

NARROWING THE FIELD

2026 CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL

DAY 3 ANALYSIS

Thursday 12th March

1:20 Mares' Novices Hurdle

2:00 Jack Richards Novice Chase

2:40 Mares Hurdle

3:20 STAYERS HURDLE

4:00 RYANAIR CHASE

4:40 Pertemps Final

5:20 Kim Muir Chase

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1:20 Cheltenham

Mares' Novices' Hurdle

Grade 2 Hurdle | 2m1f | 4yo+

10 previous renewals of this so now firmly in the area where I'd be looking at the race from a Race Trends perspective... the last 10 winners passed all of the following...

10/10 aged 5yo or 6yo

10/10 previously run at least at Class 3 level

10/10 2-8 career starts

10/10 50% W&P S/R over Hurdles

10/10 top 3 finish in a C1-C4 race LTO (beaten no more than 5L)

10/10 DSLR 26+

...giving a 'shortlist' this year of...

OLDSCHOOL OUTLAW – ECHOING SILENCE – KINGSTON QUEEN – FUTURE PROSPECT – WHITE NOISE – JACKIE HOBBS – ST IRENE – AMEN KATE

...I also have an overall Cheltenham Festival Mares' Races set of trends... so well worth seeing what they flag up...

23 of the 25 winners of the Mares' races at the last 10 festivals passed the following stats...

Had between 2 & 20 previous career starts

Had 1-5 starts in the current season

Had an official rating of 135+ (or were yet to be allocated a rating)

Finished 1st, 2nd or 3rd Last Time Out in a Class 1, 2, 3 or 4 race

Giving an overall set of figures of...

23/119 | 19% S/R | +£144.44 BFLSP – W&P 43/119 | 36% S/R

15% above expectation | E/W returns = +£61.79

Applied to this race leaves the following...

OLDSCHOOL OUTLAW – PLACE DE LA NATION – FUTURE PROSPECT

**

Pace thoughts...

Running style of previous 10 winners: FR-2 | CP-1 | HU-7

A Novice Hurdle so as always running style could change as the runners step up in class and into a large field... but I'd expected a mix of... **FULL OF LIFE, KINGSTON QUEEN, MANGANESE, PLACE DE LA NATION, ST IRENE** and **ECHOING SILENCE**... to be up on the front end from the off and there looks a high likelihood of a strong early gallop at play in this one...

**

Conclusion/Current Thoughts...

I'm never one to get overly involved in a Mares Novice Hurdle... but with short-priced fav *BAMBINO FEVER* missing both sets of trends I'm happy to take a swing at a couple in the race... I'll play the two that feature on both sets of trends...

My play(s)...

OLDSCHOOL OUTLAW (G Elliott) 2 from 2 over hurdles to date, beating BAMBINO FEVER on hurdling debut at Naas in December... she also qualifies on a LTOW angle for the Mares' races I have plugged in... **Chelt Fest Mares' races | 5yo-8yo | previously won at least at C4 level | 2-5 seasonal starts | WON a non-Hcp LTO at SP 3/1 or less = (since 2016) 17/71 | 24% S/R | +£77.57 – W&P 30/71 | 42% S/R...**

FUTURE PROSPECT (W Mullins) wide margin winner on hurdles debut LTO at Naas and also fits the same LTOW Mares' races angle highlighted above... **Mullins also has some solid stats with his Chelt Fest winners that won LTO at Naas... Chelt fest non-hcps | DSLR 31-75 | WON LTO at Naas at SP 6/5 of shorter = (since 2018) 7/25, 6p | +£27.33...**

2:00 Cheltenham

📊 Jack Richards Novices' Handicap Chase 📊

Grade 2 Ltd Hcp Chase | 2m4.5f | 5yo+

This was changed to a Limited Handicap Chase last season, so Race Trends are no use to us to help narrow the field... so I'll dig into my notes, trends and stats only for this one...

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Pace thoughts...

Should be plenty of pace on in this one... I'd expect **SIXMILEBRIDGE & REGENT'S STROLL** to be out on the front end from the off... with **WINGMEN & BEN SOLO** close in attendance... and possibly **OL MAN DINGLE & INTENSE APPROACH** not too far off the front end also... so plenty potential for this to be run at a strong early gallop...

Horse	Run Style	Pace Map
SIXMILEBRIDGE	FR	
REGENT'S STROLL	FR	
WINGMEN	FR/CP	
BEN SOLO	FR/CP	
OL MAN DINGLE	CP/FR	
INTENSE APPROACH	CP/FR	
GOLD DANCER	CP	
SLADE STEEL	CP	
KING ALEXANDER	CP	
MOON ROCKET	CP	
WESTERN KNIGHT	CP	
THE BLUESMAN	CP	
WHERE'S MY JET	CP	
KDEUX SAINT FRAY	CP	
KISS WILL	CP/HU	
OLD COWBOY	CP/HU	
DR EGGMAN	CP/HU	
JORDANS CROSS	HU/CP	
MEETMEBYTHESEA	HU/CP	
STENCIL	HU	
Pace: Likely contested early speed/likely strong early pace		
Running style of previous 12 winners: N/A		

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Conclusion/Current Thoughts...

REGENTS STROLL (P Nicholls) Nicholls has some solid stats in similar types of races to this at Cheltenham... **P Nicholls | Cheltenham Novice Hcp Chases over 2m5f or less | DSLR 21-90 | 1st or 2nd LTO = 8/17 | 47% S/R | +£20.07 – W&P 9/17 | 53% S/R...** REGENTS STROLL meeting those stats here...

JORDANS CROSS (A Honeyball) meets the Chelt Fest course winner angle I have plugged in... **Won at track within last 365-days | 5yo-11yo | Won 1 of last 3 | SP <28/1 = 72/440, 93p | +£199.08...** won the 2m5f Novices' Hcp at the trials day in January, race been working out well since and race is often a rich source of future winners, the last 7 winners of that all came onto the Festival and they returned a form line of... 1412121 (4/7, 2p)...

SIXMILEBRIDGE (F O'Brien) meets the Chelt Fest course winner angle I have plugged in... **Won at track within last 365-days | 5yo-11yo | Won 1 of last 3 | SP <28/1 = 72/440, 93p | +£199.08**

GOLD DANCER (W Mullins) is by Doctor Dino and his offspring holds some solid stats at the track under similar conditions... **Doctor Dino offspring | Cheltenham Handicaps over <3m2f | DSLR 11-56 = 10/32 | 31% S/R | +£62.34 – W&P 19/32 | 59% S/R (E/W = +£66.76)**... goes well on similar ground, with Chase form on Yielding to Soft or quicker of... 2111 (3/4, 1p – all 3 career wins)...

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My plays...

This looks a deep race... I'll cover two...

JORDAN'S CROSS (A Honeyball) dug in well to win on trials day over Course & Distance LTO and the runner-up that day – *QUEBECOIS* – boosted the form with a close 3rd in the Ultima on Tuesday... **Honeyball & Sam Twiston-Davies have some solid stats together with 6yo & 7yo's that start at 11/1 or less... 21/51, 5p | +£53.34...** and the strong pace at play up front in this should play to his strengths...

REGENTS STROLL (P Nicholls) ran well over C&D on New Year's Day and he likely just bumped into a well handicapped type that day, with the winner – MIAMI MAGIC – since winning a C3 Handicap by 15L off an 8lb higher mark... the 3rd from the Cheltenham race has also won since and the form looks solid, so a positive that REGENTS STROLL has, strangely, been dropped 1lb for that run...

2:40 Cheltenham

🏆 David Nicholson Mares' Hurdle 🏆

Grade 1 Hurdle | 2m4.5f | 4yo+

The last 11 have been a G1 level and I've used them to construct the trends...

- 1 11/11 OR 140+
- 2 11/11 previously won at Class 1 level
- 3 11/11 20 or less career starts
- 4 11/11 DSLR 56 or less
- 5 11/11 WON 1 of last 3 starts
- 6 11/11 previously won over at least 2m1f but no further than 3m

...only one of this year's field meets all those trends...

JADE DE GRUGY

...and the following meet the overall Cheltenham Festival Mares' Races set of trends I have (trends on the Mares Novice race page at start of this guide)...

WODHOOH - JADE DE GRUGY – FEET OF A DANCER

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Pace thoughts...

DREAM ON BABY will likely be at the head of this pack... with **JADE DE GRUGY** alongside or just in behind... they should ensure a decent early gallop in this...

Horse	Run Style	Pace Map
DREAM ON BABY	FR	
JADE DE GRUGY	FR/CP	
SUNSET MARQUESA	CP	
JETARA	CP	
FEET OF A DANCER	CP/HU	
TAKE NO CHANCES	HU/CP	
WODHOOH	HU/CP	
Pace: Possible solo leader/possible dual leaders		
Running style of previous 10 winners: FR-0 CP-5 HU-6		

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

9 of last 11 were IRISH trained and met the following... DSLR 12-56 | Won 1 of last 3 starts = 9/29, 11p | +£18.59 (E/W = +£40.34)... **JADE DE GRUGY, FEET OF A DANCER & DREAM ON BABY** meet those stats here...

**

Conclusion/Current Thoughts...

JADE DE GRUGY qualifies on a LTOW angle for the Mares' races I have plugged in... Chelt Fest Mares' races | 5yo-8yo | previously won at least at C4 level | 2-5 seasonal starts | WON a non-Hcp LTO at SP 3/1 or less = (since 2016) 17/71 | 24% S/R | +£77.57 – W&P 30/71 | 42% S/R... and the 'Won or Placed in same race' angle I've highlighted a few times... has been running over fences so far this season but return to Hurdles not a worry given the following Mullins stats... **W Mullins** | IRE or FR Bred | Non-Hcp Hurdles | WON a Chase LTO = 11/23 | 48% S/R | +£35.05 – W&P 15/23 | 65% S/R... JDG meets those stats...

WODHOOH brings a record of 9 wins from 10 hurdle starts to the table, including 2 wins at Cheltenham, both over this CD, 1 at last year's Festival in the Martin Pipe Hurdle... only defeat came when finishing 2nd in the G1 Aintree Hurdle behind Lossiemouth last season... also fits the LTOW angle for the Mares' races (highlighted for JDG) and the Chelt Fest course winner angle I've highlighted plenty times...

FEET OF A DANCER 2 from 3 so far this season, winning a G2 at Doncaster LTO and a Listed race at Punchestown on seasonal debut... finished 2nd in between those runs to WODHOOH at Leopardstown in December... was getting 8lbs from Wodhooh in that race (beaten 2.25L) but has to race off level weights here, so got a bit to find with the fav at these weights... also fits the LTOW angle for the Mares' races (highlighted for JDG)...

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My plays...

JADE DE GRUGY (W Mullins) happy to play the Mullins mare here, given that she's the only qualifier on the main trends and also meets the wider Mares' races trend AND the Irish trained angle highlighted above... she has less to find with WODHOOH on the ratings than she did with her stable-mate LOSSIEMOUTH in last year's renewal, and she should get a good tow into the race from DREAM ON BABY and not have to try and set her own pace (like she did last year)...

3:20 Cheltenham

🏆 Stayers' Hurdle 🏆

Grade 1 Hurdle | 3m | 4yo+

A Grade 1 that has produced some strong Race Trends to work with and I've used the following to narrow this year's field...

- 1 15/15 previously won at G1 or G2 level
- 2 15/15 27 or less career starts
- 3 15/15 DSLR 32+
- 4 15/15 ran in a Graded Non-Handicap Hurdle LTO
- 5 15/15 last win came in a Class 1 Non-Handicap Hurdle
- 6 15/15 2-7 starts last 365-days
- 7 14/15 rated OR 152+

...giving a trends table of...

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Tot
BOB OLINGER	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	7
HONESTY POLICY	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	7
IMPOSE TOI	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	7
KABRAL DU MATHAN	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	7
MA SHANTOU	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	7
TEAHUPOO	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	7
BALLYBURN	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	6
GWENNIE MAY BOY	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	6
HOME BY THE LEE	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	6
HEWICK	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	5
DODDIETHEGREAT	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	4

...and a trends shortlist of...

BOB OLINGER – HONESTY POLICY – IMPOSE TOI – KABRAL DU MATHAN – MA SHANTOU - TEAHUPOO

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Pace thoughts...

No obvious pace angle here and there's a chance this could be run at a bit of a stop-start gallop... **HEWICK** can be prominent and has front-ran occasionally in the past, so he's a potential to lead the pack along from the front, although he's certainly not a guaranteed front-runner... so definite potential of a 'false pace' at play here...

Horse	Run Style	Pace Map
DODDIETHEGREAT	CP	
TEAHUPOO	CP	
HEWICK	CP	
HOME BY THE LEE	CP	
HONESTY POLICY	CP	
KABRAL DU MATHAN	CP	
MA SHANTOU	CP/HU	
BALLYBURN	CP/HU	
GWENNIE MAY BOY	HU	
BOB OLINGER	HU	
IMPOSE TOI	HU	
Pace: Potentially slow/false pace		
Running style of previous 12 winners: FR-3 CP-0 HU-9		

**

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

WILLIE MULLINS has won this twice and had 3 place from his 23 runners (since 2014)... the best 'angle' for his runners looks to be... **previously won or placed at track | OR 153+ | GB or IRE bred | 0-3 seasonal starts**... which gives race form of... **P03112 (2/6, 2p)**... **BALLYBURN** meets those stats here...

**

Conclusion/Current Thoughts...

Trend toppers...

BOB OLINGER Only seen once since winning this last year, when running 2nd behind a race-fit TEAHUPOO in Xmas Hurdle at Leopardstown... likely come on for that run and this has been his main target for season. Unbeaten 4 from 4 at Cheltenham, 3 of those coming at Festival... ran close enough to his peak RPR figure LTO to suggest he's not yet on downward slope... **he is, however, an 11yo now and horses aged 11yo+ in G1 races at Chelt Fest return stats of... 2/99, 13p | 67% below exp**... so has age stats against him... meets the Chelt Fest course winner angle I have plugged in and the 'Won or Placed in same race' angle...

HONESTY POLICY G1 Novice winner at Aintree last spring and then 0.5L 2nd in G1 Novice at Punchestown... only seen once this season when 1.5L 3rd in G1 Long Walk Hurdle at Ascot (won by Impose Toi)... hard to accurately gauge due to lightly raced nature but has plenty stamina in his pedigree so trip won't be what stops him winning... slight niggle that race tends to fall to one with a bit more experience in the bank (he's had 6 starts)... since 2003 horses with 8 or less career starts are... 1/35, 6p... not a huge negative though, more a niggle...

IMPOSE TOI has transitioned well from handicaps into Graded company this year... winning G2 Long Distance Hurdle at Newbury and the G1 Long Walk at Ascot... beaten into 2nd in G2 Cleeve Hurdle on Trials Day by MA SHANTOU although Soft ground may have been a legitimate excuse that day (6 of his 7 wins have come on G/S or quicker)... holds strong Cheltenham form... 122 (1/3, 2p)... but this not one of the stronger races for Nicky Henderson, with stats of... 1/22, 2p... last winning it in 2000... since then he's 0/18, 2p...

KABRAL DU MATHAN comfortable winner of G2 Relkeel Hurdle LTO and yet to finish out of the first 2 places in his 8 career starts... this his first try beyond 2m4.5f and his first try in a G1, so unknowns there, but does have stamina in his pedigree... like HONESTY POLICY he's also a niggle on the lightly raced scale (he's had 7 UK starts + 1 in France)... meets the Chelt Fest course winner angle I have plugged in...

MA SHANTOU winner of 3 of his 4 starts this season, all 3 coming at Cheltenham... can throw in the odd poor run at times, including when well-beaten in the Albert Bartlett at last year's Festival, but generally looks on a relatively steep upward curve... meets the Chelt Fest course winner angle I have plugged in...

TEAHUPOO form in the race of 2nd (1.75L) – 1st – 2nd (neck)... and comes here off the back of 3 G1 wins on the bounce... Jack Kennedy rides him well, with form of 7 wins and a 2nd from 8 rides... meets the 'Previously Won or Placed in same race' angle... and a Gordon Elliott LTOW angle I have... **G Elliott | Chelt Fest (Wed, Thur or Fri) | Top-rated or no more than 9lbs below | 3+ runs in NH code | SP 14/1 or less | WON in Ireland LTO over a shorter trip = 11/36, 6p | +£35.27...**

**

My Plays...

Looks a tight renewal on the trends front this year and there's a couple question marks and niggles about plenty of the field... bar maybe one...

TEAHUPOO (G Elliott) has looked as good as he's every been on his 2 starts so far this season and he'll be ready to fire after his break, **with rock solid form off breaks of 49+ days of... 11221112111111 (11/14, 2p)...**

4:00 Cheltenham

🏆 Ryanair Chase 🏆

Grade 1 Chase | 2m4.5f | 5yo+

A race that always throws up some strong Race Trends and I've used the following to help narrow this year's field...

- 1 15/15 OR 161+
- 2 15/15 previously run at Cheltenham Festival
- 3 15/15 ran in a G1 or G2 non-Hcp Chase LTO
- 4 15/15 last win came in a Class 1 Chase
- 5 14/15 were top-rated or no more than 6lbs below top-rated

...giving a trends table of...

	1	2	3	4	5	Tot
FACT TO FILE	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	5
BANBRIDGE	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	4
JONBON	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	4
IMPAIRE ET PASSE	N	Y	Y	Y	N	3
MASTER CHEWY	N	Y	Y	Y	N	3
HEART WOOD	Y	Y	N	Y	N	2
MATATA	N	Y	N	Y	N	2
CROKE PARK	N	N	N	Y	N	1
JPR ONE	N	Y	N	N	N	1

...and a trends shortlist of...

FACT TO FILE

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Pace thoughts...

CROKE PARK and **JONBON** looks the two most likely to go off in front in this... and between them they should set a decent pace for the others to aim at... **MATATA** used to blitz away out front, but they seem to have curbed that tendency these days... should he revert to those tactics here, it could lead to a stronger than expected pace set-up...

Horse	Run Style	Pace Map
CROKE PARK	CP/FR	
JONBON	CP/FR	
FACT TO FILE	CP	
HEART WOOD	CP	
MASTER CHEWY	CP	
MATATA	CP	
BANBRIDGE	CP/HU	
JPR ONE	CP/HU	
IMPAIRE ET PASSE	HU	
Pace: Probable solo leader/possible contested early lead		
Running style of previous 12 winners: FR-4 CP-6 HU-2		

**

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

WILLIE MULLINS has won this 6 times and had 5 others place from his 27 runners... his winners all met the following... **7yo-9yo | 2-4 starts in season | Won or placed LTO...** for race form of... **(since 2016) 14781211811 (6/11, 1p)...** **FACT TO FILE & IMPAIRE ET PASSE...** Mullins horses in that form line that were **the top-rated horse on official ratings** returned a form line of... **11111 (5/5)...** **FACT TO FILE** meets those stats here...

FRENCH BRED (FR) horses have dominated in recent renewals, winning the last 12 and filling 25 of the 34 win and place spots... all those FR bred winners met the following... **7yo-9yo | OR 161+ | DSLR 31+...** for race form of... **12/27, 3p | +£47.73...** **FACT TO FILE** meets those stats here...

**

Conclusion/Current Thoughts...

Trend toppers...

FACT TO FILE won the Irish Gold Cup at Leopardstown over 3m by 5-lengths LTO... brings a rock solid Cheltenham Festival form line to the table of... **112 (2/3, 1p)...** **and he's yet to finish out of the first two when racing over trips of between 2m3f – 2m5.5f, with a form line over such trips of... 1212111 (5/7, 2p)...** meets the Chelt Fest course winner angle I have plugged in... **Won at track within last 365-days | 5yo-11yo | Won 1 of last 3 | SP <28/1 = 72/440, 93p | +£199.08...** as well as the following G1 top 2 in ratings angle... **Chelt fest G1 Chases | 6yo-9yo | Top-rated or no more than 2lbs below | 2-5 seasonal starts | SP 5/1 or less = (since 2014) 37/75 | 49% S/R | +£48.59 – W&P 54/75 | 72% S/R...** and it's hard to find any obvious negatives to his chances of regaining his crown...

Thoughts on others...

IMPAIRE ET PASSE won the Ballymore at the 2023 festival by an impressive 6.5L and is simply a reliable and top level performer, especially when you remove Leopardstown from his form line (offspring of his sire tend to struggle there)... 1112111111B1 (10/12, 1p)... Paul Townend gets on extremely well with him also, with form of 9/10, 1p when riding him (other jockeys are 1/5)...

HEART WOOD 9L 2nd to FACT TO FILE in this last year... holds a strong form line over trips of 2m5f to 2m7f... 21111 (4/5, 1p – the 2 coming in this last season)... 0/6, 2p at G1 & G2 level so does struggle to convert in the very top races... meets the 'Previously Won or Placed in same race' angle...

JONBON comes in off the back of 2 G1 wins at Ascot... is 5 from 5 over trips of 2m1f+... Cheltenham always the niggle for him though... with form of 2/7 at Cheltenham compared to 18/20 AWAY from Cheltenham...

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My plays...

Extremely difficult to find any obvious reason why FACT TO FILE won't win this again but he's priced up accordingly and I'm not tempted to dive in at such short odds... I'll take an E/W play on...

IMPAIRE ET PASSE (W Mullins) far from impossible that there could still be a bit more to come from him over fences after only 6 chase starts and his record away from Leopardstown and with Paul Townend on board makes him an appealing alternative at the odds...

4:40 Cheltenham

Pertemps Final Handicap Hurdle

Class 1 Hcp Hurdle | 3m | 5yo+

This can be a bit of a tough race to dig into... but if you concentrate on the last 12 renewals then some strong Race Trends do appear...

- 1 **12/12 aged 5yo-9yo**
- 2 **12/12 22 or less career starts**
- 3 **12/12 6-14 Hurdle starts**
- 4 **12/12 10 or less Hcp Hurdle starts**
- 5 **12/12 previously run over at least 3m but no further than 3m1f**
- 6 **12/12 carried 10-08+**
- 7 **12/12 DSLR 12-77**
- 8 **12/12 0-3 previous career Hcp wins**
- 9 **11/12 0-1 win in current season**

...applied to this year's renewal gives a trends table of...

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Tot
MINELLA SIXO	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	9
RED DIRT ROAD	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	9
CLASSIC KING	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	9
STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	8
ELECTRIC MASON	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	8
ACE OF SPADES	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	8
ABSOLUTELY DOYEN	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	8
LAVIDA ADIVA	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	8
MELBOURNE SHAMROCK	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	8
LETOS	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	8
SUPREME WEST	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	7
CHAMPAGNE CHIC	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	7
ONEWAYWEST	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	7
<i>TURNDLIGHTSDOWNLOW (res)</i>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	7
KIKIJO	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	6
IKARAK	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	6
IDY WOOD	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	6

C'EST DIFFERENT	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	6
MINELLA EMPEROR	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	6
IDEM	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	6
DUKE SILVER	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	5
YEAH MAN	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	5
IKE SPORT	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	5
GOWEL ROAD	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	4
BOLD ENDEAVOUR	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	4
LIHYAN (res)	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	3

...and a trends shortlist of...

MINELLA SIXO – CLASSIC KING – RED DIRT ROAD

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Pace thoughts...

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

ONE WAY WEST should lead this field along off the front end, with **RED DIRT ROAD** sitting either alongside him or just behind him... **GOWEL ROAD** and **STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT** will likely be in close attendance as well... that four should ensure there is a strong early pace at play here...

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

Horses that had previously run in race have won 5 times and had 8 others place from 64-runners (since 2004)... the best angle for them looks to be... **8yo-11yo | 1-4 career Hcp wins | 1-3 Hcp Hurdle wins | 2m3f-3m0.5f LTO**... for race form of... **5/26, 5p | +£77.62 – E/W = +£138.00**... **GOWEL ROAD & IDEM** meet those stats...

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Conclusion/Current Thoughts...

The usual minefield to pick apart but I'm happy to stick with the trend toppers...

My plays...

MINELLA SIXO (G Elliott) a race Elliott likes to target (3 wins & 7 places) and this 7yo still looks feasibly handicapped off OR 137... he showed he handles the track when he ran a decent 2nd in a Novice Hurdle at the October Cheltenham meeting last season, finishing 2.3L behind POTTERS CHARM off level weights, that one winning multiple graded races since and is rated in the mid-150's...

CLASSIC KING (E Lavelle) posted a decent effort at the October Cheltenham meeting when finishing 4th over 2m4f... he didn't run as well on his next 2 starts, at Newbury and then Wincanton, but he did all he needed to at Wincanton, when securing a well-held 4th, which is all he needed to do to qualify for this... they've given him a break since that run, which was 76-days ago, and he does look best off a decent break... with his form off breaks of 31-days or more reading... 3 wins from 11... compared to his form off shorter breaks of... 0 wins from 7... so a positive that he's been rested since Boxing Day... and he should be primed and ready to go here...

RED DIRT ROAD (JJ O'Neill) won the Heroes Handicap at Sandown last season by 8-lengths and although he's struggled to match that form in 3 starts since, it does mean that he's slid back down the handicap and is able to run here off a mark just 1lb above his Heroes Handicap win from last season... so from a handicapping perspective there's definite positives... and the forecast rain for Thursday (should it arrive) won't harm his chances any...

5:20 Cheltenham

Kim Muir Handicap Chase (Amateur Jockeys)

Class 2 Hcp Chase | 3m2.5f | 5yo+

A bit of a tricky race to get a proper grip on using the Race Trends... but looking at the last 12 renewals gives us a rough set to work with...

- 1 12/12 9-31 career starts
- 2 12/12 2-6 starts in current season
- 3 12/12 3 or less career Hcp wins
- 4 12/12 3-8 starts in last 365-days
- 5 12/12 3 or less Chase wins
- 6 11/12 10 or less Hcp Chase starts
- 7 11/12 4 or less career wins
- 8 10/12 10 or less Chase starts

...giving a trends 'shortlist' this year of...

JERIKO DU REPONET – WATERFORD WHISPERS – PRENDS GARDE A TOI – ROAD TO HOME – DAILY PRESENT – SANDOR CLEGANE – THE ENABLER – EXCELLO – INSURRECTION – NO TIME TO WAIT – OLYMPIC MAN

**

Pace thoughts...

Running style of previous 12 winners: FR-2 | CP-3 | HU-7

A few in here that like to be up on the pace from the off, and I'd expect one or a mix of the following to be setting the early fractions up front... **THE ENABLER, GLENGOULY, ASK BREWSTER & LORD ACCORD...**

**

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

8 of the last 12 were IRISH trained and met the following... 6yo-8yo | 2-6 runs in season | 0-1 Chase wins | 0-1 Career Hcp wins= 8/27, 4p | +£53.43...

WATERFORD WHISPERS - KIM ROQUE – ROAD TO HOME – PRENDS GARDE A TOI – THE ENABLER – NO TIME TO WAIT – JARRIVE DE LEST (res)... meet that 'angle' this year...

**

My Play(s)...

Never the easiest race to figure out and the trends tend not to thin things out as much as you'd want... but I'll play the following two, who both appear on both sets of trends above...

PRENDS GARDE A TOI (G Elliott) & THE ENABLER (G Elliott)

Gordon Elliott has been successful in this race previously and if you include his runners that ran for Denise Foster (when Elliott was serving a ban... but still pretty much training the horses at home) and concentrate on the following group... **6yo-8yo | OR 144-135 | NOT GB bred...** you get race form of... **4044113U12 (3/10, 5p)...** with both **PRENDS GARDE A TOI & THE ENABLER** meeting those stats here...

And I also want to play another at big prices as they have their Prime Conditions to attack...

GERICAULT ROQUE (D Pipe)

Bounced back to form at Ascot LTO with a solid second in a valuable handicap and he was only raised 1lb to OR 129 for the effort... that still has him 9lbs below the mark he ran second off in the 2022 Ultima Chase (behind a 140-rated CORACH RAMBLER, who won another Ultima and then the National off 6lbs higher and also finished 3rd in a Gold Cup)... GERICAULT ROQUE gets his PC here... **NOT Seasonal debut | fields of 8+ | 3m5f or less = 23222211 (2/8, 6p – both career wins)...** and his 7lb claimer puts him on an even more attractive mark...



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