

## CHELTENHAM – FESTIVAL TRENDS 2024 - TUESDAY

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.

### TUESDAY

**(GR 1) 2M SKY BET 'SUPREME' NOVICES' HURDLE (30%):** Irish trained runners tend to do well and have won 6/10 races with four trained by Willie Mullins. 9/10 winners also won LTO (last time out). 9/10 last ran after being rested for at least 30 days. Preferred age group is 5/6 years old with 9/10 wins although 6yo are slightly preferred. 9/10 winners had odds of 9/1 or shorter.

**(GR 1) 2M MY PENSIONS EXPERT 'ARKLE' CHASE (70%):** Irish trained runners have won 6/10 races including five wins by Willie Mullins. A 1st place LTO was seen in all 10 past winners. Nine of the last ten winners were aged 6/7yo with 6yo faring slightly better. *Western Warhorse* won at 33/1 in 2014 (when fitted with a hood for the first time) and apart from that result nearly all other winners had odds of 5/1 or shorter (*Put The Kettle On* was the other exception when winning in 2020 at odds of 16/1). 6/10 winners had run 3 times in the current season.

**3M 1F 'ULTIMA' H'CAP CHASE (15%):** Irish trained horses have won 0/10 races. 7/10 winners carried 11<sup>st</sup> 6lbs or less. 9/10 winners were aged between 6-9yrs. All ten finished 6th or better on their last completed race. Three winners since 2015 had last run 45 days earlier at Cheltenham, finishing 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> LTO. Despite this being a competitive handicap, 9/10 recent winners had odds of 11/1 or shorter.

**(GR 1) 2M 'UNIBET' CHAMPION HURDLE (70%):** Irish trained horses have a very good record with wins in 6/10 races (Willie Mullins/Henry De Bromhead both winning two times) with N Henderson (four wins since 2017) having the best record of the UK based trainers (all four being 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> favourites). That aside a common thread has been that 9/10 winners also won their last race with the other winner placed 4<sup>th</sup> LTO. Of these, all of the last nine winners were unbeaten in the current season. Last prep race 27-78 days earlier. 9/10 winners had run 2/3 times in the current season. *Annie Power* (2016), *Epatante* (2020) & *Honeysuckle* (2021) were the latest mares to win the race and whilst *Honeysuckle* was the first winner of the Mares Hurdle race here to win a Champion Hurdle as well. In the last decade, when the favourite has not won the odds of the winners were 5/1, 9/1 & 16/1 with second favourites having an awful record in the race.

Year	Form	Horse + Days since last NH run	Age/Weight	Jockey	Odds	Trainer	Field
2014	31-1124	Jezki (44)	6 11 10	B Geraghty	9/1	J Harrington (Ire)	9
2015	1111-11	Faugheen (74)	7 11 10	R Walsh	4/5F	W P Mullins (Ire)	8
2016	12/1F-11	Annie Power (27)	8 11 3	R Walsh	5/2F	W P Mullins (Ire)	12
2017	131-111	Buveur D'Air (38)	6 11 10	N Fehily	5/1	N Henderson	11
2018	111-111	Buveur D'Air (38)	7 11 10	B Geraghty	4/6F	N Henderson	11
2019	114-111	Espoir D'Allen (44)	5 11 10	M Walsh	16/1	G Cromwell (Ire)	10
2020	1/110-11	Epatante (75)	6 11 3	B Geraghty	2/1F	N Henderson	17
2021	1111-11	Honeysuckle (38)	7 11 3	R Blackmore	11/10F	H De Bromhead (Ire)	10
2022	111-111	Honeysuckle (37)	8 11 3	R Blackmore	8/11F	H De Bromhead (Ire)	10
2023	111-11	Constitution Hill (78)	6 11 10	N De Boinville	4/11F	N Henderson	7

**(GR 1) 2M 4F CLOSE BROTHERS (MARES) HURDLE (25%):** 8/10 winners trained in Ireland - including four wins by Willie Mullins, with the last ten winners finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> or better LTO. 7yo have won 6/10 races since 2014. Since the days of six-time winner *Quevega* the favourites record has been patchy with just one sole and one joint favourite winning. 7/10 winners had odds of 6/1 or shorter with others sent off at 10/1, 11/1 & 18/1. *Lossiemouth* is a warm favourite this year, albeit 5yo have only won once since 2010.

**2M 'BOODLES' JUVENILE H'CAP HURDLE FOR 4YO (FRED WINTER) (10%):** Irish trained runners have won 6/10 races with the Gordon Elliott yard sending out three of them. 8/10 winners finished 6<sup>th</sup> or better on last outing. 9/10 had won at least one of their last three races. In the weights 8/10 carried between 11st & 11st 9lbs. In the betting, there are plenty of long priced winners with odds of 18/1, 25/1, 33/1 (thrice) and 80/1 seen since 2014. Leading UK trainer is Paul Nicholls with 2 wins since 2015. Four of the last five winners last ran at Naas 31 days ago, with three winning there and the other was 4<sup>th</sup>.

**(GR 2) 3M 6F NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES' CHASE (10%):** No amateur jockeys allowed to ride in 2021 due to Covid-19 rules. 7/10 winners trained in Ireland, with three each coming from the Gordon Elliott (J J Codd)/Wille Mullins (P W Mullins) yards. Of the last 10 winners, all but two of them had finished 1st/2nd in either of last two completed outings. Apart from one winner that unseated and one that fell LTO, the remainder all finished 5<sup>th</sup> or better in their last race. 7/10 winners had SP's of 8/1 or shorter albeit this trend has been diluted by three winners at 12/1 to 16/1 in the last seven renewals – also the field size is much reduced in recent years.

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