

Friday 22nd October

Amateur Jockeys Handicap Chase (Light Trends)

4.50 Cheltenham

Amateur Jockey Handicaps wouldn't normally be races I'd be overly excited about getting involved in, but this race has proven to be strong on the trends in recent seasons and the trends have pointed us to a couple of decent winners since I started covering it. I don't want to go too deep into it though, hence the reason why I'll stick to light trends coverage, with the last 15 winners passing all the following six trends...

15/15 aged 5yo-10yo

15/15 yet to win above Class 3 level

15/15 completed their race LTO

15/15 previously won over at least 2m6.5f

15/15 previously run over at least 3m1.5f

15/15 ran over 2m6f-3m3f LTO

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

FURIUS DE CIERGUES - BOUGHTBEFORELUNCH - BERMEO - STRICTLYDANCER

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Pace thoughts...

There should be a decent enough spread of pace at play here with **FURIUS DE CIERGUES** possibly at the head of affairs and the likes of **ELAN DE BALME, LEN BRENNAN, FACT OF THE MATTER** and **BOUGHTBEFORELUNCH** all sitting on or very near the pace as well...

| Horse | Run Style | Pace Map |
|--------------------|-----------|----------|
| FURIUS DE CIERGUES | FR | |
| ELAN DE BALME | FR/CP | |
| LEN BRENNAN | FR/CP | |
| FACT OF THE MATTER | FR/CP | |
| BOUGHTBEFORELUNCH | CP/FR | |
| DEBDEN BANK | CP/FR | |
| REDFORD ROAD | CP/FR | |
| FIRST CLASS RETURN | CP | |
| BALLYEGAN HERO | CP | |
| BERMEO | HU | |
| DEFUTURE IS BRIGHT | CP/HU | |
| CARNET DE STAGE | CP/HU | |
| JEAN GENIE | CP/HU | |
| PETITE POWER | HU/CP | |
| STRICTLYADANCER | HU | |
| SUPER CITIZEN | HU/CP | |
| MADERA MIST | HU | |
| MARQUIS OF CARABAS | HU | |

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Conclusion...

If the trends hold up again this year then the winner comes from the four strong shortlist and the following two are the ones that personally interest me the most...

FURIUS DE CIERGUES (O Greenall) This 6yo has been ticking along in solid fashion in 2021 and the wind-op he underwent back in February certainly seems to have 'unlocked him', with form of 1312232 since the op. This will be his toughest task to date but there's every chance he's still on the up and he does have strong form under these conditions...3m+ trips | LH tracks = 3211223 (2/7, 5p – both career wins).

STRICTLYADANCER (C Williams) will have come on plenty for his first outing of the season at Chepstow a couple weeks ago (as most C Williams horses do at this time of the year) and that race has already been working out well, with a winner and a close second (another C Williams horse) from three subsequent runners. He's a horse that enjoys testing tracks, with his form in handicaps in races worth 10K or less on undulating/very undulating tracks reading 532111 (3/6, 2p – all 3 career wins) so he should enjoy this challenge. It's also worth noting that he was running a big race in April at Haydock when tackling a C2 until he made scrappy mistakes at 5 from home and then 4 from home, which did enough to knock his forward momentum, but there was enough in that effort to suggest a race of this nature is within his capabilities, especially on what should be a more suitable track configuration.



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