



Betfair Media Release

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## **Call Me Lord & Jolly's Cracked It among 27 for Saturday's feature Betfair Exchange Trophy**

Top-weight **Call Me Lord** heads 27 five-day confirmations for the feature £150,000 G3 Betfair Exchange Trophy (3.35pm) at Ascot this Saturday, December 22, day two of the Christmas Racing Weekend.

The two-mile contest is among the most valuable handicap hurdles staged in Britain, bettered only by the £155,000 G3 Betfair Hurdle at Newbury in February.

Call Me Lord (11st 12lb, 14/1 with Betfair), one of three remaining entries for champion jump trainer Nicky Henderson, has yet to race this season and was last seen out when defeating Lil Rockerfeller by 16 lengths in the G2 Select Hurdle over just shy of two and three-quarter miles at Sandown Park in April.

He is no stranger to shouldering top-weight in prestigious handicaps, having gone down by a neck to **Mr Antolini** (Nigel Twiston-Davies, 10st 7lb, 10/1) in the two-mile G3 Imperial Cup at Sandown Park in March.

Henderson's other contenders are the J P McManus-owned pair of **Apple's Shakira** (10st 8lb, 25/1), a dual G2 winner in juvenile hurdles last season, and **Charli Parcs** (10st 10lb, 20/1). The Seven Barrows handler is the most successful trainer in the Betfair Exchange Trophy with four victories.

Ascot specialist **Jolly's Cracked It** (Harry Fry, 10st 13lb) is the 6/1 favourite with Betfair for the Betfair Exchange Trophy. Four of his five career victories have come over the course and distance at Ascot, most notably when dead-heating with Sternrubin in the 2015 edition of the Betfair Exchange Trophy.

Jolly's Cracked It, now a nine-year-old, has only raced twice since that triumph and defied a 706-day absence on his latest start when defeating **Chatez** (Alan King, 9st (minimum weight 10st), 16/1) by six lengths in the Coutts Handicap Hurdle at Ascot on November 23.

Trainer Harry Fry, whose yard is in Dorset, said: "Jolly's Cracked It came out of his victory at Ascot in good form.

"It was great to see him roll back the years after 706 days off with a tendon injury.

"We had been pleased with him at home, but he still had it to do giving weight all round to some decent rivals. It was great to see the patience of his owners, the GDM Partnership, rewarded.

"All being well, he will return to Ascot on Saturday for the race that he won back in 2015."

Northern challenger **Nietzsche** (Brian Ellison, 9st 12lb, 10/1) is in excellent form, having captured the G3 Greatwood Handicap Hurdle at Cheltenham last month under promising conditional jockey Danny McMenamin.

Nietzsche contested the Betfair Exchange Trophy in 2017 as a four-year-old, coming home 10th.

Brian Ellison, who trains in North Yorkshire, remarked: "It was great to win a big handicap hurdle like that at Cheltenham and Nietzsche has come out of it in good form.

"A lot of juvenile hurdles lose their way in their second season – he was the same and we didn't know why as he used to work so well.

"This year, he has returned to form and was a good second at Newmarket before his win at Cheltenham, which set him up well for the Greatwood. The tongue-tie we put on him also helped.

"We will see how he is, but Ascot on Saturday is a possibility."

Wiltshire-based trainer Alan King's three entries are headed by **Fidux** (10st 11lb, 8/1), who was a convincing eight-length winner of the Bet With Ascot Handicap Hurdle over course and distance on November 3, and Listed Gerry Feilden Handicap Hurdle second **Lisp** (10st 6lb, 12/1).

Other in-form contenders include **Western Ryder** (Warren Greatrex, 10st 11lb, 12/1), who finished third in last Saturday's G2 International Hurdle at Cheltenham, and **Man Of Plenty** (Sophie Leech, 9st 12lb, 10/1), the winner of a valuable Listed handicap hurdle at Sandown Park earlier this month.

Gloucestershire handler Sophie Leech could also be represented by **Garó De Juilley** (10st 4lb, 20/1), winner of the G3 Silver Trophy Handicap Hurdle at Chepstow in October.

Olly Murphy enjoyed his first big success as a trainer in the Betfair Exchange Trophy 12 months ago with Hunter's Call, an Irish import who was having his first start for the Warwickshire stable.

Murphy could bid to repeat the feat this year with six-year-old **Fiesole** (9st 13lb, 10/1), who was last seen out when landing a handicap hurdle at Tipperary in October for trainer Eoin Doyle.

**Tornado Watch** (Emmet Mullins IRE, 9st 13lb, 12/1), the one Irish-trained runner among the confirmations, finished second Jury Duty in the G1 Grand National Hurdle at Far Hills, USA, on his penultimate start.

Cheltenham Festival scorers **Flying Tiger** (Nick Williams, 9st 13lb, 12/1) and **Mohaayed** (Dan Skelton, 10st 11lb, 12/1) also remain engaged for Saturday's Betfair Exchange Trophy, in which a maximum field of 21 can participate.

The going at Ascot is currently Soft, with an unsettled weather forecast.

### **Betfair Trophy – Betfair prices:**

6/1 Jolly's Cracked It; 8/1 Fidux; 10/1 Fiesole, Man Of Plenty, Mr Antolini, Nietzsche; 12/1 Tornado Watch, Flying Tiger, Lisp, Mohaayed, Mont Des Avaloirs, Western Ryder; 14/1 Call Me Lord, Not Never; 16/1 Chatez, Cyrus Darius, Forecast; 20/1 Charli Parcs, Garo De Juilley, Grand Sancy; 25/1 Apple's Shakira, Court Royale, First Figaro, Lord Napier; 33/1 Friday Night Light, John Constable, Thistimenextyear

### **Each-way ¼ odds, 1-2-3-4**

Dan Collins, a Betfair Horse Racing Trader, commented: "Two impressive last time out course and distance winners head the market in Jolly's Cracked It [6/1f] and Fidux [8/1].

"Harry Fry's charge landed this in 2015 when dead-heating with Sternrubin, and punters were suitably impressed with his belated return, clearly feeling he can defy the 9lb rise he got for it. Greatwood winner Nietzsche is next in at 10/1, in what looks a typically competitive renewal of the Betfair Exchange Trophy."

## **The Betfair Exchange Trophy Handicap Hurdle**

**Grade 3, £150,000 total prize fund.** Saturday, December 22, two miles. For four-year-olds and upwards. Penalties: after December 9, a winner of a hurdle 4lb. No penalty to increase a horse's weight above 11st 12lb. Entries closed December 4 (42 entries), five-day confirmations December 17 (**27 confirmations**), final declarations December 20. Maximum field 21 runners.

<b>Horse</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Wgt</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Trainer</b>
<b>CALL ME LORD (FR)</b>	5	11-12	Simon Munir & Isaac Souede	Nicky Henderson
<b>JOHN CONSTABLE (IRE)</b>	7	11-00	Walters Plant Hire Ltd	Evan Williams
<b>JOLLY'S CRACKED IT (FR)</b>	9	10-13	GDM Partnership	Harry Fry
<b>CYRUS DARIUS</b>	9	10-12	Mr & Mrs G Calder & P M Warren	Colin Tizzard
<b>FIDUX (FR)</b>	5	10-11	AXOM LXVIII	Alan King
<b>WESTERN RYDER (IRE)</b>	6	10-11	Albatross Club/Bryan Drew & Friends	Warren Greatrex
<b>MOHAAYED</b>	6	10-11	June Watts	Dan Skelton
<b>CHARLI PARCS (FR)</b>	5	10-10	J P McManus	Nicky Henderson
<b>MONT DES AVALOIRS (FR)</b>	5	10-08	Mrs Johnny de la Hey	Paul Nicholls
<b>MR ANTOLINI (IRE)</b>	8	10-07	Alan & Sally Coney	Nigel Twiston-Davies
<b>APPLE'S SHAKIRA (FR)</b>	4	10-06	J P McManus	Nicky Henderson
<b>LISP (IRE)</b>	4	10-06	Richard & Lizzie Kelvin-Hughes	Alan King
<b>GARO DE JUILLEY (FR)</b>	6	10-04	G Thompson	Sophie Leech
<b>GRAND SANCY (FR)</b>	4	10-02	Martin Broughton Racing Partners	Paul Nicholls
<b>FIESOLE</b>	6	9-13	LF Infrastructure Ltd	Olly Murphy
<b>FLYING TIGER (IRE)</b>	5	9-13	The Macaroni Beach Society	Nick Williams
<b>TORNADO WATCH (IRE)</b>	9	9-13	Emmet Mullins	Emmet Mullins IRE
<b>MAN OF PLENTY</b>	9	9-12	G Thompson	Sophie Leech
<b>NIETZSCHE</b>	5	9-12	D Gilbert, M Lawrence, A Bruce, G Wills	Brian Ellison
<b>LORD NAPIER (IRE)</b>	5	9-10	F Lloyd	Peter Bowen
<b>NOT NEVER</b>	6	9-08	Hail Sargent Evans	Gary Moore
<b>FORECAST</b>	6	9-07	The E, G & B Partnership	Martin Keighley
<b>FIRST FIGARO (GER)</b>	8	9-07	The Bellamy Partnership	Venetia Williams
<b>COURT ROYALE (IRE)</b>	5	9-05	Janet Davies	Evan Williams
<b>FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHT (FR)</b>	5	9-02	Prof Caroline Tisdall & William Frewen	David Pipe
<b>CHATEZ (IRE)</b>	7	9-00	Mrs Peter Andrews	Alan King
<b>THISTIMENEXTYEAR</b>	4	9-00	Rebel Racing (2)	Richard Spencer

**27 entries**

**1 Irish-trained**