

Cheltenham 2009 – Running Order

Tuesday 10th March 2009

- 1.30 Supreme Novices' Hurdle 2m½f
- 2.05 Irish Independent Arkle Challenge Trophy Steeple Chase 2m
- 2.40 William Hill Trophy Handicap Steeple Chase 3m½f
- 3.20 Smurfit Kappa Champion Hurdle Challenge Trophy 2m½f
- 4.00 Glenfarclas Cross Country Handicap Steeple Chase 3m7f
- 4.40 David Nicholson Mares' Hurdle Race 2m4f

Wednesday 11th March 2009

- 1.30 National Hunt Steeple Chase Challenge Cup 4m
- 2.05 Ballymore Properties Novices' Hurdle 2m5f
- 2.40 Royal & Sunalliance Steeple Chase 3m½f
- 3.20 Seasons Holidays Queen Mother Champion Steeple Chase 2m
- 4.00 Coral Cup (Handicap Hurdle) 2m5f
- 4.40 Fred Winter Juvenile Handicap Hurdle 2m½f
- 5.15 Weatherbys Champion Bumper (Open NH Flat Race) 2m½f

Thursday 12th March 2009

- 1.30 Jewson Novices' Handicap Steeple Chase 2m5f
- 2.05 Pertemps Final (Handicap Hurdle) 3m
- 2.40 Ryanair Chase 2m5f
- 3.20 Ladbrokes World Hurdle 3m
- 4.00 Festival Plate Handicap Steeple Chase 2m5f
- 4.40 Fulke Walwyn Kim Muir Challenge Cup Handicap Steeple Chase 3m1½f

Friday 13th March 2009

- 1.30 JCB Triumph Hurdle 2m1f
- 2.05 Vincent O'Brien County Handicap Hurdle 2m1f
- 2.40 Albert Bartlett Novices' Hurdle 3m
- 3.20 totesport Cheltenham Gold Cup Steeple Chase 3m2½f
- 4.00 Christie's Foxhunter Steeple Chase 3m2½f
- 4.40 Matin Pipe Conditional Jockeys' Handicap Hurdle 2m4½f
- 5.15 Johnny Henderson Grand Annual Steeple Chase 2m½f

Ante Post Portfolio

Here are list of my Current Personal Antepost bets for Cheltenham with the prices obtained. Cheltenham is one of the few meetings I feel it is worth having a decent antepost portfolio. The trick is getting on earlier enough to obtain the value. So here goes:

Gold Cup - Exotic Dancer 25/1 - each way

I don't expect Exotic Dancer to be good enough to win having failed twice before (a stat that does lend itself to future winners!!). However, at 25/1 he was too big a price and ever since his win in Ireland coupled with Denman's poor run last time, that now looks a very good price. Currently he is around 12/1 on most lists. If it comes up soft I think he should get in the frame.

Champion Hurdle - Katchit 14/1 - each way

This price is still available and with a short priced favourite I still rate Katchit as decent each way value. Yes he has been disappointing to date this year, but he loves Cheltenham and did break the 5yo hoodoo last year.

Queen Mother Champion Chase - Big Zeb 14/1 - each way

With Master Minded likely to be long odds on there is value in the each way market and Big Zeb fits the bill. On my speed figures he is not far behind Master Minded so the 14/1 price looks excellent value. Still available as I write at a best price 12s.

World Hurdle - Big Bucks 12/1 - each way

I missed the 16/1 which was still on offer after his win at Cheltenham at the beginning of January, but his subsequent win in the Cleeve hurdle means he is now around 5/1. I'm not convinced he will beat Kasbah Bliss but at 12/1 I am happy with my ticket.

Ryanair Chase - Tidal Bay 5/1 - win

Tidal Bay was mightily impressive at the festival last year winning and although he has not been at his best this season, this race looks tailored made for him. Even more so with two horses high up in the current betting (Exotic Dancer and Imperial Commander) likely to run in the Gold Cup. He was my latest ante post bet and he is still available at that price as I write.

Suggested Ante Post Bets

For those of you who still fancy an ante post bet, to be honest it is a bit late in many cases. However, with two of my selections still available at the same price as I took, and one other only 2 points shorter, these still look good value:

Tidal Bay 5/1 win (Ryanair)
Katchit 14/1 ew (Champion Hurdle)
Big Zeb 12/1 ew (Queen Mother)

You may check for best current live prices from multiple bookmakers at the link below.

<http://punterprofits.bestbetting.com/horse-racing>

Trends section – here are some general 10 year trends:

All races

1. Favourites (inc. joints) have provided 57 winners from 235 runners (SR 24.3%) for a loss of £14.27 (ROI -6.1%).
2. There have been 6 odds-on favourites – 3 have won, 3 have lost.
3. The top 3 in the betting have provided 50.7% of the winners.
4. Horses priced 66/1 or bigger have provided 1 winner from 639 qualifiers (22 others finished placed).
5. Horses aged 11 or older have provided just 6 winners from 296 runners for a loss of £185.00 (ROI -62.5%).
6. Paul Nicholls has saddled the most winners (20) but backing all his runners would have produced a loss of £88.17 (ROI -38.7%).
7. Jonjo O'Neill has saddled 13 winners from 134 runners for a profit of £63.38 (ROI +47.3%).
8. Ruby Walsh (17) and Tony McCoy (16) have ridden the most winners. However, backing all McCoy's mounts would have produced a loss of £101.00 (ROI -59.8%).
9. British stables have saddled 155 winners (SR 5.1%); Irish Stables have saddled 56 winners (SR 7.4%); French stables have saddled 5 winners (SR 8.8%).
10. Following the top rated (or joint top rated) horse from the Racing Post Ratings (formerly Postmark) would have provided 52 winners from 305 qualifiers (SR 17%) for a small loss of £12.24 (ROI -4%).

Grade 1 races

1. Favourites (inc. joints) have provided 30 winners from 109 runners (SR 27.5%) for a loss of £11.83 (ROI -9.1%).
2. The top 2 in the betting have provided 49% of the winners.
3. 63 of the 102 winners were priced under 8/1.
4. Horses priced 66/1 or bigger have provided 343 consecutive losers with just 7 placed efforts. (Going back further to 1992, the figures read 0 wins, 11 placed from 517 runners).
5. Horses aged 11 or older have provided 1 winner from 45 runners.
6. Alan King has saddled 8 winners from 37 (SR 21.6%) for a profit of £28.50 (ROI +77%); Howard Johnson has saddled 6 winners from 26 (SR 23.1%) for a profit of £25.88 (ROI +99.5%).

Handicap chases

1. Favourites (inc. joints) have provided 10 winners from 54 runners (SR 18.5%) for a loss of £4.25 (ROI -7.9%).
2. The top 3 in the betting have provided 47.9% of the winners.
3. Horses priced 7/2 to 7/1 have provided 17 winners for a small profit of £11.50 (ROI +12.1%).
4. The top 4 in the weights (inc. joints) have provided only 6 winners from 211 runners for a hefty loss of £136.00 (ROI -64.5%).
5. Horses carrying 11st or more have provided 9 winners from 325. This is just half the number of winners one would expect given a normal distribution of winners.
6. Horses carrying between 10st 1lb and 10st 13lb have provided 33 of the 48 winners. This equates to 68.8% of the winners from 48.9% of the runners.
7. Paul Nicholls has saddled just 2 winners from 75 for a loss of £57.00 (ROI -76%).
8. Nicky Henderson has saddled 6 winners and 16 placed horses from 59 for a profit of £28.00 (ROI +47.5%).
9. Phillip Hobbs is 0 from 34; Nigel Twiston-Davies is 0 from 32.
10. Horses wearing blinkers / visors have provided just 2 winners from 121 runners (SR 1.7%) for a loss of £98.00 (ROI -81%).

Handicap hurdles

1. Favourites (inc. joints) have provided 8 winners from 38 runners (SR 21.1%) for a profit of £4.38 (ROI +11.5%).
2. Second and third favourites (inc. joints) have provided just 3 winners from 74 (SR 4.1%) for a loss of £49.50 (ROI -66.9%).
3. Irish stables have provided 10 winners from 153 runners (SR 6.5%) for a profit of £52.00 (ROI +34%). They have provided 29.4% of the winners from 17.8% of the total runners.
4. 17 of the 34 of the winners won LTO. Hence 50% of the races were won from just 20% of the total runners.
5. Horses aged 10 or older have provided 0 winners from 59 (just 4 placed).
6. Topspeed top rated selection in the Racing Post has selected the winner on just one occasion.
7. Course winners have a dreadful record with just 1 win from 152 runners for a loss of £146.50 (ROI -96.4%).
8. Nicky Henderson is 0 from 39.

Here is a look at some key 10 year trends for some of the races on the first two days:

Tuesday 1.30 Supreme Novices' Hurdle

POSITIVE TRENDS

Recent form: 9 of the last 10 winners won last time out.
Market: The top 2 in the betting have provided 6 of the 10 winners (PROFIT of £10.75; ROI +44.8%).
Trainers: 7 of the last 10 winners were trained in Ireland.

NEGATIVE TRENDS

Price 25/1+: 1 win from 111 (loss of £70.00; ROI -63.1%).
Running style: Only 1 winner in the last 10 years has won from racing from well off the pace (eg. midfield / back half of the field).

GENERAL STATS

Favourites (inc. joints): 3 wins from 12 (loss of £0.75; ROI -6.5%).
Finishing positions of favourites: 2, U, 3, 1, 1, 1, 13, 5, 3, 2/11/12
Age: 4yos have won 1 race from 16 qualifiers (SR 6.3%); 5yos have won 3 races from 93 qualifiers (SR 3.2%); 6yos have won 4 from 77 qualifiers (SR 5.2%); 7yo+ have won 2 from 29 (SR 6.9%).
Miscellaneous: Only 11 fillies / mares have contested the race since 1998 but 2 have won.
Breeding: Irish breds have won 6 races from 90 (SR 6.7%), British breds have won 3 from 57 (SR 5.3%) while all other countries have combined for just 1 win from 68 (SR 1.5%).

Trends Summary: *The best starting point looks to be recent form with 9 of the last 10 winners having won LTO. 6 of the last 10 winners (70%) came from the top two positions in the market, so these horses need very close scrutiny. With only 1 winner priced 25/1 or bigger since 1998 it seems best to leave outsiders alone, and in addition you do not want to be backing genuine hold up horses. Fillies and mares get a 7lb allowance and are always worth a second glance while in terms of breeding it looks best to stick with British and Irish breds.*

Tuesday 2.05 Irish Independent Arkle Challenge Trophy Chase

POSITIVE TRENDS

Recent form: 8 of the last 10 winners finished 1 st or 2 nd LTO.
Market: 8 of the last 10 winners came from runners 2 nd to 5 th in the betting. Focusing on those priced between 7/2 and 9/1 provided 8 winners from 35 (PROFIT of £27.00; ROI +79.4%).
Chase record: All of the last 10 winners had won or been placed in every completed start over fences (the last 20 winners have passed this stat).
Age: 4 of the last 10 winners were aged 5.
Breeding: French breds have won 4 of the last 10 renewals (7 of last 14).
Trainers: 3 of the last 10 winners came from the Pipe stable (4 of the last 11), while there have been 2 wins a piece for Paul Nicholls and Alan King.
Jockeys: Tony Mc Coy has had 2 wins and 3 placed rides from 9 (he also won the race in 1997).

NEGATIVE TRENDS

Favourites: 1 win from 10 (LOSS of £7.75; ROI -77.5%).
Age: Horses aged 8 or older provided just 1 winner from 38 (LOSS £31.50, ROI -82.9%).
Price 12/1+: 0 winners and 5 placed from 75 qualifiers.

GENERAL STATS

Finishing positions of favourites: 10, 5, 3, 2, 1, F, 7, 7, 2, 3

Trends Summary: <i>Look for horses that have been placed on every completed start over fences. The runners just behind the market leader (2nd to 5th in betting) have usually been the value providing 8 winners. French breds have a good record as do 5yos. However, horses 8yo+ look best avoiding as do horses priced 12/1 or more. Favourites have a poor win record with 1 win from 10, and going back to 1990 it stands at 2 from 17.</i>

Tuesday 2.40 William Hill Trophy Handicap Steeplechase

POSITIVE TRENDS

Form: 9 of the last 10 winners won at least one of their last six starts.
Market: 7 of the last 10 winners have come from 2 nd to 5 th in the betting (PROFIT £20.50; ROI +56.9%).
Position LTO: 7 of the last 10 winners finished in the first three LTO.
Weight: Horses carrying 10st 1lb to 10st 6lb have provided 6 of the 10 winners. Backing all 41 qualifiers would have yielded a healthy profit of £68.50 (ROI +167.1%).

NEGATIVE TRENDS

Favourites (inc. joints): 0 wins from 14 (LOSS of £14.00; ROI -100.0%).
Age: Horses aged 11 or older provided 0 winners from 27.
Weight: Horses carrying 11st or more have provided just 1 winner from 57 qualifiers (LOSS £46.00; ROI -80.7%).
Race type LTO: Horses that raced in non handicaps LTO are just 1 win from 30 (LOSS of £22.00; ROI -73.3%).

GENERAL STATS

Finishing positions of favourites: 3, F, 2/5, 6, 3/11, 8, 9, PU, 2/3/6, 3
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Trends Summary: *At least one win in the last six runs combined with a low weight are the key positive factors here. However, this is a race where it may be best to use the negative factors first in order to eliminate a good proportion of the runners. Key negative factors include horses 11yo+, horses carrying 11st or more and horses that raced in a non handicap LTO. Favourites have a poor recent record too in terms of wins and the long term picture is bleak also with just 2 wins for market leaders since 1969.*

Tuesday 3.20 Smurfit Kappa Champion Hurdle Challenge Trophy

POSITIVE TRENDS

Recent form: 9 of the last 10 winners won LTO.

Favourites (inc. joints): 5 wins from 11 (PROFIT of £3.23; ROI +29.3%).

Course form: 9 of the last 10 winners had previously won at the Cheltenham Festival.

Trainers: 7 of the last 10 winners were trained in Ireland.

Age: Horses aged 7 or 8 have provided 7 of the last 10 winners.

NEGATIVE TRENDS

Age: Horses aged 5 or younger provided 1 winner from 29; 9yo+ provided just 1 win from 24.

Price 20/1+: 1 winner from 82 qualifiers.

GENERAL STATS

Finishing positions of favourites: 1, 1, 1, PU, 3, 2, 1/9, 1, 6, 14

Trends Summary: *Horses that won LTO are the obvious starting point with 9 of the last 10 winning, and going back further, 22 of the last 25. Previous winning form at the Festival has also been important recently with the last 9 winners having achieved that feat. The Irish have done very well in the race recently, and favourites have won 50% of the races. Katchit broke the 5yo hoodoo last year breaking a losing run of 72 going back to 1985, but it still should pay to focus on 7 and 8yos who have provided 70% of the winners from 37% of the total runners.*

Wednesday 2.05 Ballymore Properties Novices' Hurdle

POSITIVE TRENDS

Recent form: 9 of the last 10 winners won or finished 2nd LTO (7 won). 9 of the last 10 won at least one of their last two starts.

Market: Top 5 in betting have provided 9 of the last 10 winners.

Last run: All of the last 10 winners had raced within the last 60 days.

Age: 9 of the last 10 winners were aged 5 or 6.

Race type LTO: 7 of the last 9 winners contested a pattern race LTO.

NEGATIVE TRENDS

Market: Horses 6th or bigger in the betting have produced 1 win from 124.

Age: Horses aged 7 or older have provided just 1 winner from 39, and 4yos are 0 from 10 (all unplaced).

Trainers: The Pipe stable are 0 from 22 with only 1 placed effort.

GENERAL STATS

Favourites (inc. joints): 3 wins from 11 (all 3 wins from 1998 to 2000)

Finishing positions of favourites: 1, 1, 1, 4, 2, 2, 5/7, 2, 5, 13

Trends Summary: *There are some key stats that have held true for much longer than 10 years. For example, the 25 of the last 27 winners all finished 1st or 2nd LTO with the horse that defied the stat Massini's Maguire winning 2 years ago. In addition, 20 of the last 22 winners came from the top six of betting. Hence, these two stats will help you create your shortlist, and from there focus on 5 and 6yos. Ignore any horse that is coming off a lay off of longer than 2 months, while favourites are arguably well overdue a success.*

Wednesday 2.40 Royal & Sun Alliance Chase

POSITIVE TRENDS

Recent form: All of the last 10 winners won or finished 2 nd LTO (6 won).
Season form: All of the last 10 winners had won during the current season.
Market: 4 wins for horses priced 14/1 or bigger.
Age: 7 of the last 10 winners were aged 7.
Days off track: 8 of the last 10 winners had been off the track for more than 4 weeks.
Trainers: Both Willie Mullins and Paul Nicholls have saddled 2 winners.

NEGATIVE TRENDS

Age: Horses aged 8 or older have provided 1 winner from 43.
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GENERAL STATS

Favourites: 3 wins from 10 (LOSS of £0.42; ROI -4.2%).
Finishing positions of favourites: 1, F, 4, 5, 5, 3, 2, PU, 1, 1

Trends Summary: *31 of last 34 winners finished 1st or 2nd LTO so this is the sensible starting point for shortlist purposes. Then make sure that if they finished 2nd LTO they have previously won this season. 7yos have an excellent record and preference is for horses that have been off the track for more than 4 weeks. Favourites have won the last two renewals after 7 consecutive losers.*

Wednesday 3.20 Seasons Holidays Queen Mother Champion Chase

POSITIVE TRENDS

Recent form: 8 of the last 10 winners won LTO (6 of last 7).
Market: 9 of the last 10 winners have come from the top 3 of the betting.
Course form: 8 of the last 10 winners had previous won at Cheltenham (7 over C&D).
Festival form: 6 of the last 10 winners had previously won at the Festival.
Distance form: 9 of the last 10 winners had won over 2m2f or further in their careers.

NEGATIVE TRENDS

Price: Horses priced 10/1 or bigger have won 1 from 63 (LOSS £46.00; ROI - 73%).

GENERAL STATS

Favourites: 3 wins, 3 placed from 10.
Finishing positions of favourites: 6, 2, 3, 1, 1, U, 1, F, F, 2
Age: 5yos have 1 race from 1 qualifier (SR 100%); 6yos have won 1 race from 7 qualifiers (SR 14.3%); 7yos have won 1 race from 8 qualifiers (SR 12.5%); 8yos have won 3 from 25 qualifiers (SR 12%); 9yo have won 2 from 30 qualifiers (SR 6.7%); 10yo+ have won 2 from 28 qualifiers (SR 7.1%).

Trends Summary: *Last time out winners coupled with a position in the top 3 in the betting is a useful starting point, while previous winning form at the track / Festival has also been very important. Also look for horses that have won over 2 miles 2 furlongs or more in their career. In terms of negatives, only one horse has won at double figure odds in the last 10 years from 63 qualifiers.*

Trainer records – last 10 festivals

All races - Minimum 30 runs

Trainer	Runners	Winners	Strike rate	Profit/loss	ROI
P Nicholls	228	20	8.8%	-£88.17	-38.7%
J O'Neill	134	13	9.7%	+£63.38	+47.3%
N Henderson	183	13	7.1%	-£49.92	-27.3%
A King	85	10	11.8%	-£1.50	-1.8%
W Mullins	104	9	8.6%	+£32.88	+31.6%
P Hobbs	132	9	6.8%	-£18.25	-13.8%
Mrs J Harrington	32	6	18.8%	+£1.75	+5.5%
J Howard Johnson	54	6	11.1%	-£2.13	-3.9%
F Murphy	61	6	9.8%	+£90.00	+147.5%
Miss H Knight	63	6	9.5%	-£36.15	-57.4%
F Doumen	43	5	11.6%	-£10.13	-23.6%
D Hughes	30	4	13.3%	+£26.50	+88.3%
N Twiston-Davies	116	4	3.4%	-£60.00	-51.7%
C Roche	35	3	8.6%	-£7.25	-20.7%
H Daly	43	3	7%	-£8.00	-18.6%
E O'Grady	47	3	6.4%	-£16.00	-34%
D Pipe	57	3	5.3%	-£38.50	-67.5%
Miss V Williams	91	3	3.3%	-£38.50	-42.3%
M Morris	30	2	6.7%	-£13.50	-45%
L Lungo	30	2	6.7%	+£12.00	+40%
N Meade	95	2	2.1%	-£70.50	-74.2%
T George	32	1	3.1%	-£19.00	-59.4%
G L Moore	36	1	2.8%	-£23.00	-63.9%
I Williams	32	0	0%	-£32.00	-100%
P Webber	35	0	0%	-£35.00	-100%

Trainer Records – last 10 festivals

Chases – minimum 15 runs + 2 wins

Trainer	Runners	Winners	Strike rate	Profit/loss	ROI
P Nicholls	166	16	9.6%	-£52.17	-31.4%
N Henderson	87	11	12.6%	+£35.83	+41.2%
Miss H Knight	43	6	14%	-£16.15	-37.6%
A King	28	5	17.9%	+£9.00	+32.1%
J O'Neill	59	6	10.2%	+£44.00	+74.6%
F Murphy	45	4	8.9%	+£95.00	+211.1%
Mrs J Harrington	18	4	22.2%	-£1.75	-9.7%
H Daly	35	3	8.6%	+£0.00	+0%
E Bolger	17	3	17.6%	-£3.50	-20.6%
P Hobbs	55	2	3.6%	-£43.75	-79.5%
Miss VWilliams	57	2	3.5%	-£38.50	-67.5%
D Pipe	29	2	6.9%	-£16.00	-55.2%
A Moore	16	2	12.5%	-£0.50	-3.1%
W Mullins	31	2	6.5%	-£2.63	-8.5%

Hurdles – minimum 15 runs + 2 wins

Trainer	Runners	Winners	Strike rate	Profit/loss	ROI
J O'Neill	64	7	10.9%	+£30.38	+64.6%
P Hobbs	71	7	9.9%	+£31.50	+44.4%
J Howard Johnson	31	5	16.1%	+£13.88	+44.8%
A King	54	5	9.3%	-£7.50	-13.9%
P Nicholls	57	4	7%	-£31.00	-54.4%
D Hughes	17	4	23.5%	+£39.50	+232.4%
F Doumen	27	4	14.8%	-£3.13	-11.6%
N Twiston-Davies	57	4	7%	-£1.00	-1.8%
W Mullins	45	3	6.7%	+£21.00	+46.7%
N Meade	59	2	3.4%	-£34.50	-58.5%
E O'Grady	21	2	9.5%	-£5.00	-23.8%
C Roche	18	2	11.1%	+£1.75	+9.7%
F Murphy	16	2	12.5%	-£5.00	-31.3%
N Henderson	88	2	2.3%	-£77.75	-88.4%

Bumpers - minimum 10 runs + 1 win

Trainer	Runners	Winners	Strike rate	Profit/loss	ROI
W Mullins	28	4	14.3%	+£14.50	+51.8%

Gold Cup system

For those of you out there who would like a simple system to pick the Gold Cup winner then I suggest you consider the following:

1. Top 3 in the betting
2. LTO 1st or 2nd
3. Aged 7 to 9
4. Irish bred (IRE suffix by the horse name)

Going back to 1996 here are all the qualifiers:

Year	Horse	Position	SP
1996	IMPERIAL CALL	1st	9/2
1996	ONE MAN	6th	11/8
1997	ONE MAN	6th	7/1
1997	DANOLI	9th	7/1
1998	DORANS PRIDE	3rd	9/4
1998	SEE MORE BUSINESS	17th	11/2
1999	No qualifiers		
2000	LOOKS LIKE TROUBLE	1st	9/2
2000	FLORIDA PEARL	2nd	9/2
2001	No meeting		
2002	BEST MATE	1st	7/1
2002	BACCHANAL	12th	6/1
2003	BEST MATE	1st	13/8
2003	BEEF OR SALMON	15th	5/1
2004	BEST MATE	1st	8/11
2005	KICKING KING	1st	4/1
2005	STRONG FLOW	6th	5/1
2006	WAR OF ATTRITION	1st	15/2
2007	No qualifiers		
2008	DENMAN	1st	9/4

Backing all qualifiers would have produced the following results:

Qualifiers	Winners	Strike rate	Profit/loss	ROI
17	8	47.1%	+£23.11	+135.9%

The system has produced the winner in 7 of the last 8 races from just 11 runners.

I hope this research adds to your enjoyment of the Cheltenham Festival

Regards

Dave Renham

www.RacingTrends.co.uk

www.PunterProfits.com