

INDEX TO THE 14TH 2019 CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL MEDIA INFORMATION PACK

This 14th media information pack for The Festival was compiled by Racenews on Friday, March 8, and is for immediate release. It contains final information ahead of The Festival™ presented by Magners 2019. There will be a 15th and final pack after The Festival - with updated trainer and jockey statistics, plus lots of other information.

Page 1, the index, is updated with each pack to ensure easy reference to the information received in the build-up to The Festival™ presented by Magners at Cheltenham from Tuesday, March 12, to Friday, March 15.

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Each pack is also available on Cheltenham's website - www.cheltenham.co.uk and through Twitter - @RacenewsService

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The Festival™ presented by Magners is almost here...

Friday, March 8, 2019 – There is now less than a week to go until the tapes go up for the G1 Sky Bet Supreme Novices' Hurdle, which will be greeted with a huge roar from racegoers as it is the first of 28 superb races during The Festival™ presented by Magners at Cheltenham Racecourse.

Nearly £4.6 million in prize money will be on offer during the greatest four days in Jump Racing, which commences with Champion Day, Tuesday, March 12, when the highlight is the G1 Unibet Champion Hurdle.

The G1 Betway Queen Mother Champion Chase over two miles takes centre stage on Ladies Day on Wednesday, March 13.

The G1 Ryanair Chase and the Sun Racing Stayers' Hurdle headline the St Patrick's Thursday card on March 14.

Gold Cup Day, Friday, March 15, is the culmination of The Festival, with the feature £625,000 G1 Magners Cheltenham Gold Cup, due off at 3.30pm, always one of the most eagerly anticipated races of the season.

This pre-meeting media information pack contains facts and figures about The Festival, statistics, possible landmarks and news, plus a look at the bonuses connected with races at The Festival.

A full race programme is also included, including exact race distances, plus information about what is happening off the track during The Festival.

Badges and tickets for The Festival™ presented by Magners can still be purchased on-line through <https://www.thejockeyclub.co.uk/cheltenham/events-tickets/the-festival/tickets/>

Race replays can be accessed through <https://www.thejockeyclub.co.uk/the-racing/race-replays/>

There will be a final media pack, gathering all the statistics together, the week after The Festival.

Cheltenham Racecourse

Cheltenham Racecourse is situated in Prestbury on the northern outskirts of the historic spa town of Cheltenham. The Home of Jump Racing, Cheltenham Racecourse is the venue for the world's pre-eminent Jump meeting. The Festival™ presented by Magners, which happens in March over four days every year, next takes place from Tuesday, March 12, to Friday, March 15, 2019 inclusive and tickets are on sale. Set against the beautiful backdrop of the Cotswolds, Cheltenham Racecourse is a stunning natural arena and offers the highest-quality action throughout the Jump season.

More information is available at www.cheltenham.co.uk and through Twitter (@CheltenhamRaces), Facebook www.facebook.com/thehomeofjumpracing and Instagram (@CheltenhamRaces).

About The Jockey Club

Cheltenham is part of The Jockey Club which stages thrilling sporting occasions including The Randox Health Grand National, The Festival™ presented by Magners and The Investec Derby. Millions of people every year enjoy the special experiences The Jockey Club offers through racing, music, food and entertainment. Governed by Royal Charter, every penny made goes back into British Racing to help the sport thrive. The Jockey Club was founded in 1750 and today is the largest commercial group in Britain's second-biggest spectator sport, operating 15 racecourses nationwide, The National Stud, Jockey Club Estates, Jockey Club Catering, Jockey Club Live and the charity, Racing Welfare. For more information, visit www.thejockeyclub.co.uk

**If you need any information about racing at Cheltenham, please contact: Sophia Dale,
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The Festival™ presented by Magners 2019

Champion Day - Tuesday, March 12 (Old Course)

Time	Race	Actual Distance	Prize Money
1.30pm	Sky Bet Supreme Novices' Hurdle (Grade 1)	2m 87y	£125,000
2.10pm	Racing Post Arkle Novices' Chase (Grade1)	1m 7f 199y	£175,000
2.50pm	Ultima Handicap Steeple Chase (Grade 3)	3m 1f	£110,000
3.30pm	Unibet Champion Hurdle (Grade 1)	2m 87y	£450,000
4.10pm	OLBG Mares' Hurdle (Grade 1)	2m 3f 200y	£120,000
4.50pm	Close Brothers Novices' Handicap Chase (Listed)	2m 4f 63y	£70,000
5.30pm	National Hunt Chase (Amateurs) (Grade 2)	3m 7f 166y	£125,000
		Total	£1,175,000

Ladies Day - Wednesday, March 13 (Old Course & Cross Country)

Time	Race	Actual Distance	Prize Money
1.30pm	Ballymore Novices' Hurdle (Grade 1)	2m 5f	£125,000
2.10pm	RSA Insurance Novices' Chase (Grade 1)	3m 80y	£175,000
2.50pm	Coral Cup Handicap Hurdle (Grade 3)	2m 5f	£100,000
3.30pm	Betway Queen Mother Champion Chase (Grade 1)	1m 7f 199y	£400,000
4.10pm	Glenfarclas Cross Country Chase	3m 6f 37y	£65,000
4.50pm	Boodles Juvenile Handicap Hurdle (Grade 3)	2m 87y	£80,000
5.30pm	Weatherbys Champion Bumper (Grade 1)	2m 87y	£75,000
		Total	£1,020,000

St Patrick's Thursday - Thursday, March 14 (New Course)

Time	Race	Actual Distance	Prize Money
1.30pm	JLT Novices' Chase (Grade 1)	2m 4f 5y	£150,000
2.10pm	Pertemps Network Final (Handicap Hurdle) (Grade 3)	2m 7f 213y	£100,000
2.50pm	Ryanair Chase (Grade 1)	2m 4f 184y	£350,000
3.30pm	Sun Racing Stayers Hurdle (Grade 1)	2m 7f 213y	£325,000
4.10pm	Brown Advisory & Merriebelle Stable Plate (Grade 3)	2m 4f 184y	£110,000
4.50pm	National Hunt Breeders supported by Tattersalls Mares' Novices' Hurdle (G2)	2m 179y	£90,000
5.30pm	Fulke Walwyn Kim Muir Amateur Riders' Handicap Chase	3m 2f 75y	£70,000
		Total	£1,195,000

Gold Cup Day - Friday, March 15 (New Course)

Time	Race	Actual Distance	Prize Money
1.30pm	JCB Triumph Hurdle (Grade 1)	2m 179y	£125,000
2.10pm	Radox Health County Handicap Hurdle (Grade 3)	2m 179y	£100,000
2.50pm	Albert Bartlett Novices' Hurdle (Grade 1)	2m 7f 213y	£125,000
3.30pm	Magners Cheltenham Gold Cup (Grade 1)	3m 2f 70y	£625,000
4.10pm	St James's Place Foxhunter Chase	3m 2f 70y	£45,000
4.50pm	Johnny Henderson Grand Annual Handicap Chase (Grade 3)	2m 62y	£110,000
5.30pm	Martin Pipe Conditional Jockeys' Handicap Hurdle (0-145)	2m 4f 56y	£70,000
		Total	£1,200,000

Total prize money for The Festival 2019 - £4.59 million

Going at The Festival™ presented by Magners since 1993

	Tuesday (Old Course)	Wednesday (Old Course)	Thursday (New Course)	Friday (New Course)
2018	Heavy, Soft in Places, changing to Soft, Heavy in Places after Race 5	Soft, Heavy in Places	Soft, Heavy in Places	Soft, Heavy in Places
2017	Good to Soft	Good to Soft, Good in places Cross Country: Good, Good to Soft in places	Good, Good to Soft in places	Good
2016	Good to Soft, Soft in places	Good, Good to Soft in places	Good, Good to Soft in places	Good
2015	Good to Soft, Good in Places	Good, Good to Soft in Places	Good, Good to Soft in Places	Soft, Good to Soft in Places
2014	Good to Soft, Good in Places	Good, Good to Soft in Places Cross Country: Good to Soft, Soft in Places	Good, Good to Soft in Places	Good, Good to Soft in Places
2013	Soft, Good to Soft in Places	Good to Soft, Soft in Places	Good to Soft, Good in Places Cross Country: Good to Soft, Soft in Places	Good to Soft, Good in Places changing to Soft, Good to Soft in Places after Race 2
2012	Good, Good to Soft in Places Cross Country: Good to Firm	Good, Good to Soft in Places	Good, Good to Soft in Places	Good, Good to Soft in Places
2011	Good, Good to Soft in Places Cross Country: Good to Firm, Good in Places	Good, Good to Soft in Places	Good, Good to Soft in Places	Chase: Good Hurdle: Good, Good to Soft in Places
2010	Good to Soft, Good in Places changing to Good, Good to Soft in Places after Race 5 Cross Country: Good, Good to Soft in Places	Good, Good to Soft in Places	Good, Good to Soft in Places	Good changing to Good, Good to Soft in Places after Race 3, Good to Soft after Race 4, Soft after Race 5
2009	Good to Soft Cross Country: Good to Soft	Good to Soft	Good to Soft	Good to Soft
2008	Good to Soft Cross Country: Good to Soft (Soft in Places)	Abandoned – high winds	Good to Soft, Good in Places	Good to Soft
2007	Soft, Good to Soft in Places changing to Good to Soft (Soft in Places) after Race 3 Cross Country: Soft, Heavy in Places	Good to Soft, Good in Places	Good to Soft, Good in Places	Good to Soft, Good in Places
2006	Good to Soft Cross Country: Good to Soft	Good, Good to Soft in Places	Good, Good to Soft in Places	Good
2005	Good Cross Country: Good to Soft (Soft in Places)	Good, Good to Soft in Places	Good	Good
2004	Good	Good	Good, Good to Soft in Places	
2003	Good, Good to Soft in Places	Good, Good to Soft in Places	Good, Good to Soft in Places	
2002	Good to Soft, Good in Places	Good to Soft	Good, Good to Soft in Places	
2001	Cancelled			
2000	Good	Good, Good to Firm in Places	Good to Firm, Good in Places	
1999	Good to Soft, Soft in Places	Good to Soft	Good to Soft, Good in Places	
1998	Good to Soft	Good	Good	
1997	Good	Good, Good to Firm in Places	Good, Good to Firm in Places	
1996	Good to Soft	Good to Soft, Good in Places	Good	
1995	Soft	Soft	Soft	
1994	Good, Soft in Places	Good to Soft	Good, Good to Soft in Places	
1993	Chase: Good, Good to Firm in Places Hurdle: Good to Firm, Good in Places	Good to Firm	Good to Firm	

Facts and stats – The Festival™ presented by Magners

Facts and figures for The Festival.

- £100,000,000 – local (Gloucestershire) economic impact of The Festival each year (as of 2015).
- £4,590,000 – record amount of prize money on offer at The Festival 2019 – the most of any Jump festival in the world, over £1,000,000 per day.
- £2,350,000 – the amount of money taken from the cash machines at The Festival 2018
- £625,000 – prize money available for the Magners Cheltenham Gold Cup.
- 134,600 – people using Cheltenham Spa train station over the four days of racing.
- 80,000 – number of movements between the racecourse and the town on the shuttle bus service.
- 70,000 – maximum capacity at Cheltenham on Cheltenham Gold Cup Day (when all temporary facilities are open).
- 65,000 – average attendance over the four-day period of The Festival.
- 45,000 – bread rolls eaten at The Festival 2015.
- 45,000 – afternoon teas served to customers at The Festival 2015.
- 40,000 – hospitality guests served over the four days of The Festival.
- 40,000m² – volume of space that is built for the four days in the Tented Village and the triple decker that sits alongside the racecourse.
- 36,500 – vehicles parked over the four days.
- 21,120 – distance, in feet, run during the National Hunt Chase, The Festival's longest race.
- 12,320 – yards of running rails surrounding the track.
- 10,000 – the number of cars parked each day on site.
- 9,000+ – gallons of tea and coffee served.
- 5,936 – staff employed over The Festival.
- 5,000 – bundles of birch used every season.
- 2001 – the only year, besides the periods during the two World Wars, that The Festival has been cancelled (due to foot and mouth disease).
- 1934 – the year Golden Miller became the first horse to win both the Cheltenham Gold Cup and the Grand National in a single season.
- 900 – members of the press accredited for The Festival each year.
- 350 – chefs on site.
- 250 – on-course bookmakers each day.
- 100 helicopter movements per day.
- 50 – staff coaches per day, sourced from all over the country, as far away as London, Cardiff, Swansea, Birmingham and Coventry.
- £45,000,000 – cost of the redevelopment of Cheltenham Racecourse. This project was concluded on time and within budget in November, 2015.
- 30 – extra flights put on by Ryanair on the Dublin to Birmingham route during The Festival period (around 20,000 customers will use Ryanair).
- 28 – races run at The Festival.
- 24 – the number of times an Irish-trained horse has won the Magners Cheltenham Gold Cup
- 22 – fences jumped during the Magners Cheltenham Gold Cup.
- 12 – restaurants on course
- 9 – tons of potatoes consumed during The Festival.
- 7 – most wins by a jockey – Ruby Walsh – in a single year.
- 6 – most consecutive victories by a horse in any Cheltenham Festival race - Quevega in the OLBG Mares' Hurdle between 2009 and 2014.
- 5 – tons of smoked and fresh salmon consumed at The Festival.
- 5 – number of feature races run during The Festival – the Magners Cheltenham Gold Cup, Betway Queen Mother Champion Chase, Unibet Champion Hurdle, the Ryanair Chase and Sun Racing Stayers' Hurdle.
- 3 – the three-storey temporary structure installed for The Festival, beyond the Guinness Village, is the biggest, three-tiered temporary structure in Europe.
- 2 – shortest distance raced at The Festival in miles.

Catering Specific

Sustainability

- Local produce at the heart of the offering
- Up to 70% of the fruit & vegetables are sourced within the Cotswolds region
- 100% of the cheese used is produced within 50 miles of Cheltenham
- 100% of the salmon is cured or smoked within 50 miles & is 100% sustainable
- 100% of all the seafood is best of British, either landed at Orkney or Brixham
- 100% of the afternoon tea selections is best of British

Numbers

- 3,800 catering team operating the event each day
- 350 chefs catering each day of the event
- 350 managers running the event each day
- 500 students from over 14 colleges work at The Festival each day
- 8 furlongs of temporary bar counters
- 45,000 hospitality meals
- 24 marquees including longest triple deck structure in Europe, with over 2.5 miles of internal walls
- 9,000+ gallons of tea & coffee consumed
- 9 tons of potatoes consumed
- 5 tons of cheese consumed
- 5 tons of salmon consumed
- 240 private boxes
- 30 temporary kitchens
- 74 mobile catering units
- 15 restaurants

Look out for at The Festival™ presented by Magners in 2019

Jockeys

Seeking first winner

Leighton Aspell (58 rides), Harry Bannister (7 rides), James Bowen (6 rides), Sean Bowen (19 rides), Henry Brooke (10 rides), Johnny Burke (26 rides), Tom Cannon (24 rides), Will Kennedy (22 rides), Joshua Moore (17 rides), Danny Mullins (31 rides), David Mullins (39 rides), James Reveley (10 rides), Adam Wedge (13 rides).

Trainers

Seeking first winner

Peter Bowen (40 runners), David Bridgwater (13 runners), David Dennis (3 runners), Brian Ellison (34 runners since 1994), Micky Hammond (13 runners since 1994), Anthony Honeyball (9 runners), Ruth Jefferson (2 runners), Martin Keighley (33 runners), Neil King (8 runners), Kerry Lee (4 runners), Charlie Longsdon (61 runners), Amy Murphy (2 runners), Olly Murphy (1 runner), Fergal O'Brien (20 runners), Joseph O'Brien (14 runners), Nicky Richards (36 runners), Jeremy Scott (14 runners), Tim Vaughan (41 runners), Paul Webber (60 runners), Harry Whittington (5 runners), Kayley Woollacott (1 runner).

Horses

Appearances

Horses entered this year with most previous appearances at The Festival:

SIX PREVIOUS APPEARANCES (most recent on the right)

Caid Du Berlais (Rose Loxton) – entered in St James's Place Foxhunter Chase - 2nd, 3rd, 16th, F*, 8th*, 5th
*ran in both the Ultima Handicap Chase and the Pertemps Network Final at The Festival in 2017

FIVE PREVIOUS APPEARANCES

Jezki (Jessica Harrington IRE) – entered in Coral Cup and Radox Health County Handicap Hurdle – 8th, 3rd, 1st, 4th, 8th

Modus (Paul Nicholls) – entered in Ultima Handicap Chase and Brown Advisory & Merriebelle Stable Plate Handicap Chase – 8th, 2nd, 23rd, 6th, 8th

Splash Of Ginge (Nigel Twiston-Davies) – entered in Pertemps Network Final, Brown Advisory & Merriebelle Stable Plate and Radox Health County Handicap Hurdle – 15th, 7th, 12th, 13th, 2nd

Village Vic (Philip Hobbs) – entered in St James's Place Foxhunter Chase – 13th, 10th, 9th, 11th, 15th

Wonderful Charm (Paul Nicholls) – entered in St James's Place Foxhunter Chase – 8th, 5th, 8th, 2nd, PU

Go Ballistic made nine appearances at The Festival between 1994 and 2003.

Wins

Horses entered this year with more than one previous win at The Festival:

THREE PREVIOUS WINS

Altior (Nicky Henderson) – entered in Betway Queen Mother Champion Chase; won Sky Bet Supreme Novices' Hurdle (2016), Racing Post Arkle Novices' Chase (2017) and Betway Queen Mother Champion Chase (2018)

Tiger Roll (Gordon Elliott) – entered in Glenfarclas Cross Country Chase; won JCB Triumph Hurdle (2014), National Hunt Chase (2017) and Glenfarclas Cross Country Chase (2018)

TWO PREVIOUS WINS

Buveur D'Air (Nicky Henderson) – entered in Unibet Champion Hurdle; won Unibet Champion Hurdle (2017 & 2018)

Don Poli (Gordon Elliott IRE) – entered in Glenfarclas Cross Country Chase and Magners Cheltenham Gold Cup; won Martin Pipe Conditional Jockeys' Handicap Hurdle (2014) and RSA Insurance Novices' Chase (2015)

Faugheen (Willie Mullins IRE) – entered in Sun Racing Stayers' Hurdle; won Ballymore Novices' Hurdle (2014) & Unibet Champion Hurdle (2015)

Pacha Du Polder (Paul Nicholls) – entered in St James's Place Foxhunter Chase; won St James's Place Foxhunter Chase (2017 & 2018)

Presenting Percy (Patrick Kelly IRE) – entered in Magners Cheltenham Gold Cup; won Pertemps Network Final (2017) and RSA Insurance Novices' Chase (2018)

Un De Sceaux (Willie Mullins IRE) – entered in Betway Queen Mother Champion Chase and Ryanair Chase; won Racing Post Arkle Novices' Chase (2015) & Ryanair Chase (2017)

Quevega won at The Festival six times between 2009 and 2014.

History makers at The Festival™ presented by Magners?

Leading Sky Bet Supreme Novices' Hurdle contender **Fakir D'Oudairies** (Joseph O'Brien IRE) is bidding to become the first four-year-old to triumph in the race since Hors La Loi III in 1999. A total of 12 four-year-olds have run in the race since including Binocular, who was runner-up in 2008.

Buveur D'Air (Nicky Henderson), favourite for the Unibet Champion Hurdle, has the chance to become the sixth horse to win the two-mile hurdling championship three times following Hatton's Grace (1949, 1950, 1951), Sir Ken (1952, 1953, 1954), Persian War (1968, 1969, 1970), See You Then (1985, 1986, 1987) and Istabraq (1998, 1999, 2000).

His trainer Nicky Henderson and owner J P McManus are both aiming for an unprecedented eighth victory in the Unibet Champion Hurdle.

Apple's Jade (Gordon Elliott IRE), **Laurina** (Willie Mullins IRE) and **Verdana Blue** (Nicky Henderson) are seeking to become the fifth mare to win the Unibet Champion Hurdle after African Sister (1939), Dawn Run (1984), Flakey Dove (1994) and Annie Power (2016).

Champ (Nicky Henderson) would be only the second seven-year-old to win the Ballymore Novices' Hurdle after French Holly (1998), and the first second-season novice to triumph since Mikael D'Haguenet (2009).

Benie Des Dieux is looking to continue the domination of Willie Mullins and Ruby Walsh in the OLBG Mares' Hurdle – Mullins is going for a 10th victory, while Walsh is aiming for his ninth win in the race, which was first run in 2008.

Willie Mullins also holds a stranglehold in the other contest exclusively for mares and fillies at The Festival, having sent out all three winners of the National Hunt Breeders supported by Tattersalls Mares' Novices' Hurdle.

Altior (Nicky Henderson) will be one of the shortest-priced favourites of The Festival when he lines up in the Betway Queen Mother Champion Chase, although the race has a chequered recent history when it comes to odds-on shots. Sprinter Sacre won at odds of 1/4 in 2013 (the joint-shortest SP at The Festival in recent years), but 2/9 chance Douvan was the shortest-priced favourite not to win at The Festival (since at least 1997) when coming home seventh in 2017.

Davy Russell is aiming for an unprecedented fourth consecutive victory in the Pertemps Network Final, having partnered Mall Dini (2016), Presenting Percy (2017) and Delta Work (2018) to glory. Amateur Jim Wilson is the only other jockey to have won a handicap at The Festival three consecutive times, riding Willie Wumpkins to all three of his successes in the Pertemps Network Final between 1979 and 1981.

Delta Work (Gordon Elliott IRE) is seeking to emulate Presenting Percy by following up victory in the Pertemps Network Hurdle with success in the RSA Novices' Chase. Prior to last year, no other horse had won both races.

Faugheen (Willie Mullins IRE) is trying to become the first horse to follow up victory in the Unibet Champion Hurdle, which he won in 2015, with success in the Sun Racing Stayers' Hurdle.

Since 2000, three Unibet Champion Hurdle winners have run in the Sun Racing Stayers' Hurdle – Hardy Eustace (won 2004 & 2005 Champion Hurdle, 12th in 2008 Stayers' Hurdle), Katchit (won 2008 Champion Hurdle, 11th in 2010 Stayers' Hurdle) and Jezki (won 2014 Champion Hurdle, 8th in 2017 Stayers' Hurdle). The 2016 Unibet Champion Hurdle winner Annie Power had previously finished second in the 2014 Sun Racing Stayers' Hurdle.

Presenting Percy (Pat Kelly IRE) could become the 10th horse to follow up victory in the RSA Chase by taking the Magners Cheltenham Gold Cup. The eight-year-old is also bidding to be the first horse since Easter Hero (1929) to win chasing's Blue Riband on his first appearance over fences of the season.

Willie Mullins is still bidding for a first victory in the Magners Cheltenham Gold Cup. Ireland's champion Jump trainer has saddled 22 runners in the race and been second six times.

At the other end of the scale, Presenting Percy's trainer **Pat Kelly** is looking to continue the fine recent record of trainers having their first runner in the Magners Cheltenham Gold Cup – Jim Culloty (Lord Windermere 2014), Gordon Elliott (Don Cossack 2016) and Jessica Harrington (Sizing John 2017) – all won the race on their first attempt.

Female jockeys have won the last four renewals of the St James's Place Foxhunter Chase, with Nina Carberry partnering On The Fringe in both 2015 & 2016 and Pacha Du Polder winning under Bryony Frost in 2017 and Harriet Tucker in 2018. **Pacha Du Polder** is set to run again this year in search of an historic third straight win in the race.

The Festival™ presented by Magners - a look back to....

10 years ago – Kauto Star makes history by becoming the first horse to regain the Cheltenham Gold Cup. Previously successful in the 2007 Cheltenham Gold Cup, the Paul Nicholls-trained chaser had finished second to stable companion Denman in the 2008 renewal. The 2009 race saw the Clive Smith-owned superstar gain his revenge over Denman as he beat his old rival by 13 lengths under Ruby Walsh.

20 years ago – The great Istabraq records the second of his three Champion Hurdle victories. Paul Nicholls enjoys a big-race double with Call Equiname landing the Queen Mother Champion Chase and See More Business winning the Cheltenham Gold Cup.

30 years ago – Hugely-popular grey Desert Orchid finally breaks his Cheltenham hoodoo as he battles tenaciously to get up and beat Yahoo by a length and a half in the Cheltenham Gold Cup. The 50/1 chance Beech Road becomes the joint-biggest priced winner of the Champion Hurdle.

40 years ago – The “Golden Era” of hurdling continues as Monksfield wins his second Champion Hurdle. The gallant Irish-trained entire sees off Sea Pigeon, who would go on to win the Champion Hurdle in 1980 and 1981, by three quarters of a length.

50 years ago – The 12-year-old What A Myth becomes the joint-oldest winner of the Cheltenham Gold Cup, joining 1951 winner Silver Fame. Persian War gains the second of his three Champion Hurdle successes.

60 years ago – The Queen Mother Champion Chase, then known as the National Hunt Two-Mile Champion Chase, is run for the first time and goes to Irish challenger Quita Que, trained by Dan Moore and ridden by Bunny Cox.

70 years ago – Cottage Rake, trained by Vincent O’Brien and ridden by Aubrey Brabazon, lands the second of his three Cheltenham Gold Cup victories, while the same owner-trainer combination also takes the Champion Hurdle with Hatton’s Grace. Hatton’s Grace would go on to become the first three-time winner of the Champion Hurdle when successful again in 1950 and 1951.

80 years ago – The Champion Hurdle is won by a mare for the first time when African Sister scores under Keith Piggott, father of Lester Piggott. The seven-year-old is trained by Charles Piggott – Lester’s great uncle.

90 years ago – The great Easter Hero justifies 7/4 favouritism to win the Cheltenham Gold Cup. A severe winter means the Jump racing programme is severely curtailed and Easter Hero warmed up for Cheltenham with four successes over hurdles in November and December. The great horse attempted to win the 66-runner Grand National just 10 days after his Cheltenham victory, but a twisted shoe meant he came a gallant second under 12st 7lb. He won a second Cheltenham Gold Cup in 1930.

Holland Cooper Leading Jockey Award – Final 2018 Standings

Jockey	1st	2nd	3rd
DAVY RUSSELL	4	1	3
Jack Kennedy	4	-	3
Paul Townend	2	4	1
Barry Geraghty	2	2	1
Ruby Walsh	2	-	1
Nico de Boinville	1	3	1
Noel Fehily	1	2	-
Mr Patrick Mullins	1	1	-
Harry Cobden	1	-	2
Brian Hughes	1	-	1
Bridget Andrews	1	-	-
Keith Donoghue	1	-	-
Richard Johnson	1	-	-
Lizzie Kelly	1	-	-
Mr Noel McParlan	1	-	-
Donagh Meyler	1	-	-
Miss Harriet Tucker	1	-	-
Ms Katie Walsh	1	-	-
Mark Walsh	1	-	-

Previous winners of the Holland Cooper Leading Jockey Award are listed below, with current jockeys in bold

2018 Davy Russell (4)	1998 A P McCoy (5)
2017 Ruby Walsh (4)	1997 A P McCoy (3)
2016 Ruby Walsh (7)	1996 Richard Dunwoody (2)
2015 Ruby Walsh (4)	1995 Norman Williamson (4)
2014 Ruby Walsh (3)	1994 Charlie Swan (3)
2013 Ruby Walsh (4)	1993 Charlie Swan (4)
2012 Barry Geraghty (5)	1992 Jamie Osborne (5)
2011 Ruby Walsh (5)	1991 Peter Scudamore (2)
2010 Ruby Walsh (3)	1990 Richard Dunwoody (2)
2009 Ruby Walsh (7)	1989 Tom Morgan (2)
2008 Ruby Walsh (3)	1988 Simon Sherwood (2)
2007 Robert Thornton (4)	1987 Peter Scudamore (2)
2006 Ruby Walsh (3)	1986 Peter Scudamore (2)
2005 Graham Lee (3)	1985 Steve Smith Eccles (3)
2004 Ruby Walsh (3)	1984 Jonjo O'Neill (2)
2003 Barry Geraghty (5)	1983 Graham Bradley (2)
2002 Richard Johnson (2)	1982 Jonjo O'Neill (1)
2001 <i>cancelled - foot & mouth</i>	1981 John Francome (3)
2000 Mick Fitzgerald (4)	1980 Mr Jim Wilson (3)
1999 Mick Fitzgerald (4)	

LEADING CURRENT JOCKEYS AT THE FESTIVAL

Ruby Walsh	58
Barry Geraghty	36
Richard Johnson	23
Davy Russell	22
Tom Scudamore	10
Bryan Cooper	8
Paul Townend	8
Mr Jamie Codd	7
Nico de Boinville	7
Sam Twiston-Davies	7
Paddy Brennan	6
Noel Fehily	6
Jack Kennedy	5
Andrew Lynch	4
Mr Patrick Mullins	4
Denis O'Regan	4
Robbie Power	4
Mr Sam Waley-Cohen	4

TOP JOCKEYS AT THE FESTIVAL (SINCE 1945, CURRENT JOCKEYS IN BOLD)

Ruby Walsh	58
Barry Geraghty	36
Sir A P McCoy	31
Pat Taaffe	25
Richard Johnson	23
Davy Russell	22
Richard Dunwoody	18
Charlie Swan	17
Fred Winter	17
Robert Thornton	16
Paul Carberry	14
Mick Fitzgerald	14
Peter Scudamore	13

The Irish Independent Leading Trainer Award – Final 2018 Standings

Trainer	1st	2nd	3rd
GORDON ELLIOTT IRE	8	1	5
Willie Mullins IRE	7	5	4
Nicky Henderson	2	6	1
Paul Nicholls	2	1	1
Colin Tizzard	2	-	2
Tom George	1	1	2
Henry de Bromhead IRE	1	1	1
Pat Kelly IRE	1	1	-
Dan Skelton	1	-	1
Mick Channon	1	-	-
Warren Greatrex	1	-	-
Nick Williams	1	-	-

The Irish Independent Leading Trainer Award is decided on the number of winners trained over the four days. If there is a tie, it will go down to the number of second places. If there is still a tie, the number of third places will be taken into account and the award will be shared if there remains a tie after that.

Winners Of The Irish Independent Leading Trainer Award

2018	Gordon Elliott IRE (8)
2017	Gordon Elliott IRE (6)
2016	Willie Mullins IRE (7)
2015	Willie Mullins IRE (8)
2014	Willie Mullins IRE (4)
2013	Willie Mullins IRE (5)
2012	Nicky Henderson (7)
2011	Willie Mullins IRE (4)
2010	Nicky Henderson (3)
2009	Paul Nicholls (5)
2008	Paul Nicholls (3)
2007	Paul Nicholls (4)
2006	Paul Nicholls (3)
2005	Howard Johnson (3)
2004	Paul Nicholls (4)
2003	Jonjo O'Neill (3)
2002	Martin Pipe (3)
2001	<i>Cancelled</i>
2000	Nicky Henderson (4)
1999	Paul Nicholls (3)
1998	Martin Pipe (4)
1997	Martin Pipe (4)
1996	Ferdy Murphy, Edward O'Grady IRE, Martin Pipe (2)
1995	David Nicholson (3)
1994	David Nicholson, Edward O'Grady IRE (2)
1993	Nicky Henderson, Martin Pipe, Nigel Twiston-Davies (2)
1992	Nicky Henderson, David Nicholson, Simon Sherwood (2)
1991	Martin Pipe (3)
1990	Nicky Henderson (2)
1989	Toby Balding, John Edwards, David Elsworth, Josh Gifford, Martin Pipe (2)
1988	Josh Gifford (3)
1987	Toby Balding, Nicky Henderson, Fred Winter (2)
1986	Nicky Henderson (3)
1985	Nicky Henderson (3)
1984	Michael Dickinson (3)
1983	Michael Dickinson (3)
1982	Michael Dickinson (3)
1981	Peter Easterby (3)
1980	John Edwards, Edward O'Grady IRE, Bob Turnell, Fred Winter (2)

The most successful trainers of all time at The Festival™ presented by Magners

Wins	Trainer	Wins	Trainer
61	Willie Mullins IRE (1995-present)	18	Edward O'Grady IRE (1974-present)
60	Nicky Henderson (1985-present)	17	David Nicholson (1986-1999)
43	Paul Nicholls (1999-present)	17	Nigel Twiston-Davies (1992-present)
40	Fulke Walwyn (1946-86)	15	Harry Brown (1920-1938)
34	Martin Pipe (1981-2006)	15	Tom Coulthwaite (1911-1936)
28	Fred Winter (1970-1988)	15	Alan King (2004-present)
27	Fred Rimell (1948-1981)	15	David Pipe (2007-present)
26	Tom Dreaper IRE (1946-1971)	15	Tom Rimell (1927-1949)
26	Jonjo O'Neill (1991-present)	14	Dan Moore IRE (1953-1979)
23	Vincent O'Brien IRE (1948-1959)	13	Jack Anthony (1929-1950)
23	Bob Turnell (1956-1980)	13	Peter Easterby (1967-1986)
22	Ivor Anthony (1930-1952)	13	Tim Forster (1963-1998)
22	Gordon Elliott IRE (2011-present)	12	John Edwards (1969-1994)
19	George Beeby (1930-1959)	12	Tom Jones (1965-1978)
19	Philip Hobbs (1990-present)		

Current trainers in bold

(NB trainers of some of the earliest winners were not recorded)

The most successful current trainers at The Festival™ presented by Magners

Wins	Trainer	Wins	Trainer
61	Willie Mullins IRE	9	David Elsworth
60	Nicky Henderson	8	Enda Bolger IRE
43	Paul Nicholls	8	Arthur Moore IRE
26	Jonjo O'Neill	7	Mouse Morris IRE
22	Gordon Elliott IRE	7	Colin Tizzard
19	Philip Hobbs	6	Tony Martin IRE
18	Edward O'Grady IRE	6	Donald McCain
17	Nigel Twiston-Davies	6	Aidan O'Brien IRE
15	Alan King	6	Oliver Sherwood
15	David Pipe	6	Venetia Williams
11	Jessica Harrington IRE	5	Henry de Bromhead IRE
10	Ferdy Murphy FR	5	Noel Meade IRE

Leading current owners at The Festival™ presented by Magners

Wins	Owner
54	J P McManus
26	Gigginstown House Stud
15	Susannah Ricci
13	Andrea & Graham Wylie
11	Trevor Hemmings
8	The Moulds
8	The Stewart Family
7	John Hales
7	Hammer & Trowel Syndicate
6	Jim Lewis
6	Terry Warner
5	Michael Buckey
5	Ann and Alan Potts
5	Clive Smith
5	Robert Waley-Cohen

NetJets Leading Owner Award - Final 2018 Standings

Owner	1st	2nd	3rd
GIGGINSTOWN HOUSE STUD	7	-	4
J P McManus	2	2	3
Simon Munir/Isaac Souede	1	1	1
Roger Brookhouse	1	1	-
Philip Reynolds	1	1	-
Susannah Ricci	1	1	-
Luke McMahon	1	-	1
Babbit Racing	1	-	-
Ronnie Bartlett	1	-	-
Tony Bloom	1	-	-
Brocade Racing	1	-	-
Paul McKeon	1	-	-
Patricia Pugh	1	-	-
Tim Radford	1	-	-
A Selway & P Wavish	1	-	-
Pat Sloan	1	-	-
The Stewart Family	1	-	-
Sullivan Bloodstock Limited	1	-	-
Alan & Andrew Turner	1	-	-
Martin Wasylocha	1	-	-
June Watts	1	-	-

The NetJets Leading Owner Award is decided on the number of winners trained over the four days. If there is a tie, it will go down to the number of second places. If there is still a tie, the number of third places will be taken into account and the award will be shared if there remains a tie after that.

Winners of the NetJets Leading Owner Award

2018 - Gigginstown House Stud (7 winners)

2017 - Gigginstown House Stud (4 winners)

The 888 Prestbury Cup – Irish-trained successes at The Festival™ presented by Magners

2018-17 (28 races)
2017-19* (28 races)
2016-15 (28 races)
2015-13 (27 races)
2014-12 (27 races)
2013-14 (27 races)
2012-5 (27 races)
2011-13 (27 races)
2010-7 (26 races)
2009-9 (26 races)
2008-7 (25 races)
2007-5 (24 races)
2006-10 (24 races)
2005-9 (24 races)
2004-4 (20 races)
2003-6 (20 races)
2002-5 (20 races)
2001-cancelled
2000-3 (20 races)
1999-5 (20 races)
1998-4 (20 races)
1997-3 (20 races)
1996-7 (20 races)
1995-4 (20 races)
1994-3 (20 races)
1993-6 (20 races)
1992-2 (19 races)
1991-2 (18 races)
1990-2 (18 races)
1989-0 (18 races)
1988-1 (18 races)
1987-1 (18 races)
1986-4 (18 races)
1985-2 (18 races)
1984-4 (18 races)
1983-5 (18 races)
1982-6 (18 races)
1981-3 (18 races)
1980-4 (18 races)
1979-5 (18 races)
1978-6 (12 races**))
1977-7 (18 races)
1976-5 (18 races)
1975-5 (13 races***)

** Record, although The Festival™ presented by Magners was previously three days up until 2005. Prior to The Festival™ presented by Magners's extension to four days in 2005, the previous record was eight wins in 1958 (when 18 races were run).*

*** In 1978, the third day of The Festival™ presented by Magners was abandoned due to snow. The Triumph Hurdle and Gold Cup were subsequently run in April.*

**** In 1975, waterlogging caused several races to be lost.*

Bonuses connected with The Festival™ presented by Magners

Matchbook Imperial Cup

Matchbook, sponsor of the Imperial Cup at Sandown Park Racecourse, will award a £100,000 bonus should the winner of the £75,000 handicap hurdle on March 10 go on to win any race at The Festival the following week.

The bonus will be split as follows: £60,000 to the winning owner, £20,000 to winning trainer, £10,000 to the winning yard, £10,000 to the winning jockey (split in half if two jockeys are involved)

Horses to have won a similar bonus in previous years are: Olympian (1993 Coral Cup), Blowing Wind (1998 Randox Health County Handicap Hurdle) and Gaspara (2007 Boodles Juvenile Handicap Hurdle).

Plumpton's Cheltenham Bonus

Plumpton Racecourse continues to offer the £60,000 Cheltenham Bonus, which goes to connections of a horse that wins one of five nominated novice chases at the course and is subsequently successful in any chase at The Festival.

The bonus will be split as follows: £50,000 to the winning owner, £5,000 to winning trainer, £5,000 to the winning yard

Voy Por Ustedes was the last horse to scoop the bonus, winning the Racing Post Arkle Novices' Chase at The Festival in 2006 after scoring at Plumpton earlier the same season.

This year's qualifying horses are: **Mister Malarky, Kalashnikov, Ok Corral** and **Good Man Pat**.

Nathaniel Lacy & Partners Stable Staff Bonus

Irish solicitors Nathaniel Lacy & Partners will provide a bonus of €50,000 to the stable staff at Gordon Elliott's yard if **Commander Of Fleet** can follow up victory in the G1 Nathaniel Lacy & Partners Solicitors Novice Hurdle at Leopardstown on February 2 by winning any race at The Festival.

Commander of Fleet currently holds entries in the G1 Sky Bet Supreme Novices' Hurdle, the G1 Ballymore Novices' Hurdle and the G1 Albert Bartlett Novices' Hurdle.

Musical Acts playing at The Festival™ presented by Magners in 2019

Live bands can be seen throughout the duration of The Festival™ presented by Magners, playing at various locations across the course, including performances in:

The Pavilion (Best Mate Enclosure)

The Centaur,

The Guinness Village,

The Plaza (Tattersalls & Club Enclosure)

The Courtyard (Club Enclosure)

The Final Flight Bar*

The musical line-up for The Festival sees the return of many favourites, along with a whole host of new acts to get your toes tapping. Don't rush off after racing and head into The Centaur in the Club and Tattersalls enclosure to enjoy live music from The Wickermen and Tommy and The Fuse.

Live music after racing in The Centaur and The Final Flight Bar will finish at 6:30pm.

Champion Day & Ladies Day

The Pavilion (Best Mate Enclosure) - The Wickermen

Guinness Village - The Lucky 15's

The Plaza (Tattersalls & Club Enclosure) - The Hip Cats

The Courtyard (Club Enclosure) - The Hip Cats

The Final Flight Bar* - live music finishes at 6:30pm - Chip Shop Boys

The Centaur (after racing - Club and Tattersalls Enclosure - finishes at 6:30pm) - The Wickermen

St Patrick's Thursday

The Pavilion (Best Mate Enclosure) - Tommy and The Fuse

Guinness Village - The Lucky 15's & All Folk'd Up

The Plaza (Tattersalls & Club Enclosure) - The Hip Cats

The Courtyard (Club Enclosure) - The Hip Cats

The Final Flight Bar* - live music finishes at 6:30pm - The Wickermen

The Centaur (after racing - Club and Tattersalls Enclosure - live music finishes at 6:30pm) - All Folk'd Up

Gold Cup Day

The Pavilion (Best Mate Enclosure) - Tommy and The Fuse

Guinness Village - The Lucky 15's & All Folk'd Up

The Plaza (Tattersalls & Club Enclosure) - The Hip Cats

The Courtyard (Club Enclosure) - The Hip Cats

The Final Flight Bar* - live music finishes at 6:30pm - Chip Shop Boys

The Centaur (after racing - Club and Tattersalls Enclosure - live music finishes at 6:30pm) - Tommy and The Fuse

*Access to The Final Flight Bar is with a ticket only in conjunction with a Club Enclosure ticket.

Master Minded one of the star turns on display in The Festival RoR parade

- 12-horse line-up features six Cheltenham Festival winners
- Former champion Master Minded to make first appearance since 2011
- Parade again sponsored by the Peter O'Sullivan Trust

Master Minded, dual winner of the G1 Queen Mother Champion Chase (2008 & 2009), will make his first appearance on a racecourse in over seven years when he joins the parade of retrained racehorses on Champion Day at The Festival™ presented by Magners at Cheltenham a week today (Tuesday, March 12).

The annual parade is organised by racing's official charity for the welfare of retired racehorses, Retraining of Racehorses (RoR). Held before racing at 12.30pm, the parade showcases the range of activities open to racehorses when they finish their racing careers and has become an increasingly popular attraction in the build-up to racing on day one of The Festival.

Now a 16-year-old, Master Minded is one of 12 former racehorses in the parade, which is again sponsored by the Peter O'Sullivan Charitable Trust.

Together the dozen horses have a combined age of 172 and between them have won 29 Grade 1 races and over £6m in prize money. All are still active and enjoying a second career after racing.

Besides Master Minded, other Festival winners in the line-up include 2014 Cheltenham Gold Cup victor **Lord Windermere**, Festival favourite **Cue Card**, **Balthazar King**, **My Way De Solzen** and **Zarkandar**.

In 2008 Master Minded became the youngest-ever winner of the Queen Mother Champion Chase and produced one of the outstanding chasing performances of this century, winning by 19 lengths when just a five-year-old. He returned to win the race again a year later and enjoyed 16 victories in all. However, he incurred a career-ending injury in the 2011 King George VI Chase at Kempton Park and has not appeared on a racecourse since.

At Kempton, Master Minded struck into himself, cutting into a tendon, and the gravity of the injury was such that it not only ended his racing career it was also life threatening.

Thanks to the care he received at Newmarket Equine Hospital (NEH), Master Minded was nursed back to health before embarking on the long road back to recovery and a second career. Among those on the team at NEH was Equine Nurse Sophie Haylock, who took on the responsibility for looking after and retraining Master Minded in 2013.

Sophie's patience with Master Minded has paid off and the pair now take part in local shows and dressage competitions. She says of Master Minded: "He is a wonderful horse to be around and definitely has an aura about him.

"The injuries he had were very serious and on leaving hospital we kept him to a carefully devised rehabilitation programme.

"He is now enjoying a very happy retirement. I am so grateful to Clive Smith for giving me the opportunity to have 'Ems' (Master Minded) at home. Clive keeps in touch and often comes to visit him. I think it is fair to say both horse and rider are excited about going to Cheltenham. I just have not told him he's going yet!"

The parade also offers racegoers an opportunity to see the more recently retired Cue Card who is in the early stages of his retraining. Cue Card, now 13, is still based at Colin Tizzard's yard on the Dorset/Somerset border and will be ridden in the parade by Hamir Singh, who looked after him and rode him at exercise during his racing career. Cue Card's owner Jean Bishop is considering the possibility of Cue Card doing some RoR showing classes in the future.

As well as former stars from racing, the Peter O'Sullivan Charitable Trust sponsored parade features some over-achievers from other disciplines too. Now aged 16, popular West Country chaser **Monkerty Tunkerty** is a shining example of the thoroughbred's versatility. Last year he won competitive classes in showing, dressage and show jumping and was placed at championship level in three different disciplines at the RoR Goffs UK National Championships at Aintree. His achievements earned him the honour of being awarded 2018 RoR Horse of the Year.

Also competing at Aintree was **What Of It**, who was adjudged Supreme Champion at the show by a panel of judges including jockey Nico de Boinville, thereby landing the double of elite RoR showing prizes, having won the RoR Tattersalls Show Series Championship at Hickstead in June.

Di Arbuthnot, Chief Executive of RoR, added: "We are very much looking forward to the RoR parade at The Festival.

"Due to the outbreak of Equine Influenza, it has not been straightforward organising this year's parade and we are grateful to all those who have made it possible, in particular, the owners and riders of the horses involved.

"It is fantastic to have horses of the calibre of Master Minded and Cue Card parading and promoting the work of RoR. Special thanks also to the Peter O'Sullivan Charitable Trust for its generous and on-going support of the RoR parades."

RoR Parade line-up, sponsored by the Peter O'Sullivan Trust, The Festival 2019

- 1. Annacotty (Showing and Show Jumping) – ridden by Hannah Bishop**
11-year-old by Beneficial, formerly trained by Martin Keighley and Alan King
- 2. Balthazar King (Hunting) – ridden by Stephen Way**
15-year-old by King's Theatre, formerly trained by Philip Hobbs
- 3. Carruthers – (Show Jumping and Team Chasing) ridden by Lily Bradstock**
16-year-old by Kayf Tara, formerly trained by Mark Bradstock
- 4. Cue Card (Showing) – ridden by Hamir Singh**
13-year-old by King's Theatre, formerly trained by Colin Tizzard
- 5. Lord Windermere (Showing) – Ridden by Elle Greenhalgy**
13-year-old by Oscar, formerly trained by Jim Culloty
- 6. Master Minded (Dressage) – ridden by Sophie Haylock**
16-year-old by Nikos, formerly trained by Paul Nicholls
- 7. Monkerty Tunkerty (Showing and Show Jumping) – ridden by Jess Westwood**
16-year-old by Silver Patriarch, formally trained by Jess Westwood
- 8. My Way De Solzen (Hunting) – ridden by Cate Mahon**
19-year-old by Assessor, formerly trained by Alan King
- 9. Saphir Du Rheu (Team Chasing) – ridden by Charlotte Alexander**
10-year-old by Al Namix, formerly trained by Paul Nicholls
- 10. Wayward Prince (Dressage and Hunting) – ridden by Megan Harper**
15-year-old by Alflora, formerly trained by Ian Williams and Hilary Parrott
- 11. What Of It (Showing) – ridden by Hannah Horton**
16-year-old by Tel Quel, formerly trained by Tom George and Sarah Ward
- 12. Zarkandar (Hunting) – ridden by Olivia Sims**
12-year-old by Azamour, formerly trained by Paul Nicholls

Notes for Editors:

1. About Retraining of Racehorses (RoR):

Retraining of Racehorses (RoR) is British Horseracing's official charity for the welfare of horses that have retired from racing. The charity:

- raises funds from within the Racing Industry for the retraining and rehoming of former racehorses
- provides a safety net for 'vulnerable' former racehorses
- promotes the adaptability and versatility of racehorses to other equestrian activities
- runs and funds a well-established programme of competitions and educational events across the country
- provides information for owners and trainers in both the Racing and Equine Industries to assist with the rehoming and retraining of their former racehorses

The ultimate goal is to maintain a balance between the number of horses leaving Racing and the number of enthusiastic, and suitable, new homes.

For more information visit RoR's website: www.ror.org.uk

Exact race distances in Cheltenham racecards next week

Cheltenham's racecards during the four days of The Festival™ presented by Bulmers 2019 will have the exact distances that the horses race over, rather than the advertised race distances, for the first time next week.

Movements of rails, which ensure horses have the best possible ground available, mean that the distances raced over can be longer than the advertised distances.

On the first day of The Festival, Champion Day, Tuesday, March 12, two of the seven races will be run over further than advertised on the Old Course.

These are the final two contests on the card, the Listed Close Brothers Novices' Handicap Chase (4.50pm) and the G2 National Hunt Chase (5.30pm).

<i>Race name</i>	<i>Advertised distance</i>	<i>Raced over distance</i>	<i>Difference</i>
Close Brothers Novices' Handicap Chase	2m 4f 44y	2m 4f 63y	+19y
National Hunt Chase	3m 7f 147y	3m 7f 166y	+19y

The Old Course is also used on the second day of The Festival, Ladies Day, Wednesday, March 13, but without any doling out so the race distances will be the same as advertised.

The racing action switches to the New Course on Thursday, St Patrick's Thursday, March 14, with rail movements causing four races – the G1 JLT Novices' Chase (1.30pm), the G1 Ryanair Chase (2.50pm), the G3 Brown Advisory & Merriebelle Stable (4.10pm) and the Fulke Walwyn Kim Muir Handicap Chase (5.30pm) – to be run over longer than the advertised race distances.

<i>Race name</i>	<i>Advertised distance</i>	<i>Raced over distance</i>	<i>Difference</i>
JLT Novices' Chase	2m 3f 168y	2m 4f 5y	+57y
Ryanair Chase	2m 4f 127y	2m 4f 184y	+57y
Brown Advisory & Merriebelle Stable Plate	2m 4f 127y	2m 4f 184y	+57y
Fulke Walwyn Kim Muir Handicap Chase	3m 2f	3m 2f 75y	+75y

The final day of The Festival, featuring the G1 Bulmers Gold Cup, also takes place on the New Course, but with all rails back at their original line so there are no changes to advertised distances.

Simon Claisse, Clerk of the Course at Cheltenham Racecourse and Director of Racing, Jockey Club Racecourse, South West Region, said: "When the chases are dolled out, we want to make sure the racegoers have the same information in the racecard that is published on the British Horseracing Authority's Racing Admin site.

"We are giving the exact yardage that the horses race over. There are two races on the first day and four races on the third day that have increased distances because of doling out.

"By doing this, everyone will have the correct information."

National Hunt Breeders supported by Tattersalls to sponsor Mares' Novices' Hurdle at The Festival

Cheltenham Racecourse is pleased to announce that National Hunt Breeders supported by Tattersalls is the new title of the G2 Mares' Novices' Hurdle at The Festival™ presented by Magners.

The £90,000 G2 contest takes place over an extended two miles and is the sixth race (4.50pm) on St Patrick's Thursday, March 14. The new sponsorship involves breeders Shade Oak Stud, Upton Viva Stud, Trull House Stud, James and Jean Potter Ltd, Martyn Meade Racing and Overbury Stud.

The National Hunt Breeders supported by Tattersalls Mares' Novices' Hurdle was introduced to The Festival in 2016 to give more opportunities for fillies and mares.

It is the second race exclusively for female horses at The Festival, following on from the G1 OLBG Mares' Hurdle on Champion Day, Tuesday, March 12, and is open to four-year-olds and upwards. The first three runnings were sponsored by Trull House Stud, which is continuing as one of the contest's backers.

The registered title of the race is the Dawn Run Mares' Novices' Hurdle in recognition of the great mare Dawn Run, who is the only horse to win both the Champion Hurdle (1984) and the Cheltenham Gold Cup (1986).

Willie Mullins, the most successful trainer of all-time at The Festival, has dominated the race so far, being victorious with the Susannah Ricci-owned pair of Limini (2016) and Let's Dance (2017), plus Laurina (2018), all five-year-olds. Laurina, who races in the colours Sullivan Bloodstock Limited, has developed into a leading contender for this year's G1 Unibet Champion Hurdle, while Limini could head to the OLBG Mares' Hurdle.

Ian Renton, Regional Director, Cheltenham & The South West, The Jockey Club, said today: "Since we introduced this race three years' ago, we have had some impressive mares winning including Laurina and Limini.

"This just shows the strength of the mares' division and I am sure that the race will only continue to grow in profile with the support of the National Hunt Breeders and Tattersalls."

Commenting on the sponsorship, Tattersalls Ireland CEO, Matt Mitchell, said: "We are delighted to be sponsoring the G2 Mares' Novices' Hurdle at The Festival which will also be backed by National Hunt Breeders.

"National Hunt breeders are the backbone of this industry and their continuous efforts, along with our support, brings together what they strive to achieve to the forefront of racing.

"This sponsorship further strengthens Tattersalls relationship with Cheltenham Racecourse; the Cheltenham Sales have established themselves as a constant source of winners and we are excited about this further association with the Home of National Hunt Racing."

Robert Waley-Cohen of Upton Viva Stud and Chairman of Cheltenham Racecourse further endorsed this new sponsorship.

Waley-Cohen said: "Upton Viva Stud is delighted to support the G2 National Hunt Breeders supported by Tattersalls Mares' Novices' Hurdle.

"It is important for mare owners to have a target at The Festival to aspire to win as this has a beneficial impact for breeders both financially and for the breed as a whole.

"The best mares are those who have proven their ability on the racecourse and this race provides a valuable opportunity."

Another of the contest's supporters, trainer and breeder Martyn Meade added: "National Hunt racing and breeding has been a big part of my racing career and I am really pleased to support the National Hunt Breeders by sponsoring the Mares' Novices' Hurdle.

"It is fantastic to be associated with the best National Hunt Festival in the world."

Winner of the Magners Cheltenham Gold Cup 2019 to receive original trophy as racecourse is reunited with 1924 cup

Cheltenham Racecourse is delighted to announce it has been reunited with the original Cheltenham Gold Cup trophy, dating back to 1924, and will present it to the winner of the 2019 Magners Cheltenham Gold Cup.

First awarded 94 years ago to five-year-old Red Splash, owned by Major Humphrey Wyndham, trained by Fred Withington and ridden by Dick Rees, it will now be re-introduced as a perpetual trophy, presented to the winning connections of next year's race on Friday, March 15, 2019 and in future years.

Cheltenham Racecourse was approached in 2018 by the previous owner of the original Cheltenham Gold Cup; it has been in a bank vault since the 1970s.

It is the first time that the trophy for the Cheltenham Gold Cup has changed since 1972.

The 1924 Cheltenham Gold Cup weighs 644 grams of nine carat gold and is plated in 18 carat gold to give it a rich colour and will now be mounted on a plinth bearing the names of every horse to have ever won the great chase.

Commissioned and purchased from Simmons of Cheltenham, the 1924 trophy was created by S Blanckensee & Son Ltd of Birmingham. Its whereabouts over past decades are unclear, but it has been in private ownership in recent times.

The trophy was officially unveiled by Champion Jockey and dual Gold Cup-winning rider Richard Johnson at the McCoys at Cheltenham Racecourse on September 28 last year.

Ian Renton, Regional Director, Cheltenham & The South West, The Jockey Club, said: "To bring the first ever Cheltenham Gold Cup trophy back to its rightful home and to use it as the perpetual trophy moving forwards really demonstrates the rich history and heritage of the Cheltenham Gold Cup.

"We are also delighted that it will now carry the names of all our previous winners on the plinth.

"It's a beautiful, decorative trophy, dating back almost 100 years and it will sit perfectly on the winner's podium come March next year, when we crown the next Magners Cheltenham Gold Cup champion."

Jason Ash, Chief Marketing Officer at C&C Group plc, owners of Magners Cider added: "As we look forward with huge anticipation to our first Festival as Presenting Partner and Naming Partner of the showpiece race at The Festival; the Magners Cheltenham Gold Cup, we share The Jockey Club's excitement that the original Cheltenham Gold Cup will be presented to the connections of the 2019 winner.

"We have no doubt that the history, heritage and prestige of this great race will be enhanced through the re-introduction of this beautiful cup as originally presented back in 1924.

"On behalf of millions of National Hunt fans in the UK and Ireland and beyond who are already turning their thoughts to next year's Festival, we would like to congratulate The Jockey Club on bringing the original Cheltenham Gold Cup back home to Cheltenham."

The 2019 Magners Cheltenham Gold is staged on Friday, March 15, Gold Cup Day, the fourth and final day of The Festival™ Presented By Magners.

The 2019 winning owner will receive a replica of the original Cheltenham Gold Cup to keep, with the Cheltenham Gold Cup remaining at Cheltenham over the year.