

## Property Brokers Shootout Form Guide 2026

Well here we are again playmates, time to run the rule over the runners in this years final. We have a couple of race virgins a famous first faller, only one filly and no previous champs. Time has been a bit of an enemy this year, so maybe not as thoughtful as usual and when I'm under pressure I do go back to my, more base instincts. If the guide makes you chuckle then that's great, we must be friends. If it makes you "tut", then maybe, stop reading! As always please take my ramblings with a generous pinch of salt. Life is too short to not giggle at yourself. Me, I'm as happy as the man who was digging a hole in the garden and unearthed a bag of old gold coins, he ran inside to tell his wife. Then remembered why he was digging the hole in the first place! Play on!

**19<sup>th</sup> Brian Fauth (19):** The wonky donkey is back again and will only be better for his previous run. The king of the false starts, never had one, but the cause of hundreds. Will love the sedate early pace and has certainly got the game to put up a good show. My worry is, when the heat comes on after the turn, can he keep his composure. Won't need to worry about the turn, out in 6

**18<sup>th</sup> Dave Hampton (13):** Fresh out of Snow White's stable. This miniature Shetland rabbit is pound for pound one of the biggest hitters on the circuit. Had a wee bit of lower lumbar problem recently when lady owner wouldn't take no for an answer. Will be popped up on Voltaren and ibuprofen so if you catch him staring at the back of his hands or chasing invisible butterflies just guide him back to the track. Top 6

**17<sup>th</sup> Tonee Hurley (20):** This perfectly presented, prestigious prancer from the pristine, pink pony packhouse is back into the big race again. She ran well last time as I recall, but fell short of the expectations. Will be a lot more organised and confident this time out and I reckon she could well be a good outside bet. Makes the turn

**16<sup>th</sup> Terry Kingsbury (5):** The Greeks had Hercules, Romans had Apollo and the Vikings had Thor. Meet TK, 85kg of rippling sinew. The word legend is banded around willy nilly these days, but this Arabian breeder is up there and can dine with the Brandon gods. The great race is made for him. Steady as you go, no frills, hard graft, no mistakes, with a swing as well grooved as a Bee Gees greatest hits album. Out early

**15<sup>th</sup> Al Jopson (13):** This old grey, dray horse is back in the big time, he has had a couple of good runs before and will be confident of success. Never known for his sprinting abilities, not much of a stayer and his race strategy is about as well developed as General Custers. How the hell has he got in the final? I hear you say. Well, it beats me but I can't see him being there for long. Ladies and Gents I give you your first faller!

**14<sup>th</sup> Jason Overend (4):** Old Big Easy has served his apprenticeship and now he reckons its his turn. The last two Big Races had looked to be in the bag as he glided around the track, hardly missing a beat, but a wee slip at the 14<sup>th</sup> fence 2 years ago cost him dearly and finding the sand at the final fence last year meant a second place finish. I reckon the third time will be a charm, and charm is this stud donkey's middle name. A wonderful blend of James Bond, Ernie Els and Jake the muss. Top 3

**13<sup>th</sup> Hayden McMillan (11):** This hunky stud muffin is back in the big race and very big things are expected. He has put in the work, done the hard yards and at long last we are seeing some decent results. He will be hoping for a nice easy pace through the first nine so he can unleash his lethal sprint finish at the end. Chatting recently he got a bit nostalgic and told me that he remembers the people he has lost along the way. Maybe running an adventure tour company wasn't a good career choice after all. Out in first 9

**12<sup>th</sup> Simon Cabout (16):** The young stud of the field, will really fancy his chances. He just has to look around the dress circle at the old donkeys he is against and he will start making his victory speech. His only problem may well be over confidence. The job still has to be done, fences need to be cleared one at a time. My thoughts is that his ADHD will kick in and he will be off chasing a squirrel, out in the first 3

**11<sup>th</sup> Brendon Davidson (4):** This fiery Honey badger is back in the great race again, and whatever he lacks in size he more than makes up for in effort, so lovely lady owner tells us! He got to the final fence a couple of years back and was almost crowned champion. It was just unlucky that on that day he came face to face with one of the greatest racers of our time, a future Hall of fame legend, so he didn't really stand a chance. This could be his year though, after strength and conditioning, his throwing arm is stronger than ever and he has had to have the bottom of his bag re-enforced. Seeing as his nemesis missed out, I make him favorite.

**10<sup>th</sup> Henry Lawrence (20):** Henry, Henry, Henry why the hell do you put yourself through it. All the stress and pressure for just two fences. He has been in the great race for the last 5 years now and has been an early faller in all of them. He surprised everyone two years back when he cleared the 5<sup>th</sup> fence, but the altitude of the 6<sup>th</sup> was just too much for him. He began looking unsteady on his hoofs, had a vertigo attack, got a nose bleed and passed out in the long grass. If he does have serious thoughts of a big run this year he will need, breathing apparatus and spare oxygen bottles. Where will he finish? What do you think? No change!

**9<sup>th</sup> John Duncan (12):** This beast of a bronco, came in from the clouds in the final qualifying round. Handicapper may well have snipped him a smidge but I reckon he can carry it. This one is an angry racer, other horses will have to give him a wide berth. Has been known to kick and bite. We will need some strong officials on track and he might have to run in blinkers and a muzzle, my thoughts are top 5

**8<sup>th</sup> Ken Clucas (20):** Young Kenny is by far the biggest enigma running around the Brandon track. He has been in a few big races now, never really troubled the scorers and who can forget some 15 years ago when he was our first ever faller and set the tone for the life of this beast. He has all the skills and attitude to compete at top level. Always runs better without the left handed anchor (say that when you're drunk) holding him back. I honestly believe he could go all the way this year. Top 6

**7<sup>th</sup> Matt Young (14):** This painted pony has had a couple of decent runs in the great race and now looks at home and is firmly established there. Could this be the year that he pushes for honors? He always looks stylish as he prances around the dress circle and seems to exude confidence. He certainly has the game to give it a crack and the smart money may well back him. What do I think? He has as much chance as a one legged man in an arse kicking contest. Early faller

**6<sup>th</sup> Geoff Wright (23):** One of the race virgins to pick on. This racer is a bit of a mystery to me as I have never seen him run. People in the know tell me, not to let first impressions cloud my judgement and that he is actually a multi-talented athlete. Well, all I can say is I must have been looking at the wrong racer, because the only thing that screamed athlete was the fungus between his toes. I have been wrong before though and he could well be a champion stayer with tons of skill and energy. It's a hell of a disguise though! Out early

**5<sup>th</sup> Rob Coyle (13):** This gnarled old pit pony really struggled when the mines closed and he was thrown on the scrap heap. Luckily a donkey rescue charity took up his case and he was sponsored by a lovely family from Beirut. Since then he has gone from strength to strength and found a new life on the track. A few of his old mining habits still come in now and again. He just loves digging deep holes in the bunkers and the bright sun hurts his eyes so he runs a lot in the trees. Somewhere around the turn

**4<sup>th</sup> Adrian Hopwood (6):** This stallion's sprinting days may be a fading memory, but he has re-invented himself as a top stayer. He just does what he does and by gum no one does it better. Handicapper seems to be playing ball so he hasn't had a big snip yet. Rumour going around that lady owner tried to talk him into doing "Dry January" and she was over the moon when he agreed to it. Until she found out that he thought it just meant, no foreplay. Will be a contender, top 3

**3<sup>rd</sup> Gary Stratford (17):** This pocket Shihtzadoodle, another out of the Snow White stable finds himself in the great race. I'm not sure if he has been in the race before as my previous records were lost due to a big night of Guinness recently. If he has previous, then it must have been remarkably unremarkable. However his name is always around the top of the card in the weekly runs around the Brandon track, can he up grade to the big time? Lets see. Early faller

**2<sup>nd</sup> Perry Hunt (19):** I am going to be really nice to my good mate. Old Hairy Punt has had a tough run recently. One good race where every bounce was favorable and the handicapper sliced and diced him. He was cut quicker than the Cosby Show, for him to do any good he will need as big a bounce back as AJ Hackett. If it wasn't for his unwavering self-confidence you would write him off now, but his never say die fighting spirit could well get him into the later stages. If he gets his first drive away, then watch out. Top 5

**1<sup>st</sup> Mark Smitheram (11):** First time runner and straight in as top seed. Those in the know have told me that he is not a flash in the pan. It has taken him years of sweat, blood and tears to be this mediocre. He has certainly put in the training and will be very well backed. I'm just not sure how his game will handle the pressure cooker environment. He is the walking embodiment that you are never totally useless, even when you are so far down and you think there is no where else to go, you are still useful as a bad example! Every cloud eh!

A top qualifier has never won the big race, can Smithers change that? I don't think so, makes the turn, just.

There you go, all 19 racers, we are definitely, going to be getting a first time champ. Who is going to win? That's anyones guess, but you can make that choice and put your money down. We will be having an auction for all the racers after golf on Saturday around 5pm. Then the big race itself kicks off on Sunday 18th at 10am, all racers to be onsite before 9:45 for race instructions. For those not racing, come along and join the fun, its always a great day, especially the first tee. We will have a drinks cart following the game so come down and make a day out of it.

Thanks again must go to Hamish and Karen and the crew at Property Brokers for continuing to support this great tournament. We are so lucky that they got on board and breathed a life into it, that has seen it grow to into something nobody really expected some 16 years ago.

Cheers , Good racing!!

