

# THE BEST OF THE FESTIVE RACING 2023

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

**3.10 – (LISTED) 'YORKSHIRE SILVER VASE' MARES CHASE OVER 2M 4F (Fav 75%):** Race only run eight 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. *Zambella* is seeking a 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive win in the race.

### LEOPARDSTOWN

**1.45 – (Gr 1) NEVILLE HOTELS NOVICE CHASE OVER 3M (Fav 60%):** 7/10 recent winners also won LTO (others were 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>). 6/10 winners were aged 6yo. Leading trainers since 2013 are G Elliott (5 wins) & W Mullins (3 wins). When favourites do not win the winner's odds have been 4/1, 5/1, 7/1 & 10/1 (just one being 2<sup>nd</sup> favourite).

**2.20 – (Gr 1) MATHESON HURDLE OVER 2M (Fav 50%):** Two key trends in this race are Willie Mullins eight wins since 2013 and the fact that eight of the last ten winners last ran in the Gr 1 Morgiana Hurdle at Punchestown (seven won there and the other was 4th). Only one of today's runners did not run in the Punchestown race. *State Man* is seeking a follow up win having won in 2022.