



# What Really Wins Money

An Independent Review of Tipsters and Betting Systems

## Laying Dogs & Backing Maidens

Welcome! We start this month with a novel way of profiting from the greyhound forecast market. Lay, lay, lay! It's a big-field market and your chances of success are great.

Talking of success, have you tried out the 3-5-8 lay system which was featured last month? Well, why not transfer that idea to the greyhound markets. Read on for more details.

I also take an introductory look at how we can trade horse races pre-race. It's a gentle start into the world of horse racing trading. There are many different ways to profit. I look at 'evidence gathering' this month.

The Patriarch has a great and very timely article on how to profit from two-year-old maiden races in July, August and September. Not only that, he shares with us a blast from the past: one of his old betting systems, specifically for handicap races.

The Statman focuses specifically on headgear and horses, and his conclusions are very interesting. Headgear on horses may not be the panacea trainers think they are.

The Home-Grown systems are updated as usual, and as I alluded to above, the 3-5-8 lay system is the star of the show so far.

Lastly we have the Systems and Tipsters Update.

The football tipsters and strategists I will begin to monitor in August in time for the new season. As a football trader myself, the off-season does not offer a realistic view of football products.

### BETTING STRATEGY

## Compounding Profits From the Dogs

Our first strategy uses a specific market with 30 separate outcomes.

### The Forecast Lay

Greyhound racing has a number of popular betting markets, two of which are the Forecast and the Tri-cast markets.

In order to win a Forecast bet, you need to pick the first and second in the correct order. In order to win a Tri-cast bet, you need to pick the first, second and third traps in the correct order. Tough bets to win as a backer.

But as a layer? This is what piques my interest. How'd you like a 1 in 30 chance of losing a bet you place?

Betfair provides three markets currently for each greyhound race: the Win market, the Place market (two to be placed) and the Forecast market (there are 30 different variations possible with the Forecast market, from traps 1-2, 2-1 all the way to traps 5-6 and 6-5).

As a backer you'd have to be extremely lucky in order to pick the winner in a Forecast field of 30 outcomes. But as a layer, by laying one outcome, you have the other 29 effectively running for you.

Here's a typical Forecast market for a greyhound race at [www.betfair.com](http://www.betfair.com)... (Because of space constraints I have only shown 16 of the 30 available trap Forecast permutations.)

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*please turn over...*

13:44 Swindon		Greyhound Form	
Mon 15 Jun   Forecast		Tote   Multiples	
Win	Place	Forecast	
Matched: GBP 577 Refresh			
30 selections			
3-2	109.496	Back all	Lay all
3-4	50	70	85
3-5	65	70	100
3-6	70	75	85
4-1	12.5	13	13.5
4-2	24	25	29
4-3	36	42	46
4-5	19	20	21
4-6	27	30	32
5-1	14	15	15.5
5-2	30	32	34
5-3	48	55	70
5-4	20	21	22
5-6	25	26	27
6-1	25	26	29
6-2	46	48	65

I will admit that:

- ✓ Yes, we are not getting anything remotely like the true odds when we lay a trap combination, because these are very illiquid betting markets.
- ✓ These lay odds don't even know the meaning of the word 'value'.

But I will also submit that:

These markets are perfect for compounding a betting bank.

## Compounding – a Refresher...

The idea of compounding is simply to grow the betting bank slowly, and daily, by a specific percentage of the betting bank.

Take 1% compounding of a £100 betting bank:

Bank	100	1
Day 1	101	1.01
Day 2	102.01	1.0201
Day 3	103.0301	1.030301
Day 4	104.0604	1.040604
Day 5	105.101	1.05101
Day 6	106.152	1.06152
Day 7	107.2135	1.072135

The target profit is growing slowly each day. The £100 betting bank after day 7 becomes £107.21.

After 365 days, the betting bank will stand at £3,778.34. This is an excellent return if you can target and get 1% of your new betting bank each day for a year.

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Registered office: Canonbury Publishing Ltd. Curzon House, 24 High Street, Banstead, Surrey, SM7 2LJ.

Registered in England No. 4765425 Vat Reg No. 811 5700 64 © Copyright *What Really Wins Money* 2015

The downside of all this is that it assumes a 100% strike rate.

I submit that we can find that one successful lay in a field of 30 (with 29 other trap combinations running for us!) each day. We can choose from the myriad of races covered at [www.betfair.com](http://www.betfair.com).

I counted the number of greyhound races on offer on a recent Friday and the total came to 381 races. Staggering! Betfair may not cover all 381 races, but they cover hundreds of races over a weekend. Choose one or two of these races, and focus on that 30-outcome Forecast market. The probabilities are with us, I would argue.

## Some Tips for Picking the Best Races for Laying...

As a layer what is the one thing we want to see in a race?

We want to see a very competitive race. We want to see a race without a clear-cut favourite. We want to see a race where we would find it extremely difficult to pick a standout winner.

The quickest way to determine the competitiveness of a race is through the odds.

Go to [www.racingpost.com](http://www.racingpost.com). Click on 'Greyhounds – Cards' You will be presented with all of the races on offer for that particular day. Click on 'Betting'. This will take you to the race card of a particular race. At the base of the race card is the Betting Forecast. The Betting Forecast can give an indication of the competitiveness of the race. Look at this Betting Forecast:

BETTING FORECAST: 3/1 Beach Lily, 7/2 Russelena Boyo, 7/2 Ear We Go, 7/2 Nuthill Joe, 7/2 Beach Impact, 4/1 Redstone Shaw

POST PICK: 5 - 1 - 3

I hope you can see how competitive this Betting Forecast looks. There is but 1 point difference between the favourite (3/1) and the outsider (4/1). This suggests that the favourite is only a favourite because, heck, there has to be a favourite!

I would target races like this one, in order to lay in the Forecast market. If we have trouble picking the favourite out of this race, then it will be harder to pick the first and second in exact order.

## The Forecast Market

The Forecast market at [www.betfair.com](http://www.betfair.com) only really starts fleshing out in the two minutes or so before the

race is due to be run.

If I were to operate this compounding strategy, then I would personally use Fairbot from [www.binteko.com](http://www.binteko.com), as this software allows me to bet below the Betfair £2 minimum stake. I can therefore aim for my 1% target. Fairbot also allows you to lay a bet with a fixed liability and at those higher odds, which would ordinarily be out of your reach if you were laying using [www.betfair.com](http://www.betfair.com) alone.

For those using [www.betfair.com](http://www.betfair.com) to place your bets, you will have to bet £2 minimum stake. This means that if your betting bank is £100, the biggest odds you could lay at would be 50.

## Making the Selection

If we have chosen a very competitive race, then it would be prudent to lay the first and second-favourite trap combinations. Here are some other options...

If the race is ultra competitive, lay the two traps mentioned in the *Racing Post* 'Post Pick'. The Post Pick for the race featured above is 5-1-3. The *Racing Post* has to make a selection on **all** greyhound races every day. This is an impossible task and, quite frankly, the vast majority of these Post Picks are nowhere near accurate.

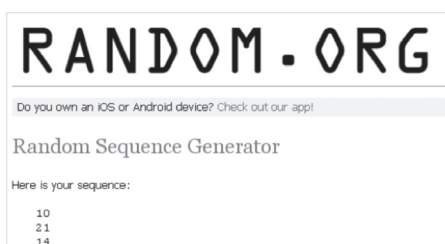
Lay the 5-1 traps combination perhaps?

I don't tend to over complicate the selection process. Having followed a number of greyhound races, **it's mayhem out there!**

There is an option, therefore, to randomise the selection process.

For each trap combination, assign a number 1 through to 30. Trap 1-2, the first named in the Forecast market at [www.betfair.com](http://www.betfair.com), becomes the number 1. Trap 6-5 is number 30.

Go to [www.random.org](http://www.random.org). Scroll down until you find the Sequence Generator. Under 'Sequence Boundaries', change the largest value to 30. Then click on 'Get Sequence'. You will get something like this:



I would take the first number here, 10, and return to the Forecast lay market at [www.betfair.com](http://www.betfair.com) and count 10 from the top.

11:03 Hall Green		
Wed 17 Jun   Forecast		
Win	Place	Forecast
Rules		
30 selections		
1 - 2		
1 - 3		
1 - 4		
1 - 5		
1 - 6		
2 - 1		
2 - 3		
2 - 4		
2 - 5		
2 - 6		

In this instance, I would lay traps 2-6, as long as the odds to lay enable me to place the lay bet. Incidentally, the trap combinations of 4-1 won this race.

## Summary

This is my first greyhound betting idea and it is not a conventional one by any means. This strategy ideally suits the idea of compounding your betting bank. It is a strategy I am using currently and so far, so good!

The Clint Eastwood of betting, however, would ask 'Are you feeling lucky, punk?' If so, then instead of compounding, you could start out with a pre-determined betting bank and see how long you can lay, race-by-race, without picking a winning forecast. I would personally stick with the compounding. I am actually implementing this strategy in the following manner...

Every day, I lay three trap combinations from three races which I think are highly competitive and could go to any of the dogs. I split my choices between the morning meetings, afternoon meetings and evening meetings.

That's three compounding targets each day, in markets where the probabilities are very much in our favour.

The negatives? I suppose the need for a 100% strike rate is the negative, but, out of the hordes of dog races each morning, noon and night, and in a Forecast market of 30 outcomes, surely you can select one or two successful lays each day and compound profits?

Give it a go. I certainly am.

## Greyhounds and the Basic Lay Ladder

Last month I introduced you to a rather unique Basic Lay Ladder when I wrote about the 3-5-8 horse racing strategy (which is still profiting very well as you will read in the 'Home-Grown' Systems Update). Please read the 3-5-8 article from May's edition of *What Really Wins Money*. Go to [www.whatreallywinsmoney.co.uk](http://www.whatreallywinsmoney.co.uk), log in and you can download a PDF of May's newsletter. This article goes into great detail. I do not want to repeat here.

Why do I think that this Basic Lay Ladder will work with greyhound races?

Well, I have been following a number of greyhound

races, using the live commentary link at [www.stanjames.com](http://www.stanjames.com) (this is the best greyhound commentary I found), and one thing stands out...

## It's Carnage!

There's bumping and barging at the bends, and the sad tales of some dogs who go lame. Dogs can get left behind once the traps open, heck, even the short-priced favourites! Then as we approach the finishing line, there are those dogs who dart through and steal the win (they obviously have 'wabbit' on the menu).

This carnage naturally affects the performances of the short-priced favourites in mid-to-low-grade greyhound races.

Let me take you through a recent set of results from Nottingham, where each race had a short-priced favourite:

**Race 1** first evens **Race 2** third 4/5 **Race 3** second evens **Race 4** fourth 5/4 **Race 5** third 4/6 **Race 6** first 11/8 **Race 7** first 4/7 **Race 8** fifth 6/4 **Race 9** second 1/2. **Race 10** fifth 2/1 **Race 11** first 6/4 **Race 12** second 4/7 **Race 13** first 1/2. **Race 14** sixth 7/4

I would suggest to you that short-priced favourites in greyhound races lose on a frequent basis. Nine of the short-priced favourites in this 14-race meeting were beaten. Notice too that the longest winning sequence was two races.

I would add a caveat here and that is to avoid any top graded races.

## A Quick Look at Race Grading and Greyhounds

The grading system is fairly straightforward. The best dogs are usually grade 1; next best grade 2; and so on. These grades are also accompanied by a prefix: 'A' for standard runners, 'D' for sprinters, 'H' for hurdlers or 'S' for stayers.

When you look at the cards, in the greyhound section of [www.racingpost.com](http://www.racingpost.com), you can now instantly see the grades of race. I would avoid grade 1, 2 or 3 races as well as 'OR' races. In a recent meeting at Hove, where the races were primarily 'OR' (which stands for 'open race'), the favourite won in 11 of the 12 races.

Let's get back to the lower class of meetings. I will pick another recent meeting. Here's how the favourites progressed throughout that meeting: third, fourth, fourth, first; co-favourites of three: first, second, fourth, second, sixth, sixth; joint favourites: fourth.

We ignore joint favourites or co-favourites (usually three or four dogs are favourites).

I would urge you to take a look at [www.gbgb.org.uk](http://www.gbgb.org.uk)

and select, at random, greyhound race meetings gone by, and see (in the 'Results/Fixtures' section) how often favourites lose; and also how when they win races, they don't tend to put together a run of consecutive wins.

*The Racing Post* [www.racingpost.com](http://www.racingpost.com) has a dedicated results section which is easier on the eye. Here you can view the results too and see immediately how favourites have performed at the various race meetings for that day. What we are looking at, in order to employ our three-bet Basic Lay Ladder, is for meetings where it is highly unlikely that we will see three consecutive races with winning favourites, at least not on a consistent basis.

My contention to you, therefore, is this: by targeting favourites, particularly short-priced favourites, in poor-graded races (think A4-A7 or equivalent) I think we can make the Basic Lay Ladder (see May's edition of *WRWM*) work in the greyhound market.

Can we employ a 3-5-8 philosophy to greyhound races?

I think we can, but laying the favourites in races 3, 5 and 8 in greyhound meetings, means that you will have to be available at about 11.00 a.m. or just after. Invariably, two of the races tend to come from the same meeting. I am in the process of recording the third, fifth and eighth races each day and recording how the favourite performs. I will update you when I have worked through a few months' worth of results.

Unlike horse racing, I do not have Betfair odds to work with.

But, and this is a Jennifer Lopez-sized butt, the greyhound markets on Betfair must be liquid enough. If they are not liquid enough we must reduce our target profit per race from the £10 target we can use in the highly liquid horse racing markets. By targeting relatively short-priced favourites, we should be targeting the most liquid dogs in the race.

## Summary

Greyhound racing is chaotic once we move away from the higher-graded races. That's a fact. I have followed race meetings from start to finish. This unpredictability means that, usually, the favourites lose, or when they win, they do not tend to win in a sequence.

Is there any way to exploit this chaos? I think there is. I introduced you to the Basic Lay Ladder in May's *What Really Wins Money*. I think this form of staking plan can be applied to greyhound racing, but only in the lower-graded races. We will have to lower our target profit per race because greyhound markets are not as liquid as horse racing favourite markets.

I am in the process of recording long-term results, albeit without Betfair prices as there is no Betfair results service for greyhounds as there is with horse

racing. I will be looking too at how frequently the favourites actually fail to finish in the two places.

Now let's hand the WRWM baton over to the Patriarch...

**THE PATRIARCH PRESENTS:**

# The Maiden Profit Maker

Warning! Time-sensitive material!

Yes, I thought that might grab your attention, but it's true. The horse racing system I have this month is exactly that, because I would suggest that it be used only for the upcoming months of July, August and September – and perhaps October.

These are the months when profits should be made, if past results are to be trusted. It is a Flat system for Turf and All-Weather, and uses one sort of race only: two-year-old Maiden races.

Here's how a two-year-old Maiden race appears on the race cards at [www.racingpost.com](http://www.racingpost.com):

**5:55 SUMMER NIGHTS AT CHELMSFORD CITY MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES (PLUS 10 RACE) (CLASS 4)**  
(2yo) Winner £5,175 9 runners 6f Standard ATR

**Race Conditions:** £8,000 guaranteed For 2yo sold or bought in at yearlings by public auction at 'specified sale', or as 2yo up to and including May 31st, 2015, for £30000 or less before July 1st, 2014, or for £36000 or less after June 30th, 2014 (The last sale to govern the price if sold more than once) **Weights:** colts & geldings 9st 2lb; fillies 8st 11lb **Allowances:** for each £5000 paid below £36000 1lb (For the calculation of allowances horses sold before July 1st, 2014, an additional £3000 must be added to the horses' auction price) **Entries:** 15 pay £ 40 **Penalty value:** 1st £5,175.20 2nd £1,540.00 3rd £769.60 4th £384.80

NO. FORM	HORSE	AGE	WGT	TRAINER	RTF%	JOCKEY	OR	TS	RPR
1 <sup>5</sup>	<b>City Of Stars</b>	2	9-2	Michael Appleby <sup>57</sup>		Andrew Mullen	—	—	86
284	30 Libourne Lad (IRE) — City Vaults Girl (IRE) (Oratorio (IRE))								
2 <sup>8</sup>	<b>Time Warp</b>	2	9-2	Sir Mark Prescott Bk <sup>27</sup>		Luke Morris	—	58	80
2 <sup>8</sup>	8 Archipenko (USA) — Here To Eternity (USA) (Stormy Atlantic (USA))								
6	<b>Palpitation</b>	2	9-1	David Brown <sup>67</sup>		Oliver Murphy	—	—	79
57	7 Fast Company (IRE) — Sensation (Soviet Star (USA))								
3 <sup>9</sup>	<b>Cat Royale</b>	2	9-0	Jane Chapple-Hyam <sup>80</sup>		Danny Brock <sup>3</sup>	—	—	97
26	19 Libourne Lad (IRE) — Call This Cat (IRE) (One Cool Cat (USA))								
5 <sup>3</sup>	<b>Boydie</b>	2	8-13	Richard Hannon <sup>85</sup>		Kieran O'Neill	—	—	86
3	51 Paco Boy (IRE) — Eve (Rainbow Quest (USA))								
6 <sup>4</sup>	<b>Burmese Whisper</b>	2	8-13	Andrew Balding <sup>80</sup>		-	—	—	—
2	Approve (IRE) — Annelis (UAE) (Diesel)								
7	<b>Gerrard's Quest</b>	2	8-13	Marco Bott <sup>87</sup>		Marc Monaghan <sup>1</sup>	—	—	88
52	14 Captain Gerrard (IRE) — Ryan's Quest (Mukaddamah (USA))								
8 <sup>2</sup>	<b>Silhouette</b>	2	8-13	Daniel Kubler <sup>80</sup>		Steve Drowne	—	—	—
2	Frozen Power (IRE) — Missalough (IRE) (In The Wings)								
9 <sup>3</sup>	<b>Pass The Moon</b>	2	8-9	Hugo Palmer <sup>80</sup>		Liam Jones	—	46	88
23	27 Raven's Pass (USA) — Dubai Moon (USA) (Malibu Moon (USA))								

**Betting forecast:** 7/2 Gerrard's Quest, 9/2 Pass The Moon, 5/1 Boydie, 5/1 Cat Royale, 8/1 City Of Stars, 8/1 Palpitation, 10/1 Time Warp, 16/1 Silhouette.

Note the title of the race has the words 'Maiden auction stakes'. In brackets, after the '(CLASS 4)' you will find '(2yo)'. You must only choose Maiden races with the '(2yo)' in the title. Another clue can be found under the 'age' column in the race card. All horses will be two years old.

In these races we are concerned with the **favourite only**. Now, I know there are punters who don't like backing the favourite in such races but I can't agree with that. In fact I've known some old-time pros who concentrated all their attention on such races, reckoning that form was more reliable there than in races when horses were older and perhaps trickier to follow.

What I like is the high strike rate of winning favourites in these races – steady at over 40% by my figures – but this plan will improve on these figures and that is good enough for me.

We are going to rely on form and experience. Everybody looks at form, but experience is somewhat different. Experience counts for something in most aspects of life, and it is the same for young race horses learning their trade. They improve from the races they have run.

By the time of our months of July, August and September, there should be enough races run for form and experience to be established and the position of favourites to be more reliable.

But what, you may ask, about the un-raced stable star who is beating everything at home and now comes to the race course to meet some experienced rivals? Two things can happen: it wins – but you can be pretty sure that news of its ability will have leaked out from the stable and it will end up favourite, so that won't affect us looking for favourites with form and experience; or, it doesn't win because it runs green against its more experienced rivals – and although we don't gain a winner we don't lose either because it was favourite. But we can mark it up as one for experience.

Time now to come to the crux of our plan. Remember, it's two-year-old Maiden races for the months we stipulated. We are looking at the favourite. Ideally, it should be the clear favourite just before the of

f, but failing that, the clear favourite in the *Racing Post* Betting Forecast. We look at its experience – that is, the number of times it has raced. We leave the form of these races to the odds compiler and the market who have made it favourite. We'll say it has run four times. We now look at the rest of the field, say nine runners, and count up the number of times in total they have run, including those who may not have run at all. That total might be 29. We divide that by the number of runners, which is nine, to find the average, which is 3.2. If that average is less than the experience of our favourite, then we have a bet on the favourite.

But there is one exception: if the second-favourite has the same experience as the favourite, or greater – that is, has run four times or more – then we do not have a bet on the favourite. We leave the race alone.

In our example, if the average figure for experience had been four or more, then no bet. Putting it simply, if the average figure for experience is the same as or greater than the favourite's, then no bet – but if that figure is less than the favourite's, we have a bet, bearing in mind the exception regarding the second-favourite.

Here's an example: I have scoured the race card available at time of writing and found a two-year-old Maiden race. In this example, for illustration purposes, let's pretend that City of Stars is the favourite:

**5:55 SUMMER NIGHTS AT CHELMSFORD CITY MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES (PLUS 10 RACE) (CLASS 4)**  
(2yo) Winner £5,175 9 runners 6f Standard ATR

**Race Conditions:** £8,000 guaranteed For 2yo sold or bought in as yearlings by public auction at 'specified sales', or as 2yo up to and including May 31st, 2015, for £3000 or less before July 1st, 2014, or for £3600 or less after June 30th, 2014 (The last sale to govern the price if sold more than once) **Weights:** colts & geldings 9st 2lb; fillies 8st 11lb **Allowances:** for each £3000 paid below £36000 (For the calculation of allowances horses sold before July 1st, 2014, an additional £3000 must be added to the horses' auction price) **Entries:** 15 pay £ 40 **Penalty value 1st** £5,175.20 **2nd** £1,540.00 **3rd** £759.60 **4th** £394.80

NO.	FORM	HORSE	AGE	WGT	TRAINER	RTF%	JOCKEY	OR	TS	RPR
1 <sup>5</sup>	284	City Of Stars <sup>30</sup>	2	9-2	Michael Appleby <sup>57</sup>	-	Andrew Mullen	-	-	86
2 <sup>8</sup>	6	Time Warp <sup>1</sup>	2	9-2	Sir Mark Prescott BR <sup>27</sup>	-	Luke Morris	-	58	80
3 <sup>7</sup>	57	Palpitation <sup>19</sup>	2	9-1	David Brown <sup>67</sup>	-	Olisn Murphy	-	-	79
4 <sup>9</sup>	26	Cat Royale <sup>10</sup>	2	9-0	Jane Chapple-Hyam <sup>30</sup>	-	Danny Brock <sup>3</sup>	-	-	97
5 <sup>6</sup>	3	Boycie <sup>51</sup>	2	8-13	Richard Hannon <sup>65</sup>	-	Kieran O'Neill	-	-	86
6 <sup>4</sup>		Burmese Whisper	2	8-13	Andrew Balding <sup>70</sup>	-	-	-	-	-
7 <sup>1</sup>	52	Gerrard's Quest <sup>14</sup>	2	8-13	Marco Botti <sup>67</sup>	-	Marc Monaghan <sup>1</sup>	-	-	88
8 <sup>2</sup>		Silhouette	2	8-13	Daniel Kubler <sup>100</sup>	-	Steve Drowne	-	-	-
9 <sup>3</sup>	23	Pass The Moon <sup>27</sup>	2	8-9	Hugo Palmer <sup>30</sup>	-	Liam Jones	-	46	88

**Betting forecast:** 7/2 Gerrard's Quest, 9/2 Pass The Moon, 5/1 Boycie, 5/1 Cat Royale, 8/1 City Of Stars, 8/1 Palpitation, 10/1 Time Warp, 16/1 Silhouette.

It is the 'form' column which we focus on now. City of Stars has run three races. Four of the other horses have run two races, and two horses have run a single race.

We tally up the number of races run by the other eight horses. Together, these horses have run 11 races in total. The average is 1.38. If this average of 1.38 is less than the experience of our favourite City of stars (three runs) then we bet on the favourite. In this case, we would bet on City of Stars (making City of Stars the favourite only for illustration purposes).

That's it. We put it all down to experience.

### The Patriarch Handicap Plan

Since that idea covered only a limited timespan and a limited type of race, I'll compensate now with an old system of mine that can be used all year round and for almost all races that are handicaps.

It cost me quite a bit of money in those days, but I seem to remember thinking that it was money not entirely wasted. I couldn't say that about some of the others I bought! And at least once, it gave me a 20-1 winner: something I've very rarely backed. Here are the system rules...

1. Can be used for Flat Turf, All-Weather and National Hunt all year round.
2. Handicap races only, with any number of runners, but not Selling Handicap races or any handicap confined to amateur riders, apprentices or conditional jockeys.
3. In a normal handicap race it is allowable for an amateur, apprentice or conditional jockey.
4. We are looking for races with two horses that won last time out. Not more or less but exactly two. For Flat Turf that last race must not have taken place more than 90 days before. For All-Weather and N.H. it doesn't matter when it took place, even the previous season will do.
5. We back these two horses. Being handicap races the prices should be such that allow you to back both, but if not then back the shorter price only.
6. Where the price permits, back each way. If a

selection is ridden by an apprentice or claiming jockey then it is a banker bet.

Finally, the vendor suggests that the selections can be backed in a forecast bet, which is something I never did, and is maybe pushing the boat out too far.

Here's an example of a qualifying race:

**3:55 ABP HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS 4)** (4yo+ Rated 0-120) Winner £3,249 8 runners 2m4f139y Good RUIK

**Race Conditions:** £5,000 guaranteed For 4yo+ Rated 0-120 **Minimum weight** 10-0 **Penalties:** after June 6th, each hurdle won 7lb **Ballycamp's Handicap Mark** 120 **Entries:** 18 pay £ 25 **Penalty value 1st** £3,249.00 **2nd** £954.00 **3rd** £477.00 **4th** £229.50

NO.	FORM	HORSE	AGE	WGT	TRAINER	RTF%	JOCKEY	OR	TS	RPR
1	702-22	<b>Ballycamp</b> 30 Kayf Tara — All Our Blessings (IRE) (Statoblest)	6	11-12	Charles Pogson <sup>40</sup>	-	Adam Pogson	120	81	108
2	340-1	<b>Antony 7x</b> 10 Walk In The Park (IRE) — Melanie Du Chenel (FR) (Nikos)	5	11-9	Gary Moore <sup>30</sup>	-	Jamie Moore	117	84	126
3	3/51-4	<b>Age Of Glory</b> 48 Zamindar (USA) — Fleeting Moon (Fleetingwood (IRE))	6	11-8	Barbara Butlerworth <sup>100</sup>	-	Sean Quinlan	116	83	123
4	PF3-98	<b>Boruma</b> 33 Brian Boru — Blalendintears (IRE) (Lil's Boy (USA))	5	11-2	Dianne Sayer <sup>67</sup>	-	Henry Brooke	110	54	124
5	248F-P	<b>Spring Steel</b> ht 37 Dushyantor (USA) — Fieldtown (IRE) (Arshan)	6	11-2	Ben Pauling	-	Nico de Boinville	110	113	123
6	412-11	<b>Ruaraidh Hugh</b> b 14 Craigsteel — Decent Shower (Decent Fellow)	6	10-11	Chris Bealby <sup>30</sup>	-	Mr Tommie M O'Brien <sup>7</sup>	105	90	124
7	406-34	<b>Lawsons Thorns</b> 14 Presenting — Ardurcher (IRE) (King's Ride)	6	10-10	Mike Sowersby <sup>100</sup>	-	Brian Hughes	104	79	122
8	32P-24	<b>The Game Is A Foot</b> 22 Oscar (IRE) — Cooksgrove Rosie (IRE) (Mandalus)	8	10-9	Gary Moore <sup>30</sup>	-	-	103	-	123

**Betting forecast:** 10/11 Antony, 3/1 Ruaraidh Hugh, 8/1 Lawsons Thorns, 12/1 Spring Steel, 14/1 Age Of Glory, 14/1 Boruma, 20/1 Ballycamp.

How do we know the race is a handicap? Yes, the word will always be in the title.

Where do we find out if a horse has won its last race? Look at the **Form** column. Any winner will have a '1' in its most recent race. In this example Antony and Ruaraidh Hugh are the only horses to have won their last races.

How do we know if a horse has ridden within the 90 days stipulated? Underneath the horse's name on the standard race card at [www.racingpost.com](http://www.racingpost.com) you'll see a number. This represents the number of days since the last run. Antony last ran 10 days ago. Ruaraidh Hugh last ran 14 days ago.

How do we know if the jockey is an apprentice or a claiming jockey? This website <http://www.thepja.co.uk/championships/apprentice-conditional-championships> provides a table of the leading apprentice jockeys.

A simple Google search will uncover the jockey's credentials. Look at Mr Tommie O'Brien riding Ruaraidh Hugh. A Google search reveals that he is a conditional jockey. Note the '7' next to his name? This tells us that he can claim 7lbs weight allowance in today's race.

Back to Clive now...

## HORSE LAYING STRATEGY

# Pre-Race Trading on Horse Racing

Trading, as I define it, is the 'anticipation of a future price movement'. If you re-read that definition, I think you will find that it embodies everything we need

to know about sports trading.

I would highly encourage you to visit [www.whatreallywinsmoney.co.uk](http://www.whatreallywinsmoney.co.uk) and download my report *Betfair Trading Made Easy*. This will give you a foundation into the mechanics of trading, as it applies to the betting exchanges, and especially [www.betfair.com](http://www.betfair.com).

This article assumes you have read *Betfair Trading Made Easy*, and are familiar with the concept of backing high, laying low, and conversely laying high, backing at a lower price.

The Betfair Learning Zone is another recommended stopping off point for you before you read this article. <http://learning.betfair.com/en/videos/achieving-a-green-book.html> is the pertinent link. I would recommend watching the ‘green book’ video as well as the free bet video.

Betfair now operates a cash-out facility at its website, which will allow you to take a profit if you have ‘anticipated that future price movement’ correctly.

The above is the groundwork. I have shown you in newsletters past, how to sports trade in two specific areas – football and tennis. This article will introduce us to the world of trading horses, more specifically trading horses and taking a profit (or a small loss – losses are part of trading) before the race has even run.

There are many ways to trade the horse racing markets, from using weight of money indicators, and even support and resistance lines within the Betfair Price/Volume Graph. This article, though, will use a large number of freely available resources online to help us to look specifically at horses whose odds are likely to shorten in the run-up to the start of the race that horse is involved in.

We will therefore be ‘back to lay’ traders for this particular article.

We need a starting point. I think I have found one...

## The Steamers and Drifters Reports

No, I have not gone all Fred Dibnah on you and will not be writing about hobos on steam locomotives. A ‘steamer’ is a horse whose odds are shortening because the betting public is backing that horse. A ‘drifter’ is a horse who the betting public thinks has little or no chance of winning its race. There is no money backing a drifter, so the odds lengthen.

There are two main market movers’ reports available. In the ‘Market Movers’ link at [www.sportinglife.com](http://www.sportinglife.com), you can access the Steamers and Drifters Report for upcoming races. The steamers are horses being backed. The drifters are horses who are not fancied. The market reports are at [www.oddschecker.com](http://www.oddschecker.com) in the horse racing

section of the website: click on the ‘Market Moves’ link. For the purposes of this article I will focus on the horse called Hootenanny. I would recommend you only focus on those horses on the steamer list who are first, second or third in the Betfair betting market for that race. The reasons are purely practical. These will be the horses whose markets are most liquid. Hootenanny is the favourite for this 3.40pm: race at Ascot.

Name	Event	Best Orig Odds	Best Curr Odds	Shortest Curr Odds	Bookies With Odds	Bookies With Odds Moved	Average Market Share Swing
Ballydoyle	Ascot 14:30	2/1	2/1	1/38	15	5	1.72%
Force	Ascot 14:30	16/1	14/1	8/1	15	8	1.01%
Balios	Ascot 15:05	5/1	4/1	7/2	20	19	2.85%
Malisob	Ascot 15:05	2/1	2/1	7/4	15	6	2.12%
Mr Singh	Ascot 15:05	12/1	9/1	9/1	20	16	1.95%
Takeonice	Ascot 15:40	7/2	5/4	10/11	19	10	1.7%
Postponed	Ascot 15:40	10/1	7/2	10/3	19	9	6.87%
Hootenanny	Ascot 15:40	19/3	3/1	1/4	20	10	2.51%
Muhsanir	Ascot 15:40	14/1	11/1	9/1	20	15	1.74%

This horse is a good choice as it is a horse ‘hyped up’ by the racing media. It also appears in a high-profile race at a high-profile race meeting (Royal Ascot). Logic assumes that the horse’s odds will shorten in the run-up to the race start at 3.40 p.m.

But we don’t want to rely wholly on logic. Show me the evidence!

The early bird catches the worm for this particular trading strategy. The ideal is to start building evidence that the horse could be popular with the bookmakers as early as possible. Check out these free resources and decide if you feel that the punters who follow these major media outlets will be positively swayed by the descriptions of Hootenanny’s chances. We want confidence from the racing press so that the punters will back Hootenanny throughout the day.

[www.form.timeform.betfair.com](http://www.form.timeform.betfair.com)

This is my first port of call because this service, Timeform, is directly linked with the Betfair market which we will be using. They are pretty emphatic here, calling Hootenanny a ‘major contender’.

Hootenanny (USA) 62  
 7 (14) 3-9 (115)  
 Ryan Moore Wesley A. Ward, USA  
 3.9 E577 3.95 E8,788

Won Windsor Castle (5f) at this meeting last year and also landed Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf over 1m in the autumn. Showed versatility when successful back over 5.5f on reappearance. Major contender.

Timeform’s complete analysis can be found at [www.betfair.com](http://www.betfair.com)’s race card.

**Timeform 1-2-3**

- Hootenanny (USA) ★ ★ ★ ★
- Limato (IRE) ★ ★ ★ ★
- Anthem Alexander (IRE) ★ ★ ★ ★

**Timeform View**

The inaugural running of this 6f 3-y-o Group 1 looks a better, HOOTENANNY, who was impressive when landing the Windsor Castle last year, has done little wrong in the interim and it just preferred to Limato, who lost his unbeaten record on softish ground last time but could prove a different proposition back on a firmer surface. Anthem Alexander and Adaaay are others with plenty to recommend them.

Hootenanny is there is bold capitals. Surely this will attract more of the b(aaaaa)etting public to sheepishly follow Hootenanny?

[www.racingpost.com](http://www.racingpost.com) or the newspaper the *Racing Post* is the definitive horse racing newspaper. It is found in

bookmakers across the country and is the only newspaper dedicated wholly towards horse racing. What it says can influence the minds of a lot of punters.

Below is the tipster selections box at [www.racingpost.com](http://www.racingpost.com). You will have to be a member of the website to access this information. It is equally available via the newspaper. Hootenanny has been selected by only three of the 15 tipsters tipping in this race. If Hootenanny had been chosen by more tipsters, then that would have been a real bonus.

Verdict	Comments	My Notes	Stats	Postdata	OR	RPR	Topspeed	Selections	Past Winners
TIPSTER	SELECTION		TIPSTER	SELECTION					
Spotlight	Hootenanny 3		Rp Ratings	Tiggy Wiggy 3					
Topspeed	Anthem Alexander 2		Postdata	Limato 3					
Lambourn	Muhaarar 2		Newsmarket	Adaay 2					
The North	—		The South	—					
West Country	—		The Times	Muhaarar					
Telegraph	Hootenanny		The Guardian	Adaay					
Daily Mail	Limato		Daily Express	Tiggy Wiggy *					
Daily Mirror	Limato		The Sun	Anthem Alexander (nb)					
The Star	Tiggy Wiggy (nb)		Daily Record	Hootenanny *					

The widely-read Spotlight feature at [www.racingpost.com](http://www.racingpost.com) and its newspaper is food and drink to a lot of tipsters. Spotlight refers to Hootenanny as ‘the one to beat’, mentioned he will ‘relish these conditions’ and ‘has Ryan Moore up’. Similar to Timeform, Hootenanny is there, in BOLD CAPITALS.

Verdict Comments My Notes Stats Postdata OR RPR Topspeed Selections Past Winners

Diomed Spotlight Verdict

A fabulous line-up that has fully vindicated the decision to give 3yo sprinters a proper programme of races in the first part of the season. Today's faster ground may help **Limato** avenge his Haydock defeat by **Adaay** but there is no shortage of alternatives in this field. **Anthem Alexander** posted a good return and she may have more scope for further improvement than her Chaveley Park conqueror **Tiggy Wiggy**, while the drop back to 5f will suit **Muhaarar** and **Home Of The Brave**. But the one to beat is US raider **HOOTENANNY** who will also relish these conditions and has Ryan Moore up today (Adrian Cook)

[www.sportinglife.com](http://www.sportinglife.com)'s racing cards can also be used. I look at the naps. Hootenanny has five naps to his name. The readers of this website would be joining the other ‘baaaa’ punters and flocking towards Hootenanny.

7 (14) Hootenanny (USA) 62 3-3 (115) Ryan Moore Wesley A. Ward, USA 3.9 £577 3.95 £5,788

Won Windsor Castle (5f) at this meeting last year and also landed Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf over 1m in the autumn. Showed versatility when successful back over 5.5f on reappearance. Major contender.

There are other websites we can add in order to build evidence that the punters will be wanting to back Hootenanny. The websites featured above offer us an ideal starting point. They have large audiences and what they say can be influential.

Do you agree with me that Hootenanny is really well written up here? The only negative is the fact that only three tipsters out of 15 in the *Racing Post* selections box chose Hootenanny. Imagine if all of the tipsters there had chosen the horse: we'd have their followers backing the horse.

All of these positives surely will persuade the reading punters to put their money behind this high-profile horse.

As a back trader, we will back Hootenanny as early in the day as we can. We want all of this positive news to translate into punter's cash backing Hootenanny throughout the day. This will hopefully ensure that the

odds reduce gradually throughout the day.

Look at Hootenanny's earlier odds of 6. As I said before, the early bird catches the worm. (The bigger price!)

Here is the price graph a minute before the race was run. Hootenanny's odds were solid at 4.5 for a long period of time. Had you backed at odds of 4.5 (or better of course), you could have layed at 3.7 just before the race was due off.

3.39 p.m:



## Other Ways to Shortlist Potential Back Trades...

Long-term newsletter readers (you poor long-suffering souls) will be familiar with the concept of the ‘price gapper’. A real example will clarify the concept.

**Betting forecast:** 2/1 Mahsoob, 8/1 Collaboration, 8/1 First Flight, 10/1 Provenance, 12/1 Mount Logan, 12/1 Nicefyoutotallme, 14/1 Educate, 14/1 Fire Fighting, 14/1 Sennockian Star, 16/1 Ayrad, 20/1 Groundbreaking, 20/1 Super Moon, 25/1 Dick Doughywyllie, 25/1 Don't Stare, 33/1 Faltsola, 66/1 Ocean Tempest.

A price gap exists between Mahsoob at 2/1 in this *Racing Post* Betting Forecast, and Collaboration at 8/1. We can assume that Mahsoob is strongly fancied and could attract strong punter support. As a member of [www.racingpost.com](http://www.racingpost.com) I can access the Betting Forecasts at 7.00 p.m. the night before, instead of waiting until 9.00 a.m., when it is freely available. I would recommend that you take a look at the Betfair Price Graphs for each price gapper as a priority, and as early as you can. Why? Well you might meet some patterns which you can exploit without needing to do any ‘evidence gathering’. Here's what I mean:



(The Price/Volume chart is easily accessed by clicking on a small graph symbol next to the horse's race



number in the Betfair market.)

This is the graph for Mahsoob at 8.30 a.m. This is a horse whose odds could hit 3.25 and then 'bounce off'. In financial charting terms, it could find resistance at 3.25 and then shorten. I would enter a trade at odds of 3.25 and hope this continues. The two arrows show you that this has occurred twice already.

Here's the same graph at near midday:



The horse's odds hit 3.25 for a third time, and look what happened: the odds bounced off again. We would have readied a 3.25 back bet into the market, in the hope that the odds would not break through 3.25. You could have backed at 3.25 and layed at 3.00, taking a profit. The race is some three hours away!

Fast forward to 3.00 p.m... The resistance line has changed to odds of just over 3.00. Can you count how many times the price has gone to just over 3.00, only to drop to 2.75 or near? The price is at 3.00 again near the start of the race. Why not back Mahsoob at 3.00 and hope that we see another shortening of the price, as has happened three times already? Guess what odds Mahsoob went off at? 2.75!



This support and resistance trading is worth investigating... perhaps in August?

Back to the 'price gappers'... Do look to see if any of these price gappers appear on the Oddschecker steamer report. Do also take these price gappers through the 'evidence collecting' procedure, as we did with Hootenanny – if you think the racing press are purring about the horse, back it, to trade out at a shorter price nearer to race time. And please, always, always, always make sure you have the Betfair Price/Volume Graph readily available.

## Summary

This is just an introduction to the idea of trading horses pre-race. There are many ways to successfully trade. Some like to involve themselves in the last 10 minutes before a race is due off and literally 'follow the money'. Others use their own tissue prices (via software) to uncover possible price discrepancies in the Betfair market, and back or lay a horse in the hope the betting market corrects itself. Still others trade using support and resistance, something I touched on fleetingly here.

The main strategy in this article looks to uncover horses where a strong argument can be made that they are going to attract the support of the punters throughout the day. The key thing to go away with is this: 'the early bird catches the worm'. If you can uncover these horses which attract punters' attentions early enough, you can be in at the start of a long, and hopefully, prosperous shortening in the odds. Look at races the evening before. The Betting Forecast is available to members at 7.00 p.m. the evening before. The *Racing Post* digital newspaper is available to you night owls at about 3.00 a.m.

I acknowledge that I haven't gone into the mechanics of what to do if a trade moves against you. Quite simply, follow the financial traders and cut your losses but let your winners roll. I will continue to look into more horse racing trading strategies.

## THE STATMAN PRESENTS:

# Headgear Equals Profits

This month I have decided to look in evermore detail at the thorny question of horses wearing headgear – first time out or not – and the results to ensue from such an enquiry.

As a starting point, last Saturday I liked the look of two horses in first-time headgear who would clearly win their respective races if the blinkers brought them back to anywhere near their very best.

My bets were placed (each-way price too), and I sat back to watch both horses run stinkers yet again, but far from being despondent, I saw it as a spark of an idea for a new Statman article – headgear, coupled with race types, tracks and distances. (Surely something will come out of the computer that can point us toward yet more profits?)

## Rules:

- Last 10 years from 1 January 2004 to present day (the more data the merrier).
- All tracks as a starting point.
- All year round.

- Flat and Jumps.
- Turf and All-Weather tracks.
- £1 stakes recorded to Industry Starting Price (SP) and to Betfair Starting Price (BSP) after standard 5% commission.

Starting with the basics, let's look at each option...

### Blinkers first time

Qualifiers	Winners	Strike rate	Profit/Loss to Betfair SP	ROI Betfair SP	Profit/Loss to Industry SP	ROI Industry SP
17,815	1,342	7.53%	£49.29	-0.28%	£4,767.71	-26.76%

### Blinkers overall

Qualifiers	Winners	Strike rate	Profit/Loss to Betfair SP	ROI Betfair SP	Profit/Loss to Industry SP	ROI Industry SP
59,264	5,612	9.47%	£2,283.89	-3.85%	£14,400.92	-24.30%

### Eye shields first time

Qualifiers	Winners	Strike rate	Profit/Loss to Betfair SP	ROI Betfair SP	Profit/Loss to Industry SP	ROI Industry SP
819	58	7.08%	£195.50	-23.87%	£342.47	-41.82%

### Eye shields overall

Qualifiers	Winners	Strike rate	Profit/Loss to Betfair SP	ROI Betfair SP	Profit/Loss to Industry SP	ROI Industry SP
4,166	359	8.62%	£601.50	-14.44%	£1,236.40	-30.33%

### Hood first time

Qualifiers	Winners	Strike rate	Profit/Loss to Betfair SP	ROI Betfair SP	Profit/Loss to Industry SP	ROI Industry SP
3,453	335	9.70%	£799.70	+23.16%	£689.73	-19.97%

### Hood overall

Qualifiers	Winners	Strike rate	Profit/Loss to Betfair SP	ROI Betfair SP	Profit/Loss to Industry SP	ROI Industry SP
14,100	1,505	10.67%	£275.15	+1.95%	£3,127.06	-22.18%

### Visor first time

Qualifiers	Winners	Strike rate	Profit/Loss to Betfair SP	ROI Betfair SP	Profit/Loss to Industry SP	ROI Industry SP
9,375	796	8.49%	£607.03	-6.48%	£2,384.04	-25.43%

### Visor overall

Qualifiers	Winners	Strike rate	Profit/Loss to Betfair SP	ROI Betfair SP	Profit/Loss to Industry SP	ROI Industry SP
43,565	4,096	9.40%	£2,840.05	-6.52%	£10,531.82	-24.17%

### Cheek pieces first time

Qualifiers	Winners	Strike rate	Profit/Loss to Betfair SP	ROI Betfair SP	Profit/Loss to Industry SP	ROI Industry SP
15,261	1,271	8.33%	£1,529.46	-10.02%	£4,771.78	-31.27%

### Cheek pieces overall

Qualifiers	Winners	Strike rate	Profit/Loss to Betfair SP	ROI Betfair SP	Profit/Loss to Industry SP	ROI Industry SP
104,400	9,438	9.04%	£11,144.00	-10.67%	£29,725.31	-28.47%

### Tongue tie first time

Qualifiers	Winners	Strike rate	Profit/Loss to Betfair SP	ROI Betfair SP	Profit/Loss to Industry SP	ROI Industry SP
11,375	866	7.61%	£1,183.19	-10.40%	£4,283.62	-37.66%

### Tongue tie overall

Qualifiers	Winners	Strike rate	Profit/Loss to Betfair SP	ROI Betfair SP	Profit/Loss to Industry SP	ROI Industry SP
103,075	9,564	9.28%	£8,442.13	-8.19%	£31,128.88	-30.20%

Well I don't know what anyone else expected to find, but that knocked me over, even at first glance – can you believe the losses on most headgear and how simple a laying system that could be?

As a total of any headgear or tongue tie but NOT including hoods (labelled as 'H', 'H\*' or 'H1' depending on publication used) i.e. blinkers + eye shields + tongue ties + visor + cheek pieces...

Qualifiers	Winners	Strike rate	Profit/Loss to Betfair SP	ROI Betfair SP	Profit/Loss to Industry SP	ROI Industry SP
314,475	29,069	9.24%	-25,311.57	-7.48%	-£87,023.33	-27.67%

Time to look a little deeper to see if we can refine it further and reduce the number of possible bets to a more sensible number – and I suspect (I don't know for certain) that Flat Hurdles or Jumps, handicap or non-handicaps may well be the simplest answer. In the tables below, 'R.O.I' signifies 'return on investment'.

### Blinkers

Race type	Qualifiers	Winners	Strike rate	Profit/Loss to Betfair SP	R.O.I Betfair SP	Profit/Loss to Industry SP	R.O.I Industry SP
All-Weather	27,569	2,793	10.13%	+£803.60	+2.91%	-£5,084.67	-18.44%
Chase	13,037	1,286	9.86%	-£1,515.55	-11.63%	-£3,774.39	-28.95%
Hurdle	15,295	1,259	8.23%	-£368.93	-2.41%	-£4,682.64	-30.62%
National Hunt Flat (or bumper)	201	10	4.98%	-£88.72	-44.14%	-£114.75	-57.09%
Turf	32,717	2618	8.00%	-£1,754.70	-5.36%	-£9,131.72	-27.91%

### Eye shields

Race type	Qualifiers	Winners	Strike rate	Profit/Loss to Betfair SP	R.O.I Betfair SP	Profit/Loss to Industry SP	R.O.I Industry SP
All-Weather	2,386	220	9.22%	-£223.56	-9.37%	-£632.11	-26.49%
Chase	140	26	18.57%	+£107.92	+£77.09%	+£42.70	+30.50%
Hurdle	201	12	5.97%	-£42.80	-21.29%	-£71.40	-35.52%
National Hunt Flat (or bumper)	16	3	18.75%	+£39.41	+246.33%	+£22.25	+£139.06
Turf	1,423	98	6.89%	-£482.48	-33.91%	-£624.84	-43.91%

### Visors

Race type	Qualifiers	Winners	Strike rate	Profit/Loss to Betfair SP	R.O.I Betfair SP	Profit/Loss to Industry SP	R.O.I Industry SP
All-Weather	15,692	1,615	10.29%	-£151.20	-0.96%	-£3,027.72	-19.29%
Chase	4,128	381	9.23%	-£738.47	-17.89%	-£1,272.04	-30.81%
Hurdle	6,050	564	9.32%	-£1,399.25	-23.13%	-£2,088.58	-34.52%
National Hunt Flat (or bumper)	34	1	2.94%	-£13.81	-40.62%	-£17.00	-50.00%
Turf	17,661	1,535	8.69%	-£537.32	-3.04%	-£4,126.48	-23.36%

### Cheek pieces

Race type	Qualifiers	Winners	Strike rate	Profit/Loss to Betfair SP	R.O.I Betfair SP	Profit/Loss to Industry SP	R.O.I Industry SP
All-Weather	24,803	2,304	9.29%	-£3,593.18	-14.49%	-£7,505.21	-30.24%
Chase	21,290	2,202	10.34%	-£1,306.99	-6.14%	-£4,994.83	-23.46%
Hurdle	24,782	2,041	8.24%	-£3,127.84	-12.62%	-£7,965.59	-32.14%
National Hunt Flat (or bumper)	397	19	4.79%	+£141.15	+35.55%	-£120.77	-30.42%
Turf	33,128	2,872	8.67%	-£3,255.05	-9.83%	-£9,142.92	-27.60%

### Tongue tie

Race type	Qualifiers	Winners	Strike rate	Profit/Loss to Betfair SP	R.O.I Betfair SP	Profit/Loss to Industry SP	R.O.I Industry SP
All-Weather	19,041	1,830	9.61%	-£1,133.30	-5.95%	-£4,975.52	-26.13%
Chase	23,846	2,701	11.33%	-£985.36	-4.13%	-£5,378.90	-22.56%
Hurdle	33,927	2,937	8.66%	-£4,753.84	-14.01%	-£1,2494.24	-36.83%
National Hunt Flat (or bumper)	2,284	143	6.26%	+£33.23	+1.46%	-£987.68	-43.24%
Turf	23,977	1,953	8.15%	-£1,599.62	-6.67%	-£7,292.54	-30.41%

## General method:

1. Look for any meeting on the Flat that day.
2. Look at each horse on the race card with B (Blinkers) V (Visor) ES (Eye Shields) P (Cheek Pieces) H (Hood) or T (Tongue Ties) – the addition of a 1 or \* next to the letter (depending on publication) tells you they are being used for the first time, the absence of either character tells you that it is NOT the first time.
3. If you have the time and the betting bank, simply lay any horse carrying any of those symbols EXCEPT H for Hood.
4. Back (not lay) any horse carrying the symbol H for Hood if you prefer, as they are the only headgear showing a consistent profit over the years covered.

## Refined Method: Backing

1. Look for all horses wearing hoods and back them regardless.
2. Look for all horses wearing blinkers and racing on the All-Weather and back them regardless.
3. Look for all horses wearing eye shields in Chases or Bumpers (National Hunt Flat races only) and back them regardless.
4. Look for all horses wearing eye shields in National Hunt Flat races or Bumpers and back them.
5. Look for all horses wearing a tongue tie in National Hunt Flat races (Bumpers) and back them.

## Refined Method Laying:

1. Lay all horses wearing any kind of headgear or tongue tie with the exception of those listed in the refined backing method above.

**Please note – statistics provide a long-term view looking backward over the last 10 years – they are hopefully of interest for your future betting but no one can guarantee the past results will be repeated. Never gamble more than you can afford to lose.**

## Resources

Please visit <http://www.racingpost.com/horses2/cards/help>, which provides a guide on how to interpret a *Racing Post* horse racing race card. Within this guide there is a small section on headgear and where on the race card this information is relayed.

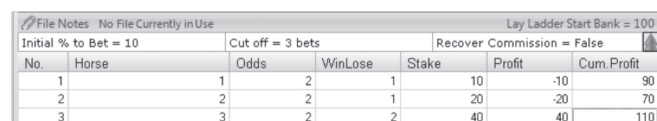
## REVIEWS:

# Home-Grown Systems Update

Another month has gone. How have the 'Home-Grown' systems performed and are there any new ideas with potential?

**The 3-5-8 system** – I shared with you this novel way of profiting by laying favourites in horse races. Here's an example of the Basic Lay Ladder, the staking plan which makes this strategy work, from May's newsletter...

Here is the screenshot taken from the Staking Machine ([www.thestakingmachine.com](http://www.thestakingmachine.com)):



No.	Horse	Odds	WinLose	Stake	Profit	Cum.Profit
1		1	2	10	-10	90
2		2	2	20	-20	70
3		3	2	40	40	110

In this instance 1=win and 2=loss in the 'Win Lose' column.

Horse 1 is at evens or 2.00 decimal odds. We want to win £10. The horse wins. We lose our £10 stake.

Horse 2 is also at evens or 2.00 decimal odds. We want to win £10 + £10 lost stake from Horse 1. The horse wins. We lose our £20 stake.

Horse 3 is also at evens or 2.00 decimal odds. We want to win £10 lost stake from Horse 1 + £20 lose stake from Horse 2 as well as our target profit of £10.

The stake for Horse 3 is £40. The horse loses its race. We win back £40 and are in profit.

Please note that this loss-retrieval staking plan only goes on for three bets maximum. If the favourite in those three races won its race, then we could have to take the losses. Bet 4 would become Bet 1 of a new three-bet cycle.

Since 28 September 2014, looking to win £10, the initial £100 starting bank now stands at £1,615.93 as of 17 June.

Even the favourites at Royal Ascot, who form part of the selections, have been losing for us. On 29 May, five consecutive favourites won their races, meaning the betting bank took a bit of a loss. The great thing about this Basic Lay Ladder is that the betting cycle returns to £10 after three bets. This ensures that loss-retrieval does not get out of control.

I am delighted with the performance of this loss-retrieval lay system and hope the losing favourites continue to favour us. As you'll read in this newsletter, this Basic Lay Ladder can be applied to greyhound racing favourites as well. Do please adopt some profit-taking with these kinds of loss-retrieval staking plans. For instance, my initial betting bank has been returned to my bank already!

**Banker Bets** – The football season proper is coming to an end as May arrives and it becomes a very difficult period in which to choose football banker bets.

A banker bet, to remind you, is the best bet of the day: the bet you'd bank on above all others. These bets are

naturally at odds of around 1.5 or lower.

I am still writing the Bankers or Blowouts section for [www.whatreallywinsmoney.co.uk](http://www.whatreallywinsmoney.co.uk) but will be back in 'official' capacity in August when the major European leagues season begins again. Do watch out for Wimbledon research at the website. It will be found in the Bankers or Blowouts section.

**Two-Horse Race Placers** – Two consecutive years of very good profits using this strategy. Selections are available for you at [www.whatreallywinsmoney.co.uk](http://www.whatreallywinsmoney.co.uk) under the imaginatively entitled heading 'Two-Horse Race Placers'.

What you'll see is something like this:

**7 120 Chelmsford Betting Forecast:** 5/6 Zamoura, 100/30 Pin Up, 6/1 Duchess Of Marmite

The '7' at the beginning tells us the number of runners. In this case the Place-Only market pays out for two places only. The Betting Forecast comes from [www.racingpost.com](http://www.racingpost.com) and the information is freely available.

Back the **live market favourite** in the Place-Only market at [www.betfair.com](http://www.betfair.com), as long as the Place-Only odds fall between 1.1 and 1.5. Avoid all joint-favourites.

2015 sees 9.8 points profit to date. Slow, but I remain hopeful of exceeding that by December 2015 as I have done in 2013 and 2014.

I did share with you a higher-risk staking plan which produced excellent profits in 2013 and 2014. The staking plan comes from the Staking Machine at [www.thestakingmachine.com](http://www.thestakingmachine.com) and is called the Pro Staking Plan.

The £100 starting bank in 2015 stands at £2,206.55, which is excellent. A full explanation of its workings can be found at <http://www.thestakingmachine.com/pro.php>. This strategy is a mainstay of my betting portfolio. I did miss out on employing the Pro Staking Plan. More fool me, as I did have two years of data with which to give me some confidence prior to 2015!

**Laying the top weight in handicaps at All-Weather meetings** – Lay the singular top weight in handicap races at All-Weather-only meetings. One caveat: lay any selection as long as their odds are below 10 decimal in [www.betfair.com](http://www.betfair.com)'s lay column.

A 104-point profit for 2014 is excellent considering this is such a simple strategy. The profit was made using level stakes laying, i.e. looking to win £10 per bet. In 2015 we are running at a loss of £80 to an initial starting bank of £100. I am happy to stick this one out, given the exceptional return from last year.

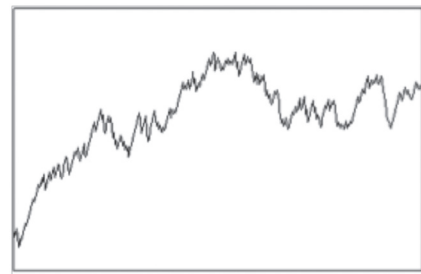
I shared with you last month how backing the selections at certain odds actually produced a reasonable return in

2014. To refresh your memory, it was when we backed selections at odds of 8 or over in 2014 that profits started to accrue. A 25.5-point profit for selections priced at odds of 8 or above. A more impressive 51-point profit for selections priced at odds of 10 or above. Along with the profits, though, came losing runs exceeding 40+.

How about 2015 as a backer of higher-priced handicap top weights? We are only six months into 2015, but the signs are promising from a backing perspective. Over 5.00 decimal odds sees a 31-point profit; over 6.00 decimal odds sees a 25-point profit; over 7.00 decimal odds sees a 26-point profit; over 8.00 decimal odds sees a 19-point profit; over 9.00 decimal odds sees a 28-point profit; over 10.00 decimal odds sees a 20-point profit.

Can we lay handicap top weights at odds of 10 or lower, and then back handicap top weights at, say, odds of 9 or over? I will certainly continue to monitor.

**Irish Bumpers** – Laying the favourite in NH Flat Races in Ireland only was a profitable strategy in 2014. This strategy made 41 points profit, but the profit graph is not as encouraging as the two preceding strategies:



In this case, the beginning of 2014, right through the summer, produced some excellent results for the layers. The system then plodded from thereon in. 2015 sees a 7.3-point level stakes profit to date.

A higher-risk alternative? How about the 1-4 lay staking plan, again which made a 113-point profit in 2014. This staking plan has produced a current 29-point profit for 2015 compared to a level stake profit of 7.3 points. This strategy is simple to implement and currently working. I'll continue to monitor, as I like January to December profit figures.

**The worst performing favourites on the All-Weather** – We focus on All-Weather race meetings. Below you'll see two All-Weather meetings: Lingfield (AW) and Wolverhampton (AW). Guess what the 'AW' stands for? Your next job is to click on the 'Favourites' link, and take note of the race types with the smallest percentage of favourites winning. In the case of Lingfield below, which race type has the smallest percentage of winning favourites?

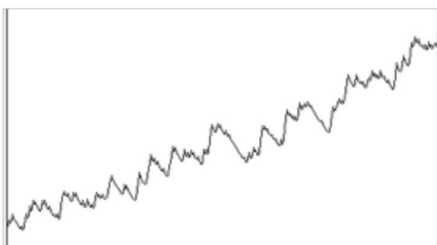
BY FAVOURITES		NON-HANDICAP		£1 STAKE		HANDICAP		£1 STAKE	
WINS	PLACES	WINS	PLACES	WINS	PLACES	WINS	PLACES	WINS	PLACES
2yo	89	201	44	-6.56	15	51	29	-12.24	
3yo	201	390	52	+14.53	146	439	33	-43.02	
4yo	116	275	42	-18.18	206	487	33	-12.28	
TOTAL	406	866	47	-9.72	456	1377	33	-77.69	

If you answered ‘2yo handicap with 29%’, then you’d be right. Your next step is to note the race times for any qualifying races. A ‘2 yo [year old] handicap’ is also known as a nursery handicap. On this particular day, there are no nursery handicaps and therefore no qualifying bets.

When you do find a bet, you become a backer rather than a layer. Yes, I know: you’d have thought that laying favourites in the worst-performing races for favourites on the All-Weather would profit well. It doesn’t as you’ll see below!

Simply backing the favourite in these qualifying races this year would have produced a 63-point profit, which is excellent. Whether it has the consistency to profit again in 2015 we’re yet to find out.

How would you like to see a profit graph like the one below?



It looks excellent doesn’t it? And what if I told you that I could turn £100 into £1,093 with a maximum stake of £27.50 and a minimum stake of £10: would that interest you? It certainly piqued my interest.

This is what I look for from a betting system: a steady upwards profit and that the maximum stake is very reasonable. This staking plan is called ‘Rolling Doubles’ and a discussion on the plan can be found at [http://www.thestakingmachine.com/rolling\\_doubles.php](http://www.thestakingmachine.com/rolling_doubles.php). Rolling Doubles is a high-risk strategy in and of itself. So far in 2015, using Rolling Doubles turned £100 into £408.39, betting to 20% of the bank.

Higher-risk staking plans? A 129-point profit last year and 36-point profit so far in 2015 augurs well for this loss-retrieval plan, which is called ‘The Bookies Bank’, a full explanation of which can be found at <http://www.thestakingmachine.com/bookiesbank.php>.

**Maidens, claimers and selling stakes races at All-Weather venues** – This betting strategy is easy. At All-Weather (‘AW’) venues, take a note of all Maiden, claiming stakes and selling stakes races. I do include

Chelmsford now, despite it being a brand new All-Weather venue (and thus missing historical data).

Put them in time order, and lay the favourites.

A 26-point profit has accrued just laying each favourite to level stakes. Nice, simple, profitable.

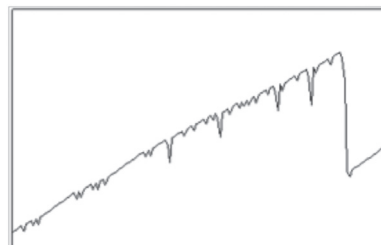
In 2015, the level stakes loss of 9 points, not helped by a run of five consecutive winning favourites, then a later run of four consecutive winning favourites. I am hopeful that the year will balance this out.

If you want to limit your risk to a tenner, for example, you’ll have still made 22 points profit in 2014 using fixed liability laying. A 20-point profit so far in 2015. When you lay favourites to a fixed liability, your profits increase when a shorter-priced favourite loses.

Higher-risk staking plans...

This staking plan, as mentioned last month, increased a profit to 78 points, and in 2015 the bank did reach 70 points profit but was hit by those winning sequences mentioned earlier and now lies at a 9-point loss. It’s called the 1-4 Lay Staking Plan – see <http://www.thestakingmachine.com/lay14.php>.

The Basic Lay Ladder of the 3-5-8 system can equally be applied here. But, with high risk comes the potential of a high fall!



A £100 betting bank quickly turned into £1,116. Then the moment of truth arrived. We hit a sticky patch of four consecutive losing lays. After the three-bet betting cycle ended, the betting bank was reduced to £453.

£434 is the profit figure for 2014. A reasonable return. The money lost when we hit four losers was OPM (other people’s money).

Higher-risk staking plans again boost the betting bank considerably. In 2015, this riskier staking plan has made a profit of £201.

**Laying penalised runners on the All-Weather** – I like this very simply laying idea. A penalised horse is a horse which won its last race and has been given (usually) a 6lb or 12lb penalty to carry in its next race.

Take a look at the screenshot below. Colourbearer is the qualifier here. Note the ‘6x’ after the horse’s name? This signifies a 6lb penalty.

**7:10 BET TOTEQUADPOT HANDICAP (CLASS 5) (4yo+ 0-70) Winner £3,235 8 runners 6f Standard ATR**

**Race Conditions:** £5,000 guaranteed For 4yo+ Rated 55-70 (also open to such horses rated 55 and below) **Weights** highest weight 9st 7lb **Minimum weight** 8-7 **Penalties** after March 7th, each race won 6lb **Colourbearer's Handicap Mark** 75 **Entries** 13 pay £ 25 **Penalty value** 1st £3,234.50 2nd £962.50 3rd £481.00 4th £240.50

NO.	FORM	HORSE	AGE	WGT	TRAINER	RTF%	JOCKEY	OR	TS	RPR
1 <sup>3</sup>		 Colourbearer 6x t	8	9-13	Charlie Wallis 100		Ben Curtis	75	67	81
67-711		 2 Pivotal - Centifolia (FR) (Kendor (FR))								

The lay strategy made a reasonable 20-point profit in 2014, which, considering the ease at which selections are made, is a step in the right direction. 2015's betting bank was hit by recent winners at odds of 10 and 6.61 and currently lies at a 7-point loss.

## New 'Home-Grown' Betting Ideas

With no newsletter in July, I can begin working on more 'Home-Grown' betting ideas. The ones with the most promise currently revolve around the races in the day which have the biggest-priced Betting Forecast favourite.

What do I mean? I look through the *Racing Post* race cards each day and make a note of the Betting Forecasts which feature the biggest-priced favourite in the Betting Forecast. Here's an example:

**330 Pontefract Betting Forecast:** 6/1 Scrafton, 7/1 Madam Lilibet

On this day, Scrafton was the biggest-priced favourite in the *Racing Post* Betting Forecast. I am monitoring results. At this early stage, a lay system, or even a place lay system could be in the offing.

I am also searching for more greyhound betting strategies. Who knows, maybe I will find a back strategy?

## First Timers Vulnerable?

Head on over to [www.irishracing.com](http://www.irishracing.com). Once you register you can gain access to links such as the First Time Gear. This interests me. The Statman (above) talks about headgear.

This link at [www.irishracing.com](http://www.irishracing.com) covers horses who are wearing headgear for the first time. This link also covers horses making their first appearances in handicap chases, fences, jumps, handicap hurdles, and handicap races.

I'll be keeping track of the results. I want to see if first timers perform poorly, as we would logically expect from debutants in any area. The handicap chases immediately spring to mind from a laying perspective.

With the football season's arrival in August, I'll be listing a number of bet-and-go 'Home-Grown' strategies for this new season. Watch out for these in August's 'Home-Grown' Systems Update.

But now let me welcome you to June's Systems and Tipsters Update: a round-up of the rogues and the heroes in this betting world of ours.

## REVIEWS:

# Systems & Tipsters Update

**Andy Bell Racing** – This service is a great example in not just looking at claimed results for a calendar year (452.77 points Jan-December 2014). We must look at recent performance and see whether the betting bank has been growing in real terms.

Well, the betting bank now is where it was in July 2014, but of course this is not shouted from the rooftops! Please note that there is a change in Betfan.com results.

There is an option to record results to Best Odds Guaranteed bookmaker prices rather than the bookmaker's SP, which has been used in the past. This makes May's SP loss of 31 points a profit of 16.54 points.

For the sake of continuity I have to record SP as before, which compounds this year's 14.26-point loss, to become 35.26 points loss.

At £58 per month this service is best left avoided. The new option of recording to BOG prices may be misleading, so tread carefully with all claims made by [www.betfan.com](http://www.betfan.com) for all of their tipsters in this regard.

**The Gambling Don** – Another from [www.betfan.com](http://www.betfan.com), also employing confidence staking of typically 4/5 points to win and 3 points each way.

This service is best employed by not looking at calendar-year results, but looking at whether the betting bank has gradually been rising.

It has not risen in real terms since June 2014. 113.54 points profit from January 2015 to April 2015 has been all but decimated by a 104-point loss to SP in May 2015. Oh dear. At £58 per month it's not really the 'showtime' the Don proclaims from his website (rather it's 'd'oh' time!

**Each-way Earners** – This service is now under the [www.tipsterstreet.com](http://www.tipsterstreet.com) banner (formerly Tipsters Warehouse). 169 points lifetime profit on the face of it looks reasonable, from 11 January 2013.

The bank was below this current level as far back as 7 August 2014. This is another tipster in which traditional January-December results do not give the full picture.

We have not seen a growth in the betting bank since August 2014. I mentioned last month about lifetime membership: never enter any long-term deal with a tipster. Period. A 3-point profit for May is poor, all things considered.

From a personal perspective, I expect more from an each-way service. Heck, my tips at [www.whatreally](http://www.whatreally)

[winsmoney.co.uk](http://winsmoney.co.uk) have blown this guy out of the water recently, and they're free!

At £19.95 per month, you're not presently paying for any betting bank growth!

**Each Way Statman** – <http://winninginformationnetwork.com/eachwaystatman> A 67-point loss for 2015 makes for another poorly-performing each-way service. How can this be? Each-way betting offers the insurance of the places, so why are these 'professional' tipsters not getting enough horses to place, when they do not win?

The last time the betting bank was above its current position was in August 2014. As a service in free fall and for £37 per month, this service is a no-go. As I said last month, this service is living up to its advertising blurb, which states: 'I won't promise you instant riches.'

**The Racing Professionals** – <http://www.theracingprofessionals.co.uk> A 114.09-point loss so far for 2015, albeit from the Flat season months only of April, May and June – but I would caution you not to take this loss as a resounding negative. As I explained last month, this is a 'value'-based service and there will be long losing runs. It just so happens that a long losing run is in effect at the start of this Flat campaign.

Confidence should be instilled from the archived results; that is why I place great standing on archived results. They give you the character of the service.

As I said, this service is a value service: it tends towards big-priced winners and uses Betfair SP in order to enhance returns (need I remind you of the 607.45 odds winner last year which came in the very first race in 2014).

Yes, it's a Marmite service. You either grit your teeth, tolerate the losing runs and hope for a return to profit (as has happened in the past), or you leave these long losing run services alone.

The last big-priced winner came on the 23 May, at odds of 14.04. Do note the odds of recent selections: 25/1, 80/1, 33/1, 100/1 even. This puts any losing run into context.

This is a service to definitely follow, despite the negative position currently and the 23.21-point loss on the All-Weather. With a service such as this, focusing on the odds they do, one winner turns that frown upside down!

At £44.99 per month for the main service and £29.99 per month for the All-Weather service, you'd be a short-term frustrated customer but would have to have faith that this service will perform as per the past.

**Tom Nelson Racing** – This win and each-way horse racing tipster, for [www.bettinggods.com](http://www.bettinggods.com), uses between

1 and 6 points based on his confidence in selections. Another fairly young service, so don't go joining long-term please. At £29.95 per month the cost is reasonable.

But as to performance? Unlike Andy Bell et al, Tom Nelson Racing sees a nice gradually rising profit graph. When profits grow and don't stagnate, then we could be onto a tipster who'll deliver consistently.

An 86-point profit for May 2015 was excellent, but a 61-point loss for June to date has eaten into that. This is a service which has broken records constantly. It breached the 500-point barrier recently but is meeting resistance. The bank lies at 491 points presently, not helped by June's negative results.

This service has promise. I must warn you that it is a 'young' service. No archived results like the Racing Professionals.

**Unity Racing Club** – I recounted the largely disintegrating headline claims at the website marketing this service. A few weeks ago, they were proclaiming 'An INCREDIBLE +849 Points Profit In Just 5 Months'.

Last month I recounted the headline as 'An INCREDIBLE +717.08 Points Profit In Just 5 Months'. This month? The new headline reads 'An INCREDIBLE +699.12 Points Profit in Just 5 Months'.

Well, the headline now reads 'An INCREDIBLE +856.4 Points Profit in Just 5 Months'! Something must have happened at Unity Racing Club. A Lazarus-like recovery?

May saw a 25.02-point loss to SP (and remember [www.betfan.com](http://www.betfan.com) have now included advised stakes and Best Odds Guaranteed as methods to claim extra points profit per month). June sees a current 65-point profit to SP to date.

Still, this is a stagnant service and has not profited since November 2014 in real terms.

For £57 per month, I would clearly say 'No thanks!' and warn you against taking headlines on face value. Come on Betfan, change the headline to: 'An INCREDIBLE +2 Points Profit since November 2014' – that would be more like the truth!