



Racing TVi

Cheltenham Festival 2023

(March 14 - 17)

BETTING GUIDE: Day 3 (Thursday) & Day 4 (Friday)



**All times GMT*

Day 3 - Thursday 16th March 2023

START TIMES*	RACE	DISTANCE	TYPE
13:30	Turners Novices' Chase	4300m	Chase
14:10	Pertemps Network Final Handicap Hurdle	4800m	Hurdle
14:50	Ryanair Chase	4100m	Chase
15:30	Paddy Power Stayers' Hurdle	4800m	Hurdle
16:10	Magners Plate Handicap Chase	4100m	Chase
16:50	Jack De Bromhead Mares' Novices' Hurdle	3400m	Hurdle
17:30	Fulke Walwyn Kim Muir Challenge Cup (sponsored by the JRL Group)	5200m	Chase

Day 4 - Friday 17th March 2023

13:30	JCB Triumph Hurdle	3400m	Hurdle
14:10	McCoy Contractors County Handicap Hurdle	3400m	Hurdle
14:50	Albert Bartlett Novices' Hurdle	4800m	Hurdle
15:30	Boodles Cheltenham Gold Cup	5300m	Chase
16:10	St. James's Place Festival Challenge Cup Open Hunters' Chase	5300m	Chase
16:50	Mrs Paddy Power Mares' Chase	4100m	Chase
17:30	Martin Pipe Conditional Jockeys' Handicap Hurdle	4000m	Hurdle

DAY 3 RACE BY RACE**All times GMT***Race 1: Turners Novices' Chase (13:30)****Racing TVi** *The RTVi Verdict*

Both **MIGHTY POTTER** and Stage Star pulled up at last year's meeting, but the former has been one of the breakout stars of the season. Banbridge won a handicap at last season's Festival and is better than he showed when behind Mighty Potter in December. Appreciate It should improve for going up in trip and the quietly progressive Balco Coastal appeals more.

1-2-3: 1 Mighty Potter 2 Stage Star 3 Banbridge**Race 2: Pertemps Network Final Handicap Hurdle (14:10)****Racing TVi** *The RTVi Verdict*

Maxxum was all the rage after an easy win in December and his subsequent defeat can be excused. Thanksforthehelp won well last time, while The Bosses Oscar was second in the 2021 renewal. An Tailliur has been kept fresh for this since October but take a chance with **COLTOR** who also ran well at the 2021 Festival and has untapped potential for a new yard.

1-2-3: 1 Coltor 2 Thanksforthehelp 3 Maxxum**Race 3: Ryanair Chase (14:50)****Racing TVi** *The RTVi Verdict*

SHISHKIN looked back to his brilliant best at Ascot and should outclass these rivals if in the same form but that performance may have left a mark; let's hope not as he's one of the sport's stars. Janidil can reprise last year's role as bridesmaid although Fury Road and Blue Lord can push him close. Paddy Power Gold Cup one-two Ga Law and French Dynamite have minor claims.

1-2-3: 1 Shishkin 2 Janidil 3 Fury Road**Race 4: Paddy Power Stayers' Hurdle (15:30)****Racing TVi** *The RTVi Verdict*

Flooring Porter hasn't had the ideal preparation for his hat-trick but recent vibes have been encouraging which is more than can be said for Blazing Khal. The recent rain is good news for Teahupoo and won't worry Home For The Lee who has improved this season. **GOLD TWEET** and Henri Le Farceur are fascinating runners from France and the former can back up his Cleeve Hurdle success.

1-2-3: 1 Gold Tweet 2 Flooring Porter 3 Teahupoo

DAY 3 RACE BY RACE

*All times GMT

Race 5: Magners Plate Handicap Chase (16:10)

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So Scottish is sure to be a popular selection, as was The Shunter who won for the same connections in 2021. Frero Banbou was behind him at Ascot but could finish closer with this trip expected to suit. There should also be more to come from course and distance winners **MIDNIGHT RIVER** and Il Ridoto with the former looking the more solid.

1-2-3: 1 Midnight River 2 So Scottish 3 Il Ridoto

Race 6: Jack De Bromhead Mares' Novices' Hurdle (16:50)

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Willie Mullins saddled the first five winners of this race but has only managed a third in two subsequent runnings and Lot Of Joy may have to settle for minor honours with **LUCCIA** having looked a potential star to the extent that a tilt at the Supreme was discussed. Magical Zoe and You Wear It Well are contenders along with smart Flat recruit Princess Zoe.

1-2-3: 1 Luccia 2 Lot Of Joy 3 You Wear It Well

Race 7: Fulke Walwyn Kim Muir Challenge Cup (sponsored by the JRL Group) (17:30)

Racing TVi *The RTVi Verdict*

Angels Dawn's jumping frailties are a concern. Mr Incredible ran a big race at Warwick but did refuse to race for previous connections. It's harder to find fault with Stumptown but we will take a chance with **ROYAL THIEF** who was very impressive when returning from a long absence. Rapper and Coeur Serein are others to note.

1-2-3: 1 Royal Thief 2 Stumptown 3 Rapper



DAY 4 RACE BY RACE**All times GMT***Race 1: JCB Triumph Hurdle (13:30)****Racing TVi** *The RTVi Verdict*

Lossiemouth looked unlucky when chasing home stablemate **GALA MARCEAU** in the Spring Hurdle, but the winner is worth sticking with, especially given that race's strong record in providing winners of this one. Stablemate Blood Destiny, an impressive winner of both starts since coming from France, has been kept fresh, and is respected accordingly.

1-2-3: 1 Gala Marceau 2 Lossiemouth 3 Blood Destiny

Race 2: McCoy Contractors County Handicap Hurdle (14:10)**Racing TVi** *The RTVi Verdict*

Filey Bay hasn't yet stopped improving and is a big player once more after his run behind Aucunrisque, but this race has fallen to well-treated novices in two of the last three seasons and recent Grade 2 runner-up **PEMBROKE** first the bill. Gin Coco lost little in defeat when last seen but is higher in the weights, and Winter Fog has the same problem to overcome.

1-2-3: 1 Pembroke 2 Filey Bay 3 Winter Fog

Race 3: Albert Bartlett Novices' Hurdle (14:50)**Racing TVi** *The RTVi Verdict*

Corbetts Cross produced an exceptional performance when winning over two miles last time, but that may have taken plenty out of him, and preference instead is for **MONTY'S STAR**. His Clonmel win looks very solid and his connections have a good record in this race. Stablemate Hiddenvally Lake, who chased him home that day, links several of these rivals, and is a big player.

1-2-3: 1 Monty's Star 2 Corbetts Cross 3 Hiddenvally Lake

Race 4: Boodles Cheltenham Gold Cup (15:30)**Racing TVi** *The RTVi Verdict*

A Plus Tard may have been flattered by the winning distance 12 months ago, so whilst he is respected, ready preference is for **GALOPIN DES CHAMPS**. He would have won easily at last year's meeting but for falling at the last, and has won authoritatively on all starts this season, including when beating Stattler last time out. Bravemansgame looks the pick of the British runners.

1-2-3: 1 Galopin Des Champs 2 A Plus Tard 3 Bravemansgame

DAY 4 RACE BY RACE**All times GMT***Race 5: St. James's Place Festival Challenge Cup Open Hunters' Chase (16:10)****Racing TVi** *The RTVi Verdict*

Billaway showed plenty of heart to win 12 months ago and is far from ruled out once more given the way he bounced back to winning ways last time, but his younger rivals – led by **VAUCELET** - may hold the edge this time around. Bob And Co has twice failed to complete in this race, while Chris's Dream looks to have been rejuvenated by the switch to point-to-points. The prolific Famous Clermont is respected too.

1-2-3: 1 Vaucelet 2 Billaway 3 Famous Clermont

Race 6: Mrs Paddy Power Mares' Chase (16:50)**Racing TVi** *The RTVi Verdict*

ZAMBELLA was fourth in this 12 months ago and though she was beaten by Jeremys Flame at Huntingdon last time, the return to more positive tactics at this more demanding course should see her reverse the form. Last year's winner Elimay looks a big threat, along with her stablemate Allegorie De Vassy who has enjoyed two bloodless wins this term. Impervious rates a big danger, for all her best form has come over shorter.

1-2-3: 1 Zambella 2 Allegorie De Vassy 3 Elimay

Race 7: Martin Pipe Conditional Jockeys' Handicap Hurdle (17:30)**Racing TVi** *The RTVi Verdict*

Just two English-trained winners over the past nine seasons suggests that runners from across the Irish Sea are worth focusing on, especially those with a touch of class. Spanish Harlem fits the bill, but not as much as **IMAGINE** who bumped into a good one last time and who is bred to improve for this longer trip. The strong stayer Cool Survivor and the progressive Iroko are others to consider.

1-2-3: 1 Imagine 2 Spanish Harlem 3 Cool Survivor

