

**RACE COMMENT & SELECTION
UNITED KINGDOM RACING THURSDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2026 MEETING
CHELMSFORD CITY**

RACE 1: CCR RESTRICTED NOVICE STAKES (GBB RACE) (CLASS 5) (3YO TO 5YO)

FELIX GEM - TAMASHAL - BLUE CELESTIAL

Race Preview: FELIX GEM showed the benefit of his debut with a close second over an extended 1m1f at Wolverhampton last month. Another step forward can see him get off the mark at the third time of asking. Tamashal caught the eye on his debut here earlier in the month and is entitled to be wiser, while Blue Celestial, who posted her best effort yet at Kempton last time, reverts to a mile with the potential to kick on.

NO.	HORSE NAME	RACE COMMENT
1	CALLERO	Beaten 19l behind Menzies at 200-1 when last of 8 on his racecourse debut at Kempton over 1m earlier this month.
2	RAJENDRA	Unplaced in both starts. Finished 6l behind Si Grass when fourth of 11 at 9-2 on his latest outing at Southwell over 1m last month.
3	TAMASHAL	Half-brother to Walking Painting, won four times at 1m. Finished 8l behind Stay Salty when fifth of 10 at 6-1 on his racecourse debut here over 7f earlier this month.
4	FELIX GEM	Placed once in two starts. Beaten a neck by Mythical Bay when second of 5 at 3-1 on his latest outing at Wolverhampton over 1m 1f last month.
5	ISN'T IT IRONIC	Half-brother to Just Typical, won five times at 7f and 1m.
6	GIFTS DIFFERING	Well beaten at 22-1 behind Moon Target when last of 6 on her racecourse debut at Yarmouth over 7f (good) in August last year.
7	IRISH INCENTIVE	Finished 2 3/4l behind India Gold when fifth of 10 at 12-1 on her racecourse debut at Musselburgh over 7f (soft) in November last year.
8	BLUE CELESTIAL	Placed once in three starts. Third of 13 behind Seeing Stars beaten 1 3/4l at 18-1 on her latest outing at Kempton over 7f last month.
9	GOLDEN MUSE	Dam unraced.

RACE 2: CCR SELLING STAKES (CLASS 4) (4YO PLUS)

CRISTO - ZOFFANDIA - HITCHED

Race Preview: This represents a drop in class for CRISTO, which may be enough for the 83-rated gelding to blow this seller apart if he is anywhere near his best. A tongue-tie and visor combination was instrumental in Zoffandia returning to winning ways at Kempton last week and he should be another key player if the retained headgear has the same impact. Hitched and Good Banter are still dangerous to rule out, despite their best all-weather form being posted elsewhere.

NO.	HORSE NAME	RACE COMMENT
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1	CRISTO	Successful twice at 1m 2f on polytrack. Beaten 2l behind Wyld Bill at 11-2 when eighth of 12 on his latest outing at Lingfield over 1m 2f earlier this month.
2	HITCHED	Has won nine races from 1m to 1m 2f including 7 wins on the all-weather (4 PO). Finished 4l behind Borgi when fifth of 10 at 6-1 on his latest outing at Lingfield over 1m earlier this month.
3	GOOD BANTER	He has won three times from 6f to 1m 1f on the all-weather. Finished 6l behind I'm Workin On It when fifth of 10 at 40-1 on his latest outing at Kempton over 7f earlier this month.
4	ZOFFANDIA	Successful twice at 1m on polytrack. A winner at 5-2 at Kempton over 1m on his latest outing earlier this month, beating Baloo's Blues by 4 1/2l.
5	CITY OF GOD	A winner at 1m on the all-weather. Beaten 6l behind Hitched at 9-2co-fav when eighth of 9 on his latest outing at Wolverhampton over 1m 1f last month.
6	EPICTETUS	He has won three times from 7f to 1m 2f, but last win was over two years ago. Beaten 11l behind Wyld Bill at 11-1 when 11th of 12 on his latest outing at Lingfield over 1m 2f earlier this month.

RACE 3: A CUPPA FOR DEMENTIA 17TH MARCH HANDICAP (CLASS 5) (4YO PLUS)

THECOFFEEPODDOTCO - CRESSIDA WILDES - GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Race Preview: THECOFFEEPODDOTCO is hard to oppose after a comfortable win over 5f at Lingfield last time and he can brush aside a manageable 4lb rise. Cressida Wildes carries a 5lb penalty for her Wolverhampton success and also should be capable of another bold showing in this company. General Assembly doesn't have much to find to be on the premises, while Fiorella Princess tends to go well here and merits a betting check.

NO.	HORSE NAME	RACE COMMENT
1	CRESSIDA WILDES	She has won three times at 5f including 2 wins on the all-weather (1 PO). A winner at 9-1 at Wolverhampton over 5f on her latest outing earlier this month, beating Alondra by 3/4l. Carries a 5lb penalty today for that success.
2	ARKLOW LAD	A winner at 5f. Finished 8l behind Dark Ace when sixth of 11 at 4-1 on his latest outing at Navan over 5f (soft) in October last year. Having his first run for a new stable today, previously with Kieran P Cotter in Ireland.
3	MIDDLETON VIEW	A winner at 5f on polytrack. Beaten 6l behind Waistcoat at 10-3fav when 9th of 10 on his latest outing here over 6f last month.
4	THECOFFEEPODDOTCO	Successful twice at 5f on polytrack. Won on her latest outing when 5-2fav at Lingfield over 5f earlier this month, beating Cayman Tai by 1l. Has won twice at Lingfield this season.
5	GENERAL ASSEMBLY	He has won four times at 5f including 3 wins on the all-weather (2 PO). Beaten a short head by Alondra when second of 9 at 11-2 on his latest outing at Wolverhampton over 5f earlier this month.
6	IORELLA PRINCESS	Successful at 5f and 6f including a win on polytrack. Finished 3 1/2l behind Toolatetonegotiate when fifth of 8 at 9-1 on her latest outing at Lingfield over 5f last month.

7 MUMAYAZ Has won nine races from 5f to 1m including 6 wins on the all-weather (1 PO). Finished 3l behind Cargin Bhui when fourth of 12 at 9-2 on his latest outing at Southwell over 6f earlier this month.

RACE 4: CCR HANDICAP (CLASS 6) (4YO PLUS)

SMOKEY MALONE - APACHE EAGLE - BLOODHOUND

Race Preview: SMOKEY MALONE arrives here on the back of two victories at Southwell in recent weeks and a 3lb rise for the latest of those wins may not be enough to stop him from making it a hat-trick. That said, the recent C&D second Apache Eagle is an obvious threat following that performance, while Bloodhound and The Craftymaster are others who merit places on the shortlist.

NO.	HORSE NAME	RACE COMMENT
1	NOT SO SOBERS	Yet to place in four starts. Beaten 4 1/2l behind Prince Quattro at 28-1 when eighth of 9 on his latest outing at Southwell over 1m 6f last month.
2	THE CRAFTYMASTER	Has won eight races from 1m 6f to 2m on the all-weather (3 PO). Finished 10l behind Tarbat Ness when last of 5 at 13-8fav on his latest outing at Newcastle over 2m earlier this month.
3	DEFINITE	A winner at 1m 2f, but that win was over three years ago. Finished 5l behind Further Measure when fourth of 7 at 33-1 on his latest outing at Kempton over 2m earlier this month.
4	SMOKEY MALONE	Has won ten races from 1m to 1m 6f including 8 wins on the all-weather (1 FB, 2 PO). A winner at 5-1 at Southwell over 1m 4f on his latest outing earlier this month, beating Duchess by a neck. Has won twice at Southwell this season.
5	DAMZON	A winner at 1m 5f on polytrack. Third of 9 behind Himself beaten 9l at 12-1 on her latest outing at Southwell over 1m 6f earlier this month.
6	SULLIVAN BAY	Successful at 1m 5f and 2m on polytrack. Finished 4 1/2l behind Rogue Justice when fourth of 8 at 14-1 on his latest outing here over 2m last month.
7	FORNIDO	A winner at 1m 6f on the all-weather. Finished 10l behind Himself when fourth of 9 at 8-1 on his latest outing at Southwell over 1m 6f earlier this month.
8	BLOODHOUND	Placed in four of 24 starts. Finished 2 3/4l behind Knight Of Magic when fourth of 10 at 14-1 on his latest outing at Wolverhampton over 1m 6f earlier this month.
9	APACHE EAGLE	Placed once in nine starts. Beaten 3l by The Craftymaster when second of 7 at 50-1 on his latest outing over this course and distance earlier this month, his only placing from 9 starts.