

Cheltenham Festival: Trainer Micro Angles/Stats

In this month's article I thought I would have a look at a few micro angles/stats that may be worth following at this year's Cheltenham Festival. Some of these I have used previously and others will be new. They add a different dimension to analysing the racing and they can be useful shortcuts. I would use these as a guide but as ever, use the info as you please.

Let's jump straight to it...

1. **Handicap Micro Angle: Trainers**

- Handicaps
- Horse Runs In Career: 1-3*
- Horse Wins In Career: 1 Only
- Trainers: N Henderson/Miss E Lavelle/WP Mullins/P Nicholls/D Pipe

**Important: For all of this research I use Horse Race Base. Horse Race Base does NOT take account of form from abroad, outside of the UK and Ireland. As such, if using this micro angle, ignore all form from abroad, from France for example. Paul Nicholl's winners in particular may have a few French runs under their belts but based on their UK/Irish form here would qualify.*

I researched this angle before the 2015 Festival and that year it pointed to Qualando at 25/1. Every qualifier that year finished in the top 6. There was a blank last year, but hopefully it finds a winner or two this year...

	Bets	Wins	Win%	P/L(SP)	Places	Place%	Races	P/L(BF)	P/L(Plc)	A/E
ALL	30	8	26.67	96	14	46.67	23	120.09	36.54	2.67
2016	2	0	0	-2	0	0	2	-2	-2	0
2015	5	1	20	21	3	60	3	24.11	9.07	2.7
2014	5	1	20	8	2	40	3	9.01	7.26	2.38
2013	3	0	0	-3	1	33.33	2	-3	3.08	0
2012	4	2	50	42.5	2	50	4	54.34	8	4.26
2011	1	1	100	4.5	1	100	1	5.42	1.95	5.56
2010	5	2	40	15	4	80	4	19.59	10.33	3.28
2009	1	0	0	-1	0	0	1	-1	-1	0
2008	4	1	25	11	1	25	3	13.63	-0.15	4.35

Notes: hopefully the rationale there is clear enough. Essentially we are homing in on those trainers who do well with unexposed types.

There are no odds caps. Those going off 14/1 or bigger are 4/12,8p, including winners at 25/1 and 40/1. Those going off 9/2 or shorter are 3/4,3p, +13 SP.

Not many trainers have had runners under such criteria. Those are the only 5 to have had winners. Pipe, Nicholls and Henderson have had 2 winners each, Lavelle and Mullins one winner.

The other trainers to have had placed runners, and who it may be worth keeping an eye on are.. Thomas Cooper/E O’Grady/A King/G Elliot

2. Handicap Chase Micro: General

- Handicaps
- Chases
- GB or IRE Bred
- 16/1 or shorter SP (guide)
- Distance Move: Down 0.5f, Same, Up 0.5f, Up 1f, Up 1.5f
- 3 runs in the previous 90 days
- 3+ runs in handicaps

	Bets	Wins	Win%	P/L(SP)	Places	Place%	Races	P/L(BF)	P/L(Plc)	A/E
ALL	21	7	33.33	70	9	42.86	19	88.35	17.27	3.45
2016	3	0	0	-3	0	0	2	-3	-3	0
2015	1	0	0	-1	0	0	1	-1	-1	0
2014	3	1	33.33	8	1	33.33	2	10.35	1.34	4
2013	4	3	75	34	3	75	4	35.6	7.51	6.67
2012	3	1	33.33	12	2	66.67	3	15.43	7.1	4.55
2011	3	0	0	-3	0	0	3	-3	-3	0
2010	4	2	50	23	3	75	4	33.97	8.31	5.26

Notes: those going off over 16/1 are 2/33,2p, +44 SP. So, some of those may be worth a second glance, but they are hard to find.

This is certainly more of a ‘starting point’ angle and it hasn’t found a winner over the last two festivals but given its performance before that, I won’t be giving up just yet. In essence it is focussing on what I would call ‘hard fit’ chasers (3 runs in the previous 90 days) as well as those are who not being asked to do something too different from their last run (distance move) They are also experienced enough, with 3+ runs in handicaps already. We shall see how they get on this year.

Let’s turn our attention to a few trainers...

Handicap Chases

(2012-) (last 5 meetings)

(excluding the Novice Handicap Chase)

David Pipe

- 16/1 or shorter
- Horse Runs 90 Days: 0 or 1 only

	Bets	Wins	Win%	P/L(SP)	Places	Place%	ROI(SP)	P/L(BF)	P/L(Plc)	A/E
ALL	12	4	33.33	28.5	8	66.67	237.5	33.73	17.1	3.05
2016	2	1	50	10	2	100	500	11.35	6.18	6.25
2015	3	1	33.33	7	2	66.67	233.33	9.65	3.71	3.03
2014	3	1	33.33	10	2	66.67	333.33	11.01	6.63	4.55
2013	2	0	0	-2	0	0	-100	-2	-2	0
2012	2	1	50	3.5	2	100	175	3.73	2.57	3.13

Notes: quite straightforward but it has been an effective approach over the last five festivals. Those going off bigger than 16/1 SP are 0/13,0p, which suggests some market support is important. Those chasers than have been kept busier in the last 90 days, 2 or more runs, are 0/7,0 places to date, within this odds cap. Those that have had 0 runs in the previous 90 days are 3/6,6 places.

Jonjo O'Neill

- 14/1 or shorter

	Bets	Wins	Win%	P/L(SP)	Places	Place%	Races	P/L(BF)	P/L(Plc)	A/E
ALL	15	3	20	18.5	7	46.67	11	25.89	11.63	2.03
2016	6	0	0	-6	1	16.67	4	-6	-2.25	0
2015	1	0	0	-1	1	100	1	-1	2.47	0
2014	3	1	33.33	8	2	66.67	2	10.35	4.48	3.13
2013	3	0	0	-3	1	33.33	2	-3	0.8	0
2012	2	2	100	20.5	2	100	2	25.54	6.12	10

NOTE: rather straightforward and with most of these more of a starting point. But, with those going off over 14/1 he is 0/12,0p, so again the market has been of some use. He had a poor festival last year although Holywell went close enough. He seems to be struggling for consistency generally these days, unless he just doesn't have the horses, and it will be intriguing to see how his festival horses go this year.

A J (Tony) Martin

- All handicap chases

	Bets	Wins	Win%	P/L(SP)	Places	Place%	Races	P/L(BF)	P/L(Plc)	A/E
ALL	9	2	22.22	25	4	44.44	8	33.99	10.33	3.17
2015	5	1	20	12	3	60	4	17.85	8.87	2.86
2014	3	1	33.33	14	1	33.33	3	17.14	2.47	4.55
2013	1	0	0	-1	0	0	1	-1	-1	0

Note: another in the 'not overly complicated category' but is has paid to take note of any handicap chasers that Tony Martin sends over here. Maybe of some interest that Davy Russell was on both of the winners, the only two he has ridden.

Handicap Hurdles

(2012-) (last 5 meetings)

(excluding the Fred Winter Handicap Hurdle)

Paul Nicholls

- 5-6 year olds
- 0-1 win in handicaps only
- 16/1 or shorter (guide)

	Bets	Wins	Win%	P/L(SP)	Places	Place%	Races	P/L(BF)	P/L(Plc)	A/E
ALL	16	4	25	38	6	37.5	13	54.08	10.49	2.86
2016	7	1	14.29	8	2	28.57	4	17.91	3.36	1.92
2015	2	1	50	8	1	50	2	9.45	2.78	4.76
2014	2	1	50	10	2	100	2	10.62	5.23	5.56
2013	4	1	25	13	1	25	4	17.1	0.13	2.5
2012	1	0	0	-1	0	0	1	-1	-1	0

Note: This has been a useful angle to finding Nicholls handicap hurdle winners. Those aged 7+ are 0/7,0p, and within those that are aged 5/6 those with 2 or more handicap wins already are 0/7,1p. So, in general, it is the unexposed ones who do best. Remember these angles will exclude any French form, for example. Those going off over 16/1 SP are 0/5,2p, so may be worth a second glance. A bigger priced one may win one day.

Nicky Henderson

- Horse Aged 6
- 1st or 2nd LTO

	Bets	Wins	Win%	P/L(SP)	Places	Place%	Races	P/L(BF)	P/L(Plc)	A/E
ALL	6	2	33.33	19	2	33.33	5	19.73	2.08	4.76
2015	2	1	50	8	1	50	2	8.5	1.57	6.67
2014	3	1	33.33	12	1	33.33	2	12.23	1.52	6.25
2013	1	0	0	-1	0	0	1	-1	-1	0

Note: Well this angle is very micro but considering Henderson is 2/43 in the period will all handicap hurdle runners, it has been the best way to finding his winners in recent years. Those horse not aged 6 are a combined 0/25,1p and those who finished 3rd or lower LTO, aged 6, are 0/12,1p. 2 of those 6 runners did come 5th also, at big prices. So, in general, these types run well. There were no qualifiers last year but with any luck he may have a winner this year.

Other Trainer Pointers

I thought I would have a look at who does well, in certain race types, with more fancied runners. I have used 17/2 or shorter SP as the guide.

Of interest...

- W Mullins/Hurdles (non handicaps,not novice): 17 bets / 8 wins / 13 places / 47% sr/ +5 SP/ AE 1.26
- W Mullins/Novice Chase: 18 bets / 7 wins / 9 places / 39% sr / +2 SP / AE 1.5
- N Henderon/Chase (non handicaps,not novice): 13 bets / 5 wins / 8 places / 38% sr / +8 SP / AE 1.4
- N Henderson/Novice Chase: 9 bets 3 wins / 5 places / 33% sr / 0 SP / AE 1.34
- E Bolger/Chase: 4 bets / 2 wins / 4 places / 50% sr / +6 SP / AE 1/96
- N Henderson/Novice Hurdle: 8 bets / 2 wins / 5 places / 25% sr / 0 SP / AE 1.24
- Jonjo O'Neill/Novices Chase: 4 bets / 2 wins / 3 places / 50% sr / +13 SP / AE 2.38
- P Hobbs/Handicap Chase: 5 bets / 2 wins / 3 places / 40% sr / +7 SP / AE 2.5

Others of interest, with no odds cap...

- Rebecca Curtis/Novices Chase: 5 bets / 2 wins / 2 places/ 40% sr / +14 SP / AE 5.71
- M Jefferson/Handicap Hurdle: 2 bets / 2 wins / 2 places / 100% sr / +34 SP / AE 16.67

Finally, I thought I would have a look at the tracks that Cheltenham winners ran at last time out, and whether that can be an indication for possible success, or failure.

Handicaps (all)

Those tracks to avoid?

- Newbury: 1/116,18p, -99 SP
- Ascot: 1/83,8p, -70 SP
- Navan: 0/17,2p
- Wetherby: 0/17,3p
- Taunton: 0/13,1p
- Gowran: 0/19,4p
- Huntingdon: 0/23,2p
- Chepstow: 0/19,4p

Track LTO Micros

Cheltenham

- Horse Ran at Cheltenham LTO
- 5yo+ Handicaps only
- Horse Aged 8 or younger
- 0-1 wins in handicaps only
- 16/1 or shorter

	Bets	Wins	Win%	P/L(SP)	Places	Place%	Races	P/L(BF)	P/L(Plc)	A/E
ALL	30	9	30	66	13	43.33	21	75.98	13.34	2.94
2016	4	2	50	17	3	75	4	21.33	6.81	4.65
2015	7	2	28.57	14	2	28.57	3	16.38	-0.6	3.03
2014	6	2	33.33	19	3	50	5	20.62	4.11	2.78
2013	6	1	16.67	11	3	50	4	11.83	5.59	2.04
2012	7	2	28.57	5	2	28.57	5	5.81	-2.56	2.63

Within that angle, those horses with 1-2 career wins only to their name: 6/11,7p, +58 SP
Using that same profile as above, two other 'LTO Tracks' of interest...

- Fairyhouse: 2/7,2p, +25 SP
- Doncaster: 2/6,4p, +15 SP

Leopardstown

- Horse ran at Leopardstown LTO
- All Handicaps
- IRISH Bred
- 4 or fewer career wins
- 25/1 or shorter SP

	Bets	Wins	Win%	P/L(SP)	Places	Place%	Races	P/L(BF)	P/L(Plc)	A/E
ALL	27	6	22.22	69	12	44.44	24	97.56	31.76	2.86
2016	4	1	25	13	1	25	4	18.85	0.45	2.86
2015	5	1	20	3	3	60	4	4.17	8.69	2.17
2014	6	1	16.67	7	2	33.33	6	7.67	3.64	2.27
2013	8	2	25	29	3	37.5	7	42.32	7.57	3.39
2012	4	1	25	17	3	75	3	24.55	11.42	3.85

Those that had 3 career wins exactly: 5/15,7p, +64

Within this angle, those that had ONE win only in the national hunt race type (so a hurdle or chase) are: 4/8,5p, +50 SP

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That will be all for this month's article.

I hope you have found something of interest/use in there and with any luck they help you find some Festival Handicap winners.

Happy Punting,

Josh

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