

# CHELTENHAM – FESTIVAL TRENDS 2024 – FRIDAY

Past race trends can often help punters draw up a short list of horses to follow in the current year's races. The records below cover the last 10 years (2014-23) with the figure in brackets after the race name being the favourite's strike rate in the race. As Irish trained horses are frequently targeted for this meeting the past record of these runners is also highlighted for all races. A full 10-year result table is also included for the feature race of the day.

**(GR 1) 2M 1F JCB TRIUMPH HURDLE (4yo) (50%):** 7/10 winners were trained in Ireland (W P Mullins 3 wins). 6/10 winners had won their prep race with the others finishing 4th or better LTO and no winner had fallen in the current season. All also last ran 18-48 days earlier with four winners since 2016 last running 40/41 days earlier in a Gr 1 race at Leopardstown (finishing 4<sup>th</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup>). 7/10 winners had odds of 9/1 or shorter. 9/10 winners had run 3 times or less in the current season (other had 6+ runs).

**2M 1F 'BET MGM' COUNTY HURDLE (20%):** Another good race for the Irish trainers with 5/10 wins (four from Willie Mullins). The top UK trainer is now Dan Skelton with four wins since 2016. 7yo have a poor record with the last winner in 2003 – all ten winners since 2014 were aged 5, 6 or 8yo. 9/10 winners were 3<sup>rd</sup> or better on their last *completed* run. In the betting 3/10 winners had odds of 8/1 or shorter; 2/10 had odds of 10/1 to 12/1; 5/10 had odds of 20/1 to 33/1.

**(GR 1) 3M 'ALBERT BARTLETT' NOVICES' HURDLE (0%):** 7/10 Irish trained winners, with three from Willie Mullins' yard. 9/10 winners were 3<sup>rd</sup> or better on last outing (including four winners). In the betting 1/10 had odds of 5/1 or shorter; 6/10 had odds of 11/1 to 18/1; 3/10 had odds of 33/1 to 50/1. The preferred age group is 6/7yo with 8/10 wins in total (6yo faring best with 5 wins). 8/10 winners had run at least three times in the current season.

**(GR 1) 3M 2F 'BOODLES' CHELTENHAM GOLD CUP (40%):** 8/10 Irish trained winners since 2014 (three from Willie Mullins). The favourite's record has gradually improved after a number of surprise winners in the late 90's and indeed all but two of the winners in last decade were at odds of 9/1 or shorter. A 1<sup>st</sup> place on their last run was seen with 7/10 past winners. 8yo have fared the best in the last decade with 6/10 wins. All winners were rested at least 33 days before winning here.

Year	Form	Horse + Days since last run	Age/Weight	Jockey	Odds	Trainer	Field
2013	1/1321-1	Bobs Worth (104)	8 11 10	B Geraghty	11/4F	N Henderson	9
2014	231-006	Lord Windermere (33)	8 11 10	D N Russell	20/1	J Cullotty (Ire)	13
2015	113/111	Coneygree (34)	8 11 10	N de Boinville	7/1	M Bradstock	17
2016	1-111F1	Don Cossack (64)	9 11 10	B Cooper	9/4F	G Elliott (Ire)	10
2017	23-3211	Sizing John (33)	7-11-10	R M Power	7/1	Mrs J Harrington (Ire)	13
2018	21113-1	Native River (34)	8 11 10	R Johnson	5/1	C Tizzard	15
2019	F2F1R-1	Al Boum Photo (73)	7 11 10	P Townend	12/1	W Mullins (Ire)	16
2020	1R/11-21	Al Boum Photo (72)	8 11 10	P Townend	10/3F	W Mullins (Ire)	12
2021	12-11F4	Minella Indo (40)	8 11 10	J Kennedy	9/1	H De Bromhead (Ire)	12
2022	3/212-12	A Plus Tard (80)	8 11 10	R Blackmore	3/1F	H De Bromhead (Ire)	11

**3M 2F ST JAMES' PLACE FOXHUNTERS CHASE (30%):** Irish trainers have sent out 5/10 winners since 2014. 9/10 winners had last raced 20-53 days earlier (excluding point to point races). Winner's ages range from 9yrs to 11yrs with 10yo faring best (six wins). In the betting 5/10 winners had odds of 15/2 or shorter with the others easy to back at 16/1 (twice), 25/1 & 66/1 (twice). *Billaway* in 2022 whilst *Premier Magic* won in 2023.

**(GR 2) 'MRS PADDY POWER' MARES CHASE OVER 2M 4F:** New race in 2021 with both winners to date trained by Willie Mullins and starting as 2<sup>nd</sup> favourites. Last year's winner Elimay is very much the stable's 3<sup>rd</sup> string this time.

**2M 4.5F MARTIN PIPE (CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS) H'CAP HURDLE (0%):** 7/10 Irish trained winners with Willie Mullins training three of them. All ten winners finished 6<sup>th</sup> or better on their last race with 8/10 aged 5/6yo (others both 7yo). 9/10 past winners carried a weight of 11<sup>st</sup> 3lbs or more. All ten were rested between 22-77 days before winning here, including three winners which last ran 22 days earlier at Clonmel/Thurles, finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> or better. In the betting just 4/10 had odds of 8/1 or shorter; 5/10 had odds of 11/1 to 16/1 & one odds of 25/1.

And so, we reach the end of another festival – with Aintree/Punchestown providing one last hurrah before most top national hunt horses are put away for the summer and planning for the 2025 festival starts!

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