

AINTREE FESTIVAL - 10 YEAR TRENDS

A brief summary of key trends is detailed below for each race over the three-day meeting - trends alone will not usually find winners but they may help you to draw up a shortlist and then use your own skill and judgement to find that elusive winner! The figure after each race name/detail is the favourites win rate e.g. 5 wins in 10 years = 50%. The main race of the day is also highlighted. The statistics cover races run from 2014-23 (with the 2020 meeting cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions).

Usually the Cheltenham festival results act as a good guide here, but as this year's Cheltenham Festival was on heavy ground will these Aintree races come too soon? Another potential 'banana skin' may be the form of the Nicky Henderson horses with so many missing their Cheltenham targets last month – hopefully after the Thursday races we should know if the yard is back on 'song' again.

THURSDAY

(Gr 1) 'Close Brothers Manifesto' Novices' Chase over 2M 4F (0%); 2/9 Irish trained winners since 2014. Poor race for favourites with three 2nd favourites winning since 2014 with all others 17/2 or shorter. All previous winners (since 2014) last ran 21-68 days earlier with all but four last running at Cheltenham (Arkle Chase/Golden Miller Chase runners have fared the best so far). Those last running in the Golden Miller that won here were 5th 2nd 3rd 5th at Cheltenham. 8/9 winners had completed on their last outing and none had won their last race with 4/9 finishing 2nd LTO.

(Gr 1) 'Boodles Anniversary' Juvenile Hurdle over 2M for 4yo (33%); 3/9 Irish trained winners in the last nine renewals. A last run at Cheltenham is often a common feature with the Triumph Hurdle producing the most past winners – at Cheltenham they had finished 3rd 2nd 1st 1st 9th 3rd. 8/9 past winners were 5th or better on their last run with four the last nine winners also winning on their previous start. Nicky Henderson/Paul Nicholls/Willie Mullins are joint leading trainers on two wins.

(Gr 1) 'William Hill Bowl Chase' over 3M 1F (66%); 1/9 Irish trained winners in the last ten years. Many winners last ran at Cheltenham in the festival often running in the Gold Cup (20/27 days earlier). The Gold Cup runners than won here had finished 4th Fell UR 2nd UR at Cheltenham. Only one winner ran worse than 5th on their last completed outing. Oldest winners seen since 2014 were 10yo with the youngest being 7yo. P Nicholls is now leading trainer with four wins since 2014. 7/9 were either 1st/2nd favourites. *Shishkin* is aiming to be the third dual winner of the race in the last 10 years.

Year	Form	Horse + Days since last run	Age/Weight	Jockey	Odds	Trainer	Field
2014	1F3-314	Silviniaco Conti (20)	8 11 7	N Fehily	9/4	P Nicholls	6
2015	41-5110	Silviniaco Conti (27)	9 11 7	N Fehily	7/4F	P Nicholls	7
2016	2-4111F	Cue Card (20)	10 11 7	P Brennan	6/5F	C Tizzard	9
2017	3-5241U	Tea For Two (20)	8 11 7	Lizzie Kelly	10/1	Nick Williams	7
2018	111-112	Might Bite (27)	9 11 7	N De Boinville	4/5F	N Henderson	8
2019	F11-11U	Kemboy (20)	7 11 7	R Walsh	9/4F	W P Mullins (Ire)	6
2020		NO RACE					
2021	210-232	Clan Des Obeaux (46)	9 11 7	H Cobden	5/2F	P Nicholls	9
2022	3211-23	Clan Des Obeaux (54)	10 11 7	H Cobden	13/2	P Nicholls	9
2023	11P-312	Shishkin (28)	9 11 10	N De Boinville	7/4F	N Henderson	5

(Gr 1) 'William Hill Aintree Hurdle' over 2M 4F (44%); 4/9 Irish trained since 2014. Frequently won by a horse that last ran at the Cheltenham festival - often last running in the Champion Hurdle with the last seven Champion Hurdle winners finishing 3rd 4th 1st 1st Fell 2nd 1st at Cheltenham. Apart from the 2018/19 winners, the remainder finished 5th or better on their last completed run. Oldest winner since 2014 was aged 9 years. Last nine winners all had odds of 15/2 or shorter. N Henderson is leading trainer with four winners since 2017. All winning favourites since 2014 had odds of 4/9 or shorter.

Year	Form	Horse + Days since last run	Age/Weight	Jockey	Odds	Trainer	Field
2014	12-1123	The New One (23)	6 11 7	S T-Davies	4/9f	N T-Davies	7
2015	1-12234	Jezki (30)	7 11 7	A P McCoy	3/1	Mrs J Harrington (Ire)	6
2016	2/1F-111	Annie Power (23)	8 11 0	R Walsh	4/9F	W P Mullins (Ire)	6
2017	31-1111	Buveur D'air (23)	6 11 7	B Geraghty	4/9F	N Henderson	6
2018	212230	L'ami Serge (28)	8 11 7	D Jacob	5/1	N Henderson	9
2019	21-2220	Supasundae (21)	9 11 7	R M Power	15/2	Mrs J Harrington (Ire)	7
2020		NO RACE					
2021	2-2152F	Abracadabras (23)	7 11 7	J Kennedy	5/1	Mrs D Foster	11
2022	233-112	Epatante (23)	8 11 0	A Coleman	2/1	N Henderson	7
2023	111-111	Constitution Hill (30)	6 11 10	N De Boinville	2/15F	N Henderson	6

2M 5.5F 'Randox' Foxhunter Chase (22%); 4/9 Irish trained winners since 2014. 6/9 winners had odds of 11/2 or shorter with the others including 14/1, 16/1 & 66/1 shots. A 1st/2nd place in either of last two completed starts (under NH rules) appears a common theme. Horses that last ran in the Cheltenham equivalent race tend to fare well here – the last Cheltenham race runners finished 1st 1st 7th 3rd 6th at the festival. *Its On The Line* (2nd) & *Time Leader* (3rd) fit the bill this year. Past runners in this race also have a reasonable record with *Bennys King* (2nd) & *Time Leader* (5th) running in the race last year with *Cat Tiger* 2nd in 2022 albeit now with a different trainer.

Close Brothers 'Red Rum Chase' over 2M (0%); 2/9 Irish trained winners in the last 10 years. A last completed run finishing 6th or better was seen in 6/9 winners. All off track at least 14 days since last race. Lighter weighted horses carrying 10st 5lbs to 11st 1lb or less have won 8/9 races. A very competitive race with 8/9 winners having odds of 15/2 to 33/1. 8/9 recent winners were 2nd on at least one of their last three runs. *Dancing On My Own* is seeking back-to-back wins albeit is now 12lbs higher in the ratings - also no dual winners seen since 1986, when my records started.

(Gr 2) 'Goffs UK Nickel Coin' (Mares) NH Flat Race over 2M 1F (22%); 3/9 Irish trained winners since 2014. All past winners finished 5th or better LTO with 4/9 races won by horses that also won LTO. 5yo have won 7/9 races. 5/9 winners were sent off at odds of 8/1 or shorter.

FRIDAY

(Gr 1) 'Mildmay Novices' Chase' over 3M 1F (55%); 1/9 Irish trained winners in the race since 2014. Status changed to Gr 1 in 2016. All nine winners had finished 1st/2nd LTO. All also last raced within the last 30 days with 9/9 appearing at the Cheltenham Festival. N Henderson is the leading trainer on 3 wins since 2017.

'William Hill' Handicap Hurdle over 2M 4F (5%); 3/9 Irish trained winners – all since 2019. A very difficult race to fathom out with 7/9 winners having odds of 8/1 or greater – including winners at 20/1, 22/1 & 33/1. 7/9 past winners carried a weight of 10st 8lbs or more. 7/9 winners finished 1st/2nd or 3rd on at least one of their last two *completed* runs.

(Gr 1) 'Top Novices' Hurdle over 2M (33%); 3/9 Irish trained winners – all since 2019. Status changed to Gr 1 in 2016. A 1st/2nd place in either of last two completed races was seen for 8/9 winners. All rested at least 17 days since last run. 6/9 winners last ran at Cheltenham, 24/31 days earlier, in the Supreme Novices Hurdle (where they finished 2nd 3rd 10th 5th 2nd 4th) with another winner coming here after winning the County Hurdle at Cheltenham. Nicky Henderson has trained three of the last nine winners – all starting as 1st/2nd favourites. All of the stable's past winners last ran in the Supreme Novices' Hurdle. 6yo horses have won 7/9 recent renewals.

(Gr 1) ' Melling Chase' over 2M 4F (38%); 5/9 recent winners were trained in Ireland. *Pic D'orhy* is trying to complete a repeat win this year – and has had a similar build up to this year's race having last run 55 days earlier in the Gr 1 Ascot Chase. 8/9 winners were placed 5th or better in last race with only two having odds higher than 5/1. 7/9 recent winners last ran at the Cheltenham Festival with four running in the QM Chase (finished 4th 2nd 4th 5th there) and three in the Ryanair Chase (finished 6th 3rd 2nd there). Both of the last two winners had by-passed Cheltenham , running in the Gr 1 Ascot Chase LTO.

Year	Form	Horse + Days since last run	Age/Weight	Jockey	Odds	Trainer	Field
2014	1FF-166	Boston Bob (22)	9 11 10	P Townend	5/1	W P Mullins (Ire)	10
2015	411113	Don Cossack (29)	8 11 10	A P McCoy	3/1JF	G Elliott (Ire)	10
2016	22F-324	Gods Own (23)	8 11 10	P Brennan	10/1	T George	6
2017	31-1122	Fox Norton (23)	7 11 7	R M Power	4/1	C Tizzard	9
2018	F-11124	Politologue (30)	7 11 7	S T-Davies	11/1	P Nicholls	6
2019	224-115	Min (23)	8 11 7	R Walsh	2/1F	W P Mullins (Ire)	6
2020		NO RACE					
2021	22-2P22	Fakir D'oudairies (22)	6 11 7	M Walsh	2/1F	J P O'Brien (Ire)	7
2022	13-1421	Fakir D'oudairies (48)	7 11 7	M Walsh	10/11F	J P O'Brien (Ire)	10
2023	1P-1112	Pic d'Orhy (55)	8 11 10	H Cobden	4/1	P Nicholls	7

Radox 'Topham' H/Cap Chase over 2M 6F (0%); 2/9 recent winners were trained in Ireland by W P Mullins. All nine past winners last ran within 41 days – including five horses that ran at the Cheltenham Festival (one finished 2nd and the rest were 8th or worse) although the last four winners had by-passed the festival meeting (all of these were 3rd or better LTO). 7/9 winners also carried 11st 2lbs or less. 5/9 winners seen with odds below 10-1 thus often best looking for some value in this 26-30 runner field (other winner's odds were 14/1, 20/1, 22/1 & 50/1). The first three home last year again hold entries. 2023 winner *Bill Baxter* is up 1lb, runner up *Fantastic Lady* is up 3lbs whilst 3rd horse *Killer Kane* is down 4lbs albeit is 1lb out of the handicap. From the 2022 race, *Francky Du Berlais* (4th) is 1lb lower this time. The key Cheltenham race impacting here is the 'Plate' with winner *Shakem Up'arry* (now +6lbs), 4th placed *Life In The Park* (+1lb), 7th placed *James Du Berlais* (-1lb) & 11th placed *Embittered* (-3lbs).

(Gr 1) 'Sefton Novices' Hurdle' over 3M 1F (22%); The last nine winners have finished no worse than 5th on their last completed outing before winning here. 8/9 winners last ran 20-41 days earlier. 3/9 recent winning horses previously ran at Cheltenham. As indicated in the table below 6yo are the preferred age group with 7/9 wins. Two of the last nine winners had odds of 25/1 or greater including Ahoy Senior (66/1). Nicky Henderson is the leading trainer on 3 wins since 2014. No past winners had pulled up LTO (since 1988 when my records began).

Year	Form	Horse + Days since last run	Age/Weight	Jockey	Odds	Trainer	Field
2014	/26-12	Beat That (119)	6 11 4	B Geraghty	6/1	N Henderson	18
2015	1-51015	Thistlecrack (34)	7 11 4	T Scudamore	25/1	C Tizzard	16
2016	-5111	Ballyoptic (20)	6 11 4	R Hatch	9/1	N T-Davies	16
2017	1-3111F	The Worlds End (21)	6 11 4	A P Heskin	3/1	T George	12
2018	1-113	Santini (28)	6 11 4	N De Boinville	6/4F	N Henderson	14
2019	2-11112	Champ (23)	7 11 4	M Walsh	9/4F	N Henderson	12
		NO RACE					
2021	U-121	Ahoy Senior (39)	6 11 4	D R Fox	66/1	Mc L V Russell	12
2022	3-12241	Gelino Bello (35)	6 11 7	H Cobden	7/2	P Nicholls	14
2023	163211	Apple Away (41)	6 11 1	S Mulqueen	16/1	L V Russell	16

2M Handicap Hurdle (Cond/Amat Jockeys) (0%); 8/9 winners last raced 19-35 days earlier. Odds of 10/1+ seen for 7/9 winners including 16/1, 28/1 & 40/1 winners. Of the two winning horses that last ran at the Cheltenham Festival, the County Hurdle runners have won this race once and there was one Fred Winter Hurdle runner who won here. Of those that missed the festival, all had finished 4th or better on their last completed run. 7/9 winners carried a weight of 11st 1lb or greater.

SATURDAY

'William Hill' H/cap Hurdle over 3M 1F (33%); One Irish trained winner since 2014. 8/9 winners carried 10st 12lbs or more. 7/9 winners finished 5th or better in last race with 7/9 winners also having won at least one of their last three *completed* races. Four past winners last ran at the Cheltenham Festival. All nine winners had last run 22-91 days earlier. In the betting all winners had odds of 9/2 to 16/1.

(Gr 1) 'Mersey' Novices' Hurdle over 2M 4F (66%); 4/9 Irish trained winners since 2014. 9/9 winners had finished 1st/2nd/3rd on their last outing with 5-year-olds having best record with 5/9 wins. All winners off track for 21-55 days. Of the five winners which last ran at Cheltenham all had finished 3rd or better LTO. All of the winners that avoided Cheltenham had won their last race. 7/9 winners were 1st/2nd favourites with the others having odds of 20/1 & 5/1.

'William Hill' H/cap Chase over 3m 1f (22%); One Irish trained winner since 2014. 5/9 past winners last ran at Cheltenham, none of which finished better than 2nd there. 6/9 winners were placed 6th or better in last *completed* race. Apart from shock 50/1 & 28/1 winners, all other winners were 12/1 or shorter with no winning 2nd favourites. Last winning conditional jockey was in 2011.

(Gr 1) JRL Group 'Liverpool Hurdle' over 3M 1F (33%); 3/9 Irish trained winners since 2014. 7/9 finished 5th or better (within last 23-112 days) on last outing being well backed at 8/1 or shorter. 7/9 last ran at Cheltenham with three placed 5th or better in the Stayers Hurdle. Veteran *Sire Du Berlais* is seeking a third consecutive win in the race (last achieved by *Big Bucks*).

Year	Form	Horse + Days since last run	Age/Weight	Jockey	Odds	Trainer	Field
2014	1-33121	Whisper (24)	6 11 7	B Geraghty	4/1	N Henderson	7
2015	1211-25	Whisper (30)	7 11 7	N De Boinville	5/1	N Henderson	9
2016	1-21111	Thistlecrack (23)	8 11 7	T Scudamore	2/7F	C Tizzard	6
2017	12-1110	Yanworth (25)	7 11 7	B Geraghty	9/4F	A King	11
2018	460-624	Identity Thief (32)	8 11 7	S W Flanagan	14/1	H De Bromhead (Ire)	10
2019	11-2132	If The Cap Fits (41)	7 11 7	S Bowen	7/1	H Fry	15
2020		NO RACE					
2021	1114-12	Thyme Hill (112)	7 11 7	T O'Brien	5/2F	P Hobbs	15
2022	32-2P40	Sire Du Berlais (23)	10 11 7	M Walsh	16/1	G Elliott (Ire)	8
2023	455P41	Sire Du Berlais (30)	11 11 10	M Walsh	8/1	G Elliott (Ire)	10

4M 2F 'Randox' Grand National (22%); Irish trained runners have taken 5 of last 7 races. No winner since 2014 has carried more than 11st 9lbs. That was a new weight carrying feat by *Many Clouds* in 2015 being the highest weight carried for over 30 years. Lowest weight carried since 2014 was 10st 3lbs (*Auroras Encore & Minella Times*). A last run 23-84 days earlier appears essential. All winners since 2014 had completed their last race finishing 9th or better LTO. The last nine winners had all run at least three times in the current season. 6/9 recent winners last ran at the Cheltenham Festival, one had run in the Pertemps Hurdle final (finishing 3rd) with *Many Clouds* finishing 6th in the Gold Cup whilst the latest dual winner, *Tiger Roll*, had won the cross-country chase on both occasions. *Noble Yeats* was 9th and *Corach Rambler* was 1st in the Ultima Chase. The last 3 winners were all rated 146-147.

Year	Form	Horse + Days since last run	Age/Weight	Jockey	Odds	Trainer	Field
2014	5F2013	Pineau De Re (23)	11 10 6	L Aspell	25/1	Dr R Newland	40
2015	B4-1116	Many Clouds (29)	8 11 9	L Aspell	25/1	O Sherwood	39
2016	532254	Rule The World (34)	9 10 7	D J Mullins	33/1	M F Morris (Ire)	39
2017	243-151	One For Arthur (84)	8 10 11	D Fox	14/1	Ms L V Russell	40
2018	P-22P51	Tiger Roll (31)	8 10 13	D N Russell	10/1	G Elliott (Ire)	38
2019	511-411	Tiger Roll (24)	9 11 5	D N Russell	4/1F	G Elliott (Ire)	40
2020		NO RACE					
2021	120-122	Minella Times (62)	8 10 3	R Blackmore	11-1	H De Bromhead (Ire)	40
2022	460P20	Noble Yeats (25)	7 10 10	S Waley-Cohen	50/1	E Mullins (Ire)	40
2023	4U1-541	Corach Rambler (32)	9 10 5	D Fox	8/1F	Ms L V Russell	39

(Gr 1) 'Maghull Novices' Chase' over 2M (35%); 4/9 Irish trained winners since 2014. A 1st/2nd place in either of last two *completed* runs is a common factor. All winners last raced some 6-42 days earlier. All winners had odds of 5/1 or shorter. Four of the last nine winners last ran in the Arkle Chase at Cheltenham where a 1st place finish was seen for two of them whilst the others were 2nd or fell at Cheltenham.

(Gr 2) 'Weatherbys Champion Bumper' NH Flat Race over 2M 1F (11%); One Irish trained winner since 2014. A 1st/2nd finish in either of last two outings appears essential. 5/9 winners had SP's of 14/1 or greater (including 25/1 28/1 and 33/1) so not the best 'getting out stakes' race to close the final day. 5yo age group is preferred with 8/9 wins. Since 2014 just one winner had last run in the Cheltenham Festival 'bumper' finishing 3rd. Three winners since 2014 last ran at Newbury where they were placed 5th or better.