

Saturday 28th December

LEICESTER



12.15 ON THE FOURTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS NOVICES' CHASE (3) 2½m25y (4050 Metres)

RACE 1 **(2) BUTCH | (3) FARNOGE | (1) ABBEYDALE**

12.45 MY TRUE LOVE GAVE TO ME NOVICES' HANDICAP CHASE (5) 2½m25y (4050 Metres)

RACE 2 **(4) NORTHERN REEL | (2) JIKALA | (7) THIRSTY FARMER**

1.25 FOUR CALLING BIRDS HANDICAP CHASE (4) 2¾m151y (4560 Metres)

RACE 3 **(2) LATENIGHTRUMBLE | (5) SUPERBOLT | (4) WILD SIDE OF LIFE**

1.55 THREE FRENCH HENS TWO TURTLE DOVES NOVICES' HANDICAP CHASE (5) 2¾m151y (4560 Metres)

RACE 4 **(4) GAVROCHE D'ALLIER | (6) EVERYONESACRITIC | (1) OVERABOTTLEOFRED**

2.30 AND A PARTRIDGE IN A PEAR TREE HANDICAP CHASE (4) 1m7f201y (3200 Metres)

RACE 5 **(3) LADY PRETENDER | (4) TIME TO DAZZLE | (2) JACKPOT CASH**

3.10 LEICESTERSHIRE SILVER FOX HANDICAP CHASE (3) 2½m25y (4050 Metres)

RACE 6 **(8) HUNTER LEGEND | (6) AWAYTHELAD | (3) INVINCIBLE NAO**

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.

12.15**ON THE FOURTH DAY OF CHRISTMAS NOVICES' CHASE (3)
4yo+ £15,000 2½m25y (4050 Metres)**

RACE 1

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

Right handed, rather undulating with a gradual uphill finish of around three furlongs. Hurdle races run on Flat course and invariably more testing as a result, that track having been watered during the summer, though races are often steadily run, resulting in fields still being well bunched early in the straight. There tends to be an advantage in taking a wide route on the hurdles course when the going is testing, whilst field sizes for chases are amongst the smallest in the country.

Pace Information: **Very Weak****1 ABBEYDALE (FR) (45)** t **85**

4516/469-F 6 11-4 | 71.7kg



Fergal O'Brien

J. Hogan (3lb/1kg)

Fairly useful 2m hurdler for Gordon Elliott but he was a below-par ninth at Ayr for his new yard in April and suffered a nasty experience sent chasing after 7 months off at Bangor 6 weeks ago, taking a very heavy fall 5 out when still towards rear.

2 BUTCH (315) (D, BF) ★ **100**

7212/1112- 7 11-4 | 71.7kg



Olly Murphy

Sean Bowen

Progressed into a useful performer over hurdles last season and promises to make an even better chaser, so good chance he can make a winning start in this sphere after 10 months off.

3 FARNOGE (57) (BF) s+t **94**

1/11PP3-2 6 11-4 | 71.7kg



Paul Nicholls

Freddie Gingell (3lb/1kg)

Winner of first 3 starts under Rules, including novice hurdles at Newton Abbot/Ascot. Pulled up twice before getting back on track in a first-time tongue strap when third in a Perth listed event in the spring. Failed to meet expectations on chase bow/return but yard in better form now. Headgear on.

3 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

11-10 Butch, 7-4 Farnoge, 9-2 Abbeydale

TIMEFORM VIEW:

BUTCH was comfortably the best of these over hurdles and will make a chaser, so there's every chance he can make a winning start in this sphere. Farnoge is next best.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. BUTCH 2. FARNOGE 3. ABBEYDALE

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2022	Loughderg Rocco	6-11-4	5-1	L J Morgan	Adam Wedge	6
2019	Itchy Feet	5-11-0	1-5f	Olly Murphy	Aidan Coleman	3

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

12.45**MY TRUE LOVE GAVE TO ME NOVICES' HANDICAP CHASE (5)
4yo+ (Rated 0-100) £9,000 2½m25y (4050 Metres)**

RACE 2

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

Right handed, rather undulating with a gradual uphill finish of around three furlongs. Hurdle races run on Flat course and invariably more testing as a result, that track having been watered during the summer, though races are often steadily run, resulting in fields still being well bunched early in the straight. There tends to be an advantage in taking a wide route on the hurdles course when the going is testing, whilst field sizes for chases are amongst the smallest in the country.

Pace Information: **Very Weak****1 KNOCKNAGAPPAGH (IRE) (31)** b **87**

20722P6-P 8 12-0 | 76.2kg

Stuart Edmunds

Ciaran Gethings

Long-standing maiden who was runner-up on 3 of first 4 starts over fences but little impact 3 starts since, including on yard debut/return last month.

**2 JIKALA (FR) (23)** **95**

442514/6 5 11-12 | 75.3kg

Venetia Williams

Ned Fox (3lb/1kg)

French import who landed Hereford juvenile in March 2023. Off 20 months before an encouraging sixth of 8 in handicap chase here (22.7f, soft) on her debut over fences 23 days ago, close up until a blunder 3 out. No surprise to see her take a sizeable step forward now.

**3 HENRY BOX BROWN (IRE) (38) (D)** **86**

F257176F 7 11-6 | 72.6kg

Evan Williams

Ellis Collier (7lb/3kg)

Gained a first success over fences at Worcester (20f) in August but well held since. Others are more appealing.

**4 NORTHERN REEL (IRE) (32) (C, BF)** s+t **100**

P6-667312 6 11-5 | 72.1kg

Olly Murphy

Sean Bowen

Irish point winner who is going the right way and got off the mark under Rules in 8-runner handicap chase at Leicester last month. Good second at Southwell a week later and expected to be bang there again.

**5 OUTBACK FRONTIERS (IRE) (17)** **85**

0-4712659 8 10-13 | 69.4kg

John O'Shea

Adam Wedge

Twice a winner over hurdles, latterly at Stratford (18.7f) in July. However, has made a discouraging start to his chasing career last 2 starts.

**6 JUMBO VESTE VERTE (FR) (44)** s **85**

943368-54 5 10-11 | 68.5kg

Tom Gretton

Derek Fox

Poor maiden hurdler who was given a considerate introduction to chasing at Market Rasen (21f) 6 weeks ago. Needs a lot more in first-time headgear.

**7 THIRSTY FARMER (952)** t **86**

1/ 10 10-10 | 68.0kg

Richard Hawker

Harry Reed

Well backed and off the mark in a weak handicap hurdle on return from 8 months off at Stratford in May 2022. Not seen since, however, so market may prove best guide on belated chase bow.

**8 STAAR (IRE) (285)** s **86**

2/77U5- 10 10-8 | 67.1kg

Emma-Jane Bishop

James Best

Just one effort of note under Rules, namely when going close in a Wincanton handicap hurdle in December 2022. Not so good in 4 subsequent starts, though, including over fences. Off 9 months.

**9 CAN'T BUY TIME (IRE) (18)** b+t **85**

606PP-P4 5 10-6 | 66.2kg

Cynthia Woods

Tabitha Worsley (3lb/1kg)

No show in 5 starts over hurdles and chase bow/return but did at least offer a glimmer of hope fitted in this headgear when fourth at Fontwell 18 days ago.



9 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

15-8 Northern Reel, **3-1** Jikala, **10-1** Knocknagappagh, **12-1** Thirsty Farmer, **14-1** Henry Box Brown, **14-1** Staar, **22-1** Jumbo Veste Verte, **22-1** Outback Frontiers, **25-1** Can't Buy Time

TIMEFORM VIEW:

NORTHERN REEL has taken well to this sphere and has a good chance of resuming winning ways with most of her rivals arriving with something to prove. Jikala shaped well back from a long absence on chase bow here earlier this month and is a clear next best.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**1. NORTHERN REEL 2. JIKALA 3. THIRSTY FARMER****SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

1.25**FOUR CALLING BIRDS HANDICAP CHASE (4) 4yo+ (Rated 0-120) £12,000 2¾m151y (4560 Metres)****RACE 3****GBI RACING**Going: **Soft (Good to Soft in places)**

Right handed, rather undulating with a gradual uphill finish of around three furlongs. Hurdle races run on Flat course and invariably more testing as a result, that track having been watered during the summer, though races are often steadily run, resulting in fields still being well bunched early in the straight. There tends to be an advantage in taking a wide route on the hurdles course when the going is testing, whilst field sizes for chases are amongst the smallest in the country.

Pace Information: **Very Weak****1 PEEJAYBEE (FR) (36) 97**

4136-4132 8 12-0 | 76.2kg



Peter & Michael Bowen

Sean Bowen

Successful 3 times over hurdles and notched second win in this sphere when accounting for 6 rivals at Perth (2½m, soft) in September. Creditable placed efforts both outings since and this step back up in trip rates a likely plus here.

2 LATENIGHTRUMBLE (21) t ★ 100

25731 7 12-0 | 76.2kg



Tom Ellis

Mr Jack Andrews (3lb/1kg)

Four-time point winner who surpassed his hurdles form when making a winning handicap chase debut at Wetherby (24.2f) 21 days ago, only prevailing inexperience preventing him running out a more decisive winner. Remains unexposed and big shout up 6 lb.

3 D'JO DELA BARRIERE (FR) (12) 90

563-4914 5 11-11 | 74.8kg



Evan Williams

Adam Wedge

Struck at the second time of asking for Evan Williams in 2m Hereford novice hurdle last month. Struggled to make an impact returned to this sphere when fourth of 5 in handicap chase at Plumpton (19.8f) 12 days ago. Steps back up in trip now.

4 WILD SIDE OF LIFE (IRE) (30) (BF) 98

2024-F 6 11-8 | 73.5kg



L J Morgan

Harry Reed

Easily opened his account in Irish points at third attempt and runner-up on 2 of his 3 completed starts in novice hurdles. Well backed, fell just before halfway on return/handicap chase debut at Musselburgh (23.6f) 4 weeks ago and he's not one to be writing off.

5 SUPERBOLT (IRE) (24) t 98

488-6221 4 11-2 | 70.8kg

Nigel Twiston-Davies *Jamie Brace (7lb/3kg)*

No great shakes over hurdles/on the Flat in Ireland but has upped his game for new yard, gaining reward for string of runners-up efforts when winning 5-runner handicap chase at Ludlow (23.8f) 24 days ago, leading approaching last and drawing clear on Flat. Player once more.

6 NINE NINE NINE (34) (CD) 94

1313344-P 7 10-2(10-0) | 64.4kg (63.5kg)



Sarah-Jayne Davies

James Best

Won twice here earlier this year, latterly a C&D handicap in March and ended campaign with solid fourth of 9 in handicap chase (3/1) at Bangor (24.1f, soft) in April. Looked rusty and never figured after 7 months off when pulled up at Uttoxeter (20f, heavy) 5 weeks ago.

6 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

2-1 Latenightrumble, **11-4** Superbolt, **9-2** Wild Side of Life, **5-1** Peejaybee, **16-1** Nine Nine Nine, **18-1** D'jo Dela Barriere

TIMEFORM VIEW:

LATENIGHTRUMBLE found only prevailing inexperience preventing him running out an even more decisive winner when taking a 10-runner handicap chase at Wetherby 21 days ago, and with further progress in the offing, he makes plenty of appeal in his follow-up bid. Fellow last-time-out winner Superbolt heads up the dangers, with Wild Side of Life another not dismissed lightly having been well backed on his chase debut at Musselburgh 4 weeks ago.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. LATENIGHTRUMBLE 2. SUPERBOLT 3. WILD SIDE OF LIFE

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

1.55

RACE 4

THREE FRENCH HENS TWO TURTLE DOVES NOVICES' HANDICAP CHASE (5) 4yo+ (Rated 0-100) £9,000
2¾m151y (4560 Metres)**GBI RACING**Going: **Soft (Good to Soft in places)**

Right handed, rather undulating with a gradual uphill finish of around three furlongs. Hurdle races run on Flat course and invariably more testing as a result, that track having been watered during the summer, though races are often steadily run, resulting in fields still being well bunched early in the straight. There tends to be an advantage in taking a wide route on the hurdles course when the going is testing, whilst field sizes for chases are amongst the smallest in the country.

Pace Information: **Very Weak****1 OVERABOTTLEOFRED (224) 98**

5F4-3 5 12-0 | 76.2kg



Tom Gretton

Fergus Gillard

Lightly-raced maiden hurdler who posted a very good third of 10 in handicap hurdle at Uttoxeter (23.3f) in May. Goes chasing on her return and this promising pointer is very much one to consider.

2 RACING SNAKE (756) 91

P7/ 9 11-9 | 73.9kg



Clive Boulton-Brooks

Richard Patrick

Won 3 of 4 starts in points but limited impact in hunter chase/both starts over hurdles in 2022.

3 MAKO OF THE GLADE (FR) (16) b 90

6P6-8 6 11-7 | 73.0kg



Venetia Williams

Ned Fox (3lb/1kg)

Fair form when reaching the frame in 2 juvenile hurdles in France in autumn 2021 but no impact in 4 runs following a lengthy absence for this yard, including on chase bow/return. Headgear on.

4 GAVROCHE D'ALLIER (FR) (27) s ★ 100

35364P4/3 8 11-1 | 70.3kg



Olly Murphy

Sean Bowen

Consistent rather than progressive over hurdles in 2022/23. Positives to take from his yard/chase debut third here (2½m, soft) back from a 20-month absence and he is entitled to come on for that run with headgear re-fitted.

5 RONNIES REFLECTION (2) t 93

995-P3P 6 10-12 | 68.9kg



Ben Case

Jack Quinlan

Little to shout about over hurdles but showed more following a second wind op when third on return/chase debut in an 8-runner handicap over C&D where he was ½-length adrift of runner-up Everyonesacritic. Pulled up at Market Rasen on Boxing Day, however.

6 EVERYONESACRITIC (IRE) (23) (BF) s 98

144-33842 5 10-11 | 68.5kg



Evan Williams

Adam Wedge

Winning hurdler who fared better than previously in this sphere when second over C&D 3 weeks ago and needs considering off the same mark.

7 COUNTRY KITTEN (IRE) (52) (D) 88

FP1P/P6P-P 9 10-3 | 64.9kg



Max Young

Tabitha Worsley (3lb/1kg)

Successful over hurdles at Market Rasen in March 2023 but has shown next to nothing in 5 subsequent starts (pulled up on 4 occasions) and she is best left alone.

7 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:**11-4** Gavroche D'allier, **10-3** Everyonesacritic, **7-2** Overabottleofred, **7-1** Ronnies Reflection, **12-1** Racing Snake, **16-1** Mako of The Glade, **33-1** Country Kitten**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

GAVROCHE D'ALLIER offered something to work on back from a long absence when third on chase/yard debut here 4 weeks ago so gets the vote with improvement on the cards. Everyonesacritic and Overabottleofred are others to consider.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**1. GAVROCHE D'ALLIER 2. EVERYONESACRITIC 3. OVERABOTTLEOFRED****SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

2.30**AND A PARTRIDGE IN A PEAR TREE HANDICAP CHASE (4)
4yo+ (Rated 0-110) £10,000 1m7f201y (3200 Metres)**

RACE 5

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

Right handed, rather undulating with a gradual uphill finish of around three furlongs. Hurdle races run on Flat course and invariably more testing as a result, that track having been watered during the summer, though races are often steadily run, resulting in fields still being well bunched early in the straight. There tends to be an advantage in taking a wide route on the hurdles course when the going is testing, whilst field sizes for chases are amongst the smallest in the country.

Pace Information: **Very Weak**

1 BEGIN THE LUCK (IRE) (23) (D) s **98**
93535134 8 12-0 | 76.2kg



Daisy Hitchens *Mr Robbie David (7lb/3kg)*
Deservedly got his head back in front when capitalising on a lower hurdles mark at Stratford (18.7f, heavy) in October. Decent third returned to this sphere at Southwell next time and shaped as if still in form at Wincanton 23 days ago.

2 JACKPOT CASH (FR) (24) h **81**
5436-47F 5 11-11 | 74.8kg



Evan Williams *Adam Wedge*
Showed ability over hurdles last term and may have needed outing when seventh of 8 in handicap chase at Chepstow (16f, good, 28/1) on debut over fences. Fell at Ludlow 24 days ago but isn't one to write off.

3 LADY PRETENDER (FR) (11) ★ **100**
6/22257-P3 5 11-10 | 74.4kg



Venetia Williams *Ned Fox (3lb/1kg)*
Fairly useful hurdler/chaser in France and produced most encouraging effort for this yard when third at Wincanton 11 days ago. Will take all the beating if she can build on that.

4 TIME TO DAZZLE (IRE) (10) **96**
5P/21P-6P2 6 11-10 | 74.4kg



Sarah-Jayne Davies *James Best*
Modest winner at 19f over hurdles. 50/1, second of 6 in handicap chase at Ludlow (16f, soft) 10 days ago. Should be involved again in a weak race.

5 WE GOT YOUR BACK (118) h **96**
29-966530 6 10-6 | 66.2kg



L J Morgan *Harry Reed*
Winless but has been given a chance by the handicapper. Failed to beat a rival when last seen at Worcester 118 days ago, so needs to bounce back.

5 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

5-2 Lady Pretender, **7-2** Time To Dazzle, **4-1** Jackpot Cash, **9-2** Begin The Luck, **6-1** We Got Your Back

TIMEFORM VIEW:

LADY PRETENDER took a firm step in the right direction when third at Wincanton last time and makes most appeal given how well handicapped she is on her French form. Time To Dazzle arrives on the back of a solid showing and can also make his presence felt, while Jackpot Cash isn't one to rule out.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. LADY PRETENDER 2. TIME TO DAZZLE 3. JACKPOT CASH

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2022	Ben Buie 8-10-7	5-2jf	Martin Keighley	Sean Bowen	4
2019	Little Light 5-12-0	11-2	Lucy Wadham	Maxime Tissier (5)	8

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

3.10**LEICESTERSHIRE SILVER FOX HANDICAP CHASE (3) 4yo+
(Rated 0-125) £20,000 2½m25y (4050 Metres)**

RACE 6

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

Right handed, rather undulating with a gradual uphill finish of around three furlongs. Hurdle races run on Flat course and invariably more testing as a result, that track having been watered during the summer, though races are often steadily run, resulting in fields still being well bunched early in the straight. There tends to be an advantage in taking a wide route on the hurdles course when the going is testing, whilst field sizes for chases are amongst the smallest in the country.

Pace Information: **Strong****SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

1 **SHELDON (IRE) (294)** (D) **96**
3/F6P1317- **8** 12-0 | 76.2kg



Seamus Mullins

Micheal Nolan

Dual winner last season who shaped as if still in form when last seen at Sandown 9 months ago. Needs a career best on this return, so it's a big ask.

2 **CHAMPAGNESUPEROVER (IRE) (25)** (D) **90**
14/4-F40F **9** 11-9 | 73.9kg



Olly Murphy

Sean Bowen

Dual chaser winner around 3m in spring 2022. Lightly raced since and considerably handled when tenth of 15 in handicap chase at Bangor (20.3f, soft) on latest completed start (fell at Southwell last time).

3 **INVINCIBLE NAO (FR) (22)** **98**
463412U-5 **6** 11-8 | 73.5kg



Gary & Josh Moore

Caolin Quinn

Opened chase account with a wide-margin victory at Fakenham (21f, soft) in February before finishing a fine second at Sandown. Failed to beat a rival at Sandown on return but should strip fitter for it.

4 **HIGH TREASON (18)** (D) **90**
3/34191-37 **5** 11-8 | 73.5kg



Nigel Twiston-Davies

Jamie Brace (71b/3kg)

Fairly useful winning hurdler who made a promising chase debut at Newbury in November. Ran no sort of race at Fontwell subsequently but it's too soon to write him off in this sphere.

5 **WILLIAM CODY (12)** (CD) **95**
24212-414 **7** 11-8 | 73.5kg



Pam Sly

Paul O'Brien

Bagged fourth success over fences when taking 5-runner handicap chase at Huntingdon in November and wasn't disgraced at Southwell last time. One to consider.

6 **AWAYTHELAD (IRE) (25)** (C, D) **96**
7211P7-34 **7** 11-7 | 73.0kg



Ben Pauling

Callum Pritchard (71b/3kg)

A dual winning hurdler around 2m4f who has shaped with encouragement on both chase outings, again hitting the frame at Southwell last time. Should have more to offer and makes appeal in a thin race.4

7 **GOLDEN WHISKY (IRE) (27)** (D) **93**
62PP/73 **11** 11-4 | 71.7kg



Evan Williams

Miss Eleanor Williams (71b/3kg)

Hurdle and multiple chase winner who has looked to retain ability back from an absence this year, returning to fences with a solid showing over C&D last time. Mark is potentially lenient.

8 **HUNTER LEGEND (FR) (23)** **100**
222F11-72 **7** 11-2 | 70.8kg



Venetia Williams

Ned Fox (31b/1kg)

Signed off last season by winning heavy-ground Lingfield and Bangor handicaps and got right back on track when runner-up at Wincanton last time. Seems to have found an ideal opening here.

8 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

10-3 Hunter Legend, **5-1** Awaythelad, **6-1** Invincible Nao, **8-1** High Treason, **17-2** William Cody, **10-1** Sheldon, **12-1** Golden Whisky, **12-1** Champagnesuperover

TIMEFORM VIEW:

HUNTER LEGEND finished last season well and returned to form with an excellent second to a well-treated rival at Wincanton last time. This looks easier and he's preferred to Awaythelad, who is unexposed as a chaser. Invincible Nao can also be considered.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. HUNTER LEGEND 2. AWAYTHELAD 3. INVINCIBLE NAO

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2022 **Our Jet** 6-11-13 13-8f Dan Skelton Harry Skelton 10
2019 **Prairie Town** 8-11-4 16-1 Tony Carroll Lee Edwards 9