

Thursday 28th November

MUSSELBURGH



12.25 JOIN RACING TV NOW NOVICES' HURDLE (4) 2m3f171y (3980 Metres)

RACE 1 **(1) IMPERO | (2) KINGSTON JAMES | (4) BEL AMIGO**

1.00 ATHELSTANEFORD HOME OF THE SALTIRE JUVENILE MAIDEN HURDLE (Qualifier) (4) 1m7f124y (3130 Metres)

RACE 2 **(1) JOHNNY RINGO | (5) THERE'S NO LIMIT | (4) SPARTAN WARRIOR**

1.35 RACING TV PROFITS RETURNED TO RACING NOVICES' HANDICAP CHASE (5) 2½m68y (4090 Metres)

RACE 3 **(2) OKAVANGO DELTA | (8) THE JAD FACTOR | (9) DIVAS DOYEN**

2.10 CMS CAMERON MCKENNA AND CLOSE BROTHERS HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier) (4) 1m7f124y (3130 Metres)

RACE 4 **(10) HEART ABOVE | (2) RAVENS CRAIG CASTLE | (5) RESTANDBETHANKFUL**

2.45 PRINCE PHILIP PERPETUAL CHALLENGE TROPHY HANDICAP CHASE (3) 2m7f138y (4750 Metres)

RACE 5 **(4) HIGH MOON | (6) BRANDY MCQUEEN | (1) KANDOR**

3.20 MUSSELBURGH RACECOURSE PREMIUM ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP HANDICAP HURDLE (5) 2m7f180y (4790 Metres)

RACE 6 **(4) TWOPLACESATONETIME | (6) MALANGEN | (1) MAILLOT BLANC**

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.

12.25**JOIN RACING TV NOW NOVICES' HURDLE (4) 4yo+ £7,000
2m3f171y (3980 Metres)**

RACE 1

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

A right-handed oval track a little over a mile and a quarter in extent, almost flat with sharp bends, favouring handy types as opposed to gallopers, especially as it's a quick-draining course that tends to produce less testing ground than most tracks in midwinter. A polytrack strip was installed on the bend running away from the stands towards the end of 2012 in order to protect ground which tended to get worn and bare due to overuse. The two-mile start is on a spur on the last bend. There are eight fences (four in each straight) to a circuit and, whilst not stiff, they do claim more casualties than might be expected, a lot of the handicaps catering for low-graders.

Pace Information: **Weak**

1	IMPERO (IRE) (34) 270/211 5 11-7 73.0kg	s	100
	Cian Michael Collins, Ireland Untrustworthy maiden on Flat but going right way over hurdles at present for this yard, getting off the mark in maiden at Downpatrick (17f) in October and following up in 2m Cheltenham handicap a fortnight later. Likely to make a bold bid for the hat-trick.		Carl Millar (5lb/2kg)
2	KINGSTON JAMES (IRE) (34) 1-415 5 11-7 73.0kg		93
	Lucinda Russell Successful on his completed start in points and made a winning start under Rules in a bumper at Ayr in March. Also struck at the first time of asking over hurdles at Hexham in October and might be worth forgiving his effort in a much stronger race at Cheltenham since.		Derek Fox
3	OLLIE LA BA BA (IRE) (64) U-9431765 6 11-7 73.0kg	s+t	93
	Eoin Christopher McCarthy, Ireland Winner of 2¾m maiden at Downpatrick in July. Creditable fifth of 13 in handicap at Listowel (2½m) in September. Ought to be in the shake-up.		G. B. Noonan (3lb/1kg)
4	BEL AMIGO (FR) (19) 4627PU1-3 5 11-0 69.9kg	h+t	98
	N. W. Alexander Fairly useful over hurdles and fences in France, winning a claiming chase in March. Too keen when remote third in 2¾m Kelso novice hurdle on British debut 19 days ago but that should have knocked some of the freshness out of him. The drop back in trip and refitting of a hood also promise to help.		Bruce Lynn
5	SHATTERED SOLDIER (IRE) 5 11-0 69.9kg		
	L J Morgan Won by 20 lengths when off the mark at the fifth time of asking in Irish points in April. It'll be interesting to see what the betting makes of him now hurdling.		Adam Wedge
6	PARK HIND (IRE) (606) 38055678/ 7 10-7 66.7kg	s	84
	Victor Thompson NON RUNNER.		Non Runner

6 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

13-8 Impero, 7-2 Bel Amigo, 4-1 Kingston James, 11-2 Ollie La Ba Ba, 14-1 Shattered Soldier

TIMEFORM VIEW:

IMPERO can continue his really positive start to life with this stable and complete a hat-trick. Kingston James seemed a little outclassed at Cheltenham but could resume his progression back in calmer waters and is feared most ahead of Bel Amigo, who can leave the form of his British debut behind now back over shorter with a hood refitted.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. IMPERO 2. KINGSTON JAMES 3. BEL AMIGO

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:2023 **The Kalooki Kid** 5-11-0 7-2 Nicky Richards Danny McMenamin 8**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

1.00

RACE 2

ATHELSTANEFORD HOME OF THE SALTIRE JUVENILE MAIDEN HURDLE (Qualifier) (4) 3yo £7,000 1m7f124y (3130 Metres)**GBI RACING**Going: **Good to Soft (Good in places)**

A right-handed oval track a little over a mile and a quarter in extent, almost flat with sharp bends, favouring handy types as opposed to gallopers, especially as it's a quick-draining course that tends to produce less testing ground than most tracks in midwinter. A polytrack strip was installed on the bend running away from the stands towards the end of 2012 in order to protect ground which tended to get worn and bare due to overuse. The two-mile start is on a spur on the last bend. There are eight fences (four in each straight) to a circuit and, whilst not stiff, they do claim more casualties than might be expected, a lot of the handicaps catering for low-graders.

Pace Information: **Insufficient Data**

1 JOHNNY RINGO t  **100**
3 11-2 | 70.8kg



Lucinda Russell

Derek Fox

Fairly useful on Flat (stays 1¼m), creditable second last time. Capable of making a winning start to hurdling if sufficiently clued up.

2 MARINER (IRE) **89**
3 11-2 | 70.8kg



Jennie Candlish

Sean Quinlan

Fair maiden handicapper on Flat (stays 1¼m), below form of late. Has left Jessica Macey. Should be well prepared for this and can't be ruled out.

3 SAVIOUR (IRE) h+t **91**
3 11-2 | 70.8kg



Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero

Henry Brooke

Fair maiden on the Flat. From the family of a useful hurdler and in good hands, so can't be dismissed.

4 SPARTAN WARRIOR (IRE) **91**
3 11-2 | 70.8kg



Rebecca Menzies

Brian Hughes

Dam half-sister to fairly useful hurdler (stayed 2¾m) Cook Islands. Fair handicapper on Flat (stays 1½m), won twice in 2024 for Ollie Sangster, possibly needed run on stable debut last time. Notable hurdling newcomer.

5 THERE'S NO LIMIT (IRE) (58) b **93**
403 3 11-2 | 70.8kg



Cian Michael Collins, Ireland

Carl Millar (51b/2kg)

Fair winner on the Flat who made a positive start to hurdling career when third at Sedgefield 58 days ago. That experience could be crucial.

6 LUNAR ROCKS **85**
3 10-9 | 67.6kg



R. Mike Smith

Ben Smith (71b/3kg)

Poor maiden on Flat (stays 1½m), down the field last 3 starts. Hard to fancy.

7 MAHPENNY (13) **85**
3 10-9 | 67.6kg



R. Mike Smith

Craig Nichol

Mahsoob filly. Dam fair hurdler (23f winner). Third in a junior bumper at Newcastle recently but needs more on hurdling bow.

8 MELINDA (IRE) **89**
3 10-9 | 67.6kg



Lucinda Russell

Alan Doyle (51b/2kg)

Fair form on Flat up to 1½m, well held on handicap debut last time. Looks the stable second string.

8 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

9-4 Johnny Ringo, **9-2** There's No Limit, **6-1** Spartan Warrior, **13-2** Saviour, **10-1** Mariner, **12-1** Melinda, **16-1** Mahpenny, **33-1** Lunar Rocks

TIMEFORM VIEW:

JOHNNY RINGO is the pick of these on the Flat and ran well in that sphere last time so, if he's well schooled, he could get the better of There's No Limit, who has an experience edge.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. JOHNNY RINGO 2. THERE'S NO LIMIT 3. SPARTAN WARRIOR

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2023	Rory The Cat 3-11-2	7-2	Lucinda Russell	Derek Fox	5
2022	Silver Vision 3-10-9	66-1	Stuart Coltherd	Derek Fox	5
2021	Collingham 3-10-12	8-11f	Donald McCain	Brian Hughes	6
2020	Breguet Boy 3-10-12	10-3	Keith Dalgleish	Billy Garrity (5)	9
2019	George Ridsdale 3-10-12	9-1	Michael Easterby	Paddy Brennan	9

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

1.35

RACE 3

RACING TV PROFITS RETURNED TO RACING NOVICES' HANDICAP CHASE (5) 4yo+ (Rated 0-100) £8,000 2½m68y (4090 Metres)Going: **Good to Soft (Good in places)**

A right-handed oval track a little over a mile and a quarter in extent, almost flat with sharp bends, favouring handy types as opposed to gallopers, especially as it's a quick-draining course that tends to produce less testing ground than most tracks in midwinter. A polytrack strip was installed on the bend running away from the stands towards the end of 2012 in order to protect ground which tended to get worn and bare due to overuse. The two-mile start is on a spur on the last bend. There are eight fences (four in each straight) to a circuit and, whilst not stiff, they do claim more casualties than might be expected, a lot of the handicaps catering for low-graders.

Pace Information: **Very Weak**

1 JUST GINO (FR) (33) 96
5-549 5 12-0 | 76.2kg



Donald McCain

Brian Hughes

Fetched £100,000 after winning sole start in points and posted best effort from 3 starts over hurdles when fourth of 11 on return at Warwick. Fast-tracked over fences but failed to figure at Kelso last month, however.

2 OKAVANGO DELTA (IRE) (33) 99
8/823-P646 8 11-12 | 75.3kg



Paul Robson

Craig Nichol

Hurdles winner who shaped with encouragement starting out for new yard when fourth at Hexham in October. Couldn't build on that when sixth at Kelso (17f) next time but that form is working out well and a return to this longer trip may well see him in a better light here.

3 EUCHAN FALLS (IRE) (26) (C, D) 94
54242-298 7 11-10 | 74.4kg



R. Mike Smith

Danny McMenamin

On a losing run and was well held returned to chasing after 5 months off at Ayr. Others are more appealing.

4 RUFIO (185) 79
P 10 11-9 | 73.9kg



Gary Rutherford

Miss Lucy Brown (71b/3kg)

Fair maiden hurdler for Harry Fry earlier in his career. Dual point winner under Lucy Brown in spring 2022 and almost certainly needed the run after a long absence at Cartmel in May. Likely to need this again.

5 I'M TOO TIRED (IRE) (14) (D) 95
323313P-3 4 11-8 | 73.5kg



Jennie Candlish

Sean Quinlan

Breakthrough success over hurdles came at Sedgefield in January. Decent third there on return so warrants some respect now going chasing.

6 ONE STEP UP (FR) (31) 96
6P67P-2P3 6 11-8 | 73.5kg



Stuart Coltherd

Sam Coltherd

Placed on 2 of his 3 outings this season, on the latest finishing third of 14 at Ayr (19.5f) with cheekpieces added (retained). Makes chase debut.

7 BLOW THE BUDGET (33) 94
3588-3665 6 11-4 | 71.7kg



Lucinda Russell

Derek Fox

Modest maiden hurdler and well held both starts over fences.

8 THE JAD FACTOR (IRE) (591) (D) 100
0F3P2/ 8 11-4 | 71.7kg



Sandy Thomson

Ryan Mania

Fair 20f winner over hurdles who left previous chase efforts behind when a close second in first-time headgear at Kelso when last seen in April. New yard and remains with potential in this sphere.

9 DIVAS DOYEN (IRE) (17) (D) 100
2P2P-2481 7 11-1 | 70.3kg



Sandy Forster

Conor O'Farrell

Finally got off the mark at Carlisle 17 days ago, seen to good effect in having her cards played later than the placed pair and also having the benefit of the rail late on, so not an obvious type to follow up.

10 JACKHAMMER (IRE) (33) 95
24555-937 10 10-12 | 68.9kg



Dianne Sayer

Henry Brooke

Veteran Flat performer (won 3 weeks ago)/hurdles winner. However, yet to score in this sphere and this trip is further than ideal.

BETTING FORECAST:

4-1 The Jad Factor, **5-1** Divas Doyen, **11-2** Okavango Delta, **9-1** One Step Up, **10-1** Jackhammer, **10-1** I'm Too Tired, **11-1** Just Gino, **14-1** Euchan Falls, **20-1** Blow The Budget, **50-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

OKAVANGO DELTA has made a positive start for this yard and can take advantage of a career-low mark returned to a longer trip. The Jad Factor went close at Kelso on his final start and remains unexposed in this sphere so is next best ahead of Divas Doyen, who was seen to good effect when scoring at Carlisle.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. OKAVANGO DELTA 2. THE JAD FACTOR 3. DIVAS DOYEN

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2022 **Hold Onto The Line** 5-11-10 11-4 James Ewart Brian Hughes 8

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

2.10

RACE 4

CMS CAMERON MCKENNA AND CLOSE BROTHERS HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier) (4) 3yo+ (Rated 0-110) £10,000 1m7f124y (3130 Metres)



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

A right-handed oval track a little over a mile and a quarter in extent, almost flat with sharp bends, favouring handy types as opposed to gallopers, especially as it's a quick-draining course that tends to produce less testing ground than most tracks in midwinter. A polytrack strip was installed on the bend running away from the stands towards the end of 2012 in order to protect ground which tended to get worn and bare due to overuse. The two-mile start is on a spur on the last bend. There are eight fences (four in each straight) to a circuit and, whilst not stiff, they do claim more casualties than might be expected, a lot of the handicaps catering for low-graders.

Pace Information: **Strong**

1 **FREDDY ROBINSON (322)** (CD, BF) **93**
414933/1- 5 12-1 | 76.7kg

Brian Ellison *Charlie Maggs (71lb/3kg)*
C&D winner who also landed a 2m Catterick handicap hurdle in January. Has had a productive spell on the Flat since then and enters the reckoning back hurdling.

2 **RAVENS CRAIG CASTLE (64)** (BF) t **99**
52232 6 11-11 | 74.8kg

Iain Jardine *Brian Hughes*
Fairly useful stayer on Flat who hasn't fired for a while in that sphere but boasts a progressive profile in this sphere, finishing second in a 2m Perth handicap on latest start 2 months ago. Another prominent showing is likely.

3 **SPANTIK (701)** (D) s **90**
42363/ 7 11-9 | 73.9kg

Roger Fell *Jamie Hamilton*
Not seen over hurdles for nearly 2 years and recent Flat efforts nothing to get excited about.

4 **BASHFUL (33)** (CD) s+t **95**
1234/411-8 6 11-8 | 73.5kg

Iain Jardine *Conor O'Farrell*
Won a pair of C&D handicaps back in February but struggled on the Flat in the spring/summer and fared no better back hurdling at Kelso last month. Needs a return to Musselburgh to spark a revival.

5 **RESTANDBETHANKFUL (71)** (D, BF) t **96**
09-842212 8 11-8 | 73.5kg

Lizzie Quinlan *Sean Quinlan*
Resumed from wind surgery with a cosy success in 5-runner handicap chase at Cartmel (17f, soft) in August. Good second over fences at Kelso since. Runner-up twice over hurdles in midsummer. Respected.

6 **SNOWROCCO (IRE) (267)** **98**
43- 5 11-3 | 71.2kg

Adam Nicol *Theo Gillard*
Placed on her completed start in Irish points and ran to a fair level when fourth on her Wetherby hurdle debut in February. Found Catterick too sharp when a remote third the following month and it might be a similar story now handicapping after 9 months off.

7 **BENEFIT BEN (IRE) (223)** **93**
8268- 6 11-3 | 71.2kg

Adam Nicol *Danny McMenamin*
Maiden Irish pointer who showed ability in maiden/novice hurdles last winter but well held on his Ayr handicap debut when last seen in April (final start for Sandy Thomson).

8 **MARTY MCFLY (IRE) (19)** (BF) **93**
3/7287-410 6 11-1 | 70.3kg

Sandy Thomson *Ryan Mania*
Struck at the second time of asking for Sandy Thomson in 2m Perth handicap in June but needs to shrug off a disappointing effort at Kelso since.

9 **SHE'S ON LINE (IRE) (9)** **98**
00/09-0522 6 10-8 | 67.1kg

Eoin Christopher McCarthy, Ireland *G. B. Noonan (31lb/1kg)*
Arrives on the back of good runner-up efforts in 2m handicap hurdles at Tramore and Limerick this autumn. Respected Irish raider.

10 **HEART ABOVE (33)** (BF) **100**
08372312 6 10-6 | 66.2kg

Dianne Sayer *Henry Brooke*
Came good over hurdles when readily scoring in 12-runner handicap at Perth (2m, soft) in September. Good second of 15 at Kelso since. Should go well again.

11 **SKIDDAW (IRE) (20)** t **98**
0/57PF-4 6 10-6 | 66.2kg

N. W. Alexander *Bruce Lynn*
Yet to build on his hurdle debut but still early days and he travelled well for a long way before weakening into a well-held fourth in 2m Hexham handicap on reappearance 3 weeks ago. Should be sharper for the outing.

12 **DON'T LOOK BACK (15)** **77**
56085UP8 6 10-2(9-1) | 64.4kg (57.6kg)

William Young Jnr *Derek Fox*
33/1, eighth of 10 in handicap hurdle at Ayr (19.5f, good to soft) 15 days ago. Back down in trip. Easy to look elsewhere from 15 lb out of the handicap.

12 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

9-2 She's On Line, **5-1** Ravenscraig Castle, **6-1** Heart Above, **7-1** Restandbethankful, **8-1** Freddy Robinson, **10-1** Skiddaw, **12-1** Marty Mcfly, **18-1** Bashful, **25-1** Spantik, **33-1** Snowrocco, **50-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

A competitive handicap. HEART ABOVE's form this autumn looks solid and he's taken to resume winning ways for the Dianne Sayer team. Ravenscraig Castle has been placed in both his handicap hurdles and is second choice ahead of Restandbethankful and Irish raider She's On Line.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. HEART ABOVE 2. RAVENS CRAIG CASTLE 3. RESTANDBETHANKFUL

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2023	Cuban Cigar 5-11-11	17-2	Lucinda Russell	Alan Doyle (5)	9
2022	Sonning 4-12-0	10-3f	Danny Brooke	Henry Brooke	8
2020	Raymond 5-11-7	2-1f	Keith Dalgleish	Peter Coleman (10)	14
2019	Justice Knight 7-10-8	12-1	Michael Scudamore	Nick Scholfield	13

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

2.45

RACE 5

PRINCE PHILIP PERPETUAL CHALLENGE TROPHY HANDICAP CHASE (3) 4yo+ (Rated 0-125) £12,000 2m7f138y (4750 Metres)**GBI RACING**Going: **Good to Soft (Good in places)**

A right-handed oval track a little over a mile and a quarter in extent, almost flat with sharp bends, favouring handy types as opposed to gallopers, especially as it's a quick-draining course that tends to produce less testing ground than most tracks in midwinter. A polytrack strip was installed on the bend running away from the stands towards the end of 2012 in order to protect ground which tended to get worn and bare due to overuse. The two-mile start is on a spur on the last bend. There are eight fences (four in each straight) to a circuit and, whilst not stiff, they do claim more casualties than might be expected, a lot of the handicaps catering for low-graders.

Pace Information: **Even**

1 KANDOR (FR) (15) (BF) t **98**
4/273-125F 5 12-0 | 76.2kg



Lucinda Russell

Derek Fox

Left hurdling debut form well behind when winning novice at Perth and acquitted himself well under a penalty at Kelso. Well held from a stiff opening mark next time, however, and failed to complete sent chasing in a first-time tongue strap at Ayr 2 weeks ago. Remains with potential as a chaser.

2 GANAPATHI (FR) (19) s+t **90**
330-7576P 8 11-10 | 74.4kg



Sandy Thomson

Ryan Mania

Useful hurdle/chase winner for Willie Mullins but losing run stretches back to June 2022 and he hasn't set the world alight in 5 starts for present yard.

3 CARTONNE (FR) (12) (C, BF) t **98**
11663-24U 7 11-9 | 73.9kg



Donald McCain

Theo Gillard

Won back-to-back handicap chases last winter and posted creditable efforts in defeat at Ludlow and Hereford during the spring. Shaped as if better for the run after 5 months off when fourth at Huntingdon but got no further than the second at Wetherby since (pulled hard back up in trip).

4 HIGH MOON (35) **99**
1/P632P-P5 9 11-7 | 73.0kg



Rebecca Menzies

Ross Chapman

Has developed a patchy record but did hint at a revival following 6 months off when fifth of 15 in handicap chase at Carlisle (20f, good to soft) 35 days ago, no extra run-in. Lines up here with yard firmly amongst the winners if building on that now.

5 WILD SIDE OF LIFE (IRE) (238) (BF) **98**
2U24- 6 11-7 | 73.0kg



L J Morgan

Adam Wedge

Easily opened his account in Irish points at third attempt and runner-up on 2 of his 3 completed starts in novice hurdles. Better than bare result on handicap bow at Southwell final start but stamina/fitness to prove on chase bow/return.

6 BRANDY MCQUEEN (IRE) (25) (C, D, BF) ★ **100**
P47-6682P 7 11-3 | 71.2kg



Gary Rutherford

Sam Coltherd

Made a winning chase debut at Kelso 13 months ago and having essentially struggled since, he stopped the slide after 3 months off when runner-up back at that venue last month. Didn't jump well enough from 2 lb out of the weights at Carlisle since but will find this less competitive.

7 EVERYDAY CHAMPAGNE (IRE) (31) (D) s **97**
447-22205 8 11-3 | 71.2kg



N. W. Alexander

Bruce Lynn

Runner-up first 3 starts this season but well held both starts since. Needs to bounce back.

8 CARDAMON HILL (IRE) (12) (D) s **98**
61276341 7 10-13 | 69.4kg



Dianne Sayer

Henry Brooke

Resumed winning ways in 4-runner handicap chase at Wetherby (24.2f, good, 5/2) 12 days ago. Not sure to be in same form now.

8 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

10-3 Kandor, **5-1** Cartonne, **11-2** Brandy Mcqueen, **6-1** Cardamon Hill, **8-1** Wild Side of Life, **9-1** High Moon, **12-1** Everyday Champagne, **18-1** Ganapathi

TIMEFORM VIEW:

It could be worth chancing HIGH MOON, who hinted at a revival on his comeback 5 weeks ago and may well build on that with his yard in good form. Brandy McQueen is feared most back down in class.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. HIGH MOON 2. BRANDY MCQUEEN 3. KANDOR

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:2023 **Half Shot** 9-11-11

5-1 Iain Jardine

Brian Hughes

10

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

3.20

RACE 6

**MUSSELBURGH RACECOURSE PREMIUM ANNUAL
MEMBERSHIP HANDICAP HURDLE (5) 3yo+ (Rated 0-100)
£7,000 2m7f180y (4790 Metres)**Going: **Good to Soft (Good in places)**

A right-handed oval track a little over a mile and a quarter in extent, almost flat with sharp bends, favouring handy types as opposed to gallopers, especially as it's a quick-draining course that tends to produce less testing ground than most tracks in midwinter. A polytrack strip was installed on the bend running away from the stands towards the end of 2012 in order to protect ground which tended to get worn and bare due to overuse. The two-mile start is on a spur on the last bend. There are eight fences (four in each straight) to a circuit and, whilst not stiff, they do claim more casualties than might be expected, a lot of the handicaps catering for low-graders.

Pace Information: **Even**

1 MAILLOT BLANC (19) t **100**
32632/5-73 7 12-0 | 76.2kg



N. W. Alexander

Dominic Hislop (10lb/5kg)

3/1 and tongue strap on for 1st time, creditable third of 11 in handicap hurdle at Kelso (20.9f, good to soft) 19 days ago. Fairly treated on his best form and this trip should suit, so worthy of consideration.

2 LES'S LEGACY (25) t **95**
4028-2688 7 12-0 | 76.2kg



Susan Corbett

Nathan Moscrop

Three-time hurdle winner during 2022/23 campaign. Below form on last couple of starts in the summer and needed the run at Carlisle recently. Up in trip with tongue strap applied.

3 TOP MAN TOM (IRE) (17) v **95**
5250 5 11-12 | 75.3kg



Sandy Thomson

Ryan Mania

Winning pointer who was visored when second of 13 in a maiden hurdle at Uttoxeter in July. Subsequently sold out of Ben Pauling's yard for £13,500 and yet to fire for current yard. Headgear goes back on, though.

4 TWOPLACESATONETIME (IRE) (20) s **98**
7P3-P71 6 11-7 | 73.0kg



Rebecca Menzies

Aaron Anderson (5lb/2kg)

Low-mileage 6-y-o who upped his game in first-time cheekpieces to score at Hexham 3 weeks ago and may have more to offer over this sort of trip, so makes most appeal.

5 EVENWOOD SONOFAGUN (IRE) (15) s+t **92**
39-420507 6 11-7 | 73.0kg



Lizzie Quinlan

Sean Quinlan

Long-standing maiden who arrives on the back of a poor run at Ayr 15 days ago. Upped in trip and on a handy mark.

6 MALANGEN (IRE) (15) **97**
35546372 9 11-7 | 73.0kg



Lisa Harrison

Peter Kavanagh (3lb/1kg)

Successful at Hexham (16.2f, good) in June and has been kept busy of late, back to form when runner-up at Ayr last time. Should be on the premises again.

7 AAZZA (IRE) (30) s **91**
2/96040-79 8 11-4 | 71.7kg



Paul Robson

Craig Nichol

Winless last term and down the field in a handicap at Bangor on first outing since leaving Rose Dobbin a month ago. Cheekpieces are on but others make more appeal.

8 THE GEORDIE GINGE (IRE) (12) **95**
3233-6424 6 11-2 | 70.8kg



Hannah McMahon

Edward Austin (5lb/2kg)

Modest maiden hurdler who had little chance in a novice at Wetherby last time. Upped in trip now and this is more realistic.

9 BILLABLE GRANT (IRE) (31) **91**
9P0-780P0 7 10-8 | 67.1kg



Jackie Stephen

Danny McMenamin

Sixteen runs since last win in 2022. First run since leaving Colin A. McBratney when eleventh of 14 in handicap hurdle at Ayr (19.5f, good to soft, 100/1) 31 days ago. Back up in trip. Arrives with plenty to prove.

9 DECLARED RUNNERS

TIMEFORM VIEW:

TWOPLACESATONETIME showed a good attitude to prevail in a tight finish at Hexham earlier in the month and he's unexposed as a stayer, so he's preferred to Malangen and Maillot Blanc, who also arrive on the back of solid performances.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**1. TWOPLACESATONETIME 2. MALANGEN 3. MAILLOT BLANC****WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2023	Sanosuke	5-11-8	6-1	N. W. Alexander	Bruce Lynn (3)	11
2022	Faithfullfyer	5-11-3	8-1	Sandy Thomson	Ryan Mania	13

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

BETTING FORECAST:

11-4 Twoplacesatonetime, **4-1** Malangen, **5-1** Maillot Blanc, **15-2** Evenwood Sonofagun, **12-1** The Geordie Ginge, **12-1** Aazza, **20-1** Les's Legacy, **25-1** Top Man Tom, **50-1** bar