

NARROWING THE FIELD

2026 AINTREE GRAND NATIONAL FESTIVAL



DAY 3 ANALYSIS

Saturday 11th April

- 12:45 - Maghull Novices' Chase
- 1:20 - 3m0.5f Handicap Hurdle
- 1:55 - Mersey Novices' Hurdle
- 2:30 - Freebooter Handicap Chase
- 3:05 - Liverpool Hurdle
- 4:00 - Radox Grand National
- 5:00 - Weatherbys Bumper

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12:45 Aintree

🏆 Maghull Novices' Chase 🏆

Grade 1 Chase | 2m | 5yo+

No strong race trends at play in this one but it's a race that a small set of trainers have dominated since 1997... only 13 trainers have won the race in that time and 7 of those trainers now no longer train/are no longer with us, meaning the following five are the only current trainers to have saddled a winner of the Maghull...

PAUL NICHOLLS – 8/26, 6p (No entry)

NICKY HENDERSON – 4/11, 0p (No entry)

HENRY DE BROMHEAD – 3/8, 1p (No entry)

WILLIE MULLINS – 2/2 (runs **SALVATOR MUNDI**)

ALAN KING – 1/3, 2p (No entry)

GORDON ELLIOTT – 1/3, 1p (runs **KALA CONTI & KING OF KINGSFIELD**)

So, 19 of the 28 renewals have been won by one of the above six trainers...

Also worth noting that **only ONE winner since 1997 has started at an SP of bigger than 6-1** (SPECIAL TIARA who won the 2013 renewal)... the record of those horses starting at bigger than 6-1 is... **1/99, 12p | -£70.00**... so we are looking at race that's been dominated by some of the bigger yards and with a horse that is relatively well-fancied by the market... indeed **22 of the 28 renewals were won by the favourite or second favourite** and **26 of the 28 renewals were won by a horse starting in the first three in the market...** **SALVATOR MUNDI, MIGHTY BANDIT & KALA CONTI** are the first three in the market (and all currently 6/1 or shorter) with **NO QUESTIONS ASKED & BE AWARE** the only others that look like they may challenge the head of the market/start at 6/1 or shorter...

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Pace thoughts...

Running style of previous 12 winners: FR-4 | CP-8 | HU-0

Potential for plenty of early pace here... with **ALNILAM, BE AWARE, SALVATOR MUNDI, MIRABAD & MIGHTY BANDIT** all showing front-running tendencies in recent times...

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Conclusion/Current Thoughts...

***SALVATOR MUNDI** has plenty positives going for him here and he does look the most likely winner of this... but that is more than factored into his odds-on price... so I'm happy to sit this one out...*

My play(s)...

NO PLAY

1:20 Aintree

William Hill Handicap Hurdle

Class 1 Hurdle | 3m0.5f | 4yo+

Some strong trends to factor in for this staying handicap hurdle when looking at the last 12 renewals of the race...

- 1 12/12 aged 6yo-9yo
- 2 12/12 carried 11-08 or less
- 3 12/12 0-3 previous career handicap wins
- 4 12/12 DSLR 22-97
- 5 12/12 ran over 2m4f-3m0.5f LTO (and completed race)
- 6 12/12 previously won over at least 2m1.5f but no further than 3m0.5f
- 7 12/12 last win came over hurdles
- 8 11/12 10 or less Hurdle starts
- 9 11/12 1-7 previous Hcp Hurdle starts

...for a trends shortlist of...

CHART TOPPER – GET ON GEORGE – HOLD THE SERVE – KAKA’S COUSIN - KIKIJO

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Pace thoughts...

PUSH THE BUTTON, FORTUNE TIMMY, QUANTUM QUEST & KAKA’S COUSIN have all shown some level of front-running tendencies recently and between them they should set a solid early gallop for the others to aim at... the majority of the rest of the field will be sitting in midfield or out the back, waiting to make their move late in the day down the home-straight...

Horse	Run Style	Pace Map
PUSH THE BUTTON	CP/FR	
FORTUNE TIMMY	CP/FR	
QUANTUM QUEST	CP/FR	
KAKA'S COUSIN	CP/FR	
ABSOLUTELY DOYEN	CP	
KIKIJO	CP	
BOLD ENDEAVOUR	CP	
EAGLE FANG	CP/HU	
CHART TOPPER	CP/HU	
ACE OF SPADES	CP/HU	
HOLD THE SERVE	CP/HU	
JERIKO DU REPONET	HU/CP	
SUPREMELY WEST	HU/CP	
HARBOUR LAKE	HU/CP	
MINELLA RESCUE	HU/CP	
WADE OUT	HU/CP	
DUKE SILVER	HU/CP	
GET ON GEORGE	HU/CP	
IKARAK	HU	
GOOD TO BE ALIVE	HU	
IDEM	HU	
LIHYAN	HU	
Pace: Probable contested early pace		
Running style of previous 12 winners: FR-1 CP-2 HU-9		

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Trainer notes/Jockey notes/Horse notes/General pointers...

DAN SKELTON has won this 3 times and had 5 others place from his 14-runners... the best angle looks to be... **5yo-9yo | won or placed on 1 of last 3 starts...** for a race form line of... **510141204 (3/9, 4p)...** **SUPREMELY WEST & ACE OF SPADES** meet those stats this year...

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Conclusion/Current Thoughts...

Trend toppers...

CHART TOPPER mixed fortunes since going handicapping last May... decent 6th at Punchestown was followed by a good 3rd at the Galway Festival in August... he was then PU at Cheltenham in October and Fell 2-out at Haydock in February when still holding every chance... finished down the field in BetMGM Cup at Chelt Fest LTO but that may have been on short side for him... hard to fully assess him but every chance he's better than the bare form suggests...

KIKIJO down the field in Pertemps Final LTO but quick ground and/or 96-day break probably the reason for that... goes well under these conditions... **2m4f+ | G/S or softer | DSLR 60 or less = 11214 (3/5, 1p – all 3 career wins)**... so probably wouldn't want ground to dry out much more...

GET ON GEORGE decent 2nd in NH Novices' Final at Sandown LTO and still unexposed in handicaps (that was Hcp debut at Sandown)... trainer has solid stats with similar types... **S Smith/J Parkinson | Hcp Hurdles in Dec-Apr | NOT Heavy | GB-IRE bred | 0-1 career Hcps runs | 1-2 career wins = 20/64 | 31% S/R | +£152.46 – W&P 26/64 | 41% S/R – E/W = +£182.03...**

HOLD THE SERVE 3 from 3 in hurdles after undergoing wind-op after disappointing when fancied on hurdle debut in November... steps up to 3m for first time here and also goes back to a LH track for first time since that debut disappointment... Olly Murphy has decent stats with similar types at track... **O Murphy | Aintree Hurdles | 5yo-7yo | SP 10/1 or less | 1st or 2nd LTO = 8/25, 7p | +£13.56...**

KAKA'S COUSIN still unexposed after 4 Hurdle starts and only 1 in handicap company... decent 4th LTO on hcp debut in NH Novices' Final at Sandown... Jonjo O'Neill has some solid stats in this race with similar types... **6yo-9yo | 15 or less career starts | at least 10lbs below top-rated horse = 45P53001111 (4/11, 4p)...**

Thoughts on others...

IKARAK decent 3rd at Chelt LTO and goes well under these conditions... **2m6f+ Hurdles | NOT Very Undulating tracks = 131211811 (6/9, 1p – all 6 career wins)...**

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My plays...

The usual competitive affair... I'll play the following...

HOLD THE SERVE (O Murphy) rapidly improving type who could still be a long way ahead of his mark and the Olly Murphy stats at Aintree with similar types suggest he'll be bang ready to fire here...

KAKA'S COUSIN (JJ & AJ O'Neil) looks one with plenty more still to come in handicap company and this step up to a staying trip for the first time could unlock plenty improvement from him as he does hold a number of stamina influences in his pedigree...

GET ON GEORGE (S Smith/J Parkinson) back on track LTO after finding the G2 River Don too hot for him and he's another that still looks to have plenty improvement still to come...

1:55 Aintree

🏆 Mersey Novices' Hurdle 🏆

Grade 1 Hurdle | 2m4f | 4yo+

The last 11 renewals have been at Grade 1 level, so I've used the following to construct the trends...

11/11 2+ previous (UK & IRE) career wins

11/11 3-5 starts in current season

11/11 top 3 finish LTO (beaten no more than 5L)

...for a trends shortlist of...

CAME FROM NOWHERE – MASKED MAN – MONTEMARES – SCORPIO RISING – ZANNDABAD – CHARISMA CAT

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Pace thoughts...

Running style of previous 12 winners: FR-1 | CP-4 | HU-7

Three in here that could potentially look to head off in the lead... with **MASKED MAN, BALLYFAD & KOSAC D'OUDAIRIES** all potentials to help set what will likely be a steady enough early gallop...

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Trainer notes/Jockey notes/Horse notes/General pointers...

GORDON ELLIOT has won this 4-times and had 1 other place from his 6-runners (since 2022)... all 4 of his winners fitted the following... **3-5 starts in current season...** for a race form line of... **11211 (4/5, 1p)...** **BALLYFAD** meets those stats...

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Conclusion/Current Thoughts...

My play(s)...

This looks a seriously trappy race to pick apart... I'll play one E/W at big prices...

CAME FROM NOWHERE (J Scott) A very consistent mare so far and she's yet to finish out of the 3 in 8 starts... unlucky not to win LTO at Newbury, with a mistake at the last costing her... she's a smooth travelling type and there's enough pace in this to hopefully pull her deep into the contest...

2:30 Aintree

Freebooter Handicap Chase

Class 1 Chase | 3m1f | 5yo+

A tricky race on the Race Trends front... but looking at the last 10 renewals gives...

- 1 10/10 3 or less career handicap wins
- 2 9/10 1-10 previous Hcp Chase starts
- 3 9/10 11 or less career handicap starts
- 4 9/10 carried 10-09+
- 5 9/10 wore NO headgear

...for a trends table of...

	1	2	3	4	5	Tot
LEAVE OF ABSENCE	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5
LOOKAWAY	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5
AIN'T THAT A SHAME	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5
<i>MYRETOWN</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5
DEEP CAVE	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5
BRAVE FORTUNE	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5
CHANCE ANOTHER ONE	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5
IN LOVE	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	4
JOSH THE BOSS	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	4
MR HOPE STREET	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	4
UNCLE BERT	N	Y	N	Y	Y	3
STOLEN SILVER	Y	N	N	Y	Y	3
KONFUSION	N	N	N	Y	Y	2
BAD	Y	N	N	Y	N	2
CRUZ CONTROL	N	N	N	Y	Y	2
GLENGOULY	Y	N	N	Y	N	2

...and a trends shortlist of...

LEAVE OF ABSENCE – LOOKAWAY – AINT THAT A SHAME – *MYRETOWN* – DEEP CAVE – BRAVE FORTUNE – CHANCE ANOTHER ONE

**

Pace thoughts...

Looks a high potential for a strong early pace at play in this... **LOOKAWAY, JOSH THE BOSS & GLENGOULY** all like to force things and **KONFUSION** also likes to right up there in the early stages... if they get at it early then they could possibly set things up for something being ridden with more patience...

Horse	Run Style	Pace Map
LOOKAWAY	FR/CP	
MYRETOWN	N/R	
JOSH THE BOSS	FR/CP	
GLENGOULY	FR/CP	
KONFUSION	CP/FR	
LEAVE OF ABSENCE	CP	
CRUZ CONTROL	CP	
UNCLE BERT	CP	
STOLEN SILVER	CP	
BRAVE FORTUNE	CP/HU	
CHANCE ANOTHER ONE	HU/CP	
BAD	HU	
AIN'T THAT A SHAME	HU	
DEEP CAVE	HU	
IN LOVE	HU	
MR HOPE STREET	HU	
Pace: Highly likely strong early pace/possible late pace collapse		
Running style of previous 12 winners: FR-2 CP-6 HU-4		

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Trainer notes/Jockey notes/Horse notes/General pointers...

15 of the 28 winners ran at the CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL LTO... the best angle to consider is... **Ran at Cheltenham Festival LTO (did NOT PU) | 0-1 previous Hcp Chase wins | SP 12/1 or less...** which gives race form of... **13/60 | 22% S/R | +£39.75 – W&P 28/60 | 47% S/R (E/W = +£53.10)...** **LEAVE OF ABSENCE** currently meet those stats...

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Conclusion/Current Thoughts...

Trend toppers...

LEAVE OF ABSENCE goes well in this grade... **form away from Graded/Listed level = 52112111 (5/8, 2p - all 5 career wins)...** and spring ground suits him well, with all his wins coming on G/S or quicker... finished 3rd in the G2 bumper at this

meeting in 2022... still unexposed in Handicap company after 3 starts... form in Hcps reads... 521 (1/3, 2p)...

LOOKAWAY winner of his last 2 starts, both at Kempton, and still unexposed over fences after 5 chase starts, only 3 of them in Hcps... won the G2 Bumper at this meeting in 2022..

AIN'T THAT A SHAME Fell LTO on first run for 686-days... finished 6th in the National in 2024 and 17th in 2023... won the Thyestes chase in 2024 when trained by Henry De Bromhead (runs off 2lbs lower here)... all 3 previous wins came with Heavy in the going description...

MYRETOWN ~~NON-RUNNER~~

DEEP CAVE won the 3m Hcp Hurdle at this meeting last year... won his first 2 starts over fences this season before losing his way a bit on last 2 starts... still unexposed as a chaser after 4 starts and 49-day break off the back of his last run could be what he wants... I have loose PC for him as... **DSLRLR 36+ | Flat-Slightly und tracks | NOT Graded level = 1111 (4/4 – all 4 career wins)**...

BRAVE FORTUNE still unexposed as a chaser after 4 chase starts and unexposed as a handicapper after just 1 hcp start... conditions should be in his favour... **NOT Seasonal debut | Yielding to soft or quicker = 2113132 (3/7, 4p – all 3 career wins)**...

CHANCE ANOTHER ONE unexposed over fences after 5 starts... disappointed on last 3 starts (beaten 17L+ each run)... 0/6, 0p on LH tracks a concern...

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My plays...

This looks competitive... but I like the following two from the trends...

LEAVE OF ABSENCE (A Honeyball) good form in these class levels, enjoys the spring ground and should be able to sit just off the front-runners and pick them off down the home-straight... Anthony Honeyball's runners in this tend to run their race as well, with a form line of... 62361 (1/5, 2p)...

DEEP CAVE (C Williams) happy to forgive his run LTO at Kempton as track possibly wasn't ideal and he also lost a shoe mid-race... his wins at Bangor and Ascot earlier in season suggest OR 140 is a mark that's within range for him and trainer/jockey combo have solid stats with similar types... C Williams/J Tudor | Hcps over >2m7f in Feb-Apr | GB or IRE bred | travelling >140-miles = 18/49 | 37% S/R | +£74.11 – W&P 27/49 | 55% S/R...

3:05 Aintree

🏆 Liverpool Hurdle 🏆

Grade 1 Hurdle | 3m0.5f | 4yo+

Some solid trends to work with in this Grade 1 staying hurdle...

12/12 Top-rated or no more than 12lbs below

12/12 previously won over at least 2m1.5f but no further than 3m0.5f

12/12 ran in a Graded Hurdle LTO (won or beaten <25L LTO)

11/12 last win came in a non-hcp

...for a trends shortlist of...

HOME BY THE LEE – HONESTY POLICY

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Pace thoughts...

No real tearaway front-runners in this field and there's a chance it could turn into a bit of a stop-start gallop like in the Stayers Hurdle at Cheltenham LTO... **HAPPY JACKY** can sometimes set strong early gallops and **JINGKO BLUE** went from the front when winning LTO... and it may fall to one of that two to set the early fractions...

Horse	Run Style	Pace Map
HAPPY JACKY	CP/FR	
HEWICK	CP/FR	
JINGKO BLUE	CP/FR	
STRONG LEADER	CP	
HOME BY THE LEE	CP	
DODDIETHEGREAT	CP	
HIDDENVALLEY LAKE	CP	
TAKE NO CHANCES	CP	
HONESTY POLICY	CP	
AIR OF ENTITLEMENT	CP/HU	
LAVIDA ADIVA	HU	
IMPOSE TOI	HU	
Pace: Even/steady early pace/possible solo leader		
Running style of previous 12 winners: FR-1 CP-1 HU-10		

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Trainer notes/Jockey notes/Horse notes/General pointers...

16 of the last 21 winners ran at the CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL LTO, were beaten less than 15L and had previously run at Aintree... for race stats of... **14/54, 13p | +£33.87... HONESTY POLICY, HOME BY THE LEE, HEWICK & LAVIDA ADIVA** meet that 'angle' here...

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Conclusion/Current Thoughts...

Trend toppers...

HOME BY THE LEE winner of the Stayers Hurdle at Cheltenham LTO... has been PU on his two previous runs in this race... he's by Fame And Glory and his offspring at Aintree are... 3/66, 10p – 58% below exp... in C1 races at Aintree they are... 0/39, 5p... which may be why he's disappointed at track previously...

HONESTY POLICY 5th in Stayers at Cheltenham LTO... which probably wasn't a bad effort as he was running off a break of 82-days there and could be he's best off shorter breaks... DSLR 35 or less = 1112 (3/4, 1p) | DSLR 40+ = 235 (0/3, 2p)... won Mersey Novices' Hurdle at this meeting last year so he handles the track well... wears a 1st time TT here and Gordon Elliott has some strong stats with similar types... **G Elliott | UK tracks | IRE or FR bred horses | 1st time TT | SP 9/1 or less = 18/44 | 41% S/R | +£41.75 – W&P 25/44 | 57% S/R...**

Thoughts on others...

STRONG LEADER 1st & 2nd in the last 2 renewals of this race and holds overall Aintree form of... 2121 (2/4, 2p)... gets his Prime Conditions here... **Left-Handed Flat or Slightly Undulating Track | November to May = 2121121111 (7/10, 3p - all 7 career wins)**...

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Conclusion/Current Thoughts...

My play(s)...

HONESTY POLICY (G Elliott) this 6yo still has the potential to be the best horse in this race and the 1st time TT could well unlock his full potential... his jockey **Mark Walsh** also holds strong stats at this meeting since 2019 in G1 Hurdle races... **413113113012(6/12, 4p | +£31.14)**... improving to... **131111312 (6/9, 3p)**... in fields of 13 or less on horses with 2-6 seasonal starts...

4:00 Aintree

Radox Grand National

Class 1 Handicap Chase | 4m2.5f | 7yo+

The National has changed shape in recent seasons, on a number of levels... so I've only looked at the last 10 renewals... they do, however, provide some very solid race trends for us to work with...

- 1 **10/10 aged 7, 8 or 9** (0/164 aged 10yo+)
- 2 **10/10 7-19 Chase starts** (0/105 out with range)
- 3 **10/10 1-7 Handicap Chase starts** (0/181 out with range)
- 4 **10/10 3-7 starts in current season** (0/81 out with range)
- 5 **10/10 DSLR 24-85** (0/77 out with range)
- 6 **10/10 ran in a C1 or C2 Chase LTO and were beaten no more than 25L**
(0/185 out with range)
- 7 **10/10 jockey ridden horse at least once previously** (0/98 out with range)
- 8 **10/10 top 2 finish 1 of last 3 starts** (0/128 out with range)

**Only races in run in the UK & Ireland have been used to compile the trends AND to apply the trends*

...giving a trends table of...

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Tot
JOHNNYWHO	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	8
I AM MAXIMUS	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	7
GRANGECLARE WEST	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	7
HAITI COULEURS	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	7
FIREFOX	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	7
IROKO	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	7
THREE CARD BRAG	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	7
JAGWAR	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	7
GORGEOUS TOM	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	7
ANSWER TO KAYF	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	7
PANIC ATTACK	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	7
IMPERIAL SAINT	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	7
BANBRIDGE	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6
MONTY'S STAR	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	6
FAVORI DE CHAMPDOU	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6

OSCARS BROTHER	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6
HIGH CLASS HERO	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	6
QUAI DE BOURBON	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	6
JORDANS	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	6
TOP OF THE BILL	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6
GERRI COLOMBE	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	5
SPANISH HARLEM	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	5
LECKY WATSON	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	5
MR VANGO	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	5
STELLAR STORY	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	5
CAPTAIN CODY	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	5
THE REAL WHACKER	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	5
TWIG	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	5
CHAMP KIELY	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	4
BEAUPORT	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	4
FINAL ORDERS	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	4
MARBLE SANDS	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	4
AMIRITE	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	?	N	3
PERCEVAL LEGALLOIS	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	2

...and a trends shortlist of...

JOHNNYWHO

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Pace thoughts...

Looking at the last 10 renewals and considering the running styles of the winners you see... **5 ran Close to the Pace, 2 ran Midfield and 3 ran Held-Up**... so a decent spread of running styles in recent renewals although no front-runners getting the job done... the 'softening' of the fences seems to make the pace-setters go off hard in front and they have set the race up in recent renewals for horses ridden with a little bit more restraint, in some ways the reduction in distance mixed with making the fences less harsh has possibly resulted in the race being MORE of a stamina test...

And there does look a few potential early pace angles in the race this year... **MR VANGO** is perhaps the one who will be bang on the front end... with **AMIRITE** possibly pestering him for the lead... and the likes of **HAITI COULEURS, OSCARS BROTHER, BEAUPORT, THE REAL WHACKER & TOP OF THE BILL** also likely to be on or very near the pace from the off... and they should set a strong gallop in the early stages of this year's renewal...

Horse	Run Style	Pace Map	
MR VANGO	FR		
AMIRITE	FR/CP		
HAITI COULEURS	CP/FR		
OSCARS BROTHER	CP/FR		
BEAUPORT	CP/FR		
THE REAL WHACKER	CP/FR		
TOP OF THE BILL	CP/FR		
BANBRIDGE	CP		
GERRI COLOMBE	CP		
SPANISH HARLEM	CP		
CHAMP KIELY	CP		
FAVORI DE CHAMPDOU	CP		
THREE CARD BRAG	CP		
HIGH CLASS HERO	CP		
STELLAR STORY	CP		
GORGEOUS TOM	CP		
ANSWER TO KAYF	CP		
FINAL ORDERS	CP		
MARBLE SANDS	CP		
PANIC ATTACK	CP		
TWIG	CP		
IMPERIAL SAINT	CP		
FIREFOX	CP/HU		
MONTY'S STAR	CP/HU		
LECKY WATSON	CP/HU		
IROKO	CP/HU		
QUAI DE BOURBON	CP/HU		
JOHNNYWHO	CP/HU		
I AM MAXIMUS	HU/CP		
JAGWAR	HU/CP		
PERCEVAL LEGALLOIS	HU/CP		
GRANGECLARE WEST	HU		
CAPTAIN CODY	HU		
JORDANS	HU		
Pace: Probable contested early pace			
Running style of previous 10 winners: FR-0 CP-5 M-2 HU-3			

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Trainer notes/Jockey notes/Horse notes/General pointers...

7 of the last 10 winners and 28 of the 40 win & place horses have been Irish trained the strongest 'angle' for the Irish trained horses looks to be... **7yo-9yo | top 2 finish 1 of last 3 | 3-7 seasonal starts | 0-2 previous Hcp wins | Won or beaten <25L LTO...** for race stats of... **7/47, 10p (5 others finished 5th or 6th) | +£103.92 (E/W = +£162.88)...** **OSCARS BROTHER & GORGEOUS TOM** meet that 'angle'...

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Conclusion/Current Thoughts...

Trend toppers...

JOHNNYWHO winner of the Ultima LTO at Cheltenham and he's 6lb 'well-in' on his official rating (he was put up 6lbs to OR 152 for Cheltenham win but gets to run here off OR 146 as National is an early closing race)... ran over the National fences in November when finishing 5th of 17 in the Grand Sefton over 2m5f and finished 4th in a Handicap Hurdle over 3m0.5f at the Aintree National meeting in 2024 (so handles the fences well and also handles the festival environment well)... finished 5th in the Irish National last season off the 146 mark he runs from here and he has solid overall form in large fields, with **form in fields of 11+ of 13552481 (2/8, 5p)... in fields of 20+ he is... 1524 (1/4, 3p)**... and he will get his PC to shoot for here... **away from Graded level and off breaks of 31+ days = 1352111 (4/7, 2p – all 4 career wins)**...

Thoughts on others...

GORGEOUS TOM 3 runs so far this season... starting with a solid 2nd in a G2 at Down Royal over 2m3.5f... then a 4th of 24 in the Coral Gold Cup at Newbury, which is better than it looks as he was slowly into stride that day and had to sit midfield rather than his usual close to pace/tracking leaders running style... LTO he finished 5th of 16 in a Listed Hcp at Leopardstown over 2m5.5f, that was likely on the short side for him and was also his first run for 93-days (so may well have needed the outing)... still unexposed in handicaps (only 2 previous Hcp Chase starts)... **handles large fields really well, with form in fields of 14+ of... 54011224 (2/8, 4p)**... and goes well under the conditions he'll meet here... **G2 or less | Apr-Nov | NOT Seasonal debut = 41F111 (4/6, 1p – all 4 career wins)**... since 2021 Henry De Bromhead's runners in the National that ran in a Hcp LTO and started at an SP of 14/1 or less (LTO) returned a form line of... 636U1 (6th tends to pay-out in the National)...

IROKO finished 4th last year off a 5lb lower mark, when he was possibly given a bit too much to do from out the back... disappointed in the Ultima at Cheltenham LTO but generally runs well away from Graded/Listed level... 5/11, 3p – all 5 career wins...

JAGWAR close 2nd in the Ultima LTO behind JOHNNYWHO and gets to run off same mark here (so is officially 5lbs well in based on new mark)... scrappy at some of his fences in the Ultima but he's completed on all 13 starts over obstacles to date, so might just be his way... first try past 2m5.5f in Ultima LTO and he stayed it well, which is no real surprise, with gelded offspring of his sire – KARAKTAR – aged 5yo+ over 2m7f+ and NOT on Heavy returning stats of... 11/40, 5p – 63% above exp...

GRANGECLARE WEST 3rd last year off 3lb lower mark and mistake at last cost him any chance of fighting out finish... won Bobbyjo Chase LTO, both NICK ROCKETT & I AM MAXIMUS did the same before winning their Nationals (same with Hedgehunter back in the day)... **Willie Mullins horses that ran in this after winning the Bobbyjo**

Chase LTO and were no more than 11lbs lower than top-rated horse in this have returned a form line of... **11361 (3/5, 1p – 6th generally pays out as well)**...

IMPERIAL SAINT almost gets PC to shoot for... **OR <143 | NOT V Und tracks = 11711131 (6/8, 1p – all 6 career wins)**... just a couple lbs higher than ideal off OR 144... flat tracks like Aintree (has strong form on Mildmay Course) are ideal for him and he's unexposed over marathon trips... so I wouldn't let hcp mark put me off...

FAVORI DE CHAMPDOU has posted his 3 best RPR figures on his last 3 starts and the X-Country fences (last 2 starts) really seem to have sparked him into life (2 clear best RPR figures on those starts)... goes well under the following... **3m+ | 3+ seasonal starts | NOT Heavy | NOT G1 level = 211011 (4/6, 1p)**...

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Happy to cover three in this...

My plays...

JOHNNYWHO (JJ O'Neill) jumped really well in the Ultima for most of contest LTO and given he's already safely negotiated the National Fences this year AND has completed all 16 career starts to date, looks one who should navigate the full National course well, whilst also potentially making ground at his fences when needed... I also noted an interesting National 'angle' concerning horses that finished top 3 LTO at Cheltenham Festival... **Grand National | Top 3 finish LTO at Chelt Fest over 3m+ (beaten 4L or less) | previously run over at least 3m4f = (since 2007) 5/23 | 22% S/R | +£62.00 – W&P 10/23 | 43% S/R (E/W = +£85.50)**... not the deepest 'angle' to hang your hat on but an angle that JOHNNYWHO fits all the same... his owner – JP McManus – also has some interesting stats with National runners since 2017... **Grand National | JP McManus owned | 3-5 seasonal starts | WON 1 of last 3 | Won or Placed LTO = 10P21342 (2/8, 4p)**... JOHNNYWHO also meets that...

GORGEOUS TOM (H De Bromhead) De Bromhead said the National was the plan after he finished 4th in the Coral Gold Cup at Newbury and it's not hard to think his run LTO over 2m5.5f and off DSLR 93 was nothing more than a tune up for this... **looks best off breaks of 42-days or less (3/8, 3p of DSLR 42 or less compared to 1/7, 1p off longer breaks)** and he should be a lot sharper for that pipe-opener LTO...

JAGWAR (Greenall/Guerriero) has been steadily improving with each chase run and this step up to a marathon trip for the first time could bring yet more improvement from him... he's closely matched with JOHNNYWHO from the Ultima LTO and like that one he's well in for this on his official rating...

5:00 Aintree

Weatherbys NHstallions Bumper

Grade 2 Bumper | 2m1f | 4yo-6yo

A tricky race to narrow down on the trends but the following should hopefully give us a workable shortlist to play with...

12/12 aged 5yo-6yo

12/12 1+ career win

12/12 1-3 starts in current season

12/12 top 5 finish in a bumper over 1m7.5f-2m1f LTO

12/12 previously won over at least 1m7.5f but no further than 2m0.5f

12/12 made debut aged 4yo or 5yo over 1m7.5f-2m0.5f (finished top 4)

...for a trends shortlist of...

COOLTOBECARELESS – LOOK ME – MERRY AWAY – SMILE JOHN BOY

**

Trainer notes/Jockey notes/Horse notes/General pointers...

WILLIE MULLINS has won this twice and had 4 others place from his 9 runners (since 2011)... his runners that met the following... **2-4 career starts...** return a race form line of... **120122 (2/6, 3p)...** **LOOK ME** meets those stats here...

**

Conclusion/Current Thoughts...

My plays...

LOOK ME (W Mullins) Mullins doesn't send many to this Bumper, but this one is exactly the kind he does well with in the race, and the form of his two starts to date has been working out well so far...

AINTREE ANGLES: FRIDAY QUALIFIERS

TRAINERS/OWNERS

PAUL NICHOLLS

P Nicholls | Aintree Nat Meet | FR Bred horses | 3+ starts in season | SP 11/1 or less | Top 4 finish LTO

(since 2021) 10/23 | 43% S/R | +£34.40 – W&P 14/23 | 61% S/R

QUALIFIERS (**Need to be SP 11/1 or less*)

NONE

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DAN SKELTON

D Skelton | Aintree Nat Meet | Hcp Hurdles | 6yo-9yo | 1-4 seasonal starts | DSLR 21+

(since 2019) 6/13 | 46% S/R | +£67.31 – W&P 8/13 | 62% S/R

QUALIFIERS

NONE

**

WILLIE MULLINS

W Mullins | Aintree Nat Meet | 4yo-9yo | Previously won at Group level | 2-14 career starts | Won 1 of last 4

(since 2014) 21/48 | 44% S/R | +£101.70 – W&P 30/48 | 63% S/R

QUALIFIERS

12:45 – SALVATOR MUNDI

**

 **NICKY HENDERSON**

N Henderson | Aintree Nat Meet | G1 races | Previously won at G1 or G2 level | 2-5 seasonal starts | SP <9/1 | Top 3 finish LTO

(since 2017) 18/26 | 69% S/R | +£17.21 – W&P 21/26 | 81% S/R

 **QUALIFIERS** (**Need to be SP <9/1 or less*)

3:05 – JINGKO BLUE

**

 **JP MCMANUS**

JP McManus Owned | Aintree Nat Meet | G1 races | 4yo-6yo | DSLR 16-56

(since 2017) 16/29 | 55% S/R | +£37.28 – W&P 24/29 | 83% S/R

 **QUALIFIERS**

3:05 – IMPOSE TOI

GENERAL ANGLE

 **PREVIOUSLY WON AT GRAND NATIONAL MEETING**

C1 races at Aintree Nat Meet | Male 6yo-11yo's | NOT GB bred | 3+ seasonal starts | Completed race LTO | Previously WON at Aintree Nat Meet

(since 2009) 39/170 | 23% S/R | +£345.99 – W&P 62/170 | 36% S/R

 **QUALIFIERS**

12:45 – SALVATOR MUNDI

2:30 – DEEP CAVE

2:30 – LOOKAWAY

3:05 – HONESTY POLICY

4:00 – BANBRIDGE

4:00 – DEEP CAVE

4:00 – GERRI COLOMBE

4:00 – I AM MAXIMUS



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