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<td>SKY BET SUPREME NOVICES’ HURDLE (Grade 1)</td>
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<td>OLGB MARES’ HURDLE (David Nicholson)</td>
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<td>NATIONAL HUNT CHALLENGE CUP AMATEUR RIDERS’ NOVICES’ CHASE (Grade 2)</td>
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<td>CLOSE BROTHERS NOVICES’ HANDICAP CHASE (Listed)</td>
<td>2½m78y (4090 M)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**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.
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 for home too soon.

Pace Information: Very Strong

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

SHARJAH (FR) (37) [D]
117T 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.

SHOAL BAY (IRE) (17) [D]
116F 6 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 (19) weeks later. Fair fourth here in December but down the field in Kempton Grade 2 last.

SIMPLY THE BETS (IRE) (37) [D]
114G 6 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.

SLATE HOUSE (IRE) (45) [CDI]
114G 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.

SUMMERVILLE BOY (IRE) (66) [D]
122F 6 11 7 73.0kg
Torn 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.

TRAINWRECK (IRE) (37) [D]
84T 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.

US AND THEM (IRE) (75) [D]
75T 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 11 lengths second of 4 to Duca de Thax in Limerick Grade 3 in December. Freshened up since.

WESTERN RYDER (IRE) (33) [CDI]
123U 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 19f Huntingdon listed latest. Back down in trip.

DAME ROSE (FR) (45) [D]
111W 6 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.

KHUDHA (IRE) (45) [BF]
58T 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)
WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Horse</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Trainer</th>
<th>Jockey</th>
<th>Age</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Labaik</td>
<td>6-11-7</td>
<td>Gordon Elliott</td>
<td>J.W. Kennedy</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>Altior</td>
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<td>Nicky Henderson</td>
<td>Nico de Boinville</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Douvan</td>
<td>5-11-7</td>
<td>W.P. Mullins</td>
<td>R. Walsh</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>Vautour</td>
<td>5-11-7</td>
<td>W.P. Mullins</td>
<td>R. Walsh</td>
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<td>6-11-7</td>
<td>W.P. Mullins</td>
<td>R. Walsh</td>
<td>12</td>
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</table>
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) (D) 95
   8110-10F 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) (D) 100
   111123-112 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) (D) 97
   2F13-12 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) (D) 87
   090011F 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) (D) 98
   116111 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Horse</th>
<th>Race</th>
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<td>R. Walsh</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>Un de Sceaux 6-11-4</td>
<td>4-4f</td>
<td>David Pipe</td>
<td>Tom Scudamore</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>Western Warhorse 6-11-4</td>
<td>33-1</td>
<td>David Pipe</td>
<td>Tom Scudamore</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Simonsig 7-11-7</td>
<td>8-15f</td>
<td>Nicky Henderson</td>
<td>Barry Geraghty</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Going: Soft (Heavy in places)

Left handed, undulating. Steep 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 that 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 two flights in the last six furlongs, resulting in more emphasis on stamina; large-field than expected. Horses who race prominently often fare well on the chase course, Left handed, undulating. Stiff fences that place a premium on sound jumping. The Going:

CHLTENHAM Tuesday 13th March

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

RACE 3

1 GOLD PRESENT (IRE) (80) 41-56/11 8 11-12 75.3kg
Nicky Henderson Nicole 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) 24/11-PFP 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) 41-76/11 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) vht 20-1-PF 8 11-9 73.9kg
Richard Hobson James Bowen (1lb/kg)
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. Wars first-time visor.

5 O O SEVEN (IRE) (45) (C) 10-1-PF 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 16-1-P 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) 1/11-7-P 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) 22-1-P 9 11-2 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) 20-1-PF 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 TIEILLE (FR) (30) t 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 Bettor last time but yard took this event last year and merits consideration.

11 KNIGHT OF NOIR (IRE) (133) (D) 11-2-P 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) 11-5-P 6 10-13 69.4kg
Nick Williams Lizzie Kelly (3lb/kg)
Useful hurdler who confirmed promise of earlier efforts over fences when easily scoring at Exeter last month. Acquired himself really well at last 2 festivals and looks sure to go well.

13 VINTAGE CLOUDS (IRE) (38) (D, BF) 17-1-P 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) 11-9-P 9 10-10 68.9kg
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) 11-9-P 8 10-10 68.9kg
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) 11-9-P 6 9-9 66.7kg
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) 10-9-P 9 9-9 66.7kg
Nigel Twiston-Davies Jamie Bagnall (3lb/kg)
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) 11-9-P 7 9-8 66.7kg
David Pipe David Noonan
Back on song when taking 3-runner handicap at Plumpton (19f8) 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 Tieille, 14-1 Beware The Bear, 16-1 Vintage Clouds, 16-1 O O Seven, 20-1 Vicente, 20-1 Yala Enki, 22-1 Shantou Flyer, 22-1 Minella Daddy, 22-1 Cogy, 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 Tieille is also of interest.

TIMEFORM 1-2-2:

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

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2017 Un Temps Pour Tout 8-11-12 9-1 David Pipe Tom Scudamore
2016 Un Temps Pour Tout 11-13-11 11-1 David Pipe Tom Scudamore
2015 The Druids Nephew 8-11-3 8-1 Neil Mulholland Barry Geraghty
2014 Holywell 11-10-11 10-1 Jonjo O’Neil Richie Mclernon
2013 Golden Chieftain 8-10-5 28-1 Colin Tizzard Brendan Powell (3)
Pace Information: Strong

1. **BUVEUR D’AIR (FR) [38] (CD)**
   - Pace: 100
   - Rider: 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)**
   - Pace: 89
   - Rider: 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)**
   - Pace: 88
   - Rider: 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)**
   - Pace: 92
   - Rider: 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)**
   - Pace: 96
   - Rider: R. Walsh
   - Took this in 2015. Winning return from injury in Moraga 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)**
   - Pace: 81
   - Rider: 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)**
   - Pace: 89
   - Rider: Leighton Aspell
   - Winner of Swinford 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)**
   - Pace: 95
   - Rider: 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 second in Irish Champion last time. Can bounce back.

9. **MICK JAZZ (FR) [38] (D)**
   - Pace: 93
   - Rider: 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)**
    - Pace: 96
    - Rider: 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.
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 for home too soon.

Pace Information: Strong

1. **APPLE’S JADE (FR)** (75) (CD)  t  100
   - 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
   - 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
   - Neil Mulholland
   - Tom Scudamore
   - Better than ever last season, scoring twice over fences up to 2f1 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
   - 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
   - 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
   - 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
   - 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
   - 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
   - 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.

**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:**


**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Winner</th>
<th>Odds</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Race Time</th>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>Glens Melody</td>
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<td>Quevega</td>
<td>8/1f</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Quevega</td>
<td>8/1f</td>
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</table>

**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
Pace Information: Even

1. **ALL KINGS (IRE) (18)**
   - Jockey: Mr Joshua Newman
   - Weight: 75
   - Temperamental sort who’s way out of his depth.

2. **CLONDAW CIAN (IRE) (65) (C)**
   - Jockey: Mr Shane Fitzgerald
   - Weight: 84
   - 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)**
   - Jockey: Mr Tommie M. O’Brien
   - Weight: 96
   - Alex Hales
   - 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)**
   - Jockey: Mr Sam Waley-Cohen
   - Weight: 89
   - Useful hurdler but has been disappointing over fences this season, finishing on debut before beaten in small field next 2 starts. Probably not straightforward.

5. **JURY DUTY (IRE) (44)**
   - Jockey: Mr J. J. Codd
   - Weight: 100
   - Gordon Elliott, Ireland
   - Thrid in Pterpins 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)**
   - Jockey: Mr Richard Deegan
   - Weight: 95
   - Warren Greszcz
   - 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 (SJR)**
   - Jockey: Mr Theo Gillard
   - Weight: 84
   - Donald McCain
   - Won twice in May but last 2 efforts were poor and firmly up against it on first outing since October.

8. **MOSSBACK (IRE) (23)**
   - Jockey: Ms L. O’Neill
   - Weight: 97
   - Gordon Elliott, Ireland
   - Sceply 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)**
   - Jockey: Mr Derek O’Connor
   - Weight: 82
   - Philip Hobbs
   - 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)**
    - Jockey: Ms K. Walsh
    - Weight: 93
    - W. P. Mullins, Ireland
    - 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)**
    - Jockey: Ms L. O’Neill
    - Weight: 99
    - W. P. Mullins, Ireland
    - 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)**
    - Jockey: Mr James King
    - Weight: 89
    - Nicky Henderson
    - 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)**
    - Jockey: Mr D. Sheehan
    - Weight: 69
    - Sophie Leech
    - Well held both starts for new yard and isn’t up to this level.

14. **SHADES OF MIDNIGHT (38)**
    - Jockey: Mr T. Hamilton
    - Weight: 93
    - Sandy Thomson
    - 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)**
    - Jockey: Mr Barry O’Neill
    - Weight: 98
    - 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) (Q)**
    - Jockey: Mr W. Biddick
    - Weight: 101
    - Anthony Honeyball
    - Likeable mare who landed hat-trick in listed race at Warwick. Brushed aside in Reynoldstown at Ascot next time, but is a strong galopper who shapes as though she’ll stay marathon trips.

**BETTING FORECAST:**

1. **JURY DUTY, 13-2, Mes Parfois, 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, 2. MOSSBACK, 3. NO COMMENT**

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

- **2017:**
  - **Tiger Roll:** 11-11-6
  - Gordon Elliott

- **2016:**
  - **Minella Rococo:** 6-11-6
  - Jonjo O’Neill

- **2015:**
  - **Cause of Causes:** 7-11-6
  - Gordon Elliott

- **2014:**
  - **Midnight Prayer:** 9-11-6
  - Alan King

- **2013:**
  - **Back In Focus:** 9-11-6
  - 9-4f
  - W. P. Mullins

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, 2. MOSSBACK, 3. NO COMMENT**

**WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:**

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td><strong>Back In Focus</strong></td>
<td>W. P. Mullins</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

**Pace Information:**

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than expected. Horses who race prominently often fare well on the chase course, Left handed, undulating. Stiff fences that place a premium on sound jumping. The

**CHELTENHAM**

Tuesday 13th March

**5.30**

**CLOSE BROTHERS NOVICES’ HANDICAP CHASE (Listed) (1)**

5yo+ (Rated 0-145) £70,000 2½m78y (4090 Metres)

11 **DIVINE SPEAR (IRE) (27)** (BF) 99

11-22-112  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 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) 96

16-88-226  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) 99

18-32-96   7  11-6 | 72.6kg  

Paul Nicholls  

Sam Twiston-Davies  

Wen 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

31-2-214  6  11-5 | 71.1kg  

Nigel Twiston-Davies  

Tom Bellamy  

Good start over fences this winter, mugging Western Miller at Sandown and then sandwiched between pair of sold runner-up efforts. Progress has levelled off and his mark probably sums him up.

15 **REPORT TO BASE (IRE) (43)** 96

125-92-161  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

106-81-161  6  11-4 | 71.7kg  

W. P. Mullins, Ireland  

R. Walsh  

Didn’t take long to surmise 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

53-44-11F  8  11-3 | 71.2kg  

Ben Pauling  

Daryl Jacob  

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.

18 **BALLYMILL (FR) (45)** (C, D) 98

26-21510  7  11-3 | 71.2kg  

Nigel Twiston-Davies  

Jamey Barry  

(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

125-81-161  6  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 summued up by current mark.

20 **MISTER WHITAKER (IRE) (45)** (C, D) 99

64-32-101  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 &b rise perfectly fair.

**RESERVES**

21 **DEAVILLE DANCER (IRE) (87)** (D) 96

44-92-119  7  11-2 | 70.8kg  

David Dennis  

Reserve  

On the go early and took very well to chasing, contrasting 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**
CLOSE BROTHERS NOVICES’ HANDICAP CHASE (Listed) (1)
5yo+ (Rated 0-145) £70,000  2½m78y (4090 Metres)

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 Livellovelaugh,  22-1 Report To Base,  28-1 Le
Rocher,  28-1 Ibas Du Rhué,  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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Winner</th>
<th>Jockey</th>
<th>Trainer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Tully East</td>
<td>Alan Fleming</td>
<td>Denis O'Regan</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>Ballyalton</td>
<td>Ian Williams</td>
<td>Brian Hughes</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>Irish Cavalier</td>
<td>Rebecca Curtis</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Present View</td>
<td>Jamie Snowden</td>
<td>Brendan Powell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Rajdhani Express</td>
<td>Nicky Henderson</td>
<td>Mr Sam Waley-Cohen (5)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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