# AT THE RACES

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**15:20 CHELLENSHAM, 2m 110y**

**Stan James Champion Hurdle Challenge Trophy (Grade 1) (Class 1) (4YO plus)**

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<td>2-12332</td>
<td>ARCTIC FIRE (GER) 44 D</td>
<td>b g Soldier Hollow - Adelma</td>
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**Jockey Colours:** Purple, orange seams, purple cap, orange star

**Timeform says:** Smart hurdler who has chased home Hurricane Fly in Grade 1s at Leopardstown on last 2 starts but will need another career best to hit the frame again in this company. (Forecast 23.00)

| 2  | 69-1262 | BERTIMONT (FR) 52 D | gr g Slickly - Bocanegra | 5 11 - 10t | Harry Skelton D Skelton | 149 |

**Jockey Colours:** Pink, large purple spots, hooped sleeves

**Timeform says:** Much improved for this yard, bolting up in Chepstow handicap. Disappointed in the international here in December and given a soft lead when second to The New One at Haydock next time. Stiff task. (Forecast 251.00)

| 3  | 1111-11 | FAUGHEEN (IRE) 74 C D | b g Germany - Miss Pickering | 7 11 - 10 | R Walsh W P Mullins | 168 |

**Jockey Colours:** Pink, light green spots, pink sleeves and cap

**Timeform says:** Last year's Neptune winner who wasn't extended when stretching unbeaten record under Rules to 8 in Christmas Hurdle at Kempton. This his toughest test to date, but looks out of the top drawer. (Forecast 2.20)

| 4  | 14-2111 | HURRICANE FLY (IRE) 44 CD | b g Montjeu - Scandisk | 11 11 - 10 | P Townend W P Mullins | 169 |

**Jockey Colours:** Royal blue, emerald green triple diamond and diamonds on cap

**Timeform says:** Winner in 2011 and 2013. Notched a fifth victory in Irish Champion Hurdle at Leopardstown last time (22nd Grade 1 overall), but only fourth in this race last year (good to firm) and ground a concern. (Forecast 11.00)

| 5  | 41-1223 | JEZKI (IRE) 44 CD | b g Milan - La Noire | 7 11 - 10h | A P McCoy Mrs J Harrington | 168 |

**Jockey Colours:** Emerald green, yellow hoops, white cap

**Timeform says:** Reigning Champion Hurdler who has found Hurricane Fly too strong in Ireland lately but was much better than result last time (close second when mistake last) and should make bold bid to defend crown. (Forecast 5.50)

| 6  | 2-41111 | KITTEN ROCK (FR) 24 D | b g Laveroch - The Cat Eater | 5 11 - 10 | N D Fehily E J O'Grady | 153 |

**Jockey Colours:** Emerald green, yellow hoops, emerald green and yellow quartered cap

**Timeform says:** Has gone from strength to strength this season, completing a 4-timer in Grade 2 at Gowran last month. Another chunk of improvement required to get seriously involved here, though. (Forecast 41.00)

| 7  | 31-1111 | THE NEW ONE (IRE) 52 CD | b g King's Theatre - Thuringe | 7 11 - 10 | Sam Twiston-Davies N A Twiston-Davies | 167 |

**Jockey Colours:** Red, white star, red sleeves, black stars, white cap, red star

**Timeform says:** Tough top-class hurdler who met trouble before running on into third behind Jezi in last year's Champion Hurdle and has won all of his 5 starts since. Sure to go well again. (Forecast 4.50)

| 8  | 413-222 | VANITEUX (FR) 68 D BF | br g Voix Du Nord - Expoville | 6 11 - 10 | B J Geraghty N J Henderson | 154 |
Jockey Colours: Grey, white epaulets

**Timeform says:** Smart novice hurdler last season and further progress in defeat at this venue this time round, though he was comfortably held by The New One in the International back in December.★★★★ (Forecast 41.00)

**TIMEFORM VIEW:** The unbeaten FAUGHEEN looks as though he could be out of the top drawer, and he’s a confident selection to pass his biggest test over timber with flying colours. The New One was badly hampered when third to Jezki 12 months ago, and that pair can fight out the minor honours this time around.

**Timeform 1-2-3:**
1: FAUGHEEN  
2: THE NEW ONE  
3: JEZKI