

# THE ROAD TO CHELTENHAM 2019



The 66 most important race trials  
for the Cheltenham Festival

(November - March)



## RACE 24: LONG WALK HURDLE – ASCOT

SATURDAY 22nd DECEMBER – 3M (4yo+)

### RESULTS: 2005 – 2017

YEAR	FORM	WINNER	HURDLE RUNS	ODDS	TRAINER	AGE	WEIGHT	RATING
2017	211-21	Sam Spinner	6	9/2	O'Keefe, J	5	11-7	155
2016	1111-1	Unowhatimeanharry	17	6/5f	Fry, H	8	11-7	165
2015	151-21	Thistlecrack	8	2/1f	Tizzard, C	7	11-7	161
2014	148-757	Reve de Sivola (FR)	24	13/2	Williams, Nick	9	11-7	151
2013	142-013	Reve de Sivola (FR)	18	9/4	Williams, Nick	8	11-7	160
2012	/4753-2	Reve de Sivola (FR)	11	9/2	Williams, Nick	7	11-7	149
2011	1111-1	Big Bucks (FR)	26	30/100	Nicholls, P F	8	11-7	174
2010*	1111-1	Big Bucks (FR)	22	2/13	Nicholls, P F	7	11-7	174
2009*	1111-1	Big Bucks (FR)	18	1/2	Nicholls, P F	6	11-7	174
2008	2113-1	Punchestowns (FR)	4	3/1	Henderson, N J	5	11-7	160
2007	94-733	Lough Derg (FR)	19	14/1	Pipe, D E	7	11-7	142
2006	2231-2	Mighty Man (FR)	10	8/11	Daly, H D	6	11-7	165
2005**	5102-2	My Way De Solzen (FR)	8	12/1	King, A	5	11-7	149

(\* Run at Newbury \*\* Run at Chepstow)

### TRENDS:

- All 13 winners ran over hurdles last time out
- 12 of the 13 winners finished top 3 last time out
- 12 of the 13 winners had their last race in the previous 21-45 day period
- 12 of the 13 winners were rated 149+
- 11 of the 13 winners had raced at least 8 times over hurdles
- 10 of the 13 winners last raced in Grade 1 or 2 company
- 9 of the 13 winners were aged 5-7yo (3 exceptions multiple winners of the race)
- 7 of the 13 winners had their last run at Newbury

### TOP 5 TRAINERS:

#### Runs/Wins/Places/Profit-Loss

P. NICHOLLS	12	3	5	-8.05
N. HENDERSON	8	1	3	-4.00
N. WILLIAMS	6	3	2	+10.25
D. PIPE	8	1	2	+7.00
N. TWISTON-DAVIES	7	0	0	-7.00

### RACE AS A POINTER TO THE CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL:

A very strong trial for the World Hurdle in March with a runner from each of the last 11 years all at least making the frame in that race. Big Bucks won at Cheltenham all three times he won here as did the 2005 winner My Way De Solzen.

The lightly raced Sam Spinner looked a decent staying prospect when winning in 2017 but was only 5th as the 9/4 favourite in that Season's Stayers Hurdle. The 2016 winner Unowhatimeanharry was sent off a short-priced favourite for the Stayers Hurdle that Season but could only manage 3rd. The runner up here Lil Rockerfeller finished one place in front of him at Cheltenham when running second at 33/1. Third home Un Temps Pour Tout went back over fences at the Festival to win the Grade 3 handicap on the Tuesday for the second year running. Thistlecrack won both here and in the World Hurdle the following March while the 7th home Taglietelle was fourth in the Pertemps Final at 14/1. Three time winner Reve De Sivola finished 4th-8th-11th in the World Hurdle the

three Season's he won here but 2014 runner up Zarkandar managed 3rd in the 2015 renewal of that race. At Fishers Cross unseated in 2013 but also ran third in the World Hurdle the following March as did Smad Place when finishing runner up here in 2012. Three time winner Big Bucks also won the World Hurdle all three Seasons he won here. The 2009 fourth home Kayf Aramis went on to finish 5th in the Pertemps Handicap final at 22/1 later that Season. The 2008 winner Punchestowns finished runner up to Big Bucks in the 2009 World Hurdle. The 2007 fifth Kasbah Bliss went on to finish runner up to Inglis Drever in the 2008 World Hurdle which was the same position to the same horse that 2006 winner Mighty Man managed in the 2007 World Hurdle. The 2006 fourth Blazing Bailey managed 3rd in that particular renewal. 2005 winner My Way De Solzen was another to go on to World Hurdle success the same Season

## SUBSEQUENT RACE REVIEW

### ***LONG WALK HURDLE - ASCOT (22ND DECEMBER)***

*This is a very strong pointer to the Stayers Hurdle and it can usually be relied upon to provide at least one placed runner at the Festival. The race didn't really pan out as expected though with the top rated runner and favourite Call Me Lord disappointing after being hampered a couple of times, second favourite Unwhatimeanharry falling at the 8th flight and third favourite Sam Spinner looking like a horse not wanting to race at present as he ballooned the first flight and nearly refused the second unshipping his jockey in the process. West Approach took this as his opportunity to get back to something like his best form and travelled strongly at the third last. He went to the front two out but Paisley Park was stalking him and when that one went past him shortly after the last he had nothing more to give. Top Notch was upsides the first two at the second last but was one paced on the run in while the fourth The Mighty Don ran well again but just falls short in this sort of company. I really liked the way Paisley Park came home here and with plenty of the well regarded stayers disappointing this Season I think he has a great shot in the Stayers Hurdle this year. 16/1 looks a great price for this improving horse who handled this step up from handicap company in fine style.*

**ANTE-POST RECOMMENDATION: PAISLEY PARK 1/2PT EW 16/1 STAYERS HURDLE (BETFRED)**

