

Sunday 29th December

**12.10** GRANT FIT OUT MAIDEN HURDLE 2½m (4020 Metres)

RACE 1 **(1) ARGENTO BOY | (9) THE ENABLER | (4) I AM LORENZO**

**12.45** SIS SUPPORTING IRISH RACING IRISH EBF NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE 2½m (4020 Metres)

RACE 2 **(5) TAPONTHEGO | (3) BIG CHOU | (6) FENWAY PARK**

**1.20** BEAT THE BANK.IE IRISH EBF MARES HURDLE (Kerrymount) (Grade 3) 2½m (4020 Metres)

RACE 3 **(7) LOT OF JOY | (6) JULY FLOWER | (3) JETARA**

**1.55** ADARE MANOR OPPORTUNITY HANDICAP CHASE 3m100y (4920 Metres)

RACE 4 **(7) BIG STAGE | (13) JOUSTER | (10) BALLYBAWN BELTER**

**2.30** NEVILLE HOTELS HURDLE (December) (Grade 1) 2m (3220 Metres)

RACE 5 **(5) STATE MAN | (7) BRIGHTERDAYSAHEAD | (4) MYSTICAL POWER**

**3.05** NEVILLE HOTELS PREMIER HANDICAP HURDLE (Rathdown) (Listed) 2½m (4020 Metres)

RACE 6 **(9) SA FUREUR | (4) MR PERCY | (2) TOUNSIVATOR**

**3.40** PLUSVITAL I.N.H. FLAT 2m (3220 Metres)

RACE 7 **(2) KOKTAIL BRUT | (3) SORTUDO | (4) WILLIAM BUTLER**

#### 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.

**12.10****GRANT FIT OUT MAIDEN HURDLE 5yo+ €15,000 2½m  
(4020 Metres)**


RACE 1

**GBI RACING**Going: **Chase course: Good to Yielding (Yielding in places), Hurdles course: Yielding (Good to Yielding in places)**

The Leopardstown course is a wide, left-handed oval track, about a mile and three quarters in length. The course is fairly level with easy turns except for a slight rise from the last bend. Leopardstown provides a fair test, although three of the fences in the back straight are close together and occasionally catch out the less-accomplished chaser, and the finishing straight is relatively short. The inner hurdles course, used occasionally, is rather sharper in character than the chase track and tends to provide a significant test of tactical speed.

Pace Information: **Even**

**1 ARGENTO BOY (IRE) (35) (BF)**  **100**  
10-62 5 11-12 | 75.3kg

W. P. Mullins, Ireland **P. Townend**

Winner in bumper at Fairyhouse in January. Shaped with plenty of encouragement on hurdling debut when second of 12 in maiden at Punchestown (21.7f, good to soft, 11/10) 5 weeks ago, clear of rest. Winner that day has won a Grade 2 novice since, so he's strongly fancied to go one better.

**2 BOSSOFTHEBROWNIES (IRE) (30)** **92**  
933-2 5 11-12 | 75.3kg



M. F. Morris, Ireland

**D. J. O'Keefe**

Made a satisfactory return to action after 10 months off when second of 8 in maiden hurdle (4/1) at Thurles (22.9f, good to soft) 30 days ago.

**3 HARBOUR HIGHWAY (IRE) (29) (BF)** **87**  
1-09 5 11-12 | 75.3kg



Emmet Mullins, Ireland

**M. P. Walsh**

Bumper winner. 11/4 and tongue strap on for 1st time, failed to meet expectations when ninth of 25 in maiden at Fairyhouse (16f, good) on hurdles bow 29 days ago. Up in trip. Clearly thought capable of better.

**4 I AM LORENZO (IRE) (63) (BF)** **91**  
6-2 5 11-12 | 75.3kg



Gavin Patrick Cromwell, Ireland

**Keith Donoghue**


2/1, improved on debut form from 10 months earlier upped markedly in trip when second of 7 in maiden hurdle at Galway (21.4f, heavy) 9 weeks ago, clear of rest. He's a useful stayer in the making.

**5 JOCKER DU MOULIN (FR) (231)** **70**  
9-P 5 11-12 | 75.3kg

Gordon Elliott, Ireland **Jordan Colin Gainford**


Went backwards from hurdling bow when pulled up in novice hurdle (33/1) at Killarney (17f, good to soft) when last seen 7 months ago. Faces another struggle.

**6 MINELLA POST (19)** **93**  
335 5 11-12 | 75.3kg

T. Gibney, Ireland **K. E. Buckley**

Placed both starts in bumpers. Promise when never-nearer fifth of 19 in maiden at Punchestown (19.1f, soft, 50/1) on hurdles bow 19 days ago.

**7 PORT JOULAIN (FR) (19) (BF)** **70**  
1-0P 5 11-12 | 75.3kg

W. P. Mullins, Ireland **D. E. Mullins**

Useful winner at 18f in bumpers. Evens, suffered overreach when pulled up in maiden at Punchestown (16.6f, soft) on hurdles bow 19 days ago. Up in trip. Remains with potential.

**8 SLIEVE ANNILOG (IRE)** **70**  
6 11-12 | 75.3kg



Riceal Dunne, Ireland

**Oakley Brown (5lb/2kg)**

Mount Nelson gelding. Dam unraced half-sister to fairly useful hurdler/useful chaser (stayed 2½m) Rinroe. Off mark in points at third attempt (Dec 1). Faces a stiff task first time up.

**9 THE ENABLER (IRE) (22)** **99**  
2115-2P2 5 11-12 | 75.3kg

Gordon Elliott, Ireland **Sam Ewing**

Fairly useful hurdler. Improved when second of 25 in maiden hurdle at Navan (16f, soft, 9/2) just over 3 weeks ago, giving an exciting prospect a real scare. Back up in trip. Likely to continue in form.

**10 WESTON (GER)** **70**  
5 11-12 | 75.3kg



H. Rogers, Ireland

**R. A. Doyle**

Useful handicapper on Flat (stays 2½m) but faces a stiff task in this field on hurdling debut.

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**6-4** Argento Boy, **11-2** The Enabler, **7-1** I Am Lorenzo, **15-2** Port Joulain, **12-1** Minella Post, **12-1** Boss of the Brownies, **16-1** Harbour Highway, **33-1** Weston, **200-1** bar

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

Willie Mullins took this last year with the outstanding Ballyburn and he can repeat the trick with ARGENTO BOY, who shaped with plenty of encouragement when runner-up on hurdling debut at Punchestown 5 weeks ago. The main danger may emerge from The Enabler, who took his form up a notch when second in a big-field maiden at Navan earlier this month, with I Am Lorenzo and Harbour Highway another couple fancied to be involved, too.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. ARGENTO BOY 2. THE ENABLER 3. I AM LORENZO**

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2023	<b>Ballyburn</b> 5-11-12	2-9f	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	8
2022	<b>Good Land</b> 6-11-12	9-2	Barry Connell	M. J. M. O'Sullivan (5)	12
2021	<b>Journey With Me</b> 5-12-0	3-1	Henry de Bromhead	Rachael Blackmore	9
2020	<b>Stattler</b> 5-12-0	13-8f	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	17
2019	<b>Cobbler's Way</b> 5-11-12	9-2	Henry de Bromhead	Rachael Blackmore	16

**SMART STATS:**

<b>4</b>	W. P. Mullins's number of winners in past 10 runnings. (amongst 2 runners saddles: <b>ARGENTO BOY</b> )
<b>22%</b>	W. P. Mullins's strike rate at LEOPARDSTOWN since the start of the 2020/21 season (saddles: <b>ARGENTO BOY and PORT JOULAIN</b> )
<b>39%</b>	P. Townend's strike rate at LEOPARDSTOWN (rides: <b>ARGENTO BOY</b> )

**12.45**

RACE 2

**SIS SUPPORTING IRISH RACING IRISH EBF NOVICE  
HANDICAP HURDLE 4yo+ (Rated 80-130) €25,000 2½m  
(4020 Metres)**
**Going: Chase course: Good to Yielding (Yielding in places), Hurdles course: Yielding (Good to Yielding in places)**

The Leopardstown course is a wide, left-handed oval track, about a mile and three quarters in length. The course is fairly level with easy turns except for a slight rise from the last bend. Leopardstown provides a fair test, although three of the fences in the back straight are close together and occasionally catch out the less-accomplished chaser, and the finishing straight is relatively short. The inner hurdles course, used occasionally, is rather sharper in character than the chase track and tends to provide a significant test of tactical speed.

**Pace Information: Even**
**1 PATER MERCHANT (IRE) (22) (C) 92**  
 17-135 5 12-0 | 76.2kg

 Gordon Elliott, Ireland **C. P. Millar (5lb/2kg)**   
 Winning hurdles debut at Galway in October. Fifth of 6 to The Yellow Clay in Navan Novices' Hurdle at Navan (20f, soft) 22 days ago, unsuited by emphasis on speed

**2 ALL FOR RACHEL (IRE) (42) (D) h+t 93**  
 22925-116 7 11-13 | 75.7kg

 Oliver McKiernan, Ireland **Phillip Enright**  
 2 wins from 3 runs this season. Latest win in hurdle at Listowel in June. 25/1, well-beaten sixth of 8 to The Yellow Clay in Monksfield Novices' Hurdle at Navan (20f, good to soft) 42 days ago.

**3 BIG CHOU (IRE) (29) (D) 98**  
 45-1641 5 11-8 | 73.5kg

 Noel Meade, Ireland **C. Stone-Walsh (5lb/2kg)**  
 Career best when winning 12-runner novice hurdle at Fairyhouse (20.2f, good, 6/1) 29 days ago, keeping on well. Enters calculations.

**4 CHURCHROAD PRINCE (IRE) (21) 92**  
 723-515 6 11-7 | 73.0kg

 Jonathan Sweeney, Ireland **M. J. M. O'Sullivan**  
 24 lengths fifth of 6 to Pray Tell in Gr 3 hurdle at Cork (24.4f, soft, 11/1) 21 days ago. Makes handicap hurdle debut and can progress, for all mark demands it.

**5 TAPONTHEGO (IRE) (37) (D) ★ 100**  
 21 5 11-7 | 73.0kg

 Henry de Bromhead, Ireland **D. J. O'Keeffe**  
 Promising type. Evens, won 20-runner novice hurdle at Tipperary (20.4f, soft) 37 days ago, suited by increase in trip. Makes handicap hurdle debut. Sure to go well with improvement on the cards.

**6 FENWAY PARK (IRE) (42) (D) 97**  
 7/32P-4135 5 11-6 | 72.6kg

 Gavin Patrick Cromwell, Ireland **Keith Donoghue**  
 Winner in hurdle at Punchestown in May. 12/1, good fifth of 23 in handicap hurdle at Navan (22.4f, good to soft) 42 days ago, unable to sustain effort. Slight drop back in trip will help.

**7 OL MAN DINGLE (IRE) (62) (D) t 93**  
 7-9040311 5 11-6 | 72.6kg

 Eoin Griffin, Ireland **R. A. Doyle**  
 6/1, career best when winning 8-runner novice hurdle at Wexford (16.4f, heavy) 62 days ago. Back up in trip. Makes handicap hurdle debut.

**8 SONNY MAY (IRE) (35) t 95**  
 563/00-411 7 11-6 | 72.6kg

 Denis Hickey, Ireland **S. F. O'Keeffe**  
 2 wins from 3 runs this season. Career best when winning 8-runner handicap hurdle at Punchestown (16.8f, good to soft, 4/1) 35 days ago, comfortably. Progressing nicely.

**9 SAVANTE (IRE) (58) (D, BF) 94**  
 1015 5 11-4 | 71.7kg

 Colm A. Murphy, Ireland **B. Hayes**  
 11/4, 6¾ lengths fifth of 8 to Sansrisk in Gr 3 hurdle at Down Royal (16.9f, good to soft) 58 days ago, unsuited by drop in trip. Makes handicap hurdle debut back up in distance.

**10 ARTIC LANE (IRE) (30) 95**  
 2-422U31 5 11-0 | 69.9kg

 Declan Queally, Ireland **L. A. McKenna**  
 9/4, career best when winning 10-runner novice hurdle at Thurles (15.9f, good to soft) 30 days ago. Back up in trip. Makes handicap hurdle debut. Others more persuasive.

**11 BALLYBRITTAS (IRE) (70) 95**  
 51 5 10-7 | 66.7kg

 P. J. Rothwell, Ireland **T. Power Roche (7lb/3kg)**  
 Won 11-runner novice hurdle (5/2) at Limerick (16.3f, good to soft) 70 days ago, always holding on. Makes handicap hurdle debut and will need to improve again.

**12 THISISTHEWAY (IRE) (62) (D, BF) 90**  
 19-6517 5 10-2 | 64.4kg

 Yvonne Latta, Ireland **C. M. Quirke (5lb/2kg)**  
 Latest win in hurdle at Cork in October. Seventh of 11 in handicap hurdle at Wexford (16.4f, heavy, 7/2) 62 days ago. Back up in trip. Plenty to find on form.

**13 YOUNG LUCY (IRE) (21) (BF) t 99**  
 65/1607-25 5 10-2 | 64.4kg

 A. J. Martin, Ireland **Rachael Blackmore**  
 Shaped as though still in good order when fifth of 18 in handicap hurdle (9/4) at Cork (20f, soft) 21 days ago. Tongue strap back on. Looks competitive on form.

**13 DECLARED RUNNERS**
**BETTING FORECAST:**
**11-4 Taponthego, 15-2 Big Chou, 10-1 Sonny May, 12-1 Fenway Park, 14-1 Young Lucy, 14-1 Ol Man Dingle, 16-1 Ballybrittas, 16-1 Savante, 18-1 Artic Lane, 18-1 Churchroad Prince, 20-1 Patter Merchant, 25-1 ThisistheWay, 33-1 All For Rachel**
**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

It's hard to get away from TAPONTHEGO, who slammed 19 rivals in novice company at Tipperary a month ago and his opening mark looks lenient. Big Chou also arrives on the up so he needs respecting, along with Fenway Park down in trip.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**
**1. TAPONTHEGO 2. BIG CHOU 3. FENWAY PARK**
**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2023	<b>Champagne Admiral</b>	5-10-13	12-1	P. A. Fahy	M. J. M. O'Sullivan	9
2022	<b>Green Glory</b>	5-10-12	7-4f	Charles Byrnes	P. Byrnes (5)	12
2021	<b>Good Time Jonny</b>	6-11-4	6-1	A. J. Martin	K. C. Sexton	15
2020	<b>Millen To One</b>	6-10-10	4-1	F. Flood	J. W. Kennedy	9
2019	<b>Peaches And Cream</b>	4-10-12	12-1	Gavin Patrick Cromwell	C. P. McNamara (7)	11

**SMART STATS:**
**2** Gavin Patrick Cromwell's number of winners in past 8 runnings. (saddles: **FENWAY PARK**)

**1.20**

RACE 3

**BEAT THE BANK.IE IRISH EBF MARES HURDLE  
(Kerrymount) (Grade 3) 4yo+ €40,000 2½m (4020  
Metres)****GBI RACING**Going: **Chase course: Good to Yielding (Yielding in places), Hurdles course: Yielding (Good to Yielding in places)**

The Leopardstown course is a wide, left-handed oval track, about a mile and three quarters in length. The course is fairly level with easy turns except for a slight rise from the last bend. Leopardstown provides a fair test, although three of the fences in the back straight are close together and occasionally catch out the less-accomplished chaser, and the finishing straight is relatively short. The inner hurdles course, used occasionally, is rather sharper in character than the chase track and tends to provide a significant test of tactical speed.

Pace Information: **Even****1 KALA CONTI (FR) (29)** (C, BF) **93**  
11215-12 **4** 11-5 | 72.1kg

Gordon Elliott, Ireland

**D. J. Gilligan**

Useful hurdler. 1 win from 2 runs this season. Respectable 6½ lengths second of 7 to Anzadam in Mullinan Hurdle (6/4) at Fairyhouse (16f, good) 29 days ago. Up in trip. Not discounted.

**2 HISPANIC MOON (FR) (239)** (D) **94**  
216/1613-P **7** 11-3 | 71.2kg

Henry de Bromhead, Ireland

**D. J. O'Keefe**

Useful chaser. Pulled up in Mares Champion Hurdle (20/1) at Punchestown (20.5f, soft) won by Lossiemouth. Off 7 months. Claims on her best form.

**3 JETARA (IRE) (43)** (CD) **99**  
11133-215 **6** 11-3 | 71.2kg

Mrs J. Harrington, Ireland

**Donagh Meyler**

Smart hurdler. C&amp;D winner. 1 win from 3 runs this season. 2/1, 25¾ lengths fifth of 8 to Home By The Lee in Lismullen Hurdle at Navan (20.2f, good to soft) 43 days ago. Should give a good account.

**4 RISK BELLE (FR) (35)** **95**  
3585-0002 **5** 11-3 | 71.2kg

W. P. Mullins, Ireland

**M. P. Walsh**

Useful hurdler. Good 4 lengths second of 7 to Lot of Joy in listed mares event at Punchestown (18f, good to soft, 8/1) 35 days ago. Worthy of respect.

**5 WORLD OF FORTUNES (IRE) (71)** (D) **90**  
2/10-111 **6** 11-3 | 71.2kg

Liam Kenny, Ireland

**Jordan Colin Gainford**

Useful hurdler. Career best when winning 8-runner listed hurdle at Limerick (21f, good to soft, 9/4) 71 days ago by 6 lengths from Just For Love, soon clear. This is much tougher but she can do better again.

**6 JULY FLOWER (FR) (225)** **100**  
112P223-3 **5** 11-0 | 69.9kg

Henry de Bromhead, Ireland

**Rachael Blackmore**

Useful hurdler. 2¾ lengths third of 14 to Losange Bleu in Grande Course de Haies d'Auteuil at Auteuil (25.4f, soft, 12/1) on hurdles bow. Off 7 months. Has left M. Seror. Fascinating contender.

**7 LOT OF JOY (IRE) (35)** **95**  
22106/8-11 **6** 11-0 | 69.9kg

W. P. Mullins, Ireland

**P. Townend**

Useful hurdler. 6/4, career best when winning 7-runner listed mares event at Punchestown (18f, good to soft) 35 days ago by 4 lengths from Risk Belle. Another bold showing on the cards.

**8 GOT GLORY (FR) (19)** **91**  
P/1-2P **6** 10-11 | 68.5kg

W. P. Mullins, Ireland

**D. E. Mullins**

Lightly-raced winner over hurdles. Pulled up in minor event hurdle (3/1) at Punchestown (16.6f, soft) 19 days ago. Remains with potential.

8 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

4-1 Jetara, 9-2 Lot of Joy, 5-1 July Flower, 6-1 Kala Conti, 8-1 Risk Belle, 10-1 World of Fortunes, 11-1 Hispanic Moon, 14-1 Got Glory

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

This looks open but LOT OF JOY was better than ever when scoring in listed company at Punchestown last time and she can rise to the occasion again for all that Jetara and July Flower have achieved a bit more than her in form terms. A case can be made for all of the remainder.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

1. LOT OF JOY 2. JULY FLOWER 3. JETARA

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2023	<b>Jetara</b> 5-11-0	5-2	Mrs J. Harrington	J. W. Kennedy	8
2022	<b>Shewearsitwell</b> 7-10-11	15-8	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	6
2021	<b>Royal Kahala</b> 6-11-4	11-4	Peter Fahey	K. C. Sexton	9
2020	<b>Concertista</b> 6-11-9	4-5f	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	7
2019	<b>Stormy Ireland</b> 5-11-2	9-10f	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	8

**SMART STATS:**

<b>2</b>	Mrs J. Harrington's number of winners in past 10 runnings. (saddles: <b>JETARA</b> )
<b>6</b>	W. P. Mullins's number of winners in past 10 runnings. (amongst 3 runners saddles: <b>LOT OF JOY</b> )
<b>22%</b>	W. P. Mullins's strike rate at LEOPARDSTOWN since the start of the 2020/21 season (saddles: <b>LOT OF JOY, RISK BELLE and GOT GLORY</b> )

**1.55****ADARE MANOR OPPORTUNITY HANDICAP CHASE 4yo+  
€20,000 3m100y (4920 Metres)**

RACE 4

**GBI RACING**Going: **Chase course: Good to Yielding (Yielding in places), Hurdles course: Yielding (Good to Yielding in places)**

The Leopardstown course is a wide, left-handed oval track, about a mile and three quarters in length. The course is fairly level with easy turns except for a slight rise from the last bend. Leopardstown provides a fair test, although three of the fences in the back straight are close together and occasionally catch out the less-accomplished chaser, and the finishing straight is relatively short. The inner hurdles course, used occasionally, is rather sharper in character than the chase track and tends to provide a significant test of tactical speed.

Pace Information: **Weak****1 DUNBOYNE (IRE) (272)** s+t **90**

P24P/4PPP- 9 11-12 | 75.3kg



Gordon Elliott, Ireland

**J. Coen**

Pulled up in handicap chase at Fairyhouse (29.1f, heavy, 40/1), behind when pulled up 3 out. Off 9 months and market may be best guide.

**2 MIDNIGHT OUR FRED (IRE) (2)** (D) t **97**

50222-312 7 11-10 | 74.4kg



J. P. Flavin, Ireland

**Alex Harvey (2lb/1kg)**

1 win from 3 runs this season. Latest win in chase at Gowran in October. Good second of 27 in handicap chase at this C&amp;D (good to soft, 10/1) on Friday.

**3 PEACHES AND CREAM (IRE) (28)** (C) **95**

54U-POP3P 9 11-9 | 73.9kg



Gavin Patrick Cromwell, Ireland

**A. Balfe (4lb/2kg)**

Twelve runs since last win in 2022. Pulled up in handicap chase (14/1) at Fairyhouse (29.7f, good) 28 days ago.

**4 OUTSIDE THE DOOR (IRE) (28)** (D) s **94**

2-U031134 8 11-8 | 73.5kg



Pdraig Roche, Ireland

**A. P. Kelly**

Latest win in hurdle at Fairyhouse in October. Creditable fourth of 13 in handicap chase (6/1) at Fairyhouse (29.7f, good) 28 days ago.

**5 SEQUESTERED (IRE) (54)** **99**

6409-0844 6 11-7 | 73.0kg



Paul John Gilligan, Ireland

**Jack G. Gilligan (2lb/1kg)**

4/1, last of 4 in novice chase at Fairyhouse (24.6f, good) 54 days ago. Makes handicap chase debut from a fair-looking mark.

**6 HASCOEUR CLERMONT (FR) (57)** (D) **96**

9P-520P27 7 11-6 | 72.6kg



Gavin Patrick Cromwell, Ireland

**Patrick Michael O'Brien (4lb/2kg)**

Unreliable individual. 8/1, seventh of 9 in handicap chase at Down Royal (24f, good to soft) 57 days ago.

**7 BIG STAGE (IRE) (29)** ★ **100**

22-2103F3 6 11-5 | 72.1kg



Gordon Elliott, Ireland

**C. P. Millar (2lb/1kg)**

50/1, good third of 13 in novice chase at Fairyhouse (21.5f, good) 29 days ago, pulling hard. Makes handicap chase debut. Bold bid expected.

**8 SAM MAGEE (IRE) (29)** (D) t **95**

751-9P441 7 11-5 | 72.1kg



Henry de Bromhead, Ireland

**Richard Condon (2lb/1kg)**

Career best when winning 10-runner handicap chase (6/1) at Fairyhouse (21.5f, good) 29 days ago by 2½ lengths from St Denis's Well. Raised 8 lb.

**9 ST DENIS'S WELL (IRE) (3)** (D) s+t **95**

6-5840221 6 11-4 | 71.7kg



Ian Patrick Donoghue, Ireland

**Oakley Brown (2lb/1kg)**

2/1 and blinkered for 1st time, improved to win 15-runner handicap hurdle at Down Royal (17.2f, good to soft) 3 days ago, always holding on. Switches from hurdles to chase. Cheekpieces back on.

**10 BALLYBAWN BELTER (IRE) (28)** (C) **94**

180-58453 6 11-2 | 70.8kg



Miss Elizabeth Doyle, Ireland

**P. T. Smithers (4lb/2kg)**

Useful winner at 22f over hurdles. 8/1, good third of 9 in handicap chase at Fairyhouse (20f, good) 28 days ago. Back up in trip. Likely to improve.

**11 SHAJAK (IRE) (14)** b+t **96**

1P5-223U3 5 11-2 | 70.8kg



Gordon Elliott, Ireland

**J. Smith (4lb/2kg)**

Useful winner at 12f on Flat. Good third of 12 in handicap chase (17/2) at Navan (24f, good to soft) 14 days ago.

**12 JASMIN DE COTTE (FR) (36)** h **96**

5383-1958 5 10-12 | 68.9kg



Paul Nolan, Ireland

**C. Smithers (4lb/2kg)**

Winner in chase at Kilbeggan in May. 12/1, eighth of 11 in handicap chase at Punchestown (21.3f, soft) 36 days ago. Tough to assess at present.

**13 JOUSTER (FR) (15)** s+t **92**

08F10-211 5 10-10 | 68.0kg



Gavin Patrick Cromwell, Ireland

**C. Stone-Walsh**

9/4 and cheekpieces on for 1st time, career best when winning 13-runner handicap hurdle at Fairyhouse (20f, good to soft) 15 days ago. Switches from hurdles to chase and he's going the right way.

**14 GARDE LA PECHE (FR) (33)** t **92**

93-412P9 6 10-5 | 65.8kg



Henry de Bromhead, Ireland

**S. D. Greene (4lb/2kg)**

Winner in chase at Clonmel in June. Below form ninth of 15 in handicap hurdle (8/1) at Tramore (21f, heavy) 33 days ago. Switches from hurdles to chase.

**15 HARVEY'S QUAY (IRE) (129)** (D, BF) **95**

40193-37P 8 10-5 | 65.8kg



E. J. O'Grady, Ireland

**C. M. Hogan (4lb/2kg)**

4/1, lame when pulled up in handicap chase at Killarney (20.8f, soft) 129 days ago. Given time to recover from that but others more persuasive.

**16 DORANS LAW (IRE) (19)** s **97**

31535006 6 10-2 | 64.4kg



P. J. Rothwell, Ireland

**T. Power Roche (4lb/2kg)**

Promising type. Fairly useful winner at 26f over hurdles. Sixth of 9 in minor event chase (200/1) at Punchestown (23.3f, soft) 19 days ago, finishing with running left. Makes handicap chase debut.

**17 BALLYBRACK WOOD (IRE) (49)** (BF) **99**

5657-0412 6 10-0 | 63.5kg



Henry de Bromhead, Ireland

**E. M. O'Sullivan (4lb/2kg)**

Winner in chase at Tramore in October. Creditable second of 10 in handicap chase at Naas (20f, good to soft, 5/2) 49 days ago. Back up in trip. Stable in good form. One to keep on right side.

**18 SECRECIES OF STONE (IRE) (37)** b **54**

420-21608 6 10-0 | 63.5kg



Paul Nolan, Ireland

**C. M. Quirke**

Fair winner at 20f over hurdles. Last of 8 in novice chase at Tipperary (16.4f, soft, 80/1) 37 days ago. Significantly up in trip. Blinkered for 1st time. Makes handicap chase debut.

18 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**8-1** Midnight Our Fred, **17-2** Joster, **9-1** Big Stage, **10-1** Ballybrack Wood, **10-1** Sam Magee, **12-1** Ballybawn Belter, **16-1** Dorans Law, **18-1** Sequestered, **18-1** Shajak, **18-1** St Denis's Well, **20-1** Outside The Door, **22-1** Hascoeur Clermont, **25-1** Peaches And Cream, **28-1** Harvey's Quay, **33-1** Jasmin De Cotte, **33-1** Garde La Peche, **40-1** bar

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

Any number to consider but BIG STAGE appeals as the type to do better in well-run handicaps over fences so he's just about the most persuasive option. Joster, Ballybawn Belter and Doran's Law are all of interest.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:****1. BIG STAGE 2. JOUSTER 3. BALLYBAWN BELTER****SMART STATS:**

**22%** Gavin Patrick Cromwell's strike rate with handicap chase debutants (saddles: **JOUSTER**)

**2.30****NEVILLE HOTELS HURDLE (December) (Grade 1) 4yo+  
€150,000 2m (3220 Metres)**

RACE 5

Going: **Chase course: Good to Yielding (Yielding in places), Hurdles course: Yielding (Good to Yielding in places)**

The Leopardstown course is a wide, left-handed oval track, about a mile and three quarters in length. The course is fairly level with easy turns except for a slight rise from the last bend. Leopardstown provides a fair test, although three of the fences in the back straight are close together and occasionally catch out the less-accomplished chaser, and the finishing straight is relatively short. The inner hurdles course, used occasionally, is rather sharper in character than the chase track and tends to provide a significant test of tactical speed.

Pace Information: **Weak****1 DADDY LONG LEGS (FR) (36) (D) 90**  
61-150135 5 11-12 | 75.3kgW. P. Mullins, Ireland **D. E. Mullins**  
Smart hurdler. Two wins from 6 runs this season. 33¼ lengths fifth of 7 to Brighterdaysahead in Morgiana (14/1) at Punchestown (16.7f, soft) 36 days ago.**2 FILS D'OUDAIRIES (FR) (366) (C, D) 89**  
5/F110134- 9 11-12 | 75.3kgGordon Elliott, Ireland **Jordan Colin Gainford**  
Smart hurdler. Course winner. Latest win in hurdle at Tipperary in October 2023. 22¼ lengths last of 4 to State Man in this race 12 months ago. Off since.**3 KING OF KINGSFIELD (IRE) (43) (CD, BF) 85**  
22130-422 6 11-12 | 75.3kgGordon Elliott, Ireland **D. J. Gilligan**  
Useful hurdler. Similar form when second on Navan chase debut 43 days ago, travelling strongly. Difficult ask back hurdling.**4 MYSTICAL POWER (IRE) (29) (D, BF) 92**  
11121-16 5 11-12 | 75.3kgW. P. Mullins, Ireland **M. P. Walsh**  
Smart hurdler novice hurdler, including Grade 1 wins at Aintree and Punchestown in the spring. Can't have been right when 33 lengths sixth of 7 to Sir Gino in Fighting Fifth at Newcastle (2m, good) on reappearance 29 days ago. Not the type to stay down for long.**5 STATE MAN (FR) (36) (CD, BF) 100**  
21/1111-12 7 11-12 | 75.3kgW. P. Mullins, Ireland **P. Townend**  
Last season's Champion Hurdle hero who is chasing a hat-trick of wins in this Grade 1. Went down by ¾ length to a race-fit Brighterdaysahead in Morgiana on reappearance but taken to turn the tables on Gordon Elliott's mare now.**6 WINTER FOG (IRE) (36) (CD) 91**  
141-41433 10 11-12 | 75.3kgW. P. Mullins, Ireland **B. Hayes**  
Smart C&D winner. Creditable 13¾ lengths third of 7 to Brighterdaysahead and State Man in Morgiana but no reason why he'll get much closer to that pair.**7 BRIGHTERDAYSAHEAD (FR) (36) (D) 98**  
1/11121-11 5 11-5 | 72.1kgGordon Elliott, Ireland **Sam Ewing**  
Beaten at odds on in the Dawn Run at Cheltenham in March but that's her only defeat, taking the scalp of the reappearing State Man in the Morgiana at Punchestown last month. That rival could be sharper now but unlikely to go down without a fight.

7 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

4-7 State Man, 5-2 Brighterdaysahead, 16-1 Mystical Power, 50-1 bar

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

With an outing under his belt STATE MAN is taken to reverse Morgiana form with Brighterdaysahead and land this Grade 1 prize for the third year in succession.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

1. STATE MAN 2. BRIGHTERDAYSAHEAD 3. MYSTICAL POWER

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2023	State Man	6-11-12	4-7f	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	4
2022	State Man	5-11-12	4-6f	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	5
2021	Sharjah	8-11-12	5-6f	W. P. Mullins	Mr P. W. Mullins	6
2020	Sharjah	7-11-12	11-2	W. P. Mullins	Mr P. W. Mullins	7
2019	Sharjah	6-11-10	9-2	W. P. Mullins	Mr P. W. Mullins	5

**SMART STATS:**

- 8** W. P. Mullins's number of winners in past 10 runnings. (amongst 4 runners saddles: **STATE MAN**)
- 22%** W. P. Mullins's strike rate at LEOPARDSTOWN since the start of the 2020/21 season (saddles: **STATE MAN, MYSTICAL POWER, WINTER FOG and DADDY LONG LEGS**)
- 39%** P. Townend's strike rate at LEOPARDSTOWN (rides: **STATE MAN**)

**3.05**

RACE 6

**NEVILLE HOTELS PREMIER HANDICAP HURDLE (Rathdown)**  
**(Listed) 4yo+ (Rated 0-150) €100,000 2½m (4020 Metres)****GBI RACING**Going: **Chase course: Good to Yielding (Yielding in places), Hurdles course: Yielding (Good to Yielding in places)**

The Leopardstown course is a wide, left-handed oval track, about a mile and three quarters in length. The course is fairly level with easy turns except for a slight rise from the last bend. Leopardstown provides a fair test, although three of the fences in the back straight are close together and occasionally catch out the less-accomplished chaser, and the finishing straight is relatively short. The inner hurdles course, used occasionally, is rather sharper in character than the chase track and tends to provide a significant test of tactical speed.

Pace Information: **Very Strong****1 MAXXUM (IRE) (28) (C) 95**  
P16F-1P84 7 11-12 | 75.3kgGordon Elliott, Ireland **C. P. Millar (5lb/2kg)**  
Course winner. Six wins from 23 NH runs. 50/1, well-beaten last of 4 to Lossiemouth in Hatton's Grace Hurdle at Fairyhouse (20f, good) 28 days ago.**2 TOUNSVATOR (FR) (28) 94**  
16-72151 5 11-7 | 73.0kgW. P. Mullins, Ireland **P. Townend**  
12/1, career best when winning 8-runner Royal Bond Novices' Hurdle at Fairyhouse (16.5f, good) 28 days ago by 2½ lengths from Romeo Coolio. Respected.**3 BOTTLER'S SECRET (IRE) (29) b+t 94**  
11-235 4 11-3 | 71.2kgGavin Patrick Cromwell, Ireland **Keith Donoghue**  
Lightly-raced winner over hurdles. 5/2, 23¼ lengths fifth of 7 to Anzadam in Mullinan Hurdle at Fairyhouse (16f, good) 29 days ago. Up in trip. Tongue strap on 1st time. Makes handicap hurdle debut.**4 MR PERCY (IRE) (43) 94**  
U12 4 10-13 | 69.4kgJoseph Patrick O'Brien, Ireland **Daryl Jacob**  
Thrice-raced winner over hurdles. 8/1, 5 lengths second of 7 to Bleu De Vassy in For Auction Novices' Hurdle at Navan (16.2f, good to soft) 43 days ago, clear of rest. Makes handicap hurdle debut. More to come and big player.**5 SHADOW RIDER (FR) (35) (D) 97**  
P/37P121-7 10 10-13 | 69.4kgPadraig Roche, Ireland **A. P. Kelly (5lb/2kg)**  
28/1, creditable seventh of 15 in handicap hurdle at Punchestown (24.1f, good to soft) 35 days ago.**6 JIGORO (FR) (2) 96**  
2123P-022 5 10-12 | 68.9kgGordon Elliott, Ireland **F. Brickley (7lb/3kg)**  
Creditable second of 5 in minor event hurdle at Limerick (20f, good to soft, 9/2) 2 days ago. Stable having good spell. Others more persuasive.**7 HMS SEAHORSE (IRE) (28) (D) 90**  
33104/5-0 6 10-10 | 68.0kgPaul Nolan, Ireland **S. F. O'Keeffe**  
Tenth of 13 in handicap hurdle at Fairyhouse (16.5f, good, 22/1) 28 days ago. Up in trip.**8 LUCKY LYREEN (IRE) (22) (D) 97**  
2/43211-P0 6 10-10 | 68.0kgGordon Elliott, Ireland **D. J. Gilligan**  
Below form thirteenth of 20 in handicap hurdle (50/1) at Navan (25.2f, soft) 22 days ago. Back down in trip. Others more persuasive.**9 SA FUREUR (IRE) (22) (D) ★ 100**  
1P/F124-21 7 10-10 | 68.0kgGordon Elliott, Ireland **Sam Ewing**  
Very smart winner at 21f in chases. 9/4, career best when winning 19-runner handicap chase at Navan (20.7f, soft) 22 days ago. Switches from chase to hurdles. Shortlist material.**10 AL GASPARO (FR) (64) (BF) t 96**  
242-15310 5 10-9 | 67.6kgGavin Patrick Cromwell, Ireland **C. Stone-Walsh (5lb/2kg)**  
2 wins from 5 runs this season. Latest win in hurdle at Killarney in October. Eleventh of 12 in handicap hurdle (9/2) at Cheltenham (24f, good) 64 days ago.**11 ANY ROAD (IRE) (54) (D) 94**  
194363-01 7 10-9 | 67.6kgE. J. O'Grady, Ireland **M. M. McDonagh**  
1 win from 2 runs this season. 15/2, didn't need to improve to win 6-runner minor event hurdle at Fairyhouse (20.5f, good) 54 days ago, going clear.**12 NO LOOKING BACK (IRE) (36) t 97**  
1203/P2P4 6 10-9 | 67.6kgOliver McKiernan, Ireland **Phillip Enright**  
31¾ lengths fourth of 7 to Brighterdaysahead in Morgiana Hurdle at Punchestown (16.7f, soft, 200/1) 36 days ago. Makes handicap hurdle debut. Others more persuasive.**13 SO SCOTTISH (FR) (28) (D) s+t 98**  
40-024527 7 10-9 | 67.6kgEmmet Mullins, Ireland **M. P. Walsh**  
Thirteen runs since last win in 2022. Creditable seventh of 13 in handicap hurdle at Fairyhouse (16.5f, good, 9/2) 28 days ago, left poorly placed. Back up in trip. Cheekpieces back on.**14 COMFORT ZONE (IRE) (148) b 97**  
311/0-7763 5 10-8 | 67.1kgJoseph Patrick O'Brien, Ireland **S. D. Torrens**  
Career best when winning 20-runner handicap at Naas (16.1f, good to soft, 4/1) 77 days ago, readily. Switches from Flat to hurdles. Useful hurdler, creditable on last hurdle outing.**15 KINGS HILL (IRE) (43) 98**  
92-403237 5 10-8 | 67.1kgPaul John Gilligan, Ireland **Jack G. Gilligan (5lb/2kg)**  
22/1, seventh of 10 in handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (21f, good) 43 days ago.**16 LUCKY ZEBO (78) (D) 96**  
3181-7680 7 10-8 | 67.1kgHenry de Bromhead, Ireland **D. J. O'Keeffe**  
Latest win in hurdle at Cork in March. 33/1, below form tenth of 17 in handicap hurdle at Chepstow (19.4f, good to soft) 78 days ago. Stable in good form. Others more persuasive.**17 THE BUSY FOOL (IRE) (49) (D) 97**  
12331-1 6 10-5 | 65.8kgP. J. Rothwell, Ireland **T. Power Roche (7lb/3kg)**  
11/2, career best when winning 11-runner handicap hurdle at Naas (20f, good to soft) 49 days ago by ¾ length from Park of Kings. Can give another good account**18 RAGLAN ROAD (IRE) (274) t 96**  
F2/4451P- 6 10-3 | 64.9kgHenry de Bromhead, Ireland **Rachael Blackmore**  
18/1, pulled up in handicap hurdle at Fairyhouse (23.8f, heavy), dropping away approaching 3 out. Off 9 months. Tongue strap on 1st time. Others more persuasive.**19 HARSH (29) s 99**  
144-16094 4 10-2 | 64.4kgGordon Elliott, Ireland **C. M. Hogan (7lb/3kg)**  
20/1, creditable fourth of 24 in handicap hurdle at Fairyhouse (20.2f, good) 29 days ago. Yard in good form. Bold bid expected.**20 SLANE HILL (IRE) (43) (D) b 99**  
81/3-64791 7 10-2 | 64.4kgBarry Connell, Ireland **Alex Harvey (5lb/2kg)**  
Blinkered for 1st time, career best when winning 19-runner handicap hurdle at Navan (20.2f, good to soft, 9/1) 43 days ago, kept up to work. Claims if the headgear works as well again.**21 PARK OF KINGS (IRE) (49) (D) t 99**  
35-006102 6 10-0 | 63.5kgPaul Nolan, Ireland **P. T. Smithers (7lb/3kg)**  
Latest win in hurdle at Gowran in October. 6/1, good ¾-length second of 11 to The Busy Fool in handicap hurdle at Naas (20f, good to soft) 49 days ago. Enters calculations.**22 SIR ALLEN (49) (BF) 98**  
4/50464-73 5 10-0 | 63.5kgA. Slattery, Ireland **C. M. Quirke (5lb/2kg)**  
10/3, good 1¾ lengths third of 11 to The Busy Fool in handicap hurdle at Naas (20f, good to soft) 49 days ago.

**3.05**

RACE 6

**NEVILLE HOTELS PREMIER HANDICAP HURDLE (Rathdown)  
(Listed) 4yo+ (Rated 0-150) €100,000 2½m (4020  
Metres)****23 MS AGARTHA YEATS (IRE) (63) (D) 95**  
1/02P8-1 6 10-0 | 63.5kg

F. G. Hand, Ireland

**M. J. M. O'Sullivan**

1 win from 1 run this season. First run since leaving Hugh P. Finegan when career best when winning 5-runner minor event hurdle (8/1) at Wexford (20f, heavy) 63 days ago.

23 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:****9-1** The Busy Fool, **10-1** Slane Hill, **11-1** Tounsivator, **14-1** Sa Fureur, **14-1** Park of Kings, **16-1** Mr Percy, **18-1** Comfort Zone, **18-1** Jigoro, **18-1** Al Gasparo, **18-1** Bottler'secret, **20-1** So Scottish, **20-1** Sir Allen, **20-1** Any Road, **25-1** Harsh, **28-1** Ms Agartha Yeats, **33-1** Shadow Rider, **40-1** bar**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

SA FUREUR followed a promising third in a Navan handicap hurdle on his reappearance by defying his higher chase mark back at the same venue 3 weeks ago and can go in again back over the smaller obstacles. Mr Percy has made a promising start to his hurdle career and is a very interesting newcomer to the handicapping scene. Royal Bond winner Tounsivator and the selection's stablemate Harsh complete the shortlist.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:****1. SA FUREUR 2. MR PERCY 3. TOUNSIVATOR****SMART STATS:**

- £31.56** A. Slattery's profit to a £1 level stake when having only one runner on the card (hurdles) (saddles: **SIR ALLEN**)
- 22%** W. P. Mullins's strike rate at LEOPARDSTOWN since the start of the 2020/21 season (saddles: **TOUNSIVATOR**)
- 39%** P. Townsend's strike rate at LEOPARDSTOWN (rides: **TOUNSIVATOR**)



**3.40****PLUSVITAL I.N.H. FLAT 4yo+ €20,000 2m (3220 Metres)**

RACE 7

**GBI RACING**Going: **Chase course: Good to Yielding (Yielding in places), Hurdles course: Yielding (Good to Yielding in places)**

The Leopardstown course is a wide, left-handed oval track, about a mile and three quarters in length. The course is fairly level with easy turns except for a slight rise from the last bend. Leopardstown provides a fair test, although three of the fences in the back straight are close together and occasionally catch out the less-accomplished chaser, and the finishing straight is relatively short. The inner hurdles course, used occasionally, is rather sharper in character than the chase track and tends to provide a significant test of tactical speed.

Pace Information: **Very Weak**

**1 COLCANNON (IRE) (64) (D) h 91**  
3103-21 4 12-0 | 76.2kg



Noel Meade, Ireland

**Mr D. O'Connor**

Career best when winning 9-runner bumper at Galway (16.4f, good to soft, 8/11) 64 days ago. Hood on 1st time. Others have achieved a bit more but he's worthy of respect.

**2 KOKTAIL BRUT (FR) (28) (D) ★ 100**  
1 4 12-0 | 76.2kg



Gordon Elliott, Ireland

**Mr H. C. Swan**

Expensive recruit after landing a point. 15/8, won 7-runner bumper at Fairyhouse (16.5f, good) on NH debut 28 days ago, hard held. Likely to maintain his unbeaten record.

**3 SORTUDO (IRE) (33) (D) 87**  
1 4 12-0 | 76.2kg



W. P. Mullins, Ireland

**Mr P. W. Mullins**

Highly promising sort. Won 11-runner bumper at Tramore (16.2f, heavy, 2/5) on NH debut 33 days ago, easily. Open to significant improvement and makes plenty of appeal.

**4 WILLIAM BUTLER (IRE) (29) (D) 97**  
1 4 12-0 | 76.2kg



Gordon Elliott, Ireland

**Mr J. M. Halford (71b/3kg)**

25/1, won 10-runner bumper at Fairyhouse (16f, good) on NH debut 29 days ago. Reason to think he'll improve and can't be taken lightly.

**5 CARRIGMOORNASPRUCE (IRE) (49) (D) 92**  
21 4 11-7 | 73.0kg



Declan Queally, Ireland

**D. L. Queally**

Won 11-runner bumper at Naas (16f, good to soft, 5/2) 49 days ago, well on top finish. Can do better still, so not out of place here.

**6 SUNNY SOUTH WEST (IRE) h**  
4 11-7 | 73.0kg



Edward F. Power, Ireland

**Mr A. P. Ryan (71b/3kg)**

€8,000 3-y-o, Valirann gelding. Half-brother to fairly useful hurdler/useful chaser Java Point. Wears hood. Pulled up sole start in points (Nov 17).

**7 SWITCH FROM DIESEL (IRE) (71) (D, BF) 98**  
22132-74 5 11-7 | 73.0kg



Ross O'Sullivan, Ireland

**Mr R. W. Barron (51b/2kg)**

First run since leaving Seamus Fahey when fourth of 6 in bumper at Limerick (16f, good to soft, 4/6) 71 days ago. Vulnerable in this company.

7 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**13-8** Koktail Brut, **7-2** Sortudo, **7-1** Colcannon, **15-2** William Butler, **10-1** Carrigmoornaspruce, **11-1** Switch From Diesel, **125-1** bar

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

Point winner KOKTAIL BRUT made an impressive switch to Rules when bolting up in a Fairyhouse bumper and he's fancied to keep the 100% record intact for all that Sortudo also created a big impression Tramore first time out. William Butle is also considered.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. KOKTAIL BRUT 2. SORTUDO 3. WILLIAM BUTLER**

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2023	<b>Jalon d'Oudairies</b> 4-12-0	9-4	Gordon Elliott	Mr H. C. Swan (5)	8
2022	<b>Fascile Mode</b> 4-11-7	16-1	Thomas Mullins	Mr Charlie Mullins (7)	9
2021	<b>The Nice Guy</b> 6-12-2	evsf	W. P. Mullins	Mr P. W. Mullins	6
2020	<b>Hollow Games</b> 4-11-13	1-2f	Gordon Elliott	Mr J. J. Codd	8
2019	<b>Eric Bloodaxe</b> 4-11-11	8-11f	Joseph Patrick O'Brien	Mr T. Hamilton (3)	7