

DAVY RUSSELL & HARRY SKELTON'S

CHELTENHAM GUIDE

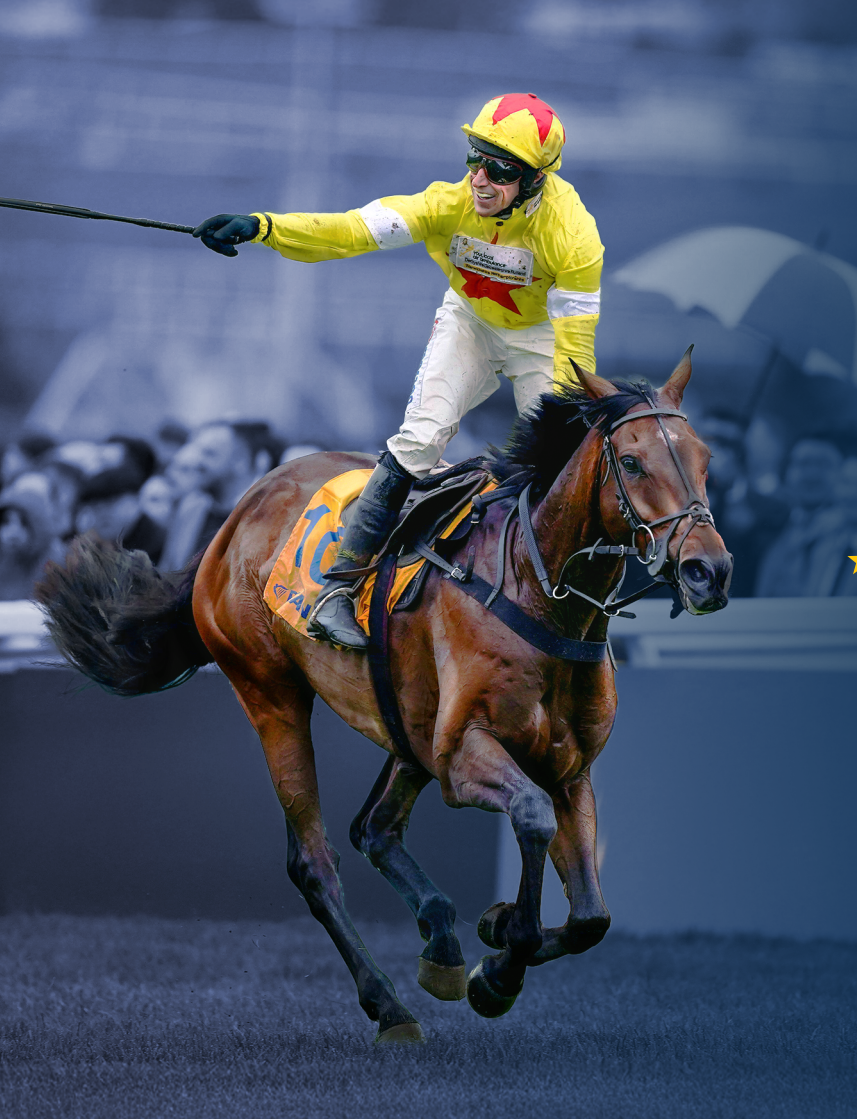
2025



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THE SCHEDULE

TUE 11TH

1:20PM

Sky Bet Supreme Novices' Hurdle
2m

2:00PM

My Pension Expert Arkle
Novices' Chase
2m

2:40PM

Ultima Handicap Chase
3m 1f

3:20PM

Close Brothers Mares' Hurdle
2m 4f

4:00PM

Unibet Champion Hurdle
2m

4:40PM

Fred Winter Juvenile
Handicap Hurdle
2m

5:20PM

National Hunt Novices' Chase
3m 6f

WED 12TH

1:20PM

Turners Novices' Hurdle
2m 5f

2:00PM

Brown Advisory Novices' Chase
3m

2:40PM

Coral Cup Handicap Hurdle
2m 5f

3:20PM

Glenfarclas Cross Country Chase
3m 5½f

4:00PM

BetMGM Queen Mother
Champion Chase
2m

4:40PM

Johnny Henderson Grand Annual
Handicap Chase
2m

5:20PM

Weatherbys Champion Bumper
2m

THU 13TH

1:20PM

Ryanair Mares' Novices' Hurdle
2m 1f

2:00PM

Jack Richards Novices' Limited
Handicap Chase
2m 4f

2:40PM

Pertemps Network Final
Handicap Hurdle
3m

3:20PM

Ryanair Chase
2m 4f

4:00PM

Paddy Power Stayers' Hurdle
3m

4:40PM

TrustATrader Plate
Handicap Chase
2m 4f

5:20PM

Fulke Walwyn Kim Muir Challenge
Cup Handicap Chase
3m 2f

FRI 14TH

1:20PM

JCB Triumph Hurdle
2m

2:00PM

William Hill County
Handicap Hurdle
2m

2:40PM

Mrs Paddy Power Mares' Chase
2m 4f

3:20PM

Albert Bartlett Novices' Hurdle
3m

4:00PM

Boodles Cheltenham Gold Cup
3m 2f

4:40PM

St. James's Place Festival
Hunters' Chase
3m 2f

5:20PM

Martin Pipe Conditional Jockeys'
Handicap Hurdle
2m 4f



Slade Steel gave Henry de Bromhead and Rachael Blackmore a first win in the Supreme last year

SKY BET SUPREME NOVICES' HURDLE

TUE 11 MAR - 1:20PM DISTANCE: 2M



STAT ATTACK

Winner's Age	5	6	6	6	5	6	7	5	6	6
Winner's SP	2/1F	4/1	25/1	9/1	6/1	6/1	8/11F	9/4F	9/2	7/2
Fate of Fav.	1ST	2ND	2ND & 4TH	11TH	4TH & 10TH	4TH	1ST	1ST & FELL	2ND	8TH
Winning Dist.	4 1/2	7	2 1/4	NECK	4 1/2	HEAD	24	22	3 1/4	11/2
Previous Run	1ST	1ST	6TH	1ST	1ST	1ST	1ST	1ST	1ST	1ST



KEY TRENDS

- ★ 10 of the last 12 winners won their last run before the Supreme
- ★ 11 of the last 12 winners were aged five or six
- ★ 11 of the last 12 winners were in the top three in the betting

★ NOTES



DAVY'S VERDICT



It was hard not to be impressed by **KOPEK DES BORDES** in Leopardstown. He reminds me a little of Envoi Allen when he won his novice hurdle at the Festival – the hardest task was getting him to the tape with the lid still intact. I'd say that's Paul's [Townend] biggest challenge and, if he can do that, he can still do plenty wrong during the race and win. **ROMEO COOLIO** looks his biggest threat as he's a lot more experienced and, the faster they go, the better. **WORKAHEAD** looked great in Leopardstown at Christmas but hasn't been seen since. He slips in here a little under the radar.

HARRY'S VERDICT



Britain might not even be represented in the opener, which is a shame, but I think this could be one way traffic with Willie Mullins' **KOPEK DES BORDES**. He beat a good stablemate of his at the DRF at Leopardstown, winning very easily. He looks like a top prospect, and I think he should be able to get favourite backers off to a flyer in the Supreme. **ROMEO COOLIO** has more experience and looks to be the main threat but, on the basis of last time, he will need to take a step forward if he's to beat the favourite.



Gaelic Warrior produced a career best performance to impressively win last year's Arkle

MY PENSION EXPERT ARKLE NOVICES' CHASE

TUE 11 MAR - 2:00PM DISTANCE: 2M



STAT ATTACK

Winner's Age	7	6	7	6	6	6	7	8	6	6
Winner's SP	4/6F	1/4F	1/4F	5/6F	5/1	16/1	4/9F	5/2F	11/10F	2/1F
Fate of Fav.	1ST	1ST	1ST	1ST	7TH	6TH	1ST	1ST	1ST	1ST
Winning Dist.	6	7	6	14	13	11/2	12	4 1/4	5 1/2	8 1/2
Previous Run	1ST	1ST	1ST	1ST	1ST	1ST	1ST	1ST	1ST	UR



KEY TRENDS

- ★ Nine of the last 12 winners were trained by Willie Mullins or Nicky Henderson
- ★ Nine of the last 12 winners were favourites
- ★ 10 of the last 12 winners had at least one previous run at Cheltenham

★ NOTES



DAVY'S VERDICT



The thing I liked most about **MAJBOROUGH** in Dublin was that, despite a few novicey jumps, his last three were his best three. He would have learnt plenty and will be a tough one to beat. He won the Triumph Hurdle here 12 months ago so also has that all important Cheltenham Festival experience. Gordon [Elliott] will likely saddle **TOUCH ME NOT** who has a mountain to climb to reverse DRF form with Majborough. I'd be surprised if **L'EAU DU SUD** has the class to beat Majborough as well but will keep him honest. This represents a big drop in trip for **JANGO BAIE** but you have to respect Nicky Henderson.

HARRY'S VERDICT



We're represented by **L'EAU DU SUD**, who we've been very happy with this season. He's got a lot of experience under his belt winning all four of his chase starts, and has won over course and distance, so we hope that will stand him in good stead. **MAJBOROUGH** is going to be a big danger and he has done nothing wrong in his two chase starts, including when winning in Grade One company at Leopardstown last time. However, I think the experience our horse has can hopefully give him the edge and can help us land the Arkle for the first time.



State Man gave Willie Mullins a fifth Champion Hurdle when winning last year

UNIBET CHAMPION HURDLE

TUE 11 MAR - 4:00PM DISTANCE: 2M



STAT ATTACK

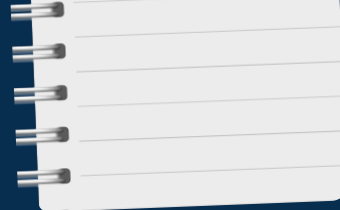
Winner's Age	7	8	6	7	5	6	7	8	6	7
Winner's SP	4/5F	5/2F	5/1	4/6F	16/1	2/1F	11/10F	8/11F	4/11F	2/5F
Fate of Fav.	1ST	1ST	DQ	1ST	6TH	1ST	1ST	1ST	1ST	1ST
Winning Dist.	1 1/2	4 1/2	4 1/2	NECK	15	3	6 1/2	3 1/2	9	11/4
Previous Run	4TH	1ST	1ST	1ST	1ST	1ST	1ST	1ST	1ST	1ST



KEY TRENDS

- ★ Four of the last 10 renewals have been won by mares
- ★ 11 of the last 12 winners were aged six or seven
- ★ 11 of the last 12 winners had previously won a Grade One

★ NOTES



DAVY'S VERDICT



Plenty depends on which, if either, of the talented Irish mares line-up to take on **CONSTITUTION HILL**. It will be fascinating to see **BRIGHTERDAYSAHEAD** take him on if that's the route they go with her. She has been so impressive this season, but the fact remains she has to beat an unbeaten former Champion Hurdler. There is no doubting her huge talent and ability, but she will have to take another huge step forward to beat this lad. **LOSSIEMOUTH** shouldn't be discounted either if over her Dublin fall. Reigning champion **STATE MAN** hasn't looked himself this season so far, so will need the return to Cheltenham to spark him back to life.

HARRY'S VERDICT



The Champion Hurdle is always a strong race, and I think with the three at the top of the betting this year it's a really interesting contest. **BRIGHTERDAYSAHEAD** gets the seven-pound mares' allowance, but I honestly think she's going to need all that and more to win. She is likely to go off at a strong gallop as she did when winning at Leopardstown and I can see that suiting **CONSTITUTION HILL**, who I think is superior on form to the others. **STATE MAN** won this last year but hasn't looked in the same form this season and this is a stronger race than 12 months ago.

TUE 11 MAR

KEY TRENDS

REMAINDER
OF DAY ONE

2:40PM

Ultima Handicap Chase

- ★ There have been no Irish-trained winners since 2006
- ★ All of the last 12 winners had at least one previous run at Cheltenham

3:20PM

Close Brothers Mares' Hurdle

- ★ There have been only three British-trained winners since the race's inception
- ★ Willie Mullins has won 10 of the 16 race renewals

4:40PM

Fred Winter Juvenile Handicap Hurdle

- ★ Only one top-weight has won the race
- ★ Seven of the last 12 winners have returned at odds of 25/1 or bigger

5:20PM

National Hunt Novices' Chase*

- ★ Only one favourite has won in the last 10 years
- ★ Nine of the last 12 winners had three or more runs over three miles or further

*Stats taken from before race became a handicap this season



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Fact To File was an impressive winner of last year's Brown Advisory under Mark Walsh

BROWN ADVISORY NOVICES' CHASE

WED 12 MAR - 2:00PM DISTANCE: 3M



STAT ATTACK

Winner's Age	6	7	8	7	7	8	7	7	7	7
Winner's SP	13/8F	8/1	7/2F	5/2F	4/1	4/1	1/4F	9/4F	8/1	8/13F
Fate of Fav.	1ST	3RD	1ST	1ST	3RD	3RD	1ST	1ST	2ND	1ST
Winning Dist.	6	1/2	NOSE	7	1/2	1	6 1/2	3 1/2	SH	3 3/4
Previous Run	1ST	1ST	1ST	2ND	2ND	FELL	1ST	1ST	1ST	1ST



KEY TRENDS

- ★ Six favourites have won in the past 12 years
- ★ Nine of the last 12 winners were rated 153 or higher
- ★ 10 of the last 12 winners had at least three prior chase starts

★ NOTES



DAVY'S VERDICT



After disappointing a little at Christmas, **BALLYBURN** bounced back with a tough win stepped up in trip at the DRF. Plenty will depend on whether he can be settled and then see out this extended three miles. I'd say if he behaves himself, he will be very tough to beat here. Stablemate **DANCING CITY** will relish any rain that falls and hasn't done much wrong since last year's Albert Bartlett. Gordon [Elliott] is likely to saddle a few against the Mullins team though with **BETTER DAYS AHEAD** looking a rock-solid alternative. He is another with Festival experience and he is not far off these.

HARRY'S VERDICT



Judging by the market it looks like this is **BALLYBURN**'s race to lose, but for me the jumping test around Cheltenham is going to be the biggest that he has faced. His stablemate **DANCING CITY** looks to hold a good chance too, but there are others that could surprise on the day. Although he was beaten narrowly by **BETTER DAYS AHEAD** last time out at Navan, **STELLAR STORY** was staying on really strongly at the line and should be suited to this test of stamina. Soft ground looks to bring out the best in him and I think if there's rain around, he's who I would side with.



Captain Guinness was a surprise winner of the 2024 Champion Chase

BETMGM QUEEN MOTHER CHAMPION CHASE

WED 12 MAR - 4:00PM DISTANCE: 2M



STAT ATTACK

Winner's Age	7	10	10	8	9	9	7	8	9	9
Winner's SP	9/2	5/1	11/1	EVSF	4/11F	6/1	17/2	5/2	6/5F	17/2
Fate of Fav.	PU	2ND	7TH	1ST	1ST	4TH	3RD	PU	1ST	PU
Winning Dist.	11/4	3 1/2	HEAD	7	13/4	9 1/2	1/2	8 1/2	10	11/2
Previous Run	1ST	1ST	5TH	1ST	1ST	5TH	3RD	2ND	3RD	3RD



KEY TRENDS

- ★ Five of the last eight winners were ridden by Nico de Boinville or Paul Townend
- ★ Seven of the last 12 winners ran in the Clarence House Chase last time
- ★ 11 of the last 12 winners were in the top three in the betting

★ NOTES



DAVY'S VERDICT



The stage is set for **JONBON** to be crowned Champion Chaser. He's not put a foot wrong in three starts this season and, having missed last year's race, deserves this. I suppose if there was a small worry it would be that all three career defeats have come here, but he seems the finished article now. He doesn't seem to get upset in the preliminaries like he used to. **ENERGUMENE** would keep him honest if the heavens opened, while **MARINE NATIONALE** is slowly finding his form. **SOLNESS** is likely to blaze off in front, but those are hard tactics to carry off around this course.

HARRY'S VERDICT



I think we could see the banker of the meeting in the Champion Chase with **JONBON** set to take all the beating. He missed this race last season but has looked rock-solid in winning his three starts this campaign, including beating **ENERGUMENE** with ease at Ascot last time. It's pretty hard to fault Nicky Henderson's charge and a good, solid round of jumping should see him hard to beat here. If he runs, I do think **IL EST FRANCAIS** has a chance, as they usually go a hell of a gallop in this and he could make things interesting, but whether he can get up the hill after that is another question.

WED 12 MAR

KEY TRENDS

REMAINDER
OF DAY TWO

1:20PM

Turners Novices' Hurdle

- ★ Willie Mullins is the race's leading trainer with seven wins and has won the last three
- ★ 12 out of 12 winners were rated 146 or higher

2:40PM

Coral Cup Handicap Hurdle

- ★ Nine of the last 12 winners had at least three wins over hurdles
- ★ 10 of the last 12 winners were rated 140 or higher

3:20PM

Glenfarclas Cross Country Chase*

- ★ Nine of the last 12 winners had run over Cheltenham's Cross Country Course previously
- ★ 10 of the last 12 winners were in the top three in the betting

*Stats taken from before race became a handicap this season

4:40PM

Johnny Henderson Grand Annual Handicap Chase

- ★ Eight of the last 12 winners carried 11 stone or more
- ★ Nine of the last 12 winners were priced 10/1 or bigger

5:20PM

Weatherbys Champion Bumper

- ★ Willie Mullins has won this a record 13 times and in five of the last seven years
- ★ Ballyandy was the last British-trained winner in 2016

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Star Sports ambassador Harry Skelton won the 2024 Ryanair on Protektorat

RYANAIR CHASE

THU 13 MAR - 3:20PM DISTANCE: 2M 4F



STAT ATTACK

Winner's Age	7	7	9	7	7	9	7	8	9	9
Winner's SP	16/1	EVSF	7/4F	8/1	9/2	2/1	3/1F	4/7F	13/2	17/2
Fate of Fav.	3RD	1ST	1ST	2ND	8TH	3RD	1ST	1ST	2ND	2ND
Winning Dist.	5	6	1 1/2	4 1/2	1 1/4	NECK	12	14	2 3/4	4
Previous Run	UR	2ND	1ST	2ND	1ST	2ND	1ST	1ST	7TH	3RD



KEY TRENDS

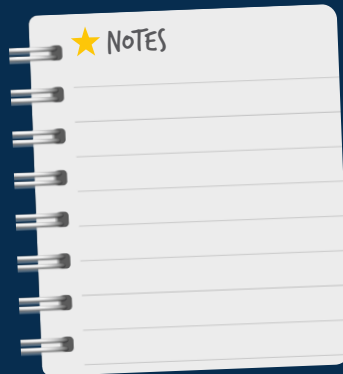
- ★ Nine of the last 12 winners had already won a Grade One race
- ★ 11 of the last 12 winners had a chase rating of 162 or higher
- ★ The last 12 winners were aged between seven and nine

DAVY'S VERDICT



There are plenty of moving parts here with **FACT TO FILE** likely to line-up in this rather than in the Gold Cup. He was a winner at the meeting 12 months ago and will be tough to beat here with the drop in trip no bother. There is another huge bonus in that there is no Galopin Des Champs who he has chased home twice this season already. He sets the standard with last year's winner **PROTEKTORAT** looking an obvious danger. He was great in Windsor the last day and should go well. At bigger odds look out for **JUNGLE BOOGIE** who went well for a long way in the Gold Cup last season.

★ NOTES



HARRY'S VERDICT



FACT TO FILE drops back in trip here and he is obviously an improving horse, after just failing to match Galopin Des Champs in his last two starts. He will be a big challenger to **PROTEKTORAT** but I think this track and trip brings out the best in our horse. He was brilliant when winning this last year and to me he feels like he's in just as good form, after a nice win last time at Windsor. He's battle hardened, has been there before and done it, and I don't see any reason why he can't put up a good fight to retain his crown.



Teahupoo proved too strong in last year's Stayers Hurdle

PADDY POWER STAYERS' HURDLE

THU 13 MAR - 4:00PM DISTANCE: 3M



STAT ATTACK

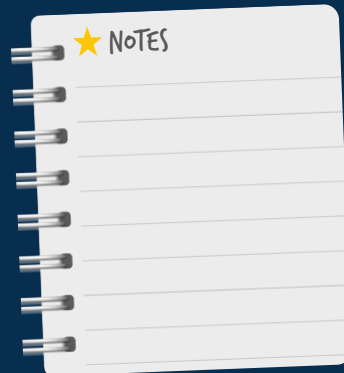
Winner's Age	6	8	7	7	7	7	6	7	11	7
Winner's SP	14/1	EVSF	10/1	12/1	11/8F	50/1	12/1	4/1	33/1	5/4F
Fate of Fav.	2ND	1ST	3RD	5TH	1ST	7TH	3RD	5TH	3RD	1ST
Winning Dist.	3 1/4	7	3/4	2	2 3/4	2	3 1/4	2 3/4	3/4	3 3/4
Previous Run	4TH	1ST	FELL	2ND	1ST	3RD	1ST	2ND	4TH	1ST



KEY TRENDS

- ★ Six of the last 12 winners had won at Cheltenham before
- ★ Nine of the last 12 winners had a previous Grade One win
- ★ 10 of the last 12 winners were aged between six and eight

★ NOTES



DAVY'S VERDICT



It worked last season, so there is every chance it could work again. That's **TEAHUPOO** going straight from the Hatton's Grace in December to Cheltenham on the back of a big break. The horse thrives on being fresh and that's the way to train him. It's hard to argue with and he sets the bar pretty high. **HOME BY THE LEE** has looked better than ever this season but has had plenty of goes at this. I was so impressed by **ROCKY'S DIAMOND** the last day that I could see him playing a hand in this. Then there's **LANGER DAN** who just seems to come alive around this place.

HARRY'S VERDICT



TEAHUPOO is going back to defend his title in the Stayers' Hurdle. I think he looks to have a rock-solid chance as this track really suits him well and he stays strongly. He deserves to be favourite, having beaten **HOME BY THE LEE** in this last year. That rival has been good in two starts this season but has fallen short in this race a few times before. **LUCKY PLACE** looks to be improving after a tough win last time, but he needs to take another step forward over this new trip if he's to match what the favourite can achieve.

THU 13 MAR

KEY TRENDS

REMAINDER
OF DAY THREE

1:20PM

Ryanair Mares' Novices' Hurdle

- ★ Five of the last nine winners were already Graded winners
- ★ Six of the last nine winners were in the top three in the betting

2:00PM

Jack Richards Novices' Limited Handicap Chase*

- ★ Eight of the last 12 winners had at least one previous win at Cheltenham
- ★ 10 of the last 12 winners had made at least three previous chase starts

*Stats taken from before race became a handicap this season

2:40PM

Pertemps Network Final Handicap Hurdle

- ★ Three of the last 12 winners won on their previous run before the Pertemps Final
- ★ Eight of the last 12 winners carried 11st 4lbs or less

4:40PM

TrustATrader Plate Handicap Chase

- ★ Six of the last 12 winners had previously won at Cheltenham
- ★ 11 of the last 12 winners had a rating of 140 or higher

5:20PM

Fulke Walwyn Kim Muir Challenge Cup Handicap Chase

- ★ Five of the last 12 winners had won at least one race over three miles or further
- ★ 11 of the last 12 winners had at least three runs prior to winning that season

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Last year Majborough gave Willie Mullins a third straight win in the Triumph Hurdle

JCB TRIUMPH HURDLE

FRI 14 MAR - 1:20PM DISTANCE: 2M



STAT ATTACK

Winner's Age

CONTEST RESTRICTED TO FOUR-YEAR-OLDS

Winner's SP

2/1F 9/2F 5/2F 9/1 20/1 12/1 2/1 6/4F 11/8F 6/1

Fate of Fav.

1ST 1ST 1ST 4TH PU UR 4TH 1ST 1ST 5TH

Winning Dist.

NECK 11/4 5 13/4 3 23/4 31/4 21/2 21/4 11/2

Previous Run

1ST 4TH 1ST 2ND 1ST 1ST 1ST 1ST 2ND 3RD



KEY TRENDS

- ★ Seven of the last 12 winners had won their previous start prior to the Triumph Hurdle
- ★ Seven of the last 12 winners had previously won at least one Graded race
- ★ Eight of the last 12 winners ran in the Spring Juvenile Hurdle at Leopardstown

★ NOTES

DAVY'S VERDICT



HELLO NEIGHBOUR proved he was the best of the Irish juveniles when winning in Dublin and keeping his unbeaten record intact. He travelled so well and quickened up nicely when asked. He'd previously been pretty keen on his debut but built on that and is likely to do so again. The issue is whether he is better than a strong home contingent.

EAST INDIA DOCK has bags of experience and has already won twice at the track. He sets a real good standard. Then Nicky Henderson has two likely candidates in both **LULAMBA** and useful flat recruit **PALLADIUM**. It promises to be a fascinating renewal with only slight preference for the Irish raider.

HARRY'S VERDICT



The home runners look stronger than the Irish challengers in this year's Triumph Hurdle.

EAST INDIA DOCK has done nothing wrong to date and has some very good form to his name, including when winning by 10 lengths over this course and distance last time. **LULAMBA** was really impressive when winning at Ascot on his debut for Nicky Henderson. The form of that race looks to be working out well too. He's certainly a classy type and I think he could have a huge amount of improvement still to come after only two career starts. He's the one to beat in my eyes.



Galopin Des Champs became a dual Gold Cup winner last year under Paul Townend

BOODLES CHELTENHAM GOLD CUP

FRI 14 MAR - 4:00PM DISTANCE: 3M 2F



STAT ATTACK

Winner's Age	8	9	7	8	7	8	8	8	7	8
Winner's SP	7/1	9/4F	7/1	5/1	12/1	100/30F	9/1	3/1F	7/5F	10/11F
Fate of Fav.	7TH	1ST	4TH	2ND	8TH	1ST	3RD	1ST	1ST	1ST
Winning Dist.	1 1/2	4 1/2	2 3/4	4 1/2	2 1/2	NECK	1 1/4	15	7	3 1/2
Previous Run	1ST	1ST	1ST	1ST	1ST	1ST	4TH	2ND	1ST	1ST



KEY TRENDS

- ★ Seven of the last 8 winners were Irish-trained
- ★ Eight of the last 12 winners had won on their previous run before the Gold Cup
- ★ 12 of the last 12 winners were aged seven to nine

★ NOTES



DAVY'S VERDICT



It would be a major surprise if **GALOPIN DES CHAMPS** doesn't join the greats in winning a third Cheltenham Gold Cup. He has been at his brilliant best all season and we know how well he handles the test at Cheltenham. The only thing that can stop him would be if the ground dries out too much, but that hasn't seemed to be a problem in recent years. If it were to dry out, then that definitely brings **BANBRIDGE** into the mix who was brilliant in Kempton at Christmas. **MONTY'S STAR** is another who can go well at a big price on the back of a light campaign.

HARRY'S VERDICT



The stage looks set for **GALOPIN DES CHAMPS** to match some of the greats such as Arkle and Best Mate by winning three straight Gold Cups. He arguably looks to be in the best form he's ever been in this year. He always needs his first run of the season, so he lost nothing in defeat there, and he has torn his rivals apart from the back of the final fence on his last two starts. He relaxes, jumps well and stays so strongly, he just looks the ultimate stayer. Anyone at Cheltenham on Friday should be set to witness something very special.

FRI 14 MAR

KEY TRENDS

REMAINDER
OF DAY FOUR

2:00PM

William Hill County Handicap Hurdle

- ★ Nine of the last 12 winners were priced 10/1 or bigger
- ★ Nine of the last 12 winners carried 11st 11lbs or less

2:40PM

Mrs Paddy Power Mares' Chase

- ★ Willie Mullins has won two of the four renewals of the race
- ★ In the four renewals of the race all winners have been Irish-trained

3:20PM

Albert Bartlett Novices' Hurdle

- ★ Six of the last 12 winners had won twice over hurdles prior to the race
- ★ 10 of the last 12 winners were priced at 11/1 or bigger

4:40PM

St. James's Place Festival Hunters' Chase

- ★ Nine of the last 12 winners had won or placed on their last run before the Hunters' Chase
- ★ Nine of the last 12 winners had run at least once at Cheltenham

5:20PM

Martin Pipe Conditional Jockeys' Handicap Hurdle

- ★ None of the last 12 winners were favourite
- ★ 12 of the last 12 winners were rated 135 or higher

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