

STAR★SPORTS

DAVY RUSSELL'S

CHEL TENHAM FESTIVAL

2023 POCKET GUIDE

DAVY RUSSELL - AMBASSADOR



It will be magic hearing that famous Cheltenham roar one last time...

It's been a strange old few months, and having retired from race-riding last December, here I am talking to you about going back to ride at the Cheltenham Festival!

I've said it loads of times; I'm only keeping Jack's saddle warm so when he's back that will be the time for me to stop. All that being said, it will be magic hearing that famous Cheltenham roar one last time. I've some amazing memories to treasure of such a special place.

As always, I hope you find this pocket guide useful as it's packed full of stats and my views on all the big races. I've also recorded plenty of preview videos and, as always, will keep you updated with a blog each day of the meeting.

Thanks again to you and all the team at Star Sports for your continued support – it means the world. It only remains for me to wish you all good luck and see you at Cheltenham for the best four days racing in the calendar...

DAVY



THE SCHEDULE

TUESDAY 14TH MARCH

TIME	RACE	DISTANCE
1:30	Sky Bet Supreme Novices' Hurdle	2m ½f
2:10	Sporting Life Arkle Novices' Chase	2m
2:50	Ultima Handicap Chase	3m 1f
3:30	Unibet Champion Hurdle	2m ½f
4:10	Close Brothers Mares' Hurdle	2m 4f
4:50	Boodles Juvenile Handicap Hurdle	2m ½f
5:30	National Hunt Challenge Cup Novices' Chase	3m 6f

WEDNESDAY 15TH MARCH

TIME	RACE	DISTANCE
1:30	Ballymore Novices' Hurdle	2m 5f
2:10	Brown Advisory Novices' Chase	3m ½f
2:50	Coral Cup Handicap Hurdle	2m 5f
3:30	Betway Queen Mother Champion Chase	2m
4:10	Glenfarclas Cross Country Chase	3m 6f
4:50	Johnny Henderson Grand Annual Handicap Chase	2m
5:30	Weatherbys Champion Bumper	2m ½f

THURSDAY 16TH MARCH

TIME	RACE	DISTANCE
1:30	Turners Novices' Chase	2m 4f
2:10	Pertemps Network Final Handicap Hurdle	3m
2:50	Ryanair Chase	2m 5f
3:30	Paddy Power Stayers' Hurdle	3m
4:10	The Craft Irish Whiskey Co. Plate	2m 5f
4:50	Ryanair Mares' Novices' Hurdle	2m 1f
5:30	Fulke Walwyn Kim Muir Challenge Cup	3m 2f

FRIDAY 17TH MARCH

TIME	RACE	DISTANCE
1:30	JCB Triumph Hurdle	2m 1f
2:10	McCoy Contractors County Handicap Hurdle	2m 1f
2:50	Albert Bartlett Novices' Hurdle	3m
3:30	Boodles Cheltenham Gold Cup	3m 2½f
4:10	St. James's Place Festival Challenge Cup Chase	3m 2½f
4:50	Mrs Paddy Power Mares' Chase	2m 4½f
5:30	Martin Pipe Conditional Jockeys' Handicap Hurdle	2m 4½f

SKY BET SUPREME NOVICES' HURDLE

TUESDAY 14TH MARCH

TIME
1:30PM

DISTANCE
2M 1/2F



CONSTITUTION HILL WAS A SUPERB WINNER IN 2022

KEY TRENDS

- ★ 10 of the last 12 winners were in the top three in the betting
- ★ 11 of the last 12 winners had at least one Graded win
- ★ 90% of winners from the last decade were aged five or six



STAT ATTACK

Winner's Age	6	5	5	6	6	6	5	6	7	5
Winner's SP	5/1	7/2f	2/1f	4/1	25/1	9/1	6/1	6/1	8/11f	9/4f
Fate of Fav.	2 ND	1 ST	1 ST	2 ND	2 ND	11 TH	4 TH & 10 TH	4 TH	1 ST	1 ST
Winning Dist.	½	6	4½	7	2¼	NECK	4½	HEAD	24	22
Previous Run	1 ST	1 ST	1 ST	1 ST	6 TH	1 ST	1 ST	1 ST	1 ST	1 ST

DAVY RUSSELL'S VERDICT



After FACILE VEGA's defeat in Leopardstown the last day, the race has a much more wide-open look to it. He has a fair bit to prove now on the back of that terrible run. I'd say that IL ETAIT TEMPS probably has the most done on paper as he seems to be getting better with every run. He won't be far away and it's also hard to ignore the claims of MARINE NATIONALE as well, although we've not seen him for a while.

SPORTING LIFE

ARKLE CHALLENGE TROPHY

TUESDAY 14TH MARCH

TIME
2:10PM

DISTANCE
2M



FAVOURITE EDWARDSTONE JUMPS THE LAST EN ROUTE TO VICTORY 12 MONTHS AGO

KEY TRENDS

- ★ Nicky Henderson is the most successful current trainer with seven wins
- ★ Nico de Boinville is the only jockey to have won this race more than once in the last decade
- ★ British trainers have won seven of the last 12 runnings



STAT ATTACK

Winner's Age	7	6	7	6	7	6	6	6	7	8
Winner's SP	8/13f	33/1	4/6f	1/4f	1/4f	5/6f	5/1	16/1	4/9f	5/2f
Fate of Fav.	1 ST	2 ND	1 ST	1 ST	1 ST	1 ST	7 TH	6 TH	1 ST	1 ST
Winning Dist.	2¼	HEAD	6	7	6	14	13	1½	12	4¾
Previous Run	1 ST	1 ST	1 ST	1 ST	1 ST	1 ST	1 ST	1 ST	1 ST	1 ST

DAVY RUSSELL'S VERDICT



There looks to be two standout contenders in EL FABILOLO and JONBON. The former looked brilliant in Leopardstown and won impressively off a furious gallop – I rode in that race and we didn't hang about. That's the best piece of form on offer but this lad was beaten by Jonbon in Aintree last year. I was most impressed with Jonbon in Warwick the last day as he had to knuckle down and win when in trouble. He may be hard to beat again.

TUE 14 MARCH

KEY TRENDS

REMAINDER OF
DAY ONE

2:50 ULTIMA HANDICAP CHASE

- ★ David Pipe is the only trainer to have had more than one winner of this race in the last 10 years
- ★ Only one six-year-old has won this race in a decade

4:10 CLOSE BROTHERS MARES' HURDLE

- ★ Willie Mullins has trained nine of the last 15 winners
- ★ The favourite has won seven of the last 15 renewals

4:50 BOODLES JUVENILE HANDICAP HURDLE

- ★ Irish-trained horses have won all of the last five renewals
- ★ Only one favourite has won this race in the last decade

5:30 NATIONAL HUNT CHALLENGE CUP

- ★ 10 of the last 18 winners were aged seven
- ★ Favourites haven't won this contest since 2013

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BROWN ADVISORY NOVICES' CHASE

WEDNESDAY 15TH MARCH

TIME
2:10PM

DISTANCE
3M 1/2F



A MUDDY CHARLIE DEUTSCH CELEBRATES
L'HOMME PRESSE'S WIN IN 2022

KEY TRENDS

- ★ Seven-year-olds have won nine of the last 12 runnings
- ★ Nine of the last 12 winners were in the top three in the betting
- ★ Six of the last 11 winners had contested the Albert Bartlett previously



DAVY RUSSELL'S VERDICT



We were delighted with GERRI COLOMBE in Sandown the last day and he is a super talented chaser who remains unbeaten. This is another step up for him, and he should relish the test of stamina.

He does like to get his toe in, so could do with a drop of rain. I've been impressed with THE REAL WHACKER who has course form, while THYME HILL has mixed it with the best over hurdles and sets the bar pretty high after his Kempton Grade One win.

STAT ATTACK

Winner's Age	7	7	6	7	8	7	7	8	7	7
Winner's SP	8/1	12/1	13/8f	8/1	7/2f	5/2f	4/1	4/1	1/4f	9/4f
Fate of Fav.	4 TH	2 ND	1 ST	3 RD	1 ST	1 ST	3 RD	3 RD	1 ST	1 ST
Winning Dist.	1¾	NECK	6	½	NOSE	7	½	1	6½	3½
Previous Run	2 ND	3 RD	1 ST	1 ST	1 ST	1 ST	2 ND	FELL	1 ST	1 ST

BETWAY QUEEN MOTHER CHAMPION CHASE

WEDNESDAY 15TH MARCH

TIME
3:30PM

DISTANCE
2M



ENERGUMENE GAVE WILLIE MULLINS HIS FIRST CHAMPION CHASE VICTORY LAST YEAR

KEY TRENDS

- ★ All of the last 14 winners had won a Grade 1 over fences
- ★ Nine of the last 12 winners were rated 160 or higher
- ★ Nicky Henderson and Paul Nicholls have trained eight of the last 14 winners



DAVY RUSSELL'S VERDICT



Another race that has a much more wide-open feel since the trials produced some strange results. Last year's winner ENERGUMENE still has a fair bit to prove after his defeat the last day and he could do with some rain too. EDITEUR DU GITE continues to improve rapidly for Gary Moore with a brave defeat of EDWARDSTONE back in January. That was a gutsy performance, and it would be no surprise to see the pair fight out the finish again.

STAT ATTACK

Winner's Age	7	8	7	10	10	8	9	9	7	8
Winner's SP	1/4f	11/4f	9/2	5/1	11/1	EVsf	4/11f	6/1	17/2	5/2
Fate of Fav.	1 ST	1 ST	PU	2 ND	7 TH	1 ST	1 ST	4 TH	3 RD	PU
Winning Dist.	19	6	1¼	3½	HEAD	7	1¾	9½	½	8½
Previous Run	1 ST	1 ST	1 ST	1 ST	5 TH	1 ST	1 ST	5 TH	3 RD	2ND

WED 15 MARCH

KEY TRENDS

REMAINDER OF
DAY TWO

1:30

BALLYMORE NOVICES' HURDLE

- ★ Nine of the last 12 winners had won a Graded race before
- ★ Irish horses have won eight of the last 10 renewals

2:50

CORAL CUP HANDICAP HURDLE

- ★ Nine of the last 12 winners were rated 140 or higher
- ★ Eight winners in the last 12 years have returned at an SP of 16/1 or more

4:10

GLENFARCLAS CROSS COUNTRY CHASE

- ★ 11 of the last 12 winners were aged eight or older
- ★ 10 of the last 12 runners had run at least once at a trip of 3m6f or further

4:50

JOHNNY HENDERSON GRAND ANNUAL HANDICAP CHASE

- ★ None of the last 29 winners carried top-weight
- ★ Only five of the last 12 winners had been placed on their previous run

5:30

WEATHERBYS CHAMPION BUMPER

- ★ Irish-trained horses have won nine of the last 12 renewals
- ★ 11 of the last 12 winners had a run in at least two bumpers previously



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EXCLUSIVE CONTENT

BY SCANNING THE QR CODE!



RYANAIR CHASE

THURSDAY 16TH MARCH

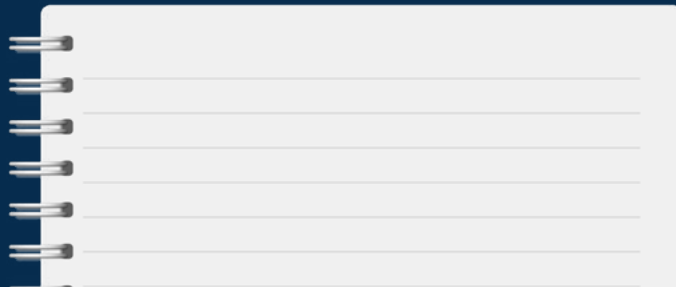
TIME DISTANCE
2:50PM 2M 4 1/2F



ALLAHO WON LAST YEAR'S RENEWAL FOR THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE TIME

KEY TRENDS

- ★ All but one of the last 10 winners finished first or second on their previous run
- ★ Willie Mullins is the race's leading trainer with five wins, including all of the last three renewals
- ★ Nine of the last 10 favourites have finished inside the top three



STAT ATTACK

Winner's Age	7	8	7	7	9	7	7	9	7	8
Winner's SP	9/2	11/4f	16/1	EVSf	7/4f	8/1	9/2	2/1	3/1f	4/7f
Fate of Fav.	2 ND	1 ST	3 RD	1 ST	1 ST	2 ND	8 TH	3 RD	1 ST	1 ST
Winning Dist.	9	19	5	6	1½	4½	1¼	NECK	12	14
Previous Run	1 ST	2 ND	UR	2 ND	1 ST	2 ND	1 ST	2 ND	1 ST	1 ST

DAVY RUSSELL'S VERDICT



After the news came out that there is no Allaho to defend his crown, along came SHISHKIN with a great run in Ascot over this trip. Nicky Henderson had said all the way along that this fella needed further and that definitely looks the case. He'll take some beating if reappearing in the same form. I'd say it looks the most likely destination for FURY ROAD who gets stretched by the Gold Cup trip and could do with this being a few furlongs further!

PADDY POWER STAYERS' HURDLE

THURSDAY 16TH MARCH

TIME
3:30PM

DISTANCE
3M



FLOORING PORTER LED FROM PILLAR TO POST IN 2022

KEY TRENDS

- ★ Five of the last 10 winners had won their previous race
- ★ Seven-year-olds have won five of the last six renewals
- ★ The favourite has only obliged twice in the last 10 renewals



DAVY RUSSELL'S VERDICT



The Stayers' Hurdle looks some race this season with at least six in with a massive chance. Our lad TEAHUPOO was grand in a slowly run race the last day and proves he stays now. He'd love a bit of dig in the ground and deserves to line up. BLAZING KHAL was good after a long absence, while HOME BY THE LEE has turned over a new leaf this season. The French horse GOLD TWEET was mighty impressive in January and looks the surprise package.

STAT ATTACK

Winner's Age	9	6	6	8	7	7	7	7	6	7
Winner's SP	17/2	15/2	14/1	EVSf	10/1	12/1	11/8f	50/1	12/1	4/1
Fate of Fav.	PU	2 ND	2 ND	1 ST	3 RD	5 TH	1 ST	7 TH	3 RD	5 TH
Winning Dist.	2½	1½	3¼	7	¾	2	2¾	2	2¼	2¾
Previous Run	1 ST	1 ST	4 TH	1 ST	FELL	2 ND	1 ST	3 RD	1 ST	2 ND

THU 16 MARCH

KEY TRENDS

REMAINDER OF
DAY THREE

1:30

TURNERS NOVICES' CHASE

- ★ Willie Mullins is the race's leading trainer with four wins, though he hasn't won it since 2017
- ★ Seven-year-olds have won eight of the 12 editions of the race

2:10

PERTEMPS NETWORK FINAL

- ★ Gordon Elliott has won three of the last five renewals
- ★ Davy Russell is tied with Barry Geraghty and Jim Wilson for the most wins in the race (3)

4:10

THE CRAFT IRISH WHISKEY CO. PLATE

- ★ Since 2000, only five winners have carried over 11st, including last year
- ★ Coole Cody is the only horse older than nine to have won this in the last 10 years

4:50

RYANAIR MARES' NOVICES' HURDLE

- ★ Willie Mullins has won five of the seven runnings of the race
- ★ Love Envoi in 2022 was the first British-trained winner

5:30

FULKE WALWYN KIM MUIR CHALLENGE CUP

- ★ Jamie Codd is the leading rider in the race with four wins, but his last success came back in 2016
- ★ Only one of the previous 10 winners carried below 11st

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JCB TRIUMPH HURDLE

FRIDAY 17TH MARCH

TIME
1:30PM

DISTANCE
2M 1F



VAUBAN WAS AN IMPRESSIVE WINNER OF THE TRIUMPH HURDLE IN 2022

KEY TRENDS

- ★ Irish-trained horses have won seven of the last 10 renewals
- ★ Nicky Henderson has trained a record seven winners of the race
- ★ Nine of the last 14 winners were unbeaten over hurdles



STAT ATTACK

Winner's Age

CONTEST RESTRICTED TO FOUR-YEAR-OLDS

Winner's SP	4/1	10/1	2/1f	9/2f	7/4f	5/2f	9/1	12/1	2/1	6/4f
Fate of Fav.	6 TH	4 TH	1 ST	1 ST	1 ST	4 TH	PU	UR	4 TH	1 ST
Winning Dist.	15	3½	NK	1¼	5	1¾	3	2¾	3¼	3½
Previous Run	1 ST	2 ND	1 ST	4 TH	1 ST	2 ND	1 ST	1 ST	1 ST	1 ST

DAVY RUSSELL'S VERDICT



You won't see an unluckier loser than LOSSIEMOUTH in Leopardstown the last day. Her stablemate fell in her lap and Paul Townend had no chance to make up the lost ground on GALA MARCEAU. The two fillies look the ones to concentrate on again with their handy weight allowance. They both seem to be improving with every run and set the bar very high. I'd expect them to fight it out again, with BLOOD DESTINY and COMFORT ZONE there to pick up any pieces.

BOODLES CHELTENHAM GOLD CUP

FRIDAY 17TH MARCH

TIME 3:30PM DISTANCE 3M 2 1/2F



RACHAEL BLACKMORE KISSES THE GOLD CUP TROPHY AFTER A PLUS TARD'S WIN IN 2022

KEY TRENDS

- ★ 11 of the last 12 winners were aged seven to nine
- ★ All of the victors since 2011 had run at Cheltenham previously
- ★ Only one British trainer has won it since 2016



DAVY RUSSELL'S VERDICT



There is no getting away from the fact that GALOPIN DES CHAMPS is a classy chaser and got the job done nicely in the Irish Gold Cup. This represents a different test, though, with a greater emphasis on stamina. Listen, he may have the class to be able to coast through and win without coming off the bridle, but that's a big ask. STATTLER may not have his class, but we know he stays, as does last year's Grand National winner NOBLE YEATS.

STAT ATTACK

Winner's Age	8	8	8	9	7	8	7	8	8	8
Winner's SP	11/4f	20/1	7/1	9/4f	7/1	5/1	12/1	100/30f	9/1	3/1f
Fate of Fav.	1 ST	5 TH	7 TH	1 ST	4 TH	2 ND	8 TH	1 ST	3 RD	1 ST
Winning Dist.	7	HEAD	1½	4½	2¾	4½	2½	NECK	1¼	15
Previous Run	1 ST	6 TH	1 ST	1 ST	1 ST	1 ST	1 ST	1 ST	4 TH	2 ND

FRI 17 MARCH

KEY TRENDS

REMAINDER OF
DAY FOUR

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2:10

McCOY CONTRACTORS COUNTY HANDICAP HURDLE

- ★ There have only been three winning favourites since 2017
- ★ Only one winner since 2011 wasn't rated 134 or higher

2:50

ALBERT BARTLETT NOVICES' HURDLE

- ★ Favourites haven't won this race since 2013
- ★ The average SP of the last nine winners is nearly 22/1

4:10

ST JAMES'S PLACE FESTIVAL CHALLENGE CUP OPEN HUNTERS' CHASE

- ★ The last eight winners have been aged 10 or 11
- ★ Paul Nicholls and Enda Bolger are the only trainers to have had more than one winner in the last decade

4:50

MRS PADDY POWER MARES' STEEPLE CHASE

- ★ Willie Mullins has won both renewals of this race
- ★ Favourites are yet to taste defeat so far

5:30

MARTIN PIPE CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP HURDLE

- ★ Favourites haven't won this race since 2011
- ★ All of the last eight winners had run in less than four handicap hurdles

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