

Friday 15th November

# CHELTENHAM



<b>1.10</b>	LYCETTS INSURANCE BROKERS CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier) (3) 2m5f (4220 Metres)
RACE 1	<b>(9) PLAISIR DES FLOS   (11) DOUBLE POWERFUL   (6) TUNE IN A BOX</b>
<b>1.45</b>	MUCKING BRILLIANT PADDY POWER NOVICES' CHASE (Listed) (1) 3m110y (4930 Metres)
RACE 2	<b>(4) RESPLENDENT GREY   (1) SPRINGWELL BAY   (2) HYLAND</b>
<b>2.20</b>	SHLOER CHASE (Cheltenham) (Grade 2) (1) 1m7f199y (3200 Metres)
RACE 3	<b>(2) JONBON   (3) BOOTHILL   (1) EDWARDSTONE</b>
<b>2.55</b>	GLENFARCLAS CROSS COUNTRY HANDICAP CHASE (2) 3m5f56y (5890 Metres)
RACE 4	<b>(1) CONFLATED   (2) TOMMIE BEAU   (4) MISTER COFFEY</b>
<b>3.30</b>	ALBERT BARTLETT NOVICES' HURDLE (Hyde) (Grade 2) (1) 2m5f (4220 Metres)
RACE 5	<b>(1) VALGRAND   (2) POTTERS CHARM   (5) GALE MAHLER</b>
<b>4.00</b>	VALDA ENERGY NOVICES' HANDICAP HURDLE (3) 2m87y (3300 Metres)
RACE 6	<b>(4) WRECKLESS ERIC   (5) BALHAMBAR   (11) FASOL</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.

# 1.10

RACE 1

## LYCETTS INSURANCE BROKERS CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier) (3) 3yo+ (Rated 0-125) £18,000 2m5f (4220 Metres)

# GBI RACING

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

Left handed, undulating. Stiff fences that place a premium on sound jumping. The last half mile is uphill, although the lead changes hands on the run-in less frequently than might be expected. Prominent-racers often fare well on the chase course, especially in races up to 3m. On the New Course, the hurdles track has just two flights in the last six furlongs, resulting in more emphasis on stamina; large-field races over two miles often go to hold-up horses, as there can be a tendency to go for home too soon. Jockeys often steer a wide course in the winter months searching for better ground and this can lead to trouble in-running towards the stand rail in the straight.

Pace Information: **Very Strong**

**1 AMERICAN SNIPER (IRE) (7lb/3kg ex) (8) (CD) b+t 95**  
01477-091 6 12-2 | 77.1kg



David Pipe

**Geoid Harney (6lb/3kg)**

Won this race 12 months ago and lines up here having bounced back to best with cheekpieces refitted when gamely landing 4-runner handicap hurdle at Newbury (24.2f) 8 days ago. Blinkers now the headgear of choice and rider's claim all but off-sets his penalty. Respected.

**2 WHATSUPWITHYOU (IRE) (23) (D, BF) s+t 97**  
4/349122-2 10 12-1 | 76.7kg



Ben Pauling

**Callum Pritchard (10lb/5kg)**

Back to best when winning at Ludlow (21.2f, soft) last December and found only one too good all 3 starts since, latterly on the back of 6 months off in 5-runner Fontwell handicap (19f) 23 days ago. Usual cheekpieces go back on now.

**3 MACGILONEY (IRE) (12) (D) 95**  
5692324P 11 12-1 | 76.7kg



Denis Hogan, Ireland

**M. P. O'Connor**

Losing run is mounting up but acquitted himself with credit in pair of handicap chase contests before a creditable fourth over hurdles at Gowran (3m) in October. Disappointed in Cork Grand National latest though and bounce back called for returned to hurdling.

**4 FOSTER'S ISLAND (14) (D) 97**  
1/542543-2 9 12-0 | 76.2kg



Micky Hammond

**Emma Smith-Chaston (3lb/1kg)**

Winless last season but signed off with a good third at Ayr (21.4f) in the spring and similar form after 7 months off when second of 6 in handicap hurdle at Wetherby (19.7f) 2 weeks ago. This demands more however nudged up 1 lb.

**5 PHANTOM OF THE POINTS (IRE) (210) 98**  
3226216- 6 11-13 | 75.7kg



David Pipe

**Ellis Collier (3lb/1kg)**

Posted a fairly useful effort when a wide-margin winner of a Chepstow novice (2m, soft) in April. Not disgraced when sixth of 13 on handicap debut at Ayr (2m) later that month and interesting connections up him markedly in trip on return. Market may prove a useful guide.

**6 TUNE IN A BOX (IRE) (34) (D) 96**  
691121-10 5 11-11 | 74.8kg



Tom Lacey

**Cameron Iles (6lb/3kg)**

Most progressive switched to handicaps last season, making it 4 wins from 5 starts when taking big-field contest at Punchestown (19.4f) in April. Shaped more encouragingly than bare result would imply on return in Silver Trophy last month and he remains potentially useful.

**7 IL VA DE SOI (FR) (205) s 97**  
24/447211- 6 11-11 | 74.8kg



Harry Derham

**Alice Stevens**

Progressive since the cheekpieces went on, confirming previous promise when off the mark at Chepstow (19.5f) in April and plenty in hand when defying an 8 lb hike at Uttoxeter (20f) later that month. Feasible to think there's even more to come this campaign.

**8 GETALEAD (IRE) (7lb/3kg ex) (10) (D) t 99**  
66/754-P11 8 11-9 | 73.9kg



Kevin Pickard

**Lewis Saunders (5lb/2kg)**

Caused a surprise after 6 months off when successful at Wincanton (15.2f) in October and, having escaped a penalty, he followed up at Warwick (21f) 10 days ago. Got away with some slipshod jumping on that occasion and this a taller ask in this more competitive environment.

**9 PLAISIR DES FLOS (FR) (22) ★ 100**  
5801111-1 5 11-7 | 73.0kg



Fergal O'Brien

**J. Hogan (3lb/1kg)**

Upwardly mobile 5-y-o who completed 5-timer in good style after 6 months off in 9-runner handicap hurdle at Carlisle (20f) 3 weeks ago, always holding on under hands-and-heels ride. Handicapper applies a little more pressure but unlikely he's reached his limit yet. Player.

**10 LITTLEFOOT (IRE) (63) s 96**  
8/264-8513 6 11-4 | 71.7kg



Mark Molloy, Ireland

**L. A. McKenna**

Off the mark with cheekpieces enlisted in small-field Ballinrobe maiden (23f) in August and backed that up when third in 16-runner handicap back at that venue (22f) a month later, running on late. No reason why he won't give a good account with this stiff finish expected to suit.

**11 DOUBLE POWERFUL (IRE) (7lb/3kg ex) (7) (D) h 99**  
79411-111 5 11-3 | 71.2kg



Neil Mulholland

**Dylan Johnston**

Continues to go from strength-to-strength, typically travelling strongly when bringing up the 5-timer at Fontwell (19.1f) 7 days ago, not fluent late on but still drawing clear. Another meriting serious respect turned out under a penalty.

**12 MONSANT (IRE) (38) 95**  
276-6 6 11-2 | 70.8kg



Neil Mulholland

**Eddie Edge (7lb/3kg)**

Definite promise (fair form) on first 2 starts in maiden hurdles during 2023. Probably in need of run after 9 months off when last of 6 in handicap hurdle at Galway (19f) 38 days ago and he remains with potential having since switched yards. Stable also saddle Double Powerful.

**13 ZACONY REBEL (IRE) (313) s 93**  
13P4/8U55- 9 11-2 | 70.8kg



Sarah-Jayne Davies

**James Turner (3lb/1kg)**

Dual hurdles/chase winner who was largely disappointing during a light 2023/24 campaign for Toby Lawes. Reappears after 10 months off for new yard in a hot-looking handicap and percentage call to look elsewhere.

**14 CLONBURY BRIDGE (IRE) (22) (BF) b+t 95**  
31-002732 8 11-1 | 70.3kg



J. P. Dempsey, Ireland

**C. G. O'Dwyer**

Landed a big-field handicap at Cork (2m) in the spring and essentially remained in form since, good third over hurdles at Listowel (18f) in September prior to a solid second over fences at Clonmel (20.7f) 3 weeks ago. May be vulnerable from this mark back over timber, however.

**15 STAY IF U WANT TO (IRE) (29) h 96**  
4/8122-122 5 10-13 | 69.4kg



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 (16.2f) in May. Similar form back from 4 months off when second on handicap debut at Wincanton (21.4f) 4 weeks ago but likely he'll need to pull out more to take this.

**16 BILLY LEE SWAGGER (IRE) (199) 99**  
8400122-4 5 10-13 | 69.4kg



P. J. Rothwell, Ireland

**Freddie Mitchell**

Progressive in handicaps last season, off the mark at Punchestown (16.7f) last December. Runner-up next 2 starts and better than bare result when fourth back at that venue in April, keeping on well having met with some interference. Remains unexposed at this sort of trip back from 6 months off.

**17 YOUNG LUCY (IRE) (376) t 96**  
6565/1607- 5 10-8 | 67.1kg



A. J. Martin, Ireland

**Daniel King (3lb/1kg)**

Sole success to date come in a Cork bumper early last year. Some promise over hurdles initially and she comes here fit from respectable efforts in staying handicaps on the Flat in recent months. Interesting if the market spoke in her favour back over hurdles for shrewd stable.

**18 REBEL INTENTIONS (IRE) (26) (D) t 97**  
136P50-21 7 10-7 | 66.7kg



Emma Lavelle

**Joe Anderson**

Returned from a break at the top of his game, going one place better than at Stratford when bagging 7-runner handicap hurdle at Kempton (21f) 26 days ago, staying on well. More on his plate up 5 lb in this stronger affair but he's evidently thriving.

**19 VICTORY CLUB (IRE) (233) 96**  
123/02- 7 10-5 | 65.8kg



Harriet Dickin

**Bradley Harris (3lb/1kg)**

Landed a bumper on first of 3 starts for Dan Skelton in 2022. Missed whole of last year but showed benefit of reappearance/yard debut effort at Taunton in March when second in a Wincanton maiden (15.2f) later that month. Still, this a tough introduction to handicaps/after 7 months off.

**20 WOT YOU WEARING (IRE) (17) s+t 97**  
311227-25 7 10-2 | 64.4kg



Robert Stephens

**Freddie Gingell**

Back-to-back winner at Chepstow last November and very encouraging start to present campaign when just touched off in a 25.5f Hereford handicap (good) in October. Not in same form when fifth back at first-named venue 17 days ago but he's a likely candidate to bounce back.

**1.10**

RACE 1

**LYCETTS INSURANCE BROKERS CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS'  
HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier) (3) 3yo+ (Rated 0-125)  
£18,000 2m5f (4220 Metres)**

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**13-2** Double Powerful, **8-1** Plaisir Des Flos, **11-1** Il Va De Soi, **11-1** American Sniper, **14-1** Getalead, **14-1** Phantomofthepoints, **14-1** Whatsupwithyou, **16-1** Billy Lee Swagger, **18-1** Tune In A Box, **18-1** Stay If U Want To, **22-1** Foster'sisland, **22-1** Rebel Intentions, **22-1** Littlefoot, **22-1** Young Lucy, **28-1** Clonbury Bridge, **33-1** Monsanto, **40-1** bar

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

PLAISIR DES FLOS found further progress when bringing up the 5-timer on return at Carlisle 3 weeks ago, only needing hands-and-heels riding to see off another upwardly-mobile sort (the pair clear). It's feasible to think the handicapper hasn't caught up with him yet on that evidence and Fergal O'Brien's 5-y-o makes strong appeal again. Double Powerful is of a very similar ilk and he's feared, as is Tune In A Box and Il Va De Soi in an ultra-competitive opener.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. PLAISIR DES FLOS 2. DOUBLE POWERFUL 3. TUNE IN A BOX**

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2023	<b>American Sniper</b> 5-11-9	16-1	David Pipe	Fergus Gillard	20
2022	<b>Sweet Will</b> 5-11-4	8-1	Gavin Patrick Cromwell	Kieren Buckley	18
2021	<b>Art Approval</b> 5-11-2	10-3	Fergal O'Brien	Peter Kavanagh (5)	20
2020	<b>Castle Robin</b> 5-11-7	13-2	Charlie Longsdon	Paul O'Brien	17
2019	<b>Duc de Beauchene</b> 6-11-6	10-3f	David Pipe	Jonjo O'Neill Jr.	16

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

**1.45****MUCKING BRILLIANT PADDY POWER NOVICES' CHASE**  
**(Listed) (1) 5yo+ £40,000 3m110y (4930 Metres)**

RACE 2

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

Left handed, undulating. Stiff fences that place a premium on sound jumping. The last half mile is uphill, although the lead changes hands on the run-in less frequently than might be expected. Prominent-racers often fare well on the chase course, especially in races up to 3m. On the New Course, the hurdles track has just two flights in the last six furlongs, resulting in more emphasis on stamina; large-field races over two miles often go to hold-up horses, as there can be a tendency to go for home too soon. Jockeys often steer a wide course in the winter months searching for better ground and this can lead to trouble in-running towards the stand rail in the straight.

Pace Information: **Very Weak****1 SPRINGWELL BAY (34) (C) 98**  
116/142U-1 7 11-9 | 73.9kg

Jonjo &amp; 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) last month, form which was boosted when the third (Boombawn) recently landed a Grade 2 at Wincanton. Open to improvement in this sphere and he's a big player.

**2 HYLAND (FR) (20) (CD) 100**  
13602-141 7 11-7 | 73.0kg

Nicky Henderson

**Nico de Boinville**

Useful hurdler who made it 2-3 over fences when scoring by a wide margin over C&D (good) 20 days ago. The front pair in the market that day clearly didn't give their running but he nevertheless did the job in good style and has to be respected.

**3 BUDDY ONE (IRE) (18) (C) 95**  
15P42-413 7 11-4 | 71.7kg

Paul John Gilligan, Ireland

**Jack G. Gilligan**

Smart hurdler who made the frame in top stayers' events at the big festivals during the spring. Landed the odds in a 3-runner affair at Galway (22.5f, good to soft) on debut in this sphere last month but was put in his place at Wexford since and will need to brush up on his jumping.

**4 RESPLENDENT GREY (IRE) (28) 97**  
1/27342-11 6 11-4 | 71.7kg

Olly Murphy

**Sean Bowen**

Ended last season on the up over hurdles and perfect start to chase career when readily accounting for 5 rivals in a 2½m Uttoxeter handicap on return last month. This is more demanding but he should have more to offer and shapes as though this stiffer test will be right up his street.

4 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

7-4 Springwell Bay, 5-2 Hyland, 4-1 Resplendent Grey, 9-2 Buddy One

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

Preference is for RESPLENDENT GREY, who looked a smart novice in the making at Uttoxeter and he looks ready for both this step up in class and trip. Springwell Bay also made a winning chase debut at Chepstow and is greatly respected given that, like the selection, he is open to improvement in this sphere. Hyland is impossible to discount on the back of his emphatic C&D success but Buddy One, though the pick of these over hurdles, has not looked a natural over fences so far.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

1. RESPLENDENT GREY 2. SPRINGWELL BAY 3. HYLAND

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2023	<b>Broadway Boy</b> 5-11-4	9-4jf	Nigel Twiston-Davies	Tom Bellamy	6
2022	<b>The Real Whacker</b> 6-11-2	10-1	Patrick Neville	Gavin Sheehan	5
2021	<b>Threeunderthruive</b> 6-11-8	11-4	Paul Nicholls	A. P. Heskin	5
2020	<b>The Big Breakaway</b> 5-11-0	4-9f	Colin Tizzard	Robbie Power	5
2019	<b>Wholestone</b> 8-11-5	13-8f	Nigel Twiston-Davies	Daryl Jacob	7

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race





**2.20****SHLOER CHASE (Cheltenham) (Grade 2) (1) 4yo+  
£100,000 1m7f199y (3200 Metres)**

RACE 3

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

Left handed, undulating. Stiff fences that place a premium on sound jumping. The last half mile is uphill, although the lead changes hands on the run-in less frequently than might be expected. Prominent-racers often fare well on the chase course, especially in races up to 3m. On the New Course, the hurdles track has just two flights in the last six furlongs, resulting in more emphasis on stamina; large-field races over two miles often go to hold-up horses, as there can be a tendency to go for home too soon. Jockeys often steer a wide course in the winter months searching for better ground and this can lead to trouble in-running towards the stand rail in the straight.

Pace Information: **Very Weak**

<b>1</b>	<b>EDWARDSTONE (202)</b> (CD)	<b>96</b>
	25/2241F3- 10 11-10   74.4kg	
	Alan King	<b>Tom Cannon</b>
	Classy chaser who landed the Arkle over C&D at the 2022 Festival. Back to his best under a change of tactics (made all) when bolting up in the Game Spirit at Newbury in February but he's been beaten by Jonbon on each of their 3 previous meetings, including in this race last year.	
<b>2</b>	<b>JONBON (FR) (202)</b> (CD)	<b>100</b>
	211/11211- 8 11-10   74.4kg	
	Nicky Henderson	<b>Nico de Boinville</b>
	Top-class chaser who has won 9 of his 11 starts over fences. Enjoyed a near-flawless campaign last term, which started with a clear-cut victory in this race (beat the re-opposing Edwardstone by 9½ lengths) and culminated with a terrific display in the Celebration Chase at Sandown. Hard to oppose.	
<b>3</b>	<b>BOOTHILL (IRE) (202)</b> (D)	<b>95</b>
	123/11FF4- 9 11-8   73.5kg	
	Harry Fry	<b>Bryan Carver</b>
	Grade 2 winner as a novice and further progress when landing valuable back-to-back Ascot handicaps last winter. Back on track following a couple of falls when 7¼ lengths fourth to Jonbon at Sandown on final run of last term, finishing just over 3 lengths behind Edwardstone. Has undergone a wind op.	
<b>4</b>	<b>UNEXPECTED PARTY (FR) (4)</b> (CD)	<b>86</b>
	55491P-52 9 11-8   73.5kg	
	Dan Skelton	<b>Harry Skelton</b>
	Enjoyed his finest hour to date when landing the C&D Grand Annual at the Festival in March. Didn't do much wrong when second in a fairly valuable 4-runner graduation chase at Carlisle on Monday but he faces a tall order on these terms.	

4 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

2-5 Jonbon, 4-1 Edwardstone, 9-1 Boothill, 28-1 Unexpected Party

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

It's hard to look beyond JONBON, who has few peers at up to 2½m over fences and he beat Edwardstone on each of their three meetings last term, including on his reappearance in this race and final start of that campaign in the Celebration Chase at Sandown. Boothill, who was a place behind Edwardstone in the latter race, is an appealing option for forecast purposes given his excellent record when fresh.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

1. JONBON 2. BOOTHILL 3. EDWARDSTONE

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2023	<b>Jonbon</b> 7-11-10	4-9f	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boinville	4
2022	<b>Nube Negra</b> 8-11-10	1-10f	Dan Skelton	Harry Skelton	3
2021	<b>Nube Negra</b> 7-11-6	9-4	Dan Skelton	Harry Skelton	4
2020	<b>Put The Kettle On</b> 6-10-10	7-4	Henry de Bromhead	Aidan Coleman	4
2019	<b>Defi du Seuil</b> 6-11-3	11-8f	Philip Hobbs	Barry Geraghty	4

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

**2.55****GLENFARCLAS CROSS COUNTRY HANDICAP CHASE (2) 5yo+  
£35,000 3m5f56y (5890 Metres)**

RACE 4

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

Left handed, undulating. Stiff fences that place a premium on sound jumping. The last half mile is uphill, although the lead changes hands on the run-in less frequently than might be expected. Prominent-racers often fare well on the chase course, especially in races up to 3m. On the New Course, the hurdles track has just two flights in the last six furlongs, resulting in more emphasis on stamina; large-field races over two miles often go to hold-up horses, as there can be a tendency to go for home too soon. Jockeys often steer a wide course in the winter months searching for better ground and this can lead to trouble in-running towards the stand rail in the straight.

Pace Information: **Even**

**1** **CONFLATED (IRE) (13)** s  **100**  
3UU32-6U5 **10** 12-0 | 76.2kg



Gordon Elliott, Ireland

**Mr R. James (71b/3kg)**

High-class Irish chaser who emerged with plenty of credit when placed in Ryanair/Melling Chase at Spring Festivals. Unseated at first on return and looked like he'd come on for the run when fifth in the Charlie Hall Chase 2 weeks ago. Intriguing contender with his sights lowered considerably.

**2** **TOMMIE BEAU (IRE) (26)** (D) **99**  
3P-112123 **9** 10-5 | 65.8kg



Seamus Mullins

**Micheal Nolan**

Credit to connections who landed 3 of his first 4 starts at Cartmel this term and typically solid efforts from the front have followed, third of 7 in Durham National at Sedgefield (29.2f) 26 days ago. Merits respect from 1 lb lower mark.

**3** **BUSSELTON (FR) (51)** **91**  
4P/546PP-0 **7** 10-5 | 65.8kg

Joseph Patrick O'Brien, Ireland **Richard Deegan**

Last success over jumps came in 2022 Kerry National but resumed winning ways with blinkers refitted on Flat at Galway (16.5f) in July. Hasn't been in same form either start on Flat/over fences since though, and switch to this discipline needs to perk him up.

**4** **MISTER COFFEY (FR) (279)** **98**  
2238/4263- **9** 10-2(9-13) | 64.4kg (63.0kg)



Nicky Henderson

**Nico de Boinville**

Frustratingly still without a win in this sphere but did run well on second start of last season when runner-up at Doncaster in December. Below best with cheekpieces fitted final 2 starts (discarded here) but he could be the type to take to the demands of this sort of race.

**5** **SLIPWAY (IRE) (202)** **99**  
19P/9010- **9** 10-2(9-12) | 64.4kg (62.6kg)

Ben Pauling **Ben Jones**

Strong stayer who dispelled a couple of low-key efforts when resuming winning ways at Kempton (3m) in March. Well held in Bet365 Gold Cup on final start in April but returns to action with his yard in rude health and will have no issues with this trip.

**6** **STATUARIO (51)** (BF) t **96**  
1/P4-11395 **9** 10-2(9-9) | 64.4kg (61.2kg)



Peter &amp; Michael Bowen

**Sean Bowen**

Enhanced excellent Perth record with another brace of small-field wins in May/June. Cracking third in Summer Plate next start and given a break following a couple of lesser efforts in August/September. However, work to do from out of weights here.

**7** **FAMEAFTERTHEGLORY (195)** **91**  
76334-42 **8** 10-2(9-8) | 64.4kg (60.8kg)



Gavin Patrick Cromwell, Ireland

**Jonathan Burke**

Temperamental sort who remains a maiden over jumps but produced one of his better efforts when runner-up in this discipline at Punchestown (24.4f) back in May. 8 lb "wrong" at the weights on return but wouldn't be a great surprise to see him in the frame if putting best foot forward.

**8** **SWEET DAVID (33)** t **93**  
P4F21-222 **5** 10-2(8-13) | 64.4kg (56.7kg)



Gabriel Leenders, France

**Felix de Giles**

Fairly useful hurdler/chaser in France who opened his account in X-Country Chase at Durtal (21f) in April. In-the-frame all 4 starts since, latterly when second at Haras du Pin (25.8f) 33 days ago. Long way out of weights here but record in this discipline a positive.

**9** **BACK ON THE LASH (21)** (C) **97**  
1PP/P08-PO **10** 10-2(8-12) | 64.4kg (56.2kg)



Martin Keighley

**James Best**

Dual Cross-Country winner here but didn't have much spark about him last season and he never threatened in amateur riders' chase here on return from 5 months off in October. Return to this discipline needs to spark a revival but another operating from miles out of the weights.

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**7-2** Conflated, **9-2** Mister Coffey, **7-1** Tommie Beau, **7-1** Busselton, **15-2** Fameaftertheglory, **10-1** Sweet David, **12-1** Slipway, **12-1** Statuario, **22-1** Back On The Lash

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

The fascinating contender here is CONFLATED. Twice placed in Grade 1s (including here) during the spring, Gordon Elliott's high-class chaser should be sharper for what was effectively his reappearance in the Charlie Hall 2 weeks ago and he's of interest provided he sees out the longer trip. Tommie Beau is a highly admirable sort and is feared ahead of returning pair Mister Coffey and Slipway.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. CONFLATED 2. TOMMIE BEAU 3. MISTER COFFEY**

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2023	<b>Foxy Jacks</b> 9-11-3	9-1	M. F. Morris	Gavin Peter Brouder (5)	13
2023	<b>Back On The Lash</b> 9-10-5	6-1	Martin Keighley	Sean Bowen	15
2021	<b>Back On The Lash</b> 7-10-3	4-1f	Martin Keighley	Sean Bowen	13
2020	<b>Kingswell Theatre</b> 11-8-10	22-1	Michael Scudamore	Tom Scudamore	9
2019	<b>Diesel d'Allier</b> 6-10-4	13-2	Emmanuel Clayeux	Charlie Deutsch	10

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race



**3.30****ALBERT BARTLETT NOVICES' HURDLE (Hyde) (Grade 2) (1)**  
**4yo+ £55,000 2m5f (4220 Metres)**

RACE 5

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

Left handed, undulating. Stiff fences that place a premium on sound jumping. The last half mile is uphill, although the lead changes hands on the run-in less frequently than might be expected. Prominent-racers often fare well on the chase course, especially in races up to 3m. On the New Course, the hurdles track has just two flights in the last six furlongs, resulting in more emphasis on stamina; large-field races over two miles often go to hold-up horses, as there can be a tendency to go for home too soon. Jockeys often steer a wide course in the winter months searching for better ground and this can lead to trouble in-running towards the stand rail in the straight.

Pace Information: **Weak**

**1 VALGRAND (FR) (21) (C)** **100**  
24-111 5 11-7 | 73.0kg



Dan Skelton

**Harry Skelton**

Useful in bumpers and 3 from 3 over hurdles, posting a borderline smart performance in 6-runner Grade 2 here (16.4f) 3 weeks ago. Up in trip and open to further improvement.

**2 POTTERS CHARM (IRE) (21) (C)** **99**  
1-11 5 11-5 | 72.1kg



Nigel Twiston-Davies

**Sam Twiston-Davies**

Runner-up only outing in points and unbeaten all 3 starts under Rules, putting up a useful performance when winning 8-runner novice at this course (19.9f, good) 3 weeks ago. Open to further improvement.

**3 GRANDAD'S CAP (IRE) (13)** **69**  
5 4 11-1 | 70.3kg



L J Morgan

**Jonjo O'Neill Jr.**

Very stiff task here and looks one for the longer term.

**4 WILDFELL (IRE)** **t**  
4 11-1 | 70.3kg



D. J. Jeffreys

**Kielan Woods**

Fairly useful handicapper on Flat (stays 1m) but has been largely out of sorts in 2024 and looks best watched pitched in the deep end on hurdle debut.

**5 GALE MAHLER (IRE) (21) (D, BF)** **s** **99**  
4-1111112 5 11-0 | 69.9kg



Adrian Keatley

**Henry Brooke**

Most progressive and likeable mare, making it 6 wins on the spin (including bumpers) in 8-runner listed hurdle at Galway (2m) in July. No match for Valgrand here 12 weeks later but probably didn't give her true running. Back up in trip.

**6 ROCKSTOWN GIRL (IRE) (35)** **t** **91**  
37/26-1431 6 10-9 | 67.6kg



Anthony McCann, Ireland

**J. P. O'Sullivan**

Returned to form in a first-time tongue strap when defying a penalty in a 16-runner novice hurdle at Chepstow (19.4f, good to soft) 35 days ago, keeping on well. Has plenty more on her plate up in grade, however.

6 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

6-5 Valgrand, 6-4 Potters Charm, 7-1 Gale Mahler, 20-1 Rockstown Girl, 66-1 bar

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

VALGRAND and Potters Charm put their unbeaten records in this sphere on the line, with preference for the former, who produced a borderline smart performance when scoring in an excellent time here 3 weeks ago. Gale Mahler was no match for the selection on that occasion but probably didn't give her true running and can at least make more of an impact if returning to her Galway form.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

1. VALGRAND 2. POTTERS CHARM 3. GALE MAHLER

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2023	<b>Minella Missile</b> 5-11-2	22-1	Evan Williams	Adam Wedge	8
2022	<b>Hermes Allen</b> 5-11-2	9-4	Paul Nicholls	Harry Cobden	7
2021	<b>Blazing Khal</b> 5-11-0	9-2	Charles Byrnes	D. J. McInerney	6
2020	<b>Does He Know</b> 5-11-3	11-8f	Kim Bailey	David Bass	7
2019	<b>Thyme Hill</b> 5-11-5	11-8f	Philip Hobbs	Richard Johnson	8

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

**4.00****VALDA ENERGY NOVICES' HANDICAP HURDLE (3) 3yo+  
(Rated 0-125) £18,500 2m87y (3300 Metres)**

RACE 6

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

Left handed, undulating. Stiff fences that place a premium on sound jumping. The last half mile is uphill, although the lead changes hands on the run-in less frequently than might be expected. Prominent-racers often fare well on the chase course, especially in races up to 3m. On the New Course, the hurdles track has just two flights in the last six furlongs, resulting in more emphasis on stamina; large-field races over two miles often go to hold-up horses, as there can be a tendency to go for home too soon. Jockeys often steer a wide course in the winter months searching for better ground and this can lead to trouble in-running towards the stand rail in the straight.

Pace Information: **Strong**

**1 BRIGHT LEGEND (IRE) (50)** s **93**  
4520-93 4 12-0 | 76.2kg



Denis Hogan, Ireland

*Mr Josh Williamson (71lb/3kg)*

Fairly useful on the Flat and over hurdles. Back on form when third in a 2m handicap hurdle at Listowel in September and has run creditably on the Flat since.

**2 CLAP OF THUNDER (IRE) (13)** **92**  
3252-41 4 11-13 | 75.7kg



Nigel Twiston-Davies

*Sam Twiston-Davies*

Placed on 3 of 4 starts in bumpers last season. Struck at the second time of asking over hurdles when readily seeing off 5 rivals in a 2m Ascot novice 13 days ago. Interesting making a quick switch to handicaps.

**3 CHUTZPAL (IRE) (40) (D)** b **93**  
P568-113 5 11-12 | 75.3kg



Henry de Bromhead, Ireland

*M. P. O'Connor (31lb/1kg)*

Completed a cross-code hat-trick over the summer, the last 2 wins coming in handicap hurdles. Possibly unsuited by rain-softened ground when below-form third in Killarney novice last month and no surprise were he to resume his progression now.

**4 WRECKLESS ERIC (29) (D, BF)** **98**  
211-F 4 11-10 | 74.4kg



Jonjo &amp; A.J. O'Neill

*Kielan Woods*

Raced around 2m, winning a juvenile and handicap for Ben Pauling in the spring. Held every chance when falling 2 out in Wincanton handicap on reappearance and looks one to keep on side for his in-form new yard.

**5 BALHAMBAR (FR) (204) (D)** s+t **99**  
663112- 5 11-10 | 74.4kg



Harry Derham

*Paul O'Brien*

Fairly useful on the Flat for Michael Bell and much improved over hurdles since handicapping, winning at Ludlow and Bangor in April. Warmed up for this with a creditable third on the Flat at Newbury last month. Has cheekpieces and a tongue tie combined for the first time. Considered.

**6 LETTERSTON LILY (21)** s **95**  
311213U4 4 11-7 | 73.0kg



Peter &amp; Michael Bowen

*Sean Bowen*

Bumper winner at the third attempt and also landed 2 of her first 3 starts over hurdles. Even better form when reaching the frame in 2½m handicaps since (here last time) but isn't sure to benefit from this return to a shorter trip. Wears first-time cheekpieces.

**7 GOLDEN MAVERICK (FR) (186) (BF)** **96**  
2311-2 4 11-6 | 72.6kg



Jamie Snowden

*Gavin Sheehan*

Fairly useful 5-time winner on the Flat for Ian Williams and has taken well to hurdling for this yard, winning a 2m Haydock juvenile and 17.5f Musselburgh handicap in the spring. Creditable second at Hereford when last seen in May and has the potential for even better this winter.

**8 CALLIN BATON ROUGE (IRE) (21) (D)** **93**  
242-21118 6 11-5 | 72.1kg



Charles &amp; Adam Pogsion

*James Bowen*

Much improved for this yard, completing a handicap hurdle hat-trick over the summer. However, had winning run ended in better company here 3 weeks ago and this looks even tougher if anything.

**9 CAN'T RESIST IT (189)** t **98**  
474253-2 5 11-3 | 71.2kg



Fergal O'Brien

*Jonathan Burke*

Fair form in bumpers in Ireland. Promising efforts when placed in maiden hurdles at Huntingdon and Market Rasen for Fergal O'Brien earlier in the year. Makes a quick switch to handicaps on return. Likely capable of better.

**10 CAVERN CLUB (IRE) (49)** s **92**  
124 4 11-2 | 70.8kg



James Owen

*Jonjo O'Neill Jr.*

Fairly useful Flat winner and made a successful start over hurdles at Cartmel (17f) in July. Runner-up under a penalty at Stratford in September but well-beaten fourth on Worcester handicap debut later that month. The cheekpieces he wore regularly on the Flat go on for the first time over hurdles.

**11 FASOL (193)** s+t **100**  
4-2 5 11-1 | 70.3kg



Paul Nicholls

*Harry Cobden*

Very useful winning stayer on Flat in France. Promise when placed twice in maiden hurdles at Newbury and Kempton earlier in the year. Respectable fourth in Queen Alexandra at Royal Ascot when last seen in June. Dangerously well treated on Flat ability on handicap hurdle debut.

**12 BELGOPRINCE (FR) (98)** t **96**  
79-23 7 11-1 | 70.3kg



A. J. Martin, Ireland

*Daniel King*

Four-time Flat winner. 0-12 over hurdles but ran well to be placed in a couple of handicaps over the summer and his stable's runners over here always merit respect.

**13 SHINJI (IRE) (8) (D)** s **95**  
56R6-1275 5 10-12 | 68.9kg



Martin Keighley

*Daire McConville (71lb/3kg)*

Off the mark in 2m Southwell novice handicap in June and good second at Newton Abbot a fortnight later. Seemed stretched by 21f when fifth at Ludlow on recent return from a break, shaping as if in good form.

**14 RAZZLE DAZZLE BOY (IRE) (76)** **93**  
523 4 10-12 | 68.9kg



Tim Vaughan

*Alan Johns*

Promising second of 11 in 2m Uttoxeter novice (soft) in July but not in the same form at Newton Abbot the following month. Couldn't have been found a much tougher introduction to handicaps.

**15 MODEL APPROACH (IRE) (14) (D)** b **95**  
311U 3 10-8 | 67.1kg



Adrian Keatley

*Henry Brooke*

Fairly useful maiden on Flat for Jim Bolger and has made a bright start to his hurdle career, making all in juveniles at Sedgfield and Kempton last month. Hampered and unseated before halfway in listed Wensleydale at Wetherby 2 weeks ago. Handicap debut.

**16 DREAM ESCAPE (42) (BF)** h **93**  
0800-903 5 10-3 | 64.9kg



Thomas Mullins, Ireland

*Dylan Johnston (31lb/1kg)*

Flat winner. Best effort over hurdles when third of 14 in handicap at Gowran (2m, good to soft, 4/1) 6 weeks ago. Also engaged 2.35 Punchestown.

16 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

5-1 Fasol, 13-2 Balhambar, 9-1 Wreckless Eric, 9-1 Golden Maverick, 11-1 Clap of Thunder, 14-1 Can't Resist It, 16-1 Model Approach, 16-1 Chutzpal, 20-1 Letterston Lily, 20-1 Bright Legend, 22-1 Belgoprince, 28-1 Shinji, 40-1 bar

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

WRECKLESS ERIC looked menacing when coming down at the second last on his Wincanton reappearance and could prove the answer with the O'Neill stable going well. Balhambar, an improver in handicap hurdles in the spring, arrives fit from a run on the Flat last month and heads the many dangers along with low-mileage handicap newcomers Fasol, Can't Resist It and Clap of Thunder.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

1. WRECKLESS ERIC 2. BALHAMBAR 3. FASOL

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2023	<b>Impose Toi</b> 5-11-12	2-1f	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boinville	17
2022	<b>Contrapposto</b> 8-10-12	28-1	R. Donohoe	M. J. M. O'Sullivan (5)	19
2021	<b>Mc Alpine</b> 7-11-5	33-1	P. J. Rothwell	J. P. O'Sullivan (5)	18
2020	<b>Lively Citizen</b> 5-10-8	33-1	D. J. Jeffreys	Charlie Deutsch	17

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race