



BetFan

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TODAY'S FREE SPORTS BETTING TIPS...

[Footie Flutters](#)

Win Bet - Betis v Sociedad 19:30 - Betis @ 2.07

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Win Bet - Southwell 14:25 - Black Salt @ 2/1

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Win Bet - Clonmel 15:45 - Kiera Royale @ 6/1

Race In Focus: Arkle Challenge Trophy Chase - By Ian Hudson

Cheltenham Tuesday March 12th 2019.

Two miles steeplechase for horses aged five and over with 13 fences.

Description

The Arkle Challenge Trophy is the championship race for novice chasers over the minimum distance. It now has a fixed place in the calendar as the second race on the first day of the Cheltenham Festival. The winner of the race often becomes a leading contender for the Champion Chase the following season. This is the most prestigious two mile chase in the calendar and Altior was the winner in 2018 having won the Arkle Challenge Trophy the previous year. The current sponsors are the Racing Post.

Winners Since 2009

Year	Horse	Jockey	Trainer	SP
2009	Forpadytheplasterer	Barry Geraghty	Tom Cooper	8/1
2010	Sizing Europe	Andrew Lynch	Henry de Bromhead	6/1
2011	Captain Chris	Richard Johnson	Philip Hobbs	6/1
2012	Sprinter Sacre	Barry Geraghty	Nicky Henderson	8/11F
2013	Simonsig	Barry Geraghty	Nicky Henderson	8/15F
2014	Western Warhorse	Tom Scudamore	David Pipe	33/1
2015	Un de Sceaux	Ruby Walsh	Willie Mullins	4/6F
2016	Douvan	Ruby Walsh	Willie Mullins	1/4F
2017	Altior	Nico de Boinville	Nicky Henderson	1/4 F
2018	Footpad	Ruby Walsh	Willie Mullins	5/6F

Trends

- The average starting price of the winner since is 11/2.
- The SP's ranged from 1/4 to 33/1.
- There were six winning favourites which were all odds-on.
- Only 1 winner started at double figure odds.
- 9 winners were returned at single figure odds.
- The biggest SP of those winners was 8/1.
- The last 20 winners finished in the first two in their previous race.
- 15 of the last 20 winners were aged six or seven.
- 10 of the last 12 winners were in the first three in the betting.
- All but two of the last 12 winners had a rating of 152 or more.
- Each winner in the last 20 years had won a previous race during the season.

Records Since 1980

As this race is framed for novice chasers no horse has won the race more than once.

The leading trainer is Nicky Henderson with 6 wins: Remittance Man (1991), Travado (1993), Tiutchev (2000), Sprinter Sacre (2012), Simonsig (2013) and Altior (2017).

The leading jockeys with 4 wins are Barry Geraghty with Moscow Flyer (2002), Forpadytheplasterer (2009), Sprinter Sacre (2012) and Simonsig (2013) and Ruby Walsh with Azertyiup (2003), Un de Sceaux (2015), Douvan (2016) and Footpad (2018).

Leading Contenders

The betting in January is dominated by horses that had been top class hurdlers in the previous season. One interesting name in some betting lists is SAMCRO who connections had decided to keep to hurdling with a view to contesting the Champion Hurdle. However, the horse has not won in four starts and may be put away for next season. Interestingly the major UK bookmakers do not include the horse in their betting for the Arkle which suggests the horse will not take part.

KALASHNIKOV (7/1 with Paddy Power) was second in the Supreme Novices' Hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival in 2018 and has made a good start to his novice chasing career. However, **DYNAMITE DOLLARS (11/2 with Coral)** beat Kalashnikov at Kempton over Christmas. There was one and a quarter lengths between the horses but the winner carried five pounds more than the beaten favourite. **DEFI DU SEUIL (10/1 with Paddy Power)** won the Triumph Hurdle in 2017 and has run well in two novice chases over the last six weeks. However, LALOR beat that horse by 25 lengths at Cheltenham in November and that represents the best form.

Tip

LALOR at 5/1 with Coral.

Next Week's Race

Champion Hurdle

Previous Tips

Supreme Novices' Hurdle – Tornado Flyer at 16/1 (now 25/1).

Today's Sports Betting Preview - By Rick Elliott

Albion Have Gone For A Burton!

BURTON ALBION are 4,500/1 with **bet365** to win the EFL Cup and even bigger with other bookmakers. Never in the history of competitive sport has a team won a title at bigger odds! Actually that's not strictly true because Leicester City could have been backed at 5,000/1 to win the 2015/16 Premier League. Shame on Jurgen Klopp for disrespecting the FA Cup and Wolves for playing three teenagers in their tie. At least MANCHESTER CITY took the EFL Cup match against Burton seriously and won 9-0 and are now 4/9 with **Betfair** to win the competition.

There are few meaningful football fixtures in Britain or the rest of Europe tonight and we don't even have the good old Europa League to provide some betting action. Levante host Barcelona in the first leg of the last 16 tie in the Copa Del Rey. Bookmakers face the conundrum of the strength of the Barcelona starting 11. Apparently members of the B squad have been training with the first team this week so Barcelona could be playing the reserves. In similar circumstances last season Barcelona drew at Celta Vigo so the sensible play is the DRAW at 4/1 with **bet365**.

It's the first round of the Sony Open on the US PGA Tour so plenty of first round three ball betting opportunities. Justin Thomas is the clear favourite to win the tournament for the second time in three years. The current world number four combines course and current form and has a game suited to the host course. He scored 59 in one of his winning rounds in 2017 so we can expect a quick start to his first outing in a full field tournament. THOMAS is 12/1 with **Betfair** to be the first round leader.

The richest race of the day is the listed mares' chase at Leicester (1.45) but it has attracted just four runners and a short priced favourite in Desirable Court that will only attract the professionals. The novices' hurdle at 2.55 that is a qualifier for a championship series looks a decent race. On ratings and form BRECON HILL is the horse to back at 6/5 with **bet365**.