

NARROWING THE FIELD

2026 AINTREE FESTIVAL

FREE GUIDE



AINTREE FESTIVAL STATS

FEATURING...

- ✓ AINTREE NON-HCPS
 - ✓ AINTREE HCPS
 - ✓ AINTREE GRADE 1'S
 - ✓ OVERALL STATS
 - ✓ HIGHLY PROFITABLE PREVIOUS FESTIVAL WINNERS ANGLE
-

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2026 Aintree National Festival – Stat Attack

The 2026 Aintree National Festival... 3 days in Merseyside topped off by the marathon chase of all marathon chases: **THE GRAND NATIONAL**.

Horses will have been targeted at this meeting from some way out, will be coming here looking to bolster their Cheltenham Festival superiority or will be looking for compensation for a near miss/poor run at Prestbury Park. Either way it is a high-class meeting that brings together some strong trends that we can get stuck in to...

In this NTF 'Stat Attack' guide I'm going to look at some trends and stats we should be aware of to help us 'narrow the field' over the 3-days...

I have split the guide into five areas...

- **All races**
- **NON-Handicap**
- **Handicaps**
- **Grade 1's**
- **Exclusive 'Previously Won at Meeting' Angle**

...and the last six Aintree Grand National meetings have been used to source the data (except for the 'Previously Won...' angle).

As always, I suggest you use these trends and stats as a guide rather than as gospel, using the information contained within this free NTF guide to help with your own analysis of the **2026 Aintree Grand National meeting...**

Cheers and Happy Aintree Punting

Ben (NTF)

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Aintree National Meeting - All Races...

There have been **126 races** at the past 6 Aintree Festivals...

General Trends

Age

Runners aged 11+

3/162 | 2% S/R | **-£129.50 LSP** – 51% below expectation

Win & Place – 17/162 | 10% S/R

For most it has been a long and hard season and for those runners that are in, or almost in, their teens Aintree in April has been a bridge too far for them. Three winners is a poor return for the older brigade, and **you really want a plenty of other factors in your favour before deciding to punt your hard earned on one of these runners.**

**Two of the three winners came in the Foxhunters Chase, which naturally attracts older runners anyway.*

Days since last run (DSLRL)

Running within **18 days** of last start

3/77 | 4% S/R | **-£21.00 LSP** – 23% below expectation

Win & Place – 14/77 | 18% S/R

The figures tell us that running at Aintree within 2 and a half weeks of your last start is less than desirable tactic. It's a highly competitive environment and you really don't want your selection to be feeling the effects of a recent race still ringing in their legs. **It can be done but it is certainly preferable to have had more than an 18-day break.**

Runs in season

Horses aged 8yo+ with 5+ runs in current season

6/314 | 2% S/R | **-£247.50 LSP** – 65% below expectation

Win & Place – 50/314 | 16% S/R

A bit of an odd one this but statistically it does hold up, and those horses nearer the top end of the age spectrum and with a busy(ish) season already in the bank have struggled to land in the winners' spot come Aintree. **It can be done ('older' horses with a 'busy' season under their belt) but it's certainly preferable for the 8yo+ horses to have had a 'lighter' season before tackling their Aintree target.**

Last time out course

Ran at the Cheltenham Festival on last start

53/567 | 9.5% S/R | **-£255.66 LSP** – 22% below expectation

Win & Place – 159/567 | 28% S/R

“Horses that ran at the Cheltenham festival don't run their race when they come on to Aintree?”

That may be a phrase you will hear (or something similar) a few times during Aintree week, but it's not exactly what the figures are telling us, with a healthy enough **53 of the 126 winners (42%) having their last start at the Cheltenham Festival**. Yes, a hefty enough 567 of Aintree runners had their last run at Cheltenham but **don't be suckered into believing a run at the Cheltenham Festival is a full on negative**. For sure, Cheltenham *can* leave its mark on some runners and backing them ALL will have seen you drop a substantial amount of your betting bank, but they convert only 22%

below the expected rate at Aintree and its best to ignore the 'Cheltenham to Aintree' *myth*... to a certain extent, anyway...

If we add a few filters to the overall 'Cheltenham to Aintree' stats we *can* start to find a bit of a stronger 'angle' within the wider stats... with the following catching my eye...

Aintree National Meeting | 1-2 starts last 90-days | SP 8/1 or less | Won 1 of last 4 | Ran at Cheltenham Festival LTO (Didn't finish PU)

44/167 | 26% S/R | +£15.59 LSP (+£36.39 BFLSP) – 6% above expectation

Win & Place – 88/167 | 53% S/R

As always, not necessarily something I'll be following 'blind'... but the 53% Win & Place strike-rate makes it an angle, that at the very least, is a great way to find horses coming to Aintree from the Cheltenham Festival that have a high chance of running themselves into the places... and also a solid chance of landing a win...

There *are* obviously a few tracks that the stats tell us it is not desirable to have had your Aintree warm up at. The 3 main negative LTO tracks that's caught my eye were...



KELSO – 3/67 | 4.5% S/R | -£34.25 LSP - W&P 13/67 | 19% S/R – 30% below exp

DONCASTER – 1/65 | 2% S/R | -£48.00 LSP - W&P 7/65 | 11% S/R – 73% below exp

HUNTINGDON – 0/32 | 0% S/R | -£32.00 LSP - W&P 3/32 | 9% S/R

Aintree National Meeting – NON-Handicap Races...

There have been **84 NON-Handicap races** at the past 6 Aintree National Festivals...

General Trends

Some interesting trends concerning the **NON-Handicap races** at the Aintree National meeting...

- ✓ 79/84 had their last start in a Non-Handicap race
- ✓ 73/84 finished in the top 5 LTO
- ✓ 72/84 at least 1 WIN in the current season
- ✓ 68/84 Won 1 of their last 3 starts
- ✓ 63/84 started in the first 3 in the betting
- ✓ 60/84 Won or beaten no more than 10L LTO
- ✓ 47/84 had their last start at Cheltenham (43 at Cheltenham Festival)
- × Horses that started at SP 33/1+ are 2/272, 11p in the Aintree Non Hcp races



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Aintree National Meeting – Handicap Races...

There have been **42 Handicap races** at the past 6 Aintree National Festivals...

General Trends

Some eye-catching trends concerning the **Handicap races** at the Aintree National meeting...

- ✓ **41/42 had 1-15 previous career Handicap starts** (0 career Hcp starts = 0/44 | 16+ career Hcp starts = 1/168)
- ✓ **40/42 had an OR at least 4lbs BELOW top-rated horse** (2/83 for those that were top-rated or 1, 2 or 3lbs lower than top-rated)
- ✓ **38/42 were running off a break of 18-95 days** (4/104 those that were not)
- ✓ **39/42 were aged 9yo or younger**
- × **Horses running from a mark LOWER than their last winning mark are 2/122, 15p** (65% below expectation)
- × **Horses that started at an SP of 33/1+ LTO are 1/136, 17p** (80% below expectation)



NTF 2026 CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL NOTES

23 PAGES OF IN-DEPTH NOTES. POINTERS & ANGLES FROM THE 2026 CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL

→ **GRAB YOUR COPY HERE**

Aintree National Meeting – Grade 1 Races...

There have been 66 Grade 1 races at the past 6 Aintree National Festivals...

General Trends

Some eye-catching trends concerning the **Grade 1 races** at the Aintree National meeting...

- ✓ 63/66 had 1-2 starts in the last 90-days
- ✓ 63/66 were top-rated (on Official Ratings) or no more than 13lbs below
- ✓ 61/66 had previously run at Grade 1 or Grade 2 level
- ✓ 61/66 ran in a NON-Handicap last time out
- ✓ 54/66 had previously WON at Graded level
- ✓ 53/66 started in the first 3 in the betting
- ✓ 42/66 had their last start at Cheltenham
- ✓ 42/66 were trained by Willie Mullins, Nicky Henderson, Gordon Elliott or Paul Nicholls



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Previously WON at Aintree National Meeting

I'll finish with a neat little angle I like to make use of over the 3-days of Aintree... one that looks at horses running at the meeting that had previously **WON** at the meeting...

There tends to be a decent number of horses lining up over the 3 days of Aintree that had previously won at the meeting, and since 2009 only one year has seen horses that previously won at the meeting draw a blank... that came in 2021 and I suspect that blank had something to do with the 2020 renewal being cancelled... **13 of the last 16 years have seen at least TWO previously Festival winners land themselves another win at the meeting** and these types are definitely ones worth keeping an eye open for... even more so when they fit the following angle...

Class 1 races at Aintree Nat Meet | Male 6yo-11yo's | NOT GB bred | 3+ seasonal starts | Completed race LTO | Previously WON at Aintree Nat Meet

(since 2009) 39/170 | 23% S/R | +£345.99 BFLSP

W&P 62/170 | 36% S/R - 44% above exp

✅ This angle is one of SIX Aintree angles where I'll be highlighting the qualifiers to NTF members every day of the meeting in the full NTF race day guides...

Join the NTF Spring Festival service today and get ALL of the in-depth Aintree analysis delivered straight to your inbox (including the qualifiers for this angle)

[>>>JOIN NTF FOR AINTREE 2026 HERE](#)

As I always suggest, these stats should be used as a guide rather than as gospel and should be used as pointers to help you narrow the field in the ultra-competitive 3 day Aintree National Festival.

There are many ways you can slice and dice the races when using trends and stats as your starting point... for example, I like to dig into the stats associated with individual races when pulling together the analysis on my [full NTF Members service](#)... but the more rounded view, using some of the stats in this guide, is also something I like to consider, and although it's a bit more rough and ready than the individual race approach, it is still a potent and profitable method to attack some of the trickiest races you'll find on the entire racing calendar...

Happy Aintree National Meeting Punting

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