

Thursday 26th December

# AINTREE



11.55	WILLIAM HILL PROPER PRICES MARES' HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier) (4) 2½m (4020 Metres)
RACE 1	<b>(9) CRYSTAL GLANCE   (7) COULD BE TROUBLE   (5) MAJESTIC JAMEELA</b>
12.30	WILLIAM HILL BETTING DONE PROPERLY HANDICAP CHASE (2) 2m3f200y (4010 Metres)
RACE 2	<b>(1) RICHMOND LAKE   (5) WESTERNINTHEPARK   (3) IMPERIAL SAINT</b>
1.05	WILLIAM HILL FORMBY NOVICES' HURDLE (Grade 1) (1) 2m209y (3410 Metres)
RACE 3	<b>(6) POTTERS CHARM   (2) COUNTRY MILE   (7) ROADLESSTRavelled</b>
1.40	WILLIAM HILL OFFERS TOP PRICE GUARANTEES HANDICAP HURDLE (2) 2½m (4020 Metres)
RACE 4	<b>(2) ACT OF AUTHORITY   (5) FLORIDA DREAMS   (7) PATRIOTIK</b>
2.15	WILLIAM HILL COMMITTED TO TOP PRICES HANDICAP CHASE (Qualifier) (3) 3m210y (5020 Metres)
RACE 5	<b>(5) FORTUNATE MAN   (3) IKARAK   (4) DUKE OF DECEPTION</b>
2.50	WILLIAM HILL CHELTENHAM NRMB JANUARY 1st NOVICES' LIMITED HANDICAP CHASE (3) 1m7f176y (3180 Metres)
RACE 6	<b>(4) DOYEN DU BAR   (3) BOOSTER BOB   (2) INEDIT STAR</b>
3.25	WILLIAM HILL MORE TOP PRICES OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT (Qualifier) (2) 2m209y (3410 Metres)
RACE 7	<b>(1) DALSTON LAD   (2) OLD BLUE EYES   (4) IS THIS FOR REAL</b>

## 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.

**11.55**

**WILLIAM HILL PROPER PRICES MARES' HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier) (4) 3yo+ fillies and mares (Rated 0-120) £15,000 2½m (4020 Metres)**

RACE 1



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

The Grand National course is triangular with its apex (at the Canal Turn) the furthest point from the stands. Inside is the Mildmay course which has birch fences. A major feature of the Mildmay course is its sharpness, though the fences are stiff and it's a tough jumping test. The Grand National is run over two complete circuits taking in sixteen spruce fences first time around and fourteen the second. Alterations to the fences in recent times have had the effect of making it a less severe test of jumping than used to be case. Since 2013, the run to the first fence in the Grand National was reduced in a bid to also improve safety, resulting in the overall race distance shortening from the usual 4½m, though the run-in is still 494 yards long and includes an elbow.

Pace Information: **N/A**

**1 LUNAR DISCOVERY (12) 98**  
0/1122P-50 7 12-2 | 77.1kg



James Moffatt **Leah Noreci (10lb/5kg)**  
Dual bumper winner who also won a pair of novice hurdles last season. Far from disgraced on chase debut at Carlisle last month but subsequently well held back in this sphere at Cheltenham recently. Others more convincing.

**2 LITTLE MISS DANTE (35) (BF) 97**  
1/113PP-34 6 11-13 | 75.7kg



Olly Murphy **Sean Bowen**  
Won first 2 starts last term but has yet to score since and went backwards from reappearance at Warwick last month. Percentage call is to look elsewhere.

**3 VICTORIA MILANO (IRE) (246) 95**  
1218P- 6 11-10 | 74.4kg



Alastair Ralph **Sam Twiston-Davies**  
Reportedly bled when pulled up at Ludlow in April but had won 2 of her first 3 starts over timber and is worth monitoring in market on return to action.

**4 LAVIDA ADIVA (IRE) (33) 98**  
321332-68 5 11-7 | 73.0kg



Ruth Jefferson **Kielan Woods**  
Still to score in handicap company and hasn't really fired in a couple of outings this term. Others preferred.

**5 MAJESTIC JAMEELA (37) (D) 97**  
71213-3F9 4 11-7 | 73.0kg



Stuart Edmunds **Ciaran Gethings**  
Scored 3 times over hurdles last term but fell heavily early on at Chepstow in October and may have needed the outing when below par at Carlisle last time. Not out of things.

**6 TOUCHY FEELY (19) 99**  
5/4PPF-4P5 7 11-5 | 72.1kg



Nicky Henderson **James Bowen**  
Ran creditably over C&D in May but has disappointed twice since, including on return at Sandown last month. Bit to prove now.

**7 COULD BE TROUBLE (IRE) (27) (D) 98**  
10-658143 9 11-3 | 71.2kg



Donald McCain **Brian Hughes**  
Returned to winning ways at Hexham (20.1f) in October and back to that sort of form when creditable third of 10 in handicap hurdle at Musselburgh (19.8f, good to soft) 27 days ago. One for shortlist.

**8 SWEET MAGIC (IRE) (36) 89**  
43427/F-7 6 10-8 | 67.1kg



Alastair Ralph **Liam Harrison**  
Would have gone close but for departing at Warwick (19f) in November of last year and may have needed outing, on first start since, when seventh at Ffos Las (21.9f) 36 days ago. Still looking for first success, though.

**9 CRYSTAL GLANCE (26) 100**  
3-112 4 10-5 | 65.8kg



Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero **Ben Smith (7lb/3kg)**  
Won 2 of her 4 starts over hurdles and improved again when good second of 7 in handicap at Doncaster (16.6f, good, 11/2) 26 days ago. Likely has more to offer yet and this longer trip may well be up her street.

9 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

5-2 Crystal Glance, 11-2 Little Miss Dante, 7-1 Could Be Trouble, 8-1 Majestic Jameela, 9-1 Victoria Milano, 10-1 Lavidia Adiva, 14-1 Touchy Feely, 18-1 Lunar Discovery, 20-1 Sweet Magic

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

CRYSTAL GLANCE is going the right way and this longer trip could unlock further improvement. She is fancied to return to winning ways. Could Be Trouble and Majestic Jameela can also make their presence felt.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

1. CRYSTAL GLANCE 2. COULD BE TROUBLE 3. MAJESTIC JAMEELA

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2023 **Cherie d'Am** 5-11-12 6-4f Dan Skelton Harry Skelton 9

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

**12.30**

**WILLIAM HILL BETTING DONE PROPERLY HANDICAP CHASE  
(2) 4yo+ (Rated 0-150) £35,000 2m3f200y (4010  
Metres)**









RACE 2



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

The Grand National course is triangular with its apex (at the Canal Turn) the furthest point from the stands. Inside is the Mildmay course which has birch fences. A major feature of the Mildmay course is its sharpness, though the fences are stiff and it's a tough jumping test. The Grand National is run over two complete circuits taking in sixteen spruce fences first time around and fourteen the second. Alterations to the fences in recent times have had the effect of making it a less severe test of jumping than used to be case. Since 2013, the run to the first fence in the Grand National was reduced in a bid to also improve safety, resulting in the overall race distance shortening from the usual 4½m, though the run-in is still 494 yards long and includes an elbow.

Pace Information: **N/A**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
|    | <p><b>1 RICHMOND LAKE (IRE) (47)</b> (CD) <span style="float: right;"> <b>100</b></span><br/>                     1/1149F0-4 <b>8</b> 12-0   76.2kg<br/>                     Donald McCain <span style="float: right;"><b>Brian Hughes</b></span><br/>                     Had a prolific period in 2023, completing a four-timer over C&amp;D 12 months ago. Seemed to lose confidence in his jumping thereafter but right back to best, after 7 months off, when fourth in last month's Grand Sefton over the National fences. Likely contender.</p>                  |
|    | <p><b>2 HELTENHAM (FR) (27)</b> (D) <span style="float: right;"><b>99</b></span><br/>                     382118F-8 <b>7</b> 11-11   74.8kg<br/>                     Dan Skelton <span style="float: right;"><b>Ciaran Gethings</b></span><br/>                     Improved again last season, the highlight being his victory in Greatwood Gold Cup at Newbury (20f) in March. Disappointed at same venue on return last month but may have needed that and he could be a player.</p>  |
|   | <p><b>3 IMPERIAL SAINT (FR) (26)</b> (C, D) <span style="float: right;"><b>99</b></span><br/>                     12331-117 <b>6</b> 11-9   73.9kg<br/>                     Philip Hobbs &amp; Johnson White  <span style="float: right;"><b>Micheal Nolan</b></span><br/>                     Bagged back-to-back course handicaps (both 15.8f) on first 2 starts over fences this autumn. Hit with a 10 lb rise for second of those victories and proved disappointing at Newbury latest but is still low mileage and he has scored over this longer trip before.</p> |
|  | <p><b>4 HERBIERS (FR) (29)</b> (D) <span style="float: right;"><b>98</b></span><br/>                     155214/2-P <b>7</b> 11-4   71.7kg<br/>                     Oliver Greenall &amp; Josh Guerriero <span style="float: right;"><b>James Bowen</b></span><br/>                     Useful handicap hurdler and similar form over fences, running well when second of 4 in handicap chase at Warwick (16.2f) in May of last year. Looked badly in need of run, on first start since, at Wetherby last month and this run should reveal more.</p>   |
|  | <p><b>5 WESTERNINTEPARK (IRE) (39)</b> (D) <span style="float: right;"><b>97</b></span><br/>                     10/3115-12 <b>6</b> 11-3   71.2kg<br/>                     Olly Murphy <span style="float: right;"><b>Sean Bowen</b></span><br/>                     Bumper/dual hurdles winner who made a winning start in this sphere at Stratford (20.9f) in October and backed that up with creditable second of 7 in handicap chase at Cheltenham (20.2f, good to soft, 11/2) 39 days ago. Likely more to come yet.</p>  |
|  | <p><b>6 PETIT TONNERRE (FR) (26)</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>97</b></span><br/>                     507-79266 <b>6</b> 10-11   68.5kg<br/>                     Jonjo &amp; A.J. O'Neill <span style="float: right;"><b>Jonjo O'Neill Jr.</b></span><br/>                     Ran one of his better races in this sphere when second at this course (15.8f) in October but posted lesser efforts since and remains a maiden over fences.</p>   |

6 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**5-2** WesterninthePark, **9-2** Richmond Lake, **9-2** Imperial Saint, **5-1** Heltenham, **7-1** Herbiers, **11-1** Petit Tonnerre

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

Preference is for RICHMOND LAKE, who is back on his last winning mark and ran a cracker in the Grand Sefton here last month. WesterninthePark may have more to offer over fences yet and rates the principal threat.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. RICHMOND LAKE 2. WESTERNINTEPARK 3. IMPERIAL SAINT**

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

1.05

**WILLIAM HILL FORMBY NOVICES' HURDLE (Grade 1) (1)**  
**3yo+ £100,000 2m209y (3410 Metres)**

RACE 3



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

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

The Grand National course is triangular with its apex (at the Canal Turn) the furthest point from the stands. Inside is the Mildmay course which has birch fences. A major feature of the Mildmay course is its sharpness, though the fences are stiff and it's a tough jumping test. The Grand National is run over two complete circuits taking in sixteen spruce fences first time around and fourteen the second. Alterations to the fences in recent times have had the effect of making it a less severe test of jumping than used to be case. Since 2013, the run to the first fence in the Grand National was reduced in a bid to also improve safety, resulting in the overall race distance shortening from the usual 4½m, though the run-in is still 494 yards long and includes an elbow.

Pace Information: **N/A**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>1</b></p>    | <p><b>CELTIC DINO (FR) (34)</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>94</b></span><br/>                 131-11 5 11-8   73.5kg<br/>                 Sam Thomas  <span style="float: right;"><i>Adam Wedge</i></span><br/>                 Dual bumper winner who made the perfect start over hurdles when winning Wincanton novice (15.2f) in October and looked potentially useful when following up at Ascot (15.7f, good to soft) 34 days ago. Enters calculations.</p>   |
| <p><b>2</b></p>    | <p><b>COUNTRY MILE (IRE) (13) (D)</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>97</b></span><br/>                 1-121 5 11-8   73.5kg<br/>                 Dan Skelton <span style="float: right;"><i>Kielan Woods</i></span><br/>                 Landed the odds at Ayr on hurdles bow in October and improved in both outings since, most recently when winning 4-runner novice at Cheltenham (16.8f, good to soft) 13 days ago, impressively. Likely has more to give yet.</p>  |
| <p><b>3</b></p>   | <p><b>GOOD AND CLEVER (IRE) (27)</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>83</b></span><br/>                 13-2 5 11-8   73.5kg<br/>                 Warren Greatrex  <span style="float: right;"><i>James Bowen</i></span><br/>                 Made a very promising start to his career in bumpers in the spring, winning convincingly at Warwick before an excellent third in Grade 2 at this course in April. Posted encouraging second in Newbury maiden (16.3f) on hurdles debut last month but takes on much better company here.</p>  |
| <p><b>4</b></p>  | <p><b>JUNKER D'ALLIER (FR) (43) (D)</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>93</b></span><br/>                 222-11 5 11-8   73.5kg<br/>                 Olly Murphy <span style="float: right;"><i>Sean Bowen</i></span><br/>                 Found only one too good all 3 starts in bumpers last season and perfect start in this sphere when winning novice at Carlisle (17.2f) in October. Followed up in impressive style at Bangor (16.7f, soft) last month and is well worth his place in this higher grade.</p>   |
| <p><b>5</b></p>  | <p><b>MIAMI MAGIC (IRE) (31)</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>92</b></span><br/>                 211 5 11-8   73.5kg<br/>                 Stuart Edmunds <span style="float: right;"><i>Charlie Hammond</i></span><br/>                 Only narrowly failed to land a course bumper on NH debut in May and has won both his starts over timber, latest when forging clear in 11-runner novice at Kempton (16f, good to soft) 31 days ago. Asked a bigger question now but it's likely we haven't seen the best of him yet.</p>   |
| <p><b>6</b></p>  | <p><b>POTTERS CHARM (IRE) (41)</b> <span style="float: right;"> <b>100</b></span><br/>                 1-111 5 11-8   73.5kg<br/>                 Nigel Twiston-Davies  <span style="float: right;"><i>Sam Twiston-Davies</i></span><br/>                 Runner-up only outing in points and unbeaten all 4 starts under Rules, finding further improvement when taking 5-runner Hyde Novices' Hurdle at Cheltenham (21f, good to soft) 41 days ago. Sets the standard on form and remains open to further progress.</p> |
| <p><b>7</b></p>  | <p><b>ROADLESSTRAVELLED (IRE) (33) (D)</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>93</b></span><br/>                 111 5 11-8   73.5kg<br/>                 Jonjo &amp; A.J. O'Neill <span style="float: right;"><i>Jonjo O'Neill Jr.</i></span><br/>                 Successful in all 3 starts over hurdles and has found improvement on each outing, latest when landing Newton Novices' Hurdle at Haydock (15.6f, soft) 33 days ago by 3 lengths from Country Mile. Remains with potential.</p>   |

7 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**7-4** Potters Charm, **5-1** Roadlesstravelled, **11-2** Celtic Dino, **13-2** Country Mile, **10-1** Junker D'allier, **10-1** Miami Magic, **33-1** Good And Clever

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

POTTERS CHARM is yet to taste defeat under Rules and upped his game further when scoring in decisive fashion at Cheltenham last month. He can extend his winning run. All of his rivals are open to improvement but Country Mile and Roadlesstravelled are feared most.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. POTTERS CHARM 2. COUNTRY MILE 3. ROADLESSTRAVELLED**

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2023 **Jango Baie** 4-11-8 17-2 Nicky Henderson James Bowen 9

1.40

**WILLIAM HILL OFFERS TOP PRICE GUARANTEES HANDICAP HURDLE (2) 4yo+ £40,000 2½m (4020 Metres)**

RACE 4



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

The Grand National course is triangular with its apex (at the Canal Turn) the furthest point from the stands. Inside is the Mildmay course which has birch fences. A major feature of the Mildmay course is its sharpness, though the fences are stiff and it's a tough jumping test. The Grand National is run over two complete circuits taking in sixteen spruce fences first time around and fourteen the second. Alterations to the fences in recent times have had the effect of making it a less severe test of jumping than used to be case. Since 2013, the run to the first fence in the Grand National was reduced in a bid to also improve safety, resulting in the overall race distance shortening from the usual 4½m, though the run-in is still 494 yards long and includes an elbow.

Pace Information: **N/A**

**1 CALL ME LYREEN (IRE) (240) (D) 90**  
579/6093-0 8 12-0 | 76.2kg



**Eloise Quayle** *Brian Hughes*  
Useful hurdles/chase winner in his pomp for Gordon Elliott but didn't look the force of old earlier this year for that yard. Starts out for new stable on the back of an 8-month break and others make greater appeal.

**2 ACT OF AUTHORITY (FR) (40) (D) 100**  
61316-911 6 11-13 | 75.7kg



**Olly Murphy** *Sean Bowen*  
Three-time winner as a novice and he built on his reappearance run at Chepstow when impressively landing 9-runner handicap at Sandown (19.8f) in November. Unpenalized for that and followed up in ready fashion at Wetherby 6 weeks ago and respected despite career-high mark.

**3 UNCLE BERT (47) (D) 98**  
P2117-3P2 7 11-12 | 75.3kg



**Nigel Twiston-Davies** *Sam Twiston-Davies*  
Useful hurdler who posted a career-best effort when adding to his tally at Bangor (19.6f) in March. Hasn't convinced in trio of starts over fences this autumn but this return to hurdling can see him in a better light now.

**4 RED DIRT ROAD (IRE) (25) 99**  
1214/2-5 7 11-7 | 73.0kg



**Jonjo & A.J. O'Neill** *Jonjo O'Neill Jr.*  
Dual hurdles winner (at upto 16.7f) who ran a cracker when second from a 2 lb higher mark at Warwick (21f) during early 2023. Feasible to think the run was needed after 19 months off when fifth of 8 in handicap hurdle at Carlisle (17f, soft) 25 days ago and this should reveal more.

**5 FLORIDA DREAMS (IRE) (39) (C) 96**  
1/31538-15 6 11-5 | 72.1kg



**Nicky Richards** *Danny McMenamin*  
Grade 2 bumper winner who doubled his hurdles tally on return at Hexham (16.2f) in October prior to a good fifth in last month's Greatwood Hurdle at Cheltenham. Cheekpieces worn then are retained here and he's respected back in calmer waters/back up in trip.

**6 BINGOO (53) (CD) 97**  
311/10P3-U 8 11-3 | 71.2kg



**James Moffatt** *Charlotte Jones*  
Four-time 2m hurdle winner who landed this race 12 months ago off this mark. Hasn't been able to replicate that level subsequently, unlikely to have finished any better than fifth when unseating on return to action at Carlisle (20f) 53 days ago.

**7 PATRIOTIK (FR) (33) (D) 97**  
2132-25U 5 10-13 | 69.4kg



**Evan Williams** *Isabel Williams (3lb/1kg)*  
Point winner who opened Rules account in a 2½m Ffos Las novice in March. Sound start to life in handicaps when fifth in Silver Trophy at Chepstow (19.5f) in October prior to unseating at Haydock 33 days ago (in process of running poorly) but far too soon to be writing him off.

**8 EL JEFE (IRE) (258) (C) 95**  
14381271- 7 10-6 | 66.2kg



**Andrew Hamilton** *Ben Smith (7lb/3kg)*  
Had a fine 2023/24, gaining a fifth victory of the campaign when landing amateur riders' handicap (16.5f) at the National Meeting in April. More on his plate from career-high mark on seasonal return and this will understandably demand more. Had wind surgery.

**9 ONE EYE ON VEGAS (21) (D) 97**  
51134-U61 7 10-5 | 65.8kg



**Stuart Edmunds** *Ciaran Gethings*  
Improved for the fitting of cheekpieces, winning pair of slow-ground handicaps in January/February. Back on the up when resuming winning ways at Leicester (20.5f) 21 days ago and he's fancied to give another good account up in class from this 5 lb higher mark.

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**11-4** Act of Authority, **11-2** Florida Dreams, **7-1** Uncle Bert, **15-2** One Eye On Vegas, **8-1** Patriotik, **10-1** Red Dirt Road, **10-1** El Jefe, **14-1** Bingoo, **22-1** Call Me Lyreen

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

ACT OF AUTHORITY is asked his sternest question to date now his new mark has kicked in, yet he could well be up to the task judged on the manner of his victories at Sandown/Wetherby and he shades the vote with the Olly Murphy stable continuing in fine form. Florida Dreams and Patriotik rate next best, ahead of Uncle Bert who switches back from a spell chasing.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. ACT OF AUTHORITY 2. FLORIDA DREAMS 3. PATRIOTIK**

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2023 **Bingoo** 7-10-2 13-2 James Moffatt Charlotte Jones (3) 7

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

**2.15**

RACE 5

**WILLIAM HILL COMMITTED TO TOP PRICES HANDICAP CHASE (Qualifier) (3) 4yo+ (Rated 0-130) £25,000 3m210y (5020 Metres)**



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

The Grand National course is triangular with its apex (at the Canal Turn) the furthest point from the stands. Inside is the Mildmay course which has birch fences. A major feature of the Mildmay course is its sharpness, though the fences are stiff and it's a tough jumping test. The Grand National is run over two complete circuits taking in sixteen spruce fences first time around and fourteen the second. Alterations to the fences in recent times have had the effect of making it a less severe test of jumping than used to be case. Since 2013, the run to the first fence in the Grand National was reduced in a bid to also improve safety, resulting in the overall race distance shortening from the usual 4½m, though the run-in is still 494 yards long and includes an elbow.

Pace Information: **N/A**

**1 WHISTLEINTHEDARK (IRE) (12) 98**  
84809-980 9 12-0 | 76.2kg



**L J Morgan** *Adam Wedge*  
Winner of 4 of his 12 starts over fences but was more miss than hit last term and it's been a similar story in a trio of outings this season.

**2 GUSTAVIAN (IRE) (26) t 99**  
46U343-3P 9 11-9 | 73.9kg



**Anthony Honeyball** *Sam Twiston-Davies*  
Sole success over fences to date came in 3-runner affair at Exeter back in February 2023 and failed to build on encouraging Badger Beer Chase return at Newcastle last month. Others more appealing.

**3 IKARAK (FR) (36) (D) 97**  
2/221168-1 6 11-8 | 73.5kg



**Olly Murphy** *Sean Bowen*  
Bounced back to form, on debut for new yard, when winning 8-runner handicap hurdle (5/4) at Warwick (25f, soft) 36 days ago. Won twice over larger obstacles in France in 2022 and looks fairly treated back in that sphere. Respected.

**4 DUKE OF DECEPTION (IRE) (19) s 99**  
42212-5P3 7 11-7 | 73.0kg



**Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero** *Ben Smith (71b/3kg)*  
Three-time winner over fences who returned to best form, in first-time tongue strap, when good third of 7 in handicap chase at Wetherby (24.2f, heavy, 6/1) 19 days ago. Races off same mark here and ought to go well again.

**5 FORTUNATE MAN (IRE) (25) t ★ 100**  
U131-72 5 11-7 | 73.0kg



**Jonjo & A.J. O'Neill** *Jonjo O'Neill Jr.*  
€210,000 buy after winning an Irish point 18 months ago and successful on 2 of his 3 completed starts over hurdles last season. Left chase debut form behind when second of 12 in Carlisle handicap (24.5f, soft) 25 days ago and likely has more to offer yet.

**6 BUSTY BOY (IRE) (25) 96**  
5/12422-2P 7 11-0 | 69.9kg



**Daragh Bourke** *Brian Hughes*  
Successful on 3 of his 4 starts in Irish points so no surprise he left hurdles form behind when making a winning chase debut at Kelso on return last season. Made the frame on next 5 starts but shaped as if amiss on return at Carlisle earlier this month.

**7 MOONLIT POTTER (5) 96**  
4412-2P 6 10-13 | 69.4kg



**Henry Daly** *James Bowen*  
Won 1 of her 3 starts over hurdles and bettered that form when close second in Huntingdon handicap chase (23.6f) on debut over fences last month. Ran too badly to be true at Hereford since (pulled up early on) and must enter calculations.

**8 JAR DU DESERT (FR) (54) 96**  
4/104436-2 5 10-10 | 68.0kg



**Nick Kent** *Charlie Hammond*  
Showed fairly useful form over hurdles for Tom George prior to making a successful chasing debut at Auteuil for N. George & A. Zetterholm in May. Not at that level for present yard but posted creditable second on return in Wetherby handicap (24.2f, good) last month and is entitled to build on that.

8 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**5-2** Fortunate Man, **5-1** Ikarak, **11-2** Moonlit Potter, **13-2** Duke of Deception, **7-1** Jar Du Desert, **10-1** Gustavian, **20-1** Whistleinthedark, **28-1** Busty Boy

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

FORTUNATE MAN posted a personal best when only narrowly failing to score at Carlisle earlier this month and is unexposed as a staying chaser. He can open his account over fences here. Ikarak and Duke of Deception should also go well.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. FORTUNATE MAN 2. IKARAK 3. DUKE OF DECEPTION**

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2023 **Snipe** 6-11-2 18-5 Dan Skelton Harry Skelton 6

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race



**2.50**

RACE 6








**WILLIAM HILL CHELTENHAM NRMB JANUARY 1st NOVICES' LIMITED HANDICAP CHASE (3) 4yo+ £25,000 1m7f176y (3180 Metres)**



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

The Grand National course is triangular with its apex (at the Canal Turn) the furthest point from the stands. Inside is the Mildmay course which has birch fences. A major feature of the Mildmay course is its sharpness, though the fences are stiff and it's a tough jumping test. The Grand National is run over two complete circuits taking in sixteen spruce fences first time around and fourteen the second. Alterations to the fences in recent times have had the effect of making it a less severe test of jumping than used to be case. Since 2013, the run to the first fence in the Grand National was reduced in a bid to also improve safety, resulting in the overall race distance shortening from the usual 4½m, though the run-in is still 494 yards long and includes an elbow.

Pace Information: **N/A**

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|----------|--|---|---|------------|
| <b>1</b> | <p><b>BALLEE (IRE) (26)</b><br/>2/311U2-P0 5 11-10   74.4kg</p>  <p>Philip Hobbs &amp; Johnson White  <i>Micheal Nolan</i></p> <p>Impressed when winning a brace of Taunton novice hurdles last term and ran a cracker when second on handicap bow here in April, displaying a great attitude. However, has run poorly in both starts since (tendency to pull hard) and has something to prove on chasing bow.</p> | h |    | <b>100</b> |
| <b>2</b> | <p><b>INEDIT STAR (FR) (222)</b><br/>375/1222-2 6 11-5   72.1kg</p>  <p>Nick Kent <i>Charlie Hammond</i></p> <p>Dual bumper winner in France and useful form over hurdles. Runner-up all 4 starts for this yard, including back over fences at Bangor (17.4f) when last seen in May. Can go well fresh and warrants respect on return.</p>  |   |   | <b>98</b>  |
| <b>3</b> | <p><b>BOOSTER BOB (IRE) (36)</b> (D, BF)<br/>3/1114P-13 6 11-1   70.3kg</p>  <p>Olly Murphy <i>Sean Bowen</i></p> <p>Boasts a fine strike rate, winning 5 of his 9 starts, including a successful chase debut at Ffos Las (16f) in October. Well below that level when third in Warwick handicap (16.2f, soft) latest but has had a wind operation since and remains fairly treated.</p>   | h |   | <b>99</b>  |
| <b>4</b> | <p><b>DOYEN DU BAR (IRE) (54)</b> (D)<br/>21148-31 8 10-12   68.9kg</p>  <p>Pauline Robson <i>Brian Hughes</i></p> <p>Back from 5 months off when taking 5-runner handicap chase at Ayr (16.5f, good to soft, 3/1) 54 days ago. 3 lb rise fair and he remains low mileage in this discipline.</p>   | h |  | <b>100</b> |

4 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**15-8** Doyen Du Bar, **2-1** Booster Bob, **7-2** Inedit Star, **8-1** Ballee

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

DOYEN DU BAR hasn't been harshly treated by the handicapper for his winning Ayr reappearance and can follow up. Booster Bob rates the principal danger.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. DOYEN DU BAR 2. BOOSTER BOB 3. INEDIT STAR**

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

**3.25**

RACE 7









**WILLIAM HILL MORE TOP PRICES OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT (Qualifier) (2) 4 and 5yo £15,000 2m209y (3410 Metres)**



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

The Grand National course is triangular with its apex (at the Canal Turn) the furthest point from the stands. Inside is the Mildmay course which has birch fences. A major feature of the Mildmay course is its sharpness, though the fences are stiff and it's a tough jumping test. The Grand National is run over two complete circuits taking in sixteen spruce fences first time around and fourteen the second. Alterations to the fences in recent times have had the effect of making it a less severe test of jumping than used to be case. Since 2013, the run to the first fence in the Grand National was reduced in a bid to also improve safety, resulting in the overall race distance shortening from the usual 4½m, though the run-in is still 494 yards long and includes an elbow.

Pace Information: **N/A**

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|---|--|
|    | <p><b>1 DALSTON LAD (IRE) (59)</b> <span style="float: right;"> <b>100</b></span><br/>                 1 4 11-6   72.6kg<br/>                 Dan Skelton <span style="float: right;"><b>Kielan Woods</b></span><br/>                 €115,000 4-y-o, Ocovango gelding. Won sole start in Irish points (Apr 21) and maintained his unbeaten record despite clear signs of inexperience when taking 7-runner Ayr bumper (2m) in October. Open to improvement and he's evidently a useful prospect. Player.</p> |
|    | <p><b>2 OLD BLUE EYES (30) (D)</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>91</b></span><br/>                 1 4 11-6   72.6kg<br/>                 Donald McCain <span style="float: right;"><b>Brian Hughes</b></span><br/>                 Blue Bresil gelding who marked himself down as a good prospect when making a winning debut in 7-runner bumper at Sedgefield (16.8f) 30 days ago, leading under 2f out and asserting final 100 yds. Feasible to think there's better still to come.</p>   |
|   | <p><b>3 SWINDON VILLAGE (IRE) (36)</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>89</b></span><br/>                 1 4 11-6   72.6kg<br/>                 Charlie Longsdon <span style="float: right;"><b>Jonjo O'Neill Jr.</b></span><br/>                 Cost plenty following success only start in points and despite settling less well than his rivals, followed up on bumper debut at Ffos Las (15.8f, heavy) 5 weeks ago. Open to improvement.</p>  |
|  | <p><b>4 IS THIS FOR REAL (IRE)</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>92</b></span><br/>                 4 11-2   70.8kg<br/>                 Fergal O'Brien <span style="float: right;"><b>Liam Harrison</b></span><br/>                 £26,000 3-y-o, £80,000 4-y-o, Vendangeur gelding. Dam unraced sister to 19f hurdle winner Sang Dolois. Successful sole outing in points (April 2024) and he's an intriguing Rules debutant for a yard who have enjoyed plenty of success in bumpers around here.</p>   |
|  | <p><b>5 RACE TO BASE (IRE)</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>90</b></span><br/>                 4 11-2   70.8kg<br/>                 Nigel Twiston-Davies  <span style="float: right;"><b>Sam Twiston-Davies</b></span><br/>                 €28,000 3-y-o, £75,000 4-y-o, Vadamus gelding. Dam unraced sister to useful hurdler/chaser (stayed 25f) Real Milan. Won sole start in Irish points (Oct 19) and confidence behind him in the betting would look significant on debut for good yard.</p>       |
|  | <p><b>6 THE BLUE ROOM (IRE)</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>92</b></span><br/>                 4 11-2   70.8kg<br/>                 Olly Murphy <span style="float: right;"><b>Sean Bowen</b></span><br/>                 €70,000 3-y-o, Order of St George gelding. Half-brother to fair hurdler/chaser Dicey Rielly, stays 3¼m. Dam (h110) bumper/25f hurdle winner. Runner-up sole start in Irish points (Apr 14). One to note on Rules bow for stable going great guns.</p>   |

6 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**2-1** Dalston Lad, **5-1** Is This For Real, **5-1** The Blue Room, **11-2** Old Blue Eyes, **13-2** Race To Base, **8-1** Swindon Village

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

Despite clear signs of greenness DALSTON LAD was still able to run out a ready winner of a 7-runner Ayr bumper 2 months ago and, entitled to have derived plenty from that, Dan Skelton's charge is fancied to follow-up. Fellow debutant winner Old Blue Eyes and newcomer Is This For Real head up the dangers in the finale.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. DALSTON LAD 2. OLD BLUE EYES 3. IS THIS FOR REAL**

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2023 **Union Avenue** 4-11-9 6-1 James Moffatt Charlotte Jones (3) 7

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race