

Angles - October 2026



Hurdles

Nigel and Willy Twiston-Davies 38/155 - 24%

The Twiston-Davies team have a reputation for landing early season winners so it is no surprise to see that they are the joint winning-most trainer in hurdle races in October. There are healthy strike rates across handicaps and non-handicap races.

Handicap 15/69 - 21% and Non Handicap 23/86 - 26%

In Non Handicap races avoid females (1/14) but keep an eye out for the males, especially 5 year olds.

5YO Males 10/24 - 41%. Don't bother going EW they either win or finish unplaced.

4YO males are also worth following but only in class 4 races 11/30 - 36%

In handicaps again the team don't tend to have females ready yet (1/8) so the focus is on the males. There is a simple angle here with a decent strike rate so no need to complicate things - 5-6 YO Males in Handicaps 10/32 - 31%

So that is 3 decent angles to follow here for a team that are having a strong finish to September.

Dan Skelton 38/280 - 13%

The other joint most winning hurdle trainer for October is Dan Skelton however his strike rate is almost 50% lower than Twiston-Davies. The bulk of the winners have come in Non Handicap races 26/177 - 14% so we'll focus here.

Unbelievably the team are 0/35 with 4YO Non handicappers at this stage of the season. 6YOs have also been pretty poor (1/15) but the winners have come from 3 and 5 year olds. There has only been one 3YO winner in the previous two seasons so we're just going to focus on the 5YOs.

I have always found that jockey bookings are a big indicator with Skeltons non handicappers and that is backed up here. For the 5 year olds Harry Skelton is 15/71 - 21%. The only other jockey to win is Tristan Durrell. Jockeys other than Harry Skelton combined are 2/32 - 6% so we're only going to look at races where Harry Skelton has been booked.

The other key factor for Skeltons early season novices is experience. All the 5 Year Old winners have previously raced in either a bumper or a hurdle race.

Considering the above a decent angle to follow is 5YO non handicap hurdles ridden by Harry Skelton and finished in top 3 last time 12/32 - 37%.

In Handicaps the Strike rate is poor (12/103) and I don't think there is anything worth following. Harry Skelton is the only jockey to win 12/63 - 19%.

There has only been one winner aged 7 or older. 4-6 year olds 11/67 - 16%.

The strike rate at Chepstow is terrible (1/25) and class 2 races are even worse 1/33. They have not won a 2m hc hurdle (0/21) .

Paul Nicholls 36/140 - 25%

I don't want to focus on Nicholls for too long here. Going back to 2009 Nicholls has consistently had a Non Handicap Strike rate of over 30% in October but the past two seasons has returned a strike rate of 19% and just 5 winners. For context the previous two seasons have been the lowest number of wins and strike rate he has had in this race type. Also if you go back to 2016 where he had 15 wins and 2020 where he had 10 wins, the decline becomes more apparent so I believe better value can be found elsewhere.

Olly Murphy 36/152 - 23%

As a complete contrast to Nicholls, the Murphy yard are progressive and are ending September in form. The strike rate in Non Handicaps is very strong 24/85 - 28%. The bulk of the winners are 5-6YO Males. A decent angle to follow is 5-6YO males in Non Handicap Hurdles who placed in the top 3 last time 16/33 - 48%.

The Strike rate for Handicap hurdles is 12/67 - 17% but it is worth noting that nearly half of these were won last season so these races are becoming more of an early season target for the yard.

The majority of the handicap winners have been 6YO males in class 4-5 races. It is a small sample with a return of 6/13 - 46% but all 3 of these won last year so this is the likely type he's going to target this year.

Note that the stable are just 1/21 in handicap hurdles at 17f or shorter.

Fergal O'Brien 31/196 - 15%

Unlike the other trainers we've covered so far Fergal has had more handicap hurdle winners (17/105) than Non Handicap (14/91) with both returning a similar strike rate.

We'll start with handicaps as there are more winners here. Distance has been a key factor for the yard, 3m+ races are just 1/25 so we're just going to focus on handicaps up to 22f.

The yards 6 year olds do especially well in October handicaps and don't discount any fillies.

Suggested angle to follow: 6 Year olds in handicap hurdles. Distance up to 20f. Horse a previous winner and not ran in more than 6 handicaps 7/12 - 58%

I'm going to skip Non Handicap hurdles for the yard as the numbers are inflated by a strong season in 2022, the other results don't seem worth looking into.

Donald McCain 27/164 - 16%

Despite a decent looking amount of winners on paper, only 5 of these have come in the past 3 years and a return of just 1/29 last year.

McCain has also parted company with regular jockey Brian Hughes which probably won't help turn these numbers around so he looks one to swerve this month.

Alan King 23/84 - 27%

The numbers appear impressive for Alan King, but similarly to McCain the winners have significantly decreased over the last 3 years. This is due to an increased focus on flat racing for the stable and downsizing of his NH team. The focus is however on quality of quantity so it may be worth looking into the novices he runs. Non Handicap Hurdles 19/54 - 35%. Be aware he only ran one novice last October so there may not be any runners.

Neil Mulholland 19/144 - 13%

Doesn't appear to be a yard worth following. They had an exceptional start to the 2024 season with 10 October wins. This is unusual for the stable and was not backed up in 2025 (1/28) so perhaps another stable to avoid in early season hurdles.

Jamie Snowdon 18/79 - 22%

Half of these winners came last season. The yard has been very progressive and competing well at the top level so it would be no surprise to see to see them back up last years numbers.

The majority of wins are Non Handicap so we'll focus here - 13/40 - 32%. The majority of horses run well, finishing ahead of 78% of their total rivals.

Experience has also been a positive. Non handicap hurdlers who finished 5th or better last time 11/27 - 40%

Handicaps are 5/39 - 12% but last season was a solid 4/11 - 36%. All four were won by 7lb claimer Isabelle Ryder (4/6) so its worth keeping an eye out for any early season rides she picks up for Snowdon.

Jonjo and AJ O'Neill 22/144 - 15%

As we've seen with most yards so far, they tend to get their early season winners in Non Handicap races - 14/71 - 19%

The non handicap winners have tended to come at galloping tracks 12/46 - 26%. Sharper tracks just 2/25 - 8%.

The majority of winners are 4-5 year old males. When they run at galloping tracks in class 4s the strike rate is a decent 10/27 - 37%.

There has just been one handicap winner a year for the past 3 years so handicap hurdles aren't worth following this month.

James Owen 16/68 - 23%

The numbers for this stable are impressive considering they have only had 3 years training jumps horses.

The yard have been prolific in Non Handicaps 11/32 - 34%. All of these winners came in the past 2 seasons so we're going to focus here.

3 year olds in class 4 races have a ridiculous strike rate of 8/9 - 88%. The horse who lost came 2nd. Unfortunately all of the runners were odds on so there probably won't be much value here.

Owen didn't win any other Non Handicap races in October last year and the handicappers don't seem worth following so its best just to follow the 3YOs and hope for a nice price.

Lucinda Russell and Michael Scudamore 24/131 - 18%

The stable seem to have been targetting early season hurdles recently. The past 3 seasons have been their 3 winning most years in October.

15 of the 17 Non Handicap Hurdle wins have come at Kelso and Hexham so these tracks are clearly the early season target. The Strike rate at these tracks is 15/43 - 34%

There was just one female winner so if we focus on males in non handicaps at the above tracks then we have a strong angle 14/34 - 41%

Handicap winners also seem to come at Kelso and Hexham. Unexposed horses in class 4 races who have had no more than 3 handicap starts have been prolific at these tracks - 6/8 - 75%

Harry Derham 13/46 - 28%

Another new kid on the block who has made an immediate impact. Surprisingly the majority of these winners have come in handicaps.

Horses of all ages have been winning, the key for this yards handicappers seems to be horses coming back from a break. Runners after a layoff of 90+ days 7/13 - 53%

Non Handicappers have a good strike rate from a small sample 5/21 - 23%. The strike rate was 4/10 last season. There isn't a big enough sample size to break this down further but I would expect the yard to carry on winning novices this time of year.

Martin Keighley 10/47 - 21%

Early season winners have improved considerably for the yard in recent years. They are running at a 31% strike rate (6/19) for the previous 2 seasons. This will no doubt be helped by the skills of promising young jockey Freddie.

The stable's runners generally need a race to get fit. So look for horses who've had a recent run.

Suggested angle from a 2 year sample. Horses who have raced within the past 60 days and ridden by Sean Bowen or Freddie Keighley 5/6 - 83%. This applies to both handicap and non-handicap races.

Sam Thomas 7/25 - 28%

Another stable on the up. The 2 year record of this stable in October hurdles is 5/11 - 45%.

The sample is too small to really break down further but I would recommend following hurdlers from this yard this month.

Kim Bailey and Mats Nicholls 17/83 - 20%

There is a strong Strike Rate for Non Handicappers 11/41 - 26%. These wins mainly come at galloping tracks 10/31 - 32%. Previous experience over hurdles is key for this yards early season runners.

Non handicappers at Galloping tracks who finished 4th or better in a hurdle race last time are 7/13 - 53%.

The yard don't look to be worth following in October Handicap Hurdles.

Chases

Dan Skelton 30/145 - 20%

In handicaps the Harry Skelton monopoly on winners is less significant as Tristan Durrell managed 4 winners last year. The strike rates of other jockeys is poor so focus on Skelton and Durrell.

One angle we can look at is inexperienced chase handicappers. Ran in a hurdle race last time and won no more than 1 race before (and ridden by one of the above jockeys) 9/23 - 39%

We can also look at chasers with experience as they have the same amount of winners. The key to this type of horse for the yard is a shorter trip and a break.

Horses who have had a layoff of at least 60 days and running at a trip up to 18f (and ridden by above jockeys) are 6/8 - 75% and all 5 qualifiers from the past two seasons won.

In Non Handicaps the winners have come at trips above 22f but the sample is too small to trust.

Nigel and Willy Twiston-Davies 24/96 - 25%

The focus here is on handicap races as they have only managed 1 non handicap winner. As we saw with Skelton there are a similar number of wins for horses with chasing experience to ones without. The inexperienced chasers have a significantly stronger strike rate so we'll start here first.

Horse ran in a hurdle race last time - 11/26 - 42%. The target is races up to 20f
8/16 - 50%

Experienced chasers haven't really fired for the yard during the previous 2 years so it doesn't seem worth following.

Paul Nicholls 16/81 - 19%

I don't think there is anything worth following here. Nicholls didn't have a chase winner in October 2024 then in 2025 his winners were generally graded horses such as Twinjets and Hitman so its difficult to make an angle here.

Lucinda Russell and Michael Scudamore 15/112 - 13%

Last October was a poor return for the yards chasers but 2023 and 2024 brought good results so I'll give them the benefit of the doubt.

The target seems to be novice chasers who have had a break. Kelso and Hexham are the key tracks, however I do not find the angle worth following.

Oliver Greenall and Josh Guerriero 15/77 - 19%

The numbers for this stable do seem to be inflated by a good year in 2022 but still appear to be worth looking into.

No winners or places from females from 8 runs so we'll just look at the males.

The males results have been better at shorter trips (up to 20f) 11/41 - 26%

The majority of the winners had won between 1 and 4 previous races, if we add this to males up to 20f we get a decent strike rate of 9/27 - 33%.

Just be aware that the amount of runners the stable has been sending out in October has been increasing with less reward so it may be that there is a quantity over quality approach which may be risky to follow.

Ben Pauling 13/61 - 21%

The majority of winners have been aged 6-7 and racing in class 4-5 races 9/23 - 39% which appears to be a strong enough angle, however the stayers have underperformed so if limit the trip up to 22f we get a very strong angle of 9/16 - 56%. 5 of the 6 qualifiers have won in the past 2 years.

Olly Murphy 13/41 - 31%

Backing these runners blind returns a lethal strike rate and a nice profit. The majority of these wins came in the past 2 seasons. The vast majority of these have been 6 year old males ridden by Sean Bowen. This has returned 9 wins from 11 runs - 81% and looks to be a strong angle to follow.

Neil Mulholland 13/74 - 17%

Something to note is that all the October chase wins for this stable have been at 22f or further so we're only going to look at these longer distance trips.

At these longer trips the stables older males have performed best winning 9 from 18 - 50%

Cath Williams 13/78 - 16%

Caution advised here as Cath has taken over the licence from her husband Evan who's trying out a professional hockey career... However she has been assistant trainer for over 20 years so things probably won't change too much and owners will probably want to stick around after the yards success at Cheltenham last year.

The yard tend to win October chases at Ludlow and Ffos Las. Combined they are 8/24 - 33%. I think they will stick to what they know this year making this a decent angle to follow.

Emma Lavelle 13/57 - 22%

6-7 year olds are where the winners have come from with a nice strike rate 11/35 - 31%, but backing blindly would have made a loss.

The runners from this age group have performed much better at right handed tracks, Kempton, Huntingdon and Ludlow in particular.

Suggested angle: 6-7 Year olds at right handed tracks - 9/18 - 50%

Jamie Snowdon 13/48 - 27%

The majority of Snowdons winners have been ridden by Gavin Sheehan 11/31 - 35% so we will ignore all other runners.

The winners have come from unexposed 5-6 year olds. Horses of this age group ridden by Gavin Sheehan and had no more than 3 previous handicap starts are 8/14 - 57%

Charlie Longsdon 11/66 - 16%

Longsdon hasn't been great in recent years with October chases but he is worth looking into after firing in a 40% strike rate last year.

The winners have tended to come with males at galloping tracks. With 6-8 year olds in particular. 6 year olds aren't profitable to follow so the angle I suggest is: 7-8 year old males at galloping tracks 7/15 - 46%

Donald McCain 10/71 - 14%

Despite previously getting early season winners, the yard have managed just one October chase win from 40 in the last 3 years reflecting the same trend we saw with hurdles for this yard so they should be avoided.

David Pipe 10/46 - 21%

Pipe is another trainer who appears to have a good strike rate but most winners were in 2024. His record other than that is poor in October. He didn't manage a winner last year so I wouldn't be confident in following this trainer.

Fergal O'Brien 12/93 - 12%

Despite getting winners this time of year I would also recommend avoiding Fergal. Managed just 1/33 in October chases between 2023-2024 before getting back on track last year. I would want to see the yard back it up this year before following his October runs.

Anne Hamilton 9/26 - 34%

This yard are lethal with their chasers this time of year. With the exception of one winner at Wetherby, the winners have all been at Kelso and Carlisle 8/15 - 53%.

Danny McMenamin has ridden the majority of the winners but I am confident that any of the top northern jockeys could do a job on her runners.

Sam Thomas 8/18 - 44%

The yard have an impressive strike rate from a small sample. The numbers have decreased in the past couple of years but the horses generally came 2nd or frustratingly fell mid race so I am confident that the good results will continue.

The yard have a decent strike rate and following blindly would make a profit and the winners have come from all different age groups and trips so I see no need to complicate the angle further. Just follow any chase runner Thomas sends out in October.

Phillip Hobbs and Johnson White 11/51 - 21%

There is a good strike rate for the yard in general but there doesn't seem to be a pattern to where the winners are coming from. 6 year olds have provided the best results with 4 wins from 9 runs - 44% but it is a small sample so it is difficult to have any confidence behind it so It may not be worth following.