

# BetFan

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## TODAY'S FREE SPORTS BETTING TIPS...

### Smart Wagers

Win Bet - Thurles 13:45 - Crazyheart @ 4/1

### BetTwo

Win Bet - Thurles 14:15 - Polished Steel @ 10/3

### Footie Flutters

Win Bet - Copa Del Rey - Betis v Valencia 20:00 - Betis @ 2.64

# Race In Focus: Ryanair Chase - By Ian Hudson

Cheltenham Thursday March 14th 2019 - Race In Focus: Ryanair Chase  
Two miles and five furlongs for horses aged five and over with 17 fences.

## Description

The Ryanair Chase is the championship race at the intermediate distance between the Champion Chase and Gold Cup. The race first took place in 2005 when the Cheltenham Festival was extended to four days and is run over the New Course. The sponsors also own the Gigginstown Stud and they won their own race for the first time in 2018. Some critics have said it takes Gold Cup standard horse out of that race but the fields for both races have generally held up. Imperial Commander is the only horse to win the Ryanair Chase and Gold Cup but Cue Card won this race in 2013 and was unlucky not to win the Gold Cup.

## Winners Since 2009

2009	Imperial Commander	Paddy Brennan	Nigel-Twiston Davies	6/1
2010	Albertas Run	AP McCoy	Jonjo O'Neill	14/1
2011	Albertas Run	AP McCoy	Jonjo O'Neill	6/1
2012	Riverside Theatre	Barry Geraghty	Nicky Henderson	7/2F
2013	Cue Card	Joe Tizzard	Colin Tizzard	7/2
2014	Dynaste	Tom Scudamore	David Pipe	3/1F
2015	Uxizandre	AP McCoy	Alan King	16/1
2016	Vautour	Ruby Walsh	Willie Mullins	Evens F
2017	Un De Sceaux	Ruby Walsh	Willie Mullins	7/4F
2018	Balko des Flos	Davy Russell	Henry de Bromhead	8/1

## Trends

- The average price of the winner is over 6/1.
- The winners' odds ranged from Evens to 16/1.
- Two winners started at double figure odds.
- Four outright favourites prevailed.
- No horse started at odds-on favourite.
- Ruby Walsh rode two winning favourites for Willie Mullins.
- 7 of the last 10 winners ran in the King George V1 Chase.
- There have been three Irish-trained winners.
- 11 of the 14 winners went off at 6/1 or shorter.
- 21 of the 28 winners and runners-up had won at Cheltenham before.
- The winners have been aged 6 to 10 with 7 the most frequent age.
- The most informative trial is the Ascot Chase in February.

## Records since 2005

Only Albertas Run has won the race more than once, in 2010 and 2011.

**Leading Jockey** - Ruby Walsh with four wins from 2005 to 2017.

**Leading Trainers** - Paul Nicholls, Jonjo O'Neill, Nicky Henderson, David Pipe and Willie Mullins have trained two winners.

### **Leading Contenders**

Odds correct as at February 6th 2019 and subject to change.

The Ryanair Chase is one race in which horses could be targeted at other contests so the betting market can change. The current favourite is MIN (5/1 with **William Hill**) who was an impressive winner at the Dublin Racing Festival. FOOTPAD (8/1 with **Betfair**) looked very good in winning the Arkle Chase at the Festival in 2018 and did all but win at Leopardstown over Christmas. WAITING PATIENTLY was going well on the first circuit of the King George V1 Chase but was brought down before half way. FRODON (10/1 with **William Hill**) would be a leading contender at a distance that suits but connections are favouring a run in the Gold Cup. TOP NOTCH (10/1 with **Betfair**) is proven at the highest level and is consistent and former winner UN DE SCEAUX has place prospects. BALKO DES FLOS (16/1 with **Betfair**) has not done enough to suggest back-to-back wins.

**Tip: Waiting Patiently at 7/1**

### **Next Week's Race**

Stayers' Hurdle

### **Previous Tips**

Supreme Novices' Hurdle - Tornado Flyer at 16/1 (33/1 now).

Arkle Challenge Trophy - Lalor at 5/1 (11/2 now).

Champion Hurdle - Laurina at 4/1 (5/1 now).

RSA Chase - Topofthegame at 8/1 (7/1 now).

Champion Chase - Altior at 4/7 (1/2 now)

## **Today's Sports Betting Preview** - By Rick Elliott

### **You Can't Bet Against MVG**

There are few significant football matches around Europe this evening but we can cover the Premier League. We are not talking about the most popular football division for betting but the darts version. Its la crème de la crème of the sport with the nine best players battling it out over the next four months at 16 venues.

However, you could avoid all the bother and just give the trophy to Michael van Gerwen. The current world champion from Holland has won the Premier League in the last three years and nobody is good enough to prevent another title. MICHAEL VAN GERWEN is 1/2 with **Betfair** to win the 2019 Premier League in darts.

Hull are on a run of 12 losses in the Super League and host Castleford tonight in round two. The home side came agonisingly close to beating neighbours Hull KR on match day 1 but lose out due to a late try. Castleford are odds-on to win this match and the handicap is 4. On scoring and conceding statistics from last season that's about right but home advantage is worth six points.

In theory Hull should be two point's favourites especially as their opponents are weakened by the absence of two key forwards due to injury. The home side can call upon two players who could not play in derby and have won the previous three corresponding fixtures. HULL +4 is the bet at 5/6 with **Ladbrokes**.

It's the first round of the Pebble Beach Pro-Am and rounds will be taking up to six hours. Players with the patience and nature to humour the hackers will do well. Jason Day has outstanding form in the event so is not bothered by the long rounds and is suited to the three host courses. JASON DAY is 4/11 with **Betfair** to beat Mackenzie Hughes over 18 holes and that could be the bet of the year.

The current favourite for the first race at the Cheltenham Festival was due to run at Huntingdon today. Angels Breath heads the betting for the Supreme Novices' Hurdle but won't be having this planned prep race. The BHA has taken the decision to cancel racing at all British racecourses following three confirmed Equine Influenza positives. ANGELS BREATH is 5/1 with **Ladbrokes** to win the Festival opener.