

Friday 27th December

KEMPTON



12.45 LADBROKES BEST ODDS GUARANTEED ON RACING 'INTRODUCTORY' JUVENILE HURDLE (2) 2m (3220 Metres)

RACE 1 **(5) NARDARAN | (1) INAPPROPRIATE | (4) MIDNIGHT RUMBLE**

1.20 LADBROKES PLAY "1-2-FREE" ON FOOTBALL MARES' HANDICAP HURDLE (2) 3m121y (4940 Metres)

RACE 2 **(1) WEST BALBOA | (5) ROYALE MARGAUX | (6) LARCHMONT LASS**

1.55 LADBROKES WAYWARD LAD NOVICES' CHASE (Grade 2) (1) 2m (3220 Metres)

RACE 3 **(1) BALLYBURN | (4) SIR GINO | (3) RUBAUD**

2.30 LADBROKES DESERT ORCHID HANDICAP CHASE (LIMITED HANDICAP) (Grade 2) (1) 2m (3220 Metres)

RACE 4 **(3) MARTATOR | (1) EDWARDSTONE | (2) BOOTHILL**

3.08 LADBROKES GET REWARDED WITH LADBUCKS HANDICAP CHASE (3) 3m (4830 Metres)

RACE 5 **(5) FRERO BANBOU | (10) DREAMING BLUE | (3) HIGHSTAKESPLAYER**

3.38 LADBROKES "GAFFER OF ALL ACCAS" HANDICAP HURDLE (3) 2m (3220 Metres)

RACE 6 **(5) WILLMOUNT | (1) HANSARD | (8) BIG BOY BOBBY**

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
'INTRODUCTORY' JUVENILE HURDLE (2) 3yo £30,000 2m
(3220 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: **Weakly Contested****SMART STATS:**

- 2** Alan King's number of winners in past 10 runnings. (saddles: **MIDNIGHT RUMBLE**)
- 24%** James Owen's strike rate with hurdlers at up to 2m2f (saddles: **KINETIC**)
- 25%** James Owen's strike rate in early season (saddles: **KINETIC**)

1 INAPPROPRIATE (IRE) (27) (D) 100

1 3 11-5 | 72.1kg



Jedd O'Keefe

Conor O'Farrell

Fairly useful on Flat (stays 1¼m) and thriving in the autumn, made a smooth transition to hurdling when coming from last to first in a steadily-run race at Newcastle (16.2f) last month. Open to improvement.

2 KNIGHT TEMPLAR (19) (D) 95

2 3 11-0 | 69.9kg



Robert Stephens

Ben Jones

Fairly useful handicapper on Flat (stays 16.5f), recorded hat-trick for this yard in second half of 2024. Flattered by proximity to comfortable winner in 3-runner affair at Huntingdon on his recent hurdling debut but may do better.

3 LUCKY BERE (FR) (32) 94

2 3 11-0 | 69.9kg



Kayley Woollacott

Mr Joshua Newman

Fair on the Flat (successful twice at 1½m in the spring) in France and showed promise sent hurdling after 7 months off when second in 8-runner event over C&D 31 days ago, considerably handled. Entitled to do better.

4 MIDNIGHT RUMBLE 96

3 11-0 | 69.9kg



Alan King

Tom Cannon

Fairly useful handicapper on Flat (stays 1¼m), successful once in 2024, below form last time. In the right hands do well over hurdles, so must enter calculations.

5 NARDARAN (FR) (BF) 99

3 11-0 | 69.9kg



Paul Nicholls

Harry Cobden

Showed fair form when third in 1½m newcomers race at Saint-Cloud only outing on Flat. Left Francis-Henri Graffard €135,000 in July. Interesting hurdling debutant.

6 RISK IT ALL (FR) (D) 93

3 11-0 | 69.9kg



Gary & Josh Moore

Niall Houlihan

Easy 6-length winner of 2m minor event at Nort-sur-Erdre, only outing on Flat for Elisabeth Allaire. Needs a market check now setting out over hurdles for Gary & Josh Moore.

7 KINETIC (IRE) (9) 89

4 3 10-7 | 66.7kg



James Owen

James Bowen

Scored 4 times around 1m4f on the level during the summer, showing fairly useful form, but isn't an obvious hurdler on looks and ran to just a modest level first time up at Newbury last week. Cheekpieces on for 1st time in this sphere.

7 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

3-1 Inappropriate, **7-2** Nardaran, **5-1** Midnight Rumble, **6-1** Knight Templar, **7-1** Lucky Bere, **17-2** Risk It All, **25-1** Kinetic

TIMEFORM VIEW:

Paul Nicholls took this race in 2021 with Ileo and NARDARAN could be another good prospect for the yard having changed hands for €135,000 in July after showing promise on his sole outing on the Flat. He gets the nod ahead of Inappropriate, who created a good impression in coming from last to first in a steadily-run race at Newcastle on his hurdling debut. Midnight Rumble is in good hands and is also of interest.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**1. NARDARAN 2. INAPPROPRIATE 3. MIDNIGHT RUMBLE****WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2023	Sir Gino 3-11-5	4-9f	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boerville	8
2022	Samuel Spade 3-11-0	9-1	Ben Pauling	Kielan Woods	9
2021	Ileo 3-11-3	9-4f	Paul Nicholls	Bryony Frost	10
2020	Heross du Seuil 3-10-12	3-1	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boerville	12
2019	Rowland Ward 3-10-12	9-1	Stuart Edmunds	Ciaran Gethings	6










1.20

RACE 2

LADBROKES PLAY "1-2-FREE" ON FOOTBALL MARES' HANDICAP HURDLE (2) 4yo+ fillies and mares £30,000
3m121y (4940 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: **Contested**

1	WEST BALBOA (IRE) (13) (C, D)	91
	10863-453 8 12-0 76.2kg Dan Skelton Very useful winning hurdler. Sent chasing this term and almost unseated rider last when fourth at Worcester before considerably handled when fifth at Bangor. Also disappointing in listed company returned to timber a fortnight ago but he's on a tempting mark on pick if his form.	Miss Heidi Palin (7lb/3kg)
2	DELLA CASA LUNGA (IRE) (32)	97
	32811-P62 6 11-7 73.0kg Clive Boutbee-Brooks Back-to-back handicap winner at Ludlow in February before being found out in a warmer race at Punchestown in May. Almost certainly needed the run at Bangor on reappearance and filled the position he was entitled to when second in listed company here a month ago. Since had a breathing op.	Richard Patrick
3	PAWAPURI (32)	94
	49/116-3 5 11-1 70.3kg Nicky Henderson Useful 11f Flat winner for William Haggas who landed a maiden and a novice at up to 18.9f around this time last year. Sound second back on the level at Salisbury in May and while she was well behind Della Casa Lunga here last time, that was her first run in 6 months. Up in trip.	Nico de Boinville
4	THE LORD MAID (IRE) (36)	99
	5311-2 6 10-13 69.4kg Tom Lacey Made a successful hurdles debut in maiden at Clonmel in February (for Josh Halley) and followed up for new yard in 20.5f Southwell novice in April. Solid return from 7 months off when second in 6-runner mares' handicap at Warwick (21f, soft) and she's still low mileage with 3m within range.	Tom Cannon
5	ROYALE MARGAUX (FR) (13)	100
	2543-4724 6 10-7 66.7kg Tom Symonds Prolific in France but 0-13 for this yard. Last couple of runs have been more encouraging though, finishing with running left having met trouble at Cheltenham a fortnight ago. One to consider.	Ben Poste
6	LARCHMONT LASS (IRE) (20) (BF)	99
	524145-13 6 10-2 64.4kg Paul Nicholls Returned from wind surgery to land a 21f Wincanton handicap on last month's reappearance. Held back by a couple of errors when third at Sandown 3 weeks ago but she remains unexposed and the return to 3m looks worth exploring. Hood left off.	Harry Cobden
7	LOOKING AS YOU ARE (36)	97
	2203113-6 5 10-2(9-13) 64.4kg (63.0kg) Alex Hales Runner-up 3 times in bumpers and struck in maiden/novice hurdles around 21f in the spring. May have needed the run on last month's reappearance/handicap debut but she'll need to leave that effort well behind. 3 lb out if the weights.	Caolin Quinn
8	HOLLY HARTINGO (IRE) (35)	97
	35PP-5513 8 10-2(9-12) 64.4kg (62.6kg) Alastair Ralph Bounced back to her best to win a 15-runner Chepstow handicap in October (19.5f). That race worked out quite well and up 5 lb, she gave a pretty good account of herself when third over same C&D a month ago. 4 lb out of the weights.	Ciaran Gethings
9	FORTUNA LIGNA (IRE) (34)	98
	45341-243 7 10-2(9-10) 64.4kg (61.7kg) Anthony Honeyball Signed off last term with a win at Perth and back at that sort of level when third at Ascot a month ago. Visor replaces cheekpieces and no easy task from out of the handicap.	Chad Bament (10lb/5kg)

9 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

4-1 Larchmont Lass, 9-2 West Balboa, 6-1 The Lord Maid, 6-1 Della Casa Lunga, 8-1 Royale Margaux, 8-1 Pawapuri, 16-1 Holly Hartingo, 20-1 Fortuna Ligna, 20-1 Looking As You Are

TIMEFORM VIEW:

The presence of WEST BALBOA keeps a trio of these out of the handicap and while she hasn't been at her best this term (started out over fences) she can call upon plenty of very solid form in better races than this. She therefore receives the vote in favour of Royale Margaux and Larchmont Lass.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. WEST BALBOA 2. ROYALE MARGAUX 3. LARCHMONT LASS

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2023	Martha Brae 8-11-1	17-2	Dan Skelton	Harry Skelton	11
2022	Glimpse of Gala 6-11-4	4-1	Charlie Longsdon	Bradley Roberts (7)	7
2021	Emmpressive Lady 6-11-4	3-1jf	Susan Gardner	Sean Houlihan	7
2020	Molly Ollys Wishes 6-11-2	9-2	Dan Skelton	Harry Skelton	8
2019	Coded Message 6-10-6	10-1	Ben Case	Kielan Woods	10

SMART STATS:

2	Dan Skelton's number of winners in past 10 runnings. (saddles: WEST BALBOA)
22%	Nicky Henderson's strike rate at KEMPTON PARK since the start of the 2020/21 season (saddles: PAWAPURI)
23%	Nico de Boinville's strike rate at KEMPTON PARK (rides: PAWAPURI)

1.55**LADBROKES WAYWARD LAD NOVICES' CHASE (Grade 2) (1)**
4yo+ £75,000 2m (3220 Metres)

RACE 3

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: **Weakly Contested****1 BALLYBURN (IRE) (34) (D)** **100**11/2111-11 **6** 11-4 | 71.7kg

W. P. Mullins, Ireland

P. Townend

Developed into last season's leading novice hurdler, recording hat-trick of Grade 1s at Leopardstown, Cheltenham and Punchestown. Jumped accurately when producing a near-flawless chase debut at the last-named course last month and he's a most-exciting chasing prospect.

2 BROOKIE (IRE) (28) (C, D) **71**41014P-17 **7** 11-4 | 71.7kg

Anthony Honeyball

Rex Dingle

Useful sort over hurdles and found improvement when winning 4-runner handicap chase at Sandown (15.4f, good, 11/2) on his debut over fences in November. Not in same form at Newbury since and he's surely out of his depth against such exciting opposition.

3 RUBAUD (FR) (48) (C, D) **75**112456-11 **6** 11-4 | 71.7kg

Paul Nicholls

Harry Cobden

Made up into a smart hurdler last term and even better in 2 starts since returning to action in October, latterly landing the Elite Hurdle for the second year running at Wincanton (15.2f, good). A notch below Ballyburn and Sir Gino in that sphere, so may have his work cut out on chase bow.

4 SIR GINO (FR) (27) (C, D) **90**1/111-1 **4** 10-12 | 68.9kg

Nicky Henderson

Nico de Boinville

Strong-travelling 4-y-o maintained his unbeaten record over hurdles with a facile success in the Fighting Fifth Hurdle at Newcastle (16.2f, good) last month. A chaser on looks and the sky could well be the limit for him now switched to fences.

4 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:**8-11** Ballyburn, **13-8** Sir Gino, **12-1** Rubaud, **100-1** bar**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

A mouthwatering clash between perhaps the most exciting horses on either side of the Irish Sea, with narrow preference on this occasion given to BALLYBURN, who produced a near-faultless display sent chasing at Punchestown last month, though Sir Gino is almost certainly the most formidable rival he'll have faced in any sphere to date and Nicky Henderson's Fighting Fifth winner should prove top-class now making the switch to chasing. Rubaud, a horse of some talent himself, can finish third.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**1. BALLYBURN 2. SIR GINO 3. RUBAUD****WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2023	Master Chewy 6-11-4	13-8	Nigel Twiston-Davies	Tom Bellamy	4
2022	Boothill 7-11-4	7-4	Harry Fry	Jonathan Burke	4
2021	Edwardstone 7-11-7	8-15f	Alan King	Tom Cannon	4
2020	Shishkin 6-11-2	1-3f	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boinville	4
2019	Global Citizen 7-11-2	8-1	Ben Pauling	David Bass	6

SMART STATS:

- 3** Paul Nicholls's number of winners in past 10 runnings. (saddles: **RUBAUD**)
- 2** Nicky Henderson's number of winners in past 10 runnings. (saddles: **SIR GINO**)
- 22%** Nicky Henderson's strike rate at KEMPTON PARK since the start of the 2020/21 season (saddles: **SIR GINO**)

2.30

RACE 4

LADBROKES DESERT ORCHID HANDICAP CHASE (LIMITED HANDICAP) (Grade 2) (1) 4yo+ £100,000 2m (3220 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: **Contested**

1 EDWARDSTONE (20) (CD) **98**
 2241F3-3F **10** 11-12 | 75.3kg
 Alan King **Tom Cannon**
 Classy chaser who won Grade 2 Game Spirit at Newbury (16.4f) in February. Creditable third on return in Shloer Chase in November and yet to be asked for his effort when falling 4 out behind Jonbon in Tingle Creek 3 weeks ago. Respected having just his second handicap start in this sphere.

2 BOOTHILL (IRE) (42) (CD) **97**
 23/11F4-2 **9** 11-9 | 73.9kg
 Harry Fry **Bryan Carver**
 C&D Grade 2 winner 2 years ago who landed back-to-back Ascot handicaps (16.7f) last winter. Fell on 2 of his 3 starts thereafter but returned (following wind op) with a good second behind Jonbon in Shloer Chase at Cheltenham (15.9f) 6 weeks ago. One to consider back in handicaps.

3 MARTATOR (FR) (34) **100**
 223111-11 **7** 11-0 | 69.9kg
 Venetia Williams **Charlie Deutsch**
 Upwardly-mobile handicap chaser who brought up the 5-timer with plenty to spare in 8-runner Ascot handicap (16.7f) 5 weeks ago, travelling powerfully and clear last. Handicapper applies further pressure but feasible to think he could well be up to the task. Big shout.

4 EDITEUR DU GITE (FR) (41) (CD) **99**
 5415P-P9P **10** 10-13 | 69.4kg
 Gary & Josh Moore **Freddie Mitchell (5lb/2kg)**
 Bold-jumping front runner who landed C&D Desert Orchid Chase for second consecutive season 12 months ago. Not been in anything like the same form in 5 subsequent runs but fallen plenty in weights if return to this venue/drop back in trip sparks a revival.

5 CALICO (GER) (40) (D) **97**
 24204-P13 **8** 10-6(10-5) | 66.2kg (65.8kg)
 Dan Skelton **Harry Atkins (7lb/3kg)**
 Smart handicap chaser who won at Cheltenham (2m, good) in October. Not in anything like the same form when a remote third back there since and others make greater appeal.

6 SOUL ICON (20) (D) **95**
 3422-2224 **7** 10-6(10-2) | 66.2kg (64.4kg)
 Keiran Burke **Harry Cobden**
 Multiple winner over hurdles who filled runners-up spot for fifth consecutive time over fences in Wincanton Grade 2 in November. Up against it when last of 4 in Grade 1 company at Sandown (15.5f) 3 weeks ago and no surprise to see him give a good account despite operating from out of the weights.

7 TRAPRAIN LAW (FR) (19) (D, BF) **95**
 3/31512-34 **6** 10-6(10-2) | 66.2kg (64.4kg)
 Lucinda Russell **Patrick Wadge**
 Progressed into a useful chaser last season, his second victory coming at Ayr (16.5f, heavy) in February. Shaped up well when third at 7 months off at Carlisle (20f) in November so shade disappointing he failed to see things out when fourth at Kelso latest. This tougher again.

8 SANS BRUIT (FR) (34) (D) **96**
 870213-33 **6** 10-6(10-2) | 66.2kg (64.4kg)
 Paul Nicholls **Bryony Frost**
 Ex-French gelding who ran out a fine winner of the Red Rum Handicap at Aintree in April. Showed all his usual zip when third on return in the Haldon Gold Cup and not disgraced when filling same spot behind Martator in handicap chase at Ascot (16.8f) 34 days ago. Each-way claims.

8 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

11-4 Martator, **3-1** Boothill, **4-1** Edwardstone, **17-2** Sans Bruit, **11-1** Editeur Du Gite, **14-1** Soul Icon, **25-1** Calico, **33-1** Traprain Law

TIMEFORM VIEW:

MARTATOR showed no signs of his progression coming to a halt when bringing up the 5-timer in fine style at Ascot 5 weeks ago and, despite the handicapper applying further pressure, Venetia Williams' 7-y-o could well be up the task. Edwardstone, having a rare crack in a handicap in this sphere, and Boothill head up the dangers, with Editeur du Gite another not dismissed lightly returned to this C&D from a much-reduced mark.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. MARTATOR 2. EDWARDSTONE 3. BOOTHILL

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2023	Editeur du Gite 9-11-12	5-1	Gary Moore	Niall Houlihan (3)	6
2022	Editeur du Gite 8-11-2	28-1	Gary Moore	Niall Houlihan	7
2021	Shishkin 7-11-3	4-9f	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boinville	4
2020	Nube Negra 6-11-0	20-1	Dan Skelton	Harry Skelton	6
2019	Bun Doran 8-11-0	4-1	Tom George	Jonathan Burke	5

SMART STATS:

23%	Venetia Williams's strike rate with chasers at up to 2m3f (saddles: MARTATOR)
24%	Venetia Williams's strike rate in early season (saddles: MARTATOR)
20%	Dan Skelton's strike rate with chasers at up to 2m3f (saddles: CALICO)

3.08

RACE 5

LADBROKES GET REWARDED WITH LADBUCKS HANDICAP CHASE (3) 4yo+ (Rated 0-135) £50,000 3m (4830 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: **Strongly Contested**

- 1 KITTY'S LIGHT (34) (D)** **90**
 05759-69P **8** 12-2 | 77.1kg
 Christian Williams *Richard Patrick*
 Scottish National hero in 2022/23 and an excellent fifth in Grand National last term. Well held all 3 runs so far this season, though, and it could be that his campaign is again being fine-tuned around another trip to Aintree during the spring.
- 2 JET PLANE (IRE) (27)** **96**
 P7511P-3U **8** 12-0 | 76.2kg t
 Dan Skelton *Fergus Gillard*
 Gained a fourth victory of 2023/24 in comfortable style at Market Rasen (19f) in April. Gave his all after 6 months off when third at Wetherby in October but was last of those still going when unseating his rider 3 out at Newcastle (23.4f, good) last month. Others more compelling.
- 3 HIGHSTAKESPLAYER (IRE) (27) (CD)** **97**
 11/1P1-25 **8** 12-0 | 76.2kg
 Tom Lacey *Tom Cannon*
 Likeable sort who notched his fourth success over fences at this C&D in April. Solid reappearance when second at Ascot but just like last season, he went backwards from that when well held at Newbury (22.4f, good to soft) subsequently. No surprise to see him get back on the up.
- 4 SLIPWAY (IRE) (34) (CD)** **97**
 9P/9010-55 **9** 11-13 | 75.7kg
 Ben Pauling *Ben Jones*
 Strong stayer who dispelled a couple of low-key efforts when resuming winning ways over C&D in March. Just a creditable return/cross-country debut when fifth at Cheltenham last month and probably found the race coming too soon when well held at Ascot (29.4f, good to soft) 8 days later.
- 5 FRERO BANBOU (FR) (27)** **100**
 32P66P-61 **9** 11-13 | 75.7kg
 Venetia Williams *Charlie Deutsch*
 Tumbled in the weights and ended a long losing run for a stable that's quickly resumed its habit of landing big handicap chases in Rehearsal Chase at Newcastle (23.4f, good) last month, jumping well over the longest trip he'd faced. Remains well handicapped after a 7 lb rise, so can go in again.
- 6 GOLDEN SON (FR) (28) (C)** **97**
 2/2PP16F-9 **6** 11-13 | 75.7kg s+t
 Paul Nicholls *Harry Cobden*
 Got off the mark over fences at this track in February and running well in blinkers when fell 2 out in handicap chase at Sandown (20f, good) in April. Had a wind op but added to a decidedly patchy record back from 7 months off at Newbury (19.8f, good to soft) recently so not one to trust.
- 7 DEISE ABA (IRE) (41) (D)** **97**
 5P2P/1-P26 **11** 11-12 | 75.3kg b
 Alexandra Dunn *Bryony Frost*
 Useful but unpredictable chaser for Philip Hobbs. Successful in 4 of 6 starts in points since. Sold from Francesca Poste £10,000 in May and decent start for this yard when just failing at Wincanton in October. Showed up well for a long way at Cheltenham since, so not without each-way hope.
- 8 WEVEALLBEENCAUGHT (IRE) (41)** **97**
 32660-32P **7** 11-9 | 73.9kg s
 Christian Williams *James Turner (5lb/2kg)*
 Useful hurdler/chaser for Nigel Twiston-Davies. Fantastic start in novices at Worcester and Cheltenham (handicap) for new yard this autumn but found the effort of trying to go the gallop in a tougher environment from out of the weights all too much at latter track last time.
- 9 BEACHCOMBER (FR) (13)** **98**
 41P1-632P **6** 11-6 | 72.6kg b
 Jonjo & A.J. O'Neill *Richie McLernon*
 Dual 25f hurdles winner who stepped up on his chasing debut from when runner-up at Exeter last month. Had cheekpieces on but found his jumping failing to pass muster at Cheltenham (25.2f, good to soft) just under a fortnight ago. More severe headgear enlisted (first-time blinkers).
- 10 DREAMING BLUE (23)** **97**
 833311-31 **7** 11-6 | 72.6kg t
 Anthony Honeyball *Rex Dingle*
 Capitalised on a reduced mark with plenty to spare at Fontwell in March and followed up back there 3 weeks later. Good third of 4 at Wincanton on return and back to winning ways reverted to front-running tactics at Ludlow (25.6f, soft) earlier this month. 3 lb higher and should be in the mix.

11 BASS ROCK (FR) (23) **96**
 4U/P68P-03 **8** 11-1 | 70.3kg t
 Georgina Nicholls *Lorcan Williams*
 Useful chase/hurdles winner at his best but struggled for form over fences last season for Sandy Thomson and offered little on yard bow in 2m4f Cheltenham handicap hurdle in October. Showed the benefit of that comeback when third at Ludlow earlier in the month but likely to struggle in this.

11 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

7-2 Frero Banbou, **9-2** Dreaming Blue, **17-2** Weveallbeencaught, **9-1** Highstakesplayer, **12-1** Golden Son, **12-1** Slipway, **16-1** Jet Plane, **16-1** Bass Rock, **20-1** Beachcomber, **20-1** Deise ABA, **20-1** Kitty's Light

TIMEFORM VIEW:

FRERO BANBOU added another big-race success to Venetia Williams' CV in the Rehearsal Chase at Newcastle last month and, remaining with handicapping scope even judged on last season's form, he's likely to prove a tough nut to crack. Dreaming Blue made it 3 wins from his last 4 starts at Ludlow recently, so he's put forward as the main danger, with Highstakesplayer and Weveallbeencaught taken to fight out minor honours.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. FRERO BANBOU 2. DREAMING BLUE 3. HIGHSTAKESPLAYER

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2023	Tweed Skirt 6-11-10	4-1	Nicky Henderson	Robert Dunne	7
2022	Remastered 9-12-1	11-2	David Pipe	Tom Scudamore	14
2021	Five Star Getaway 7-10-11	12-1	Christian Williams	Nick Scholfield	9
2020	Royale Paille 6-11-7	9-2f	Venetia Williams	Charlie Deutsch	11
2019	Just A Sting 7-11-1	9-2	Harry Fry	Sean Bowen	11

SMART STATS:

- 24%** Venetia Williams's strike rate in early season (saddles: **FRERO BANBOU**)
- 23%** Paul Nicholls's strike rate with chasers running between 19f and up to 3m (saddles: **GOLDEN SON**)
- 20%** Paul Nicholls's strike rate in early season (saddles: **GOLDEN SON**)

3.38**LADBROKES "GAFFER OF ALL ACCAS" HANDICAP HURDLE (3)**
3yo+ (Rated 0-140) £22,000 2m (3220 Metres)

RACE 6

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: **Contested****1 HANSARD (IRE) (370) (D) 99**

1154/215- 6 12-1 | 76.7kg



Gary & Josh Moore

Niall Houlihan

Smart hurdler who landed the Gerry Feilden at Newbury in December. Decent fifth in stronger contest at Ascot (15.7f, good) later that month, travelled well and not ideally placed the way the race unfolded, ran on. Market should give some clues and is respected if ready to roll on his comeback.

2 VALGRAND (FR) (14) (D) 98

24-11120 5 11-1 | 74.8kg



Dan Skelton

Fergus Gillard

Last three runs at Cheltenham including victory in Grade 2 novice but unable to live with Potters Charm in a 21f Grade 2 last month. Back in trip (17f) on handicap debut at same venue two weeks ago, finding less than looked likely. Remains in excellent hands however, and not ruled out.

3 AUCUNRISQUE (FR) (35) (CD) 98

5P067-331 8 11-7 | 73.0kg



Chris Gordon

**Rex Dingle**

Betfair Hurdle winner in 2023. Twice third in 2m handicaps at Plumpton and Cheltenham this autumn, before improved effort when landing a decent Ascot handicap (15.7f, good) 35 days ago, ridden positively as is often the case. Respected C&D winner but could be vulnerable to a less exposed rival.

4 GLORY AND FORTUNE (IRE) (41) (D) 97

4U300/55 9 11-4 | 71.7kg



Tom Lacey

Cameron Iles (71b/3kg)

Another former Betfair Hurdle winner. Lost his way in spring 2023, well-held fifth of 8 (hooded) in 2m Kempton listed race on comeback and failed to build on that in a weaker race (hood removed) when fifth at Wetherby (16f) 41 days ago. No hood again and tough ask in a much stronger contest today.

5 WILLMOUNT (14) (D) 98

11/1P-F 6 11-4 | 71.7kg



Nicky Henderson

Nico de Boinville

Expensive pointer created a good impression when winning his first 3 starts under Rules. Pulled up in Grade 1 Challow (20f soft) in December 2023 and was easy to back on return from a year off, falling 3 out (14 days ago) having raced enthusiastically. Would be a huge player if back to his best.

6 OOH BETTY (IRE) (27) (D) 96

P12232-10 6 11-2 | 70.8kg



Ben Clarke

Ben Jones

Useful mare who had a breathing operation prior to making a successful reappearance in 7-runner handicap at Sandown (2m) before disappointing in stronger race at Newbury (16.3f, good to soft) 27 days ago. This is another competitive event and she's likely to find a couple too good here.

7 JET POWERED (IRE) (391) (D, BF) 97

15/P- 7 11-1 | 70.3kg



Nicky Henderson

James Bowen

350,000 gns purchase after sole success in Irish point and impressed when making winning hurdles debut but disappointing on two runs since, latest when pulled up at Newbury (too keen) a year ago. He's clearly not been straightforward to train and market should convey stable expectations on return.

8 BIG BOY BOBBY (IRE) (629) (D) 100

412P8/ 6 10-2(10-1) | 64.4kg (64.0kg)



Alan King

**Philip Armson (31b/1kg)**

Ran well here when second in 2022 but things haven't gone to plan since, pulled up at Fakenham (though shaped okay) before disappointing at Haydock 20 months ago. His best form over hurdles has come at right-handed tracks so he's not dismissed from out of the handicap and is worth a market check.

8 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

3-1 Willmount, **9-2** Aucunrisque, **9-2** Valgrand, **15-2** Hansard, **17-2** Jet Powered, **12-1** Ooh Betty, **14-1** Glory And Fortune, **25-1** Big Boy Bobby

TIMEFORM VIEW:

A strong 8-runner contest for the grade, and it will be fascinating to see how the market moves with a few talented horses returning from long absences. WILLMOUNT should have some race fitness on his side, having travelled well for a long way at Cheltenham before falling three out. Assuming he's none the worse for his tumble, he can confirm the promise he showed as a novice last year. Hansard is very much respected having gone well fresh in the past while Big Boy Bobby could outrun his odds.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**1. WILLMOUNT 2. HANSARD 3. BIG BOY BOBBY****WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2023	Aurigny Mill 6-11-2	9-1	Victor Dartnall	Fergus Gillard	8
2022	No Ordinary Joe 6-11-8	10-3f	Nicky Henderson	James Bowen	14
2021	Rowland Ward 5-11-5	10-1	Stuart Edmunds	Ciaran Gethings	10
2020	Cadzand 5-11-1	5-2f	Dan Skelton	Harry Skelton	13
2019	Miranda 4-10-11	12-1	Paul Nicholls	Harry Cobden	10

SMART STATS:

2 Nicky Henderson's number of winners in past 10 runnings. (amongst 2 runners saddles: **WILLMOUNT**)

22% Nicky Henderson's strike rate at KEMPTON PARK since the start of the 2020/21 season (saddles: **WILLMOUNT and JET POWERED**)

23% Nico de Boinville's strike rate at KEMPTON PARK (rides: **WILLMOUNT**)