

Saturday 21st December

HAYDOCK



11.45 BETFRED 'CLASSIC BOOKMAKER' BEGINNERS' CHASE (3) 2m67y (3280 Metres)

RACE 1 **(2) CLASSIC MAESTRO | (1) BARROWDALE**

12.20 BETFRED NIFTY 50 CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP HURDLE (4) 2¼m191y (3800 Metres)

RACE 2 **(2) HONNEUR D'AJONC | (5) MEDIEVAL GOLD | (4) SPEED DAVIS**

12.55 BETFRED SUPPORTS JACK BERRY HOUSE MARES' NOVICES' HURDLE (Abram) (Listed) (1) 2¼m191y (3800 Metres)

RACE 3 **(2) HOLLOWAY QUEEN | (1) FROMHERETOETERNITY | (3) KELYA WOOD**

1.30 BETFRED 'BET BUILDER' HANDICAP CHASE (3) 2m67y (3280 Metres)

RACE 4 **(7) INTIMATE | (4) CERENDIPITY | (1) NETYWELL**

2.05 BETFRED TOMMY WHITTLE HANDICAP CHASE (2) 3m1f125y (5140 Metres)

RACE 5 **(7) EAST STREET | (1) FAMOUS BRIDGE | (6) CREDO**

2.40 BETFRED HAT-TRICK HEAVEN HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier) (3) 1m7f144y (3150 Metres)

RACE 6 **(6) LUNE DE LA MER | (3) JILAIJONE | (7) COVENTRY**

3.15 BETFRED MERRY CHRISTMAS HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier) (3) 3m58y (4880 Metres)

RACE 7 **(1) SUPREME WEST | (11) HALF TRACK | (5) MAGICAL KING**

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.

11.45**BETFRED 'CLASSIC BOOKMAKER' BEGINNERS' CHASE (3)
4yo+ £12,000 2m67y (3280 Metres)**

RACE 1

Going: **Soft (Heavy in places)**

Left handed, flat. Conditions are often gruelling during winter, placing emphasis on stamina. Conversely, conditions at the Swinton Meeting in May usually place the emphasis on speed, with a tendency to favour those ridden prominently as a result. Formerly held an undeserved reputation as one of the hardest courses to jump around, something not backed up by statistics, though perversely the data suggests that the chase course nowadays is a more demanding test, that possibly on account of more races being well run.

Pace Information: **Very Weak**

1 **BARROWDALE (IRE) (1017)** (BF) h **65**
9 11-8 | 73.5kg



Donald McCain

Brian Hughes

Won a 23f Uttoxeter maiden hurdle in February 2022 but has a whopping 1017-day absence to overcome on chase debut.

2 **CLASSIC MAESTRO (IRE) (8)** (D) ★ **100**
21121-511 6 11-8 | 73.5kg



Jennie Candlish

Sean Quinlan

Fifth handicap hurdle win since January when comfortably seeing off 5 rivals at Bangor 8 days ago. Promising second on previous chase start. This is an excellent chance for him to add to his haul.

2 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

1-6 Classic Maestro, 5-1 Barrowdale

TIMEFORM VIEW:

With his sole rival not having been seen for 3 years it's impossible to oppose CLASSIC MAESTRO.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. CLASSIC MAESTRO 2. BARROWDALE

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

12.20**BETFRED NIFTY 50 CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP HURDLE (4) 3yo+ (Rated 0-120) £10,000 2¼m191y (3800 Metres)**

RACE 2

Going: **Soft (Heavy in places)**

Left handed, flat. Conditions are often gruelling during winter, placing emphasis on stamina. Conversely, conditions at the Swinton Meeting in May usually place the emphasis on speed, with a tendency to favour those ridden prominently as a result. Formerly held an undeserved reputation as one of the hardest courses to jump around, something not backed up by statistics, though perversely the data suggests that the chase course nowadays is a more demanding test, that possibly on account of more races being well run.

Pace Information: **Weak**

1 HURRICANE ALI (IRE) (55) (CD) 97
525-26338 8 12-1 | 76.7kg



James Moffatt

Leah Noreci (10lb/5kg)

Ran some good races at Cartmel over the summer but jumped poorly and well held at Aintree when last seen at the end of October.

2 HONNEUR D'AJONC (FR) (50) (D) s 98
725-92619 7 11-10 | 74.4kg



James Owen

Callum Pritchard (3lb/1kg)

Improved at only the third of asking for James Owen when winning a Fontwell handicap in October. Disappointing at Uttoxeter since but no surprise were to get back on the up now for his very good stable now.

3 LUPUS REGEM (71) t 88
1d/P 8 11-9 | 73.9kg



Harriet Dickin

Bradley Harris (3lb/1kg)

Bumper/maiden hurdle winner who was also first past the post in a Lingfield handicap in November 2022 only to lose the race having drifted into the runner-up. Not seen again until pulled up in a Chepstow handicap for new yard in October. Has a tongue tie added now. Can only watch.

4 SPEED DAVIS (FR) (174) 99
6/121-424 6 11-6 | 72.6kg



Donald McCain

William Maggs (3lb/1kg)

Irish/point bumper winner who also landed maiden hurdle at Musselburgh (17.5f) in April. Also a good second under a penalty at Bangor in May but not in same form when well-held fourth at Uttoxeter in cheekpieces (discarded) in June. Makes handicap debut after a 6-month break (has had wind surgery).

5 MEDIEVAL GOLD (219) ★ 100
2-1 4 11-2 | 70.8kg



Micky Hammond

Emma Smith-Chaston

Fairly useful maiden on Flat (stays 2m) for William Haggas and made a good start over hurdles for new yard earlier in the year, finishing second on soft at Market Rasen in February before going one better in maiden at Perth 3 months later. Unexposed handicap newcomer.

6 GEGE VILLE (FR) (588) 95
253/6- 8 10-10 | 68.0kg



Nicky Richards

Conor Rabbitt (3lb/1kg)

Ayr bumper winner in 2021. Placed in 2 of 4 starts in maiden/novice hurdles in 2022/23. Brings an unexposed profile to this handicap debut but betting perhaps the best guide to expectations after a further 19 months off.

7 DALILEO (IRE) (7) 98
32456179 9 10-4 | 65.3kg



Lisa Harrison

Peter Kavanagh

Posted best effort for some time when taking a 10-runner Ayr handicap (19.5f, good to soft) last month. Found out in bigger fields at Musselburgh and Newcastle since but this is less competitive.

7 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

7-4 Medieval Gold, **5-1** Speed Davis, **5-1** Honneur D'ajonc, **15-2** Gege Ville, **12-1** Dalileo, **12-1** Hurricane Ali, **16-1** Lupus Regem

TIMEFORM VIEW:

HONNEUR D'AJONC had an off day last time but prior to that recorded a career best to score at Fontwell and is taken to bounce back for a yard which continues to knock in the winners. The unexposed newcomer Medieval Gold is feared most ahead of fellow handicap hurdle newcomer Speed Davis.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. HONNEUR D'AJONC 2. MEDIEVAL GOLD 3. SPEED DAVIS

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2023 **El Jefe** 6-10-4 15-2 Andrew Hamilton Conor Rabbitt 8

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

12.55

RACE 3

BETFRED SUPPORTS JACK BERRY HOUSE MARES' NOVICES' HURDLE (Abram) (Listed) (1) 4yo+ fillies and mares
£20,000 2¼m191y (3800 Metres)Going: **Soft (Heavy in places)**

Left handed, flat. Conditions are often gruelling during winter, placing emphasis on stamina. Conversely, conditions at the Swinton Meeting in May usually place the emphasis on speed, with a tendency to favour those ridden prominently as a result. Formerly held an undeserved reputation as one of the hardest courses to jump around, something not backed up by statistics, though perversely the data suggests that the chase course nowadays is a more demanding test, that possibly on account of more races being well run.

Pace Information: **Weak****1 FROMHERETOETERNITY (IRE) (10)** s+t **99**

P-2711321 7 11-0 | 69.9kg



Jennie Candlish

Sean Quinlan

Has improved since joining Jennie Candlish, going with plenty of zest for win number 3 in novice company at Hexham 10 days ago. Pitched into a deeper race but she's a definite player in his current mood.

2 HOLLOWAY QUEEN (IRE) (23) **100**

1 4 11-0 | 69.9kg



Nicky Henderson

Nico de Boinville

€40,000 3-y-o, £180,000 4-y-o, Jukebox Jury filly. Half-sister to a point winner. Dam unraced half-sister to useful hurdler/fairly useful chaser (2m-2¼m winner) Bywell Beau. Runner-up sole start in Irish points and looked a nice prospect when going one place better on hurdles debut 3 weeks ago

3 KELYA WOOD (FR) (27) h **98**

1 4 11-0 | 69.9kg



Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero

Craig Nichol

Dam, ran twice over hurdles in France, half-sister to fairly useful hurdle winner/useful chaser in France (2¼m-2¾m winner) Jojo Lapin. Every chance when fell last sole start in Irish points and fitted with a hood, she made most of an uncontested lead on hurdles debut at Uttoxeter.

4 MILLIE SUPREME (IRE) (21) **90**

22 6 11-0 | 69.9kg



Donald McCain

Brian Hughes

£30,000 purchase after winning 3 of 6 starts in Irish points. Found only one too good both starts over hurdles last month but looks up against it at this level.

5 MY KIWI GIRL (IRE) (49) **89**

4 5 11-0 | 69.9kg



N. W. Alexander

K. Brogan

£80,000 5-y-o, Walk In The Park mare. Half-sister to modest hurdler Kellie's Dream. Dam 1½m winner on Flat in Germany, half-sister to very smart hurdler/useful chaser (stayed 3m) Catch Me. Cosily won sole start in Irish points but didn't look totally straightforward on hurdles debut.

5 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

4-5 Holloway Queen, **3-1** Fromheretoeternity, **6-1** Kelya Wood, **18-1** Millie Supreme, **33-1** My Kiwi Girl

TIMEFORM VIEW:

Having fetched £180,000 despite not winning her point, HOLLOWAY QUEEN created a very favourable impression when successful at Lingfield 3 weeks ago. Sure to build on that, she can go in again, for all Fromheretoeternity can call upon plenty of experience under Rules.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**1. HOLLOWAY QUEEN 2. FROMHERETOETERNITY 3. KELYA WOOD****WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2023	Pawapuri 4-11-0	6-1	Nicky Henderson	James Bowen	9
2021	Haute Estime 4-11-0	11-1	Lucinda Russell	Derek Fox	6
2020	Nada To Prada 5-11-0	9-4	Michael Scudamore	Richard Patrick	5
2019	Desaray Girl 4-11-0	25-1	Philip Kirby	Thomas Dowson	10

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

1.30**BETFRED 'BET BUILDER' HANDICAP CHASE (3) 4yo+
(Rated 0-130) £20,000 2m67y (3280 Metres)**

RACE 4

Going: **Soft (Heavy in places)**

Left handed, flat. Conditions are often gruelling during winter, placing emphasis on stamina. Conversely, conditions at the Swinton Meeting in May usually place the emphasis on speed, with a tendency to favour those ridden prominently as a result. Formerly held an undeserved reputation as one of the hardest courses to jump around, something not backed up by statistics, though perversely the data suggests that the chase course nowadays is a more demanding test, that possibly on account of more races being well run.

Pace Information: **Even**

1	NETYWELL (FR) (28) (CD)	96
	2331114-3 7 12-0 76.2kg Lucinda Russell <i>Patrick Wadge</i> Consistent type who registered the first leg of a hat-trick last winter when landing this race by a wide-margin 12 months ago. Looked rusty back over this C&D on his seasonal reappearance and, with the cobwebs now blown away, he has to enter calculations.	
2	XCITATIONS (28) (D)	96
	513U764-5 9 11-12 75.3kg Pam Sly <i>Paul O'Brien</i> It's been a struggle since his latest success at Sandown last November but he boasts a healthy strike rate over fences (5-19) and is now 8 lb below that winning mark. Dangerous to discount with last month's C&D reappearance spin under his belt.	
3	RED ROOKIE (217) (D)	95
	7743743-4 9 11-10 74.4kg Emma Lavelle <i>Gavin Sheehan</i> Winless last season but performed with credit on final 2 starts of that campaign, making the frame in 3m handicap chases at Uttoxeter. Drop back in trip no bad thing (all 5 career wins in various race-types gained at around 2m) and he's lurking on a potentially handy mark.	
4	CERENDIPITY (IRE) (66)	99
	13PF351-6 7 11-8 73.5kg Joel Parkinson & Sue Smith <i>Nick Scholfield</i> Crucially produced a better round of jumping when running out an authoritative winner on final start of last season at Bangor. Shaped as if needing his Wetherby return in October and worth noting he's won second time out for each of the last 2 seasons.	
5	ROYAL MER (FR) (29) (D)	98
	52111P-46 6 11-6 72.6kg David Pipe <i>Jack Tudor</i> Notched 5 handicap wins during first campaign over fences in 2023/24, completing a hat-trick in good style at Wincanton in April. However, he ended that campaign on a downer (pulled up at Ayr) and he hasn't shown much in 2 starts so far this season.	
6	FINDTHETIME (IRE) (35) (D)	96
	P1414-P24 8 11-5 72.1kg Stuart Coltherd <i>Sam Coltherd</i> Landed a pair of small-field handicaps last winter for Nicky Richards and got back on track for his current yard when second of 6 in handicap chase at Hexham (15.6f, good) in June. However, he was safely held back from a break last month and others make more appeal on this occasion.	
7	INTIMATE (FR) (15) (D)	100
	88/23651-2 6 11-0 69.9kg Venetia Williams <i>Ned Fox (3lb/1kg)</i> Took form to a new level over hurdles when successful at Hereford on final run of last season. Good start in this sphere when chasing home a race-fit rival on his reappearance at Sandown (15.4f, good to soft) and he should make a bold bid to go one better here.	
8	SUNNYVILLA (IRE) (246) (D)	95
	3/PP84413- 9 10-13 69.4kg Nicky Richards <i>Danny McMenamin</i> Notched third success over fences for Donal Hassett in Ireland when landing a Cork handicap in April. Decent third at Limerick 18 days later and should win races for this new yard, albeit he'll need to be at the top of his game back from an 8-month absence in order to take this.	

8 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

5-2 Intimate, **9-2** Netywell, **6-1** Cerendipity, **8-1** Red Rookie, **10-1** Sunnyvilla, **11-1** Xcitations, **12-1** Findthetime, **16-1** Royal Mer

TIMEFORM VIEW:

INTIMATE made a promising start over fences when finding only Mount Tempest too good at Sandown and, with the likelihood of better to come from this 6-y-o, he looks the way to go. Next on the list is Cerendipity, who is bidding to win second time out for the third consecutive season, while last year's winner Netywell and Xcitations also warrant consideration.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**1. INTIMATE 2. CERENDIPITY 3. NETYWELL****WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2023	Netywell 6-10-8	7-4	Lucinda Russell	Patrick Wadge (3)	4
2021	Shakem Up'arry 7-11-12	6-5f	Ben Pauling	Luca Morgan (5)	6
2020	Equus Millar 7-11-0	17-2	Nigel Twiston-Davies	Sam Twiston-Davies	6
2019	Joke Dancer 6-11-10	11-2	Sue Smith	Danny Cook	5

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

2.05**BETFRED TOMMY WHITTLE HANDICAP CHASE (2) 4yo+
(Rated 0-145) £50,000 3m1f125y (5140 Metres)**

RACE 5

Going: **Soft (Heavy in places)**

Left handed, flat. Conditions are often gruelling during winter, placing emphasis on stamina. Conversely, conditions at the Swinton Meeting in May usually place the emphasis on speed, with a tendency to favour those ridden prominently as a result. Formerly held an undeserved reputation as one of the hardest courses to jump around, something not backed up by statistics, though perversely the data suggests that the chase course nowadays is a more demanding test, that possibly on account of more races being well run.

Pace Information: **Very Weak**

1 FAMOUS BRIDGE (IRE) (56) (CD)   **100**



Nicky Richards

Sean Quinlan

1/411PU4-2 **8** 12-0 | 76.2kg
Dual C&D winner last season, including this race from a 2 lb lower mark. Ran well when fourth in Ultima Handicap at Cheltenham in March and returned to action with a sound second behind a course specialist at Kelso (26.2f) 56 days ago. Fancied to play a lead role again.

2 FRENCHY DU LARGE (FR) (17) (BF) **98**



Venetia Williams

Ned Fox (31b/1kg)

F4342/2-2 **9** 11-9 | 73.9kg
Dual 2½m chase winner earlier in his career who ended 2023 with good placed efforts over C&D/Market Rasen. Off 19 months, shaped as if retaining all his ability when second of 7 in handicap chase at Ludlow (25.6f) 17 days ago, despite hanging badly right. Claims with cheekpieces refitted.

3 REGAL BLUE (IRE) (38) (C) **97**



Jonjo & A.J. O'Neill

Nick Scholfield

P32P1P1-P **7** 11-8 | 73.5kg
Course winner who is a strong stayer when in the mood and he doubled his chase tally at Uttoxeter (3m, heavy) in March. Disappointing return to action when pulled up at Bangor 38 days ago but a return to forcing tactics may see him in a better light here.

4 EGBERT (43) **97**



Alan King

Gavin Sheehan

64/1P12P-5 **7** 11-4 | 71.7kg
A dual chase winner at up to 3m last season who was pulled up in Scottish Grand National at Ayr (31.8f, good to soft) in April and reappearance run in refitted visor at Exeter (24.2f) 6 weeks ago was a disappointing effort. Needs to leavethat well behind.

5 PERCUSSION (42) (D) **99**



L J Morgan

Brian Hughes 

35P42-427 **9** 11-2 | 70.8kg
On a lengthy losing run but he ran right up to form when second from out of the weights in the Summer Cup at Uttoxeter in June. Not at best when finishing midfield in last month's Grand Sefton over the National fences 6 weeks ago. First-time visor may put an extra edge on him.

6 CREDO (IRE) (28) **97**



Anthony Honeyball

Chad Bament (10lb/5kg)

12346-534 **9** 11-2 | 70.8kg
Has done his winning in small field and returned to action with a good third at Wincanton (26.7f) in October. Rare below-par display when fourth of 9 in a C&D handicap 4 weeks ago and she's a likely candidate to bounce back (third in this race 12 months ago).

7 EAST STREET (IRE) (17) (C) **98**



James Owen

Callum Pritchard (71b/3kg)

F5P6-P111 **8** 11-0 | 69.9kg
Pulled up on first outing for current yard, but hasn't looked back since visor went on, winning handicap chase contests at Wetherby/Leicester and completed hat-trick in handicap hurdle here (24.2f) 17 days ago. Well worthy to respect back over fences with his rider taking off a handy 7 lb.

8 DIOL KER (FR) (30) **89**



Evan Williams

Adam Wedge

760P-7P6P **10** 10-11 | 68.5kg
A useful chaser for Gordon Elliott but well held all 3 starts in veterans' company upon joining present connections this autumn. Mark is tumbling all the time if refitting of cheekpieces has positive effect here.

9 JACKS PARROT (FR) (20) **97**



Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero

Henry Brooke

2624411-7 **5** 10-10 | 68.0kg
Has improved since joining this yard, winning at Uttoxeter and Perth in April. Went without usual tongue tie (refitted here) and shaped as if needing the run after 7 months off when seventh of 12 in handicap chase at Carlisle (24.5f) 20 days ago and he could yet get back on the up.

BETTING FORECAST:

3-1 Famous Bridge, 4-1 East Street, 6-1 Frenchy Du Large, 7-1 Credo, 9-1 Regal Blue, 11-1 Jacks Parrot, 12-1 Egbert, 16-1 Percussion, 33-1 Diol Ker

TIMEFORM VIEW:

EAST STREET hasn't looked back since the visor went on, winning twice over fences prior to completing the hat-trick over hurdles here 17 days ago. He could well be up to going in again returned to larger obstacles with his rider able to take off his very handy 7 lb claim. Last year's winner Famous Bridge resumed with a good second behind a course specialist at Kelso and he's feared. Credo and Regal Blue are others capable of playing their part.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. EAST STREET 2. FAMOUS BRIDGE 3. CREDO

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2023	Famous Bridge	7-11-9	5-2f	Nicky Richards	Sean Quinlan	9
2021	Enqarde	7-10-9	8-1	Dr Richard Newland	Charlie Hammond	16
2020	Sam's Adventure	8-11-4	14-1	Brian Ellison	Brian Hughes	10
2019	Lord du Mesnil	6-10-8	5-1	Richard Hobson	Paul O'Brien (3)	9

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

2.40

RACE 6

**BETFRED HAT-TRICK HEAVEN HANDICAP HURDLE
(Qualifier) (3) 3yo+ (Rated 0-130) £13,000 1m7f144y
(3150 Metres)****GBI RACING**Going: **Soft (Heavy in places)**

Left handed, flat. Conditions are often gruelling during winter, placing emphasis on stamina. Conversely, conditions at the Swinton Meeting in May usually place the emphasis on speed, with a tendency to favour those ridden prominently as a result. Formerly held an undeserved reputation as one of the hardest courses to jump around, something not backed up by statistics, though perversely the data suggests that the chase course nowadays is a more demanding test, that possibly on account of more races being well run.

Pace Information: **Weak****SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

1 MILLDAM (FR) (13) (D) h+t **96**
49/51411-4 6 12-0 | 76.2kg



Jamie Snowden **Gavin Sheehan**
Let down by his jumping when a below-par fourth of 6 in handicap hurdle at Huntingdon (15.8f, heavy) on his recent return. Scored three times last term however so no surprise to see him bounce back.

2 REWIRED (20) (D) **92**
11P6-0843 6 11-9 | 73.9kg



Tristan Davidson **Harry Reed**
Won 2m handicaps at Doncaster and Taunton last winter but below that level more recently, including when in the frame for his new yard at Wetherby and Carlisle this winter. More is required.

3 JILAIJONE (FR) (31) t **99**
23P05-422 5 11-7 | 73.0kg



David Pipe **Jack Tudor**
Without a win since his British debut but he is knocking on the door again, runner-up in 2m3f Warwick handicap last month. Can make his presence felt once more.

4 ADMIRALTY HOUSE (21) (D) h **98**
122/2U 5 11-7 | 73.0kg



Alan King **Philip Armson (3lb/1kg)**
Lightly-raced winner who resumed with a good second at Wincanton in October. On the retreat when unseated rider last in handicap at Doncaster following month but this free-goer is the sort to get back on track.

5 BERTIE'S BALLET (20) (CD) **100**
21243-P36 6 11-5 | 72.1kg



Dianne Sayer **Danny McMenamin**
C&D winner but he was let down by his jumping when only sixth of 8 in handicap hurdle at Carlisle (17f, soft) 20 days ago. Handily weighted if back on his A-game.

6 LUNE DE LA MER (IRE) (582) **97**
31/1- 7 10-13 | 69.4kg



Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero **Henry Brooke**
A fairly useful bumper scorer who overcame inexperience to make a winning hurdling debut in 2m4f Aintree maiden in May, 2023. Absent since but appears as capable of a fair better now going handicapping. Interesting for his in-form yard.

7 COVENTRY (IRE) (65) (D) **98**
F9/5089-62 7 10-10 | 68.0kg



Lisa Harrison **Peter Kavanagh (3lb/1kg)**
It's now 18 runs since his last win in 2021 but he posted a very good second of 10 in handicap hurdle at Carlisle (17.2f, soft) 65 days ago. Needs considering off the same mark.

8 BASHFUL (15) (D) s+t **94**
234/411-85 6 10-5 | 65.8kg



Iain Jardine **Conor O'Farrell**
Won a pair of handicap hurdles at Musselburgh back in February but struggled on the Flat in the summer and has fared no better back hurdling of late. Others appeal more.

8 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

3-1 Jilajone, **11-2** Bertie's Ballet, **6-1** Milldam, **7-1** Admiralty House, **7-1** Coventry, **8-1** Lune De La Mer, **10-1** Bashful, **20-1** Rewired

TIMEFORM VIEW:

The unbeaten LUNE DE LA MER rates a likely improver now stepping into handicap company so is taken to make light of a lengthy absence with his yard going well. Jilajone may have to settle for runner-up spot once more, while Coventry and Bertie's Ballet could also have a say.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. LUNE DE LA MER 2. JILAIJONE 3. COVENTRY

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2023 **The Churchill Lad** 4-11-4 9-1 Rebecca Menzies Ross Chapman 6

3.15

RACE 7

BETFRED MERRY CHRISTMAS HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier) (3) 3yo+ (Rated 0-130) £13,000 3m58y (4880 Metres)



Going: **Soft (Heavy in places)**

Left handed, flat. Conditions are often gruelling during winter, placing emphasis on stamina. Conversely, conditions at the Swinton Meeting in May usually place the emphasis on speed, with a tendency to favour those ridden prominently as a result. Formerly held an undeserved reputation as one of the hardest courses to jump around, something not backed up by statistics, though perversely the data suggests that the chase course nowadays is a more demanding test, that possibly on account of more races being well run.

Pace Information: **Even**

- 1 SUPREME WEST (IRE) (70) (BF)** b **100**

2112222-3 **6** 12-0 | 76.2kg

Dr Richard Newland & Jamie Insole **Charlie Hammond**

Won a brace of novice hurdles last autumn and showed better form in defeat in handicaps thereafter. Clear of the remainder with highly progressive rival at Uttoxeter on penultimate outing. Better than result at Hexham on return and makes the most appeal.
- 2 THE IMPOSTER (FR) (28) (D)** v+t **91**

2111/111-P **7** 11-12 | 75.3kg

Nigel Hawke **Tom Buckley (3lb/1kg)**

Made it a remarkable 9 wins in 10 starts when seeing off 5 rivals at Chepstow (heavy) last December. However, pulled up in Betfair Stayers' Handicap here on his belated return a month ago and looks best watched at present.
- 3 CASTLE RUSHEN (IRE) (28)** s **96**

423/756-14 **9** 11-12 | 75.3kg

Nicky Richards **Brian Hughes**

Finally came good in a handicap when shading a tight finish on his 2½m Carlisle reappearance in November and shaped as if still in form when fourth faced with tough conditions over C&D last time. Not one to write off.
- 4 MY BOBBY DAZZLER (48) (D)** **98**

842827-27 **9** 11-10 | 74.4kg

Mel Rowley **Callum Pritchard (7lb/3kg)**

Fairly useful hurdler and chaser who faced an inadequate test when seventh to Castle Rushen at Carlisle on return. Step back up in distance is in his favour.
- 5 MAGICAL KING (IRE) (42)** s **96**

2253512-3 **5** 11-6 | 72.6kg

Stuart Edmunds **Ciaran Gethings**

Creditable third of 8 in handicap hurdle at Aintree (24.7f, good, 5/1) 42 days ago, unsuited by emphasis on stamina. Should give a good account if jumping holds up again.
- 6 SPIKE JONES (39)** s+t **96**

1412/P45-1 **7** 11-3 | 71.2kg

Samuel Drinkwater **Ned Fox (3lb/1kg)**

Successful twice over 3¼m at Fontwell in 2022/23 season and returned to form from out of the blue (first-time cheekpieces) to score at Lingfield last month. Could go well again.
- 7 WASDELL DUNDALK (FR) (20) (D)** **95**

736141FP **9** 11-3 | 71.2kg

Lisa Harrison **Danny McMenamin**

Done well since joining this yard, bagging a fifth success since last summer when landing 5-runner handicap chase at Carlisle in October. Pulled up there since and returns to hurdling now.
- 8 CHAMP ROYAL (FR) (20) (D)** s+t **95**

711122-4P **8** 11-2 | 70.8kg

Susan Corbett **Nathan Moscrop**

Much improved since joining Susan Corbett, scoring 4 times (at up to 25.3f) over hurdles last season. Hasn't taken to chasing but can't be written off returning to this discipline.
- 9 OUR SAM (70)** t **97**

1126-504F **8** 11-1 | 70.3kg

James Moffatt **Charlotte Jones**

Bagged a hat-trick of victories last summer but hasn't been in top form so far this term and fell at Hexham last time.
- 10 STRATTON OAKMONT (IRE) (41) (D)** **97**

4/312221-3 **8** 11-0 | 69.9kg

Kayley Woollacott **Ben Godfrey**

Reliable sort who resumed winning ways in 8-runner handicap hurdle at Exeter (23f, heavy) in March. Solid return when third at Ffos Las and could be on the premises again.

11

HALF TRACK (IRE) (20) **96**

UUP4/U32 **8** 10-6 | 66.2kg

N. W. Alexander **Sean Quinlan**

Well handicapped on best form and took a firm step back in the right direction when second at Carlisle last time, so warrants strong consideration.

11 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

9-2 Supreme West, **5-1** Magical King, **7-1** Castle Rushen, **15-2** Half Track, **8-1** Spike Jones, **12-1** Stratton Oakmont, **16-1** My Bobby Dazzler, **16-1** Our Sam, **18-1** Wasdell Dundalk, **18-1** The Imposter, **33-1** Champ Royal

TIMEFORM VIEW:

SUPREME WEST was well clear with Gwennie May Boy (subsequently won big handicap at Aintree) on his final outing last season and shaped as if he'd returned in top form when third at Hexham 70 days ago, so he looks the one to beat for all that several others arrive in good order. Half Track and Magical King are both obvious dangers.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. SUPREME WEST 2. HALF TRACK 3. MAGICAL KING

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2023	Bushypark 9-10-12	11-2 Philip Kirby	Joe Williamson (5)	6
2021	Jesuitique 6-10-11	11-4jf Dr Richard Newland	C. M. Leonard (5)	12

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race