

NARROWING THE FIELD

2026 CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL

DAY 1 ANALYSIS

Tuesday 10th March

1:20 Supreme Novices

2:00 Arkle Chase

2:40 Fred Winter

3:20 Ultima Handicap

4:00 CHAMPION HURDLE

4:40 Plate Handicap

5:20 NH Challenge Cup

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1:20 Cheltenham

🏆 Supreme Novices' Hurdle 🏆

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

Plenty of solid trends to get stuck into in the opener...

- 1 15/15 OR 139+
- 2 15/15 2-9 previous career starts
- 3 15/15 2-5 Hurdle Starts
- 4 15/15 2+ Career wins
- 5 15/15 ran in a non-handicap hurdle over 2m-2m4f LTO
- 6 15/15 had previously won at C2 level+
- 7 14/15 WON or beaten no more than 7L LTO
- 8 14/15 made their rules debut under National Hunt rules

**All Stats for UK/IRE races only*

...giving a trends table of...

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Tot
KOKTAIL BRUT	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	8
MYDADDYPADDY	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	8
OLD PARK STAR	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	8
SOBER GLORY	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	8
TALK THE TALK	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	8
BARON NOIR	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	6
EL CAIROS	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	6
EACHTOTHEIROWN	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	5
LEADER D'ALLIER	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	5
SAGEBOROUGH	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	4
TOO BOSSY FOR US	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	4
MIGHTY PARK	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	3

...and a trends shortlist of...

KOKTAIL BRUT – MYDADDYPADDY – OLD PARK STAR – SOBER GLORY – TALK THE TALK

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Pace thoughts...

Limited starts to work with for some of these to get a solid picture of their likely running styles... A few of them have front-ran to victory but they may have just been stamping their class on their opposition, and I suspect a couple that front-ran on recent starts will sit just off the pace here... there have, however, been enough of them that have shown an ability to go from the front and there's enough 'potential' early pace to suggest this will be run at a strong early gallop...

Horse	Run Style	Pace Map
MIGHTY PARK	FR	
SOBER GLORY	FR	
OLD PARK STAR	FR/CP	
EACHTOTHEIROWN	CP/FR	
LEADER D'ALLIER	CP/FR	
BARON NOIR	CP	
EL CAIROS	CP	
KOKTAIL BRUT	CP	
TOO BOSSY FOR US	CP/HU	
MYDADDYPADDY	HU/CP	
SAGEBOROUGH	HU/CP	
TALK THE TALK	HU/CP	
Pace: Likely strong early pace		
Running style of previous 12 winners: FR-1 CP-6 HU-5		

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Trainer notes/Jockey notes/Horse notes/General pointers...

8 of last 12 were IRISH trained and met the following... Previously won at Graded level | 2-8 career starts | 2-5 Hurdle starts | ran in a G1 or G2 LTO = 8/24, 8p | +£48.75... **TALK THE TALK** meet those stats here...

Horses that WON at CLASS 1 level LTO have won 16 of the last 26 renewals... those that... started at SP 8/1 or less LTO | had 2-9 career starts | 2-5 seasonal starts... returned stats of... 16/56, 18p | +£37.40 (E/W +£46.76)... **OLD PARK STAR & TALK THE TALK** meet those stats here...

NICKY HENDERSON has won this 3-times and had 10 others place from his 23-runners (since 2011)... his winners all met the following... **OR 148+ | DSLR 31+ | WON LTO**... for race form of... 111342 (3/6, 2p) | +£13.69... **OLD PARK STAR** meets those stats here...

WILLIE MULLINS has won this 7-times and had 7 others place from his 53-runners (since 2007)... his winners all met the following... **OR 148+ (or yet to hold a rating) | DSLR 28-70 | Previously run at Class 1 level | 2-4 Hurdle starts | WON LTO...** for race form of... **7/14, 3p | +£50.90 (E/W = +£60.72)...** **NONE OF HIS 3 ENTRIES** meets those stats here...

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Conclusion/Current Thoughts...

Trend toppers...

KOKTAIL BRUT has come up short at G1 level on his last 2 starts... likely to start a big price here and horses starting at SP 28/1+ in Supreme are... 1/186, 6p...

MYDADDYPADDY wide margin winner of first 3 starts before finishing 2nd in G1 Formby Hurdle at Aintree on Boxing Day as 8/13 fav... horses running in Supreme that were beaten LTO at SP <6/1 have returned... 2/168, 15p – 77% below exp... so needs to overcome that stat...

OLD PARK STAR 3 from 3 over hurdles since moving from Paul Nicholls yard in the summer... winning by wider margins each run whilst also climbing the grades with each run... Henderson & De Boinville have some strong stats together with similar types... **N Henderson/N Boinville | G1 races | 2+ career wins | won 1 of last 2 starts | 1st or 2nd LTO = (since 2016) 47/101 | 47% S/R | +£97.16 BFLSP - W&P 58/101 | 57% S/R - 31% above exp...**

SOBER GLORY won 6 of his 7 career starts to date... 1 blip came at Sandown in December in a Listed Novices' Hurdle... won his other 3 Hurdle starts by 27L, 13L & 12L... this a step up in class (first run above Listed level) but could run well at a decent odds...

TALK THE TALK unlucky not to be 4 from 4 over Hurdles, stumbling after the last in a G1 at Leopardstown over Xmas when in the lead... plenty potential pace in this to pull him into the race from his hold-up running style...

Thoughts on others...

MIGHTY PARK thumped a 16-runner Fairyhouse Maiden field by 38L on rules debut in January... but profile is quite wide of the usual profile of a Supreme winner... history tells us, however, that if any horse is going to overturn strong trends or a number of trends then it will likely be trained by Willie Mullins!

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My plays...

MIGHT PARK is the 'unknown in this... but he just doesn't fit the profile of those that usually win a Supreme, so I'm happy to swerve him... should he turn out to be a 'superstar' in the making then so be it, it won't surprise me as Willie Mullins has a long habit of disrespecting the Race Trends!!

For me this looks to be between OLD PARK STAR and TALK THE TALK... I don't have any negatives for OLD STAR PARK but I feel the pace of the race may just (marginally) suit TALK THE TALK...

TALK THE TALK (JP O'Brien) winner of the 2m Novice G1 at the DRF LTO and that race has been an excellent pointer for the Supreme, with 12 winners coming on to run here and 7 of them winning... he should get a good tow into the race, with a few potential early pace angles in the field, and he looks strong on a few angles for this opening contest of the meeting...

2:00 Cheltenham

🏆 Arkle Novices' Chase 🏆

Grade 1 Chase | 2m | 5yo+

Some solid Race Trends for us to work with in this Grade 1 Novice Chase...

- 1 15/15 top 3 finish all completed chase starts (14/15 top 2 finish all completed starts)
- 2 15/15 aged 6yo-8yo
- 3 15/15 5-18 UK/IRE career starts
- 4 15/15 WON 1 of last 2 starts
- 5 14/15 1st or 2nd LTO (beaten no more than a neck)
- 6 14/15 previously won over at least 2m1f but no further than 2m5f

...giving a trends table of...

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Tot
KOPEK DES BORDES	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6
STEEL ALLY	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6
KARGESE	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6
LULAMBA	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	5
JAX JUNIOR	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	4
MAMBONUMBERFIVE	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	3
HANSARD	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	2

...and a trends shortlist of...

KOPEK DES BORDES – STEEL ALLY - KARGESES

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Pace thoughts...

The pace make-up of this one isn't completely obvious... **KARGESE**, on what we've seen on recent starts, can go from the front, but that hasn't always been her way... she may, however, find herself in the lead by default here so looks the 'likeliest' to be out on the front... if she doesn't take the lead it could fall to **HANSARD**...

Horse	Run Style	Pace Map
KARGESE	FR/CP	
HANSARD	CP	
JAX JUNIOR	CP	
KOPEK DES BORDES	CP	
LULAMBA	CP	
STEEL ALLY	CP	
MAMBONUMBERFIVE	HU	
Pace: Likely solo leader/possible false pace		
Running style of previous 12 winners: FR-2 CP-9 HU-1		

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Trainer notes/Jockey notes/Horse notes/General pointers...

7 of last 12 were IRISH trained and met the following... 6yo-7yo | Won 1 of last 2 | 67%+ Win & Place Chase S/R = 7/22, 6p | +£14.60 (E/W = +£18.92)... **KOPEK DES BORDES & KARGESE** meet those stats...

5 of the last 12 were trained in England and met the following... WON 1 of last 2 starts | 1-2 starts last 90-days | previously run at track | Aged 6yo-8yo = 5/19, 2p | +£41.95... **HANSARD** meets those stats...

Horses with a 100% WIN Chase S/R and that met the following... 1-4 starts last 90-days | 5-18 career starts | 2-5 starts in season... have won 14 of the last 25 renewals... overall stats of... 14/40 | 35% S/R | +£49.38 – W&P 22/40 | 55% S/R (E/W = +£60.25)... **LULAMBA & STEEL ALLY** meet those stats...

NICKY HENDERSON has won this 6 times and had 6 others place from his 20-runners... all of his winners met the following... 1-3 previous starts at track | 1st or 2nd LTO | previously run in a G1 race... for race form of... 1211311261 (6/10, 3p | +£10.95 | E/W = +£16.77)... **LULAMBA** meets those stats...

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Conclusion/Current Thoughts...

Trend toppers...

KOPEK DES BORDES 5 from 6 in his career to date, including when winning the Supreme last season... minor niggle that he's only had 1 previous chase start (WESTERN WARHORSE only winner with that profile in last 27 renewals)...

STEEL ALLY 3 from 3 over fences to date and won by increasing margins each time...

KARGESE won the County Hurdle at last years meeting and finished 2nd in the Triumph in 2024... solid start to fences and plenty of G1 form already on her CV...

Thoughts on others...

LULAMBA done precious wrong in 6 career starts to date, with only defeat coming when done by a neck in Triumph last year by the 100-1 Mullins shot... 3 from 3 over fences so far and beat more experienced chasers in open company LTO in Game Spirit at Newbury (Henderson's Sprinter Sacre and Altior both did the same before winning this)... 5yo's have struggled since they lost the weight allowance (0/12, 2p) but he will be the highest rated one to try and only the 3rd with a career win% of 75%+...

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My plays...

This looks a decent renewal and it's not easy to split the front 3 in the market and although LULAMBA is the one of the front 3 in betting that doesn't quite fit the Race Trends (only fails on age trend) he is who I think looks the likeliest winner...

LULAMBA (N Henderson) although 5yo's have struggled (from limited numbers) since they stopped giving them the age allowance, I don't think that will be enough to stop this lad... his win at Newbury against older more experienced rivals, who he was giving weight to all bar one, suggested the lack of a weight allowance here won't be a problem... as well as the angles he meets above he also meets the following Henderson/De Boinville angle... **N Henderson/N Boinville | G1 races | 2+ career wins | won 1 of last 2 starts | 1st or 2nd LTO = (since 2016) 47/101 | 47% S/R | +£97.16 BFLSP - W&P 58/101 | 57% S/R - 31% above exp...** and he's who I'll side with here...

2:40 Cheltenham

Fred Winter Juvenile Hurdle

Class 1 Hcp Hurdle | 2m0.5f | 4yo

Some decent Race Trends for us to work with in this Juvenile Handicap Hurdle...

- 1 12/12 yet to run at Cheltenham
- 2 12/12 4 or less Hurdle starts
- 3 12/12 ran in a NON-Handicap Hurdle LTO
- 4 12/12 didn't make rules debut on the AW
- 5 12/12 making Handicap Hurdle debut
- 6 12/12 NOT GB bred
- 7 11/12 1+ career wins
- 8 10/12 SP >2/1 LTO

**As with the vast majority of race trends I work with, only UK & IRE form was used to compile the trends*

***Diego Du Charmil won the 2016 renewal on UK debut and his French form is not included in the data-set analysed*

...giving a trends shortlist of...

SARATOGA – GLEN TO GLEN – BERTUTEA – HARWA – BARBIZON – QUINTA DO LAGO – MACKTOAD – MUNSIF (Res)

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Pace thoughts...

Never easy to accurately figure out how the race may pan out on the pace front, given it's a field of juveniles who are mainly lightly raced, and plenty will have been ridden with the view to bagging a workable handicap mark for this race (so may have been ridden differently to how they will end up being ridden here)... based on what we *have* seen, however, **MADNESS D'ELLE, KLYCOT, POURQUOI PAS PAPA, QUINTA DO LAGO, LORD & WINSTON JUNIOR** should, between them, ensure there some decent pace at play in the early to middle stages of the race...

Running style of previous 12 winners = FR-0 | CP-3 | HU-9

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Trainer notes/Jockey notes/Horse notes/General pointers...

GORDON ELLIOTT has won this 4 times... all 4 winners had... **1 previous Hurdle win and ran in a Non-Hcp LTO 31-55 days previous**...for a race form line of... **310149170F146 (4/13, 3p)**... **BARBIZON & HARDY STUFF** meet those stats this year...

IRISH TRAINERS have won the last 8 renewals despite only have 47% of the entries... all 8 winners had... **3-4 Hurdle starts | DSLR 31-90 | yet to run over further than 2m0.5f**... returning stats of... **8/31, 6p | +£220.46**... **SARATOGA, BARBIZON, MINO DES MOTTES & MUNSIF (Res)** all fit that angle this year...

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My plays...

A race I'm always happy to swing the bat at and have three on my side... and like the past couple of year's I'm happy to rely on the '**IRISH TRAINERS**' angle... 2(3) of the qualifiers on that appear on the main trends as well, and one also appears on the Gordon Elliott angle, so a few stats positives on our side to point us towards them...

SARATOGA (P Roche), BARBIZON (G Elliot) & MINO DES MOTTES (W Mullins)

Should **MUNSIF (C Byrnes) make the line-up (he's first reserve) I'd look to have him covered as well...*

3:20 Cheltenham

Ultima Handicap Chase

Class 1 Hcp Chase | 3m1f | 5yo+

Some solid Race Trends at play in this one when we look at the last 12 renewals...

- 1 12/12 2-5 seasonal starts
- 2 12/12 0-6 career wins
- 3 11/12 8-17 previous career starts
- 4 11/12 2-10 career Hcp starts
- 5 11/12 yet to win at G1 or G2 level
- 6 11/12 2-12 previous chase starts
- 7 11/12 ran over 2m7.5f-3m5.5f LTO

...giving a trends table of...

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Tot
LEAVE OF ABSENCE	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	7
JOHNNYWHO	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	7
MYRETOWN	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	7
THE SHORT GO	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	7
PATTER MERCHANT	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	7
KNIGHT OF ALLEN	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	7
IROKO	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	6
JAGWAR	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	6
BLAZE THE WAY	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6
KONFUSION	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	6
SEARCH FOR GLORY	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	6
IMPERIAL SAINT	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	6
THE DOYEN CHIEF	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	6
QUEBECOIS	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	6
MARGARET'S LEGACY	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	6
HANDSTANDS	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	4
RESPLENDENT GREY	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	4
BLOW YOUR WAD	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	4
HYLAND	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	4
FILANDERER	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	4
EYED	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	4
STOLEN SILVER	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	3

...and a trends shortlist of...

LEAVE OF ABSENCE – JOHNNYWHO – MYRETOWN – THE SHORT GO – PATTEN MERCHANT – KNIGHT OF ALLEN

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Pace thoughts...

MYRETOWN will likely try and dominate from the front like he did last season although he may not get it all his own way this time... with at least five others in the race who have shown front-running tendencies on recent starts... it should, however, ensure a strong pace at play in the early to middle stages of the races...

Horse	Run Style	Pace Map
MYRETOWN	FR	
HANDSTANDS	CP/FR	
LEAVE OF ABSENCE	CP/FR	
KONFUSION	CP/FR	
QUEBECOIS	CP/FR	
MARGARET'S LEGACY	CP/FR	
IROKO	CP	
RESPLENDENT GREY	CP	
SEARCH FOR GLORY	CP	
STOLEN SILVER	CP	
IMPERIAL SAINT	CP	
PATTEN MERCHANT	CP	
FILANDERER	CP	
BLOW YOUR WAD	CP/HU	
HYLAND	CP/HU	
THE DOYEN CHIEF	CP/HU	
JAGWAR	HU/CP	
BLAZE THE WAY	HU/CP	
KNIGHT OF ALLEN	HU/CP	
JOHNNYWHO	HU	
THE SHORT GO	HU	
EYED	HU	
Pace: Possible solo leader/possible contested lead/likely strong early pace		
Running style of previous 12 winners: FR-1 CP-8 HU-3		

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Trainer notes/Jockey notes/Horse notes/General pointers...

JONJO O'NEILL has won this 3 times and had 4 place from his 26 runners... all winners met the following... **GB or IRE bred 7yo-9yo | 3-5 runs in current season | DSLR 16+...** for race form of... **3526111P029 (3/11, 3p | +£30.57... 5th & 6th would have paid in plenty books as well)...** **JOHNNYWHO** meets those stats here...

Horses that had **PREVIOUSLY RUN IN THE RACE** and meet the following hold solid stats... **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)...** **THE SHORT GO** meet those stats here...

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Conclusion/Current Thoughts...

Trend toppers...

LEAVE OF ABSENCE still relatively unexposed as a chaser after only 7 chase starts, only 2 in handicap company... ran in the G2 Denman Chase at Newbury LTO where ultimately he was outclassed and probably unsuited by Heavy ground... so easy to ignore that run... should be much more comfortable at this level... **his form in races away from Graded/Listed level reads... 2112111 (5/7, 1p - all 5 career wins)...**

JOHNNYWHO neck 2nd in Kim Muir at last season's Festival (11L+ back to the rest of the field)... good form away from Graded level and off breaks of 31+ days... 352111 (3/6, 2p – all 3 career wins)... wears 1st time CP's and horses with a similar profile in the Ultima have a decent record (since 2007)... **GB or IRE bred with 'different' headgear than last run | ran over >2m7f LTO and won or beaten 40L or less = 5/15, 2p | +£99.50 (E/W = +£124.88)...**

MYRETOWN won this last year off a 15lb lower mark but form been poor since and jumping has become scrappy... PU LTO also a worry... **horses at the Chelt Fest over trips of 3m+ (not restricted to amateur riders) that were PU LTO return... 0/175, 11p...**

THE SHORT GO finished 5th in this last year off a 6lb lower mark... he's not got too many miles on the clock for a 9yo and does go well over the Cheltenham fences... 3452 (0/4, 4p)... all those runs came over or around this trip... and 3 of the runs came in large fields, so he'll be well at home in the hustle and bustle of this 3m1f contest... not been seen since running 3rd at Cheltenham December meeting... so good chance he's been targeted at this race again... had a wind-op since last start...

PATTER MERCHANT unexposed over fences after 5 chases, only 1 coming in handicap company... best form to date has come over shorter trips on more testing ground and at a lower level... so possibly a few things to overcome to get competitive here...

KNIGHT OF ALLEN unexposed over fences after only 4 chase starts, only 2 coming in handicap company... 2nd at Newbury LTO but Heavy ground possibly stopped him fully kicking on with finishing effort after travelling smoothly through the race... goes well under the conditions... **LH tracks | Nov-Apr | DSLR >25 = 21131 (3/5, 2p – all 3 career wins)**... and the quicker ground won't be an issue...

Thoughts on others...

BLAZE THE WAY meets a Chelt Fest course winner angle I have plugged in... **Won at track within last 365-days | 5yo-11yo | Won 1 of last 3 = 72/440, 93p | +£199.08**... still unexposed over fences after 6 chase starts, only 1 of those starts coming in a handicap... which saw him run out a comfortable winner at track in December over 3m2.5f... goes well under the conditions... **Nov-March | DSLR 25-75 = 3/8, 3p – all 3 career wins**...

HYLAND goes well at Cheltenham... 91101 (3/5)... and has his Prime Conditions to shoot for... **LH tracks | 2m4f-3m1f | G/S+ | OR 144 or less = 7/13, 3p – all 7 career wins**...

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My plays...

The usual competitive affair and I'm happy to have 3 covered here...

THE SHORT GO (H De Bromhead) handles this trip and track really well and good chance they've kept him fresh for this since his two runs at the track earlier in the season... the race was scrappy last year due to false starts and he was one of many that found himself too far back... he also made a bad mistake at the 8th fence when he was on the move and his 5th place finish is probably a lot better than it looks... he won't need to improve much to be involved again and the if the wind-op unlocks anything he'll be bang there again...

JOHNNYWHO (JJ O'Neill) has been holding his form well since going close in the Kim Muir last season and his run at Haydock LTO looked like they had a target in mind (instead of that Haydock race)... his jockey Richie McLernon also has some solid stats over the Cheltenham fences with similar types... **R McLernon | Cheltenham Hcp Chases over 2m-3m1f | Good-G/S | GB or IRE bred | SP 14/1 or less = (since 2012) 7/16, 2p | +£60.29 (E/W = +£62.00)**...

KNIGHT OF ALLEN (Mrs J Williams) one of the least exposed over fences in the field and although he's running from out of the handicap I think he's still a good way ahead of his mark anyway, so that's not a huge concern to me... the step up to 3m1f will suit as he's got stamina in his pedigree and he can go well at lofty odds...

4:00 Cheltenham

🏆 Champion Hurdle 🏆

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

Some strong trends at play in the Champion Hurdle...

- 1 15/15 WON 1 of last 3 starts
- 2 15/15 5-17 previous hurdle starts
- 3 15/15 4+ previous career wins
- 4 15/15 ran in a Non-Hcp Hurdle LTO and started at an SP of 3/1 or less
- 5 14/15 won or placed LTO (beaten <1L if didn't win)
- 6 14/15 2-3 starts in current season

...giving a trends table of...

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Tot
THE NEW LION	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6
BRIGHTERDAYSAHEAD	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6
ALEXEI	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	5
TUTTI QUANTI	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	5
LOSSIEMOUTH	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	5
GOLDEN ACE	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	3
ANZADAM	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	2
WORKAHEAD	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	2
PONIROS	N	N	N	N	N	Y	1

...and a trends shortlist of...

THE NEW LION - BRIGHTERDAYSAHEAD

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Pace thoughts...

TUTTI QUANTI & WORKAHEAD look the pair that will want to be out on the front from the off... TUTTI QUANTI is possibly the stronger front-runner and may assert himself as a solo-leader after a flight or two... between them they should ensure this is run at a strong pace...

Horse	Run Style	Pace Map
TUTTI QUANTI	FR/CP	
WORKAHEAD	FR/CP	
THE NEW LION	CP	
LOSSIEMOUTH	CP	
BRIGHTERDAYSAHEAD	CP	
GOLDEN ACE	CP	
ALEXEI	CP	
PONIROS	HU/CP	
ANZADAM	HU/CP	
Pace: Likely dual leaders/possible solo leader		
Running style of previous 12 winners: FR-2 CP-3 HU-7		

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Trainer notes/Jockey notes/Horse notes/General pointers...

7 of last 12 winners were IRISH trained and met the following... OR 161+ | 2+ wins in current season | 7-14 previous Hurdle starts = 7/12, 3p | +£35.70... **NONE OF THE FIELD** meets those stats here...

10 of last 12 had won their last TWO starts and met the following... 2-3 starts in current season = 10/20, 3p | +£29.56... **TUTTI QUANTI** meets those stats here...

WILLIE MULLINS has won the Champion Hurdle 5 times since 2011 and had 8 others place (from 32 runners). His winners were all... **aged 7yo-9yo | Top-Rated or no more than 1lb below | DSLR 26-75 days...** for a race form line of...**12211131 (5/8, 3p)...** **LOSSIEMOUTH** fits those stats here...

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Conclusion/Current Thoughts...

Trend toppers...

THE NEW LION just one blip on his CV so far, when falling 2-out in the Fighting Fifth on seasonal debut... wasn't overly impressive when winning the International Hurdle LTO and horses that ran in Champion Hurdle off the back of a run at Cheltenham LTO are... 0/21, 3p... not the deepest trend there, admittedly, but a little niggler...

BRIGHTERDAYSAHEAD impressive winner of Irish Champion Hurdle LTO although will have very different ground here (that was on Heavy)... disappointed badly in this last year and also beaten in Mares' Novice Hurdle at 2024 meeting when seemingly not finding much up the hill... so small query over track suitability... and Kapgarde offspring (which she is) don't have the best stats at Cheltenham... 10/200, 40p – 56% below exp... dropping further when you look at those aged 6yo+... 4/135, 27p – 69% below exp...

Thoughts on others...

LOSSIEMOUTH unbeaten 4 from 4 at Cheltenham, winning at the last 3 Festivals... she's 12 from 16 in her career... beaten at Leopardstown LTO but 3 of her 4 career defeats have come at Leopardstown and she looks at her best on tracks with undulations... 9/9 on tracks with undulations compared to 3/7 on flatter tracks... so reasons for that reversal LTO I think (and BRIGHTERDAYSAHEAD handles flatter tracks well)... undefeated 7 from 7 record in the March to November period... 5 from 5 on Good to Soft/Good to Yielding... and the strong pace out front should suit her as she has strong form over longer trips and will be finishing off strongly up the hill...

**

My plays...

I'm not passing over BRIGHTERDAYSAHEAD & THE NEW LION lightly here... but I just have a couple niggles about them, despite them scoring full marks on the trends... LOSSIEMOUTH, on the other hand, I have very little worries about... and she only falls down on 1 of the race trends...

LOSSIEMOUTH (W Mullins) has plenty in her favour here, I can see reasons why she was beaten LTO at Leopardstown (track suitability) and this should be run to suit her perfectly... the first time CP's she wears means she also fits a tight (if limited) Willie Mullins Festival angle... **W Mullins | Chelt Fest | wearing headgear for 1st or 2nd time | Top-rated or 1lb below | SP 3/1 or less = 11112 (4/5, 1p)**... and LOSSIEMOUTH very much looks the one to beat here...

4:40 Cheltenham

Plate Handicap Chase

Class 1 Hcp Chase | 2m4f | 5yo+

One of the strongest races on the Race Trends front at the Festival... with the last 15 winners meeting all of the following...

- 1 **15/15 at least 2lbs higher than their last winning mark**
- 2 **15/15 previously won over at least 2m3f but no further than 2m6.5f**
- 3 **15/15 OR 149 or less**
- 4 **15/15 previously won in a field of 10 or more runners**
- 5 **15/15 top 2 finish on 1 of last 3 starts (0/117 those that hadn't)**
- 6 **15/15 16 or less Chase starts**
- 7 **15/15 carried 11-05 or less**

...for a trends table of...

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Tot
GUARD YOUR DREAMS	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	7
BOOSTER BOB	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	7
ZURICH	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	7
JIPCOT	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	7
NO QUESTIONS ASKED	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	6
DOWNMEXICOWAY	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6
O'MOORE PARK	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	6
MADARA	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6
WILL THE WISE	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6
THEATRE NATIVE	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	6
WESTERN ZEPHYR	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6
EMBITTERED	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	6
DEE CAPO	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	5
DOWN MEMORY LANE	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	5
BOOMBAWN	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	5
PEAKY BOY	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	5
MIDNIGHT IT IS	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	5
MCLAUREY	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	5
MOON D'ORANGE	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	5
RISKINTHEGROUND	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	4
GRANDEUR D'AME	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	4
JUNGLE BOOGIE	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	3
YES INDEED	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	3

...and a trends shortlist of...

GUARD YOUR DREAMS – BOOSTER BOB – ZURICH - JIPCOT

**

Pace thoughts...

JIPCOT & WESTERN ZEPHYR look the two that will out on the front in the early stages... with **WILL THE WISE, GUARD YOUR DREAMS & JUNGLE BOOGIE** likely sitting at the head of the next wave of runners... between them they should ensure the usual strong early gallop to this handicap...

Horse	Run Style	Pace Map
JIPCOT	FR	
WESTERN ZEPHYR	FR/CP	
WILL THE WISE	CP/FR	
GUARD YOUR DREAMS	CP/FR	
JUNGLE BOOGIE	CP/FR	
GRANDEUR D'AME	CP	
YES INDEED	CP	
DOWNMEXICOWAY	CP	
EMBITTERED	CP/HU	
THEATRE NATIVE	CP/HU	
PEAKY BOY	CP/HU	
O'MOORE PARK	CP/HU	
MCLAUREY	HU/CP	
MIDNIGHT IT IS	HU/CP	
ZURICH	HU/CP	
MADARA	HU/CP	
NO QUESTIONS ASKED	HU/CP	
DOWN MEMORY LANE	HU/CP	
MOON D'ORANGE	HU	
RISKINTHEGROUND	HU	
BOOSTER BOB	HU	
BOOMBAWN	HU	
DEE CAPO	HU	
Pace: Possible contested early pace/likely solid early pace		
Running style of previous 12 winners: FR-2 CP-7 HU-3		

**

Trainer notes/Jockey notes/Horse notes/General pointers...

8 of the last 14 winners ran at CHELTENHAM LTO and met the following... **DSL** **R 45-120** | ran in a Hcp Chase over 2m4.5f-2m5f... for race stats of... **8/52, 13p** | **+£78.97**... **BOOSTER BOB** meets that 'angle' here...

Horses with 1 previous course win have won 6 of the last 7 renewals... all those 6 winners had... **1+ win in current season and 1-2 starts in the last 90-days**... for race form of... **6/14, 2p** | **+£40.80 (E/W = +£45.10)**... **ZURICH** meets that 'angle' here...

**

Conclusion/Current Thoughts...

Trend toppers...

GUARD YOUR DREAMS wide margin winner of a Veterans Chase LTO and goes well under these general conditions... **2m-2m4f** | **tracks with undulations = 7/14, 2p** – **all 7 career wins**...

BOOSTER BOB still relatively unexposed as a chaser after 7 chase starts... possibly best on flatter tracks than this, although this only his second visit to Cheltenham, so open on that thinking for now...

ZURICH meets a Chelt Fest course winner angle I have plugged in... **Won at track within last 365-days** | **5yo-11yo** | **Won 1 of last 3 = 72/440, 93p** | **+£199.08**... still unexposed over fences after 7 chase starts... good winner at track in October over 2m4.5f...

JIPCOT 4th at Ascot LTO over 3m but he got into a pace battle there and that probably emptied his stamina for the closing stages of the longer trip... drop in trip should suit here and he has solid form under similar conditions... **2m - 2m6.5f** | **Dec-Mar** | **2-5 seasonal start = 1131 (3/4, 1p – all 3 career wins)**...

Thoughts on others...

MADARA meets a Dan Skelton Chelt Fest Hcp Angle I have plugged in... **D Skelton** | **Chelt Fest Hcps** | **horses with 1+ course run** | **2+ career hcp runs** | **1+ NH code Hcp run** | **0-1 seasonal wins** | **2-5 seasonal runs = 7/28, 7p** | **+£166.06**... holds solid course form... 24916U... cheek-pieces go back on here (both career wins when wearing them) and goes well under these conditions... **G/S-Soft** | **DSL** **R 26-60** | **CP's = 2911 (2/4, 1p)**...

WILL THE WISE only just misses out of full trends having previously won over 2m7f (0.5f over trend cut off)... still unexposed as a chaser after 6 chase starts, only 2 in handicaps... Keith Donoghue back in the saddle as he holds solid form on horse... 1226162 (2/7, 2p)... including a 6th on horse in last season's Pertemps Final...

Donoghue's Chase stats at Cheltenham also catch the eye, especially away from Graded races... 12/36 | 33% S/R | +£36.87 – W&P 21/36 | 58% S/R...

**

My Plays...

Looks its usual competitive self... I'll cover the following three...

ZURICH (H De Bromhead) should be plenty more to come from this 7yo and his course from earlier in the season is a positive, showing he handles the fences and a decent sized field...

JIPCOT (JJ O'Neill) strong form under these conditions and he has form over further than this, which will be valuable to call upon come the closing stages of this...

WILL THE WISE (GP Cromwell) unexposed type who showed he can handle the Festival environment last season... his form in large fields also a positive (046121 in fields of 14+)...

5:20 Cheltenham

National Hunt Challenge Cup

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

This race was changed to a HANDICAP last season, so no chance of using Race Trends to narrow the field... so I'll dig into my notes, trends and stats only for this...

**

Pace thoughts...

SILVER THORN likes to bowl along off the front, and he could be the one sitting right at the head of the pack in the early stages... likely won't have it all his own way though as there's at least five others in the field who have shown front-running tendencies on recent starts... I suspect this will be run at the usual strong big-field Festival gallop...

Horse	Run Style	Pace Map
SILVER THORN	FR	
KING OF ANSWERS	CP/FR	
KURASSO BLUE	CP/FR	
GRAND GESTE	CP/FR	
HOLLOWAY QUEEN	CP/FR	
FIRST CONFESSION	CP/FR	
ONE BIG BANG	CP	
ICEBERG THEORY	CP	
NEWTON TORNADO	CP	
UNION STATION	CP	
WALKING ON AIR	CP	
WILL DO	CP/HU	
WADE OUT	CP/HU	
PIC ROC	CP/HU	
HOLOKEA	CP/HU	
GUARD THE MOON	HU/CP	
BACKMERSACKME	HU/CP	
Pace: Possible contested early pace/likely strong early pace		
Running style of previous 12 winners: N/A (Race now a Handicap)		

Conclusion/Current Thoughts...

WADE OUT meets a Chelt Fest course winner angle I have plugged in... **Won at track within last 365-days | 5yo-11yo | Won 1 of last 3 = 72/440, 93p | +£199.08...** comfortable winner at track in November over 3m1.5f (form of race worked out well enough)... form of debut chase win at Worcester in October has worked out well (6 winners from 16 runs from race to date)... possibly didn't handle the Figure of 8 layout at Windsor LTO...

NEWTON TORNADO yard won the race last year and Rebecca Curtis' 6 previous Festival winners all met a very similar profile to NEWTON TORNADO... **R Curtis | Chelt Festival | 6yo-8yo Gelding | previously run at track | 8-13 career starts | 3-5 seasonal starts | top 3 finish LTO = 6/10, 1p | +£151.24...** form of his Doncaster win LTO has worked out strongly so far, with 3 of the 4 to have run winning, including the 2nd and 3rd who were 6.5L & 16L behind NEWTON TORNADO...

KING OF ANSWERS comfortable winner at Kelso LTO and yard have solid stats at track with similar types... **L Russell | Cheltenham 2m1f+ | GB or IRE bred 5yo-9yo | NOT Heavy | NOT November meeting = 9/46 | 20% S/R | +£47.54 – W&P 16/46 | 35% S/R (E/W = +£57.30)...**

ONE BIG BANG finished 2nd to WADE OUT at the November meeting and gets a 5lb pull at weights with that one here... finished 5th in Pertemps Final at last year's meeting... goes well under conditions he meets here... **LH tracks | 2m6f+ = 1251642211 - 4/10, 4p – all 4 career wins...** 3 of his 4 wins have come in the Feb-Apr period so he goes well at this time of the year...

**

My plays...

Two catch my eye here...

NEWTON TORNADO (R Curtis) brings solid form to the table and as well as meeting the profile of previous Rebecca Curtis Festival winners, he also fits the following... **R Curtis | Cheltenham | IRE & FR bred 4yo-8yo | 2+ seasonal starts | SP 16/1 or less | WON LTO = 10/29, 3p | +£51.04...**

ONE BIG BANG (JP Owen) drop in trip was against him LTO and he should appreciate this step back up in distance and going over a marathon trip for the first time... **also handles large fields well, with form in fields of 13+ of... 351234057 (1/9, 5p)...**



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