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TODAY'S FREE SPORTS BETTING TIPS...

Neo Investments

Win Bet - Sedgefield 14:05 - Molliana @ 9/4

Equine Equity

Win Bet - Sedgefield 16:55 - Pinspot @ 7/1

Racing Delights

Chepstow 14:50/15:25 - Free/Kingsplace @ 9/4-5/4 Win Bet Double

Race In Focus: Melling Chase - By Ian Hudson

Aintree, Friday April 5th 2019 - Two miles and four furlongs for horses aged five and older with 16 fences.

Description

The Melling Chase is Aintree's equivalent of the Champion Chase or Ryanair Chase at the Cheltenham Festival. The race was first run in 1991 and it has always been a grade 1 contest. Over the distance it is the most prestigious championship chase of the season. The race is suited to horses who do not have the speed for the minimum distance or the stamina to be competitive in the Gold Cup. However, winners of the Champion Chase have a good record in the race but Don Cossack was the winner in 2015 and won the Cheltenham Gold Cup the following season. The race has a history of producing back-to-back winners and this has happened five times since 1995.

Winners Since 2009

Year	Horse	Jockey	Trainer	SP
2009	Voy Por Ustedes	Robert Thornton	Alan King	11/8F
2010	Albertas Runs	Tony McCoy	Jonjo O'Neill	8/1
2011	Master Minded	Ruby Walsh	Paul Nicholls	11/2
2012	Finian's Rainbow	Barry Geraghty	Nicky Henderson	13/8F
2013	Sprinter Sacre	Barry Geraghty	Nicky Henderson	1/3F
2014	Boston Bob	Paul Townend	Willie Mullins	5/1
2015	Don Cossack	Tony McCoy	Gordon Elliott	3/1JF
2016	God's Own	Paddy Brennan	Tom George	10/1
2017	Fox Norton	Robbie Power	Colin Tizzard	4/1
2018	Politologue	Sam Twiston-Davies	Paul Nicholls	11/1

Trends

- The average price of the winner was almost 5/1.
- The SPs ranged from 1/3 to 11/1.
- There were three winning outright favourites and one winning joint favourite.
- Three of the favourites started at odds against.
- Only 2 winners started at double figure odds.
- 4 winners were priced from 3/1 to 11/2.
- 2 winners were trained in Ireland.
- The Barry Geraghty/Nicky Henderson partnership had 2 different winners.
- There were no multiple winners.
- 3 winners also won the Champion Chase.
- Each winner was aged 7, 8 or 9.
- The most common age of the winner was 8.

Records

Five horses have won the race twice but not since Voy Por Ustedes in 2008 and 2009.

The leading jockey is Barry Geraghty with 4 wins between 2004 and 2013.

The leading trainer is Nicky Henderson with 3 wins between 1992 and 2013.

Leading Contenders

There was no betting market on March 20th 2019.

Paul Nicholls often targets this race with his leading chasers at distances less than three miles and he won the race last season and in 2011. The distance should suit FRODON who won the Ryanair Chases at the Cheltenham Festival at the intermediate distance. Nicholls is in contention for the trainer's championship so could target the lucrative prize with Frodon. It would be great for Aintree if ALTIOR ran but Nicky Henderson is more likely to wait for the Celebration Chase at Sandown. WAITING PATIENTLY did not run at the Festival and the timing of the Melling Chase could suit connections. Any soft in the going description would make the horse a leading contender after a season that has not gone to plan. POLITOLOGUE was second in the Champion Chase behind Altior and could become another back-to-back winner if Nicholls takes this route and saves Frodon for another day.

Tip: Waiting Patiently

Next Week's Race

Grand National

Previous Tips

Supreme Novices' Hurdle - Tornado Flyer at 16/1 (now 33/1) NON RUNNER

Arkle Challenge Trophy - Lalor at 5/1 (now 3/1) PULLED UP

Champion Hurdle - Laurina at 4/1 (now 4/1) FOURTH

RSA Chase - Topofthegame at 8/1 (now 9/2) WON

Champion Chase - Altior at 4/7 (now 1/2) WON

Ryanair Chase - Waiting Patiently 7/1 NON RUNNER

Paisley Park - Stayers Hurdle 9/4 (now 15/8) WON

Triumph Hurdle - Sir Erec 6/4 (now 5/4) PULLED UP

Gold Cup - Bellshill 14/1 (now 12/1) PULLED UP

Betway Bowl - Might Bite - No price yet.

Aintree Hurdle - Buveur D'Air - No price yet.

Today's Sports Betting Preview - By Rick Elliott

Scotland Would Take A Draw Just Now

We must be struggling for meaningful football action when the main betting match of the night is Scotland's Euro 2020 away qualifying match against Kazakhstan. The FIFA world rankings suggest this is a fixture Scotland should win but there are extenuating circumstances which would make the draw a good result. The match is being played a few miles from China because Kazakhstan is right on the extremes of Europe and the hosts have an improving side.

Scotland are weakened by injuries and withdrawals and the match is being played on a plastic pitch and it will be very cold. It is debatable whether the conditions will level the playing field and Scotland are 77 places above their opponents in the latest standings. Kazakhstan will also be missing key players due to injury but beat Moldova without conceding in their last match. Backing Scotland at odds-on to secure three points offers no value so the best bet is the DRAW at 21/10 with **Ladbrokes**.

Northern Ireland begin their Euro 2020 campaign with a home match against Estonia. The matches don't get any easier because Germany, Holland and Belarus are also in their group. If the hosts don't pick up three points from this fixture the qualifying process is as good as over because Estonia are the weakest team in the group.

Northern Ireland dropped just four points in five home matches in qualification for Euro 2016. Estonia had a run of four away defeats without scoring before winning in Greece. That result is not indicative of their ability which means NORTHERN IRELAND TO WIN TO NIL is the recommendation at Evens with **Coral**.

The plunge on Tiger Roll for the Grand National continues and the 2018 winner could be the shortest priced favourite this century. On official ratings the horse has 8 pounds in hand but back-to-back wins are rare due to the demands of the race. Red Rum won the National in 1973 and 1974 and no horse since has won the race two years in succession. However, Tiger Roll looks a rock solid favourite and can oblige.

Cork puts three tracks in Britain to shame by offering more prize money than Chepstow, Ludlow and Sedgefield. The richest race of the day is the conditions hurdle over two miles at 2.45. None of the five runners can be dismissed and they were priced between 2/1 and 5/1 in the early betting. DR MIKEY has beat Cheltenham winner A Plus Tard in a chase and back over hurdles is the nap at 2/1 with **Ladbrokes**.