

Tuesday 26th November

SEDGEFIELD



12.55 VICKERS.BET PROUD TO SUPPORT BRITISH RACING NOVICES' HURDLE (4) 2m178y (3380 Metres)

RACE 1 **(5) MR ESCOBAR | (2) KINGSTON NARCISSUS | (4) MAGHLAAK**

1.25 DOWNLOAD THE NEW VICKERS.BET IOS APP HANDICAP HURDLE (5) 2m178y (3380 Metres)

RACE 2 **(9) TRAFALGAR SQUARE | (7) LA QUARITE | (2) KING OTIS**

2.00 VICKERS.BET HANDICAP CHASE (5) 2m77y (3290 Metres)

RACE 3 **(7) AUGHARUE | (5) CLEAN GETAWAY | (2) MUTUAL RESPECT**

2.30 CHRIS BLANCKLEY BIRTHDAY HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier) (4) 2m3f188y (3990 Metres)

RACE 4 **(2) HARPER VALLEY | (9) KNACKER TRAPPER | (3) LASER FOCUS**

3.00 VICKERS.BET INDEPENDENT FAMILY OWNED BOOKMAKER HANDICAP CHASE (Qualifier) (5) 2m5f28y (4250 Metres)


RACE 5 **(2) PEP TALKING | (3) BEBSIDE BANTER | (6) KICKSAFTERSIX**


3.30 PAXTONS NO1 CASEIH DEALER IN UK&IRELAND OPEN MAIDEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT (5) 2m178y (3380 Metres)

RACE 6 **(4) OLD BLUE EYES | (2) MOONBOW | (8) SWEETLIKECHOCOLATE**

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.

12.55

**VICKERS.BET PROUD TO SUPPORT BRITISH RACING
NOVICES' HURDLE (4) 4yo+ £7,700 2m178y (3380
Metres)**

RACE 1



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

Left handed, undulating. In theory, an uphill finish should dictate that plenty of races change complexion late in the day but, in practice, that isn't the case, the run-in being short on both courses and plenty of those in front having a tendency to pick up again when challenged.

Pace Information: **Weak**

1 FUJITA SCALE (IRE) (29) 72
44 5 11-0 | 69.9kg



Pauline Robson **Jamie Hamilton**
Showed some ability on bumper debut here in May but failed to match that form at Ayr 6 months on.

2 KINGSTON NARCISSUS (FR) (21) (BF) h 81
5422 5 11-0 | 69.9kg



Rebecca Menzies **Ross Chapman**
Fair and consistent maiden on Flat in France and similar form over hurdles, again going down only narrowly in a C&D maiden 3 weeks ago. Should be firmly in the mix once again.

3 KNIGHT OF MAGIC (IRE) (26) h+t 65
0-P8 5 11-0 | 69.9kg



Chris Grant **Charlie Maggs (7lb/3kg)**
Poor maiden on the Flat who is yet to show anything in a bumper/pair of maiden hurdles.

4 MAGHLAAK (9) 76
4 5 11-0 | 69.9kg



Adrian Keatley **Danny McMenamin**
Fairly useful Flat winner who offered little encouragement when last of 4 on recent Cheltenham hurdle debut. Should do better.

5 MR ESCOBAR (IRE) (60) h ★ 100
5R2 6 11-0 | 69.9kg



W. P. Mullins, Ireland **B. Hayes**
Useful handicapper on Flat who is something of a ticking timebomb in terms of temperament but did little wrong when thwarted only by a stablemate at Listowel in September and not disgraced back on the level since. Sets a clear standard.

6 PADDYS POLICY (IRE) (28) 73
5 4 11-0 | 69.9kg



Donald McCain **Brian Hughes**
£45,000 buy after finishing runner-up only outing in Irish points but shaped with little promise in a Bangor bumper on Rules debut 4 weeks ago.

7 TAN LAW (IRE) (24) 70
0 6 11-0 | 69.9kg



Stuart Coltherd **Sam Coltherd**
Malinas gelding. Pulled up sole start in points and showed nothing sent hurdling at Ayr 24 days ago.

8 VAL BASSETT (FR) (94) t 74
3 6 11-0 | 69.9kg



Rebecca Menzies **Nathan Moscrop**
Fair but temperamental stayer on Flat, successful on most recent outing at Newcastle last month. Showed some aptitude for hurdling when third of 6 at Cartmel in August but isn't sure to step up on that.

9 MYFAVOURITESISTER (IRE) (12) 72
55-05 5 10-7 | 66.7kg



Patrick Neville **Gavin Sheehan**
Little form in 3 bumpers and made an unpromising start over hurdles at this course 12 days ago.

10 ROYAL ROMANCE (21) 65
09P 4 10-7 | 66.7kg



Paul Robson **Edward Austin (5lb/2kg)**
No impact in bumpers/maiden hurdle.

11 SHE'S GOT BOTTLE 73
5 10-7 | 66.7kg



Lizzie Quinlan **Peter Kavanagh (3lb/1kg)**
Fair handicapper on Flat (stays 1¼m), successful twice in 2024, below form last time. Could have a future in this sphere.

12 TRES BIEN (12) 70
35PPP 4 10-7 | 66.7kg



Philip Kirby **Joe Williamson (3lb/1kg)**
Showed a bit when third in a Newton Abbot bumper on debut but has gone sharply downhill since, pulled up all 3 starts over hurdles, including on the back of a breathing operation last time.

12 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

8-11 Mr Escobar, **4-1** Kingston Narcissus, **9-1** Maghlaak, **14-1** Val Bassett, **28-1** She's Got Bottle, **28-1** Paddys Policy, **50-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

MR ESCOBAR is something of a ticking timebomb in terms of temperament but did little wrong when thwarted only by a stablemate at Listowel on his most recent outing in this sphere in September and sets a pretty high standard. Kingston Narcissus is likely to give his running once again, while Maghlaak should do better in this sphere at some stage given his fairly useful Flat form.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. MR ESCOBAR 2. KINGSTON NARCISSUS 3. MAGHLAAK

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2023	Coup de Coeur 5-11-0	2-1jf	Micky Hammond	Brian Hughes	7
2022	Legendary Day 4-11-0	12-1	Adrian Keatley	Brian Hughes	8
2021	Findthetime 5-10-12	15-8	Nicky Richards	Brian Hughes	12
2020	Minella Drama 5-10-12	4-7f	Donald McCain	Brian Hughes	12
2019	Induno 5-10-12	11-8	David Pipe	Tom Scudamore	7

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

1.25

RACE 2

DOWNLOAD THE NEW VICKERS.BET IOS APP HANDICAP HURDLE (5) 3yo+ (Rated 0-100) £6,150 2m178y (3380 Metres)



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

Left handed, undulating. In theory, an uphill finish should dictate that plenty of races change complexion late in the day but, in practice, that isn't the case, the run-in being short on both courses and plenty of those in front having a tendency to pick up again when challenged.

Pace Information: **Weak**

1 CAWTHORNE (745) (C, D, BF) **95**
 1112214/ 10 12-0 | 76.2kg
 Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero **Tristan Durrell** (3lb/1kg)
 Landed hat-trick between May and July and took advantage of a relatively simple task when landing 3-runner event at Uttoxeter last month. Solid fourth back hurdling there last time so should give another good account.

2 KING OTIS (IRE) (14) **92**
 28F7UP43 8 12-0 | 76.2kg
 James Owen **Ben Bromley** (5lb/2kg)
 18/1 and visored for 1st time, took a step back in the right direction when third of 5 in handicap hurdle at Huntingdon (15.8f, good) 14 days ago. Considered off a handy mark for his in-form yard.

3 CHICAGO GAL (26) (D) **99**
 2/3482-150 5 11-13 | 75.7kg
 Michael & David Easterby **Jamie Hamilton**
 Fair on the Flat and landed 2m handicap hurdle at Market Rasen in May. Only tenth in 2m Newcastle handicap hurdle last time so needs to bounce back.

4 LADY BABS (23) (D) **93**
 2254218/0 10 11-12 | 75.3kg
 Andrew Crook **Conor Rabbitt** (5lb/2kg)
 Off 23 months before coming in last of 10 in handicap hurdle (100/1) at Carlisle (17.2f, good to soft) 23 days ago. Hard to warm to.

5 BATHGATE (13) (BF) **94**
 843-97524 4 11-12 | 75.3kg
 Philip Kirby **Joe Williamson** (3lb/1kg)
 Still a maiden but comes here on the back of a solid fourth of 10 in 2m3f Ayr handicap 13 days ago. Ought to be in the shake-up.

6 LAHIRE (FR) (31) (CD) **94**
 P1765-64 4 11-10 | 74.4kg
 Donald McCain **Brian Hughes**
 C&D winner who recorded a creditable fourth of 15 in handicap hurdle (40/1) at Kelso (16.2f, good to soft) 31 days ago. One for the shortlist.

7 LA QUARITE (FR) (26) **96**
 F5526-86 4 11-8 | 73.5kg
 Chris Grant **Danny McMenamin**
 Remains winless but made an encouraging start for his new yard after 6 months off (formerly with Iain Jardine) when sixth of 14 in handicap hurdle at Newcastle (16.9f, good) 26 days ago. In the picture.

8 ROYLE STEEL (FR) (151) (CD) **96**
 531945-68 6 10-10 | 68.0kg
 Micky Hammond **William Maggs** (5lb/2kg)
 C&D winner but failed to fire in two handicap chases this summer. Resumes over hurdles after a break with more needed.

9 TRAFALGAR SQUARE (IRE) (12) **100**
 25544 3 10-10 | 68.0kg
 Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero **Craig Nichol**
 Fair Flat maiden and matched that level with a very good fourth of 8 in juvenile hurdle over C&D (good) 12 days ago. Goes into handicaps on a lenient mark here. Player.

10 NATIONAL QUESTION (IRE) (18) **97**
 959-0721 4 10-8 | 67.1kg
 Adam Nicol **Derek Fox**
 Confirmed previous promise when resuming winning ways in 9-runner handicap hurdle at Hexham (16.2f, good to soft) 18 days ago. Up 5 lb but he merits consideration.

11 DETECTIVE (636) **65**
 9P/ 8 10-5 | 65.8kg
 Anna Slack **Peter Kavanagh** (3lb/1kg)
 A fair 7f Flat winner this summer for Dianne Sayer. Lightly raced in this sphere so needs to hit the ground running for his new handler after 2 years away from hurdling.

12 FOSHAN (IRE) (48) **60**
 P8-7 5 10-2(10-1) | 64.4kg (64.0kg)
 Adam Nicol **David Noonan**
 Poor maiden on the Flat and over hurdles. Others make more appeal.

13 INOUE (IRE) (12) **74**
 06UP66 4 10-2(10-0) | 64.4kg (63.5kg)
 Paul Robson **Sean Quinlan**
 Down the field in 2 bumpers for Stuart Crawford and yet to offer any encouragement over hurdles. Easy to look elsewhere.

13 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

9-2 National Question, 5-1 Bathgate, 11-2 Trafalgar Square, 13-2 Cawthorne, 9-1 King Otis, 10-1 Chicago Gal, 10-1 Lahire, 16-1 La Quarite, 40-1 bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

TRAFALGAR SQUARE took his form up a notch with a recent C&D fourth and can now capitalise on a handy-looking mark on his first venture into handicap company. La Quarite started life well for his new stable when sixth at Newcastle and heads the list of dangers with King Otis, National Question, Bathgate and Lahire all in the mix too.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. TRAFALGAR SQUARE 2. LA QUARITE 3. KING OTIS

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2023	El Jefe 6-11-4	2-1	Andrew Hamilton	Conor Rabbitt (5)	10
2022	Silkstone 6-10-12	13-8	Danny Brooke	Emma Smith-Chaston (5)	5
2021	Lord Caprio 6-11-12	9-4f	Ben Haslam	Joe Anderson (3)	10
2020	Sincerely Resdev 5-10-5	14-1	Micky Hammond	Aidan MacDonald (3)	12
2019	Paricolor 3-11-5	5-6f	David Pipe	Fergus Gillard (3)	10

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

2.00

**VICKERS.BET HANDICAP CHASE (5) 4yo+ (Rated 0-100)
£6,150 2m77y (3290 Metres)**

RACE 3



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

Left handed, undulating. In theory, an uphill finish should dictate that plenty of races change complexion late in the day but, in practice, that isn't the case, the run-in being short on both courses and plenty of those in front having a tendency to pick up again when challenged.

Pace Information: **Strong**

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2023	Contre Ordre	5-11-5	4-1	Micky Hammond	Emma Smith-Chaston (3)	6
2022	Zuckerberg	6-11-1	7-4f	Jennie Candlish	Sean Quinlan	7
2021	Obey The Rules	6-11-5	13-8f	Donald McCain	Brian Hughes	6
2020	Cybalko	7-11-12	9-4	Sam England	Jonathan England	10
2019	Maxed Out King	11-11-12	7-2	Sue Smith	Danny Cook	10

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

1 SIX ONE NINE (IRE) (200) (CD) s **97**
2/421131-4 9 12-0 | 76.2kg



Chris Grant **Danny McMenamin**
Has really enhanced his strike rate over fences at Newcastle last season, winning 3 times. Just respectable fourth here final start and handicapper may be in control for now. Off 6 months.

2 MUTUAL RESPECT (IRE) (28) (D) s+t **99**
56123-811 8 11-10 | 74.4kg



Billy Aprahamian **Gavin Sheehan**
All the better for return when narrow winner at Worcester and benefited from the late fall of another rival for the second start in succession when following up at Bangor 4 weeks ago. Only 2 lb higher so respected in hat-trick bid.

3 TAKE CENTRE STAGE (IRE) (17) (D) b **96**
436125-65 7 11-9 | 73.9kg



Rebecca Menzies **Brian Hughes**
Far from straightforward but showed improved form to win at Newcastle (16.3f) in February. However, mixed record since and others are more convincing. Change of headgear.

4 MINELLA YOUNG (IRE) (45) s **98**
3315-5043 6 11-6 | 72.6kg



Lizzie Quinlan **Sean Quinlan**
Fair winning hurdler in Ireland and opened his account for Iain Jardine in a Kelso handicap chase off 6 lb higher last September. Best effort so far for this yard when third at Hexham last time. Player if building on that.

5 CLEAN GETAWAY (IRE) (12) (CD) s **98**
19422111 7 11-5 | 72.1kg



Philip Kirby **Joe Williamson (3lb/1kg)**
Has done well over fences this year and capitalised on this lenient hurdling mark last 2 starts here. 12 lb higher back over fences now but clearly thriving.

6 CUDGEL (178) s+t **96**
434222-63 11 11-0 | 69.9kg



James Walton **Conor O'Farrell**
All 6 career wins have been registered at Hexham and he typically gave a good account of himself when third there 6 months ago. Has gone well fresh in the past but he's opposable away from that venue.

7 AUGHARUE (IRE) (31) ★ **100**
PSP-27752 7 10-12 | 68.9kg



Stuart Coltherd **Sam Coltherd**
Went agonisingly close to breaking his duck from a tumbling mark at Sedgefield (17f, good) in May. Followed that with a series of uninspiring performances but back on track when runner-up to a subsequent winner at Kelso last month. Player with a repeat.

8 ENSEL DU PERCHE (FR) (231) **95**
2U4/P1136- 10 10-7 | 66.7kg



Stella Barclay **David Noonan**
Won 2m1f handicap chases at Market Rasen and Cartmel early last season. Raced only twice since, excuses at Hereford final start. May need this after 7 months off.

8 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

9-4 Clean Getaway, **9-2** Mutual Respect, **13-2** Augharue, **17-2** Minella Young, **9-1** Six One Nine, **11-1** Take Centre Stage, **16-1** Cudgel, **16-1** Ensel Du Perche

TIMEFORM VIEW:

AUGHARUE was headed only late on by a subsequent winner at Kelso last month and he looks ready to shed his maiden tag. Thriving pair Clean Getaway and Mutual Respect are the obvious threats.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. AUGHARUE 2. CLEAN GETAWAY 3. MUTUAL RESPECT

2.30

RACE 4










CHRIS BLANKLEY BIRTHDAY HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier) (4) 3yo+ (Rated 0-120) £7,700 2m3f188y (3990 Metres)



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

Left handed, undulating. In theory, an uphill finish should dictate that plenty of races change complexion late in the day but, in practice, that isn't the case, the run-in being short on both courses and plenty of those in front having a tendency to pick up again when challenged.

Pace Information: **Weak**

1	NIBIRU (IRE) (147) 062P/RO-08 9 12-2 77.1kg	s	92
	Jack Jones Fair winner on the Flat, notching fourth success on the level in a Dundalk claimer (final start for Mrs C. O'Leary) last month. Wasn't disgraced starting out for new yard in 1¾m Southwell handicap next time and worth a second look back in this sphere off a workable mark.	<i>Jamie Gambin (7lb/3kg)</i>	
2	HARPER VALLEY (IRE) (17) (CD) 43130-532 7 11-9 73.9kg	v	100
	Rebecca Menzies Winner of 3 of his 13 starts over hurdles, including this race 12 months ago, and went close to adding a fourth success in a first-time visor (retained here) at Kelso (21f, good to soft) recently. Nudged back up 3 lb for that but remains feasibly treated overall and another bold show on the cards.	<i>Ross Chapman</i>	
3	LASER FOCUS (IRE) (7lb/3kg ex) (7) 444-44U11 6 11-9 73.9kg	t	94
	James Owen Successful 3 times on the Flat this year and wide-margin winner of handicaps at Huntingdon (20.7f, good) and Fakenham (23.4f, good to soft) in this sphere of late. More needed under a penalty in this higher grade but he's clearly at the top of his game and is impossible to rule out.	<i>Ben Bromley (5lb/2kg)</i>	
4	SALSADA (IRE) (24) (C) 330-U662P 7 11-8 73.5kg	s	99
	Brian Ellison Useful Flat winner who showed benefit of a spin on the level when going agonisingly close in a handicap hurdle at Hexham (16.2f, good) last month. Commensurate with her rather in-and-out profile she ran no sort of a race at Wetherby next time, but the ability is certainly there if on a going day.	<i>Craig Nichol</i>	
5	FINISK RIVER (37) (CD) 7P-432154 11 11-6 72.6kg	s+t	98
	Donald McCain Just 1 lb higher compared to when resuming winning ways in a Class 2 Bangor handicap in September, but his good run of form came to a halt over this C&D last time and he looks vulnerable against some younger, in-form rivals.	<i>Charlie Maggs (7lb/3kg)</i>	
6	BELVEDERE BLAST (IRE) (17) (D) 531P64P7 6 11-4 71.7kg		93
	Adrian Keatley Scored at Hexham in June but it's been all downhill since and he needs to bounce back in a major way.	<i>Brian Hughes</i>	
7	PUNXSUTAWNEY PHIL (IRE) (12) (C) 234/6P67-4 7 10-12 68.9kg	s	97
	Mark Walford Sole hurdles success was gained in a maiden over 3 years ago and while he wasn't disgraced back in this sphere at Market Rasen (20.6f, good) recently, others make more appeal.	<i>Jamie Hamilton</i>	
8	FUGITIVES DRIFT (IRE) (13) (D) 2P86P/P-P 9 10-10 68.0kg	s	98
	Gary Rutherford Went the wrong way for Nicky Henderson in 2022 and pulled up in hunter chase at Kelso sole outing in 2023/24 for Miss Lucy Brown. Also failed to complete returned to this sphere for new yard at Ayr 13 days ago and it's easy enough to look elsewhere.	<i>Miss Lucy Brown (7lb/3kg)</i>	
9	KNACKER TRAPPER (IRE) (25) 8507-1523 6 10-4 65.3kg		98
	Andrew Crook Off the mark over 20.4f at Southwell in May and has returned from a break in good order, placed in handicaps at Sedgefield and Wetherby. No reason to think he won't be in the thick of things once more.	<i>Joe Williamson (3lb/1kg)</i>	

9 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

11-4 Laser Focus, **4-1** Harper Valley, **4-1** Knacker Trapper, **15-2** Finisk River, **10-1** Salsada, **12-1** Nibiru, **22-1** Punxsutawney Phil, **33-1** Belvedere Blast, **125-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

The vote goes to HARPER VALLEY, who landed this race last year and looks poised for a repeat following his recent near miss at Kelso. Knacker Trapper's turn also appears near judged on his solid placed efforts the last twice, while the hat-trick seeking Laser Focus has to be feared. Salsada is not the easiest to predict but she will have a serious chance if on-song.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. HARPER VALLEY 2. KNACKER TRAPPER 3. LASER FOCUS

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2023 **Harper Valley** 6-11-2 3-1jf Rebecca Menzies Ross Chapman 7

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

3.00

RACE 5

**VICKERS.BET INDEPENDENT FAMILY OWNED BOOKMAKER
HANDICAP CHASE (Qualifier) (5) 4yo+ (Rated 0-105)
£6,150 2m5f28y (4250 Metres)**



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

Left handed, undulating. In theory, an uphill finish should dictate that plenty of races change complexion late in the day but, in practice, that isn't the case, the run-in being short on both courses and plenty of those in front having a tendency to pick up again when challenged.

Pace Information: **Even**

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

1 TOM CREEN (IRE) (37) (CD) t **95**
112323-43 **9** 12-0 | 76.2kg

Sam England **Tom Midgley (3lb/1kg)**
Back-to-back winner here last season and again put his best foot forward on this terrain when third over C&D (good to soft) back from a break last month. Live each-way chance off the same mark.

2 PEP TALKING (25) **100**
08126-261 **6** 10-12 | 68.9kg

Billy Aprahamian **Gavin Sheehan**
Lightly raced 6-y-o who improved on hurdles form when making winning chase debut at Huntingdon in March. Runner-up on 2 of his 4 starts thereafter before resuming winning ways at Uttoxeter (2½m, good to soft) last time. 5 lb rise fair enough and he may well have more to offer.

3 BEBSIDE BANTER (IRE) (21) (CD) **98**
781P122-1 **7** 10-10 | 68.0kg

Chris Grant **Danny McMenamin**
Made it 3 wins from 4 starts over fences here when landing an 11-runner C&D handicap chase 3 weeks ago, proving 2½ lengths too strong for the re-opposing The Paddy Pie. 6 lb rise demands more but he's a sound jumper and is likely to give it a good shot from the front.

4 EMPTY NEST (IRE) (18) **86**
04333-PP4 **6** 10-9 | 67.6kg

Mark Walford **Jamie Hamilton**
Remains a maiden and there wasn't enough promise in his recent reappearance spin at Hexham to suggest that he'll put that right here.

5 THE PADDY PIE (IRE) (21) (C) **97**
4P474-P52 **11** 10-7 | 66.7kg

Joel Parkinson & Sue Smith **Peter Kavanagh (3lb/1kg)**
Losing run stretches back almost 2 years but his mark reflects that and posted his best effort for a while when chasing Bebside Banter home over C&D last time. 4 lb better off with that rival now but whether it'll be enough for him to reverse those placings has to be doubtful.

6 KICKSAFTERSIX (IRE) (45) h **96**
25-835222 **8** 10-4 | 65.3kg

Martin Todhunter **Sean Quinlan**
Opened his account in a handicap chase over 15.6f at Hexham in summer 2023. Winless since but consistency hard to knock in recent months, runner-up on each of his last 3 starts at up to 21f, and he should be in the mix once again.

7 BEAT THE EDGE (IRE) (172) **92**
225343-48 **7** 10-2(10-0) | 64.4kg (63.5kg)

Micky Hammond **Brian Hughes**
Ungenuine type who has just one win to his name from 26 starts under Rules. Opposable starting out for new yard here following almost 6 months off.

8 WOTSMYNAME (IRE) (651) **86**
50986/ **7** 10-2(9-12) | 64.4kg (62.6kg)

Leonard Kerr **Derek Fox**
Wasn't disgraced on chase debut at Ayr in February 2023 but absent since and this maiden (0-14 overall) is entitled to come on for the run.

8 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

5-2 Pep Talking, **3-1** Bebside Banter, **11-2** The Paddy Pie, **6-1** Kicksaftersix, **7-1** Tom Creen, **28-1** Beat The Edge, **33-1** Empty Nest, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

PEP TALKING raised his game when scoring on second start for this yard at Uttoxeter and looks capable of going in again off this 5 lb higher mark. He won't have things all his own way, though, as Bebside Banter is carving out a reputation as something of a course specialist (form figures over fences here read 1121). Kicksaftersix has been knocking on the door and he is third choice ahead of The Paddy Pie, who was second to Bebside Banter over C&D last time, and top-weight Tom Creen.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. PEP TALKING 2. BEBSIDE BANTER 3. KICKSAFTERSIX

3.30

RACE 6

PAXTONS NO1 CASEIH DEALER IN UK&IRELAND OPEN MAIDEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT (5) 4 and 5yo £4,500 2m178y (3380 Metres)



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

SMART STATS:

Left handed, undulating. In theory, an uphill finish should dictate that plenty of races change complexion late in the day but, in practice, that isn't the case, the run-in being short on both courses and plenty of those in front having a tendency to pick up again when challenged.

No Smart Stats available for this race

Pace Information: **Weak**

1 IS THAT ALRIGHT (IRE) 95
4 11-2 | 70.8kg



John & Sean Quinn *Craig Nichol*
Half-brother to numerous winners, including fair hurdler Full Day (winner around 2m, by Champs Elysees). Dam smart 7f winner. Interesting newcomer.

2 MOONBOW (FR) 95
4 11-2 | 70.8kg t



Patrick Neville *Gavin Sheehan*
£20,000 4-y-o. Dam, lightly raced over hurdles/fences in France, 7f/1m winner on Flat in Spain, half-sister to useful hurdler/fair chaser in France Gray Steel and hurdle winner in France/useful chaser Sagalyrique. Comfortable winner sole start in points (May 15), tongue tie on for Rules debut

3 NORAH'S LEGACY (IRE) (26) 91
5 4 11-2 | 70.8kg



Philip Kirby *Joe Williamson (3lb/1kg)*
Yeats gelding. Half-brother to fairly useful hurdler Lord Roccoco. Dam 2m hurdle winner, also 1¼m winner on Flat. Showed some promise but lacked a turn of foot when fifth of 8 starting out at Newcastle a month ago.

4 OLD BLUE EYES 100
4 11-2 | 70.8kg ★



Donald McCain *Brian Hughes*
Blue Bresil gelding. Brother to fair hurdler One Eye On Vegas, stays 3m, and half-brother to dual-bumper winner Dino Bellagio. Noteworthy newcomer for successful yard.

5 ROCKS UP LATE (IRE) 90
4 11-2 | 70.8kg



Tom Ellis *Mr Jack Andrews (3lb/1kg)*
€52,000 3-y-o, Vadamos gelding. Dam (h107), 2m hurdle winner, half-sister to high-class hurdler/useful unbeaten chase winner (stayed 21f) Wicklow Brave. Pulled up sole start in points.

6 SMART BUCKS (17) 89
6 4 11-2 | 70.8kg



Philip Kirby *Danny McMenamin*
Buck's Boum gelding. Dam unraced half-sister to useful hurdler/smart chaser (stayed 21f) Lady Buttons. Too green to show a great deal starting out at Kelso 17 days ago.

7 SNAPAUDACIAHEROS (IRE) (175) 97
42 4 10-9 | 67.6kg



Rebecca Menzies *Nathan Moscrop*
Modest form and in the frame both starts in bumpers in May/June, second of 9 at Southwell. THart just about sets the standard on return for in-form yard.

8 SWEETLIKECHOCOLATE 96
5 10-9 | 67.6kg t



Nigel Twiston-Davies *Finn Lambert (3lb/1kg)*
£16,000 3-y-o, Yeats mare. Half-sister to useful 5f/6f winner Militia. Wears tongue strap. Third in a point in May 2023. Taken a while to return to the track but she's in excellent hands. Tongue tie on.

8 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

3-1 Old Blue Eyes, **9-2** Snapaudaciaheros, **5-1** Sweetlikechocolate, **11-2** Is That Alright, **6-1** Moonbow, **14-1** Norah's Legacy, **18-1** Rocks Up Late, **33-1** Smart Bucks

TIMEFORM VIEW:

The market will be revealing but OLD BLUE EYES is a half-brother to a dual-bumper winner for the same connections so a winning debut at this sort of level would come as no surprise. Moonbow and Sweetlikechocolate displayed ability in points so they need considering, along with Snapaudaciaheros.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. OLD BLUE EYES 2. MOONBOW 3. SWEETLIKECHOCOLATE

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2023 **Vanilla Dancer** 4-10-9 11-2 Chris Grant William Maggs (7) 7
2022 **Swallows Song** 4-11-2 7-4 Iain Jardine Conor O'Farrell 5