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TODAY'S FREE SPORTS BETTING TIPS...

Value Wins

Win Bet - Cheltenham 14:50 - Footpad @ 9/2

The Master Plan

Win Bet - Market Rasen 17:05 - Comprade @ 5/2

Neo Investments

Win Bet - Hexham 17:50 - Toi Storey @ 7/2

Race In Focus: Aintree Hurdle - By Ian Hudson

Aintree, Thursday April 4th 2019 - Two miles and four furlongs for horses aged four and older with 11 hurdles.

Description

The Aintree Hurdle is the Aintree Grand National meeting's version of the Champion Hurdle but the tracks are different. Cheltenham is undulating with an uphill finish while Aintree is flat. The race was first run in 1979 over two miles five and a half furlongs but the race was shortened to its current distance in 1988. The Aintree Hurdle attracts horses who contested the Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham and Buveur' D'Air is the last horse to win both races in 2017. The two previous winners of the race also won the Champion Hurdle. Therefore, the race has earned the status as the second most prestigious conditions contest over hurdles for experienced horses during the season. Novices rarely take part as they have their own Grade 1 races.

Winners Since 2009

Year	Horse	Jockey	Trainer	SP
2009	Solwhit	Davy Russell	Charles Byrnes	6/1
2010	Khyber Kim	Paddy Brennan	Nigel Twiston-Davies	7/2
2011	Oscar Whisky	Barry Geraghty	Nicky Henderson	6/1
2012	Oscar Whisky	Barry Geraghty	Nicky Henderson	9/4
2013	Zarkandar	Ruby Walsh	Paul Nicholls	11/2
2014	The New One	Sam Twiston-Davies	Nigel Twiston-Davies	4/9F
2015	Jezki	Tony McCoy	Jessica Harrington	3/1
2016	Annie Power	Ruby Walsh	Willie Mullins	4/9F
2017	Buveur D'Air	Barry Geraghty	Nicky Henderson	4/9F
2018	L'Ami Serge	Daryl Jacob	Nicky Henderson	5/1

Trends

- The average price of the winner was almost 10/3.
- The SPs ranged from 4/9 to 6/1.
- There were three winning favourites.
- Each winning favourite was returned at 4/9.
- No winners started at double figure odds.
- 7 winners were priced from 9/4 to 6/1.
- Nicky Henderson won the race 4 times.
- Barry Geraghty is a three-time winner.
- The Henderson/Geraghty partnership was successful three times.
- 3 winners were trained in Ireland by different trainers.
- The most popular age of the winner was six.

- The previous older winner was a 10-year-old in 2000.

Records

Morley Street won the race a record four times from 1990 to 1993.

Ruby Walsh is the leading jockey with five wins between 2002 and 2016.
The leading trainer is Toby Balding with five wins (1989 to 1993).

Leading Contenders

There was no betting market on March 13th 2019.

Nicky Henderson is not averse to running his Cheltenham horses at Aintree three weeks later so he could enter BUVEUR D'AIR. The horse fell at the third hurdle in the Champion Hurdle so we will never know if he was about to win the race for the third successive year. However, it would have taken a career best performance to have beaten ESPOIR D'ALLEN who won the Champion Hurdle by 15 lengths. Irish trained horses are generally saved for Punchestown at the end of April. SILVER STREAK was the best placed of the British trained runners but the Irish mares underperformed and the value of the form is questionable. If an outstanding novice emerges at the Cheltenham Festival that horse could take part and the distance means CHAMP would have that potential depending on his run at Cheltenham.

Tip: Buveur D'Air

Next Week's Race

Melling Chase

Previous Tips

Supreme Novices' Hurdle - Tornado Flyer at 16/1 (now 33/1). DID NOT RUN.

Arkle Challenge Trophy - Lalor at 5/1 (now 3/1). PULLED UP.

Champion Hurdle - Laurina at 4/1 (now 4/1). FOURTH.

RSA Chase - Topofthegame at 8/1 (now 9/2).

Champion Chase - Altior at 4/7 (now 1/2).

Ryanair Chase - Waiting Patiently 7/1 (Non-runner).

Paisley Park - Stayers Hurdle 9/4 (now 15/8).

Triumph Hurdle - Sir Erec 6/4 (now 5/4).

Gold Cup - Bellshill 14/1 (now 12/1).

Betway Bowl – Might Bite - No price yet.

Today's Sports Betting Preview - By Rick Elliott

Another National On The Cards For Tiger Roll

The last four races at Cheltenham yesterday were won by well backed favourites and Ireland lead Britain 8-6 in the race to train most winners and keep the Prestbury Cup. Tiger Roll won the cross country chase for the second successive year and is on course to win back-to-back Grand Nationals. The horse has now won at four consecutive Festivals and yesterday's victory was never in doubt. TIGER ROLL is in fine form and despite a weight hike looks a horse to back at 6/1 with **Betfair** to win the Grand National at Aintree next month.

The feature of the third day is the Stayers' Hurdle over three miles at 3.30. Racing over the next two days is on the New Course which presents a greater test of stamina. The most interesting runner is Faugheen who is attempting to complete the Champion Hurdle/Stayers' Hurdle double which has never been achieved. The horse is three from three over this distance when completing the course and the trainer has won the race in the last two years. However, PAISLEY PARK was impressive over course and distance in January so is the selection at 7/4 with **Paddy Power**.

All four English clubs have qualified for the quarter finals of the Champions League after winning the away legs of their last 16 ties. It is a free draw on Friday so the odds are heavily in favour of at least one Premier League match-up in next round. Meanwhile Arsenal and Chelsea are flying the flag for England in the Europa League. Arsenal have to overturn a 3-1 deficit against Rennes at the Emirates this evening. One early goal changes the dynamic and a 2-0 win is enough to progress. ARSENAL can do enough to win the tie and are 17/20 with **Betfair** to do just that.