

# Property Brokers Shootout Form Guide

Well, it is upon us again. Yes, it is time for the Property Brokers Shootout Final. Over 70 players attempted to qualify, but, alas, only 19 can fit into the starting gate. Everyone's handicap has been sharpened a bit this year, and it is great to see that half of the field are single figure players. By my reckoning we have 6 or 7 virgins, a couple of final two players, a previous champ and 2 first fence fallers. So all in all a real rag tag bunch of ner' do wells. We will now look closely at each runner, try and figure out their strengths and weaknesses, to help with your selections. The Auction will be held on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> after Opening day golf and the big race will kick off at 10am on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>.

Here goes.

**19: Tufuga Sa:** This laid back stud horse does not know the meaning of the word "pressure". Always runs with a big smile on his face, but behind the smile is a warrior, who has taken down many prize pony in his time. Some say his best days are behind him, I reckon, plenty more to come, good bet, will certainly make the turn.

**18: Cheryl Yates:** This beautiful filly, one of only two in the race, has been a champion many times before around the Brandon track. A wily racer, she will not worry about the rest of the field. Concentrating solely on her own performance. You don't often see racers of this calibre, come along and watch. You had better be quick though, I reckon she has only got two fences in her.

**17: Paul May:** They say that light travel travels faster than sound, that's why this Southpaw stallion, looks bright until you hear him speak. He was a contender in the first ever big race, only falling at the final hurdle. Has not really done much since and I can't really see anything on the horizon. With a 6 hour race on the cards, I reckon the pace will be a bit too quick for him. Out before the turn.

**16: Bruce Day:** From the "I don't get out much" stable. This wonderful prancer has been kept under wraps this year. Careful lady owner does not let him run too far. On the odd outing that he does get, he is a proven winner. Recent scare in December, when he bought a flat pack Xmas tree. The saleswoman asked "are you going to put it up yourself" he replied "no I reckon it would be better in the living room". Top 3.

**15: George Brown:** Out of the "There she blows" stable. This old Donkey was an ever present in the early days of the big race, but a couple of premature exits sent him back to the drawing board. A rigorous programme of skill and temperament training sees him back with a point to prove. Could be worth a punt. My call "old Faithful" will blow inside 3 holes.

**14: Jeff Hewitt:** Out of a great Shootout stable, will be carrying the family colours that finished first and second in the last two years. No pressure! This big hitting beast will scare a few of the more skittery horses around the birdcage, pre-race. But once the race starts nobody will see him, as he runs a totally different course to the rest of us. Top 6 finish.

**13: John Power:** Nerves will not play a part here, this big gelding has run in quite a few big races now. We are still waiting to see the best of him. Could this be his year? Well now that he is back fully focussed it could be. He recently left his part time job as a pantomime hose. He thought he would quit while he was a head. Early faller.

**12: Ray Lambert:** This old war horse from the "More leaks than a Welsh farmer" stable will be a solid contender in the big race. Not a sore loser but he has put big swords on the wheels of his buggy, so keep your distance. Recent problems when he got addicted to the Hokey Cokey dance, but he seems to have "turned himself around" now!! Falling somewhere around the turn.

**11: Dave Morrison:** The find of last season. Strong and quick. This young Bronco will surely be there or thereabouts in the final mix up. Runs a very straight course without much deviation. The pace of the race could be his downfall. He will have to reign in a bit in the early exchanges. I have been told by the local fillies that he can sometimes finish the race before it has been run. Top 3

**10: Pete Morrison:** Sire of champions, this old charger will be giggling as he qualified higher than the foal. He has dragged himself up from his hoofs. Started out with nothing, and he still has most of it! Not as

elegant a racer as a few in the field, but a tenacious battler. Could well cause an upset in the final, but my call is before the turn.

**9: Barry Jury:** This well presented cob has got a few demons to put to bed from the big race. He will certainly have more nerves than most around the first fence. If he gets going, he will take some stopping. Rumour has it that he has dumped his 3 wood and put a pogo stick in his bag to help clear the first. My call Demons beaten top 3.

**8: Terry Molloy:** Another one with the first fence wobbles. This heavy hooped Clydesdale promises much and the longer he can stay in the race the comfier he will become. You all may not know that in his younger days he made quite a few hearts flutter. He used to run the local greasy chip shop. My call, he will double his last effort. Out in 2

**7: Craig Bain:** Don't let the quiet demeanour of this impressive stallion put you off. Underneath the prim and proper façade hides an intelligent, scheming pacer. Who am I trying to kid? When god was giving out brains, Craig thought he said manes and asked for a nice thick one. Presently reading a book on the effects of anti gravity, says that it's so good he can't put it down. Great runner will be in the mix at the end.

**6: Grant Smith:** From the "Raspberry fields forever" stable. This hulking pit pony looks like he is all fire and brimstone. Strong on the course with good stamina. Will beat his chest and snarl around the birdcage before the race, but not a lot of people know that he is equally at home in the kitchen as the stable and his fairy cakes are to die for. Out before the turn.

**5: Richard McKernan:** This gelding has done so much sledging in his days, he should have a red nose, in more ways than one. Never short on giving advice, if its asked for or not. Ran brilliantly last year for the first 2 fences, before a big unceremonious fall. Will have learnt quite a bit from that. Bit of trouble on the home front his wife wasn't happy as he swapped their bed for a trampoline, she was so upset that she hit the roof. Out before the turn

**4: Blair Snowball:** This young strider with the flowing mane from the "1980's throwback" stable had a wonderful 2020 around the track. Many trophies now carry his name. can he back it up in the big race? has got all the skills but maybe not the patience. Has promised that if he fails to make the turn he is going to cut off his mane and donate it to me. My call? I think the hair is safe top 5

**3: Bevan Wilson:** The word "legend" is banded around a lot these days, from pulling a sword from a stone to coming back from the bar unexpectedly with chips to share!! This national treasure can carry the label. Graceful high stepper will command respect from every other racer. Much will be expected and anything but a top 3 will deemed as failure. My call? First faller

**2: Dylan Stoddart:** After running alongside his sibling last time out. This young buck finds himself carrying the family colours all on his own this time around. He is sure to start well. I reckon the best presented runner will be in the bag. The handicapper has been a bit savage recently. Can he carry the burden of a family's expectation? Will he be a disappointment to everyone he cares about? Ridiculed and disowned. My call? Yep, out at the turn.

**1: Bev Chinn:** This wonderful evergreen filly just doesn't know when she is beat. Returns to the big race year in year out. Regular top 5 and been in the top 2 twice. She is sure to start as overwhelming favourite. Could this be her year? If it is then no one can say she hasn't earned it. To improve her chances she recently took up yoga classes and was learning to do the splits. The teacher asked her how flexible she was and she said that she couldn't do Tuesdays or Thursdays!!! Top 5 again.

Well there they all are, if you didn't make the final then hard luck, but just think what I could have wrote about you!

Remember please take this as its written. My tongue is firmly in my cheek.

I think this is the strongest field we have ever had for the final, and I really have no idea who will stand proud on the 18<sup>th</sup> green. Good luck to all of you.

Thanks again to Hamish, Karen and the wonderful gang at Property Brokers. They have really got behind this shootout and made it one of the best games around.