

# Cheltenham honours Best Mate

A life-size bronze statue of three-time Gold Cup champion *Best Mate* will be unveiled on the opening day of the Cheltenham Festival. The popular horse collapsed and died last November while beginning his preparation for this year's race

## Winners of three or more Gold Cups

**Best Mate** 2002-04

**Arkle** 1964-66

**Cottage Rake**  
1948-50

**Golden Miller**  
1932-36

## Feature races day by day

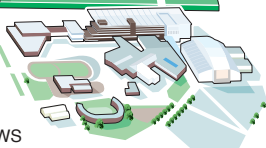
**Smurfit Champion Hurdle**  
(2 miles  $1\frac{1}{2}$  furlong) Tues, Mar 14

**Queen Mother Champion Chase**  
(2 miles) Weds, Mar 15

**Ladbroke World Hurdle**  
(3 miles) Thur, Mar 16

**Totesport Cheltenham Gold Cup**  
(3 miles  $2\frac{1}{2}$  furlongs) Fri, Mar 17

*Sculpture by Philip Blacker*



## Cheltenham Festival statistics

- ▶ Prize money: £2.8 million – Gold Cup £400,000
- ▶ On course betting turnover: £40 million, average of over £2 million per race