

# SUPREME HURDLE

The statistics as presented below are thoroughly researched and valid. They are, however, presented to augment and complement the analysis given in the other parts of the guide and we would hope they would be used in that way.

## SUPREME NOVICE HURDLE

### 10 Year Trends 1999-2009 (2001 abandoned)

The figures for all the various statistics are in date order, earliest first from left to right.

#### Contents

Hurdle debut record

Last time out record

Total career starts prior to hurdle debut

Total career starts over hurdles (prior)

Strike rate over hurdles (prior)

Class statistics

Age statistics

Days since ran record

Irish race record

Fate of the favourite

SP of favourite

Betting position of the winner

SP of the winner

BHB rating (where provided)

Profile analysis

# SUPREME HURDLE



Hurdle debut record reads:

1 1 1 2 UNP\* 1 1 2 1 1

90% of winners had finished in the first two on hurdle debut.

Last time out record reads:

1 1 1 1 1 3 1 1 1 1

90% of winners won last time out.

Total career starts prior to hurdle debut reads (FLAT/NHF):

4 23 4 4 0 17 2 6 7 3

Total career starts over hurdles reads (correlates in line to the above):

3. 2 4 3 7 4 4 2 2 5

100% of all winners have had seven or less runs over hurdles.

Strike rate over hurdles reads (correlates in line to the above):

100% 100% 100% 66.66% 42.85% 50% 75% 50% 100% 60%

Rounded up to the nearest percent.

Average % = 74.7%

Grade 1 wins prior to Supreme Novice Hurdle:

0 0 2 0 1 0 1 0 0 0

Graded wins over hurdles prior to Supreme Novice Hurdle:

1 0 3 0 1 0 1 0 0 1

Age statistics:

4 6 7 6 6 5 5 6 7 6

Days since ran record reads:

*info@patternsandprofiles.co.uk*

# SUPREME HURDLE

45 43 30 20 37 31 30 40 115 16

90% of all winners ran within 45 days.

Irish record reads:

2 1 1 1 1 2 5 1 1 1

Fate of the favourite reads:

F 3 1 1 1 UNP 5 3 2 5

SP of the favourite (Correlates in line to the above):

4. 5-4 7-4 3-1 7-2 13-2 5-2 2-1 8-1 9-4

Betting position of the winner (asterisk denotes joint position in the market):

2 5 1 1 1 10\* 2 14 2\* 6\*

SP of the winner (correlates in line to the above):

9-2 14-1 7-4 3-1 7-2 20-1 6-1 40-1 17-2 12-1

BHB rating (where provided):

- - - - - 136 138 - 142 139

Profile analysis:

Based on past statistics the following horse best fits the profile.

**DUNGUIB**

# SUPREME HURDLE

## POSTFILES

### ROYAL BOND

- 2<sup>nd</sup> DEC 2009

After winning two minor novice hurdle races in a common canter **Dunguib** was stepped up to Grade One class in the Royal Bond Novice Hurdle at **Fairyhouse**. This was certainly the toughest challenge he has faced so far over hurdles with **Some Present**, the horse that finished runner up to **Dunguib** in the Champion Bumper at Cheltenham, and **Sweeps Hill** in opposition. **Dunguib** was held up and going very easily before moving into second place after the fifth last flight; taking it up two from home he quickly went clear of his main rival **Some Present** and for the first time over hurdles, was ridden out to the line. He is probably value for more than the seven length winning margin and was predictably shortened again in the market for the Supreme Novice Hurdle.

**Some Present** and **Sweeps Hill**, who finished second and fourth in this, renewed rivalry in the Grade One Future Champions Novice Hurdle at **Leopardstown** four weeks later and confirmed their relative levels of ability by finishing a similar distance apart. The fact that they completed in sixth and seventh place respectively and were beaten further by the fifth horse in that race than they had been by **Dunguib** in the Royal Bond must be some cause for concern for supporters of the Supreme Novice Hurdle favourite.

### CROWNHOTEL – BAWTRY.COM

- 11<sup>th</sup> DEC 2009

This race could have some significance for more than one race at the **Cheltenham** Festival. **Menorah** raced far too keenly over this extended trip and paid the price in the home straight; still travelling well in the lead after the third last he stopped very quickly two from home which allowed **Bobby Ewing** to take up the running and stay on strongly to the line. Whether or not **Menorah** will stay this near two and a half mile trip when he learns to settle is open to debate, however, at least for the time being, however, a return to racing over two miles should show him in a better light. **Bobby Ewing** was ultimately an impressive looking winner of this race as he finished 10 lengths clear of his tired rival and will no doubt have either the Neptune or the Albert Bartlett as his **Cheltenham** target.

### WILLIAMHILL.COM

- 26<sup>th</sup> DEC 2009

Nicky Henderson has what could be described as an embarrassment of riches at his disposal in the novice hurdle department, and the betting for the Supreme Novices Hurdle suggests that **Bellvano** could be his number one hope for the two mile race. He travelled very easily on the outside and moved up menacingly on the home turn to throw down the gauntlet to the new leader **Menorah** who was also travelling with purpose. The two leaders drew clear of the field and for a few strides a battle royal looked on; sadly, this was not to be as a rather awkward jump at the second last flight signalled the end of **Bellvano's** efforts and he stopped very quickly as **Menorah** stormed well clear to win in impressive fashion. **Bellvano** should be given a chance to confirm the promise of his earlier success and may settle better as he gains some much needed experience. There is plenty of winning form amongst the horses that were resoundingly put in their place here and, at this stage **Menorah** is clearly one of the stronger contenders for the Supreme Novices Hurdle

# SUPREME HURDLE

## FRANK CONROY

- 24<sup>th</sup> JAN 2010

**Rite Of Passage** made a perfectly satisfactory start to his hurdling career by readily disposing of the Gordon Elliot trained maiden hurdler **Grey Soldier**. The outcome looked in doubt for a few moments as **Rite Of Passage** was carried wide by a loose horse entering the straight; nevertheless, his jockey soon got him back on line and pushed him out to go three lengths clear on the run in. On the evidence of this performance, the fact that he won over two miles on heavy ground on the flat and the way he was easily outpaced by **Dunguib** in the Champion Bumper last year, one would assume that connections of **Rite Of Passage** will be giving serious consideration to stepping him up in trip and aiming him at the two and a half mile race at **Cheltenham** in March.

## WWW.PUNCHESTOWN.COM

- 31<sup>st</sup> JAN 2010

**Blackstairmountain** ran out a very impressive winner of this maiden hurdle race at **Punchestown**. He travelled very well on the rail just in behind the leaders until Ruby Walsh took him to the front in between the final two flights where he burst clear of the field, before being eased on the run in. He won in the style of a good horse and his connections have stated that he prefers a quicker surface than the testing ground he encountered today. On balance, his current price of **14/1** for the Supreme Novices Hurdle is perhaps more to do with the name of his trainer and possible jockey rather than anything he has achieved on the racecourse thus far; nonetheless, although he has only won a maiden hurdle race, he could not have done it more impressively and as he will probably benefit from racing on a faster surface at **Cheltenham** he is one of few alternatives to the hot favourite for the Supreme.

## DELOITTE

- 7th FEB 2010

**Dunguib** was shortened to odds on for the Supreme on the strength of this performance. He clearly has an unbelievable engine and has proved himself to be head and shoulders above his Irish counterparts over hurdles when racing on testing ground. Although his jumping left something to be desired, the way he finished the race was, yet again, particularly pleasing to the eye. He remains an extremely exciting prospect and now heads for the festival as the Irish banker and the hot favourite for the first race on day one. It is possible that he will be just as good if not better when he races on a faster surface; though the facts of the matter are that he is yet to prove it. We may get a better idea of where **Fionnegas** and **Some Present** fit into the picture for the Neptune Hurdle on day two after we have seen what **Dunguib** can do on the Tuesday. **Some Present** has three of his eight career starts in common with **Dunguib** and has come off a poor second each time; three of his best performances have been when the word good has been present in the official going description and this might make a difference and result in him running above his current odds at **Cheltenham**.

## BET TOTEPOOL

- 13<sup>th</sup> FEB 2010

**Bellvano** was made to work hard as he got back to winning ways in his final start before heading for the Supreme Novices Hurdle. After his tame finish behind **Menorah** last time out at **Kempton**, the first objective at **Newbury** was clearly to get him to settle better than he did on Boxing Day. As a result of the steady pace he was still racing keenly entering the home straight for the final time; from this point he made relatively smooth headway on the inside as he joined the leaders in effortless fashion before tending to hang left under pressure as McCoy asked him for an extra effort after the second last flight. He did just enough to win and left the impression

# SUPREME HURDLE

that he probably had a little more to offer if needed. The runner up **Gus Macrae** was a hurdling debutant from the Rebecca Curtis yard; he finished best of all and was closing the winner down at the line. The third horse **Tito Bustillo** is now rated 133 after winning three of his five races over hurdles.

## BOOK YOUR FESTIVAL TICKETS

- 17<sup>th</sup> FEB 2010

**Rite Of Passage** made it two out of two over hurdles when winning the Book Your Festival Tickets hurdle race at **Punchestown** in a common canter. The race was run in a slow time on testing ground and although the manner of his victory could not have been more impressive the relevance of this test in comparison to the challenges awaiting him at **Cheltenham** is difficult to quantify. Nonetheless, he appeared to be more suited to the extra half mile of this race and now heads for the festival where the Neptune Investment Hurdle appears to be the logical target.

## LOMAX 'NATIONAL HUNT'

- 20<sup>th</sup> FEB 2010

**Lush Life** sprung a surprise at **Ascot** when outstaying **Menorah** the Supreme Novice Hurdle second favourite. Connections of the favourite would no doubt have been hoping for a faster pace which would have allowed Richard Johnson the luxury of holding his horse up in the preferred style; unfortunately, the early crawl enticed Johnson into making his own pace and although he travelled well, jumped well enough and went clear on the turn for home, he had nothing in reserve in the final 100 yards on the prevailing tacky ground and was worn down by the Nicky Henderson trained winner who was in receipt of 10 pounds from **Menorah**. The runner up has proven himself when held up off a fast pace and his connections will be hoping that a return to that scenario at the festival in a race likely to be run on a quicker surface will bring out the best in **Menorah** who has now drifted to **12/1** in the market for the Supreme.

# SUPREME HURDLE

## THE GUIDE

### DUNGUIB

**Dunguib** has finished first past the post in eight of his nine career starts and met his only defeat on the track when making his racecourse debut at **Punchestown** where he was outpaced by **On Raglan Road** racing on arguably the quickest ground he has encountered so far. He has the best chance of winning the Supreme and if everything falls into place he could win with plenty to spare. On the other hand, the fact that all of his impressive wins over hurdles have been attained whilst racing on extremely testing going and given the possibility that this Presenting offspring could be even better over further and/or fences, a little caution may be needed in our approach. Furthermore, despite racing on very soft ground and over a trip of two miles and two furlongs **Dunguib** managed to step through two hurdles and hit the top of three more in his most recent outing, the Grade One Deloitte Hurdle at **Leopardstown**.

Brian O'Connell is attracting lots of positive comments regarding his riding of **Dunguib** and understandably so; however, it would be remiss not to refer to a couple of points on this issue. The facts of the matter are that he is a very inexperienced jockey in comparison to the riders he will be competing against at **Cheltenham**; furthermore, the Supreme Novices Hurdle is the first race of the festival and traditionally run at a helter skelter pace. No doubt he will cope with the situation and acquit himself well; nevertheless, his horse is trading at odds of around **8/11** and it would, therefore, be irresponsible not to add the inexperience of **Dunguib's** jockey into the equation when assessing what we think is the appropriate price for the favourite. Although these points may appear to be a little fastidious, when a horse is heralded as being head and shoulders above the rest in its division and is trading at odds on to prove it, we need to measure his profile against the most exacting criteria.

### BELLVANO

**Bellvano** returned to winning ways when fending off the challenges of **Gus Macrae** and **Tito Bustillo** in the Bet Totepool Novices Hurdle at **Newbury**. He clearly has an enormous amount of ability and plenty of speed though perhaps one or two idiosyncrasies as well, as we witnessed at **Kempton** behind **Menorah** when he stopped very quickly at the second last flight and in his latest start when he won well despite racing very keenly and then hanging left under pressure. He is highly regarded at home and could well be competitive in the Supreme Novice Hurdle, particularly as he is likely to be easier to settle and therefore be seen in a much better light when racing off a fast pace in a bigger field. Although he has plenty of ground to make up on **Menorah** from **Kempton**, his form is as good as most and if he does improve when racing off a stronger gallop he could easily finish in the first three.

### MENORAH

This King's Theatre gelding has now been beaten twice in five career starts, first when appearing to run out of stamina after racing too keenly over two and a half miles at **Doncaster** in December and again on his latest outing when he was outstayed by **Lush Life** on tacky ground at **Ascot**. Although he has won on ground ranging from soft to good he is more suited to racing on a quicker surface and is probably best suited to a distance of two miles at this stage in his career. His three victories have all been gained in impressive fashion and he is clearly his trainer's number one hope for this race.

# SUPREME HURDLE

His best performance came at **Kempton** on Boxing Day when he drew right away from the highly regarded **Bellvano** from the all conquering Nicky Henderson yard. In winning by an eased down 12 lengths he posted a time faster than the Champion Hurdle favourite **Go Native** managed over the same course and distance on the same day. **Bellvano** franked the form by winning his next start at **Newbury** and is now rated 141 over hurdles; if we chose to take this form line literally then **Menorah** would be rated 155+. Although his latest performance was somewhat disappointing, the fact that he made most of his own running on ground more testing than ideal was almost certainly not in his favour. He has proven himself when being held up in a very fast run race and hopefully a return to that scenario in a race likely to be run on a faster surface will bring out the best in him; however, his preference for goodish ground means that any possible financial interest in **Menorah** should be left until nearer the festival.

## BLACKSTAIRMOUNTAIN

**Blackstairmountain** has won his only start over hurdles in a minor race at **Punchestown**. Presumably, his connections would have preferred to have got at least one more hurdle race into him before March if not for the recent spate of bad weather. The fact that he has eight career starts to his name in various flat races is some compensation for his lack of hurdle race experience. It is a long way up from a minor hurdle race at **Punchestown** to a Grade One contest at the **Cheltenham** Festival and this fact needs to be taken into account when assessing his appropriate place in the market. At the moment he is trading roundabout the **14/1** mark, which is probably more to do with the name of his trainer and possible jockey than anything he has achieved over hurdles thus far; nevertheless, he will probably be seen in an even better light when racing on a sounder surface and in a race that boasts very few viable contenders beyond the favourite, **Blackstairmountain** is one of the three or four likeliest horses to take advantage if **Dunguib** fails to live up to most people's expectations.

## OSCAR WHISKY

**Oscar Whisky** maintained his 100% career record with another impressive success on his latest start at **Sandown** in February. He has now won two national hunt flat races and two hurdle races and as yet, has not come under pressure in any of the four contests; conversely, the form of his races has not worked out very well so it remains rather difficult to compare the level of his achievements in relation to his Supreme Hurdle rivals. When a horse is unbeaten and yet to be tested, he is always likely to trade shorter in the betting market than the true level of his form merits and, although **Oscar Whisky** may be better than he has been able to show thus far, his current price is an overstatement of his appropriate place in the market in comparison with one or two of his main rivals with far more substance to their profiles. According to the handicapper **Oscar Whisky** has plenty to find with horses like **Get Me Out Of Here** and **Menorah** and is also rated below his own stable companion **Bellvano** who is currently trading at **25/1** compared with the **10/1** available for **Oscar Whisky**.

## GET ME OUT OF HERE

**Get Me Out Of Here** was promoted to second favourite for the Supreme after his impressive success off a mark of 135 in the Grade Three Totesport Trophy Hurdle on good to soft ground at **Newbury** in mid February. He is now unbeaten in five career starts and has been elevated to an official mark of **150** after this latest success. He is the only one of the horses prominent in the betting for the Supreme who has competed in a handicap hurdle and from a

# SUPREME HURDLE

ratings point of view his form compares very favourably with that of most of his rivals with winning form in novice hurdles. Furthermore, in winning such a valuable and competitive fast paced handicap hurdle race, he is certainly the only horse who has now proven his abilities in a race that offers a similar challenge to the one waiting at **Cheltenham**. According to the handicapper **Get Me Out Of Here** is now rated high enough to go very close in an average Supreme and if he recovers from the cut heel he sustained in winning at **Newbury** one would assume that A.P. McCoy would choose to ride him in preference to **Bellvano**.

**Please bear in mind that many of the horse profiles were prepared well in advance of the conclusions. I decided not to edit them as they represent my thinking at the time of writing.**

## CONCLUSIONS

**Dunguib** probably has the best chance of winning this race and if everything falls in his favour he could easily run out a convincing winner. The 'betting without the favourite' market has yet to be formed, which was making life difficult until Paddy Power Bookmakers stepped in with an incredible offer of 'money back on the win part of any bet in the event of **Dunguib** winning the race'. We have an amazing free bet offer on the front page of the Patterns & Profiles site and, having spoken with the representative from Paddy Power, we can now use the P&P 'free bet' in conjunction with the new '**Dunguib**' offer. The Supreme is a race with little strength in depth where there are four stand out contenders not including the favourite; of those, **Menorah** and **Blackstairmountain** will probably be best on good or good to soft going, **Oscar Whisky** may be less ground dependent and **Get Me Out Of Here** received a cut to his heel in his last race at **Newbury** and requires a clean bill of health before he could be supported. Consequently, we may be able to narrow the shortlist down and come to a stronger conclusion in the updates which will be available on or around the Sunday before the festival begins.