

Sunday 22nd December

FAKENHAM



12.13 SKY BET ACCA FREEZE HANDICAP HURDLE (5) 2m7f95y (4710 Metres)

RACE 1 **(3) FADED FANTASY | (4) SHE WON'T MIND | (1) STAR LEGEND**

12.43 SKY BET BUILD A BET MARES' NOVICES' HANDICAP HURDLE (5) 2m3y (3220 Metres)

RACE 2 **(1) BRAVE JEN | (2) UOKHUN | (5) SIMPLY GORGEOUS**

1.13 £50,000 QUEEN BOUDICCA SERIES QUALIFIER MARES' HANDICAP CHASE (Qualifier) (4) 2m5f44y (4260 Metres)

RACE 3 **(1) KOSASIEMPRE | (5) CLUAIN AODHA | (2) MELUSINE DE PAIL**

1.43 SKY BET SUPER WEEK, SUPERSIZED MAIDEN HURDLE (4) 2½m1y (4020 Metres)

RACE 4 **(6) MISS CYNTHIA | (1) GO WEST | (5) MINIMOONBEAM**

2.13 SKY BET CLUB STAYERS' HANDICAP CHASE (4) 3m5f24y (5860 Metres)

RACE 5 **(5) JONY MAX | (8) BALLYRASHANE | (6) SAMOURAI ONE**

2.43 SKY BET, FOR THE FANS HANDICAP HURDLE (4) 2m3y (3220 Metres)

RACE 6 **(3) ZHANG FEI | (4) BIGZ BELIEF | (5) SABBATHICAL**

3.13 SKY BET REQUEST A BET FEMALE JOCKEYS' HANDICAP CHASE (Female Professional Jockeys) (3) 2m5f44y (4260 Metres)

RACE 7 **(7) LUNAR CONTACT | (3) DON ALVARO | (4) CAPTAIN SPEAKING**

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.

12.13

SKY BET ACCA FREEZE HANDICAP HURDLE (5) 3yo+ (Rated 0-100) £7,500 2m7f95y (4710 Metres)

RACE 1



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

Left handed, very sharp, with a short run-in on both courses. The tightest jumps track in GB and, in theory, ideal for handy, front-running types as opposed to long-striding gallopers, though races are often well-run and the emphasis is much more on stamina than might be expected. The fences are stiff, too, claiming a greater number of casualties per runner than pretty much any other course in the country.

Pace Information: **Weak**

1 STAR LEGEND (IRE) (19) (C) 92
 213-22450 5 12-0 | 76.2kg



James Owen *Mr Alex Chadwick (51b/2kg)*
 Course winner, Runner-up twice over hurdles in June but struggled on last two hurdle starts, well-beaten in Huntingdon selling handicap in November and below par again when Eleventh of 16 in handicap hurdle (11/1) at Southwell. Han ran well here so hopes rest on a revival at a track he likes.

2 HARDY BUCK (IRE) (151) 84
 6064-9F9P 6 11-11 | 74.8kg



Barry Brennan *Tom Broughton (51b/2kg)*
 Pulled up in handicap chase at Wexford (25.5f, soft, 28/1) 29 days ago, struggling badly over circuit out. Made the frame in Point-to-Points in Ireland since and back under rules on first start for new yard (previously with the then John Joseph Hanlon yard when last seen under Rules).

3 FADED FANTASY (IRE) (25) 100
 20757427 5 11-9 | 73.9kg



Christian Williams *Jack Tudor*
 Not won since June 2023 but came close on first attempt over fences, closed all the way to the line. Possibly didn't take to cheekpieces on next outing (25 days ago) when struggled. Interesting back over hurdles with blinkers tried, at a course where yard does well and with ex-stable jockey aboard.

4 SHE WON'T MIND (50) 99
 05-89 6 11-3 | 71.2kg



Tim Reed *Harry Reed*
 Raced freely when tailed off sole outing in bumpers and has made little impact in 3 novice hurdles (last seen 50 days ago well beaten at Ayr 16f). Significantly up in trip on handicap debut following short break, and extra distance could bring about some improvement.

5 FLEMEN'S TIPPLe (IRE) (34) (D) 95
 426P6-1P4 7 11-1 | 70.3kg



Andy Irvine *Caolin Quinn*
 Runner-up a few times over hurdles and finally got his head in front over the fences in decisive fashion at Huntingdon (23.6f, good to firm) in May. Possibly amiss given the way he wilted at Warwick (24f) later that month. Last of 4 on return to hurdling (looked rusty) and tongue tie on now.

6 GHOST PEPPER (IRE) (40) 94
 406 4 10-10 | 68.0kg



D. J. Jeffreys *Jonathan Burke*
 From a good family but down the field in 2m Stratford hurdles 4 months apart before finishing last at Hereford 40 days ago. Looks one to improve with time, although step up in trip will be in his favour and betting may offer a guide of what is expected on handicap debut.

7 VON HALLERS (IRE) (69) 94
 UPP6-P5 6 10-6 | 66.2kg



Kim Bailey *Tom Bellamy*
 Winning Irish pointer but hasn't really shone under Rules. Something to build on when Fifth of 9 in handicap hurdle at Hereford (19.7f, good, 3/1) after 5-month break and up in trip following a further 69 days off the track. Not discounted.

8 TIS BUT A SCRATCH (41) 97
 P6-32P957 8 10-4 | 65.3kg



Georgie Howell *Tabitha Worsley (31b/1kg)*
 Remains a maiden after 20 runs. Huntingdon fifth was one of his better efforts but did not back it up when well-beaten at Kempton (24.6f) last month and overall his record is unconvincing.

9 GO FOX (33) (C) 95
 225-36576 9 10-2(9-13) | 64.4kg (63.0kg)



Neil King *Jack Quinlan*
 Course winner. Won over fences in summer 2023 and runner-up twice here (hurdles and fences) last winter. Largely downhill since including when stepped up to 3m on latest chase outing (sixth of 7) at this venue last month. Back over hurdles today and something to prove from out of weights.

10 PORRIDGE (IRE) (21) 94
 56U0PP34 4 10-2(8-8) | 64.4kg (54.4kg)



Tracey Leeson *Tom Buckley (31b/1kg)*
 Fourth on sole outing in points but hasn't offered much under Rules, never involved on latest start at Leicester (20.5f, heavy, 20/1) 21 days ago and up against it once again from out of the handicap.

BETTING FORECAST:

7-2 Faded Fantasy, **5-1** Von Hallers, **11-2** Star Legend, **6-1** She Won't Mind, **12-1** Flemen's Tipple, **12-1** Hardy Buck, **14-1** Tis But A Scratch, **14-1** Ghost Pepper, **33-1** Go Fox, **66-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

All of these have something to prove in one way or another, but FADED FANTASY may be the least risky option. If taking to the first-time blinkers, he can enhance his trainer's good record at this venue. She Won't Mind may not have the most inspiring form figures but this is a modest contest, and the step up in trip could bring her into the mix. Star Legend has lost his way of late but the return to the scene of his sole hurdles victory could see him run better.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. FADED FANTASY 2. SHE WON'T MIND 3. STAR LEGEND

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2023	Edison Kent 7-12-0	8-1	James Owen	Lilly Pinchin	7
2021	Lelantos 5-11-3	11-4jf	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boenville	7
2020	Juge Et Parti 7-12-3	14-1	Archie Watson	Miss Brodie Hampson (3)	9
2019	Perfect Moment 6-11-0	4-5f	Michael Roberts	Tom O'Brien	7

SMART STATS:

25% James Owen's strike rate in early season (saddles: **STAR LEGEND**)

12.43

RACE 2

SKY BET BUILD A BET MARES' NOVICES' HANDICAP HURDLE (5) 3yo+ fillies and mares (Rated 0-105) £7,500 2m3y (3220 Metres)



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

Left handed, very sharp, with a short run-in on both courses. The tightest jumps track in GB and, in theory, ideal for handy, front-running types as opposed to long-striding gallopers, though races are often well-run and the emphasis is much more on stamina than might be expected. The fences are stiff, too, claiming a greater number of casualties per runner than pretty much any other course in the country.

Pace Information: **Very Weak**

1 BRAVE JEN (25) (BF) s+t **100**
P-F472312 6 12-0 | 76.2kg

Tom Ellis **Mr Jack Andrews (31b/1kg)**
Proved well suited by the emphasis being on speed when off the mark in 12-runner maiden at Sedgefield (17f, good) in November. Creditable second of 3 in Market Rasen handicap since, no extra late on after leading going well 2 out. This sharp track should suit.

2 UOKHUN (IRE) (11) t **97**
4/P-4U33 6 11-13 | 75.7kg

Tim Easterby **Jamie Hamilton**
Promise when third in mares' novice hurdles over 2m at Wetherby and Hexham on her last 2 starts and rates a likely improver in handicaps.

3 CONFIDENTIAL GOSIP (IRE) (16) s **99**
4-0355688 5 11-6 | 72.6kg

Laura Horsfall **K. Brogan**
Fair maiden hurdler for Jessica Harrington but well held in 3 runs for Laura Horsfall. Can only watch at present.

4 IRONED OUT (IRE) (31) **76**
40960 4 10-12 | 68.9kg

Evan Williams **Isabel Williams (31b/1kg)**
Has hinted at ability and handicaps provide her with a much more realistic chance. It'll be interesting to see what the betting makes of her.

5 SIMPLY GORGEOUS (40) t **99**
8F842 5 10-4 | 65.3kg

Neil King **Jack Quinlan**
Fair at best on Flat. Only modest form at best over hurdles but latest Lingfield second of 6 shows she can be competitive from her lowly mark.

5 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

85-40 Brave Jen, **9-4** Uokhun, **3-1** Simply Gorgeous, **8-1** Ironed Out, **25-1** Confidential Gosip

TIMEFORM VIEW:

Fakenham should play to the strengths of BRAVE JEN who is preferred to Tim Easterby handicap newcomer Uokhun.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. BRAVE JEN 2. UOKHUN 3. SIMPLY GORGEOUS

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2023 **Lady Berlais** 5-10-10 9-2 Dan Skelton Charlie Todd 7

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

1.13







RACE 3

£50,000 QUEEN BOUDICCA SERIES QUALIFIER MARES' HANDICAP CHASE (Qualifier) (4) 4yo+ fillies and mares (Rated 0-110) £10,000 2m5f44y (4260 Metres)

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

Left handed, very sharp, with a short run-in on both courses. The tightest jumps track in GB and, in theory, ideal for handy, front-running types as opposed to long-striding gallopers, though races are often well-run and the emphasis is much more on stamina than might be expected. The fences are stiff, too, claiming a greater number of casualties per runner than pretty much any other course in the country.

Pace Information: **Very Weak**

	1	KOSASIEMPRE (FR) (21)		100
		PP-115231 6 11-12 75.3kg		
		Stuart Edmunds	Charlie Hammond	
		Dual 2m 4f hurdle winner at Market Rasen early this summer and proved herself a better chaser than hurdler at the first attempt when confidently ridden to score at Leicester 3 weeks ago. Can defy a 7 lb rise with more to come.		
	2	MELUSINE DE PAIL (FR) (29)		96
		3223-833 6 11-9 73.9kg		
		Noel Williams	Jonathan Burke	
		Point winner who showed fair form when placed over hurdles. Decent start to chase career when third at Huntingdon last month and entitled to build on that.		
	3	MICRONORMOUS (IRE) (33) (CD)	s+t	94
		56/3-35641 6 11-8 73.5kg		
		David Pipe	Jack Tudor	
		Bumper winner but mixed record over hurdles this season after 16 months off. Made a winning start to chase career in weak event over C&D last month and will find this harder.		
	4	EDE'IFFS ROCK (20)		98
		3315-441F 6 11-4 71.7kg		
		Bill Turner	Harry Kimber	
		Consistent sort over hurdles, winning twice, including at Plumpton last month. However, was in the process of running below form switched to fences when falling at the last there 3 weeks ago.		
	5	CLUAIN AODHA (IRE) (31)		99
		14/2545-34 7 11-2 70.8kg		
		Neil King	Jack Quinlan	
		Fair handicap hurdler who belied unflattering odds sent chasing after 15 months off when good third at Uttoxeter early last month. Might have found next run coming too soon so worth another chance.		

5 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

6-4 Kosasiempre, **5-2** Micronormous, **11-2** Melusine De Pail, **10-1** Cluain Aodha, **10-1** Ede'iffs Rock

TIMEFORM VIEW:

KOSASIEMPRE already looks a better chaser than hurdler after her winning start in this sphere at Leicester and she looks capable of defying a 7 lb rise. Cluain Aodha is worth another chance to confirm chase debut promise so is feared most.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. KOSASIEMPRE 2. CLUAIN AODHA 3. MELUSINE DE PAIL

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2023	Jacks Touch	8-12-0	7-2	Sarah Humphrey	Daryl Jacob	7
2021	The Feckenham Fox	7-9-13	9-2	Max Young	James Best	6
2020	Princess Roxy	7-11-1	5-4f	Ben Case	Harry Bannister	6

SMART STATS:

39% Charlie Hammond's strike rate on chase favourites (rides: **KOSASIEMPRE**)

1.43

SKY BET SUPER WEEK, SUPERSIZED MAIDEN HURDLE (4)
4yo+ £7,500 2½m1y (4020 Metres)

RACE 4



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

Left handed, very sharp, with a short run-in on both courses. The tightest jumps track in GB and, in theory, ideal for handy, front-running types as opposed to long-striding gallopers, though races are often well-run and the emphasis is much more on stamina than might be expected. The fences are stiff, too, claiming a greater number of casualties per runner than pretty much any other course in the country.

Pace Information: **Very Weak**

1 GO WEST (IRE) (20) 94
 2210/5 6 11-4 | 71.7kg



Paul Nicholls **Harry Cobden**
 Bumper winner in March 2023. Shaped as if retaining most of that ability when fifth in 20.5f Plumpton maiden hurdle on return from absence 3 weeks ago. Entitled to come on for that.

2 IT'S A MYSTERY (IRE) 83
 4 11-4 | 71.7kg



Tom Ellis **Mr Jack Andrews (3lb/1kg)**
 Third sole start in points in May but the form doesn't look anything special. The betting should help guide to expectations on hurdle debut.

3 KILLOMEROE (IRE) (203) 75
 P9 7 11-4 | 71.7kg



Caroline Fryer **Lewis Stones (3lb/1kg)**
 Placed in points but didn't show much in 2 maiden hurdles over the summer (C&D second occasion). Big outsider.

4 ONE MILLION DREAMS (FR) (29) 83
 393 4 11-4 | 71.7kg



Nick Littmoden **Jack Quinlan**
 Modest form, beaten 19 lengths when third in 2m Huntingdon maiden 29 days ago. Up in trip. Likely vulnerable for win purposes again.

5 MINIMOONBEAM 86
 4 10-11 | 68.5kg



James Owen **Tom Bellamy**
 Pether's Moon filly. Dam (h95), maiden hurdler, sister to ungenueine Big Rob and Legal Glory (both fair hurdlers/fairly useful chasers). Newcomer from an excellent yard. Interesting to see what the betting makes of her.

6 MISS CYNTHIA 100
 4 10-11 | 68.5kg



Lucy Wadham **Tom Cannon**
 Useful performer on Flat (stays 17f) for Sir Mark Prescott. Bought for 100,000 gns in October. Found a very winnable race on hurdle debut.

6 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

11-8 Miss Cynthia, **9-4** Go West, **13-2** Minimoonbeam, **12-1** One Million Dreams, **12-1** It's A Mystery, **100-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

If MISS CYNTHIA can translate anything like her Flat ability to hurdles at the first attempt she'll be a very tough nut to crack. Go West is the obvious danger unless the betting vibes are strong surrounding James Owen newcomer Minimoonbeam.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. MISS CYNTHIA 2. GO WEST 3. MINIMOONBEAM

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2023	West Warhorse 5-11-4	5-1	B. F. Brookhouse	Alice Stevens (5)	7
2021	Concoroe 5-11-4	5-6f	Ben Case	Jack Quinlan	6
2020	Diocletian 5-11-0	10-3	Andrew Balding	Page Fuller	11
2019	Young Offender 4-11-0	5-2	Stuart Edmunds	Ciaran Gethings	8

SMART STATS:

- 24%** Paul Nicholls's strike rate with hurdlers running between 2m2f and up to 2m6f (saddles: **GO WEST**)
- 25%** Paul Nicholls's strike rate in early season (saddles: **GO WEST**)
- 22%** James Owen's strike rate with hurdlers running between 2m2f and up to 2m6f (saddles: **MINIMOONBEAM**)

2.13

SKY BET CLUB STAYERS' HANDICAP CHASE (4) 4yo+ (Rated 0-110) £10,000 3m5f24y (5860 Metres)

RACE 5



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

Left handed, very sharp, with a short run-in on both courses. The tightest jumps track in GB and, in theory, ideal for handy, front-running types as opposed to long-striding gallopers, though races are often well-run and the emphasis is much more on stamina than might be expected. The fences are stiff, too, claiming a greater number of casualties per runner than pretty much any other course in the country.

Pace Information: **Weak**


SMART STATS:

24% Christian Williams's strike rate with staying chasers (saddles: **JONY MAX** and **BALLYRASHANE**)


1 GOLD CLERMONT (FR) (20) (CD) 94
318146-64 8 12-0 | 76.2kg

 **Andy Irvine** *Philip Armson (31b/1kg)*
Better for return when fourth at Plumpton, likely to have finished a lot closer but for a bad mistake 3 out. On a winning mark so she's not taken lightly.

2 FERN HILL (IRE) (30) 89
4/3PP67-55 9 12-0 | 76.2kg

 **Ben Case** *Jack Quinlan*
Ended last term out of sorts and is yet to mount a revival this term. Back up in trip now and mark continues to slide.


3 SUBLIME HEIGHTS (IRE) (20) v 80
06261-P43 8 11-12 | 75.3kg

 **Toby Lawes** *K. Brogan*
Yet to his top form in two runs this autumn, only third of 6 at Plumpton last time. Mark is edging down but has a bit to prove.


4 LYRICAL GENIUS (IRE) (14) b ★ 100
3/22443P-3 7 11-6 | 72.6kg

 **Sarah Humphrey** *James Best*
Has an unattractive style but he's well handicapped and made a positive first start for this yard when third at Huntingdon a fortnight ago. Player if he can build on that.


5 JONY MAX (IRE) (13) (C) t 97
09872123 9 11-0 | 69.9kg

 **Christian Williams** *Ellis Collier (71b/3kg)*
Took advantage of reduced mark at Warwick in November and backed it up with a couple of solid efforts. Has an excellent course record and the step back up in trip will suit, so he's the one to beat.


6 SAMOURAI ONE (FR) (33) s 96
5541PP-32 7 10-12 | 68.9kg

 **Lucy Wadham** *Tom Cannon*
Left his hurdling exploits behind when scoring easily on his Market Rasen chase debut in February. That was decent form (had 3 next-time winners in behind) and he's been back on track lately, so can make his presence felt.

7 MARETTIMO (IRE) (17) s 90
51/32-4P84 10 10-8 | 67.1kg

 **Bill Turner** *Harry Kimber*
Fair handicap chaser who shaped as if retaining his ability after 17 months off when fourth at Fontwell in October. Disappointing since, though.

8 BALLYRASHANE (IRE) (62) (CD) t 92
4122-5613 7 10-2 | 64.4kg

 **Christian Williams** *Jack Tudor*
Left his chase debut form behind when successful over C&D in March and doubled his tally in this sphere at Uttoxeter (3m, good to soft) in October. Solid showing at Plumpton since and deserves respect after two months off.

8 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

3-1 Jony Max, **9-2** Samourai One, **5-1** Ballyrashane, **13-2** Lyrical Genius, **15-2** Fern Hill, **10-1** Gold Clermont, **16-1** Sublime Heights, **25-1** Marettimo

TIMEFORM VIEW:

JONY MAX is in top form and goes well here, so he's fancied to get his head back in front over a trip that suits him well. Stablemate Ballyrashane is a threat and another solid showing is expected from Samourai One.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. JONY MAX 2. BALLYRASHANE 3. SAMOURAI ONE

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2023	Gold Clermont	7-11-10	17-2	Andy Irvine	Sean Bowen	8
2021	Uno Mas	7-11-2	11-5f	Christian Williams	Ellis Collier (10)	6

2.43

SKY BET, FOR THE FANS HANDICAP HURDLE (4) 3yo+ (Rated 0-110) £10,000 2m3y (3220 Metres)

RACE 6



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

Left handed, very sharp, with a short run-in on both courses. The tightest jumps track in GB and, in theory, ideal for handy, front-running types as opposed to long-striding gallopers, though races are often well-run and the emphasis is much more on stamina than might be expected. The fences are stiff, too, claiming a greater number of casualties per runner than pretty much any other course in the country.

Pace Information: **Weak**

1 CHANDLERS BAY (IRE) (320) 97
 F23/68- 5 11-12 | 75.3kg



Sarah Humphrey **James Best**
 Promise earlier in career and, while both outings were sub-par last season, he's worthy of a market check having left Alan King in the 10 months he's been off.

2 CLINTON LANE (43) (D) 97
 791P-5P13 6 11-10 | 74.4kg



Mark Gillard **Fergus Gillard**
 Yet to better modest form in this sphere but managed to double career tally after 5 months off in 7-runner Plumpton novice in October. Solid third under a penalty in similar event at Wincanton since but doesn't appear to have anything in hand.

3 ZHANG FEI (FR) (24) 100 ★
 87-541523 6 11-7 | 73.0kg



Fergal O'Brien **Fern O'Brien (71b/3kg)**
 Winner at Newton Abbot (17f) in July and back on track lately, third in a stronger race than this at Taunton last time. Should be able to dominate this and makes most appeal.

4 BIGZ BELIEF (IRE) (9) (D) 99 s+t
 45786F42 7 11-6 | 72.6kg



Barry Brennan **Tom Broughton (51b/2kg)**
 On a lengthy losing run but has been back in form lately, finding only one too good when second of 5 in a first-time visor at Bangor 9 days ago. Cheekpieces back on now and he's worthy of respect.

5 SABBATHICAL (FR) (610) (C, D) 93
 2P713471/ 9 11-2 | 70.8kg



Evan Williams **Osian Radford (101b/5kg)**
 Scored over fences at Leicester last February and added another chase success to his CV at Bangor (17.4f, good) 2 months later. Absent since (20 months) but he's potentially well handicapped back in this sphere.

5 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

7-4 Zhang Fei, 10-3 Sabbatical, 4-1 Bigz Belief, 5-1 Clinton Lane, 18-1 Chandlers Bay

TIMEFORM VIEW:

ZHANG FEI is in good order and finds himself in a less-competitive event than last time so, provided his enthusiasm can be channelled correctly, he can make all at the possible expense of Bigz Belief. Sabbatical has an absence to overcome but is well treated on chase form.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. ZHANG FEI 2. BIGZ BELIEF 3. SABBATHICAL

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2023	For Pleasure 8-12-1	3-1	Oily Murphy	Sean Bowen	8
2021	Vocal Duke 5-11-9	11-4f	Toby Lawes	K. Brogan (3)	10
2020	Gorham's Cave 6-11-2	9-2	Gary Moore	Niall Houlihan (7)	10
2019	Olympic Honour 3-11-7	7-2	Evan Williams	Isabel Williams (7)	11

SMART STATS:

£77.33 Mark Gillard's profit to a £1 level stake when having only one runner on the card (hurdles) (saddles: **CLINTON LANE**)

3.13

RACE 7

SKY BET REQUEST A BET FEMALE JOCKEYS' HANDICAP CHASE (Female Professional Jockeys) (3) 4yo+ (Rated 0-125) £20,000 2m5f44y (4260 Metres)




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


Left handed, very sharp, with a short run-in on both courses. The tightest jumps track in GB and, in theory, ideal for handy, front-running types as opposed to long-striding gallopers, though races are often well-run and the emphasis is much more on stamina than might be expected. The fences are stiff, too, claiming a greater number of casualties per runner than pretty much any other course in the country.

Pace Information: **Very Weak**

1 FRERE D'ARMES (FR) (29) s **96**
34-883257 7 12-0 | 76.2kg

 Dan Skelton **Miss Heidi Palin (71b/3kg)**
Losing run is mounting up but he's back down in class and was beaten only a length at Kempton off this mark 3 starts ago, so not taken lightly with headgear re-fitted.


2 BASHERS REFLECTION (30) (C) s+t **96**
317289-63 7 11-12 | 75.3kg

 Ben Case **Lilly Pinchin**
Improved hurdler last season and much better for seasonal/chase debut when good third at Chepstow last month. Should have more to offer as a chaser.


3 DON ALVARO (727) t **97**
4115/ 8 11-8 | 73.5kg

 Paul Nicholls **Miss Olive Nicholls (71b/3kg)**
Left his hurdle form well behind switched to fences, winning a pair of 2½m Wincanton handicaps. Below form at Kempton when last seen on Boxing Day 2 years ago but handicapper has dropped him and he could be ready for top yard.


4 CAPTAIN SPEAKING (FR) (36) (CD) b **99**
4/1P51P-20 9 11-6 | 72.6kg

 Nick Littmoden **Tabitha Worsley (31b/1kg)**
Completed hat-trick at Fakenham 4 years ago and paid his way in France since, winning 5 times, latest at Durtal in March. Shaped better than the distance beaten suggests on his belated return to these shores at Cheltenham 5 weeks ago and this test looks more suitable.


5 PLANNED PARADISE (IRE) (17) s **96**
13632833 8 10-13 | 69.4kg

 Christian Williams **Fern O'Brien (71b/3kg)**
Perth winner in July but just respectable efforts at best kept busy since. Needs to raise his game.

6 SCENE ONE (IRE) (21) (CD) s **96**
1P1644-P2 8 10-13 | 69.4kg

 Lucy Wadham **Alice Stevens (31b/1kg)**
Dual winner (including over C&D) over fences last season and left a poor reappearance at Bangor well behind when good second at Leicester 3 weeks ago. Respected.

7 LUNAR CONTACT (IRE) (26) (C) s+t  **100**
33/4-64111 6 10-12 | 68.9kg

 Tom Ellis **Miss Gina Andrews**
Fair hurdles form for Alan King in 2022/23. Twice a winner between the flags and on the up over fences, winning a brace of handicaps this autumn. Completed hat-trick back over timber at Southwell and he's a major player again.

7 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

15-8 Lunar Contact, **11-2** Don Alvaro, **13-2** Frere D'armes, **15-2** Scene One, **8-1** Bashers Reflection, **10-1** Planned Paradise, **12-1** Captain Speaking

TIMEFORM VIEW:

The thriving LUNAR CONTACT is open to more improvement and is still at the right end of the weights, so he can continue his winning sequence. Don Alvaro looks interesting for his top yard after a 2-year absence, while Captain Speaking can be expected to leave his Cheltenham reappearance behind.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. LUNAR CONTACT 2. DON ALVARO 3. CAPTAIN SPEAKING

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2023 **Georges Saint** 7-11-5 5-2 Venetia Williams Miss Lucy Turner (5) 7

SMART STATS:

- 31%** Tom Ellis's strike rate with chasers running between 19f and up to 3m (saddles: **LUNAR CONTACT**)
- 24%** Paul Nicholls's strike rate with chasers running between 19f and up to 3m (saddles: **DON ALVARO**)
- 20%** Paul Nicholls's strike rate in early season (saddles: **DON ALVARO**)