Cheltenham Festival 2020 Trends

To keep the trends as relevant as possible I have looked at results from the 2015 festival onwards. Those results contain 139 winners from 2409 runners 466 placed. I have used the ever useful www.horseracebase.com for all the stats.

Below are some very general trends looking at the fate of favourites, odds SP, age, use of headgear and previous course form.

Favourites & Odds SP:

Favourites (Clear) - 40 winners from 131 runners 31% -10.32 A/E 1 73 placed 56%.

Odds SP: - 33/1 & bigger - 8 winners from 832 runners 1% -452 A/E 0.55 64 placed 8%

Odds SP: 20/1 & bigger - 19 winners from 1276 runners 1% -645 A/E 0.54 115 placed 9%

Summary: Using the A/E stat we can see that favourites are performing at where you would expect. Looking at the odds of the winners we can see that you need to be wary of those horses returned 20/1 & bigger. Yes, they do win races at the festival but you're looking for winners at big prices you are fishing in a very small pond. Once again, we can see from the A/E stat that big priced horses don't necessarily equate to value.

Age:

4yo to 7yo - 100 winners from 1479 runners 7% -378.44 A/E 0.87 355 placed 21%

8yo+ - 39 winners from 930 runners 4% -479.38 A/E 0.66 161 placed 17%

Summary: The Cheltenham Festival is for younger, progressive horses rather than the veterans.

Headgear:

Breakdown of Headgear

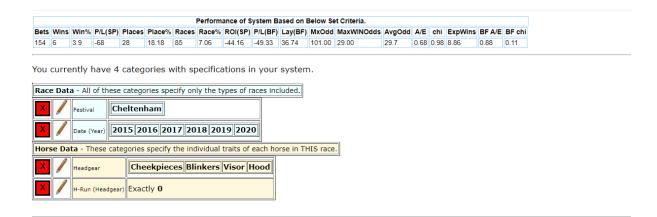
Headgear worn by the horse

To add in criteria, select as appropriate and press Go. Otherwise click any tab to continue with this system unchanged.

Add	Criteria	Bets	Wins	Win%	P/L(SP)	Places	Place%	Races	Race%	ROI(SP)	P/L(BF)	Lay(BF)	MxOdd	MaxWINOdds	AvgOdd	A/E	chi	ExpWins	BF A/E	BF chi
	Cheekpieces	323	11	3.41	-154.5	56	17.34	106	10.38	-47.83	-26.41	-4.22	201.00	67.00	34.68	0.63	2.51	17.44	0.83	0.42
	Blinkers	136	11	8.09	24.25	22	16.18	70	15.71	17.83	66.04	-82.34	201.00	41.00	31.2	1.39	1.26	7.93	1.82	4.24
	Visor	30	1	3.33	-13	5	16.67	23	4.35	-43.33	-11.27	8.89	101.00	17.00	43.2	1.04	0	0.96	1.47	0.15
	Hood	147	3	2.04	-104	33	22.45	85	3.53	-70.75	-88.83	78.73	201.00	21.00	28.31	0.32	4.75	9.5	0.42	2.47

Digging further and looking at races by handicap & non-handicap.

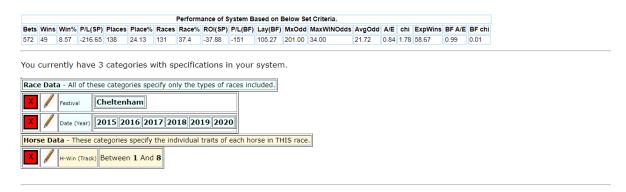
First time Headgear:



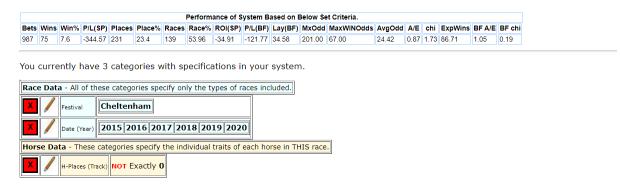
Summary: Backing all horses blind racing blinkers would have been profitable. However, headgear in general outside of handicap races offers punters nothing in terms of value. And horses racing in first time headgear are performing 32% below market expectations.

Course Form:

Course Winners:



Course Places:



Summary: Since 2015 previous Cheltenham winners have won 35% of races at the festival from 24% of the total runners. Horses with placed form have won almost 54% of races from 41% of the total runners. So, previous placed form can be seen as a positive.

Personally, I always keep a close eye on previous Cheltenham Festival form in the handicap races. Two good examples from last season:

William Henry (28/1) won last year's Coral Cup, having finished 4th in the previous years race.

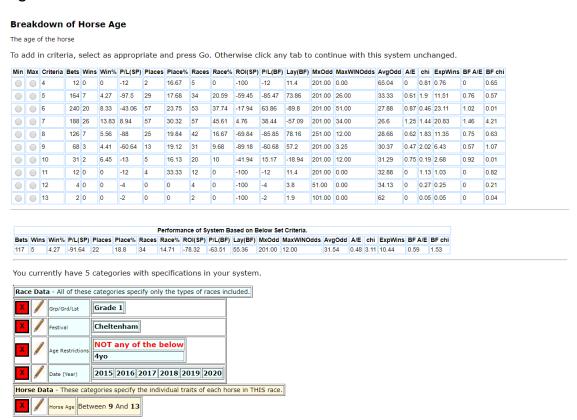
Sire De Berlais (4/1) won last year's Pertemps Series Final, having finished 4th in the previous seasons Martin Pipe Handicap Hurdle.

Both horses were racing off the same mark as they had done the previous year.

General Trends – Grade 1 Races (Exc Triumph Hurdle)

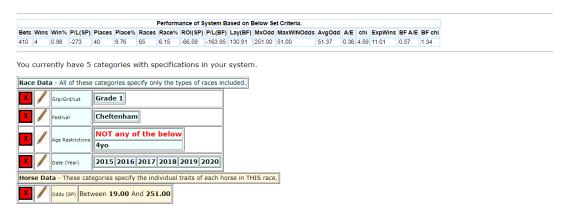
I have excluded the Triumph Hurdle, as the race is only open to 4-year-olds. The results below contain 65 winners from 847 runners 192 placed.

Age:

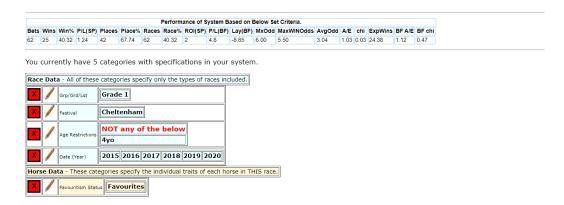


Summary: I mentioned earlier that the festival was for younger horses and that is borne out in the stats Grade 1 races with just five horses aged 9yo+ have won a Grade 1 race at the meeting.

Odds SP & Favourites



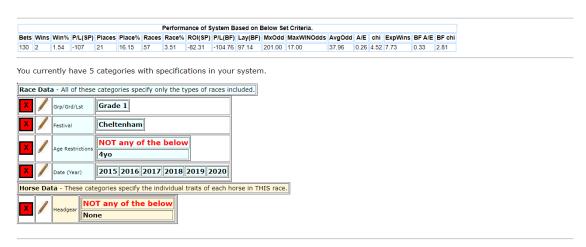
Favourites:



Summary: Those returned 18/1 & bigger have won just four races at the festival and the place strike rate at just under 10% isn't great either.

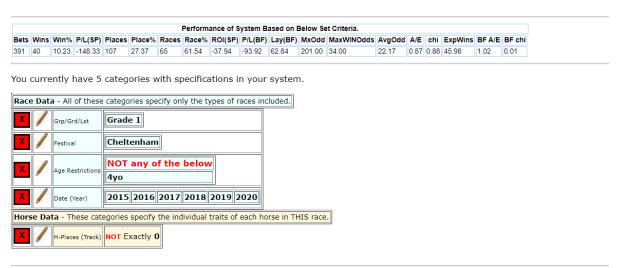
The odd winner does pop up at big odds but they don't offer punters any value at all performing 64% worse than market expectations.

Headgear:



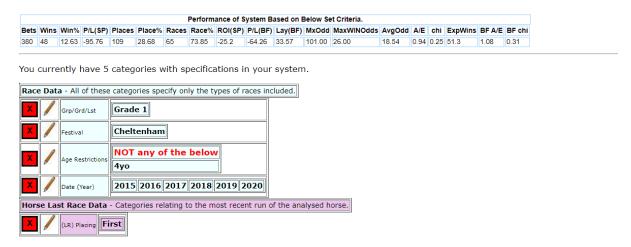
Even worse is the performance from a value perspective are horses wearing headgear in Grade 1 races with just two winners since 2015.

Previous Course Form:



Summary: 62% of Grade 1 winners had previous placed form at Cheltenham from 46% of the total runners.

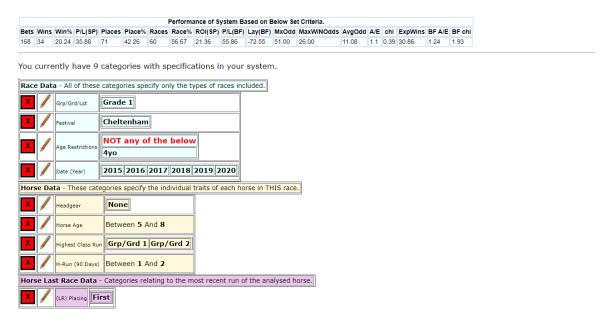
Last Time Out Placing:



Last time out winners won almost 74% of all Grade 1 races from 45% of the total runners.

Grade 1 Micro Angle

For those of you looking for a profitable angle into Grade 1 races. You will probably do worse than following horses with the following traits:



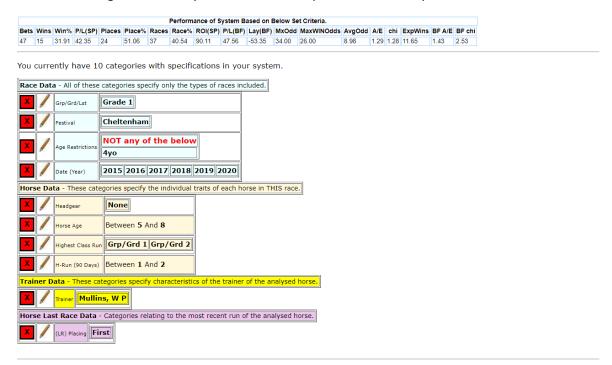
This angle had found 56% winners of Grade 1 race winners from just 20% of the total runners.

Breakdown by Year:

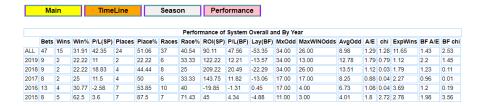


And a profit has been achieved at the last four festivals to both industry SP & Betfair SP.

For those looking for less bets you could focus on qualifiers trained by Willie Mullins.



By year:



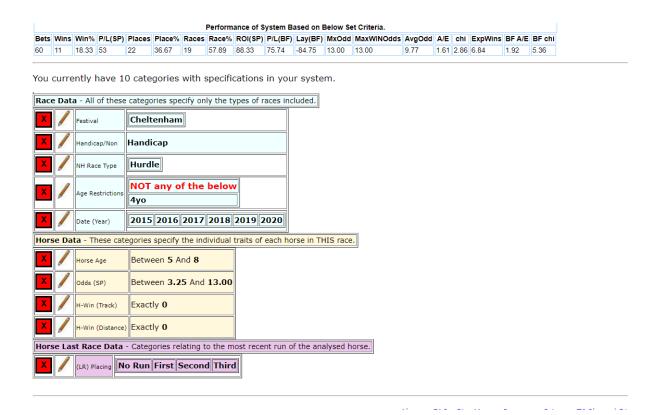
A profit made in four of the last five seasons by the Mullins qualifiers.

Handicaps Micro Angles

Without going into too much detail here are two micro angles for the festival handicaps, starting with handicap hurdle races, excluding the Boodles Juvenile Handicap Hurdle(formerly the Fred Winter) which is open to 4-year-old's only.

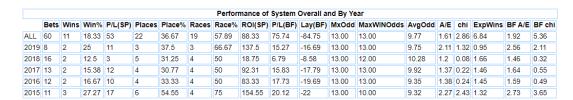
Handicap Hurdle (Exc Boodles Juvenile Hurdle)

The results below contain 20 winners from 483 runners 80 placed.



The angle found 55% of handicap hurdle winners from just 12% of the total runners

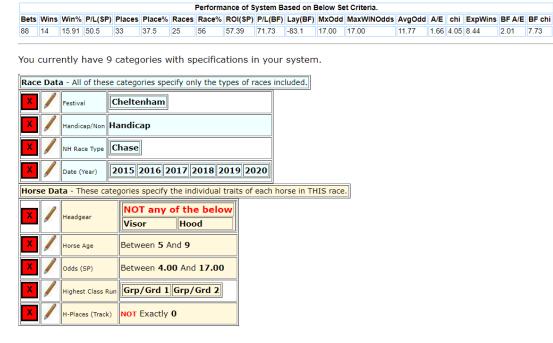
By year:



And has been profitable for the last five years. The sample sizes are small but it's a promising way into the festival handicap hurdle races.

Handicap Chases:

The results below contain 26 winners from 562 runners 104 placed



This angle found 54% of all handicap chase winners at the festival since 2015 from 16% of the total runners. Profits to both Industry SP & Betfair SP and each way punters would have made a tasty £74.38 profit.

11.77 1.66 4.05 8.44

By Year:

Main statistics are shown below. Click the Timeline button for a full date performance analysis or the Performance button for performance details and information on winning/lc runs

	Main			TimeLine			Season		Performance		:e								
	Performance of System Overall and By Year																		
	Bets	Wins	Win%	P/L(SP)	Places	Place%	Races			•			MaxWINOdds	AvgOdd	A/E	chi	ExpWins	BF A/E	BF chi
ALL	88	14	15.91	50.5	33	37.5	25	56	57.39	71.73	-83.1	17.00	17.00	11.77	1.66	4.05	8.44	2.01	7.73
2019	16	2	12.5	0.5	5	31.25	4	50	3.13	3.94	-5.58	17.00	11.00	12.34	1.4	0.25	1.43	1.8	0.77
2018	16	3	18.75	7.5	5	31.25	5	60	46.88	9.4	-11.23	17.00	9.00	11.78	1.92	1.47	1.56	2.34	2.51
2017	21	3	14.29	9	8	38.1	5	60	42.86	14.75	-17.37	17.00	11.00	11.07	1.39	0.36	2.16	1.66	0.86
2016	18	3	16.67	12.5	9	50	5	60	69.44	18.15	-20.64	17.00	13.00	11.97	1.75	1.08	1.71	2.14	1.98
2015	17	3	17.65	21	6	35.29	6	50	123.53	25.5	-28.28	17.00	17.00	11.88	1.9	1.41	1.58	2.21	2.15

Plenty of the selections over the four days but a profit made in each of the last five years. However, as with the previous handicap hurdle angle the sample sizes involved are small and it's not an angle to go into to heavily.

The above figures are based on historic data and whilst history has a good habit of repeating itself, it often doesn't.

Well I hope you enjoyed this short Cheltenham Festival trends preview and helps guide you to some profit's bets next week.

Cheers

John