

# Cheltenham 2020

Ten essential Cheltenham Festival stats you **NEED** to be aware of...



**A FREE Guide from NTF**

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*\*Stats are taken from the last six Cheltenham Festivals unless otherwise stated*

### **Cheltenham Stat #1**

**35 of the 36 Grade 1 Chase winners passed all the following trends...**

*Aged 6yo-10yo | Won 1 of their last 4 starts | Ran in a Non-Handicap Chase LTO | DSLR 21-90 | 1-5 starts in current season | At least one previous start at track*

Now that is a tad 'general' when it comes to the stats and the stats do vary from race to race BUT if you are looking for a very quick method of finding the most likely winners of the festival Grade 1 chases then that's as good a starting point as any. If you had backed all qualifiers to Betfair SP (197 of them) then you would have actually made a profit (+£96.69 BFLSP), albeit it's probably much more useful as a 'starting point' and it would have knocked out 183 of the G1 Chase losers in the past 6 years. You'd still have some work to do but you'd certainly be well on your way.

### **Cheltenham Stat #2**

**Only ONE of the 110 Horses aged 11+ to run in Class 1 races at the last 10 festivals have won...**

*1/110 | <1% S/R | -£43.00 SP  
Win & Place 21/110 | 19% S/R  
81% below expectation*

Yes, sentimentality, as always, leads you to the Festival poorhouse. The simple facts are that the old boys (and girls) struggle to get their heads in front at the Cheltenham Festival in the Class 1 races (Listed level or better). This isn't a place for old legs and it is the younger generation that holds sway here.

### Cheltenham Stat #3

**Of the 106 Horses with 33 or more previous (UK) career starts to have run in a G1 at the last 15 festivals only ONE has won...**

1/106 | <1% S/R | -£103.5 LSP

*Win & Place 10/106 | 9% S/R*

The figures very much point to there being an upper ceiling to the number of starts a horse can have in their career before life at the top level starts to become difficult. That ceiling, according to the stats, is 33+ career starts. The only horse to have bust that stat in the last 15 years is the mighty **MOSCOW FLYER.**

### Cheltenham Stat #4

**100 of the 104 NON-HANDICAP race winners ran in a NON-HANDICAP race last time out...**

4/194 | 2% S/R | -£66.12 LSP

*Win & Place 20/194 | 10% S/R*

The above figures are of those horses stepping up from a Handicap on their last start before The Festival into a **Non-Handicap** Cheltenham race.

**96% of the NON-HANDICAP races were won by a horse running in a NON-HANDICAP last time out.**

Making the step up from Handicap company to Non-Handicap company is essentially an extremely difficult thing to do at The Cheltenham Festival.

Three of the four winners came in the X-Country Chase, a race that had only changed from a Handicap to a Non-Handicap four years ago and a race that isn't really your 'standard' festival race anyway.

## Cheltenham Stat #5

**Only 1 of the 62 Handicap winners were ridden by a claimer with a claim of 5lbs or more...**

1/145 | 0.5% S/R | -£130 LSP

*Win & Place 11/145 | 7.5% S/R*

The above is the record of claiming jockeys with a claim of 5lbs or more in Cheltenham Festival Handicap contests. Despite the Handicap fields being ultra-competitive the hefty claim of a young jockey to reduce the weight burden does not, generally, pay dividends, the stats tell us that experienced jockeys are the call and a claimer with an allowance of 5lbs+ has not actually landed a handicap at any of the last FIVE festivals (0/106, 7p).

## Cheltenham Stat #6

**16 of the 18 Grade 1 Novice Hurdle winners (excluding the Triumph Hurdle) passed the following four trends...**

*Rated OR 137+ | 1-2 starts last 90 days | ran in a race worth 10.5k+ LTO | SP 12-1 or less LTO*

Again, like the G1 Chase angle that started this guide this is a tad on the 'general' side but nevertheless it has captured 89% of the last 18 G1 Novice Hurdle winners and if you had backed it blind you would have pocketed +£129.45 points profit to Betfair SP. Almost certainly best as a 'way-in' rather than a follow blind type angle but it's a damn good shortlist builder that's for sure.

## **Cheltenham Stat #7**

**Trainers based in the following locations - Wales | Scotland | Yorkshire | North West & North East England (so essentially 'the North' and Wales) - have really struggled to hit the mark...**

It's often suggested that 'the North' struggle to land a blow at the Cheltenham Festival, failing to match the firepower that the 'the South' have at their disposal, and to be fair the stats would appear to back that up. As a group, and with the Welsh trainers added into the mix, they have returned the following stats...

**3/239 | 1% S/R | -£180 LSP  
Win & Place 26/239 | 11% S/R  
70% below expectation**

In fact as a group they have drawn a big fat ZERO at the Festival in the past 4 renewals (0/136) and it's been a struggle for them to get near 'the South' and 'the Irish'.

The only trainer to come out of this group with any credit is Rebecca Curtis, who saddled two of the groups three winners.

### Cheltenham Stat #8

**Only ONE German (GER) bred horse has won over Hurdles or in the bumper since 1997...**

1/133 | 0.75% S/R | -£112 LSP

*Win & Place 18/133 | 14% S/R*

*84% below expectation*

Whatever the actual reason for these poor stats (and admittedly it's not all that easy to pinpoint the exact reason why) there is something about the Festival environment that the German bred runners just do not enjoy.

The one horse to buck the trend was Arctic Fire, who got up late (very late) to snatch the 2017 County Hurdle.

### Cheltenham Stat #9

**Those horses that started at large odds (22-1+) on their final start before Cheltenham have really struggled to land a blow...**

3/203 | 1.5% S/R | -£185.75 LSP

*Win & Place 18/203 | 9% S/R*

Horses that were unfancied in their warm-up race for Cheltenham need to be treated with plenty of caution, with only a measly 1.5% of them making it to the winner's circle. The figures are even worse if you only consider the runners in the hurdle and bumper events - 1/93 | 1% S/R | -£87 BFLSP - W&P 6/93 | 6.5% S/R. The 3 that did manage to win were all Irish trained.

## Cheltenham Stat #10

**All 9 winners of the JLT Novices' Chase could have been found using the following 6 filters...**

*Aged 6yo or 7yo | Won 1 of their last 3 starts |  
Previously run at Cheltenham | Ran over 2mlf+ LTO |  
DSLIR 31 - 80 | 1-2 starts last 90 days*

Which gives 9-year figures of...

*9/26 | 35% S/R | +£38.95 BFLSP  
Win & Place 17/26 | 65% S/R*

It's a race that is still relatively young (compared to a lot of the other races over the 4 days) but there are some sturdy trends starting to appear and the above 6 trends have found you all 9 winners to date, applying them to the final decs has narrowed the field into very workable numbers as well (final shortlist numbers have been 5-2-2-3-2-1-5-3-3).

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