

Supreme Novices' Hurdle

In-Running Guide

1.30pm, Tuesday 16th March

Finding the winner?

The Stats

(last 10 renewals with most recent results on right and in bold)

Winner's Age	4, 6, 8, 6, 6, 5, 5, 6, 7, 6
Winner's SP	9/2, 14/1, 7/4f, 3/1f, 7/2f, 20/1, 6/1, 40/1, 17/2, 12/1
Fate of Favourite	Unseated, 3 rd , 1 st , 1 st , 1 st , 13 th , 5 th , 3 rd , 2 nd (jf), 5th
Winning Distance	17, 3/4, nk, 10, nk, 6, nk, 3, 2, nk
Previous run	1 st , 1 st , 1 st , 1 st , 1 st , 3 rd , 1 st , 1 st , 1 st , 1st

Previous Winners

<i>Year</i>	<i>Winner</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Trainer</i>	<i>Odds</i>
2009	Go Native	6	N Meade	12/1
2008	Captain Cee Bee	7	E P Harty	17/2
2007	Ebaziyan	6	W P Mullins	40/1
2006	Noland	5	P Nicholls	6/1
2005	Arcalis	5	J H Johnson	20/1
2004	Brave Inca	6	C Murphy	7/2F
2003	Back In Front	6	E O'Grady	3/1F
2002	Like-A-Butterfly	8	C Roche	7/4F
2000	Sausalito Bay	6	N Meade	14/1
1999	Hors La Loi III	4	M Pipe	9/2

The Trends

- **5 of the last 9 renewals have gone to a 6-year-old.**

(Get Me Out Of Here, Bellvano, Loosen My Load and Pepe Simo are the leading fancies from that age group entered in the contest this year)

- **7 of the last 9 winners have been trained in Ireland.**

(Dunguib, Blackstairmountain and Flat Out are the leading Irish entries this year)

- **3 out of the last 9 winners have gone off favourite for the race.**

(Dunguib is likely to go off one of the shortest priced favourites ever in the Supreme Novices')

- **Definitely worth concentrating on fresh horses** (less than 3 runs in the current season).

(Oscar Whisky, Blackstairmountain and Bellvano have the right profile of the main contenders)

- If the ground description is “Good” then concentrate on the speedier Flat Bred types but if it is “Good to Soft” or worse, then look to get with the National Hunt and better staying types as the races are usually run at a decent clip, therefore stamina comes into play.

- J P McManus owned runners have a good record in this event. He won the race in 2002 and 2008 and his overall record is 5 placed horses from 8 runners in 9 years which, considering the competitiveness of this race, is a stat worth noting.

*(McManus has entered **Get Me Out Of Here** and **Bellvano** in this year's contest)*

In-Running Trading Advice

It will be fascinating to see how the inexperienced Brian O'Connell rides red-hot favourite Dunguib. He sat well off the pace when they teamed up to win the Bumper here last year, but surely a repeat of such exaggerated waiting tactics will be suicidal, especially with question

marks surrounding his mount's jumping. The race always attracts a large field, and apart from 2006, when Noland flew from the clouds in a fast run affair, it has definitely paid dividends to be handy, and last year the first two home – Go Native and Medermit – both made their moves simultaneously at the third last. Remember that if you are with the speedier types and the race is run on conditions described as 'good to soft' or worse, then it may blunt their finishing kick preventing them from finding as much as expected. Plenty of ex-Flat racers have come there swinging off the bridle at the second last, only not to get home, and the climb from the last can seem like Mount Everest!

Here's a look at some of the leading contenders and some trading advice if you are looking to get involved in-running....

Dunguib

Potential - Back in-running

Philip Fenton's superstar looks set to go off one of the shortest favourites ever for the Supreme Novices' and the weight of Irish money will be on the shoulders of this outstanding seven-year-old. He has barely been off the bridle in his career, but his jumping wasn't great last time and that appears to be the only chink in his armour. In-running punters will have their eyes fixed on this fellow throughout the race and if he smashes a couple of early hurdles, he looks sure to trade odds against. It also seems more than likely that Brian O'Connell will again adopt patient tactics and switch Dunguib off at the back of the field. That may be the time to step in, as the strong pace is likely to help his jumping as the race heats up and if he's there or thereabouts coming down the hill he will trade incredibly short.

Oscar Whisky

Potential - Back to Lay

Nicky Henderson's number one candidate hasn't been truly tested in four career outings and travels supremely well in his races. He showed he could handle a track with an uphill finish last time when he comfortably defeated his rivals at Sandown, but that is a million miles away from the Supreme Novices' at Cheltenham. Barry Geraghty will settle him just behind the leaders and he looks the most likely of the leading contenders aside from Dunguib to trade considerably shorter in-running. The big question is whether he will get up the hill and his trainer won't need reminding about how well his Amaretto Rose was travelling three years ago before finding nothing off the bridle. It may well pay to hit the escape button at the top of the hill.

Get Me Out Of Here

Potential - Back in-running

Another who has yet to be beaten over hurdles and a major benefit for his supporters is that he has experience of big fields. He is always held up and with a number of the market principals racing up with the pace there is every chance that he could trade bigger in-running than his starting price. This race has generally gone to those racing up with the pace recently but Go Native proved last year that you can win after being dropped in. The worry would be that he hammered the last flight at Newbury but he has the ideal jockey in Tony McCoy to bully him all the way to the line.

Menorah

Potential - Back to Lay

He is a difficult one to weigh up, as on his Kempton form over Christmas he would have to go very close in this race. However, that has sandwiched two slightly disappointing runs where, admittedly, the races may not have been run to suit. He will appreciate a decent pace and if he is positioned handily he's another who will surely trade shorter in-running. Philip Hobbs has had some decent hurdlers in his time, but none good enough to win this race and Menorah looks another who may well flatter to deceive when looking a serious danger two out.

Blackstairmountain

Potential – Back in-running

Another hugely inexperienced hurdler who won his only ever run over the timbers at Punchestown at the end of January. He was earmarked as the value bet for the race by the Racing Post's pricewise last month and his price has collapsed accordingly. It is very difficult to assign a particular running style to this fellow as he dismissed an ordinary looking field in the manner a Cheltenham bound runner ought to. He was delivered late approaching the final flight and he looks sure to be covered up again. His supporters are advised to back him in-running as he may well trade at a more realistic price with plenty of his more fancied rivals well ahead of him.