

Monday 30th December

# HAYDOCK



**12.30** BETFRED NIFTY 50 CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier) (4) 3m58y (4880 Metres)

RACE 1 **(6) SCHALKE | (5) LADY IN THE PARK | (1) TIGER JET**

**1.00** BETFRED 'CLASSIC BOOKMAKER' EBF 'NATIONAL HUNT' NOVICES' HURDLE (Qualifier) (3) 1m7f144y (3150 Metres)

RACE 2 **(2) INDEEVAR BLEU | (1) GLYNN BRAE | (3) DESERT HALO**

**1.30** BETFRED 'BET BUILDER' HANDICAP CHASE (3) 2m3f203y (4010 Metres)

RACE 3 **(2) CLASSIC MAESTRO | (1) IDALKO BIHOUE | (3) HAPPY AND FINE**

**2.00** BETFRED GOALS GALORE NOVICES' HANDICAP CHASE (4) 3m1f125y (5140 Metres)

RACE 4 **(5) WAL BUCK'S | (6) CREAM OF THE WEST | (3) GOLD EMERY**

**2.35** BETFRED HAPPY NEW YEAR EBF JUNIOR 'NATIONAL HUNT' HURDLE (4) 1m7f144y (3150 Metres)

RACE 5 **(6) ITSTONITEJOSEPHINE | (2) SMART DECISION | (3) EAGLES REPRIEVE**

**3.10** BETFRED LAST FLING HANDICAP CHASE (2) 3½m97y (5720 Metres)

RACE 6 **(3) MONTGOMERY | (4) THE TWO AMIGOS | (5) FANTASTIKAS**

**3.45** BETFRED SUPPORTS JACK BERRY HOUSE HANDICAP HURDLE (3) 1m7f144y (3150 Metres)

RACE 7 **(5) BERTIE'S BALLET | (2) FOR PLEASURE | (6) THE GRAFTER**

## 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.

**12.30**

RACE 1

**BETFRED NIFTY 50 CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier) (4) 3yo+ (Rated 0-115) £10,000 3m58y (4880 Metres)****GBI RACING**Going: **Heavy**

Left handed, flat. Conditions are often gruelling during winter, placing emphasis on stamina. Conversely, conditions at the Swinton Meeting in May usually place the emphasis on speed, with a tendency to favour those ridden prominently as a result. Formerly held an undeserved reputation as one of the hardest courses to jump around, something not backed up by statistics, though perversely the data suggests that the chase course nowadays is a more demanding test, that possibly on account of more races being well run.

Pace Information: **Even**

**1 TIGER JET (IRE) (94) (CD)** h **94**  
68P357-14 8 12-0 | 76.2kg



Jennie Candlish

**William Shanahan**

Right back to best after 6 months off when making a winning stable debut at Cartmel (22f, heavy) in August. Not in same form when fourth of 5 in handicap hurdle at Worcester in September but given a break since and underfoot conditions will hold no fears.

**2 BALLYMAGROARTY BOY (IRE) (20) (C, D)** b **95**  
14034-787 11 11-13 | 75.7kg



Nigel Hawke

**Ben Bromley**

Course winner who got back on the scoresheet at Ffos Las a year ago and now 4 lb lower in the weights but he's yet to fire this season, coming in seventh of 8 in handicap hurdle at Uttoxeter (23.3f, soft) 20 days ago. Plenty of good efforts to his name around here at least.

**3 CITY DERBY (IRE) (22)** s **96**  
11113249 8 11-12 | 75.3kg



Lizzie Quinlan

**Peter Kavanagh (31b/1kg)**

Completed a Cartmel 4-timer in staying handicaps this summer before finishing placed at Perth/Aintree. Not suited by drop in trip at Wetherby before poor run at Kelso (22.7f) 22 days ago, possibly feeling the effects of a long campaign (has been on the go since January).

**4 BUSHYPARK (IRE) (21) (CD)** s **99**  
0P15P62-P 10 11-12 | 75.3kg



Philip Kirby

**Joe Williamson**

Proved more miss than hit on the back of a C&D victory 12 months ago but responded well to fitting of cheekpieces when runner-up on final start of last season at Kelso (22.7f) in April. Low-key return to action at Lingfield 21 days ago and he needs to leave that well behind.

**5 LADY IN THE PARK (IRE) (23) (BF)** **95**  
31225-4U5 6 11-8 | 73.5kg



Lucinda Russell

**Patrick Wadge (31b/1kg)**

Returns to hurdling after a couple of disappointing efforts over the larger obstacles the last twice. On a workable mark and underfoot conditions will hold no fears.

**6 SCHALKE (17)** **100**  
98888P-32 9 11-8 | 73.5kg



Oliver Greenall &amp; Josh Guerriero

**Ben Smith (81b/4kg)**

3-time winner over hurdles for Rebecca Menzies, latterly at Kelso (22.7f) 2 years ago. In the doldrums last year but cemented positive start for new yard when finishing a good second of 9 in handicap hurdle at Bangor (23.2f, heavy) 17 days ago. One to consider.

**7 CLONDAW ROYALE (IRE) (21)** **95**  
21F-44PP7 5 11-3 | 71.2kg



Jonjo &amp; A.J. O'Neill

**Benjamin Macey (101b/5kg)**

Winner of a Bangor maiden hurdle last December but struggled switched to chasing and he failed to see things out when seventh of 8 in handicap hurdle at Lingfield (19.5f, soft) 21 days ago, folding before last. Steps back up in trip now.

**8 POLISH (26) (D)** b **91**  
3P2-FP666 9 11-2 | 70.8kg



James Moffatt

**Leah Noreci (101b/5kg)**

Without a win since 2021 and following a low-key start for present connections, he took a step back in the right direction in refitted blinkers when finishing midfield in a 10-runner C&D handicap 26 days ago. Now his task is to build on that.

8 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**9-4** Schalke, **4-1** Lady In The Park, **5-1** Tiger Jet, **7-1** Bushypark, **12-1** Ballymagroarty Boy, **16-1** City Derby, **16-1** Clondaw Royale, **22-1** Polish

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

SCHALKE cemented the positive start made for his new stable when finishing runner-up in a stronger race at Bangor 17 days ago and well handicapped on old form, he looks to hold sound claims of going one place better. Lady In The Park returned to this sphere and Tiger Jet back from a break for the in-form Jennie Candlish yard are others worth considering.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:****1. SCHALKE 2. LADY IN THE PARK 3. TIGER JET****WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2023	<b>Hill of Tara</b> 6-10-5	evsf	Venetia Williams	Ned Fox (3)	6
2022	<b>Sacre Coeur</b> 6-11-13	20-1	Jonjo O'Neill	Lorcan Murtagh	11
2021	<b>Stolen Money</b> 6-11-2	5-1	Donald Whillans	Theo Gillard	6
2019	<b>Buster Edwards</b> 6-11-11	7-2f	David Pipe	Jack Tudor (3)	11

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

**1.00**

RACE 2

**BETFRED 'CLASSIC BOOKMAKER' EBF 'NATIONAL HUNT' NOVICES' HURDLE (Qualifier) (3) 4yo+ £10,100 1m7f144y (3150 Metres)****GBI RACING**Going: **Heavy**

Left handed, flat. Conditions are often gruelling during winter, placing emphasis on stamina. Conversely, conditions at the Swinton Meeting in May usually place the emphasis on speed, with a tendency to favour those ridden prominently as a result. Formerly held an undeserved reputation as one of the hardest courses to jump around, something not backed up by statistics, though perversely the data suggests that the chase course nowadays is a more demanding test, that possibly on account of more races being well run.

Pace Information: **Very Weak**

**1** **GLYNN BRAE (IRE) (51)** (D) **81**  
1-16 4 11-6 | 72.6kg



Nigel Twiston-Davies

*Sam Twiston-Davies*

£130,000 purchase on the back of a bumper success at Leopardstown in the spring and followed up on hurdles debut at Stratford (16.3f, heavy) in October. Not in same form when sixth of 9 in novice at Aintree (20f) a month later but return to heavy ground a likely plus here.

**2** **INDEEVAR BLEU (FR) (29)** (D) **100**  
1/4-1 6 11-6 | 72.6kg



Ollly Murphy

*Sean Bowen*

Above-average bumper performer who shaped with plenty of promise when fourth at Ayr on hurdles debut last November. Won on the bridle when long odds-on for a 7-runner Leicester novice (15.5f, heavy) back from 13 months off and he's an exciting prospect.

**3** **DESERT HALO (IRE) (32)** **82**  
2/4-462 5 11-0 | 69.9kg



Richard Bandy

*Harry Bannister*

Some promise in trio of bumper outings and stepped up plenty on his hurdles debut effort when second of 9 in novice at Lingfield (2m) 32 days ago. That was a fair performance and he may yet have more to offer.

**4** **KISS ME D'EX (FR) (13)** **73**  
126-506 4 11-0 | 69.9kg



Richard Hobson

*Danny McMenamin*

Bumper winner in France but well beaten both starts switched to hurdling for new yard in recent months. Can only be watched at present.

**5** **LAGANHILL** **76**  
6 11-0 | 69.9kg



Henry Daly

*Stan Sheppard*

£10,000 6-y-o, Kayf Tara gelding. Dam (b96), bumper winner, half-sister to useful hurdler/top-class chaser (stayed 21f) Wishfull Thinking and useful hurdler/fairly useful chaser (2m-3m winner) Wishfull Dreaming. Appealing newcomer and interesting if betting vibes proved positive.

**6** **THIRTY BOB (IRE) (16)** **73**  
4P 4 11-0 | 69.9kg



Dianne Sayer

*Henry Brooke*

£44,000 3-y-o, Leading Light gelding. Well held in bumper/novice hurdle so far this winter.

6 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

4-5 Indeevar Bleu, 4-1 Desert Halo, 9-2 Glynn Brae, 14-1 Laganhill, 50-1 bar

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

INDEEVAR BLEU wasn't extended when taking care of 6-rivals following a 13-month layoff at Leicester 4 weeks ago and Ollly Murphy's gelding looks the one to beat with above-average progress distinctly possible. Glynn Brae and Desert Halo can do battle for minor honours.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

1. INDEEVAR BLEU 2. GLYNN BRAE 3. DESERT HALO

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2023	<b>Bertie's Ballet</b> 5-11-0	5-4	Dianne Sayer	Henry Brooke	6
2022	<b>War Soldier</b> 5-11-6	2-1	Sandy Thomson	Ryan Mania	11
2021	<b>Jungle Jack</b> 5-11-5	11-4	Donald McCain	Brian Hughes	7
2019	<b>Ebony Jewel</b> 5-10-12	11-10f	N. W. Alexander	Lucy Alexander	7

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

**1.30****BETFRED 'BET BUILDER' HANDICAP CHASE (3) 4yo+  
(Rated 0-130) £12,500 2m3f203y (4010 Metres)**

RACE 3

Going: **Heavy**

Left handed, flat. Conditions are often gruelling during winter, placing emphasis on stamina. Conversely, conditions at the Swinton Meeting in May usually place the emphasis on speed, with a tendency to favour those ridden prominently as a result. Formerly held an undeserved reputation as one of the hardest courses to jump around, something not backed up by statistics, though perversely the data suggests that the chase course nowadays is a more demanding test, that possibly on account of more races being well run.

Pace Information: **Weak**

<b>1</b>	<b>IDALKO BIHOUE (FR) (51)</b> (D, BF) <b>100</b>
	PP5/F165-8 6 12-0   76.2kg Nigel Twiston-Davies <b>Sam Twiston-Davies</b> Lightly raced since opening his account over fences at Cheltenham (19.7f) 14 months ago and hindered by jumping errors when well-held eighth on return in Grand Sefton at Aintree (21f) in November. This is a less demanding assignment.
<b>2</b>	<b>CLASSIC MAESTRO (IRE) (9)</b> (C) <b>99</b>
	1121-5111 6 11-13   75.7kg Jennie Candlish <b>Sean Quinlan</b> All the better for his comeback effort when landing brace of handicap hurdles at Wetherby/Bangor. Completed simple task when seeing off his sole rival in beginners' chase here (16.3f) 9 days ago (jumped soundly) and there's more to come in this sphere.
<b>3</b>	<b>HAPPY AND FINE (FR) (268)</b> (CD) s <b>99</b>
	33/311PF3- 7 11-11   74.8kg Alex Hales <b>Kielan Woods</b> Likeable sort who recorded back-to-back chase victories last winter, including this race from 4 lb lower. Failed to complete next 2 starts before a below-par run at Uttoxeter when last seen in April but he has gone well fresh previously.
<b>4</b>	<b>THE FLIER BEGLEY (IRE) (10)</b> (D) <b>98</b>
	406311P3 9 11-4   71.7kg Gary Hanmer <b>J. Hogan (3lb/1kg)</b> A fairly useful chase winner for Stuart Crawford in Ireland and returned to his best for current yard when scoring at Warwick and Carlisle in October. Pulled up next time and whilst he did too much too soon when third at Uttoxeter latest, his present mark is probably about right.
<b>5</b>	<b>IF NOT FOR DYLAN (IRE) (612)</b> <b>98</b>
	48451271/ 9 11-1   70.3kg Lucinda Russell <b>Derek Fox</b> Multiple winner in this sphere for Andrew Hamilton, running right up to his best when landing 13-runner handicap chase at Perth (30.5f) in spring 2023. Starts out for new yard following a 20-month layoff and the betting may prove a useful guide as to expectations.
<b>6</b>	<b>TRAC (FR) (51)</b> (D) s <b>96</b>
	P214411-6 7 10-11   68.5kg Micky Hammond <b>Conor O'Farrell</b> Built up a very healthy strike rate for this stable, career-best effort when winning 10-runner handicap chase at Carlisle (2m, heavy) in April. Last month's Kelso reappearance ought to have blown the cobwebs away and better showing anticipated with usual cheekpieces back on.
<b>7</b>	<b>NED TANNER (IRE) (29)</b> (D) s+t <b>98</b>
	2U3F32-45 8 10-10   68.0kg N. W. Alexander <b>Danny McMenamin</b> Dual chase winner at Kelso as a novice. Progress stalled last season and having shaped with encouragement on return at that venue in November, wasn't so good when fifth of 12 in handicap chase at Carlisle 4 weeks ago. Cheekpieces/tongue tie reached for now.

7 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**9-4** Classic Maestro, **7-2** Idalko Bihoue, **6-1** If Not For Dylan, **13-2** Happy And Fine, **12-1** Ned Tanner, **12-1** Trac, **14-1** The Flier Begley

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

Prolific scorer CLASSIC MAESTRO impressed with the accuracy of his jumping when landing a match over fences here 9 days ago and appealing as the type to go on returned to handicapping in this sphere, he looks to hold sound claims again. Idalko Bihoue and last year's winner Happy And Fine may emerge as the chief threats.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. CLASSIC MAESTRO 2. IDALKO BIHOUE 3. HAPPY AND FINE**

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2023 **Happy And Fine** 6-11-7 7-2 Alex Hales Bryan Carver 7

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

**2.00****BETFRED GOALS GALORE NOVICES' HANDICAP CHASE (4)  
4yo+ (Rated 0-120) £10,000 3m1f125y (5140 Metres)**

RACE 4

Going: **Heavy**

Left handed, flat. Conditions are often gruelling during winter, placing emphasis on stamina. Conversely, conditions at the Swinton Meeting in May usually place the emphasis on speed, with a tendency to favour those ridden prominently as a result. Formerly held an undeserved reputation as one of the hardest courses to jump around, something not backed up by statistics, though perversely the data suggests that the chase course nowadays is a more demanding test, that possibly on account of more races being well run.

Pace Information: **Very Weak****1 BROOMFIELD PRESENT (IRE) (20) (C) s+t 86**

121/3BP-6 8 12-2 | 77.1kg



Kim Bailey

**Tom Bellamy**

Useful winning hurdler. Made a promising start in this sphere when third at Exeter last November but has failed to build on it, off year/had wind op before a well-held sixth at Uttoxeter 20 days ago. Cheekpieces go on now.

**2 GALASSIAN (17) 90**

2/4-41 7 11-8 | 73.5kg



Mel Rowley

**Charlie Hammond**

Very lightly-raced hurdler who showed much improved form to land 2m4f Bangor maiden hurdle earlier in the month. A winning pointer too so he's much respected now going chasing.

**3 GOLD EMERY (FR) (23) 90**

22/52P23-7 8 11-4 | 71.7kg



Donald McCain

**Theo Gillard**

Point/hurdles winner who has shown fair form over fences without winning. Should be all the better for his reappearance seventh behind Wal Buck's in 3m Wetherby handicap chase 23 days ago so possibilities.

**4 GOOD WORK (FR) (23) s+t 88**

22442-P33 8 11-3 | 71.2kg



Oliver Greenall &amp; Josh Guerriero

**Henry Brooke**

Remains a maiden but he posted a solid third of 10 in handicap chase at Wetherby (24.2f, heavy) 23 days ago. Unreliable sort, though.

**5 WAL BUCK'S (FR) (23) (BF) 100**

54243-632 5 11-1 | 70.3kg



Lucinda Russell

**Derek Fox**

Encouraging signs over hurdles and is improving with each run over fences, coming in an excellent second of 10 in handicap chase at Wetherby (24.2f, heavy) 23 days ago. Weighted to go close despite taking a 5 lb rise.

**6 CREAM OF THE WEST (IRE) (19) 93**

60/3121P-6 8 11-0 | 69.9kg



N. W. Alexander

**Danny McMenamin**

A dual hurdles winner last season at up to 3m. Off 9 months before posting an encouraging sixth of 14 in 2m4f Hexham handicap on his debut over fences 19 days ago. Runner-up in an Irish point so needs considering.

**7 OTTOLINE (23) 87**

85/313P3-P 8 10-11 | 68.5kg



Venetia Williams

**Charlie Deutsch**

A fair winning hurdler last season but failed to fire in 2 chases. Pulled up in 2m4f Sandown handicap hurdle 23 days ago too so she has it to prove now back in this sphere.

7 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**2-1** Wal Buck's, **4-1** Cream of The West, **6-1** Gold Emery, **6-1** Galassian, **10-1** Good Work, **14-1** Ottoline, **16-1** Broomfield Present

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

WAL BUCK'S is progressing with experience and fancied to build on his excellent Wetherby second last time out and get off the mark. Both Cream of The West and Gold Emery are expected to build on encouraging reappearance efforts at Hexham and Wetherby respectively and can chase home Lucinda Russell's 5-y-o in that order. Chasing newcomer Galassian completes the shortlist.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:****1. WAL BUCK'S 2. CREAM OF THE WEST 3. GOLD EMERY****WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**2023 **Southern Sam** 9-12-0 10-3 Richard Bandey Harry Bannister 6**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race









**2.35****BETFRED HAPPY NEW YEAR EBF JUNIOR 'NATIONAL HUNT' HURDLE (4) 3yo £10,000 1m7f144y (3150 Metres)**

RACE 5

Going: **Heavy**

Left handed, flat. Conditions are often gruelling during winter, placing emphasis on stamina. Conversely, conditions at the Swinton Meeting in May usually place the emphasis on speed, with a tendency to favour those ridden prominently as a result. Formerly held an undeserved reputation as one of the hardest courses to jump around, something not backed up by statistics, though perversely the data suggests that the chase course nowadays is a more demanding test, that possibly on account of more races being well run.

Pace Information: **Very Weak**

<b>1</b>	<b>AOTANO (GER) (31)</b>	t	
	153	3	11-7   73.0kg
	Donald McCain		<b>Non Runner</b>
	Made a winning hurdles debut at Hereford (16.2f) in October. Changed hands for £8,500 thereafter and similar form when fifth at Bangor and third at Doncaster since. Much respected. NON RUNNER.		
<b>2</b>	<b>SMART DECISION (31)</b>		<b>95</b>
	1	3	11-7   73.0kg
	Tim Easterby		<b>Sean Quinlan</b>
	Postponed gelding made a winning debut in 5-runner juvenile hurdle at Doncaster (5/1) 31 days ago. Well on top at the finish there so he's a player under a 7 lb penalty.		
<b>3</b>	<b>EAGLES REPRIEVE (IRE) (23) (D)</b>		<b>89</b>
	1	3	11-0   69.9kg
	Lucinda Russell		<b>Derek Fox</b>
	10/1, won 9-runner bumper at Wetherby on his NH debut 23 days ago. This son of Wings of Eagles must enter calculations now going over hurdles.		
<b>4</b>	<b>L'AIR DU LARGE (FR) (76) (BF)</b>		<b>88</b>
	4	3	11-0   69.9kg
	Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero		<b>Henry Brooke</b>
	Sent off 7/4 but he came in last of 4 in bumper at Market Rasen on debut 76 days ago. This No Risk At All gelding is in good hands so still needs considering on his hurdling bow.		
<b>5</b>	<b>THE RESDEV TYKE</b>		<b>86</b>
	3	3	11-0   69.9kg
	Michael & David Easterby		<b>Jamie Hamilton</b>
	Schiaparelli gelding. Half-brother to dual bumper winner/fairly useful hurdler Moon Chime. The market can guide.		
<b>6</b>	<b>ITSTONITEJOSEPHINE</b>		<b>100</b>
	3	3	10-7   66.7kg
	Nicky Henderson		<b>Nico de Boinville</b>
	Jack Hobbs filly, Dam, unraced, from family of high-class hurdler/smart chaser L'Ami Serge. In top hands and makes plenty of appeal on paper. Interesting debutante.		
<b>7</b>	<b>MYSTICAL MARTIKA (IRE) (23)</b>		<b>84</b>
	5	3	10-7   66.7kg
	Lucinda Russell		<b>Patrick Wadge</b>
	In need of the experience when a debut fifth of 9 to Eagles Reprieve in bumper at Wetherby on NH debut 23 days ago. Can take a step forward now going hurdling.		

7 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**7-4** ItstoniteJosephine, **11-4** Smart Decision, **6-1** Eagles Reprieve, **7-1** L'air Du Large, **10-1** The Resdev Tyke, **20-1** Mystical Martika

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

The market should reveal plenty but the vote goes to Nicky Henderson's ITSTONITEJOSEPHINE who appeals on pedigree and is fancied to make a winning start. Doncaster debut scorer Smart Decision rates a big threat though, with other hurdling newcomers Eagles Reprieve and L'Air du Large also much respected.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. ITSTONITEJOSEPHINE 2. SMART DECISION 3. EAGLES REPRIEVE**

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

**3.10****BETFRED LAST FLING HANDICAP CHASE (2) 4yo+ (Rated 0-145) £25,000 3½m97y (5720 Metres)**

RACE 6

**GBI RACING**Going: **Heavy**

Left handed, flat. Conditions are often gruelling during winter, placing emphasis on stamina. Conversely, conditions at the Swinton Meeting in May usually place the emphasis on speed, with a tendency to favour those ridden prominently as a result. Formerly held an undeserved reputation as one of the hardest courses to jump around, something not backed up by statistics, though perversely the data suggests that the chase course nowadays is a more demanding test, that possibly on account of more races being well run.

Pace Information: **Weak****SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

**1 THE BIG BREAKAWAY (IRE) (37)** s **97**  
F/5PP66-P2 9 12-0 | 76.2kg



Anthony Charlton

**Sean Bowen**

It's 19 runs since his last win in 2020 but he got back on track when a 25/1-second of 10 in staying handicap chase at Ascot (29.4f, good to soft) 37 days ago. Needs to back it up now.

**2 GABORIOT (FR) (16) (BF)** **98**  
131U-1136 8 12-0 | 76.2kg



Oliver Greenall &amp; Josh Guerriero

**Ben Smith (7lb/3kg)**

Has a superb strike rate in recent times and posted a good third in the Grand Sefton at Aintree in November. Not at his best when a well-backed sixth in 3m handicap chase at Doncaster 16 days ago but he's the sort to bounce back.

**3 MONTGOMERY (IRE) (23) (BF)** ★ **100**  
14/41119-5 7 11-13 | 75.7kg



Venetia Williams

**Charlie Deutsch**

Winning hurdler for Christian Williams. Scored 3 times sent chasing for his new yard last term and resumed with a solid fifth of 10 in handicap chase at Sandown (28.7f) 23 days ago. Remains low mileage in this sphere and a big player.

**4 THE TWO AMIGOS (26) (D)** **99**  
7317/P 12 11-8 | 73.5kg



Nicky Martin

**Sean Houlihan**

Gained his first win since 2019 in 2022 Welsh National. Only twice raced since but prominent long way when pulled up in handicap chase here (25.6f, soft) 26 days ago. This likeable veteran needs considering off a reduced mark with that run under his belt.

**5 FANTASTIKAS (FR) (20)** s+t **96**  
300/623-P3 9 11-6 | 72.6kg



Nigel Twiston-Davies

**Sam Twiston-Davies**

On a losing sequence but he recorded a solid third of 9 in handicap chase at Uttoxeter (24f, soft) 20 days ago. Can't be discounted.

**6 VALLERES (FR) (321)** **89**  
310/PP- 9 11-2 | 70.8kg



Venetia Williams

**Ned Fox (3lb/1kg)**

Unreliable type who has been pulled up in handicap chases at Aintree and Lingfield on his last two runs. Stable is among the winners but he needs to take a big step forward after 10 months off.

**7 SAINT XAVIER (FR) (21) (C)** s+t **99**  
5986/P4-54 12 10-6 | 66.2kg



Richard Hobson

**Charlie Maggs (5lb/2kg)**

Course winner but this veteran has yet to hit top form in handicap chases at Fontwell (27f) and Lingfield (20f) this winter. Cheekpieces go back on with plenty more required.

7 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**5-2** Montgomery, **7-2** Gaboriot, **7-2** Fantastikas, **10-1** Saint Xavier, **12-1** The Two Amigos, **12-1** The Big Breakaway, **25-1** Valleres

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

MONTGOMERY was quick to make his mark sent chasing for Venetia Williams last season and can build on a good reappearance Sandown fifth to resume winning ways. Likeable veteran The Two Amigos could take a sizeable step forward and emerge as the main danger with a recent run here under his belt, although Fantastikas and Gaboriot merit respect too in an open-looking handicap.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. MONTGOMERY 2. THE TWO AMIGOS 3. FANTASTIKAS**

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2023	<b>Robyndzone</b> 9-10-3	10-3	Venetia Williams	Ned Fox (5)	6
2022	<b>All About Joe</b> 7-10-9	16-1	Andrew Hamilton	Alan Doyle (5)	12
2021	<b>Blaktion</b> 12-11-3	11-4f	Dan Skelton	Harry Skelton	7
2019	<b>Lord du Mesnil</b> 6-11-5	11-4f	Richard Hobson	Paul O'Brien (3)	6










**3.45**

RACE 7

**BETFRED SUPPORTS JACK BERRY HOUSE HANDICAP HURDLE (3) 3yo+ (Rated 0-135) £12,000 1m7f144y (3150 Metres)****GBI RACING**Going: **Heavy**

Left handed, flat. Conditions are often gruelling during winter, placing emphasis on stamina. Conversely, conditions at the Swinton Meeting in May usually place the emphasis on speed, with a tendency to favour those ridden prominently as a result. Formerly held an undeserved reputation as one of the hardest courses to jump around, something not backed up by statistics, though perversely the data suggests that the chase course nowadays is a more demanding test, that possibly on account of more races being well run.

Pace Information: **Even**

<b>1</b>	<b>BAREBACK JACK (IRE) (1395)</b> (D)			<b>100</b>
	8 12-0   76.2kg			
	Donald McCain		<b>Brian Hughes</b>	
	Successful sole outing in Irish points and made excellent start to his hurdling career in 2020/21, winning novices on his first 3 starts. However, well-beaten in Grade 2 at Kelso in March that season (lost shoe/cut leg) and has been absent since.			
<b>2</b>	<b>FOR PLEASURE (IRE) (41)</b> (D)	t		<b>99</b>
	P95115-42 9 11-7   73.0kg			
	Olly Murphy		<b>Sean Bowen</b>	
	Fine start for this yard last winter, winning over hurdles at Fakenham/Fontwell prior to scoring on the Flat at Chelmsford in April. Steadily back to form this season, second of 5 in handicap hurdle at Fakenham (16f, good to soft) in November. Respected.			
<b>3</b>	<b>HURRICANE ALI (IRE) (9)</b> (C, D)	s		<b>98</b>
	25-263384 8 11-7   73.0kg			
	James Moffatt		<b>Charlotte Jones</b>	
	Ran well when placed on a couple of occasions at Cartmel for current yard early this season and returned to form when fourth of 7 at this course (18.9f, heavy) 9 days ago. Cheekpieces need to eke out more is he's to gain a first win in over 2 years.			
<b>4</b>	<b>MACK THE MAN (IRE) (22)</b> (D)	v		<b>97</b>
	8213-1413 10 11-7   73.0kg			
	N. W. Alexander		<b>Mr Kit Alexander (5lb/2kg)</b>	
	Reacted well to a visor with wins at Musselburgh and Perth in the spring and displayed a willing attitude when adding to tally after 5 months off at Ayr (16f, good to soft) in November. Again ran well at Kelso last time and he could be in the mix.			
<b>5</b>	<b>BERTIE'S BALLETT (9)</b> (CD, BF)	s	 	<b>100</b>
	1243-P362 6 11-5   72.1kg			
	Dianne Sayer		<b>Henry Brooke</b>	
	Won novice at this C&D last season and bounced back from a below-par effort when runner-up back here (heavy) 9 days ago. Remains on a workable mark and he could be ready to return to winning ways with cheekpieces applied.			
<b>6</b>	<b>THE GRAFTER (IRE) (20)</b>	h+t		<b>99</b>
	54-342 5 10-7   66.7kg			
	Sam England		<b>Jonathan England</b>	
	Promise in bumpers for Sam Allwood and, after 8 months off, shaped well sent hurdling when third at Uttoxeter in October. Lesser effort next time, but runner-up back at Uttoxeter (15.8f, soft) on handicap debut 20 days ago, though again showed an awkward side.			

6 DECLARED RUNNERS

**BETTING FORECAST:**

**9-4** Bertie's Ballet, **11-4** For Pleasure, **5-1** The Grafter, **7-1** Mack The Man, **10-1** Hurricane Ali, **10-1** Bareback Jack

**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

BERTIE'S BALLETT returned straight to form when second over C&D 9 days ago, just unable to get by the all-the-way winner, so he is taken to go one better this time with cheekpieces added. For Pleasure ran well behind a next-time-out winner at Fakenham on his latest outing and can make another bold bid, with The Grafter also considered.

**TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**

**1. BERTIE'S BALLETT 2. FOR PLEASURE 3. THE GRAFTER**

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

2023 **The Churchill Lad** 4-11-4 9-1 Rebecca Menzies Ross Chapman 6

**SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race