

Aintree GN Festival Day 2

Analysis:

Race Trends

***Analysing 5 races from day 2
of the 2018 Aintree GN Festival
from an alternative viewpoint***

Guide by Narrowing The Field

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Alder hey Handicap Hurdle (G3)

13th April – 1.45 Aintree

Alder Hey Handicap Hurdle: Winners Trends Analysis

This section compiles the important trends of the past 15 winners of the Alder Hey Handicap Hurdle so that we can apply them to this year's entries.

Alder hey Handicap Hurdle Trends

- 1 15/15 were aged 5yo-9yo**
- 2 15/15 were rated 145-124**
- 3 15/15 1-5 Hurdle wins**
- 4 15/15 rested for at least 16 days**
- 5 15/15 previously ran over at least 2m3.5f**
- 6 15/15 at least 2lb higher than their last win (last win should be over hurdles)**
- 7 15/15 ran in a Hurdle race LTO**
- 8 14/15 wore no headgear**
- 9 14/15 carried 11-04 to 10-01**
- 10 14/15 were yet to win at Graded level**
- 11 14/15 had 3-8 starts in current season**
- 12 14/15 had 8 or less Handicap Hurdle starts**

2018 Alder Hey Handicap Hurdle Entries: Trends Applied

This section applies the important trends of the past 15 winners of the Alder Hey Handicap Hurdle to this year's entrants.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Tot
STORM HOME	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	12/12
LOUGH DERG SPIRIT	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	12/12
LANDIN	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	12/12
SUMKINDOFKING	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	12/12
SPIRITOFTHEGAMES	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	11/12
JESTER JET	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	11/12
WILDE BLUE YONDER	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	11/12
CYRIUS MORIVIERE	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	11/12
MASSINI'S TRAP	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	10/12
EATON HILL	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	10/12
IVANOVICH GORBATOV	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	9/12
ZUBAYR	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	9/12
GRAND PARTNER	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	9/12
JENKINS	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	8/12
WHO DARES WINS	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	X	X	X	X	X	X
COURT MINSTREL	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	X	X	X	X	X	X
THREE MUSKETEERS	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	X	X	X	X	X	X
PROJECT BLUEBOOK	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	X	X	X	X	X	X
EAMON AN CNOIC	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	X	X	X	X	X	X
CORNBOROUGH	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	X	X	X	X	X	X

Trend Follower(s) – STORM HOME | LOUGH DERG SPIRIT | LANDIN | SUMKINDOFKING

2018 Alder Hey Handicap Hurdle: Pace analysis

Here we take a look at the race from a Pace angle –

Horse	RS	Running Style
JENKINS	CP	→ CP
WHO DARES WINS	CP	→ CP
COURT MINSTREL	HU	→ HU
IVANOVICH GORBATOV	HU/CP	→ HU/CP
SPIRITOFTHEGAMES	HU/CP	→ HU/CP
STORM HOME	CP/FR	→ CP/FR
THREE MUSKETEERS	CP/HU	→ CP/HU
ZUBAYR	HU/CP	→ HU/CP
LOUGH DERG SPIRIT	CP/FR	→ CP/FR
PROJECT BLUEBOOK	HU	→ HU
GRAND PARTNER	CP/HU	→ CP/HU
MASSINI'S TRAP	HU	→ HU
JESTER JET	HU/CP	→ HU/CP
EAMON AN CNOIC	CP/HU	→ CP/HU
WILDE BLUE YONDER	CP	→ CP
LANDIN	CP/FR	→ CP/FR
CYRIUS MORIVIERE	CP/FR	→ CP/FR
SUMKINDOFKING	CP	→ CP
CORNBOROUGH	HU	→ HU
EATON HILL	HU	→ HU

HU	CP	FR
	JENKINS	
COURT MINSTREL	WHO DARES WINS	STORM HOME
IVANOVICH GORBATOV		
SPIRITOFTHEGAMES		LOUGH DERG SPIRIT
	THREE MUSKETEERS	
PROJECT BLUEBOOK	ZUBAYR	
	GRAND PARTNER	
MASSINI'S TRAP	WILDE BLUE YONDER	
	JESTER JET	LANDIN
	EAMON AN CNOIC	CYRIUS MORIVIERE
CORNBOROUGH	SUMKINDOFKING	
EATON HILL		

Should be a decent pace on here, with the likes of **STORM HOME, LOUGH DERG SPIRIT, LANDIN & CYRIUS MORIVIERE** all potentials to make the pace.

Here is the how the past 15 winners of the race have run in the race –

Running Style fr-1 / cp-6 / hu-8

Alder Hey Handicap Hurdle Trial Summary

Shortlist...

STORM HOME – 12/12

LOUGH DERG SPIRIT – 12/12

LANDIN – 12/12

SUMKINDOFKING – 12/12

Conclusion/Selection(s)

STORM HOME (C Tizzard) – *A seriously un-exposed youngster who will handle the ground and the added cherry on top is the fact he fits my Colin Tizzard Aintree angle. Aintree seems to have been the plan for him so he's likely to be bang ready for this and he looks a serious player here.*

LOUGH DERG SPIRIT (N Henderson) – *He's surely better than OR 137 and I just feel this track will suit him well (despite the PU at the meeting last year). He seems a horse that has just taken a while to fully come to himself but there's been plenty enough promise in his 3 starts so far this season and if McGrath can just keep him close enough to the leaders here he should be finishing as strong as anything else in the race.*

LANDIN (S Mullins) – *Comes here off the back of two very taking victories and he's now starting to fulfil some of the promise he showed as a juvenile last term. He's 3 from 3 over 2m3.5f-2m4f trips, is at his best away from very undulating tracks, handles cut underfoot and could well out-run his odds here.*

Top Novices' Hurdle (Grade 1)

13th April – 2.20 Aintree

Top Novices Hurdle: Winners Trends Analysis

This section compiles the important trends of the past 15 winners of the Top Novices' Hurdle so that we can apply them to this year's entries.

Top Novices' Hurdle Trends

- 1 15/15 OR 128+**
- 2 15/15 2-5 previous Hurdle starts**
- 3 15/15 1-3 previous Hurdle wins**
- 4 15/15 DSLR 11-45**
- 5 15/15 no headgear or Tongue-Tie**
- 6 14/15 won 1 of last 3 starts**
- 7 14/15 aged 5yo-7yo**

2018 Top Novices' Hurdle Entries: Trends Applied
















This section applies the important trends of the past 15 winners of the Top Novices' Hurdle to this year's entrants.

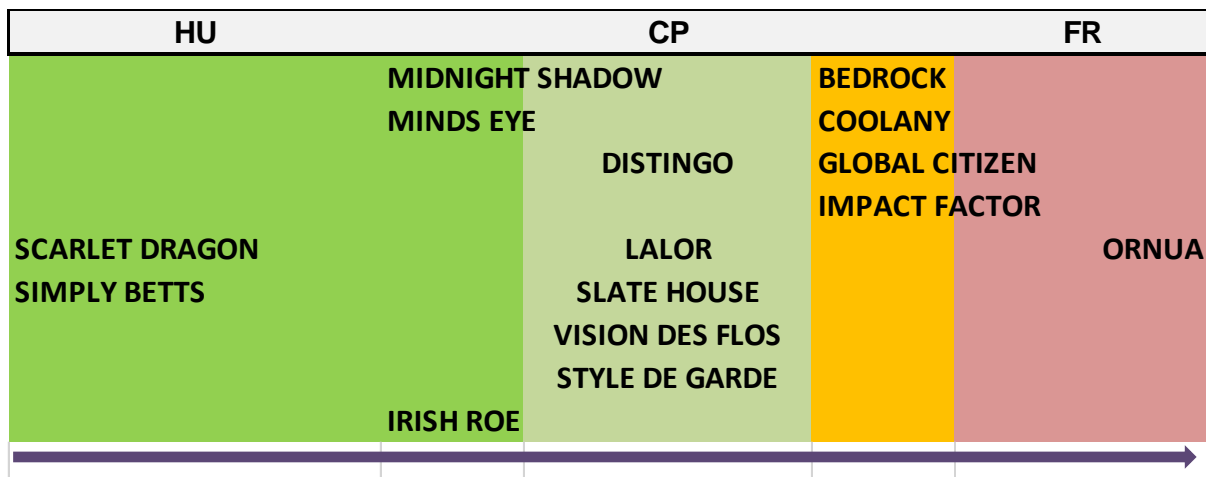
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Tot
MINDS EYE	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	7/7
GLOBAL CITIZEN	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	6/7
IMPACT FACTOR	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	6/7
MIDNIGHT SHADOW	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	6/7
VISION DES FLOS	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	6/7
BEDROCK	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	5/7
COOLANY	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	5/7
DISTINGO	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	5/7
ORNUA	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	5/7
SIMPLY BETTS	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	5/7
SLATE HOUSE	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	5/7
STYLE DE GARDE	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	5/7
LALOR	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	4/7
IRISH ROE	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	4/7
SCARLET DRAGON	Y?	N	N	N	N	N	Y	2/7

Trend Follower(s) – MINDS EYE

2018 Top Novices' Hurdle: Pace analysis

Here we take a look at the race from a Pace angle –

Horse	RS	Running Style
BEDROCK	CP/FR	 CP/FR
COOLANY	CP/FR	 CP/FR
DISTINGO	CP	 CP
GLOBAL CITIZEN	CP/FR	 CP/FR
IMPACT FACTOR	FR/CP	 FR/CP
LALOR	CP	 CP
MIDNIGHT SHADOW	CP/HU	 CP/HU
MINDS EYE	CP/HU	 CP/HU
ORNUA	FR	 FR
SCARLET DRAGON	HU	 HU
SIMPLY BETTS	HU	 HU
SLATE HOUSE	CP	 CP
VISION DES FLOS	CP	 CP
STYLE DE GARDE	CP	 CP
IRISH ROE	HU/CP	 HU/CP



ORNUA may well lead the pack along in the early part of the race but he won't have an easy time of it and there are likely to be a number of others helping to push the pace.

Here is the how the past 15 winners of the race have run in the race –

Running Style fr-0 / cp-5 / hu-10

Top Novices' Hurdle Trial Summary

Shortlist...

MINDS EYE – 7/7

GLOBAL CITIZEN – 6/7

IMPACT FACTOR – 6/7

MIDNIGHT SHADOW – 6/7

VISION DES FLOS – 6/7

Conclusion/Selection(s)

MINDS EYE (H De Bromhead) – *It's hard to know what to make of this one after his last two efforts but he's also entered in G1's at Punchestown so connections clearly believe he's better than those two bits of form and he did look progressive prior to that. There possibly isn't an outstanding contender in this so I'm happy to let the figures guide me with the trends-topper here.*

VISION DES FLOS (C Tizzard) – *I can't let this one go unbacked because if there IS any sort of superstar lurking in the field it's this one. As I mentioned in my post-Cheltenham notes I really don't think his results fully reflect his ability this term and with him being another that qualifies on the Tizzard Aintree angle I need to have a slice of him here.*

Mildmay Novices' Chase (Grade 1)

13th April – 2.50 Aintree

Mildmay Novices' Chase: Winners Trends Analysis

This section compiles the important trends of the past 15 winners of the Mildmay Novices' Chase so that we can apply them to this year's entries.

Mildmay Novices' Chase Trends

- 1 15/15 were IRE or FR bred**
- 2 15/15 no more than (UK) 17 career starts**
- 3 15/15 had 3-6 previous (UK) Chase starts**
- 4 15/15 ran at Listed level+ LTO**
- 5 15/15 1-3 starts last 90 days**
- 6 14/15 previously run at G1 level**
- 7 14/15 DSLR 21-60**
- 8 14/15 WON 1 of last 3 starts**

2018 Mildmay Novices' Chase Entries: Trends Applied

This section applies the important trends of the past 15 winners of the Mildmay Novices' Chase to this year's entrants.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Tot
COO STAR SIVOLA	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	8/8
ELEGANT ESCAPE	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	8/8
TERREFORT	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	8/8
TESTIFY	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	8/8
MS PARFOIS	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	7/8
BLACK CORTON	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6/8
HOGANS HEIGHT	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	6/8
SNOW FALCON	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	6/8
MIA'S STORM	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	6/8
CAPTAIN CHAOS	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	5/8


Trend Follower(s) – COO STAR SIVOLA | ELEGANT ESCAPE | TERREFORT | TESTIFY

2018 Mildmay Novices' Chase: Pace analysis

Here we take a look at the race from a Pace angle –

Horse	RS	Running Style
BLACK CORTON	FR	→ FR
CAPTAIN CHAOS	FR	→ FR
COO STAR SIVOLA	CP	→ CP
ELEGANT ESCAPE	FR/CP	→ FR/CP
HOGANS HEIGHT	FR/CP	→ FR/CP
SNOW FALCON	HU/CP	→ HU/CP
TERREFORT	CP/FR	→ CP/FR
TESTIFY	FR/CP	→ FR/CP
MIA'S STORM	HU/CP	→ HU/CP
MS PARFOIS	CP/FR	→ CP/FR

HU	CP	FR
SNOW FALCON		BLACK CORTON
	COO STAR SIVOLA	CAPTAIN CHAOS
MIA'S STORM		ELEGANT ESCAPE
		HOGANS HEIGHT
		TERREFORT
		TESTIFY
		MS PARFOIS



Potential for a real burn-up on the front end here!! Seven of the ten runners have all been bang on or very near the front in their recent starts so there is unlikely to be any hiding place here.

Here is the how the past 15 winners of the race have run in the race –

Running Style fr-4 / cp-5 / hu-6

Mildmay Novices' Chase Summary

Shortlist...

COO STAR SIVOLA – 8/8

ELEGANT ESCAPE – 8/8

TERREFORT – 8/8

TESTIFY – 8/8

Conclusion/Selection(s)

This looks pretty muddling...

I've said a few times that I don't think Elegant Escape is a G1 animal so I can't bring myself to back him here at 5-1.

Testify I think is a Heavy ground/small field bully.

Coo Star Sivola I'm also not convinced is a G1 animal in waiting.

Which leaves me with...

TERREFORT (N Henderson) – *Looks the type that will relish the step up in trip and I suspect he probably the best horse in this race, and possibly by some way. The cut underfoot won't bother him, the Henderson runners are bouncing and he's the one to beat for me.*

Melling Chase (Grade 1)
13th April – 3.25 Aintree

Melling Chase: Winners Trends Analysis

This section compiles the important trends of the past 15 winners of the Melling Chase so that we can apply them to this year's entries.

Melling Chase Trends

- 1 15/15 5-23 previous chase starts**
- 2 15/15 3-7 starts in current season**
- 3 15/15 DSLR 11-30**
- 4 15/15 ran in a non-handicap graded chase LTO**
- 5 14/15 previously won at G1 level**
- 6 14/15 13-33 previous career starts**
- 7 14/15 aged 7yo-10yo**
- 8 14/15 ran at Cheltenham LTO**
- 9 13/15 OR 160+**

2018 Mildmay Novices' Chase Entries: Trends Applied







This section applies the important trends of the past 15 winners of the Melling Chase to this year's entrants.

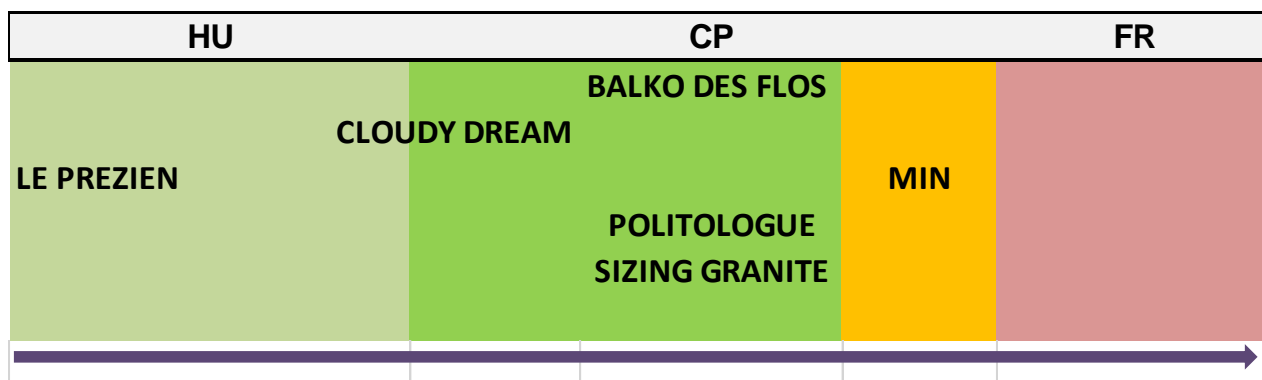
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Tot
BALKO DES FLOS	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	9/9
POLITOLOGUE	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	9/9
MIN	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	8/9
CLOUDY DREAM	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	7/9
LE PREZIEN	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	6/9
SIZING GRANITE	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	6/9

Trend Follower(s) – BALKO DES FLOS | POLITOLOGUE

2018 Melling Chase: Pace analysis

Here we take a look at the race from a Pace angle –

Horse	RS	Running Style
BALKO DES FLOS	CP	 CP
CLOUDY DREAM	HU/CP	 HU/CP
LE PREZIEN	HU	 HU
MIN	CP/FR	 CP/FR
POLITOLOGUE	CP	 CP
SIZING GRANITE	CP	 CP



It may just fall to **MIN** to lead the field long from the front here.

Here is the how the past 15 winners of the race have run in the race –

Running Style fr-0 / cp-10 / hu-5

Melling Chase Summary

Shortlist...

BALKO DES FLOS – 9/9

POLITOLOGUE – 9/9

MIN – 8/9

Conclusion/Selection(s)

POLITOLOGUE (P Nicholls) – I said in the notes after his run in the QMCC that it was time to step him back up in trip and that he would be interesting in this race if Altior decided not to show up...Altior isn't here, Politologue is joint top on the trends with full marks and he's 5-1+; I've no reason to not punt him here. He was very unlucky not to win the G1 Maghull Novice Chase at the track last year so he clearly handles the track well and if you look him under the following...8 runners or less | Good to Soft or softer...you get a form line of 2111121112 (7/10, 1p – all 7 career wins – the 2nds coming behind Barbers Hill, Waiting Patiently and Altior) and those conditions are comfortably met here.

Topham Chase (Grade 3 Hcp)

13th April – 4.05 Aintree

Topham Chase: Winners Trends Analysis

This section compiles the important trends of the past 15 winners of the Topham Chase so that we can apply them to this year's entries.

Topham Chase Trends

- 1 15/15 carried 11-08 & below**
- 2 15/15 won at least at C3 level but NOT at G1 level**
- 3 15/15 4-10 starts in current season**
- 4 15/15 previous run at least at C2 level**
- 5 15/15 1-3 starts last 90 days**
- 6 15/15 ran in a handicap last time out**
- 7 14/15 DSLR 34 or less**
- 8 14/15 completed their race LTO**
- 9 14/15 same or higher mark than their last win**
- 10 14/15 aged 5yo-10yo**
- 11 13/15 OR 142 & below**

2018 Topham Chase Entries: Trends Applied

This section applies the important trends of the past 15 winners of the Melling Chase to this year's entrants.

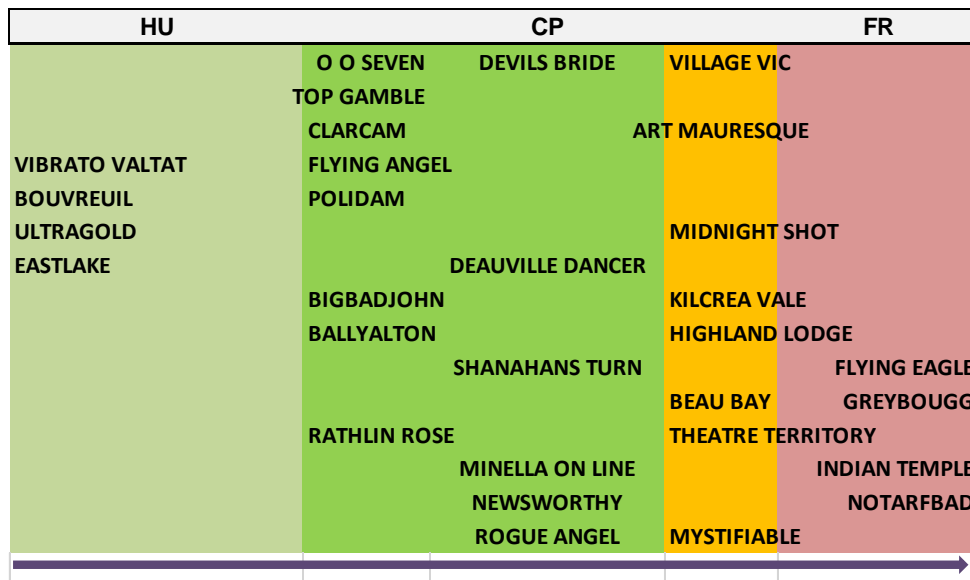
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Tot
ULTRAGOLD	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	11/11
MIDNIGHT SHOT	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	11/11
BIGBADJOHN	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	10/11
DEAUVILLE DANCER	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	10/11
KILCREA VALE	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	10/11
RATHLIN ROSE	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	10/11
NOTARFBAD	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	10/11
MINELLA ON LINE	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	10/11
MYSTIFIABLE	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	10/11
O O SEVEN	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	9/11
TOP GAMBLE	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	9/11
BALLYALTON	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	9/11
SHANAHANS TURN	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	9/11
BEAU BAY	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	9/11
THEATRE TERRITORY	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	9/11
INDIAN TEMPLE	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	9/11
NEWSWORTHY	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	9/11
ROGUE ANGEL	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	9/11
GREYBOUGG	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	9/11
POLIDAM	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	8/11
BOUVREUIL	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	8/11
EASTLAKE	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	8/11
VILLAGE VIC	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	7/11
FLYING ANGEL	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	7/11
VIBRATO VALTAT	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	7/11
HIGHLAND LODGE	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	7/11
FLYING EAGLE	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	7/11
DEVILS BRIDE	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	6/11
ART MAURESQUE	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	6/11
CLARCAM	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	3/11

Trend Follower(s) – ULTRAGOLD | MIDNIGHT SHOT

2018 Topham Chase: Pace analysis

Here we take a look at the race from a Pace angle –

Horse	RS	Running Style
DEVILS BRIDE	CP	→ CP
O O SEVEN	HU/CP	→ HU/CP
TOP GAMBLE	HU/CP	→ HU/CP
VILLAGE VIC	FR/CP	→ FR/CP
CLARCAM	CP/HU	→ CP/HU
ART MAURESQUE	CP/FR	→ CP/FR
FLYING ANGEL	CP/HU	→ CP/HU
POLIDAM	HU/CP	→ HU/CP
VIBRATO VALTAT	HU	→ HU
BOUVREUIL	HU	→ HU
ULTRAGOLD	HU	→ HU
EASTLAKE	HU	→ HU
MIDNIGHT SHOT	CP/FR	→ CP/FR
BIGBADJOHN	HU/CP	→ HU/CP
BALLYALTON	CP/HU	→ CP/HU
DEAUVILLE DANCER	CP	→ CP
KILCREA VALE	CP/FR	→ CP/FR
HIGHLAND LODGE	FR/CP	→ FR/CP
SHANAHANS TURN	CP	→ CP
BEAU BAY	FR	→ FR
RATHLIN ROSE	HU/CP	→ HU/CP
THEATRE TERRITORY	CP/FR	→ CP/FR
INDIAN TEMPLE	FR	→ FR
NOTARFBAD	FR	→ FR
MINELLA ON LINE	CP	→ CP
NEWSWORTHY	CP	→ CP
ROGUE ANGEL	CP	→ CP
GREYBOUGG	FR	→ FR
MYSTIFIABLE	CP/FR	→ CP/FR
FLYING EAGLE	FR	→ FR



FLYING EAGLE, GREYBOUGG, INDIAN TEMPLE & NOTARFBAD look likely to head off in the lead here but any number of others sitting bang on their tails, meaning this is likely to be run at a fair old clip.

Here is the how the past 15 winners of the race have run in the race –

Running Style fr-0 / cp-10 / hu-5

Topham Chase Summary

Shortlist...

ULTRAGOLD – 11/11

MIDNIGHT SHOT – 11/11

BIGBADJOHN – 10/11

DEAUVILLE DANCER – 10/11

KILCREA VALE – 10/11

RATHLIN ROSE – 10/11

NOTARFBAD – 10/11

MINELLA ON LINE – 10/11

MYSTIFIABLE – 10/11

Conclusion/Selection(s)

ULTRAGOLD (C Tizzard) – Last years winner clearly loves these fences, with last years win in this backed up with a decent 2nd in the Grand Sefton at the track in December. He's 5lb higher than he was last year but his love of the track could well negate that and it's not hard to see him running well again over these unique fences. He also seems to spring to life in the April period (form of 121) and with conditions looking to be in his favour (Soft+ | 2m5f or shorter | DSLR 16-60 | flat-slightly undulating tracks – form of 17B111) he's worth a crack at decent odds.

MIDNIGHT SHOT (C Longsdon) – Jumping has always been this lad's strong point and he could be ready made for these bigger fences. I thought he ran well enough last time out at Cheltenham before just fading up the hill, which was understandable given it was his first run for 138 days, and with the rough edges smoothed off for that outing he looks an interesting sort at tasty odds.

MINELLA ON LINE (O Sherwood) – This one caught my eye as a potential for the National fences when he ran 7th to Wakanda in the SkyBet Chase at Doncaster in January. His strong galloping and jumping style should suit this test well and he's worth an interest at a big price.

RATHLIN ROSE (D Pipe) – Still lightly raced for a 10yo and I reckon the handicapper has been pretty lenient on him given that he's only gone up 7lbs for 2 wins and a 2nd on his last 3 starts (the handicapper maybe underestimating his form because they've been military races and a veteran's chase). If you look at him on...soft & better ground | DSLR 11-75...you get a form line of 121P111611 (7/10, 1p – all 7 career wins) and those conditions are comfortably met here.

Please undertake sensible betting practices at all times.

Visit www.gambleaware.co.uk to find out more about gambling.

Please note that past performance should not be taken as a guarantee of future performance.

www.narrowing-the-field.co.uk