














## (R3) 13:15 CHELTENHAM, 2m 4f 127y

### Paddy Power Cheltenham Countdown Podcast Handicap Chase (Premier Handicap) (GBB Race) (Class 1) (5YO plus)

No	Silk	Form	Horse Details	Age/Wt	Jockey/Trainer	OR
1		1P236-0	<b>HITMAN</b> (FR) 90 BF b g Falco - Tercah Girl	8 12 - 0tp	Freddie Gingell (5) P F Nicholls	156
<b>Jockey Colours:</b> White, royal blue epaulets, white sleeves, red spots, royal blue cap <b>Timeform says:</b> <i>Shaped as if amiss on return in Old Roan at Aintree but has had a breathing operation since and his only previous visit here resulted in excellent third in Ryanair Chase last season. Not taken lightly.</i> ★★☆☆☆ (Forecast 10.00)					Notes:	
2		1F5P-67	<b>GA LAW</b> (FR) 56 C b g Sinndar - Law	8 11 - 8p	G Sheehan Jamie Snowden	150
<b>Jockey Colours:</b> Emerald green, royal blue diamond, diamonds on sleeves, emerald green cap, royal blue diamond <b>Timeform says:</b> <i>Won last season's Paddy Power (off 8 lb lower) at this venue and travelled well for a long way in Coral Gold Cup at Newbury (3¼m) last month. Cheekpieces worn on that occasion are retained and a strongly-run race at this shorter trip could play to his strengths.</i> ★★☆☆☆ (Forecast 15.00)					Notes:	
3		32411-1	<b>JETOILE</b> (IRE) 90 D b g Jeremy - Accordingtoherself	9 11 - 8t	Jonjo O'Neill Jr. Ryan Potter	150
<b>Jockey Colours:</b> Mauve, grey braces, grey cap <b>Timeform says:</b> <i>Ended last season on the upgrade, landing 2 handicaps at Chepstow in good style before making a winning return (albeit a messy renewal due to several omitted fences) in Old Roan Chase at Aintree. Has clearly developed the winning habit and he must enter calculations.</i> ★★☆☆☆ (Forecast 15.00)					Notes:	
4		416P-32	<b>IL RIDOTO</b> (FR) 42 CD b g Kapgarde - L'exploratrice	7 11 - 6tp	H Cobden P F Nicholls	148
<b>Jockey Colours:</b> Pink, large purple spots, hooped sleeves <b>Timeform says:</b> <i>Clearly well suited by this course, winning this contest (off 10 lb lower) 12 months ago and only narrowly failing to make all in competitive handicap over C&amp;D last month. 5 lb higher now but looks sure to go well again.</i> ★★★★★ (Forecast 5.50)					Notes:	
5		2574-11	<b>VICTTORINO</b> (FR) 35 b g It's Gino - Victorie	6 11 - 4	Charlie Deutsch Miss V Williams	146
<b>Jockey Colours:</b> Royal blue and white check, striped sleeves, royal blue cap <b>Timeform says:</b> <i>Ex-French chaser who has upped his game significantly since joining Venetia Williams, landing back-to-back 23.8f handicaps at Ascot. Faces a different test here but further improvement may be forthcoming.</i> ★★★★★ (Forecast 8.50)					Notes:	
6		2212-31	<b>EXCELLO</b> (FR) 35 D gr g Cokoriko - Pafadas	5 10 - 12	James Bowen N J Henderson	144
<b>Jockey Colours:</b> White, dark blue cross belts, red and white check sleeves, red cap <b>Timeform says:</b> <i>Useful form over hurdles and fences at up to 2¾m in France. Only third in novice hurdle for new yard in November but different proposition back chasing 4 weeks later, winning a graduation event in decisive fashion at Ascot (21f, good). Could be more to come on switch to handicaps.</i> ★★★★★ (Forecast 7.50)					Notes:	
7		F11-384	<b>BILL BAXTER</b> (IRE) 35 D gr g Milan - Blossom Rose	8 10 - 10	Sam Twiston-Davies W Greatrex	138

<b>Jockey Colours:</b> Royal blue and yellow check, royal blue sleeves, yellow armlets, royal blue cap <b>Timeform says:</b> <i>Had a fine first season over fences, gaining fourth success when gamely landing Topham Chase over the National fences at Aintree (21f) in April. Acquitted himself well in defeat this term but wouldn't want the ground too dry out too much here. ★★☆☆☆</i> (Forecast 17.00)					Notes:	
8		1444-23	<b>STRAW FAN JACK</b> 35 C gr g Geordieland - Callerlilly	9 10 - 9	Sean Houlihan Sheila Lewis	137
<b>Jockey Colours:</b> Red, white stars, white and black striped sleeves, black cap, white star <b>Timeform says:</b> <i>Dual winner over fences last term who made a solid return behind Pic D'Orhy at Ascot in November. However, ran no sort of race at same course since and makes limited appeal here. ★★☆☆☆</i> (Forecast 29.00)					Notes:	
9		2115-66	<b>EASY AS THAT</b> (IRE) 42 b g Sans Frontieres - Bell Storm	9 10 - 9	Shane Quinlan (3) Miss V Williams	137
<b>Jockey Colours:</b> Light blue and dark green (quartered), white sleeves, red armlets, white cap <b>Timeform says:</b> <i>Looked a potentially smart chaser when easily scoring at Haydock and Newcastle last winter but has found life tougher since, down the field in competitive handicaps at this venue. In fine hands, however, and is only 4 lb above his last winning mark. ★★☆☆☆</i> (Forecast 12.00)					Notes:	
10		127-52P	<b>FRERE D'ARMES</b> (FR) 26 BF b g Bathyrhon - Ville Sainte	7 10 - 6tp1	C J Todd D Skelton	134
<b>Jockey Colours:</b> White, royal blue star, royal blue sleeves, white spots, white cap, royal blue star <b>Timeform says:</b> <i>Improved for switch to chasing last season, landing handicaps at Kempton/Newbury (at up to 18f) and ran up to best when second in Ascot handicap (16.7f) on penultimate start. This looks tougher, though, and he arrives on back of poor effort at Musselburgh. ★★☆☆☆</i> (Forecast 17.00)					Notes:	
11		115-514	<b>GRANDEUR D'AME</b> (FR) 42 b g Desir D'un Soir - Sourya D'airy	8 10 - 5	Thomas Bellamy A King	133
<b>Jockey Colours:</b> Maroon, black hoop, diabolo on sleeves, hooped cap <b>Timeform says:</b> <i>Winning hurdler who has a generally progressive profile over fences, back on the up when landing a handicap at Wetherby (19.4f) in November. Far from disgraced (from 3 lb out of the weights) when fourth in C&amp;D handicap since and merits consideration. ★★☆☆☆</i> (Forecast 13.00)					Notes:	
12		311-335	<b>LOUNGE LIZARD</b> 49 b g Kayf Tara - Lifestyle	7 10 - 2b	J J Burke H D Daly	130
<b>Jockey Colours:</b> Emerald green, red hoops, quartered cap <b>Timeform says:</b> <i>Looked more straightforward than had previously been the case (in blinkers) when landing small-field handicaps at Catterick/Taunton during second half of last term. Did too much too soon in Becher Chase latest but may find things happening plenty quick enough dropped in trip here. ★★☆☆☆</i> (Forecast 34.00)					Notes:	
13		2-2F942	<b>CHAMPAGNE MYSTERY</b> (IRE) 62 D b g Shantou - Spanker	10 10 - 2t1	Nicolas Gauffenic T R George	130
<b>Jockey Colours:</b> White, red cross belts, dark blue sleeves, red cap <b>Timeform says:</b> <i>Campaigned exclusively in France in recent years, running up to best when second in listed chase at Auteuil (17.4f, heavy) 62 days ago. Since rejoined Tom George and doesn't look harshly treated back handicapping but it's been some time since he got his head in front. ★★☆☆☆</i> (Forecast 41.00)					Notes:	

**TIMEFORM VIEW:** Last year's winner IL RIDOTO lost nothing in defeat when caught close home here last month and remains feasibly treated. He gets the nod in what looks a highly competitive contest. Victorino has proved a revelation since switching to Venetia Williams and is feared most, whilst Excello and Hitman are also very much respected.

- Timeform 1-2-3:**  
**1:** IL RIDOTO (4)  
**2:** VICTTORINO (5)  
**3:** EXCELLO (6)





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