

Racing TVi



Cheltenham Festival

Tuesday 15 - Friday 18 March



**All times GMT*

Day 1 - Tuesday 15th March 2022

START TIMES*	RACE	DISTANCE	TYPE
13:30	The Sky Bet Supreme Novices' Hurdle Race	3300m	Hurdle
14:10	The Sporting Life Arkle Challenge Trophy Steeple Chase	3200m	Chase
14:50	The Ultima Handicap Steeple Chase	5000m	Chase
15:30	The Unibet Champion Hurdle Challenge Trophy	3300m	Hurdle
16:10	The Close Brothers Mares' Hurdle Race	4000m	Hurdle
16:50	The Boodles Juvenile Handicap Hurdle Race	3300m	Hurdle
17:30	The Ukraine Appeal National Hunt Challenge Cup Novices' Steeple Chase	6000m	Chase

Day 2 - Wednesday 16th March 2022

13:30	The Ballymore Novices' Hurdle Race	4200m	Hurdle
14:10	The Brown Advisory Novices' Steeple Chase	4900m	Chase
14:50	The Coral Cup Hurdle (A Handicap Hurdle Race)	4200m	Hurdle
15:30	The Betway Queen Mother Champion Steeple Chase	3200m	Chase
16:10	The Glenfarclas Cross Country Steeple Chase	6000m	Chase
16:50	The Johnny Henderson Grand Annual Handicap Steeple Chase Challenge Cup	3200m	Chase
17:30	The Weatherbys Champion Bumper (A Standard Open NH Flat Race)	3300m	Bumper

DAY 1 RACE BY RACE

*All times GMT

13:30 Sky Bet Supreme Novices' Hurdle Race (Grade 1) (3300m)

Racing TVi The RTVi Verdict

A fascinating renewal in which narrow preference is for **JONBON**. He was only workmanlike at Haydock last time but this better ground will suit. Stablemate Constitution Hill has done nothing wrong in two wins at Sandown but faces a very different test here, so a bigger threat may come from the Willie Mullins pair of Dysart Dynamo and Kilcruit.

1-2-3: 1 Jonbon 2 Dysart Dynamo 3 Constitution Hill

The Super Stat

Six of the past nine winners have had an official rating of 153 or higher. They have been Vautour (155), Douvan (155), Altior (155), Klassical Dream (154), Shishkin (153) and, last year, Appreciate It (153). Much has been made of the quality of this year's renewal but **Dysart Dynamo** (rated 152) is the highest-rated runner and so this year's contest is more about undoubted potential than very strong form.

14:10 Sporting Life Arkle Challenge Trophy Steeple Chase (Grade 1) (3200m)

The Super Stat

Between 1998 and 2006, four renewals were won by five-year-olds. However, since the 5lb age allowance was scrubbed 13 years ago, they are 0/13 in the race. Allmankind was well-fancied 12 months ago but finished fourth of the five runners. **Riviere D'etel**, **Haut En Couleurs** and **Saint Sam** are set to fly the flag for the generation this year.

Racing TVi The RTVi Verdict

Edwardstone is clearly a better chaser than he was a hurdler, but he faces a stern Irish challenge led by **BLUE LORD**. Willie Mullins' charge had a good tussle with the mare Riviere D'etel at Leopardstown last month and is fancied to confirm the placings here. Coeur Sublime looks the pick of the rest.

1-2-3: 1 Blue Lord 2 Riviere D'etel 3 Edwardstone

14:50 Ultima Handicap Steeple Chase (Grade 3) (5000m)

Racing TVi The RTVi Verdict

Does He Know may do better from his prominent position than the usually held-up Corach Rambler, while Fortescue is another who may need luck on his side. Preference, however, is for **FLOUEUR** who has taken a step forward on his last two starts and his third at last year's Festival reads well. Fantastikas and Kiltealy Briggs are respected.

1-2-3: 1 Floueur 2 Does He Know 3 Corach Rambler

The Super Stat

Nine of the past ten runnings of the Ultima have been won by a horse wearing some form of headgear (cheekpieces or blinkers but never a visor) at prices ranging between 15-2 and 28-1. On four occasions they've enjoyed a 1-2, and in 2016 a spectacular 1-2-3 - the Trifecta paying over 2,000-1.

15:30 Unibet Champion Hurdle Challenge Trophy (Grade 1) (3300m)

The Super Stat

The past seven winners all lined up having not been beaten that season. **Honeysuckle** was the only horse in last year's line-up who had a blemish-free campaign and has again been flawless this term. **Appreciate It** hasn't tasted defeat either but, then again, he hasn't run. In addition, 27 of the past 31 winners of the race won on their most recent start.

Racing TVi **The RTVi Verdict**

Last year's winner **HONEYSUCKLE** is now unbeaten in 14 starts under Rules and looks impossible to oppose here; she can become just the second back-to-back winner since 2005. **Appreciate It** is a fascinating contender, making his first start since winning last year's Supreme Novices', but this looks a very tough ask. A safer bet for the forecast looks to be the progressive five-year-old **Teahupoo**.

1-2-3: **1 Honeysuckle 2 Appreciate It 3 Teahupoo**

16:10 Close Brothers Mares' Hurdle Race (Grade 1) (4000m)

Racing TVi **The RTVi Verdict**

BURNING VICTORY was a fortunate winner of the Triumph Hurdle two years ago but has done well - both on the Flat and over hurdles - since. She is fancied to confirm her Punchestown form with **Queens Brook**. **Telmesomethinggirl**, a winner at this meeting last year, and recent **Relkeel Hurdle** winner **Stormy Ireland** are the most pertinent dangers.

1-2-3: **1 Burning Victory 2 Queens Brook 3 Telmesomethinggirl**

The Super Stat

Willie Mullins has saddled nine of the 13 winners (**Quevega** won six) and the runner-up when he's missed out. When his winning run was interrupted in 2017, he went close with the second and third. Two years later, **Benie Des Dieux** had victory in the bag when falling but he also had the eventual second in **Stormy Ireland**.

16:50 Boodles Juvenile Handicap Hurdle Race (Grade 3) (3300m)

The Super Stat

Nine of the 17 winners began their careers in France, and **Saint Sam**, who was second last year, went close to increasing that tally 12 months ago. This year's favourite **Gaelic Warrior** had three runs at Auteuil for his previous yard and his form suggests a handicap mark of 129 may prove lenient.

Racing TVi **The RTVi Verdict**

All the talk has been around **Gaelic Warrior's** potentially lenient mark of 129, but the more recent form of **THE TIDE TURNS** is preferred. He was all at sea on heavy ground last month but is expected to relish the hustle and bustle of this race, having beaten 19 rivals (including **HMS Seahorse**, **Brazil** and **Champion Green**) on his hurdling bow.

1-2-3: **1 The Tide Turns 2 Gaelic Warrior 3 HMS Seahorse**

17:30 Ukraine Appeal National Hunt Challenge Cup Novices' Steeple Chase (Grade 2) (6000m)

Racing TVi **The RTVi Verdict**

VANILLIER was giving away plenty of weight when only third behind **Stattler** at Naas in January and last year's **Albert Bartlett** winner is fancied to turn the tables on his old rival now back off level weights at the scene of his biggest win. **Gordon Elliott** has a good record in the race and his dour stayer **Run Wild Fred** is respected accordingly.

1-2-3: **1 Vanillier 2 Stattler 3 Run Wild Fred**

The Super Stat

Gordon Elliott has had nine runners in this; four won at odds of 5-1, 8-1, 16-1 and 12-1, so you would be showing a healthy profit if you had backed his runners blind. All of **Elliott's** winners had been beaten on their previous start which bodes well for **Run Wild Fred**, who was second when last seen.

DAY 2 RACE BY RACE

*All times GMT

13:30 Ballymore Novices' Hurdle Race (Grade 1) (4200m)

Racing TVi The RTVi Verdict

Journey With Me is better than circumstances allowed him to show at Naas and the form of his Leopardstown win has worked out well. Challow Hurdle winner Stage Star has done everything very easily but preference is for last season's Champion Bumper winner **SIR GERHARD** who comprehensively defeated Three Stripe Life at Leopardstown and should relish this step up in trip (won a point over three miles).

1-2-3: 1 Sir Gerhard 2 Stage Star 3 Journey With Me

The Super Stat

Avert your eyes if you are a **Stage Star** supporter. He won the Challow Hurdle last time but the record of winners in that race is 0/18, with Bravemansgame being the latest to come up short last year. The last Challow winner to win at the Festival in the same season was Wichita Lineman, who went on to win the Albert Bartlett in 2007.

14:10 Brown Advisory Novices' Steeple Chase (Grade 1) (4900m)

The Super Stat

Bravemansgame and **L'Homme Presse** are unbeaten over fences but flawless records over fences are often punctured in this race. This century, there have been only three winners who boasted a 100 per cent record over fences after victory in the race – Denman, Don Poli and Monkfish. The last-named made his backers sweat before landing cramped odds 12 months ago.

Racing TVi The RTVi Verdict

Bravemansgame and **AHOY SENOR** are enormously exciting prospects - the latter may be better suited by the demands of this test and can reverse Kempton form. L'Homme Presse and Capodanno both promise to appreciate a first run over this distance over fences and are respected. Fury Road and Farouk d'Alene are strong stayers with a touch of class and shouldn't be underestimated.

1-2-3: 1 Ahoy Senior 2 L'Homme Presse 3 Bravemansgame

14:50 Coral Cup Hurdle (A Handicap Hurdle Race) (Grade 3) (4200m)

Racing TVi The RTVi Verdict

Saint Felicien may have been let in lightly for his handicap debut but he's very inexperienced. Unexpected Party, Gowel Road and Drop The Anchor are respected along with Camprond who should appreciate stepping back up in trip. The vote goes to another JP McManus owned runner in **THE SHUNTER** who won the Plate last year and is temptingly handicapped over hurdles.

1-2-3: 1 The Shunter 2 Saint Felicien 3 Gowel Road

The Super Stat

Only four winners since 2000 had run more than nine times over hurdles and one of those, William Henry, had only ten to his name before victory in 2019. Heaven Help Us kept up the trend last year when winning on her eighth start over hurdles at 33-1. The evidence is clear: look for lightly raced and second-season hurdlers. **Indigo Breeze** looks to tick the boxes in both of those respects.

15:30 Betway Queen Mother Champion Steeple Chase (Grade 1) (3200m)

The Super Stat

Ten of the last 30 winners had landed the Arkle 12 months earlier: Remittance Man, Klairon Davis, Moscow Flyer, Azertyuiop, Voy Por Ustedes, Sizing Europe, Sprinter Sacre, Altior and Put The Kettle On. Three of those were trained by Nicky Henderson, who seeks to complete the same double again with **Shishkin**.

Racing TVi **The RTVi Verdict**

One of the highlights of the week sees **SHISHKIN** and Energumene clash again and one can only hope for as good a race as witnessed at Ascot; Shishkin can come out on top. Age may be catching up with Chacun Pour Soi who has yet to shine in Britain and a bigger threat may come from last year's 1-2 Put The Kettle On and Nube Negra.

1-2-3: 1 Shishkin 2 Nube Negra 3 Energumene

16:10 Glenfarclas Cross Country Steeple Chase (6100m)

Racing TVi **The RTVi Verdict**

TIGER ROLL has won three of the last four renewals and could be hard to beat in his swansong with stable vibes positive. Don't be surprised to see a better show from 2020 winner Easysland whose owner has another live runner in recent purchase Prengarde. Delta Work is a classy recruit to this sphere but Diesel d'Allier has proven course form to his name.

1-2-3: 1 Tiger Roll 2 Prengarde 3 Diesel d'Allier

The Super Stat

No fewer than 14 of the 17 winners had run at the track earlier in the season – and only three winners had no previous experience of the track. Three-time winner **Tiger Roll** has not run at Cheltenham this season, but did have a spin at the track as part of his build-up.

16:50 Johnny Henderson Grand Annual Handicap Steeple Chase Challenge Cup (Grade 3) (3200m)

The Super Stat

Nine of the past 11 winners have had an official rating of between 138 and 147. **Buddy Rich** (144) represents the yard that won this race easily two years ago and the nine-year-old ticks plenty of boxes, but only just - older horses tend to struggle with only two winners since 1998 being ten or older.

Racing TVi **The RTVi Verdict**

Sky Pirate was marginally lower in the weights when winning last year and should make a bold bid, while Andy Dufresne has always been held in high regard. Elixir De Nutz, Buddy Rich and Thyme White are others to note, but **EMBITTERED** fell when favourite last year and looks to have been trained with atonement in mind.

1-2-3: 1 Embittered 2 Thyme White 3 Sky Pirate

17:30 Weatherbys Champion Bumper (A Standard Open NH Flat Race) (Grade 1) (3300m)

Racing TVi **The RTVi Verdict**

Willie Mullins and Gordon Elliott have dominated recent renewals and both are well represented. **FACILE VEGA** has had pundits purring and victory for Quevega's son could take the roof off the stands. Stablemates Redemption Day and James's Gate shouldn't be dismissed but American Mike should pose the biggest threat.

1-2-3: 1 Facile Vega 2 American Mike 3 Redemption Day

The Super Stat

Willie Mullins has won this race 11 times, but punters looking to profit should note the market can get it wrong. None of his past six winners of the race have been his apparent 'first string' including 12 months ago. Before that, his previous five winners returned at 12-1, 16-1, 25-1, 25-1 and 11-1.

CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL STATS

TOP JOCKEYS AT CHELTENHAM (ALL MEETINGS OVER LAST FIVE SEASONS)

Jockey	Rides	Winners	Win %	Places
Harry Skelton	210	24	11	75
Nico de Boinville	150	24	16	58
Aidan Coleman	181	23	13	55
Paddy Brennan	174	22	13	61
Sam Twiston-Davies	232	19	8	71
Harry Cobden	194	17	9	62

TOP TRAINERS AT CHELTENHAM (ALL MEETINGS OVER LAST FIVE SEASONS)

Jockey	Rides	Winners	Win %	Places
Nicky Henderson	365	52	14	127
Gordon Elliott	198	33	17	77
W. P. Mullins	285	32	11	84
Paul Nicholls	318	29	9	87
Nigel Twiston-Davies	278	29	10	86
Colin Tizzard	260	26	10	76



THE CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL LEADING JOCKEYS WITH RIDES THIS WEEK

Jockey	Winners
Davy Russell	25
Paul Townend	18
Nico de Boinville	13
Mr Jamie Codd	10
Tom Scudamore	10
Rachael Blackmore	9
Jack Kennedy	9
Bryan Cooper	9

THE CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS THIS WEEK

Jockey	Winners
Willie Mullins	78
Nicky Henderson	70
Paul Nicholls	46
Gordon Elliott	32
Jonjo O'Neill	27
Philip Hobbs	20
Nigel Twiston-Davies	17
Alan King	15