

1.30 BALLYMORE NOVICES' HURDLE (Baring Bingham) (Grade 1) (1) 2m5f26y (4250 Metres)

RACE 1 **(12) SAMCRO (IRE) | (11) NEXT DESTINATION (IRE) | (3) BLACK OP (IRE)**

2.10 RSA INSURANCE NOVICES' CHASE (Grade 1) (1) 3m80y (4900 Metres)

RACE 2 **(10) PRESENTING PERCY | (9) MONALEE (IRE) | (1) AL BOUM PHOTO (FR)**

2.50 CORAL CUP HANDICAP HURDLE (Grade 3) (1) 2m5f26y (4250 Metres)

RACE 3 **(8) VOIX DU REVE (FR) | (2) WILLIAM HENRY (IRE) | (10) MOUNT MEWS (IRE)**

3.30 BETWAY QUEEN MOTHER CHAMPION CHASE (Grade 1) (1) 1m7f199y (3200 Metres)

RACE 4 **(1) ALTIOR (IRE) | (6) MIN (FR) | (4) DOUVAN (FR)**

4.10 GLENFARCLAS CHASE (CROSS COUNTRY) (2) 3¾m37y (6070 Metres)

RACE 5 **(5) CAUSE OF CAUSES (USA) | (11) THE LAST SAMURI (IRE) | (9) JOSIES ORDERS (IRE)**

4.50 BOODLES FRED WINTER JUVENILE HANDICAP HURDLE (Grade 3) (1) 2m87y (3300 Metres)

RACE 6 **(10) LISP (IRE) | (4) ACT OF VALOUR | (7) NUBE NEGRA (SPA)**

5.30 WEATHERBYS CHAMPION BUMPER (STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT) (Grade 1) (1) 2m87y (3300 Metres)

RACE 7 **(21) ACEY MILAN (IRE) | (1) BLACKBOW (IRE) | (18) TORNADO FLYER (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

BALLYMORE NOVICES' HURDLE (Baring Bingham) (Grade 1) (1) 4yo+ £125,000 2m5f26y (4250 Metres)











GBI RACING





BRITISH AND IRISH RACING

Going: Heavy (Soft 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	AHEAD OF THE CURVE (FR) (72)	s+t	89
	21212P34 6 11-7 73.0kg Susan Corbett Point winner who has developed into a pretty useful hurdler at up to 3m this term but surely biting off more than he can chew here.	James Corbett	
2	AYE AYE CHARLIE (46)		88
	3614-3F43 6 11-7 73.0kg Fergal O'Brien Fairly useful bumper winner last season and reached a similar standard over hurdles without winning. Needs to improve significantly to take a hand here.	Conor Shoemark	
3	BLACK OP (IRE) (46) (D)	t	97
	19-412 7 11-7 73.0kg Tom George Made mistakes but still readily landed odds in Doncaster maiden on second hurdle start and improved again when ¾-length second to Santini in course Grade 2 in January. Likely capable of even better.	Noel Fehily	
4	BRAHMA BULL (IRE) (125)		81
	1111 7 11-7 73.0kg W. P. Mullins, Ireland Unbeaten in 3 bumpers and readily justified short odds on Thurles hurdle debut in November. Needs to leave that bare form behind to figure but possible he could do so.	D. J. Mullins	
5	COOLANLY (IRE) (101) (BF)		82
	12 6 11-7 73.0kg Fergal O'Brien Irish point winner who looked good prospect when landing 16-runner bumper in October. Promising start over hurdles when second at Leicester in December but very much pitched in at the deep end here.	Paddy Brennan	
6	DIABLO DE ROUHET (FR) (9)		82
	765122 5 11-7 73.0kg Jo Hughes Fairly useful winning hurdler in the mud this winter but surely out of his depth here.	Mark Grant	
7	DOC DES GENIEVRES (FR) (38)		94
	132 5 11-7 73.0kg W. P. Mullins, Ireland First run for yard when 4 lengths third of 8 to Next Destination in Naas Grade 1 and stepped up on that when 5½ lengths second Samcro in Deloitte since. Likely capable of better still.	P. Townend	
8	GOWITHTHEFLOW (IRE) (34) (D)		91
	221 5 11-7 73.0kg Ben Pauling Irish point winner who has quickly made up into a useful hurdler, winning 21f Doncaster novice (good to soft) in February. Open to further progress.	Daryl Jacob	
9	KNIGHT IN DUBAI (IRE) (36) (D)	t	90
	5134 5 11-7 73.0kg Dan Skelton Made a successful debut over hurdles at Wetherby in December. Better form in defeat since but will need to raise his game to get involved here.	Harry Skelton	
10	MIND'S EYE (IRE) (39) (BF)		93
	22-2110 6 11-7 73.0kg Henry de Bromhead, Ireland Useful effort when landing winning 15-runner handicap hurdle at Leopardstown (20f, soft) in December and probably worth forgiving his run over 2m there since.	Davy Russell	

11	NEXT DESTINATION (IRE) (66)		99
	142-111 6 11-7 73.0kg W. P. Mullins, Ireland Fourth in Champion Bumper at this meeting last year and unbeaten in 3 outings over hurdles this winter, the latest coming in a Naas Grade 1. Open to further progress and expected to go well.	R. Walsh	
12	SAMCRO (IRE) (38)		100
	111-111 6 11-7 73.0kg Gordon Elliott, Ireland Has looked a horse of rare potential when winning all starts under Rules, taking step up to Grade 1 company in his stride when seeing off Duc Des Genievres by 5½ lengths latest. Can't oppose.	J. W. Kennedy	
13	SCARPETA (FR) (48)		90
	31 5 11-7 73.0kg W. P. Mullins, Ireland Fairly useful stayer on Flat for Mark Johnston and has made a good start over hurdles for new yard, building on promise of Navan third when easy winner at Gowran in January. Definitely more to come.	D. E. Mullins	
14	VISION DES FLOS (FR) (31)	t	90
	1-3421 5 11-7 73.0kg Colin Tizzard Big money buy after landing bumper last spring. Disappointed a couple of times after third in Chepstow Grade 2 on hurdle bow but back on track in tongue tie when easy winner of Exeter listed latest.	Robbie Power	

14 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

4-6 Samcro, 9-2 Next Destination, 12-1 Black Op, 16-1 Duc Des Genievres, 28-1 Vision Des Flos, 50-1 bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

SAMCRO has passed every test to date with flying colours and will be very hard to beat once again. Fellow Irish raiders Next Destination and Duc des Genievres, who chased home the selection in the Deloitte, look sure to be involved in the battle for minor honours, with Black Op clear pick of the home contingent.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. SAMCRO (IRE) 2. NEXT DESTINATION (IRE) 3. BLACK OP (IRE)

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:				
2017	Willoughby Court	6-11-7	14-1 Ben Pauling	David Bass 15
2016	Yorkhill	6-11-7	3-1 W. P. Mullins	R. Walsh 11
2015	Windsor Park	6-11-7	9-2 D. K. Weld	Davy Russell 10
2014	Faugheen	6-11-7	6-4f W. P. Mullins	R. Walsh 15
2013	The New One	5-11-7	7-2 Nigel Twiston-Davies	Sam Twiston-Davies 8

2.10

RACE 2

RSA INSURANCE NOVICES' CHASE (Grade 1) (1) 5yo+
£175,000 3m80y (4900 Metres)















GBI RACING

BRITISH AND IRISH RACING

Going: Heavy (Soft 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		AL BOUM PHOTO (FR) (38) F/3115-1F2 6 11-4 71.7kg W. P. Mullins, Ireland  Grade 2 hurdle winner who won maiden chase at Navan (17f) in November. Likely would have won but for falling next start but ran Monalee close in Flogas novice latest. Likely to progress further.	<i>R. Walsh</i>	98
2		ALLYSSON MONTERG (FR) (31) 2216/7-1 8 11-4 71.7kg Richard Hobson Winning hurdler who was sixth in the 2016 Albert Bartlett. Confined to just 2 starts subsequently, but made light of 15 month absence on chase bow at Exeter (19f) in February. This much tougher.	<i>Jonathan Burke</i>	86
3		BALLYOPTIC (IRE) (39) (D) 4P5-51241 8 11-4 71.7kg Nigel Twiston-Davies Grade 1 winning hurdler. Hasn't totally convinced with his jumping over fences but does boast a 2-4 record, landing Grade 2 Towton novice (3m) last month. Stamina/ground no issue and not discounted.	<i>Sam Twiston-Davies</i>	95
4		BLACK CORTON (FR) (25) (CD) 11111211 7 11-4 71.7kg Paul Nicholls  Having a terrific season under this pilot, winning 8 of his 10 starts including Grade 1 Kauto Star and latterly Grade 2 Reynoldstown at Ascot. Excellent jumping a real asset and he's respected again.	<i>Bryony Frost</i>	97
5		BONBON AU MIEL (FR) (53) 21P-41 7 11-4 71.7kg W. P. Mullins, Ireland  Useful hurdler who left chase debut behind when convincingly taking a Navan maiden (20f) in January. Very much at home under testing conditions and unexposed so likely better to come.	<i>P. Townend</i>	91
6		DOUNIKOS (FR) (38) 11249-114 7 11-4 71.7kg Gordon Elliott, Ireland Quickly reached a useful level over fences, landing Gowran maiden/Limerick Grade 2 late last year. Solid fourth behind Monalee in Flogas novice last time but work to do to reverse that form here.	<i>J. W. Kennedy</i>	97
7		ELEGANT ESCAPE (IRE) (31) (D) 577-22121 6 11-4 71.7kg Colin Tizzard  Has made a good start over fences, accounting for Black Corton at Newbury in December. Second behind that rival next time but back to winning ways in Graduation chase latest. Still, more required here	<i>Harry Cobden</i>	93
8		FULL IRISH (IRE) (46) 4218-4145 7 11-4 71.7kg Emma Lavelle Bumper/hurdles winner who left chase bow/return well behind when easily winning at Lingfield (23.5f). Hasn't totally convinced either start since and set a stiff task now tackling Grade 1 company.	<i>Leighton Aspell</i>	86
9		MONALEE (IRE) (38) (D) 12124-1F1 7 11-4 71.7kg Henry de Bromhead, Ireland Smart hurdler, runner-up in last year's Albert Bartlett. Made it 2-3 over fences (fell other start) in Grade 1 Flogas novice chase at Leopardstown in February, finding plenty. Big player back at 3m.	<i>Noel Fehily</i>	99
10		PRESENTING PERCY (25) (C, D, BF) 116-13112 7 11-4 71.7kg Patrick G. Kelly, Ireland Won the Pertemps Final last term and had a fine season again this time, winning twice over fences and Grade 2 hurdle. Found only Our Duke too good in Red Mills chase latest and he's a leading player.	<i>Davy Russell</i>	100

BETTING FORECAST:

11-4 Presenting Percy, 3-1 Monalee, 8-1 Al Boum Photo, 8-1 Black Corton, 9-1 Dounikos, 12-1 Elegant Escape, 16-1 Ballyoptic, 25-1 Bonbon Au Miel, 50-1 bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

The Irish have a very strong hand here with both PRESENTING PERCY and Monalee arriving on the back of career-best efforts in deep races. The former's length second to Gold Cup hopeful Our Duke edging him the vote. Al Boum Photo and Ballyoptic are also considered.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. PRESENTING PERCY 2. MONALEE (IRE) 3. AL BOUM PHOTO (FR)











WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:













2017	Might Bite 8-11-4	7-2f	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boinville	12
2016	Blaklion 7-11-4	8-1	Nigel Twiston-Davies	Ryan Hatch	8
2015	Don Poli 6-11-4	13-8f	W. P. Mullins	B. J. Cooper	8
2014	O'Faolains Boy 7-11-4	12-1	Rebecca Curtis	Barry Geraghty	15
2013	Lord Windermere 7-11-4	8-1	J. Culloty	Davy Russell	11

2.50**RACE 3****CORAL CUP HANDICAP HURDLE (Grade 3) (1) 4yo+
£100,000 2m5f26y (4250 Metres)****GBI RACING****BRITISH AND IRISH RACING**Going: **Heavy (Soft 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	DIAMOND KING (IRE) (73) (CD)	t	96
	4154PP-53 10 11-12 75.3kg Gordon Elliott, Ireland Davy Russell Former winner of this race who was returning from 7 months off when respectable third in Punchestown minor event in December. Not seen since, though, and percentage call is to look elsewhere.		
2	WILLIAM HENRY (IRE) (60) (C, D)	s	99
	2121-P1 8 11-10 74.4kg Nicky Henderson James Bowen (3lb/1kg) Made successful return to hurdling when landing Lanzarote handicap at Kempton in January. 6 lb rise fair and looks sure to go well under leading conditional pilot. Wears first-time cheekpieces.		
3	TOPOFTHEGAME (IRE) (39)	t	95
	142-F41 6 11-9 73.9kg Paul Nicholls Sam Twiston-Davies Built on promise of hurdling return when landing big-field handicap at Sandown last month. Effective on this sort of ground and is one of the likelier contenders.		
4	ABYSSIAL (IRE) (25)		89
	4 8 11-6 72.6kg W. P. Mullins, Ireland D. E. Mullins Showed some ability remains, on return from very long absence, when fourth in Red Mills Trial Hurdle last month. However, leap of faith required to recommend him for this ultra-competitive heat.		
5	RIVER FROST (60) (D)		93
	311F19-5P 6 11-4 71.7kg Alan King Barry Geraghty Back on the up when encouraging fifth on Chepstow return in October, but ran as if amiss on only start since and questionable whether he'll be suited by likely underfoot conditions.		
6	BLEU BERRY (FR) (39)		97
	7F/1115-0 7 11-2 70.8kg W. P. Mullins, Ireland P. Townend Three-time winner over shorter trips in Ireland last term but limited to sole start this season (well held at Leopardstown last month) and yet to prove his effectiveness for this sort of stamina test		
7	BURBANK (IRE) (53)	s	95
	21242-063 6 11-2 70.8kg Nicky Henderson Jeremiah McGrath Back on track when third in heavy-ground handicap at Ascot in January and acquitted himself well in Neptune over this C&D last season. Each-way player.		
8	VOIX DU REVE (FR) (38)	h	100
	3112F2/89 6 11-1 70.3kg W. P. Mullins, Ireland D. J. Mullins Down the field in a couple of 3-mile handicaps since returning from an absence this term, but looked likely winner of Fred Winter 2 years ago (fell last) and could be interesting now dropped in trip.		
9	ROYAL VACATION (IRE) (72) (C, D)	b+t	92
	311PP-3P5 8 11-1 70.3kg Colin Tizzard Harry Cobden Rather gone backwards over fences since landing soft-ground handicap here last term, but shaped better switched back to hurdling last time and had wind operation since. Not ruled out.		
10	MOUNT MEWS (IRE) (25)		99
	112-36123 7 11-1 70.3kg Ruth Jefferson Brian Hughes Hasn't totally convinced over fences this term and boasts some strong form over the smaller obstacles, so merits consideration off decent mark switched back to hurdling.		

11	MAX DYNAMITE (FR) (223)		96
	72/9 8 11-0 69.9kg W. P. Mullins, Ireland R. Walsh Followed up fine third in Melbourne Cup with solid effort over shorter trip in Sha Tin Grade 1 in December. Ruby Walsh's choice on return to hurdling so deserving of plenty of respect.		
12	FIXE LE KAP (FR) (25)		95
	1128/2-127 6 11-0 69.9kg Nicky Henderson Daryl Jacob Listed winner over hurdles in France in May on the back of a mighty effort in the Imperial Cup. However, rather gone backwards since and makes limited appeal.		
13	STOWAWAY MAGIC (IRE) (25) (D)		96
	21512-224 7 10-13 69.4kg Nicky Henderson Nico de Boynville Useful novice hurdler last season, winning 3 times, but was well held on return to this discipline at Ascot last time and has his work cut out here.		
14	AS YOU WERE (FR) (45)	s+t	92
	1-422 6 10-13 69.4kg Alan Fleming, Ireland Denis O'Regan Lightly-raced sort who found improvement when second in a Naas maiden last time. However, asked a big question on handicap debut and opening mark not particularly generous.		
15	SPRINGTOWN LAKE (IRE) (42)		94
	02-1F231 6 10-12 68.9kg Philip Hobbs Richard Johnson Opened account over hurdles at Worcester in October and been placed in Grade 2 and listed company since. Made most of easy opportunity latest but faces a totally different test this time.		
16	LE BREUIL (FR) (95) (BF)		98
	1411P-52 6 10-12 68.9kg Ben Pauling Aidan Coleman Looked a good prospect when landing back-to-back novice hurdles last term and upped game when second in Aintree handicap in December. Still low-mileage and is another to consider.		
17	RED INDIAN (34) (BF)		95
	1/312-2332 6 10-12 68.9kg Ben Pauling David Bass Made the frame all 4 starts in handicap company this season, latest when runner-up at Towcester last month. Effective with plenty of cut in the ground and should be in the mix once more.		
18	DUSKY LEGEND (46)		95
	2232-22F3 8 10-12 68.9kg Alan King Wayne Hutchinson Twice placed in the Dawn Run here and respectable third sent back over timber at Doncaster last time. However, may find this stamina test too much for her.		
19	C'EST JERSEY (FR) (24)	b	95
	2/23101-2P 6 10-12 68.9kg W. P. Mullins, Ireland Noel Fehily Useful hurdler who failed to build on his promising Fairyhouse chase debut last time. Attentions switched back to smaller obstacles now but others make more appeal.		
20	THE ORGANIST (IRE) (60)		96
	23674-715 7 10-12 68.9kg Oliver Sherwood Leighton Aspell Resumed winning ways at Newbury over longer trip in December and shaped as if still in good form at Warwick last time. Not out of things.		
21	JEANNOT DE NONANT (FR) (17)	s	96
	738-43541 6 10-12 68.9kg Peter Bowen Sean Bowen Posted career best, on only second start for Peter Bowen, when winning 8-runner handicap at Southwell last month. This is much tougher but remains relatively unexposed over this sort of trip.		
22	FLEMCARA (IRE) (39) (D)	t	94
	525-51119 6 10-11 68.5kg Emma Lavelle Patrick Cowley (5lb/2kg) Much improved since switched to handicaps, completing hat-trick in good style at Chepstow in January. Not seen to best effect at Sandown last time but this mark demands new personal best.		

2.50






RACE 3

CORAL CUP HANDICAP HURDLE (Grade 3) (1) 4yo+ £100,000 2m5f26y (4250 Metres)

GBI

RACING

BRITISH AND IRISH RACING

23	BARRA (FR) (38)	t	96
	2366-2342 7 10-10 68.0kg Gordon Elliott, Ireland <i>J. W. Kennedy</i> Upped her game, on handicap bow, when second in 18-runner contest at Leopardstown (18f) last month. 4 lb higher now but will be a player if handling this longer trip.		
24	BASTIEN (FR) (32) (D)		95
	6113-31F5 7 10-10 68.0kg Alan King  <i>Tom Cannon</i> Comfortable winner of Towcester handicap in November and in process of running well when falling last at Wincanton next time. Well held latest, however, and pitched into deeper contest now.		
25	GRACEFUL LEGEND (53)	s	94
	111-36133 7 10-9 67.6kg Ben Case <i>Max Kendrick (51b/2kg)</i> Won 4 mares' handicap hurdles last season and further progress when scoring at Ascot in November. Not at her best last time, though, and others appear better treated.		
26	PROJECT BLUEBOOK (FR) (32)		95
	11341-680 5 10-9 67.6kg John Quinn <i>Mark Walsh</i> Rounded off juvenile campaign with Grade 3 win at Fairyhouse, but hasn't really threatened this season and these conditions unlikely to play to his strengths.		

RESERVES

27



MISCHIEVOUS MAX (IRE) (75)

42122220 5 10-8 | 67.1kg

Joseph Patrick O'Brien, Ireland

In fine form when second in C&D handicap last autumn but disappointed sole start since and faces a stiff task in this company. RESERVE.

95

Reserve

28



KILDISART (IRE) (25) (BF)

2-2125 6 10-8 | 67.1kg

Ben Pauling

Posted improved form when runner-up on Kempton handicap debut in December and far from disgraced off higher mark at Ascot subsequently. More on plate here, however. RESERVE

93

Reserve

26 DECLARED RUNNERS (2 RESERVES)

BETTING FORECAST:

17-2 Max Dynamite, 10-1 William Henry, 14-1 Le Breuil, 16-1 Topofthegame, 18-1 Voix Du Reve, 18-1 Mount Mews, 18-1 Burbank, 25-1 Diamond King, 25-1 Barra, 25-1 Red Indian, 25-1 Springtown Lake, 25-1 River Frost, 25-1 Royal Vacation, 28-1 Stowaway Magic, 28-1 The Organist, 28-1 Fixe Le Kap, 33-1 Bleu Berry, 33-1 C'est Jersey, 33-1 Flemcara, 33-1 As You Were, 40-1 bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

In a typically-competitive renewal, it could be worth chancing VOIX DU REVE, who looked very likely to land the Fred Winter here 2 years ago (travelling best when fell last) and may have bounced after an encouraging return in December. William Henry is feared most after his Lanzarote victory last time, whilst Mount Mews, Topofthegame and Max Dynamite are also much respected.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. VOIX DU REVE (FR) 2. WILLIAM HENRY (IRE) 3. MOUNT MEWS (IRE)

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:				
2017	Supasundae 7-11-4	16-1	Mrs J. Harrington	Robbie Power 25
2016	Diamond King 8-11-3	12-1	Gordon Elliott	Davy Russell 26
2015	Aux Ptits Soins 5-10-7	9-1	Paul Nicholls	Sam Twiston-Davies 25
2014	Whisper 6-11-11	14-1	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boinville (5) 28
2013	Medinas 6-11-10	33-1	Alan King	Wayne Hutchinson 28

3.30

RACE 4

BETWAY QUEEN MOTHER CHAMPION CHASE (Grade 1) (1)
5yo+ £400,000 1m7f199y (3200 Metres)

GBI















RACING

BRITISH AND IRISH RACING

Going: **Heavy (Soft 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: **Extreme**

1		ALTIOR (IRE) (32) (CD) 1/111111-1 8 11-10 74.4kg Nicky Henderson Unbeaten top-class hurdler and even better over fences, winning Arkle last year. Delayed return this term due to wind op but looked every bit as good as ever in beating Politologue at Newbury.		100
2		AR MAD (FR) (95) (D) 61111/4-P3 8 11-10 74.4kg Gary Moore Bold-jumping front-runner who was a Grade 1 winner during his novice season but has been an infrequent visitor to the track since. Behind Politologue in Tingle Creek in December and off again since.	s	90
3		CHARBEL (IRE) (95) (D) 5/512F3-44 7 11-10 74.4kg Kim Bailey Running big race when falling 2 out in last year's Arkle, although he wouldn't have troubled Altior. Fine fourth to Politologue in Tingle Creek but surely playing for minor honours at best.	s	90
4		DOUVAN (FR) (364) (CD, BF) 111/11117- 8 11-10 74.4kg W. P. Mullins, Ireland Outstanding performer at his best but unbeaten run for this yard ended with a poor run in this race 12 months ago and hasn't been seen since. Walsh does side with him over Min, though.		R. Walsh
5		GOD'S OWN (IRE) (60) (D) 233553-63 10 11-10 74.4kg Tom George Top-class Grade-1 winning chaser at his best. Some way below that level in 2 outings this term but he's one who tends to come into his own in the spring.		94
6		MIN (FR) (39) (D) 112/11-11d1 7 11-10 74.4kg W. P. Mullins, Ireland Only scrambled home from Simply Ned at Leopardstown over Christmas (subsequently lost race in stewards' room) but quickly back on the up when hammering that same rival back there last month.		P. Townend
7		ORDINARY WORLD (IRE) (39) (D) 12232-234 8 11-10 74.4kg Henry de Bromhead, Ireland Third to Altior in Arkle last term and has continued in good form this time round. Would have finished second to Min at Leopardstown last time but for blundering the last. This tougher still, though.		88
8		POLITOLOGUE (FR) (32) (D) 214F-1112 7 11-10 74.4kg Paul Nicholls Top-class performances when winning first 3 outings this term, including Tingle Creek, but readily outgunned by Altior in Game Spirit at Newbury last time. Hard to see how he can turn the tables.		Sam Twiston-Davies
9		SPECIAL TIARA (39) (CD) 31512-3F3 11 11-10 74.4kg Henry de Bromhead, Ireland Made it fourth time lucky in this race 12 months ago but hasn't hit the same heights in 2 completed runs this term and surprise if doesn't come up a little short this time round.		Noel Fehily

9 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

4-6 Altior, 4-1 Douvan, 9-1 Min, 16-1 Politologue, 40-1 bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

ALTIOR looked as good as ever when returning from wind surgery to beat Politologue in the Game Spirit and can extend his unbeaten chase record to 8. Douvan would be more than capable of mixing it with Nicky Henderson's charge at his best but he hasn't been seen since a tame run in this race last year and a bigger threat may emerge from stablemate Min, even though Ruby Walsh sides with the former.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. ALTIOR (IRE) 2. MIN (FR) 3. DOUVAN (FR)

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2017	Special Tiara	10-11-10	11-1	Henry de Bromhead	Noel Fehily	10
2016	Sprinter Sacre	10-11-10	5-1	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boinville	10
2015	Dodging Bullets	7-11-10	9-2	Paul Nicholls	Sam Twiston-Davies	9
2014	Sire de Grugy	8-11-10	11-4f	Gary Moore	Jamie Moore	11
2013	Sprinter Sacre	7-11-10	1-4f	Nicky Henderson	Barry Geraghty	7

4.10

RACE 5

GLENFARCLAS CHASE (CROSS COUNTRY) (2) 5yo+ £65,000

3¼m37y (6070 Metres)

GBI

RACING

BRITISH AND IRISH RACING

Going: Heavy (Soft 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	AUVERGNAT (FR) (31) 14-1283F1 8 11-4 71.7kg Enda Bolger, Ireland Just about a career best when fourth in this last year having landed a cross-country event at Punchestown, and has warmed up for this with a repeat win, narrowly seeing off Josies Orders.	92	Mark Walsh
2	BEEVES (IRE) (38) 185511-19 11 11-4 71.7kg Jennie Candlish Developed into a smart chaser for present stable, winning 3 in a row last year. Fit from a spin over hurdles and wouldn't be a surprise were he to take to this discipline, but he has a bit to find.	90	Sean Quinlan
3	BLESS THE WINGS (IRE) (89) (CD) 08226-PP1 13 11-4 71.7kg Gordon Elliott, Ireland Excellent effort when second to Cause of Causes in this last year and enhanced superb course record when landing a 9-runner contest in December. No reason why he won't give it another good shot.	93	Davy Russell
4	CANTLOW (IRE) (89) (CD) 11232-042 13 11-4 71.7kg Enda Bolger, Ireland Heavily backed for this race in 2017 following a brace of cross-country wins the previous winter, but he could manage only third. Found only Bless The Wings too good in a C&D handicap in December.	91	D. J. McInerney
5	CAUSE OF CAUSES (USA) (38) (CD) P/SP0512-0 10 11-4 71.7kg Gordon Elliott, Ireland Can boast a tremendous Festival record, completing a remarkable hat-trick in this race last year (NH Chase in 2015 and Kim Muir in 2016). Wouldn't read too much into heavy reappearance defeat.	97	Mr J. J. Codd
6	CHIC NAME (FR) (31) 3P34417-3 6 11-4 71.7kg Richard Hobson Handicap chase winner a year ago and seemed to run well from unfavourable terms at Exeter last month. Is right up against it on these terms again and has stamina to prove over this new test.	82	Jonathan Burke
7	FEDERICI (21) 55-514553 9 11-4 71.7kg Donald McCain Has experience in this discipline given he was previously trained by Enda Bolger, but is right up against it on these terms from what he's offered for current yard.	83	Will Kennedy
8	HURRICANE DARWIN (IRE) (31) 8F-401104 8 11-4 71.7kg Alan Fleming, Ireland Back-to-back handicap winner over fences/hurdles during the autumn. Took pretty well to the banks when fourth at Punchestown last month (behind a couple of these), but chance is far from obvious here.	83	Denis O'Regan
9	JOSIES ORDERS (IRE) (31) (CD) 91/0-62302 10 11-4 71.7kg Enda Bolger, Ireland Heavily backed when second in the 2016 renewal, only to be subsequently awarded the race. Lightly raced since but perhaps an unlucky loser when second to stablemate Auvergnat last time.	92	Miss N. Carberry
10	SAINT ARE (FR) (46) P0/53F23-P 12 11-4 71.7kg Tom George Established as a smart staying handicap chaser, finishing placed in the Grand National for the second time in 2017. Set a stiff task and looked rusty on hurdles return and now tries a new discipline.	92	A. P. Heskin

11	THE LAST SAMURI (IRE) (46) 2/5320-224 10 11-4 71.7kg Kim Bailey High-class, admirable chaser who was runner-up in 2016 Grand National. Ran another cracker when second in Becher at Aintree and he is a massive threat if taking to this unique test.	100	David Bass
12	TIGER ROLL (IRE) (89) (C) 1331P-2P5 8 11-4 71.7kg Gordon Elliott, Ireland Profile has up-and-down look to it, but career highlights include a brace of Cheltenham Festival wins, namely the 2014 Triumph and 2017 NH Chase. Didn't look a cross-country natural here in December.	94	Keith Donoghue
13	URGENT DE GREGAINE (FR) (117) (CD) 147351-23 10 11-4 71.7kg Emmanuel Clayeux, France Shock winner when seeing off 9 rivals, including Cantlow, in a C&D handicap in January 2017. Just as good when placed twice last autumn, but this is a tall order at the weights.	88	Felix de Giles
14	URUMQI (FR) (24) 6P3-13P22 7 11-4 71.7kg David Cottin, France Useful chaser, won minor event at Pau in December: 4/1, length second of 12 to Protekblue in handicap at same course last time. Stiff task here with stamina a huge query, too.	83	Jonathan Plouganou
15	VICOMTE DU SEUIL (FR) (117) 81481312 9 11-4 71.7kg Emmanuel Clayeux, France Fairly useful hurdler/chaser in France. Ran well from out of the weights on second start in Britain when second to Kingswell Theatre in a C&D contest in November, but that level won't suffice.	82	Charlie Deutsch
16	BELAMIX DOR (FR) (40) 46-F63327 7 10-11 68.5kg Patrice Quinton, France Fairly useful maiden chaser, good effort when length second of 16 to Protekblue in handicap at Pau in January, well below form in similar event on same course last time. Uphill task.	80	Thomas Beaurain

16 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

7-2 Cause of Causes, 13-2 The Last Samuri, 7-1 Tiger Roll, 15-2 Josies Orders, 9-1 Bless The Wings, 9-1 Auvergnat, 16-1 Cantlow, 20-1 Urgent De Gregaine, 28-1 Hurricane Darwin, 50-1 bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

To say that CAUSE OF CAUSES comes alive at this meeting would be a gross understatement, and following last year's ready win in this race, he is selected to make it a remarkable fourth Festival win in a row. The Last Samuri is the pick at the weights so is a huge threat if taking to this discipline at the first time of asking, with Josies Orders perhaps the pick of the Enda Bolger trio.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. CAUSE OF CAUSES (USA) 2. THE LAST SAMURI (IRE) 3. JOSIES ORDERS (IRE)

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:						
2017	Cause of Causes	9-11-4	4-1	Gordon Elliott	Mr J. J. Codd	16
2016	Josies Orders	8-11-4	15-8f	Enda Bolger	Miss N. Carberry	16
2015	Rivage d'Or	10-10-10	16-1	A. J. Martin	Davy Russell	16
2014	Balthazar King	10-11-12	4-1	Philip Hobbs	Richard Johnson	16
2013	Big Shu	8-10-5	14-1	Peter Maher	B. M. Cash	16

4.50**RACE 6****BOODLES FRED WINTER JUVENILE HANDICAP HURDLE
(Grade 3) (1) 4yo £80,000 2m87y (3300 Metres)****GBI RACING****BRITISH AND IRISH RACING**Going: **Heavy (Soft 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: **Extreme**

1 CASA TALL (FR) (109) 95
6311 4 11-10 | 74.4kg



Tom George *James Bowen (3lb/1kg)*
Ended his time in France on the up, winning his last 2 starts (fairly useful form). Stiff task from top weight, but further improvement not ruled out for new yard.

2 MITCHOUKA (FR) (18) (D) 97
2112311 4 11-10 | 74.4kg



Gordon Elliott, Ireland *Davy Russell*
Healthy strike rate over hurdles, not needing to come out of first gear to land his fourth race of the campaign last time. Appeals as the type to be suited by a well-run affair.

3 STYLE DE GARDE (FR) (61) (D, BF) 95
3-114 4 11-8 | 73.5kg



Nicky Henderson *Nico de Boinville*
Taking winner under a penalty on his British debut at Newbury in December. Below expectations when fourth of 5 to Esprit De Somoza last time, but still early days and worth another chance.

4 ACT OF VALOUR (38) (D) 99
152 4 11-7 | 73.0kg



Paul Nicholls *A. P. Heskin*
Useful Flat recruit who looked thoroughly professional when making a successful hurdling debut at Newcastle in December. Clearly wasn't 100% next time and firmly back on the up when runner-up latest.

5 MERCENAIRE (FR) (31) (D, BF) 93
8-132 4 11-6 | 72.6kg



Nick Williams *Mr Chester Williams (7lb/3kg)*
Left his form well behind in France when winning easily in the mud at Exeter in November. Found out in better company since and handicapper hasn't done him any favours.

6 ESPRIT DE SOMOZA (FR) (22) (BF) 99
512 4 11-6 | 72.6kg



Nick Williams *Lizzie Kelly (3lb/1kg)*
Left his hurdling debut form well behind when winning in good style at Huntingdon (15.8f, soft) in January. Slow pace not conducive when runner-up last time and should still do better.

7 NUBE NEGRA (SPA) (47) (D) 97
121 4 11-6 | 72.6kg



Dan Skelton *Harry Skelton*
Maiden on Flat in Spain, but has made a promising start to hurdle career, with his defeat having come at the hands of Apple's Shakira here in December. Likely to thrive in a well-run race like this.

8 LOOK MY WAY (46) (D) 98
212 4 11-6 | 72.6kg



John Quinn *Brian Hughes*
Useful Flat recruit who made the most of a good opportunity to get off the mark at Ludlow in January. No match for the impressive Apple's Shakira last time, but he may yet do better.

9 BRAVE DANCING (38) 88
241 4 11-5 | 72.1kg



David Cottin, France *Felix de Giles*
Fairly useful form over hurdles in France, made it third time lucky when scoring at Pau (17.4f, heavy) last month. Plenty of improvement required to defy this mark.

10 LISP (IRE) (25) (BF) 97
2113 4 11-3 | 71.2kg



Alan King *Wayne Hutchinson*
Won 2 of his 4 starts over hurdles, shaped very well when third to Turning Gold in Victor Ludorum at Haydock last time. Still progressing and remains with plenty of potential heading into handicaps.

11 PADLEYOUROWNCANOE (64) (D, BF) 95
34112 4 11-3 | 71.2kg



Colin Tizzard *Tom Scudamore*
Fair Flat performer who has rapidly improved since joining this yard, winning 2 of his 4 starts. Ran his best race yet when second to a stable-switcher at Taunton last time. May do even better.

12 VENEER OF CHARM (IRE) (53) (D) 92
127 4 11-0 | 69.9kg



Gordon Elliott, Ireland *J. W. Kennedy*
Fairly useful Flat recruit who displayed a smart turf of foot to make a winning hurdling debut at Punchestown in December. Twice below that level since, but remains with potential in this sphere.

13 EMBOLE (FR) (25) 93
4351 4 11-0 | 69.9kg



Dan Skelton *Daryl Jacob*
Proved a major disappointment at Huntingdon bearing in mind hurdling debut promise, but underwent a breathing operation and firmly back on the up when scoring at Wincanton. This asks for more.

14 EUREU DU BOULAY (FR) (114) 93
4239521 4 11-0 | 69.9kg



Richard Hobson *Jonathan Burke*
In the frame all 3 starts in bumpers and off the mark at the fourth attempt over hurdles in France (fairly useful form). Open to progress for new yard, but this is no easy task.

15 SOLO SAXOPHONE (IRE) (31) (D) 97
113 4 10-13 | 69.4kg



Dan Skelton *P. Townend*
Fairly useful on Flat and defied inexperience to make a winning hurdles debut at Catterick in December. Followed up at Wetherby but well beaten in listed company last time. Each-way chance.

16 OXFORD BLU (24) (D) 97
1432 4 10-13 | 69.4kg



Olly Murphy *Richard Johnson*
Fair on Flat and perfect start over timber winning Fakenham juvenile in December. Undone by a penalty next 2 starts but showed improved form in first-time cheekpieces on handicap bow latest. Up 3 lb.

17 THE KING OF MAY (FR) (38) (D) 97
5-6113 4 10-13 | 69.4kg



Brian Ellison *Danny Cook*
Won the last 2 of 4 hurdle starts in France and stepped up on that form despite shaping as if better for the run when third at Musselburgh (15.6f) last month, not knocked about. Capable of better.

18 KNIGHT DESTROYER (IRE) (88) 95
2123 4 10-12 | 68.9kg



Jonjo O'Neill *Aidan Coleman*
Fairly useful on Flat and outclassed rivals when making second hurdles start a winning one at Uttoxeter in October. Let down by jumping next time, but back on track to a large extent since.

19 TURNING GOLD (25) 96
2241 4 10-12 | 68.9kg



Nigel Twiston-Davies *Tom Bellamy*
Fairly useful on the Flat for Sir Mark Prescott and promising start over timber for present connections, showed a good attitude to get off the mark in Victor Ludorum at Haydock (15.6f) last time.

20 MASTERMIND (IRE) (18) (D) 97
616312 4 10-12 | 68.9kg



Charles O'Brien, Ireland *Robbie Power*
Off the mark at the second time of asking in this sphere at Gowran in November. Largely consistent since, but possibly more exposed than most.

21 GRAND SANCY (FR) (18) 96
42224 4 10-12 | 68.9kg



Paul Nicholls *Sam Twiston-Davies*
Had made a solid start to his hurdle career, runner-up in novices at Wincanton and Taunton in recent months. Outpaced in Adonis at Kempton last time, but there's a bigger performance in him.

22 ERAGON DE CHANAY (FR) (5lb/2kg ex) (4) (D) 100
1-31341 4 10-11 | 68.5kg



Gary Moore *Joshua Moore*
Got back on the up at a more realistic level when winning 6-runner juvenile hurdle at Sandown (16f, heavy) on Saturday. Carries a penalty but this a whole lot tougher.



4.50

RACE 6

BOODLES FRED WINTER JUVENILE HANDICAP HURDLE
(Grade 3) (1) 4yo £80,000 2m87y (3300 Metres)

GBI RACING

BRITISH AND IRISH RACING

RESERVES

23	AMERICAN CRAFTSMAN (IRE) (77) (D)	s	91
	134 4 10-10 68.0kg		
	Jedd O'Keeffe		Reserve
Already achieved more in this sphere than he did on the Flat. Best effort when third in a listed event at Wetherby in November. A few likely to prove too strong here though. RESERVE.			
24	LES ARCEAUX (IRE) (25)		94
	224 4 10-10 68.0kg		
	Henry de Bromhead, Ireland		Reserve
Multiple Flat winner for Johnny Murtagh. Fairly useful form when runner-up first 2 starts over hurdles. Disappointed last time, but worth another chance. RESERVE.			

22 DECLARED RUNNERS (2 RESERVES)

BETTING FORECAST:

15-2 Act of Valour, 8-1 Nube Negra, 12-1 Mitchouka, 14-1 Lisp, 14-1 Style De Garde, 16-1 Esprit De Somoza, 16-1 Look My Way, 16-1 The King of May, 22-1 Eragon De Chanay, 22-1 Oxford Blu, 25-1 Casa Tall, 25-1 Padleyourown canoe, 28-1 Turning Gold, 28-1 Embole, 28-1 Veneer of Charm, 33-1 Solo Saxophone, 33-1 Grand Sancy, 33-1 Knight Destroyer, 40-1 bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

LISP shaped very well when third in the Victor Ludorum at Haydock last time, and would have gone close but for a late blunder. He appeals as the sort to excel in a big-field handicap scenario such as this, and remains capable of better. However, the list of dangers is extensive, headed by Act of Valour, Nube Negra and The King of May.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. LISP (IRE) 2. ACT OF VALOUR 3. NUBE NEGRA (SPA)

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2017	Flying Tiger 4-11-5	33-1	Nick Williams	Richard Johnson	22
2016	Diego du Charmil 4-11-1	13-2	Paul Nicholls	Sam Twiston-Davies	22
2015	Qualando 4-11-0	25-1	Paul Nicholls	Nick Scholfield	22
2014	Hawk High 4-11-1	33-1	Tim Easterby	Brian Hughes	24
2013	Flaxen Flare 4-10-7	25-1	Gordon Elliott	Davy Condon	24

5.30**RACE 7****WEATHERBYS CHAMPION BUMPER (STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT) (Grade 1) (1) 4, 5 and 6yo £75,000 2m87y (3300 Metres)**Going: **Heavy (Soft 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: **Extreme**

1	BLACKBOW (IRE) (39) (D)	98
11	5 11-5 72.1kg	
	W. P. Mullins, Ireland	Mr P. W. Mullins
Point winner in Britain and successful in 2 bumpers at Leopardstown. Drew clear with Rhinestone in Grade 2 contest last time, idling after kicking on entering straight. Leading contender.		
2	CAREFULLY SELECTED (IRE) (17) (D)	93
11	6 11-5 72.1kg	
	W. P. Mullins, Ireland	R. Walsh
Similar profile to stable's Blackbow, winning point and both bumpers. Open to more improvement and Ruby Walsh on board.		
3	CROOKS PEAK (115) (CD)	90
11	5 11-5 72.1kg	
	Philip Hobbs	Richard Johnson
Looked promising sort when winning both starts in the autumn at Newton Abbot and Cheltenham (listed contest). Respected.		
4	DASHEL DRASHER (41)	81
1	5 11-5 72.1kg	
	Jeremy Scott	Matt Griffiths
Attracted support at longer odds for a yard that aren't known for bumper winners and duly rewarded it when make a winning debut at Wincanton. Plenty of improvement required here, though.		
5	DIDTHEYLEAVEUOUTTO (IRE) (82) (D)	94
11	5 11-5 72.1kg	
	Nick Gifford	Mark Walsh
Excellent prospect judged on debut win at Lingfield (AW) and ready success in strong listed contest at Ascot late in 2017. Respected despite being passed over by Geraghty.		
6	DOC PENFRO (39)	75
44	6 11-5 72.1kg	
	Kevin Frost	Brian Hughes
Fourth in bumpers at Warwick and Wetherby and easily passed over.		
7	FELIX DESJY (FR) (131) (D)	89
11	5 11-5 72.1kg	
	Gordon Elliott, Ireland	Davy Russell
Winning pointer and made promising start in bumpers, successful at Punchestown (by 10 lengths) and Down Royal (showed willing attitude to regain lead) in the autumn. Seemingly been put aside since.		
8	HERECOMESTHEBOOM (IRE) (82) (CD)	87
10	6 11-5 72.1kg	
	Fergal O'Brien	Alain Cawley
Runner-up in an Irish point and put that experience to good use when landing 14-runner contest at here in October. Well beaten at Ascot since, however.		
9	KNOW THE SCORE (IRE) (28)	89
1	5 11-5 72.1kg	
	David Pipe	Tom Scudamore
€55,000 3-y-o, £380,000 4-y-o, Flemensfirth gelding. Won Irish point on debut and easily landed odds in 5-runner bumper at Towcester. Yard won this in 2015.		
10	MERCY MERCY ME (122) (D)	86
1	6 11-5 72.1kg	
	Fergal O'Brien	Paddy Brennan
Useful form when landing 10-runner bumper at Sandown (soft) on debut in November, shaping like a stayer.		

11	NESTOR PARK (FR) (32)	84
215	5 11-5 72.1kg	
	Ben Pauling	Daryl Jacob
Runner-up on debut at Bangor and confirmed that promise when going one better at Ascot. Only 14 lengths fifth of 10 to Acey Milan in listed bumper at Newbury next time, however.		
12	RHINESTONE (IRE) (39) (D)	96
212	5 11-5 72.1kg	
	Joseph Patrick O'Brien, Ireland	Barry Geraghty
Has progressed into one of Ireland's top bumper horses, wide-margin winner on heavy ground at Thurles and clear of rest after conceding first run to Blackbow in Grade 2 at Leopardstown.		
13	SEDDON (IRE) (38)	88
1	5 11-5 72.1kg	
	Tom George	A. P. Heskin
€30,000 3-y-o, Stowaway gelding who overcame early greenness and slight unease in the market to make a winning start in good style at Musselburgh. Can do better.		
14	STONEY MOUNTAIN (IRE) (48) (D)	84
51	5 11-5 72.1kg	
	Henry Daly	Andrew Tinkler
Left debut well behind to win 10-runner bumper at Warwick (16f, soft) 48 days ago but needs to take another huge step forward.		
15	THEBANNERKINGREBEL (IRE) (33) (D)	86
11	5 11-5 72.1kg	
	Jamie Snowden	Gavin Sheehan
Strong in the betting and made impressive winning start to career at Warwick and maintained unbeaten record with plenty in hand at Bangor. Will go on improving and worth his place in better company.		
16	THE BIG BITE (IRE) (78) (D)	91
1-1	5 11-5 72.1kg	
	Tom George	Noel Fehily
Showed quirks but also good turn of foot to win AW bumper a year ago for Tom Lacey. Defied penalty in good style on first start for new yard at Huntingdon in December and looks a good prospect.		
17	THE FLYING SOFA (FR) (17)	89
331	5 11-5 72.1kg	
	Gary Moore	Jamie Moore
Ran to a useful level when third in Ascot listed event on debut. Off the mark at third attempt at Fontwell but disappointed on testing ground in between.		
18	TORNADO FLYER (IRE) (59) (D)	85
1	5 11-5 72.1kg	
	W. P. Mullins, Ireland	P. Townend
Justified strong support when making winning debut at Fairyhouse in January, showing good attitude to hold on from subsequent winner. This much tougher, but open to improvement.		
19	COLREEVY (IRE) (38) (D, BF)	86
13	5 10-12 68.9kg	
	W. P. Mullins, Ireland	D. J. Mullins
Landed odd on debut but only 4 lengths third of 12 to Relegate in Grade 2 bumper (5/6) at Leopardstown (16f, soft) 35 days ago, finding less than looked likely.		
20	RELEGATE (IRE) (38) (D)	90
11	5 10-12 68.9kg	
	W. P. Mullins, Ireland	Ms K. Walsh
Winner of both her starts, including when beating her better fancied stablemate (Colreevy) in Grade 2 at Leopardstown last time under this rider.		
21	ACEY MILAN (IRE) (32) (C, D)	100
2111	4 10-11 68.5kg	
	Anthony Honeyball	Aidan Coleman
Improved with each run and produced a high-class bumper effort faced with stiffest test of stamina so far when defying penalty in listed bumper at Newbury (heavy). Leading form claims.		
22	ARCH MY BOY (26)	79
832	4 10-11 68.5kg	
	Martin Smith	Leighton Aspell
Progressive in bumpers, just denied at Fakenham last time, but very hard to see him breaking his duck in this.		

5.30

RACE 7

WEATHERBYS CHAMPION BUMPER (STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT) (Grade 1) (1) 4, 5 and 6yo £75,000 2m87y (3300 Metres)

GBI RACING

BRITISH AND IRISH RACING


23


JAYTRACK PARKHOMES (27)

78

1

4 10-11 | 68.5kg



Colin Tizzard 

Harry Cobden

Narrowly won a 6-runner bumper at Fontwell (13.7f, heavy) on debut 27 days ago and will find this a good deal harder.


24

VOLCANO (FR) (72) (BF)

86

15

4 10-11 | 68.5kg



Nigel Twiston-Davies

Sam Twiston-Davies

Looked a good prospect when overcoming greenness to make successful debut at Exeter in October but disappointed in listed event here next time and has since left Christian Williams.

24 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

5-1 Blackbow, 8-1 Acey Milan, 8-1 Felix Desjy, 9-1 Rhinestone, 12-1 Didtheyleaveuoutto, 12-1 Carefully Selected, 12-1 Tornado Flyer, 22-1 Know The Score, 28-1 Crooks Peak, 33-1 The Big Bite, 33-1 Relegate, 33-1 Thebannerkingrebel, 40-1 bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

Plenty of unknown quantities as usual, but the one that makes most appeal is the progressive 4-y-o ACEY MILAN, who is the pick on form and should relish the stiff finish. It often pays to follow Willie Mullins, the leading trainer in this race with 8 wins, with Blackbow and Tornado Flyer making most appeal of his quintet.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. ACEY MILAN (IRE) 2. BLACKBOW (IRE) 3. TORNADO FLYER (IRE)

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:				
2017	Fayonagh 6-10-12	7-1	Gordon Elliott	Mr J. J. Codd 22
2016	Ballyandy 5-11-5	5-1	Nigel Twiston-Davies	Sam Twiston-Davies 23
2015	Moon Racer 6-11-5	9-2f	David Pipe	Tom Scudamore 23
2014	Silver Concorde 6-11-5	16-1	D. K. Weld	Robbie McNamara 22
2013	Briar Hill 5-11-5	25-1	W. P. Mullins	R. Walsh 23