AT THE RACES

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(R5) 15:00 WARWICK, 2m 5f

Ballymore Leamington Novices' Hurdle (Grade 2) (Class 1) (5YO plus)

No	Silk	Form	Horse Details	Age/Wt	Jockey/Trainer	OR
1	***	22-1112	COUNT MERIBEL 28 BF ch g Three Valleys - Bakhtawar	6 11 - 3	M D Grant N A Twiston-Davies	138
2	AR	35-1211	CAVE TOP (IRE) 13 b g Court Cave - Cyrils Top Girl	6 11 - 0	David England Oliver Greenall	128
3	R	1-11	CHOOSEYOURWEAPON (IRE) 35 br g Flemensfirth - Definite Love	5 11 - 0	Adam Wedge Evan Williams	132
4	***	21-51	KNIGHT IN DUBAI (IRE) 35 D b g Dubai Destination - Bobbies Storm	5 11 - 0	Harry Skelton D Skelton	-
5		1-11	MR WHIPPED (IRE) 24 D br g Beneficial - Dyrick Daybreak	5 11 - 0	Nico de Boinville N J Henderson	-
6		2-1	PAISLEY PARK (IRE) 28 b g Oscar - Presenting Shares	6 11 - 0	Nick Scholfield Miss E C Lavelle	-

ATR VERDICT: Count Meribel's three-race winning run came to an end in Graded company at Cheltenham last time, but he lost nothing in defeat that day when tackling three miles for the first time and is sure to go well now back to a distance similar to what he has thrived at so far this term. Chooseyourweapon should love the give in the ground and the unbeaten hurdler appears to be still on the up, however, it is another yet to taste defeat who gets the nod here with Nicky Henderson's MR WHIPPED backed to have the edge. He has shown a likeable attitude on both starts under Rules so far and is only set to improve as his career progresses. Cave Top has been winning well in handicaps, but this represents a huge step up in class, while Paisley Park trounced the well-regarded Vision Des Flos at Hereford and could be a fly in the ointment.

Top Tip: MR WHIPPED (5) Watch out for: COUNT MERIBEL (1)

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