

# CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL

- 2016 POCKET GUIDE -



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THE GENTLEMAN'S BOOKMAKER



## - WELCOME -

Epsom and Aintree are unique, while Royal Ascot is the most prestigious sporting and social week of the year, but for true racing fans nothing can beat the four days at the Cheltenham Festival.

We bookmakers take more money this week than any other in the racing calendar, but one Irish trainer has us all shaking with fear – Willie Mullins.

Mullins saddled a record eight winners at last year's meeting, four of them on the opening day, though if Annie Power had cleared the last in the Mares' Hurdle instead of crashing to the ground, we might not have turned up on Wednesday!

Annie Power could well be back again on day one when Mullins also has other hotpots including Min and Douvan, while the markets suggest he could put the icing on his cake in the four-miler.

Cheltenham without the Irish would be like a Dublin pub that didn't sell Guinness, and if you're coming, why not pop over and see us - we are standing in Tattersalls or you can find us on the bottom rail.



# THE SCHEDULE

## - TUESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH -

<i>Time</i>	<i>Race</i>	<i>Distance</i>
1.30	Sky Bet Supreme Novices' Hurdle Race	2m ½f
2.10	Racing Post Arkle Challenge Trophy Steeple Chase	2m
2.50	Ultima Handicap Steeple Chase	3m ½f
3.30	Stan James Champion Hurdle Challenge Trophy	2m ½f
4.10	OLBG Mares' Hurdle Race	2m 4f
4.50	146th Year Of The National Hunt Steeple Chase Challenge Cup	4m
5.30	Close Brothers Novices' Handicap Chase (0-140)	2m 4½f

## - WEDNESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH -

<i>Time</i>	<i>Race</i>	<i>Distance</i>
1.30	Neptune Investment Management Novices' Hurdle Race	2m 5f
2.10	RSA Steeple Chase	3m ½f
2.50	Coral Cup Hurdle (A Handicap Hurdle Race)	2m 5f
3.30	Betway Queen Mother Champion Steeple Chase	2m
4.10	Glenfarclas Cross Country Steeple Chase	3m 6f
4.50	Fred Winter Juvenile Handicap Hurdle Race	2m ½f
5.30	Weatherbys Champion Bumper (A Standard Open NH Flat Race)	2m ½f

## - THURSDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH -

<i>Time</i>	<i>Race</i>	<i>Distance</i>
1.30	JLT Novices' Chase	2m 4f
2.10	Pertemps Network Final (A Handicap Hurdle Race)	3m
2.50	Ryanair Steeple Chase	2m 5f
3.30	Ryanair World Hurdle Race	3m
4.10	Brown Advisory & Merriebelle Stable Plate	2m 5f
4.50	Trull House Stud Mares Novices' Hurdle	2m 1f
5.30	Fulke Walwyn Kim Muir Challenge Cup Handicap Steeple Chase	3m 2f

## - FRIDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH -

<i>Time</i>	<i>Race</i>	<i>Distance</i>
1.30	JCB Triumph Hurdle	2m 1f
2.10	Vincent O'Brien County Handicap Hurdle Race	2m 1f
2.50	Albert Bartlett Novices' Hurdle Race	3m
3.30	Timico Cheltenham Gold Cup Steeple Chase	3m 2½ f
4.10	St. James's Place Foxhunter Steeple Chase Challenge Cup	3m 2½ f
4.50	Martin Pipe Conditional Jockeys' Handicap Hurdle Race (0-145)	2m 4½ f
5.30	Johnny Henderson Grand Annual Steeple Chase Challenge Cup	2m ½ f

# SKY BET SUPREME NOVICES' HURDLE RACE



*Last year's winner Douvan sails over the last flight*

## - STAT ATTACK -

Winner's Age	5, 6, 7, 6, 5, 6, 5, 6, 5, 5
Winner's SP	6/1, 40/1, 17/2, 12/1, 12/1, 10/1, 10/1 5/1, 7/2Jf, <b>2/1f</b>
Fate of Favourite	5th, 3rd, 2nd (jf), 5th, 3rd, 4th, 7th, 2nd, 1st, <b>1st</b>
Winning Distance	nk, 3, 2, nk, hd, 2, 1 ¼, ½, 6, 4 ½
Previous run	3rd, 1st, 1st, 1st, 2nd, 1st, 1st, 1st, 1st, <b>1st</b>

*(Last 10 renewals with most recent results on right and in bold)*

## - KEY TRENDS -

Willie Mullins, Rich Ricci and Ruby Walsh have combined to win the last three renewals

Three of the last four winners have been aged five

Since the turn of the millennium Ireland have trained 10 of the 15 winners



# RACING POST ARKLE CHALLENGE TROPHY STEEPLE CHASE



*Un De Sceaux leads the field out on their final circuit on his way to an easy win*

## - STAT ATTACK -

Winner's Age	5, 7, 7, 7, 8, 7, 6, 7, 6, 7
Winner's SP	20/1, 7/2, 6/1, 8/1, 6/1, 6/1, 8/11f, 8/13f, 33/1, <b>4/6f</b>
Fate of Favourite	7th, 2nd, 3rd, Fell, 8th, 4th, 1st, 1st, 2nd, <b>1st</b>
Winning Distance	1 ¼, 5, 13, Shd, ¾, 2 ¾, 7, 2¼, hd, 6
Previous run	1st, 1st, 2nd, 2nd, 1st, 1st, 1st, 1st, 1st, <b>1st</b>

*(Last 10 renewals with most recent results on right and in bold)*

## - KEY TRENDS -

24 of the last 26 winners were placed or better last time out

Three of the last four winners have gone off odds-on

Only two of the last 12 renewals have been won by six-year-olds

TIME 2.10PM  
DISTANCE 2M

TUESDAY  
15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

## - LEADING CONTENDER -

Willie Mullins dominates the first day, just like he did 12 months ago, and it's absolutely impossible to oppose **DOUVAN** in the Arkle. A quite brilliant winner of last year's Supreme Novices', he has been imperious in his three chase successes this season. Although Vaniteux looks to be the favourite's biggest threat on paper, he just doesn't look to have anything like the class of Douvan who could dominate for years to come.

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# STAN JAMES CHAMPION HURDLE CHALLENGE TROPHY



*Ruby Walsh celebrates Faugheen's Champion Hurdle victory 12 months ago*

## - STAT ATTACK -

Winner's Age	8, 7, 5, 6, 6, 7, 7, 9, 6, 7
Winner's SP	7/4f, 16/1, 10/1, 22/1, 9/1, 11/4f, 11/1, 13/8f, 9/1, <b>4/5f</b>
Fate of Favourite	1st, 6th, 14th, 3rd, 10th, 1st, 3rd, 1st, 4th, <b>1st</b>
Winning Distance	nk, 1, 3, 1, nk, 3 ½, 1 ¼, 2 ¾, nk, <b>1 ½</b>
Previous run	1st, 1st, 1st, 1st, 3rd, 1st, 2nd, 1st, 4th, <b>1st</b>

*(Last 10 renewals with most recent results on right and in bold)*

## - KEY TRENDS -

Six of the last 10 winners were trained in Ireland

Six of the last 10 winners have won at odds of 9/1 or bigger

Willie Mullins trained the first three home in last year's renewal





# KEY TRENDS (REMAINDER OF DAY ONE)

TUESDAY  
15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

## 2.50pm **Ultima Handicap Chase**

- Jonjo O'Neill has sent out three of the last seven winners
- Since 1990 only six of the 25 winners have carried 11st or more

## 4.10pm **OLBG Mares' Hurdle (for the David Nicholson Trophy)**

- Willie Mullins has trained the last seven winners
- Both the winner and one of the placed horses have been Irish-trained in four of the last eight renewals

## 4.50pm **146th Year Of The National Hunt Steeple Chase Challenge Cup**

- Since 1990 11 winners have been aged seven
- Only one of the last five winners was trained in England

## 5.30pm **Close Brothers Novices' Handicap Chase**

- Four of the last five favourites have failed to win
- The last three winners have been aged six



Notes...

# RSA CHASE



*Bryan Cooper and Don Poli on their way to victory*

## - STAT ATTACK -

Winner's Age	5, 7, 7, 7, 7, 7, 7, 7, 7, <b>6</b>
Winner's SP	14/1, 6/5f, 4/1f, 9/4f, 10/1, 16/1, 9/2, 8/1, 12/1, <b>13/8f</b>
Fate of Favourite	PU, 1st, 1st, 1st, 5th, 5th, 4th, 4th, 2nd, <b>1st</b>
Winning Distance	6, 10, 4 ½, 16, 7, nk, 2 ½, 1 ¾, nk, 6
Previous run	1st, 1st, 1st, 1st, 2nd, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 1st, <b>1st</b>

*(Last 10 renewals with most recent results on right and in bold)*

## - KEY TRENDS -

Seven-year-olds have won eight of the last 10 renewals

Only one English-trained horse has won this race in the last seven years

Three of the last five winners won at Grade 2 or better in their prep race



# BETWAY QUEEN MOTHER CHAMPION STEEPLE CHASE



*Dodging Bullets and Somersby fight out last year's finish*

## - STAT ATTACK -

Winner's Age	8, 6, 5, 6, 9, 9, 9, 7, 8, 7
Winner's SP	16/1, 5/1, 3/1, 4/11f, 10/1, 10/1, 4/1, 1/4f, 11/4f, <b>9/2</b>
Fate of Favourite	Fell, Fell, 2nd, 1st, 4th, 8th, 2nd, 1st, 1st, <b>PU</b>
Winning Distance	9, 1 ½, 19, 7, 6, 5, 1 ¼, 19, 6, 1 ¼
Previous run	1st, UR, 1st, 1st, 1st, 3rd, 2nd, 1st, 1st, <b>1st</b>

*(Last 10 renewals with most recent results on right and in bold)*

## - KEY TRENDS -

The last three winners all won the Tingle Creek at Sandown that season

There has been no Irish-trained winner in the last four years

Barry Geraghty is the race's most successful current jockey with five wins

TIME 3.30PM  
DISTANCE 2M

WEDNESDAY  
16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

## - LEADING CONTENDER -

Another day, another Mullins hotpot. **UN DE SCEAUX** has won 14 of his 16 career starts, the only two defeats when falling on his last two seasonal reappearances. He's an outstanding two mile chaser and looks like giving his trainer a first Champion Chase success. The crowd will go berserk if Sprinter Sacre can win a second title, but he still doesn't look like the horse of old. Dodging Bullets won what may have been a weak race last year.

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# KEY TRENDS (REMAINDER OF DAY TWO)

WEDNESDAY  
16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

## 1.30pm Neptune Investment Management Novices' Hurdle

- Six-year-olds have had most success recently, winning 10 of the last 15 renewals
- Eight-time champion trainer Paul Nicholls has never won this race

## 2.50pm Coral Cup Hurdle

- Only one horse has carried top weight to victory since the race was introduced in 1993
- Five-year-olds and six-year-olds have won six of the last seven renewals

## 4.10pm Glenfarclas Cross Country Chase

- Nina Carberry is the race's most successful jockey with three wins
- Horses aged nine or older have won nine of the race's 11 renewals

## 4.50pm Fred Winter Juvenile Handicap Hurdle

- Willie Mullins has fielded eight runners since 2010, none have won or placed
- Only one of the last five winners won their prep race

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# RYANAIR STEEPLE CHASE



*Uxizandre and AP McCoy jump the last in splendid isolation*

## - STAT ATTACK -

Winner's Age	10, 6, 10, 8, 9, 10, 8, 7, 8, 7
Winner's SP	10/3jf, 9/2, 4/1, 6/1, 14/1, 6/1, 7/2f, 9/2, 3/1f, <b>16/1</b>
Fate of Favourite	1st, 4th, 5th, 2nd, 2nd, 4th, 1st, 2nd, 1st, <b>3rd</b>
Winning Distance	1¼, nk, 5, 2, 4 ½, 1, ½, 9, 2¼, 5
Previous run	3rd, 1st, 1st, 2nd, 6th, 2nd, PU, 1st, 5th, <b>UR</b>

*(Last 10 renewals with most recent results on right and in bold)*

## - KEY TRENDS -

English-trained horses have won every renewal

Three of the last four winners had previously won at Cheltenham

Horses aged eight or older have won eight of the 11 runnings



# RYANAIR WORLD HURDLE RACE



*Cole Harden's trainer Warren Greatrex celebrates his first festival win*

## - STAT ATTACK -

Winner's Age	6, 8, 9, 6, 7, 8, 9, 9, 6, <b>6</b>
Winner's SP	8/1, 5/1, 11/8f, 6/1, 5/6f, 10/11f, 5/6f, 17/2, 15/2, <b>14/1</b>
Fate of Favourite	3rd, Fell, 1st, 4th, 1st, 1st, 1st, PU, 2nd, <b>2nd</b>
Winning Distance	hd, $\frac{3}{4}$ , 1, 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ , 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ , 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ , 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ , 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ , 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ , 3 $\frac{1}{4}$
Previous run	1st, 2nd, 1st, 1st, 1st, 1st, 1st, 1st, 1st, <b>4th</b>

*(Last 10 renewals with most recent results on right and in bold)*

## - KEY TRENDS -

- None of the last three winners won the Cleeve Hurdle in the build up to the Festival
- Three horses have won back-to-back World Hurdles since the millennium
- There has only been one double-figure priced winner since 1999



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# KEY TRENDS (REMAINDER OF DAY THREE)

THURSDAY  
17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

## 1.30pm JLT Novices' Steeple Chase

- Ireland trained the first three home last year
- Four of the last five winners won their prep race

## 2.10pm Pertemps Network Final

- Buena Vista is the only horse older than nine to have won the race since 1981
- Only one Irish-trained winner in the last 10 years

## 4.10pm Brown Advisory & Merriebelle Stable Plate

- Nicky Henderson is the race's most successful current trainer having saddled four winners
- Only two winners have carried more than 11st since 2000

## 5.30pm Fulke Walwyn Kim Muir Handicap Chase

- Jamie Codd has ridden three of the last seven winners
- Last year's winner, The Package, was only the second 12-year-old to have ever won the race

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# JCB TRIUMPH HURDLE



*Peace And Co (far left) leads home a Nicky Henderson 1-2-3 last year*

## - STAT ATTACK -

Winner's Age	Contest restricted to four-year-olds
Winner's SP	7/2f, 11/2, 5/1, 11/2, 6/1, 13/2, 33/1, 4/1, 10/1, <b>2/1f</b>
Fate of Favourite	1st, 10th, 2nd, 2nd, 4th, 4th, 3rd, 6th, 4th, <b>1st</b>
Winning Distance	hd, 5, 2 ¼, ¾, 1 ¼, 2 ¼, 3, 15, 3 ½, <b>nk</b>
Previous run	1st, 1st, 2nd, 1st, 1st, 1st, 2nd, 1st, 2nd, <b>1st</b>

*(Last 10 renewals with most recent results on right and in bold)*

## - KEY TRENDS -

Nicky Henderson and Barry Geraghty have teamed up to win three of the last seven renewals

Only one of the last nine winners was bred in the UK

20 of the last 24 winners had their last prep run in the month of February

TIME 1.30PM  
DISTANCE 2M 1F

FRIDAY  
18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

## - LEADING CONTENDER -

Ivanovich Gorbатов's bubble was burst at Leopardstown last month, so he has plenty to prove on just his third hurdles start. Alan King has had a fantastic season and has three solid bullets to fire in a race he is hoping to win for a third time. Gibralfaro and Who Dares Wins are both respected, but it's **SCEAU ROYAL** who may have the most potential. Lightning quick over his hurdles, he has won his last three, including once at this track.

A graphic of a spiral-bound notebook with a white page and a dark blue cover. The page is ruled with horizontal lines and has a spiral binding at the top. The word "Notes..." is written in a dark blue, cursive font at the top left of the page.

Notes...

# TIMICO CHELTENHAM GOLD CUP STEEPLE CHASE



*Crowds gather around the winner's enclosure to grab a glimpse of Coneygree*

## - STAT ATTACK -

Winner's Age	7, 7, 7, 8, 9, 6, 9, 8, 8, <b>8</b>
Winner's SP	4/1f, 15/2, 5/4f, 9/4, 7/4f, 7/2f, 8/1, 11/4f, 20/1, <b>7/1</b>
Fate of Favourite	1st, 11th, 1st, 2nd, 1st, 1st, 3rd, 1st, 5th, <b>7th</b>
Winning Distance	5, 2 ½, 2 ½, 7, 13, 7, 2 ¼, 7, shd, <b>1 ½</b>
Previous run	2nd, 1st, 1st, 1st, 5th, 1st, 1st, 1st, 6th, <b>1st</b>

*(Last 10 renewals with most recent results on right and in bold)*

## - KEY TRENDS -

The last horse to win this race having fallen in a previous chase was Kauto Star (2007 and 2009)

Eight-year-olds have won all of the last three renewals

Irish-trained horses have won only one of the last nine editions

TIME 3.30PM  
DISTANCE 3M 2½F

FRIDAY  
18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

## - LEADING CONTENDER -

This looks to be the race of the Festival. There are so many top class horses, yet a number of them have serious questions to answer. The winner of the Charlie Hall, Betfair Chase and King George this season, the most solid contender has to be **CUE CARD** who looks a rejuvenated animal. Vautour is a doubtful stayer, Djakadam and Don Cossack have jumping frailties, while Don Poli's form just isn't as strong as his rivals.

A graphic of a spiral-bound notebook with a white page and a dark blue cover. The page is ruled with horizontal lines and has the word 'Notes...' written in a blue, cursive font at the top left. The spiral binding is visible at the top edge.

Notes...

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# KEY TRENDS (REMAINDER OF DAY FOUR)

FRIDAY  
18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

## **2.10pm Vincent O'Brien County Handicap Hurdle**

- Five-year-olds and six-year-olds are responsible for 73% of all winners since the year 2000
- The first six horses home in last year's race were all trained in Ireland

## **2.50pm Albert Bartlett Novices' Hurdle**

- Six-year-olds have the best record in the race, winning five of the 11 runnings
- Jonjo O'Neill is the only trainer to have won this race twice

## **4.10pm St James's Place Foxhunter Chase**

- The average age of the winning horse since the year 2000 is nine
- Irish-trained horses have won all of the last five renewals

## **4.50pm Martin Pipe Conditional Jockeys' Handicap Hurdle**

- Willie Mullins has trained three of the last five winners
- The first four horses home in last year's race were all trained in Ireland

## **5.30pm Johnny Henderson Grand Annual Handicap Steeple Chase Challenge Cup**

- Horses carrying more than 11st have won the last two renewals
- Only one five-year-old and two six-year-olds have won the race in the last 42 runnings

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