

THE ROAD TO CHELTENHAM 2019



The 66 most important race trials
for the Cheltenham Festival

(November - March)



RACE 20: GOLD CUP HANDICAP CHASE – CHELTENHAM

SATURDAY 15TH DECEMBER – 2M5F CHASE (4yo+)

RESULTS: 2005 – 2017

YEAR	FORM	WINNER	CHASE RUNS	ODDS	TRAINER	AGE	WEIGHT	RATING
2017	-022219	Guitar Pete	15	9/1	Richards, N	7	10-02	134
2016	85-1110	Frodon	5	14/1	Nicholls, P F	4	10-10	149
2015	12P-11	Village Vic	7	8/1	Hobbs, P	8	10-0	136
2014	665P-1	Niceonefrankie	24	16/1	Williams, Miss V	8	11-5	142
2013	-6132	Double Ross (IRE)	5	7/1	Twiston-Davies,	7	10-8	133
2012	5-113	Unioniste (FR)	3	15/2	Nicholls, P F	4	9-9	143
2011	112-02	Quantitativeeasing (IRE)	6	6/1	Henderson, N J	6	10-7	145
2010	12U-25	Poquelin (FR)	12	16/1	Nicholls, P F	7	11-7	163
2009	387-12	Poquelin (FR)	7	7/2	Nicholls, P F	6	11-8	151
2008	NO RACE							
2007	1P6-31	Tamarinbleu (FR)	9	22/1	Pipe, D E	7	11-8	150
2006	31F-21	Exotic Dancer (FR)	6	8/1	O'Neill, Jonjo	6	11-4	149
2005	504-65	Sir Oj (IRE)	9	16/1	Meade, Noel	8	10-0	132

TRENDS:

- 10 of the 12 winners finished Top 5 last time out
- All 12 winners carried 11-08 or less
- All 12 winners had been rested at least 3 weeks since their last run
- 10 of the 12 winners were aged 6-8yo
- 11 of the 12 winners were rated 132-151
- 11 of the 12 winners had their last run in handicap company
- 9 of the 12 winners had raced fewer than 10 times over fences
- 7 of the 12 winners had their last race at Cheltenham
- All 17 runners that had their last start in Grade 1 or Grade 2 company got beat

TOP 5 TRAINERS:

	Runs/Wins/Places/Profit-Loss			
P. NICHOLLS	24	4	5	+21.00
N. TWISTON-DAVIES	16	1	3	-8.00
D. PIPE	17	1	2	+6.00
N. HENDERSON	11	1	0	-4.00
JJ O'NEILL	8	1	1	+1.00

RACE AS A POINTER TO THE CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL:

A race worth noting come Cheltenham in March with plenty of big priced winners coming out of the field. This race has provided an incredible 5 Festival handicap winners in the last 6 years (9/2, 13/2, 33/1, 28/1) as well as a couple of Ryanair winners and a 33/1 winner of the 4m NH Chase.

The 2017 winner Guitar Pete ran a creditable 6th in the Plate Handicap at the Festival a race the 4th here Ballyalton ran 4th in, the 7th home Splash of Ginge finished second at 25/1 and the third King's Odyssey was third in the but it was the 8th home Le Prezien that did best of all when winning the Grand Annual at 15/2 (25/1 winning ante-post bet for Route 66 subscribers)

The 4yo novice Frodon won in 2016 but missed Cheltenham that Season. Runner up Aso was 3rd in the Ryanair at 40/1, 6th home Bouvreuil was third in the Plate Handicap and 7th home Buywise was 4th in the Grade 3 Handicap on the Tuesday at 33/1

The 5th horse home in 2014, Darna, went on to win a Grade 3 handicap at that Season's Cheltenham Festival at 33/1.

The 2013 winner, Double Ross, ran third in that Season's JLT Novice Chase, the runner up, Colour Squadron, ran 2nd in the Byrne Group Plate Handicap, the 5th, Johns Spirit, was fourth in that same race and the 9th, Attaglance, was runner up in the Novice Handicap Chase. Ma Filleule pulled up but ran a mighty second in a Grade 3 handicap chase at 33/1.

The 2012 winner just missed out on the placings in the RSA Novice Chase but the runner up, Walkon, was 5th in a handicap and the 3rd home, Golden Chieftain, won the JLT Handicap at 28/1. The 4th home Tartak was another to make the frame in a handicap chase (20/1).

In 2011 the runner up, Medermit, ran third in the Ryanair and the 12th placed finisher, Salut Flo, landed a big gamble when winning the Byrne Group Plate as the 9/2 favourite. Sunnyhillboy pulled up here but won at the Festival taking the Kim Muir at 13/2f. Divers unseated here but ran 4th to Salut Flo in the Byrne Group.

Dual winner Poquelin ran 2nd and 4th in the Ryanair the two Season's he won here while the 2009 8th From Dawn to Dusk, and 9th, Gwanako ran 3rd (20/1) and 5th (20/1) in the Byrne Group H'cap.

2007 saw 5th, Palarshan, run 5th in the the Plate Handicap and the Pulled Up Abrugante and the 10th, New Alco, run second and 5th in the William Hill Trophy Handicap.

The 2006 winner Exotic Dancer went on to finish second to Kauto Star in both the King George and Cheltenham Gold Cup while the third, Taranis, won the Ryanair Chase. Back in 10th was Butlers Cabin who went on to win that Season's 4 Mile NH Chase at 33/1

2005 third place finisher Lacdoudal ran second at 20/1 in the Ryanair that season to Fondmort who had been brought down in this race. Risk Accessor finished 5th in the Kim Muir at 16/1 having slipped up here.

SUBSEQUENT RACE REVIEW

CASPIAN GOLD CUP - CHELTENHAM (15TH DECEMBER)

Just 12 runners for this valuable handicap including the first 3 home from the PaddyPower Chase over course and distance 4 weeks ago. From those three it was the runner up Frodon who proved himself best suited by conditions as he jumped well from the front to make all the running and stay on powerfully up the hill to hold the challenge of the game Cepage. From the bottom of the weights Guitar Pete matched his third from a month ago although a long way behind the front two with Baron Alco 4th seemingly held by his 6lb weight rise. The favourite Rather Be never really travelled with any zest and plugged on to pass a few beaten horses into fifth. There was little to note from those behind him. This race has long been a great pointer to the Cheltenham Festival and though it's been a while since it sent out the winner of the RyanAir the manner of Frodon's win under topweight marks him down as a very classy middle distance chaser. We backed him for that race last year where he was never really going the pace but he's still only a 6yo and looks to have improved from last season. With another year's experience he could prove more of a threat in that race this Season and will be our next ante-post bet. The runner up is noted for the handicaps at the Festival and being from a trainer who has a fine record in those types of races will be a strong fancy in whichever race he goes for.

ANTE-POST RECOMMENDATION:FRODON 1/2PT EW 14/1 RYANAIR CHASE (PADDYPOWER)