

Day One Highlights at Cheltenham 2013

Tuesday 12 March, 2013

Excitement is at fever pitch at Cheltenham Racecourse today as the stars of national hunt racing gather for the first day of the 2013 Cheltenham Festival. Tens of thousands of punters are expected to pass through the turnstiles for a day of racing that includes three Grade 1 races, three handicaps and a mares' hurdle featuring one of the stars of the festival.

Action Packed Racing

The Champion Hurdle is always one of the most keenly anticipated races at the Cheltenham Festival, and tends to produce a banker. This year's favourite is Hurricane Fly, who's priced just over Evens and is fancied to beat his rival Zarkandar to the finishing post.

Paddy Power is offering a significant special on the race, offering to refund losing bets on selections in the Champion Hurdle if Hurricane Fly pulls off the win. This is a get-out-of-jail free card for punters planning on backing any other horse in the race.

Another highlight of the day is the Arkle Challenge Trophy, where some of the most exciting future talent in steeplechases will have an outing. The race has produced a banker in the form of last year's Neptune Investment Management Novices Hurdle winner, Simonsig, who is trading well under evens for the event.

Also worth taking note of is the David Nicholson Mares' Hurdle. While this race is still Grade 2 rated, it's produced a top class favourite in the shape of four time winner, Quevaga. She'll earn a place in the history books today if she becomes the second horse in the festival's history to win a race five times.

Then there are the handicaps. While these races aren't about quality, they do offer some interesting [odds](#) for those who like playing the racing lottery. Betfred is offering some substantial specials on the handicaps, either paying to 5th place or offering to refund the losing section of each-way bets on horses that come home in 5th place.

Cheltenham Festival Betting

Those wanting to track all the action from the [2013 Cheltenham Festival](#), can do so at Gambling Guru. Site resources include previews of every race, the latest betting specials from the UK's top bookmakers, free bet offers, live results and more.

About the Author: Gambling Guru is an established UK online betting guide that offers broad betting coverage of a selection of the most popular sporting events, including bookie reviews, betting tips, betting tools, daily specials and odds.

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