

Ladbrokes World Hurdle

In-Running Guide

3.20pm, Thursday 18th March

Finding the winner?

The Stats

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

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Winner's Age | 8, 6, 7, 8, 7, 6, 6, 8, 9, 6 |
| Winner's SP | 40/1, 11/2, 13/8f, 9/4f, 9/2, 5/1, 8/1, 5/1, 11/8f, 6/1 |
| Fate of Favourite | 2 nd , 6 th , 1 st , 1 st , 2 nd , 2 nd , 3 rd , Fell, 1 st , 4th |
| Winning Distance | Nk, 1, nk, 3/4, 1 1/2, 3, hd, 3/4, 1, 1 3/4 |
| Previous run | 2 nd , 2 nd , 1 st , 2 nd , 2 nd , 1 st , 1 st , 2 nd , 1 st , 1st |

Previous Winners

| <i>Year</i> | <i>Winner</i> | <i>Age</i> | <i>Trainer</i> | <i>Odds</i> |
|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 2009 | Big Buck's | 6 | P F Nicholls | 6/1 |
| 2008 | Inglis Drever | 9 | J H Johnson | 11/8f |
| 2007 | Inglis Drever | 8 | J H Johnson | 5/1 |
| 2006 | My Way De Solzen | 6 | A King | 8/1 |
| 2005 | Inglis Drever | 6 | J H Johnson | 5/1 |
| 2004 | Iris's Gift | 7 | Jonjo O'Neill | 9/2 |
| 2003 | Baracouda | 8 | F Doumen | 9/4JF |
| 2002 | Baracouda | 8 | F Doumen | 13/8F |
| 2000 | Bacchanal | 6 | N Henderson | 11/2 |
| 1999 | Anzum | 8 | D Nicholson | 40/1 |

The Trends

- **No Irish trained winner since 1996**

(Mourad, War Of Attrition, Cousin Vinny and Powerstation will be bidding to end Ireland's drought).

- **No 5-year-old has ever won.**

(Mourad has it all to do on the trends).

- **The last 20 winners all finished in the first four in their prep race.**

(Cousin Vinny and Lie Forrit are the leading contenders who finished out of the 'four' in their prep races).

In-Running Trading Advice

The same old characters seem to turn up every year, but sadly, those evergreen veterans Inglis Drever and Baracouda, who have been responsible for five of the last eight wins, have moved on, but now we have Big Buck's trying to successfully defend his crown – and he is still only a seven-year-old! Big Buck's is very similar to Inglis Drever in that he, too, is inclined to hit a flat spot during his races, but, like Graham Wylie's magnificent stayer, he is capable of finding plenty off the bridle, so the message to his supporters is even when things look gloomy don't go searching for the panic button. Invariably, this race runs true to form, though last year punters were convinced that Punchestowns would avenge his Cleeve Hurdle defeat by Big Bucks on 8lb better terms and backed him accordingly. However, it was French challenger Kasbah Bliss, a Group horse on the Flat, who went off favourite, only to run out of steam coming off the final bend, with Big Buck's surviving a hairy jump at the last to outrun Punchestowns up the hill for a memorable victory. Big Buck's is an exceptional stayer, but, like Inglis Drever, he will never make the race enjoyable for his supporters.

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

Big Buck's

Potential – Back in-running and Lay in-running

Some have argued that the biggest danger to Big Buck's in the World Hurdle is Ruby Walsh getting injured. Together they are quite simply brilliant. They have won eight of nine races as a partnership and all six over hurdles. Andy Stewart's seven-year-old has been a revelation since reverting to hurdles and there's no doubt that he's a complicated ride. Ruby has mastered

the stalking approach with him and you had to feel for Barry Geraghty and Punchestowns last season when they were outgunned twice up the Cheltenham hill. Big Buck's runs in snatches and although many in-running punters will be aware of this, it wouldn't be a surprise to see his price go odds-against if Ruby is pushing along at the top of the hill. That normally acts as the horse's wake-up call and he will undoubtedly trade very short up the home straight. He has some decent animals to contend with this year, though, so it may also be worth looking to get out at a really short price.

Karabak

Potential - Back to Lay

Alan King's runner is a very decent yardstick and there is absolutely no disgrace in finishing second to Zaynar and Big Buck's in his two outings this season, especially with the stable under a cloud at those times. He probably wasn't given the best of rides in the Ballymore last year and AP McCoy will surely keep him up slightly closer with the pace this time. With Big Buck's normally taking a while to warm up to his task, a la Inglis Drever, there's every chance that the strong travelling Karabak will trade artificially short and it would be surprising if he managed to hold off Paul Nicholls' star hurdler.

Tidal Bay

Potential - Back in-running

A number of comparisons can be drawn between Tidal Bay and Big Buck's this time last year. The former Arkle winner had been struggling over fences before bouncing back to form in the Cleeve Hurdle at Cheltenham – a race which has been won by the subsequent World Hurdle winner for the past two years. He was held up that day and was actually looking in trouble turning in, but found plenty for pressure, albeit receiving a 4lb pull in the weights from runner-up Time For Rupert. The way he travels suggests he will be another who will trade big in-running, so look to get with Howard Johnson's runner as soon as he looks in trouble.

Sentry Duty

Potential – Back to Lay

Has only had the one run this season but is a '10lb better horse' when fresh. That race was a fairly comfortable victory at Cheltenham on New Year's Day, beating Katchit and Mr Thriller, dispelling the theory that he doesn't handle the undulations of Prestbury Park. He is a classy horse and travels beautifully throughout his races, although the big question for punters here is if he will stay. No-one knows the answer to that question – not even his trainer Nicky Henderson – but the strength in which he travels suggests he will trade shorter. He is up against top quality, gutsy stayers in Big Buck's and Tidal Bay though and I'd prefer to press the exit button before the final two flights.

Powerstation

Potential - Back to be placed in-running

Not the flashiest of types, but he has been placed in three Festivals and there's every chance of him nicking third here as that will be his main target. There will be a time when he will look completely beaten and that is when he should be backed to be placed. He is a true stayer and will go past beaten horses who have already given their all on the run-in.