

PROPERTY BROKERS SHOOTOUT

FORM GUIDE 2019

So here we find ourselves again, it hardly seems a year has passed, since 19 bright eyed and bushy tailed hopefuls took to the course to run the 2018 great race. After the dust settled old Arkwright stood on the battered and broken bodies around him, held his putter aloft like Excalibur and proclaimed himself King, until Alison gave him a clip around the ear and put him back in his place. But back we are with a new gaggle of nere do wells. A mixture of hardened race veterans and doe eyed virgins, with Arkwright nowhere to be seen. We will now run the rule over this lucky few and see who we reckon is good for a flutter. Now remember, no animals were harmed in the writing of this guide, and any resemblance to any person living or dead is purely coincidental.

19TH: BEV CHINN: An almost ever present in the big race, this feisty filly has made the last 2 a couple of years back, and the final 4 on numerous occasions. The handicapper is always good to her. She definitely knows how to plot the race and doesn't know the meaning of the word defeat. Can this bridesmaid become the bride? Think she needs to buy a dictionary to learn the meaning, out at the turn.

18th: BRENDON DAVIDSON: This old wonky donkey's form guide is a bit of a roller coaster. He has more up and downs than Madonna's knickers. He could well win the race at a canter leaving the field in his dust, or he could fall at the first. Thoughts? I wouldn't back him with your money. Out before the turn

17th: WENDY PARR: Lovely little Shetland pony has challenged in the big race a few times before, but has struggled on some of the higher fences. Ever caring owner has purchased a portable step ladder for her, and rumour is that she may run in heels, out at the 5th again.

16th: DAVE HEWITT: A fine sire of great gallopers, still loves to prove that there is still a lot of kick in the old bronco. Knows every blade of grass around the course, spends so much time out there he has even named them all. Early exit and back on the mower.

15th: ERIC PARR: Turns out that the stable owner wasn't happy with the form of the filly entered. So this big strapping thoroughbred has been sent in to show her the way. Could be a side bet going on with the stable honours at stake. Think the filly will pip it as she will make it past the 3rd.

14th: TOM BLACKLOW: A frisky young gelding with a wonderful well proven pedigree. Will want to perform well in the great race. The sedate pace of the big day might be a bit slow for him. Known as more of a sprinter. The local lady jockey's say that he has normally finished the race before they have even started. Out early.

13th: SEAN STRANGE: Another excitable young stallion, he will bounce around the parade ring flicking his wonderful mane. Again great Brandon pedigree, sired by kings, and Auntie Janet gave wonderful performances in the first two big races. What a let down for the family. One of the first to fall.

12th: BILL HETRICK: The word legend is banded around willy nilly these days, but this old stayer is up there with Phar Lap, Red Rum and Mr Ed. Always manages to qualify for the race and always goes deep. The handicapper has been kind, could this be his year. Well into the back 9.

11th: HAMISH NILES: This well-presented show pony, is more used to the promotional side of racing, than actually getting his hoofs dirty. On his day can beat all comers, not sure if race day will be his day, or today will be tomorrow, but I'm sure that yesterday isn't next week! I've seemed to have lost my train of thought. Oh yeah out in 5.

10th: TERRY MOLLOY: This big Clydesdale is new to the big race, but has good history in other races. I don't think the occasion will worry him too much. From what this writer has seen, a strong temperament, good confidence, backed up by great skills. Shame, out in 2.

9th: LUCAS MCGEE: Another young gelding who has galloped over the bridge to run on a proper course. Will trot around the track in awe of the Brandon legends around him. Hopefully he can keep his hoofs on the ground and not start asking for autographs. Out in 5

8th: TUFUGA SA: If this old stud horse was any more laid back he would be asleep. Has been the form horse of the past season, causing big waves in last years championship races. This is a different scenario now and the gentle pace of the race will suit him early, but I don't think there is much chance of a sprint finish. Should make the back 9.

7th: GORDON CRAWFORD: An unorthodox galloper but always seems to get around the course. Many trainers have attempted to change his style to a more contemporary one, but old GC just laughs them off and continues on his merry way into mediocrity. Has got all the tools for the job could go deep.

6th: PADDY BRADFORD: What can we say about this magnificent beast that he has not already said about himself. Shy, retiring and a total lack of confidence. If he could just sort out these minor faults he may well find himself amongst the Brandon legends. Oh yeah and he is very modest as well! Back 9 just.

5th: GREIG SPARROW: Some horses are built to be sprinters and some are meant to be stayers, this one doesn't quite fit into any of these normal groupings, and continues to search for his own niche. A bit of an enigma, roots firmly based in traditional values and rules, but can still swing it with the hip young stallions. Has dipped his toe in the big race before, may have to take his socks off this time. Could be his year. Final 3

4th: RICHARD MCKERNAN: This gelding's last race was a very memorable one. He was galloping nicely following a zebra, he looked left and right to see a giraffe and a fire truck. Panic set in when he looked behind to see a dragon chasing him, he was screaming for help until the carny jumped on and told him to get his drunken arse off the carousel. May run in blinkers this time and the rest of the field in ear muffs. Should go well, final 5.

3rd: RAY LAMBERT: Old leaky finds himself back in the big race again. He loves the big occasions and thrives on atmosphere. Being one of the top qualifiers will bring added pressure. This stallion just thumbs his nose to adversity and absorbs pressure like a steam cooker. Just don't stand too close if his valve starts leaking. Should make the turn.

2nd: BRUCE DAY: Ex-champion stayer, knows what it takes to get around the course in the big race, fleet of hoof, powerful fetlocks and strong heart are all things he describes himself as having. Has enjoyed the spring galloping around different courses across the globe. Lady owner is threatening a one-way trip to the glue factory if there is no payback for all the gallivanting, but with 40 minutes for the first fence, he may find the early pace too brisk. Final 3.

1st: GABY JANSEN: Top qualifier, only attempted to run in the big race once before, and he promptly won it at a canter. He will certainly be the horse to beat again. Graceful, calm, confident and handsome are all traits he wished he had. Spoke with owner recently and she let slip that another win this year might earn him a trip to the stud farm. I don't think she should have told him, because now instead of hurdling he will be pole vaulting. Top 3 again

Well there you go, 19 of Brandon's best. I hope this guide helps you tip toe through the murky world of betting. We will be holding an auction to sell these donkeys on Saturday 19th Jan after the Opening Day game. The big race itself is on Sunday 27th, runners report at 9:30 am for a 10am start. Come on down and bid in the auction, I think there will be a couple of cheap ones. Then follow the game and cheer for your favourite. It is always lots of fun. Thanks again to the Great Gang at Property Brokers.