

# THE BEST OF THE FESTIVE RACING 2021

There is so much good racing at this time of year that rather than create a festival guide for just one meeting, I have decided to look at the best of what is on offer across the UK & Ireland.

The trends assessed are usually for the last 10 years albeit at this time of year meetings can be lost to the weather! The guide will start on Boxing Day and be updated daily until New Year's Day.

Favourites win rates are calculated over the last 10 years.

## DECEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup>

### DONCASTER

**2.50 – 3M HANDICAP CHASE (Fav 28%):** Race only run seven times before with all winners being aged 6 to 8yo. All winners were 5<sup>th</sup> or better LTO.

**3.20 – (LISTED) 'YORKSHIRE SILVER VASE' MARES CHASE OVER 2M 4F (Fav 67%):** Race only run six times before with all winners being either 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> favourites. All winners had odds of 11/4 or shorter.

### LEOPARDSTOWN

**1.45 – (Gr 1) NEVILLE HOTELS NOVICE CHASE OVER 3M (Fav 60%):** 9/10 recent winners also won LTO. 6/10 winners were aged 6yo. Leading trainers since 2011 are G Elliott (4 wins) & W Mullins (3 wins).

**2.20 – (Gr 1) MATHESON HURDLE OVER 2M (Fav 40%):** Two key trends in this race are Willie Mullins seven wins since 2012 and the fact that five of the last nine winners won the Gr 1 Morgiana Hurdle at Punchestown LTO (the 2019 winner was 4<sup>th</sup> in that race also). Five of the Mullins winners also won LTO. *Sharjah* won the Punchestown race this year and is bidding for a 4<sup>th</sup> win in the race.

### LIMERICK

**1.40 – (Gr 2) BOYLESports HURDLE OVER 2M (FOR 4YO) (Fav 42%):** This is a relatively new race, first run in 2014 as listed status, then upgraded to Gr 3 status in 2017 and Gr 2 status since 2020. All past winners were either 1<sup>st</sup> (x3), 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> (x2) or 6<sup>th</sup> LTO and all were rested at least 28 days before running here. In the betting all had odds of 6/1 or shorter, including three favourites and two 2<sup>nd</sup> favourites.

### NEWBURY

**1.25 – 2M HANDICAP CHASE (Fav 50%):** Only two previous races with both winners carrying 11st 10lbs or 11st 11lbs. Both had also won at least one of their last two races and both had odds of 9/2 or shorter.

**2.00 – 2M 5F HANDICAP HURDLE (Fav 33%):** 5yo have an excellent record in the race with 7/9 wins since 2012. A 6<sup>th</sup> place or better LTO was seen for all winners. In the betting 8/9 previous winners had odds of 13/2 or shorter.

**2.35 – 3M 2F ‘MANDARIN’ HANDICAP CHASE (Fav 30%):** A race that used to be much higher status and whose past winners included the likes of Party Politics & Jodami. The race has been run as a class 3 handicap since 2011 with all winners carrying a weight of 11st 2lbs or more. All of these winners had last run in the current season and had finished 3<sup>rd</sup> or better on their last completed race. The 2018 winner had odds of 12/1 but all the others were 10/1 or shorter.

**3.05 – (Gr 1) CHALLOW NOVICES’ HURDLE OVER 2M 4F+ (Fav 65%):** The last 10 winners all had odds of 8/1 or shorter. 5yo have won 5/10 recent races with 6yo next best. 9/10 winners also won LTO. Recent winners of the race include *Champ*, *Thyme Hill* & *Bravemansgame*.

**3.35 – 2M 6F NOVICES LIMITED HANDICAP CHASE (Fav 20%):** All past winners carried 11st 7lbs or less with all also last running 14-48 days earlier.