

Thursday 26th December

# KEMPTON



12.45

LADBROKES BEST ODDS GUARANTEED ON RACING NOVICES' LIMITED HANDICAP CHASE (3)  
2½m110y (4120 Metres)

RACE 1 **(7) FIRE FLYER | (1) RANGE | (2) ASTA LA PASTA**

1.20

LADBROKES KAUTO STAR NOVICES' CHASE (Grade 1) (1) 3m (4830 Metres)

RACE 2 **(3) THE JUKEBOX MAN | (5) WHITE RHINO | (1) HYLAND**

1.55

LADBROKES CHRISTMAS HURDLE (Grade 1) (1) 2m (3220 Metres)

RACE 3 **(4) LOSSIEMOUTH | (2) CONSTITUTION HILL | (1) BURDETT ROAD**

2.30

LADBROKES KING GEORGE VI CHASE (Grade 1) (1) 3m (4830 Metres)

RACE 4 **(10) SPILLANE'S TOWER | (1) BANBRIDGE | (6) GREY DAWNING**

3.05

LADBROKES "GAFFER OF ALL ACCAS" MAIDEN HURDLE (2) 2m (3220 Metres)

RACE 5 **(9) KIENTZHEIM | (6) NAP HAND | (1) BEAU QUALI**

3.40

LADBROKES GET REWARDED WITH LADBUCKS HANDICAP HURDLE (3) 2m5f (4220 Metres)

RACE 6 **(5) DODDIETHEGREAT | (7) EAST INDIA EXPRESS | (2) SUPREME GIFT**

## 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.

**12.45**

RACE 1












**LADBROKES BEST ODDS GUARANTEED ON RACING NOVICES' LIMITED HANDICAP CHASE (3) 4yo+ (Rated 0-130) £25,000 2½m110y (4120 Metres)**

**GBI RACING**

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

Right handed, flat. It's a very fair course but, whilst the fences aren't necessarily regarded as stiff, the casualty rate has been high in recent seasons. Can represent a much stiffer test of stamina than expected on soft/heavy going.

Pace Information: **N/A**

<b>1</b>	<b>RANGE (IRE) (34)</b>	<b>98</b>
	35/2154-F1 7 11-11   74.8kg Sam Thomas  <i>Dylan Johnston</i> (3lb/1kg) Novice hurdle winner who struck at the second time of asking over fences in 19.5f Chepstow handicap 5 weeks ago. Should have more to offer.	
<b>2</b>	<b>ASTA LA PASTA (IRE) (27)</b>	<b>97</b>
	33110-313 6 11-10   74.4kg Dan Skelton <i>Harry Skelton</i> Bagged 3 hurdle victories last term and built on encouraging fencing bow when winning 3-runner handicap chase at Carlisle (2½m, good to soft) in November. Even better form when third over 2m at Newbury since. Should continue to give a good account.	
<b>3</b>	<b>FIRST STREET (67) (C, D)</b>	<b>92</b>
	32330-454 7 11-10   74.4kg Nicky Henderson <i>Nico de Boinville</i> Four-time hurdle winner but he hasn't reached the same level in 3 attempts over fences. Not at best back hurdling in a 2m listed race here in October. Given a chance by the handicapper in this sphere but comes with risks back from wind surgery.	
<b>4</b>	<b>EL RIO (IRE) (46) (D)</b>	<b>93</b>
	F1/7P6P-11 7 11-8   73.5kg Kim Bailey <i>Tom Bellamy</i> Low-mileage 7-y-o who has won a pair of handicap chases around 2½m this autumn, impressing with his accurate jumping at Sandown latterly. A further 6 lb rise shouldn't prevent him going well on the hat-trick bid.	
<b>5</b>	<b>LEAVE OF ABSENCE (FR) (31) (C)</b>	<b>97</b>
	1/2 7 11-7   73.0kg Anthony Honeyball <i>Tom Cannon</i> Looked a smart prospect in bumpers and a novice hurdle for Chris Gordon in 2022. Showed he retains plenty of ability back from a long absence when second to Iberico Lord in 2-finisher course maiden chase (2¼m) a month ago. This is a much more competitive scenario, though.	
<b>6</b>	<b>ES PERFECTO (IRE) (31) (CD)</b>	<b>97</b>
	3/32338-1 9 11-6   72.6kg Alan King <i>Gavin Sheehan</i> Point/hurdles winner who made it fifth time lucky over fences when seeing off 6 rivals on his C&D reappearance a month ago. Possibly vulnerable to younger rivals in this after a 5 lb rise.	
<b>7</b>	<b>FIRE FLYER (IRE) (20)</b>	<b>100</b>
	2211P0-P2 6 11-6   72.6kg Paul Nicholls  <i>Harry Cobden</i> Won a pair of 19f novice hurdles last winter. Failed to make an impact in handicap hurdles subsequently but more like it switched to fences at Exeter 3 weeks ago, finishing a promising second over 17.5f. More to come, particularly now back up in trip.	
<b>8</b>	<b>TAPLEY (15) (C)</b>	<b>89</b>
	134-21864 7 11-0   69.9kg Suzy Smith <i>Charlie Deutsch</i> Fairly useful hurdler, including a win in 2m Plumpton handicap in October. However, has run below that level switched to fences in recent weeks and it remains to be seen whether this significant step up in trip makes any difference.	
<b>9</b>	<b>LEADER IN THE PARK (IRE) (39)</b>	<b>73</b>
	2614-5 6 11-0   69.9kg Ben Pauling <i>Ben Jones</i> Cost £250,000 from points and looked good when making all in 19.5f Doncaster maiden hurdle in February. Finished weakly when fifth of 7 on his Cheltenham chase debut but it was his first outing in 7 months and he remains with potential over fences.	

9 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**4-1** Asta La Pasta, **9-2** Range, **5-1** Fire Flyer, **9-1** Es Perfecto, **9-1** El Rio, **10-1** Leader In The Park, **10-1** Leave of Absence, **12-1** First Street, **40-1** bar

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

FIRE FLYER looks the part for chasing and there was plenty to like about his first attempt at Exeter 3 weeks ago. The front-running Range has also taken well to fences and is second choice ahead of Asta La Pasta and the hat-trick seeking El Rio in a competitive opener.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. FIRE FLYER 2. RANGE 3. ASTA LA PASTA**

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2023	<b>Blow Your Wad</b> 5-11-10	10-3f	Tom Lacey	Stan Sheppard	8
2022	<b>Balco Coastal</b> 6-11-3	7-2jf	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boinville	10
2021	<b>Jacamar</b> 6-10-13	11-1	Milton Harris	D. E. Mullins	8
2020	<b>Killer Clown</b> 6-10-5	9-2	Emma Lavelle	Adam Wedge	10
2019	<b>Commanche Red</b> 6-11-5	4-1	Chris Gordon	Paddy Brennan	11

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race








**1.20****LADBROKES KAUTO STAR NOVICES' CHASE (Grade 1) (1)**  
**4yo+ £100,000 3m (4830 Metres)**

RACE 2

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

Right handed, flat. It's a very fair course but, whilst the fences aren't necessarily regarded as stiff, the casualty rate has been high in recent seasons. Can represent a much stiffer test of stamina than expected on soft/heavy going.

Pace Information: **N/A**

<b>1</b>	<b>HYLAND (FR) (41)</b> (D)	<b>98</b>
	3602-1411 <b>7</b> 11-7   73.0kg Nicky Henderson <b>Nico de Boinville</b> Useful hurdler and even better chaser, making it 3-4 over the larger obstacles with a listed novice success at Cheltenham (3m, good to soft) 6 weeks ago. Has the form to be thereabouts but some of these have greater scope for improvement.	
<b>2</b>	<b>MASACCIO (IRE) (27)</b> (C)	<b>97</b>
	12510-212 <b>7</b> 11-7   73.0kg Alan King <b>Tom Cannon</b> Successful twice over hurdles last season and justified support when making winning chase debut in 2½m Newbury handicap (good to soft) in November. Bettered that form when 2 lengths second to The Jukebox Man back at Newbury 3 weeks later. No reason why he'll turn the tables on Ben Pauling's charge.	
<b>3</b>	<b>THE JUKEBOX MAN (IRE) (27)</b>	 <b>100</b>
	21/11322-1 <b>6</b> 11-7   73.0kg Ben Pauling <b>Ben Jones</b> Smart novice hurdler last season, including runner-up in 3m Grade 1s at Cheltenham and Aintree. Made a very promising winning start to his chase career in 2½m Newbury Grade 2 last month and there should be even more to come now returning to 3m. The one to beat.	
<b>4</b>	<b>WELCOM TO CARTRIES (FR) (20)</b>	<b>93</b>
	2128-4 <b>6</b> 11-7   73.0kg Paul Nicholls  <b>Harry Cobden</b> Useful novice hurdler last season. Shaped promisingly when 6 lengths fourth of 5 in 3m Sandown Grade 2 on chase debut, fading as if the outing was just needed. Should improve.	
<b>5</b>	<b>WHITE RHINO (IRE) (22)</b> (D)	<b>94</b>
	2/12134-11 <b>8</b> 11-7   73.0kg Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero <b>Henry Brooke</b> Good strike rate over hurdles and has taken it up a notch again over fences this season, winning handicaps at Ayr (20.5f) and Haydock (21.5f). His best hurdle form came around 3m so he can likely improve again now stepping back up in trip. Can make his mark at Graded level.	

5 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**evens** The Jukebox Man, **4-1** Hyland, **11-2** Masaccio, **8-1** White Rhino, **16-1** Welcom To Carries

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

THE JUKEBOX MAN looks like making an even better chaser than hurdler judged on last month's 2½m Newbury Grade 2 success and he'll be hard to beat back at 3m. The return to this trip should also suit White Rhino, who may be the one to give Ben Pauling's 6-y-o most to do on the back of comfortable handicap wins this autumn.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. THE JUKEBOX MAN 2. WHITE RHINO 3. HYLAND**

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2023	<b>Il Est Français</b> 5-11-7	13-8	N. George & A. Zetterholm	James Reveley	6
2022	<b>Thyme Hill</b> 8-11-7	11-2	Philip Hobbs	Tom O'Brien	5
2021	<b>Bravemansgame</b> 6-11-7	6-5	Paul Nicholls	Harry Cobden	4
2020	<b>Shan Blue</b> 6-11-7	7-4f	Dan Skelton	Harry Skelton	7
2019	<b>Slate House</b> 7-11-7	3-1	Colin Tizzard	Robbie Power	7

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race











**1.55****LADBROKES CHRISTMAS HURDLE (Grade 1) (1) 4yo+  
£130,000 2m (3220 Metres)**

RACE 3

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

Right handed, flat. It's a very fair course but, whilst the fences aren't necessarily regarded as stiff, the casualty rate has been high in recent seasons. Can represent a much stiffer test of stamina than expected on soft/heavy going.

Pace Information: **N/A**

<b>1</b>	<b>BURDETT ROAD (39)</b> (D)	t	<b>81</b>
	112-1 4 11-10   74.4kg		
	James Owen 	<b>Harry Cobden</b>	
	A listed winner on the Flat this autumn and a hurdle mark of 133 proved lenient when seeing off 14 rivals in the Greatwood at Cheltenham last month. Smart but he'll need to take a sizeable step forward to trouble the big 2 here.		
<b>2</b>	<b>CONSTITUTION HILL (366)</b> (CD)	 	<b>100</b>
	1111/1- 7 11-10   74.4kg		
	Nicky Henderson	<b>Nico de Boinville</b>	
	Outstanding unbeaten hurdler, including easy defeat of State Man in 2023 Champion Hurdle. Looked set for another dominant campaign when winning this last year but a setback forced him out of the Champion in the spring and he also missed his intended return at Newcastle due to lameness. Had wind op.		
<b>3</b>	<b>LUMP SUM (FR) (26)</b> (CD)		<b>81</b>
	3/11215-12 6 11-10   74.4kg		
	Sam Thomas 	<b>Dylan Johnston</b>	
	Won a Grade 2 novice over C&D last season and improved again to make a winning reappearance in the Welsh Champion Hurdle (handicap) at Ffos Las in October. Best of the rest behind Sir Gino in the Fighting Fifth at Newcastle since.		
<b>4</b>	<b>LOSSIEMOUTH (FR) (25)</b> (D)		<b>94</b>
	1211/11-11 5 11-3   71.2kg		
	W. P. Mullins, Ireland 	<b>P. Townend</b>	
	Unlucky when suffering her only defeat and easily won mares' Grade 1s at Cheltenham and Punchestown in spring. Underlined what a top-class mare she is when proving 3¾ lengths too strong for Teahupoo in the Hatton's Grace on 2½m Fairyhouse return. Drop back to 2m no issue for this strong traveller.		

4 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

10-11 Lossiemouth, 5-4 Constitution Hill, 22-1 Burdett Road, 25-1 Lump Sum

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

LOSSIEMOUTH has less to prove than the returning Constitution Hill, who has met with various setbacks since making it 8-8 over hurdles in this race 12 months ago and comes up against a rival who looks good enough to take advantage were he understandably not at his very best after a year off.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

1. LOSSIEMOUTH 2. CONSTITUTION HILL 3. BURDETT ROAD

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2023	<b>Constitution Hill</b> 6-11-10	1-12f	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boinville	5
2022	<b>Constitution Hill</b> 5-11-10	1-7f	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boinville	5
2021	<b>Epatante</b> 7-11-0	4-5f	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boinville	5
2020	<b>Silver Streak</b> 7-11-7	13-2	Evan Williams	Adam Wedge	5
2019	<b>Epatante</b> 5-11-0	2-1jf	Nicky Henderson	Barry Geraghty	10

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

2.30

**LADBROKES KING GEORGE VI CHASE (Grade 1) (1) 4yo+  
£260,050 3m (4830 Metres)**

RACE 4



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

Right handed, flat. It's a very fair course but, whilst the fences aren't necessarily regarded as stiff, the casualty rate has been high in recent seasons. Can represent a much stiffer test of stamina than expected on soft/heavy going.

Pace Information: **N/A**

- 1**

**BANBRIDGE (IRE) (18)** (C) s **99**

321/19-14U **8** 11-10 | 74.4kg

Joseph Patrick O'Brien, Ireland **P. Townend**

Landed 2m Grade 1 at Punchestown in April. Disappointing when well-held fourth on Navan return in November but in the process of producing a career best when unseating at the last in 2m Cork Grade 2 18 days ago, keeping on in close second behind Energumene at the time. Player if his stamina holds.
- 2**

**BRAVEMANSGAME (FR) (33)** (CD) b **94**

3/22256-23 **9** 11-10 | 74.4kg

Paul Nicholls **Harry Cobden**

Won this in 2022 and second last year. Not at best when behind some of these rivals in Charlie Hall at Wetherby and Betfair Chase at Haydock this season but a good C&D record (also won the Kauto Star) makes him a dangerous one to discount. The first-time blinkers worn at Haydock are retained.
- 3**

**CORBETTS CROSS (IRE) (59)** (D) **97**

R/312B13-2 **7** 11-10 | 74.4kg

Emmet Mullins, Ireland **Mr D. O'Connor**

High-class chaser who landed National Hunt Chase at Cheltenham in March before a fine third of 7 to Gerri Colombe in Bowl Chase at Aintree (25f, soft) the following month. Made a satisfactory return to action at Wexford in October.
- 4**

**ENVOI ALLEN (FR) (54)** (D) t **98**

714/3224-1 **10** 11-10 | 74.4kg

Henry de Bromhead, Ireland **Rachael Blackmore**

Three-time Cheltenham Festival winner. Drew a blank last season but back to winning ways when seeing off Hewick by ½ length in 3m Down Royal Grade 1 on reappearance. Thereabouts.
- 5**

**GENERAL EN CHEF (FR) (26)** s+h **89**

6711-3134 **8** 11-10 | 74.4kg

N. George & A. Zetterholm, France **Benjamin Gelhay**

Smart French chaser who was a fine third in the Grand Steeple-Chase de Paris at Auteuil in May. Ran well on form but didn't find much after travelling best when fourth in the Coral Gold Cup at Newbury last time. Has a first-time cheekpieces and refitted hood combination tried after that.
- 6**

**GREY DAWNING (IRE) (33)** (C, D, BF) **97**

F/312113-2 **7** 11-10 | 74.4kg

Dan Skelton **Harry Skelton**

Took really well to fences last term, including winning Grade 1 at Cheltenham. Good 2 lengths second to Royale Pagaille in Betfair Chase at Haydock (25.5f, heavy) on reappearance 33 days ago, outstayed after travelling best. There are even bigger performances in this 7-y-o who is unexposed at 3m.
- 7**

**IL EST FRANCAIS (FR) (39)** (CD, BF) **93**

15/1115-1P **6** 11-10 | 74.4kg

N. George & A. Zetterholm, France **James Reveley**

Looked very good with a dominant front-running display in the Kauto Star on this card last year. Back to that level with a sparkling reappearance win at Auteuil in September but pulled up in a Group 1 back there 7 weeks later (reported to have suffered a pulmonary haemorrhage).
- 8**

**JUNTOS GANAMOS (FR) (39)** t **92**

F1U11-U13 **5** 11-10 | 74.4kg

David Cottin, France **Felix de Giles**

Raced solely at Auteuil on soft/heavy ground, winning 8 of his 9 completed starts over fences, including Group 3 in October. Better than result when 11 lengths third to Gran Diose in Group 1 last time, losing ground after mistake 5 out but unable to sustain renewed effort on run-in. Should stay 3m.
- 9**

**L'HOMME PRESSE (FR) (286)** (D) **99**

1U/124- **9** 11-10 | 74.4kg

Venetia Williams **Charlie Deutsch**

Top-class chaser who had just been headed when unseating at the last in this race 2 years ago. Did enough to think he retains all his ability back from an absence early this year, including fourth in the Cheltenham Gold Cup. His yard's good form is a plus but left-handed tracks seem to suit better.
- 10**

**SPILLANE'S TOWER (IRE) (32)**  **100**

441121-12 **6** 11-10 | 74.4kg

James Joseph Mangan, Ireland **M. P. Walsh**

Won a pair of Grade 1 novice chases in the spring, including over 3m. Improved again when ½-length second of 8 to Fact To File in a very strong renewal of the John Durkan on 2½m Punchestown reappearance 32 days ago. Should have even more to offer back at 3m. Leading claims.

**11**

**THE REAL WHACKER (IRE) (54)** (D) t **94**

1/P42P5-U1 **8** 11-10 | 74.4kg

Patrick Neville **Gavin Sheehan**

Came up short at the top table last season (including 10 lengths fourth in this) but back to his best when making all in the Charlie Hall at Wetherby (3m, good) 54 days ago. Will find this harder to dominate.

11 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**11-4** Spillane's Tower, **5-1** Grey Dawning, **7-1** Banbridge, **7-1** Il Est Francais, **9-1** Envoi Allen, **12-1** Corbetts Cross, **16-1** L'homme Presse, **25-1** Bravemansgame, **28-1** Juntos Ganamos, **33-1** The Real Whacker, **150-1** bar

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

SPILLANE'S TOWER made a very encouraging return to action in the John Durkan and looks the way to go with further progress likely now back at 3m. Banbridge was giving Energumene a race when unseating at the last at Cork 18 days ago and, with ground conditions likely to be ideal for him, could give the selection most do if his stamina holds now tackling 3m for only the second time in his career. Betfair Chase runner-up Grey Dawning looks best of the British.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. SPILLANE'S TOWER 2. BANBRIDGE 3. GREY DAWNING**

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2023	<b>Hewick</b> 8-11-10	12-1 John Joseph Hanlon	Gavin Sheehan	6
2022	<b>Bravemansgame</b> 7-11-10	11-4 Paul Nicholls	Harry Cobden	9
2021	<b>Tornado Flyer</b> 8-11-10	28-1 W. P. Mullins	D. E. Mullins	9
2020	<b>Frodon</b> 8-11-10	20-1 Paul Nicholls	Bryony Frost	9
2019	<b>Clan des Obeaux</b> 7-11-10	11-2 Paul Nicholls	Sam Twiston-Davies	5

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

**3.05**

**LADBROKES "GAFFER OF ALL ACCAS" MAIDEN HURDLE (2)**  
**4yo+ £22,000 2m (3220 Metres)**


RACE 5





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


Right handed, flat. It's a very fair course but, whilst the fences aren't necessarily regarded as stiff, the casualty rate has been high in recent seasons. Can represent a much stiffer test of stamina than expected on soft/heavy going.


Pace Information: **N/A**


**1 BEAU QUALI (FR) (56) 92**  
 2-24 4 11-4 | 71.7kg  
 Dan Skelton *Harry Skelton*  
 Runner-up in a juvenile hurdle in France in March (sole start for David Cottin). Filled the same position at Chepstow on first start for Dan Skelton and ran to a fair level again when fourth at Stratford at the end of October. Freshened up since.


**2 CLASSIC SPEED (IRE) 79**  
 4 11-4 | 71.7kg  
 Brian Toomey *James Reveley*  
 Has landed a pair of 1m AW Flat handicaps here for Brian Toomey, including on latest start in October. Now goes hurdling after a short break.


**3 CRESTA CAT (19) 86**  
 5 4 11-4 | 71.7kg  
 Gary & Josh Moore *Freddie Mitchell*  
 Fairly useful on the Flat, recording a hat-trick of low-grade handicaps at up to 1½m in October. Found a listed novice too hot to handle on his Sandown hurdle debut 19 days ago but could make more of an impact with his sights lowered now.


**4 JACK HYDE (IRE) (695) (D) 87**  
 631/ 6 11-4 | 71.7kg t  
 Fergal O'Brien *Connor Brace*  
 Won a Newcastle bumper for Thomas Gallagher in January 2023. Absent since but still needs checking out in the betting on hurdle debut for a leading new stable with a tongue tie added.

**5 MOONSHINE MAN (IRE) (30) 86**  
 572 5 11-4 | 71.7kg  
 Henrietta C Knight *Harry Cobden*  
 Showed a fair level of ability when runner-up in 2m Sandown maiden on only his second hurdle start but he'll need to step up a good deal on that form to go one better here.

**6 NAP HAND (IRE) 97**  
 4 11-4 | 71.7kg  
 Alan King *Tom Cannon*  
 Useful handicapper on Flat (stays 1¼m), winning twice this autumn. Should be up to making his presence felt in a race like this now hurdling.

**7 RASCALLION (FR) (31) 89**  
 2 5 11-4 | 71.7kg h  
 Keiran Burke *Charlie Deutsch*  
 Fair Flat winner and ran to a similar level when second of 8 on Ludlow hurdle debut for new trainer Kieran Burke 31 days ago. Will almost certainly require a bigger performance to go one better here, though. Hooded first time.

**8 YOUDECIDE (IRE) (8) 75**  
 583 4 11-4 | 71.7kg  
 Ben Pauling *Ben Jones*  
 Irish point winner. Hasn't bettered modest form in a bumper and 2 hurdles in recent weeks but he caught the eye a bit when third at Newbury last week. Capable of better at some point but might be best watched this time.

**9 KIENTZHEIM (FR) (313) 100** ★  
 211- 4 10-11 | 68.5kg  
 Nicky Henderson *Nico de Boinville*  
 Dual bumper winner in France for Armand Lefevre at the start of 2024. Very interesting hurdle newcomer with market confidence likely significant.

9 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**  
**85-40** Kientzheim, **11-4** Nap Hand, **11-2** Beau Quali, **9-1** Rascallion, **14-1** Jack Hyde, **20-1** Moonshine Man, **20-1** Cresta Cat, **50-1** bar

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**  
 KIENTZHEIM is from the family of 2020 Champion Hurdle winner Epatante, who J P McManus also acquired from Armand Lefevre after winning 2 French bumpers. That top-class mare also made a successful start to her hurdle over this C&D and this 4-y-o is taken to do likewise, with confidence in her chance increased should the betting vibes be strong. Nap Hand s another interesting recruit to hurdles and is second choice ahead of Dan Skelton's Beau Quali.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. KIENTZHEIM 2. NAP HAND 3. BEAU QUALI**

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2023	<b>Court In The Act</b> 4-11-4	11-4	Harry Derham	Paul O'Brien	10
2022	<b>Rare Edition</b> 5-11-10	7-2	Charlie Longsdon	Sam Twiston-Davies	10
2021	<b>Broomfield Burg</b> 5-11-5	1-3f	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boinville	5
2020	<b>Third Time Lucki</b> 5-11-8	11-10f	Dan Skelton	Harry Skelton	6
2019	<b>Fred</b> 4-11-0	9-2	Nicky Henderson	Barry Geraghty	8

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race



**3.40**

RACE 6

**LADBROKES GET REWARDED WITH LADBUCKS HANDICAP HURDLE (3) 3yo+ (Rated 0-140) £24,000 2m5f (4220 Metres)**Going: **Good (Good to Soft in places)**


Right handed, flat. It's a very fair course but, whilst the fences aren't necessarily regarded as stiff, the casualty rate has been high in recent seasons. Can represent a much stiffer test of stamina than expected on soft/heavy going.

Pace Information: **N/A****1 HERMINO AA (FR) (27) (D) 99**

UP30243-1 7 12-0 | 76.2kg

Gary &amp; Josh Moore

**Freddie Mitchell (5lb/2kg)**


 Better than ever when making a winning reappearance at Newbury (3m) under Freddie Mitchell 4 weeks ago, leaving the impression he was idling a bit on the run-in so there might have been more there if needed. Down in trip.

**2 SUPREME GIFT (IRE) (29) v 98**

14P213-71 7 11-12 | 75.3kg

Henry Daly

**Tom Bellamy**

 Useful hurdle and chase winner who showed the benefit of his reappearance when taking a 23f Market Rasen handicap hurdle last month. His record since fitted with a visor is solid and he should remain competitive up 3 lb.

**3 EMAILANDY (IRE) (40) (D) s+t 96**

1322319-0 6 11-7 | 73.0kg

Paul Nicholls **Harry Cobden**

 Resumed winning ways at Plumpton (20.5f) in March but well held at Sandown on final start. Similar story on 3m Cheltenham reappearance last month but he should come on for the run.

**4 MAHONS GLORY (IRE) (108) (CD) s+h+t 97**

3/5180-24P 8 11-6 | 72.6kg

Patrick Neville

**Dylan Johnston (3lb/1kg)**

 Won this race last year. Got back on track sent chasing when runner-up in novice handicap at Southwell (20.5f) in June but looked less than keen when pulled up at Perth in September. 6 lb higher than 12 months ago and others are preferred this time.

**5 DODDIETHEGREAT (IRE) (31) (CD) 99**

12407-5 8 11-3 | 71.2kg

Nicky Henderson

**Nico de Boinville**


 Didn't take to fences here on his reappearance but this C&D winner is potentially well treated back hurdling having dipped to 3 lb lower than when a good fourth of 21 in the ultra-competitive Betfair Hurdle at Newbury in February. The mount of de Boinville from the yard's trio.

**6 SAMUEL SPADE (GER) (26) (C, D) 97**

410610-32 5 10-13 | 69.4kg

Ben Pauling

**Ben Jones**


 Capitalised on the ease in grade when scoring at Huntingdon (20.5f) in March. Creditable placed efforts at Sandown and Doncaster on his return in November but his jumping can lack fluency.

**7 EAST INDIA EXPRESS (IRE) (6) (CD) ★ 100**

1/142-U1 5 10-11 | 68.5kg

Nicky Henderson

**Freddie Gordon (5lb/2kg)**


 Lightly-raced 5-y-o who added to his good record fresh when returning from 8 months off to land an Ascot conditional jockeys' handicap (21.5f, good to soft) last Friday. Obvious chance off the same mark if this doesn't come too soon.

**8 IN THE AIR (FR) (28) (BF) 97**

0P0-41162 6 10-11 | 68.5kg

Nicky Henderson

**Tom Cannon**

 Won first 2 starts for Nicky Henderson in October. Only sixth at Cheltenham later that month but back on the up when going down by only a neck to the reopposing King of The Road at Taunton (19f) 4 weeks ago. One of 3 runners from his top stable.

**9 KING OF THE ROAD (IRE) (28) 97**

78911-461 5 10-3 | 64.9kg

Ben Pauling

**Gavin Sheehan**

 Made it 3 handicap wins in his last 5 starts when holding on gamely from the reopposing In The Air at Taunton (19f, good to soft) 4 weeks ago. A further 6 lb rise demands more but no surprise were he to find it.

9 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**7-2** East India Express, **11-2** Doddiethegreat, **6-1** In The Air, **8-1** Hermino Aa, **8-1** King of The Road, **9-1** Supreme Gift, **10-1** Emailandy, **12-1** Samuel Spade, **25-1** Mahons Glory

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

Nicky Henderson holds a strong hand in a race he's won twice since 2020. DODDIETHEGREAT has been given a chance by the handicapper and might be worth siding with over stablemate East India Express, who goes off the same mark as when successful at Ascot last Friday but this is a second outing in quick succession after a break. Supreme Gift may prove best of the remainder.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:****1. DODDIETHEGREAT 2. EAST INDIA EXPRESS 3. SUPREME GIFT****WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2023	<b>Mahons Glory</b> 7-11-2	11-1	Patrick Neville	Sam Twiston-Davies	7
2022	<b>Grey Dawning</b> 5-11-0	5-4f	Dan Skelton	Harry Skelton	15
2021	<b>Marie's Rock</b> 6-11-4	15-2	Nicky Henderson	A. P. Heskin	8
2020	<b>Monte Cristo</b> 4-11-7	25-1	Nicky Henderson	Daryl Jacob	15
2019	<b>Honest Vic</b> 6-11-9	10-1	Henry Daly	Tom Scudamore	16

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race