

THE BEST OF THE GALWAY FESTIVAL 2024

The guide will focus on just the major races over the 7-day festival.

The trends assessed are for the last 10 years. Favourites win rates shown in brackets after the race name. For flat races, the draw effects will be summarised by splitting the draw into three – low/middle/high. For more detailed draw analysis visit www.northernracingclub.com and click on the Drawfacts tab then open the Galway file.

In the last 5 years:

Top jockey (Flat) – S Foley – 19 wins from 116 rides

Top jockey (NH) – P Townend – 16 wins from 76 rides

Top trainer (Flat) – D K Weld – 15 wins from 87 runners

Top trainer (NH) – W P Mullins – 37 winners from 193 runners

Top owner (Flat) – HH Aga Khan – 5 winners from 20 runners

Top owner (NH) – Gigginstown Stud – 13 winners from 78 runners

Course specialists – Flat

Teed Up – 3 wins from 6 runs (entered Friday)

Current Option – 3 wins from 8 runs (Entered Tuesday & Sunday)

Course specialists – NH

Hallowed Star – 3 wins from 6 runs (entered Wednesday)

El Champo – 2 wins from 2 runs (entered Friday/Saturday)

Teed Up – 2 wins from 3 runs (entered Friday/Saturday)

MONDAY

6.40 Connacht Hotel (QR) Handicap over 2m 1f (30%): Willie Mullins has won four of the seven latest renewals so his four runners this year merit close scrutiny. The last ten winners all carried 11st 4lbs or less. In the betting 6/10 winners had odds of 8/1 or shorter with the rest all 16/1 or less. 5yo horses fare well with 5/10 wins with oldest winner since 2014 aged 7yo. Drawfacts: Low 20%; Middle 60%; High 20%.

TUESDAY

7.10 Colm Quinn BMW Mile Handicap (20%): A McGuinness has won three of the last five renewals. A last run in a premier handicap at The Curragh 31 days earlier is often a good form guide with 3/10 recent winners meeting this criteria. All ten recent winners were aged between 4-7yo. In the betting 5/10 had odds of 9/1 or shorter with the others (apart from a shock 50/1 winner in 2021) having odds of 10/1 to 14/1. Drawfacts: Low 10%; Middle 50%; High 40%.

WEDNESDAY

7.10 Galway Plate Handicap Chase over 2m 6f (10%): *Ash Tree Meadow* seeks a repeat win in the race this year but is now 15lbs higher in the ratings. The last dual winner was *Ansar* in 2004/5. Gordon Elliott has won 4 times since 2016 at odds of 9/1 to 33/1 and has six runners this year. 7yo is the preferred age group with 6 of the last ten winners. 7/10 recent winners were 5th or better on their last run. In the betting 5/10 winners were 9/1 or shorter with 4/10 priced at 10/1 to 16/1. Experienced jockeys have won 7/10 races with just three claiming a weight allowance.

THURSDAY

5.05 Galway Hurdle over 2m (20%): Only three trainers have won the race in the last 10 years with W P Mullins having 5 wins, A J Martin having 4 wins and J P O'Brien having one win. The best age groups are 6-7yo horses. 6/10 recent winners had odds of 7/1 or shorter with others priced between 10/1 & 22/1. Just one of the last ten winners had finished worse than 6th LTO. Of the Mullins horses running this year, only P Townend has won the race before.

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

4.00 Ahonoora Handicap over 7f (25%): A McGuinness has won for 3 consecutive years (2020-22) with *Current Option* who is 9lbs lower in the handicap this time. Since 2014, this race has been won by seven horses that last ran here 5 days earlier – finishing 3rd 2nd 3rd 14th 4th 3rd 3rd LTO. In the betting 9/10 recent winners had odds of 15/2 or shorter. Five UK based horses have won since 2014 although no UK runners are making the trip over today. Besides *Current Option*, *Dunum* is another past winner entered today (up 7lbs since last year's win). Drawfacts: Low 40%; Middle 10%; High 50%.



