

# Hexham Trendsetters Guide ~ Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April

Previous race trends (2016-25) can often help provide a short-list of potential winners in the current year's races. The percentage figure after the race details is the favourite's 'strike rate' in the race for the last ten years. Trainers who have won the race before are also highlighted if they had an entry at the final declaration stage.

Further information this time is to highlight 'well handicapped' horses that have won off the same/higher marks in the past. Racecard numbers given.

In the last five seasons some key statistics are:

Leading Jockey – S Quinlan – 43 wins from 247 rides

Leading Trainer – Lucinda Russell – 26 wins from 174 runners

**2.00 – 2m Novices' Hurdle – Fav 22%:** 7/10 winners were either 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> favourites with longest priced winner being 11/1. All winners since 2016 were aged 5-7yo with 6yo winning 4/9 races. Trainers to watch: J Walton (1 win).

**2.30 – 2m H/cap Chase:** New class 4 race in 2024. Both winners to date carried 11st 2lbs. *That One* won the first race on the card 12 months ago. Well handicapped: 4.

**3.00 – 2m (Mares) H/cap Hurdle:** New race in 2026.

**3.30 – 3m H/cap Chase – Fav 11%:** Both of *Gibberwell's* wins have come here in the spring, including winning this race in 2023 – now 5lbs higher in the handicap ratings. All past winners carried a weight of 10st 4lbs to 11st 9lbs. Apart from a surprise 40/1 winner all others were 17/2 or shorter (includes two 2<sup>nd</sup> favourites). Conditional jockeys (with weight allowances) have ridden 6/9 winners. Trainer to watch: J Coulson (1 win). Well handicapped: 2-7-10-15.

**4.00 & 4.30 – 2m 4f H/cap Hurdle – Fav 0%:** New class 5 race in 2023 and divided in 2024. The four winners were all aged 5-7yo and had last run 7-20 days earlier. All carried 10st 11lbs to 11st 3lbs. Trainer to watch: (4.30) E Whillans. Well handicapped: (4.00) 9 ; (4.30) 6 & 10.

**5.00 – 3m Hunter Chase – Fav 77%:** When the favourites have not won there was one winning 2<sup>nd</sup> favourite and a 6/1 winner. 7/9 winning jockeys were claiming a weight allowance. *Nassalam* is the former Welsh Grand National winner (2023) and the very harsh 20lbs rise for winning that race on very heavy ground (that can often distort winning distances) has effectively ended the horse's mainstream jumping career (still 4lbs higher than the Chepstow win after over 2 years!). So a return to form in hunter chases would not be out of place for the new trainer.

**5.20 – 2m NH Flat Race – Fav 41%:** Changed to a 4-6yo race in 2021 with just 1/6 winners making their debuts. All winners were 8/1 or shorter (no winning 2<sup>nd</sup> favourites).

Information also available at [www.northernracingclub.com](http://www.northernracingclub.com) – click on the Hexham Trends tab.

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