

Tuesday 10th December

# FONTWELL



1.00	BETGOODWIN BEST ODDS GUARANTEED JUVENILE HURDLE (4) 2m1f162y (3570 Metres)
RACE 1	<b>(3) ST LUKES CHELSEA   (1) MALINKA   (6) PLAYAWAY GIRL</b>
1.30	BETGOODWIN FREE BET NOSE LOSERS HANDICAP CHASE (Qualifier) (4) 2m3f104y (3920 Metres)
RACE 2	<b>(3) GETAWAY DRUMLEE   (8) KOENIGSSTERN   (7) GOOD FRIDAY FAIRY</b>
2.00	BETGOODWIN NOVICES' HANDICAP HURDLE (5) 2m5f164y (4370 Metres)
RACE 3	<b>(4) CHANCELLORSTOWN   (1) EILEEN'S MILAN   (2) GROOM DE COTTE</b>
2.30	BETGOODWIN ONLINE BETTING SITE HANDICAP CHASE (Qualifier) (5) 2m5f135y (4350 Metres)
RACE 4	<b>(6) VALIRANN GOLD   (1) CAPTAIN CLAUDE   (5) LEADING SWOOP</b>
3.00	BETGOODWIN BEST UK BOOKIE MARES' NOVICES' HURDLE (4) 2m3f29y (3850 Metres)
RACE 5	<b>(6) KATIRA DU MESTIVEL   (9) TWO FINGERS WEST   (1) HOLLYGROVE CHA CHA</b>
3.30	JOHN AND MARYANNE BIRCH MEMORIAL HANDICAP HURDLE (5) 2m1f162y (3570 Metres)
RACE 6	<b>(8) FOOTLOOSE MAN   (1) SUMMER IN MILAN   (3) JOHN BETJEMAN</b>

## 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.

1.00

**BETGOODWIN BEST ODDS GUARANTEED JUVENILE HURDLE**  
**(4) 3yo £7,700 2m1f162y (3570 Metres)**

RACE 1



Going: **Chase course: Soft (Heavy in places), Hurdles course: Soft (Good to Soft in places)**

Left handed, sharp; the chase course is a figure of eight circuit, whilst the hurdles track is oval. The fences are easy but, given the nature of the track, course specialists abound. On the chase course, the lead rarely changes hands on the run in but often looks as though it might. The paddock exit is situated halfway up the run-in on the hurdles course and can lead to horses idling/ducking out on seeing it. Flights on the hurdles course differ in terms of their location, from inner to outer, though those who race wide on testing going are at an advantage regardless of the layout. As of August 2017, a 330-yard stretch of turf on the shared home turn was replaced by fibresand.

Pace Information: **Very Weak**

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| <b>1</b> | <p><b>MALINKA (FR) (5)</b> <span style="float: right;">h  <b>100</b></span></p> <p>1533 <span style="float: right;">3 11-0   69.9kg</span></p> <p> Jennie Candlish <span style="float: right;"><b>Gavin Sheehan</b></span></p> <p>Fair Flat performer who made a winning debut over hurdles at Cartmel (17f, heavy) in August. Third in a Sedgefield juvenile and Leicester handicap in recent weeks. Sets the standard.</p>  |
| <b>2</b> | <p><b>OFFIAH'S BOY (33)</b> <span style="float: right;">s+t <b>79</b></span></p> <p>5 <span style="float: right;">3 11-0   69.9kg</span></p> <p> Joe Tickle <span style="float: right;"><b>Taylor Fisher</b></span></p> <p>Modest maiden on the Flat for Tom Ward and last of 5 in Ludlow juvenile on last month's hurdle for new stable. A first-time cheekpieces and refitted tongue tie combination needs to spark improvement.</p>                                    |
| <b>3</b> | <p><b>ST LUKES CHELSEA (23)</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>90</b></span></p> <p>74 <span style="float: right;">3 11-0   69.9kg</span></p> <p> Robert Walford <span style="float: right;"><b>Bryan Carver</b></span></p> <p>Modest maiden on Flat (stays 1m) for Ralph Beckett at 2. Better effort on the Flat since returning from a year off when 13 lengths fourth over C&amp;D (good) 23 days ago. Wouldn't need to step up much again to have a big say here.</p> |
| <b>4</b> | <p><b>VORDERMAN (33)</b> <span style="float: right;">s <b>79</b></span></p> <p>87 <span style="float: right;">3 11-0   69.9kg</span></p> <p> Roger Teal <span style="float: right;"><b>Ben Ffrench Davis (5lb/2kg)</b></span></p> <p>Hasn't shown much in 2 bumpers this autumn ahead of this switch to hurdles.</p>  |
| <b>5</b> | <p><b>KIMCHI</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>78</b></span></p> <p><span style="float: right;">3 10-7   66.7kg</span></p> <p> Mark Gillard <span style="float: right;"><b>James Davies</b></span></p> <p>Poor maiden on Flat (should be suited by 1½m) for Rae Guest and changed hands for only 1,000 gns ahead of this hurdle debut.</p>   |
| <b>6</b> | <p><b>PLAYAWAY GIRL (IRE) (28)</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>83</b></span></p> <p>934 <span style="float: right;">3 10-7   66.7kg</span></p> <p> Jim &amp; Suzi Best <span style="float: right;"><b>Jack Tudor</b></span></p> <p>Has reached the frame in 2 bumpers this autumn but the form is barely modest. Makes hurdle debut in a weak race, though.</p>  |

6 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**  
**11-10** Malinka, **11-4** St Lukes Chelsea, **6-1** Playaway Girl, **16-1** Offiah's Boy, **20-1** Vorderman, **33-1** Kimchi

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**  
 It might be worth siding with ST LUKES CHELSEA to build on last month's C&D fourth and improve past Cartmel winner Malinka.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**  
**1. ST LUKES CHELSEA 2. MALINKA 3. PLAYAWAY GIRL**

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2023	<b>Soigneux Bell</b> 3-11-0	5-1	Gary Moore	Caoilin Quinn (3)	7
2022	<b>Jilajjone</b> 3-11-0	22-1	David Pipe	Tom Scudamore	5
2021	<b>Kotmask</b> 3-10-12	7-2	Gary Moore	Jamie Moore	10
2020	<b>Nassalam</b> 3-11-5	1-12f	Gary Moore	Jamie Moore	6
2019	<b>Zamani</b> 3-10-12	5-2	David Bridgwater	Brendan Powell	11

**SMART STATS:**  
 No Smart Stats available for this race

**1.30**

RACE 2

**BETGOODWIN FREE BET NOSE LOSERS HANDICAP CHASE (Qualifier) (4) 4yo+ (Rated 0-120) £8,900 2m3f104y (3920 Metres)**




Going: **Chase course: Soft (Heavy in places), Hurdles course: Soft (Good to Soft in places)**


Left handed, sharp; the chase course is a figure of eight circuit, whilst the hurdles track is oval. The fences are easy but, given the nature of the track, course specialists abound. On the chase course, the lead rarely changes hands on the run in but often looks as though it might. The paddock exit is situated halfway up the run-in on the hurdles course and can lead to horses idling/ducking out on seeing it. Flights on the hurdles course differ in terms of their location, from inner to outer, though those who race wide on testing going are at an advantage regardless of the layout. As of August 2017, a 330-yard stretch of turf on the shared home turn was replaced by fibresand.

Pace Information: **Weak**


**1 HIGH TREASON (33) (C, D) t 90**  
23/34191-3 5 12-0 | 76.2kg

 Nigel Twiston-Davies **Mr Toby McCain-Mitchell (71lb/3kg)**  
Opened hurdles account here last winter and, having found the company too hot in a Grade 3 Sandown handicap next time, he duly got back on track with a gutsy victory at Southwell (20.4f, good) in April. Should build on Newbury reappearance/chase debut third and he's one to consider off 2 lb lower.


**2 HUDSON DE GRUGY (FR) (30) v 98**  
31P/3F37-P 7 11-10 | 74.4kg

 Gary & Josh Moore **Freddie Mitchell (51lb/2kg)**  
Gained breakthrough success over fences in Grade 3 Sandown novices' handicap back in April 2023. Very well treated on that form (now 7 lb below that winning mark) but appears to have lost his way since, running no sort of a race tried in cheekpieces (visor refitted here) on last month's return.


**3 GETAWAY DRUMLEE (IRE) (37) (C, D) ★ 100**  
16P/210-3 8 11-10 | 74.4kg

 Ben Pauling **Ben Jones**  
Notched second success over fences when taking a 17.7f handicap hurdle at this course during the spring. Shaped well starting out over fences at Huntingdon (16.5f, good) and this former Irish point winner is of strong interest back up in trip here with that run under his belt.

**4 FEEL THE PINCH (15) t 91**  
4-2210554 10 11-9 | 73.9kg

 Robbie Llewellyn **Charlie Price (31lb/1kg)**  
Prolific for this stable, producing an effort right up there with his best when adding to his tally at Newton Abbot (16.7f, good) in July. Form has dipped badly since, though, it's probably best to look elsewhere.


**5 BRULURE NOIRE (IRE) (241) (D) 96**  
15P3/1341- 7 11-6 | 72.6kg

 Richard Bandey **Harry Bannister**  
Signed off for last term with success in 9-runner handicap chase at Chepstow (19.4f, good to soft) in April. Can go well fresh (won on seasonal reappearance of 2022/23 campaign and last season) but 7 lb rise for that Chepstow success means that another personal best is very much needed.


**6 TACTICAL AFFAIR (FR) (28) 91**  
313423-65 5 11-5 | 72.1kg

 Warren Greatrex **James Bowen**  
Hurdles winner for Gordon Elliott last winter and shaped well on first run for this yard at Warwick in March. Safely held next 2 starts but there were positives to glean from his reappearance/chase debut fifth on the back of a wind op at Lingfield (2½m, good) and he's open to improvement.

**7 GOOD FRIDAY FAIRY (IRE) (282) (CD, BF) t 98**  
1/231214P- 7 11-1 | 70.3kg

 Ben Clarke **Rex Dingle**  
Sole finisher when opening chase account over C&D last December and also scored at Uttoxeter the following month. Pulled up at Doncaster on latest start in March but he'd be danger to all off this mark if subsequent wind op and the first-time tongue strap prove to be catalysts for a return to form.

**8 KOENIGSSTERN (IRE) (22) (BF) 99**  
44336-22 7 10-12 | 68.9kg

 Nick Gifford **James Davies**  
Dual winning pointer (also successful 3 times on the Flat) and has shown plenty of ability in his 7 starts under Rules, for all that he's yet to strike over hurdles/fences. Runner-up both starts switched to this sphere since returning to action in October and he has to enter calculations.

8 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**9-4** Getaway Drumlee, **9-2** Koenigsstern, **13-2** High Treason, **7-1** Good Friday Fairy, **8-1** Brulure Noire, **10-1** Tactical Affair, **16-1** Hudson De Grugy, **33-1** Feel The Pinch

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

The vote goes to the lightly-raced GETAWAY DRUMLEE, who made a positive start over fences when third at Huntingdon. That form looks solid (the winner was going well when unseating rider next time and the runner-up has since gone one better) and it also augurs well that he was a hurdles winner on his sole previous visit to this course. Koenigsstern should pick up a race in this sphere before long and is next best ahead of Good Friday Fairy and likely improvers High Treason and Tactical Affair.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. GETAWAY DRUMLEE 2. KOENIGSSTERN 3. GOOD FRIDAY FAIRY**

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2023	<b>Good Friday Fairy</b>	6-11-6	9-2	Ben Clarke	Rex Dingle	5
2022	<b>Hipop des Ongrais</b>	5-10-12	9-4jf	Robert Walford	Daryl Jacob	6
2021	<b>Cilaos Glace</b>	8-11-12	9-2	Oliver Sherwood	Tom Cannon	8
2020	<b>Bridle Loanan</b>	7-11-12	3-1f	Gary Moore	Joshua Moore	8
2019	<b>Hugo's Reflection</b>	7-11-7	9-2	Ben Case	Kielan Woods	7

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

**2.00**

**BETGOODWIN NOVICES' HANDICAP HURDLE (5) 4yo+ (Rated 0-105) £6,150 2m5f164y (4370 Metres)**

RACE 3



Going: **Chase course: Soft (Heavy in places), Hurdles course: Soft (Good to Soft in places)**

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Pace Information: **Weak**

**1 EILEEN'S MILAN (IRE) (158)** t **91**

6428 5 12-0 | 76.2kg  
 Paul Nicholls **Lorcan Williams**  
 Had 3 outings in maiden/novice hurdles at Newton Abbot over the summer, showing a fair level of ability when runner-up on the second occasion. Potential improver now handicapping for a leading stable back from 5 months off (has had wind surgery)

**2 GROOM DE COTTE (FR) (77) (C)** t **97**

F5-307P01 8 11-4 | 71.7kg  
 Gary Brown **Isabelle Ryder (71b/3kg)**  
 Revived back hurdling for the first time for this yard when opening his account in a 3¼m course handicap in September. Hit with a 10 lb rise but he was competitive off higher marks earlier in his career.

**3 HURST HILL (IRE) (12)** **98**

73369U 5 11-0 | 69.9kg  
 Seamus Mullins **Daniel Sansom (31b/1kg)**  
 Placed in a couple of mares' novice events at Newton Abbot during the summer (both at around 17f) but has failed to build on those efforts since returning from a break.

**4 CHANCELLORSTOWN (IRE) (22)** s **100**

4007-42 6 10-13 | 69.4kg  
 Toby Lawes **Tom Cannon**  
 Showed improved form with cheekpieces fitted (retained) when going down by only a nose in 25f Plumpton handicap 22 days ago. Big player if in the same form.

**5 ARCTIC SAINT (IRE) (22)** t **99**

029/9-5593 6 10-12 | 68.9kg  
 Deborah Cole **Chris Ward (31b/1kg)**  
 Maiden pointer. Similar story after 8 starts under Rules but he did make a reasonable start for this yard when third of 10 in handicap hurdle at Leicester (20.5f, good to soft) last month. Needs to back that up now.

**6 DANCE TO FAME (IRE) (28)** **94**

P3P-8 9 10-4 | 65.3kg  
 Richard Rowe **James Davies**  
 Successful on the last of 4 starts in Irish points but is yet to offer much over hurdles, including 2 handicaps.

**7 ABSENCE OF MALICE (IRE) (20)** h **52**

08P07 4 10-4 | 65.3kg  
 Peter & Michael Bowen **Ben Jones**  
 Has looked limited in bumpers and novice hurdles but handicaps provide her with a more realistic chance.

**8 SMITH (IRE) (32)** **84**

PP/48 8 10-4 | 65.3kg  
 Lydia Richards **Marc Goldstein**  
 Successful 7 times on the Flat but he's something of an AW specialist in that sphere and has yet to make any significant impact over hurdles, including well held on last month's course handicap debut.

**9 ENGAGING SAM (12)** s **95**

08P/8863-5 7 10-2(9-9) | 64.4kg (61.2kg)  
 Paddy Butler **Caolin Quinn**  
 Showed he can be competitive from a basement mark when third over 23f at Lingfield in February and probably needed his comeback run there 12 days ago. Should be sharper now.

**10 ALL UNDER CONTROL (IRE) (29)** s **89**

77048-8 5 10-2(9-8) | 64.4kg (60.8kg)  
 Robert Walford **Harry Kimber**  
 Poor form at best for Sheila Lewis last season. Also well held on Kempton stable debut last month but better was seemingly expected as she went off at only 3/1. It'll be interesting to see if there's any money for her again.

**11 SPICY NELSON (IRE) (12)** b+t **86**

86P/9P5-53 6 10-2(9-8) | 64.4kg (60.8kg)  
 Joe Tizzard **Brendan Powell**  
 Poor hurdler who was beaten just under 18 lengths when third of 7 in a 19.5f Lingfield handicap 12 days ago. First-time blinkers (which are added to a tongue tie) will need to spark improvement.

11 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**7-2** Chancellorstown, **9-2** Arctic Saint, **9-2** Groom De Cotte, **9-2** Eileen's Milan, **7-1** Spicy Nelson, **22-1** All Under Control, **28-1** Smith, **28-1** Engaging Sam, **40-1** bar

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

CHANCELLORSTOWN pushed a thriving sort close at Plumpton 3 weeks ago and is given a chance to build on that promise, although a strong market move for Paul Nicholls handicap newcomer Eileen's Milan would put a slightly different slant on things. Groom de Cotte will also have a part to play if in anything like the same form as when winning comfortably over easily over 3¼m here in September.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. CHANCELLORSTOWN 2. EILEEN'S MILAN 3. GROOM DE COTTE**

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2023	<b>Herakles Westwood</b> 6-11-13	11-8f	Warren Greatrex	Sean Bowen	10
2022	<b>Alexandra Romanov</b> 5-11-11	5-1	Sheena West	Marc Goldstein	8
2021	<b>William Philo</b> 4-10-11	33-1	Robert Walford	Sam Twiston-Davies	11
2020	<b>Call Off The Dogs</b> 5-10-13	9-2	Gary Moore	Jamie Moore	9

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

**2.30**

RACE 4












**BETGOODWIN ONLINE BETTING SITE HANDICAP CHASE (Qualifier) (5) 4yo+ (Rated 0-100) £6,150 2m5f135y (4350 Metres)**



Going: **Chase course: Soft (Heavy in places), Hurdles course: Soft (Good to Soft in places)**

Left handed, sharp; the chase course is a figure of eight circuit, whilst the hurdles track is oval. The fences are easy but, given the nature of the track, course specialists abound. On the chase course, the lead rarely changes hands on the run in but often looks as though it might. The paddock exit is situated halfway up the run-in on the hurdles course and can lead to horses idling/ducking out on seeing it. Flights on the hurdles course differ in terms of their location, from inner to outer, though those who race wide on testing going are at an advantage regardless of the layout. As of August 2017, a 330-yard stretch of turf on the shared home turn was replaced by fibresand.

Pace Information: **Even**

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| <b>1</b> | <br><b>CAPTAIN CLAUDE (IRE) (257)</b> (CD, BF) <span style="float: right;">b+t  <b>100</b></span><br>12/311323- 7 12-0   76.2kg<br>Anthony Honeyball <span style="float: right;"><b>Chad Bament</b> (10lb/5kg)</span><br>Successful twice from 4 starts over fences here, the latest an 11-length success over 3¼m on Boxing Day last year. Followed that with a couple of creditable efforts in defeat before a less-than-perfect round of jumping ultimately proved his undoing back here when last seen in March. Solid claims. |
| <b>2</b> | <br><b>SHILLANAVOGY (IRE) (20)</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>95</b></span><br>50681-42P 6 11-10   74.4kg<br>Warren Greatrex  <span style="float: right;"><b>James Bowen</b></span><br>Hurdles winner at Hereford in April and solid start over fences when second of 6 in a handicap at Cartmel (25.5f, good to soft) the following month. However, he ran poorly (eventually pulled up) on return at Ffos Las and others make more appeal.   |
| <b>3</b> | <br><b>PILGRIMS KING (IRE) (30)</b> <span style="float: right;">v+t <b>97</b></span><br>321214-PP 8 11-9   73.9kg<br>Peter & Michael Bowen <span style="float: right;"><b>Ben Jones</b></span><br>Last season's campaign was a productive one, bagging handicap chases at Doncaster and Ffos Las (both at around 19f) and placed on several occasions, too. However, he now needs to get back on track having been pulled up on his last 2 starts. First-time visor replaces usual blinkers/tongue strap.  |
| <b>4</b> | <br><b>MISTER MURCHAN (IRE) (235)</b> (CD) <span style="float: right;"><b>97</b></span><br>2/825322P- 11 11-8   73.5kg<br>Richard Rowe <span style="float: right;"><b>James Davies</b></span><br>Losing run stretches back to January 2021 and while he found just one too good on 3 occasions last season (including here in March), he signed that campaign off on a downer and his record when fresh hardly inspires confidence.   |
| <b>5</b> | <br><b>LEADING SWOOP (IRE) (32)</b> <span style="float: right;">s <b>94</b></span><br>2/P325P8-3 8 11-2   70.8kg<br>Robert Walford <span style="float: right;"><b>Harry Kimber</b></span><br>Fair maiden hurdler who found just the one too good on his C&D chase debut in January. Failed to fire next 3 starts but better effort when third of 8 on his reappearance here (19.5f, good to soft) last month and he's not without each-way hope.  |
| <b>6</b> | <br><b>VALIRANN GOLD (IRE) (12)</b> (C) <span style="float: right;">s+t <b>98</b></span><br>5714323-3 7 10-11   68.5kg<br>Harriet Brown <span style="float: right;"><b>Ned Fox</b> (5lb/2kg)</span><br>Strike rate nothing special but did the job well here in February and resumed with a highly encouraging effort at Lingfield (2m, good to soft) where he finished third, doing his best work at the finish over an inadequate trip. Leading claims now back up in distance.   |
| <b>7</b> | <br><b>CAN'T BUY TIME (IRE) (50)</b> <span style="float: right;">b+t <b>98</b></span><br>606PP-P 5 10-2   64.4kg<br>Cynthia Woods <span style="float: right;"><b>Tabitha Worsley</b> (3lb/1kg)</span><br>No show in 5 starts over hurdles and, following 8 months off/breathing operation, he dropped away quickly when pulled up on chase debut at Plumpton in October. Now tried in blinkers.   |
| <b>8</b> | <br><b>NO DRAMA (IRE) (48)</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>78</b></span><br>6 9 10-2   64.4kg<br>Richard Bandey <span style="float: right;"><b>Harry Bannister</b></span><br>No surprise that he looked in need of the run when safely held on chase/yard debut following more than 3 years off here in October. Entitled to come on for that but others preferred all the same.   |
| <b>9</b> | <br><b>ELZAARO (IRE) (216)</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>82</b></span><br>68/5446-P 6 10-2(9-11)   64.4kg (62.1kg)<br>Karen Jewell <span style="float: right;"><b>Brendan Powell</b></span><br>Little to shout about in a bumper/over obstacles and likely to come up short once again from 5 lb out of the handicap.  |

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**9-4** Valirann Gold, **5-2** Captain Claude, **13-2** Leading Swoop, **10-1** Shillanavogy, **14-1** Mister Murchan, **16-1** Pilgrims King, **20-1** No Drama, **25-1** Elzaaro, **200-1** bar

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

VALIRANN GOLD and Captain Claude both boast good records round here and they could be the pair to concentrate on. The former shaped really well over a trip short of his best on his recent reappearance at Lingfield and, with that run under his belt, he may prove too strong for Anthony Honeyball's charge, who has been absent since March. Leading Swoop is best of the rest.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. VALIRANN GOLD 2. CAPTAIN CLAUDE 3. LEADING SWOOP**

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

**3.00**

RACE 5

**BETGOODWIN BEST UK BOOKIE MARES' NOVICES' HURDLE**  
**(4) 4yo+ fillies and mares £7,700 2m3f29y (3850 Metres)**



Going: **Chase course: Soft (Heavy in places), Hurdles course: Soft (Good to Soft in places)**

Left handed, sharp; the chase course is a figure of eight circuit, whilst the hurdles track is oval. The fences are easy but, given the nature of the track, course specialists abound. On the chase course, the lead rarely changes hands on the run in but often looks as though it might. The paddock exit is situated halfway up the run-in on the hurdles course and can lead to horses idling/ducking out on seeing it. Flights on the hurdles course differ in terms of their location, from inner to outer, though those who race wide on testing going are at an advantage regardless of the layout. As of August 2017, a 330-yard stretch of turf on the shared home turn was replaced by fibresand.

Pace Information: **Very Weak**

**1 HOLLYGROVE CHA CHA (IRE) (33)** **100**  
 11-1 4 11-7 | 73.0kg

**Jamie Snowden** **Gavin Sheehan**  
 Won both starts in bumpers in the spring and overcame a few mistakes to remain unbeaten switched to hurdling at Ludlow (21.2f, good to soft) last month. Remains with potential and she is clearly the one to beat.

**2 ARCTIC STREAM (19)** **78**  
 5 7 11-0 | 69.9kg

**Richard Bandey** **Harry Bannister**  
 Little show in points in 2022 and beaten a long way when fifth on Rules debut in a mares' novice hurdle at Warwick 19 days ago.

**3 EILEEN'S ORDERS (IRE) (19)** **81**  
 663 4 11-0 | 69.9kg

**Henrietta C Knight** **Brendan Powell**  
 Modest form in bumpers 5 months apart but she was up there for much of the journey when coming home third of 15 on hurdles debut at Warwick (19f, soft), with Arctic Stream around 18 lengths behind. Live each-way chance.

**4 ELLIE'S WARRIOR (IRE) (12)** **78**  
 697-7 5 11-0 | 69.9kg

**Ben Clarke** **Rex Dingle**  
 Beaten a fair way both starts in bumpers and similar story in maiden hurdles at Chepstow and Lingfield.

**5 JUST A MEMORY (FR) (264)** **80**  
 044- 5 11-0 | 69.9kg

**Warren Greatrex** **James Bowen**  
 Out of a chase winner in France and showed glimmers of ability in a trip of bumpers last season. Improvement needed now switched to hurdles.

**6 KATIRA DU MESTIVEL (FR)** **87**  
 4 11-0 | 69.9kg

**Ben Pauling** **Ben Jones**  
 Cost €85,000 as a 3-y-o and this half-sister to 4 winners held every chance when exiting at the final obstacle in a maiden point during the spring. Has joined a greatly respected yard ahead of this Rules debut and she is one to keep a close eye on in the betting.

**7 MISS IRELAND (IRE) (38) (C)** **81**  
 15 5 11-0 | 69.9kg

**Lydia Richards** **Marc Goldstein**  
 Pulled up both starts in points but proved an entirely different proposition when landing a 6-runner bumper here in September, despite going in snatches. Wasn't beaten far at Ascot in first-time cheekpieces (retained) next time but more will almost certainly be needed now switched to hurdles.

**8 SHES ALL PRIDE (IRE) (27)** **79**  
 3 4 11-0 | 69.9kg

**Deborah Cole** **Chris Ward (31b/1kg)**  
 Runner-up sole start in Irish points and, having raced freely, she was beaten around 17 lengths when third on Rules debut in a Ayr bumper (2m, good to soft) last month. Hood enlisted now tackling hurdles.

**9 TWO FINGERS WEST (IRE)** **83**  
 5 11-0 | 69.9kg

**Stuart Edmunds** **Charlie Hammond**  
 Changed hands for £38,000 after winning the second of her 2 starts in Irish maiden points last winter. Interesting starting out under Rules here for a yard in terrific form and it will be worth noting if the market speaks in her favour.

9 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**6-5** Hollygrove Cha Cha, **4-1** Katira Du Mestivel, **13-2** Two Fingers West, **10-1** Eileen's Orders, **16-1** Miss Ireland, **22-1** Just A Memory, **25-1** Shes All Pride, **40-1** bar

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

Having both shown ability between the flags, KATIRA DU MESTIVEL and Two Fingers West are intriguing alternatives to Hollygrove Cha Cha, who is likely to be a warm order having maintained her unbeaten record with a stylish hurdles debut success at Ludlow. Conversely, that probably wasn't a particularly strong race and she is worth taking on at short odds. Katira du Mestivel was bang there when falling at the last on her sole start between the flags and she could be the answer.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. KATIRA DU MESTIVEL 2. TWO FINGERS WEST 3. HOLLYGROVE CHA CHA**

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2023	<b>Easy To Follow</b> 5-11-7	4-1	Dr Richard Newland	Luke Scott (5)	7
2022	<b>Credrojava</b> 5-11-0	8-15f	Harry Fry	Jonathan Burke	7
2021	<b>Lady of The Night</b> 8-10-12	5-1	Kim Bailey	David Bass	13
2020	<b>Little River Bay</b> 5-11-3	4-11f	Philip Hobbs	Richard Johnson	6
2019	<b>Martha Brae</b> 4-10-10	20-1	Warren Greatrex	A. P. Heskin	11

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race



**3.30**

RACE 6

**JOHN AND MARYANNE BIRCH MEMORIAL HANDICAP HURDLE (5) 3yo+ (Rated 0-100) £6,150 2m1f162y (3570 Metres)**




Going: **Chase course: Soft (Heavy in places), Hurdles course: Soft (Good to Soft in places)**


Left handed, sharp; the chase course is a figure of eight circuit, whilst the hurdles track is oval. The fences are easy but, given the nature of the track, course specialists abound. On the chase course, the lead rarely changes hands on the run in but often looks as though it might. The paddock exit is situated halfway up the run-in on the hurdles course and can lead to horses idling/ducking out on seeing it. Flights on the hurdles course differ in terms of their location, from inner to outer, though those who race wide on testing going are at an advantage regardless of the layout. As of August 2017, a 330-yard stretch of turf on the shared home turn was replaced by fibresand.

Pace Information: **Even**

**1 SUMMER IN MILAN (IRE) (12) 90**  
4-747 5 12-0 | 76.2kg

 **Chris Gordon** *Rex Dingle*  
Showed ability on his only start in Irish bumpers (for P. M. J. Doyle) having earlier won a point. Low-key start over hurdles so far for this stable but may do better now switched to a handicap.


**2 ALMUHIT (IRE) (33) 89**  
60/07-5767 5 12-0 | 76.2kg

 **Gary Brown** *Isabelle Ryder (71lb/3kg)*  
Fairly useful maiden hurdler at his best but he proved to be a disappointment on debut for new yard here in September and has fared no better since. Plenty to prove.


**3 JOHN BETJEMAN (28) 89**  
57333-484 8 11-12 | 75.3kg

 **Mark Gillard** *Fergus Gillard*  
Sixteen runs since last win in 2023 but wasn't entirely disgraced when fourth of 6 in handicap hurdle at Hereford (16.2f, good) 28 days ago. Eased further in the weights.


**4 MI SUENO (IRE) (50) 95**  
3FP11P6-0 5 11-7 | 73.0kg

 **Paddy Butler** *Caolin Quinn*  
Bagged handicaps at Fakenham and at Plumpton last winter but well held in a pair of Flat handicaps in early summer and offered little back from 4 months off at latter venue last time.

**5 DIESEL LINE (IRE) (54) 100**  
1/309-7 6 11-1 | 70.3kg

 **Jeremy Scott** *Lorcan Williams*  
Attracted support and made a winning debut in good style in 9-runner bumper at Exeter in February 2023. Disappointing so far over hurdles, including on reappearance at Wincanton last time. Needs to have benefited from a recent breathing operation.

**6 SOLDIER'S LEAP (IRE) (52) 83**  
067 4 11-0 | 69.9kg

 **Tom Ellis** *Mr Jack Andrews (31lb/1kg)*  
Runner-up in a point in May but well held all 3 starts over hurdles, albeit showing a bit more than previously at Stratford (16.3f, heavy) just over 6 weeks ago. Improvement needed on handicap debut.


**7 JE SUIS SACRE (FR) (302) 70**  
958- 5 10-12 | 68.9kg

 **Robert Walford** *Harry Kimber*  
Little promise in 3 runs last season but has a good pedigree and appeals as the type to do better now venturing into handicaps over a slightly longer trip.


**8 FOOTLOOSE MAN (12) (CD) 99**  
73144365 5 10-11 | 68.5kg

 **Richard Hobson** *Lilly Pinchin*  
C&D winner in August. Mixed bag since but shaped better than distance beaten suggests when fifth of 15 at Taunton (19f) on most recent outing. Not ruled out.


**9 MOTAZZEN (IRE) (14) 98**  
4P-725604 6 10-9 | 67.6kg

 **Henrietta C Knight** *Brendan Powell*  
Took a step back in the right direction when fourth of 13 in handicap hurdle at Southwell (15.8f, good, 13/2) 14 days ago. Needs to build on that now.

**10 GUINNESSED (IRE) (77) 65**  
555/PF00-4 7 10-3 | 64.9kg

 **Jim & Suzi Best** *Jack Tudor*  
Yet to show any worthwhile form over hurdles, finishing a well-held fourth of 8 on handicap debut over C&D in September.

**11 NO GUARANTEE (32) 73**  
P5P8-PP07 4 10-2(9-8) | 64.4kg (60.8kg)

 **Cynthia Woods** *Tabitha Worsley (31lb/1kg)*  
Of little account and looks set for another struggle from well out of the weights.

11 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**4-1** Motazzen, **9-2** John Betjeman, **13-2** Footloose Man, **15-2** Diesel Line, **17-2** Summer In Milan, **10-1** Almuhit, **12-1** Je Suis Sacre, **22-1** Guinessed, **22-1** Soldier's Leap, **25-1** Mi Sueno, **100-1** bar

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

FOOTLOOSE MAN has been a bit hit and miss since winning over C&D in August, but he shaped better than the distance beaten suggests at Taunton on his most recent outing and gets the tentative vote to notch a second success. Summer In Milan could show more now switched to a handicap, with John Betjeman not ruled out from an easing mark.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. FOOTLOOSE MAN 2. SUMMER IN MILAN 3. JOHN BETJEMAN**

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2023	<b>Thirtyfour Thirty</b>	4-12-0	7-2	Syd Hosie	Sean Bowen	6
2022	<b>Ray's The One</b>	5-11-9	10-1	Mark Pattinson	James Best	13
2021	<b>Ray's The One</b>	4-12-1	17-2	Gary Moore	Niall Houlihan (5)	11
2020	<b>Cristal Spirit</b>	5-11-12	11-10f	Jim Boyle	Robert Dunne	9
2019	<b>Clondaw Robin</b>	6-9-12	11-2	Zoe Davison	Page Fuller (3)	11

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race