

The Cheltenham Festival attracts tens of thousands of race-goers every year. Established in 1902, the Festival was traditionally held over three days until recently. It is now the highlight of the National Hunt Season, and also hosts the Open in November. The season runs from mid October to April. The world of National Hunt (jump racing) can be broken into hurdle races and steeple chases.

Cheltenham Festival

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In a steeplechase, the fences are 4 feet, 6 inches high. It's tougher and more challenging than hurdle races, where the obstacles are smaller and softer, allowing for the horses to clear them easier.

Placing a bet:

Win: Single bet on one horse to come first.

Each Way: Bet on one horse to either win or come 2nd / 3rd.

Treble: Bet on three horses to win three different races, if one horse loses all stake is lost.

Accumulator: Similar to treble, but more than three races involved.

Forecast: Predict which horses will finish first and second in correct order.

Dual Forecast: Predict which horses will finish first and second in either order.

Tricast: Predict which horses will finish first, second and third in correct order.

Jackpot: Predict which horses will win the first six races, run a pool basis and payout depends on how many people are correct.

Placepot: Run on the same principles as the jackpot, but you have to predict which horses will be places.

Patent: Combine three horses in three singles, three doubles and one treble.

Yankee: Four horses in six doubles, four trebles and a four-horse accumulator.

Super-Yankee: Five horses in ten doubles, ten trebles and one five four horse accumulator.

Heinz: Five horses in fifteen doubles, twenty trebles, fifteen four-horse accumulators, six five-horse accumulators, one six-horse accumulator.

Super Heinz: Seven horses in twenty one double, 35 trebles, 35 four horse accumulators, 21 five horse accumulators, seven six-horse accumulators, and one seven horse accumulator.

Goliath: Eight horses in 28 doubles, 56 trebles, 70 four-horse accumulators, 56 five-horse Accumulators, 28 six-horse accumulators, eight seven-horse accumulators, one Eight-horse accumulator.

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Racecard

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3 Sloanie Pony (IRE) (26).....8 10 8
 B g Glacial Storm (USA) - Twinkle Sunset
Owner: Intrepid Sloane Inc.
Trainer: N.A. Twiston-Davies, Cheltenham
Sponsor: Gieves and Hawkes
Jockey: P. J Brennan
Colours: MAROON and BLUE (halved) sleeves reversed, quartered cap.
Form: 1/U-12001 D
BHA Rating: 132
 Has a fine strike-rate over timber, winning four of his six starts and second in one of the others. Out of his depth in Grade 3 company at Sundown behind The Tother One but much more at home in this company and has sound claims despite racing off a career-high mark.

1. Horse's Number on Saddlecloth
2. Colour of Horse: B: Bray | Br: Brown | Ch: Chestnut | G: Grey
3. Sex of Horse: C: Colt | H: Horse | G: Gelding | F: Filly | M: Mare
4. Sire and Dam
5. Name of the Horse
6. Days since last raced
7. Age, Weight (st lbs)
8. Jockey
9. Owner's Colours
10. Form: 'N': New Season | 'Y': New Year | C: Course Winner
D: Distance Winner
11. BHA Rating: For the handicap races, the rating is used to calculate the handicaps. For the weight-for-age races, the current rating.
12. Form guide
13. Jockey's colours visual

What are the key races to follow?

On Tuesday, it's the Champion Hurdle, Wednesday, Queen Mother Champion Chase, the World Hurdle on Thursday, and most importantly, Cheltenham Gold Cup on Friday.

Spectating in Style

Tweeds, herringbone and country style is in order here. As the jump racing season runs from October to April, the cold and wet weather doesn't attract the top-hat and tails brigade like flat racing. For the chaps; tweed can be played with to suit your age and style. A tweed flat cap sitting on bed-head hair, a pink Ralph Lauren shirt with blue decal, tweed jacket, blue jeans rolled up and Hunter Wellies gives the look of young, horse owning and money. You can look more travelled by adding an Argentinean belt (try Polistas.com) or go all English with a plain brown leather number. However you dress, an umbrella is a practical and stylish accessory to carry with you. James Smith & Sons not only have craftsmanship and heritage (established in 1830 and still owned by the same family) but will customise your umbrella to suit you.



Tweed jackets also work well with boot cut jeans, red terracotta jeans and matching tweed trousers. Your shirt shouldn't be too town, but more country, think checks. When wearing a tie and handkerchief with tweed, avoid a matching pattern at all costs. The tie should complement the tweed and shirt (generally, a red colour with a racing motif is attractive) and

the handkerchief brings it all together. For further advice, visit Cordings of Piccadilly.

Trilbies (preferably from Lock & Co.) should be darker than regular tan, and the fashion is to wear a size too small. It is unclear why this is popular – certainly larger hats are available, maybe it's because most trilbies were handed down from father to son and have shrunk over generations.



Ladies with an attitude

Kudos to the brave ladies that wore summer dresses, heels and hats – they looked smashing. “Ladies Day” is only two years old at Cheltenham. It isn't yet a bonafide tradition to dress in Ascot styles, so don't feel compelled to do so as it is rather cold. Fur hats and Barbour jackets are really popular, but it is a look that can either send you up as a sexy fashionista or dowdy wife of a lower management city type. The trick is to maintain femininity

when wearing this look, perhaps wear a smaller wax jacket over a pink shirt with jeans and brown leather boots. Zara Philips didn't disappoint in a bold red duster jacket, black trilby, over a black sweater and trousers. It should be stylish, pretty and practical. Aquascutum is worth visiting for trench coat jackets worn over skirt with tights and a Mulberry bag.

Buying a Racehorse: About BetfairClub ROA:

BetfairClub ROA is the perfect introduction for anyone aged 18-32 interested in becoming an owner.

The club leases five horses for members to follow (Flat and jumps) and arranges stable tours and other racing-related social events throughout the season.

Membership is £199 per annum and provides the following benefits:

- Follow five Club horses running throughout the year
- Receive regular updates on the horses
- Attend Club stable visits and social events
- Gain access to exclusive BetfairClub ROA racecourse facilities on selected race days
- Obtain owners' badges from a pool allocation when Club horses run
- Get a year's subscription to the monthly industry 'must-read', Thoroughbred Owner & Breeder Magazine
- Free £50 bet with Betfair

If you would like to join BetfairClub ROA phone Club Manager Tom Gittins on 01608 659988 or email betfairclubroa@roa.co.uk

For more information, visit: www.intrepidsloane.com/cheltenham