

NTF

TEN OF THE BEST...

WHAT?

CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL STATS

SEASON...

NH 2023/24

FEATURING...

G1 Chases...

G1 Novice Hurdles...

Handicap Hurdles...

Champion Bumper...

And more...

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FREE GUIDE

**USING DATA
FROM THE
LAST 10
CHELTENHAM
FESTIVALS TO
HELP YOU
NARROWING
THE FIELD
FOR THE 2024
MEETING...**

ANGLES...

- ✓ **BEST
PROFILES**
- ✓ **NEGATIVE
STATS**
- ✓ **FESTIVAL
FORM**
- ✓ **AND MUCH
MORE...**



Introduction

NTF 2023/24: Ten of the best Cheltenham Festival Stats...

Welcome to the first **FREE Narrowing The Field (NTF)** guide for the **2024 CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL...**

This report looks at **TEN of the best stats** associated with the **Cheltenham Festival...**

There were any number of my own saved angles I could have included in this guide... and the ten I eventually settled on are ones I feel will give you the best chance of finding winners, and whittling out the losers, at the **2024 Cheltenham Festival...** with the odd 'niche' angle thrown in for good measure...

As is always the case with an NTF guide, it is entirely up to yourself how you wish to utilise the information and how you want to add it to your own punting methods...

You may wish to make use of all these angles... you may want to pick and choose a couple that appeal to your own punting style... you find the guide sparking your brain to go off and source your own similar angles... the choice, as always, is up to you...

Happy Punting

Ben (NTF)

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**Stats taken from the last 10 Cheltenham Festivals*

CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL STAT #1**The Best Stats Profile of Grade 1 Chase Winners**

28 of the 30 Grade 1 (Non-Novice) Chase winners at the last 10 Cheltenham Festivals passed ALL of the following Stats...

- ✓ ***Aged 7yo-10yo***
- ✓ ***SP 20/1 or less***
- ✓ ***Previously WON at Grade 1 level***
- ✓ ***Ran in a NON-Handicap Chase Last Time Out (LTO)***
- ✓ ***Days Since Last Run (DSLRL) 31-120***
- ✓ ***Last win came in a Class 1 Chase***

Now that is maybe a tad 'general' and bit of a 'one size fits all' type of an approach... and the overall stats for the races in question (**QMCC – Ryanair Chase – Gold Cup**) 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 (Non-Novice) Chases** then the above set of trends is as good a starting point as any.

If you had backed all qualifiers to Betfair SP (125 of them) then you would have made a profit of **+£100.13 BFLSP**... although the stats are probably much more useful as a 'starting point'... and they would have **knocked out 190 of the G1 Chase 'losers' in the past 10 years**. You'd still have some work to do, but you'd certainly be well on your way to finding the likeliest winners (based on previous stats)...

CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL STAT #2**Previously Won/Placed in the SAME Festival race****Horses that had previously Won or Placed in the SAME Festival race have pulled in serious profits...**

'**Festival Form**' will be a term that you hear plenty of during, and especially in the lead up to, the 2024 festival... and whilst it may be overplayed, to a certain extent, there is actually some merit to it... especially when **the horse in question is once again running in a race where they have previously banked some Festival Form...** and by that I mean **they have previously WON or PLACED in the SAME RACE at previous Cheltenham Festivals...**

Last season SIRE DU BERLAIS, DELTA WORK, ENERGUMENE, HONEYSUCKLE and CORACH RAMBLER all won in a race they had previously won or placed in... whilst QUEENS BROOK, CAMPROND, GLOBAL CITIZEN, MILL GREEN & SHANTOU FLYER all placed (at a double figure price) in a race they had previously won or placed in...

The 10-year stats read...

Cheltenham Festival | Horses that had previously WON or PLACED in the SAME race

39/314 | 12% S/R | +£360.86 BFLSP – W&P 92/314 | 29% S/R
9% above expectation | E/W returns = +£133.24

You can tighten the stats up further by adding...

Cheltenham Festival | Horses that had previously WON or PLACED in the SAME race | Rated no more than 15lbs below top-rated horse

39/269 | 15% S/R | +£405.86 BFLSP – W&P 87/269 | 32% S/R
15% above expectation | E/W returns = +£192.84

CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL STAT #3**28 or more career starts in Festival G1's**

**Horses that ran in any of the Grade 1 races and had
28 or more (UK or Irish) previous career starts
returned 0 winners and only 4 places**

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, for a Cheltenham Festival Grade 1 contest is **28 or more career starts...**

These are the stats from the last 10 festivals...

Cheltenham Festival | Grade 1 races | Horses with 28+ career starts

0/73 | 0% S/R | -£73.00 BFLSP – W&P 4/73 | 5% S/R

E/W returns = -£121.80

If you take the angle back to 2003 then the figures improve slightly...

Cheltenham Festival | Grade 1 races | Horses with 28+ career starts (since 2003)

6/239 | 2.5% S/R | -£105.39 BFLSP – W&P 32/239 | 13% S/R

E/W returns = -£285.49

...but the strike-rates and the returns are still drastically poor, and you absolutely need plenty of positives on your side before you consider playing one in a Cheltenham Festival G1 race that has plenty experience on their CV (28 or more career starts)...

CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL STAT #4**The Best Stats Profile of Novice Hurdle Winners**

**27 of the 30 Grade 1 Novice Hurdle winners
(excluding the Triumph) at the last 10 Cheltenham
Festivals passed ALL the following Stats...**

- ✓ ***Had an official rating of 136+ (or were yet to be allocated a rating)***
- ✓ ***Had a 67%+ Win & Place Hurdle strike-rate***
- ✓ ***Top 3 finish LTO in a C1-C4 Hurdle race, starting at an SP of <9/1***
- ✓ ***DSL R 28 or more***

Again, like the G1 Chase angle that started this guide, this is a tad on the 'general' side, but nevertheless it has captured **90% of the last 30 G1 Novice Hurdle winners** and if you had backed the angle blind it would have returned the following figures...

27/189 | 14% S/R | +£202.32 BFLSP – W&P 66/189 | 35% S/R
11% above expectation | E/W returns = +£82.25

Almost certainly best as a 'way-in' rather than a follow blind type of angle... but it is a damn good shortlist builder for the **Cheltenham Festival Novice Hurdles**, that's for sure...

CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL STAT #5**Narrowing the Handicap Hurdle Fields**

39 of the 40 Handicap Hurdle winners were aged 5yo-8yo and had TEN or less Handicap Hurdle starts

**The Boodles 4yo Handicap Hurdle is not included in these stats*

You probably don't need me to tell you that the best place to look for the winners of Cheltenham Festival Handicap Hurdles is the younger and less exposed types... but the fact that **98% of the winners of those races could be found by using just the two stats - aged 5yo-8yo and 10 or less Hcp Hurdle starts** - is well worth highlighting...

...and we can add two more stats to help narrow these fields further... with 39 of the 40 winners also... **having 22 or less CAREER starts and ran in a HURDLE race Last Time Out...**

Meaning 39 of the 40 Handicap Hurdle winners passed the following...

- ✓ **Aged 5yo-8yo**
- ✓ **10 or less Handicap Hurdle starts**
- ✓ **22 or less Career starts**
- ✓ **Ran in a Hurdle race last time out**

Nothing overly groundbreaking there and you would still have to do plenty of work to whittle the races down further... but the above stats knocked out over **300 Handicap Hurdle losers** (and only the 1 winner) and still left you with **125 of the 160 Win and Place horses** from the Cheltenham Festival Handicap Hurdle races...

CHELtenham FESTIVAL STAT #6**The Best Stats Profile for the Champion Bumper**

**The last 10 winners of the Champion Bumper passed
ALL of the following stats...**

- ✓ **2+ previous Bumper starts**
- ✓ **WON Last Time Out over 2m-2m0.5f**
- ✓ **Had an Official rating of 118+**

A nice and easy one this and applying the above three stats to the Champion Bumper field over the past 10 seasons would have seen you reduce the field from 205 runners to just 65... so 100% of the winners coming from just 32% of the runners... and giving stats of...

10/65 | 15% S/R | +£40.77 BFLSP – W&P 16/65 | 25% S/R

45% above expectation

If you wanted to narrow things a bit more...

- ✓ **All 10 were yet to run over further than 2m0.5f**
- ✓ **All 10 run on ground that was Good to Soft or softer LTO**

Which tightens things further, to...

10/39 | 26% S/R | +£66.77 BFLSP – W&P 11/39 | 28% S/R

130% above expectation

CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL STAT #7**Horses that finished third or worse at the DRF LTO****Horses running in a Grade 1 at the festival and finished THIRD or worse at the Dublin Racing Festival (DRF) LTO return poor figures...**

As a whole the DRF is the best 'warm-up' meeting for Cheltenham Festival contenders... indeed Leopardstown itself is the best 'warm-up' track... but there *is* a negative stat that is well worth keeping in mind when it comes to **those horses that ran at the DRF on their final start before the Cheltenham Festival...** that stat being...

Cheltenham Festival | Grade 1 races | Ran at the DRF LTO | Finished THIRD or worse

2/101 | 2% S/R | -£69.99 BFLSP – W&P 19/101 | 19% S/R

73% below expectation | E/W returns = -£101.15

The only horses to date to 'overcome' that stat were...

MINELLA INDO (2021 Gold Cup)

VANILLIER (2021 Albert Bartlett Novices' Hurdle)

CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL STAT #8**Saint Des Saints as the Damsire****Horses who were out of a mare by the stallion
SAINT DES SAINTS have some serious stats ...**

A little bit more 'niche' this stat... but it's a good one all the same and one well worth keeping on the radar...

Saint Des Saints as a sire has produced some serious horses in recent times, with the likes of **FASTORSLOW**, **GAILLARD DU MESNIL**, **GENTLEMAN DE MEE**, **PROTEKTORAT** and **DJAKADAM** all having him as the sire... at the Cheltenham Festival, however, it's as **the sire of the DAM** (so when Saint Des Saints is the **damsire**) where he is really starting to lay down some eye-catching stats...

Cheltenham Festival | Saint Des Saints as the Damsire

9/28 | 32% S/R | +£27.99 BFLSP – W&P 13/28 | 46% S/R
28% above expectation | E/W returns = +£20.14

The Stats tighten further with horses that had... **2-5 seasonal starts & WON 1 of their last 2 starts...**

9/21 | 43% S/R | +£34.99 BFLSP – W&P 13/21 | 62% S/R

DOUVAN, **ENVOI ALLEN**, **SAINT ROI**, **APPRECIATE IT**, **EL FABILO** and **MASKADA** have made up the majority of the win and place stats... with **JONBON** adding his name to the place stats...

Some of them will be heading to the festival again this year, as well as the likes of **JINGKO BLUE** and **UNCLE PHIL**...

CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL STAT #9**The Mares Races**

The 21 winners of the Mares' races at the last 10 festivals ALL passed the following stats...

- ✓ ***Had between 2 & 20 previous career starts***
- ✓ ***Had no more than 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 or 3 race***

Giving an overall set of figures of...

21/97 | 22% S/R | +£139.80 BFLSP – W&P 40/97 | 41% S/R

23% above expectation | E/W returns = +£84.98

A bit of a rough and ready approach but the simple facts are that using the above would have found you **ALL 21 winners of the Mares' races at the last 10 Cheltenham Festivals...**

Ideally you would still be looking to do a bit more trimming once the above stats had produced a shortlist for you... but they have proven to be an excellent starting point for your Mares' races analysis...

CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL STAT #10**Jockey Switch in Festival Chases**

Horses being ridden by a DIFFERENT Jockey in the Festival Chases need to be treated with caution...

Well... under certain circumstances anyway...

The following is the area of concern...

Cheltenham Festival Chases | Ridden by a DIFFERENT Jockey than on last start | SP 14/1 or BIGGER | WON or beaten 10L or LESS LTO

2/244 | <1% S/R | -£164.97 BFLSP – W&P 21/244 | 8.5% S/R

78% below expectation | E/W returns = -£278.55

Naturally horses at bigger odds WILL be winning a lesser share of the races, but the stats tell us that this particular group are winning EVEN LESS races than they are expected to... **78% less** to be precise...

When you look at the **CLASS 1 CHASES** only, the 'below expected wins' figure dips even further...

1/159 | <1% S/R | -£135.49 BFLSP – W&P 14/159 | 9% S/R

84% below expectation | E/W returns = -£199.65

NTF CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL SERVICE



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DOORS OPEN SOON...

As always, there are many ways you can slice and dice the festival races when using trends and stats as your starting point. For example, I like to dig into the stats associated with individual races when pulling together the analysis on my full NTF Members service... but the more rounded view, using some of the stats in this guide, is also something I like to consider, and although it's a bit more rough and ready than the individual race approach, it is still a potent and profitable method to attack some of the trickiest races you'll find on the entire racing calendar...

Read [more Cheltenham Analysis on the NTF BLOG>>>](#)

Happy Festival Punting

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