



Background info on new Jump Pattern race handles 2026/27

The 'Crossley' Premier Handicap Steeple Chase (Wetherby, 30 October 2026)

Henry Crossley was a prominent local businessman in Wetherby (printer, stationer, founder of The Wetherby News, farmer) and was one of the founding members of The Wetherby Steeplechase Committee. He was instrumental moving the racecourse in 1891 from the Ings in Wetherby town centre down to the site currently used today, as well as commercialising the race meetings and the business, such as introducing entry charges, building grandstands and getting a railway station built behind the stables.

The Listed 'Montagu' Mares' Hurdle (Wetherby, 31 October 2026)

Related to the above, Mr Crossley used to farm the land, which was owned by a Capt. Andrew Montagu and was part of his wider Ingmanthorpe Hall Estate (The Hall is still in existence across the road from the racecourse, but is now residential flats). Capt. Montague initially leased the land to the race committee, and he was also a member of the race committee that was eventually incorporated into a Private Limited Company on 30th July 1920 – The Wetherby Steeplechase Committee Limited – which still operates to this day.

Both Mr Crossley and Capt. Montague had a significant contribution in the origins & development of the racecourse and racecourse company.

The 'Regal Encore' Premier Handicap Steeple Chase (Ascot, 31 October 2026)

Namesake ran at Ascot 18 times (including in this race five times) during his extended career and won four times at the track (including this race in 2020).

The Grade 2 Molyneux Hurdle (Aintree, 7 November 2026)

The race (formerly the Elite at Wincanton) is named in honour of the Molyneux family, specifically William Philip Molyneux, the 2nd Earl of Sefton, who owned the land on which Aintree Racecourse was established. He leased the site for its development in 1829, laid the foundation stone of the first grandstand, and served as an early patron, helping establish the future home of the Grand National.

The Listed 'Richard Aston' Memorial Mares' Novices' Steeple Chase (Bangor-On-Dee, 11 November 2026)

Named in memory of Richard Aston, leading figure on the British bloodstock circuit and co-owner of Goldford Stud, who died in 2023 at the age of 68. Aston also served on the board at Chester and Bangor and was a longstanding advocate of the mares' Pattern programme. He was also an active member of the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association and the BHA's Jump Pattern Committee.

The Listed 'Doctor Fothergill' Novices Steeple Chase (Cheltenham, 13 November 2026)

Dr Fothergill moved to Cheltenham to be immersed in the Jump racing culture. Rode in two Grand Nationals as an amateur and as Trainer cared for horses belonging to the Prince of Wales. His vision led to the creation of the National Hunt Chase.

The 'William Holman' Premier Handicap Steeple Chase (Cheltenham, 14 November 2026)

The Paddy Power Gold Cup is now registered as the 'William Holman'. Training from Cleeve Hill, William Holman won the 1856, 1858 and 1860 Grand National. Three of his sons also rode in the Grand National and one of them, George, won the Grand Annual on five occasions. His legacy



lived on in racing for a long time with his great, great grandson being David “The Duke” Nicholson.

The Listed ‘Dorothy Paget’ Mares NHF (Cheltenham, 14 November 2026)

Dorothy Paget was one of most prominent female racehorse owners of all time, owner of Golden Miller, Insurance, Roman Hackle, Mont Tremblant, Distil and Solford.

The ‘Tom Olliver’ Premier Handicap Steeple Chase (Cheltenham, 15 November 2026)

Tom Olliver was amongst the jockeys to compete in the first ever Grand Annual Steeple Chase at Andoversford in 1834, and the first official Aintree Grand National in 1839, finishing second. He went on to ride in 19 Grand Nationals, winning on three occasions in 1842, 1843 and 1853. Resident of Prestbury.

The Listed ‘William Kidd’ Open NHF (Cheltenham, 15 November 2026)

The first Managing Director of Cheltenham racecourse from 1908-1943

The ‘Tradesmen’s Plate’ Premier Handicap Hurdle (Kelso, 6 December 2026)

Race sponsored collectively by local tradesmen in the town.

The ‘George Stevens’ Premier Handicap Steeple Chase (Cheltenham, 11 December 2026)

George Stevens, born in 1833, had been tutored in the saddle by Tom Oliver (referenced above). Stevens had an enviable record in Aintree’s iconic races. From his 15 efforts in the Grand National he never fell and won the race five times. Whilst riding back home to his cottage on Cleeve Hill from Prestbury, he was thrown from his bolting horse after it stumbled over a drainpipe. He was sadly killed. A plaque was placed and remains there today, celebrating his life and achievements in the saddle.

The Listed ‘Scudamore’ Open National Hunt Flat Race (Ascot, 18 December 2026)

Named in honour of the Scudamore Family.

The Listed ‘Golden Ace’ Mares’ Novices’ Hurdle (Taunton, 30 December 2026)

With permission from owner Ian Gosden, named after Golden Ace, who won twice at Taunton before going on to land the Dawn Run Mares’ Novices’ Hurdle (2024) and the Champion Hurdle (2025) at the Cheltenham Festival.

The Listed ‘Adam Lindsay Gordon’ Juvenile NHF (Cheltenham, 1 January 2027)

Adam Lindsay Gordon was a local Amateur rider, who went to Australia and became cult figure, venturing into politics where he became a Member of the Assembly in Adelaide. Around 1860 he wrote the celebrated poem, *How We Beat The Favourite*, about a steeplechase that took place on a racecourse near Prestbury.

The Listed ‘Round Tower’ Mares’ Novices’ Hurdle (Windsor, 24 January 2027)

Named the Round Tower as a nod to the Castle which overlooks the racecourse.

The Listed ‘Dr Hennis’ Novices Hurdle (Exeter, 14 February 2027)



A big part of Exeter's racecourse history is the last duel in Devon, which took place at the racecourse in 1833, when Peter Hennis, a doctor, and Sir John Jeffcott, a judge, drew pistols over Hennis spreading gossip. Hennis was wounded in the exchange and died the following week; Jeffcott fled to Sierra Leone.

The Listed 'Merry Monarch' Mares Steeple Chase (Exeter, 26 February 2027)

Horse racing has been part of Exeter's heritage since the middle of the 17th century, one of many racecourses created due to King Charles II's love of the sport. He was known as 'The Merry Monarch'.

The '1911' Premier Handicap Steeple Chase (Cheltenham, 16 March 2027)

The race that has in recent times been known as the 'Ultima', the registered handle will be 1911 – in honour of the year of the first Cheltenham Festival.

The 'Olympian Cup' Premier Handicap Hurdle (Cheltenham, 17 March 2027)

Named after the first winner of this race in 1993, trained by Martin Pipe.

The 'George Duller' Premier Handicap Hurdle (Cheltenham, 18 March 2027)

The Pertemps Final is now registered as the George Duller, this race's previous name. George Duller was a great jockey and winner of the first Champion Hurdle.

The Listed 'Fortescue-Thomas' Mares Novices Hurdle (Cheltenham, 15 April 2027)

Gillian Fortescue-Thomas was the first female to complete a race at the Cheltenham Festival. She was second in the Cathcart in 1976.

The Listed 'Mysilv' Fillies Juvenile Premier Handicap Hurdle (Cheltenham, 15 April 2027)

Trained by David Nicholson, Mysilv was one of the most famous female juveniles of the 1990s, winning the Triumph Hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival in 1994.

Other Jump Pattern race handles registered in 2026 for interest

Date	Race Handle	Course	Hcp/Wfa	Class	DistCat	Age	Sex
18 October 2026	Panoramic Hurdle	KEMPTON PARK	WFA	Listed	2m	4+	A
21 November 2026	Red Rose Handicap Hurdle	HAYDOCK PARK	Hcap	Prem	3m+	4+	A
23 November 2026	Lilies Mares' Hurdle	KEMPTON PARK	WFA	Listed	2m4f	4+	M
05 December 2026	Wirral Juvenile Hurdle	AINTREE	WFA	Listed	2m	3yo	A
12 December 2026	Doncaster Mansion House Mares' Hurdle	DONCASTER	WFA	Listed	3m+	4+	M
02 January 2027	Anne Boleyn Mares' Hurdle	SANDOWN PARK	WFA	Listed	2m4f	4+	M
30 January 2027	Great Yorkshire Handicap Chase	DONCASTER	Hcap	Prem	3m+	5+	A
30 January 2027	Sir Nigel Gresley Fillies' Juvenile Hurdle	DONCASTER	WFA	Listed	2m	4yo	M
06 February 2027	Wolsey Handicap Chase	SANDOWN PARK	Hcap	Prem	2m	5+	A
06 March 2027	Rose Hill Mares' Novices' Hurdle	DONCASTER	WFA	Listed	3m+	5+	M
13 March 2027	Elmbridge E.B.F. Mares' NHF	SANDOWN PARK	WFA	Listed	2m	4-6yo	M
09 April 2027	Orrell Park Handicap Hurdle	AINTREE	Hcap	Prem	2m4f	4+	A
10 April 2027	Bridle Road Handicap Hurdle	AINTREE	Hcap	Prem	3m+	4+	A
17 April 2027	Ayrshire Champion Handicap Chase	AYR	Hcap	Prem	2m	5+	A