

# 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 30<sup>TH</sup>

### HAYDOCK

**2.05 – 3M 4F 'LAST FLING' HANDICAP CHASE (Fav 50%):** This meeting is often affected by the weather so we have seen just 6 renewals in the last 10 years with three winning favourites and all having odds of 8/1 or shorter. All past winners since 2011 had last run 9-34 days earlier. A 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> place finish LTO was seen for 4/6 winners with the others 1<sup>st</sup> and unplaced LTO. All 6 past winners were aged between 6-10yo. *Chef D'Oeuvre* won the race in 2019 and is now 5lbs higher in the ratings.

### TAUNTON

**2.25 – (LISTED) 'BYERLEY STUD' MARES NOVICES' HURDLE OVER 2M+ (Fav 50%):** A new race in 2012 with all 9 winners to date having odds of 11/2 or shorter with 8/9 being either 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> favourites. 5yo have won 5/9 races, the other winners aged 3, 4 & 6yo. Paul Nicholls has won 3/8 races. 8/9 winners also won LTO with the other 3<sup>rd</sup> LTO. All past winners last ran within 41 days of winning here.