDICAP CHASE (2) 4yo+ (Rated 0-145) £40,000 2m3f200y (4010 Metres)



Going: Soft, National course: Soft (Heavy in places)

The Grand National course is triangular with its apex (at the Canal Turn) the furthest point from the stands. Inside is the Mildmay course which has birch fences. A major feature of the Mildmay course is its sharpness, though the fences are stiff and it's a tough jumping test. The Grand National is run over two complete circuits taking in sixteen spruce fences first time around and fourteen the second. Alterations to the fences in recent times have had the effect of making it a less severe test of jumping than used to be case. Since 2013, the run to the first fence in the Grand National was reduced in a bid to also improve safety, resulting in the overall race distance shortening from the usual 4½m, though the run-in is still 494 yards long and includes an elbow.

Pace Information: Even

SPRINGWELL BAY (22) (D, BF) 16/142U-13

97

7 12-0 76.2kg Jonjo & A.J. O'Neill

Jonjo O'Neill Jr.



Very useful hurdler. Jumping improved as the race wore on when landing a 5-runner listed event on chase debut at Chepstow (19.5f, good) in October. Similar form despite refusing to settle when third in similar company at Cheltenham and of interest now handicapping in this sphere. Down in trip.

RICHMOND LAKE (IRE) (28) (CD) **8** 11-11 74.8kg

Donald McCain

Brian Huahes



Had a prolific period in 2023, completing a four-timer in this race 12 months ago. Seemed to lose confidence in his jumping thereafter but right back to best after 7 months off when fourth in last month's Grand Sefton over the National fences. Respected.

GRANDADS COTTAGE (IRE) (239) (D)

96



9 11-2 70.8kg



Added to his chase tally in a first-time tongue strap at Leicester in January. Backed it up with a good fourth at Kempton the following month and probably

remained in form when eighth of 24 in Topham here (21.1f, soft) back in April. Returns with yard in really good nick

WHISTLEINTHEDARK (IRE) (160) (D)



1/84809-98 9 10-13 69.4kg

Harry Reed



4-time winner over fences who was better than the result (failed to stay) in the Scottish Grand National in April. Well held both starts in June but his mark has eased further as a result and market confidence behind him would look interesting back from 5 months off.

REAL STONE (273) (C, D, BF)

L J Morgan

96



9 10-11 | 68.5kg

Fergus Gillard



Took apart a small field with a run under his belt at Haydock (16.3f) 12 months ago. Best effort since when runner-up at Newbury in March but absent since falling at Hereford (2m) later that month. This outing may bring him on. Back

up in trip

NO RISK DES FLOS (FR) (37) (D)

100



3/P3445-92 9 10-9 67.6kg

Olly Murphy

Sean B

Useful hurdle/chase winner who returned from 5 months off/wind surgery with

a creditable second behind the very exciting L'eau Du Sud at Stratford (19.4f) 37

days ago. That ought to have blown the cobwebs away and he's lurking on a handy mark. **SALAMANCA BAY (IRE)** (196)

8 10-9 67.6kg



Dan Skelton

Tristan Durrell (3lb/1kg)

Headstrong sort who was well served by fitting of a hood when off the mark over fences for Lucinda Russell at Ayr (16.5f) in March. Below best at Cartmel in May (17.3f) and he's undergone wind surgery/fitted with tongue tie ahead of debut for new yard

CERENDIPITY (IRE) (52) (D) **7** 10-5 65.8kg

97



Joel Parkinson & Sue Smith Crucially produced a better round of jumping when running out an authoritative winner on final start of last season at Bangor (20.3f) in April. Shaped as if needing his Wetherby return in October and worth noting he's won second time out for each of the last 2 seasons

DRTJECKLEBURG (IRE) (14)

98

6 10-2 64.4kg 432434-31 Evan Williams

Conor Ring



Showed the benefit of his reappearance spin at Newton Abbot when proving too strong for his 6 rivals at Haydock (16.3f, soft) 14 days ago. Runner-up that day has bolted up since and he's not discounted as one who's unexposed at this sort of trip.

BETTING FORECAST:

11-4 Springwell Bay, 9-2 Richmond Lake, 13-2 No Risk Des Flos, 7-1 Dr T J Eckleburg, 10-1 Real Stone, 11-1 Grandads Cottage, 14-1 Cerendipity, 14-1 Salamanca Bay, 22-1 Whistleinthedark

TIMEFORM VIEW:

SPRINGWELL BAY's failure to settle ultimately compromised his chances late on when third in a listed contest at Cheltenham 3 weeks ago but a well-run race back at this shorter trip promises to see him in a much better light and he could be the way to go now handicapping in this sphere. No Risk Des Flos and last year's winner Richmond Lake both resumed with promising reappearance efforts and head up the dangers.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. SPRINGWELL BAY 2. NO RISK DES FLOS 3. RICHMOND LAKE

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2023	Richmond Lake 7-11-11	4-1	Donald McCain	Brian Hughes	9
2022	Brave Seasca 7-12-1	12-1	Venetia Williams	Gavin Sheehan	13
2021	Clan Legend 11-11-1	12-1	N. W. Alexander	Danny McMenamin	10
2020	Clan Legend 10-11-2	12-1	N. W. Alexander	Danny McMenamin (3)	13
2019	Sammy Bill 6-11-1	5-2f	Oliver Sherwood	Leighton Aspell	10

SMART STATS:

BOYLESPORTS BECHER HANDICAP CHASE (Premier Handicap) (1) 6yo+ £135,000 3m1f188y (5200 Metres)



RACE 5

Going: Soft, National course: Soft (Heavy in places)

The Grand National course is triangular with its apex (at the Canal Turn) the furthest point from the stands. Inside is the Mildmay course which has birch fences. A major feature of the Mildmay course is its sharpness, though the fences are stiff and it's a tough jumping test. The Grand National is run over two complete circuits taking in sixteen spruce fences first time around and fourteen the second. Alterations to the fences in recent times have had the effect of making it a less severe test of jumping than used to be case. Since 2013, the run to the first fence in the Grand National was reduced in a bid to also improve safety, resulting in the overall race distance shortening from the usual 4½m, though the run-in is still 494 yards long and includes an elbow.

Pace Information: Even

CHIANTI CLASSICO (IRE) (35) 1P/11214-1 7 12-0 76.2kg

Kim Bailey

99

Quickly developed into a smart chaser last term, gaining his third win in the Ultima Handicap at Cheltenham. Signed off with a very good fourth in Mildmay Novices' Chase at this venue (25f) and picked up where he left off with a dominant win at Ascot a month ago. More to come.

CELEBRE D'ALLEN (FR) (24) (C) 08/145U4-1 **12** 11-4 71.7kg

Micheal Nolan

98



Philip Hobbs & Johnson White Still capable of useful form, landing a veterans' handicap here (25f) on last season's reappearance and just about as good as ever when scoring on

November's return to action at Bangor. Shaped quite well in this race last year but this is on the limit of his stamina.





Venetia Williams 🔼 Miss Lucy Turner (5lb/2kg) Ended 2021/22 campaign with success in the Kim Muir and added another

valuable handicap to his tally in this race a year ago. Revised mark enough to halt him in competitive contests to end the campaign but has a good record fresh and yard in form.

ARIZONA CARDINAL (56) (C) 8 10-13 69.4ka

Sam Twiston-Davies



Stuart Edmunds **Charlie Hammond** Admirable sort who won 4 of 6 starts last term, ending his campaign with careerbest victory in 24-runner Topham Handicap Chase (21.1f, soft) over these fences in April. Almost certainly needed the run on October's return to action and

better expected on the back of a breathing operation. 98



CRUZ CONTROL (FR) (41) (C) 122511-47 7 10-11 68.5kg



Ended last term with 3m chase win here and shaped well when fourth of 12 in handicap chase at Punchestown (24.5f, soft) a month later under an attacking ride. Spin over hurdles here in October should have put him spot on for this and he's the type to take well to these fences.

IRON BRIDGE (IRE) (34) (D) 8 10-7 | 66.7kg 22/P23P8-3



Jonjo & A.J. O'Neill

Useful handicapper who was placed in the Welsh Grand National at Chepstow and Grand National Trial at Haydock last winter. Made an encouraging return to action at Carlisle 5 weeks ago but this might not place quite enough emphasis on stamina for him.

KING TURGEON (FR) (28) (C, D) 100



Had another breathing op and took his form to a whole new level when making a winning reappearance at Chepstow and confirmed he's a handicapper on the

up with a superb jumping display to follow up in the Grand Sefton (21.1f) here a month ago. Further 6 lb rise looks within range. 98





Racked up a hat-trick at the end of 2022. Lightly raced since but a trio of placed effort at up to 26.1f confirm he's in good order. Finished tired at Bangor 3 weeks ago and this a relatively quick turnaround.

MAJOR DUNDEE (IRE) (24) 99 031/35PU-6 **9** 10-2(10-1) 64.4kg (64.0kg)



Alan King 💏 Career best when landing the Midlands Grand National in 2023 and encouraging third at Warwick on last season's return. In the process of running creditably when unseating 2 out in the Eider at Newcastle and should strip fitter with this Bangor reappearance (behind Celebre D'allen) behind him.

10 NOW WHERE OR WHEN (IRE) (225)

9 10-2(10-0) 64.4kg (63.5kg)

Stuart Crawford, Ireland



Down in the weights and finished sixth in the Ulster National in April. Has won following a similar absence in the past but this looks a shade too competitive trying these fences for the first time. Usual cheekpieces left off.

11 GABORIOT (FR) (28) (D) 98 8 10-2(9-13) 64.4kg (63.0kg) 1131U-113



Superb strike rate in recent times, winning 5 times since October 2023 (3 hunters and a couple of open handicaps). Took pretty well to these fences at the second time of asking when third to King Turgeon in the Grand Sefton last month and he's a player despite being out of the weights.

12 PERCUSSION (28) (D) 96 **9** 10-2(9-10) 64.4kg (61.7kg)

L J Morgan

On a lengthy losing run but he ran right up to form when second from out of the weights in the Summer Cup at Uttoxeter in June. A regular over these fences but was a bit disappointing when mid-field to King Turgeon a month ago and he's 6 lb out of the weights.

12 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

4-1 King Turgeon, 9-2 Chianti Classico, 6-1 Gaboriot, 15-2 Cruz Control, 9-1 Iron Bridge, 14-1 Arizona Cardinal, 16-1 Celebre D'allen, 20-1 Chambard, 22-1 Major Dundee, 25-1 Percussion, 33-1 Monte Igueldo, 80-1 bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

A second breathing operation has transformed KING TURGEON, who produced a tremendous round of jumping on his first go over these fences when winning the Grand Sefton here a month ago. The step back up in trip won't be a problem so he's preferred to Chanti Classico and Cruz Control, both of whom are expected to take to

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. KING TURGEON 2. CHIANTI CLASSICO 3. CRUZ CONTROL

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS: Chambard 11-10-6 Venetia Williams Miss Lucy Turner (5) 2022 Ashtown Lad 8-11-5 5-1 Dan Skelton Harry Skelton 2021 Snow Leopardess 9-10-4 4-1f Charlie Longsdon Aidan Coleman 2020 **Vieux Lion Rouge** 11-10-7 12-1 David Pipe Conor O'Farrell 14 2019 Walk In The Mill 9-10-8 8-1 Robert Walford James Best 18

SMART STATS:



RACE 6

BOYLESPORTS ACCA BOOST JUVENILE HURDLE (Listed) (1) 3yo £50,000 2m209y (3410 Metres)



Going: Soft, National course: Soft (Heavy in places)

The Grand National course is triangular with its apex (at the Canal Turn) the furthest point from the stands. Inside is the Mildmay course which has birch fences. A major feature of the Mildmay course is its sharpness, though the fences are stiff and it's a tough jumping test. The Grand National is run over two complete circuits taking in sixteen spruce fences first time around and fourteen the second. Alterations to the fences in recent times have had the effect of making it a less severe test of jumping than used to be case. Since 2013, the run to the first fence in the Grand National was reduced in a bid to also improve safety, resulting in the overall race distance shortening from the usual 4½m, though the run-in is still 494 yards long and includes an elbow.

Pace Information: Weak

LIAM SWAGGER (36) (D) 3 11-5 72.1kg 99

James Owen

Sam Twiston-Davies Fairly useful maiden on Flat and half-brother to fairly useful hurdler Father of Jazz

(2m winner). Created an excellent impression in a first-time tongue tie when a ready winner at Market Rasen in September and he took the rise in class in his stride when narrowly seeing off Static at Wetherby.

QUANTOCK HILLS (FR) (20) (D) **3** 11-3 71.2kg



Warren Greatrex James Bowen Fairly useful form over hurdles in France, confirming debut promise when successful at Dieppe in June. Acquired for €130,000 after and bright start for new

yard when second of 6 in a Wetherby juvenile in October. Hooded and didn't need to improve to go one place better at Fontwell 3 weeks ago.

STATIC (FR) (21) (D)

213R1622 **3** 11-3 71.2kg 100



Olly Murphy

Dual winner over hurdles in France and ran his best race starting out for new connections when neck second to Liam Swagger in listed event at Wetherby (2m). Again displayed an excellent attitude when occupying same spot at Cheltenham, no chance with a smart one. Major player.

3 11-0 69.9kg Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero

Henry Brooke



Fairly useful on Flat, much improved when successful on handicap debut over 13/4m at Haydock in September. Unexposed type who should have a future over hurdles but this no easy introduction. Engaged 12.48 Sandown Friday.

MODEL APPROACH (IRE) (21) (D) 93

3 11-0 69.9kg



Adrian Keatley

Fairly useful maiden on Flat for Jim Bolger and has made a bright start to his hurdle career, making all in juveniles at Sedgefield and Kempton last month. Hampered and unseated before halfway in listed Wensleydale at Wetherby but well behind Static at Cheltenham last time.

5 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

11-8 Liam Swagger, 2-1 Static, 11-2 Quantock Hills, 14-1 Melon, 16-1 Model Approach

TIMEFORM VIEW:

LIAM SWAGGER must concede 2 lb this time after edging out Static off level-weights in the Wensleydale at Wetherby but he arguably boasts the more scope for progress, so he can uphold the form. Quantock Hills could be the pick of the other trio.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. LIAM SWAGGER 2. STATIC 3. QUANTOCK HILLS

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2023 Liari 3-11-0 11-4 Paul Nicholls Harry Cobden

SMART STATS:

BOYLESPORTS BEST ODDS GUARANTEED HANDICAP HURDLE (2) 4yo+ £40,000 2½m (4020 Metres)

RACE 7



Going: Soft, National course: Soft (Heavy in places)

The Grand National course is triangular with its apex (at the Canal Turn) the furthest point from the stands. Inside is the Mildmay course which has birch fences. A major feature of the Mildmay course is its sharpness, though the fences are stiff and it's a tough jumping test. The Grand National is run over two complete circuits taking in sixteen spruce fences first time around and fourteen the second. Alterations to the fences in recent times have had the effect of making it a less severe test of jumping than used to be case. Since 2013, the run to the first fence in the Grand National was reduced in a bid to also improve safety, resulting in the overall race distance shortening from the usual 4½m, though the run-in is still 494 yards long and includes an elbow.

Pace Information: Weak

DARGIANNINI (IRE) (26) (D) 9 12-0 76.2kg

89

Harry Derham

Paul O'Brien Well prepared to make a winning return to action at Kempton (21f) 13 months

ago but missed the remainder of the campaign and low-key efforts upon returning in recent months, well-beaten last of 4 back in corresponding race 26 days ago. Tough to assess at present.

PYRAMID PLACE (IRE) (26) (CD)

97



Olly Murphy

Brian Huahes A fairly useful 2m4f hurdles winner for Harriet Dickin and showed benefit of a recent run for new yard when running out a stylish winner in 4-runner Kempton handicap (21f) 26 days ago. Versatile as regards ground but this is a tougher ask.

SANTOS BLUE (266) (D)

13/272101-**7** 11-11 74.8kg

Dan Skelton

Mr Ben Sutton (5lb/2kg)



Likeable type who resumed progress during second half of last term, signing off with success in 8-runner handicap hurdle at Uttoxeter (20f, heavy) in March. Returns with yard going well and no surprise to see him thereabouts from this 4 lb higher mark.

UNCLE BERT (28) (D) **7** 11-8 73.5kg P2117-3P2



Nigel Twiston-Davies

Sam Twiston-Davies

Useful hurdler who posted a career-best effort when adding to his tally at Bangor (19.6f) in March. Hasn't convinced in trio of starts over fences this autumn and the return to hurdling needs to have positive effect now.

CHOCCABLOC (231)

100



6 11-3 71.2kg

Bumper winner who made a bright start over hurdles last winter, off the mark



at Ludlow (21.2f) in November. Not disgraced when fifth in Cheltenham Grade 2 next time and back on the up when second of 6 in Ayr novice (20.5f) in April. Interesting now handicapping on return.

THE LORD MAID (IRE) (16) (D)



97



Tom Lacev

Made a successful hurdle debut in maiden at Clonmel in February (for Josh Halley) and followed up for new yard in 20.5f Southwell novice in April. Solid

return from 7 months off when second in 6-runner mares' handicap at Warwick (21f, soft) and she's still low mileage.

TAMAR BRIDGE (IRE) (50) (CD)



97

C&D winner (won this race 3 years ago). Evidently hard to train but proved he retains ability after almost 2 years off when staying on for second in 8-runner handicap hurdle at Uttoxeter (20f) in October. Yard continue in good form and he's not discounted if he can back that up.

BING00 (34) (CD) 97



8 10-13 69.4kg 311/10P3-U

Charlotte Jones



Four-time 2m hurdle winner who bagged a C&D handicap last Christmas. Largely struggled thereafter and he was only keeping on in fifth when unseating soon after 2 out on return to action at Carlisle (20f) 5 weeks ago. Others make more appeal.

COUNTRY PARK (IRE) (20)

5 10-10 68.0kg Jonio & A.J. O'Neill

Jonio O'Neill Jr.

£150,000 purchase from points who has showed definite promise under Rules, producing best effort yet when second of 4 in a Cheltenham maiden (16.4f) 3 weeks ago. Increase in trip promises to suit now handicapping and he's open to further improvement.

10 GETALEAD (IRE) (16) (D) 8 10-7 66.7kg



Kevin Pickard Gearoid Harney (7lb/3kg)

Returned from 6 months off in fine form, benefiting from return to calmer waters when making it 3 wins from last 4 starts at Wincanton (19.8f) 16 days ago. 4 lb rise should see him competitive again but he needs to keep the errors at bay in this stronger affair.

THE NAGGER REIDY (15) 11

5 10-7 | 66.7kg 606-12

95

90



Stephen Gerard Carey, Ireland Irish raider who was much improved to make a winning return/handicap debut at Listowel (18f) in September. Stepped up further and found only another thriving sort too strong in big field at Tipperary (20.4f) 15 days ago. Still unexposed and he commands respect.

CAPTAIN POTTER (15) (D) 12

Brian Ellison

Henry Brooke

Hurdles winner for yard at the start of the year and also opened account on the Flat in 2m Catterick handicap in October. Slipped up home turn back over hurdles at that venue 2 weeks ago and whilst he's still lightly raced in this sphere, this is comfortably his toughest task to date.

12 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

11-2 Choccabloc, 8-1 Tamar Bridge, 17-2 Santos Blue, 9-1 The Nagger Reidy, 10-1 Getalead, 10-1 Uncle Bert, 11-1 Country Park, 14-1 Pyramid Place, 14-1 Bingoo, 14-1 The Lord Maid, 18-1 Dargiannini, 40-1 bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

CHOCCABLOC ended a progressive novice campaign over hurdles with a very good second behind a more seasoned and similarly progressive rival at Ayr in April and, appealing as being on a workable opening mark, he's fancied to make a bold bid returning from 7 months off. Irish raider The Nagger Reidy comes here on the up and he's respected, with Tamar Bridge, who took this contest 3 years ago, another on the shortlist. Country Park also commands a second look

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. CHOCCABLOC 2. THE NAGGER REIDY 3. TAMAR BRIDGE

NNERS IN PREVIOUS VEARS.

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS TEARS:					
2023	Sonigino 6-12-0	10-3f	Paul Nicholls	Harry Cobden	10
2022	Romeo Brown 8-10-8	50-1	Sue Smith	Thomas Willmott (3)	13
2021	Tamar Bridge 6-11-0	2-1f	Olly Murphy	A. P. Heskin	13
2020	Kateson 7-11-1	5-1	Tom Lacey	Tom Scudamore	1
2019	Notre Pari 5-10-5	5-1	Olly Murphy	Richard Johnson	8

SMART STATS: