GBI RACING

TIMEFORM 1-2-3

Saturday 21st November

# HAYDOCK

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **12.05** | BETFAIR EXCHANGE GRADUATION CHASE (2) 2m5f127y (4340 Metres) | |
| RACE 1 | **(1) KOKTAIL DIVIN \| (3) BE AWARE \| (2) LEAVE OF ABSENCE** | |
| **12.40** | BET AT YOUR BEST WITH BETFAIR HANDICAP CHASE (3) 2m67y (3280 Metres) | |
| RACE 2 | **(2) KYKOROCK \| (6) TIGERS MOON \| (1) WE'RE RED AND BLUE** | |
| **1.15** | BETFAIR SUPPORTS SAFER GAMBLING WEEK NEWTON NOVICES' HURDLE (Grade 2) (1) 1m7f144y (3150 Metres) | |
| RACE 3 | **(2) COSMIC CONNECTION \| (5) NORTH SHORE \| (6) SAINT JEANNAIS** | |
| **1.50** | BEST ODDS ON THE BETFAIR EXCHANGE HANDICAP HURDLE (2) 2¼m191y (3800 Metres) | |
| RACE 4 | **(4) KOCKTAIL BLEU \| (1) GIVE IT TO ME OJ \| (6) SMOKERINGINTHEDARK** | |
| **2.25** | BETFAIR STAYERS' RED ROSE HANDICAP HURDLE (PREMIER HANDICAP) (1) 3m58y (4880 Metres) | |
| RACE 5 | **(4) SEANIECON \| (1) MATTY'S GETAWAY \| (8) HARTINGTON** | |
| **3.00** | BETFAIR CHASE (Lancashire) (Grade 1) (1) 3m1f125y (5140 Metres) | |
| RACE 6 | **(3) GREY DAWNING \| (1) AFFORDALE FURY \| (5) JAGWAR** | |
| **3.35** | BETFAIR BACKS OPINIONS HANDICAP CHASE (2) 3m1f125y (5140 Metres) | |
| RACE 7 | **(2) SARACEN BEAU \| (6) SALADINS SON \| (7) DEXPERTS OPINION** | |

**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.

# 12.05 RACE 1

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

GBI RACING

Going: **Good (Good to Soft in places on Chase course)**

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** **KOKTAIL DIVIN (FR) (226)** (D) ★ **100**

314/22151- **6** 11-11 | 74.8kg

Henry de Bromhead, Ireland — ***Jordan Colin Gainford***

Smart novice chaser last season, culminating with a win in Grade 1 Manifesto at Aintree (2½m, good to soft) in April. Likely this 6-y-o has even more to offer this season. Hard to beat.

**2** **LEAVE OF ABSENCE (FR) (15)** **92**

1/1P2359-0 **9** 11-11 | 74.8kg

Anthony Honeyball — ***Rex Dingle***

Landed 25f Cheltenham novice on reappearance last season but couldn't add to his fine record fresh when down the field in 25f Aintree handicap 15 days ago. Back down in trip. Even a return to his best is unlikely to see him trouble Koktail Divin.

**3** **BE AWARE (FR) (12)** h+t **95**

8/122203-2 **7** 11-4 | 71.7kg

Dan Skelton — ***Harry Skelton***

Developed into a smart front-running novice chaser last season, placing in Grade 1 at Aintree in final start. Couldn't live with an exciting prospect in 2m Carlisle graduation event 12 days ago but it still rates a sound reappearance. Back up in trip.

3 DECLARED RUNNERS

### BETTING FORECAST:

**4-9** Koktail Divin, **4-1** Be Aware, **6-1** Leave of Absence

### TIMEFORM VIEW:

KOKTAIL DIVIN was one of the leading novice chasers of last season and could be a cut above his 2 rivals. Be Aware should follow him home assuming his stamina holds over the longest trip he's tackled.

### TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

**1. KOKTAIL DIVIN 2. BE AWARE 3. LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

### WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2025 | **The Jukebox Man** 7-11-11 | 8-11f | Ben Pauling | Ben Jones | 5 |
| 2024 | **Trelawne** 8-11-8 | 7-2 | Kim Bailey | Tom Bellamy | 6 |
| 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 |

### SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

# 12.40 RACE 2

## BET AT YOUR BEST WITH BETFAIR HANDICAP CHASE (3)
## 4yo+ (Rated 0-130) £40,000 2m67y (3280 Metres)

GBI RACING

Going: **Good (Good to Soft in places on Chase course)**

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** **WE'RE RED AND BLUE (20)** (D, BF) **95**

7/01232-02 **6** 12-0 | 76.2kg

Jonjo & A.J. O'Neill — ***Jonjo O'Neill Jr.***

Generally progressive over hurdles and produced a promising first effort over fences when second of 4 at Carlisle on return 3 weeks ago. Looks sure to progress and win races.

**2** **KYKOROCK (FR) (40)** (D) h+t **100**

8/831131-1 **6** 11-12 | 75.3kg

Dan Skelton — ***Harry Skelton***

Improved at a rate of knots over fences last season and picked up where he left off when making a winning return at Worcester in good style 6 weeks ago. Remains one to keep on the right side.

**3** **SIR TIVO (FR) (14)** (D) s+t **95**

4231P32P **12** 11-10 | 74.4kg

Gary Hanmer — ***Sean Bowen***

Veteran who has proved he still has plenty to offer in small fields this season but likely to find this too competitive.

**4** **MILAN TINO (IRE) (20)** (D) **96**

3/441422-1 **6** 11-10 | 74.4kg

Tom George — ***Harry Cobden***

Ex-French hurdler who left chase debut well behind to win at Ludlow last winter. Similar form in defeat later in the season but resumed progress when making a winning return at Huntingdon 3 weeks ago. That form looks solid so he must be respected.

**5** **BLEU D'ENFER (FR) (14)** (D) s+t **96**

29-246215 **8** 11-10 | 74.4kg

Donald McCain — ***Harry Brown*** (7lb/3kg)

Made the most of a fitness advantage when justifying support under this rider at Uttoxeter last month but predictably found life tougher off revised mark at Aintree 2 weeks ago.

**6** **TIGERS MOON (20)** (D) **96**

93/12132-2 **6** 10-12 | 68.9kg

Tom Ellis — ***Miss Gina Andrews***

Progressed well in handicap hurdles last season, winning twice, and made a fine start over fences when second at Worcester on return 3 weeks ago. More to come.

**7** **CALGARY TIGER (223)** (D) **95**

2533/F553- **11** 10-2(9-13) | 64.4kg (63.0kg)

William de Best-Turner — ***Gavin Sheehan***

Veteran who showed further signs of decline last season and set for another struggle from out of the handicap on return.

7 DECLARED RUNNERS

## BETTING FORECAST:

**7-4** Kykorock, **5-2** We're Red And Blue, **6-1** Milan Tino, **9-1** Tigers Moon, **20-1** Bleu D'enfer, **25-1** Sir Tivo, **33-1** Calgary Tiger

## TIMEFORM VIEW:

KYKOROCK readily brushed aside a couple of subsequent winners when making it 4 wins from 5 starts over fences on his return at Worcester, so there's every chance he can defy another rise. Tigers Moon and We're Red And Blue both offered plenty to work on when starting out in this sphere recently and look the main threats.

## TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

**1. KYKOROCK 2. TIGERS MOON 3. WE'RE RED AND BLUE**

## WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2025 | **David's Well** 6-11-7 | 11-4 | Chris Gordon | Freddie Gordon (3) 7 |
| 2024 | **Dr T J Eckleburg** 6-10-11 | 14-1 | Evan Williams | Conor Ring 7 |
| 2023 | **Real Stone** 8-10-11 | 15-8f | Dan Skelton | Harry Skelton 5 |

## SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

# 1.15 RACE 3 — BETFAIR SUPPORTS SAFER GAMBLING WEEK NEWTON NOVICES' HURDLE (Grade 2) (1) 4yo+ £80,000 1m7f144y (3150 Metres)

GBI RACING

Going: **Good (Good to Soft in places on Chase course)**

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** **KINGOFTHEFRONTIER (29)** **95**
311 **5** 11-5 | 72.1kg
John Dawson — *Conor O'Farrell*
Point winner who confirmed the promise of his hurdling debut with victory in 2½m maiden at Southwell. Followed up with a much-improved display in Grade 2 Sharp at Cheltenham (2m), looking far from the finished article. Wouldn't want to get too far back under speed-favouring conditions here, though.

**2** **COSMIC CONNECTION (IRE) (43)** (D, BF) **97**
1211-9 **5** 11-2 | 70.8kg
Chris Gordon — *Freddie Gordon*
Progressed to make it 3 hurdle wins from 4 in a very strong novice final at Sandown in April, showing no shortage of speed kept to 2m. Probably not as primed as his SP suggested when well held in Persian War on return. Well worth another chance and remains potentially smart, especially over fences.

**3** **HOLD THE THROW (IRE) (35)** h **86**
11 **5** 11-2 | 70.8kg
Olly Murphy — *Sean Bowen*
Hat-trick seeker who impressively won Perth bumper on Rules debut in May. Made an even smooth transition to hurdling at Market Rasen on return, sealing matters in taking fashion. Will keep improving, perhaps significantly given his connections/pedigree (closely related to smart Slade Steel).

**4** **KERSHAW (IRE) (37)** **90**
41-1 **5** 11-2 | 70.8kg
Lucinda Russell & Michael Scudamore — *Derek Fox*
Improved to win a Kilbeggan bumper second time up for Paul Traynor. Seen to maximum effect when justifying support on hurdling/stable debut at Perth (2m, soft) on return. Hat-trick likely proves beyond him in a hot race, even with his reappearance form working out well.

**5** **NORTH SHORE (FR) (28)** s **100**
340F-141 **4** 11-2 | 70.8kg
Dan Skelton — *Harry Skelton*
Useful stayer on the Flat. Showed that stamina when much-improved winner under a positive ride at Cheltenham, clearly all the better of his stable debut and first-time cheekpieces. That looks the strongest form on offer, however, he may be done for speed under these conditions around here.

**6** **SAINT JEANNAIS (FR) (43)** (D) **97**
14-11 **6** 11-2 | 70.8kg
Nigel & Willy Twiston-Davies — *Toby McCain-Mitchell*
Very impressive winner on bumper/hurdling debut respectively. More workmanlike when making it 2-2 over hurdles on return at Chepstow (2m), looking destined for longer trips in time. Still a highly promising start and another step forward ought to see him firmly in the mix on hat-trick bid.

**7** **SPANISH DARLING (FR) (7)** (D, BF) t **94**
3114U **5** 11-2 | 70.8kg
Alex Hales — *Kielan Woods*
Comprehensively completed a double on hurdling/stable debut in a strong Worcester maiden. Shaped as well as Kingofthefrontier for a long way when 3½ lengths fourth at Cheltenham. The emphasis on speed looks more in his favour here and his chances are probably underestimated by the early prices.

**8** **WILDE'S LEGACY (IRE) (25)** (D) **85**
110-1 **5** 11-2 | 70.8kg
Jamie Snowden — *Gavin Sheehan*
Found the Champion Bumper too hot when bidding to make it 3-3 in that sphere. Entitled to step up markedly on his hands-and-heels success at Newcastle on hurdling debut/return, perhaps not enough to trouble the best of these.

8 DECLARED RUNNERS

## BETTING FORECAST:

**3-1** North Shore, **10-3** Cosmic Connection, **13-2** Saint Jeannais, **15-2** Wilde's Legacy, **8-1** Kingofthefrontier, **12-1** Hold The Throw, **16-1** Spanish Darling, **25-1** Kershaw

## TIMEFORM VIEW:

COSMIC CONNECTION looks well worth another chance to build on his promising novice season. He gets the nod over North Shore and Saint Jeannais, who have both created favourable impressions, while Spanish Darling and Hold The Throw could outrun their forecast odds under speed-favouring conditions.

## TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

**1. COSMIC CONNECTION 2. NORTH SHORE 3. SAINT JEANNAIS**

## WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2025 | **Diamond Hunter** 6-11-2 | 12-1 | Chris Gordon | Freddie Gordon | 6 |
| 2024 | **Roadlesstravelled** 5-11-2 | 7-4f | Jonjo & A.J. O'Neill | Jonjo O'Neill Jr. | 6 |
| 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 |

## SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

# 1.50 RACE 4

## BEST ODDS ON THE BETFAIR EXCHANGE HANDICAP HURDLE
## (2) 4yo+ £50,000 2¼m191y (3800 Metres)

GBI RACING

Going: **Good (Good to Soft in places on Chase course)**

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** **GIVE IT TO ME OJ (255)** **99**

1411/1560- **5** 12-0 | 76.2kg

Jamie Moore & Josh Moore — ***Caoilin Quinn***

Completed cross-code 5-timer (including valuable novice hurdle final success) at Cheltenham last October. Shaped much better than the result in BetMGM Cup there (21f) latest hurdle start. Ticking over with couple of runs on the Flat this summer and likely has another decent pot in him over hurdles.

**2** **MELON (GER) (14)** **97**

14/3821-04 **5** 11-5 | 72.1kg

Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero — ***Toby Wynne***

Fairly useful type. Awarded a deserved first handicap hurdle success in a highly competitive event at Aintree (2m) in April. Probably in better form than couple of starts this season would suggest, well beaten in Grade 2 latest. Worth another go over this trip under less testing conditions.

**3** **MANGANESE (FR) (254)** **96**

11117- **4** 11-3 | 71.2kg

Max Comley — ***David Bass***

French bumper winner who made it 3-3 over hurdles with juvenile listed success at Doncaster in January. Went down fighting when losing her unbeaten record (beaten 7¼ lengths) in Grade 2 Dawn Run at Cheltenham in March. Opening mark demands more and others probably have more scope physically.

**4** **KOCKTAIL BLEU (FR) (42)** ★ **100**

1522214-4 **6** 11-2 | 70.8kg

Chris Gordon — ***Freddie Gordon***

Strong-looking front runner. Finished second in the Dovecote prior to going one better in a Newbury novice in March. Plenty of encouragement when hitting the frame in big-field handicaps since, latterly 7½-length fourth in a quality Silver Trophy on return. Very interesting with sights lowered.

**5** **MISS MAVERICK (36)** **96**

25-184315 **9** 11-0 | 69.9kg

Gary Hanmer — ***Brian Hughes***

Free-going front runner. Built on a promising effort when all out to resume winning ways in a 2½m Worcester handicap in July. Again found current (career-high) mark beyond her when well held at her beloved Uttoxeter on return last month, for all she appeared to need it more than her SP suggested.

**6** **SMOKERINGINTHEDARK (IRE) (190)** (BF) **98**

3/272512-4 **6** 10-13 | 69.4kg

Nicky Richards — ***Danny McMenamin***

Steadily progressive in handicaps last season. Runner-up in a solid C&D event prior to finishing 5 lengths fourth behind a couple of useful types at Aintree (2½m, good) in May. Still relatively lightly raced and there could be more to come with conditions to suit.

**7** **MY CHIQUITA (38)** **99**

22-317484 **7** 10-11 | 68.5kg

James Moffatt — ***Leah Noreci*** (7lb/3kg)

Third in a fairly useful handicap at Aintree before landing a well-run event at Cartmel in May. More miss than hit subsequently, not for first time let down by her jumping when well held at Wetherby (2½m). Likely to find a few too good at the weights back up in grade, even if they go hard.

7 DECLARED RUNNERS

## BETTING FORECAST:

**5-2** Kocktail Bleu, **7-2** Give It To Me Oj, **9-2** Smokeringinthedark, **9-1** My Chiquita, **12-1** Melon, **12-1** Manganese, **14-1** Miss Maverick

## TIMEFORM VIEW:

KOCKTAIL BLEU looks the one to beat following his encouraging fourth in a loaded renewal of the Silver Trophy on return. Give It To Me Oj stands out as the main danger ahead of Smokeringinthedark, who was progressing steadily when runner-up here in the spring.

## TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

**1. KOCKTAIL BLEU 2. GIVE IT TO ME OJ 3. SMOKERINGINTHEDARK**

## WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2025 | **Kabral du Mathan** 5-11-10 | 6-5f | Dan Skelton | Harry Skelton | 9 |
| 2024 | **Steel Ally** 6-12-0 | 6-1 | Sam Thomas | Dylan Johnston (3) | 14 |
| 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 |

## SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

# 2.25 RACE 5

## BETFAIR STAYERS' RED ROSE HANDICAP HURDLE (PREMIER HANDICAP) (1) 4yo+ £100,000 3m58y (4880 Metres)

GBI RACING

Going: **Good (Good to Soft in places on Chase course)**

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**

10 DECLARED RUNNERS

**1 MATTY'S GETAWAY (IRE) (41)** (CD) t **98**
3412-11 **7** 12-0 | 76.2kg
Kim Bailey & Mat Nicholls — *Ciaran Gethings*
Progressive, particularly since a breathing operation and stepped up to 3m, winning handicaps over C&D (good) and at Chepstow, the latter by 9½ lengths 6 weeks ago. Smart handicap performance needed off 8 lb higher but he could find it.

**2 YELLOW CAR (IRE) (617)** (D) **97**
1215314/ **8** 11-12 | 75.3kg
David Killahena & Graeme McPherson — *Nick Slatter* (3lb/1kg)
Point winner who progressed steadily in novice hurdles in 2024/25, including a win in a Grade 2 at Doncaster (3m, good to soft). Excellent 7 lengths fourth of 20 in the Albert Bartlett at that season's Cheltenham Festival but absent for 20 months since.

**3 THE EGYPTIAN GINGE (IRE) (14)** (D) **96**
53221-114 **5** 11-8 | 73.5kg
Nigel & Willy Twiston-Davies — *Mr Jamie Neild* (5lb/2kg)
Quirky sort but completed a handicap hat-trick around 3m when seeing off 4 rivals at Market Rasen (good to soft) last month. Creditable fourth of 14 over 25f at Aintree since but that underlines he needs a bit more off this mark.

**4 SEANIECON (IRE) (28)** (D) s **100**
2125-51 **5** 11-6 | 72.6kg
Jonjo & A.J. O'Neill — *Jonjo O'Neill Jr.*
Lightly-raced 5-y-o with bags of stamina who shaped well on his handicap debut at the Punchestown festival in the spring before returning to see off the reopposing Gold For Alec by 1¼ lengths in 19-runner Cheltenham handicap (3m, good to soft) last month. Should be more to come.

**5 PHANTOMOFTHEPOINTS (IRE) (218)** (D) s+t **99**
74/3F415P- **8** 11-6 | 72.6kg
David Pipe — *Rian Corcoran* (5lb/2kg)
Useful hurdler who was third in this on last season's reappearance. Career best to win 21f Warwick handicap in February. His season ended with a whimper but could bounce back on return for yard with good record in this race.

**6 SERIOUS CHAT (IRE) (21)** (CD) s **98**
51721-032 **7** 11-3 | 71.2kg
Donald McCain — *Brian Hughes*
Enjoyed a productive 2025/26, culminating with a C&D win on good (has also won on soft) in April. Creditable second of 7 at Ayr (3m) 3 weeks ago but opposable in this more competitive affair.

**7 SUPREME MALINAS (IRE) (287)** (C) **97**
2135/115- **6** 10-13 | 69.4kg
Dan Skelton — *Harry Skelton*
Bumper winner who made an impressive start over hurdles last winter, winning Exeter novice and course listed event around 19f on good to soft. Creditable fifth of 9 in Grade 2 at Warwick (19f, soft) in February. Unexposed handicap newcomer who promises to be suited by longer trips.

**8 HARTINGTON (IRE) (252)** t **99**
122/12035- **7** 10-13 | 69.4kg
Joe Tizzard — *Harry Cobden*
Close second in this race on good to soft 12 months ago. Ended last season with a pair of creditable efforts in defeat in competitive staying handicaps. Capable fresh and respected with Joe Tizzard among the winners.

**9 GOLD FOR ALEC (FR) (28)** **97**
PP31-76F2 **6** 10-10 | 68.0kg
Tom Symonds — *Caoilin Quinn*
Ready winner at Hereford (3¼m) in April and has returned to form the last twice, chasing home Seaniecon at Cheltenham (3m good to soft) 4 weeks ago. Another 3 lb higher here.

**10 EAGLES REPRIEVE (IRE) (21)** **98**
22/2121P-3 **5** 10-6 | 66.2kg
Lucinda Russell & Michael Scudamore — *Jack Power* (5lb/2kg)
Polished display when fairly useful winner of Kelso novice in March. Made an encouraging return from 7 months off when 8 lengths third (Serious Chat length ahead in second) in 3m Ayr handicap (good to soft) 3 weeks ago, weakening as if the outing was needed.

## BETTING FORECAST:

**11-4** Matty's Getaway, **7-2** Seaniecon, **9-1** Hartington, **9-1** Gold For Alec, **10-1** Serious Chat, **11-1** Supreme Malinas, **14-1** The Egyptian Ginge, **22-1** Eagles Reprieve, **28-1** Phantomofthepoints, **40-1** bar

## TIMEFORM VIEW:

Improving 5-y-o SEANIECON can make light of a 6 lb rise for Cheltenham and continue the O'Neill stable's good recent record in valuable handicap hurdles. Matty's Getaway is another handicapper on the up and he may provide the chief threat ahead of last year's second/third Hartington and Phantomofthepoints.

## TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

**1. SEANIECON 2. MATTY'S GETAWAY 3. HARTINGTON**

## WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2025 | **Electric Mason** 6-11-1 | 17-2 | Chris Gordon | Freddie Gordon (3) | 17 |
| 2024 | **Shoot First** 8-11-10 | 22-1 | Charles Byrnes | Alex Harvey (5) | 15 |
| 2023 | **Slate Lane** 5-10-12 | 11-4f | Emmet Mullins | Donagh Meyler | 15 |
| 2022 | **Botox Has** 6-11-11 | 17-2 | Gary Moore | Caoilin Quinn (7) | 13 |
| 2021 | **Dans Le Vent** 8-10-12 | 16-1 | Evan Williams | Isabel Williams (5) | 12 |

## SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

# 3.00 RACE 6

## BETFAIR CHASE (Lancashire) (Grade 1) (1) 5yo+ £200,000
## 3m1f125y (5140 Metres)

GBI RACING

Going: **Good (Good to Soft in places on Chase course)**

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** **AFFORDALE FURY (IRE)** (292) **99**
2/2211P- **8** 11-10 | 74.4kg
Noel Meade, Ireland — ***Sam Ewing***
Produced a big career best when making all in the Grade 1 Savills Chase at Leopardstown last Christmas. His subsequent run in the Irish Gold Cup can be excused (lame) and he'll be a threat to Grey Dawning if returning at the top of his game.

**2** **GORGEOUS TOM (IRE)** (38) **93**
4/42450-31 **8** 11-10 | 74.4kg
Henry de Bromhead, Ireland — ***Jordan Colin Gainford***
Snapped a near 2-year losing run when easily seeing off 3 rivals in a Grade 3 at Punchestown (23f, good to soft) 38 days ago, typically impressing with some slick jumping. A big career best will likely be needed for him to follow up here, though.

**3** **GREY DAWNING (IRE)** (225) (CD) **100**
2P12/1341- **9** 11-10 | 74.4kg
Dan Skelton — ***Harry Skelton***
Second in this in 2024 before comfortably going one better 12 months ago. Added another Grade 1 on Merseyside when edging out Solness in the Melling at Aintree (2½m, good to soft) in April. Good record fresh and the one to beat in this again.

**4** **HANDSTANDS (IRE)** (21) **93**
11P/243P-2 **7** 11-10 | 74.4kg
Ben Pauling — ***Kielan Woods***
Grade 1 novice chase winner in 2024/25 season but has found it tougher since, including only fourth of 5 to Grey Dawning in this last year. Respectable reappearance when best of the rest behind Pic d'Orhy in Charlie Hall at Wetherby (3m, good) 3 weeks ago but he'll need to step up on that now.

**5** **JAGWAR (FR)** (224) s+t **95**
1311/322U- **7** 11-10 | 74.4kg
Oliver Greenall & Josh Guerriero — ***Harry Cobden***
Very progressive since switched to fences, including win in Plate at 2025 Cheltenham Festival. Excellent ½-length second of 22 to Johnnywho in Ultima (25f) at last year's Festival, particularly after an early blunder. Unseated in Grand National when last seen in April. Has had breathing operation.

**6** **KONFUSION** (15) **88**
1U113F3-5 **8** 11-10 | 74.4kg
Joel Parkinson & Sue Smith — ***Gavin Sheehan***
Took his form to another level last season when his 3 wins included the Rehearsal at Newcastle and Rowland Meyrick at Wetherby. Looked in need of the run and shaped well when fifth of 12 in 25f Aintree handicap on reappearance but this is a jump in class.

**7** **SALVER (FR)** (225) (C, BF) s **94**
32/314123- **6** 11-10 | 74.4kg
Jamie Moore & Josh Moore — ***Caoilin Quinn***
Smart hurdler and similar standard over fences, winning 3m Grade 2 novices at Sandown and Windsor last winter. Placed in 25f Grade 1 novices at Cheltenham and Aintree in the spring. Well held on the Flat at Nottingham 17 days ago but it should have sharpened him up for this.

7 DECLARED RUNNERS

## BETTING FORECAST:

**5-6** Grey Dawning, **4-1** Affordale Fury, **11-1** Salver, **14-1** Gorgeous Tom, **15-1** Jagwar, **16-1** Handstands, **100-1** bar

## TIMEFORM VIEW:

GREY DAWNING can emulate Kauto Star, Cue Card, Bristol de Mai and Royale Pagaille and become the fifth back-to-back winner of this race. Like the selection, Affordale Fury has a good record fresh and last season's Savills winner can give Dan Skelton's charge most to do. Jagwar, who retains the cheekpieces he wore for the first time in the Grand National, looks best of the remainder.

## TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

**1. GREY DAWNING 2. AFFORDALE FURY 3. JAGWAR**

## WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2025 | **Grey Dawning** 8-11-10 | 10-11f | Dan Skelton | Harry Skelton | 5 |
| 2024 | **Royale Pagaille** 10-11-10 | 11-4 | Venetia Williams | Charlie Deutsch | 7 |
| 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 |

## SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race

# 3.35 RACE 7

## BETFAIR BACKS OPINIONS HANDICAP CHASE (2) 4yo+ (Rated 0-145) £50,000 3m1f125y (5140 Metres)

GBI RACING

Going: **Good (Good to Soft in places on Chase course)**

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** **O'CONNELL (IRE) (329)** **97**
81112/312- **10** 12-0 | 76.2kg
Joel Parkinson & Sue Smith — ***Gavin Sheehan***
Progressive staying handicapper. Won the London National at Sandown prior to a storming second in the Welsh National when last seen in December. Typically needs his reappearance and connections presumably have bigger targets in mind.

**2** **SARACEN BEAU (IRE) (20)** **100**
1P3/231-P2 **7** 11-7 | 73.0kg
Dan Skelton — ***Non Runner***
Fairly useful winning hurdler for Nicky Richards. Shaped well to finish second on both outings to date over fences, latterly on stable debut/return (following a breathing operation) at Worcester (2½m). Bred for this longer trip and looks ready to open his chasing account.

**3** **CAUGHTINYOURTRANCE (IRE) (20)** (D) s+t **96**
P-2211222 **7** 11-4 | 71.7kg
James Moffatt — ***Brian Hughes***
Remained in fine heart since completing a handicap hurdle/chase double at Cartmel this summer. Found only one too good for the third consecutive start at that course last time, enhancing form figures under Brian Hughes (141122). Bumping into some less exposed/better treated ones here, though.

**4** **FORTUNEDEFORTUNATA (IRE) (211)** s **95**
BP0UPF39- **9** 11-1 | 70.3kg
Patrick Morris — ***Charlie Maggs***
Ex-Gordon Elliott horse. Failed to back up a more promising third here (3½m) when well beaten at Perth later in April. Record fresh is ordinary in recent seasons and has a bit to prove on fourth start for present yard.

**5** **CHASINGOUTTHEBLUES (IRE) (37)** (D) s **97**
3512115-4 **7** 11-1 | 70.3kg
Mark Walford — ***Jamie Hamilton***
Eye-catching third sole previous start here (hurdles). Progressed to land third chase win of season in Go North Final at Carlisle (3m, good) in March. Typically hit the line strongly when fifth in the Scottish Grand National (4m) the following month. Respected with a comeback run under his belt.

**6** **SALADINS SON (IRE) (231)** (D) **98**
1P11/2435- **8** 10-12 | 68.9kg
Anthony Honeyball — ***Ben Godfrey***
Fairly useful hurdle/chase winner (all 3 victories on soft). Advanced his form when chasing home a now-smart type on reappearance in this corresponding event last season. Better than beaten distance when last seen here in April, too, and he's of the likelier types if his jumping holds up.

**7** **DEXPERTS OPINION (IRE) (34)** (BF) s **97**
0047-1212 **6** 10-7 | 66.7kg
Mickey Bowen — ***Sean Bowen***
Steadily-improving sort who's won twice in 4 starts since joining present yard. Form of previous 2 runs working out well, latterly 1½ lengths second to a next-time out winner in Durham National (29f). Still lightly raced and another step forward puts him in the picture here.

**8** **JACCOURS (FR) (38)** **96**
423/41P6-2 **7** 10-3 | 64.9kg
Robbie Llewellyn — ***Danny McMenamin***
Lightly-raced winner over hurdles (heavy) for Olly Murphy. Supported/showed more than previously over fences when 3¾-length second on first start for capable yard at Ffos Las (3½m, soft) on return. Overall profile suggests he's no sure thing to build on that under contrasting conditions.

8 DECLARED RUNNERS

## BETTING FORECAST:

**3-1** Saracen Beau, **5-1** Saladins Son, **13-2** Dexperts Opinion, **7-1** Chasingouttheblues, **7-1** Jaccours, **15-2** O'connell, **9-1** Caughtinyourtrance, **40-1** bar

## TIMEFORM VIEW:

SARACEN BEAU can make his second start for the Skeltons a winning one. Saladins Son finished runner-up in this corresponding event 12 months ago and may follow suit, with Dexperts Opinion respected following his bright start for the Bowen yard.

## TIMEFORM 1-2-3:

**1. SARACEN BEAU 2. SALADINS SON 3. DEXPERTS OPINION**

## WINNERS IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2025 | **Top of The Bill** 9-12-0 | 18-1 | Nigel & Willy Twiston-Davies | Toby McCain-Mitchell (5) | 10 |
| 2024 | **Fontaine Collonges** 9-11-10 | 7-1 | Venetia Williams | Charlie Deutsch | 9 |
| 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 |

## SMART STATS:

No Smart Stats available for this race