



On Saturday is the \$1 million Arlington Million (G1) at Arlington Park, run at 1 ¼ mi. on the turf for three-year olds and upward. The field features the indomitable, **Bricks and Mortar** (1.6 M/L), who comes into the race on a five-race winning streak after winning the G1 Manhattan at Belmont in June, the Turf Classic at Churchill in May and the Pegasus Turf Invitational at Gulfstream in January. Second on the M/L is **Robert Bruce** at 3.5-1, who recently was second to **Bricks and Mortar** in the G1

Manhattan. Third is **Magic Wand** at 5-1, who finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Man o' War at Belmont in May after **Channel Maker** and **Arklow** and 2<sup>nd</sup> to **Bricks and Mortar** in the Pegasus Turf Invitational in January, losing by 3 ¾ lengths in what was not a close contest. Rounding out the field are **Bandua** (6), **Hunting Horn** (12), **the Great Day** (12), **Intellogent** (12), **Pivoine** (15), and **Captivating Moon** (20), and **Catcho En Die** (30). Using the PHW 4.0 Turf version, the program is favoring **Magic Wand** in the race, because of a speed advantage in his final speed estimate of 56.3%, though that is based on only three races, with his last U.S. race coming on May 11. In his last three races, **Magic Wand** has had second place finishes in the Pretty Polly G1 and Wolverton G1 in the U.K., but had a disastrous trip his last time out in the 1 ½ mi. King George (G1) on July 27, when he finished 11<sup>th</sup>. This is not the result one would be looking for heading into the Million, which explains why he is being discounted. Note that the U.K. races are not factored in by the program, because there is no PP data on those races. **Bricks and Mortar** is the program's second selection, who despite ranking 3<sup>rd</sup> in terms of speed with a 19.2% final speed estimate, boasts a 50.1% adjusted Winning Percentage and has been lights out since December with three G1 and one G2 wins. With that kind of class, **Bricks and Mortar** will be very tough to be beat and certainly deserves to be the favorite; however, his peak form came in January, when he put up a 106 final speed figure in the Pegasus Turf Invitational. As last year's Arlington Million winner, **Robert Bruce** has seen success only recently with his second-place finish in the Manhattan. Before that, the last time he had hit the board was a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish in the Turf Classic in September 2018 at Churchill. **Hunting Horn** is an intriguing choice as the model's third selection, who led down the stretch in the Man o' War by as much as seven lengths before being overtaken by **Channel Maker**, **Arklow** and **Magic Wand** inside 1/16 mi to the wire. He set fast fractions of 22.98, 47.47, 1:12.48 and 1:36.27 in that race before running out of steam. If he can rate better, he has an outside chance with the program assigning him a 12.57% total winning probability. Between the British and French invaders, **Pivoine** appears to be stronger after winning the John Smiths Diamond Jubilee Club Handicap on July 13, albeit against Class 2 competition. However, his career has been marked by inconsistency, when his previous 1<sup>st</sup> place finish was back in August 2018 in the Sky Bet Handicap Stakes. In sum, because of his recent drop in form, **Magic Wand** takes a back seat to **Bricks and Mortar** in this race. **Magic Wand** is a risky proposition, though in U.S. races he does have a speed edge quantitatively over Bricks and Mortar. His 104 figure would have been good enough to win the Pegasus Turf Invitational, had **Bricks and Mortar** not bested him with a career high 106 figure in that race. **Hunting Horn** is similarly risky but may pose the biggest challenge to **Bricks and Mortar** if he can rate better, in view of his 104 E2 in the Man o' War, which was one furlong farther than the 1 ¼ mi. Million. His 12-1 M/L price makes him enticing as a long-shot, when his fair value is at 4-1 according to his final speed estimate of 21.6%.

*Arlington Million Selections: **Bricks and Mortar**, **Hunting Horn**, **Magic Wand** and **Robert Bruce***

