GBI RACING
BRITISH AND IRISH RACING

TIMEFORM 1-2-3

Tuesday 13th March

CHELTENHAM

1.30	SKY BET SUPREME NOVICES' HURDLE (Grade 1) (1) 2m87y (3300 Metres)
RACE 1	(15) SUMMERVILLE BOY (IRE) | (4) GETABIRD (IRE) | (6) KALASHNIKOV (IRE)
2.10	RACING POST ARKLE CHALLENGE TROPHY NOVICES' CHASE (Grade 1) (1) 1m7f199y (3200 Metres)
RACE 2	(2) FOOTPAD (FR) | (3) PETIT MOUCHOIR (FR) | (5) SAINT CALVADOS (FR)
2.50	ULTIMA HANDICAP CHASE (Grade 3) (1) 3m1f (5030 Metres)
RACE 3	(12) COO STAR SIVOLA (FR) | (1) GOLD PRESENT (IRE) | (10) RAMSES DE TEILLEE (FR)
3.30	UNIBET CHAMPION HURDLE CHALLENGE TROPHY (Grade 1) (1) 2m87y (3300 Metres)
RACE 4	(1) BUVEUR D'AIR (FR) | (8) MELON | (10) MY TENT OR YOURS (IRE)
4.10	OLBG MARES' HURDLE (David Nicholson) (Grade 1) (1) 2m3f200y (4010 Metres)
RACE 5	(1) APPLE'S JADE (FR) | (2) BENIE DES DIEUX (FR) | (4) JER'S GIRL (IRE)
4.50	NATIONAL HUNT CHALLENGE CUP AMATEUR RIDERS' NOVICES' CHASE (Grade 2) (1) 3m7f170y (6390 Metres)
RACE 6	(5) JURY DUTY (IRE) | (8) MOSSBACK (IRE) | (9) NO COMMENT
5.30	CLOSE BROTHERS NOVICES' HANDICAP CHASE (Listed) (1) 2½m78y (4090 Metres)
RACE 7	(8) RATHER BE (IRE) | (2) ANY SECOND NOW (IRE) | (7) BARNEY DWAN (IRE)

KEY TO SYMBOLS

Top Rated: The horse with the best chance based solely on past form, specially tailored to a 0-100 scale.

Horses For Courses: A suitable track for the horse, compared to its lifetime record on similar courses as defined by Timeform's course data.

Jockey Uplift: The engaged rider has a notably higher Timeform Jockey Ranking than those who've ridden the horse on its most recent starts

Trainer Form: A hot trainer to follow, based on Timeform ratings-related measurements looking at the recent performance of runners.

1.30 RACE 1

SKY BET SUPREME NOVICES' HURDLE (Grade 1) (1) 4yo+ £125,000 2m87y (3300 Metres)

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Going: **Soft (Heavy in places)**

Left handed, undulating. Stiff fences that place a premium on sound jumping. The last half mile is uphill, although the lead changes hands on the run-in less frequently than expected. Horses who race prominently often fare well on the chase course, especially in shorter-distance races. On the New Course, the hurdles track has just two flights in the last six furlongs, resulting in more emphasis on stamina; large-field races over two miles often go to hold-up horses, as there can be a tendency to go for home too soon.

Pace Information: **Very Strong**

1 CLAIMANTAKINFORGAN (FR) (37) (D, BF) **95**
16235-113 **6** 11-7 | 73.0kg
Nicky Henderson — ***Nico de Boinville***
Smart bumper performer last season who was impressive when landing first 2 outings over hurdles (Ascot Grade 2 latterly). Only third at Musselburgh latest but capable of bouncing back.

2 DEBUCHET (FR) (37) (D) **88**
2121-46 **5** 11-7 | 73.0kg
Ms Margaret Mullins, Ireland — ***D. E. Mullins***
Runner-up in Champion Bumper at last year's Festival. Not disgraced when sixth in Grade 1 Deloitte at Leopardstown on second hurdle start and likely he has an even bigger performance in him.

3 FIRST FLOW (IRE) (52) (D) **98**
4-4111 **6** 11-7 | 73.0kg
Kim Bailey — ***David Bass***
Promise both starts in bumpers and unbeaten in 3 outings over hurdles, taking step up to graded company in his stride when 10-length winner of Rossington Main at Haydock in January. More to come.

4 GETABIRD (IRE) (59) (D) ★ **100**
11-11 **6** 11-7 | 73.0kg
W. P. Mullins, Ireland — ***R. Walsh***
Unbeaten in 4 outings under Rules, rocketing to the head of the betting for this race when powering clear of Mengli Khan in Punchestown Grade 2 in January. Yard seeking fourth win in this since 2013.

5 GOLDEN JEFFREY (SWI) (10) (D, BF) **81**
1F114205 **5** 11-7 | 73.0kg
Iain Jardine — ***Conor O'Farrell***
Bumper/Flat winner who landed back-to-back novice hurdles last summer. However, found course handicap too hot in November and only fifth in jumpers' bumper on recent return. Big outsider.

6 KALASHNIKOV (IRE) (31) (D) **99**
1-1121 **5** 11-7 | 73.0kg
Amy Murphy — ***Jack Quinlan***
Lost unbeaten record when second to Summerville Boy in Grade 1 Tolworth but that still a good effort and he progressed again to land Betfair at Newbury last month. Likely capable of better still.

7 LOSTINTRANSLATION (IRE) (52) (D) **89**
2216 **6** 11-7 | 73.0kg
Colin Tizzard — ***Robbie Power***
Chased home Claimantakinforgan at Newbury (2m) in November prior to opening hurdles account over the same C&D the following month. Possibly unsuited by heavy ground in Haydock Grade 2 latest.

8 MENGLI KHAN (IRE) (59) (D) t **98**
24-111R2 **5** 11-7 | 73.0kg
Gordon Elliott, Ireland — ***J. W. Kennedy***
Smart effort when landing Grade 1 Royal Bond at Fairyhouse in December but no match for Getabird in Punchestown Grade 2 latest. Has a tongue strap on for the first time.

9 PALOMA BLUE (IRE) (37) (D) **94**
12-3213 **6** 11-7 | 73.0kg
Henry de Bromhead, Ireland — ***Davy Russell***
Off the mark over hurdles in Leopardstown maiden over Christmas and stepped up on that form when third to Samcro in Grade 1 Deloitte there last time. Likely he has more to offer.

10 SAXO JACK (FR) (142) (D) t **78**
42125 **8** 11-7 | 73.0kg
Sophie Leech — ***Sean Houlihan***
Stepped up on previous hurdles runs when successful at Newton Abbot in September. Backed that up next time but last of 5 in listed event in October. Fit from a recent run on Flat. Very stiff task.

11 SHARJAH (FR) (37) (D) **92**
11F7 **5** 11-7 | 73.0kg
W. P. Mullins, Ireland — ***P. Townend***
Useful Flat winner and quickly reached same level over hurdles. Going best when falling last in Leopardstown Grade 1 over Christmas but comfortably held in Deloitte there since.

12 SHOAL BAY (IRE) (17) (D) t **80**
1146 **5** 11-7 | 73.0kg
Colin Tizzard — ***Tom Scudamore***
Winning start in a Worcester bumper in October and followed up on hurdle bow in Taunton maiden (19f) 5 weeks later. Fair fourth here in December but down the field in Kempton Grade 2 latest.

13 SIMPLY THE BETTS (IRE) (37) (D) **87**
1342 **5** 11-7 | 73.0kg
Harry Whittington — ***Sean Bowen***
Justified favouritism in Market Rasen bumper on debut in September. Yet to win over hurdles but has shown progressive form, in front of Claimantakinforgan when narrowly denied at Musselburgh latest.

14 SLATE HOUSE (IRE) (45) (CD) t ✓ **95**
1145 **6** 11-7 | 73.0kg
Colin Tizzard — ***Harry Cobden***
Looked fine prospect when winning first 2 starts at this venue (Grade 2 latterly). Reputation taken a bit of knock twice since, although he didn't seem to stay 2½m last time. Tongue tie added.

15 SUMMERVILLE BOY (IRE) (66) (D) **99**
12231 **6** 11-7 | 73.0kg
Tom George — ***Noel Fehily***
Runner-up in C&D Grade 2 in the autumn and took his form up another notch when staying on strongly to win Grade 1 Tolworth at Sandown in January by 4 lengths from Kalashnikov. Should go well again.

16 TRAINWRECK (IRE) (37) (D) **93**
42-61210 **6** 11-7 | 73.0kg
Henry de Bromhead, Ireland — ***Sean Flanagan***
Useful hurdler, including winning Leopardstown handicap in December. Better than result in Grade 1 Deloitte there since but still hard to make a case for.

17 US AND THEM (IRE) (75) (D) **91**
24-3112 **5** 11-7 | 73.0kg
Joseph Patrick O'Brien, Ireland — ***J. J. Slevin***
Landed first 2 starts over hurdles and confirmed he's a useful novice when 2½ lengths second of 4 to Duca de Thaix in Limerick Grade 3 in December. Freshened up since.

18 WESTERN RYDER (IRE) (33) (CD) **93**
253-U1142 **6** 11-7 | 73.0kg
Warren Greatrex — ***Richard Johnson***
Dual bumper winner who landed first 2 starts over hurdles. Back from disappointing run behind a few of these rivals in Tolworth when second in 19.5f Huntingdon listed latest. Back down in trip.

19 DAME ROSE (FR) (45) (D) t **92**
151-131P4 **5** 11-0 | 69.9kg
Richard Hobson — ***Jonathan Burke***
Won Grade 2 bumper last spring (good) and notched a listed success over hurdles at Newbury (good to soft) in December. Not at best on softer surface since and conditions a worry again. Tongue tie on.

20 KHUDHA (IRE) (45) (BF) s **75**
554 **4** 10-13 | 69.4kg
Alan Fleming, Ireland — ***Denis O'Regan***
Fairly useful Flat winner but no better than fair form in 3 outings over hurdles and major surprise to see him get heavily involved here.

20 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

7-4 Getabird, **6-1** Kalashnikov, **8-1** Summerville Boy, **11-1** Mengli Khan, **12-1** First Flow, **14-1** Claimantakinforgan, **14-1** Paloma Blue, **22-1** Sharjah, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

SUMMERVILLE BOY's defeat of the reopposing Kalashnikov in the Tolworth received a boost when that one landed the ultra-competitive Betfair at Newbury last month. The Roger Brookhouse-owned 6-y-o might represent a bit of value against Getabird, who looks sure to make a bold bid to enhance his yard's excellent recent record in this race.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. SUMMERVILLE BOY (IRE) 2. GETABIRD (IRE) 3. KALASHNIKOV (IRE)

1.30 RACE 1

SKY BET SUPREME NOVICES' HURDLE (Grade 1) (1) 4yo+ £125,000 2m87y (3300 Metres)

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WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2017	**Labaik** 6-11-7	25-1	Gordon Elliott	J. W. Kennedy	14
2016	**Altior** 6-11-7	4-1	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boinville	14
2015	**Douvan** 5-11-7	2-1f	W. P. Mullins	R. Walsh	12
2014	**Vautour** 5-11-7	7-2jf	W. P. Mullins	R. Walsh	18
2013	**Champagne Fever** 6-11-7	5-1	W. P. Mullins	R. Walsh	12

2.10 RACE 2

RACING POST ARKLE CHALLENGE TROPHY NOVICES' CHASE (Grade 1) (1) 5yo+ £175,000 1m7f199y (3200 Metres)

GBI RACING
BRITISH AND IRISH RACING

Going: **Soft (Heavy in places)**

Left handed, undulating. Stiff fences that place a premium on sound jumping. The last half mile is uphill, although the lead changes hands on the run-in less frequently than expected. Horses who race prominently often fare well on the chase course, especially in shorter-distance races. On the New Course, the hurdles track has just two flights in the last six furlongs, resulting in more emphasis on stamina; large-field races over two miles often go to hold-up horses, as there can be a tendency to go for home too soon.

Pace Information: **Even**

1 **BRAIN POWER (IRE)** (52) (D) **95**
81185-1UF **7** 11-4 | 71.7kg
Nicky Henderson *Nico de Boinville*
Very smart hurdler and quickly reached same level over fences, although held by Sceau Royal when unseating last at Sandown. In process of running well when fell 2 out in Ascot Grade 1 since.

2 **FOOTPAD (FR)** (38) (D) **100**
24243-111 **6** 11-4 | 71.7kg
W. P. Mullins, Ireland *R. Walsh*
Perfect start to chase career, again jumping very accurately in main when seeing off Petit Mouchoir by 5 lengths in Leopardstown Grade 1 last month. Tough to beat with further progress likely.

3 **PETIT MOUCHOIR (FR)** (38) (D) **97**
23F113-12 **7** 11-4 | 71.7kg
Henry de Bromhead, Ireland *Davy Russell*
High-class hurdler. Winning start over fences at Punchestown in October and shaped encouragingly when chasing home Footpad at Leopardstown 4 months later. Capable of better still with that behind him.

4 **ROBINSHILL (IRE)** (52) (D) **87**
000-PU11P **7** 11-4 | 71.7kg
Nigel Twiston-Davies *Sam Twiston-Davies*
Jumping leaves a bit to be desired but he showed useful form when landing a pair of 2m Ludlow handicaps in November. Unsuited by step up in trip latest but likely biting off more than can chew here.

5 **SAINT CALVADOS (FR)** (31) (D) **98**
1116-111 **5** 11-4 | 71.7kg
Harry Whittington *Aidan Coleman*
Useful form over hurdles in France and looks a very exciting prospect over fences for new yard, taking step up to Grade 2 company in his stride when making all with ease again at Warwick last month.

5 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

5-4 Footpad, **3-1** Petit Mouchoir, **100-30** Saint Calvados, **8-1** Brain Power, **66-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

FOOTPAD has looked a natural over fences and can confirm last month's Leopardstown superiority over Petit Mouchoir, for all it wouldn't be a surprise to see Henry de Bromhead's charge get closer this time. Saint Calvados confirmed he's an exciting prospect when running away with a Warwick Grade 2 last time and is also expected to make his presence felt in a good renewal despite the small field.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. FOOTPAD (FR) 2. PETIT MOUCHOIR (FR) 3. SAINT CALVADOS (FR)

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2017	**Altior** 7-11-4	1-4f	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boinville	9
2016	**Douvan** 6-11-4	1-4f	W. P. Mullins	R. Walsh	7
2015	**Un de Sceaux** 7-11-4	4-6f	W. P. Mullins	R. Walsh	11
2014	**Western Warhorse** 6-11-4	33-1	David Pipe	Tom Scudamore	9
2013	**Simonsig** 7-11-7	8-15f	Nicky Henderson	Barry Geraghty	7

2.50 RACE 3

ULTIMA HANDICAP CHASE (Grade 3) (1) 5yo+ £110,000 3m1f (5030 Metres)

GBI RACING
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Going: **Soft (Heavy in places)**

Left handed, undulating. Stiff fences that place a premium on sound jumping. The last half mile is uphill, although the lead changes hands on the run-in less frequently than expected. Horses who race prominently often fare well on the chase course, especially in shorter-distance races. On the New Course, the hurdles track has just two flights in the last six furlongs, resulting in more emphasis on stamina; large-field races over two miles often go to hold-up horses, as there can be a tendency to go for home too soon.

Pace Information: **Strong**

1 GOLD PRESENT (IRE) (80) ★ **100**
0/1522F-11 **8** 11-12 | 75.3kg
Nicky Henderson — ***Nico de Boinville***
Made a winning return at Newbury and took another step forward when landing valuable Ascot handicap next time. Runner-up has since boosted the form so looks a big player here.

2 SIZING CODELCO (IRE) (94) (D) **88**
24011-P6P **9** 11-11 | 74.8kg
Colin Tizzard — ***Robbie Power***
Back-to-back winner around this trip at the Spring Festivals last year, but hasn't fired this season and has something to prove at present. Had wind operation.

3 YALA ENKI (FR) (24) **97**
41-P364F1 **8** 11-9 | 73.9kg
Venetia Williams — ***Charlie Deutsch***
Proved his effectiveness for extreme conditions when landing Grand National Trial at Haydock (28.4f) last month. Career-high mark to defy now, though, and others more persuasive.

4 SHANTOU FLYER (IRE) (26) (C, BF) v+t **97**
2P-5PP222 **8** 11-9 | 73.9kg
Richard Hobson — ***James Bowen*** (3lb/1kg)
Posted creditable efforts in defeat this term, latest when second in 4-runner minor event at Kelso last month. Effective in these conditions but others more progressive. Wears first-time visor.

5 O O SEVEN (IRE) (45) (C) **97**
13154-345 **8** 11-9 | 73.9kg
Nicky Henderson — ***Aidan Coleman***
Smart novice chaser last term and returned with a good third at Newbury in December. However, yet to really prove his stamina for this trip and finishing effort was a little weak here last time.

6 VICENTE (FR) (66) (C, D) h **98**
F669F1-2U **9** 11-8 | 73.5kg
Paul Nicholls — ***Sam Twiston-Davies***
Winner of Scottish National last 2 years and went close on return here (27f) in November. Losing place when unseating rider in Welsh National last time, though, and makes limited appeal.

7 BEWARE THE BEAR (IRE) (66) **96**
1/11174-1P **8** 11-7 | 73.0kg
Nicky Henderson — ***Jeremiah McGrath***
Did well upon going chasing last term and took it up another notch with successful reappearance at Newcastle in December. Not in same form last time, but claims if back on song.

8 WAKANDA (IRE) (45) **97**
52P3-2521 **9** 11-5 | 72.1kg
Sue Smith — ***Sean Quinlan***
Showed fine attitude when resuming winning ways in Sky Bet Chase at Doncaster in January. Goes well on this sort of ground but others look better treated.

9 SINGLEFARMPAYMENT (45) (CD) h ✓ **98**
21B2-2F5P **8** 11-2 | 70.8kg
Tom George — ***A. P. Heskin***
Only narrowly held in this event 12 months ago and fine second on return at this course in October. Hasn't really built on that, however, and these conditions may not play to his strengths.

10 RAMSES DE TEILLEE (FR) (30) t **98**
6-3221212 **6** 11-2 | 70.8kg
David Pipe — ***Tom Scudamore***
Progressed since switched to chasing, scoring twice in testing conditions at Chepstow. Not at best in minor event at Exeter last time but yard took this event last year and merits consideration.

11 KNIGHT OF NOIR (IRE) (133) (D) t **95**
P3-112521 **9** 10-13 | 69.4kg
Michael Blake — ***Nick Scholfield***
Belatedly off the mark over fences when taking 7-runner novice event at Chepstow in October. Not seen since, however, and asked a big question on debut for new yard here.

12 COO STAR SIVOLA (FR) (18) (C) **99**
614-53241 **6** 10-13 | 69.4kg
Nick Williams — ***Lizzie Kelly*** (3lb/1kg)
Useful hurdler who confirmed promise of earlier efforts over fences when easily scoring at Exeter last month. Acquitted himself really well at last 2 festivals and looks sure to go well.

13 VINTAGE CLOUDS (IRE) (38) (D, BF) ✓ **98**
F3F7-1242 **8** 10-12 | 68.9kg
Sue Smith — ***Danny Cook***
Made winning return at Aintree in October and posted solid efforts in defeat since, latest when runner-up in Grade 2 novice event last month. Goes well in the mud and holds each-way claims.

14 VIC DE TOUZAINE (FR) (40) (D) **95**
1/22U-1PPP **9** 10-10 | 68.0kg
Venetia Williams — ***B. J. Cooper***
Made a successful return to action at Carlisle in October but has failed to complete since and is difficult to recommend.

15 MINELLA DADDY (IRE) (24) s **98**
22112P-42 **8** 10-10 | 68.0kg
Peter Bowen — ***Sean Bowen***
Improved over fences last season, winning twice, and back to somewhere near best when runner-up in Ascot handicap last month. This looks tougher, though.

16 CASSE TETE (FR) (31) **94**
1F431-771 **6** 10-9 | 67.6kg
Gary Moore — ***Joshua Moore***
Bounced back to best when bagging 7-runner handicap chase at Warwick (20f) last time, but isn't the most consistent and has stamina to prove over this trip.

17 COGRY (31) (CD) **97**
622-1P2U3 **9** 10-9 | 67.6kg
Nigel Twiston-Davies — ***Jamie Bargary*** (3lb/1kg)
Went close in Scottish National last term and gained compensation when taking handicap at this course on October return. Excuses last twice and could be in the mix with ground conditions no issue.

18 EAMON AN CNOIC (IRE) (29) s **95**
2/119-F131 **7** 10-8 | 67.1kg
David Pipe — ***David Noonan***
Back on song when taking 3-runner handicap at Plumpton (19.8f) last month. However, much more on plate here and questionable whether he wants this longer trip. Cheekpieces on for first time.

18 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

6-1 Coo Star Sivola, **7-1** Gold Present, **15-2** Singlefarmpayment, **12-1** Ramses De Teillee, **14-1** Beware The Bear, **16-1** Vintage Clouds, **16-1** O O Seven, **20-1** Vicente, **20-1** Yala Enki, **20-1** Shantou Flyer, **22-1** Minella Daddy, **22-1** Cogry, **25-1** Wakanda, **28-1** Knight of Noir, **33-1** Eamon An Cnoic, **33-1** Casse Tete, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

COO STAR SIVOLA has plenty to recommend him, having run really well over hurdles at the last 2 festivals and boasting a progressive profile over the larger obstacles too. An impressive winner in the mud last time, he is taken to land this competitive handicap. Gold Present hasn't put a foot wrong this term and rates the chief threat, whilst Ramses de Teillee is also of interest.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. COO STAR SIVOLA (FR) 2. GOLD PRESENT (IRE) 3. RAMSES DE TEILLEE (FR)

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2017	**Un Temps Pour Tout** 8-11-12	9-1	David Pipe	Tom Scudamore	23
2016	**Un Temps Pour Tout** 7-11-7	11-1	David Pipe	Tom Scudamore	23
2015	**The Druids Nephew** 8-11-3	8-1	Neil Mulholland	Barry Geraghty	24
2014	**Holywell** 7-11-6	10-1	Jonjo O'Neill	Richie McLernon	23
2013	**Golden Chieftain** 8-10-5	28-1	Colin Tizzard	Brendan Powell (3)	24

3.30 RACE 4

UNIBET CHAMPION HURDLE CHALLENGE TROPHY (Grade 1)
(1) 4yo+ £487,190 2m87y (3300 Metres)

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Going: **Soft (Heavy in places)**

Left handed, undulating. Stiff fences that place a premium on sound jumping. The last half mile is uphill, although the lead changes hands on the run-in less frequently than expected. Horses who race prominently often fare well on the chase course, especially in shorter-distance races. On the New Course, the hurdles track has just two flights in the last six furlongs, resulting in more emphasis on stamina; large-field races over two miles often go to hold-up horses, as there can be a tendency to go for home too soon.

Pace Information: **Strong**

1 BUVEUR D'AIR (FR) (38) (CD) **100**
11111-111 **7** 11-10 | 74.4kg
Nicky Henderson — *Barry Geraghty*
Impressive in this last year and has taken record over jumps to 11 wins from 12 starts when barely coming off bridle to land Fighting Fifth, Christmas Hurdle and Sandown listed event this term.

2 CH'TIBELLO (FR) (24) (D, BF) **89**
35132-422 **7** 11-10 | 74.4kg
Dan Skelton — *Harry Skelton*
Scottish Champion Hurdle winner in 2016 and done little wrong since. Another sound effort when 2½ lengths second to Elgin in Kingwell at Wincanton latest but will surely find a few too strong here.

3 CHARLI PARCS (FR) (31) (D) **88**
11F6-200 **5** 11-10 | 74.4kg
Nicky Henderson — *Noel Fehily*
Confirmed he's capable of smart form when runner-up to High Bridge in Gerry Feilden on return but down the field in valuable handicaps at Ascot and Newbury since.

4 ELGIN (24) (CD) **92**
227-41161 **6** 11-10 | 74.4kg
Alan King — *Wayne Hutchinson*
Winner of valuable handicaps at Ascot and over C&D in the autumn and took it up another notch when landing Kingwell at Wincanton latest. Needs to up his game again but that's not out of question.

5 FAUGHEEN (IRE) (38) (CD, BF) s **96**
1211/1P2 **10** 11-10 | 74.4kg
W. P. Mullins, Ireland — *R. Walsh*
Took this in 2015. Winning return from injury in Morgiana but pulled up at Leopardstown in December. More like it when second in Irish Champion since but still short of very best. Cheekpieces added.

6 IDENTITY THIEF (IRE) (24) (D) **81**
1PU460-62 **8** 11-10 | 74.4kg
Henry de Bromhead, Ireland — *Sean Flanagan*
Smart hurdler/chaser at best but well held in Irish Champion on return. Better when second in Gowran Grade 3 since but another big step up required if he's to get competitive here.

7 JOHN CONSTABLE (IRE) (38) (D) t **89**
600F-1162 **7** 11-10 | 74.4kg
Evan Williams — *Leighton Aspell*
Winner of Swinton and Summer Hurdle at the very start of the season, but flattered by his proximity to Buveur d'Air at Sandown last time and highly likely to find at least a couple too good.

8 MELON (38) (D) **95**
122-135 **6** 11-10 | 74.4kg
W. P. Mullins, Ireland — *P. Townend*
Second in Supreme last year and good third to My Tent Or Yours here in December. Fitting a hood (quickly discarded) seemed to backfire when disappointing in Irish Champion last time. Can bounce back.

9 MICK JAZZ (FR) (38) (D) h+t **93**
1231-3513 **7** 11-10 | 74.4kg
Gordon Elliott, Ireland — *Davy Russell*
Very smart hurdler. Notched a Grade 1 win in Ryanair at Leopardstown in December and performed with credit when 7 lengths third to Supasundae in Irish Champion Hurdle last month. Tongue tie back on.

10 MY TENT OR YOURS (IRE) (87) (CD) h **96**
3324222-1 **11** 11-10 | 74.4kg
Nicky Henderson — *Aidan Coleman*
Runner-up 3 times in this. At the veteran stage now but enhanced his good record here with Grade 2 win in December and dangerous to rule out another prominent showing.

11 WICKLOW BRAVE (319) (C, D) b **95**
033/71- **9** 11-10 | 74.4kg
W. P. Mullins, Ireland — *Mr P. W. Mullins*
Winner of Punchestown Grade 1 in blinkers when last seen over hurdles. Some smart efforts in defeat on Flat since, although never a factor in Melbourne Cup latest. Only seventh in this last year.

12 YORKHILL (IRE) (38) (C, D) **86**
1/41112-86 **8** 11-10 | 74.4kg
W. P. Mullins, Ireland — *D. J. Mullins*
Winner at last 2 Festivals. Disappointing in a couple of runs over fences this term but little doubt the ability is still there and no shock to see him fare a lot better back hurdling.

13 VERDANA BLUE (IRE) (31) (D) **89**
1143-5130 **6** 11-3 | 71.2kg
Nicky Henderson — *Nico de Boinville*
Smart effort when smooth winner of competitive Ascot handicap in November and excellent third in valuable event back there in December. Possibly unsuited by very testing ground in Betfair since.

13 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

4-6 Buveur D'air, **7-1** Faugheen, **12-1** Yorkhill, **18-1** My Tent Or Yours, **20-1** Melon, **22-1** Wicklow Brave, **22-1** Elgin, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

BUVEUR D'AIR has barely broken sweat when landing all 3 starts this season and looks all set to win this race for this second year running. The fitting of a hood seemed to have an adverse effect on Melon in the Irish Champion and he's capable of bouncing back now with the headgear discarded, while My Tent Or Yours also makes the shortlist having finished runner-up in the race 3 times.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. BUVEUR D'AIR (FR) 2. MELON 3. MY TENT OR YOURS (IRE)

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2017	**Buveur d'Air** 6-11-10	5-1	Nicky Henderson	Noel Fehily	11
2016	**Annie Power** 8-11-3	5-2f	W. P. Mullins	R. Walsh	12
2015	**Faugheen** 7-11-10	4-5f	W. P. Mullins	R. Walsh	8
2014	**Jezki** 6-11-10	9-1	Mrs J. Harrington	Barry Geraghty	9
2013	**Hurricane Fly** 9-11-10	13-8f	W. P. Mullins	R. Walsh	9

4.10 RACE 5

OLBG MARES' HURDLE (David Nicholson) (Grade 1) (1) 4yo+ fillies and mares £120,000 2m3f200y (4010 Metres)

GBI RACING
BRITISH AND IRISH RACING

Going: **Soft (Heavy in places)**

Left handed, undulating. Stiff fences that place a premium on sound jumping. The last half mile is uphill, although the lead changes hands on the run-in less frequently than expected. Horses who race prominently often fare well on the chase course, especially in shorter-distance races. On the New Course, the hurdles track has just two flights in the last six furlongs, resulting in more emphasis on stamina; large-field races over two miles often go to hold-up horses, as there can be a tendency to go for home too soon.

Pace Information: **Strong**

1 **APPLE'S JADE (FR) (75)** (CD) t **100**
21211-111 **6** 11-5 | 72.1kg
Gordon Elliott, Ireland — ***J. W. Kennedy***
Yet to finish out of the first 2 and now chasing a 6-timer which began in this contest last year. The class act and will surely land the odds back against her own sex with a clear round.

2 **BENIE DES DIEUX (FR) (31)** (D) **80**
633/1-11 **7** 11-5 | 72.1kg
W. P. Mullins, Ireland — ***R. Walsh***
Winning hurdler in France and smart form over fences for new yard, winning all 3 of her starts. Profile is very similar to that of connections' Vroum Vroum Mag who won this in 2016. Lots to like.

3 **INDIAN STREAM (31)** (C) t **90**
218143-9P **9** 11-5 | 72.1kg
Neil Mulholland — ***Tom Scudamore***
Better than ever last season, scoring twice over fences up to 21f and faring best of the British runners behind Apple's Jade in this contest. Held in 2 runs 4 months apart this term and work to do.

4 **JER'S GIRL (IRE) (106)** (D, BF) **90**
1/125F-422 **6** 11-5 | 72.1kg
Gavin Patrick Cromwell, Ireland — ***Barry Geraghty***
Dual Grade 1 winner in spring 2016 and creeping into things when falling 3 out in this last year. In good heart this term, behind Apple's Jade at Navan then La Bague Au Roi at Kempton. Place claims.

5 **KAYF GRACE (31)** (BF) **86**
211/1-510 **8** 11-5 | 72.1kg
Nicky Henderson — ***Nico de Boinville***
Grade 2 bumper winner in 2015/16 and 2 from 4 over hurdles in the meantime. Should stay this far but would be a surprising winner of this.

6 **LA BAGUE AU ROI (FR) (52)** **93**
11761-111 **7** 11-5 | 72.1kg
Warren Greatrex — ***Richard Johnson***
Beaten in 3 appearances at Cheltenham/Aintree Festivals but winner of her other 10 starts, impressive in Grade 2 at Ascot last time. Strong stayer and drop back from 3m probably not ideal, however.

7 **MIDNIGHT JAZZ (31)** (D, BF) s **86**
21220-624 **8** 11-5 | 72.1kg
Ben Case — ***Daryl Jacob***
Useful hurdler but held in this last year and impossible to see her in contention on known form.

8 **MIDNIGHT TOUR (31)** (CD) **90**
5261-3343 **8** 11-5 | 72.1kg
Alan King — ***Davy Russell***
Useful hurdler but only sixth in this last year before winning handicap here at the April meeting. Just minor place claims at best judged on this season's efforts.

9 **PRAVALAGUNA (FR) (20)** (D) h **84**
14F2-3F4 **6** 11-5 | 72.1kg
W. P. Mullins, Ireland — ***D. E. Mullins***
Useful hurdler who has won at this trip and shaped as if better for the run after 8 months off at Punchestown 3 weeks ago. Hard to see her winning this, though.

9 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

1-2 Apple's Jade, **9-2** Benie Des Dieux, **12-1** La Bague Au Roi, **20-1** Jer's Girl, **22-1** Kayf Grace, **66-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

Hard to look beyond last year's winner APPLE'S JADE for a repeat success. She's been seeing off the males this season and will be hard to beat back against her own sex. Benie des Dieux could emerge as the big danger if she can translate her smart chasing form to hurdles and her yard has dominated this race.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. APPLE'S JADE (FR) 2. BENIE DES DIEUX (FR) 3. JER'S GIRL (IRE)

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2017	**Apple's Jade** 5-11-5	7-2	Gordon Elliott	B. J. Cooper	17
2016	**Vroum Vroum Mag** 7-11-5	4-6f	W. P. Mullins	R. Walsh	19
2015	**Glens Melody** 7-11-5	6-1	W. P. Mullins	P. Townend	15
2014	**Quevega** 10-11-5	8-11f	W. P. Mullins	R. Walsh	16
2013	**Quevega** 9-11-5	8-11f	W. P. Mullins	R. Walsh	19

4.50 RACE 6

NATIONAL HUNT CHALLENGE CUP AMATEUR RIDERS' NOVICES' CHASE (Grade 2) (1) 5yo+ £125,000 3m7f170y (6390 Metres)

GBI RACING
BRITISH AND IRISH RACING

Going: **Soft (Heavy in places)**

Left handed, undulating. Stiff fences that place a premium on sound jumping. The last half mile is uphill, although the lead changes hands on the run-in less frequently than expected. Horses who race prominently often fare well on the chase course, especially in shorter-distance races. On the New Course, the hurdles track has just two flights in the last six furlongs, resulting in more emphasis on stamina; large-field races over two miles often go to hold-up horses, as there can be a tendency to go for home too soon.

Pace Information: **Even**

1 ALL KINGS (IRE) (18) **75**
2/P8-38266 **9** 11-6 | 72.6kg
Bob Buckler — *Mr Joshua Newman*
Temperamental sort who's way out of his depth.

2 CLONDAW CIAN (IRE) (65) (C) b **84**
850-322P0 **8** 11-6 | 72.6kg
Suzy Smith — *Mr Shane Fitzgerald*
Useful handicap hurdler who hasn't had much racing over fences but has looked hard work since his second at Ascot in November. Change of headgear.

3 DUEL AT DAWN (IRE) (59) (BF) s **96**
5131-2122 **8** 11-6 | 72.6kg
Alex Hales — *Mr Tommie M. O'Brien*
Quickly developed into a useful hurdler last season and has taken well to chasing in headgear, landing 3-runner novice at Exeter (24.2f). Held by Sizing Tennessee and Ms Parfois next 2 starts, though.

4 IMPULSIVE STAR (IRE) (53) s **89**
14110-F23 **8** 11-6 | 72.6kg
Neil Mulholland — *Mr Sam Waley-Cohen*
Useful hurdler but has been disappointing over fences this season, falling on debut before beaten in small field next 2 starts. Probably not straightforward.

5 JURY DUTY (IRE) (44) t ★ **100**
236-12122 **7** 11-6 | 72.6kg
Gordon Elliott, Ireland — *Mr J. J. Codd*
Third in Pertemps Final last year and has continually ran to a smart level over fences this term, winning twice, notably Grade 2 at Punchestown. Assured jumper and this test should suit. Tongue tied.

6 KEEPER HILL (IRE) (38) **95**
1176-121F **7** 11-6 | 72.6kg
Warren Greatrex — *Mr Richard Deegan*
Won 3 times over hurdles and similar form when winning 2 small-field chases this winter. Still going well when falling at Musselburgh but this by far the biggest field he's faced over fences.

7 LOFGREN (159) t **84**
21124565 **7** 11-6 | 72.6kg
Donald McCain — *Mr Theo Gillard*
Won twice in May but last 2 efforts were poor and firmly up against it on first outing since October.

8 MOSSBACK (IRE) (23) **97**
531P-14F2 **6** 11-6 | 72.6kg
Gordon Elliott, Ireland — *Ms L. O'Neill*
Scopey sort who has improved markedly for the switch to fences, winning maiden at Naas before good half-length second in Grade 2 Chase at Navan. Open to further improvement as a chaser.

9 NO COMMENT (38) h **82**
2111722-3 **7** 11-6 | 72.6kg
Philip Hobbs — *Mr Derek O'Connor*
Useful in bumpers and progressive over hurdles, runner-up in handicaps at Aintree/Punchestown Festivals. Pitched in at deep end on return/chase debut but shaped very well when third at Sandown.

10 PYLONTHEPRESSURE (IRE) (33) **93**
522/21-41 **8** 11-6 | 72.6kg
W. P. Mullins, Ireland — *Ms K. Walsh*
Very lightly raced but bettered previous form when winning second chase start at Thurles (2m) last month. Remains with potential but this is a marked step up in trip.

11 RATHVINDEN (IRE) (37) **99**
113112BU **10** 11-6 | 72.6kg
W. P. Mullins, Ireland — *Mr P. W. Mullins*
One of the most experienced in the field, winning 4 times early in the season (including Grade 3 novice at Tipperary), though let down by jumping when falling in Flogas last time.

12 REIGNING SUPREME (IRE) (31) **89**
141-U2 **7** 11-6 | 72.6kg
Nicky Henderson — *Mr James King*
Winner of 2 of 3 starts over hurdles last season and shaped encouragingly on just second start over fences when second at Newbury last time. Likely to be suited by this trip but plenty more needed.

13 ROBIN OF LOCKSLEY (IRE) (17) s+t **69**
5-2P3418R **8** 11-6 | 72.6kg
Sophie Leech — *Mr D. Skehan*
Well held both starts for new yard and isn't up to this level.

14 SHADES OF MIDNIGHT (38) **93**
6542P-5R3 **8** 11-6 | 72.6kg
Sandy Thomson — *Mr T. Hamilton*
Useful handicap hurdler. Low-key start to chase career at Carlisle/Haydock but proved a different proposition on first start for this yard when third in a Grade 2 at Wetherby.

15 SIZING TENNESSEE (IRE) (45) (C, BF) ✓ **98**
4P-2FU123 **10** 11-6 | 72.6kg
Colin Tizzard — *Mr Barry O'Neill*
Plenty of experience over fences and didn't need to improve to get off mark in this sphere at eighth attempt here (25f) in December. Career best when second in Dipper but below par in handicap since.

16 MS PARFOIS (IRE) (24) (C) t **98**
131-31112 **7** 10-13 | 69.4kg
Anthony Honeyball — *Mr William Biddick*
Likeable mare who landed hat-trick in listed race at Warwick. Brushed aside in Reynoldstown at Ascot next time, but is a strong galloper who shapes as though she'll stay marathon trips.

16 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

5-1 Jury Duty, **13-2** Mossback, **15-2** Rathvinden, **15-2** No Comment, **8-1** Ms Parfois, **10-1** Sizing Tennessee, **12-1** Keeper Hill, **22-1** Duel At Dawn, **22-1** Pylonthepressure, **33-1** Impulsive Star, **33-1** Reigning Supreme, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

Gordon Elliott has won 2 of the last 3 renewals and looks to have a strong hand once again with JURY DUTY and Mossback. The former has looked the ideal type for this race for some time so gets the nod. No Comment lacks chasing experience but is still an intriguing runner having very much caught the eye on chase debut when third in a Grade 1 at Sandown last month.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. JURY DUTY (IRE) 2. MOSSBACK (IRE) 3. NO COMMENT

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2017	**Tiger Roll** 7-11-6	16-1	Gordon Elliott	Ms L. O'Neill	18
2016	**Minella Rocco** 6-11-6	8-1	Jonjo O'Neill	Mr Derek O'Connor	20
2015	**Cause of Causes** 7-11-6	8-1	Gordon Elliott	Mr J. J. Codd	17
2014	**Midnight Prayer** 9-11-6	8-1	Alan King	Mr Joshua Newman	15
2013	**Back In Focus** 8-11-6	9-4f	W. P. Mullins	Mr P. W. Mullins	16

5.30 RACE 7

CLOSE BROTHERS NOVICES' HANDICAP CHASE (Listed) (1)
5yo+ (Rated 0-145) £70,000 2½m78y (4090 Metres)

GBI RACING
BRITISH AND IRISH RACING

Going: **Soft (Heavy in places)**

Left handed, undulating. Stiff fences that place a premium on sound jumping. The last half mile is uphill, although the lead changes hands on the run-in less frequently than expected. Horses who race prominently often fare well on the chase course, especially in shorter-distance races. On the New Course, the hurdles track has just two flights in the last six furlongs, resulting in more emphasis on stamina; large-field races over two miles often go to hold-up horses, as there can be a tendency to go for home too soon.

Pace Information: **Strong**

1 TESTIFY (IRE) (52) (D) **98**
12129-111 **7** 11-10 | 74.4kg
Donald McCain — ***Will Kennedy***
Dual-hurdles winner who impressed with his accurate jumping in small-field novice chase events, maintaining unbeaten record in a Grade 2 at Haydock in January. This a totally different environment.

2 ANY SECOND NOW (IRE) (38) **99**
113U-2223 **6** 11-10 | 74.4kg
T. M. Walsh, Ireland — ***Mark Walsh***
Yet to taste success in 4 chase starts, not given a hard time having been outclassed in a Grade 1 last month. Nothing wrong with a trio of runner-up efforts prior to that and this looks his trip.

3 TYCOON PRINCE (IRE) (38) t **98**
32P/45-21F **8** 11-9 | 73.9kg
Gordon Elliott, Ireland — ***J. W. Kennedy***
Career has been rather stop-start, but confirmed the promise of his chase debut when landing a 6-runner maiden at Leopardstown in December. Alongside Any Second Now when falling in a Grade 1 latest.

4 LE ROCHER (FR) (30) (C, D, BF) **99**
12-071113 **8** 11-9 | 73.9kg
Nick Williams — ***Tom Scudamore***
Grade-1 winning hurdler as a juvenile who made it 3-3 in this sphere with a battling victory at Market Rasen (21.4f) in January. Had winning run ended at Exeter, but was much better than the result.

5 DEMI SANG (FR) (38) **96**
32131114 **5** 11-9 | 73.9kg
W. P. Mullins, Ireland — ***Barry Geraghty***
Improved a chunk on his French form when landing a 4-runner novice on debut for Willie Mullins at Naas in January. Easy to draw a line through Irish Arkle run and he's open to progress up in trip.

6 CONRAD HASTINGS (IRE) (38) (D) **96**
350-11250 **7** 11-8 | 73.5kg
Henry de Bromhead, Ireland — ***Dylan Robinson*** (5lb/2kg)
Quickly developed into a useful early-season novice last summer, winning first 2 starts. Limitations rather exposed since, but he's entitled to strip fitter for last month's handicap debut.

7 BARNEY DWAN (IRE) (38) (D) **98**
BU427-311 **8** 11-8 | 73.5kg
Fergal O'Brien — ***Noel Fehily***
Smart handicap form when finishing runner-up in the Pertemps 12 months ago from this mark. Second spell chasing has gone smoothly, landing brace of novice events, and big-field scenario will suit.

8 RATHER BE (IRE) (25) (D) ★ **100**
12U18-1U1 **7** 11-8 | 73.5kg
Nicky Henderson — ***Jeremiah McGrath***
Useful hurdler (Aintree Grade 3 handicap winner) and most impressive on Towcester chase debut in December. Put mishap at Plumpton behind him at Fakenham and assessor may have taken a chance with him.

9 DE PLOTTING SHED (IRE) (47) (D, BF) t **98**
4224-2522 **8** 11-8 | 73.5kg
Gordon Elliott, Ireland — ***Davy Russell***
This is a belated second handicap start, but there is scope from this mark based on his hurdles form. Runner-up 3 of 4 starts over fences and a strongly-run race over this trip should be ideal.

10 ROCKLANDER (IRE) (73) (D) **98**
12220-1U1 **9** 11-7 | 73.0kg
Tom George — ***A. P. Heskin***
Created a good impression over hurdles last season and clearly untroubled by an early unseat when recording second chase win at Newbury in December (handicap), Kept fresh for this.

11 DIVINE SPEAR (IRE) (27) (BF) **99**
13225-112 **7** 11-6 | 72.6kg
Nicky Henderson — ***Nico de Boinville***
Consistent handicap hurdler who has quickly reached a higher level over fences, making it 2-2 in a 2m novices' handicap at Ascot in December. Turned over a Musselburgh, but this track/test will suit.

12 WESTERN MILLER (IRE) (102) (D) t **96**
1541F224 **7** 11-6 | 72.6kg
Charlie Longsdon — ***Jonathan Burke***
Enthusiastic type who made a successful transition to chasing at Stratford in September. Cracking effort when collared late at Sandown in November, and wisely given a break following Newbury run.

13 IBIS DU RHEU (FR) (31) (C, D) t **99**
518/323P-4 **7** 11-6 | 72.6kg
Paul Nicholls — ***Sam Twiston-Davies***
Won the Martin Pipe from 2 lb lower in 2016 and some fair efforts over fences last season. Novice chase status still intact and he's sure to strip fitter for last month's return at Newbury.

14 JAMESON (55) (D) **98**
312-21244 **6** 11-5 | 72.1kg
Nigel Twiston-Davies — ***Tom Bellamy***
Good start over fences this winter, mugging Western Miller at Sandown and that sandwiched between pair of solid runner-up efforts. Progress has levelled off and his mark probably sums him up.

15 REPORT TO BASE (IRE) (43) **96**
1225-821d1 **6** 11-4 | 71.7kg
Evan Williams — ***Adam Wedge***
Progressive over hurdles last term and gained compensation for a jockey error that saw him disqualified at Exeter when landing the odds at Hereford. Very likely has more to offer in this sphere.

16 LIVELOVELAUGH (IRE) (44) (D, BF) **96**
31043-313 **8** 11-4 | 71.7kg
W. P. Mullins, Ireland — ***R. Walsh***
Didn't take long to surpass his hurdles ability over fences, landing 10-runner maiden in the mud at Cork in January. Found 3m too much of a test in Grade 3 company latest, so likely remains in form.

17 MARKOV (IRE) (24) **96**
53343-11F **8** 11-3 | 71.2kg
Ben Pauling — ***Daryl Jacob***
Back-to-back winner of handicap chases to end 2017, but jumping wasn't foot perfect in doing so, and he came a cropper at Haydock last month. No hiding place in that department.

18 BALLYHILL (FR) (45) (CD) **98**
00-235F10 **7** 11-3 | 71.2kg
Nigel Twiston-Davies — ***Jamie Bargary*** (3lb/1kg)
Dual-winning hurdler who opened account in this sphere in a Grade 3 handicap over C&D on New Year's Day, idling but finding extra when it mattered. Jumping failed the test back here 4 weeks later.

19 KAYF ADVENTURE (18) (D) **97**
32-163123 **7** 11-3 | 71.2kg
Philip Hobbs — ***Richard Johnson***
Bumper/hurdles scorer and has also landed a brace of 4-runner contests over fences this season. Couple of very respectable efforts last month suggest he is summed up by current mark.

20 MISTER WHITAKER (IRE) (45) (CD) **99**
6343-3121 **6** 11-2 | 70.8kg
Mick Channon — ***Brian Hughes***
Very much a chaser on looks and going from strength to strength over fences, suited by emphasis on stamina when landing a heavy-ground C&D handicap in January.8 lb rise perfectly fair.

RESERVES

21 DEAUVILLE DANCER (IRE) (87) (D) t **96**
44241119 **7** 11-2 | 70.8kg
David Dennis — ***Reserve***
On the go early and took very well to chasing, notching fifth handicap win of it at Doncaster in December. Disappointed over C&D later that month and this could be too much of a test. RESERVE.

5.30 RACE 7

CLOSE BROTHERS NOVICES' HANDICAP CHASE (Listed) (1)
5yo+ (Rated 0-145) £70,000 2½m78y (4090 Metres)

GBI RACING
BRITISH AND IRISH RACING

22 **COBRA DE MAI (FR)** (18) (D) **98**
111P1541 **6** 11-1 | 70.3kg

Dan Skelton ***Reserve***

Started the season early and has been rewarded with 5 wins in all, resuming progress following a breathing operation for latest of them at Warwick a fortnight ago. Not one to underestimate. RESERVE.

20 DECLARED RUNNERS (2 RESERVES)

BETTING FORECAST:

7-1 De Plotting Shed, **8-1** Any Second Now, **9-1** Barney Dwan, **10-1** Rather Be, **14-1** Mister Whitaker, **14-1** Divine Spear, **18-1** Testify, **18-1** Tycoon Prince, **18-1** Demi Sang, **22-1** Ballyhill, **22-1** Rocklander, **22-1** Livelovelaugh, **22-1** Report To Base, **28-1** Le Rocher, **28-1** Ibis Du Rheu, **33-1** Markov, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

His mishap at Plumpton aside, RATHER BE has looked a graded-level chaser this season, landing the odds with the minimum of fuss on a couple of occasions, and the suspicion is that the assessor has taken a big chance with him. Any Second Now has yet to taste success over fences, but this strongly-run race will suit him, with Barney Dwan another to consider in what is a very compressed handicap.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. RATHER BE (IRE) 2. ANY SECOND NOW (IRE) 3. BARNEY DWAN (IRE)

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2017	**Tully East** 7-11-8	8-1	Alan Fleming	Denis O'Regan	20
2016	**Ballyalton** 9-11-10	12-1	Ian Williams	Brian Hughes	20
2015	**Irish Cavalier** 6-11-7	11-1	Rebecca Curtis	P. Townend	20
2014	**Present View** 6-11-7	8-1	Jamie Snowden	Brendan Powell	19
2013	**Rajdhani Express** 6-11-12	16-1	Nicky Henderson	Mr Sam Waley-Cohen (5)	20