

Friday 20th December

ASCOT



12.45 HOWDEN CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP HURDLE (3) 2m5f141y (4350 Metres)

RACE 1 **(7) DOUBLE POWERFUL | (1) CHAMPAGNE TWIST | (5) EAST INDIA EXPRESS**

1.20 HOWDEN MAIDEN HURDLE (3) 2m5f141y (4350 Metres)

RACE 2 **(1) BELLIANO | (5) COUNTRY PARK | (2) BLOCK ROCKIN BEATS**

1.55 HOWDEN NOVICES' LIMITED HANDICAP CHASE (3) 2m167y (3370 Metres)

RACE 3 **(3) RYAN'S ROCKET | (1) IBERICO LORD | (2) WESTERN ZEPHYR**

2.30 RACETECH HANDICAP HURDLE (4) 1m7f152y (3160 Metres)

RACE 4 **(6) GOLDEN MOVE | (14) FASOL | (13) KING WILLIAM RUFUS**

3.05 HOWDEN NOEL NOVICES' CHASE (Grade 2) (1) 2¼m175y (3780 Metres)

RACE 5 **(1) JOHNNYWHO | (2) MARK OF GOLD | (4) RARE EDITION**

3.40 KING EDWARD VII ASCOT MEMBERSHIP OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT (Listed) (1) 1m7f152y (3160 Metres)

RACE 6 **(8) MONEYGARROW | (15) WINDBENEATHMYWINGS | (2) DOCTOR BLUE**

KEY TO SYMBOLS

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

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

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

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

12.45
RACE 1

**HOWDEN CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP HURDLE (3)
4yo+ (Rated 0-130) £16,650 2m5f141y (4350 Metres)**



Going: **Good to Soft**

Right handed, galloping. Jumps course reopened in 2006/7 after major redevelopment work and, whilst the course drains faster than used to be the case, underfoot conditions can still get gruelling. Rather surprisingly, however, the chase course has one of the lowest non-completion records in the country in recent seasons.

Pace Information: **Extreme**

1	CHAMPAGNE TWIST (IRE) (34) 42119-U 6 12-1 76.7kg	99
	Ben Pauling Callum Pritchard (6lb/3kg) Career best when collaring stablemate late in competitive EBF Final handicap at Sandown (19.8f) in March. Final outing at Aintree best excused and race yet to unfold when falling three out at Cheltenham 34 days ago. Ground versatile and should relish slight step up in trip (21.5f) here. Player.	
2	STONER'S CHOICE (39) (CD) s+t 97 143321/2 9 12-0 76.2kg	
	Fergal O'Brien J. Hogan (3lb/1kg) C&D winner. Successful over fences at fences and hurdles at Kempton in 2022/23. Can make mistakes. Returned from 18-month absence when second of 4 at Kempton 39 days ago (21f, good to soft, 14/1). That race looked to fall apart however, and this is a tougher contest.	
3	IRISH HILL (GER) (29) (C) s 99 29532-P12 6 11-11 74.8kg	
	Paul Nicholls Jay Tidball (3lb/1kg) Plenty of good efforts without success last term. Low-key return but successful in handicap at Plumpton (20.5f) in November, perked up by change of headgear. Can be a tricky customer (races in snatches) as shown when second at Wincanton last month (flattered by proximity to winner). Likes it here.	
4	WHATSUPWITHYOU (IRE) (35) (CD) s+t 97 349122-29 10 11-9 73.9kg	
	Ben Pauling Elliott England (10lb/5kg) Back to best when winning at Ludlow (21.2f soft) in December 2023 before a string of respectable second placed efforts, last of which came on comeback at Fontwell (19f) when racing without cheekpieces. Well-backed when headgear back on at Cheltenham 35 days ago but a shade disappointing that day.	
5	EAST INDIA EXPRESS (IRE) (233) ★ 100 1/142-U 5 11-7 73.0kg	
	Nicky Henderson Freddie Gordon (3lb/1kg) One win from four hurdle starts. Ran well when second of 13 in novice hurdle (5/2) at Newbury (16.3f, soft) in February, sticking to his task but always held by smart winner. Last seen when unseating at Punchestown Festival. Returns from 233-day absence but lightly-raced and in very good hands.	
6	DIBBLE DECKER (IRE) (254) (BF) s+t 96 5115/9123- 8 11-6 72.6kg	
	Tom Lacey Cameron Iles (6lb/3kg) Back-to-back winner over fences last term and with tongue tie added scored at Wincanton (20f) in January. Backed that up with a solid second at Huntingdon (19.8f) before disappointing at Market Rasen in April. Not seen for 254 days and this his first run over hurdles for over two years,	
7	DOUBLE POWERFUL (IRE) (35) h 98 9411-1111 5 11-5 72.1kg	
	Neil Mulholland Dylan Johnston Highly progressive, strong-travelling sort who is on a remarkable winning run. Scored at Fontwell (19.1f) in November. Turned out under a penalty a week later and produced career-best to land six-timer in competitive Cheltenham handicap (21f, good to soft) 35 days ago. Looks set to run well again.	
8	YELLOW STAR (FR) (46) s 96 31474-43 4 11-2 70.8kg	
	Gary & Josh Moore Caoilin Quinn (3lb/1kg) Fairly useful on Flat and similar form in this sphere, successful in a 2m Lingfield novice (soft) in February. Decent fourth of 11 in 2m Chepstow handicap on comeback but did not see out the longer trip as expected when third to Irish Hill (20.5f Plumpton, good to soft) 46 days ago. Cheekpieces on.	
9	THE HEIGHT OF FAME (25) (D) s+t 97 16-123444 7 10-10 68.0kg	
	Keiran Burke Beau Morgan Struck on 21.5f Newton Abbot reappearance in July. Went close at Worcester the following month and cast aside a couple of lesser runs when fourth at Wincanton (21.5f) in November (form of the race has taken a knock since). Outclassed in Listed hurdle 25 days ago and returns to handicapping now.	

10	STAY IF U WANT TO (IRE) (35) h 97 8122-1227 5 10-7 66.7kg	
	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 short break when second on handicap debut at Wincanton in October but could not live with Double Powerful when seventh at Cheltenham (21f, good to soft) last month.	
11	PATANITA (IRE) (48) 92 1/34-9 6 10-5 65.8kg	
	Georgina Nicholls Finn Lambert Won a point bumper and a bumper under Rules before encouraging effort after 22 months off when third on hurdles bow at Huntingdon (19.6f) in March. Backward step when well-beaten fourth of 6 in novice at Kempton (21f) in April. Disappointed on return at Ascot last month, had wind operation since.	
12	DON RAFAEL (IRE) (23) 99 6-6213231 4 10-5 65.8kg	
	Martin Keighley Daire McConville (5lb/2kg) Winner at Stratford in July. Creditable third of 7 in handicap hurdle at Hereford (good, 3/1) in November, before scoring at same venue (19.7f, good to soft) 23 days ago, showing improved form. Progressive but this is his toughest test to date.	
13	REBEL INTENTIONS (IRE) (35) (C, D) t 97 36P50-210 7 10-2 64.4kg	
	Emma Lavelle Joe Anderson Course winner. 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) in October, staying on well. Found to have an irregular heartbeat when well-beaten in handicap at Cheltenham (21f, good to soft) 35 days ago.	

13 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

5-1 Double Powerful, **6-1** East India Express, **15-2** Champagne Twist, **17-2** Irish Hill, **10-1** Don Rafael, **11-1** Whatsupwithyou, **12-1** Stay If U Want To, **14-1** Stoner's Choice, **16-1** Yellow Star, **22-1** The Height of Fame, **22-1** Dibble Decker, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

DOUBLE POWERFUL can land a remarkable 7-timer, having posted a career-best effort at Cheltenham 35 days ago, and he can get the job done again. There are a host of notable challengers, led by Champagne Twist whose victory in the EBF Final handicap at Sandown should not be forgotten. The unexposed East India Express could be dangerous if ready to roll on seasonal return.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. DOUBLE POWERFUL 2. CHAMPAGNE TWIST 3. EAST INDIA EXPRESS

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2023	Immortal Fame 7-10-9	13-2	Tom Lacey	Cameron Iles (8)	10
2021	Earth Lord 5-11-11	5-1	Philip Hobbs	Sean Houlihan	12
2020	Emir Sacree 6-11-7	11-1	Nicky Henderson	Joe Anderson (10)	12
2019	Mr Muldoon 6-11-10	6-1	Dr Richard Newland	C. M. Leonard (8)	10

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

1.20
RACE 2



HOWDEN MAIDEN HURDLE (3) 4yo+ £15,000 2m5f141y (4350 Metres)





Going: **Good to Soft**

Right handed, galloping. Jumps course reopened in 2006/7 after major redevelopment work and, whilst the course drains faster than used to be the case, underfoot conditions can still get gruelling. Rather surprisingly, however, the chase course has one of the lowest non-completion records in the country in recent seasons.


Pace Information: **Even**



1 BELLIANO (52) ★ 100
 2 5 11-4 | 71.7kg
 **Paul Nicholls**  **Harry Cobden**
 Black Sam Bellamy gelding who was purchased for £255,000 after easily winning his sole outing in Irish points. Made an encouraging start to his career under Rules behind subsequent winner The New Lion at Chepstow (19.4f, good to soft) in October and every chance he can go one better.



2 BLOCK ROCKIN BEATS (IRE) (33)
 12 5 11-4 | 71.7kg
 **Oliver Signy** **Gavin Sheehan**
 Off the mark at third attempt in points and bright start in this sphere when landing a Cheltenham bumper in October, rallying to lead close home. Built on that promise when runner-up in a listed event back there last month and rates as an interesting hurdling debutant.


3 BROXY MUSIC (40)
 0 4 11-4 | 71.7kg
 **Nicky Henderson** **Nico de Boinville**
 Blue Bresil gelding who was worryingly easy to back and the unease was proved right in the race when finishing tailed-off last of 10 in a Sandown bumper (16f, good) just under 6 weeks ago. Quickly switched over hurdles and would be folly to discount given connections (has had a wind op).



4 CANAL COURT (IRE) (32) t 69
 24 5 11-4 | 71.7kg
 **Chris Gordon** **Rex Dingle**
 Runner-up on the third of 3 starts in Irish points. Beaten 16 lengths when switched to hurdles for new yard at Kempton in October but reported to have made a noise when tailed-off last at Plumpton (20.5f, good) next time. Watching brief advised.

5 COUNTRY PARK (IRE) (33) 98
 89-8232 5 11-4 | 71.7kg
 **Jonjo & A.J. O'Neill** **Jonjo 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) last month. Increase in trip promises to suit so he's open to further improvement.


6 FOLLOWCATO (IRE) (41) 93
 3-4 5 11-4 | 71.7kg
 **Ben Pauling**  **Ben Jones**
 £72,000 purchase after finishing runner-up in an Irish point in February. Promise when third of 13 in a Huntingdon bumper for new connections in April and similar comments applied when fourth of 9 in novice at Aintree (20f, good) on hurdling debut just under 6 weeks ago. Capable of better.

7 GOLAN LOOP (IRE) (18) 89
 3 4 11-4 | 71.7kg
 **Warren Greatrex**  **James Bowen**
 Off mark in Irish points at second attempt (May 18) and shaped like a stayer when third of 8 in novice hurdle at Plumpton (20.5f, soft) earlier this month, rallying gradually after outpaced before straight (also lost a shoe). May well build on that here.

8 JASMIN BELLEVUE (FR)
 5 11-4 | 71.7kg
 **Nicky Henderson** **Max Kendrick**
 €55,000 3-y-o, £110,000 4-y-o, Jeu St Eloi gelding. Half-brother to French hurdler Funky Town and French 2¼m chase winner Diskover. Runner-up completed start in Irish points (Apr 2023). Seemingly yard's second string on jockey bookings.

9 NOT SO WOOLLY (38) 93
 5-33 5 11-4 | 71.7kg
 **Joe Tizzard**  **Sam Twiston-Davies**
 Fifth in an Exeter bumper in the spring and has made a sound to his hurdle career, leaving the impression a steadily-run race didn't get to the bottom of him when third of 6 in novice at Lingfield (19.5f, good) last month. Increase in trip will suit so needs keeping an eye on.

10 THE GRAY GHOST (IRE) (47) (BF) 82
 77140 5 11-4 | 71.7kg
 **Robbie Llewellyn** **Liam Harrison**
 Irish bumper winner who was a fair fourth on his 19.5f Huntingdon hurdle debut in October. Shaped as if amiss back there last month so needs to get on track.

11 TOMMY THE TANK (IRE) (58) 90
 2 6 11-4 | 71.7kg
 **Dr Richard Newland & Jamie Insole** **Charlie Hammond**
 Comfortable winner of sole start in points (Apr 2023) and showed plenty on his Rules debut when second of 11 in novice at Fontwell (19.1f, soft) on hurdling debut a couple of months ago, compromising his chance by jumping right in the latter stages. Yard in form and should progress.

12 MY LOUISE (39) 80
 118-54 6 10-11 | 68.5kg
 **Lydia Richards** **Marc Goldstein**
 Successful on the first 2 of 3 starts in bumpers, was held back by inexperience sent hurdling after 7 months off at Chepstow in October. Again fell well short of her bumper form at Kempton last month and looks one for further down the line.

12 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

13-8 Belliano, **6-1** Block Rockin Beats, **15-2** Country Park, **12-1** Followcato, **14-1** Broxy Music, **16-1** Not So Woolly, **16-1** Jasmin Bellevue, **22-1** Tommy The Tank, **25-1** Golan Loop, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

Having bumped into a high-calibre novice in The New Lion on his Rules debut, BELLIANO is strongly fancied to go one better with improvement on the cards at the expense of Country Park, who has shown plenty in a handful of starts over timber and promises to be suited by this increase in trip. Block Rockin Beats ran a couple of cracking races in Cheltenham bumpers in recent weeks, so he completes the shortlist along with Followcato.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. BELLIANO 2. COUNTRY PARK 3. BLOCK ROCKIN BEATS

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2023	Welcom To Cartries 5-11-4	4-6f	Paul Nicholls	Harry Cobden	10
2021	Party Business 5-11-4	22-1	Ian Williams	Charlie Todd (3)	7
2020	Everglow 5-11-0	5-6f	Philip Hobbs	Richard Johnson	4
2019	Whatsupwithyou 5-11-0	33-1	Ben Pauling	David Bass	11

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

1.55
RACE 3

**HOWDEN NOVICES' LIMITED HANDICAP CHASE (3) 4yo+
£20,650 2m167y (3370 Metres)**



Going: **Good to Soft**

Right handed, galloping. Jumps course reopened in 2006/7 after major redevelopment work and, whilst the course drains faster than used to be the case, underfoot conditions can still get gruelling. Rather surprisingly, however, the chase course has one of the lowest non-completion records in the country in recent seasons.

Pace Information: **Very Weak**

- 1** **IBERICO LORD (FR) (25)** (D) **95**

F12/171P-1 **6** 11-10 | 74.4kg

Nicky Henderson *Nico de Boinville*

Made up into a smart hurdler last term, winning a couple of big handicaps, including the Betfair Hurdle at Newbury. Wasn't sparkling in making a successful start over fences in Kempton maiden on return but the scope for better is obvious.
- 2** **WESTERN ZEPHYR (IRE) (34)** **99**

32454P-12 **7** 11-2 | 70.8kg

Charlie Longsdon *David Bass*

Good strike rate over hurdles and some good efforts over fences last season. Finally got off the mark in this sphere on return following a wind up in 5-runner handicap at Carlisle and more than backed that up when second in Grade 2 at Cheltenham 5 weeks ago. Remains of interest back in a handicap.
- 3** **RYAN'S ROCKET (IRE) (28)** (D) **100**

021-141 **6** 10-8 | 67.1kg

Fergal O'Brien *Jonathan Burke*

£110,000 Irish point winner who made a bright start over hurdles, winning novices at Taunton and Kempton in the spring. Disappointed when fourth in Grade 2 Persian War at Chepstow on return but firmly back on track when making a winning chase/handicap debut there 4 weeks ago. More to come.
- 4** **HERE COMES GEORGIE (34)** (D) **95**

216-P1171 **6** 10-5(9-13) | 65.8kg (63.0kg) t

Patrick Neville *Lee Edwards*

Landed back-to-back 2m Perth handicaps over hurdles and quickly resumed winning ways when off the mark at the second attempt over fences at Wetherby 5 weeks ago. Has work to do from 6 lb out of the handicap here, however.

4 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

6-4 Iberico Lord, **2-1** Ryan's Rocket, **7-2** Western Zephyr, **12-1** Here Comes Georgie

TIMEFORM VIEW:

RYAN'S ROCKET created a good impression when making a winning chase/handicap bow at Chepstow 4 weeks ago and remains on a fair mark up 7 lb. The obvious threat is Iberico Lord, who made a satisfactory start to his chasing career when winning a maiden at Kempton and has the scope to do a lot better on hurdles form.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. RYAN'S ROCKET 2. IBERICO LORD 3. WESTERN ZEPHYR

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2023	Persian Time 5-11-0	6-4f	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boinville	4
2021	Brave Seasca 6-11-0	7-2	Venetia Williams	Gavin Sheehan	8
2020	Enzo d'Airy 6-10-11	5-1	Venetia Williams	Charlie Deutsch	6
2019	Greaneteen 5-11-8	3-1	Paul Nicholls	Harry Cobden	6

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

2.30

**RACETECH HANDICAP HURDLE (4) 3yo+ (Rated 0-120)
£15,650 1m7f152y (3160 Metres)**

RACE 4




Going: **Good to Soft**


Right handed, galloping. Jumps course reopened in 2006/7 after major redevelopment work and, whilst the course drains faster than used to be the case, underfoot conditions can still get gruelling. Rather surprisingly, however, the chase course has one of the lowest non-completion records in the country in recent seasons.

Pace Information: **Very Strong**


1 AN BRADAN FEASA (IRE) (27) s+t **95**
121488-64 4 12-0 | 76.2kg

 **Jack Jones** *James Bowen*
Fairly useful 2-time juvenile hurdle winner last season. Creditable efforts in defeat both runs this season, finishing fourth of 9 in 2m Huntingdon handicap latterly. Sports a first-time tongue tie and cheekpieces combination.


2 MOVEIT LIKE MINNIE (IRE) (30) (D) v+t **95**
499P-1URR 7 12-0 | 76.2kg

 **Nigel Twiston-Davies** *Sam Twiston-Davies*
Matched his fairly useful hurdle form when making a winning start to his chase career at Stratford in September but has gone badly the wrong way in that sphere since, running out the last twice. Feasibly treated assuming those wayward tendencies aren't repeated with a visor fitted back hurdling.


3 WE'RE RED AND BLUE (39) **92**
14-U21 4 12-0 | 76.2kg

 **Jonjo & A.J. O'Neill** *Jonjo O'Neill Jr.*
Debut bumper winner and going the right way over hurdles, making all in 17f Carlisle maiden last month. It's hard to argue his opening mark is generous but he has the potential for better again.

4 THE WINSLOW BOY (28) (D) **92**
5/49-31 5 11-12 | 75.3kg

 **Tom Symonds** *Callum Pritchard (7lb/3kg)*
Made it fourth time lucky over hurdles in 2m Chepstow novice 4 weeks ago. Will need to step up a good deal on that form to defy a tough-looking opening mark but Calum Pritchard's 7 lb claim certainly helps.


5 JUNKANOO (43) (D) v **94**
221P8-535 7 11-10 | 74.4kg

 **Gary & Josh Moore** *Caolin Quinn*
Winning novice hurdler last season but ran with credit when third of 5 in a 19f Fontwell handicap in October. Can have his subsequent remote fifth at Newbury ignored as he was in contention until all but coming down 3 out.


6 GOLDEN MOVE (15) (D) s **99**
33-1 4 11-9 | 73.9kg

 **Paul Nicholls** *Lorcan Williams*
Fairly useful on Flat for Richard Fahey. Little better than modest form when third in pair of maiden hurdles in the spring but much more like it following 8 months off/wind surgery when making winning handicap debut at Wincanton in first-time cheekpieces (retained) 15 days ago. Can defy handicapper.


7 TOONAGH WARRIOR (IRE) (17) (D) s **96**
26424-622 6 11-9 | 73.9kg

 **Stuart Edmunds** *Charlie Hammond*
Won a 2m Wetherby novice last winter and mostly creditable efforts in defeat in handicaps since, particularly when runner-up up twice at Southwell (20.5f/3m) in recent weeks. Last season's exploits show he's effective over much shorter. Respected.

8 MIDNIGHT GINGER (42) (D) **92**
251343-36 8 11-8 | 73.5kg

 **Andrew Martin** *James Martin (5lb/2kg)*
Chase winner last season. Normally reliable over hurdles and made a respectable return from 4 months off when 9 lengths sixth of 7 in Exeter handicap hurdle 6 weeks ago. Entitled to be sharper with that run behind her.

9 TYPHOON FLYER (IRE) (36) **95**
322-331 6 11-8 | 73.5kg

 **Dr Richard Newland & Jamie Insole** *Luke Scott (5lb/2kg)*
Proved suited by the drop to around 2m when making all in maiden at Market Rasen last month. An opening mark of 114 demands plenty of improvement but no shock were he to find it.


10 SOLDIEROFTHESTORM (IRE) (227) (D, BF) **95**
2/176413-3 6 11-7 | 73.0kg

 **Jonjo & A.J. O'Neill** *Benjamin Macey (10lb/5kg)*
Improved to win a 19.5f Hereford handicap in February and even better form when third of 11 there in May. Returns with his stable among the winners but Jonjo O'Neill Jr is on the yard's other runner.


11 NON STOP (FR) (25) (D) **95**
74/5234-13 5 11-7 | 73.0kg

 **Joe Tizzard** *Tom Cannon*
Drew a blank over fences last season but took his hurdle strike-rate to a healthy 3-6 when taking a 2m Plumpton handicap on reappearance in November. Creditable third at Kempton off this mark since. Ought to be competitive again.

12 BYRON HILL (IRE) (47) (D) t **95**
33/282213 7 11-6 | 72.6kg

 **Patrick Neville** *Gavin Sheehan*
Career best when winning 10-runner handicap hurdle at Carlisle (soft) in October. Respectable 8 lengths third back there since, possibly not helped by plotting a wider route than the others.

13 KING WILLIAM RUFUS (FR) (25) (D) **96**
25612-222 7 11-6 | 72.6kg

 **Chris Gordon** *Freddie Gordon (5lb/2kg)*
Opened hurdles account at the sixth attempt when making all in a Plumpton maiden (2m, good to soft) in March. Runner-up all 4 subsequent starts, the latest in a Class 3 handicap at Kempton. Likely to be on the premises again.


14 FASOL (14) s+t **100**
4-242 5 11-4 | 71.7kg

 **Paul Nicholls** *Harry Cobden*
A very useful winning stayer on Flat in France. Yet to match that form over hurdles but went close in 2m Sandown handicap a fortnight ago and that Flat ability provides the hope for better again. Big player.

15 WISE GUY (FR) (32) (D, BF) **96**
431213-84 5 11-1 | 70.3kg

 **Stuart Edmunds** *Ciaran Gethings*
Improver in handicaps last season, winning slow-ground handicaps at Lingfield and Carlisle. Shaped far better than the bare result on his seasonal reappearance but only a respectable fourth at Leicester since.


16 CASI CRUDO (391) **98**
312453/22- 5 11-1 | 70.3kg

 **Alex Hales** *Jonathan Burke*
Juvenile hurdle winner in December 2022. Consistent in defeat subsequently but hasn't been seen since finishing a good second in 2m Huntingdon handicap 13 months ago. The betting should help guide to expectations after such a long time off.

17 BADDESLEY (IRE) (77) **95**
3/513691-6 9 10-12 | 68.9kg

 **Chris Gordon** *Rex Dingle*
Temperamental sort but did win over hurdles and fences at Plumpton last season. Not on a going day on his Fontwell reappearance in October. Not easy to predict.

18 DIAMOND EGG (FR) (424) (D) **83**
1U431/6- 6 10-12 | 68.9kg

 **Henrietta C Knight** *Paul O'Brien*
Won a 2m maiden hurdle at Wincanton in April 2023 but well held in a Plumpton handicap in October of that year and not seen since. First run for yard after leaving Chris Gordon. A watching brief is the percentage call.

18 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

11-2 Golden Move, **10-1** Fasol, **10-1** King William Rufus, **10-1** We're Red And Blue, **11-1** Typhoon Flyer, **14-1** Byron Hill, **16-1** Casi Crudo, **16-1** An Bradan Feasa, **16-1** Soldierofthestorm, **18-1** The Winslow Boy, **20-1** Toonagh Warrior, **20-1** Wise Guy, **22-1** Non Stop, **28-1** Junkanoo, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

Paul Nicholls looks to hold a strong hand, with recent Wincanton handicap debut scorer GOLDEN MOVE preferred to Fasol, even though Harry Cobden partners the latter. King William Rufus, Byron Hill and Toonagh Warrior arrive in form and are just a few of many others who could go well in this competitive race.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. GOLDEN MOVE 2. FASOL 3. KING WILLIAM RUFUS

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2023 **Titan Discovery** 5-10-12 14-1 Robbie Llewellyn Liam Harrison 14

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

3.05

HOWDEN NOEL NOVICES' CHASE (Grade 2) (1) 4yo+
£52,000 2¼m175y (3780 Metres)

RACE 5



Going: **Good to Soft**

Right handed, galloping. Jumps course reopened in 2006/7 after major redevelopment work and, whilst the course drains faster than used to be the case, underfoot conditions can still get gruelling. Rather surprisingly, however, the chase course has one of the lowest non-completion records in the country in recent seasons.

Pace Information: **Very Weak**

1 JOHNNYWHO (IRE) (21) t **100**

1/14484-13 **7** 11-4 | 71.7kg

Jonjo & A.J. O'Neill **Jonjo O'Neill Jr.**

Ended hurdling campaign with good fourth on handicap debut at Aintree and bettered that form when taking 3-runner novice at Carlisle on return/ debut over fences. Unsited by emphasis on speed when third in Grade 2 at Newbury 3 weeks ago and remains with potential.

2 MARK OF GOLD (46)

7/54F10P-2 **7** 11-4 | 71.7kg

Gary & Josh Moore **Caolin Quinn**

Just about the best of these over hurdles, fit form the Flat when good second in Plumpton handicap last month. Not an obvious chasing type but respected all the same.

3 PERSONAL AMBITION (IRE) (21) (D) **95**

13116-24 **5** 11-4 | 71.7kg

Ben Pauling **Ben Jones**

Placed in an Irish point and quickly built up a good record over hurdles, winning 3 of his 5 starts last term. Similar form in defeat both starts over fences this term and bit more needed to take this.

4 RARE EDITION (IRE) (28) t **99**

P0/310-012 **7** 11-4 | 71.7kg

Charlie Longsdon **David Bass**

Continued his good record fresh when making a successful start over fences in 2m Utttoxeter novice. Built on that when second of 4 in C&D handicap 4 weeks ago and should give it another good shot with a tongue strap added.

4 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:
11-8 Johnnywho, 11-4 Rare Edition, 7-2 Mark of Gold, 7-1 Personal Ambition

TIMEFORM VIEW:
 JOHNNYWHO is sure to come into his own over further but may get away with the drop in trip here in what looks a weak Grade 2. Rare Edition has taken well to fences, including around here, so is feared most.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:
1. JOHNNYWHO 2. MARK OF GOLD 3. RARE EDITION

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2023	Djelo 5-11-4	6-5f	Venetia Williams	Charlie Deutsch	4
2021	Pic d'Orhy 6-11-2	5-4f	Paul Nicholls	Harry Cobden	5
2020	Allart 6-11-0	5-2	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boinville	5
2019	Angels Breath 5-11-0	1-5f	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boinville	2

SMART STATS:
 No Smart Stats available for this race

3.40

RACE 6

KING EDWARD VII ASCOT MEMBERSHIP OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT (Listed) (1) 4 and 5yo £25,000 1m7f152y (3160 Metres)



Going: **Good to Soft**

Right handed, galloping. Jumps course reopened in 2006/7 after major redevelopment work and, whilst the course drains faster than used to be the case, underfoot conditions can still get gruelling. Rather surprisingly, however, the chase course has one of the lowest non-completion records in the country in recent seasons.

Pace Information: **Very Strong**

1 BLUES SINGER (28) (D, BF) 94
1-2 4 11-2 | 70.8kg

Alan King *Tom Cannon*
Half-brother to fairly useful hurdler Music of Tara and overcame inexperience to make a winning start in Kempton junior bumper in March, green (took keen hold) but coming clear. Matched that form when runner-up under a penalty over C&D a month ago and that puts him in the mix.

2 DOCTOR BLUE (FR) (22) 90
1 4 11-2 | 70.8kg

Sam Thomas *Dylan Johnston*
Doctor Dino gelding. Half-brother to numerous winners, including smart French hurdler/chaser The Stomp and fairly useful French hurdler/chaser Vlatan. Heavily backed and overcame a troubled passage to make a winning debut at Taunton 3 weeks ago. Sure to leave bare form behind.

3 FRESH PERSPECTIVE (49) (D) 91
1 4 11-2 | 70.8kg

Jamie Snowden *Gavin Sheehan*
€62,000 buy who won only outing in points January. Bred for the Flat and drew clear to land 10-runner bumper at Uttometer last month, putting his experience to excellent use given how he stuck to the task.

4 GALLANT APPROACH (14) 81
0/6-3 5 11-2 | 70.8kg

Hughie Morrison *David Bass*
Big gaps between each of his three runs but showed form when third of 6 in bumper at Sedgfield (16.8f, soft, 9/2) 14 days ago. Didn't look totally straightforward in the process and this calls for more.

5 GLANCE AT MIDNIGHT 94
4 11-2 | 70.8kg

Andrew Martin *James Martin*
Passing Glance gelding. Brother to numerous winners, including fairly useful hurdler Finest View and fairly useful hurdler/chaser Can You Call. Tough task on debut.

6 IT'S TOP (FR) (44) (D) 96
1 4 11-2 | 70.8kg

Oliver Signy *Ben Jones*
Won a point bumper in April and fitted with a tongue strap, he looked a good prospect when 10-runner bumper at Chepstow 44 days ago, holding on gamely. Runner-up that day successful over hurdles since and that looks pretty solid form.

7 KAJIKIA (FR) (48) (CD) 89
1 4 11-2 | 70.8kg

Paul Nicholls *Jay Tidball*
€120,000 3-y-o, It's Gino gelding. Dam 17f French hurdle winner. Ignored in the betting given his connections but fitted with a hood, he overcame inexperience to make a winning start over C&D early last month, Probably needs to settle down in this class.

8 MONEYGARROW (IRE) (69) (D) 97
1 4 11-2 | 70.8kg

Dan Skelton *Harry Skelton*
Brother to 2 winners, including useful hurdle winner/smart chaser Minella Crooner. Dam hurdle winner abroad up to 2½m, also 11f winner on Flat. Won sole start in Irish points in April and powered clear in the manner of a useful prospect at Chepstow in October. Major claims.

9 NO DRAMA THIS END (IRE) 94
4 11-2 | 70.8kg

Paul Nicholls *Harry Cobden*
€26,000 3-y-o, £160,000 4-y-o, Walk In The Park gelding. Brother to 3 winners, including fairly useful hurdler/chaser El Muchacho, stays 21f, and bumper winner Monty Bodkin. Easily won sole start in points in February and transferred to a leading yard.

10 PRESENTING MILAN (IRE) (38) 84
231 4 11-2 | 70.8kg

Richard Hawker *Jonjo O'Neill Jr.*
Bred for stamina and shaped that way in bumpers, driven out to score at Hereford last month. This is a totally different assignment.

11 STEP AHEAD (IRE) (223) 89
2 4 11-2 | 70.8kg

Don Cantillon *Nico de Boinville*
Walk In The Park gelding out of a useful one for connections. Prominent in the betting and produced a promising first effort when second at Haydock in May. That race worked out pretty well.

12 SWINGIN SAFARI (IRE) (41) (D) 93
2-1 4 11-2 | 70.8kg

Paul Nicholls *Lorcan Williams*
Runner-up in a bumper for Sam Curling and having transferred to a leading yard, he showed a willing attitude to land 4-runner contest at Wincanton last month. In the right hands to progress again.

13 TENNESSEE TANGO (IRE) (54) (D) 92
1 4 11-2 | 70.8kg

Joe Tizzard *Sam Twiston-Davies*
Dam a half-sister to a bumper winner and he made the perfect start himself in 8-runner contest at Wincanton (all newcomers) seeing off a well-back rival, Sure to improve.

14 WEST HILL VERDE (FR) (300) 92
2- 4 11-2 | 70.8kg

Seamus Mullins *Daniel Sanson*
€45,000 3-y-o, Planteur gelding. Half-brother to 10.5f-1½m winner in France Frame. Dam placed at 9f/1¼m in France. Bred for the Flat and having failed to settle fully, he showed a lot to work on when second on February's debut at Kempton.

15 WINDBENEATHMYWINGS (IRE) (83) (D) 100
121 4 11-2 | 70.8kg

David Pipe *Jack Tudor*
Progressive dual-winner in Irish bumpers for Patrick J.Flynn, unchallenged at Listowel in September. Since moved to David Pipe and he sets the standard.

15 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

9-2 Moneygarrow, 7-1 Doctor Blue, 15-2 Windbeneathmywings, 8-1 Blues Singer, 12-1 Fresh Perspective, 12-1 No Drama This End, 16-1 Tennessee Tango, 18-1 It's Top, 18-1 Swingin Safari, 18-1 Kajikia, 28-1 Step Ahead, 33-1 Presenting Milan, 33-1 Gallant Approach, 33-1 Glance At Midnight, 40-1 bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

Plenty of potential on show in this 4-y-o listed bumper with MONEYGARROW arguably the pick of the bunch given the impression he created at Chepstow in October. Windbeneathmywings has been sold privately having won a brace of Irish bumpers and he demands respect, with Doctor Blue perhaps the one open to most progress.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. MONEYGARROW 2. WINDBENEATHMYWINGS 3. DOCTOR BLUE

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2023	Let It Rain 4-10-9	8-1	Dan Skelton	Harry Skelton	13
2021	Henri The Second 4-11-4	10-3	Paul Nicholls	Harry Cobden	12
2020	Knappers Hill 4-11-4	9-2	Paul Nicholls	Megan Nicholls	6
2019	Israel Champ 4-11-8	8-1	David Pipe	Tom Scudamore	9

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race