

Saturday 23rd November

HAYDOCK



12.08 BETFAIR SUPPORTS SAFER GAMBLING WEEK NEWTON NOVICES' HURDLE (Grade 2) (1) 1m7f144y (3150 Metres)

RACE 1 **(3) ROADLESSTRAVELLED | (2) COUNTRY MILE | (6) LILY DU BERLAIS**

12.40 BET AT YOUR BEST WITH BETFAIR HANDICAP CHASE (3) 2m67y (3280 Metres)

RACE 2 **(2) HOME FREE | (3) GENERAL MEDRANO | (6) GALUNGGUNG**

1.15 BETFAIR RACING PODCASTS HANDICAP HURDLE (2) 2¼m191y (3800 Metres)

RACE 3 **(5) BEAT THE BAT | (4) PUNTA DEL ESTE | (6) JOSH THE BOSS**

1.50 BETFAIR EXCHANGE GRADUATION CHASE (2) 2m5f127y (4340 Metres)

RACE 4 **(2) IROKO | (4) TRELAWNE | (5) DEAFENING SILENCE**

2.30 BETFAIR STAYERS' HURDLE (Premier Handicap) (1) 3m58y (4880 Metres)

RACE 5 **(15) ONE BIG BANG | (8) DOYEN QUEST | (14) CATCH HIM DERRY**

3.05 BETFAIR CHASE (Lancashire) (Grade 1) (1) 3m1f125y (5140 Metres)

RACE 6 **(1) AHOY SENOR | (5) GREY DAWNING | (7) ROYALE PAGAILLE**

3.40 BEST ODDS ON THE BETFAIR EXCHANGE HANDICAP CHASE (2) 3m1f125y (5140 Metres)

RACE 7 **(7) HITITI | (10) TAKE YOUR TIME | (5) DARE TO SHOUT**

KEY TO SYMBOLS

Top Rated: The horse with the best chance based solely on past form, specially tailored to a 0-100 scale.

Horses For Courses: A suitable track for the horse, compared to its lifetime record on similar courses as defined by Timeform's course data.

Jockey Uplift: The engaged rider has a notably higher Timeform Jockey Ranking than those who've ridden the horse on its most recent starts

Trainer Form: A hot trainer to follow, based on Timeform ratings-related measurements looking at the recent performance of runners.

12.08

RACE 1

**BETFAIR SUPPORTS SAFER GAMBLING WEEK NEWTON
NOVICES' HURDLE (Grade 2) (1) 4yo+ £55,000 1m7f144y
(3150 Metres)****GBI RACING**Going: **Good (Good to Soft in places)**

Left handed, flat. Conditions are often gruelling during winter, placing emphasis on stamina. Conversely, conditions at the Swinton Meeting in May usually place the emphasis on speed, with a tendency to favour those ridden prominently as a result. Formerly held an undeserved reputation as one of the hardest courses to jump around, something not backed up by statistics, though perversely the data suggests that the chase course nowadays is a more demanding test, that possibly on account of more races being well run.

Pace Information: **Even****SMART STATS:**

No Smart Stats available for this race

1 BOLD LIGHT (IRE) (28) 83

2-31 7 11-2 | 70.8kg



Lucinda Russell

Danny McMenamin

Runner-up completed start in points back in 2021 and confirmed promise of his placed efforts during the spring when landing 10-runner maiden at Kelso in ready fashion a month ago. Bare form is ordinary so more needed in this company.

2 COUNTRY MILE (IRE) (26) (D) 89

1-1 5 11-2 | 70.8kg



Dan Skelton

Harry Skelton

£80,000 point recruit who won a soft-ground Huntingdon bumper on Rules debut in April and he looked a useful prospect when a comfortable winner on hurdles debut a month ago. Should improve considerably for his leading yard.

3 ROADLESSTRAVELLED (IRE) (21) (D) 93

11 5 11-2 | 70.8kg



Jonjo & A.J. O'Neill

Jonjo O'Neill Jr.

Big-money buy on the back of his rout in an Irish point in May 2023 and belied his long absence as well as market weakness to score on his Market Rasen hurdling debut last month. Went with zest when following up at Wetherby 3 weeks ago and this good type physically can progress again.

4 ROCHEVAL (FR) (261) (D) 85

111- 4 11-2 | 70.8kg



Lucinda Russell

Derek Fox

Unbeaten in 3 outings last season, namely an Aintree bumper and juvenile hurdles at Ayr and at Carlisle. Type to kick on again this term but this no easy assignment on return.

5 SARACEN BEAU (IRE) (21) (D) 93

3-1 5 11-2 | 70.8kg



Nicky Richards

Sean Quinlan

Half-brother to unreliable but fairly useful hurdler/chaser Dreamsoftheatre. Shaped like a stayer in his bumper in March but showed much more speed when making successful hurdles debut at Ayr 3 weeks ago. Open to progress.

6 LILY DU BERLAIS (199) (D) t ★ 100

2243P/21-1 8 10-9 | 67.6kg



Stuart Crawford, Ireland

B. Hayes

Dual-bumper winner and now chases a hat-trick over hurdles following maiden/handicap victories in the spring. Just about sets the standard but wouldn't be open to as much progress as a few of these. Usual hood left off.

7 NOT NOW NATHANIEL (25) (BF) h 87

137-1124 4 10-9 | 67.6kg



Donald McCain

Brian Hughes

Debut bumper winner who also made a successful start over hurdles (fitted with a hood) in 4-runner novice at Aintree in May. Looked slightly more straightforward when following up at Bangor but limitations rather exposed since.

7 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

5-2 Roadlesstravelled, **7-2** Lily Du Berlais, **9-2** Saracen Beau, **5-1** Country Mile, **9-1** Rocheval, **22-1** Not Now Nathaniel, **22-1** Bold Light

TIMEFORM VIEW:

A race full of potential with ROADLESSTRAVELLED just about the most persuasive option. An imposing sort physically, he's passed each of his 3 tests in fine style and there should be plenty more to come. Country Mile is sure to leave the bare form of his Ayr win behind and is a big threat, while Lily du Berlais needs respecting, too.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. ROADLESSTRAVELLED 2. COUNTRY MILE 3. LILY DU BERLAIS

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2023	Kamsinas 6-11-2	16-5	Fergal O'Brien	Paddy Brennan	9
2022	Tahmuras 5-11-2	7-4f	Paul Nicholls	Harry Cobden	5
2021	Barrichello 5-11-0	7-4f	Donald McCain	Brian Hughes	5
2020	Llandinabo Lad 5-11-0	13-2	Tom Symonds	Richard Johnson	6
2019	Thebannerkingrebel 6-11-0	5-4f	Jamie Snowden	Gavin Sheehan	7

12.40**BET AT YOUR BEST WITH BETFAIR HANDICAP CHASE (3)
4yo+ (Rated 0-140) £25,000 2m67y (3280 Metres)**

RACE 2

Going: **Good (Good to Soft in places)****SMART STATS:**

Left handed, flat. Conditions are often gruelling during winter, placing emphasis on stamina. Conversely, conditions at the Swinton Meeting in May usually place the emphasis on speed, with a tendency to favour those ridden prominently as a result. Formerly held an undeserved reputation as one of the hardest courses to jump around, something not backed up by statistics, though perversely the data suggests that the chase course nowadays is a more demanding test, that possibly on account of more races being well run.

No Smart Stats available for this race

Pace Information: **Very Weak****1 XCITATIONS (265) (D) 95**

P/513U764- 9 12-0 | 76.2kg



Pam Sly

Charlie Todd

Seen to good effect when resuming winning ways at Sandown (15.5f) 12 months ago but largely struggled thereafter, including when fourth of 8 in handicap chase at Huntingdon (19.9f, heavy) in April. Has often needed a run to put him spot on but he's fallen to a handy mark.

2 HOME FREE (IRE) (26) (D) t ★ 100

3/3215-211 6 12-0 | 76.2kg



Dan Skelton

Harry Skelton

Hurdles winner who opened his chase account returning from 5 months off (had wind op and tongue tied) at Uttoxeter in October and improved again when following up in emphatic fashion in handicap at Ayr (16.5f) 26 days ago. Up 10 lb but big shout in hat-trick bid.

3 GENERAL MEDRANO (IRE) (215) (D) 99

4/1125437- 7 12-0 | 76.2kg



Emma Lavelle

Tom Bellamy

Fairly useful hurdler who improved switched to chasing, landing first 2 starts and plenty of good efforts in defeat thereafter. Below-par effort at Kempton in April but eased 2 lb ahead of return and he won on seasonal bow last term. Had wind surgery.

4 NETYWELL (FR) (230) (CD) 95

2/2331114- 7 12-0 | 76.2kg



Lucinda Russell

Derek Fox

Consistent type who scored over C&D last December on way to completing a quick-fire hat-trick at Newcastle (16.3f) in February. Faded out of things when fourth at Carlisle (2m, heavy) on final start in April but he returns with his yard in good order.

5 EDEN DU HOUX (FR) (336) (D) t 97

3881P2P/4- 10 11-13 | 75.7kg



David Pipe

Jack Tudor

Doubled his tally in this sphere at Ffos Las 2 years ago. Very lightly raced since, not threatening on back of 9 months off/wind surgery when fourth of 7 in handicap chase at Ascot (18.8f) last December. The betting can prove a useful guide on the back of an 11-month absence.

6 GALUNGGUNG (FR) (192) (D) 96

2/11-1 8 11-9 | 73.9kg



Donald McCain

Brian Hughes

Progressive, dual winner over hurdles who made perfect start in this sphere when winning 4-runner handicap chase at Perth (2m) in May, kicking on from 2 out and kept up to work. Type to progress further and respected up in grade after 6 months off.

7 DR T J ECKLEBURG (IRE) (24) (D) 96

2432434-3 6 10-11 | 68.5kg



Evan Williams

Conor Ring

Two chase wins from lower marks last term and shaped as if he'd come on for the run following 6 months off when third of 5 in handicap chase at Newton Abbot (16.3f, soft) 24 days ago. Eased 1 lb ahead of this but couple of others appeal more for win purposes.

7 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

15-8 Home Free, **4-1** Galungung, **11-2** Netywell, **7-1** General Medrano, **10-1** Xcitations, **12-1** Eden Du Houx, **14-1** Dr T J Eckleburg

TIMEFORM VIEW:

HOME FREE has improved on the back of wind surgery/equipped with a tongue tie, following up his Uttoxeter success with the minimum of fuss at Ayr 26 days ago. The handicapper has reacted but he's unlikely to have finished improving yet on that evidence and can complete the hat-trick. General Medrano returns with his yard in good form and along with progressive 8-y-o Galungung, heads the dangers.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. HOME FREE 2. GENERAL MEDRANO 3. GALUNGGUNG

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:2023 **Real Stone** 8-10-11

15-8f Dan Skelton

Harry Skelton

5

1.15

BETFAIR RACING PODCASTS HANDICAP HURDLE (2) 4yo+ £50,000 2¼m191y (3800 Metres)

RACE 3



Going: **Good (Good to Soft in places)**

Left handed, flat. Conditions are often gruelling during winter, placing emphasis on stamina. Conversely, conditions at the Swinton Meeting in May usually place the emphasis on speed, with a tendency to favour those ridden prominently as a result. Formerly held an undeserved reputation as one of the hardest courses to jump around, something not backed up by statistics, though perversely the data suggests that the chase course nowadays is a more demanding test, that possibly on account of more races being well run.

Pace Information: **Very Strong**

1	STEEL ALLY (FR) (41) 57/2P123-2 6 12-0 76.2kg Sam Thomas <i>Dylan Johnston (3lb/1kg)</i> Progressive sort who resumed with a very good second of 10 in 2m handicap hurdle at Ffos Las 41 days ago. Up 3 lb but not taken lightly with this step up in trip a plus.	95
2	KAMSINAS (FR) (27) (C) 1216010-1 7 11-12 75.3kg Fergal O'Brien <i>Jonathan Burke</i> Course scorer who resumed his progress when making a winning return in 9-runner handicap hurdle at Aintree (20f, good to soft) 27 days ago. Can make his presence felt here despite a 5 lb rise.	97
3	ANYHARMINASKING (IRE) (29) 34/29245-3 7 11-12 75.3kg Jonjo & A.J. O'Neill <i>Jonjo O'Neill Jr.</i> Ran up to form when third of 13 in 2m3f handicap at Cheltenham on his reappearance 23 days ago, although his finishing effort again wasn't strong even in first-time cheekpieces (retained). Others appeal more for win purposes.	96
4	PUNTA DEL ESTE (FR) (20) (CD) 7/231P01-3 5 11-11 74.8kg Dan Skelton <i>Harry Skelton</i> C&D winner who shaped encouragingly after 7 months off when third of 9 in handicap hurdle at Carlisle (20f, good to soft) 20 days ago. Can go well again nudged up 1 lb.	96
5	BEAT THE BAT (IRE) (344) (D) 210/212- 6 11-9 73.9kg Harry Fry <i>Bryan Carver</i> Useful bumper winner who quickly made up into a very useful hurdler last winter, scoring at Ascot (19f) before an excellent second in 2m Cheltenham novice. Off 11 months but remains with plenty of potential for handicaps. Interesting.	98
6	JOSH THE BOSS (42) 4/11U548-1 5 11-8 73.5kg Nigel Twiston-Davies <i>Mr Jamie Neild (7lb/3kg)</i> Got right back on the up on his return with victory in 17-runner Silver Trophy handicap at Chepstow (19.4f, good to soft) last month. That form has worked out really well so he's a likely player despite a 7 lb hike.	97
7	DANS LE VENT (FR) (43) (C, D) P3U/4 11 11-2 70.8kg Evan Williams <i>Isabel Williams (3lb/1kg)</i> Course winner who made a promising return from 19 months off when a considerably-handled fourth of 7 in handicap hurdle at Chepstow (16f, good to soft) 43 days ago. Not ruled out if taking a step forward now.	99
8	N'GOLO (IRE) (7) (C) 10/0-93 9 11-1 70.3kg Patrick Neville <i>Gavin Sheehan</i> Winner of the 2022 Swinton here and he posted his best run since on the back of a wind op when a fair third of 6 in handicap hurdle at Wetherby (16f, good) 7 days ago. Needs to build on it.	93
9	BALLYGEARY (IRE) (27) (D) 2578-3165 7 10-13 69.4kg Donald McCain <i>Brian Hughes</i> Resumed winning ways at Market Rasen in June and might have needed the run after 4 months off at Aintree, though he'll need to show more resolution than he often has to defy his mark in a race as competitive as this.	95
10	BOWENSPARK (IRE) (27) 144/1F2P-3 6 10-13 69.4kg Henry Daly <i>Sam Twiston-Davies</i> Unreliable sort but he recorded a creditable third of 9 to Kamsinas in handicap hurdle at Aintree (20f, good to soft) 27 days ago. Not the easiest of rides and visor is now reached for.	97

11	FINE CASTING (IRE) (203) (CD) 36/232P2-6 8 10-10 68.0kg Ben Pauling <i>Beau Morgan (5lb/2kg)</i> A fairly useful C&D scorer who ran to a similar level when placed on 4 of 5 starts over fences last season. Off since running poorly at Uttoxeter in May but handily weighted and not ruled out for a yard among the winners.	100
12	KNIGHT OF ALLEN (FR) (36) C21-3 4 10-10 68.0kg Mrs Jane Williams <i>David Noonan</i> Lightly-raced 2m hurdles winner who resumed with a solid third of 10 in novice at Uttoxeter (15.8f, good to soft) 36 days ago. May still do better now handicapping. Possibilities.	96
13	LIVELY CITIZEN (IRE) (211) 64F27146- 9 10-10 68.0kg D. J. Jeffreys <i>Tom Bellamy</i> A fairly useful chase/hurdles scorer who signed off for last term with a solid sixth of 11 in 2m handicap hurdle at Perth. No forlorn hope on his reappearance.	95
14	PARK ANNONCIADE (FR) (21) (CD) 311465-PF 6 10-7 66.7kg Stuart Crawford, Ireland <i>Ben Bromley (5lb/2kg)</i> Useful Irish hurdler who took this event 12 months ago. Sent chasing this term and still in touch when fell 5 out in 2m handicap chase at Ayr 21 days ago. Must enter calculations back in this sphere now.	95
15	LAVIDA ADIVA (IRE) (27) 321332-6 5 10-6 66.2kg Ruth Jefferson <i>Jamie Hamilton</i> Consistent sort who landed 2m Catterick novice last December. Not disgraced on his return when sixth to Kamsinas in handicap at Aintree (20f) 27 days ago. In the mix with few miles still on the clock.	95

15 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

11-2 Beat The Bat, **7-1** Kamsinas, **15-2** Josh The Boss, **17-2** Steel Ally, **9-1** Punta Del Este, **12-1** Bowenspark, **12-1** Anyharminasking, **16-1** Knight of Allen, **18-1** Park Annonciade, **22-1** Lavida Adiva, **28-1** Fine Casting, **33-1** Lively Citizen, **33-1** N'golo, **40-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

This is wide open but Harry Fry's lightly-raced BEAT THE BAT appeals as an improver now going into handicap company for the first time so edges the vote. Dan Skelton's Punta del Este made an encouraging return at Carlisle and could emerge as the main threat, although plenty of others make appeal, notably Josh The Boss, Fine Casting, Steel Ally, Kamsinas and last year's victor Park Annonciade.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. BEAT THE BAT 2. PUNTA DEL ESTE 3. JOSH THE BOSS

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2023	Park Annonciade 5-10-3	3-1jf	Stuart Crawford	Ben Bromley (5)	10
2022	Stainsby Girl 8-10-11	16-1	N. W. Alexander	Mr Kit Alexander (5)	7
2021	Tommy's Oscar 6-11-1	10-3	Ann Hamilton	Danny McMenamin	8
2020	War Lord 5-11-0	13-2	Colin Tizzard	Robbie Power	14
2019	Bold Plan 5-11-1	11-4f	Evan Williams	Robbie Power	12

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

1.50**BETFAIR EXCHANGE GRADUATION CHASE (2) 4yo+ £50,000**
2m5f127y (4340 Metres)

RACE 4

GBI RACINGGoing: **Good (Good to Soft in places)**

Left handed, flat. Conditions are often gruelling during winter, placing emphasis on stamina. Conversely, conditions at the Swinton Meeting in May usually place the emphasis on speed, with a tendency to favour those ridden prominently as a result. Formerly held an undeserved reputation as one of the hardest courses to jump around, something not backed up by statistics, though perversely the data suggests that the chase course nowadays is a more demanding test, that possibly on account of more races being well run.

Pace Information: **Very Weak**

1 LIEUTENANT COMMAND (FR) (479) (D) 75
FF5P16/0- 10 11-11 | 74.8kg



Tim Reed

Harry Reed

Doubled his tally over fences at Leopardstown (21.4f, good) back in March 2023 but struggled off his revised mark on both subsequent starts, last seen tailed off in the Galway Plate 15 months ago. Off since and has left Noel Meade.

2 IROKO (FR) (225) 100
1113/152- 6 11-8 | 73.5kg



Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero

Jonjo O'Neill Jr.

Thrived over hurdles in 2022/23 and was an easy winner of a Warwick novice on his seasonal/chase debut last year. Took his form up another notch on third start over fences when 4 lengths second of 6 to Inothewayurthinkin in Grade 1 Mildmay at Aintree in April and has more to offer this term.

3 TAHMURAS (FR) (273) (C) 87
1107/3122- 7 11-8 | 73.5kg



Paul Nicholls

Jonathan Burke

Created a good impression when winning his first 3 starts over hurdles, including the Grade 1 Tolworth at Sandown. Cast aside a tame chase debut when scoring in first-time cheekpieces at Aintree on Boxing Day and similar form when runner-up on both subsequent starts. Yard won 3 of last 4 renewals.

4 TRELAWNE (256) (D) 92
11/1323F- 8 11-8 | 73.5kg



Kim Bailey

Tom Bellamy

Winner of 3 of his 4 starts over hurdles and made a successful debut over fences at Carlisle (2½m) last November. Continued in good form thereafter but got no further than the second having been sent off favourite in the Ultima at Cheltenham (25f, heavy) in March. Can get back on track on return.

5 DEAFENING SILENCE (IRE) (351) (D) 86
3/11- 7 11-0 | 69.9kg



Dan Skelton

Harry Skelton

Successful on last of 3 starts in points and built on his hurdling debut promise after over a year off when landing novice at Exeter last November. Progressed again when taking Grade 2 at Sandown 4 weeks later and warrants respect on return/chase debut. Yard won this last year with Grey Dawning.

6 HILLCREST (IRE) (981) (C, D, BF) 88
9 11-0 | 69.9kg



Henry Daly

Sam Twiston-Davies

Big chasing type who is unbeaten when completing over hurdles, galloping on strongly on first crack at 3m in Grade 2 Prestige Novices' Hurdle at Haydock back in February 2022. Ran no sort of race in the Albert Bartlett the following month and hasn't been seen since. Interesting chasing debutant.

6 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

6-4 Iroko, **10-3** Trelawne, **11-2** Hillcrest, **6-1** Tahmuras, **8-1** Deafening Silence, **100-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

A runner-up in the Grade 1 Mildmay at Aintree on his final outing last term, IROKO is fancied to make a winning return to action with further progress on the cards at the expense of Trelwane, who boasts a notably good record when fresh and having been sent off favourite for the Ultima when last seen, got no further than the second fence. Deafening Silence warrants plenty of respect on return/chase debut so rounds off the shortlist.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. IROKO 2. TRELAWNE 3. DEAFENING SILENCE

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2023	Grey Dawning	6-11-0	2-1	Dan Skelton	Harry Skelton	5
2022	Hitman	6-11-11	8-13f	Paul Nicholls	Harry Cobden	4
2021	Bravemansgame	6-11-5	8-13f	Paul Nicholls	Harry Cobden	4
2020	Master Tommytucker	9-11-8	2-1f	Paul Nicholls	Sam Twiston-Davies	6
2019	Keeper Hill	8-11-8	18-1	Warren Greatrex	A. P. Heskin	5

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

2.30

BETFAIR STAYERS' HURDLE (Premier Handicap) (1) 4yo+ £100,000 3m58y (4880 Metres)

RACE 5



Going: **Good (Good to Soft in places)**

Left handed, flat. Conditions are often gruelling during winter, placing emphasis on stamina. Conversely, conditions at the Swinton Meeting in May usually place the emphasis on speed, with a tendency to favour those ridden prominently as a result. Formerly held an undeserved reputation as one of the hardest courses to jump around, something not backed up by statistics, though perversely the data suggests that the chase course nowadays is a more demanding test, that possibly on account of more races being well run.

Pace Information: **Even**

- 1 TWIG (21) (D)** **97**
 2/112025-2 **9** 12-0 | 76.2kg s
Ben Pauling **Beau Morgan (5lb/2kg)**
 Did really well back chasing last season, including second in Ultima at the Cheltenham Festival. Reverted to hurdles for Wetherby reappearance and finished a fine second in a 3m Wetherby Grade 2. Runs off the same mark as the Ultima. Wears first-time cheekpieces.
- 2 SHOOT FIRST (IRE) (28) (D)** **95**
 41281/5 **8** 11-10 | 74.4kg s
Charles Byrnes, Ireland **Alex Harvey (5lb/2kg)**
 Useful performance to win a 3m Cheltenham handicap in October 2022. Not seen again until fifth of 10 at Galway 4 weeks ago, shaping as if retaining all his ability. It'll be interesting to see if there's money for him with that outing under his belt.
- 3 KERRYHILL (IRE) (301) (D)** **97**
 141- **6** 11-8 | 73.5kg s
Ruth Jefferson **Brian Hughes**
 Irish point winner who was very progressive in novice hurdles last winter, making it 2-3 with smooth Doncaster Grade 2 success (3m, good) in January. Surely more to come this season and much respected on handicap debut.
- 4 GWENNIE MAY BOY (IRE) (224) (D)** **95**
 634/1P111- **6** 11-8 | 73.5kg s
Dan Skelton **Charlie Todd**
 Made it 3-3 for Dan Skelton with a useful performance to land a competitive staying handicap at the Aintree Grand National meeting in April. A further 11 lb rise demands further progress but no shock were he to find it.
- 5 PUSH THE BUTTON (IRE) (29)** **97**
 351/141-5 **5** 11-3 | 71.2kg s
Nigel Twiston-Davies **Sam Twiston-Davies**
 Progressive in bumpers and 2-3 in novice hurdles at up to 21f last autumn. Off 11 months, creditable fifth of 13 in handicap at Cheltenham (2½m) 4 weeks ago and shapes as if this step up to 3m will suit him.
- 6 JODY TED (IRE) (332) (D, BF)** **95**
 P42F2/11U- **8** 11-1 | 70.3kg s
Eoin Griffin, Ireland **M. M. McDonagh (3lb/1kg)**
 Better than ever with chase and handicap hurdle wins last autumn but off since unseating just before halfway in a valuable handicap chase at last year's Leopardstown Christmas meeting.
- 7 ZAIN NIGHTS (28) (CD, BF)** **97**
 341411-13 **5** 11-1 | 70.3kg s
Lucy Wadham **Tom Cannon**
 Useful stayer on the Flat for Harry & Roger Charlton and fast heading that way over hurdles, completing a handicap hat-trick in a big-field race over C&D in May. Returned with a good third of 12 at Cheltenham 4 weeks ago. Another who can't be discounted.
- 8 DOYEN QUEST (IRE) (5lb/2kg ex) (7) (D)** **98**
 631211-21 **6** 11-1 | 70.3kg s
Dan Skelton **Harry Skelton**
 Likeable sort who built on his fine reappearance second in the Silver Trophy at Chepstow when a 5-length winner at Cheltenham last weekend, his first attempt at 3m. A 5 lb penalty shouldn't prevent a bold bid from this progressive sort.
- 9 OTTIZZINI (IRE) (21) (D)** **96**
 73P124-71 **7** 11-0 | 69.9kg s
Stuart Crawford, Ireland **B. Hayes**
 Won maiden/novice events at up to 3m last season and back on the up when landing a 3m Ayr handicap 3 weeks ago. A 7 lb rise looks fair enough but this is a much tougher race.
- 10 THE IMPOSTER (FR) (350) (D)** **95**
 121111/111- **7** 10-10 | 68.0kg v+t
Nigel Hawke **Tom Buckley (3lb/1kg)**
 Made it a remarkable 9 wins in 10 starts when seeing off 5 rivals at Chepstow (3m, heavy) last December. Not seen since, though, and this is a very hard race in which to return from an absence in.

- 11 BACKMERSACKME (IRE) (57)** **97**
 1-6644 **5** 10-10 | 68.0kg s
Emmet Mullins, Ireland **Donagh Meyler**
 Point/bumper winner who has shown promise over hurdles and on the Flat since. Unexposed type for a trainer with a strong record in good handicaps, including a win in this race last year.
- 12 CASTLE RUSHEN (IRE) (20)** **96**
 U423/756-1 **9** 10-10 | 68.0kg s
Nicky Richards **Sean Quinlan**
 Finally came good in a handicap when shading a tight finish on his 2½m Carlisle reappearance 3 weeks ago. Only raised 3 lb but it'll probably be enough to stop him in this stronger race.
- 13 PHANTOMOF THEPOINTS (IRE) (218)** **96**
 3226216- **6** 10-9 | 67.6kg s
David Pipe **Jack Tudor**
 Posted a fairly useful effort when a wide-margin winner of a Chepstow novice (2m, soft) in April. Not disgraced when sixth of 13 on handicap debut at Ayr (2m) later that month and now steps up markedly in trip for his reappearance in a race the yard is no stranger to success in.
- 14 CATCH HIM DERRY (IRE) (24) (D)** **97**
 633121-1 **6** 10-9 | 67.6kg s
Dan Skelton **Tristan Durrell (3lb/1kg)**
 Improving type who made it 3-4 in handicaps when scoring hard held on his 21.5f Newton Abbot reappearance at the end of October. Raised another 7 lb but there's almost certainly more to come. Part of a strong hand for his stable.
- 15 ONE BIG BANG (IRE) (24) (CD)** **100**
 0/434P11-2 **6** 10-9 | 67.6kg s
James Owen **C. M. Hogan (7lb/3kg)**
 Maiden in Ireland but 2-2 around 3m for James Owen in the spring, including a C&D handicap. Improved again when second under a double penalty in 21.5f Newton Abbot novice on his return 24 days ago. The step back up in trip will suit and looks on a good mark for his very much in-form yard.
- 16 PATRIOTIK (FR) (42)** **96**
 2132-25 **5** 10-5 | 65.8kg s
Evan Williams **Isabel Williams (3lb/1kg)**
 Point winner who opened Rules account in a 2½m Ffos Las novice in March. Made a sound start to his handicap career after a break when fifth of 17 in the Silver Trophy at Chepstow (19.5f) 6 weeks ago. Unexposed now stepping up to 3m for a stable which knows what it takes to win this.

16 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

7-2 Doyen Quest, **6-1** Catch Him Derry, **10-1** One Big Bang, **11-1** Kerryhill, **14-1** Backmersackme, **14-1** Shoot First, **20-1** Zain Nights, **20-1** Gwennie May Boy, **22-1** Patriotik, **25-1** Push The Button, **25-1** Phantomofthepts, **25-1** Ottizzini, **33-1** Twig, **33-1** Castle Rushen, **33-1** Jody Ted, **50-1** bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

James Owen denied Dan Skelton in a valuable handicap hurdle at Cheltenham last weekend and history may repeat itself, with ONE BIG BANG, who will be well suited by the return to 3m, taken to see off progressive Skelton pair Doyen Quest and Catch Him Derry. Returning Grade 2 novice hurdle winner Kerryhill is another very interesting runner.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. ONE BIG BANG 2. DOYEN QUEST 3. CATCH HIM DERRY

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2023	Slate Lane 5-10-12	11-4f Emmet Mullins	Donagh Meyler	15
2022	Botox Has 6-11-11	17-2 Gary Moore	Caolin Quinn (7)	13
2021	Dans Le Vent 8-10-12	16-1 Evan Williams	Isabel Williams (5)	12
2020	Main Fact 7-11-4	13-2 David Pipe	Fergus Gillard (7)	17
2019	Stoney Mountain 6-11-3	16-1 Henry Daly	Tom O'Brien	17

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

3.05

BETFAIR CHASE (Lancashire) (Grade 1) (1) 5yo+ £206,200
3m1f125y (5140 Metres)

RACE 6



Going: **Good (Good to Soft in places)**

Left handed, flat. Conditions are often gruelling during winter, placing emphasis on stamina. Conversely, conditions at the Swinton Meeting in May usually place the emphasis on speed, with a tendency to favour those ridden prominently as a result. Formerly held an undeserved reputation as one of the hardest courses to jump around, something not backed up by statistics, though perversely the data suggests that the chase course nowadays is a more demanding test, that possibly on account of more races being well run.

Pace Information: **Weak**

1 **AHOY SENOR (IRE) (27)** (D) **100**

Lucinda Russell *Derek Fox*
 Not a fluent jumper of fences but top-class on his day and shaped as if as good as ever when third in Old Roan at Aintree on return 4 weeks ago, leaving the impression he'd have pushed the winner closer had he been asked for his effort sooner under a more patient ride than usual. High on shortlist.

2 **BRAVEMANSGAME (FR) (21)** (C, BF) **94**

Paul Nicholls *Sam Twiston-Davies*
 King George winner in 2022 but went winless when not operating at his best last term, including when runner-up in this and the King George at Kempton. Just a respectable comeback in the Charlie Hall at Wetherby 3 weeks ago and opposable at this level nowadays. Blinkers now fitted.

3 **CAPODANNO (FR) (206)** (D) **94**

W. P. Mullins, Ireland *B. Hayes*
 High-class chaser who got back to winning ways in Grade 2 Cotswold Chase at Cheltenham in January and similar form despite shaping as if the drop in trip was against him when fourth in the Ryanair. Excuses in Grand National and Punchestown Gold Cup last 2 starts but career best is required here.

4 **GOLD TWEET (FR) (35)** **87**

Gabriel Leenders, France *Gabin Meunier*
 Smart French chaser but seems better over hurdles (winner of the Cleeve Hurdle in 2022/23) and looks up against it at this level.

5 **GREY DAWNING (IRE) (226)** (C, BF) **96**

Dan Skelton *Harry Skelton*
 Took really well to fences last term, bagging his third win in Grade 1 Turners Chase at the Cheltenham Festival and posting a solid third in Manifesto Novices Chase at Aintree final run. Most likeable sort who hasn't reached his ceiling.

6 **HEWICK (IRE) (21)** **97**

John Joseph Hanlon, Ireland *Gavin Sheehan*
 Top-class chaser excellently ridden to win the King George at Kempton on Boxing Day. All the better for return when narrowly failing to add another Grade 1 to his CV in the Kauto Star at Down Royal 3 weeks ago and should be in the mix once more.

7 **ROYALE PAGAILLE (FR) (301)** (CD) **96**

Venetia Williams *Charlie Deutsch*
 Not seen since falling 3 out in the Cotswold Chase at Cheltenham in January but he claimed the scalp of Bravemansgame on his return in this 12 months ago, further enhancing his superb record at this venue. Another big run could well be on the cards.

8 **THE REAL WHACKER (IRE) (21)** **94**

Patrick Neville *Brian Hughes*
 Winner of the Brown Advisory Novices' Chase at the 2023 Cheltenham Festival. Came up short at the top level last season but back to his best when making all in the Charlie Hall at Wetherby 3 weeks ago. Will find this harder to dominate.

9 **LIMERICK LACE (IRE) (224)** (BF) **91**

Gavin Patrick Cromwell, Ireland *Keith Donoghue*
 Smart mare who arrives on the back of an excellent second season over fences, winning 3 times, notably the Grade 2 Mares' Chase at the Cheltenham Festival. Excuses in the Grand National final start and she's not taken lightly.

9 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

5-2 Grey Dawning, **9-2** Royale Pagaille, **13-2** Ahoy Senor, **11-1** Hewick, **12-1** Capodanno, **14-1** Bravemansgame, **14-1** The Real Whacker, **14-1** Limerick Lace, **25-1** Gold Tweet

TIMEFORM VIEW:

AHOY SENOR is a risky betting proposition due to his suspect jumping, but he looked as good as ever ridden more patiently than usual when third under top weight in the Old Roan at Aintree on his comeback last month and could be worth chancing. The obvious threat is Grey Dawning, who was the leading British-trained novice last season and should have even more to offer this term. Haydock specialist and defending champion Royale Pagaille completes the shortlist.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. AHOY SENOR 2. GREY DAWNING 3. ROYALE PAGAILLE

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2023	Royale Pagaille	9-11-10	5-1	Venetia Williams	Charlie Deutsch	4
2022	Protektorat	7-11-10	15-2	Dan Skelton	Harry Skelton	5
2021	A Plus Tard	7-11-7	11-10f	Henry de Bromhead	Rachael Blackmore	7
2020	Bristol de Mai	9-11-7	9-4	Nigel Twiston-Davies	Daryl Jacob	5
2019	Lostintranslation	7-11-7	5-4jf	Colin Tizzard	Robbie Power	4

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

3.40

RACE 7

BEST ODDS ON THE BETFAIR EXCHANGE HANDICAP CHASE (2) 4yo+ (Rated 0-145) £50,000 3m1f125y (5140 Metres)



Going: **Good (Good to Soft in places)**

Left handed, flat. Conditions are often gruelling during winter, placing emphasis on stamina. Conversely, conditions at the Swinton Meeting in May usually place the emphasis on speed, with a tendency to favour those ridden prominently as a result. Formerly held an undeserved reputation as one of the hardest courses to jump around, something not backed up by statistics, though perversely the data suggests that the chase course nowadays is a more demanding test, that possibly on account of more races being well run.

Pace Information: **Weak**

1 LE MILOS (28) (D) **98**
 120/3007-5 **9** 12-0 | 76.2kg
 Dan Skelton **Harry Skelton**



Big improver over fences for this yard in 2022/23, including victory in the Coral Gold Cup at Newbury. Disappointing last year but on a handy mark and should come on for reappearance at Cheltenham a month ago.

2 MONBEG GENIUS (IRE) (256) **99**
 1113/P35P- **8** 12-0 | 76.2kg
 Jonjo & A.J. O'Neill **Nick Scholfield**



Highly progressive over fences as a novice, winning 3 handicaps before ending campaign with an excellent third in Ultima. Just the one decent effort last season when third in Coral Gold Cup at Newbury. Starts the new campaign on a nice mark as a result.

3 FONTAINE COLLONGES (FR) (315) (CD) **99**
 140P/U19- **9** 11-10 | 74.4kg
 Venetia Williams **Charlie Deutsch**



Added to her tally in Rowland Meyrick at Wetherby (heavy) on Boxing Day. The run likely came too soon when well behind a couple of these in Classic Chase at Warwick only 18 days later and returns fresh from 10 months off now.

4 PRAIRIE WOLF (IRE) (22) (C) **99**
 314113-64 **7** 11-4 | 71.7kg
 Joel Parkinson & Sue Smith **Jack Tudor**



Winner of 3 of his half-a-dozen starts switched to fences last term, finishing a solid third off this mark in a strong 10-runner Ayr handicap on final start in April. Yet to fire this season, though.

5 DARE TO SHOUT (20) **97**
 18562P-21 **7** 11-2 | 70.8kg
 Ann Hamilton **Danny McMenamin**



A fairly useful winning hurdler who built on a promising chasing debut when landing a 4-runner contest at Carlisle earlier in the month. This is more competitive but he's open to further improvement.

6 MY SILVER LINING (IRE) (27) (D) **98**
 1221230-P **8** 11-0 | 69.9kg
 Emma Lavelle **James Best**



Relished increased test of stamina when bagging fourth chase win in Classic Chase at Warwick in January. Excellent placed efforts in Grand National Trial here and Midlands National at Uttoxeter next 2 starts but below form subsequently, including on return (pulled up).

7 HITITI (FR) (25) **100**
 11/42220-2 **7** 11-0 | 69.9kg
 Robert Walford **Brian Hughes**



Likeable sort who returned to chasing with an excellent second in first-time cheekpieces at Chepstow. Still potentially thrown in on hurdles form and looks the one to beat.

8 CREDO (IRE) (27) (BF) **99**
 4/12346-53 **9** 10-12 | 68.9kg
 Anthony Honeyball **Sam Twiston-Davies**



Has a decent strike rate and returned with a respectable effort at Wincanton last month. Should be spot on now and looks a player.

9 PEPE LE MOKO (FR) (28) **97**
 642/1215-6 **6** 10-10 | 68.0kg
 Mrs Jane Williams **David Noonan**



Winless following 5 attempts over hurdles but quickly put that right sent chasing, taking 2 of his first 3 starts (at up to 20.5f). Probably needed the run at Cheltenham on return and remains with some potential.

10 TAKE YOUR TIME (IRE) (215) (D) **98**
 696/11PP1- **9** 10-10 | 68.0kg
 Paul Nicholls **Freddie Gingell (3lb/1kg)**



Isn't the most consistent but has won all 3 completed starts in handicap chases (including over C&D on heavy), battling well at Ffos Las 7 months ago. Definite claims on return.

11 PRINCE DES FICHAUX (FR) (37) (D) **97**
 5462247-5 **7** 10-2(10-0) | 64.4kg (63.5kg)
 Ewan Whillans **Sean Quinlan**



Ended last season with a poor run and failed to beat a rival at Carlisle on return, so has a bit to prove at this level.

11 DECLARED RUNNERS

BETTING FORECAST:

5-1 Hititi, 6-1 Take Your Time, 13-2 Credo, 15-2 Le Milos, 8-1 Dare To Shout, 12-1 Fontaine Collonges, 12-1 Pepe Le Moko, 14-1 My Silver Lining, 16-1 Monbeg Genius, 25-1 Prairie Wolf, 40-1 bar

TIMEFORM VIEW:

HITITI made a positive return to the larger obstacles when second at Chepstow and, based on hurdling form, he's well enough treated to go one better. Take Your Time has a good record over fences and looks the main threat ahead of Dare To Shout.

TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

1. HITITI 2. TAKE YOUR TIME 3. DARE TO SHOUT

WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

2023	Famous Bridge 7-11-8	9-4f	Nicky Richards	Sean Quinlan	10
2022	Fontaine Collonges 7-11-1	7-2	Venetia Williams	Tom Scudamore	10
2021	Strictlyadancer 7-10-5	7-4f	Christian Williams	Jack Tudor (3)	7
2020	Snow Leopardess 8-10-10	9-2jf	Charlie Longsdon	Brian Hughes	12
2019	Crievehill 7-11-12	4-1	Nigel Twiston-Davies	Sam Twiston-Davies	10

SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race