

NTF National Hunt 2020/21 'To Follow' List



*An alternative 20 to keep in mind for the
2020/21 NH Season*

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NTF 2020/21 'To Follow' List

An Alternative group of National Hunt runners to keep in mind this season...

This 'to follow' list aims to be different from most of the others you will read this season. In this guide there is no room for a **Henderson, Nicholls, Mullins or Elliott** runner. I wanted this list to consist of runners that may just have slipped under the radar a bit over the last season or two. I could easily have filled the list with potential superstars from the big four yards, I probably would have been highlighting a few Cheltenham Festival winners in the process, but the facts are I'll be covering most of those types of animals by default when I run my [full National Hunt service](#), the big yards will have runners in all the top races and we will get to know their 'stars' at close quarters through my **NTF race analysis guides** and **exclusive weekend notes**.

My aim for this list was to exclude runners from the four 'superpowers' and try and find a bit of value elsewhere. Obviously looking for value in a list of horses to follow before the season has begun is a pretty tricky thing to do but, hopefully, I have managed to pull together a list that includes at least some runners that have slipped under the radar of the mainstream.

All horses on this list went in my notebook for one reason or another last term and I exhaustively reviewed their runs over the summer & autumn months as I pulled this FREE NTF Guide together.

As is the case with all NTF guides the info contained here is available for you to utilise for your own punting activities how you see fit. I have tried to include each horse's ideal conditions but most of these are young improvers and any race trends or preferences may not have revealed themselves yet.

The runners in this guide WILL win races. Will they win races at The Cheltenham or Aintree Festivals? Possibly not but, like the runners from the main four NH yards, all things Cheltenham & Aintree will be covered in-depth in the **full NTF National Hunt service** and besides, there is so much more to the Jumps season than just the Cheltenham & Aintree Festivals, we jumping fans would do well to remember this!

Happy National Hunt Punting

Ben (NTF) – www.narrowingthefield.co.uk

TUPELO MISSISSIPPI (B Ellison) 5yo



Career form 411-

This 5yo son of Yeats could well be the most exciting horse in the Ellison yard. He improved with each start last season, with his victory on his second bumper start, on the A/W at Newcastle, particularly catching the eye given that he ripped his field apart that day by 13L.

Ultimately he'll be a chaser but I'd be disappointed if he couldn't make an impact in mid-distance to staying hurdles this term. He looks to hold some serious scope to make an impact over obstacles and his final start over bumpers showed he's not scared to get down and dirty and scrap out the win when he needs to, a trait that will serve him well once he heads out over three-mile.

Ideal Conditions

2m4f+ Novice Hurdles

LLANDINABO LAD (T Symonds) 5yo



Career form 4-22-

0 from 3 in the bumper sphere so far for this 5yo but he's ran with credit each time. He caught my eye when running second in a hot bumper at Ascot in November. The first four home that day have since run 12-times between them, winning six and placing on one other occasion, subsequent form includes a G2 Hurdle win and a fourth in the Champion Bumper.

That form alone makes him of plenty interest for a switch to hurdles this season and he should have at least a standard Novice/Maiden in his locker, possibly more.

Ideal Conditions

2m - 2m5f+ Novice Hurdles

GLENCASSLEY (C Longsdon) 5yo



Career form 551-

Charlie Longsdon pitched this one in deep on his second bumper start, gunning for the Listed contest at Newbury on Betfair Hurdle day. He was too keen in the early stages that day but he ran with plenty credit to finish fifth, in a race that has been working out well since (ten subsequent runs have produced five wins and two further placed efforts).

Glencassley himself went on to score comfortably on his next start at Wetherby, controlling the race from the front and winning eased down.

He should benefit from longer trips when meeting with hurdles this season and I'd expect him to keep progressing as he strengthens with age.

Chasing will likely be his long-term goal but he'll be up to picking off some hurdle races along the way.

Ideal Conditions

2m4f+ Novice Hurdles

DRENAGH (A Ralph) 5yo



Career form 32-

Alistair Ralph is a trainer who is not (yet) renowned for producing a plethora of winning bumper horses and although this 5yo didn't win either of his two bumper starts last season, he ran with plenty of credit on both and I suspect Alistair Ralph has a well above average horse on his hands here.

His close third on bumper debut was boosted by the winner that day – FAIVOIR – winning next time out and the second horse – GETABAY – has placed on his next three starts. His second to Wetlands on his second bumper start also looks like above average form, with it being a yawning 17L+ back to the remainder.

His pedigree suggests there should be more to come once he meets with obstacles and he's a very interesting contender for his upwardly mobile yard.

Ideal Conditions

2m-2m5f Novice Hurdles

JAYAAAH (S Smith) 5yo



Career form 224-

Like most Sue Smith horses this Yeats gelding will be all about the chasing game. He's a big lad, around 17 hands, and may yet take a bit of filling out, but he showed plenty of promise on his first two bumper starts and I'd expect him to run too a solid level on the north novice hurdling scene.

His bumper form stacks up well, with the horse he finished second to at Carlisle on Bumper debut (ARCADIAN SUNRISE) showing plenty of progression over hurdles and on the flat since, and the horse he finished second to at Market Rasen (THIRD TIME LUCKI) winning easily at Huntingdon and then running fourth in the Champion Bumper at Cheltenham.

He's a long-term prospect but there was enough in his bumper runs to suggest he's more than capable of visiting the winners enclosure when tackling timber this season.

Ideal Conditions

2m – 2m5f Novice Hurdles

BLACK GERRY (G Moore) 5yo



Career form 612-

This Westerner gelding ran against some decent opposition in his three hurdle runs last season and the form of his Novice Hurdle win at Lingfield in January has been working out well so far, with the 2nd, 3rd and 4th all winning since.

Chases should bring about plenty improvement in him, although it wouldn't surprise me if they tried to snaffle a Handicap Hurdle pot first before heading over the larger obstacles, with his mark of OR 129 looking exploitable.

Ideal Conditions

2m4f/5f Handicap Hurdles/Novice Chases

SMITH'S BAY (A King) 7yo



Career form 15-65-1227-

Alan King fired in some decent stats in Novice & Beginners Chases last season – 13/47 | 28% S/R | +38.72 BFLSP – W&P 21/47 | 45% S/R – 11% above expectation – and it would be no surprise to see this 7yo son of Midnight Charm add to this seasons tally (which stands at 2 from 2 at time of writing).

Chasing has always been the long-term plan for Smiths Bay and I'd expect him to leave his hurdles form well behind him when meeting with the larger obstacles, for all he has shown glimpses of ability already, winning over both hurdles and in bumpers so far in his 8-race career.

Ideal Conditions

2m4f+ Novice Chases

COMOTION (D Bridgwater) 5yo



Career form 43-

David Bridgwater is not a trainer that targets bumpers, not in any way, shape or form. His record since 2003 tells you all you need to know about his modus-operandi in such races...

3/120 | 2.5% S/R | -£97 LSP – W&P 8/120 | 6.5% S/R – 39% below expectation

With that in mind I found it extremely noteworthy that this 5yo son of Kapgarde put in two eye-catching efforts on his two bumper starts last season, finishing 4th of 18 at Warwick and then third of 16, also at Warwick. He was never seriously put into either of those contests and was doing all his best work late in the day, but the fact he managed to squeak into the places on his second start (just 4.3L off the winner) suggests Bridgewater probably has an above average type on his hands here.

I suspect COMOTION is a long-term chasing prospect - and Bridgewater does have a much better S/R with his chasers than hurdlers, a 17% S/R with his chasers compared to a 8% S/R with his hurdlers (since 2010) – but there was enough in this lads bumper starts to suggest that a lower level Novice/Maiden hurdle (or two) should be well within his grasp this season, before he goes chasing in the 2021/22 season.

Ideal Conditions

2m4f+ Novice Hurdles

HONEST EXCHANGE (C Tizzard) 6yo



Career form 3-

Colin Tizzard's 6yo son of Goldwell was only seen once on the racetrack last season, when running a solid third over 2m2.5f at Exeter in February. Despite only having that one rules start on his CV he does bring plenty experience from point-to-point's, with four starts to his name in that field, winning two and placing on one other.

He was slick and neat at his hurdles on that rules debut at Exeter and stayed on all the way to the line in the manner of one who will benefit from longer trips this season. He should have no problem picking off a couple of races over timber this term.

Ideal Conditions

2m4f+ Novice Hurdles

BARON DE MIDLETON (B Ellison) 7yo



Career form 4141F-

Brian Ellison returned some strong stats with his chasers in Novice/Beginner chases last season – **9/19 | 47% S/R | +£38 BFLSP** – and this 7yo son of Brian Boru could be his star novice (chaser) this time round.

He won two of his five Hurdle starts last season and was unlucky not to win on his final start over timber in a Class 2 at Newcastle, falling two-out when still in a two-length lead.

There should be more improvement still to come over the larger obstacles this season.

Ideal Conditions

Novice Chases

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NTF is continually progressing to stay ahead of the game. During the 2020 Summer service I tightened up the Race trends approach and backing all the shortlisted qualifiers would have produced in excess of +110 points profit to Betfair SP, I'll be looking to capitalize on the angle again during the NH season. The full NTF National Hunt package will be available at an EXCLUSIVE discounted rate to previous members and members of the NTF FREE list. Doors open mid-October...

Make sure YOU don't miss out!

Narrowing The Field

EDWARDSTONE (A King) 6yo



Career form 222-1126-

This 6yo was not only mixing it with some above average types last season, he was also beating them, with victories over the likes of FIDDLERONTHEROOF & HARRY SENIOR on his CV, before succumbing to STOLEN SILVER by a neck in the Rossington Main at Haydock in January.

He got away to a slow start in the Supreme at Cheltenham before finishing a respectable 6th but all in all that wasn't a bad way to round out his Novice Hurdle campaign, confirming the promise of his bumper season in 2018/19, the form of which has worked out well since.

Personally I'd like to see them go chasing this season but he's almost certainly got the scope to make an impact as a second season hurdler as well and he remains an exciting prospect for Alan King. The Kayf Tara gelding should be finding his way to the winners enclosure on a few occasions this season.

Ideal Conditions

2m – 2m5f Novice Chases

ESPOIR DE ROMAY (K Bailey) 6yo



Career form 3-1310-

This prominent racing type showed some decent form over hurdles last season, winning two of his four starts and ending up with an official rating of OR 142. He ran off that mark in the Martin Pipe Hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival but probably didn't quite have the tactical knowhow to deal with that challenge, finishing mid-pack albeit only fading after the last on the climb up the hill.

He's one of those that's got 'chaser written all over him' and it would be a shock should he not make an impact over the larger obstacles.

Ideal Conditions

2m4f+ Novice Chases

DONNIE BRASCO (K Bailey) 7yo



Career form 3336 -

The 7yo didn't manage to get his head in front over timber last season but he did place on his first three runs and the form of those races were all boosted in subsequent starts by those that finished ahead of him.

His final run at Exeter in February was disappointing but he did lose a shoe mid-race and conditions were particularly testing that day, so I'd be inclined to forgive him that effort.

He won his sole point-to-point start before joining Bailey and chasing should bring about plenty of improvement from the gelding, especially if they start him off in Novice Handicaps.

Ideal Conditions

Novice Chases/Novice Handicap Chases

GUSTAVIAN (A Honeyball) 5yo



Career form 2212-

Honeyball was another with a fine record in Novice/Beginners chases last season – 8/21 | 38% S/R | +£17.70 BFLSP – W&P 11/21 | 52% S/R – and this youngster would have a good chance of boosting this year's stats, if they elect to head down the chasing route.

Options should be fluid for him, with his hurdle mark only a lowly OR 120, so there's the option of heading Handicap Hurdling first, his form behind the now 135-rated KEPAGGE in a bumper last November suggests his current mark should be exploitable.

Ideal Conditions

Novice Chases/Handicap Hurdles

ASK BEN (G McPherson) 7yo



Career form 1120-42P-

I had hoped they would go chasing with this one last season but as things transpired they elected to stay hurdling. That turned out to be an OK decision, with two placed efforts at Haydock & Cheltenham on his first two starts. He then pulled-up lame in the Heroes Handicap Hurdle at Sandown in February, his third and final start of the season.

The 7yo's pedigree holds an abundance of stamina influences and a switch to staying novice chase contests this season would likely see him take the step to the next level and, in time, he looks the type to excel in marathon handicap chases.

Ideal Conditions

3m+ Novice Chases/Handicap Hurdles

EXOD'ELA (J Snowden) 6yo



Career form 23231-

Jamie Snowdon's 6yo ran well in a brace of Bumper and Novice Hurdle contests at the beginning of last season without quite managing to get his head in front. He then returned in February off a 70-day break and with a first-time tongue-tie and duly scooted home in a Class 3 Novice Handicap at Ludlow, winning by an ever widening 4.75 lengths.

He won his sole point-to-point start in March of 2019 and the shape he makes at his hurdles suggests chasing shouldn't be any issue for him, although with very few miles on the clock in the hurdling sphere it would be no surprise to see connections try and pick off another handicap over timber before switching to the larger obstacles.

Ideal Conditions

2m4f+ Handicap Hurdles/Novice Chases

MORODER (S Mullins) 6yo



Career form 21-3423-

This 6yo was knocking on the door a few times last term but last season was just another step on the ladder towards his ultimate goal of chasing, which has always looked his long-term goal.

He's currently parked on a handicap mark of OR 115 but I'd expect him to leave that well behind over fences and it would be no surprise to see him pick off a couple of low-level Novice Handicap Chases in his first season chasing.

Ideal Conditions

2m5f+ Novice Chases/Novice Handicap Chases

DEFUTURE IS BRIGHT (C Williams) 6yo



Career form 843030-

Another of those types that has just been 'passing the time' over hurdles and I'd expect to see significant improvement from him when he goes chasing.

His form to date isn't all that much to write home about but there has been the odd glimpse of ability from him, particularly when finishing third in a Class 4 Novice Handicap at Ascot in December (those that finished around him have boosted the form since). That was the longest trip he's raced over to date (2m7.5f) and staying trips could well prove the key to him this season over fences.

Ideal Conditions

2m5f+ Novice Chases

MINT CONDITION (J Candlish) 6yo



Career form 3442-

This 6yo ran with credit behind some decent types last season (Shishkin, Lieutenant Rocco, Stick With Bill...) and despite not winning any of his three hurdling starts he did show enough in his runs to suggest his opening handicap mark of OR 115 shouldn't be a stumbling block for him.

Connections may well decide to keep him hurdling to try and exploit that mark but he'd be equally as interesting if heading over fences and he should be winning this season.

Ideal Conditions

2m-2m5f Handicap Hurdles/Novice Chases

MUCKAMORE (N Twiston-Davies) 6yo



Career form 221-

This Sholokhov gelding starts the season on a mark of OR 125 and I'd expect him to significantly outstrip that rating when sent chasing; he looks ready made for the larger obstacles and he'd be of particular interest if they start him off in Novice Handicap Chases.

He split the now 140-rated Imperial Alcazar and the 130-rated Fugitives Drift on his hurdling debut in January and rounded the season out with a bloodless 11L victory at Taunton, with a solid second over 3m at Ludlow in between, and he should continue on his upward trajectory when switched to the chasing game this term.

Ideal Conditions

2m5f+ Novice Chases

Closing notes...

Hopefully you find the info in this FREE NTF guide enjoyable and are able to make use of the material included within. The aim of this guide is to pinpoint a group of horses that are slightly out with the mainstream and will improve for going Novice Hurdling or Novice Chaser, or for a couple of them going down the handicap route. The traits & preferences of the runners in this list will become more apparent as the season develops and I will be looking to update it exclusively to members of the **full NTF subscription service** as we reach deeper into the season. Unlike other 'to follow' guides I produce, like my NTF Summer Stunners guide, where we were fully aware of the likes & dislikes of the horses on the list, we will have to approach this list a bit more carefully and almost 'learn as we go along' with many of the runners included.

'To Follow' lists can be tricky to produce profits from, but they do help you focus the mind and help you get to know the ins and outs of yards and, more specifically, the likes and dislikes of specific horses. If you can source patterns in amongst a horse's wider form then profits *are* there waiting for you.

Personally, I didn't see the point in stuffing my list full of Nicholls, Henderson, Mullins & Elliott runners as that information is freely available in wider racing press and I'll also be covering their runners on **the full NTF Service** as we charge through the 2020/21 season. Instead I wanted to try and bring to your attention some of the 'lesser lights' of the game but still ones I feel can win plenty of races between them this National Hunt season.

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