# Countdown to Cheltenham 2017

# **Tuesday**

Supreme Novices'	Hurale
1 Altior	4-1
2 Min	15-8F
3 Buveur D'Air	10-1
14 ran. Dists 7l. 11/3l	

Winners/runners since race 23-54 (42.5%) **Profit/loss** +£10.85 to £1 stake

**Subsequent winners** Altior (four chases, best winning RPR 175), Min (2C 153), Buveur D'Air (two hurdles, 2C, 156 152), Tombstone (4th, 1H 153), Charbel (5th, 1C, 150), Mister Miyagi (6th, 1H, 147), Supasundae (7th, 1H, 150), Petit Mouchoir (8th, 2H, 166), North Hill Harvey (9th, 1H, 151), William H Bonney (10th, 1H 129), Holly Bush Henry (11th, 1C, 134), Penglai Pavilion (12th, one Flat, 104), Bellshill (13th

Sensational is just about the only way to describe this, with the first three home going 10/10 since and all bar one of the 14 runners (last-placed Silver Concorde) winning at least once. Altior looks a shoo-in for the Racing Post Arkle, Buveur D'Air and Petit Mouchoir are serious contenders for the Champion Hurdle, while Tombstone is favourite for the Coral Cup and joint-favourite for the County Hurdle alongside North Hill Harvey. This year's novices have an awful lot to live

# Racing Post Arkle

1 Douvan	1-4F
2 Sizing John	9-1
3 Fox Norton	.33-1
11 ran. 7l. 3¾l	

**Winners/runners** 13-39 (33%)

P/L -£9.27 Subsequent winners Douvan (5C, 178), Sizing John (2C, 168), Fox Norton (3C, 170), Aso (5th. 2C, 154), Vaniteux (7th, 1C, 160)

Nothing could get near Douvan last year and nothing has got near him since, yet despite that quite a few of those behind have done really well, which all points to the winner being the superstar he looks. Sizing John has spent most of his life staring at Douvan's backside but has found hidden reserves of stamina this season and, if he truly gets the Gold Cup trip, will be a threat given he has twice been placed at the festival over 2m already. Fox Norton is just about favourite to chase Douvan home in the Champion Chase, but will have his supporters in the Ryanair should connections decide it's not worth running for second on the

## Ultima Handicap Chase

1 Un Temps Pour Tout	11-1
2 Holywell	8-1
3 The Young Master	14-1
4 Morning Assembly	10-1
23 ran. 7l. 9l. 1l	

## Winners/runners 10-93 (10.75%)**P/L** -£13.47

Subsequent winners Un Temps Pour Tout (1H, 150), The Young Master (1C, 152), Kruzhlinin (5th, 1H, 153), Double Ross (9th, 1C, 154), Ballykan (10th, 2C, 145), Fox Appeal (11th, 10 152), O Maonlai (12th, 1C, 150), Theatre Guide (F, 1C, 156), Regal Encore (P, 1C 153)

The 2015 running was unusually good.

but last year's returned to type with only a handful of runners turning in runners play more than a bit part this better handicapped, though.

# Coo's chance is stark if you trust Winter form



With previous festival form an invaluable tool in the search for winners, **Paul Kealy** examines last year's results for clues

THE purpose of this column has always been to try to find repeat performers based on the previous year's festival without resorting to the oleedin' obvious – we all know Altior and Douvan are going to win, but what about others who are coming back?

In fairness this hasn't been the most successful of endeavours as I keep getting places and no wins, but I'll be going in head down with a Lucky 15 this year and will be disappointed not to pick up something.

Three have been well found in the market, but the one I'm getting most excited about is Coo Star Sivola in the Martin Pipe Conditional Jockeys' Handicap Hurdle.

He was an excellent third in the Fred Winter last season and, while that might have been fifth had Campeado and Voix Du Reve not both fallen independently at the last, that doesn't matter as the form has worked out remarkably well.

The first four home have won ten times between them, while the seventh was Messire Des Obeaux, whose three wins this term include the Grade 1 Challow Hurdle, and Campeador fell with another big handicap at his mercy on his only subsequent star.

In the Fred Winter Coo Star Sivola was the only one of the first eight nome who raced prominently and he found a remarkable amount for pressure having joined the lead four out and been pushed along a good

## Stan James Champion Hdle

1 Annie Power		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	•••••	5-2
2 My Tent Or You	urs.			10-
3 Nichols Canyon	n			15
12 ran. 4½l, hd				
	10	45 (00	E 0071	

Thief (6th, 2C, 146), Hargam (10th, 1H, 151)

performances of note and it will be ! It remains to be seen how much this race ! Not a bad return given nearly half the something of a surprise if any of the has a bearing on the 2017 renewal, but if field have not run since. A winning RPR there's no doubting Annie Power was a of 146 tells you Vroum Vroum Mag did season. Holywell is a ten-year-old now high-class winner. My Tent Or Yours and not have to be anywhere near her best to This race has been getting better year on but has been supported in some quarters The New One will be back again, but the win this last year (it was actually her year, but the 2017 renewal will probably frame in this contest and win another on his third crack at the race. He won it former has looked a pale shadow of his lowest RPR since March 2015) but she have to house the Champion Hurdle race the following season (the other one in 2014 off a mark of 145 (3lb lower than former self this season, while The New does have a habit of beating what's put winner to surpass the 2016 renewal. was Irish Cavalier) and this contest this year) and was second last year off : One will always make more appeal on infront of her and we know she's capable : Second-placed Native River certainly 153 having run fourth in Coneygree's the New course. He has frame claims, of a fair bit better. Although she is deserves his place at the head of the Gold Gold Cup in between, so he obviously though, in much the weakest Champion remarkably versatile, it was still a surprise Cup market, while Vieux Lion Rouge and to have been 'plotted up' for a festival comes to hand at this time of year. It will Hurdle he'll have run in. Fifth-placed Top connections decided to go down the Definitly Red head the betting for the handicap is poor, doubly so when you be disappointing if something with less ! Notch has made a surprisingly good fist ! Champion Hurdle route with a mare who ! Grand National after enjoying stellar ! consider half of those wins came from mileage and younger legs doesn't prove i of chasing given his size and the market won over 3m two starts ago but then is seasons. The strike-rate of runners from the last-placed horse and three of the six says he's Yorkhill's big danger in the JLT. scrambled home over 2m in a weak race. this race is remarkably high.



Coo Star Sivola (second right): excellent third in last year's Fred Winter, with the form working out well

three furlongs from home. It's not surprising he has improved this seasor for the step up to 2m4f, winning a Listed hurdle at Cheltenham on New Year's Day and, last time out, a Warwick novice by a country mile.

The handicapper raised him just 4lb to 138 for that last run, but Racing Post Ratings awarded 148 and he has to be a player if repeating the form on better ground, which he obviously does handle.

Gordon Elliott is the king of the handicaps and it's no great surprise he has a few warm favourites, including The Storyteller in the Martin Pipe, but his more interesting runners for the purposes of this column have to be Tombstone and Diamond King.

The former is reportedly most likely to run in the Coral Cup after connections decided not to supplement him for the Champion Hurdle following his victory over Jezki at Gowran last month and it's fair to say

## **OLBG Mares' Hurdle**

5-2F	1 Vroum Vroum Mag4-6F
	2 Rock On The Moor
	3 Legacy Gold40-1
	19 ran. 2¾l, ½l
12-45 (26 7-33%)	Winners/runners 13-48 (27%)

**P/L** -£14.48 Queen (7th 2C 149) Stenhanie Frances (8th 3C, 137, 1H 140), Rons Dream (9th, 2H, 144)

the O'Learys didn't thrown the toys out of the pram when he was awarded a handicap mark of 149.

He was beaten more than 12 lengths when fourth in last year's Supreme Novices' Hurdle, but that race is arguably one of the best ever run and the horses who finished third and eighth are among the favourites for the Champion Hurdle.

The ever-shrewd Elliott won this race last year with the 149-rated Diamond King and he must be very pleased with that one's handicap mark of 150 over fences for the Brown Advisory & Merriebelle Stable Plate, given how well last year's Coral Cup worked out.

Plenty of winners emerged at a good level on the Flat, over hurdles and over fences and, while Diamond King's chase form in three starts doesn't really merit such a high mark, it's fairly obvious he's been prepared for this once Grade 1 ambitions were shelved.

# lational Hunt Chase

:	
	1 Minella Rocco 8-1
	2 Native River 7-1
:	3 Measureofmydreams9-1
	17 ran. 1¼l, 6l
	Winners/runners 20-74 (27%)

Subsequent winners Annie Power (1H, 170),
Nichols Canyon (1H, 166), The New One (4th, 157), Pass The Time (4th, 2C, 138), Desert

Vicente (5th, 1C, 159), Vieux Lion Rouge (2C, 1C, 141). Definitly Red (F, 2C, 156, 1H, 149), 1C, 160), Waldorf Salad (P, 1C, 140), Pleasant Company (P, 1C, 145), Vintage Vinnie (P, 1C,

Last year's County Hurdle also produced plenty of winners and the one to take out of it is **Starchitect**, who finished fifth and has shown his versatility by winning on the Flat,

over hurdles and over fences since, with his best form over hurdles on good to firm and his best over fences Still only six, he's turning into a really admirable performer and he fairly bolted up on his third chase start

> at Ayr in January. He was taken out of the Racing Post Arkle at the latest entry stage, which is hardly surprising given the towering presence of Altior and a handicap mark that must have David Pipe licking

Starchitect is on 143, which is 7lb lower than his hurdles mark, and while he'll stay the longer trip of the Brown Advisory he won't run into anything as well treated in the Grand Annual.

# lose Bros Nov Hcap Chase

8-1	1 Ballyalton	12
. 7-1	2 Bouvreuil	14
. 9-1	3 Double Shuffle	8
	4 Bridgets Pet	
	20 ran. ½l, 4½l, 2½l	
	:	

**Winners/runners** 8-66 (12.1%)

McKinley (U. 1C. 142), Javert (U. 1C. 153), Double Shuffle became only the second horse in the last three years to make the continues to disappoint. Just eight

(7th. 1C. 147), Amore Alato (9th. 1C. 143)

# Wednesday

Neptune Novices' Hurdle	
1 Yorkhill	3-:
2 Yanworth	11-10
3 Its'afreebee	33-
10 ran. 1¾l, 7l	
Winneys/www.aus.14.41.6	(2407), D/I (0.42

Subsequent winners Yorkhill (1H, 149, 1C 150), Yanworth (3H, 165), Its'afreebee (2C, 146) 80) A Toi Phil (7th 3C 152) O O Seven (8th

Yanworth a serious Champion Hurdle contender and Yorkhill hot favourite for the JLT, even though he needs to brush up his jumping.

Shaneshill	16
More Of That	6-4
ran. ½1, 81	
/inners/runners 3-35 (8.6%); P/L -£	22.3
-Language	1 -

(8th, 1C, 160)

posted the worst return of the Grade 1s, with only the last two horses winning a chase this season. Blaklion is a Grand National contender but on this form is handicapped up to the hilt.

# Coral Cup (heap hdle) 1 Diamond King...

2 Long House Hall 16-1
3 Ubak28-1
4 Blazer8-1
26 ran. 1¼l, nk, ½l
Winners/runners 21-98 (21.4%); P/L +£17.99
Subsequent winners Diamond King (1C, 140),
Long House Hall (1C, 156), Ubak (1H, 153), The
Romford Pele (8th, 1H, 144), Avant Tout (9th,
2C 156) Oewy (11th 2F 108) Baron Alco

158), Rock The Kasbah (22nd, 2C, 148), Days

Of Heaven (23rd, 1C, 140), One For Harry (P,

# Champion Chase 2 Un De Sceaux .

Four of last year's runners have won and Haydock in January. He's becoming an returned RPRs of 170 or higher, so it was enigma but has each-way Gold Cup claims clearly a very decent renewal. That doesn't mean it will have any bearing on horses failed to finish. this year's race, though, as none of the first three are back and Douvan looks hombproof anyway

No arguing with the quality here, with

# **RSA Chase**

1 Blaklion	8-1
2 Shaneshill	16-1
3 More Of That	6-4F
8 ran. ½l, 8l	
Winners/runners 3-35 (8.6%); P/L -£22	

atmidnight (7th, 1C, 161), Le Mercurey For the second year running this race

5 UDak20-1	
4 Blazer8-1	]
26 ran. 1¼l, nk, ½l	
Winners/runners 21-98 (21.4%); P/L +£17.99	
Subsequent winners Diamond King (1C, 140),	
Long House Hall (1C, 156), Ubak (1H, 153), The	
Romford Pele (8th, 1H, 144), Avant Tout (9th,	
2C, 156), Qewy (11th, 2F, 108), Baron Alco	
(12th, 2C, 153), Commissioned (13th, 1F, 103),	
Theinval (14th 2C 146) Politologue (20th 3C	

An excellent strike-rate with plenty of good performances from a wide range of horses, including the first three. It's no wonder Diamond King is a warm order for the Brown Advisory & Merriebelle Stable Plate given he's only 1lb higher than when taking this with a bit to spare 12 months ago. Seventh-placed Brother Tedd has not won since but is now 14lb lower over fences and he'd have to be of interest if he squeezes into the Close Brothers Novices' Handicap Chase.

# 1 Sprinter Sacre. . 5-1 3 Special Tiara.. 9 ran, 3½l, nse

Winners/runners 9-35 (25.7%); P/L +£8.93 **Subsequent winners** Sprinter Sacre (1C, 174), Un De Sceaux (1H, 165, 2C, 174), Special Tiara Cameron (6th, 1C, 155), Sire De Grugy (8th, 1C,

Cross Country Chase	
1D Any Currency	11-1
2 Josies Orders	15-8F
3 Bless The Wings 16 ran. 1l, 1¼l	33-1
Winners/runners 9-62 (14.5%)	

Subsequent winners Any Currency (1C, 146), Quantitative easing (4th, 1C 135), Third Intention (5th, 1C, 154), Valadom (7th, 1C, 143), Dolatulo (9th, 1C, 136), Cantlow (11th, 3C, 148). Approach (P, 1C, 149)

Double the strike-rate of last year and : There have been a few decent it's shame the veteran Any Currency was i performances, but this is never a race record straight, but he is 14 now.

r reu winter neap nuruie		
1 Diego Du Charmil 13-2		
2 Romain De Senam20-1		
3 Coo Star Sivola16-1	:	
4 Missy Tata10-1		
22 ran. hd, ½l, 3¼l		

Winners/runners 20-96 (20.8%) P/L -£11.55 Subsequent winners Diego Du Charmil (2H, nain De Senam (1C, 111), Coo Star vola (2H, 148), Missy Tata (5H, 144), Messire Obeaux (7th, 3H, 146), Duke Street (9th, 1H, 133, 1F, 91), Jaleo (10th, 1H, 136), Harley Rebel (12th, 3H, 128), Paddys Runner (P, 1H

This was an excellent renewal. The first four home have won ten times between them since, while seventh-placed Messire Des Obeaux is a Grade 1 winner in his second season as a novice and going for the Neptune this time. Add Campeador, who was making a strong challenge when falling at the last and would have won a Grade A handicap at Leopardstown had he not done the same in December, and it's clear this was way above average.

1 Ballyandy	5
2 Battleford	
3 Bacardys	16
23 ran. nse, 21	
Winners/runners 24-79 (30 4%)	

Subsequent winners Ballyandy (1H, 151), Battleford (1H, 133), Bacardys (1B, 136, 2H, 147), High Bridge (6th, 3H, 136), Augusta Kate (7th, 1B, 130, 1H, 126), Rather Be (9th, 2H, 129), Avenir D'Une Vie (12th, 1H, 133), Turcagua (15th, 1H, 139), Geordie Des Champs (18th, 4H, 139), Ballymalin (20th, 4H, 142), Spirit Of Kayf (22nd, 2H, 138)

Couldn't match the previous year's strikerate, but that was a bit of an outlier and 30 per cent is well up to scratch. There haven't been many standout performances, though, so those who want to crab the form have an argument, but Ballyandy looked good when winning the Betfair Hurdle and has a fair chance in a very open Supreme Novices' Hurdle.

# Thursday

3 L'Ami Serge. 9 ran. 31, 11 Winners/runners 9-39 (23.1%)

**Subsequent winners** Bristol De Mai (1C, 173), Three Musketeers (4th, 1C, 159), As De Mee (5th 2C 148) Outlander (F 1C 17) Garde La Victoire (F, 2C, 165), Zabana (U, 2C, 158)

third have been desperately is surprisingly low and without the disappointing, but second-placed Bristol De Mai ran an RPR of 173 – huge for his age – when winning the Peter Marsh at

# Pertemps Final (heap hdle) Arpege D'Alene If In Doubt.. Taglietelle..

1C, 137), All Hell Let Loose (16th, 1C, 122), Oscar Sam (17th, 1H, 147), Cup Final (P, 1H, 146), Kilfinchen Bay (P, 2C, 145), Missed

later disqualified due to a banned i that does well. Having said that, Arpege substance. It wasn't connections' fault i D'Alene's form in big fields (11293 with and it would be great if he could set the 13 or more runners) makes him of interest in the JT McNamara National Hunt Chase.

Ryanair Chase	
1 Vautour	EvsF
2 Valseur Lido	. 11-1
3 Road To Riches	7-1
15 ran. 6l, ½l	
Winners/runners 8-55 (14.5%)	

Subsequent winners Valseur Lido (1C, 169), Faguin Du Seuil (6th, 1C, 166), Josses Hill (8th 2C, 165), Oscar Rock (10th, 1H, 147), Smashin (P, 1C, 166), Champagne West (P, 2C, 170)

A poor return and only two of the first six home have won since, but the ill-fated Vautour was in a league of his own. Champagne West jumped terribly and was pulled up, but those problems seem behind since he joined Henry de Bromhead and he's a Gold Cup contender.

## **World Hurdle** 1 Thistlecrack 2 Alpha Des Obeaux .. Bobs Worth

12 ran. 7l, 22l Winners/runners 12-40 (30%)

Subsequent winners Thistlecrack (1H 171 3C, 178), Alpha Des Obeaux (2C, 145), Aux Ptits Soins (5th, 1C, 141), Saphir Du Rheu (6th, 1C (8th 2C 160) Lieutenant Colonel (P 1C 136)

Another race that featured a winner in a league of his own, but Thistlecrack is unfortunately not going for gold after picking up a minor injury. If Alpha Des Obeaux can match the 170 RPR he achieved when second here he'll win the RSA, but he has a bit to prove after a bad bleed last time. There are others of interest at Cheltenham this year (Aux Ptits Soins and Whisper) but not based on what they

Brown Advisory Plate (hcap ch

Subsequent winners Empire Of Dirt (1C, 160),

Ballycasey (5th, 2C, 162), Astracad (6th, 1C

140), Sew On Target (8th, 1C, 135), Ar Mauresque (P, 2C, 157).

Empire Of Dirt won this very easily and

has gone on to prove himself a Grade 1

performer with a serious chance in the

Ryanair, Other than that the less said the

better. There have been a couple of good

performance from Ballycasey and the

pulled-up Art Mauresque, but the return

winner you'd say it was a bit of a shocker.

Subsequent winners Limini (1H. 156). Duskv

Legend (2H, 134), Water Sprite (6th, 1F 76, 1H,

L Empire Of Dirt

22 ran. 4l, 1¼l, 2½l

Winners/runners 7-67 (10.4%)

3 Kings Palace..

1 Limini.

3 Bloody Mary

16 ran. 4½l, 2½l

Winners/runners 7-56 (12.5%)

128), Actinpieces (8th, 2C, 136).

# JLT Novices' Chase 1 Black Hercules .... ? Bristol De Mai..

A bit of a head-scratcher as the first and

# 1 Mall Dini .. l ran. ¾l, hd, 1½l

inners/runners 13-110 (11.8%) **bsequent winners** Arpege D'Alene (1C, 140),

Our Kaempfer (5th, 1C, 152), Warriors Tale (11th, 1C, 125), Rolling Maul (13th, 1H 134,

Ryanair Chase		
Vautour EvsF	į	
2 Valseur Lido 11-1	i	
3 Road To Riches		

**P/L** -£20.63

Winners/runners 24-81 (29.6%)

115), Who Dares Wins (14th, 1F, 98, 1H, 149).

home all winning at least once.

County Hurdle (hcap)		
1 Superb Story		
2 Fethard Player33		
3 Sternrubin		
4 Wait For Me 7		
26 ran. 21/21, 31/21, hd		
Winners/runners 20-99 (20.2%)		

1H. 151, 1C, 146), Francis Of Assisi (6th, 2F Plan (16th, 3C, 150), Zamdy Man (18th, 3C 149), Modus (23 (1H, 156), Great Field (P, 1C

and presumably the Grand Annual is the

# Albert Bartlett Nov Hdle

1 Unowhatimeanharry1	1-1
2 Fagan	
3 Champers On Ice2	20-1
19 ran. 1¼l, 1½l	
TAT:	

Subsequent winners Unowhatimeanharry (3H, 168), Champers On Ice (1C, 148), Balkos Des Flos (5th, 1C, 145), West Approach (11th,

You don't really expect mares' races to : First impressions last year were that this she's a big player against her own sex. i on this season's efforts.

# Timico Cheltenham Gold Cur

	-
l Don Cossack	9-4
2 Djakadam	9-2
3 Don Poli	
9 ran. 4½l, 10l	

Winners/runners 7-33 (21.2%)

When You Bet on Cheltenha You Can Bet on Racing Pos

Subsequent winners Djakadam (1C, 166), Carlingford Lough (4th, 1C, 170), Irish Cavalier (5th, 2C, 166), Cue Card (F, 3C, 180).

There were three horses in last year's race who were different class and would have made the first three had Cue Card not fallen. The line-up is going to be a lot different this time, but Cue Card still boasts the best form even though history is not on his side given his age. It could be argued Djakadam has not quite looked at his peak this season, but equally he has been deliberately given a light campaign for this, goes well fresh, and has had a better prep than last year. Those two still set the standard for the others

# St James's Place Foxhunter

-		
	1 On The Fringe	13-81
	2 Marito	14-1
	3 Paint The Clouds	9-2

24 ran. nk, 1l

**Winners/runners** 9-66 (14.9%) **P/L** -£41.35 **Subsequent winners** On The Fringe (2C, 145), Paint The Clouds (2C, 141), Pacha Du Polder (5th, 1C, 139), Aupcharlie (6th, 1C, 130), Impact Area (11th, 1C, 118), Mr Mercurial (12th, 1C, 129), Cave Hunter (U, 1C, 133)

On The Fringe didn't need to be at his best last year and he wasn't as he only scrambled home. He's 12 now and there has been only one winner older than 11 in the past 25 years. He has a couple of decent rivals this year too and I'd be empted to take him on.

# Martin Pipe Heap Hurdle

• •	
1 Ibis Du Rheu	14
2 Flying Angel	
3 Sky Khan	
4 Tully East	50
24 ran. 1¼l, 1¼l, 6l	
Winners/runners 14-92 (15.2%)	

**Subsequent winners** Flying Angel (2C, 157), Tully East (1C, 127), Whiteout (5th, 1H, 147), Jetstream Jack (9th, 1C, 122), Zulu Oscar (10th 1H, 114), Matorico (11th, 1H, 138), Label Des Obeaux (12th, 2C, 150), Childrens List (17th,

1C, 132), Goodwood Mirage (19th, 1F, 93), Roadie Joe (F, 1C, 115), Mr Mix (F, 1H, 146), Laurium (U, 1C, 145) was singing the praises of this race 12 months ago, so it was typical it would suddenly throw up a relatively poor one. It wasn't that bad, though, as Ibis Du Rheu has shown promise without winning and Flying Angel has run to a

:	Grand Annual Heap Chase	
:	1 Solar Impulse	28-1
	2 Dandridge	8-1
	3 Rock The World	9-21
:	4 Savello	25-1

24 ran. 3¾l, ½l, 1¾l Winners/runners 14-134 (10.4%)

decent level over fences

Subsequent winners Ted Veale (7th, 1F, 74), Astracad (11th, 1C, 140), Firth Of The Clyde (12th, 1C, 146), Bold Henry (14th, 1C, 143),

This is a race that rarely works out terrifically but we've come to expect that and it doesn't stop horses who ran well in it coming back and doing so again a year later. The damage had been done to the bookies long before Solar Impulse wrapped up the meeting with a 28-1 shock, but it would have been worse for them if the second or third had won. Both are among the entries again and Dandridge, who made an awful howler at the first then and was a big eyecatcher over hurdles last time, will be popular.

>> Includes form only up to Tuesday

# Kim Muir Handicap Chase 2 A Good Skin..

4 Knock House .. 16-24 ran. 12l, 1/2l, 5l Winners/runners 5-102 (11%)

P/L -£21.75 Subsequent winners Perfect Candidate (10th, 2C, 162), Splash Of Ginge (12th, 1H, 140), Mon Parrain (15th, 1C, 144), Capard King (P, 1C,

With only one of the first ten home winning a race subsequently and just five winners in all, it's no wonder festival specialist Cause Of Causes won by 12 lengths. It was not a great race, which is usually the case. Cause Of Causes has been well supported in recent weeks for the Cross Country, his only entry, and with festival form figures of 211 in the last three years it's easy to see him running a huge race again.

3 Silvergrove ..

<u> </u>	
JCB Triumph Hurdle	
1 Ivanovich Gorbatov	9-2
2 Apple's Jade	12-
3 Footpad	5-
15 ran. 1¼l, 6l	
:	

Subsequent winners Apple's Jade (3H, 162). Footpad (2H, 146), Let's Dance (4th, 3H, 146), Leoncavallo (5th, 1F, 74), Clan Des Obeaux (6th C, 151), Tommy Silver (7th, 1H, 141), Frodon (8th, 6C, 150), Connetable (11th, 1C, 135), eaux Royal (12th, 2H, 159), Zubayr (13th, 1H,

It was a mystery how Ivanovich Gorbatov went off favourite last year and that mystery has deepened. It was an excellent race apart from him, with the next seven

County Hurdle (hcap)	
1 Superb Story	8-1
2 Fethard Player	33-1
3 Sternrubin	33-1
4 Wait For Me	7-1J
26 ran. 2½l, 3½l, hd	

**Subsequent winners** Superb Story (1H, 15), Sternrubin (1H, 148), Starchitect (5th, 1F, 91,

Winners are down on last year, but so were runners and there were enough at the top end to suggest this was right up to standard. The remarkably versatile Starchitect is entitled to be considered interesting in whatever chase he ends up

1 Unowhatimeanharry	11-1
2 Fagan	
3 Champers On Ice	
19 ran. 1¼l, 1½l	
TATE	

Review (P, 1H, 148), Definite Outcome (P, 1C

1H, 131), Bleu Et Rouge (F, 1C, 143), Up For

P/L -21.57

churn out stacks of winners and if it i wasn't a very good race and the wasn't for Limini you'd say this was the handicapper agreed as he actually weakest of all the races by a long way. i dropped the winner 3lb. Take However, she did look a bit special when Unowhatimeanharry out of it and there thumping Apple's Jade recently and, weren't many other success stories, but while connections decided against a ithere's no doubt he deserves his place at supplementary Champion Hurdle entry, i the head of the Stayers Hurdle market