

NEWBURY – CORAL GOLD CUP MEETING

For many of us this will still be remembered as the ‘Hennessy’ meeting. Previously held as a three-day meeting this has been trimmed back to 2 days in recent years. As with all of these guides the figure after the race details is the favourite’s strike rate over the last 10 years. Many of these races also throw up great ‘clues’ for future festival winners!

FRIDAY

2M+ MAIDEN HURDLE (40%): 2018 saw a 20/1 winning debutant to NH races but all others had odds of 5/1 or shorter. Apart from two debutants, the others were all 4th or better LTO. Nicky Henderson has sent out 6 winners between 2014-22 including subsequent Champion Hurdle winner *Buveur D’air* who won this race in 2015. *Lostintanslation* won the 2017 renewal and was 3rd in the 2020 Gold Cup. The 2018 winner, *Bright Forecast*, was 3rd in the Ballymore Hurdle in March 2019, and *My Drogo* won a Gr 1 race at Aintree in 2020, 2021 winner *Jonbon* has won two Gr 1 races at Aintree in 2022 & 2023, so clearly the winner of this race is worth putting in the notebook for the future.

2M+ ‘FULKEWALWYN TROPHY’ NOVICES’ HANDICAP CHASE (5%): All winners since 2013 had finished 5th or better LTO (16-150 days earlier) including six who won their last race. Whilst the favourites don’t have a great record in the race, 9/10 past winner’s odds were 13/2 or shorter. All winners carried a weight between 10st 5lbs and 11st 7lbs.

2M+ (FILLIES) JUVENILE HURDLE (3YO): New race in 2023.

(GR 2) ‘CORAL – JOHN FRANCOME’ NOVICES’ CHASE OVER 2M 4F (40%): 7/10 winners were either 1st/2nd favourites with the others having odds of 7/2, 100/30 & 22/1. All were 4th or better on their last *completed* race with 8/10 having run in the current season. Several past winners since 2011 have gone on to better things including *Bobs Worth* (RSA Chase & Gold Cup), *Coneygree* (Gold Cup), *Clan Des Obeaux* (King George - twice) & *Champ* (RSA Chase).

2M 4F HANDICAP CHASE (10%): Just one winning favourite seen since 2013 and two winning 2nd favourites. 7/10 winners had odds of 11/2 to 8/1. 9/10 winners were 5th or better on their last race.

(GR 2) ‘CORAL’ LONG DISTANCE HURDLE OVER 3M+ (30%): The likes of *Big Bucks* & *Thistlecrack* won this race before winning the ‘Stayers Hurdle’ at Cheltenham although the trend has ebbed away from finding the Cheltenham winner in recent years. 5/10 past winners were making their seasonal re-appearance with all winners since 2013 6th or better LTO. 7/10 winners had odds of 7/2 or shorter.

3M HANDICAP HURDLE (20%): 9/10 past winners were 5th or better LTO. Just one past winner (since 2013) was making a seasonal re-appearance. 8/10 winners had odds of 10/1 or shorter with the rest 12/1 to 14/1.

SATURDAY

(LISTED) 2M+ (MARES) NOVICES' HURDLE (60%): All past winners (since 2013) finished 5th or better LTO. 9/10 winners had odds of 11/2 or shorter. Four of the last six winners had last run 23 days earlier at Newbury where they finished 2nd/3rd.

2M 6F+ 'SIR PETER O'SULLEVAN MEMORIAL' HANDICAP CHASE (0%); An open looking race most years with four double digit odds winners (10/1, 12/1 (twice) & 14/1). No winning favourite since 2009 and we have seen just one winning second favourite since 2013. No winner has carried more than 11st 10lbs since 2009.

2M 4F+ NOVICES' HURDLE (55%): A new race in 2014. The r winning favourites were often 1st/2nd LTO albeit a debutant won in 2023 when starting as favourite. Altogether four winners were making their NH debuts (ignores PTP form) with all of these debutants trained by Nicky Henderson or Paul Nicholls with odds of 15/8 to 5/1 seen. *Santini* won the race in 2017 and has since been placed in all three runs at Cheltenham Festivals. Other recent winners include *Bravemansgame* (dual Gr 1 winner at Kempton); *Stage Star* (Gr 1 winner at Cheltenham); *Stay Away Fay* (Gr 1 winner at Cheltenham).

2M 4F+ HANDICAP HURDLE (14%); New race in 2016 with three winners to date either joint favourites or second favourites, having odds of 7/2 to 9/2 with the others (all since 2019) having odds 9/1 to 20/1. 6/7 were 3rd or better on their last *completed* run.

(LISTED) 2M+ INTERMEDIATE LIMITED HANDICAP HURDLE (35%); Race previously known as the 'Gerry Fielden' Hurdle. N Henderson is the leading trainer in the race with 4 wins between 2014-22 (including 2020 Champion Hurdle winner *Epatante*). 7/10 past winners were 5th or better on their last run.

(GR 3) CORAL TROPHY CHASE OVER 3M 1F+ (30%); The race was run from 1957-2016 as 'The Hennessy Gold Cup' albeit for the first few years it was run at Cheltenham. Apart from the new sponsor the race remains the same! 6/10 winners had odds of 10/1 or shorter with the others odds 12/1 (twice), 20/1 & 33/1. The last ten winners were all 6th or better on their last *completed* run, including one making their seasonal return. Three recent winners went on to win Gold Cups (Denman, Bobs Worth, Native River) whilst Many Clouds won a Grand National. All those going on to better things were aged 6/7yo when winning here.

2M+ HANDICAP CHASE (53%); All 10 past winners were 6th or better on their last *completed* race. 9/10 past winners had odds of 13/2 or shorter with longest winner's odds being 10/1. 7/10 winners carried a weight of 11st 3lbs or less.