



**Racing TV**

# Cheltenham Festival

Thursday 17 - Friday 18 March

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*\*All times GMT*

## Day 3 - Thursday 17th March 2022

START TIMES	RACE	DISTANCE	TYPE
13:30	The Turners Novices' Chase	4000m	Chase
14:10	The Pertemps Network Final (A Handicap Hurdle Race)	4800m	Hurdle
<b>14:50</b>	<b>The Ryanair Steeple Chase</b>	<b>4100m</b>	<b>Chase</b>
15:30	The Paddy Power Stayers' Hurdle	4800m	Hurdle
16:10	The Craft Irish Whiskey Co. Plate (A Handicap Steeple Chase)	4100m	Chase
16:50	The Parnell Properties Mares Novices' Hurdle	3400m	Hurdle
17:30	Fulke Walwyn Kim Muir Challenge Cup (sponsored by the JRL Group)	5200m	Chase

## Day 4 - Friday 18th March 2022 - Gold Cup Day

13:30	The JCB Triumph Hurdle	3400m	Hurdle
14:10	The McCoy Contractors County Handicap Hurdle Race	3400m	Hurdle
14:50	The Albert Bartlett Novices' Hurdle Race	4800m	Hurdle
<b>15:30</b>	<b>The Boodles Cheltenham Gold Cup Steeple Chase</b>	<b>5300m</b>	<b>Chase</b>
16:10	The St. James's Place Festival Challenge Cup Open Hunters' Steeple Chase	5300m	Chase
16:50	The Mrs Paddy Power Mares' Steeple Chase	4100m	Chase
17:30	Martin Pipe Conditional Jockeys' Handicap Hurdle	4000m	Hurdle

## DAY 3 RACE BY RACE

\*All times GMT

### 13:30 Turners Novices' Chase (Grade 1) (4000m)

#### Racing TVi The RTVi Verdict

Two of the most exciting horses in training clash and it's not easy to separate Bob Olinger and **GALOPIN DES CHAMPS**, both winners at last year's Festival. Marginal preference is for the latter as he has looked a natural over fences while Bob Olinger has room for improvement in his fencing. They have scared off the opposition, Busselton can claim third.

**1-2-3: 1 Galopin Des Champs 2 Bob Olinger 3 Busselton**

#### The Super Stat

Eight of the past ten winners had previously won a Graded chase, while nine of the past 11 winners had won at least two races over fences. Nine of the past 10 winners had previously raced over fences between three and five times. **Bob Olinger** will be hoping to emulate the only exception, Yorkhill, who landed this contest on his third chase start in 2018.

### 14:10 Pertemps Network Final (A Handicap Hurdle Race) (Grade 3) (4800m)

#### The Super Stat

Keep an eye on runners representing Gordon Elliott and David Pipe. Elliott has landed three of the past four renewals (two with **Sire du Berlais**) and his stable's seven other runners have all been placed. Meanwhile, Pipe has landed the race twice since 2010 and has had five others placed. His nine-year-old **Remastered** reverts to hurdles after some solid efforts off higher marks over fences.

#### Racing TVi The RTVi Verdict

Gordon Elliott has won three of the last four renewals – two with Sire du Berlais – and his runners are the first port of call. **DUNBOYNE** hasn't enjoyed the rub of the green the last twice and may be the pick. Alaphilippe caught the eye at Warwick and has leading claims along with Winter Fog who posted a career best when second to Panda Boy on his first start for Emmet Mullins.

**1-2-3: 1 Dunboyne 2 Winter Fog 3 Alaphilippe**

### 14:50 Ryanair Steeple Chase (Grade 1) (4100m)

#### Racing TVi The RTVi Verdict

**ALLAHO** produced one of the performances of 2021 when routing his rivals in this race; he has most to fear from Irish Gold Cup winner Conflated. Shan Blue would have posted a clear career best but for falling at Wetherby; he should go well if he doesn't get embroiled in a pace battle with Allaho. Eldorado Allen and Janidil are considered for minor honours.

**1-2-3: 1 Allaho 2 Conflated 3 Janidil**

#### The Super Stat

Thirteen of the past 17 Ryanair Chase winners have boasted at least one win at Cheltenham beforehand. **Allaho** will seek to repeat his brilliant win of 12 months ago - the fourth win for his yard in the last six renewals - but there has been only one two-time winner of the race (Albertas Run 2010-11) since it was first run in 2005.

## 15:30 Paddy Power Stayers' Hurdle (Grade 1) (4800m)

### The Super Stat

**Paisley Park** bids to regain his crown three years on, but Crimson Embers overcame a four-year gap. Paisley Park - or **Champ** - would break a significant stat as eight of the last ten winners have been aged between six and eight, while no horse aged ten or older has won since Crimson Embers' 1986 victory.

### Racing TVi The RTVi Verdict

Younger horses have held sway lately which is bad news for Champ and Paisley Park. There is a danger that last year's winner Flooring Porter and his Leopardstown conqueror Klassical Dream could get lit up by the atmosphere and boil over.

**THYME HILL** may lack their X Factor but he's a rock solid, high class individual who looks nigh on guaranteed to run his race.

**1-2-3: 1 Thyme Hill 2 Champ 3 Flooring Porter**

## 16:10 Craft Irish Whiskey Co. Plate (A Handicap Steeple Chase) (Grade 3) (4100m)

### Racing TVi The RTVi Verdict

Celebre d'Allen won with something in hand at Warwick but is a short price in a stronger race, while Imperial Alcazar impressed over C&D but the race rather fell apart. Previous winner Simply The Betts isn't discounted but a chance is taken with **GRAND PARADIS**. He's part of a fiercely strong team for his stable and the novice could improve for the switch to handicaps.

**1-2-3: 1 Grand Paradis 2 Imperial Alcazar 3 Simply The Betts**

### The Super Stat

Eight successive Plate winners have been rated in the 140s and The Shunter was the sixth novice or second-season chaser to win last year. He also became the third Irish trained winner in the last five seasons and **Grand Paradis** ticks the right boxes for Gordon Elliott.

## 16:50 Parnell Properties Mares Novices' Hurdle (Grade 2) (3400m)

### The Super Stat

Willie Mullins was responsible for the first five winners of this race - all of them French breds who started their careers in France. Henry De Bromhead halted his domination last year but Mullins has several leading fancies, including the exciting French-bred **Dinoblue** who has been well supported for this race in recent weeks.

### Racing TVi The RTVi Verdict

Willie Mullins saddled the first five winners of this before a blank last season. Brandy Love threw her latest race away by hanging, while Closutton stablemates Dinoblue and Grangee have been the subject of positive dispatches. Party Central is another to consider but the nod goes to **IMPERVIOUS** who looked smart prior to her latest defeat in a Fairyhouse Grade One won by Statuaire.

**1-2-3: 1 Impervious 2 Dinoblue 3 Brandy Love**

## 17:30 Fulke Walwyn Kim Muir Challenge Cup (sponsored by the JRL Group) (5200m)

### Racing TVi The RTVi Verdict

It's hard to get away from **FRONTAL ASSAULT** with connections seemingly delighted with his mark and he should relish stepping up to this trip over fences. Come On Teddy and Mister Coffey are others who could improve for a test of stamina and the return to a left-handed track will suit the latter. Ain't That A Shame holds obvious claims.

**1-2-3: 1 Frontal Assault 2 Ain't That A Shame 3 Come On Teddy**

### The Super Stat

Eight of the last 11 winners wore headgear and only one of the past 17 won their latest start. Six of the past nine winners were seven-year-olds, including Mount Ida whose trainer, Gordon Elliott, is responsible for ante-post favourite **Frontal Assault**, a seven-year-old beaten last time out who wears cheekpieces.

## DAY 4 RACE BY RACE

\*All times GMT

## 13:30 JCB Triumph Hurdle (Grade 1) (3400m)

Racing TVi **The RTVi Verdict**

**VAUBAN** impressed when beating Fil Dor and Il Etait Temps in the Spring Juvenile Hurdle at Leopardstown last month and is expected to confirm the form here. Pied Piper has done nothing wrong so far - including beating Vauban at Punchestown - so is very much respected, while the British pair Knight Salute and Porticello are closely matched on their Doncaster form and neither should be taken lightly.

**1-2-3: 1 Vauban 2 Pied Piper 3 Porticello**

## The Super Stat

Six of the past nine winners ran in the Grade One Spring Juvenile Hurdle at Leopardstown in February, with Quilixios doing the double last year. That augurs well for the highly touted ante-post favourite **Vauban**, an impressive winner of the latest renewal from Fil Dor and Il Etait Temps.

## 14:10 McCoy Contractors County Handicap Hurdle Race (Grade 3) (3400m)

## The Super Stat

Dan Skelton and Willie Mullins shared six renewals until Suprise Package's trainer Peter Fahey struck with Belfast Banter last year. 17 of the past 19 winners were either a novice or a second-season hurdler, with Skelton and Mullins training the exceptions. The lightly raced **West Cork** would be another but **State Man** and **Farout** tick the right boxes.

Racing TVi **The RTVi Verdict**

The fact that Willie Mullins eschews reasonable opportunities in the graded novice hurdles with **STATE MAN** suggests connections believe a handicap mark of 141 underestimates him significantly. A strongly-run race would likely suit stablemate Farout, while Top Bandit is another Irish runner to consider. West Cork and Betfair Hurdle runner-up I Like To Move It are the pick of the home team.

**1-2-3: 1 State Man 2 Top Bandit 3 I Like To Move It**

## 14:50 Albert Bartlett Novices' Hurdle Race (Grade 1) (4800m)

Racing TVi **The RTVi Verdict**

The winning point-to-pointer **GINTO** looks the type who will improve further now stepping up in trip and - seeing as he has some of the strongest form on offer - he is given a confident vote. Leopardstown winner Minella Cocooner is another with form at the top level, in comparison to Shantreusse who has done his winning at a lower level. He may prove to be a bigger danger than the giant Hillcrest, though, for whom this may just come a year too early.

**1-2-3: 1 Ginto 2 Minella Cocooner 3 Shantreusse**

## The Super Stat

Eleven winners had winning form over 3m but they don't include either Monkfish or Vanillier although both had won a point at that trip. **Ginto** hasn't run beyond 2m4f but has won a 3m point and bids to become only the second winner (after Wichita Lineman) to have won a Grade 1 beforehand.

## 15:30 Boodles Cheltenham Gold Cup Steeple Chase (Grade 1) (5300m)

## The Super Stat

Dual winner **Al Boum Photo** could become only the second winner to regain his crown, after Kauto Star, but age is against the ten-year-old as the last horse older than nine to win was Cool Dawn in 1998; he was also the last Gold Cup winner not to have won a Grade 1 beforehand. **Royale Pagaill** will emulate him if successful.

Racing TVi *The RTVi Verdict*

Betfair Chase winner **A PLUS TARD** has looked a more reliable proposition than Minella Indo since chasing his stablemate home in this race 12 months ago and is fancied to reverse the form. Dual winner Al Boum Photo was a running-on third that day and isn't one to discount just yet, while Galvin showed great tenacity when beating A Plus Tard at Leopardstown over Christmas and is unlikely to go down without a fight, either.

**1-2-3: 1 A Plus Tard 2 Galvin 3 Minella Indo**

## 16:10 St. James's Place Festival Challenge Cup Open Hunters' Steeple Chase (5300m)

Racing TVi *The RTVi Verdict*

Billaway ran well at all three spring festivals last year, including when beaten a nose in this race, so another big run is expected. However, preference is for **WINGED LEADER** who is still only eight and who looked a force to be reckoned with when beating Billaway by 12 lengths in January. Bob And Co and Pont Aven are both big dangers.

**1-2-3: 1 Winged Leader 2 Billaway 3 Bob And Co**

## The Super Stat

Perhaps appropriately, 28 of the past 33 winners began their careers in point-to-points or hunter chases. **Billaway**, the red-hot favourite, started in points and, like six of the past 12 winners, has finished in the first five in a previous year's renewal (he has been runner-up in the past two runnings).

## 16:50 Mrs Paddy Power Mares' Steeple Chase (Grade 2) (4100m)

## The Super Stat

It's only the second running of this so we have no stats or trends but 14 of the 21 races run at the Festival exclusively for mares in recent years have been won by French-breds. Among the leading fancies, **Elimay** was bred in France and was beaten only half a length last year.

Racing TVi *The RTVi Verdict*

There's not much between Mount Ida and last year's runner-up Elimay on their Fairyhouse form over the last two seasons, and both are respected, but neither looks infallible. Preference is for **CONCERTISTA**, whose Cheltenham Festival record reads 2-1-2 and who always looked the type who would take well to fences (unbeaten in two starts so far).

**1-2-3: 1 Concertista 2 Mount Ida 3 Elimay**

## 17:30 Martin Pipe Conditional Jockeys' Handicap Hurdle (4000m)

Racing TVi *The RTVi Verdict*

**LANGER DAN** bumped into one when second to Galopin Des Champs - with nine lengths back to the third - in this 12 months ago and looks to have been primed to get long-awaited compensation. This year's menacing Irish novices include Chemical Energy, Hollow Games, Adamantly Chosen and Banbridge.

**1-2-3: 1 Langer Dan 2 Chemical Energy 3 Hollow Games**

## The Super Stat

The 13 winners in the race's history have shared similar profiles - not least that all have been aged either five or six, bar two seven-year-olds. Big-name trainers have dominated with eight of the last 11 trained by Willie Mullins (four), Paul Nicholls and Gordon Elliott (two).

## CHEL TENHAM FESTIVAL STATS

### TOP JOCKEYS AT CHELTENHAM (ALL MEETINGS OVER LAST FIVE SEASONS)

Jockey	Rides	Winners	Win %	Places
Harry Skelton	210	24	11	75
Nico de Boinville	150	24	16	58
Aidan Coleman	181	23	13	55
Paddy Brennan	174	22	13	61
Sam Twiston-Davies	232	19	8	71
Harry Cobden	194	17	9	62

### TOP TRAINERS AT CHELTENHAM (ALL MEETINGS OVER LAST FIVE SEASONS)

Trainer	Runs	Winners	Win %	Places
Nicky Henderson	365	52	14	127
Gordon Elliott	198	33	17	77
W. P. Mullins	285	32	11	84
Paul Nicholls	318	29	9	87
Nigel Twiston-Davies	278	29	10	86
Colin Tizzard	260	26	10	76



### THE CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL LEADING JOCKEYS WITH RIDES THIS WEEK

Jockey	Winners
Davy Russell	25
Paul Townend	18
Nico de Boinville	13
Mr Jamie Codd	10
Tom Scudamore	10
Rachael Blackmore	9
Jack Kennedy	9
Bryan Cooper	9

### THE CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS THIS WEEK

Trainer	Winners
Willie Mullins	78
Nicky Henderson	70
Paul Nicholls	46
Gordon Elliott	32
Jonjo O'Neill	27
Philip Hobbs	20
Nigel Twiston-Davies	17
Alan King	15