

CHESTER (MAY) 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 meeting did not take place in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Drawfacts data assumes the stalls are split into three sections: Low/Middle/High. For fuller details of the draw effects please use the NMRC's Drawfacts Data website: www.northernracingclub.com

WEDNESDAY

6 Furlong Handicap for 3yo (22%): As with many sprints at the track, a low draw usually helps and since 2014, 6/9 winners have come from stalls 1-5. Most sprinters tend to run best when already in reasonable form thus it's no surprise to see that 8/9 winners were 6th or better on their last run (all but two in current season). In the betting 8/9 winners had odds of 8/1 or shorter.. Drawfacts: Low 66%; Middle 34%.

5 Furlong 'Lily Agnes' Stakes for 2yo (44%); 8/9 winners won a race previously with all nine either 1st/2nd LTO. The draw is usually a big factor with 8/9 winners drawn 5 or lower. All nine winners had odds of 6/1 or shorter. Drawfacts: Low 44%; Middle 44%; High 12%.

5 Furlong Handicap (22%); Race grade changed to Cl 3 in 2023. Interestingly for a sprint race at Chester, stall 1 has not provided the winner since 2009. Good recent form is also a common theme with 8/9 past winners finishing 6th or better on their last run in the current season. In the wights all winners since 2014 carried 9st 7lbs or less. In the betting 8/9 winners had odds of 7/1 or shorter. Drawfacts: Low 33%; Middle 56%; High 11%.

(Listed) Cheshire Oaks over 1m 3f for 3yo Fillies (66%); Apart from 2021 we have to go back to 2002 to find a winner that was making her seasonal re-appearance with 8/9 recent winners all finishing either 1st 2nd or 3rd on their last run in the current season. A P O'Brien is the leading trainer in the race with 5 wins since 2015 (all sent off as favourites and ridden by Ryan Moore). Just one second favourite has won the race in the last 9 years and apart from the 1st/2nd favourites the winners odds were 7/1 & 16/1.. Race Fact: *Enable* won the race in 2017 before winning the Oaks and multiple other Gr 1 races as a 3yo and winning the Arc twice. Drawfacts: Low 33%; Middle 45%; High 22%.

(Gr 3) 'Chester Vase' over 1m 4f for 3yo (55%); Often referred to as a 'Derby Trial' although in truth most winners are likely to fare best at the Curragh in the Irish equivalent rather than at Epsom! *Ruler of the World* was the exception to the rule in 2013 though. AP O'Brien is now the top trainer with 6 wins since 2014 – five of the last six ridden by R L Moore (longest odds were 13/2 when ridden by D O'Brien) with the remainder all 1st/2nd favourites. 7/9 recent winners had also won LTO (all but one in current season) with the other 4th. The last nine winners all had odds of 15/2 or shorter. Drawfacts: Low 44%; Middle 33%; High 33%.

Year	Form	Horse + Days since last run	Age/Weight	Jockey	Odds	Trainer	Draw
2014	21-	Orchestra (259)	9st	R L Moore	3/1F	A P O'Brien (Ire)	2 of 9
2015	4-21	Hans Holbern (22)	9st	R L Moore	7/4F	A P O'Brien (Ire)	5 of 6
2016	-1	U S Army Ranger (32)	9st	R L Moore	4/11F	A P O'Brien (Ire)	3 of 6
2017	2-31	Venice Beach (21)	9st	R L Moore	5/2F	A P O'Brien (Ire)	3 of 8
2018	2-1	Young Rascal (18)	9st	J Doyle	10/3	W Haggas	2 of 10
2019	-1	Sir Dragonet (13)	9st	D O'Brien	13/2	A P O'Brien (Ire)	8 of 8
2020		No Meeting (Covid-19)					
2021	413-4	Youth Spirit (22)	9st	T Marquand	15/2	A Balding	4 of 8
2022	452-1	Changingoftheguard (33)	9st 2lbs	R L Moore	100/30	A P O'Brien (Ire)	2 of 5
2023	3112-	Arrest (200)	9st 2lbsl	L Dettori	10/11F	J & T Gosden	3 of 5

1m 2f Maiden for 3yo (44%): When the favourites were beaten only two 2nd favourites have obliged (other odds were 7/2, 11/2 & 14/1). Stall 3 has provided three of the last eight winners. All winners since 2014 had finished 5th or better LTO in the current season. 5/9 recent winners had run only once before with no debutant winners since 1987 (when my records started). Drawfacts: Low 56%; Middle 22%; High 22%.

7 Furlong Handicap (11%): All winners since 2013 carried between 9st 4lbs & 9st 9lbs and had odds ranging from 5/2 to 25/1 (7/9 had odds of 9/1 or less). Low 33%; Middle 33%; High 33%.

THURSDAY

5 Furlong Handicap (44%): All past winners since 2014 came from stall 4 or lower (three each from stalls 1, 3 & 4). The last nine winners carried a weight between 8st 6lbs & 9st 5lbs with 6/9 finishing 5th or better LTO. 2/9 winners had odds of 10/1 to 22/1 with no second favourites winning in the last 10 years. Drawfacts: Low 100%

6 Furlong Maiden for 2yo (n/a): New race in 2024.

7.5 Furlong Handicap for 3yo (33%): Apart from R Fahey (2021) no other Northern trainer has won this race in the last 10 years. 7/9 winners came from stalls 1-5 with stalls 2 & 4 each producing two winners. All winners since 2014 had run once or twice in the current season. No 2nd favourite has won the race in the last ten years although there were two winning joint favourites. Drawfacts: Low 44%; Middle 44%; High 12%.

(Listed) 'Dee Stakes' over 1m 2f for 3yo (50%): Surprisingly stalls 1 & 2 have only provided one winner of this race in the last 10 years with a middle/high draw generally seen as an advantage. Aiden O'Brien is now leading trainer on 6 wins since 2014 all of which started as sole/joint favourites (five winners ridden by R L Moore). In years when the O'Brien team has not won we have seen 11/1 & 12/1 winners recently. Drawfacts: Low 12%; Middle 44%; High 44%.

(Gr 3) 'Ormonde Stakes' over 1m 5f (33%): No real shocks in this race since 1998 (Stretarez @ 25/1) with all winner's odds being 8/1 or shorter since 2014, with 2nd favourites faring better than favourites with 5/9 wins. Ryan Moore is the leading jockey with 3 wins since 2016 (two for A P O'Brien). 7/9 winners were making their seasonal re-appearance. Drawfacts: Low 44%; Middle 12%; High 44%.

Year	Form	Horse + Days since last run	Age/Weight	Jockey	Odds	Trainer	Draw
2014	30/1150-	Brown Panther (185)	6 9 0	R Kingscote	6/4	T Dascombe	6 of 6
2015	111064-	Clever Cookie (238)	7 9 0	G Lee	8/1	P Niven	7 of 8
2016	61153-1	Dartmouth (20)	4 9 3	R L Moore	1/1F	Sir M Stoute	2 of 7
2017	366451-	Western Hymn (191)	6 9 0	L Dettori	7/2	J Gosden	3 of 11
2018	1U/6130-0	Idaho (40)	5 9 0	R L Moore	8/11F	A P O'Brien (Ire)	5 of 6
2019	2/30521-	Morando (194)	6 9 3	S De Sousa	3/1	A Balding	1 of 6
2020		No Meeting (Covid-19)					
2021	4/43350-	Japan (201)	5 9 0	R L Moore	13/8F	A P O'Brien (Ire)	3 of 8
2022	124/140-	Hamish (185)	6 9 5	T Marquand	9/2	W Haggas	5 of 10
2023	40/1212-	Hamish (201)	7 9 5	T Marquand	7/4	W Haggas	7 of 8

1M 2f Handicap (16%): It is interesting to see that 7/9 past winners came from stall 5 or higher. In the betting 8/9 had odds of 9/1 or shorter. In the weights 9/9 past winners carried between 8st 11lbs & 9st 3lbs. Drawfacts: Low 22%; Middle 45%; High 33%.

1m 4f Handicap for 3yo (33%): This should be a very trappy handicap bearing in mind that most 3yo will be trying this trip for the first time. However as 8/9 winners had odds of 15/2 or shorter so the betting market should provide a decent guide. 8/9 winners also ran 5th or better on last start with 3/9 winning LTO. 4/9 winners were making their seasonal re-appearances. 8st 8lbs is the lowest weight carried by the winner in the last 10 years. Drawfacts: Low 33%; Middle 33%; High 33%.

FRIDAY

1m Handicap for 4yo+ (11%); 8/9 winners came from stall 6 or lower. 7/9 recent winners finished no better than 4th on their last run. 8/9 recent winners carried a weight of 9st or less. In the betting 7/9 winners had odds of 7/1 or shorter. Drawfacts: Low 77%; Middle 23%

1m 4f Maiden (3yo): New race in 2023.

1m 2f Handicap for 4yo+ (33%); 8/9 winners had odds of 13/2 or shorter. 7/9 winners carried a weight of 9st 1lb or less. 7/9 winners started as either 1st/2nd favourites. 4yo horses have won 5/9 recent renewals (6yo next best age group). Drawfacts: Low 56%; Middle 22%; High 22%.

(Gr 2) 'Huxley Stakes' over 1m 2f (44%); Ryan Moore is the top jockey with 4 wins since 2016 – three wins for A P O'Brien. Eight of the last nine races were won by 4/5yo. Two seasonal debutants have won the race since 2014. All winners since 2014 had odds of 6/1 or shorter. Drawfacts: Low 11%; Middle 67%; High 22%.

2m 2f+ Chester Cup (0%); Regarded by many as the highlight of the meeting. 4/9 recent winners were making their seasonal re-appearance. The last nine winners all carried a weight of 8st 9lbs to 9st 10lbs. 2021 winner *Falcon Eight* is now on the same handicap mark as when winning in 2021 and was also 5th & 15th in last two years renewals. *Zoffee* was 2nd last year and is 3lbs lower in the weights this time. In the betting no favourite and just one 2nd favourite have won in the last 10 years with just 4/9 winners having odds of 8/1 or shorter with all others being 10/1 to 16/1 shots. Drawfacts: Low 45%; Middle 33%; High 22%.

Year	Form	Horse + Days since last run	Age/Weight	Jockey	Odds	Trainer	Draw
2014	04252-3	Suegioo (11)	5 9 4	R L Moore	10/1	M Botti	4 of 19
2015	004-411	Trip To Paris (11)	4 8 9	G Lee	10/1	E Dunlop	11 of 19
2016	3/13656/	No Heretic (940)	8 8 13	J Spencer	11/1	N Henderson	4 of 18
2017	053200-	Montaly (186)	6 9 6	O Murphy	16/1	A Balding	2 of 19
2018	550150-	Magic Circle (209)	6 9 3	F Berry	8/1	I Williams	6 of 17
2019	3003-51	Making Miracles (13)	4 9 0	F Norton	16/1	M Johnston	16 of 17
2020		No Meeting (Covid-19)					
2021	2145/34	Falcon Eight (314)	6 9 10	L Dettori	15/2	D Weld (Ire)	10 of 16
2022	551/5	Cleveland (40)	4 9 0	R L Moore	6/1	A P O'Brien (Ire)	10 of 16
2023	205/1-02	Metier (34)	7 9 1	S Osborne	5/1	H Fry	14 of 17

2m 2f+ 'Chester Plate' Handicap (40%); New 'consolation' race in 2018 for those that miss the cut in the Chester Cup. 4/5 winners to date were either 1st/2nd/3rd LTO. 4/5 winners carried 9st 8lbs or less. Drawfacts: Low 40%; Middle 40%; High 20%.

1M 4f (Apprentices) Handicap for 4yo+ (33%); New race in 2014 and race divided for the first time in 2024. All past winners were aged 4-5yo. 8/9 past winners were 4th or better LTO with the other unplaced on its last run. All nine carried a weight of 9st 2lbs or greater. In the betting 6/9 had odds of 7/1 or shorter with the others 10/1 to 20/1 shots. Drawfacts: Low 22%; Middle 22%; High 56%.

