

Friday 27th December

CHEPSTOW



12.00

PLAY CORAL "RACING-SUPER-SERIES" FOR FREE NOVICES' HURDLE (Qualifier) (3) 2m11y (3230 Metres)

RACE 1 **(1) CLAP OF THUNDER | (7) SHADE OF WINTER | (10) YHPRUM'S LAW**

12.30

CORAL RACING CLUB JOIN FOR FREE HANDICAP HURDLE (4) 2m11y (3230 Metres)

RACE 2 **(1) KING WILLIAM RUFUS | (5) GOLD FOR ALEC | (8) RAZZLE DAZZLE BOY**

1.05

CORAL "WE'RE HERE FOR IT" HANDICAP CHASE (2) 2m3f98y (3910 Metres)

RACE 3 **(4) LOWRY'S BAR | (5) NOCTE VOLATUS | (7) GEORGES SAINT**

1.40

CORAL FINALE JUVENILE HURDLE (Grade 2) (1) 2m11y (3230 Metres)

RACE 4 **(1) NIETZSCHE HAS | (9) OPEC | (6) MELON**

2.10

CORAL "DAILY REWARDS SHAKER" HANDICAP HURDLE (2) 2m7f131y (4750 Metres)

RACE 5 **(1) WOODIE FLASH | (3) PHANTOMOFTHEPOINTS | (4) TUNE IN A BOX**

2.50

CORAL WELSH GRAND NATIONAL HANDICAP CHASE (Premier Handicap) (1) 3¾m130y (6150 Metres)

RACE 6 **(1) FONTAINE COLLONGES | (2) IWILLDOIT | (10) JUBILEE EXPRESS**

3.25

CORAL "PIPPED-AT-THE POST" AND WIN HANDICAP CHASE (4) 2m11y (3230 Metres)

RACE 7 **(5) KING OF TARA | (6) DAVID'S WELL | (2) DR T J ECKLEBURG**

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.

12.00

RACE 1

PLAY CORAL "RACING-SUPER-SERIES" FOR FREE NOVICES' HURDLE (Qualifier) (3) 4yo+ £15,000 2m11y (3230 Metres)




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


Chepstow is a left-handed, undulating, oval course, nearly two miles around with eleven fences to a circuit, a five-furlong home straight and a run-in of 250 yards. Conditions can be very testing. With five fences in the straight, the first part of which is downhill, front runners - or those leading into the straight - do well here, especially over shorter distances, and the fences don't claim the number of casualties that might be expected.

Pace Information: **Contested**



1 CLAP OF THUNDER (IRE) (42) (D) 100
3252-415 4 11-6 | 72.6kg

 Nigel Twiston-Davies  **Sam Twiston-Davies**
Placed on 3 of 4 starts in bumpers last season. Struck at the second time of asking over hurdles when readily seeing off 5 rivals in a 2m Ascot novice last month. Shaped better when result when fifth of 15 in 2m Cheltenham handicap a fortnight later. Remains capable of better and the one to beat.


2 JULIUS DES PICTONS (FR) (25) 96
3421/22-21 5 11-6 | 72.6kg

 Jamie Snowden **Gavin Sheehan**
French recruit who struck at the second time of asking for Jamie Snowden in 20.5f Plumpton maiden 25 days ago. Should be competitive under a penalty back down in trip.


3 DIAMOND DAYS (IRE) (40) 8P
8P 4 11-0 | 69.9kg

 Joe Tizzard  **Brendan Powell**
Last in a bumper and pulled up in a Fontwell novice hurdle in recent months. Can't make a case for.


4 LANESBOROUGH (IRE) (11) 81
55 5 11-0 | 69.9kg

 Ben Pauling **Liam Harrison**
Placed both starts in Irish points. Only modest form when doing likewise in 2m maiden hurdles this winter but there's a bigger performance in him at some point.


5 MONTANA GOLDEN (IRE) (16) 71
25P6 5 11-0 | 69.9kg

 Jonjo & A.J. O'Neill **Jonjo O'Neill Jr.**
Fair form in bumpers in the summer but won't be of interest over hurdles until handicapping judged on his 2 effort this winter.


6 ON THE OCHE (IRE) 9
9 11-0 | 69.9kg

 Thomas Faulkner **James Best**
Out of a close relation of smart hurdler/high-class chaser Mister McGoldrick but makes a very belated debut just a few days shy of his tenth birthday.


7 SHADE OF WINTER (IRE) (35) h 85
2-3 4 11-0 | 69.9kg

 Evan Williams **Adam Wedge**
Finished last of 2 finishers in an Irish point. Didn't achieve much when 14 lengths second in a course bumper in the spring but showed promise when 9 lengths third on C&D hurdle debut with a hood added (retained) 5 weeks ago. Open to progress.


8 TIGERS MOON (11) 68
90 4 11-0 | 69.9kg

 Tom Ellis **Mr Jack Andrews (3lb/1kg)**
Down the field in 2 maiden hurdles at Southwell this month and more one for the longer term.


9 WILD NEPHIN (16) 86
36 5 11-0 | 69.9kg

 Ryan Potter **Conor Ring**
Took 7 attempts to get off the mark in points. Has offered something to work on in a pair of Hereford novice hurdles in recent weeks but looks more one for handicaps.

10 YHPRUM'S LAW (IRE) (17) 87
6-F3 5 11-0 | 69.9kg

 Dan Skelton **Harry Skelton**
Kayf Tara gelding who could only manage sixth in his sole bumper last season but promising third in 2m Uttoxeter maiden on his completed start over hurdles this time round. Capable of better again for top yard.

11 PIPER PARK (IRE) (328) (BF) 3-
5 10-7 | 66.7kg

 Tom Lacey **Stan Sheppard**
£205,000 Irish point recruit who made an encouraging enough start under Rules with a hood fitted (not on here) in Wetherby bumper in February. Interesting hurdles prospect.

11 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

7-4 Clap of Thunder, **3-1** Julius Des Pictons, **7-1** Yhprum's Law, **15-2** Shade of Winter, **11-1** Piper Park, **18-1** Lanesborough, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

CLAP OF THUNDER shaped quite well in a warm Cheltenham handicap last month and might be up to defying a penalty with further progress likely. Evan Williams tasted success in this race a couple of years ago and his Shade of Winter is respected after making a sound start to his hurdling career over C&D last month. Yhprum's Law and Tom Lacey's Piper Park are others who could have a say.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. CLAP OF THUNDER 2. SHADE OF WINTER 3. YHPRUM'S LAW

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2023	Ito Ditto 5-11-7	4-1	Nicky Martin	James Bowen	13
2022	Out of Office 4-11-0	7-4f	Evan Williams	Adam Wedge	15
2021	Seventeen O Four 4-10-12	2-1f	David Pipe	Fergus Gillard (3)	13
2021	Witness Protection 8-11-5	9-2	Martin Keighley	James Best	11

SMART STATS:

£50.79 Ben Pauling's profit to a £1 level stake when having only one runner on the card (hurdles) (saddles: **LANESBOROUGH**)

64 The number of WESTERNER's progeny with wins on their hurdling debut (Sires: **ON THE OCHE**)

22% Jamie Snowden's strike rate with hurdlers at up to 2m2f (saddles: **JULIUS DES PICTONS**)

12.30**CORAL RACING CLUB JOIN FOR FREE HANDICAP HURDLE (4)
3yo+ (Rated 0-115) £15,000 2m11y (3230 Metres)****RACE 2**Going: **Soft (Good to Soft in places)**

Chepstow is a left-handed, undulating, oval course, nearly two miles around with eleven fences to a circuit, a five-furlong home straight and a run-in of 250 yards. Conditions can be very testing. With five fences in the straight, the first part of which is downhill, front runners - or those leading into the straight - do well here, especially over shorter distances, and the fences don't claim the number of casualties that might be expected.

Pace Information: **Contested**

1 KING WILLIAM RUFUS (FR) (7lb/3kg ex) (7) (D) **100**
5612-2221 **7** 12-5 | 78.5kg

Chris Gordon **Freddie Gordon** (5lb/2kg)
Likeable front-runner who put an end to a frustrating run of seconds when the dominant winner of what had looked a competitive handicap hurdle at Ascot (2m, good to soft) last Friday. A penalty may not stop him if showing up here in the same form.

2 CASTELFORT (FR) (27) (CD) **88**
21126-0 **4** 12-0 | 76.2kg

Mrs Jane Williams **David Noonan**
Showed fairly useful form when winning a pair of juvenile events last season but has struggled in his 2 handicaps, including the Gerry Feilden on Newbury reappearance 4 weeks ago. Still early days but bounce back needed.

3 BUCEPHALUS (GER) (22) (D) **96**
33812-2F **7** 12-0 | 76.2kg

Neil Mulholland **Harriet Tucker** (7lb/3kg)
Came good in this sphere when taking a 2m Newbury handicap in March. Runner-up twice later in the spring but fell first back hurdling at Wincanton 3 weeks ago.

4 FARMER'S GAMBLE (24) **90**
2210/PPF-P **8** 11-9 | 73.9kg

Dan Skelton **Harry Skelton**
Exeter handicap hurdle winner in February 2023 but has found life tough since, pulling up for the third time in his last 4 starts on Southwell reappearance 24 days ago. Could only consider if backed.

5 GOLD FOR ALEC (FR) (34) (D) **98**
5444-21 **4** 11-9 | 73.9kg

Tom Symonds **Callum Pritchard** (7lb/3kg)
Improved model in handicaps this autumn, building on his C&D second in October when landing 9-runner contest at Huntingdon (2m) 5 weeks ago. Needs considering up 5 lb given his low-mileage profile.

6 TOMMIE GUN (IRE) (22) (D) **96**
14634-F83 **5** 11-8 | 73.5kg

Nigel Twiston-Davies **Sam Twiston-Davies**
Southwell maiden hurdle winner last December and has made the frame on 3 of 4 handicap hurdle starts, on the latest finishing 4 lengths third of 9 at Leicester (20.5f). Back down in trip.

7 ROYAL KING (FR) (20) **93**
7P24-5F42 **4** 11-8 | 73.5kg

Tom Ellis **Mr Jack Andrews** (3lb/1kg)
Capable of fair form over fences in France. Better efforts over hurdles for new year when second of 8 in 2m Wetherby handicap (heavy) 3 weeks ago. Needs to build on that now.

8 RAZZLE DAZZLE BOY (IRE) (21) (D) **95**
52361 **4** 11-7 | 73.0kg

Tim Vaughan **Alan Johns**
Solid sixth of 15 in handicap at Cheltenham (2m, good to soft) in November before coming good at Sandown (2m, soft) 3 weeks ago, showing a willing attitude to fend off one who ran well again when chasing home King William Rufus at Ascot last week.

9 KORUS (FR) (25) **93**
3-623 **4** 11-7 | 73.0kg

Warren Greatrex **Sean Bowen**
Half-brother to 4 winners. Shaped well in bumpers in the spring and placed in maiden/novice hurdles on return this winter. Unexposed now making a quick switch to handicaps.

10 SHE'S MY SHADOW (IRE) (219) (BF) **94**
22-P **6** 11-6 | 72.6kg

Robbie Llewellyn **Liam Harrison**
Placed on the last of 3 starts in points back in 2022. Promising return to action when runner-up novice/maiden hurdles here (2m/19.5f) in April. Something amiss when pulled up (odds-on favourite) at Southwell in May. Switches to handicap company back from a break. Betting informative.

11 MELTON MOSSY (IRE) (9) (D) **97**
15416132 **5** 11-3 | 71.2kg

Evan Williams **Miss Eleanor Williams** (7lb/3kg)
Gained a fourth win of a very productive first half of the season when striking under Eleanor Williams at Ludlow (21f, good to soft) in November. Two creditable placed efforts back there since and no reason why he won't give his running again.

12 DOUBLE CLICK (IRE) (26) (CD) **97**
902412-63 **6** 11-3 | 71.2kg

Jamie Snowden **Will Featherstone** (7lb/3kg)
Ended last season with a win and second over this C&D. Off 7 months, creditable third of 9 at Leicester (2m, heavy) 26 days ago. Respected back at a venue which suits.

13 PASSING KATE (22) **95**
1231323-1 **7** 10-12 | 68.9kg

Matt Sheppard **Stan Sheppard**
Gained third handicap hurdle win (all on soft/heavy) when comfortably seeing off 5 rivals on 2m Leicester reappearance 3 weeks ago. Hit with an 8 lb rise for winning an uncompetitive race but ground conditions should be in her favour again.

14 HEDERA PARK (IRE) (12) (C) **95**
6F8713P4 **6** 10-10 | 68.0kg

Debra Hamer **Gavin Sheehan**
Benefitted from a patient ride when winning 18-runner course handicap (19.5f, good to soft) in November. Creditable third at Taunton (19f, good) the following week but below par twice since. A return to Chepstow needs to spark a revival.

15 DEMILION (IRE) (21) **93**
9-4455 **4** 10-7 | 66.7kg

Alexandra Dunn **Adam Wedge**
Fairly useful handicapper at best on Flat (stays 12.5f) for Charlie Johnston but ended 2023 out of sorts. Yet to get near that level over hurdles. Not showing enough when fifth in handicaps in recent weeks to be positive about his prospects here.

15 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

4-1 King William Rufus, **6-1** Gold For Alec, **10-1** Razzle Dazzle Boy, **10-1** Passing Kate, **12-1** Melton Mossy, **12-1** Bucephalus, **14-1** Double Click, **14-1** Tommie Gun, **18-1** Royal King, **18-1** Korus, **20-1** Castelfort, **25-1** She's My Shadow, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

If KING WILLIAM RUFUS is in the same form as when dominating another big-field handicap at Ascot last Friday he'll likely take a bit of pegging back. Gold For Alec has made a positive start to his handicap career in recent months and is second choice ahead of fellow 4-y-o Razzle Dazzle Boy, whose latest Sandown defeat of Fasol looks solid.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. KING WILLIAM RUFUS 2. GOLD FOR ALEC 3. RAZZLE DAZZLE BOY

SMART STATS:

22% Jamie Snowden's strike rate with hurdlers at up to 2m2f (saddles: **DOUBLE CLICK**)

22% Robbie Llewellyn's strike rate in early season (saddles: **SHE'S MY SHADOW**)

1.05

CORAL "WE'RE HERE FOR IT" HANDICAP CHASE (2) 4yo+ £35,000 2m3f98y (3910 Metres)

RACE 3



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

Chepstow is a left-handed, undulating, oval course, nearly two miles around with eleven fences to a circuit, a five-furlong home straight and a run-in of 250 yards. Conditions can be very testing. With five fences in the straight, the first part of which is downhill, front runners - or those leading into the straight - do well here, especially over shorter distances, and the fences don't claim the number of casualties that might be expected.

Pace Information: **Contested**

1 PAINT THE DREAM (14) (CD) t 97
34133/8 10 12-0 | 76.2kg



David Brace *Connor Brace*
Three of 4 wins over fences have come at Newbury, including Grade 3 handicap in 2022. Not disgraced when third in bid to win that same race 12 months later but looked very much in need of run for new yard having been off the best part of 2 years at Cheltenham 2 weeks ago. Likely to need this again.

2 FIDELIO VALLIS (FR) (27) 99
2/241-P 9 11-11 | 74.8kg



Harry Derham *Miss Megan Fox (7lb/3kg)*
Ended last season with a career-best win at Musselburgh (20.3f, soft) on New Year's Day. Shaped as if needing the run on first outing since at Newbury 4 weeks ago and better expected now.

3 LE MILOS (27) (D) s 97
20/3007-54 9 11-10 | 74.4kg



Dan Skelton *Harry Skelton*
Big improver over fences for this yard in 2022/23, winning the Coral Gold Cup at Newbury. Disappointed last season, however, and hasn't shown enough both starts this term to suggest he's about to take advantage of his reduced mark.

4 LOWRY'S BAR (IRE) (21) (C, D) 99
11112-421 6 11-7 | 73.0kg



Philip Hobbs & Johnson White *Micheal Nolan*
Winner of his first 4 starts over hurdles last term and confirmed chase debut promise when narrow winner at Exeter 3 weeks ago. Likely more to come in this sphere yet.

5 NOCTE VOLATUS (35) (CD) t 100
23346-112 9 10-12 | 68.9kg



Tom Lacey *Stan Sheppard*
Took advantage of a drop in the weights to score for the first time in over 2 years at Uttoxeter in May and picked up where he left off when following up over C&D on return. Beaten only by a well-handicapped one at Ascot since and remains of interest.

6 EDEN DU HOUX (FR) (34) (C, D) s+t 97
881P2P/4-P 10 10-8 | 67.1kg



David Pipe *Jack Tudor*
Doubled his tally in this sphere at Ffos Las back in November 2022 but very lightly raced since and there were no positives to take from last month's reappearance spin at Haydock.

7 GEORGES SAINT (FR) (269) (D) 98
235/41134- 8 10-6 | 66.2kg



Venetia Williams *Ned Fox (3lb/1kg)*
Drew a blank over hurdles for current connections but upped his game sent chasing last term, scoring at Ffos Las (19.4f) and Fakenham (21.2f). Ran no sort of race at Ludlow final start but type to bounce back

8 CAN YOU CALL (35) (D) t 99
94/2332-05 9 10-2 | 64.4kg



Evan Williams *Adam Wedge*
Fairly useful hurdles/chase winner who ran well on 3 of his 4 starts returned to fences last term, including when runner-up at this C&D on reappearance. Below par here both starts this season, though was at least better for return when fifth last time.

8 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

2-1 Lowry's Bar, **11-4** Nocte Volatus, **13-2** Georges Saint, **9-1** Le Milos, **14-1** Fidelio Vallis, **18-1** Can You Call, **25-1** Paint The Dream, **28-1** Eden Du Houx

TIMEFORM VIEW:

With so much to like about his profile, improving novice LOWRY'S BAR looks the way to go. The thriving Nocte Volatus was denied the hat-trick only by a subsequent winner at Ascot and is the obvious threat.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. LOWRY'S BAR 2. NOCTE VOLATUS 3. GEORGES SAINT

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2023	Quel Destin 8-10-4	7-1	Paul Nicholls	Harry Cobden	4
2022	Fugitif 7-10-7	6-1	Richard Hobson	Gavin Sheehan	12
2021	Golden Whisky 8-10-5	12-1	Evan Williams	Adam Wedge	9
2021	Cepage 9-11-12	11-4	Venetia Williams	Charlie Deutsch	6
2019	Tiquer 11-10-7	16-1	Alan Jones	Paddy Brennan	7

SMART STATS:

4	Venetia Williams's number of winners in past 10 runnings. (saddles: GEORGES SAINT)
£79.81	Venetia Williams's profit to a £1 level stake with chasers running after a break (saddles: GEORGES SAINT)
21%	Tom Lacey's strike rate with chasers at up to 2m3f (saddles: NOCTE VOLATUS)

1.40

CORAL FINALE JUVENILE HURDLE (Grade 2) (1) 3yo
£80,000 2m11y (3230 Metres)

RACE 4



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

Chepstow is a left-handed, undulating, oval course, nearly two miles around with eleven fences to a circuit, a five-furlong home straight and a run-in of 250 yards. Conditions can be very testing. With five fences in the straight, the first part of which is downhill, front runners - or those leading into the straight - do well here, especially over shorter distances, and the fences don't claim the number of casualties that might be expected.

Pace Information: **Contested**

1 NIETZSCHE HAS (FR) (40) t **100**
 11-1432 3 11-5 | 72.1kg

Marcel Roland, France **Ludovic Philipperon**
 Raced only at Auteuil on soft/heavy, winning a 17.5f Group 3 in May. Best effort yet when good 1¼ lengths second of 8 to Sain d'Esprit in Group 1 Prix Cambaceres there (2¼m) last month. Sets a good standard.

2 HOT FUSS (IRE) (21) (D) s **86**
 21 3 11-3 | 71.2kg

Tom Dascombe **Harry Skelton**
 Useful Flat performer who chased home subsequent Cheltenham Grade 2 winner East India Dock on his Wincanton hurdle debut in October before making all at Sandown (2m, soft) 3 weeks ago. May do better again.

3 MISTER CESSNA (FR) (144) (BF) **85**
 P3-133 3 11-3 | 71.2kg

Fergal O'Brien **Jonathan Burke**
 Quite useful form in juvenile hurdles in France, including a win at Dax in June. Third in a Clairefontaine chase on final start there in August. Pitched in quite deep on this first start for new yard.

4 STATIC (FR) (41) **87**
 213R1622 3 11-3 | 71.2kg

Olly Murphy **Sean Bowen**
 Dual winner over hurdles in France and runner-up both starts in Britain, albeit he was beaten 18 lengths by East India Dock in Cheltenham Grade 2 latterly.

5 MARCHE D'ALIGRE (FR) (30) (D) **83**
 1 3 11-0 | 69.9kg

Jamie Snowden **Gavin Sheehan**
 Fairly useful Flat winner in France and struck at the first time of asking over hurdles in 2m Wetherby juvenile last month. Probably didn't beat much but he did it easily and rates a sure-fire improver.

6 MELON (GER) (14) **81**
 1 3 11-0 | 69.9kg

Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero **Henry Brooke**
 Much improved on the Flat when making a successful handicap debut over 1¾m on heavy ground at Haydock in September. Created a good impression when following up on Doncaster hurdle debut a fortnight ago and there's definitely more to come.

7 MY NOBLE LORD (USA) (41) (CD) **82**
 15 3 11-0 | 69.9kg

Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero **Jonjo O'Neill Jr.**
 Four-time Flat winner for Michael Bell in 2024. Also made a successful start over hurdles for new connections in C&D juvenile in October but could only manage a remote fifth when pitched into a Cheltenham Grade 2 the following month, not jumping with fluency.

8 TORRENT (41) (D) s **84**
 121233 3 11-0 | 69.9kg

Nigel Hawke **David Noonan**
 Fair on Flat and has quickly reached a higher level over hurdles, winning twice. However, limitations seemingly exposed when third in Wetherby listed and Cheltenham Grade 2 (beaten 18½ lengths) on last 2 outings.

9 OPEC (28) (D) **91**
 F111 3 10-12 | 68.9kg

James Owen **Sam Twiston-Davies**
 Has left her Flat form behind since switched to hurdling, winning all 3 completed starts, the latest a fillies' listed race at Newbury by 8 lengths from Prairie Angel. Soft ground would be an unknown but still much respected for a stable doing so well in juvenile hurdles this season.

9 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

5-6 Nietzsche Has, **5-1** Opec, **12-1** Hot Fuss, **12-1** Melon, **16-1** Static, **18-1** Marche D'aligre, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

NIETZSCHE HAS is clear on form and can become the first French-trained winner of this since 2006. Opec hasn't done anything wrong and is second choice ahead of Melon, who looked potentially useful when sluicing up at Doncaster a couple of weeks ago.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. NIETZSCHE HAS 2. OPEC 3. MELON

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2023	Salver 3-11-0	5-4f Gary Moore	Caoilin Quinn	5
2022	Comfort Zone 3-11-0	10-11f Joseph Patrick O'Brien	Jonjo O'Neill Jr.	9
2021	Porticello 3-11-0	10-3 Gary Moore	Jamie Moore	11
2021	Adagio 4-11-0	5-2 David Pipe	Tom Scudamore	8
2019	Allmankind 3-11-0	6-5f Dan Skelton	Harry Skelton	8

SMART STATS:

24%	James Owen's strike rate with hurdlers at up to 2m2f (saddles: OPEC)
25%	James Owen's strike rate in early season (saddles: OPEC)
22%	Jamie Snowden's strike rate with hurdlers at up to 2m2f (saddles: MARCHE D'ALIGRE)

2.10**CORAL "DAILY REWARDS SHAKER" HANDICAP HURDLE (2)
4yo+ (Rated 0-145) £30,000 2m7f131y (4750 Metres)**

RACE 5

GBI RACINGGoing: **Soft (Good to Soft in places)**

Chepstow is a left-handed, undulating, oval course, nearly two miles around with eleven fences to a circuit, a five-furlong home straight and a run-in of 250 yards. Conditions can be very testing. With five fences in the straight, the first part of which is downhill, front runners - or those leading into the straight - do well here, especially over shorter distances, and the fences don't claim the number of casualties that might be expected.

Pace Information: **Contested**

1 WOODIE FLASH (IRE) (28) (D, BF) s 99
35131F-12 6 12-0 | 76.2kg



Olly Murphy

Sean Bowen

Made a winning return at Ffos Las (3m) and backed it up with a very good second of 11 at Newbury (3m, good to soft) 28 days ago. Big player again.

2 MAJOR FORTUNE (IRE) (41) 97
111112-16 6 11-12 | 75.3kg



Dan Skelton

Harry Skelton

Big improver when stepped up to 2½m+ last season, winning 5 on the spin. Picked up where he left off when scoring with plenty in hand at Newton Abbot (17f) in October but a further 9 lb rise found him out in a stronger race at Cheltenham since.

3 PHANTOMOF THEPOINTS (IRE) (34) (C) 99
3226216-3 6 11-11 | 74.8kg



David Pipe

Jack Tudor

Posted a fairly useful effort when a wide-margin winner of a 2m course novice (soft) in April. Up markedly in trip, made an excellent return to action when third of 13 in valuable 3m handicap at Haydock on reappearance. Much respected for his in-form stable.

4 TUNE IN A BOX (IRE) (42) (D) 99
91121-104 5 11-9 | 73.9kg



Tom Lacey

Stan Sheppard

Most progressive switched to handicaps last season, making it 4 wins from 5 starts when taking big-field contest at Punchestown (19.5f) in April. Last month's fourth of 16 in a warm race at Cheltenham (21f) suggests the handicapper may not have got him yet. Stays 3m.

5 DANS LE VENT (FR) (34) 98
P3U/46 11 11-8 | 73.5kg



Evan Williams

Isabel Williams (3lb/1kg)

Made a promising return from 19 months off when a considerably-handled fourth of 7 over 2m here in October and not seen to best effect when sixth of 14 at Haydock (19f) since. The step back up in trip should suit this former 3m winner. Another who can't be discounted.

6 BILL BAXTER (IRE) (33) ★ 100
38486U-P2 8 11-6 | 72.6kg



Warren Greatrex

D. P. Davis (7lb/3kg)

Winner of the Topham at Aintree in 2023. Lost his way over fences subsequently but better signs back hurdling when second of 7 at Uttoxeter (3m, heavy) last month.

7 MADAKET (28) (C) s 99
5/165216-3 6 11-5 | 72.1kg



Philip Hobbs & Johnson White

Micheal Nolan

Won a 19.5f course handicap last October last season and added to his tally at Wincanton (3m) in March. Resumed from 8 months off with an encouraging third (Woodie Flash second) of 11 at Newbury (3m, good to soft) 28 days ago. Another to consider in this warm race.

8 RICKETY BRIDGE (FR) (79) (BF) h 92
2451-3 5 11-2 | 70.8kg



Paul Nicholls

Freddie Gingell (3lb/1kg)

Fairly useful in bumpers and made a successful debut over hurdles in 9-runner maiden at Southwell (20.5f, heavy) in March, making most. Let down by a clumsy round of jumping when a well-held third at Ludlow 7 months later but unexposed now handicapping for top yard with a hood added.

8 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

10-3 Woodie Flash, **5-1** Madaket, **11-2** Phantomofthepoints, **7-1** Major Fortune, **15-2** Bill Baxter, **17-2** Rickety Bridge, **9-1** Tune In A Box, **22-1** Dans Le Vent

TIMEFORM VIEW:

A good handicap, featuring a few on the up. WOODIE FLASH gets the vote but Phantomofthepoints, Tune In A Box and Madaket, who was a place behind the selection at Newbury, have similarly progressive profiles. Bill Baxter's latest Uttoxeter second also shows he can be very competitive from his lower hurdle mark.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**1. WOODIE FLASH 2. PHANTOMOF THEPOINTS 3. TUNE IN A BOX****WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2023	Classic Concorde	10-10-8	7-1	David Brace	Connor Brace	8
2022	Flight Deck	8-12-0	10-1	Jonjo O'Neill	Jonjo O'Neill Jr.	10
2021	Bells of Peterboro	6-10-9	6-1	Tim Vaughan	Alan Johns	7
2021	Storm Arising	7-11-5	6-1	Paul Nicholls	Bryony Frost	12
2019	Eva's Oskar	5-10-7	17-2	Tim Vaughan	Alan Johns	11

SMART STATS:

£15.28 Paul Nicholls's profit to a £1 level stake when having only one runner on the card (hurdles) (saddles: **RICKETY BRIDGE**)

£34.22 Paul Nicholls's profit to a £1 level stake with hurdlers running in first time headgear (saddles: **RICKETY BRIDGE**)

26% Paul Nicholls's strike rate at CHEPSTOW since the start of the 2020/21 season (saddles: **RICKETY BRIDGE**)

2.50

RACE 6

CORAL WELSH GRAND NATIONAL HANDICAP CHASE (Premier Handicap) (1) 4yo+ £150,000 3¼m130y (6150 Metres)



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

Chepstow is a left-handed, undulating, oval course, nearly two miles around with eleven fences to a circuit, a five-furlong home straight and a run-in of 250 yards. Conditions can be very testing. With five fences in the straight, the first part of which is downhill, front runners - or those leading into the straight - do well here, especially over shorter distances, and the fences don't claim the number of casualties that might be expected.

Pace Information: **Strongly Contested**

1	FONTAINE COLLONGES (FR) (34) 140P/U19-1 9 12-0 76.2kg	★	100
	Venetia Williams Recorded a smart handicap performance when adding to her good record fresh with 12-length defeat of the reopposing Monbeg Genius on Haydock reappearance (25.5f, heavy) 5 weeks ago. An 8 lb rise looks manageable for a yard which continues in good form.		Ned Fox (3lb/1kg)
2	IWILLDOIT (314) (CD) 15/2335- 11 11-13 75.7kg	✓	99
	Sam Thomas Won this in 2021 and third to Nassalam last year. Has a good record fresh so the fact this is his first outing of the season might be a plus if anything. At the veteran stage now but another bold show in this race would come as no surprise under a jockey who is excellent value for his 7 lb claim.		Callum Pritchard (7lb/3kg)
3	MONBEG GENIUS (IRE) (34) (C) 113/P35P-2 8 11-10 74.4kg	t	98
	Jonjo & A.J. O'Neill Most progressive novice chaser in 2022/23, winning 3 handicaps before good third in Ultima. Also placed in the Coral Gold Cup at the start of last winter and bounced back from a couple of disappointing performances in the spring when 12 lengths second to Fontaine Collonges on Haydock reappearance.		Nick Scholfield
4	GALIA DES LITEAUX (FR) (27) 4/12248-27 8 11-8 73.5kg	s	98
	Dan Skelton Listed/Graded winner who showed she can also mix it in competitive handicaps when second in the Classic Chase at Warwick (29f) in January. Shaped well when second in 2½m Carlisle mares' listed chase on reappearance but only a respectable seventh in the Coral Gold Cup since.		Harry Skelton
5	STUZZIKINI (IRE) (40) 62541531 6 11-6 72.6kg	b	96
	Gordon Elliott, Ireland Career best when landing the valuable Troytown at Navan (3m, good to soft) last month, seeing that out in a manner which suggests the longer distance this afternoon will play to his strengths. One of 2 respected runners for top Irish trainer.		Jordan Colin Gainford
6	IRON BRIDGE (IRE) (54) 22/P23P8-3 8 11-2 70.8kg		99
	Jonjo & A.J. O'Neill Useful handicapper who was a remote second to Nassalam in this last year. Also third in the Grand National Trial at Haydock last winter. Made an encouraging return to action at Carlisle 8 weeks ago and place claims again.		Jonjo O'Neill Jr.
7	WHERE IT ALL BEGAN (IRE) (270) 3P/532148- 8 11-0 69.9kg	b	99
	Gordon Elliott, Ireland Won at Punchestown (27f) in February. Respectable fourth in Kim Muir at Cheltenham before excuses in Irish Grand National. Off 8 months. Unexposed in these marathon events with first-time blinkers replacing cheekpieces. Player.		Sean Bowen
8	YOUR OWN STORY (IRE) (19) (D) 126/22-2P2 8 10-8 67.1kg	s	98
	Lucinda Russell Reacted well to first-time cheekpieces when 10 lengths second in the 4m Borders National at Kelso (soft) 19 days ago, the fourth time he's finished runner-up in his last 5 starts.		Derek Fox
9	THE NEWEST ONE (IRE) (14) (C) 21733-145 9 10-7 66.7kg	✓	97
	Nigel Twiston-Davies Capitalised on a lower chase mark when making a winning return in 18-runner Cheltenham handicap chase (25f, good) in October. Creditable efforts back there twice since and is a course hurdle winner.		Sam Twiston-Davies
10	JUBILEE EXPRESS (FR) (282) 227/4321- 7 10-6 66.2kg	s	97
	Sam Thomas Progressive over fences in cheekpieces last season, culminating with a win over 3½m at Haydock (heavy) in March. Not seen since but likely this low-mileage 7-y-o has more to offer. One of 2 interesting contenders for the yard.		Dylan Johnston (3lb/1kg)

11	VAL DANCER (IRE) (54) 6/311133-1 7 10-6 66.2kg	s	97
	Mel Rowley Much improved for fitting of cheekpieces, making it wins 4 in 6 starts when seeing off 8 rivals on 3¼m Carlisle reappearance in November. Could step up again now moving into his first long-distance handicap.		Charlie Hammond
12	AMATEUR (IRE) (21) (C) 0PPP-1PPP 11 10-5 65.8kg	s	87
	John & Rhys Flint Unreliable type who won at Ffos Las in May but has been pulled up on 6 times either side of it, including this race last year. Outsider.		Jack Tudor
13	NO HUBS NO HOOBS (IRE) (61) (D) 3/225111-4 8 10-4 65.3kg	b+t	96
	Joe Tizzard Ended last season with a hat-trick of staying handicap chase wins in the mud. Below-form fourth on a quicker surface on Wincanton reappearance in October but should come on for the run and the return to deeper ground will play to his strengths.		Brendan Powell
14	ATLANTA BRAVE (IRE) (33) (C) 14/5226-P4 6 10-3 64.9kg	s	97
	Kerry Lee Irish point winner who scored twice over hurdles in January 2023 but latest 3m Uttoxeter fourth took his chase record to 0-6. His stable is no stranger to success in this but he'll need to find improvement for a longer trip and first-time cheekpieces.		Adam Wedge
15	EVIES VLADIMIR (IRE) (26) 6/12213P-F 7 10-3 64.9kg		96
	Gavin Patrick Cromwell, Ireland Won handicaps at Clonmel and Fairyhouse last winter. Off 9 months, shaped as if in good form back at Fairyhouse (3¼m) 13 days ago, yet to make his move when falling 3 out. His Irish stable has tasted success in this before.		C. Stone-Walsh (3lb/1kg)
16	CLASSIC CONCORDE (IRE) (62) (C) 41101P7-0 11 10-0(9-12) 63.5kg (62.6kg)	s	80
	David Brace Prolific over hurdles last season, winning 6 handicaps. Probably needed his Cheltenham reappearance in October but only 1-17 over fences and hard to see a second chase success arriving in this hot race.		Connor Brace

16 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

5-1 Monbeg Genius, 6-1 Fontaine Collonges, 17-2 Galia Des Liteaux, 9-1 Jubilee Express, 12-1 Iron Bridge, 12-1 Where It All Began, 14-1 Stuzzikini, 18-1 Iwilldoit, 18-1 Val Dancer, 22-1 Your Own Story, 22-1 Atlanta Brave, 25-1 The Newest One, 28-1 Evies Vladimir, 28-1 No Hubs No Hoobs, 150-1 bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

FONTAINE COLLONGES was better than ever when too strong for Monbeg Genius at Haydock and can add to the haul of valuable chase wins for Venetia Williams this winter. Iwilldoit's good record fresh and in this race makes him a possible threat with Callum Pritchard taking 7 lb off. His stablemate Jubilee Express has a very different profile as a lightly-raced 7-y-o but he looks progressive and this has likely been the target for a while. Gordon Elliott's Where It All Began completes the shortlist.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. FONTAINE COLLONGES 2. IWILLDOIT 3. JUBILEE EXPRESS

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2023	Nassalam 6-11-6	9-2jf	Gary Moore	Caoilin Quinn (3)	19
2022	The Two Amigos 10-10-6	16-1	Nicky Martin	David Prichard (5)	17
2021	Iwilldoit 8-9-8	13-2	Sam Thomas	Stan Sheppard	20
2021	Secret Reprieve 7-10-1	5-2f	Evan Williams	Adam Wedge	18
2019	Potters Corner 9-10-11	8-1	Christian Williams	Jack Tudor (7)	17

SMART STATS:

- £11.11** Kerry Lee's profit to a £1 level stake with only one runner on the card (chases) (saddles: ATLANTA BRAVE)
- £28.82** Mel Rowley's profit to a £1 level stake with only one runner on the card (chases) (saddles: VAL DANCER)
- 29%** Sam Thomas's strike rate in early season (saddles: IWILLDOIT and JUBILEE EXPRESS)

3.25**CORAL "PIPPED-AT-THE POST" AND WIN HANDICAP CHASE**
(4) 4yo+ (Rated 0-120) £15,000 2m11y (3230 Metres)

RACE 7

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

Chepstow is a left-handed, undulating, oval course, nearly two miles around with eleven fences to a circuit, a five-furlong home straight and a run-in of 250 yards. Conditions can be very testing. With five fences in the straight, the first part of which is downhill, front runners - or those leading into the straight - do well here, especially over shorter distances, and the fences don't claim the number of casualties that might be expected.

Pace Information: **Contested**

1 ZAMBEZI FIX (FR) (20) (CD) **97**
122F1-643 **9** 12-0 | 76.2kg



Bernard Llewellyn

Ellis Collier (7lb/3kg)

His good record here includes victory in this last year from the same mark and he's been ticking over nicely over hurdles this term. Can go well.

2 DR T J ECKLEBURG (IRE) (34) (D) **100**
432434-31 **6** 11-13 | 75.7kg



Evan Williams

Conor Ring

Showed the benefit of his reappearance when proving too strong for his 6 rivals at Haydock (16.3f, soft) last month. Runner-up that day has bolted up since so he's got to be high on the shortlist despite a 7 lb rise.

3 DOYOUKNOWWHATIMEAN (58) (D) **98**
2435311-3 **7** 11-11 | 74.8kg



Dan Skelton

Harry Skelton

Scored in the mud at Lingfield and Stratford last winter and ran creditably after 8 months off at Newton Abbot in October. Back in trip and capable of winning off this mark.

4 ROYAL JEWEL (IRE) (21) **98**
5122-25 **5** 11-10 | 74.4kg



Philip Hobbs & Johnson White

Micheal Nolan

Won 2m maiden hurdle at Exeter last season and good start over fences in front of Dr T J Eckleburg at Newton Abbot on return. Too free next time but it's still early days.

5 KING OF TARA (7lb/3kg ex) (12) (D) **99**
31040-541 **5** 11-10 | 74.4kg



Jonjo & A.J. O'Neill

Jonjo O'Neill Jr.

Fairly useful 2m novice hurdle winner who is the type to make a better chaser and, back on testing ground, confirmed the promise of his last run to make a successful debut over fences in smooth fashion at Carlisle (2m) recently. More to come and set to go well again under a penalty.

6 DAVID'S WELL (22) (D) **97**
49518-1 **5** 11-7 | 73.0kg



Chris Gordon

Freddie Gordon (5lb/2kg)

A fair winner in a brief spell hurdling and justified short odds sent chasing after 9 months off in weak contest at Leicester (2m), readily coming clear. Open to improvement and respected.

7 FEEL THE PINCH (17) (D) **94**
22105546 **10** 11-5 | 72.1kg



Robbie Llewellyn

Charlie Price (3lb/1kg)

Out of sorts since scoring at Newton Abbot (16.7f) in July and this looks tough.

8 LUCKY LUGGER (15) **98**
P53P-223 **7** 10-13 | 69.4kg



Matt Sheppard

Stan Sheppard

Goes well here, runner-up on first 2 starts, although held in useful well-run novice handicap at Warwick a fortnight ago. This isn't much easier.

8 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

3-1 David's Well, **7-2** King of Tara, **4-1** Dr T J Eckleburg, **8-1** Doyouknowwhatimean, **17-2** Lucky Luggger, **12-1** Royal Jewel, **12-1** Zambezi Fix, **50-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

Quite a warm-looking handicap with KING OF TARA taken to follow up his smooth Carlisle success. David's Well, Dr T J Eckleburg and last year's winner Zambezi Fix should all be in the hunt too.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. KING OF TARA 2. DAVID'S WELL 3. DR T J ECKLEBURG

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2023 **Zambezi Fix** 8-11-9 7-2 Bernard Llewellyn Robert Williams (3) 7