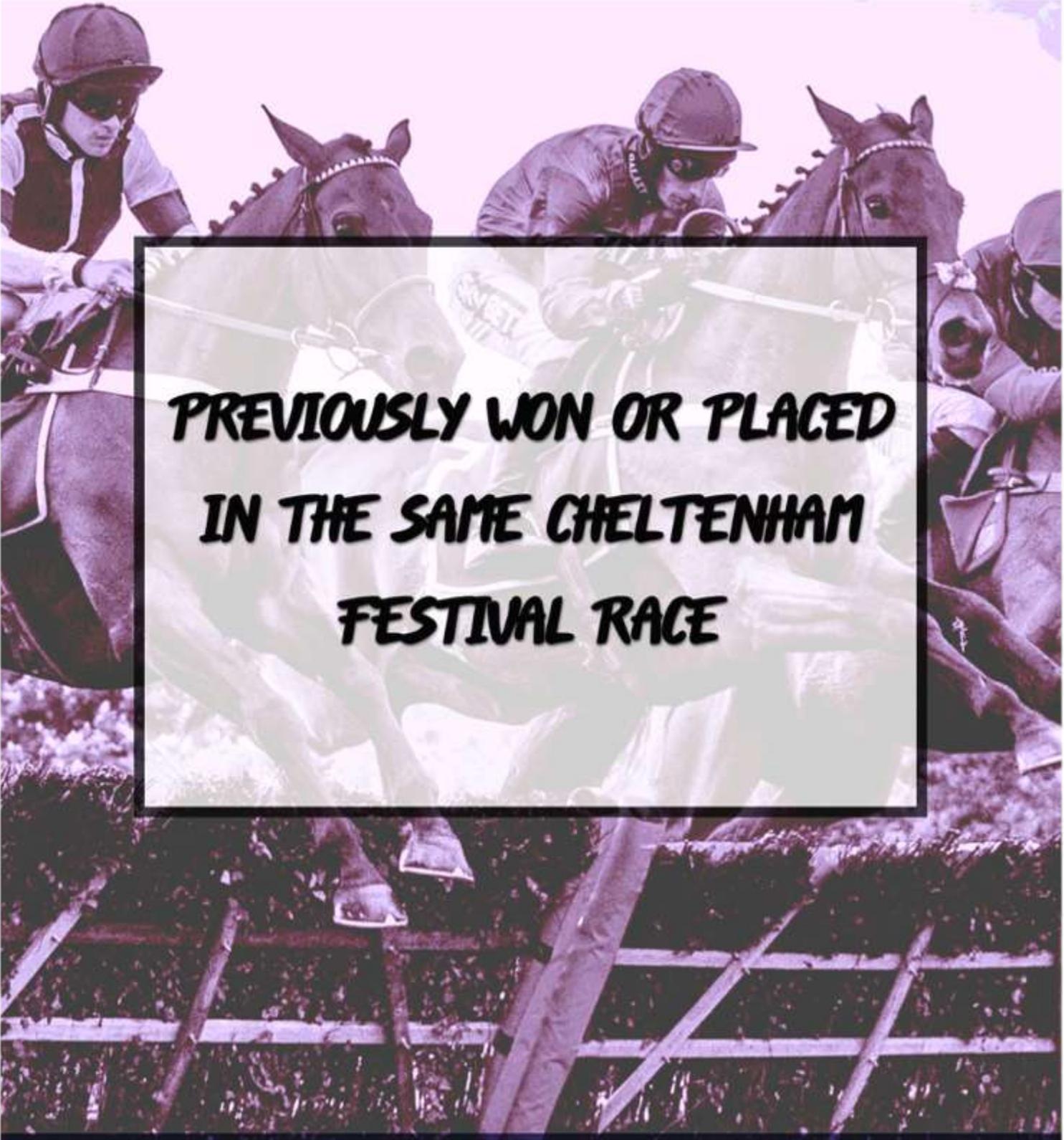


NARROWING THE FIELD

2026 CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL



**PREVIOUSLY WON OR PLACED
IN THE SAME CHELTENHAM
FESTIVAL RACE**

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Previously Won or Placed in the SAME Cheltenham Festival Race...

One of the Stats/Angles in my recent free Cheltenham Guide ([download HERE if you haven't already](#)) concentrated on the record of horses that had **previously Won or Placed in the SAME Festival Race...**

Last season **DINOBLUE & LOSSIEMOUTH** both won a race they had previously won or placed in... whilst **BALLYADAM (16/1) & HAPPYGOLUCKY (28/1)**, amongst others, both placed in a race they had previously won or placed in...

In 2024 **STATE MAN, LANGER DAN, CAPTAIN GUINNESS, TEAHUPOO, SHAKEM UPARRY** and **GALOPIN DES CHAMPS** all won in a race they had previously won or placed in... whilst **FLOORING PORTER (9/1)** and **PIED PIPER (14/1)** both placed in a race they had previously won or placed in...

These types pop up regularly over the four days of Cheltenham and I like to get an early eye on the runners who may flag up on my database on the angle come the final decs...

The angle is as follows...



 **Cheltenham Festival | Horses that previously WON or PLACED in SAME race | Aged 12yo or less | *OR no more than 15lbs below top-rated horse | Same/Up in trip/Down no more than 2f from last run**

 **41/237 | 17% S/R | +£428.29 BFLSP – W&P 88/237 | 37% S/R**

21% above expectation | E/W returns = +£246.00

**The filter 'Rated no more than 15lbs below top-rated...' won't always be obvious right now... it's not always easy to figure who will end up being the top-rated horse at this stage, so I'll only loosely have that part of the angle on my mind...*



It's not an angle I follow 'blind', but I do have it plugged in to [HorseRaceBase](#) so I am alerted when there is a 'qualifier' on the angle and it does form part of my overall analysis process...

What I wanted to do here was take a quick pre-look at some of the races and see if there are any horses that may be fitting this angle and, as such, may be of some interest from a betting perspective...

Probably not from a betting perspective right now, at this stage it's more a case of keeping them on the radar for final decs time to see how things are shaping up...

I'm not looking to force any bets from this analysis and unless there is anything really stand-out at the prices it's more a case of positioning my mind and getting an early look ahead to some horses that could be of interest (on this specific type of angle) when the final fields are confirmed...

Plenty of the races will also have enhanced place terms come final decs as well... the handicaps are only 4-places right now... come final decs there will be 6-places on offer in a lot of books (in the handicaps)... no need to dive in at this stage when place terms will be boosted soon...

There won't be qualifiers in all races (far from it), and this isn't a complete look at all potential qualifiers on the angle, but I've also got some race specific angles based around a similar theme, so for the first race I cover in this guide, **the Ultima Handicap Chase**, I've used a '*Previously run in the Ultima*' angle I have plugged in, the rest of the races covered I use the main '*previously Won or Placed in the SAME Festival Race*' angle...

3:20 Cheltenham | Tuesday 10th March

Ultima Handicap Chase

Class 1 Hcp Chase | 3m1f | 5yo+

Doesn't look like there will be any qualifiers on the wider angle this year, but there is an Ultima specific angle I have plugged in, based around the same concept as the main angle, and it's worth taking a closer look at...

That angle being...

Previous run in the Ultima | IRE bred | DSLR 21+ | Won or beaten no more than 30L LTO

(since 2011) 46515915131041 (5/14, 3p | +£74.61 – E/W = +£74.50)

Plenty books pay out on 5th and even 6th come the day... only 2 of the 14 qualifiers on this angle finishing worse than 6th, so the figures are even stronger than what is mentioned above...

Potential qualifier(s) on the angle...

 **MONBEG GENIUS (JJ O'Neill)** – PU in 2024 renewal | 3rd in 2023 renewal

Current price: 50/1

Will be running off only 1lb higher than when finishing a close 3rd in 2023 behind the well-handicapped pair of CORACH RAMBLER & FASTORSLOW. PU in 2024 renewal came on Heavy ground, so easily excused that run. Been running well enough in marathon chases recently, without really suggesting he absolutely wants those trips, so this drop back to 3m1f will suit.

Goes well under the conditions...

LH tracks | >2m7f & <3m2f | OR 144 or less = 1231111 (5/7, 2p – 5 of his 6 career wins)

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 **THE SHORT GO (H De Bromhead)** – 5th in 2025 renewal

Current price: 20/1

Will be running from 6lbs higher than mark he ran off last year. Not too many miles on the clock for a 9yo and he does go well over the Cheltenham fences, with form of... 3452 (0/4, 4p)...

Not been seen since running 3rd at Cheltenham December meeting so good chance he's been targeted at this race again (although also entered in Kim Muir)...

4:00 Cheltenham | Tuesday 10th March

Champion Hurdle

Grade 1 Hurdle | 2m0.5f | 4yo+

Potential qualifier(s) on the angle...

 **GOLDEN ACE** (J Scott) - *Won 2025 renewal*

Current price: 13/2

A lucky winner of this last year? Probably.

A fortunate winner of the Fighting Fifth? Possibly.

But she stays on her feet and has only finished out of the first two on three of her 15 starts and she's nothing if not a solid and reliable type. One who also holds a strong Cheltenham form line of... 1311... which includes wins at the last two Festivals...

Not hard to see her running her usual solid and reliable race again, but probably needs others to underperform if she is to win back to back Champion Hurdles...

4:40 Cheltenham | Tuesday 10th March

Plate Handicap Chase

Class 1 Hcp Chase | 2m4f | 5yo+

Potential qualifier(s) on the angle...

 **JAGWAR** (O Greenall/J Guerriero) - *Won 2025 renewal*

Current price: 6/1

Will be running from a mark 13lbs higher than mark he won race off last season. Holds a strong form line over the Cheltenham fences... 2311... those starts have all come over 2m4.5f on the 'New' track and this race has been moved to the 'Old' track this year (and a small drop in distance to 2m4f)... I'd have that as a small query/unknown, nothing more... current handicap mark probably not beyond him although will need to step on again, and he is also entered in the Ultima Handicap earlier on the Tuesday card over 3m1f (connections did hint that they may go up in trip with him)...

5:20 Cheltenham | Tuesday 10th March

NH Challenge Cup

Class 2 Novices' Hcp Chase | 3m6f | 5yo+

Potential qualifier(s) on the angle...

 **WILL DO** (G Elliott) – 3rd in 2025 renewal

Current price: 25/1

Will be running from 5lbs higher than mark he ran off last year when finishing 3rd. Last year's renewal does look like strong form, with plenty winning performances emerging subsequently from the race... WILL DO is still, however, winless over fences after 13-attempts and his PU last time out (albeit excusable due to Heavy ground) is far from ideal (PU LTO horses in chases at the Cheltenham Festival over 3m+ are... 5/229, 16p | 2% S/R | -£69.00 – 34% below exp)... and his chances are not abundantly obvious in this (out with him likely qualifying on the 'Won or Place in race previously' angle)...

2:40 Cheltenham | Wednesday 11th March

Coral Cup

Class 1 Hcp Hurdle | 2m5f | 4yo+

Potential qualifier(s) on the angle...

 **BALLYADAM** (H De Bromhead) – 3rd in the 2025 renewal | 2nd in the 2024 renewal

Current price: 33/1

Will be running off a 1lb higher mark than mark he finished 3rd off last season and 5lbs higher than mark he ran 2nd off in 2024 renewal.

He's run at past five Cheltenham Festival's, returning form of... 3rd (2025 Coral Cup) 2nd (2024 Coral Cup), 5th (2023 County Hurdle), 5th (2022 County Hurdle) & 2nd (2021 Supreme Hurdle)... so he does handle the Festival environment extremely well...

He's an 11yo now and horses aged 9yo+ are 2/112, 10p in the race and horses aged 10yo+ are 0/48, 7p... so it has been a race that has favoured the younger brigade... but given his record at the Festival he could well snatch a place yet again...

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 **LUCKY PLACE** (N Henderson) – 4th in the 2024 renewal

Current price: 33/1

Will be running off a 14lbs higher mark than mark he finished 4th off in 2024... Was sent over fences this season but connections quickly aborted that idea after he finished 3rd of 3 and then 2nd of 2... didn't really shine when sent back to Hurdles for the Relkeel Hurdle on the New Year's day meeting at Cheltenham (3rd of 6)... hard to know where he's at right now but trips of 2m5f and shorter do suit him... 421312122 (3/9, 5p)... and he clearly handles the track well, with form at Cheltenham (away from G1 level) reading... 3142...

4:00 Cheltenham | Wednesday 11th March

 Queen Mother Champion Chase 

Grade 1 Chase | 2m | 5yo+

Potential qualifier(s) on the angle...

 **MARINE NATIONAL** (B Connell) – Won 2025 renewal

Current price: 5/2

2 from 2 at Cheltenham having won this last year and the Supreme in 2023... 2nd at Leopardstown last time out in the Dublin Chase but he filled the same spot in 2025 before coming on and winning this, and I suspect he'll have improved for the outing again this year... Leopardstown possibly not the ideal track for him anyway as he is 222351 (1/6, 4p) there compared to 11112111 (7/8, 1p) at all other tracks...

**

 **CAPTAIN GUINNESS** (H De Bromhead) – 3rd in 2025 renewal | Won 2024 renewal | 2nd in 2023 renewal

Current price: 80/1

Brings solid Festival form to the table... 3123B (Brought-Down 2-out in 2020 Supreme when still bang there with a chance)... I'd be surprised if he still had the ability to win this again, but not completely out of the question that he runs himself into a place (for all it will be difficult and he has looked on the downgrade this year after a 32-race career)...

4:40 Cheltenham | Wednesday 11th March

Grand Annual

Class 1 Hcp Chase | 2m | 5yo+

Potential qualifier(s) on the angle...

 **JAZZY MATTY** (C Collins) – *Won 2025 renewal*

Current price: 12/1

Will be running off an 8lbs higher mark than mark he won off last season... he's still lightly enough raced as a chaser after 8 chase starts, only 2 coming in Handicap company... he holds strong form at Cheltenham... 5th (20-runner hurdle race), 1st (this race last year), 2nd (by a head when massively unfavoured by weights) and 1st (2023 Fred Winter)... has taken the same route this year as he did last year, with a run at the Cheltenham October meeting and then a Handicap Hurdle race at Thurles in mid-January, which suggests they are again targeting him to peak at the Festival...

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 **MIDNIGHT IT IS** (C Collins) – *3rd in 2025 renewal*

Current price: 33/1

Will be running off 1lb higher than when 3rd last season... not shown much in 3 runs since placing in this last year so he's a little hard to accurately assess... he does, however, tend to go well under similar conditions to that he will face in the Grand Annual... **2m3f or less | Oct-Apr = 4/15, 5p – all 4 career wins...**

**

 **LIBERTY HUNTER** (E Williams) – *2nd in 2024 renewal*

Current price: 33/1

Will be running off 12lbs higher than when finishing 2nd in race in 2024... been taking in plenty of the top 2-mile races recently with little success and a drop back into Handicap company would make sense... his 5 starts in handicap chases to date have returned a form line of... 1211F (travelling like winner when fell 3-out)... and although this will be highest mark he's run off in Handicap company, it's not necessarily a mark he won't be able to run well from...

3:20 Cheltenham | Thursday 12th March

Stayers Hurdle

Grade 1 Hurdle | 3m | 4yo+

Potential qualifier(s) on the angle...

 **BOB OLINGER** (H De Bromhead) – *Won 2025 renewal*

Current price: 7/1

Only seen once since winning this last year, when running 2nd behind TEAHUPOO in Christmas Hurdle at Leopardstown... plenty reason to think he'll come on for that run and that this has been his main target for season... comes here an unbeaten 4 from 4 at Cheltenham, 3 of those coming at Festival, and not hard to see him go well again...

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 **TEAHUPOO** (G Elliott) – *2nd in 2025 renewal | Won 2024 renewal | 3rd in 2023 renewal*

Current price: 7/4

Comes here off back of 3 Grade 1 wins and a form line of 11122111 on his last 8 starts, all those runs at G1 level... holds Cheltenham form of... 2120... his win and nose 2nd in this came on Soft ground whilst his 1.8L 2nd and 10th of 10 in the 2022 Champ Hurdle came on Good to Soft, so Soft/Heavy ground would enhance his chances (G/S wouldn't necessarily blunt him, but would probably favour others)...

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 **FLOORING PORTER** (G Cromwell) – *2nd in 2024 renewal | Won 2022 & 2021 renewals*

Current price: 50/1

Made his return in the Cotswold Chase in January after 486-days off the track (25L 4th of 4) and hard to know where he's at right now... needed that run to qualify for the National at Aintree and I suspect if that is indeed the main target, a run in this would likely just be another stepping stone towards April...

**

 **HOME BY THE LEE** (JP O'Brien) – *3rd in 2024 renewal*

Current price: 40/1

Always found him tricky to fully assess but his win at Gowran last time out was up there with his best RPR figures, so he can clearly still do a job... Cheltenham form of... U356... possibly hints this not the ideal track for him though...

4:40 Cheltenham | Thursday 12th March

Pertemps Final

Class 1 Hcp Hurdle | 3m | 5yo+

Potential qualifier(s) on the angle...

 **BOLD ENDEAVOUR** (N Henderson) – 4th in 2024 renewal

Current price: 25/1

Will be running here off a 13lbs lower mark than the one he ran off when finishing 4th in the 2024 renewal... has shown precious little in his 6-starts since running 4th in this race 2 years ago... he moved from Henderson to Laura Morgan (where he started his career) in the summer of 2024, recording a 54L 7th of 8 and then 2 pulled-up efforts, before finding his way back to Henderson last autumn, a full 11lbs lower than the mark he left Henderson on... he then ran in a qualifier for this at Huntingdon on the 22nd of January, his first run for 369-days, where he was running an eye-catching race before understandably tiring in the closing stages... it was, however, enough to get him qualified for this and without damaging his handicap mark... he holds some decent form at Cheltenham over Hurdles... 4225 (5th of 26 in 2023 Coral Cup)... all those runs coming in handicaps from higher marks that what he'll run off here... and he does go best under similar conditions to what he'll meet with in the Pertemps Final... **OR 143 or less | tracks with undulations | DSLR 31+ = 43211P3111 (5/10, 4p – all 5 career wins)...**

2:00 Cheltenham | Friday 13th March

County Hurdle

Class 1 Hcp Hurdle | 2m1f | 5yo+

Potential qualifier(s) on the angle...

 **NDAAWI (G Elliott)** – 2nd in 2025 renewal

Current price: 25/1

Will be running here off a 16lb higher mark than one he ran off when 2nd last year... Festival form of 3rd in the 2024 Fred Winter and 2nd in this last year tells us he handles the Festival environment well... winning the Galway Hurdle last summer has shot him up the weights plenty, however, so no easy task this year to continue his fine record at meeting... warmed-up on the A/W at Dundalk and that isn't ideal either... record of runners at Chelt Fest that ran on the A/W LTO reads... 0/99, 5p...

**

 **ABSURDE (W Mullins)** – 3rd in 2025 renewal | Won the 2024 renewal

Current price: 25/1

Will be running here off a 9lb higher mark than one he ran off when 3rd last year and 17lb higher than mark he won off in 2024... not been seen since running 8th in the Melbourne Cup in November and does tend to improve for his first run off a break of 50+ days... form off DSLR 50+ = 03317P45337...

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 **FAIVOIR (D Skelton)** – Won the 2023 renewal

Current price: 66/1

Will be running here off a 4lb lower mark than one he ran off when winning in 2023... no wins in 12-starts since landing this in 2023 although tends to run well at the track, with Cheltenham form of... 3610411... latest 3rd came in Greatwood Hurdle at Cheltenham November meeting at start of this season...

4:00 Cheltenham | Friday 13th March

Gold Cup

Grade 1 Chase | 3m2.5f | 5yo+

Potential qualifier(s) on the angle...

 **INOTHEWAYURTHINKIN** (G Cromwell) – *Won 2025 renewal*

Current price: 14/1

Has done the best part of nothing since winning the race last year and on the face of things it's hard to think he's going to bounce back with a big effort here, based on what he's shown so far this season... although it is worth noting he's 2 from 2 at Cheltenham (which came at the last 2 festivals) and he's also 111 (3/3) over trips of 3m1f+... again, that form line includes his 2 Festivals wins and an argument could be made that he simply needs a proper stamina test... his distance splits over fences read... **trips of 3m1f+ = 111 (3/3)**... compared to... **trips of <3m1f = 549F937522 (0/10, 2p)**... also worth noting that his 3 starts since winning this last season have come at Leopardstown (X2) and Punchestown, tracks where he has combined form of 0/9, 1p (the placed effort he was beaten 15L in 2nd)... away from those two tracks he is... 5/9, 1p... so again, his 3 starts since winning this do put a question mark over him, but it could just be that the trips and tracks really don't suit him... and it's not absolutely out of the question that the 3m2.5f of the Gold Cup trip, as well as the track itself, are absolutely ideal for him...

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 **GALOPIN DES CHAMPS** (W Mullins) – *2nd in 2025 renewal | Won the 2024 & 2023 renewals*

Current price: 9/1

His runs this season suggest he has regressed from *his* peak, but then again he's a 10yo with 26-starts on his CV... 21 of those starts coming at the very top level in G1's... it's only natural for a horse of his age who has spent the majority of his career in Grade 1's to begin to dip... he's still, however, in the top group of staying chasers and it would be absolutely no surprise to see him run into a place in this... his form at Cheltenham (all at the Festival) reads... 211F1... the F coming in the 2022 Turners when 11-lengths ahead and slipping on landing after the last... winning this again will be a tough ask as the age trend is strong in the Gold Cup, with horses aged 10yo+ returning stats of 1/98, 10p – 84% below exp... dipping to... 0/82, 8p if you look at the renewals run this century (since 2000)... although if you look at... 10yo & 11yo's that had previous won the Gold Cup and are rated OR 172+... you get a form line of... 423P2F4 (0/7, 3p)... and Galopin Des Champs can still make his presence felt...

**

Thoughts...

As already mentioned, I'm not looking to force any bets from this analysis, it's more a case of positioning my mind and getting an early look ahead to some horses that could be of interest (on the specific angle/similar angles)...

Of the horses I've covered, however, **BOLD ENDEAVOUR** in the **Pertemps Final** does look interesting... he will fall down on the '*Rated no more than 15lbs below top-rated horse*' filter should one of the 3 at the head of the weights turn up, so it will be interesting to see how the race is shaping up come final decs... I can definitely see positives for him at lofty odds though...

Cheers – **Ben (NTF)**



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