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Cheltenham

Friday, March 14th, 2025

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**TODAY'S
RUNNERS
AND RIDERS
PLUS + + + + +
EXCLUSIVE
TIPS**

+ + + + +

RACECARDS

THE JURY *DANNY MULLINS
ANDREW MOUNT*

PLACEPOT POINTERS



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Galopin Des Champs to confirm greatness with third Gold Cup

THE final day of the Cheltenham Festival brings with it the highlight of the entire season, the Boodles Cheltenham Gold Cup (4.00), and this year is special because it's rare to witness a horse trying to complete a hat-trick, but even rarer for a three-timer to be achieved.

Five-time winner Golden Miller, and hat-trick heroes Arkle, Cottage Rake and Best Mate are the only horses to have landed three and this year Galopin Des Champs has an outstanding chance to join that most select club. It would be the finest achievement yet by his trainer, Willie Mullins.

Galopin Des Champs has looked at least as good as ever this season at his beloved Leopardstown. He ran away with the Savills Chase at Christmas and then bolted up in the Irish Gold Cup last month, when nothing could deal with his

TODAY'S BEST BETS

Graeme Rodway



impressive burst of pace from the last fence.

His record at Cheltenham is just as good and he would be unbeaten in four starts at the festival but for falling at the last when miles clear in the 2022 Turners Novices' Chase. This looks a superb opportunity for **Galopin Des Champs** to make history and I'll take him to do that.

However, he is odds-on so there will be more money on offer if you can find one to chase him home and **Inothewayurthinkin** looks the most interesting. He has been supplemented for the race and must be in superb

East India Dock
1.20 Cheltenham
2pts Tote win

Galopin Des Champs, Inothewayurthinkin
4.00 Cheltenham
1pt Tote Exacta

Tounsivator, The Enabler, Nurse Susan, No Ordinary Joe
5.20 Cheltenham
1pt combination Tote Swinger

form at home for the Gavin Cromwell team to make that decision.

Inothewayurthinkin looked like he could be a star of the future when he slammed 21 rivals in the Kim Muir at last year's festival and confirmed that impression by winning the Grade 1 Mildmay Novices' Chase at Aintree in April. He hasn't shown much since, but is improving.

He was more than 15 lengths behind Galopin Des Champs in the Savills Chase at Leopardstown over Christmas but reduced the deficit to only seven and a quarter lengths in the Irish Gold Cup at that course last time and wouldn't have been suited by the slow gallop.

He still recorded a career-best run judging on Racing Post Ratings and can take another step forward, especially with this stiffer test of stamina looking certain to suit him.

The opening JCB Triumph Hurdle (1.20) features one of the win bets of the week so just play it straight and have it on the nose on **East India Dock** on the Tote. Support might come for Lulamba given he is trained by Nicky Henderson, but East India Dock's trainer James Owen can also do the job.

Owen's lower profile might help the Tote return

Mud, Bet & Cheers

+o+eally



Paul Townend celebrates Gold Cup success on Galopin Des Champs last year and the pair should be back in the winner's enclosure today

and you can't do worse than SP anyway thanks to the Tote+ guarantee. East India Dock can be relied upon to get the job done here.

He isn't very big, but he tries his heart out and is unbeaten in three starts over hurdles, including back-to-back victories on both courses here on his last two starts. He won by 18 lengths

and ten lengths and recorded better times with each of his efforts.

He sets a high standard and is 11lb clear of his nearest rivals on RPRs, who are Hello Neighbour and Lulamba. It's rare to be able to back horses that are rated so far ahead at odds against.

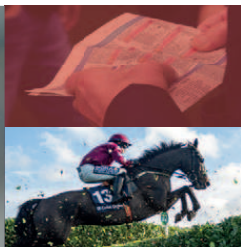
The Martin Pipe Hurdle for conditional jockeys

(5.20) brings the curtain down on a fantastic four days and this is an interesting race for a Tote bet. I fancy a few at big odds, so put a £1 combination Swinger at the Tote booths on four horses, a bet that will cost you £6.

The four that I like are **No Ordinary Joe**, who was second in the race two years

ago and seventh last year when runners from his yard were under a cloud. He is certain to go well, while at bigger odds strong cases can be made for **The Enabler**, **Nurse Susan** and **Tounsivator**.

Only two of the four will need to finish in the first three places for you to draw a tidy return.



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FESTIVAL JURY

There is at least £750k in the Placepot pool. Give us your picks to get us through the first leg (1.20)

Give us a life-changing Trifecta for the County Hurdle (2.00).



JAMIE BENSON

Tote

There is always the chance that juveniles are overwhelmed by the atmosphere and hurly burly of a Triumph hurdle, but **East India Dock** looks unlikely to succumb to that. He has plenty of racecourse experience, looking thoroughly professional on his first three hurdle runs and is Placepot banker material to me.

It's not quite as life-changing as some of the other Trifectas I've put up this week, but in this big field it should still pay handsomely. **Kargese** has been crying out for a strongly run two miles that will allow her to settle better and she is thrown in off 141, given how strong her juvenile form looks. **Lark In The Mornin** has a similar profile and last year's winner **Absurde** completes the three.



KEITH MELROSE

Racing Post betting editor

It's such a tough race with so many Willie Mullins horses in there, 11 in all. I'll probably keep my perm tight and start off with a banker on **East India Dock**. The Mullins army surely can't keep him out of the three unless they corral him.

I really fancy **Absurde** to go back-to-back and I can't imagine any five-figure Trifectas coming with him up top, especially with only 16 runners. **Daddy Long Legs** is still improving and makes appeal at big odds, while **Cracking Rhapsody** won a big pot last time and shaped better than the result implies in the Greatwood Hurdle here in November.



ANDREW MOUNT

Tote

I'll happily bank on **East India Dock** to get me through to leg two. He has impressed on the clock since switching to hurdles and is going to be desperately difficult to keep out of the first three.

Nine of the past ten runnings have been won by Dan Skelton or Willie Mullins and Skelton's **Valgrand** could be the one if he can reproduce his early season Graded form, despite two modest efforts since handicapping. Mullins' **Kargese** often fails to settle but will be suited by the likely strong pace and can grab second place ahead of **Lark In The Mornin**.



DANNY MULLINS

Jockey and Tote ambassador

I'll go with **Hello Neighbour** for Gavin Cromwell. He's been very good around Leopardstown in steadily run races and quickly run races. He seems to be able to cover all angles and looks a solid bet to be in the first three.

I'll take **Kargese** to win. She was second to Majborough in the Triumph last year and to Sir Gino at Aintree. She's potentially well handicapped. Second I'll have **McLaurey** for Emmett Mullins. He won well at Leopardstown and looks progressive and Emmett does really well in these big handicaps. And I'm going to go for **Absurde**. He was a good winner of this last year.

OUR PANEL OF EXPERTS ANSWER THE BIG QUESTIONS

<p>Who wins the St James's Place Hunters' Chase (4.40)?</p>	<p>Is Galopin Des Champs a banker in the Gold Cup (4.00)? Who is in your Exacta for the big one?</p>	<p>Name an outsider to finish the festival in style in the Martin Pipe Hurdle (5.20)</p>
<p>It's an open race and, with that in mind, I'll look for one at a big price who might overpay in the pool, and Ontheropes fits the bill. He was a top-class handicapper for Willie Mullins and is now with Willie's brother Thomas. He'll appreciate the stamina test of this race. I'll also have a small interest in Plan Of Attack with the superb Barry O'Neill booked to ride.</p>	<p>Realistically, only the fences can beat Galopin Des Champs but we have seen plenty of times that anything can happen. Inothewayurthinkin is the likeliest one to come second as he stays all day and will have the Grand National as his ultimate season's goal. It's mad, but I will also include Ahoy Senior in Exacta perms because, if he's on a going day, he's up to this level.</p>	<p>I really fancy Wodhooh, and she'd be my bet of the day given how well her juvenile and handicap form has worked out, but at a price, Raglan Road is the forgotten horse. If there is enough dig in the ground then this race could bring out the best in him. An Exacta of those two would pay into three figures.</p>
<p>Hunter chases are not going to be my specialist subject on Mastermind but Angels Dawn looks the right type. She won the Kim Muir over this course and distance in 2023 and was going to be placed had she not fallen two out last year. Her point-to-point wins tell us she is still in good order and she should be right there.</p>	<p>If you're playing the Exacta, with only nine runners you are trying to get Galopin Des Champs beaten. He does that job for you more often than his ability would suggest. Banbridge is unlikely to be sexy enough, either. Monty's Star is just the right type for the race, while I can see The Real Whacker getting an easy lead and holding on for minor money.</p>	<p>To watch how Park Of Kings has finished second in Listed handicaps in his last two races you would think there is more to come, even though he is much more experienced than most of these. As a Paul Nolan-trained, JP McManus-owned horse you can bet that a bit has been left to work on for Cheltenham.</p>
<p>It will probably go to a ten-year-old. Horses from this age group are six from 44 in the past ten years for a profit of £133.63 to a £1 level stake at SP (much more on the Tote). Angels Dawn, winner of the Kim Muir in 2023 and unbeaten in two points this season, is the obvious one, although What A Glance and Take All could go well at bigger prices.</p>	<p>Galopin Des Champs is banker material, and the remainder of the field are playing for places only. The supplemented Inothewayurthinkin can chase him home ahead of Corbetts Cross to give the Irish a 1-2-3. The British runners won't be sighted with radar.</p>	<p>The Olly Murphy-trained Act Of Authority appreciates a big field-strong pace scenario on decent ground and hasn't had conditions to suit in his last two runs. He fared best of the closers when third of six at Warwick last time and his stable has been in fine form all season.</p>
<p>Angels Dawn is a winner around Cheltenham in the Kim Muir and fell when jumping into contention last year in the same race. She's been targeted for this all season with two nice point-to-point wins and trainer Sam Curling knows how to get one ready for Cheltenham.</p>	<p>Galopin Des Champs is the banker and I'm going for quite a boring Exacta as Banbridge should be second. The drier ground gives him a good chance of making a race of it but Galopin will have more stamina at the business end. Banbridge is the classiest horse in there to chase him home and he'll be ridden to come late.</p>	<p>I'm going to go for Tounsivator, a good winner of the Royal Bond Hurdle at Fairyhouse in December. He hasn't had his ground since and I think on this drier ground he has a big chance.</p>

MONEY-BACK OFFER

THE festival never ever disappoints, with glorious successes, a few surprises and the occasional massive upset adding to the drama that this fixture brings each year.

Everyone wants to back winners at the Cheltenham Festival. Some manage to do so and some don't, but if there is a worse feeling than failing to back a winner it's backing a whole heap of seconds.

Every punter knows the feeling of going tantalisingly close and backing the dreaded runner-up. That was the reality for 42% of festival punters in 2024 who backed a second-placed horse during the four days.

While the sport's intense competition makes racing captivating, the heartache in coming so close but being beaten by a nose can be frustrating. But this year, the Tote has you covered, offering money back on every race at the Cheltenham Festival as a free bet of up to £10 if your horse finishes second and giving you another roll of the dice across the festival.

There have been some dramatic festival finishes over the last few years when strongly fancied horses have lost out. Take favourite Brighterdaysahead (5-6) in the Mares' Novices' Hurdle last year. She looked a surefire winner, but 10-1 shot Golden Ace provided a huge shock by beating the highly rated mare.

In the Ultima Handicap

42% of punters backed a second-placed horse over the course of last year's Cheltenham Festival. This year, the Tote offers money back on every race at the festival if your horse finishes runner-up



Golden Ace leaves Brighterdaysahead trailing last year

Chase in 2023, Fastorslow (7-1) travelled nicely into the race, only for Corach Rambler to fly up the hill and pip him by a neck.

However, it was 2022 that provided two even bigger shocks, with 10-1 Brazil beating favourite Gaelic

Warrior (13-8) in the Fred Winter Juvenile Handicap Hurdle, and Tiger Roll's defeat to Delta Work in the Cross Country Chase in his final race.

The Tote's exceptional offer not only enhances the thrill of the race but also

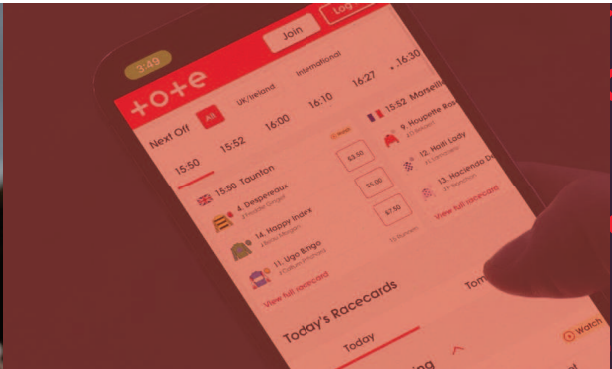
provides a safety net for bettors.

By placing your bets with the Tote it ensures some protection, allowing you to enjoy the excitement and to receive a free bet if your horse finishes second. And it applies to every race across the festival.

Whether you are an experienced punter or a newcomer to horseracing, this money-back pledge gives you more confidence, an extra incentive to join in and adds an extra layer of excitement to each race.

Place your bets with Tote this Cheltenham Festival and avoid the dreaded seconditis!

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PLACEPOT POINTERS

TIPS FOR THE TOTE'S MOST POPULAR BET

Andrew Mount



THERE'S at least £750,000 in the Tote Placepot pool on day four of the Cheltenham Festival and we could be in for another huge dividend, just like on day one when the Placepot returned more than £11,000 to a £1 stake.

1.20

James Owens' **East India Dock** broke the clock when scoring by ten lengths over course and distance on Trials day, taking his record over hurdles to three wins from three starts. He is going to be difficult to keep out of the first three and looks banker material. **Selection: 3 East India Dock**

2.00

Nine of the past ten winners of the County Hurdle were trained by Willie Mullins or Dan Skelton and I want one from each yard on my side. **Kargese**, the mount of Paul Townend, was too fresh and keen when beaten into second on her debut for Mullins last term and it was the same story on her reappearance at Ascot. Those runs aside, her record for Mullins reads 1221 (2-4), with the defeats by Majborough and Sir Gino. The Skelton-trained



East India Dock can get the Placepot off to a flying start in the Triumph Hurdle

Valgrand has disappointed in handicap hurdles in his last two runs but was a graded runner in bumpers and novice hurdles and may recapture that form. **Selections: 7 Kargese; 12 Valgrand**

2.40

Dinoblue's record over fences in mares' races reads 12221, suggesting strong Placepot claims for the market leader. She should have won this race last year but was left with too much to do, going down by three-quarters of a length in second place. Banker. **Selection: 1 Dinoblue**

3.20

The Albert Bartlett has been a real 'Placepot-buster', especially two years ago when the first three finishers

were priced at 18-1, 150-1 and 28-1 and the Placepot paid more than £23,000.

Last-time-out Graded winners are just one from 50 in the past ten years, a stat that counts against several market leaders. My shortlist comprises of **Jasmin De Vaux, Wingmen, Ma Shantou and Sounds Victorious**.

Selections: 9 Jasmin De Vaux; 13 Ma Shantou; 16 Sounds Victorious; 18 Wingmen

4.00

Galopin Des Champs has form figures on left-handed tracks of 6111F1111111, with the sixth place when 100-1 for a Grade 1 novices' hurdle. Willie Mullins' nine-year-old is bidding for his third Gold Cup and will prove hard to beat. Banker.

Selection: 4 Galopin Des Champs

4.40

The St James's Place Cup often contributes to a huge Placepot dividend (in 2023 the first three were 66-1, 28-1 and 50-1), but siding with ten-year-olds would have got us through the Placepot in nine of the past ten years. **Angels Dawn**, winner of the 2023 Kim Muir over this course and distance and a faller in that race last year, is the obvious one after going two from two in points this season. **What A Glance** is a bigger price and he won here last spring; he could surprise. **Take All and Bardenstown Lad** complete the shortlist. **Selections: 4 Bardenstown Lad; 19 Take All; 21 What A Glance; 24 Angels Dawn**

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CHELTENHAM – THE

FROM the best brekkie to queue-busting tactics, here's everything you need to make the most of your time at the festival.

Best brekkie

Whether it's a full fry-up or a pre-racing tippie there are some great places catering for racing fans and we're talking big screens, a free copy of this paper every day with a pen to mark your picks and, above all else, a great atmosphere. Check out **The Bayshill Inn** (St George's Place),

The Beehive (Montpellier Villas) and **The Suffolk Arms** (Suffolk Road). All are open pre- and post-racing and are in the heart of Cheltenham.

First bet of the day

Let's be honest, we're looking to back a winner or two throughout the course of the week and, with plenty of traditional bookies clamouring for our attention, the first bet, or bets, of the day should be about shopping around for value. If you have horses in

your list you definitely want to back then take the price boosts, cashback and free bet offers from the bookies in the morning before on-course distractions (read Guinness Village) set in.

How to have it all

Once racing is under way it's always a rush to see the horses, grab a drink, get your bet on and find your spot in the stands. Your best option for fitting it all in is to go straight to the pre-parade ring after each race to find your paddock

pick and you'll also catch the winners coming into the main parade ring on your way there. If you wait to see the horses for the next race in the main parade ring you'll struggle to have everything covered before the race starts.

Best insurance bet

Old or young, only a punter knows the feeling of backing the dreaded runner-up. But Tote has you covered, offering money back on EVERY race this festival as a free bet of



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up to £10 if your horse finishes second, giving you another roll of the dice. Tote's offer not only enhances the thrill of the race but also provides a safety net for bettors, eliminating the most humiliating thing – backing a second!

Queue buster

It's not a state secret but bar-wise your best bet will always be the Guinness Village. It's well catered and, although busy, it doesn't have the wait time

of smaller bars. A lesser known hack is avoiding a long wait for the loos. If you have Club Enclosure access you can walk down to the tented village where all the temporary boxes are. You can normally use the loos for those boxes without entering the hospitality. Don't say we told you.

Best view near a bar

The former Cheltenham chairman Lord Vestey had a grand box at the furlong pole which he selflessly sacrificed in the name of

progress for the new stand. He won't have minded as he maintained the best view is halfway up the side of the Best Mate enclosure. You can see the whole track, you're close to the finishing line and well served for drinking and betting options. I think Lord Vestey was on to something . . .

Race-to-race betting

If you're looking for the place to bet on course then look no further than the Tote (seek out the red Bet Here signs). Offering the

Tote Guarantee, you'll get paid SP or Tote payout, whichever is bigger, so you know you're in safe hands.

Best chippy tea

After a day on the Guinness it's time to take on some salty stodge before kicking on to the pub. Go left from the Best Mate enclosure, past the stable-staff canteen to the first van in the car park. Sausage (pork sword to those who know) and chips and you're ready to hit the town.

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LEG 1

1.20 **JCB Triumph Hurdle (Grade 1)** **ITV**
(GBB Race) (Class 1)
RACE 1 **Winner £84,405** **(2m 179y)2m1f New**

£150,000 Total Race Value For 4yo **Weights** 11st 2lb **Allowances** fillies 7lb **pay** £185 **1st Forfeit** 37 **pay** £380 **Confirmed** 23 **pay** £185.00 **Penalty value** 1st £84,405 2nd £31,800 3rd £15,915 4th £7,950 5th £3,990 6th £1,995 7th £990 8th £510

	1	BLUE LEMONS (IRE) ^{27 D1 S1} <i>b g Blue Point-Solar Event</i> W P Mullins² (IRE) Sullivan Bloodstock Limited	1 Rachael Blackmore	4 11-2	(135)
	2	CHARLUS (IRE) ^{47 D1 S1} <i>b g Churchill-Nobilis</i> W P Mullins² (IRE) The Why Knot Partnership	1 Sean O'Keefe	4 11-2	(129)
	3	EAST INDIA DOCK ^{48 D1 S1 C1 CD1} <i>b g Golden Horn-Diamond Bangle</i> James Owen The Greddley Family	Sam Twiston-Davies	4 11-2	(155)
	4	GIBBS ISLAND ^{27 D1 S1} <i>ch g Ilfraaj-Dream Book</i> Tom Lacey Raceshare - Gibbs Island	Stan Sheppard	4 11-2	(139)
	5	HELLO NEIGHBOUR (IRE) ^{41 D2 S1} <i>b g Harzand-Je T'adore</i> Gavin Cromwell (IRE) Patrick Sheanon	Keith Donoghue	h 4 11-2	(144)
	6	LARZAC (FR) ^{163 BF} <i>br g No Risk At All-Oxynda</i> W P Mullins¹ (IRE) John P McManus	Mark Walsh	t 4 11-2	(119)
	7	LULAMBA (FR) ^{55 S1} <i>b g Nirvana Du Belais-Ejland</i> Nicky Henderson² Mrs J Donnelly	Nico de Boinville	4 11-2	(144)
	8	MARCHE D'ALIGRE (FR) ^{27 D1} <i>b g Seahenge-Simplon</i> Jamie Snowden Billam Roe Swindell Wilson & The Molds	Gavin Sheehan	4 11-2	(125)
	9	MONDO MAN ^{20 BF} <i>ch g Mondialiste-Moghrama</i> G & J Moore John And Yvonne Stone	Brian Hughes	h ¹ 4 11-2	(126)
	10	PAPPANO ^(161F) <i>b g Nathaniel-Mary Anne Evans</i> W P Mullins¹ (IRE) H O S Syndicate	Sean Flanagan	4 11-2	
	11	PONIROS ^(167F) <i>b g Golden Horn-Rue Renan</i> W P Mullins¹ (IRE) Tony Bloom	Jonjo O'Neill Jr	4 11-2	
	12	TOO BOSSY FOR US (IRE) ^(188F) <i>b g¹ Golden Horn-Above The Clouds</i> W P Mullins¹ (IRE) H O S Syndicate	Harry Cobden	4 11-2	
	12-264	WILLY DE HOUELLE (FR) ^{41 D1 S1} <i>gr g Beaumec de Houelle-Belle Attitude</i> W P Mullins (IRE) Mrs S Ricci	Brian Hayes	ht 4 11-2	(138)

	14	LADY VEGA ALLEN (FR) ^{41 S1} <i>b f Saint Des Saints-Sivega</i> W P Mullins (IRE) Michael Hilary Burke	Paul Townend	4 10-9	(141)
	15	LUMIERE DU LARGE (FR) ⁹³ <i>b f Great Pretender-Dissidente</i> W P Mullins¹ (IRE) Gigginstown House Stud	Kevin Sexton	t 4 10-9	(120)
	F11175	OPEC ^{20 D3 S1} <i>b f Sea The Moon-Wemyss Bay</i> James Owen The Greddley Family	Sean Bowen	4 10-9	(130)
	32	PLACE DE LA NATION (FR) ³⁷ <i>b f Masked Marvel-Liberalis</i> W P Mullins² (IRE) Gigginstown House Stud	Jack Kennedy	4 10-9	(116)
	3-18	SAINTE LUCIE (FR) ^{41 BF D1 S1} <i>b f Great Pretender-Sainte Folie</i> W P Mullins (IRE) Mrs S Ricci	Danny Mullins	h ¹ 4 10-9	(139)
2024 (12 ran) Majborough W P Mullins 4 11-2 6/1				Mark Walsh RPR147	

BETTING FORECAST 2 East India Dock, 9-4 Lulamba, 5 Hello Neighbour, 10 Lady Vega Allen, 18 Gibbs Island, 22 Sainte Lucie, 25 Charlus, 28 Larzac, 33 Blue Lemons, Mondo Man, Pappano, Willy de Houelle, 40 Place De La Nation, 50 Lumiere Du Large, Poniros, Too Bossy For Us, 66 Marche d'Aligre, 100 Opec.

SPOTLIGHT

Blue Lemons Useful on Flat with Richard Hannon but won only on debut from seven attempts; 5-6 when also winning his hurdle debut for new yard in 16-runner maiden at Gowran Park (2m, soft) four weeks ago, always prominent, one bad mistake but asserting in clearcut style on run-in; that was a promising start but this is the toughest race in the division.

Charlus Three wins and a Listed second in four Flat races (up to 1m2f) in France; fetched 315,000euros in July and next seen when 10-11 in a 16-runner maiden at Naas (2m, soft to heavy) in January, in which he helped set the early pace and went on before final flight, despite looking green; should improve (particularly given Flat form) but the Naas form still leaves him with plenty to find.

East India Dock Developed into a useful stayer on the Flat for James Fanshawe and has created an excellent impression in winning his three starts over hurdles; led after two out when he stormed 18l clear in a Grade 2 here in November (good) and made most to score by 10l in another Grade 2 here seven weeks ago (soft); very much sets the standard and it's a good one.

Gibbs Island Fairly useful on the Flat in Ireland, busy last year without winning but he's scored for new yard at Sedgefield (2m1f, soft) and Haydock (2m, good to soft) in his only two attempts over hurdles; did it smoothly in a useful, five-runner event last time but this company is far more demanding.

Hello Neighbour Unbeaten in his two Flat starts (useful prospect at least) and two over hurdles; Grade 2 at Leopardstown (yielding) was hurdle debut, leading before the last and holding on by short head from Lady Vega Allen; hooded for Grade 1 there (soft) six weeks ago and travelled much the best to lead at the last, with Lady Vega Allen (third) again staying on; has the best form among the Irish, a more strongly run race may well suit and he leaves the strong impression of hidden reserves.

Larzac Sixth foal; half-brother to winners Figaroc (2m2f hurdle; fairly useful) and Energie Blue (French 2m1f-2m5f hurdle/chase); 3-1 favourite in a 17-runner conditions event for jumping newcomers at Auteuil (2m2f, heavy) in October, front rank from halfway and looking in charge until collared final strides; joined top connections; stacks of promise but very short on experience.

Lulamba Green when 5l winner at Auteuil (2m2f, heavy) in October on sole French start; already backed into favouritism for this race when he made stable debut at Ascot (near 2m, good) eight weeks ago, looking edgy beforehand but professional in the race and produced late on to assert with plenty in hand from Mondo Man; that's not the best form but it was a performance of high promise.

Marche d'Aligre French Flat winner (1m2f, heavy) who won easily on his hurdle debut at Wetherby (2m, good to soft) in November; however, no match for the winner when second in Grade 2 at Chepstow (2m, soft) next time and disappointing from the front behind Gibbs Island at Haydock latest, so up against it.



Mondo Man Classy on Flat, finishing fifth in French Derby and fourth at Royal Ascot; left France for 520,000euros and, despite racing far too freely, he briefly asked a question of Lulamba on hurdling debut at Ascot (good); 5-6 at Kempton (good to soft) five weeks later when held up last but he again fought for his head and never quite got to grips with the front two; a more settled display should help him no end and a stronger pace in this race should assist that, as might the new hood.

Pappano 2-8 on Flat for the Gosdens, gelded before showing useful form twice over 1m6f in September/October; sold for 200,000gns in October into the premier jumps yard, but could not make his hurdling debut in a harder juvenile race.

Poniros Eight Flat races for Ralph Beckett, winning only on debut but showing useful form at up to 1m4f; made 200,000gns in October; has sometimes been headstrong (one of his best efforts was sole start in a hood) and although he represents notable new connections, he's not jumped a hurdle in public.

Too Bossy For Us 1-8 on Flat for Kevin Philippart De Foy, peak form in 1m6f handicaps on two of last three starts (cheekpieces on final one) and it was useful; sold for 330,000gns in October and gelded; Willie Mullins is mob-handed and this is one of his three who have never contested even one hurdle race.

Willy de Houelle Ex-French; turned over at 1-4 on yard debut in December (Grade 3) before two supporting roles when hooded (also tongue tied latest) in better races at Leopardstown won by Hello Neighbour; 18-1, held up last in only a partially successful attempt to settle him on latest outing but he ran on into fourth of eight in that steadily run Grade 1, his best form; better may be possible in different circumstances, such a more strongly run race here.

Lady Vega Allen Dam half-sister to high-class hurdler Quevega; won in September on her only start in France; stuck to her task admirably at the finish when placed behind Hello Neighbour at Leopardstown in both her races for new connections, short-headed in a Grade 2 on first occasion and one and a half lengths down in a steadily run Grade 1 last time; seemingly the pick (Townend rides) of the Mullins multitude and a greater stamina test here should suit.

Lumiere Du Large Tenth foal; sister to a fair French 7.5f AW winner, half-sister to two winners including Darling Du Large (fairly useful 2m hurdle/chase); dam French 1m-9.5f winner, half-sister to French 2m6f Grade 2 chase winner; won a French bumper in October; second of eight in maiden hurdle at Pau (2m1f, heavy) in December, nearly winning it despite jumping slowly in last place for first half of the race (she did warm up); looks bound to find big improvement with practice but this is a tough race in which to gain it.

Opec No great shakes on Flat but comfortably from the front in her first three completed starts over hurdles, including by 8l in a fillies' juvenile Listed event at Newbury (2m, soft); major backward steps, however, against the males in Grade 2s at Chepstow and Kempton.

Place De La Nation Sister to 2m hurdle winner Quais De Paris, half-sister to useful 2m-2m4f hurdle/chase winner Quai De Bourbon; third at Auteuil (2m2f, very soft) in September on debut; second favourite for a mares' maiden hurdle at Fairyhouse (2m, heavy) five weeks ago and was left in second two out, failing to cut any ice against an odds-on staminate but keeping on well; should improve but that doesn't make her a Triumph principal.

Sainte Lucie Third at Auteuil last April; next seen on New Year's Eve when 8-11 for 20-runner maiden at Puchestown (2m, yielding to soft) and she helped set the pace, taking a grip, before racing 11l clear; flopped at Leopardstown six weeks ago but started favourite for that Grade 1 and a hood is enlisted.

VERDICT The British-trained runners **EAST INDIA DOCK** and **Lulamba** have disputed favouritism for some time. They are contrasting types and preference is for the major achievement brought by the former, against the high promise of the latter, who is second choice. While the Irish form may not look that exciting, last month's Leopardstown Grade 1 was a steadily run race in which the unbeaten winner **Hello Neighbour** and staying-on, third-placed **Lady Vega Allen** suggested they could raise their games with the different scenario today. The latter looks the first string for Willie Mullins who fields an incredible 11 runners, three of whom have never raced over hurdles. No matter how good they are, this introduces a large dose of added uncertainty and a need for luck in running. [Richard Austen]

POSTDATA East India Dock

RP RATING East India Dock

▶ **FORM STARTS:** PAGE 24

Racecard abbreviations explained

AW all-weather, **B** brought down, **b** blinkers, **BF** beaten favourite last run, **C** carried out, **C** course winner, **CD** course/distance winner, **Cls** class, **D** distance winner, **d** disqualified, **ex** pounds extra in handicap, **e/c** eyecover, **e/s** eyeshield, **F** fell, **h** hood, **L** left, **O** ran out, **oh** out of the handicap, **ow** overweight, **p** sheepskin cheekpiece, **P** pulled up, **RPR** Racing Post Rating, **R** refused, **S** slipped up, **t** tongue-strap, **U** unseated rider, **v** visor, **V** void

HOW TO... READ RACING POST RACECARD

12.30 Racing Post Handicap (Class 3) **ITV**
RACE 1 Winner £7,000 (1m1f79y) 1m1¹/₂f (AW)

£10,000 added For 3yo+ rated 0-90 Minimum Weight 7-10 Penalties after May 1st, a winner 7lb
 Hawes's Handicap Mark 85 Entries 35 pay £40 Penalty Value 1st £7,000 2nd £3,000
 3rd £2,000 4th £1,000 **ADJUSTED AVERAGE WINNING RACING POST RATING 85**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
0/19-16	HAWES (IRE) (6ex) ³⁵ (28J) BF D ⁴ S ³ F ²								b ¹ 5 9-7
5	Hc ¹ b g1 Galileo-Golden Girl								1 ^A Rider(5) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	(7)								

LONG HANDICAP: Jolly Farmer 7-6
 FUTURE OR: Jolly Farmer -12
 2018 (13 ran) Almanac (2) T Rainer 4 8-10 6/4F
 J Ockey OR 80

KEY TO THE CARD

- Owner's silks, to be worn by jockey
- Latest form figures for today's code down to 9th position, most recent on right; All-weather (Flat) and point-to-point (jumps) are in bold; figures to left of hyphen are last season; to left of slash previous seasons.
- Horse's name.
- Country where horse was bred if not GB.
- Penalty (handicaps only) for win after weights were published.
- Days since last run in today's race type; different race-type shown if more recent.
- BF—beaten favourite last time out. C—course winner; D—distance winner to nearest 1/2f (110y) (55y for Flat races under 1m; 1f for Jumps); CD—course & distance winner (with total wins). S & F—easy or fast ground winners (with total wins)
- b=blinkers, v=visor, e/s=eyeshield, e/c=eyecover, h=hood, t=tongue strap; p=cheekpieces (1=1st time under today's code)
- Age
- Weight to be carried, as determined by handicapper or race conditions; includes any penalty, but excludes any jockey's allowance or overweight.
- Saddle-cloth number (here 5).
- Draw (here 7), Flat only – the starting stall position.
- Horse having first run in a handicap
- Colour, sex, sire-dam (g1=1st time gelding).
- Trainer.
- Owner.
- Jockey (1=1st time jockey has ridden horse)
- Allowance (5lb) for inexperienced jockey on Flat (apprentice) or jumps (conditional).
- Racing Post Rating (compiled by our private form handicapper), adjusted for today's weights, best in bold. Calculations include penalties but not jockey's allowance or overweight. Arrow shows improved form in each of last two runs.

ABOVE THE RUNNERS

TIME & position on card (eg RACE 1); title; class (Flat 1-7; NH 1-6); value to winner's connections; distance (exact), rounded to nearest 1/2f where applicable. AW=All-Weather; ITV=live on TV. Race conditions show value, qualification needs & weights. Handicap mark is the horse's official rating, which determines weight in a handicap (top-rated horse carries most weight). Adjusted average winning Racing Post Rating is shown for races with debutants to highlight the prospects of newcomers.

BELOW THE RUNNERS

LONG HANDICAP: weight horse would carry in handicap if there was no minimum weight. FUTURE OR: number of lbs higher (+) or lower (-) horse is due to run off in future. LAST YEAR: number ran, winner, (draw), trainer, age, weight, starting price (F=favourite; J=joint-fav; C=co-fav of 3+), jockey, official rating (OR); if handicap, RPR (unadjusted) is shown instead of OR

CHELTENHAM FEST FAVOURITES

2020/21+	NON-HANDICAPS WINS-RACES	£1 STAKE	HANDICAPS WINS-RACES	£1 STAKE
Chases	18-41	44%	+3.12	7-19 37%
Hurdles & NH Flat	17-40	43%	-7.75	1-22 5%
Total	35-81	43%	-4.63	8-41 20%



+o+e scoop6














LEG 2


2.00
RACE 2

William Hill County Handicap Hurdle (Premier Handicap) (GBB Race) (Class 1)
Winner £61,897 (2m 179y)2m1f New

ITV

£110,000 Total Race Value For 5yo+ which, before February 24th, 2025, have started in a minimum of five hurdles in Great Britain, Ireland or France **Minimum Weight** 10-2 **Penalties** after February 23rd, a winner of a hurdle 5lb (no penalty to increase a horse's weight above 12st) **Daddy Long Legs's Handicap Mark** 152 **pay** £125 **Confirmed** 38 **pay** £375.00 **Penalty value** 1st £61,897 2nd £23,320 3rd £11,671 4th £5,830 5th £2,926 6th £1,463 7th £726 8th £374

	1501352 DADDY LONG LEGS (FR) ITF 40 D3	6 12-0
	<i>ch g Almanzor-Private Eye</i> W P Mullins (IRE) Mrs J Donnelly	Sean O'Keefe (150)
	16P41- ABSURDE (FR) ITF 364 (129F) S1 CD1	7 11-8
	<i>b g Fastnet Rock-Incroyable</i> W P Mullins (IRE) H O S Syndicate	Danny Mullins (151)
	34-4P44 FILS D'OUDAIRES (FR) ITF 40 D3 S3	10 11-7
	<i>b g Saint Des Saints-Pythie d'Oudairies</i> Gordon Elliott (IRE) David L'Estrange	Sam Ewing (151)
	060-01 ETHICAL DIAMOND (IRE) 39 D1 S1	h 5 11-5
	<i>b g AwtAAD-Pearl Diamond</i> W P Mullins (IRE) H O S Syndicate	1Mr P W Mullins (150)
	431-212 PINOT GRIS (IRE) 77 D2	tb 5 11-5
	<i>gr g Mastercraftsman-Zamira</i> Gavin Cromwell (IRE) Basil Holian	Keith Donoghue (146)
	215-483 HANSARD (IRE) ITF 27 D2 S1	p 17 11-4
	<i>b g The Gurkha-Quiet Down</i> G & J Moore Noel Fehily Racing Syndicates Hansard	Niall Houlihan (156)
	2122-12 KARGESE (FR) ITF 55 BF D3 S4	h 5 11-3
	<i>b m Jeu St Eloi-Rive Gauche</i> W P Mullins (IRE) Kenneth Alexander	Paul Townend (152)
	53136-2 NDAAWI ITF 225 (153F) S1	5 11-2
	<i>b g Cracksman-Mount Elbrus</i> Gordon Elliott (IRE) Easyfix	Jack Kennedy (147)
	3-40101 CRACKING RHAPSODY (IRE) (5ex) 13 D6 S3	6 10-13
	<i>b g Sans Frontieres-Cracking Gale</i> Ewan Whillans J D Wright & Mrs S Wright	Craig Nichol (151)
	10-2311 MCLAUREY (IRE) 40 D2 S2	6 10-12
	<i>b g Jukebox Jury-Saer Dee</i> Emmet Mullins (IRE) John P McManus	Mark Walsh (149)
	3-61358 OUR CHAMP (IRE) 34 D3 C1	t 7 10-11
	<i>b g Champs Elysees-Affascinare</i> Chris Gordon Pearson, Jenner, Hawkings, Dunford & Harding	Freddie Gordon (3) (151)
	-111207 VALGRAND (FR) 77 D1 S1	6 10-10
	<i>b g Bathyrhon-Valaway</i> Dan Skelton Highclere Thoroughbred Racing - Grand	Harry Skelton (156)
	2631-57 LARK IN THE MORNIN (GER) ITF 77 BF D1 S1 C1	5 10-8
	<i>b g Soldier Hollow-Loyalty</i> Joseph Patrick O'Brien (IRE) Sean & Bernadine Mulryan	J J Slevin (148)

	23-2833 IRISH PANTHER 40	ht ¹ 8 10-4
	<i>b g Lucarno-Tyrana</i> E & P Harty (IRE) Jennifer Coyle & Brian P Whelan	Cian Cullinan (7) (153)
	05-F643 SPIRIT D'AUNOU (FR) 49 D3 S3	p 6 10-3
	<i>b g Triple Threat-Miss Wind</i> G & J Moore Heart Of The South Racing 130	Freddie Mitchell (5) (155)
	7-213P9 NORMAN FLETCHER 41 D3 S1	6 10-3
	<i>ch g No Risk At All-Hiho Silver Lining</i> Nigel Twiston-Davies M Stavrou	Sam Twiston-Davies (150)

2024 (17 ran) Absurde W P Mullins 6 10-10 12/1 Paul Townend OR138

BETTING FORECAST 100-30 Kargese, 9-2 Absurde, Lark In The Mornin, 11-2 McLaurey, 7 Valgrand, 10 Ethical Diamond, 20 Hansard, Irish Panther, Ndaawi, Pinot Gris, 25 Daddy Long Legs, 33 Cracking Rhapsody, Our Champ, 40 Fils d'Oudairies, 50 Norman Fletcher, Spirit d'Aunou.

SPOTLIGHT

Daddy Long Legs One of four for Willie Mullins; 6yo whose form has been mixed since he bolted up in big-field handicap at Punchestown festival (2m, yielding) last April; however, he ran well when a well-held second in the Irish Champion Hurdle (2m, soft) last month and has a chance if at the top of his game.

Absurde Won this last March (heavy) on last hurdle outing; now 8lb higher and Paul Townend is on stablemate Kargese this time, but he travelled well 12 months ago and there's still mileage in his mark judged on his classy Flat form (close fifth in the Melbourne Cup in November when last seen); effective on any ground; can play another leading role.

Fils d'Oudairies 10yo who won two Grade 3s in 2023; has returned from an absence this season and there was some spark when fourth in a Grade 2 here in January, but he hasn't been showing enough to have appealing claims today.

Ethical Diamond Tailed off on handicap hurdle debut at Leopardstown (2m, yielding) in December then easily made all in maiden at Punchestown (2m, heavy); back into a tough handicap today and jockey bookings suggest he's not his top yard's chief hope, but this 5yo showed strong form in a hot handicap at Royal Ascot (good to firm) last June and he could have more to offer in this code.

Pinot Gris Improved form in these blinkers the last twice, easily winning a novice at Naas (2m, good to yielding) before a close second of 19 at Leopardstown (2m, yielding) in December, when back in a handicap and given a positive ride; this 5yo could continue to progress for his good trainer; a possible.

Hansard Won Newbury handicap (2m, good to soft) in December 2023 and beaten nearly 5l when third of four in Grade 2 Kingwell Hurdle at Wincanton last month (1m7f, good to soft; clear one-two were fortunate to fill the same positions in Tuesday's Champion Hurdle); it was a creditable run from this fellow in the face of a tough task and he's a possible player in first-time cheekpieces.

Kargese Runner-up in Grade 1 4yo hurdles here (C&D Triumph, heavy) and at Aintree (2m1f, soft) last spring before winning one at Punchestown (2m, soft); this headstrong sort was second at 2-5 on belated comeback in mares' Grade 2 at Ascot (1m7f, good) in January but may have needed the run; stable has an excellent record in this race and Paul Townend rides; could be on a good mark.

Ndaawi Creditable third to Lark In The Mornin in the Fred Winter 4yo Handicap here (2m, heavy) last March and 71 second of 19 in the Galway Hurdle (2m, good) in August; absent since heavy defeat on the Flat in the Cesarewitch in October but he's an each-way contender if back on song for this comeback.

Cracking Rhapsody Won the big-field Morebattle Hurdle at Kelso (2m, good to soft) a fortnight ago for the second year running, and now chases a £100,000 bonus under a 5lb penalty; however, he loves Kelso and finished down the field in the Greatwood here in November on his sole previous run at Cheltenham.

McLaurey Won maiden hurdle at Limerick (2m, yielding to soft) in December and followed up when favourite for warm handicap at Leopardstown (2m, soft) in February; has also shown promise on good to yielding; hit hard by the handicapper but this very lightly raced 6yo could have lots more left in the tank.

Our Champ Front-runner who isn't obviously well treated and has been soundly beaten the last twice, but he went off hard on the first occasion and soft ground may not have suited last time (when his usual tongue-tie was missing; it returns today); in good form previously on good/good to soft and has run really well on both previous visits here; there might not be much competition for the lead and he could make a bold bid at a big price if conditions suit.



Valgrand Easily made all in Grade 2 novice here in October (2m, good; has also won on soft); weakened when 111 second in 2m5f Grade 2 here next time; down the field since in his first two handicaps (2m1f/2m, good to soft) but a break may have helped this lightly raced 6yo and he's the sole representative of Dan Skelton, who has won four of the last nine runnings; not discounted.

Lark In The Mornin Convincing win in the Fred Winter 4yo Handicap here (2m, heavy) 12 months ago; hasn't threatened on either run since (May/December) but previous Festival form has to be respected and he could be well treated if rediscovering last March's promise; ran well on good to yielding on the Flat.

Irish Panther 8yo who remains a maiden but is lightly raced and has run well when third in big fields at Leopardstown (2m, yielding/soft) this winter on his first two handicap starts; a tongue-tie is added; each-way claims once more.

Spirit d'Aunou 6yo who is well treated on last season's best form; he showed some spark at Newbury in December but hasn't been at the top of his game this term and was soundly beaten last time; others make greater appeal.

Norman Fletcher Runner-up here (2m, good) in October then went one better in small field at Huntingdon (2m, good), before solid third at Doncaster (2m, good to soft); however, two lesser runs have followed; has to raise his game.

VERDICT Willie Mullins has won this seven times, including five of the last ten, and last year's convincing winner **ABSURDE** (nap) earns the vote even with Paul Townend jumping ship to stablemate **Kargese**. He did it in stylish fashion 12 months ago and his classy Flat form firmly suggests he remains well treated despite an 8lb rise. **Lark In The Mornin** also impressed at last season's Festival (in the Fred Winter) and will be a major threat if tapping back into that promise. **Kargese** and **McLaurey** have potential off their current marks, while Dan Skelton has won four of the last nine runnings and the novice **Valgrand** is his sole representative. If the ground is no worse than good to soft, the front-runner **OUR Champ** will be a very interesting each-way option at big odds. [Ben Hutton]

POSTDATA Cracking Rhapsody **RP RATING** Hansard

▶▶ **FORM STARTS:** PAGE 26

+o+e scoop 6 **LEG 3**

2.40 **RACE 3** **Mrs Paddy Power Mares' Chase** **ITV**
 (Registered As The Liberthine Mares' Chase) (Grade 2) (GBB Race) (Class 1)
 Winner £73,151 (2m 4f 127y) 2m4¹/₂f New

£130,000 Total Race Value For 5yo+ which are allotted a rating or an assessment of 120 or more by the BHA Handicapper, taking account of races run up to and including the day prior to confirmation **Weights** 5yo 11st; 6yo+ 11st 2lb **Penalties** after September 30th, 2023, a winner of a Grade 2 chase 3lb; of a Grade 1 chase 5lb **pay** £165 **Confirmed** 11 pay £435,000 **Penalty value** 1st £73,151 2nd £27,560 3rd £13,793 4th £6,890 5th £3,458 6th £1,729 7th £858 8th £442

 22-3241 **DINOBLUE** (FR) **TRF** 34 **S6** t8 11-7
 ch m Doctor Dino-Blue Aster **Mark Walsh** (167)
W P Mullins (IRE) John P McManus

 111-132 **BRIDES HILL** (IRE) **TRF** 36 **BF D4 S3** 8 11-5
 b m Dylan Thomas-Wedding Cake **Keith Donoghue** (165)
Gavin Cromwell (IRE) Brides Hill Syndicate

 2110-52 **LIMERICK LACE** (IRE) **TRF** 72 **D3 S5 CD1** p¹ 8 11-5
 b m Walk In The Park-Sway **Jack Kennedy** (162)
Gavin Cromwell (IRE) John P McManus


 14-4412 **ALLEGORIE DE VASSY** (FR) **TRF** 34 **BF D3 S4** t8 11-2
 b m No Risk At All-Autignac **Paul Townend** (166)
W P Mullins (IRE) Mrs S Ricci

 U19-1PP **FONTAINE COLLONGES** (FR) **TRF** 27 **D2 S7** b¹ 10 11-2
 b m Saddler Maker-Saturne Collonges **Charlie Deutsch** (164)
Venetia Williams P Davies

 210272F **JE T'AI PORTE** (IRE) 173 **S1** h7 11-2
 b m Footstepsinthesand-Hasanza **Shane Fitzgerald** (146)
Gavin Cromwell (IRE) Poetry In Motion Syndicate

 -4PU126 **MAYHEM MYA** **TRF** 56 (33H) **S4** 8 11-2
 b m Authorized-TheDebotheyear **Bryan Carver** (142)
Chris Honour G Thompson

 -472431 **ROYALE MARGAUX** (FR) 292 (34H) **D1 S8** t7 11-2
 ch m Doctor Dino-Royale Cazoumaille **Ben Poste** (140)
Tom Symonds Dahlbury Racing

 2111153 **SHECOULDBEANYTHING** (IRE) 77 **D2 S6** t8 11-2
 b m Malinas-Culmore Girl **Sam Ewing** (149)
Gordon Elliott (IRE) M J Hanrahan

2024 (9 ran) **Limerick Lace** Gavin Cromwell 7 11-2 3/1 **Keith Donoghue** RPR153

BETTING FORECAST Evens **Dinoblu**, 100-30 **Allegorie de Vassy**, 6 **Brides Hill**, 13-2 **Limerick Lace**, 16 **Shecouldbeanything**, 33 **Royale Margaux**, 40 **Fontaine Collonges**, 50 **Je T'ai Porte**, 100 **Mayhem Mya**.

SPOTLIGHT

Dinoblu Has run at the last three Festivals, in the ruck in the mares' novice hurdle then runner-up in the County Hurdle and this race (both on soft; the latter to Limerick Lace); seemed to see out this unfamiliar trip perfectly well last March but has been back at her regular trip of about 2m since and there was precious little between her and Allegorie De Vassy at Naas last month; similar terms today and it can be tight between them again.

Brides Hill Winner of all four starts (at 2m4f on good to soft or slower) between September 2023 and last May, including a Grade 2; has been turned over at short prices in two runs since back from a break, to an improver at Huntingdon last time, but she provides fresher blood against the established ones and might well have a say.

Limerick Lace Had a high old time last season, including when runner-up in a good 3m handicap at Navan and then keeping Dinoblu at bay in this race (soft; equally effective on good to soft); arrives with more to prove than 12 months ago, however, as she's not reached nearly that standard on her last two runs, and a remote second to Allegorie De Vassy at Fairyhouse in January was the best she could do; some queries for now with cheekpieces fitted.

Allegorie de Vassy Runner-up in the 2023 running to one who was never beaten over fences, but she wasn't quite on song when a one-paced fourth to Limerick Lace and Dinoblu 12 months ago; lost nothing in defeat after a tight tussle with Dinoblu at Naas (2m, soft) in February and would make them all go if on her game.

Fontaine Collonges Just two runs on this track, latest when pulled up in the Kim Muir in 2023; never better than when a wide-margin winner at Haydock (3m1f, soft) in November but she can be a creature of extremes and has been pulled up twice since; up against it at the weights so there's some outperforming to be done; blinkers applied.

Je T'ai Porte Has taken well to fences at a lower level but she fell in September when last seen; with her jumps wins coming at 2m/2m1f, and never having raced beyond 2m2f, it's likely that she will not be staying on best of all.

Mayhem Mya Capable mare who is effective over hurdles and fences but her sole chase win came in an Exeter mares' novice (2m1f, soft) in late 2023 and this is rather rarefied company for her.

Royale Margaux Has shown up well over fences here away from the Festival; campaigned over hurdles since autumn, running near her best when winning a Listed mares' race at Warwick (2m5f, soft) in February, but she is far from the shore on these terms now back chasing.

Shecouldbeanything Finished a close sixth in the mares' novice hurdle at this meeting in 2023; had a charmed spell in her early days over fences, winning all four starts (at up to 2m4f) between late September and November (on ground ranging from soft to good) and did well in the face of a stiff task on her most recent 2m4f run, in a Grade 1 at Fairyhouse; will be suited by the return to this trip but needs improvement and perhaps others will see it out better.

VERDICT With some doubts about last year's winner **Limerick Lace**, who's now going in cheekpieces after failing to reach her usual standard in two runs this term, the outcome can lie between **DINOBLUE** and **Allegorie De Vassy**. The latter didn't seem quite at her best when about 6l behind the selection in this race last year and she can be very dangerous on her best day. Dinoblu is arguably the more dependable of the pair and, having shown she can stay this far, she can gain compensation for last year's defeat. **Brides Hill** is the other to consider. [Emily Weber]

POSTDATA Dinoblu **RP RATING** Dinoblu

▶▶ **FORM STARTS:** PAGE 27
















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LEG 4

3.20
RACE 4

Albert Bartlett Novices' Hurdle **ITV**
(Grade 1) (Registered As The Spa Novices' Hurdle) (GBB Race) (Class 1)
Winner £84,405 (2m 7f 213y)3m New

£150,000 Total Race Value For 5yo+ Weights 11st 7lb Allowances mares 7lb pay £185 1st Forfeit 44 pay £380 Confirmed 26 pay £185.00 Penalty value 1st £84,405 2nd £31,800 3rd £15,915 4th £7,950 5th £3,990 6th £1,995 7th £990 8th £510

	10-62P1 1	ARGENTO BOY (IRE) ³⁹ D1 S2 gr g Jukebox Jury-Backaway W P Mullins (IRE) Mrs Audrey Turley	6 11-7 1 Rachael Blackmore (144)
	2-10211 2	BALLYBOW (IRE) ²⁹ D1 S2 b g Flemensfirth-Avichi Gordon Elliott (IRE) Gigginstown House Stud	6 11-7 Sam Ewing (138)
	11-11 3	DERRYHASSEN PADDY (IRE) ⁵⁶ D1 S3 b g Arctic Cosmos-Kerrie Girl Lucinda Russell Morrison-Bell & Russell	t6 11-7 1 Derek Fox (141)
	1-3171 4	FIRST CONFESSION (IRE) ²⁷ b g Affinisea-Lough Derg Lily Joe Tizzard Kevan Leggett, Susan & John Waterworth	6 11-7 Brendan Powell (137)
	25-031 5	FISHERY LANE (FR) ^{ITF} 57 S1 gr g Gemix-Vision Sainte W P Mullins (IRE) Bryan Drew	6 11-7 1 Sean O'Keefe (131)
	-118113 6	FLICKER OF HOPE (FR) ⁴¹ D2 S3 blbr g Buck's Boum-Ojinska Dream Mark Fahey (IRE) Swords Bloodstock Limited	6 11-7 1 Keith Donoghue (136)
	336-14 7	INN AT THE PARK (IRE) ⁵⁴ D1 b g Walk In The Park-Glor Na Gaoithe W P Mullins (IRE) Malcolm C Denmark	7 11-7 Danny Mullins (126)
	F211211 8	INTENSE APPROACH ⁴¹ D2 S1 C1 ch g Jack Hobbs-Intense Tango John C McConnell (IRE) Ms Caroline Ahearn	6 11-7 1 Sean Bowen (144)
	11-8144 9	JASMIN DE VAUX (FR) ^{ITF} 41 S3 C1 b g Tirwanako-Que Du Charmil W P Mullins (IRE) Simon Munir & Isaac Souede	6 11-7 Paul Townend (142)
	23-7113 10	JAX JUNIOR ³⁶ b g Jack Hobbs-Double Storm Lucy Wadham Mrs Cheryl Burton	6 11-7 Tom Cannon (143)
	13-3121 11	JET BLUE (FR) ⁹⁰ S3 C1 b g Martaline-Blue Beryl D Cottin ² (FR) Prof Caroline Tisdall	6 11-7 James Reveley (148)
	F31-14 12	JIG'S FORGE (IRE) ⁴⁸ S1 b g Westerner-Tisonlyme Ben Pauling K Dole	6 11-7 Ben Jones (127)
	10-2113 13	MA SHANTOU (IRE) ⁴⁸ BF S1 b g Shantou-Ma Pretention Emma Lavelle Mighty Acorn Stables	6 11-7 Harry Cobden (137)

	61/21 14	NATIVEHILL (IRE) ¹² b g Flemensfirth-Fairy Native Nicky Henderson Bartlett, Carthy & Speelman	t7 11-7 Nico de Boinville (119)
	11-0P31 15	PORT JOULAIN (FR) ^{ITF} 46 S2 b g Cokoriko-Apple's Noa W P Mullins (IRE) Mrs S Ricci	6 11-7 1 Brian Hayes (137)
	14-4215 16	SOUNDS VICTORIOUS (IRE) ^{ITF} 41 S2 br g Champs Elysees-Sounds Charming W P Mullins (IRE) Bruton Street Partnership	6 11-7 Mr P W Mullins (135)
	11-2121 17	WENDIGO (FR) ³⁰ S3 br g Great Pretender-Biche d'Oo Jamie Snowden Rc Syndicate I	6 11-7 Gavin Sheehan (146)
	3-11232 18	WINGMEN (IRE) ^{ITF} 41 S1 b g Kayf Tara-Raise You Five Gordon Elliott (IRE) Bective Stud	h7 11-7 Jack Kennedy (145)
	U121531 19	YELLOW CAR (IRE) ⁴⁸ D1 br g Malinas-Golan Road D Killahena & G McPherson Redknapp/McPherson	7 11-7 Nick Slatter (137)
	1-11 20	THE BIG WESTERNER (IRE) ⁷⁸ D1 S2 b m Westerner-Augusta Bay Henry de Bromhead (IRE) M K Mariga	6 11-0 Darragh O'Keefe (148)

2024 (13 ran) Stellar Story Gordon Elliott 7 11-7 33/1 Sam Ewing RPR151

BETTING FORECAST 4 The Big Westerner, 13-2 Jet Blue, 7 Jasmin de Vaux, 8 Wendigo, Wingmen, 10 Ballybow, 14 Argento Boy, Derryhassen Paddy, Flicker Of Hope, Intense Approach, 16 Fishery Lane, 20 Sounds Victorious, Yellow Car, 25 Jax Junior, Ma Shantou, Port Joulain, 33 Nativehill, 40 bar.

SPOTLIGHT

Argento Boy Won a bumper before offering little in the Grade 1s here and at Punchestown; had another blip in his second maiden hurdle but likeable efforts on either side of that, pushing The Big Westerner close in the first despite racing with the choke out and last time winning as he liked at Punchestown (2m7f, heavy); his jumping hasn't been pretty and all his best form is in the mud, but the raw ability he has is respected; shortlisted.

Ballybow Quick enough to win a bumper on yielding ground but smacks of a stayer having won a 3m Grade 3 last time at Clonmel (soft), albeit a weak one and effectively a match; appears to have the right attitude and that can count for plenty in this race.

Derryhassen Paddy Point winner who extended his unbeaten record to three under rules (tongue tied in all) when digging deep to edge out a previous Listed winner in a 3m novice at Windsor in January; looks hot property with the future in mind and should be in his element with this stiffer stamina test provided by the New course; has only raced on soft or heavy ground but he's well thought of by his respected yard that won this in 2012 and had a fourth Festival winner on Tuesday.

First Confession Both wins under rules have come on good ground over Ascot's extended 2m3f, on either side of finishing tailed off in the Grade 1 Challow; raised markedly in trip here but he won his 3m point on heavy and his trainer describes him as a relentless galloper; possible improver.

Fishery Lane Fifth in last season's Champion Bumper; his jumping was hit and miss when a beaten favourite in his first hurdle start (2m7f; yielding; behind stablemate Inn At The Park) but he found greater fluency in front when making all at Fairyhouse (2m4f, soft); connections have hinted that staying will be his game and this sort of test could well trigger a spike in form.

Flicker Of Hope Hasn't been out of handicap company in well over a year but highly progressive in that scene and better than ever when close third in a 3m Listed handicap at Leopardstown last month (soft; has won on yielding); moved with purpose through that race and perhaps went for home a tad early; battle-hardened, still improving and wouldn't be without a squeak.

Inn At The Park Same connections won this three years ago with The Nice Guy; wins nothing on his final run but that was simply too bad to be true and he had previously won well over 2m7f at Fairyhouse (yielding) where Fishery Lane was back in third; retains potential and he clearly stays well.



Intense Approach Has been making hay in softer races all season and he's not beaten anything of note in his most recent wins here (good) and at Musselburgh (good to soft); however, those were over 3m so he's an assured stayer, and already having nine hurdle starts in the bag is a selling point when many past winners of this were well stocked up on experience; should give his running.

Jasmin de Vaux Won last year's Champion Bumper but hasn't looked a natural over hurdles, even when winning his 2m maiden that's worked out really well; comfortably beaten in 2m4f/2m6f Grade 1s the last two, though he was boxing on in the latest (in first-time cheekpieces which are now discarded) and this longer trip could put a spring in his step should his jumping pass the test; dangerous to dismiss with Paul Townend back aboard; his standout form is on soft ground.

Jax Junior Seemingly all the better for wind surgery when making all for clearcut wins at Doncaster (2m3f, good to soft) and Ascot (2m5f, good) before just falling short under the same tactics in a Listed race at Huntingdon (2m3f, good to soft); worth a crack over this far but this is a tough race in which to dominate from the front should they persevere with the same tactics.

Jet Blue Won three of his ten bumpers in France and also a 2m2f hurdle in October; moved stables after changing hands for 220,000euros in November and a month later created quite an impression when decisively winning a Grade 2 here (good to soft) on his first foray over 3m, with subsequent Grade 2 winner Yellow Car left trailing in his wake; winning course form has regularly featured on successful CVs in this race and he's accrued plenty of experience; hard to knock.

Jig's Forge Won his 3m point on heavy ground so should stay okay; made all in a 2m4f maiden on soft at Ffos Las but he gave up the ghost quite tamely when behind some of these in a 3m Grade 2 at Doncaster in January (good to soft); opposable on the back of that effort.

Ma Shantou Failed in his hat-trick bid when made favourite for the Grade 2 River Don at Doncaster (3m) but, while that was his first attempt over this far, he shaped as though a truer-run race would have benefited him; like many in here, the potential is there for a career best.

Nativehill Fetched £260,000 after winning his Irish point; returning from a long absence when promoted to second in a Newbury novice and, in a new tongue-tie (retained), he was left clear at the final flight to win a Huntingdon maiden (2m4f, good to soft) by daylight; already looks as though he needs this sort of trip but wouldn't be the obvious answer on what he's shown to date.

Port Joulain Cost £300,000 after winning his point (3m, soft) and he followed up in a Gowran bumper (2m2f, heavy); has improved with each of his races over hurdles but he wasn't that impressive last time at Punchestown (extended 2m3f, heavy; second has won since); may prefer testing ground.

Sounds Victorious Outran his odds when a closing fourth in last year's Champion Bumper; the form of his first two efforts in maiden hurdles were underwhelming and he offered little in a 2m6f Grade 1 at the Dublin Racing Festival when behind Wingmen and Jasmin De Vaux.

Wendigo 1-3 in points and 2-3 in bumpers; got beat at Hexham on his hurdling debut but then won well at Ludlow and showed that he belonged in this company when best of the rest behind The New Lion in the Grade 1 Challow at Newbury (2m4f, good to soft) where he produced his best work late in the day; massively odds-on when easily making all in a Wetherby novice (2m3f, soft) and rates a likely contender with this longer trip a probable plus.

Wingmen The winner of a point, two bumpers and a 2m4f maiden hurdle; under positive rides he's also made the frame in two Grade 1s this year, in the latest (2m6f, soft; has won on good to yielding) keeping on for second prize behind the impressive Final Demand; this 7yo is a big lad who won't be fazed by a big field and gives the impression that he'll stay all day; respected runner for a yard that made the breakthrough in this race 12 months ago; has worn this hood in his last six races.

Yellow Car Found 2m3f too sharp a test three runs back but progressive otherwise this season at up to 3m and had Ma Shantou and Jig's Forge behind when digging deepest in a Grade 2 at Doncaster last time (3m, good to soft); this demands a whole lot more and he has plenty to find with Jet Blue on their clash here in December.

The Big Westerner Bred for the job as a half-sister to the 2023 winner Stay Away Fay; bought for £120,000 after winning her point and remains unbeaten after winning both her hurdle races, repelling Argento Boy in a maiden (2m5f) before displaying plenty of stamina in winning a 2m7f Grade 2 at Limerick (smart RPR given they went a steady pace; on yielding to soft); difficult to gauge how good this scopy mare is and the fact no female has won this race carries little significance when so few have tried.

VERDICT A race that has been won by two future Gold Cup winners but this is notoriously hard to call with its history littered with bookmaker-friendly outcomes. Stamina usually wins the day and **DERRYHASSEN PADDY** is a staying chaser in the making who did well to win around the twists and turns of Windsor last time. He's very highly regarded and his stable has won this before. Some scruffy hurdling has been an unwanted feature in the careers of **Argento Boy** (second choice) and **Jasmin De Vaux**, but there's little jumping to be done from a long way out here and both should come home strongly. **Jet Blue** and **Intense Approach** are respected armed with all their experience. [Alistair Jones]

POSTDATA Yellow Car

RP RATING Jet Blue

▶▶ **FORM STARTS:** PAGE 21

CHELTENHAM FEST TOP TRAINERS

Jumps 2020/21 +	WINS-RUNS		%	£1 STAKE		CHASES		HURDLES		NHF	COURSE RUNS SINCE WIN					
	WINS	RUNS		NON-HCP	HCP	NON-HCP	HCP									
W P Mullins ²⁸	35	298	12%	-139	49	16	83	0	11	12	18	4	56	3	30	2
Henry de Bromhead ⁵	14	104	13%	-15	22	6	32	1	18	7	34	0	20	0	0	23
Gordon Elliott ¹²	8	193	4%	-41	15	2	38	0	43	3	33	3	72	0	7	31
Dan Skelton ³	7	52	13%	+29	50	2	12	1	10	1	6	3	22	0	2	1
Gavin Cromwell ⁹	6	33	18%	+10	13	1	8	2	10	3	6	0	9	0	0	1
Nicky Henderson ⁶	6	83	7%	-41	94	3	15	0	10	3	27	0	31	0	0	5
Lucinda Russell ²	3	10	30%	+15	50	0	6	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Joseph Patrick O'Brien ²	3	45	7%	-12	50	0	4	0	14	0	10	3	17	0	0	3
Paul Nicholls ¹	3	60	5%	-6	50	1	19	0	11	1	10	1	16	0	4	9
Emmet Mullins ³	2	17	12%	-10	87	1	4	1	4	0	2	0	7	0	0	4
Ben Pauling ²	2	33	6%	+5	00	0	4	2	13	0	7	0	7	0	2	3
Venetia Williams ²	2	48	4%	-3	75	1	17	1	26	0	1	0	4	0	0	33
S Curling ²	1	2	50%	+9	00	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Patrick Neville ¹	1	3	33%	+6	00	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Paul Nolan ¹	1	12	8%	+1	00	0	1	2	0	0	2	1	6	0	1	11
Jamie Snowden ²	1	13	8%	+4	00	0	4	0	5	1	2	0	2	0	0	5
John C McConnell ¹	1	20	5%	+1	00	0	3	1	5	0	6	0	5	0	1	8
Nigel Twiston-Davies ³	0	36	0%	-36	00	0	7	0	11	0	5	0	11	0	2	36
Gary Moore ⁰	0	22	0%	-22	00	0	4	0	4	0	6	0	7	0	1	22
Colin Tizzard ⁰	0	20	0%	-20	00	0	8	0	7	0	4	0	1	0	0	20
Olly Murphy ¹	0	14	0%	-14	00	0	1	3	0	0	4	0	6	0	0	14
Joe Tizzard ¹	0	13	0%	-13	00	0	3	0	9	0	0	0	1	0	0	13
Emma Lavelle ¹	0	9	0%	-9	00	0	1	0	0	0	5	0	2	0	1	9
Tom Lacey ¹	0	8	0%	-8	00	0	0	3	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	8
M F Morris ¹	0	8	0%	-8	00	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	8
Chris Gordon ²	0	6	0%	-6	00	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	6
Sophie Leech ²	0	4	0%	-4	00	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	4
James Owen ²	0	4	0%	-4	00	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	4
Chris Honour ¹	0	3	0%	-3	00	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Thomas Mullins ¹	0	3	0%	-3	00	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	3
Ross O'Sullivan ¹	0	3	0%	-3	00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
Lucy Wadham ¹	0	3	0%	-3	00	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	3
Kelly Morgan ¹	0	2	0%	-2	00	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Declan Queally ¹	0	2	0%	-2	00	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Miss V Collins ¹	0	1	0%	-1	00	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
D Cottin ¹	0	1	0%	-1	00	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
S R B Crawford ¹	0	1	0%	-1	00	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
M Osborne ¹	0	1	0%	-1	00	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Tom Symonds ¹	0	1	0%	-1	00	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Mrs G Andrews ¹	0	0	0%	0	00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tom Britten ¹	0	0	0%	0	00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ms Eleanor Broderick ¹	0	0	0%	0	00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Don Browne ¹	0	0	0%	0	00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Max Comley ¹	0	0	0%	0	00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mark Fahy ¹	0	0	0%	0	00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Miss M Filby ¹	0	0	0%	0	00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Edward P Harty ⁰	0	0	0%	0	00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Eddie & Patrick Harty ¹	0	0	0%	0	00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
F A Hutsby ¹	0	0	0%	0	00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
David Loughnane ¹	0	0	0%	0	00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Graeme McPherson ⁰	0	0	0%	0	00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
David Killahena & Graeme McPherson ¹	0	0	0%	0	00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
McPherson ¹	0	0	0%	0	00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Miss S McQueen ¹	0	0	0%	0	00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gary & Josh Moore ³	0	0	0%	0	00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mrs J Owen ¹	0	0	0%	0	00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tim Vaughan ¹	0	0	0%	0	00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ewan Whillans ¹	0	0	0%	0	00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Superior figure denotes runners today. Italicised trainers now part of a trainer partnership.










Form figure abbreviations explained

B brought down, **C** carried out, **d** disqualified (follows original placing), **F** fell, **L** left, **O** ran out, **P** pulled up, **R** refused, **S** slipped up, **U** unseated, **W** withdrawn



4.00 *Boodles Cheltenham Gold Cup* **ITV**
Chase (Grade 1) (GBB Race) (Class 1)
RACE 5 **Winner £363,999.38 (3m 2f 70y)3m2'2f New**

£646,880 Total Race Value For 5yo+ which are allotted a rating or an assessment of 130 or more by the BHA Handicapper, taking account of races run up to and including the day prior to confirmation pay £780 1st Forfeit 15 pay £1560 2nd Forfeit 1 pay £25000 Confirmed 10 pay £780.00 Penalty value 1st £363,999.38 2nd £137,138.56 3rd £68,633.97 4th £34,284.64 5th £17,207.01 6th £8,603.50 7th £4,269.41 8th £2,199.39

	362-3PP 1	AHOY SENOR (IRE) TTF 54 S2 C1 <i>b g Dylan Thomas-Dara Supreme</i> Lucinda Russell Mrs C Wymer & Pjs Russell	w ¹ 10 11-10	Derek Fox (173)
	19-14U1 2	BANBRIDGE (IRE) TTF 78 S2 C2 <i>ch g Doyen-Old Carton Lass</i> Joseph Patrick O'Brien (IRE) R A Bartlett	p 9 11-10	J J Slevin (178)
	F13-262 3	CORBETTS CROSS (IRE) TTF 27 BF S5 C1 <i>ch g Gamut-Annagh Hill Lady</i> Emmet Mullins (IRE) John P McManus	8 11-10	Jack Kennedy (173)
	11-2311 4	GALOPIN DES CHAMPS (FR) TTF 41 S6 C1 CD2 <i>bl g Timos-Manon Des Champs</i> W P Mullins (IRE) Mrs Audrey Turley	9 11-10	Paul Townend (187)
	1P5-433 5	GENTLEMANSGAME TTF 48 S3 <i>gr g Gentlewave-Grainne Ni Maille</i> M F Morris (IRE) Robcour	9 11-10	Darragh O'Keeffe (169)
	911-754 6	INOTHEWAYRTHINKIN (IRE) TTF 41 S4 CD1 <i>b g Walk In The Park-Sway</i> Gavin Cromwell (IRE) John P McManus	t 7 11-10	Mark Walsh (167)
	312-225 7	MONTY'S STAR (IRE) TTF 41 S2 <i>b g Walk In The Park-Tempest Belle</i> Henry de Bromhead (IRE) Barry Maloney	8 11-10	Rachael Blackmore (166)
	/1F-1P6 8	ROYALE PAGAILLE (FR) TTF 27 D4 S7 <i>b g Blue Bresil-Royale Cazoumaille</i> Venetia Williams Mrs S Ricci	11 11-10	Charlie Deutsch (173)
	2P5-U14 9	THE REAL WHACKER (IRE) TTF 78 S3 C3 <i>b g Mahler-Credit Box</i> Patrick Neville Neville, Mann, Duffus, Dennis-Price	t 9 11-10	Brian Hughes (167)

2024 (11 ran) Galopin Des Champs W P Mullins 8 11-10 10/11F Paul Townend RPR183

BETTING FORECAST 8-15 Galopin Des Champs, 5 Banbridge, 13-2 Inothewayrthinkin, 14 Monty's Star, 18 Corbetts Cross, 40 The Real Whacker, 50 Ahoy Senior, 66 Gentlemansgame, Royale Pagaille.

SPOTLIGHT

Ahoy Senior Excuses have often been used since his latest win, a Grade 2 on this track (3m1f, soft; acts on good) in January 2023, and Aintree is his safe haven now; recaptured form with a fine second in the Bowl there last April and returned from a break with a good effort on the same track in October but he's cut a dejected figure in two runs since.

Banbridge Nearly all chase runs at up to about 2m4f; however, he had looked a stayer in the making when making light of this steep finish in the Martin Pipe (2m4f) over hurdles here in 2022 and he laid out his stamina credentials when steaming home to win the 3m King George at Kempton on Boxing Day; has a very good chance of breathing down Galopin Des Champs' neck on the home bend but will need special reserves to outstay that steely rival.

Corbetts Cross Strong stayer who made short work of his rivals in the National Hunt Chase here (3m6f, heavy) last March and showed he could do more than just grind away when close up in the Bowl (3m1f, soft) at Aintree after; unable to go with Banbridge in the home straight in the King George at Kempton (3m) on Boxing Day and his pace was again lacking over 2m5f at Ascot, but this test will suit.

Galopin Des Champs The great staying champion of our time who would be defending an unbeaten 4-4 record at the Festival but for crumbling after the last in the 2022 Turners Novices' Chase; his jumping hasn't always been a thing of beauty but he has learned his lessons well and his only defeats since that mishap have come right at the end and the beginning of his seasons; he's maintained a very high standard when winning two Grade 1s at Leopardstown (good to yielding and yielding) in midwinter and his dominance in the Gold Cup for the last two years looks set to continue.

Gentlemansgame Has some good efforts at about 3m1f in his record but he was pulled up in last year's Gold Cup (25-1) and, after finishing a respectable third to Galopin Des Champs at Leopardstown after Christmas, he wasn't at his best in a Grade 2 here last time out; his form needs an upgrade and others look better equipped for the stamina test; has been tongue tied or worn cheekpieces in recent starts, no aids today.

Inothewayrthinkin Staying trips were a big help last spring when winning the Kim Muir here (3m2f) with authority and moving seamlessly back into Grade 1 company to follow up in the 3m1f novice (again on soft) at Aintree; has offered no great opposition to Galopin Des Champs this winter but he looked to be coming to hand at Leopardstown in February and this greater test can suit; has been supplemented by owner who's also represented by Corbetts Cross and time is still on his side.

Monty's Star Has found his calling over fences and was a good second in the Brown Advisory here (3m, soft) last March; he's had just two runs this winter and although turned over on his return to action in January, he ran well for a long way when beaten nearly 8l behind Galopin Des Champs at Leopardstown (3m, good to yielding) in February; it's possible that run was still needed but the stamina question for this test is still up in the air.

Royale Pagaille No more than respectable form in three attempts at this race and Haydock is his track, albeit that he has looked down on his luck in two starts there since returning from a layoff with a big win (3m1f, soft) in November; has a big question mark hanging over him now.

The Real Whacker Had a season to remember two winters ago when three front-running course wins included the Brown Advisory (3m, soft) at this meeting; success has been harder since he left novice company, though, and he was pulled up in this race 12 months ago; back on song with a Wetherby Grade 2 win (3m, good) in November but so much more is needed today.

VERDICT There are always challengers wanting to dethrone the king but **GALOPIN DES CHAMPS** is a horse for the ages and there is no reason to desert him as he goes for his third Gold Cup. Age will weary him one day, and after all this is his fifth Festival, but he has stood the test of time so well and there has been no sign of his powers fading this winter. **Banbridge** is the most likely of the principals to be glad of the dry spell leading up to the Festival but it took connections a while to test the 3m waters over fences and, although he rose to the occasion magnificently in the King George, this race presents a quite different challenge. **Corbetts Cross** will be much more at home back over a staying trip but the newly supplemented **Inothewayrthinkin** is preferred for a place behind Banbridge. **Monty's Star** is also worth a look, while it's possible that recent wind surgery will breathe his old life back into **Ahoy Senior**. [Emily Weber]

POSTDATA Galopin Des Champs	RP RATING Galopin Des Champs
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▶▶FORM STARTS: PAGE 23

RACING POST
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+o+e scoop6

LEG 5

4.40
RACE 6

**St. James's Place Festival
Challenge Cup Open Hunters' Chase
(Class 2)**
Winner £24,445 (3m 2f 70y) 3m2¹/₂f New

ITV

£50,000 Total Race Value For 5yo+ which are qualified to run in hunters' chases under the running requirements code and which, after September 2022, and before February 24th, 2025, have been placed first or second on two occasions in a hunters' chase in Great Britain or Ireland or have won two Open chases at point-to-point meetings (i.e. Gentlemen, Ladies or Mixed Open Races) in Great Britain or Ireland or have won one Open chase at a point-to-point meeting in Great Britain or Ireland and have been placed first or second in a hunters' chase **Weights** 5yo 11st 10lb; 6yo+ 12st **Allowances** mares 7lb pay **£60 Confirmed** 26 pay £190.00 **Penalty value** 1st £24,445 2nd £12,220 3rd £6,110 4th £3,055 5th £1,530 6th £765

	0/33411 1	ALLMANKIND ^{ITF} 776 (33P) S4 C1 b g Sea The Moon-Wemyss Bay Mrs J Owen ¹ The Gredley Family	ht 9	12-0	Mr Alex Chadwick (135)
	45P-212 2	ANGELS BREATH (IRE) ³⁶ BF S4 gr g Shantou-Mystic Masie Tim Vaughan Stephen Clarke	11	12-0	Mr Edward Vaughan (132)
	107153P 3	AU FLEURON (FR) ²⁹⁴ (103P) S1 b g Crillon-La Pelodette Max Comley ¹ Ms A Sargeant	p 8	12-0	Miss Aimee Jones
	1P32511 4	BARDENTOWN LAD ²⁸ D1 S1 C1 ch g Black Sam Bellamy-Pougatcheva David Loughnane ¹ The Stay Between The Ditches Syndicate	p 10	12-0	Mr E Mahon (132)
	-425211 5	CARNFUNNOCK (IRE) ²⁰⁹ (34P) S3 b g Getaway-Simply Erin S R B Crawford (IRE) Largy Bloodstock	8	12-0	Mr S Connor (119)
	6-3P554 6	D'JANGO (FR) ¹⁷ S4 br g Balko-Quizas Jolie Miss V Collins Miss Sarah A Dawson	t 12	12-0	Mr Darren Andrews (133)
	P1-1311 7	FAIRLY FAMOUS (IRE) ²⁸⁷ (47P) BF S1 C1 CD1 b g Fame And Glory-Fairly Definite Mrs G Andrews ¹ The Signy & Marriage Families	8	12-0	Miss Gina Andrews (141)
	1-14644 8	GO ON CHEZ ²⁸ D1 b g Malinas-Who's Afraid F A Hutsby ² Mrs Christine Osborne	p 9	12-0	Mr Tom Hutsby (130)
	/513-32 9	HAVEN'T TIME (IRE) ²⁴ S1 b g Curtain Time-Good Thyne Lucy Miss S McQueen Miss S McQueen	11	12-0	Miss Lucy Turner (120)
	121-123 10	ITS ON THE LINE (IRE) ^{ITF} 34 BF S4 br g Presenting-Ten Dollar Bill Emmet Mullins (IRE) John P McManus	8	12-0	Mr Derek O'Connor (145)
	21-32P1 11	LIFT ME UP (IRE) ⁵³ S1 b g Mahler-I'll Takeher Bach Miss M Filby Mr & Mrs C Horner	p 9	12-0	Mr Jack Andrews (131)
	6-541P5 12	LISLEIGH LAD (IRE) ⁵⁴ b g Dansant-Babies Present Ms Eleanor Broderick (IRE) Miss Eleanor Broderick	7	12-0	Mr D Allen (118)
	1329/11 13	MUSIC DRIVE (FR) ^(34P) S2 b g Muhtathir-Acland Street Kelly Morgan Foxfield Stud Syndicate	t 8	12-0	Miss Ellie Callwood

	5-80F12 14	ONTHEROPES (IRE) ³⁴ S2 br g Presenting-Dushion Thomas Mullins (IRE) Mrs Helen Mullins	11	12-0	Mr Charlie Mullins (139)
	2321-21 15	PLAN OF ATTACK (IRE) ⁶⁸⁵ (20P) S1 b g Court Cave-Loadsofability Henry de Bromhead (IRE) Ben Halsall	b 12	12-0	Mr B O'Neill (130)
	2/1-241 16	ROCKY'S HOWYA (IRE) ⁷⁵ (47P) BF b g Ask-It's My Choice Declan Queally (IRE) Mrs Margaret C Kiely	9	12-0	Mr D L Queally (137)
	121-421 17	RYEHILL (IRE) ³⁴ S2 b g Mahler-Night Maid Ross O'Sullivan (IRE) Outback Syndicate/Conor Brett	8	12-0	Mr L P Shanahan (137)
	8/11-11 18	SHEARER (IRE) ²⁴ S3 C1 b g Flemensfirth-The Crown Jewel Paul Nicholls McNeill Family & Paul Nicholls	tp 9	12-0	Miss Olive Nicholls (145)
	8680215 19	TAKE ALL (IRE) ²⁷ S2 b g Golden Lariat-Miss Vickie M Osborne Mrs Martine Scott	ht 10	12-0	Mr Martin McIntyre (134)
	1U23311 20	WEST OF CARRIG (IRE) ⁵⁸ (33P) b g Westerner-Pollywollydoodle Don Browne (IRE) Adrian Joseph Browne	8	12-0	Mr A J Browne (117)
	22-1122 21	WHAT A GLANCE ²⁸⁷ (26P) S1 C1 b g Passing Glance-Audley Tom Britten Mrs Ann Taylor	t 10	12-0	Mr Toby McCain-Mitchell (138)
	P-11121 22	WILLITGOAHEAD (IRE) ⁵⁴ b g Getaway-Vin Fizz Gordon Elliott ¹ (IRE) Bective Stud	7	12-0	Mr J L Scallan (135)
	3343211 23	WONDERWALL (IRE) ²⁷³ (131P) S1 b g Yeats-Rock Me Gently S Curling (IRE) J O'Leary	t 1	9 12-0	Mr R James (116)
	273F-11 24	ANGELS DAWN (IRE) ^{ITF} 365 (74P) S3 CD1 b m Yeats-Angels Guard Thee S Curling (IRE) Alfred Sweetnam	10	11-7	Mr P A King (155)

2024 (12 ran) **Sine Nomine** Fiona Needham 8 11-7 8/1 Mr John Dawson RPR138

BETTING FORECAST 7-2 Angels Dawn, 9-2 Willitgoahead, 5 Its On The Line, 8 Ryehill, 10 Shearer, 14 Allmankind, Music Drive, Rocky's Howya, 20 Fairly Famous, Ontheropes, 25 Carnfunnock, Wonderwall, 33 Bardenstown Lad, What A Glance, 40 Lift Me Up, West Of Carrig, 50 Angels Breath, Haven't Time, Plan Of Attack, Take All, 66 Au Fleuron, 100 bar.

SPOTLIGHT

Allmankind In the same colours when third in the 2020 Triumph and fourth in the following year's Arkle; rediscovered some form back over hurdles last year for James Owen and has gone on to win two small-field 3m points, beating What A Glance by 3l in the penultimate one; he likes to crack on up front and his stamina could be stretched over this extra yardage; proven in this headgear combination.

Angels Breath Smart back in the day for Nicky Henderson; an 11yo now and after winning his first hunter chase he was hammered by Shearer at Ffos Las (2m5f; heavy was no excuse); opposable.

Au Fleuron Useful when at his peak for Gordon Elliott but has never been a prolific winner and has no realistic chance here on what he's achieved in Irish points; new stable.

Bardenstown Lad Had flashes of good form when with Gavin Cromwell but he was inconsistent; won a point and a hunter chase (cheekpieces returned) within the space of 12 days last month but very questionable as to whether he can mix it with the best of today's opposition.



Carnfunnock Had to dig pretty deep to win this year's two points in Ireland (3m, good to yielding) and he's 0-3 over regulation fences; needs a huge spike in his form to be making any significant impact in this.

d'Jango Belied his 66-1 odds to finish fourth in this race 12 months ago but he was no threat to the principals; he's now a year older and returns for another crack after some underwhelming performances.

Fairly Famous Unbeaten in two previous visits here (on good and soft), last May over C&D emerging from off the pace to beat the 2023 winner of this (Premier Magic); has a fair shout on that form (posted an RPR of 141) and this track probably suits him better than Stratford where later that month he was ridden more prominently and finished just under 5l behind What A Glance; arrives here with confidence buoyed after no-nonsense wins between the flags; merits attention.

Go On Chez Eight wins over rules fences include two hunter chases last year; joined this yard for £30,000 in October; enjoys good ground and he was too free for his own good after a break when tailed off behind Bardenstown Lad at Fakenham; however, even should he give himself a greater chance here his form credentials aren't that persuasive; cheekpieces return.

Haven't Time Dual point winner who was a near 12l third to What A Glance at the hunter chase meeting here last May (3m1f, soft) and returned from a break to keep Shearer honest at Taunton (2m7f, good to soft), despite a bad mid-race mistake; he could run well but is unlikely to be good enough at the age of 11.

Its On The Line His only defeat under rules during last season's highly productive campaign came when collared late in this race, having also finished runner-up the year before as a 6yo (previous winner at that age was Kingcliff in 2003); went on to win the big hunter chases at Aintree (2m5f, heavy; very easily) and Punchestown (3m, yielding) last spring; has to right the wrongs of two disappointing runs in Irish hunter chases this winter (odds-on for both) - latterly behind Ryehill and Ontheropes - but he's way too talented to be left out of the reckoning; probably effective on any ground.

Lift Me Up Low-mileage 9yo; beat a talented hunter chaser in the new cheekpieces at Warwick (3m, good to soft); has appreciably more on his plate now and was a long way behind Fairly Famous here last May; the latter was not at his best when those placings were reversed at Stratford later in the month (both behind What A Glance); a minor role looks on the cards.

Lisleigh Lad Won a hunter chase at Fairyhouse in November (3m, good) but he was only fifth behind the improving Willitgoahead at Thurles the last time; there's no reason why he should be reversing those placings.

Music Drive Eighth in the 2022 Champion Bumper for Gordon Elliott and was twice placed here over hurdles; this is a very belated return to rules action and he lacks any experience of regulation fences, but he's been impressive enough in his recent points to be quite a market mover for this; respected.

Ontheropes Won the 2021 Munster National for Willie Mullins and contested plenty of other strong handicaps for that yard, including when not beaten far in last season's Scottish National; best days are surely behind him now at 11, but won a point in January and ran well when dividing Ryehill and Its On The Line at Naas (3m1f, soft); assured stamina ticks a big box and could have some say.

Plan Of Attack Has a good record on the cross-country course here but no longer the force of old, for all that he's been more than holding his own in recent points; readily opposed.

Rocky's Howya Had won five points on the bounce before finishing a 4l fourth in this two years ago and he won another three not long after, including a 4l defeat of Its On The Line; it's questionable as to whether he's quite in the same form now, despite getting his head back in front the last time.

Ryehill Remote fourth to Its On The Line at Punchestown last May but he's a scopey, lightly raced 8yo who has raised his game this winter, finishing 6l off Angels Dawn in a point before beating Ontheropes and Its On The Line with a degree of comfort at Naas (3m1f, soft); it could be that he ideally needs plenty of ease underfoot but interesting otherwise with his profile firmly on the up.

Shearer Unbeaten over regulation fences, having won two handicaps at about 3m in 2023 and come back to the long absence to win hunter chases at Ffos Las (2m5f, heavy) and Taunton (2m7f, good to soft); Haven't Time gave him something to think about last time and this demands more of him, probably a lot more; the cheekpieces he wore for those handicap wins are back on; Paul Nicholls has won this four times.

Take All Beat the useful Famous Clermont (former Aintree Foxhunters' winner) in a point last month but his hunter chase defeats at Taunton (behind Angels Breath) and Haydock don't bode well ahead of this tougher examination.

West Of Carrig His recent point wins have come easily, latterly at the expense of Plan Of Attack; clearly in good nick but probably punching above his weight in this company.

What A Glance Won at the hunter chase meeting here last May (3m1f, soft) and followed up in Stratford's Horse And Hound Cup (3m3f, good), latter at the expense of Lift Me Up and a perhaps below par Fairly Famous; won't fail through a lack of stamina and recent point defeats weren't shoddy efforts by any means.

Willitgoahead Initial point form in Ireland was nothing to crow about but his career has taken off since October, winning three points and impressive in a Thurles hunter chase last time (3m1f, good) where his jumping took the eye; the bare form of that race isn't overly strong but he won easily and the RPR was smart; looks a rising force and has since been snapped up by one of Gordon Elliott's powerful owners; now makes debut for that yard; has won on soft but drier ground could be the key to him.

Wonderwall Only three runs over regulation fences but was third in a Grade 2 in 2022 and fourth in a good novice handicap here in late 2023; signed off by the Bowen yard last summer with respectable runs over hurdles and hasn't been overly pressed to win two small-field points in Ireland for this stable; positive jockey booking and brings each-way hopes provided a 131-day break doesn't come back to bite him.

Angels Dawn Past handicappers have a good record and this mare fits the bill, having won the Kim Muir here two years ago; was challenging the throw-in Inthewayrthinkin when falling two out in last season's edition of the same race; has gone 2-2 in points this term and had far too much for the respected Ryehill last time; worthy of her prominence in the betting.

VERDICT It could be third-time lucky in this race for **ITS ON THE LINE**. He was the 11-8 favourite when runner-up for the second successive year 12 months ago but he trades at bigger odds now after two underwhelming defeats in Ireland. However, the ultra-shrewd Emmet Mullins will have only had eyes on this prize and Billaway suffered two seconds here before having the last laugh in 2022. Former classy handicappers have done well in this and former Kim Muir winner **Angels Dawn**, who has the mares' allowance that greatly helped last year's winner Sine Nomine, is back on a roll after winning both her points. The same is true of **Fairly Famous** who is 2-2 at Cheltenham and he's still a rising force, as is the highly regarded **Willitgoahead** who only recently joined Gordon Elliott. [Alistair Jones]

POSTDATA Bardenstown Lad **RP RATING** Angels Dawn

CHELTENHAM FEST TOP JOCKEYS

Jumps 2020/21+

WINS-RIDES		TRAINER SUPPLYING RIDES TODAY GIVING BEST COURSE RECORD		WINS-RIDES		COURSE RIDES SINCE WIN	
						ALL RIDES £1 STAKE	
21-80	26%	Paul Townend ⁵	.....W P Mullins	21-79	27%	-22.39	5
13-70	19%	Rachael Blackmore ³	.....Henry de Bromhead	11-57	19%	-16.60	13
7-53	13%	Mark Walsh ⁴	.....W P Mullins	3-28	11%	+28.37	2
6-43	14%	Nico de Boinville ²	.....Nicky Henderson	6-39	15%	-1.94	4
6-43	14%	Harry Skelton ¹	.....Dan Skelton	6-40	15%	+4.50	1
6-63	10%	Jack Kennedy ⁵	.....Gordon Elliott	2-42	5%	-26.75	15
5-38	13%	Mr P W Mullins ²	.....W P Mullins	5-36	14%	-22.09	10
4-30	13%	Keith Donoghue ⁴	.....Gavin Cromwell	2-18	11%	-14.90	0
3-29	10%	Sean O'Keefe ³	.....W P Mullins	3-22	14%	+20.00	1
3-52	6%	Harry Cobden ²	.....	0-0	0%	+1.50	10
3-54	6%	Danny Mullins ³	.....W P Mullins	1-45	2%	-19.00	0
2-7	29%	Derek Fox ²	.....Lucinda Russell	2-7	29%	+11.00	4
2-8	25%	Ben Jones ¹	.....Ben Pauling	1-2	50%	+5.50	0
2-11	18%	Mr Derek O'Connor ¹	.....Emmet Mullins	1-3	33%	-5.50	2
1-2	50%	Mr P A King ¹	.....S Curling	1-2	50%	+9.00	1
1-4	25%	Aidan Kelly ¹	.....	0-0	0%	+3.00	2
1-6	17%	Kevin Sexton ¹	.....	0-0	0%	+28.00	4
1-7	14%	Miss Lucy Turner ¹	.....	0-0	0%	+34.00	6
1-8	13%	Shane FitzGerald ¹	.....	0-0	0%	+43.00	7
1-14	7%	Danny Gilligan ¹	.....Gordon Elliott	1-12	8%	-8.00	5
1-17	6%	Tom Cannon ¹	.....	0-0	0%	-13.50	11
1-19	5%	Sean Flanagan ¹	.....	0-0	0%	+62.00	18
1-19	5%	Gavin Sheehan ²	.....Jamie Snowden	1-9	11%	-2.00	7
1-20	5%	Sam Ewing ³	.....Gordon Elliott	1-16	6%	+14.00	4
1-25	4%	Brian Hayes ²	.....W P Mullins	0-21	0%	-22.12	11
1-27	4%	J J Slevin ²	.....Joseph Patrick O'Brien	0-21	5%	-17.00	9
1-29	3%	Darragh O'Keefe ²	.....Henry de Bromhead	1-16	6%	-6.00	14
1-31	3%	Charlie Deutsch ²	.....Venetia Williams	1-27	4%	-27.75	22
1-40	3%	Sam Twiston-Davies ²	.....James Owen	0-2	0%	-31.00	21
0-30	0%	Jonjo O'Neill Jr ¹	.....W P Mullins	0-2	0%	-30.00	30
0-22	0%	Sean Bowen ²	.....John C McConnell	0-3	0%	-22.00	22
0-19	0%	Brendan Powell ¹	.....Joe Tizzard	0-10	0%	-19.00	19
0-11	0%	Mr R James ¹	.....	0-0	0%	-11.00	11
0-9	0%	Mr B O'Neill ¹	.....	0-0	0%	-9.00	9
0-7	0%	Miss Gina Andrews ¹	.....	0-0	0%	-7.00	7
0-6	0%	Bryan Carver ¹	.....Chris Honour	0-3	0%	-6.00	6
0-6	0%	Freddie Gillen ¹	.....	0-0	0%	-6.00	6
0-6	0%	Stan Sheppard ¹	.....Tom Lacey	0-5	0%	-6.00	6
0-5	0%	Mr Jack Andrews ¹	.....	0-0	0%	-5.00	5
0-5	0%	Niall Houlihan ¹	.....	0-0	0%	-5.00	5
0-4	0%	Tristan Durrell ¹Dan Skelton	0-4	0%	-4.00	4
0-4	0%	Freddie Gordon ²Nicky Henderson	0-2	0%	-4.00	4
















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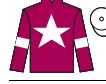



LEG 6

5.20
RACE 7

Martin Pipe Conditional Jockeys' RTV Handicap Hurdle (GBB Race) (Class 2)
Winner £39,022.50 (2m 4f 56y) 2m4¹/₂f New

£75,000 Total Race Value For 4yo+ Rated 0-145 which before February 24th, 2025, have started in a minimum of five hurdles in Great Britain, Ireland or France **Weights** highest weight 11st 12lb **Minimum Weight** 10-2 **Penalties** after February 23rd, a winner of a hurdle 5lb (no penalty to increase a horse's weight above 11st 12lb) **Tounsivator's Handicap Mark** 145 **pay** £95 **Confirmed** 47 **pay** £280.00 **Penalty value** 1st £39,022.50 2nd £17,940 3rd £8,970 4th £4,485 5th £2,242.50 6th £1,117.50

	7215197 1	TOUNSIVATOR (FR) ^{40 S1} <i>ch g Motivator-Tounsi</i> W P Mullins (IRE) Temple Bloodstock Tounsivator Syndicate	6 11-12	¹ Kieran Callaghan (142)
	11111-1 2	WODHOOH (FR) ^{90 S1 CD1} <i>b m Le Havre-Dhan</i> Gordon Elliott (IRE) The Sundowners Partnership	5 11-8	Danny Gilligan (140)
	837-574 3	NO ORDINARY JOE (IRE) ^{ITF 34 D2 S2} <i>b g Getaway-Shadow Dearg</i> Nicky Henderson John P McManus	t 9 11-5	¹ Freddie Gingell (151)
	6-13121 4	NO QUESTIONS ASKED (IRE) ^{23 S1} <i>ch g Ask-Fancy Fashion</i> Ben Pauling Newton Ldp Ltd	7 11-5	Callum Pritchard (146)
	112123F 5	MINELLA SIXO (IRE) ²⁷ <i>b g Shantou-Glorious Twelfth</i> Gordon Elliott (IRE) Sierra Pacific & Pioneer Racing	6 11-4	¹ Jake Coen (144)
	5-2P210 6	THE ENABLER (IRE) ^{ITF 40 D1 S2} <i>b g Walk In The Park-Nanny Stone</i> Gordon Elliott (IRE) Gigginstown House Stud	6 11-3	¹ James Smith (139)
	-3P2315 7	UNCLE BERT ^{27 D3 S5} <i>b g Pether's Moon-Azza</i> Nigel Twiston-Davies James & Jean Potter Ltd	8 11-3	James Turner (143)
	3211-1 8	KOPECK DE MEE (FR) ^{310 S3} <i>ch g Masterstroke-Tartine</i> W P Mullins ¹ (IRE) John P McManus	5 11-3	¹ Aidan Kelly (139)
	2-21233 9	TAPONTHEGO (IRE) ^{22 D1 S1} <i>b g Champs Elysees-Presenting Proform</i> Henry de Bromhead (IRE) Both Sides Of The Water Synd	6 11-2	Mike O'Connor (146)
	35-147 10	KARAFON (FR) ^{40 D1} <i>b g Karakter-Labartoli</i> W P Mullins (IRE) Simon Munir & Isaac Souede	5 11-2	¹ Tiernan Power Roche (140)
	41-5P20 11	PUSH THE BUTTON (IRE) ^{ITF 33 D2 S1} <i>gr g Kingston Hill-Tara Rose</i> Nigel Twiston-Davies Jimmy & Susie Wenman	p 6 11-2	Finn Lambert (146)
	6-91143 12	ACT OF AUTHORITY (FR) ^{34 D3 S3} <i>b g Authorized-Leah Claire</i> Oilly Murphy Mrs Diana L Whateley	7 11-1	Lewis Saunders (145)
	24/711- 13	NURSE SUSAN (FR) ^{418 S2 CD1} <i>ch m Doctor Dino-Hembra</i> Dan Skelton Colm Donlon	8 11-0	¹ Tristan Durrell (150)

	1-21467 14	DOYEN QUEST (IRE) ^{ITF 20 BF S1 CD1} <i>ch g Doyen-Queen Of Questions</i> Dan Skelton Exors Of The Late N W Lake	p ¹ 7 11-0	¹ Harry Atkins (149)
	0-21351 15	ELECTRIC MASON (IRE) ^{47 S2} <i>b g Sandmason-Eclectica Girl</i> Chris Gordon KTD A Racing And Mrs Nicola Morris	6 10-13	¹ Caolin Quinn (149)
	0061022 16	PARK OF KINGS (IRE) ^{75 D1 S1} <i>b g Walk In The Park-I'm All You Need</i> Paul Nolan (IRE) John P McManus	t 7 10-13	Conor Stone-Walsh (136)
	4451P-5 17	RAGLAN ROAD (IRE) ^{55 S1} <i>b g Soldier Of Fortune-Akilyna</i> Henry de Bromhead (IRE) John P McManus	7 10-12	¹ Gavin Brouder (142)
	1F/OPP- 18	FLASH COLLONGES (FR) ^{1469 (3210) D1} <i>b g Saddler Maker-Prouesse Collonges</i> Sophie Leech ¹ G Thompson	tp 10 10-12	¹ Jack Hogan
	/855-43 19	PUNCTUATION ^{20 D1 S4} <i>b g Dansill-Key Point</i> Nicky Henderson Grant Leon	t 8 10-12	¹ Freddie Mitchell (148)
	21620 20	STORMBREAKER ^{40 S1} <i>b g Proconsul-Shadows' Whispers</i> W P Mullins (IRE) Bronsan Racing	ht 6 10-11	¹ Sean Cleary-Farrell (143)
	3212120 21	MORDOR (FR) ⁴¹ <i>b g Roaring Lion-Secrete</i> Gordon Elliott (IRE) R Stokes	5 10-11	¹ Tom Harney (145)
	142-U11 22	EAST INDIA EXPRESS (IRE) ^{78 D2} <i>b g Milan-Roztoc</i> Nicky Henderson Eic Racing & Table Five	6 10-10	Freddie Gordon (147)
	6094600 23	HARSH ^{19 D1 S1} <i>gr g Dark Angel-Andry Brusselles</i> Gordon Elliott (IRE) Gigginstown House Stud	p 5 10-9	¹ Finn Brickley (143)
	3P60/6- 24	WILDE ABOUT OSCAR (IRE) ^{633 D2 S2} <i>b g Oscar-Baie Barbara</i> Sophie Leech ¹ G Thompson	tp ¹ 10 10-7	¹ Dylan Johnston
	114-202 R25	ASTON MARTINI ^{ITF 55 D1 S1} <i>b m Getaway-Gabriella Rose</i> Nicky Henderson HP Racing Aston Martini	p ¹ 6 10-7	¹ Ben Bromley (149)
	30/0213 R26	TIMMY TUESDAY (IRE) ^{33 D1 S1} <i>b g Mahler-Bonmahon</i> Gordon Elliott (IRE) D Barnard & N Courtney & C Moran	7 10-6	¹ Sarah Kavanagh (146)

2024 (21 ran) Better Days Ahead Gordon Elliott 6 11-7 5/1 Danny Gilligan OR140

BETTING FORECAST 9-4 Kopeck de Mee, 7-2 Wodhooh, 8 Taponthego, 10 East India Express, No Ordinary Joe, 12 Park Of Kings, 14 Karafon, Minella Sixo, 16 The Enabler, 20 No Questions Asked, 25 Act Of Authority, Electric Mason, Raglan Road, 33 Aston Martini, Nurse Susan, Punctuation, Stormbreaker, Timmy Tuesday, Tounsivator, Uncle Bert, 40 Doyen Quest, Push The Button, 50 Flash Collonges, Harsh, 66 Mordor, Wilde About Oscar.

SPOTLIGHT

Tounsivator Interesting on the bare form of his 2m Grade 2 novice win at Fairyhouse (turned over Romeo Coolio) in December; weighted accordingly, however, and failed to convince with stamina over 2m4f on penultimate start; something to prove.



Woodhooh Successful in useful mares' handicap over C&D (good to soft; first go beyond 2m1f; ridden by Danny Gilligan) in sole start this term, taking hurdles record to 6-6, and the form has worked out very well (next three home have won notable prizes since); much respected even though she's up 11lb.

No Ordinary Joe On a ten-race losing sequence that goes back to December 2022; however, ran well (second off 1lb higher) in this race in 2023 and had an excuse (stable under a big cloud) when only seventh last year; tongue-tie now fitted; capable of being involved.

No Questions Asked Record of 4-7 under rules, all wins at about 2m; close second in 2m3f Listed contest at Huntingdon (good to soft) on penultimate start but a 14lb rise for that effort could prove overly harsh and this is a stiffer test all round.

Minella Sixo Niggled along but still in touch when falling three out at Haydock (3m) last time; consistent (12123) otherwise over hurdles and has Graded form; solid second, behind notable rival, in sole Cheltenham start (good) and only attempt over 2m4f; firmly in calculations.

The Enabler Campaigned mostly at 2m; successful in 2m4f maiden at Leopardstown (good to yielding) on penultimate outing but was all out and just held on; may succumb to stronger finishers up the hill in this much deeper contest back up in trip.

Uncle Bert Record of 3-7 under James Turner, the wins over 2m3f last season and 3m on penultimate outing (all on soft ground); ran creditably over the latter trip last time; remains on career-high mark and others are likely to prove better handicapped.

Kopeck de Mee Progressive hurdles form in France culminated in a hat-trick last spring, the final leg in Listed event at Auteuil (2m2f, very soft; won going away); potentially on a lenient opening mark and, in keeping with the ante-post betting, looks very interesting on debut for Willie Mullins.

Taponthego Last two efforts (2m; latest under Mike O'Connor) suggest he'll relish this step back up in distance; solid form in two attempts over 2m4f, winning Tipperary maiden (soft) then good second in Leopardstown handicap (good to yielding); interesting, with a resumption of progress on the cards.

Karafon Scored comfortably over 2m3f at Clonmel (yielding) on second run for Willie Mullins; subsequent 2m Grade 1 efforts suggest he's not up to that standard and this handicap target is more suitable; may show progress back up in distance; one to consider.

Push The Button Ran well at Cheltenham (fifth over 2m4f) in October and Windsor (close second over 3m) in January; inconsistent otherwise this term and this looks a stiffer task; however, it's worth noting that he is 2-2 under Finn Lambert.

Act Of Authority Solid record under Lewis Saunders comprises two Class 3 wins (at about 2m4f) in November and a creditable third last time; however, remains on career-high mark and faces a tougher assignment in this hot race.

Nurse Susan Lightly raced 8yo mare whose record of 2-2 since handicapping includes a C&D success in December 2023 (followed up at Lingfield); looked open to further progress but has been absent for 14 months; heed the market signals.

Doyn Quest Productive spell featured wins at Cheltenham (2m4f/3m, good) last April/November; no further progress since, including here, and was a disappointing favourite at Kempton most recently; headgear now applied; difficult task off current mark.

Electric Mason Straightforward task at Fontwell (2m3f) last time; raised a total of 15lb for two Newbury efforts that may not be entirely solid, so has something to prove off this mark in a warm contest on handicap debut.

Park Of Kings Record of 3-17 over hurdles, the most recent win in October; good second in Listed handicaps kept to 2m4f the last time, finishing strongly at Leopardstown (good to yielding) in December latest; should go well, provided the form is sustained.

Raglan Road Raced only on soft/heavy; encouraging form in two handicaps at this sort of distance, winning at Naas 12 months ago and keeping-on fifth in big field at Navan in sole outing this term (wore tongue tie, absent today); still unexposed over 2m4f and could go well.

Flash Collonges Completely lost his form over fences last season and was sold out of Paul Nicholls' yard for £14,000 in July; not seen over hurdles since winning at Kelso (2m5f) four years ago; on a handy mark but has enough to prove on belated reappearance.

Punctuation Respectable strike-rate (Flat/hurdles) during his spell with Fergal O'Brien; encouraging placed effort at Kempton (2m5f; second run for new yard) most recently; won a race of this nature at Aintree (2m, soft; off 2lb lower) two years ago.

Stormbreaker Flat winner for previous yard and has scored over hurdles (2m2f) since joining Willie Mullins; however, lacked fluency and ran poorly in Dublin Racing Festival handicap (2m) last time; needs improvement back up in trip.

Mordor Soundly beaten over 3m (first attempt beyond 2m2f) last month on return from break; may have a better chance of staying this trip but the form of his summer wins is a world away from Cheltenham Festival standard.

East India Express Two from two since switched to handicap level, namely a quickfire 2m5f double under Freddie Gordon at Ascot (good to soft) and Kempton (good) in December; those wins took his overall record to 4-7; open to further improvement and is one for the shortlist.

Harsh Form for previous stable featured a good fourth in the 4yo handicap at this meeting 12 months ago and success at Punchestown (2m3f); inconsistent for new yard and failed to beat a rival the last time (2m7f); others preferred.

Wilde About Oscar Useful for Dan Skelton early in career but became largely disappointing and has been absent since a heavy defeat in France for Rebecca Menzies in June 2023; sold for £20,000 that August; cheekpieces reapplied; best watched.

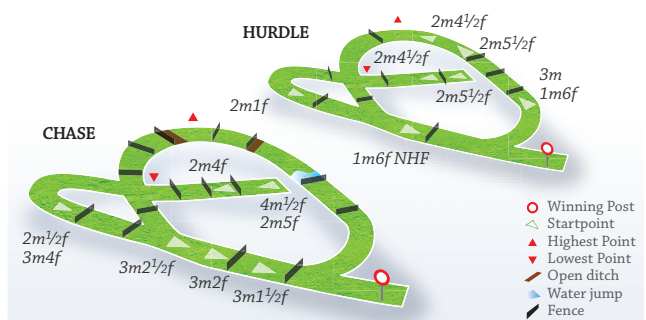
Aston Martini Reserve; record of 3-4 in her first season (2023-24); good second in two of her three starts this term, latest at Ascot (2m3f); chance of going one better in this field partly depends on how well she responds to first-time headgear.

Timmy Tuesday Reserve; quirky in 2022 (ran out twice) but has looked more straightforward since returning from long absence and sole handicap attempt resulted in 2m4f Ayr win (ran creditably at Exeter since); now goes into much deeper waters.

VERDICT This year's Martin Pipe partly revolves around whether **Kopeck De Mee**, who could be very well treated, lives up to expectations on his debut for Willie Mullins. That progressive ex-French runner has to be feared, while unbeaten hurdler **Woodhooh** is another highly obvious player, as the early betting reflects. There are several plausible alternatives among the remainder, most notably **TAPONTHEGO** who has solid 2m4f form and looks very interesting returned to this distance with further improvement still possible. Second choice is **Minella Sixo**, who ran well behind a subsequent Grade 1 winner in his sole Cheltenham outing. **East India Express**, who has made a great start to his handicap career, looks the pick of the British contenders. [Steve Broom]

POSTDATA Act Of Authority **RP RATING** No Ordinary Joe

CHEL TENHAM DETAILS



Left-handed, galloping, undulating and testing track with stiff fences. Old course has circuit of 1m4f with new course 1/2f longer. Only two hurdles in final 7f on New course

ADDRESS: The Racecourse, Prestbury Park, Cheltenham, Gloucester GL50 4SH.
Going & Doubtful Weather: <https://www.thejockeyclub.co.uk/cheltenham/> **Admission:** see <http://cheltenham.reception@thejockeyclub.co.uk>. 01242 513014 **Disabled:** Facilities available

HOW TO GET THERE: Road 1 1/2m N of town on A435; M5 Jctn 10 or 11 **Rail:** Cheltenham (Lansdowne Station), fee-paying shuttle bus operating to and from station. **Bus:** Stagecoach running buses from town centre outside W H Smith during Festival - £2.50 single fare, £4.50 return.

OFFICIALS: Starters: James Stenning, Robert Supple, Sophia Upton, William Jordan **Judge:** D Hicks, N Bostock **Clerk of the Scales:** C Hill, R Cuthbert **Clerk of the Course:** Jon Pullin

DISTANCE(Obstacles)	RECORD HOLDER	COURSE RECORD	R.P.STANDARD
2m179y (N) (H) (8) ...	Moody Man (15-03-90)	3m 51.20s	3m 57.00s
2m179y (N) (H) (8) ...	Detroit City I (17-03-06)	3m 51.20s	3m 57.00s
2m4f56y (N) (H) (10)	William Henry (19-04-17)	4m 48.80s	4m 50.00s
2m4f127y (N) (C) (17)	.....	.....	5m 8.00s
2m7f213y (N) (H) (12)	Bacchanal (IRE) (16-03-00)	5m 36.60s	5m 46.00s
3m2f70y (N) (C) (22)	Long Run (FR) (18-03-11)	6m 29.70s	6m 46.00s

First time gelding explained

g¹ in the pedigree indicates a horse running as a gelding for the first time.





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Placings: 32
OR118 Starts 1st 2nd 3rd Win & Pl
All Jumps races..... 2 - 1 1 £8,578
V Soft 0-1-1 Heavy 0-1-1 Leth 0-1-1 RightH 0-1-1

5 Feb Fairyhouse 2m Inner Mdn Hdl (M) £4,876
12 ran HEAVY 6hds Time 4m 11.50s (slw 34.50s)
1 Karoline Banbou 5 11-7Mark Walsh 4/9F
2 **PLACE DE LA NATION** 4 10-1Sean O'Keefe 100/30
prominent, outpaced when left in second and hampered by faller 2 out, kept on well towards finish, no match for winner
btn 2¹/₂ lgths [RPR97 ts72] [tchd 7/2]
3 Glens Lullaby 6 11-7Sean Flanagan 14/1
Dist: 2¹/₂-17-3¹/₂-2¹/₂-13 RACE RPR: 127 +/97/100
NEXT RUN: First 3 w0 p0 u1 Also rans w1 p0 u4

Poniros (11) 11-2
4-y-o b g Golden Horn - Rue Penan (Lope de Vega)
W P Mullins (IRE) Jonjo O'Neill Jr

F91
Flat form
28 Sep 24 Newmarket 1m1f Row Cls2 86-105 Hcap £90,195
31 ran SOFT Time 1m 50.67s (slw 1.47s)
1 Liberty Lane 4 9-12Clifford Lee 4/8/1
2 James McHenry 4 8-13 Callum Rodriguez 2/20/1
3 Toimny Son 5 9-2William Buick 11/28/1
22 **PONIROs** 3 8-7David Egan 16/6/1F
ducked left start, bumped start, raced centre, in touch with leaders, lost position over 2f out, 8th of 12 in group
btn 12¹/₂ lgths [RPR77 ts67 or91] [op 7/1]
Dist: 2¹/₂-nk-1-1³/₄-1 RACE RPR: 117/99/101
●NEXT RUN: First 3 w0 p1 u1 Also rans w4 p4 u12

Sainte Lucie (18) 10-9
4-y-o b f Great Pretender - Sainte Folie (Saint Des Saints)
W P Mullins (IRE) Danny Mullins
Placings: 3-18
OR131 Starts 1st 2nd 3rd Win & Pl
All Jumps races..... 3 1 - 1 £13,421
12/24 Punc 2m1st Mdn Hdl 3yo yld-sft.....£6,413
Yld-Sft 1-0-1 Soft 0-0-1 Heavy 0-1-1 Dist 1-0-2 Leth 0-1-2 RightH 1-0-1

1 Feb Leopardstown 8th, see HELLO NEIGHBOUR
Too Bossy For Us (12) 11-2
4-y-o b g Golden Horn - Above The Clouds (High Chaparral)
W P Mullins (IRE) Harry Cobden
F89

Flat form
7 Sep 24 Haydock 1m6f Cls2 73-91 3yo Hcap £51,540
10 ran GOOD Time 3m 4.54s (slw 6.24s)
1 Master Builder 3 9-6William Buick 8/31F
2 Contacto 3 9-2Oisín Murphy 9/9/2
3 Hutchee 3 9-6 v1Rossa Ryan 6/13/2
4 **TOO BOSSY FOR US** 3 9-7 p1 Jim Crowley 3/6/1
held up in midfield, headway over 1f out, ridden and challenging 1f out, no extra inside final 110yds
btn 3 lgths [RPR95 ts57 or89] [op 13/2 tchd 7/1]
Dist: 2¹/₂-nk-1³/₂-3¹/₂-hd RACE RPR: 99 +/92/95
NEXT RUN: First 3 w1 p0 u1 Also rans w0 p1 u4

Willy de Houelle (13) 11-2
4-y-o gr g Beaumeac de Houelle - Belle Attitude (So You Think)
W P Mullins (IRE) Brian Hayes
Placings: 12-264
OR140 Starts 1st 2nd 3rd Win & Pl
All Jumps races..... 5 1 2 - £51,093
3/24 Comp 2m Hdl 3yo heavy.....£23,600
Yld 0-1-2 Soft 0-0-1 V Soft 0-1-1 Heavy 1-0-1 Dist 1-1-4 Leth 0-1-3 RightH 0-1-1 TmOfR 1-0-1 Hood 1-1-4 T-strp 1-1-3 Jockey 0-0-1

1 Feb Leopardstown 4th, see HELLO NEIGHBOUR
2.00
2m1f Cls1 Gd3 Hdl 5yo+ Hcap
Value £61,897 16 declared

Absurde (2) 11-8
7-y-o b g Fastnet Rock - Incroyable (Singspiel)
W P Mullins (IRE) Danny Mullins
Placings: 16P41-
OR146F10 Starts 1st 2nd 3rd Win & Pl
All Jumps races..... 5 2 - - £68,062
138 3/24 Chel 2m1f Cls1 Gd3 130-156 Hdl Hcap heavy.....£56,270
5/23 Kiny 2m4f Nov Hdl good.....£26,265
Total win prize-money £62,535
Good 1-0-1 Yld 0-0-1 Soft 0-0-1 Heavy 1-0-2 Class 1-1-0-1 Course 1-0-1 Dist 1-0-4 Leth 2-0-4 RightH 0-0-1 TmOfR 1-0-1 Jockey 0-0-1

15 Mar 24 Cheltenham 2m1f New Cls1 Gd3 130-156 Hdl Hcap £56,270
17 ran HEAVY 8hds Time 4m 25.10s (slw 28.10s)
1 **ABSURDE** 6 10-10Paul Townend 12/1
held up in last, still plenty to do but going easily when mistake 2 out, good headway but not fluent when went third last, ran on well to lead towards finish, cosily
[RPR145 ts81 or138] [op 16/1]
2 L'Éau Du Sud 6 10-7 tHarry Skelton 7/2F
3 Pied Piper 6 11-11 tDanny Gilligan (3) 14/1
Dist: 1-3¹/₄-nse-shd-nk RACE RPR: 145 +/140 +/157 +
NEXT RUN: First 3 w0 p0 u2 Also rans w0 p5 u6

Flat form
5 Nov 24 Flemington 2m Gd1 Hcap £2,352,941
23 ran GOOD Time 3m 19.53s
1 Knight's Choice 5 8-2 tRobbie Dolan 5/90/1
2 Warp Speed 5 8-8 bAkira Sugawara 2/25/1
3 Okita Souchi 6 8-0 t ex2Jamie Kah 9/18/1
5 **ABSURDE** 6 8-4Kerrin McEvoy 6/9/1
raced in final quarter, plenty to do 3f out, third last 2 1/2f out, headway on inner 2f out, slightly impeded and switched right over 1 1/2f out, stayed on for pressure final furlong, not pace to challenge btn 1³/₄ lgths [RPR115]
Dist: shd-³/₄-1¹/₂-1¹/₂-1 RACE RPR: 115/121/112

Cracking Rhapsody (9) 10-13
6-y-o b g Sans Frontieres - Cracking Gale (Alderbrook)
Ewan Whillans Craig Nichol
Placings: 6/14122113-40101
OR137 Starts 1st 2nd 3rd Win & Pl
Hurdles..... 11 5 2 1 £162,212
All Jumps races..... 14 6 2 1 £165,249
132 3/25 Kels 2m Cls2 120-140 Hdl Hcap gd-sft £61,728
12/24 Kels 2m Cls3 108-134 Hdl Hcap sft.....£9,242
119 3/24 Kels 2m Cls2 119-139 Hdl Hcap gd-sft £61,728
115 2/24 Kels 2m Cls3 115-132 Hdl Hcap sft.....£7,922
11/23 Hexm 2m Cls4 Nov Hdl 4-6yo heavy.....£4,901

6/23 Prth 2m Cls4 NHF 4-5yo gd-sft.....£2,723
Total win prize-money £148,244
Good 0-0-3 Gd-SR 3-1-4 Soft 2-1-5 Heavy 1-0-2
Class 1-0-1-2 Course 0-0-1 Dist 6-2-14 Leth 5-1-11
RightH 1-1-3 TmOfR 2-0-2 Jockey 4-2-11

1 Mar Kelso 2m Cls2 120-140 Hdl Hcap £61,728
18 ran Gd-SFT 7hds Time 3m 53.91s (slw 13.91s)
1 **CRACKING RHAPSODY** 6 11-6 Craig Nichol 12/1
midfield, headway after 2 out (usual 3) out, went second approaching last, ridden and led run-in, kept on [RPR136 ts117 or132] [op 14/1]
2 Alinam 6 11-7 h w2Sean Quinlan 16/1
3 Old Gregorian 6 10-2 t .Conner McCann (7) 12/1
Dist: 1¹/₄-1¹/₄-5¹/₂-1³/₄-5¹/₂ RACE RPR: 136/136/123
NEXT RUN: First 3 w0 p0 u0 Also rans w0 p0 u0

Daddy Long Legs (1) 12-0
6-y-o ch g Almazan - Private Eye (American Post)
W P Mullins (IRE) Sean O'Keefe
Placings: 1P61-1501352
or152 Starts 1st 2nd 3rd Win & Pl
All Jumps races..... 11 4 1 1 £94,917
10/24 Tipp 2m Gd3 Hdl gd-yld.....£19,239
135 4/24 Punc 2m1st List 125-143 Hdl Hcap yld £25,652
4/24 Ludl 2m Cls4 Nov Hdl good.....£4,357
11/23 Thur 2m1st Mdn Hdl yld.....£5,221
Total win prize-money £54,469
Good 1-0-2 Gd-Yld 1-0-2 Yld 2-0-3 Soft 0-0-1 Heavy 0-0-1 Dist 3-1-10 Leth 1-1-5 RightH 3-0-6 Jockey 0-1-1

2 Feb Leopardstown 2m Gd1 Hdl £92,562
5 ran SOFT 9hds Time 4m 2.10s (slw 12.10s)
1 State Man 8 11-12Paul Townend 5/4
2 **DADDY LONG LEGS** 6 11-12 Sean O'Keefe 40/1
raced in last, left in remote fourth 4 out, headway and chased clear leader on turn before last, kept on run-in, never near to challenge
btn 6¹/₂ lgths [RPR150 ts110 or147] [op 50/1]
3 Winter Fog 11 11-12Mr P W Mullins 28/1
4 **FILS D'OUAIREs** 10 11-12 ..Sam Ewing 80/1
jumped right on occasions, towards rear, left in remote second 4 out, weakened on turn before last btn 28¹/₂ lgths [RPR128 ts82 or144]
Dist: 6¹/₂-9-13 RACE RPR: 162 +/150 +/141
NEXT RUN: First 3 w0 p0 u2 Also rans w1 p0 u0

1 Aug 24 Galway 19th, see NDAAWI
Ethical Diamond (4) 11-5
5-y-o b g Awtaad - Pearl Diamond (Aerion)
W P Mullins (IRE) Mr P W Mullins
Placings: 060-01
or143F96 Starts 1st 2nd 3rd Win & Pl
All Jumps races..... 5 1 - - £7,155
2/25 Punc 2m Mdn Hdl heavy.....£5,851
Yld 0-0-1 Soft 0-0-1 Heavy 1-0-3 Class 1-0-0-1 Course 0-0-1 Dist 1-0-5 LeftH 0-0-4 RightH 1-0-1 TmOfR 0-0-1 Hood 1-0-2

3 Feb Punchestown 2m Mdn Hdl £5,851
22 ran HEAVY Time 4m 19.07s (slw 32.87s)
1 **ETHICAL DIAMOND** 5 11-12 hPaul Townend 8/11F
made all, jumped left on occasions, faced challenge when reminder home turn, went clear when pushed along approaching last, ran on, comfortably [RPR138 ts116 or131] [op 11/8]
2 Kainsbourg 5 11-12Jody McGarvey 5/1
3 Dont Tell Jack 5 11-12Mark Walsh 9/4
Dist: 10-5¹/₂-3-4¹/₂ RACE RPR: 138 +/125 +/120
●NEXT RUN: First 3 w0 p0 u2 Also rans w0 p1 u3

27 Dec 24 Leopardstown 15th, see PINOT GRIS
Fils d'Oudairies (3) 11-7
10-y-o b g Saint Des Saints - Pythie d'Oudairies (Gordon Tregor)
Grand Elliott (IRE) Sam Ewing
Placings: 5520145/F110134-4P44
OR145 Starts 1st 2nd 3rd Win & Pl
Hurdles..... 19 5 4 1 £171,504
All Jumps races..... 30 6 5 1 £192,281
10/23 Tipp 2m Gd3 Hdl soft.....£19,580
7/23 Tipp 2m Gd3 Hdl gd-yld.....£36,549
5/23 Balm 2m2¹/₂ Hdl good.....£38,093
3/23 Leop 2m2¹/₂ Hdl yld.....£38,876
12/20 Navn 2m4f Nov Ch heavy.....£10,500
11/19 Auto 2m1¹/₂ Hdl 4yo heavy.....£19,459
Total win prize-money £103,057
Good 1-1-3 Gd-Yld 1-1-4 Yld 1-0-4 Gd-Sft 0-1-2 Yld-Sft 0-0-2 Soft 1-1-8 Sft-Hvy 0-0-1 V Soft 0-0-1 Heavy 2-1-4 Class 1-0-1-3 Course 0-0-2 Dist 3-1-14 Leth 5-2-17 RightH 1-3-11 TmOfR 1-0-2 Jockey 0-0-3

2 Feb Leopardstown 4th, see DADDY LONG LEGS
Hansard (6) 11-4
7-y-o b g The Gurkha - Quiet Down (Quiet American)
Gary & Josh Moore Niall Houlihan
Placings: 4361/1154/215-483
or142 Starts 1st 2nd 3rd Win & Pl
Hurdles..... 10 3 1 1 £73,232
All Jumps races..... 14 4 1 2 £79,669
138 12/23 Newb 2m1st Cls1 Gd3 116-138 Hdl Hcap gd-sft.....£28,475
1/22 Plum 2m Cls4 Nov Hdl soft.....£4,225
1/23 Htm 2m Cls4 Nov Hdl good.....£4,901
4/22 Balm 1m7¹/₂ NHF 4yo gd-yld.....£5,206
Total win prize-money £42,807
Good 1-0-4 Gd-Yld 1-0-1 Gd-Sft 1-0-5 Soft 1-0-4 Class 1-1-0-6 Dist 2-0-7 Leth 2-0-5 RightH 2-0-9 TmOfR 0-0-1 Jockey 1-0-5

15 Feb Wincanton 1m7f Cls1 Gd2 Hdl £41,608
4 ran Gd-SFT 8hds Time 3m 56.00s (slw 30.00s)
1 Golden Ace 7 11-8Lorcan Williams 6/5F
2 Burdett Road 5 11-8Sam Twiston-Davies 6/4
3 **HANSARD** 7 11-8Niall Houlihan 14/1
raced in last but in touch with leaders, slightly hampered 1st, not fluent 4 out, not fluent 3 out, headway before 2 out, soon challenging, briefly led after 2 out, weakened gradually run-in
btn 4¹/₂ lgths [RPR146 ts82 or140] [op 10/1 tchd 16/1]
Dist: ³/₄-4-12 RACE RPR: 141/150/146
NEXT RUN: First 3 w1 p1 u0 Also rans w0 p0 u0

27 Dec 24 Kempton 2m Winter Cls3 114-141 Hdl Hcap £11,618
8 ran Gd-SFT 8hds Time 3m 55.1s (slw 14.1s)
1 Ooh Betty 6 11-21Ben Jones 7/1
2 Big Boy Bobby 6 9-13 oh1 Philip Armon (3) 20/1
3 Glory And Fortune 9 10-11 Cameron Iles (7) 14/1
4 **HANSARD** 6 12-1Niall Houlihan 11/1
towards rear, headway 4 out, no impression after 2 out, disputing third last, kept on
btn 4¹/₂ lgths [RPR140 ts96 or141] [op 14/1 tchd 16/1]
7 **VALGRAND** 5 11-11Fergus Gillard 15/2
towards rear, struggling 3 out, weakened home turn (jockey said gelding was never travelling)
btn 28¹/₂ lgths [RPR131 ts62 or137] [op 6/1]
Dist: 1-2¹/₂-1-3¹/₄-13 RACE RPR: 131/116/131
NEXT RUN: First 3 w0 p1 u1 Also rans w0 p0 u2

Irish Panther (14) 10-4
8-y-o b g Lucarno - Tyrana (Acatenango)
Eddie & Patrick Harty (IRE) Cian Cullinan (7)
Placings: 2/232/23-2833
OR128 Starts 1st 2nd 3rd Win & Pl
Hurdles..... 6 - 2 3 £17,439
All Jumps races..... 9 3 - 4 4 £22,673
Gd-Yld 0-1-1 Yld 0-4-4 Soft 0-2-3 Heavy 0-1-1 Dist 0-5-5 Leth 0-4-5 RightH 0-4-4 Hood 0-1-1 T-strp 0-1-1 Jockey 0-1-1



From previous page

Placings: U1P/3F3221PF/111-132

Table with columns: OR, Starts, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Win & Pl. Includes entries for 153 H137, 12/23 Fair, 2/23 Thur, 12/21 Leap, 10/21 Tipp, 8/21 Tram.

Good 2-2-6 Gd-Yld 0-1-2 Yield 2-2-5 Gd-Srt 1-0-4 Yld-Srt 2-1-4 Srt 1-1-2 Srt-Hvy 0-0-1 Heavy 0-0-3

6 Feb Huntingdon 2m4f Cls1 Hst Ch (M) £28,475 4 ran GD-SFT 14fncs Time 5m 10.00s (slw 23.00s)

3 Hautierine 8 11-5 Sean O'Keefe 14/1 Dist: 3 3/4-5 3 3/4 RACE RPR: 151 +/151/144

Dinobluie (1) 11-7

8-y-o ch m Doctor Dino - Blue Aster (Astarabad) W P Mullins (IRE) Mark Walsh

Placings: 94/4122211/1122-3241

Table with columns: OR, Starts, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Win & Pl. Includes entries for 157 H134, 2/25 Naas, 12/23 Leap, 14/7 4/23 Fair, 11/22 Cork, 1/22 Clon.

Gd-Yld 1-0-3 Yield 0-3-4 Yld-Srt 1-2-3 Srt 4-2-7 Heavy 1-0-1 Class 1-0-2-3 Course 0-2-3 Dist 1-0-2

8 Feb Naas 2m List Ch (M) £12,190 3 ran SOFT 9fncs Time 4m 17.00s (slw 25.00s)

10-y-o b m Saddler Maker - Saturne Collonges (Dom Alco) Charlie Deutch

Placings: 31/4141/140P/U19-1PP

Table with columns: OR, Starts, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Win & Pl. Includes entries for 145 H116, 140 11/24 Hayd.

Table with columns: 12/23 Weth, 132 11/22 Hayd, 122 1/22 Ling, 115 11/21 Wwck, 1/21 Leul, 1/20 Leud, 5/19 Le L.

Gd-Sft 1-0-5 Soft 4-1-9 Heavy 2-0-4 Class 1 1-0-6 Course 0-0-2 Dist 2-0-3 Lefth 5-0-13 RightH 2-1-5

15 Feb Haydock 3m4 1/2f Cls1 Gd3 138-164 Ch Hcap £56,950

9 ran GD-SFT 22fncs Time 7m 28.80s (slw 5.60s) 1 Famous Bridge 9 10-2 p1 oh2 Sean Quinlan 6/1

Dist: 3-9 1/2-6 1/2-6-13 RACE RPR: 146 +/143/137 NEXT RUN: First 3 w0 p0 u1 Also rans w0 p0 u0

Je T'ai Porte (6) 11-2

7-y-o b m Footstepsinthesand - Hasanza (Mr Greeley) Gavin Cromwell (IRE) Shane FitzGerald

Placings: 2/193U70344-1210272F

Table with columns: OR, Starts, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Win & Pl. Includes entries for 135 H113, 118 5/24 Balm, 5/23 Clon, 22 Sep 24 Listowel 2m1 1/2f.

Dist: 1 1/2-3 3/4-11-7 1/2 RACE RPR: 151/137/123 NEXT RUN: First 3 w1 p0 u1 Also rans w0 p1 u4

Limerick Lace (3) 11-5

8-y-o b m Walk In The Park - Sway (Califat) Gavin Cromwell (IRE) Jack Kennedy

Placings: 21F/9521123/12110-52

Table with columns: OR, Starts, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Win & Pl. Includes entries for 151 H120, 3/24 Cheil, 12/23 Donc, 10/23 Dnc, 135 2/23 Naas, 1/23 Droy, 1/22 Punc, 3/21 Punc.

Gd-Yld 0-0-1 Yield 1-1-4 Gd-Srt 1-0-1 Yld-Srt 0-1-1 Soft 3-1-8 Srt-Hvy 0-2-3 Heavy 2-0-2 Class 1 2-0-4

1 Jan Fairyhouse 2nd, see ALLEGORIE DE VASSY

Mayhem Mya (7) 11-2

8-y-o b m Authorized - Thedebotheyear (Sir Harry Lewis) Chris Honour Bryan Carver

Placings: /U4217/421P24-4PU126

Table with columns: OR, Starts, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Win & Pl. Includes entries for 123 H118, 116 1/24 Extr, 115 3/23 Sand, 1/22 Chp, 1/21 Tmn, 11/20 Wwck.

Good 0-0-4 Gd-Srt 2-2-8 Sft 4-2-11 V Soft 0-0-1 Heavy 0-0-1 Class 1 0-1-6 Course 0-0-3 Dist 0-1-3

9 Feb Exeter 2m7f Cls2 119-135 Hdl Hcap £17,690 12 ran GD-SFT 12hds Time 6m 3.97s (slw 37.97s)

Dist: 2 3/4-2 3/4-2 3/4-2 3/4-3 RACE RPR: 127 +/137/136 NEXT RUN: First 3 w0 p0 u0 Also rans w0 p0 u2

Royale Margaux (8) 11-2

7-y-o ch m Doctor Dino - Royale Cazoumaille (Viliez) Tom Symonds Ben Poste

Placings: 4155P42/82543-472431

Table with columns: OR, Starts, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Win & Pl. Includes entries for 126 H126, 2/25 Wwck, 9/22 Mera, 6/22 Autl, 3/22 Comp, 9/21 Autl, 7/21 Claf, 6/21 Diep, 5/21 Dax.

Good 0-3-5 Gd-Srt 0-1-5 Soft 1-1-4 V Soft 1-0-6 Heavy 2-0-4 Class 1 1-0-4 Course 0-3-6 Dist 1-1-8 Lefth 3-3-15

8 Feb Warwick 2m5f Inner Cls1 List Hdl (M) £17,165 6 ran SOFT 11hds Time 5m 11.27s (slw 23.27s)

Dist: 4 1/2-1 1/2-1 RACE RPR: 127 +/122/124 + NEXT RUN: First 3 w0 p0 u2 Also rans w0 p0 u1

Shecouldbeanything (9) 11-2

8-y-o b m Malinas - Culmore Girl (Chevalier) Gordon Elliott (IRE) Sam Ewing

Placings: 1/151340-3129211153

Table with columns: OR, Starts, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Win & Pl. Includes entries for 140 H136, 11/24 Bang, 10/24 Clon, 10/24 Tipp, 9/24 List, 6/24 List, 129 8/23 Kiny.

Table with columns: 5/23 Kiny, 4/23 Punc, 12/22 Limk, 11/22 Lmk, 2m NHF soft (M), 2m NHF soft (M).

Good 2-0-4 Gd-Yld 2-1-4 Yield 0-2-3 Yld-Srt 2-1-4 Soft 3-0-6 Srt-Hvy 1-0-1 Heavy 0-0-1 Class 1 1-0-2 Course 0-0-1

27 Dec 24 Limerick 2m6 1/2f Nov Gd2 Ch (M) £21,035 7 ran YLD-SFT 14fncs Time 6m 2.09s (slw 34.09s)

Dist: 3-6-33-27 RACE RPR: 139 +/134 +/131 NEXT RUN: First 3 w0 p2 u0 Also rans w0 p0 u4

Large number 3.20 with text: 3m Cls1 Nov Gd1 Hdl 5yo+ Value £84,405 20 declared

Argento Boy (1) 11-7

6-y-o gr g Jukebox Jury - Backaway (Bob Back) W P Mullins (IRE) Rachael Blackmore

Placings: 10-62P1

Table with columns: OR, Starts, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Win & Pl. Includes entries for 137 Hurdles, 2/25 Punc, 1/24 Fair.

Gd-Yld 0-0-2 Soft 1-1-3 Heavy 1-0-1 Class 1 0-0-1 Course 0-0-1 Dist 1-0-1 Lefth 0-0-2 RightH 2-1-4

3 Feb Punchestown 2m7 1/2f Mdn Hdl £5,851 11 ran HEAVY Time 6m 17.01s (slw 51.51s)

Dist: 15-1-8-39-15 RACE RPR: 134 +/112 +/111 NEXT RUN: First 3 w1 p1 u0 Also rans w1 p0 u3

Ballybow (2) 11-7

6-y-o b g Flemensfirth - Avichi (Yeats) Gordon Elliott (IRE) Sam Ewing

Placings: 202-10211

Table with columns: OR, Starts, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Win & Pl. Includes entries for 137 Hurdles, 2/25 Punc, 1/25 Naas, 10/24 Yld.

Gd-Yld 0-1-1 Yield 1-0-2 Soft 1-0-1 Srt-Hvy 1-0-1 Class 1 0-0-1 Lefth 1-0-1 RightH 2-1-4 Jockey 2-0-3

13 Feb Clonmel 3m Nov Gd3 Hdl £17,066 3 ran SOFT Time 6m 53.80s (slw 1m 16.60s)

1 BALLYBOW 6 11-0 Sam Ewing 5/6F jumped left on occasions, didn't always jump with fluency, made all, increased tempo when faced challenge before 2 out, ridden before last, edged left but kept on well run-in



4 INOTHEWAYURTHINKIN 7 11-10 t
Keith Donoghue 16/1
midfield, not fluent and lost ground 4 out, jumped right 2 out, still plenty to do approaching last, ran on well and went fourth towards finish, not reach leaders
 btn 7¼ lgths [RPR163 ts72 or159] [op 18/1]

5 MONTY'S STAR 8 11-10 Rachael Blackmore 12/1
prominent, went second halfway, weakened approaching last
 btn 7¼ lgths [RPR162 ts72 or153]

Dist: 4¾+shd-2½-nk-3 RACE RPR: 173+/165/165
 NEXT RUN: **First 3** w0 p0 u1 **Also rans** w0 p0 u1

Gentlemansgame (5) 11-10

9-y-o gr g Gentlewave - Grainne Ni Maille (Terimon)
M F Morris (IRE) Darragh O'Keeffe

Placings: 123/2071/31/21P5-433

OR160	Starts	1st	2nd	3rd	Win & Pl
Chase	8	2	1	2	£118,009
All Jumps races	16	4	3	4	£192,061
11/23 Weth	3m Cls1 Gd2 Ch soft				£58,727
12/22 Leap	2m5f Ch soft				£8,676
3/22 Thur	2m7f Hdl good				£5,950
1/21 Cork	2m Mdn Hdl 4-5yo st-hvy				£6,321

Total win prize-money £79,674
 Good 1-0-1 Gd-Yld 0-1-3 Yield 0-2-2 Soft 2-0-7
 St-Hvy 1-1-2 Heavy 0-1-1 Class 1 1-0-4 Course 0-0-2
 Dist 0-0-1 Lefth 2-2-8 Righth 2-3-8 TmOfYr 1-0-2
 Jockey 2-2-7

25 Jan Cheltenham 3m1½f New Cls1 Gd2 Ch £70,338

6 ran SOFT 21fncs Time 6m 48.12s (slw 23.12s)
 1 L'Homme Presse 10 11-4 ..Charlie Deutsch 4/5F
 2 Stage Star 9 11-8Harry Cobden 13/2
 3 **GENTLEMANSGAME** 9 11-10 pDarragh O'Keeffe 7/2

raced in third, not fluent 3rd, not fluent 15th, not fluent 5 out, weakened 2 out
 btn 16¾ lgths [RPR158 ts125 or160]

Dist: ¾+16-7-6½-37 RACE RPR: 166+/169/158
 NEXT RUN: **First 3** w0 p0 u1 **Also rans** w0 p0 u0

Inothewayurthinkin (6) 11-10

7-y-o b g Walk In The Park - Sway (Califet)
Gavin Cromwell (IRE) Mark Walsh

Placings: 11434/223911-754

OR160 H137	Starts	1st	2nd	3rd	Win & Pl
Chase	9	2	2	1	£128,323
All Jumps races	14	4	2	2	£151,368
4/24 Aint	3m1f Cls1 Nov Gd1 Ch soft				£67,843
145 3/24 Chel	3m2f Cls2 127-145 Am Ch Hcap soft				£36,668
11/22 Gowr	2m Nov Hdl 4yo heavy				£6,941
11/22 Cork	2m Mdn Hdl 4yo heavy				£5,950

Total win prize-money £117,402
 Gd-Yld 0-0-2 Yield 0-0-2 Yld-Stp 0-0-1 Soft 2-1-5
 Heavy 2-1-4 Class 1 1-0-1 Course 1-0-1 Dist 1-0-1
 Lefth 2-0-7 Righth 2-2-7 TmOfYr 1-0-1 T-Strp 0-1-4
 Jockey 3-2-5

1 Feb Leopardstown 4th, see GALOPIN DES CHAMPS

Monty's Star (7) 11-10

8-y-o b g Walk In The Park - Tempest Belle (Glacial Storm)
Henry de Bromhead (IRE) Rachael Blackmore

Placings: 224/21P/312-225

OR160 H139	Starts	1st	2nd	3rd	Win & Pl
Chase	6	1	3	1	£77,376
All Jumps races	10	2	4	1	£98,088
12/23 Punc	3m Ch heavy				£6,788
2/23 Clon	3m Nov Gd3 Hdl soft				£18,274

Total win prize-money £25,062
 Yield 0-1-3 Soft 1-3-5 Heavy 1-1-2 Class 1 0-1-2
 Course 0-1-2 Lefth 0-2-5 Righth 2-3-5 TmOfYr 0-1-3
 Jockey 1-5-7

1 Feb Leopardstown 5th, see GALOPIN DES CHAMPS

Royale Pagaille (8) 11-10

11-y-o b g Blue Bresil - Royale Cazoumaille (Villez)
Venetia Williams Charlie Deutsch

Placings: 116/21255/26F/1F-1P6

OR163	Starts	1st	2nd	3rd	Win & Pl
Chase	25	6	6	1	£529,440
All Jumps races	29	7	6	2	£548,980
11/24 Hayd	3m1½f Cls1 Gd1 Ch soft				£116,849
11/23 Hayd	3m1½f Cls1 Gd1 Ch soft				£112,540
163 1/22 Hayd	3m1½f Cls1 Gd2 143-163 Ch Hcap soft				£42,713

156 1/21 Hayd 3m1½f Cls1 Gd2 136-156 Ch Hcap heavy £27,036
140 12/20 Kemp 3m Cls2 129-147 Ch Hcap soft £25,024
12/20 Hayd 2m5f Cls2 Nov Ch heavy £12,021
1/18 Pau 2m1½f Hdl 4yo heavy £13,593
 Total win prize-money £349,776

Gd-Stp 0-2-7 Soft 4-1-8 V Soft 0-1-6 Heavy 2-1-6
Class 1 4-3-14 Course 0-0-4 Dist 4-1-9 Lefth 5-4-22
Righth 1-1-4 TmOfYr 0-1-6 Jockey 5-2-16

15 Feb Haydock 3m4½f Cls1 Gd3 138-164 Ch Hcap £56,950

9 ran GD-SFT 22fncs Time 7m 28.80s (slw 5.80s)
 1 Famous Bridge 9 10-2 p1 oh2 Sean Quinlan 6/1
 2 Apple Away 8 10-2Derek Fox 11/4F
 3 Val Dancer 8 10-2 p oh6 Charlie Hammond 10/1
 6 **ROYALE PAGAILLE** 11 12-0 ..Sean Bowen 12/1
raced wide, midfield early, in touch with leaders 6th, pressed leaders 5 out, lost ground before 4 out, weakened quickly from 3 out
 btn 38 lgths [RPR140 ts107 or164] [op 11/1]
 Dist: 3-9½-6½-6-13 RACE RPR: 146+/143/137
 NEXT RUN: **First 3** w0 p0 u1 **Also rans** w0 p0 u0

The Real Whacker (9) 11-10

9-y-o b g Mahler - Credit Box (Witness Box)
Patrick Neville Brian Hughes

Placings: 612/0111/P42P5-U14

OR159 H136	Starts	1st	2nd	3rd	Win & Pl
Chase	11	4	1	-	£261,308
All Jumps races	15	5	2	-	£271,991
11/24 Weth	3m Cls1 Gd2 Ch good				£56,950
3/23 Chel	3m1½f Cls1 Nov Gd1 Ch soft				£102,095
1/23 Chel	2m4½f Cls1 Nov Gd2 Ch soft				£31,323
11/22 Chel	3m1½f Cls2 Nov Ch good				£13,194
12/21 Carl	3m1f Cls4 Mdn Hdl soft				£4,065

Total win prize-money £207,647
 Good 2-1-7 Gd-Yld 0-0-1 Gd-Stp 0-1-1 Soft 3-0-6
 Class 1 3-2-10 Course 3-1-7 Dist 0-0-1 Lefth 4-2-11
 Righth 1-0-4 TmOfYr 1-0-2 T-Strp 1-0-3 Jockey 1-0-1

26 Dec 24 Kempton 4th, see BANBRIDGE

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