

Great Britain vs Ireland over the last 10 years

Irish-trained successes at The Festival

2013: 14 winners (27 races)
 2012: 5 winners (27 races)
 2011: 13 winners (27 races)
 2010: 7 winners (26 races)
 2009: 9 winners (26 races)

2008: 7 winners (25 races)
 2007: 5 winners (24 races)
 2006: 10 winners (24 races)
 2005: 9 winners (24 races)
 2004: 4 winners (20 races)

How they stack up in the four Championship races

Year	Champion Hurdle	Champion Chase	World Hurdle	Gold Cup	Great Britain	Ireland
2013	IRE Hurricane Fly Willie Mullins	GB Sprinter Sacre Nicky Henderson	IRE Solwhit Charles Byrne	GB Bobs Worth Nicky Henderson	2	2
2012	GB Rock on Ruby Paul Nicholls	GB Finian's Rainbow Nicky Henderson	GB Big Buck's Paul Nicholls	GB Synchronised Jonjo O'Neill	4	0
2011	IRE Hurricane Fly Willie Mullins	IRE Sizing Europe Henry de Bromhead	GB Big Buck's Paul Nicholls	GB Long Run Nicky Henderson	2	2
2010	GB Binocular Nicky Henderson	IRE Big Zeb Colm Murphy	GB Big Buck's Paul Nicholls	GB Imperial Commander Nigel Twiston-Davies	3	1
2009	GB Punjabi Nicky Henderson	GB Master Minded Paul Nicholls	GB Big Buck's Paul Nicholls	GB Kauto Star Paul Nicholls	4	0
2008	GB Katchit Alan King	GB Master Minded Paul Nicholls	GB Inglis Drever Howard Johnson	GB Denman Paul Nicholls	4	0
2007	IRE Sublimity John Carr	GB Voy Por Ustedes Alan King	GB Inglis Drever Howard Johnson	GB Kauto Star Paul Nicholls	3	1
2006	IRE Brave Inca Colm Murphy	IRE Newmill John Joseph Murphy	GB My Way de Solzen Alan King	IRE War of Attrition Mouse Morris	1	3
2005	IRE Hardy Eustace Dessie Hughes	IRE Moscow Flyer Jessica Harrington	GB Inglis Drever Howard Johnson	IRE Kicking King Tom Taaffe	1	3
2004	IRE Hardy Eustace Dessie Hughes	GB Azertyuiop Paul Nicholls	GB Iris's Gift Jonjo O'Neill	GB Best Mate Henrietta Knight	3	1

Channel 4 Racing



Channel 4 Racing will broadcast live from the Cheltenham Festival throughout the week.

The Morning Line: 8am – 9am daily.

Channel 4 Racing; Cheltenham Festival is live from 12.35pm – 4.30pm each day.

To book tickets to The Festival visit www.cheltenham.co.uk or call 0844 579 3003



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Great Britain vs Ireland

Which nation will win the Prestbury Cup?

CHELTHAM FESTIVAL 2014
 11TH MARCH – 14TH MARCH

Live on Channel 4



CHELTHAM
 A Jockey Club Racecourse

PRESS PACK

Great Britain vs Ireland



The Cheltenham Festival has long been a second home for the Irish, never more so than in 2013 when the Emerald Isle won 14 of the 27 races, beating their previous best tally of 13 which was set in 2011. But this year, the British will be hoping to redress the balance with a crack team of top horses and jockeys going head-to-head with the best from Ireland.

And, to celebrate the traditional rivalry between the two countries, this year the country that trains the most winners will be presented with the newly commissioned Prestbury Cup, named after the closest village to Cheltenham Racecourse and sealed with some hallowed turf from the course.

Competition between Ireland and Great Britain will be at its fiercest in the four major Championship races – the Champion Hurdle, Champion Chase, World Hurdle and Gold Cup. Plus, the Festival will also be a head-to-head between two of the sport's most talented young riders – Sam Twiston-Davies flying the flag for GB and Bryan Cooper raising the tricolor for IRE.

It all kicks off on Tuesday 11th March with four days of fast and furious action that will see a quarter of a million people descend on the Cotswold course. But will the victors be celebrating with pints Best Bitter or Guinness?

This year's leading fancies in the Championship races

Tuesday 11th March: Stan James Champion Hurdle - 3.20pm

The Champion Hurdle, run over a distance of two miles, is staged on the first day of the Festival and looks set to be the race of the week. 19 time Grade 1 winner **Hurricane Fly [IRE]** will be looking to bring his Champion Hurdle tally to three and is opposed by last year's Triumph Hurdle winner **Our Conor [IRE]** who he has already beaten twice this season. Great Britain's leading hopes include **The New One [GB]** and **My Tent or Yours [GB]** who have already clashed this season with only half a length separating the pair when they last met.

Wednesday 12th March: BetVictor Champion Chase - 3.20pm

The Queen Mother Champion Chase is the leading two mile chase in the National Hunt calendar. With the shock withdrawal of last year's spectacular winner, Sprinter Sacre, this year's dual Grade 1 winner, **Sire de Grugy [GB]** could be the home team's best hope. Despite concerns that **Arvika Ligeonniere [IRE]** prefers going right-handed, Willie Mullins' horse could be Ireland's leading hope.

Thursday 13th March: Ladbrokes World Hurdle - 3.20pm

The World Hurdle is the most prestigious long distance hurdle race of the season and has, in recent times, been dominated by one horse – **Big Buck's [GB]**. After a year on the sidelines, Paul Nicholls' star will be looking to bounce back from defeat in his latest start, and will need to be match ready if he's to keep young pretenders, like the unbeaten **Annie Power [IRE]** (who holds multiple entries), at bay.

Friday 14th March: Belfred Gold Cup - 3.20pm

The race every Jumps owner, trainer and jockey wants to win, it's the most prestigious jumps contest in the calendar. Last year's gutsy winner **Bobs Worth [GB]** loves the Cheltenham hill and is the current favourite but there will be plenty of money for this year's King George winner, **Silviniaco Conti [GB]**. **First Lieutenant [IRE]** has won at the Festival before and will be looking to get back to winning ways in

Sam vs Bryan



Sam Twiston-Davies

Height: 5ft 10ins

Date of birth: 15th October 1992

Nationality: British

Lowest riding weight in last 12 months: Ten stone

Wins this season (Great Britain): 86*

Grade 1 wins: One

Highest position in the British Championship: Fifth

Best horse ridden: The New One

British number 1 when he was born: Sleeping Satellite by Tasmin Archer

Notable personalities that share the same birthday: Mesut Ozil (Star Arsenal footballer), Sarah Ferguson (divorced from Prince Andrew) and Tito Jackson (member of the Jackson 5).

Car he drives: Jaguar XF

Twitter followers: 34,600

Cheltenham Festival winners: The New One (Novices' Hurdle 2013) and Baby Run (Foxhunters' Chase, 2010).

Key Festival Rides 2014: The New One (Champion Hurdle) and Big Buck's (World Hurdle).

Job description: Sam rose to prominence in the jockey ranks when on board The New One, winning at the Cheltenham Festival last year. He rides principally for his father, Nigel Twiston-Davies, who is a Gold Cup and a dual Grand National winning-trainer, as well as seven-time Champion Trainer, Paul Nicholls. Earlier this year, Sam was nominated as the rider to steer superstar Big Buck's in his bid to claim a record fifth World Hurdle title at the Festival.

Mick Fitzgerald on Sam: "Sam Twiston-Davies has been reared on Cheltenham winners and will have dreamt of riding at the Festival from an early age. You can see from his riding style that he was born into the job - he sits so comfortably and perfectly on a horse and has a great attitude and work ethic to boot. He's attracted top trainers like Paul Nicholls who use him on their very best horses and it's a credit to his ability that he has these big rides in the big races."



Bryan Cooper

Height: 5ft 11ins

Date of birth: 7th August 1992

Nationality: Irish

Lowest riding weight in last 12 months: Nine stone and ten pounds

Wins this season (Ireland): 46*

Grade 1 wins: Nine

Highest position in the Irish Championship: Fourth

Best horse ridden: First Lieutenant

British number 1 when he was born: Rhythm is a Dancer – Snap!

Notable personalities that share the same birthday: Charlize Theron, Helen Flanagan and Paul Lambert (Aston Villa manager).

Car he drives: Audi A4

Twitter followers: 13,200

Cheltenham Festival winners: Our Conor (Triumph Hurdle, 2013), Ted Veale (County Hurdle, 2013) and Beneficent (Novices' Chase, 2013)

Key Festival rides 2014: Last Instalment (Gold Cup), Trifolium (Arkle) and Don Cossack (RSA Chase).

Job description: Bryan became a superstar overnight in Britain after winning three races at the Cheltenham Festival in impressive fashion, including Our Conor's 15-length victory in the JCB Triumph Hurdle. On 3rd January this year, Bryan was retained as the top jockey for Gigginstown Stud, owned by Michael O'Leary – the CEO of Irish airline, Ryanair.

Mick Fitzgerald on Bryan: "It's a huge endorsement of Bryan's ability that Gigginstown were so keen to snap him up as their retained jockey. As a jockey your performance is measured by the success you achieve on the big stage and Bryan really arrived in the spotlight last year when riding a treble at the Festival. The way he presents his horses at a fence belies his years and is exceptional and he is strong in a finish. He has a very bright future ahead of him."

* as of 23rd February 2014

