



**Punchestown
2017**

Festival Racing Guide

www.punchestown.com

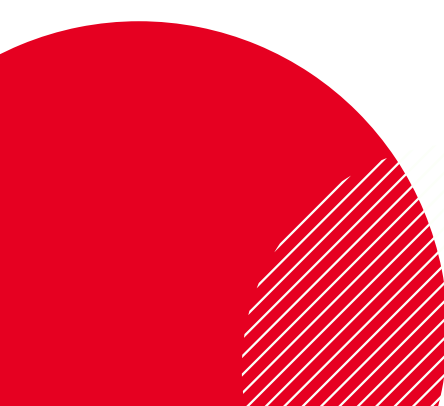


#WhereChampionsGo

The 2017 Punchestown Festival will take place from **Tuesday 25th to Saturday 29th April**. This year's event boasts a record breaking prize fund of over **€2,927,500**. Fresh from an all-time best performance at the Cheltenham Festival, the Irish team will take on a strong British campaign at the home of Irish racing where **37 races** are up for grabs. The 2016/2017 Irish national hunt season concludes on the final day of the Festival when the champion owner, jockey, conditional and amateur jockey, leading lady rider will be crowned. This year's festival will be integral to the **trainer's title battle** between ten times champion **Willie Mullins** and **Gordon Elliott**.

Prizemoney

Following a boost of **€284,500**, the overall prize fund for the 2017 Punchestown Festival will reach over **€2,927,500** increasing by **33% since 2013**. The feature race on the first four days will now be worth **€250,000 each**. The minimum value for any race at the festival is now **€15,000** up from **€12,000**. There are **38 fully sponsored** races at the festival.



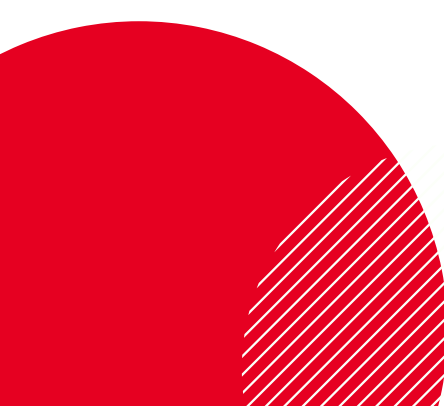


Trainers Battle

For the first time in many years the Irish Champion Trainers title will be a hard fought battle right to the wire. **Ten times** champion trainer **Willie Mullins**, who has dominated proceedings at Punchestown in recent times, is fighting his corner against **Gordon Elliott** for the winning most trainer of the season. It is most likely that the championship will be decided on Punchestown turf in April. The trainer championship is decided on by the prize money accumulated by the trainer throughout the season. The season's champions, trainers, owners and jockeys are crowned on the concluding day, **Saturday 29th**.

#WhereChampionsGo

The Punchestown Festival is considered the **grand finale** of the jump racing season and subsequently attracts the best of Irish and British racing talent. Home grown champions Willie Mullins, Ruby Walsh, Bryan Cooper, Gordon Elliott and Jessica Harrington take on the might of the British raiders Nicky Henderson, Colin Tizzard and Richard Johnson among many others.



Racing

With **12 grade 1** contests throughout the week the Festival boasts some of the best in running action and thrilling finishes each season. Reputations are confirmed and crushed at the Punchestown Festival. Races take place over hurdles, steeplechase fences and on the flat course in what are referred to as 'bumper' races. Unique to Punchestown and steeped in heritage is the cross country racing discipline which is a real favourite for spectators as the horses and jockeys meander through the **400 acre** site tackling banks, bush fences and steeplechase obstacles.

The races get underway each day at **3.40** apart from Saturday when the first goes to post at **2.35**. Each day has what is referred to as a feature race and title sponsors are as follows:

Tuesday 25th April – Boylesports Champion Chase Day

Wednesday 26th April – Coral Punchestown Gold Cup

Thursday 27th April – The Ladbrokes Champion Stayers Hurdle Day

Friday 28th April – The BETDAQ Punchestown Champion Hurdle Day

Saturday 29th April – The AES Festival Family Fun Day – First Race 2.35

Festival Five Day Program

Tuesday April 25th

Closing Thursday April 20th at 12 noon
Overseas Entries Thursday April 20th at 11am

BoyleSports Day

***The Kildare Hunt Club Fr Sean Breen Memorial Cross Country Steeplechase for the Ladies Perpetual Cup of €15,000 (Bank Course) 3 Miles**

A steeplechase for Certified Hunters Five Years Old and Upwards that have between 28th Sept 2013 and 19th April 2017 been 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th in a steeple chase or point to point steeplechase and have not won a race other than two steeplechases confined to certified Hunters in Ireland or Great Britain. Weights 5-Y-0 11st 2lb 6-Y-0 + 11st 7lb.

Penalties 5lb extra for each steeplechase won. Mares allowed 7lb

***The Herald Champion Novice Hurdle of €100,000 (Grade 1) 2 Miles 100 Yards**

Early Closing Wednesday April 5th

A novice hurdle race for five year olds and upwards. Weights 11st 12lb; Mares allowed 7lb

***The Killashee Handicap Hurdle of €60,000 2 Miles 100 Yards (Grade B)**

An extended handicap hurdle for four year olds and upwards. A rating of 150 equals 11st 10lbs (Discretionary penalties)

***The BoyleSports Champion Steeplechase (formerly the Drogheda) of €250,000 (Grade 1) 2 Miles**

Early Closing Race Wednesday April 5th

A steeplechase for five year olds and upwards. Weights 5-y-0 11st 9lb; 6-y-0 + 11st 12lb. Mares allowed 7lb

*** The Goffs Land Rover Bumper of €100,000 – Race Closed**

An INH Flat Race for 4 and 5 year olds only that have not won a race other than one, two or three INH or NH flat races and had been catalogued in the Goffs Land Rover National Hunt sale of 2016. Weights 4-y-0 11st 4lb; 5-y-0 12st; Mares allowed 7lb

***The Growise Champion Novice Steeplechase of €100,000 (Grade 1) 3 Miles 120 Yards**

Early Closing Race Wednesday April 5th

A novice steeplechase for five year olds and upwards. Weights 5-y-0 11st 5lb; 6-y-0 + 11st 10lb; Mares allowed 7lb

*** The Dooley Insurances Flat Race of €15,000
2 Miles**

An INH Flat race for four year olds only that have not won a race. Weights 11st 7lb. Mares allowed 7lb

Total Prizemoney €640,000

Wednesday April 26th

Closing Thursday April 20th at 12 noon
Overseas Entries Thursday April 20th at 11am

Coral Day

***The Martinstown Opportunity Series Final Handicap Hurdle of €30,000 (95-123) 2m & 4f (Conditional Riders)**

An extended handicap hurdle for four year olds and upwards rated 95-123. Penalties. 6lb for each race won after handicap calculated.

***The Louis Fitzgerald Hotel Hurdle of €25,000 2Miles 4 Furlongs**

A Hurdle race for four year olds and upwards that have not won a hurdle race other than one hurdle race. Penalty ~ Wnr of a hurdle race 6lb. Weights 4y0 10st 9lb; 5yo+ 11st 6lb. Mares allowed 7lb

***The Irish Daily Mirror (War of Attrition) Novice Hurdle (Grade 1) of €100,000 3m**

Early Closing Race Wednesday April 5th

A novice hurdle race for four year olds and upwards. Weights 4y0 10st 12lb; 5y0 11st 9lb; 6y0+ 11st 10lb. Mares allowed 7lb.

***The Coral Punchestown Gold Cup of €250,000 (Grade 1) 3 Miles 1 Furlong**

Early Closing Race Wednesday April 5th

A weight for age steeplechase for five year olds and upwards. Weights ~ 5 y-o 11st 5lb. 6-y-o + 11st. 10lb Mares allowed 7lb

***The Racing Post I.N.H Flat Race of €100,000 (Grade 1) 2 Miles**

An I.N.H. flat race for four, five, six and seven year old mares and geldings only that have not won a race other than INH Flat races or National Hunt Flat races or a combination of such races and have not run in a hurdle race. Weights 4Y0 11st 4lb, 5, 6 & 7Y0 12st Mares Allowed 7lb. (No penalties)

***The Guinness Handicap Steeplechase of €100,000 (Grade A) 2 Miles 4 Furlongs**

Early Closing Race Wednesday April 12th

An extended handicap steeplechase for five year olds and upwards. (Discretionary penalties)

***The Weatherbys GSB European Breeders Fund Mares Flat Race of €50,000 2miles (Grade 3)**

An INH flat race for 4, 5, 6 and 7YO mares only, which are EBF eligible that have not won a race other than an INH or NH flat race or combination of such races. 4YO 10st 6lb; 5, 6 & 7YO 11st 2lb.

Total Prizemoney €655,000

Thursday April 27th

Closing Thursday April 20th at 12 noon
Overseas Entries Thursday April 20th at 11am

Ladbrokes Day

***The JLT Handicap Hurdle of €30,000 2 Miles 70 Yards**

An extended handicap hurdle for four year olds and upwards rated 88-123. Penalties. 6lb extra for each hurdle race won after handicap calculated

***The Pigsback.com Nick Coen Memorial Handicap Steeplechase of €65,000 2 Miles (Grade B)**

An extended Handicap steeplechase for four year olds and upwards (150=11st 10lbs). Discretionary Penalties.

***Friends First Cross Country Steeplechase for the La Touche Cup of €30,000 (Bank/Chase Course) 4 Miles 1 Furlong**

A weight for age steeplechase for five year olds and upwards. Weights 5Y0 11st 2lb; 6Y0 + 11st 7lb. Mares allowed 7lb. Penalties (from 1st Jan 2016). Winner of a steeplechase to carry 5lb extra for each steeplechase. Maximum Weight 12st 7lb

*** The Ladbrokes Champion Stayers Hurdle of €250,000 (Grade 1) 3 Miles (formerly the Tipperkevin)**

Early Closing Race Wednesday April 5th

A weight for age hurdle race for four year olds and upwards. Weights 4-y-0 10st 12lb. 5-y-0 11st 9lb, 6-y-0 + 11st 10lb. Mares allowed 7lb

***The Shamrock Enterprises Handicap Hurdle of €60,000 3 Miles (Grade B)**

An extended handicap hurdle for four year olds and upwards. (140=11st 10lbs) Top weight equal 11st 10lb. Discretionary Penalties.

***The Ryanair Novice Steeplechase of €115,000 (registered the Colliers) (Grade 1) 2 Miles**

Early Closing Race Wednesday April 5th

A novice steeplechase for five year olds and upwards. Weights 5-y-0 11st 7lbs. 6-y-0 + 11st 10lb. Mares allowed 7lb

The Alanna Homes Mares Novice Hurdle of €25,000 2 Miles 70 Yards

A mare's novice hurdle for 4 year olds and upwards that have not won more than two hurdle races and have not won a Grade 1, 2 or Grade 3 weight for age hurdle race. Weights 4yo 10st 4lb; 5yo + 11st wnr of a hurdle 4lb extra or of 2 hurdles or one value €12,000 7lb extra

***The Kildare Post (C&G) Flat Race of €17,500 2 Miles**

An I.N.H Flat race for four, five, six and seven year old colts and geldings only that have not won a race other than one I.N.H. Flat race or NH flat race. Weights ~ 4-y-0 10st 11lb; 5, 6 & 7y0 11st 7lb. Penalty ~ wnr of a race 7lb extra

Total Prizemoney €592,500

Friday April 28th

Closing Monday April 24th at 12 noon
Overseas Entries Close Monday April 24th at 11am

BETDAQ Day

***The KFM Hunters Steeplechase for the Bishopscourt Cup of €15,000 (Bush Fence Course) 2 Miles 4 Furlongs**

A weight for age steeplechase for Certified Hunters four year olds and upwards the bona fide and unconditional property of farmers farming land in the Kildare Hunt District (in their possession since 1st Jan 2017). Weights 4yold 10st 9lbs, 5yr old 11st7lbs, 6yr old upwards 11st11lbs. Mares allowed 7lbs.

***The EMS Copiers Novice Handicap Steeplechase of €100,000 (Grade A) 2 Miles 5 Furlongs**

Early Closing Race Wednesday April 12th

A limited novice handicap steeplechase for five year olds and upwards that have not won a steeplechase before 1st May 2016 other than one Hunters' steeplechase in the previous two National Hunt seasons. Top weight in the original hcap shall not exceed 11st 10lb. Min 10st 3lbs (Discretionary Penalties).

***The Hanlon Concrete EBF (Glencarrig Lady) Mares Handicap Steeplechase of €75,000 2 Miles 5 Furlongs (Grade B)**

An extended handicap chase for four yr olds and upwards mares only that are EBF eligible. Discretionary Penalties

***The BETDAQ Punchestown Champion Hurdle of €250,000 (Grade 1) 2 Miles**

Early Closing Race Wednesday April 5th

A weight for age Hurdle race for four year olds and upwards. Weights 4y0 11st 2lb; 5y0+ 11st 12lb Mares allowed 7lb

*** The Tattersalls Ireland (Tickell) Champion Novice Hurdle (Grade 1) of €100,000 2 Miles 4 Furlongs**

Early Closing Race Wednesday April 5th

A weight for age novice hurdle race for four year olds and upwards. Weights 4-y-0 10st 13lbs. 5-y-0 + 11st 10lb. Mares allowed 7lb

The Star Best for Racing Coverage Champion Hunters Steeplechase of €30,000 3 Miles 120 Yards

A steeplechase for Certified Hunters four year olds and upwards that have between 28th September 2013 and 23rd April 2017 in Ireland or Great Britain been placed 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th either in a steeplechase confined to Certified Hunters or in a Point to Point Steeplechase and that have not won a race after 1st March 2016 other than a Certified Hunters steeplechase or a farmers race in Ireland or Great Britain.

Weights 4yo 10st 11lb, 5yo 11st 9lb; 6yo+ 12st, mares allowed 7lb. Horses with Master of Hounds Certificate that have run in a race other than a hunters chase since 1/11/16 are excluded.

***The Donohoe Marqueses Novice Hurdle of €25,000 2 Miles**

A Novice Hurdle race for four year olds and upwards that have not won more than one hurdle race. Weights 4yo 10st 9lb; 5yo 11st 5lb. Wnr of a hurdle race 7lbs extra. Mares allowed 7lb.

***The GVA Donal O'Buachalla Property Advisors INH Flat Race of €15,000 2 Miles 2 Furlongs**

An INH Flat race for five, six and seven year olds that have not won a race. Weights 12st, mares allowed 7lb

Total Prizemoney €610,00

Saturday April 29th

Closing Tuesday **April 25th at 12 noon**
Overseas Entries Closing **Tuesday April 25th at 11am**

AES Family Day

***The Dooley Insurances WFA Steeplechase of €15,000 over the Bank Course 3 Miles**

A weight for age steeplechase for five yrs olds and upwards over the bank course. Weights 5yo 11st 2lb, 6+ 11st 7lb, mares allowed 7lb. From 1 January 2015 the wnr of a steeplechase to carry 5lb extra for each won. Top weight not to exceed 12st 7lb

***The Three.ie Handicap Steeplechase of €40,000 (Rated 0-145) 3 Miles 6 Furlongs**

A limited extended handicap steeplechase for five year olds and upwards rated 0-145. Penalties – Wnr of a chase after handicap calculated shall carry any penalty or penalties which may be allotted by handicapper.

***The Irish Stallion Farms European Breeders Fund Mares Champion Hurdle of €100,000 (Grade 1) 2 Miles 4 Furlongs**

Early Closing Race Wednesday April 5th

A hurdle race for four yrs old and upwards mares only which are EBF eligible. Weights 4y0 10st 10lb; 5y0+ 11st 7lb

*** The AES Champion Four Year Old Hurdle of €100,000 (Grade 1) 2 Miles**

Early Closing Race Wednesday April 5th

A hurdle race for four year olds only

Weights 11st. Fillies allowed 7lb

***The Palmerstown House Pat Taaffe Handicap Steeplechase of €60,000 (Grade B) 3 Miles 120 Yards (Rated 0-150)**

A limited extended handicap steeplechase for five year olds and upwards rated 0-150. (Discretionary penalties)

***The Ballymore Handicap Hurdle of €100,000 2 Miles 4 Furlongs 100 Yards (Grade B)**

Early Closing Race Wednesday April 12th

A handicap hurdle for four year olds and upwards. A rating of 150 equals 11st 10lb (Discretionary Penalties)

***The Attheraces.com (Pro Am) Flat Race of €15,000 2 Miles**

An INH Flat Race for four, five, six and seven year olds only that have not run in a race. Weights 4yo 11st 4lb; 5, 6 & 7yo 12st. Mares allowed 7lb

***The Carry an Organ Donor Card Punchestown Charity Sweepstakes 1m 7f**

Total Prizemoney €430,000