

Saturday 23rd November

# ASCOT

**12.25** RESTORATIONS UK NOVICES' HURDLE (2) 2m5f141y (4350 Metres)

RACE 1 **(1) KLOTH OF UTOPIA | (6) EXCELLO | (4) WESTERN KNIGHT**

**12.55** CopyBet MARES' HANDICAP HURDLE (3) 2m7f118y (4730 Metres)

RACE 2 **(8) QUEENS VENTURE | (2) MIDNIGHTREFLECTION | (6) BATWOMEN**

**1.30** COPYBET 1965 CHASE (Grade 2) (1) 2m5f8y (4230 Metres)

RACE 3 **(1) PIC D'ORHY | (3) DASHEL DRASHER | (2) LE PATRON**

**2.05** 1st CLASS LOGISTICS BERKSHIRE NATIONAL HANDICAP CHASE (2) 3m5f94y (5920 Metres)

RACE 4 **(3) SLIPWAY | (1) BEAUPORT | (5) FORTESCUE**

**2.45** HOWDEN ASCOT HURDLE (Ascot) (Grade 2) (1) 2m3f58y (3880 Metres)

RACE 5 **(1) BLUEKING D'OROUX | (6) GOLDEN ACE | (3) COLONEL MUSTARD**

**3.20** LAY & WHEELER HURST PARK HANDICAP CHASE (2) 2m167y (3370 Metres)

RACE 6 **(1) MARTATOR | (2) SANS BRUIT | (4) MARVEL DE CERISY**

**3.50** COPYBET NOVICES' HANDICAP HURDLE (4) 3m97y (4920 Metres)

RACE 7 **(6) BEST LIFE | (3) COPSHILL LAD | (9) RUBIES OR GOLD**

#### 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.

**12.25****RESTORATIONS UK NOVICES' HURDLE (2) 4yo+ £25,000**  
**2m5f141y (4350 Metres)**

RACE 1

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 KLOTH OF UTOPIA (FR) (30)** **100**  
4-51 4 11-7 | 73.0kg



N. George &amp; A. Zetterholm, France

**James Reveley**

Useful form, scoring by 12 lengths at Auteuil (2¼m, soft) last month. Sets a good standard and this longer trip might see him pull out even more.

**2 SILVER THORN (35) (D)** **88**  
42-1 5 11-5 | 72.1kg



Emma Lavelle

**Joe Anderson**

Reached the frame in 2 bumpers earlier in the year and made a successful hurdle debut in a 2¼m Stratford maiden (heavy) 5 weeks ago. Open to improvement.

**3 TOUQUET (FR) (33)** **75**  
15-1 5 11-5 | 72.1kg



Paul Nicholls

**Harry Cobden**

Bumper winner last November who returned from wind surgery to make a successful hurdle debut at Plumpton (2m, good to soft) last month. That bare form is ordinary but he's from a top yard with a good recent record in this race.

**4 WESTERN KNIGHT (IRE) (22)** **90**  
2/7-1 5 11-5 | 72.1kg



Joe Tizzard

**Brendan Powell**

Second in the first of 2 bumper starts and overcome some sloppy jumping to make a winning start over hurdles in 2½m Uttoxeter novice 3 weeks ago. Looks sure to progress if his hurdling improves with experience.

**5 COPPER JACK (IRE) (24)**  
7 5 11-0 | 69.9kg



Anthony Charlton

**Sean Bowen**

Irish point winner but only seventh in a Newton Abbot bumper for new connections last month. This longer trip more suitable now hurdling but this looks a tough ask.

**6 EXCELLO (FR) (256) (C)** **95**  
2212/310P- 5 11-0 | 69.9kg



Nicky Henderson

**Nico de Boinville**

Useful form over hurdles and fences at up to 2¾m in France. Second outing for Nicky Henderson when winning a 21f course graduation chase last December. Came unstuck in very strong Cheltenham handicaps subsequently but respected back over the smaller obstacles on reappearance after a breathing op.

6 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**9-4** Kloth of Utopia, **3-1** Excello, **7-2** Silver Thorn, **11-2** Western Knight, **9-1** Touquet, **100-1** bar

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

KLOTH OF UTOPIA won easily at Auteuil last month and can make a successful foray across the Channel with the longer trip this afternoon expected to be in his favour. Nicky Henderson course chase winner Excello had some useful form over hurdles in France at the start of his career and is second choice ahead of Western Knight.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. KLOTH OF UTOPIA 2. EXCELLO 3. WESTERN KNIGHT**

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2023	<b>Farnoge</b> 5-11-5	4-1	Paul Nicholls	Harry Cobden	5
2022	<b>Scarface</b> 5-11-5	8-13f	Joe Tizzard	Tom Cannon	3
2021	<b>Flemenstide</b> 6-10-12	10-3	Paul Nicholls	Bryony Frost	4
2020	<b>Shang Tang</b> 6-10-12	9-4	Emma Lavelle	James Bowen	4
2019	<b>Valtor</b> 10-10-12	10-11f	Nicky Henderson	James Bowen	5

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

**12.55**

**CopyBet MARES' HANDICAP HURDLE (3) 4yo+ fillies and mares (Rated 0-130) £18,150 2m7f118y (4730 Metres)**

RACE 2




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: **Strong**


**1 ROYALE MARGAUX (FR) (29)** t **96**

 **Tom Symonds** **Ben Poste**  
Prolific in France but winless for this yard and effort typically proved short-lived at Uttoxeter in May. Shaped as if better for the run back over hurdles after 5 months off at Cheltenham recently.


**2 MIDNIGHTREFLECTION (16) (CD)** s  **100**

 **Ben Case** **Mr Charlie Case (71b/3kg)**  
C&D winner who should come on for her recent run and is by no means one to write off from a slipping mark.


**3 EUREKA CREEK (IRE) (41)** **98**

 **Emma Lavelle** **Joe Anderson (31b/1kg)**  
Fairly useful chaser who returns to hurdling after underperforming on her reappearance at Ffos Las the previous month.


**4 SCARLET O'TARA (58)** **97**

 **Dr Richard Newland & Jamie Insole** **Luke Scott (51b/2kg)**  
Defied a penalty at the second time of asking in 5-runner novice hurdle at Perth (20.2f, soft) 58 days ago, readily. Into handicaps now and bred to be suited by this longer trip.

**5 FORTUNA LIGNA (IRE) (15)** s+t **98**

 **Anthony Honeyball** **Chad Bament (101b/5kg)**  
Signed off last term with a win at Perth and should strip fitter for recent return at Fontwell. Cheekpieces back on and 10 lb claimer up.


**6 BATWOMEN (IRE) (50)** t **94**

 **Neil Mulholland** **James Bowen**  
Showed improved form to get off the mark making a quick switch to handicaps in 9-runner event at Fontwell (19.1f, good to soft) 50 days ago. Will go on improving and she's likely to stay 3m.


**7 FOR GINA (2) (D)** s **94**

 **Lucy Wadham** **Non Runner**  
NON RUNNER.

**8 QUEENS VENTURE (IRE) (22) (D, BF)** **97**

 **Dan Skelton** **Miss Heidi Palin (71b/3kg)**  
Much improved since sent handicapping, winning in good style at Market Rasen (23.1f, good) before following up in similarly dominant fashion at Southwell (20.4f). Perhaps found busy spell catching up with her at Wetherby last time and well worth another chance.

**9 MA BELLE NOIRE (194)** b+t **97**

 **Harry Fry** **Harry Cobden**  
Tail flasher but won 3 times over hurdles in 2023. Failed to match her hurdles form sent chasing at Hereford in May but could go well returned to this sphere after 6 months off. Blinkers back on.

**10 BELLES BENEFIT (IRE) (11)** s **92**

 **Ben Case** **Harry Bannister**  
Bounced back to form to score at Plumpton last month but was found out by a 4 lb rise in the weights at Lingfield 11 days ago and this looks tougher.

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**7-2** Queens Venture, **4-1** Batwomen, **11-2** Scarlet O'tara, **8-1** Fortuna Ligna, **9-1** Midnightreflection, **14-1** Eureka Creek, **14-1** Royale Margaux, **16-1** Ma Belle Noire, **25-1** Belles Benefit

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

QUEENS VENTURE perhaps found a busy spell catching up with her at Wetherby last time and is well worth another chance given how progressive she'd looked prior to that. Midnightreflection should be sharper for her recent run and isn't one to write off from a slipping mark, with Batwomen and Scarlet O'Tara others to consider in an open race.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. QUEENS VENTURE 2. MIDNIGHTREFLECTION 3. BATWOMEN**

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2023	Midnightreflection	8-11-11	11-2	Ben Case	Mr Charlie Case (7)	7
2022	Coquelicot	6-11-1	10-3	Anthony Honeyball	Rex Dingle	5
2021	Tequila Blaze	7-11-3	8-1	Fergal O'Brien	Paddy Brennan	8
2020	Robin Gold	7-10-6	4-1	Dan Skelton	Bridget Andrews	8
2019	Coillte Eile	6-10-10	10-1	Dr Richard Newland	C. M. Leonard (7)	11

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

**1.30****COPYBET 1965 CHASE (Grade 2) (1) 4yo+ £80,000**  
**2m5f8y (4230 Metres)**

RACE 3

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 PIC D'ORHY (FR) (225) (CD)** t **100**  
1121/121P- 9 11-10 | 74.4kg



Paul Nicholls

**Harry Cobden**

Only defeat in 2022/23 campaign came at the hands of Shishkin in Ascot Chase and added another Grade 1 to his CV when landing that corresponding race in February. Disappointed in Melling Chase at Aintree final start but expected to bounce back (won this on return last season).

**2 LE PATRON (FR) (254)** **92**  
330/1114P- 6 11-7 | 73.0kg



Gary &amp; Josh Moore

**Adam Wedge**

Won first 3 starts over fences last term, his best performance coming when taking Grade 1 Henry VIII Novices' Chase at Sandown (2m) in December. Lost his unbeaten chasing record with a bit of a whimper in Scilly Isles back there before no show at the Cheltenham Festival. Questions to answer now.

**3 DASHEL DRASHER (224) (CD)** **99**  
26/313487- 11 11-4 | 71.7kg



Jeremy Scott

**Rex Dingle**

Tough and likeable sort who's known more as a smart-staying hurdler. However, his form over fences is at least as good and he's capable of mixing it with Pic d'Orphy in receipt of 6 lb if ready to go (needed reappearance last season).

**4 FLEGMATIK (FR) (21)** t **82**  
3142P-778 9 11-4 | 71.7kg



Dan Skelton

**Kielan Woods**

Ended a near 2-year losing run when scoring at Kempton (24f) in January. Excuses both starts this season but has plenty to find in this grade.

**5 HIDDEN DEPTHS (IRE) (21) (D)** s+t **82**  
414-14115 9 11-4 | 71.7kg



Neil Mulholland

**James Bowen**

Dual-purpose performer who was denied the hat-trick here 3 weeks ago after wins at Perth and Market Rasen. That was off a mark of 129 so looks firmly up against it at this level.

5 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

2-5 Pic D'orhy, 9-2 Dashed Drasher, 9-1 Le Patron, 50-1 bar

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

An ideal starting point for the high-class PIC D'ORHY, who made a winning comeback in this last season before going on to win the Grade 1 Ascot Chase over the same distance. Dashed Drasher is capable of making a race of it in receipt of 6 lb if ready to go.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

1. PIC D'ORHY 2. DASHEL DRASHER 3. LE PATRON

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2023	<b>Pic d'Orhy</b> 8-11-10	5-2	Paul Nicholls	Harry Cobden	4
2022	<b>Coole Cody</b> 11-11-8	11-4	Evan Williams	Adam Wedge	2
2021	<b>Lostintranslation</b> 9-11-2	4-1	Colin Tizzard	Brendan Powell	6
2020	<b>Imperial Aura</b> 7-11-5	13-8f	Kim Bailey	David Bass	4
2019	<b>Cyrname</b> 7-11-7	5-2	Paul Nicholls	Harry Cobden	3

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

**2.05**

RACE 4

**1st CLASS LOGISTICS BERKSHIRE NATIONAL HANDICAP CHASE (2) 5yo+ (Rated 0-150) £75,000 3m5f94y (5920 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 BEAUPORT (IRE) (217)** **99**  
49F/52P1P- 8 12-0 | 76.2kg



Nigel Twiston-Davies **Mr Toby McCain-Mitchell (71b/3kg)**  
Bit of a mixed record over fences but he's smart on his day and put it altogether when overcoming some sticky jumping to land the Midlands National at Uttoxeter (4¼m, heavy). Never a factor in the Scottish National a month later but this is easier and yard adept at readying one.

**2 KITTY'S LIGHT (21)** **99**  
705759-69 8 11-10 | 74.4kg



Christian Williams **Harry Cobden**  
Scottish National hero in 2022/23 and an excellent fifth in Grand National last term. Went without his usual headgear when a well-held sixth at Chepstow (3m) on his return and needed to see more over 3m here 3 weeks ago. Step back up in trip will help his cause, at least.

**3 SLIPWAY (IRE) (8)** **100**  
19P/9010-5 9 11-6 | 72.6kg



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 and just a creditable cross-country debut when fifth on last week's reappearance. Given chance by the handicapper.

**4 WHAT PATH (FR) (21)** **93**  
4340-0333 7 11-6 | 72.6kg



Keiran Burke **Adam Wedge**  
Useful hurdler. Ridden too aggressively on chase bow/final start for Willie Mullins. Decent effort sole start for Sophie Leech when third in maiden chase at Galway in August and ran over an inadequate trip on stable debut over 18.8f here 3 weeks ago. Hiked up in trip and lots to prove.

**5 FORTESCUE (27) (C)** **98**  
0/427220-2 10 11-3 | 71.2kg



Henry Daly **Hugh Nugent (31b/1kg)**  
Hasn't always looked an easy ride and fairly lightly raced in recent times but went with more zest than has been the case when runner-up on last month's reappearance. Eased 2 lb and possible he will strip fitter for that.

**6 INIS OIRR (IRE) (37) (BF)** **98**  
U4251F-33 7 11-0 | 69.9kg



Lucinda Russell **Alan Doyle (51b/2kg)**  
Much improved for a first-time visor and an increased stamina test when bolting up in the Edinburgh National at Musselburgh (4m, good to soft) in February. Ridden with more restraint and fell in the Scottish National but sound-enough efforts this season and step back up in trip will help.

**7 THE BIG BREAKAWAY (IRE) (14)** **91**  
PF/5PP66-P 9 11-0 | 69.9kg



Anthony Charlton **Sean Bowen**  
Now 18 lb lower compared to when finishing second in the Welsh National at Chepstow in December 2022 but hasn't come close to matching that form in 8 subsequent appearances, in trouble early on recent stable debut.

**8 DOM OF MARY (FR) (254)** **99**  
21/546138- 8 10-10 | 68.0kg



David Bridgwater **Caolin Quinn**  
Shaped well a couple of times before putting up a career-best effort to score in the Sussex National at Plumpton in January (28.5f), going clear impressively. Matched that form from revised mark at Sandown before finding the Kim Muir too much. May need this on return minus headgear.

**9 OLIVERS TRAVELS (IRE) (16)** **97**  
73311254 6 10-9 | 67.6kg



Peter & Michael Bowen **James Bowen**  
Bumper/hurdles winner who has improved significantly with cheekpieces fitted over fences, landing back-to-back Worcester handicaps (23f) this summer. Held back by mistakes since.

**10 DUKE OF DECEPTION (IRE) (38)** **96**  
3142212-5 7 10-7 | 66.7kg



Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero **Craig Nichol**  
Likeable type who confirmed previous promise when merely pushed out to win 6-runner handicap chase at Haydock (25.6f, soft) in March. Probably should have followed up at Perth on final outing last term and should be spot on following a spin over hurdles last month.

**11 ART DECCO (237)** **97**  
313/37111- 8 10-6 | 66.2kg



Robert Walford **Harry Kimber**  
Ended last term on the up, completing a hat-trick in staying handicaps when scoring at Ffos Las (28f, heavy) in March. Stayer with more to come this season so shouldn't be underestimated.

11 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**11-2** Inis Oirr, **6-1** Fortescue, **6-1** Art Decco, **7-1** Slipway, **7-1** Beauport, **7-1** Duke of Deception, **16-1** Kitty's Light, **18-1** Dom of Mary, **18-1** Olivers Travels, **25-1** What Path, **25-1** The Big Breakaway

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

Stamina is SLIPWAY's forte and with this test more suitable than the cross-country race he contested last week, he's tentatively offered to exploit a handy mark. Beauport's record fresh is pretty encouraging so he's on the shortlist, with Fortescue likely to be on the premises again.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. SLIPWAY 2. BEAUPORT 3. FORTESCUE**

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race










**2.45****HOWDEN ASCOT HURDLE (Ascot) (Grade 2) (1) 4yo+  
£100,000 2m3f58y (3880 Metres)**

RACE 5

**GBI RACING**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**

	<b>1 BLUEKING D'OROUX (FR) (210)</b> (CD) <span style="float: right;"> <b>100</b></span> P912/1154- 5 11-6   72.6kg
Paul Nicholls 	<b>Harry Cobden</b> Smart hurdler who signed off for last term with a solid fourth to Impaire Et Passe in Select Hurdle at Sandown (21.5f) in April. Also took this contest a year ago so he's a leading player again.
	<b>2 SALVER (FR) (253)</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>95</b></span> 11113- 4 11-2   70.8kg
Gary & Josh Moore	<b>Caolin Quinn</b> Developed into a very useful juvenile hurdler last term, winning his first 4 starts before posting a fine third in Triumph Hurdle at Cheltenham final run. One to consider on his return.
	<b>3 COLONEL MUSTARD (FR) (29)</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>99</b></span> 23/2525-32 9 11-0   69.9kg
Mrs Lorna Fowler, Ireland	<b>Adam Wedge</b> Smart hurdler who resumed with a good second of 3 in conditions hurdle at Sligo (17.8f) 29 days ago, finishing well after an error 2 out. It's now 15 runs since his last win in 2021 but this Irish raider holds solid form claims.
	<b>4 LUCKY PLACE (FR) (255)</b> (D) <span style="float: right;"><b>96</b></span> 221224- 5 11-0   69.9kg
Nicky Henderson	<b>Nico de Boinville</b> Improving type who opened his account in Doncaster novice in December. Signed off with an excellent fourth of 21 in Coral Cup Handicap at Cheltenham in March. Open to more improvement on his return.
	<b>5 THUNDER ROCK (IRE) (226)</b> (C, D) <span style="float: right;"><b>90</b></span> 362/1P21P- 8 11-0   69.9kg
Olly Murphy 	<b>Sean Bowen</b> Very smart chaser who scored twice last season but was pulled up in the Bowl at Aintree final run in April. Has a good record fresh which bodes well for him now returning over the smaller obstacles and certainly not out of things.
	<b>6 GOLDEN ACE (219)</b> (D) <span style="float: right;"><b>99</b></span> 152/1111- 6 10-10   68.0kg
Jeremy Scott	<b>Lorcan Williams</b> Very useful hurdler who remains unbeaten in this sphere and went 4-4 in listed event at Cheltenham (20.2f) in April. This demands more but she's well in the mix with more to offer.

6 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**2-1** Golden Ace, **3-1** Blueking D'oroux, **7-1** Colonel Mustard, **17-2** Salver, **17-2** Thunder Rock, **9-1** Lucky Place

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

None of these can be ruled out but BLUEKING D'OROUX holds just the edge on form so is fancied to repeat his success in this event 12 months ago. Jeremy Scott's mare Golden Ace remains unbeaten in this sphere and rates a big threat though, while Irish challenger Colonel Mustard and Nicky Henderson's progressive Lucky Place are firmly in the picture too in this cracking Grade 2 contest.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. BLUEKING D'OROUX 2. GOLDEN ACE 3. COLONEL MUSTARD**

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2023	<b>Blueking D'Oroux</b> 4-10-13	4-1	Paul Nicholls	Harry Cobden	5
2022	<b>Goshen</b> 6-11-6	6-5	Gary Moore	Jamie Moore	4
2021	<b>Buzz</b> 7-11-0	evsf	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boinville	5
2020	<b>Song For Someone</b> 5-11-6	11-4	Tom Symonds	Nico de Boinville	3
2019	<b>If The Cap Fits</b> 7-11-6	3-1	Harry Fry	Sean Bowen	6

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

**3.20**

**LAY & WHEELER HURST PARK HANDICAP CHASE (2) 4yo+  
£100,000 2m167y (3370 Metres)**

RACE 6



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 MARTATOR (FR) (21) (CD)** s **100**  
3223111-1 7 12-0 | 76.2kg

Venetia Williams **Ned Fox (51b/2kg)**  
Ended last season firmly on the up and hit the ground running with a smooth success over C&D on return. Hasn't finished improving, so makes plenty of appeal.

**2 SANS BRUIT (FR) (15)** h+t **97**  
7870213-3 6 11-13 | 75.7kg

Paul Nicholls **Harry Cobden**  
Ex-French gelding jumped his rivals into submission from the front in Red Rum handicap at Aintree in April. Solid efforts since, including on return at Exeter 15 days ago, and remains with potential.

**3 HARPER'S BROOK (IRE) (14)** **94**  
5P2/0210-P 8 11-12 | 75.3kg

Dan Skelton **Kielan Woods**  
Has his quirks but more than fair share of ability too, left clear when successful at Sandown in February. Disappointing on final outing for Ben Pauling last season, though, and broke blood vessel on stable debut at Aintree a fortnight ago.

**4 MARVEL DE CERISY (FR) (41) (D)** t **99**  
32416-611 7 11-10 | 74.4kg

N. George & A. Zetterholm, France **James Reveley**  
Has been in fine form at Auteuil, winning listed handicap hurdle and handicap chase, drawing clear 6 weeks ago. Mark looks fair in Britain and merits consideration.

**5 TRIPLE TRADE (29) (C)** s **97**  
2131585-6 8 11-6 | 72.6kg

Joe Tizzard **Brendan Powell**  
Course winner. 13/2, sixth of 8 in handicap chase at Cheltenham (15.9f, good) 29 days ago. Cheekpieces on 1st time. Becoming well treated.

**6 KOTMASK (FR) (21) (D)** **98**  
F411F34-3 6 11-4 | 71.7kg

Gary & Josh Moore **Caolin Quinn**  
A three-time scorer over fences last term who returned with a solid performance when third to Martator on reappearance. Better off with that rival now and shouldn't be dismissed.

**7 PRINCE QUALI (FR) (236)** **96**  
52211- 7 11-2 | 70.8kg

Robert Walford **Harry Kimber**  
Useful French hurdle/chase scorer who got off the mark for his new yard in 5-runner handicap chase at Chepstow in February. Improved again to follow up back there (16f, soft) 6 weeks later and he's a player on return.

**8 FRERE D'ARMES (FR) (21) (D)** **97**  
P34-88325 7 10-13 | 69.4kg

Dan Skelton **Miss Heidi Palin (71b/3kg)**  
It's now 14 runs since his last win in 2022 and, while he ran with credit behind Martator on return, he doesn't look all that likely to turn the tables.

**9 WEWILLGOWITHPLANB (IRE) (24)** **95**  
812/531-02 7 10-11 | 68.5kg

Evan Williams **Adam Wedge**  
Hurdle winner in Ireland who struck twice over fences for Richard Bandy, latterly at Leicester (2m, heavy) in February. Back on track over hurdles at Newton Abbot last time and shouldn't be dismissed.

9 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**3-1** Martator, **5-1** Marvel De Cerisy, **6-1** Sans Bruit, **7-1** Kotmask, **9-1** Triple Trade, **10-1** Prince Quali, **12-1** Frere D'armes, **18-1** Harper's Brook, **22-1** Wewillgowithplanb

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

MARTATOR is highly progressive and had something up his sleeve when making a winning return over C&D, so he's marginally preferred to Sans Bruit, who has a bigger performance in him. Marvel de Cerisy is a fascinating contender, too.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. MARTATOR 2. SANS BRUIT 3. MARVEL DE CERISY**

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2023	<b>Boothill</b> 8-12-0	11-4f	Harry Fry	Jonathan Burke	8
2022	<b>Boothill</b> 7-10-7	2-1jf	Harry Fry	Jonathan Burke	7
2021	<b>Before Midnight</b> 8-10-11	11-4f	Sam Thomas	Sam Twiston-Davies	7
2020	<b>First Flow</b> 8-11-1	3-1	Kim Bailey	David Bass	8
2019	<b>Capeland</b> 7-10-13	7-2f	Paul Nicholls	Harry Cobden	10

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

**3.50**

**COPYBET NOVICES' HANDICAP HURDLE (4) 4yo+ (Rated 0-115) £15,650 3m97y (4920 Metres)**

RACE 7



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 THANK YOU MA'AM (16)** s **98**  
32220P-22 5 12-1 | 76.7kg



**Georgina Nicholls** *Miss Olive Nicholls (71b/3kg)*  
Made the frame on several occasions last term and positive start to present campaign, again finding only one too good at Ludlow (21.2f) 16 days ago, pulling clear of remainder. Mark has crept up a little more but he's knocking firmly on the door.

**2 SPRING GALE (211)** **97**  
87/63231- 7 11-9 | 73.9kg



**Henry Daly** *Harry Cobden*  
Steadily progressive over hurdles following wind surgery last term, confirming promise of her previous placed efforts when clearing away from 15 rivals in mares' maiden at Chepstow (19.5f) in the spring. Goes handicapping with yard in good form and she's unexposed at 3m.

**3 COPSHILL LAD (IRE) (47)** s **98**  
53/F322P-1 6 11-8 | 73.5kg



**Harry Derham** *Paul O'Brien*  
Placed on 3 of his 5 starts over hurdles last season and justified support after 9 months off when scoring on yard debut at Stratford (22f) 47 days ago, needing every inch of the trip. Return to 3m in his favour on that evidence and that may not prove his limit.

**4 KING OF THE LAKE (32)** t **97**  
2232227-8 6 11-7 | 73.0kg



**Jeremy Scott** *Rex Dingle*  
Runner-up on 6 of his first 7 starts over hurdles but well below best on final outing last term and fared no better after 6 months off when eighth of 13 in handicap hurdle at Exeter (23.1f) 32 days ago. Needs to leave that behind if he's to figure. Tongue strap fitted.

**5 THE BOLD THADY (IRE) (37)** (BF) s+t **95**  
25-1P3612 7 11-4 | 71.7kg



**Neil Mulholland** *D. A. Kidd (71b/3kg)*  
Fortunate to double his tally at Worcester (23f) in September and whilst he backed that up when runner-up at Wincanton (24.7f) last month, highlighted why he's not one to take short odds about, carrying head awkwardly. This rates an even tougher assignment.

**6 BEST LIFE (IRE) (238)** **99**  
4932- 6 11-3 | 71.2kg



**Mel Rowley** *Nico de Boinville*  
Steady improver in handful of hurdle starts last season, very good second of 10 behind a subsequent winner on handicap debut at Haydock (24.3f) in March. Totally unexposed over staying trips and he needs considering on return with further progress on the cards.

**7 JALISCO STAR (IRE) (12)** t **98**  
55331P-45 6 10-10 | 68.0kg



**Laura Horsfall** *K. Brogan*  
Good winner from 5 lb lower mark at Bangor (23f) in March and similar form when fourth on return/following wind op at that venue in October. Below best on first try chasing at Carlisle 12 days ago and connections quick to opt for a return to this sphere.

**8 RI NA CUIRTE (IRE) (15)** **98**  
56628-81 6 10-7 | 66.7kg



**Ben Clarke** *Ben Jones*  
Low-mileage sort who was again very well backed and proved a different proposition after 6 months off to score at Fontwell (25.7f) 15 days ago, conjuring a late rally to nab idling runner-up close home. Possibilities again up 5 lb.

**9 RUBIES OR GOLD (IRE) (21)** s **100**  
63785696 5 10-3 | 64.9kg



**Christian Williams** *Sean Bowen*  
Placed on the second of 2 starts in Irish bumpers (for Mags Mullins). Showed some promise on qualifying runs over hurdles but no immediate impact for switch to handicaps in recent months. Further step up in trip ought to suit and first-time cheekpieces could put an extra edge on him.

9 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**10-3** Copshill Lad, **5-1** Spring Gale, **11-2** Ri Na Cuirte, **6-1** Thank You Ma'am, **8-1** Best Life, **11-1** The Bold Thady, **16-1** Rubies Or Gold, **16-1** King of The Lake, **18-1** Jalisco Star

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

BEST LIFE improved steadily in a handful of hurdle outings as a novice, posting his best effort yet when runner-up on handicap debut at Haydock in the spring. Appealing as the type to progress further this winter, he's given the nod to go one place better on return. Copshill Lad and Spring Gale are a couple of others to consider, whilst market confidence behind Rubies or Gold, upped further in trip/equipped with cheekpieces would also look significant.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. BEST LIFE 2. COPSHILL LAD 3. RUBIES OR GOLD**

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2023 **Scamallach Liath** 6-11-12 13-8f Harry Derham Paul O'Brien 9  
2022 **The Questioner** 6-10-6 15-8f Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero Henry Brooke 8

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race