

Horses To Follow (Using Proform Speed Figures) – Part 5

By Ben Aitken

Introduction

Horses to Follow time, each of the horses in these articles being found during my weekly mine into the Proform Speed Figures...

If you missed the previous 'To Follow' articles you can get them [HERE>>>](#)

And if you are yet to read my main article on Proform Speed Figures you can get that [HERE>>>](#)

Today I'm heading back to last weekend's **Haydock** card and the **Class 2 Challengers Stayers Hurdle Series Final Handicap Hurdle**, that was run on **Sunday 30th of March** (2:40 race)...

Horse to follow: DOUGHMORE BAY (E Lavelle)

Haydock (LH - Galloping) (Saturday 30 Mar 2024)												Tote Enhanced Returns		Default Profile		Going: Soft (Act: Good To Soft) (-2.8)					
14:40 Challenger Stayers Hurdle Series Final Handicap Hurdle (GBB Race) (Class B) (Class 2)																£25720					
3m 58y																Course & Distance PACE Statistics					
Hurdle Handicap (0-135) [New Class B / 2] (Speed Class Par: 72)												Time: 367.10 Seconds		(Total SP 119.1%)		Leds Prominent Held Up					
Draw	#	Position	Horse	Pace	PaceForm	Trainer	Jockey	Age	Spd Rat	stLTO	stHA C	stLTO 2	stLTO 3	stLTO 4	DSLR	Weight	Equip	OR	OR HWin	OR LWin	OR LTO
0	10	1	Secret Trix	2	HHPH/HHPH-H	Olly Murphy	Sean Bowen	7	78	72	77	77	63	67	153	11.3	11p	121	108	108	117
0	4	2	Doughmore Bay (RE)	2	FHP-H	Enma Lavelle	Tom Bellamy	6	78	55	67	66	67	65	61	11.9		127	0	0	124
0	9	3	Picanha	4	H/PH/PLH-H	Richard Phillips	Mr Finn Lambert (3)	10	75	76	77	0	0	0	49	11.1	WS	122	122	122	122
0	6	4	Astronomic View	6	H/H/PPPP-PPP	Sue Gardner	Lucy Gardner	7	74	32	68	67	55	68	20	11.5	p	123	115	115	115
0	13	5	Shoeshine Boy (RE)	6	PHH/PPPP-PP	Donald Whillans	Craig Nichol	6	73	74	74	68	63	55	20	10.3	t	107	104	104	104
0	3	6	Goshowposh (RE)	2	HHR/HHP-H	Philp Hobbs	Michael Nolan	7	73	76	76	57	0	0	48	11.9	b1	127	121	121	127
0	7	7	My Bobby Dazzler	8	PHHLLPP-LPP	Mrs Melanie Rowley	Miss Tabitha Worsley (3)	9	73	26	77	66	73	74	20	11.2	WS	123	120	120	124
0	1	8	Judicial Law (RE)	2	H/H/PPPPH-H	Jonjo O'Neill	Jonjo O'Neill Jr	7	69	75	75	72	73	67	49	12.0	p	132	127	127	133
0	11	9	Balkardy (FR)	12	PHH/PHL-LLL	Evan Williams	Miss Isabel Williams (3)	7	68	13	72	59	45	62	20	10.6		113	110	110	113
0	2	10	Martha Brae	2	H/PPPHH-PHH	Dan Skelton	Miss H Palin (7)	9	65	23	81	81	74	62	20	11.3	pWS	128	123	123	128
0	5	11	Tanganyika (FR)	6	PPPHL-LHLP	Venetia Williams	Charlie Deutsch	6	61	71	71	71	71	64	14	11.6		124	117	117	124
0	12	PU	Paricolor (FR)	6	LLLLPLHPPP-P	David Pipe	Mr Jack Tudor	8	0	66	76	66	69	0	11	10.8	tv1WS	112	125	122	115

The Speed Class Par figure for this race was 72 and as you can see from the above, the first seven home ALL ran to a figure above this level, suggesting there's a solid chance of this contest proving strong form to keep on the radar...

The Olly Murphy trained **SECRET TRIX** dug deep after the last to land the spoils here, posting a marginal Proform Speed Figure career best in the process (ran to a figure of 78 here, his previous best was 77). This win was the fifth Handicap Hurdle victory of his career so it's debatable how much more improvement he'll have in him, for all this was his first start wearing a tongue-tie and that could yet bring a bit more improvement from the 7yo. He is, however, verging on the exposed side and he's one I'd be happy to view on a race-by-race basis, rather than a horse to put up as 'one to follow'...

Runner up **DOUGHMORE BAY** is, however, a horse that can still be classed as unexposed, this being only his fifth start over Hurdles and only his third run in Handicap company, and given he posted the same figure as the winner it's not hard to mark him out as the one take from this race.

DOUGHMORE BAY'S previous best figure prior to this run was a 67, which he posted on seasonal debut at Worcester back in October. He then ran in a Conditional Jockey's Handicap Hurdle at the November Cheltenham meeting, a race where he made a blunder at the fifth flight which resulted in him losing his prominent racing position, before being badly hampered by a faller two out and blowing any hope he had of fighting out a serious finish. Off the back of that Cheltenham run I stuck a note against his name stating... 'will be interesting when they go chasing with him (bred to be a chaser)'...

He was then off the track for 73-days, appearing next in a Class 3 at Plumpton at the end of January, a race where they held him up out the back and he didn't really start to show anything until the winner had flown, coming home a never nearer 2.3L second. He posted a Proform Speed Figure of 55 that day, which was a hefty 11 points below the Speed Class Par standard for the level and at the time I was a shade concerned with the effort, as I had hoped he was capable of plenty better than that mid-50's Speed Figure. With hindsight, however, I suspect the Plumpton run was simply an outing to keep him ticking over for this assignment, and the figure of 78 he posted here is a much stronger reflection of his abilities than the Plumpton figure of 55 he posted.

Off the back of Saturday's Haydock second he was raised to a handicap mark of 132 (up 5lbs), which is a mark I'd be more than hopeful Doughmore Bay is capable of defying when switched to the larger obstacles.

Connections may be tempted to have another roll of the dice in a Handicap Hurdle before this campaign is out, although all being well he'll be put away for the season and they can start plotting a chasing route for him in the 2024/25 season, where he'll be starting life off a mark (OR 132) that should be more than workable, with his most recent Proform Speed Figure confirming him as a horse with plenty of potential.

Emma Lavelle *can* get her chasers ready to fire on chase debut, especially when that debut comes in handicap company, with the following set of stats well worth keeping in mind...

System Results (BOG ON)		Betfair Price Used : Betfair SP										(Prices up-to-date to: 30/03/2024 20:30:00)						
Runners	Winners	Win S/R	PRB	PRB*2	WAX	EX Wins	A/E	Chi Scr	50%SR	P/L Betfair	P/L to SP	EP	BP	MP	Plc Only	Plc Only S/R	Win & Plc	Win & Plc S/R
43	17	39.53	64.44	56.78	7.57	9.43	1.80	7.78	55.81	41.34	34.16	21.50	21.63	22.25	7	26.92	24	55.81

I'd be very confident that Doughmore Bay is a horse that will go on to bigger and better things when sent chasing, and my confidence was boosted further by him posting a Proform Speed Figure just shy of 80 on his most recent Hurdle run at Haydock...

By Ben Aitken

Horse Racing analyst and website owner at www.narrowingthefield.co.uk

Race Trends analysis and horse profiling alongside personally researched systems and angles are my preferred analysis and betting methods

Proform user for over 10-years