

Saturday 4th January

SANDOWN



12.05 WATCH UNIBET RACING POST POSTCAST MAIDEN HURDLE (3) 1m7f216y (3220 Metres)

RACE 1 **(8) KHRISMA | (2) JUBY BALL | (4) LUD'OR**

12.40 UNIBET MORE EXTRA PLACES THAN EVER HANDICAP CHASE (3) 1m7f99y (3110 Metres)

RACE 2 **(7) OSTRAVA DU BERLAIS | (2) BEAT BOX | (5) DR T J ECKLEBURG**

1.15 TRY UNIBET'S NEW ACCA BOOSTS SENIORS' HANDICAP HURDLE (3) 2m3f173y (3980 Metres)

RACE 3 **(8) FINE CASTING | (2) DODDIETHEGREAT | (1) WEST TO THE BRIDGE**

1.50 READ NICKY HENDERSON'S WEEKLY UNIBET BLOG HANDICAP CHASE (2) 2½m10y (4030 Metres)

RACE 4 **(4) TRIPLE TRADE | (8) HUNTER LEGEND | (5) ROCCOVANGO**

2.25 TRY UNIBET'S NEW SMARTVIEW RACECARDS MARES' HURDLE (Listed) (1) 2m3f173y (3980 Metres)

RACE 5 **(3) DELLA CASA LUNGA | (4) GEORGI GIRL | (2) DAMEOFTHECOTSWOLDS**

3.00 UNIBET VETERANS' HANDICAP CHASE (Series Final) (2) 3m37y (4860 Metres)

RACE 6 **(6) COPPERHEAD | (2) ELDORADO ALLEN | (4) EMPIRE STEEL**

3.35 FREE BET WITH UNIBET'S BETBUILDER REBOUND HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier) (3) 1m7f216y (3220 Metres)

RACE 7 **(8) OH MY JOHNNY | (9) JOUR D'EVASION | (1) AURIGNY MILL**

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.

12.05**WATCH UNIBET RACING POST POSTCAST MAIDEN HURDLE**
(3) 4yo+ £16,500 1m7f216y (3220 Metres)

RACE 1

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

Right handed, galloping. Regarded as the one of the best jumping tests for chasers in the country, thanks chiefly to the seven fences in the back straight, the last three of which are situated close together, though fallers in the home straight are very rare and, in actual fact, the course has long since been one of the lowest in Britain and Ireland in terms of the proportion of casualties. Hurdles course usually more testing than chase one during winter months, with gruelling conditions often the order of the day. Front runners more favoured on the chase track, where it can regularly prove hard to make up ground when conditions place the emphasis on speed.

Pace Information: **Weak****1 A GREAT EXCUSE (IRE) (23) 75**
0 5 11-8 | 73.5kg

Barry Brennan

Tom Broughton (5lb/2kg)

£5,000 4-y-o, Lucky Speed gelding. Dam, failed to complete all 4 starts in points, sister to fair hurdler/fairly useful chaser (stayed 25f) A Decent Excuse. Little impact in 3 Irish points and fared no better in a bumper last month.

2 JUBY BALL (FR) (336) (D) 94
12- 6 11-8 | 73.5kg

Evan Williams

Adam Wedge

Had 3 subsequent hurdles winners adrift when making a successful start to his career in a Ffos Las bumper in November 2023. Runner-up in deep bumper here on sole run since in February (form looks strong) and he's a potentially useful jumper in the making.

3 KING OF HIGHWAYS (FR) (19) 86
9-054 5 11-8 | 73.5kg

Chris Gordon

Freddie Gordon (3lb/1kg)

Comfortably held in 2 bumpers and on hurdles debut but did show much more when fourth in novice company at Plumpton 3 weeks ago.

4 LUD'OR (FR) (41) 98
52-23 5 11-8 | 73.5kg

Tom Symonds

Caolin Quinn

Improved on hurdling debut when second in juvenile at Auteuil in 2023 and shaped well on his British debut after 16 months off when second at Stratford in October, closing when badly hampered entering final 100 yds. Similar form at Uttoxeter (19.9f) and return to 2m in his favour.

5 MR BARROWCLOUGH (IRE) (693) 87
15/ 6 11-8 | 73.5kg

Nigel Twiston-Davies

J. J. Slevin

Bred for jumps but well backed and he duly delivered on debut in a bumper at Doncaster in November 2022. Bit disappointing under a penalty 3 months later and off the track since, but he's in good hands.

6 WALDEN (FR) (34) 86
55-383 5 11-8 | 73.5kg

Tom Lacey

Gavin Sheehan

Minor promise in a trio of bumpers for Tom Weston. Changed hands for £22,000 in May and while he showed more at Leicester last month, he's probably a longer-term project.

7 BALLYHEALY DIAMOND (IRE) (19) 70
6-5 6 11-1 | 70.3kg

Daniel Steele

Daniel Sansom (3lb/1kg)

Cheap purchase who showed little in bumpers 9 months apart.

8 KHRISMA (FR) (406) h ★ 100
62/3113- 5 11-1 | 70.3kg

Nicky Henderson

Nico de Boinville

Dual-bumper winner in France who finished 7½ lengths third of 10 to Kamaro D'huez in Gr 1 bumper at Fontainebleau (12.9f, soft) 13 months ago. Makes hurdles debut. Up in trip. First run for yard after leaving Emmanuel Clayeux and joined powerful stable.

8 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:**2-1** Khrisma, **5-2** Lud'or, **7-2** Juby Ball, **14-1** Mr Barrowclough, **18-1** Walden, **20-1** King of Highways, **80-1** bar**TIMEFORM VIEW:**

Having won twice in 12f bumpers in France, KHRISMA has transferred to Nicky Henderson and in receipt of weight from most, she looks really interesting on hurdles debut. Juby Ball displayed a similar level of ability in that sphere so he's a danger, while Lud'or will attempt to put his experience to good use.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:**1. KHRISMA 2. JUBY BALL 3. LUD'OR****SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

12.40

RACE 2


UNIBET MORE EXTRA PLACES THAN EVER HANDICAP CHASE (3) 5yo+ (Rated 0-140) £30,000 1m7f99y (3110 Metres)**GBI RACING**Going: **Chase: Soft (Good to Soft in places), Hurdles: Soft****SMART STATS:**


Right handed, galloping. Regarded as the one of the best jumping tests for chasers in the country, thanks chiefly to the seven fences in the back straight, the last three of which are situated close together, though fallers in the home straight are very rare and, in actual fact, the course has long since been one of the lowest in Britain and Ireland in terms of the proportion of casualties. Hurdles course usually more testing than chase one during winter months, with gruelling conditions often the order of the day. Front runners more favoured on the chase track, where it can regularly prove hard to make up ground when conditions place the emphasis on speed.

No Smart Stats available for this race

Pace Information: **Weak**


1 XCITATIONS (14) (CD)  **98**
13U764-53 10 12-0 | 76.2kg

 Pam Sly **Paul O'Brien**
C&D winner in November 2023. Far more miss than hit since but he stepped up on his reappearance when third at Haydock a fortnight ago and he's well weighted.


2 BEAT BOX (FR) (5lb/2kg ex) (6)  **100**
7-1111411 9 12-0 | 76.2kg

 Dan Skelton **Harry Skelton**
Hexham blip in October aside, he's won all other 6 starts this term, taking his form to a whole new level for latest of them at Kelso on Sunday. Major player under a 5 lb penalty.



3 SALAMANCA BAY (IRE) (19) h+t **98**
32312-4P 9 11-12 | 75.3kg

 Dan Skelton **Tristan Durrell (3lb/1kg)**
Headstrong sort who was well served by fitting of a hood when off the mark over fences for Lucinda Russell at Ayr (16.5f) in March. However, below best at Cartmel in May and having undergone wind surgery/fitted with tongue tie ahead of stable debut, he also showed little at Southwell.


4 HYPOTENUS (64) **91**
1636-4287 6 11-11 | 74.8kg

 Joe Tickle **Taylor Fisher**
Fairly useful 2m winner over hurdles but didn't really click over fences for Gavin Cromwell. Lots to prove starting out for new yard.


5 DR T J ECKLEBURG (IRE) (8) (D) **99**
32434-312 7 11-8 | 73.5kg

 Evan Williams  **Adam Wedge**
Showed the benefit of his reappearance when proving too strong for his 6 rivals at Haydock (16.3f, soft) in November. Runner-up that day has bolted up since and he gave another good account of himself when second at Chepstow a week ago. Same mark.

6 DUHALLOW TOMMY (IRE) (20) **97**
311129-32 7 11-2 | 70.8kg

 Toby Lawes **K. Brogan**
Proved to be a different proposition switched to fences following a wind op last term, winning 3 times (at up to 19.8f). Returned with a brace of sound placed efforts but this is a slightly deeper contest.

7 OSTRAVA DU BERLAIS (FR) (23) h **99**
2/P555-211 7 11-2 | 70.8kg

 Venetia Williams **Charlie Deutsch**
Built on promising Warwick chase debut when readily taking 6-runner handicap chase at Ludlow and followed up under a penalty with the minimum of fuss at Taunton 3 weeks ago. Assessor reacted with 9 lb rise but that may not be enough.

7 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

13-8 Ostrava Du Berlais, **11-4** Beat Box, **13-2** Dr T J Eckleburg, **8-1** Duhallow Tommy, **11-1** Xcitations, **25-1** Salamanca Bay, **50-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

OSTRAVA DU BERLAIS looks a handicapper going places judged on a brace of bloodless victories in recent weeks and her revised mark looks well within range. Beat Box has enjoyed a fine campaign and he's also well weighted turned out under a penalty, with Dr T J Eckleburg likely to be thereabouts.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. OSTRAVA DU BERLAIS 2. BEAT BOX 3. DR T J ECKLEBURG

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2023	Xcitations 8-11-6	7-1	Pam Sly	Mr Jack Andrews (3)	7
2022	Gunsight Ridge 7-11-0	11-4	Oilly Murphy	Aidan Coleman	7
2021	Ibleo 8-11-9	13-8f	Venetia Williams	Charlie Deutsch	8
2020	Locker Room Talk 7-11-10	11-4	Nigel Twiston-Davies	Jack Savage (7)	6

1.15

RACE 3

TRY UNIBET'S NEW ACCA BOOSTS SENIORS' HANDICAP HURDLE (3) 8yo+ (Rated 0-135) £20,000 2m3f173y (3980 Metres)**GBI RACING**Going: **Chase: Soft (Good to Soft in places), Hurdles: Soft**

Right handed, galloping. Regarded as the one of the best jumping tests for chasers in the country, thanks chiefly to the seven fences in the back straight, the last three of which are situated close together, though fallers in the home straight are very rare and, in actual fact, the course has long since been one of the lowest in Britain and Ireland in terms of the proportion of casualties. Hurdles course usually more testing than chase one during winter months, with gruelling conditions often the order of the day. Front runners more favoured on the chase track, where it can regularly prove hard to make up ground when conditions place the emphasis on speed.

Pace Information: **Very Strong**

1 WEST TO THE BRIDGE (IRE) (28) (CD) s+t  **99**
2F544-334 12 12-0 | 76.2kg



Dan Skelton

Harry Skelton

Last win came at this C&D in March 2023, though showed benefit of his reappearance when third at Bangor (19.6f, soft) in November. Not in the same form here (23.4f, heavy) last time, but he's on a workable mark back down in trip with cheekpieces reapplied.

2 DODDIETHEGREAT (IRE) (9) **99**
12407-5P 9 11-13 | 75.7kg



Nicky Henderson

Nico de Boinville

Had been shaping up well in 2023/24, finishing a good fourth in Betfair Hurdle at Newbury, but held back by inexperience on chasing debut at Kempton on return. Hampered at the start back hurdling at Kempton 9 days ago, so he's one to note from his current mark.

3 MONVIEL (IRE) (55) (C) **97**
24823U-28 8 11-12 | 75.3kg



Harry Derham

Paul O'Brien

Returned to his best over hurdles for current yard, placed for the third completed start in a row when runner-up at Uttoxeter (19.9f, soft) in May. However, after 6 months off he finished tailed off at this C&D in November. Bounce back called for.

4 STREAM OF STARS (28) **98**
1165 10 11-10 | 74.4kg



Nigel Twiston-Davies

James Turner (5lb/2kg)

Reappeared from lengthy absence as good as ever, recording back-to-back wins at Fontwell in September/October. Found things tougher at Ascot next time, though, before seeming unsuited by conditions at this course (16f, heavy) 28 days ago. More needed.

5 HOURVARI (FR) (38) (D, BF) **98**
473113/6-2 8 11-6 | 72.6kg



Olly Murphy

Sean Bowen

Fairly useful in bumpers and quickly reached a similar level over hurdles in 2022/23. Below expectations on handicap debut only start last season, but after another 13 months off he ran well when second at Wetherby (19.7f, soft) in November. Could be in the mix.

6 FIRESTREAM (706) (D) t  **100**
124/ 8 11-4 | 71.7kg



Anthony Honeyball

Sam Twiston-Davies

Fairly useful form when making a succesful hurdling debut in a Chepstow maiden (19.4f, good to soft) in 2022/23 and made the frame both subsequent outings that season. Absent 23 months since but he's an interesting contender on his handicap bow.

7 DIBBLE DECKER (IRE) (15) (D) s+t **97**
115/9123-8 9 11-4 | 71.7kg




Tom Lacey

Gavin Sheehan

Added a third chase victory to his tally at Wincanton on second start last season. Back over hurdles after 8 months off, needed stronger gallop when eighth of 13 at Ascot (21.6f, good to soft) 15 days ago, so he could go well with his recent run behind him.

8 FINE CASTING (IRE) (26) **97**
232P2-602 9 11-3 | 71.2kg

Ben Pauling **Ben Jones**

A while since his last success but from his easing mark he stepped up on his recent outing when second in handicap hurdle at Lingfield (19.5f, soft) 26 days ago. Yard going well and he could be ready to return to winning ways.

9 BALLYBEGG (IRE) (23) (D) s **96**
0414-4738 10 11-3 | 71.2kg



Kerry Lee

Freddie Gordon (3lb/1kg)

Came on plenty for his comeback run when third of 7 in handicap hurdle at Uttoxeter (19.9f, heavy) in November, though failed to repeat that effort when down the field at Warwick 23 days ago. Cheekpieces back on but others more persuasive.

10 CAST'S TASHA (IRE) (28) (D) t **99**
3221P6-12 8 10-8 | 67.1kg

Ben Clarke **Harry Kimber**

Smooth traveller who returned better than ever when scoring at Ffos Las (21.9f, heavy) in November. Ran at least as well when second at this C&D (heavy) last time and she can give another good account in her current form.

10 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

7-2 Doddiethegreat, **11-2** West To The Bridge, **6-1** Hourvari, **13-2** Cast's Tasha, **7-1** Fine Casting, **11-1** Dibble Decker, **14-1** Firestream, **18-1** Stream of Stars, **18-1** Monviel, **22-1** Ballybeg

TIMEFORM VIEW:

FINE CASTING left his reappearance run behind when bumping into an improver at Lingfield last time, so he is taken to get his head back in front from 4 lb below his last winning mark. He can see off the challenge of Doddiethegreat, who is worth another chance having had excuses at Kempton on Boxing Day, with West To The Bridge also considered.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. FINE CASTING 2. DODDIETHEGREAT 3. WEST TO THE BRIDGE

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

1.50

RACE 4

**READ NICKY HENDERSON'S WEEKLY UNIBET BLOG
HANDICAP CHASE (2) 5yo+ (Rated 0-145) £40,000
2½m10y (4030 Metres)**Going: **Chase: Soft (Good to Soft in places), Hurdles: Soft**

Right handed, galloping. Regarded as the one of the best jumping tests for chasers in the country, thanks chiefly to the seven fences in the back straight, the last three of which are situated close together, though fallers in the home straight are very rare and, in actual fact, the course has long since been one of the lowest in Britain and Ireland in terms of the proportion of casualties. Hurdles course usually more testing than chase one during winter months, with gruelling conditions often the order of the day. Front runners more favoured on the chase track, where it can regularly prove hard to make up ground when conditions place the emphasis on speed.

Pace Information: **Even**

1 UNEXPECTED PARTY (FR) (50) t **98**
5491P-524 10 12-0 | 76.2kg



Dan Skelton

Tristan Durrell (3lb/1kg)

Enjoyed his finest hour when landing the Grand Annual at the Cheltenham Festival in March. Not disgraced when 13¼ lengths last of 4 to Jonbon in Shloer Chase at Cheltenham (15.9f, good to soft) just over 7 weeks ago. Returns to handicap company and looks second string on jockey bookings.

2 ETALON (IRE) (21) (C) **98**
4/1117-595 8 11-4 | 71.7kg



Dan Skelton

Harry Skelton

Rapid improver sent chasing last term, winning first 3 starts before shaping better than bare result in Aintree Grade 1 on final start. Seemingly being brought along gradually this term, finishing a bit closer when fifth of 6 at Cheltenham (16.3f, good to soft) 3 weeks ago. Not one to rule out yet.

3 HUBRISKO (FR) (35) t **87**
40/32291-7 8 11-3 | 71.2kg



Harry Derham

Paul O'Brien

Useful hurdler/chaser for Willie Mullins, well served by front-running tactics when landing 6-runner Killarney maiden chase (23f, soft) in August 2023. Friendless in the market and made a low-key return from 15 months off back over hurdles at Newbury 5 weeks ago so others more appealing.

4 TRIPLE TRADE (21) (D) s **100**
31585-644 9 10-10 | 68.0kg



Joe Tizzard

Brendan Powell

Successful twice in 2023/24. Good fifth in Red Rum at Aintree final start but is struggling to recapture his best form this term, fourth of 6 at Cheltenham (16.3f, good to soft) 3 weeks ago. Handicapper relinquishes his grip further and he's fancied to be involved back up in trip.

5 ROCCOVANGO (IRE) (41) (D) s **99**
3/721-1121 9 10-10 | 68.0kg



Olly Murphy

Sean Bowen

Has thrived since joining Olly Murphy and fitted with cheekpieces, resuming his progress after 8 weeks off to make it 4-6 for his present yard (narrow defeats other 2 starts) in 5-runner handicap chase at Uttoxeter (24f, heavy) just under 6 weeks ago. Nudged up 2 lb and remains of interest.

6 JUPITER DU GITE (FR) (29) (D) h **97**
3/P6214-23 6 10-9 | 67.6kg



Gary & Josh Moore

Freddie Mitchell (5lb/2kg)

Not straightforward but proved more tractable switched to fences, runner-up on debut prior to going one better at Uttoxeter in March. Returned with solid second at Fontwell and reverted to his free-going ways when third here (24.2f) last month. Back down in trip and has the ability to win more.

7 CARBON KING (IRE) (14) (D) t **97**
1PPF1-945 8 10-5 | 65.8kg



Evan Williams

Adam Wedge

Three-time winner over hurdles in Ireland and landed 2 chase victories for this yard last term. Stepped up on reappearance run when fourth at Uttoxeter in November and not disgraced back over fences at Ascot a fortnight ago. His record in class 2 and above is far from convincing, however.

8 HUNTER LEGEND (FR) (7) (D) **99**
22F11-721 8 10-2(10-1) | 64.4kg (64.0kg)



Venetia Williams

Ned Fox (3lb/1kg)

Signed off last season by winning heavy-ground Lingfield and Bangor handicaps and back to winning ways in emphatic fashion in 8-runner handicap chase at Leicester (20.1f, soft) last week. 1 lb out of the weights here but is a reliable type who looks sure to go well again.

8 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

5-2 Roccovango, **7-2** Hunter Legend, **9-2** Etalon, **17-2** Jupiter Du Gite, **12-1** Triple Trade, **14-1** Unexpected Party, **20-1** Hubrisko, **50-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

Plenty in with a squeak but, having been crying out for this return to further, TRIPLE TRADE gets the nod to regain the winning thread from a much-reduced mark at the expense of Hunter Legend, who scored in emphatic fashion at Leicester last week and should remain competitive. Roccovango is 4-6 for his present yard (narrow defeats other 2 starts), so he rounds off the shortlist.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. TRIPLE TRADE 2. HUNTER LEGEND 3. ROCCOVANGO

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2023	Certainly Red	9-11-11	9-1	Lydia Richards	Marc Goldstein	8
2022	Farinet	7-12-2	5-4f	Venetia Williams	Charlie Deutsch	7
2021	Doitforthevillage	12-11-0	14-1	Paul Henderson	Tom O'Brien	7
2020	Mercy Mercy Me	8-11-8	9-2	Paul Nicholls	Harry Cobden	9

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

2.25

RACE 5

TRY UNIBET'S NEW SMARTVIEW RACECARDS MARES' HURDLE (Listed) (1) 4yo+ fillies and mares £40,000 2m3f173y (3980 Metres)

GBI RACING

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

Right handed, galloping. Regarded as the one of the best jumping tests for chasers in the country, thanks chiefly to the seven fences in the back straight, the last three of which are situated close together, though fallers in the home straight are very rare and, in actual fact, the course has long since been one of the lowest in Britain and Ireland in terms of the proportion of casualties. Hurdles course usually more testing than chase one during winter months, with gruelling conditions often the order of the day. Front runners more favoured on the chase track, where it can regularly prove hard to make up ground when conditions place the emphasis on speed.

Pace Information: **Weak**

1 ASTON MARTINI (35) (D) 90
1114-20 6 11-4 | 71.7kg



Nicky Henderson

Nico de Boinville

Bumper winner who also landed her first 2 starts over hurdles last winter. Resumed her progress sent handicapping when runner-up at Bangor on return and, while she failed to back it up at Newbury since, the step back up in trip is in her favour.

2 DAMEOFTHECOTSWOLDS (35) (D) 88
2-5421211 5 11-4 | 71.7kg



Nigel Twiston-Davies

Sam Twiston-Davies

Bumper winner who has improved again over hurdles this term, making it 3 wins from her last 4 in a novice at Doncaster last time. This is tougher but she's likely to give another good account.

3 DELLA CASA LUNGA (IRE) (8) 100
2811-P621 7 11-4 | 71.7kg s+t



Clive Boutbee-Brooks

Richard Patrick

Better than ever all of a sudden, finishing second in a Kempton listed race before scoring readily in a handicap there 8 days ago. Sets the standard and is the one to beat if the race doesn't come too soon.

4 GEORGI GIRL (IRE) (21) (C) 94
421106-15 6 11-4 | 71.7kg



Philip Hobbs & Johnson White

Ben Jones

Back on the up with a 21f Warwick handicap success on reappearance in November and not disgraced in more competitive event at Cheltenham next time. Can't be ruled out.

5 GOOD LOOK CHARM (FR) (28) (CD) 89
F/134486-1 9 11-4 | 71.7kg t



Anthony Honeyball

Sean Bowen

Fairly useful hurdler. Enhanced good record fresh when winning 8-runner handicap hurdle (9/2) at this C&D (heavy) 28 days ago. Not discounted.

6 THE LORD MAID (IRE) (44) 90
5311-2 7 11-4 | 71.7kg



Tom Lacey

Gavin Sheehan

Made a successful hurdles debut in maiden at Clonmel in February (for Josh Halley) and followed up for new yard in 20.5f Southwell novice in April. Solid return from 7 months off when second in 6-runner mares' handicap at Warwick (21f, soft) and she's still low mileage.

6 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

11-10 Della Casa Lunga, **11-2** Aston Martini, **8-1** Dameofthecotswolds, **17-2** Georgi Girl, **10-1** Good Look Charm, **14-1** The Lord Maid

TIMEFORM VIEW:

DELLA CASA LUNGA stands out on form and, with a reproduction of the sort of performance she produced at Kempton 8 days ago, she'll be tough to beat. The others all have some sort of a chance, with Georgi Girl respected and another solid showing on the cards from Dameofthecotswolds.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. DELLA CASA LUNGA 2. GEORGI GIRL 3. DAMEOFTHECOTSWOLDS

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2023	Love Envoi 7-11-7	30-100f Harry Fry	Jonathan Burke	5
2022	Martello Sky 6-11-3	2-1 Lucy Wadham	Aidan Coleman	5
2021	Whitehotchillifili 7-11-0	13-8 Harry Fry	Sean Bowen	6
2020	Silver Forever 6-11-0	6-5 Paul Nicholls	Harry Cobden	4

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

3.00**UNIBET VETERANS' HANDICAP CHASE (Series Final) (2)**
10yo+ £100,000 3m37y (4860 Metres)

RACE 6

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

Right handed, galloping. Regarded as the one of the best jumping tests for chasers in the country, thanks chiefly to the seven fences in the back straight, the last three of which are situated close together, though fallers in the home straight are very rare and, in actual fact, the course has long since been one of the lowest in Britain and Ireland in terms of the proportion of casualties. Hurdles course usually more testing than chase one during winter months, with gruelling conditions often the order of the day. Front runners more favoured on the chase track, where it can regularly prove hard to make up ground when conditions place the emphasis on speed.

Pace Information: **Weak**

1 SAM BROWN (35) (D) b+t **99**
145126-30 13 12-0 | 76.2kg



Anthony Honeyball

Chad Bament (10lb/5kg)

Smart veteran chaser who won 3m handicaps at Warwick and Ascot last season. Returned with a fine third in the Charlie Hall at Wetherby but wasn't in the same form in a strong handicap at Newbury last time. Blinkers go back on.

2 ELDORADO ALLEN (FR) (22) (C) s+t **99**
4/345P0-23 11 11-10 | 74.4kg



Joe Tizzard

Brendan Powell

Positive start to this season following another wind up when runner-up at Warwick and backed it up with a good third at Cheltenham. Step back up in trip is well in his favour and he boasts solid claims.

3 REMASTERED (35) (D) s+t **97**
PP/7PP-1FU 12 11-5 | 72.1kg



David Pipe

Jack Tudor

Last season was a write-off (including pulled up in this) but he bounced back to form to take advantage of his reduced mark on his Wincanton reappearance in October. Has been let down by jumping on both subsequent outings and others make more appeal.

4 EMPIRE STEEL (IRE) (31) **97**
18/3219-43 11 11-3 | 71.2kg



Sandy Thomson

Ryan Mania

Gives his running more often than not, which counts for plenty in this sort of event, so merits respect on the back of another creditable third at Haydock last time.

5 CHAMBARD (FR) (22) s **98**
44/21P88-P 13 11-3 | 71.2kg



Venetia Williams

Miss Lucy Turner (5lb/2kg)

Won the Kim Muir at 2022 Cheltenham Festival and added another valuable handicap to his CV in the Becher at Aintree over a year ago. Hasn't fired subsequently, including on return at Cheltenham.

6 COPPERHEAD (22) (C, D) s+t **100**
344-11122 11 10-8 | 67.1kg



Joe Tizzard

Freddie Gingell (3lb/1kg)

Snapped long losing run on final start of last term and has picked up where he left off by taking handicaps at Chepstow and Aintree in October. Excellent second the last twice and is a leading player here.

7 ASK ME EARLY (IRE) (52) (D) s+t **98**
P6P/9185-5 11 10-5 | 65.8kg



Harry Fry

Bryan Carver

Won one of these events at Exeter almost a year ago but hasn't been in the same form since, including on return at Bangor 52 days ago. Has edged back to a handy mark, though.

8 FORTESCUE (42) (CD) b **99**
427220-24 11 10-5 | 65.8kg



Henry Daly

Hugh Nugent (3lb/1kg)

Lightly raced in recent times and ran well when runner-up to Copperhead on reappearance. Didn't fire at Ascot subsequently but this is easier back against fellow veterans.

9 SMARTY WILD (31) **98**
232/P 11 10-2(10-0) | 64.4kg (63.5kg)



Philip Hobbs & Johnson White

Ben Jones

Useful handicap chaser, placed all 3 starts in 2022/23 but pulled up on the back of a long lay-off at Haydock last month. Might come on for it.

9 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

10-3 Copperhead, **9-2** Eldorado Allen, **7-1** Ask Me Early, **7-1** Empire Steel, **8-1** Sam Brown, **11-1** Fortescue, **12-1** Smarty Wild, **18-1** Remastered, **25-1** Chambard

TIMEFORM VIEW:

Joe Tizzard has revitalised COPPERHEAD and Eldorado Allen recently and this pair of classy types could be the ones to fight this out, with the former marginally preferred. Empire Steel is reliable in relation to most at this level, so he's considered a player, too.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. COPPERHEAD 2. ELDORADO ALLEN 3. EMPIRE STEEL

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2023	Wishing And Hoping	13-11-10	50-1	Mel Rowley	Alex Edwards (3)	18
2022	Prime Venture	11-10-7	18-1	Evan Williams	Adam Wedge	13
2021	Seeyouatmidnight	13-11-1	10-1	Sandy Thomson	Ryan Mania	15
2020	Jepeck	11-11-0	3-1f	Anthony Honeyball	Rex Dingle (3)	14

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

3.35

RACE 7

**FREE BET WITH UNIBET'S BETBUILDER REBOUND
HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier) (3) 4yo+ (Rated 0-140)
£30,000 1m7f216y (3220 Metres)**

GBI RACING

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

Right handed, galloping. Regarded as the one of the best jumping tests for chasers in the country, thanks chiefly to the seven fences in the back straight, the last three of which are situated close together, though fallers in the home straight are very rare and, in actual fact, the course has long since been one of the lowest in Britain and Ireland in terms of the proportion of casualties. Hurdles course usually more testing than chase one during winter months, with gruelling conditions often the order of the day. Front runners more favoured on the chase track, where it can regularly prove hard to make up ground when conditions place the emphasis on speed.

Pace Information: **Even**

1 AURIGNY MILL (FR) (43) (D) 98
51104-P16 8 12-0 | 76.2kg



Robert Walford

Harry Kimber

Took his form to a new level (formerly with Victor Dartnall) when a most impressive winner of 7-runner handicap hurdle at Newbury (2m) on stable debut (second since won a decent race at Ascot). Best forgiven latest Ascot effort when hampered early and looks to be a leading contender.

2 JOYEUX MACHIN (FR) (22) (D) 87
122PF-P70 8 11-11 | 74.8kg



Dan Skelton

Tristan Durrell (3lb/1kg)

Useful for Paul Nolan in Ireland but struggled in varied events in 2024. Stable debut looked to be a pipe-opener over an inadequate trip (eleventh of 14, 16.8f, Cheltenham, 22 days ago). This yard could easily revitalise him, but looks the second string here.

3 HARDY DU SEUIL (FR) (34) (CD) 99
1722/3P8-2 8 11-9 | 73.9kg



Jamie Snowden

Gavin Sheehan

Won this in 2023 and career-best hurdles run (second of 8 at Carlisle, 17f, soft) on comeback last month, no chance with well-backed winner but clear of the third. Hasn't stood much racing in past few seasons, so needs to prove he can back that up, but a player if arriving here in the same form.

4 NAVAJO INDY (35) (D) 96
4/12231-11 6 11-7 | 73.0kg



Tom Symonds

Caoilin Quinn

Progressive sort who arrives here seeking a four-timer following a career-best when landing a nice pot at Newbury (16.3f, good to soft) 35 days ago, getting first run on runner-up and just kept up to his work late on. Clearly going in the right direction and hard not to see him running well again.

5 SPIRITS BAY (22) (D) 99
31/2F115-5 7 11-5 | 72.1kg



Nigel Twiston-Davies

Jordan Nailor

Did well last season, winning novice and handicap hurdle over 17f at Exeter. Made encouraging comeback when fifth of 14 at Cheltenham (16.8f, good to soft) 22 days ago, making big move from rear to head chasing pack (winner had flown), tired late on. Should build on that and is very much respected.

6 ZAMBEZI FIX (FR) (8) (D) 97
22F1-6434 10 11-0 | 69.9kg



Bernard Llewellyn

Ellis Collier (7lb/3kg)

Tends to save his best for Chepstow, usually ridden patiently and likes a good pace to aim at. Couldn't cash-in on lower chase mark at his favourite venue last week (4th of 8). Back over smaller obstacles and although he is now on his last winning hurdles mark, this looks competitive.

7 HONKY TONK HIGHWAY (IRE) (28) (CD) 94
10-21 6 10-12 | 68.9kg



Dan Skelton

Harry Skelton

Listed bumper winner. Made hurdles bow after wind up when chasing home a smart one on return (Warwick 19f) and didn't need to improve on that when landing a novice listed event over C&D (heavy) four weeks ago, making all. Looks a stayer but kept at 2m by excellent trainer. Should be more to come.

8 OH MY JOHNNY (IRE) (25) (D) 100
4F1 5 10-9 | 67.6kg



Philip Hobbs & Johnson White

Micheal Nolan

Had the race at his mercy when falling at the last at Bangor on penultimate start but made amends at Uttoxeter (15.8f, soft) 25 days ago, led on bridle home straight, pushed out near finish, easily. Steps up in class on handicap debut but remains unexposed and no surprise to see him go well.

9 JOUR D'EVASION (FR) (30) (D, BF) 99
221P3-U22 6 10-9 | 67.6kg



Henry Daly

Sam Twiston-Davies

Novice hurdle winner last season and second over C&D in November, chasing home smart mare. Bettered that effort when second at Wincanton (15.2f, heavy) 30 days ago. Isn't always the most fluent jumper, but he still seems to be improving and yard among the winners.

BETTING FORECAST:

7-2 Honky Tonk Highway, **9-2** Oh My Johnny, **5-1** Navajo Indy, **7-1** Jour D'Evasion, **8-1** Hardy Du Seuil, **9-1** Aurigny Mill, **14-1** Spirits Bay, **33-1** Zambezi Fix, **33-1** Joyeux Machin

TIMEFORM VIEW:

A trappy race to end the card. We still haven't seen the best of the unexposed OH MY JOHNNY who broke his maiden tag without being asked any serious questions and on just his fourth start under Rules, he can follow up his recent victory. Jour d'Evasion ran well here earlier in the season but might find one too good yet again, while we should see Aurigny Mill in a much better light today.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. OH MY JOHNNY 2. JOUR D'EVASION 3. AURIGNY MILL

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2023	Hardy du Seuil 6-10-10	4-1	Jamie Snowden	Gavin Sheehan	10
2022	Hydroplane 6-10-2	25-1	Ian Williams	Tom Scudamore	8
2021	Guard Your Dreams 5-10-9	3-1	Nigel Twiston-Davies	Sam Twiston-Davies	9
2020	Mill Green 8-11-1	14-1	Nicky Henderson	Jeremiah McGrath	11

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race