

Irish Independent Arkle Chase

In-Running Guide

2.05pm, Tuesday 16th March

Finding the winner?

The Stats

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

Winner's Age	5, 7, 8, 6, 5, 7, 5, 7, 7, 7
Winner's SP	11/1, 8/1, 11/2, 5/4f, 9/1, 7/1, 15/2, 7/2, 6/1, 8/1
Fate of Favourite	5 th , 3 rd , 2 nd , 1 st , Fell, 7 th , 7 th , 2 nd , 3 rd , Fell
Winning Distance	2 1/2, 8, 4, 11, 1, 1, 1 1/4, 5, 13, Shd
Previous run	1 st , 1 st , Fell, 1 st , 1 st , 3 rd , 1 st , 1 st , 2 nd , 2 nd

Previous Winners

<i>Year</i>	<i>Winner</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Trainer</i>	<i>Odds</i>
2009	Forpadydeplasterer	7	T Cooper	8/1
2008	Tidal Bay	7	J Howard Johnson	6/1
2007	My Way de Solzen	7	A King	7/2
2006	Voy Por Ustedes	5	A King	15/2
2005	Contraband	7	M Pipe	7/1
2004	Well Chief	5	M Pipe	9/1
2003	Azertyuiop	6	P Nicholls	5/4F
2002	Moscow Flyer	8	Mrs J Harrington	11/2
2000	Tiutchev	7	N Henderson	8/1
1999	Flagship Uberalles	4	P Nicholls	11/1

The Trends

- **French bred horses have won 7 of the last 15 renewals.**

*(Tataniano and Osana are the leading French bred fancies in the contest this year, although if **Long Run** did line up he would be high on the list)*

- **Terrible race for favourites with just one successful market leader since 1992.**

*(Not great news for supporters of **Captain Cee Bee**)*

- **Only one 9-year-old has won since 1957.**

*(Another terrible stat for those who have backed likely favourite **Captain Cee Bee**)*

- **10 of the last 12 winners started 2nd, 3rd or 4th favourite.**

*(At this stage connections of **Somersby**, **Sizing Europe**, **Riverside Theatre**, **Sports Line** and **Tataniano** have reasons to be optimistic)*

- The key is to be with a horse that has **experience of big fields; travels well throughout** and **has no stamina issues.**

In-Running Trading Advice

Look for those ridden positively as four of the last five winners have been in the van throughout. While more patient tactics are always employed on last year's short head runner-up Kalahari King, doubtless, in hindsight, connections might have wished that they had laid a little closer to the leaders as Forpadytheplasterer, the eventual winner, was snapping at their heels from the outset and set sail for home at the bend after the second last. In contrast, Kalahari King was still in only 11th place jumping two out and even at the final fence was just fourth, so it was a herculean effort to get so close. Invariably, the race changes dramatically at the notoriously tricky second last – remember 2007 and the independent falls of Twist Magic and Don't Push It? This downhill fence has claimed more victims than four out, three out and the last fence combined since 2003. There is only one fence jumped in the home straight on the Old Course, so rarely does the picture change from the final bend. Prior to Kalahari King, only Fair Along and Foreman have emerged from the pack late on in recent seasons.

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

Captain Cee Bee

Potential – Lay in-running

He was mightily impressive when winning the Supreme Novices' two years ago and he would be three from three over fences if he hadn't tipped up at the last against Sizing Europe over Christmas. His jumping has generally been very impressive and he travels like a dream, so is unlikely to trade much bigger than his starting price. However, he came down at Leopardstown and it might be that the right time to press the escape button is approaching the notorious second last.

Sizing Europe

Potential - Back to Lay

Henry De Bromhead's stable star is unbeaten in four starts over fences and his jumping has been that of a natural. However, it's highly unlikely that he would have remained unbeaten had Captain Cee Bee not fallen at the last at Leopardstown on Boxing Day. There is little doubt that Sizing is supremely talented and it could just be that chasing has made a man of him and that he can take this on the way to bigger and better things. The main problem for anyone backing him, though, is the way he capitulated in the Champion Hurdle. There were legitimate excuses that day, but because he's such a strong traveller, he could be a very short price around the second last and I'd be looking to get him beat after that. The Cheltenham hill is not for the faint-hearted and he could start treading water again.

Somersby

Potential – Back in-running / Lay to Back

He was a very decent novice hurdler last season, finishing third and just 3 lengths behind Go Native in what now seems to have been a hot Supreme Novices'. However, chasing was always going to be his game and his trainer reckons he's more of a future Gold Cup horse than a Champion Chaser. He has been almost faultless in his two chase wins this season, but there is a chance he may get tapped for toe coming down the hill. That's exactly what happened in the Supreme before he ate up the ground on the run-in and he could trade bigger before 'Choc' Thornton makes his challenge rounding the home bend.

Riverside Theatre

Potential – Back to Lay

The Jimmy Nesbitt-owned six-year-old has a very similar profile to Somersby in that he is unbeaten in two career chase starts and has looked a much better animal since tackling the bigger obstacles. One concern would be that nine of his ten career starts have been on a flat

track, although he didn't run badly when third to Hurricane Fly at Punchestown last April, with Go Native 1 ½ lengths back in fourth. He travels supremely well in his races and could look like the winner coming towards the second last, but that would be the time to get out as there's absolutely no guarantee that he will get up the hill.

Sports Line

Potential – Back to Lay

He is another definitely on the upgrade and was perhaps unlucky to lose to An Cathaoir Mor in the Irish Arkle at Leopardstown in January. Willie Mullins' runner will attempt to make the running, but he is yet to race on anything better than a yielding surface and there has to be a doubt that he will be fast enough to live with them as the pace quickens approaching the third last. His price may well have contracted low enough by then, though, for us to make a decent profit with a back to lay strategy.