GBI RACING

TIMEFORM 1-2-3

Saturday 7th November

AINTREE

12.40	**WILLIAM HILL EPIC BOOSTS EBF 'NATIONAL HUNT' NOVICES' HURDLE (Qualifier) (3) 2½m (4020 Metres)**
RACE 1	**(4) STICK TO THE BOARD | (1) BLACK EDDY | (3) OLD COAST ROAD**
1.15	**WILLIAM HILL BEST ODDS GUARANTEED HANDICAP CHASE (3) 1m7f176y (3180 Metres)**
RACE 2	**(4) KADASTRAL | (1) SANS BRUIT | (5) JAVERT ALLEN**
1.45	**WILLIAM HILL MOLYNEUX HURDLE (Grade 2) (1) 2m209y (3410 Metres)**
RACE 3	**(4) MYDADDYPADDY | (1) ALEXEI | (5) MANGE TOUT**
2.25	**BOODLES RISING STARS NOVICES' CHASE (Grade 2) (1) 2m3f200y (4010 Metres)**
RACE 4	**(5) TALK TO THE MAN | (3) NO DRAMA THIS END | (6) TAURUS BAY**
3.00	**PERTEMPS NETWORK HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier) (2) 3m149y (4960 Metres)**
RACE 5	**(11) OUR GUIDE | (14) HEATHER HONEY | (12) LIHYAN**
3.35	**PLAY LUCKY STABLE WITH WILLIAM HILL HANDICAP CHASE (2) 2m3f200y (4010 Metres)**
RACE 6	**(2) BOOMBAWN | (11) KNIGHT OF ALLEN | (3) IMPERIAL SAINT**
4.05	**WILLIAM HILL EXTRA PLACES EVERY DAY "JUNIOR" NATIONAL HUNT FLAT (4) 2m209y (3410 Metres)**
RACE 7	**(1) AL CAPONY | (6) WILL ADAM | (3) NELOUBA**

KEY TO SYMBOLS

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

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

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

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

12.40 RACE 1 — WILLIAM HILL EPIC BOOSTS EBF 'NATIONAL HUNT' NOVICES' HURDLE (Qualifier) (3) 4, 5 and 6yo £16,000 2½m (4020 Metres)

GBI RACING

Going: **Good to Soft (Good in places)**

The Grand National course is triangular with its apex (at the Canal Turn) the furthest point from the stands. Inside is the Mildmay course which has birch fences. A major feature of the Mildmay course is its sharpness, though the fences are stiff and it's a tough jumping test. The Grand National is run over two complete circuits taking in sixteen spruce fences first time around and fourteen the second. Alterations to the fences in recent times have had the effect of making it a less severe test of jumping than used to be case. Since 2013, the run to the first fence in the Grand National was reduced in a bid to also improve safety, resulting in the overall race distance shortening from the usual 4½m, though the run-in is still 494 yards long and includes an elbow.

Pace Information: **Very Weak**

1 **BLACK EDDY (43)** (D) **94**

105-1 **5** 11-6 | 72.6kg



Mickey Bowen — *Harry Cobden*

Didn't fire either bumper start after making an impressive winning debut for Toby Bulgin. Proved himself an above-average novice when dominant winner on hurdling debut/return at Worcester (2½m, soft) 7 weeks ago. Possibly best fresh for now and can make a bold bid under a penalty if in same form.

2 **BARON DU BRIZAIS (FR) (224)** (BF) **85**

2- **5** 11-0 | 69.9kg



Ben Pauling — *Ben Jones*

Half-brother to 2 winners, including useful hurdler Surin. Comfortable winner sole start in points. Showed plenty of ability when well-backed second to subsequent winner in a Uttoxeter bumper in March. Bit to find on the bare form, though the switch to hurdling/longer trip looks sure to suit.

3 **OLD COAST ROAD (IRE) (27)** (BF) **92**

2 **5** 11-0 | 69.9kg



Dan Skelton — *Harry Skelton*

Half-brother to very smart chaser Ball d'Arc and useful hurdler/chaser Riaan (both stayed 2½m). Won a solid-looking Irish point last November. Only found a front-running improver with experience too good in a Chepstow bumper on Rules debut. Very interesting up in trip for top yard on hurdling bow.

4 **STICK TO THE BOARD (IRE) (28)** (BF) ★ **100**

1-2 **5** 11-0 | 69.9kg



Paul Nicholls — *Sam Twiston-Davies*

Bought for £215,000 after showing plenty (fell last) on sole Irish point start. Decisive winner of a Chepstow bumper in March and again a warm order in the betting when runner-up on hurdling debut at the same track (19f) on return. Open to improvement for excellent yard and may well go one better.

4 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

6-4 Stick To The Board, **5-2** Black Eddy, **3-1** Old Coast Road, **9-1** Baron Du Brizais

TIMEFORM VIEW:

A promising quartet. Expensive point recruit STICK TO THE BOARD appeals as the most likely winner following his encouraging second at Chepstow. Worcester maiden winner Black Eddy and hurdling newcomer Old Coast Road both look interesting in their own right.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. STICK TO THE BOARD 2. BLACK EDDY 3. OLD COAST ROAD

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025	**Only Way Is Up** 5-11-0	7-2	Dan Skelton	Harry Skelton	6
2024	**Mister Meggit** 6-11-0	evsf	Jonjo & A.J. O'Neill	Jonjo O'Neill Jr.	9
2023	**Josh The Boss** 4-11-5	6-4f	Nigel Twiston-Davies	Mr Jamie Neild (7)	7
2022	**Man At Work** 4-10-13	15-2	David Pipe	Tom Scudamore	7
2021	**Hillcrest** 6-10-12	11-4jf	Henry Daly	Richard Patrick	7

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

1.15 RACE 2 — WILLIAM HILL BEST ODDS GUARANTEED HANDICAP CHASE (3) 4yo+ (Rated 0-130) £30,000 1m7f176y (3180 Metres)

GBI RACING

Going: **Good to Soft (Good in places)**

The Grand National course is triangular with its apex (at the Canal Turn) the furthest point from the stands. Inside is the Mildmay course which has birch fences. A major feature of the Mildmay course is its sharpness, though the fences are stiff and it's a tough jumping test. The Grand National is run over two complete circuits taking in sixteen spruce fences first time around and fourteen the second. Alterations to the fences in recent times have had the effect of making it a less severe test of jumping than used to be case. Since 2013, the run to the first fence in the Grand National was reduced in a bid to also improve safety, resulting in the overall race distance shortening from the usual 4½m, though the run-in is still 494 yards long and includes an elbow.

Pace Information: **Strong**

1 SANS BRUIT (FR) (203) (CD) t ☑ **99**
1/6654435- **8** 12-0 | 76.2kg
Paul Nicholls — ***Jay Tidball*** (5lb/2kg)
Ideally suited by front-running tactics and he landed second successive Red Rum over C&D in 2025. Steadily eased in weights last season and ran well in bid for the hat-trick in that race when third in April. Excuses at Ayr later that month and resumes following breathing operation with yard in form.

2 COUP DE COEUR (FR) (166) (D) **96**
1/35U122-1 **8** 12-0 | 76.2kg
Micky Hammond & Becky Smith — ***Conor O'Farrell***
Ground-versatile chaser who ended last season with a win and 2 second place finishes over 2m and continued at the very top of his game when defeating reopposing Sir Tivo by 2½ lengths at Cartmel (17.3f) in May. Only 3 lb higher back from 5 months off but this run may well bring him on.

3 PETIT TONNERRE (FR) (191) s **93**
B9/19657-0 **8** 11-9 | 73.9kg
Jonjo & A.J. O'Neill — ***Harry Cobden***
Had the race run to suit when landing big field listed handicap chase from 2 lb higher mark at Punchestown (2m) in spring 2025. However, badly out of sorts thereafter and he failed by a long chalk in his repeat bid back there in April. Returns with yard in good order but leap of faith required.

4 KADASTRAL (FR) (238) (BF) **98**
21/2124- **6** 11-9 | 73.9kg
Dan Skelton — ***Harry Skelton***
Bumped into Supreme runner-up Sober Glory either side of his win in a Newbury maiden hurdle in December. Found little when turned over at short odds in a Uttoxeter novice in March, but he's had a breathing operation ahead of seasonal/chasing debut. Interesting for his leading yard.

5 JAVERT ALLEN (FR) (212) (D) ★ **100**
125/42350- **7** 11-8 | 73.5kg
Mrs Jane Williams — ***Ciaran Gethings***
Enthusiastic front runner who was a dual winner as a novice over fences and began last season with a trio of in-the-frame efforts. Excuses at Kempton in February and similar story following a sluggish start when tenth in Red Rum over C&D 7 months ago. Has races in him from this mark this time round.

6 BLEU D'ENFER (FR) (22) (D) s+t **98**
829-24621 **8** 11-8 | 73.5kg
Donald McCain — ***Harry Brown*** (7lb/3kg)
8-y-o who avoided mistakes when finishing a respectable second at Uttoxeter (2m) in September and with fitness on his side, he came in for a good ride under today's jockey when going a place better back there 3 weeks ago. However, probably one to take on faced with this more competitive scenario.

7 SIR TIVO (FR) (24) (D) s+t **96**
1-4231P32 **12** 11-8 | 73.5kg
Gary Hanmer — ***Tom Cannon***
Veteran who jumped accurately at the head of affairs when resuming winning ways at Stratford (17f) in July and back on song when second at Wetherby (15f) 24 days ago, succumbing to the winner's strong late surge. Won't find dominating this more demanding affair easy, though.

8 COSSACK CHACH (IRE) (23) s+t **97**
P2971/P-34 **6** 11-3 | 71.2kg
Lucinda Russell & Michael Scudamore — ***Patrick Wadge***
Fairly useful hurdler/chaser for Joseph O'Brien earlier in his career but very lightly raced since and he went backwards from his reappearance/stable debut effort when fourth of 7 in handicap chase at Perth (2½m, soft) 23 days ago, racing freely. Return to shorter fine but others look more solid.

9 CONQUER THE BREEZE (IRE) (18) (D) t **99**
P-1141126 **7** 11-2 | 70.8kg
Adam Nicol — ***Ryan Mania***
Much improved since joining current yard, registering fourth success since May at Perth (2m) in July. Shaped very well despite several mistakes when second at Kelso next time and easy to put a line through his hurdles run at Hexham last month and this mark looks exploitable back over fences.

10 BALLYBREEZE (210) (D, BF) **96**
9P311/632- **10** 10-9 | 67.6kg
Samuel Drinkwater — ***Benjamin Macey*** (5lb/2kg)
Signed off 2024/25 with back-to-back victories in small field chases at Newbury/Chepstow (2m). Confined to just 3 starts last season, though, running creditably when third at Chepstow in March but claiming a rather hollow second back there a month later. Has gone well fresh but others look stronger

11 COBBLER'S BOY (IRE) (77) (D) **97**
4444-1273 **6** 10-5 | 65.8kg
Sarah-Jayne Davies — ***Tabitha Worsley***
Fair hurdles/chase scorer for Dan Skelton but ended time with that yard on a low-key note and having joined present connections for £5,000 in July, he was beaten by the home turn when third of 4 in handicap chase at Newton Abbot (2m) in August. 3 lb lower but likely he'll come up short again here.

11 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

2-1 Kadastral, **9-2** Javert Allen, **5-1** Sans Bruit, **14-1** Coup De Coeur, **14-1** Ballybreeze, **16-1** Conquer The Breeze, **16-1** Bleu D'enfer, **20-1** Petit Tonnerre, **22-1** Sir Tivo, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

The pick of KADASTRAL's novice hurdle form reads well (twice second behind one who finished runner-up in Grade 1 company) and having undergone a breathing operation following his Uttoxeter disappointment in the spring, Dan Skelton's 6-y-o firmly appeals as the type to do better now his attentions switch to larger obstacles. A pace duel won't help either C&D winner Sans Bruit or Javert Allen but both are too well handicapped to ignore. Conquer The Breeze is interesting at forecast longer odds.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. KADASTRAL 2. SANS BRUIT 3. JAVERT ALLEN

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025	**Mambonumberfive** 4-11-5	7-2	Ben Pauling	Ben Jones	9
2024	**Imperial Saint** 6-12-0	5-6f	Philip Hobbs & Johnson White	Micheal Nolan	8
2023	**Djelo** 5-11-12	7-2	Venetia Williams	Charlie Deutsch	9
2022	**Gunsight Ridge** 7-11-12	9-4f	Olly Murphy	Sean Bowen	6
2021	**Darling du Large** 8-10-2	6-1	Tom George	Jonathan Burke	8

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

1.45 RACE 3

WILLIAM HILL MOLYNEUX HURDLE (Grade 2) (1) 4yo+
£70,000 2m209y (3410 Metres)

GBI RACING

Going: **Good to Soft (Good in places)**

The Grand National course is triangular with its apex (at the Canal Turn) the furthest point from the stands. Inside is the Mildmay course which has birch fences. A major feature of the Mildmay course is its sharpness, though the fences are stiff and it's a tough jumping test. The Grand National is run over two complete circuits taking in sixteen spruce fences first time around and fourteen the second. Alterations to the fences in recent times have had the effect of making it a less severe test of jumping than used to be case. Since 2013, the run to the first fence in the Grand National was reduced in a bid to also improve safety, resulting in the overall race distance shortening from the usual 4½m, though the run-in is still 494 yards long and includes an elbow.

Pace Information: **Very Weak**

1 **ALEXEI (GER) (212)** (D) t **99**

8/2113143- **6** 11-4 | 71.7kg

Joe Tizzard — ***Harry Cobden***

Thrived last season landing back-to-back handicaps (latterly Greatwood Hurdle) before taking Grade 2 Kingwell at Wincanton in February. Didn't look at all out of place in Grade 1s thereafter, fourth in Champion Hurdle before good third in Aintree Hurdle (2½m) in April. Big shout for in-form yard.

2 **LUCKY PLACE (FR) (196)** **97**

174/32302- **7** 11-0 | 69.9kg

Nicky Henderson — ***Nico de Boinville***

Dual Grade 2 hurdle winner at 2½m in 2024/25, including Relkeel at Cheltenham. Didn't look a natural over fences initially last season but back on track over hurdles, placed twice in graded company either side of finishing well held in handicap at Cheltenham. Trip possibly on short side for him.

3 **MELON (GER) (28)** (CD) **84**

614/3821-0 **5** 11-0 | 69.9kg

Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero — ***Robert Dunne***

Dual juvenile hurdle winner (at 2m) who was awarded a deserved first handicap hurdle success in 21-runner event over C&D in April. With fitness on his side, possible he failed for stamina when tenth in Silver Trophy at Chepstow (19.5f) 4 weeks ago but he looks firmly up against at this level.

4 **MYDADDYPADDY (IRE) (242)** (D) ★ **100**

1/1123- **5** 11-0 | 69.9kg

Dan Skelton — ***Harry Skelton***

Most impressive when landing first 2 starts over hurdles, his jumping nimble. Omission of hurdles didn't play to his strengths when second in C&D Grade 1 on Boxing Day and further progress (shade better than result) when solid third in Supreme at Cheltenham. Big player on return with more to come.

5 **MANGE TOUT (FR) (212)** (CD) h ☑ **91**

11131- **4** 10-10 | 68.0kg

Gordon Elliott, Ireland — ***M. P. Walsh***

4-y-o filly who landed each of her first 3 starts over hurdles, including Grade 3. Lost her unbeaten record on heavy ground at Leopardstown in February but made amends when emulating her half-brother Impaire et Passe when taking C&D Anniversary Hurdle in the spring and there's surely more to come.

5 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

5-4 Alexei, **11-8** Mydaddypaddy, **13-2** Mange Tout, **16-1** Lucky Place, **66-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

Successful on 2 of his first 3 starts over hurdles (excuses when second here latterly), MYDADDYPADDY found further progress and shaped a shade better than the result too when an excellent third in the Supreme at Cheltenham in March. A notably nimble jumper, he remains open to improvement and is fancied to make a winning return. Alexei did nothing but improve throughout 2025/26, including when making the frame in Grade 1s on his final 2 starts and comfortably rates the lead threat.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. MYDADDYPADDY 2. ALEXEI 3. MANGE TOUT

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025	**Rubaud** 7-11-8	1-8f	Paul Nicholls	Harry Cobden	4
2024	**Rubaud** 6-11-8	11-10f	Paul Nicholls	Harry Cobden	3
2023	**Rubaud** 5-11-8	1-2f	Paul Nicholls	Harry Cobden	4
2022	**Knappers Hill** 6-11-2	11-8jf	Paul Nicholls	Harry Cobden	4
2021	**Sceau Royal** 9-11-6	4-5f	Alan King	Daryl Jacob	6

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

2.25 RACE 4

BOODLES RISING STARS NOVICES' CHASE (Grade 2) (1) 4yo+ £75,000 2m3f200y (4010 Metres)

GBI RACING

Going: **Good to Soft (Good in places)**

The Grand National course is triangular with its apex (at the Canal Turn) the furthest point from the stands. Inside is the Mildmay course which has birch fences. A major feature of the Mildmay course is its sharpness, though the fences are stiff and it's a tough jumping test. The Grand National is run over two complete circuits taking in sixteen spruce fences first time around and fourteen the second. Alterations to the fences in recent times have had the effect of making it a less severe test of jumping than used to be case. Since 2013, the run to the first fence in the Grand National was reduced in a bid to also improve safety, resulting in the overall race distance shortening from the usual 4½m, though the run-in is still 494 yards long and includes an elbow.

Pace Information: **Very Weak**

1 **CHANCEAWETMORNING (IRE)** (24) (D)

31934F11 **6** 11-4 | 71.7kg

Gordon Elliott, Ireland — ***Non Runner***

Looked set to make a winning start over fences when falling at the last at Kilbeggan in September. Has made amends with victories in minor event at Sligo and Grade 3 novice at Punchestown 24 days ago. Already a better chaser than hurdler and he's open to further progress. NON RUNNER.

2 **FAVOUR AND FORTUNE (IRE)** (196) **81**

6403/635- **8** 11-4 | 71.7kg

Alan King — ***Tom Bellamy***

Without a win since Grade 2 handicap hurdle at Ayr in April 2024, but ran up to his best when third in premier handicap at this venue in April. Shaped as if still in good form when mid-field at Sandown 2 weeks later and has the physique to make a chaser.

3 **NO DRAMA THIS END (IRE)** (199) (D) **98**

19/111P1- **6** 11-4 | 71.7kg

Paul Nicholls — ***Sam Twiston-Davies***

Created an excellent impression in winning his first 3 starts over hurdles, including the Grade 1 Challow at Newbury. Had little go right when pulled up in Baring Bingham at Cheltenham, before resuming winning ways in listed novice at Perth in April. Exciting recruit to chasing.

4 **OFF THE JURY (IRE)** (143) (D) **79**

2/322P2-11 **7** 11-4 | 71.7kg

Mickey Bowen — ***Harry Cobden***

Maiden hurdler but came good at the first of asking sent chasing in 3-runner handicap at Cartmel in May. Followed up in another 3-runner affair at Worcester and he's open to further improvement as he bids for a hat-trick, but faces a tougher ask here. Engaged 1.15 Aintree Friday.

5 **TALK TO THE MAN (IRE)** (17) (D) **100**

54/11P-1 **6** 11-4 | 71.7kg

Dan Skelton — ***Harry Skelton***

Point winner who impressed when winning first 2 starts over hurdles for Paul Nicholls, before shaping as if amiss in the Sefton at this venue. After 6 months off, made a smooth transition to chasing when scoring at Worcester 17 days ago on stable debut. Can make a bold bid.

6 **TAURUS BAY (IRE)** (241) (C) **84**

1120- **5** 11-4 | 71.7kg

Ben Pauling — ***Ben Jones***

Well-made gelding who was successful in an Irish point before winning a pair of novice hurdles last season, including at this venue. Only narrowly denied in Grade 2 novice at Cheltenham in January, before having excuses in the Baring Bingham at the Festival. Respected on chasing debut.

6 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

5-4 Talk To The Man, **6-4** No Drama This End, **13-2** Taurus Bay, **16-1** Favour And Fortune, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

Preference is for TALK TO THE MAN, who bettered his hurdles form at the first attempt sent chasing when winning a Worcester maiden in good style last month. He looks set to go on to better things over fences and can see off the challenge of No Drama This End, whose yard has a fine record in this race. Taurus Bay also appeals as the type to make a chaser and could be in the mix.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. TALK TO THE MAN 2. NO DRAMA THIS END 3. TAURUS BAY

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025	**Blueking d'Oroux** 6-11-4	evsf	Paul Nicholls	Harry Cobden	5
2024	**Boombawn** 7-11-4	8-1	Dan Skelton	Harry Skelton	5
2023	**Knappers Hill** 7-11-4	4-5f	Paul Nicholls	Harry Cobden	6
2022	**Hang In There** 8-11-4	5-1	Emma Lavelle	Tom Bellamy	5
2021	**Captain Tom Cat** 6-11-2	6-4	Dr Richard Newland	Charlie Hammond	3

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

3.00 RACE 5

PERTEMPS NETWORK HANDICAP HURDLE (Qualifier) (2)

4yo+ £35,000 3m149y (4960 Metres)

GBI RACING

Going: **Good to Soft (Good in places)**

The Grand National course is triangular with its apex (at the Canal Turn) the furthest point from the stands. Inside is the Mildmay course which has birch fences. A major feature of the Mildmay course is its sharpness, though the fences are stiff and it's a tough jumping test. The Grand National is run over two complete circuits taking in sixteen spruce fences first time around and fourteen the second. Alterations to the fences in recent times have had the effect of making it a less severe test of jumping than used to be case. Since 2013, the run to the first fence in the Grand National was reduced in a bid to also improve safety, resulting in the overall race distance shortening from the usual 4½m, though the run-in is still 494 yards long and includes an elbow.

Pace Information: **Weak**

1 FRENCH SHIP (196) **96**
1/F117U03- **6** 12-0 | 76.2kg
Philip Hobbs & Johnson White — *Ben Jones*
Going well when stumbling in the Silver Trophy on reappearance last year. Looked a smart prospect when winning handicaps at Cheltenham/Newbury subsequently. Emerged with credit when beaten in top handicaps/Grade 2 events second half of the season. Has earned no respite from the handicapper, though.

2 HARBOUR LAKE (IRE) (182) (CD) **97**
2P2/1P46-0 **10** 11-8 | 73.5kg
Alan King — *Tom Bellamy*
Won this corresponding race off much lower mark on return in 2024. Needed his reappearance last season, his best effort coming when 13¼-length sixth in big-field C&D handicap in April. Has a solid course record and isn't without a chance if ready to roll.

3 RED RISK (FR) (206) s **99**
6310/0188- **11** 11-7 | 73.0kg
Paul Nicholls — *Freddie Keighley* (5lb/2kg)
Hit-and-miss veteran who can go well fresh. Landed competitive-looking events at Uttoxeter/Musselburgh in the previous 2 lightly-raced seasons. Returns only 1 lb higher than the last of those victories and could feature if on a going day.

4 THE EGYPTIAN GINGE (IRE) (21) **96**
553221-11 **5** 11-3 | 71.2kg
Nigel & Willy Twiston-Davies — *Mr Jamie Neild* (7lb/3kg)
Quirky sort. Fortunate to get off the mark at Ludlow in April. No fluke about back-to-back wins at Worcester/Market Rasen this season, improving again when capitalising on a soft lead in a Pertemps Qualifier last time. A 4-timer may prove beyond him in deeper waters, even with fitness on his side.

5 DIVILABOTHER (IRE) (14) t **95**
11121510 **8** 11-1 | 70.3kg
Tristan Davidson — *Harry Reed*
Strong traveller who has been one of the success stories of the early season. Made it 5 wins from 7 starts in a thin Class 3 handicap at Uttoxeter (23f), however, his run of good form came to a halt when well beaten off this mark at Cheltenham last time.

6 KIKIJO (FR) (210) **100**
412/41100- **6** 11-1 | 70.3kg
Philip Hobbs & Johnson White — *Callum Pritchard*
Confirmed himself an out-and-out stayer when completing a soft-ground double at Sandown (solid form) in December. Found wanting for speed in top-end handicaps at Cheltenham/Aintree in the spring. Weighted to go well back in calmer waters (only beaten 3 lengths on return here last season).

7 PARK PRINCESS (IRE) (203) (D) t **92**
12171P2- **6** 11-0 | 69.9kg
Anthony Honeyball — *Sam Twiston-Davies*
Landed her third success as a novice hurdler with a dominant display in listed race at Doncaster (soft). Didn't give her running in Albert Bartlett before lacking a gear change when second at Bangor (23f) in April. Opening mark demands improvement but should at least benefit from a bigger field.

8 IDEM (FR) (44) **97**
0/25825P-1 **8** 11-0 | 69.9kg
Lucinda Russell & Michael Scudamore — *Patrick Wadge*
Tricky customer. Travelled well when 7¼ lengths fifth in the Pertemps at Cheltenham prior to finishing down the field here. Made a winning return back in calmer waters at Perth in late-September (has a fine record fresh), and that was probably the time to catch him.

9 DEEP CAVE (IRE) (27) (CD) **98**
1/1150P-67 **8** 11-0 | 69.9kg
Christian Williams — *Adam Wedge*
Landed a big pot over C&D in 2025. Things didn't go to plan following 2 chase wins last season. Still has something to offer in this sphere, fifth behind a couple of next-time-out winners at Haydock (3m) in May. Rusty on his comeback and yard probably have a race earmarked for him down the line.

10 WALDEN (FR) (217) (D) **96**
3301/1311- **6** 10-12 | 68.9kg
Tom Lacey — *Richie McLernon*
Progressive handicapper. Didn't travel with the same fluency when making it 4 wins in 5 starts at Haydock (3m) in April, pulling clear with another improver. Entitled to go with more zest following 7 months off (has won fresh), though usual jockey partners another runner for yard at Uttoxeter.

11 OUR GUIDE (IRE) (28) **98**
151-1123 **5** 10-7 | 66.7kg
Jamie Snowden — *Jonathan Burke*
Debut bumper winner (beat Zeus Power) who typically found plenty for pressure to land a hat-trick at Worcester (2½m). Again advanced his form in spite of his jumping when third in a strong Silver Trophy (19f) last time. Type who should relish 3m and appeals with race-fitness on his side.

12 LIHYAN (IRE) (14) (D) h **97**
32917-460 **8** 10-6 | 66.2kg
Rebecca Menzies — *Benjamin Macey* (5lb/2kg)
Strong-travelling sort. Delivered late to win at Newbury prior to a creditable seventh in a big-field C&D handicap in April. Likely retains all his ability on the evidence of 2 starts this season (possibly still needed the run at Cheltenham last time) and could outrun his odds.

13 LORD SNOOTIE (IRE) (166) **98**
87/0P23-82 **9** 10-5 | 65.8kg
Christian Williams — *David Noonan*
Runner-up in premier handicap over C&D in 2024. Returned to form over the spring, mustering a big move after some typically tentative jumping when 6½-length second at Cartmel in May. Remains with only sole win under Rules and is another who typically needs his comeback run.

14 HEATHER HONEY (28) (D) **97**
3613315-5 **7** 10-2(10-1) | 64.4kg (64.0kg)
Joel Parkinson & Sue Smith — *Peter Kavanagh*
Reliable mare. Notched a fifth career win in class 4 event at Haydock (3m) in March. Only 6¼ lengths behind Walden over same C&D the following month (reopposes on better terms). Arrives following a pleasing enough comeback and has each-way claims in a race where match-fitness could count for plenty.

14 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

11-2 Our Guide, **13-2** The Egyptian Ginge, **7-1** French Ship, **10-1** Walden, **12-1** Idem, **12-1** Heather Honey, **14-1** Harbour Lake, **16-1** Kikijo, **16-1** Red Risk, **20-1** Lord Snootie, **20-1** Park Princess, **25-1** Lihyan, **28-1** Deep Cave, **28-1** Divilabother

TIMEFORM VIEW:

Several will have later-season targets in mind, and the vote goes to OUR GUIDE, who finished third in a strong renewal of Silver Trophy last month. Heather Honey is also fancied to go well with a run under her belt, while Lihyan needs a second look at bigger prices. Harbour Lake, Kikijo and Red Risk have all gone well fresh previously.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. OUR GUIDE 2. HEATHER HONEY 3. LIHYAN

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025	**Impose Toi** 7-12-0	5-2f	Nicky Henderson	Nico de Boinville	7
2024	**Harbour Lake** 8-11-0	3-1	Alan King	Tom Cannon	8
2023	**Gentleman At Arms** 6-10-10	9-1	Stuart Edmunds	Ciaran Gethings	11
2022	**Remastered** 9-11-4	8-1	David Pipe	David Noonan	7
2021	**Koshari** 9-11-12	80-1	David Christie	Jonathan Moore	11

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

3.35 RACE 6

PLAY LUCKY STABLE WITH WILLIAM HILL HANDICAP CHASE (2) 4yo+ (Rated 0-145) £35,000 2m3f200y (4010 Metres)

GBI RACING

Going: **Good to Soft (Good in places)**

The Grand National course is triangular with its apex (at the Canal Turn) the furthest point from the stands. Inside is the Mildmay course which has birch fences. A major feature of the Mildmay course is its sharpness, though the fences are stiff and it's a tough jumping test. The Grand National is run over two complete circuits taking in sixteen spruce fences first time around and fourteen the second. Alterations to the fences in recent times have had the effect of making it a less severe test of jumping than used to be case. Since 2013, the run to the first fence in the Grand National was reduced in a bid to also improve safety, resulting in the overall race distance shortening from the usual 4½m, though the run-in is still 494 yards long and includes an elbow.

Pace Information: **Strong**

1 **DOWN MEMORY LANE (IRE) (24)** **89**
24/01P5-P8 **8** 12-0 | 76.2kg
Faye Bramley — *Richie McLernon*
Smart chaser at his best for Gordon Elliott, as shown when winning listed handicap at Navan (21f) last December, yet that was a standout effort last season and he was well held starting out for new yard at Ffos Las 24 days ago. Plenty to prove.

2 **BOOMBAWN (IRE) (28)** (C, D) s **100**
4438098-6 **9** 11-12 | 75.3kg
Dan Skelton — *Harry Skelton*
Smart chaser who finished last season in better heart than his finishing positions suggested and shaped well on return over hurdles at Chepstow recently, that presumably a pipe-opener. Looked primed for a big run in Old Roan (abandoned) and in first-time cheekpieces, he looks a major player.

3 **IMPERIAL SAINT (FR) (210)** (CD) **98**
342/56180- **8** 11-12 | 75.3kg
Philip Hobbs & Johnson White — *Callum Pritchard*
Won first 3 starts here in 2024/25 and added to his tally when landing a gamble in Peter Marsh at Haydock back in January. Excuses in Ultima next time and having probably failed to stay in Grand National on final outing 7 months ago, he can be expected to go well back at 2½m.

4 **ETALON (IRE) (24)** t **97**
29134-35P **9** 11-10 | 74.4kg
Dan Skelton — *I. J. Power*
Responded well to headgear and an attacking ride when making all at Ascot (19f) last winter. Shaped like a non-stayer when upped to 3m at Perth on return in September and with that in mind can have his subsequent Ffos Las effort ignored. Back to a more suitable trip but Skelton sides with Boombawn.

5 **HERCULE DU SEUIL (FR) (185)** t **89**
13P5450-5 **9** 11-8 | 73.5kg
Neil Mulholland — *Harry Cobden*
Smart chaser with excellent strike rate for Willie Mullins. Didn't kick on from an eye-catching yard debut fourth at Doncaster next 2 starts back in the spring but looked to finish with running left when fifth of 7 in handicap at Newton Abbot (21f) when last seen 6 months ago. Not one to write off.

6 **BLUEY (IRE) (207)** (D) **96**
P7/142121- **7** 11-5 | 72.1kg
Emma Lavelle — *Ben Jones*
Dual winner over hurdles who upped her game over the larger obstacles last season, notching a third success in 7-runner handicap at Market Rasen (21f, good) when last seen in April. May not have much more improvement to come but her fine attitude and jumping will stand her in good stead.

7 **INSURRECTION (IRE) (205)** (D) **96**
3188/3803- **9** 11-4 | 71.7kg
Nick Scholfield — *Jonathan Burke*
Dual winner over hurdles who ran up to best over fences when third at Musselburgh on return on New Year's Day. Finished down the field in Kim Muir next start and despite the addition of first-time cheekpieces, he raced indolently when third of 5 at Hereford back in April. Has since moved yards.

8 **RODNEY (IRE) (252)** (D, BF) t **96**
11/F51112- **7** 11-0 | 69.9kg
Kerry Lee — *Tom Cannon*
Much improved upon joining present yard, winning twice over hurdles and he took his form firmly up a notch over fences last winter, completing hat-trick at Ludlow (2½m) in February. Signed off with a solid second at Newbury later that month but this demands further progress after 8 months off.

9 **SOUTHOFTHEBORDER (IRE) (24)** (CD) t **96**
233512-12 **8** 11-0 | 69.9kg
Henrietta C Knight — *Robert Dunne*
Back on track following a breathing operation, doubling his chase tally over C&D in May. Rarely finds much but in line with yard's good form, returned from 5 months off with a career-best second at Ffos Las (soft) 24 days ago. Just the type to go well again around here back on a sounder surface.

10 **JOSH THE BOSS (24)** (C, D, BF) t **97**
11262PP-2 **7** 10-12 | 68.9kg
Nigel & Willy Twiston-Davies — *Mr Jamie Neild* (7lb/3kg)
Multiple hurdles winner (including here) who also scored twice over fences in November. Capitulated both starts to end last season but right back on track following 6 months off/breathing operation when second of 4 at Wetherby (19f) in October. Present mark probably about right, though.

11 **KNIGHT OF ALLEN (FR) (219)** (D, BF) **99**
31/2142P3- **6** 10-10 | 68.0kg
Mrs Jane Williams — *Ciaran Gethings*
Opened his account over fences over this trip at Newbury in December and essentially shaped well in defeat thereafter, confirming he remains one to be interested in when a solid third at Chepstow (19.5f) in April. On a handy mark and respected for stable who has been amongst the winners.

12 **KINGS JET (IRE) (16)** s **94**
6P-U023F1 **6** 10-2 | 64.4kg
C. W. J. Farrell, Ireland — *Philip Donovan* (3lb/1kg)
Surprise winner on Rules debut in hunter at Down Royal in 2025 and got his act together over fences this summer, confirming promise of recent runs when landing 10-runner handicap at Clonmel (21f) 16 days ago. However, jumping remains a concern and much-inflated mark demands another career best.

12 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

11-4 Boombawn, **13-2** Imperial Saint, **7-1** Knight of Allen, **8-1** Josh The Boss, **11-1** Bluey, **12-1** Southoftheborder, **14-1** Rodney, **16-1** Insurrection, **18-1** Kings Jet, **25-1** Etalon, **25-1** Hercule Du Seuil, **66-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

BOOMBAWN ended last season in better heart than his form figures would suggest and, having shaped well on return over hurdles at Chepstow 4 weeks ago, Dan Skelton's charge could well be ready to exploit his reduced chase mark with first-time cheekpieces enlisted. Knight of Allen often shaped well himself last season and is another on the shortlist, with C&D winner Imperial Saint and Southoftheborder completing the shortlist.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. BOOMBAWN 2. KNIGHT OF ALLEN 3. IMPERIAL SAINT

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025	**Uncle Bert** 8-11-7	3-1	Nigel & Willy Twiston-Davies	Sam Twiston-Davies	6
2023	**Richmond Lake** 7-11-11	4-1	Donald McCain	Brian Hughes	9
2022	**Brave Seasca** 7-12-1	12-1	Venetia Williams	Gavin Sheehan	13
2021	**Clan Legend** 11-11-1	12-1	N. W. Alexander	Danny McMenamin	10

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

4.05 RACE 7 — WILLIAM HILL EXTRA PLACES EVERY DAY "JUNIOR" NATIONAL HUNT FLAT (4) 3yo £7,000 2m209y (3410 Metres)

GBI RACING

Going: **Good to Soft (Good in places)**

The Grand National course is triangular with its apex (at the Canal Turn) the furthest point from the stands. Inside is the Mildmay course which has birch fences. A major feature of the Mildmay course is its sharpness, though the fences are stiff and it's a tough jumping test. The Grand National is run over two complete circuits taking in sixteen spruce fences first time around and fourteen the second. Alterations to the fences in recent times have had the effect of making it a less severe test of jumping than used to be case. Since 2013, the run to the first fence in the Grand National was reduced in a bid to also improve safety, resulting in the overall race distance shortening from the usual 4½m, though the run-in is still 494 yards long and includes an elbow.

Pace Information: **Insufficient Data**

1 AL CAPONY (FR) — **100**

3 11-0 | 69.9kg

Dan Skelton — ***Harry Skelton***

No Risk At All gelding. Half-brother to smart hurdler/winning chaser Musique Maestro (17f/2¼m winner). Dam unraced. Noteworthy newcomer for his leading yard.

2 CHARLIE BURNSIDE (FR) — **83**

3 11-0 | 69.9kg

Lucinda Russell & Michael Scudamore — ***Patrick Wadge***

Masked Marvel gelding. Half-brother to 2 winners, including fairly useful hurdler Turenne (2m winner), stays 2¼m. Dam, 12.5f-2m winner, half-sister to fairly useful hurdler (stayed 2½m) Summer Star. Yard capable of readying one on debut.

3 NELOUBA (FR) (155) — **87**

1 **3** 11-0 | 69.9kg

Jonjo & A.J. O'Neill — ***Jonjo O'Neill Jr.***

Made a winning debut in France, keeping on well to land 7-runner bumper at Le Lion-d'Angers (1½m) in June. Could be in the mix as she makes first start since leaving Xavier Blanchet.

4 NICHOIR (FR) — **79**

3 11-0 | 69.9kg

Christian Williams — ***Adam Wedge***

Tunis gelding. Dam, ran once over hurdles in France, half-sister to smart hurdler/useful chase winner (stayed 21f) Faivoir. May just be better for this experience.

5 VEGAS GOLD — **83**

3 11-0 | 69.9kg

Fergal O'Brien — ***J. Hogan***

Golden Horn gelding. Half-brother to 4 winners, including fair hurdler One Eye On Vegas (2½m winner), stays 3m, and dual bumper winner Dino Bellagio. Worth a market check for stable which enjoys plenty of success in bumpers.

6 WILL ADAM (IRE) — **88**

3 11-0 | 69.9kg

Nigel & Willy Twiston-Davies — ***Sam Twiston-Davies***

€25,000 3-y-o, Vadamos gelding. Half-brother to fairly useful hurdler/useful chaser Scarface (2½m-2¾m winner) and bumper winner/fair hurdler Mi Lucky Cailin (2½m winner), stays 2¾m. Dam placed on Flat in Germany. Merits consideration for in-form yard.

6 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

5-4 Al Capony, **4-1** Will Adam, **9-2** Nelouba, **8-1** Charlie Burnside, **9-1** Vegas Gold, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

Little experience to go on, the vote going to AL CAPONY whose half-brother came to hand early in France as he won his first 2 starts over hurdles as a 3-y-o. Will Adam represents a yard which continues to go well and is next on the list, ahead of Nelouba who is the only one in the line-up with the benefit of a previous run.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. AL CAPONY 2. WILL ADAM 3. NELOUBA

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2025	**Merlin Allen** 3-11-0	6-1	Mrs Jane Williams	Ciaran Gethings	12
2024	**Cedar Creek** 3-11-0	10-1	Rebecca Curtis	Sean Bowen	8
2023	**Rocheval** 3-11-0	15-2	Lucinda Russell	Patrick Wadge (3)	8
2022	**Elogio** 3-11-0	15-2	Richard Bandey	David Bass	12
2021	**Legionar** 3-10-12	10-3	Milton Harris	Mitchell Bastyan (3)	9

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race