

SMARTsig Confidential 10.04, April 2003

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SMART UP FRONT

The intelligent choice

EXCHANGES PROFILING FEEDBACK

From the SMARTsig Email discussion group;

If you submit articles to SMARTsig because you enjoy sharing and publishing then please continue. If on the other hand you hope to win the 2003 article of the year then put your pen down now, its all over. This years title has already been won in my opinion. Andrew Campbell's article, February 2003, issue 10.02, is ten-lengths clear entering the final furlong. I have only read it once so I am putting my head on the block here but it is both innovative and thought provoking. Of course it may be that I am bound to say this because the article has loose connections with an idea I emailed about some 8 months ago.

The crux of my email was that I had read an article in the New Scientist about efficient markets and a web site that allowed people to visit and register their selections for the up and coming Oscars (ring any bells ?). The bottom line was that the web site was VERY popular and the weight of public opinion proved remarkably accurate regarding the outcomes, better than the so called experts. I had some initial ideas about utilising the idea to predict starting prices. I soon realised however that predicting starting prices doesn't hold the same fascination as predicting best actors (you wouldn't have thought so would you :-)). Now Andrews ideas tie in with the Oscar site in the sense that his initial findings suggest that unlike bookmakers' prices which contract with weight of money, exchange prices have no obligation to do so.

His initial findings suggest that when the weight of money for a favourite was out of line with the price, i.e. the price was bigger than would be the norm compared with calculated par weights of money, profits resulted. The point he is making is that the market is saying one thing but the prices on offer are saying another.

I would like to add another ingredient or two to Andrew's thoughts which

I think may be valuable. He took his samples at 12 noon simply I think out of convenience. This may have proved to be a blessing in disguise. At 12 noon (if we ignore early price races) there is no on-course market for the exchanges to follow. Compared to the pre-race exchanges they are an independent living organism (so to speak). Their independence from the effects of weight of money being played (on course) is much greater than when they are being influenced by the course market. The course market is influenced by weight of money. Money for a favourite will bring the price down and in turn bring the exchange price down. It could be therefore that before live prices filter in is the most lucrative area to adopt this approach. It may also be that you should ignore early-price races where these trading changes effect exchange prices.

One further point related to last point is that maybe with prices just before the off the idea works best when on course markets are weak compared to the exchange market. In this situation the exchange market may still exhibit out of line prices. Well done Andrew, I feel a spider approaching

Mark Littlewood

I too should like to add my congratulations to Andrew for the article. Just one query however, which I hope will not be taken as a criticism. On Pages 40 and 41 where the Odds/% of Pool tables are found, would one expect the % of Pool figures to reduce fairly evenly?

The figures for 2.78 Odds = 0.8381 is actually higher
 than 1.62 Odds = 0.7849

and . . . 6.00 Odds = 0.4249 exceed 5.80 Odds = 0.2526

The missus keeps telling me the grey cells are disappearing, so maybe I've missed something along the way. So, in need, apologies.

Trevor Bamfield

Barry Dennis on a recent Morning Line observed that making a 'book' has only ever been a theoretical possibility. Therefore, anybody trying to do so will get hurt more quickly today than previously might have been a case.

I think the pertinent reference here is back to Andrew Campbell's 'Betting Exchange Profiling' submission in February's magazine which is absolutely spot on. Using the tables in that article and applying some personal judgement, it is possible to determine good punts from bad punts if one is a backer and good lays from bad ones if one is a layer. However, the underlying principle is that the 'market' ~ in its broadest sense ~ is becoming a more accurate reflection of the chance of each horse.

Alan Turner

 SMARTsig

If SMARTsig can help member's be just a little bit better informed than they would otherwise be, then we're doing our job. When that converts to a tangible financial gain so much the better. Here's a recent example recounted which helped a member be more than £850 better off as a direct result.

FREE MONEY, WERE YOU THERE? **SMARTsig**

Being in the right place at the right time and being alerted to the opportunities helped more than a few SMARTsig members to what amounted to a free cash handout earlier this year.

The following message was broadcast to our email group in mid December 2002;

StanleyBet are running an offer for new customers whereby they will refund to your account in February one-third of your losses between now and 31st January 2003. This refund is capped at £1,000.

So, if you lose £3,000 with Stanley over that period, they'll give £1,000 of that loss back to you. But "I will then still be £2,000 down" I hear you say?

Well no. Not if you are a smart punter.

Remember Betting Exchanges ~ these days you can lay as well as bet your selections. So the way to capitalise on Stanleybet's refund offer is to lay your bets on with exchanges. Simply cover your Stanleybet losses with betting-exchange winnings.

Look for situations where the exchange prices are close to that of Stanley to give yourself as close to a zero return on each bet as possible.

Remember even if you make a net loss when covering the bets, the 1/3 refund of net losses from Stanley should cover your costs and put you into significant profit.

If you are not a fan or user of the exchanges, which is a view I suggest you alter, then look for low percentage books on football matches. This too could work very well.

What you are looking for are situations where you can bet a football game as a win for the home side, a draw, or an away win using different bookies (one of which is Stanley) for as small a net loss as possible.

Using this method you could even use some form of incremental staking plan to guarantee a Stanleybet loss at the end of the run.

I would advise something similar if using the exchanges.

Remember you are looking for a net Stanleybet loss at the end of each run to build up your loss bank with them.

I opened an account with them this afternoon and plan to lose to them £3,000 by the end of January.

I know I will be out of pocket over this six-week period and expect to be losing due to small overround margins on my hedged bets. But the £1,000 refund they deposit in my account however will more than cover these.

Through careful selection of the markets I play in I expect to be a minimum of a net £500 plus ahead at the worst by the end of the campaign period.

Take a look at Liverpool v Everton for example on the 22nd December. They are out of line by a margin on Liverpool at 11/10

I bet this with them and laid it back at less than that on the BetDaq exchange.

If Liverpool fail to win I break even on the bet (actually make a small profit) but I am also well on my way to my £3,000 Stanleybet loss target.

PS ~ You are a little late now because they've realised they are out of line on this one, and will now only take £50 bets on it at the price.

Still it is a bet worth taking as you should be able to lay back on the exchanges at lower to cover yourself. This will be even easier to do assuming they drop their 11/10 top-notch price which I suspect they eventually will.

There's money for free out there in this instance, all you need do is go for it, so what are you waiting for?

More than a few took advantage of the refund offer, here's the diary of one of them

**MONEY FOR NOTHING
and West Ham kicks for free**

Steve Tilley

One of our more observant email group members brought to our attention the offer from Stanley Betting. This was that if you opened a new account with them in December 2002 they would refund a third of any losses you made up to January 31st providing you made a total of at least 10 bets and that their total value was over £250.

It was suggested that this was money for old-ropes as all you had to do was have a bet with Stanley and then cover it on one of the exchanges, Betfair or Betdaq for example. If your bet lost then you made up the money on the exchanges and at the end of January you get a third of your losses back.

A simple example;

I **bet** £100 on Leeds to beat Southampton at odds of 2.00. (In this article all the odds are in the decimal or Tote format, so 2.00 = Even money)
I then **lay** Leeds to lose at 2.10 on the exchanges. My 'stake' on the exchange is also £100.

If Leeds win then I win £100 from Stanley but pay out £110 on the exchanges, losing £10 overall.

If Leeds fail to win then I lose £100 with Stanley, but receive £100 from the exchange. However, and here's the punch-line, I will receive another £33.33 from Stanley at the end of the period if I have no more winners.

From the start of this campaign it was obvious that there were certain problems I would need to overcome. As a follower of Grimsby Town I knew little about soccer, which is what Stanleybet seem to specialise in.

In order to get a meaningful sum back I would have to have at least ten bets and make a substantial loss with Stanley. I strongly suspected this would not be as easy as it sounded. I would have to work out a way of allocating stakes so as to minimise reductions due to deductions and the fact that the prices on Stanley and the Exchanges were unlikely to match up.

Several strategies came to mind. Back outsiders Farnborough to beat

Arsenal for example. Such a tactic was risky though, because if I did have a winner it would greatly reduce my chances of making a loss overall (strange territory here, looking to maximise my losses to make it all pay!)

Also the spread between the Stanleybet odds and the prices on the exchange for laying were quite wide, this meant (a) I was unable to cover my bet if it lost or (b) I was over exposed on the exchange if it won.

Backing shorter priced bets seemed to offer more chance of getting back to a loss if it won with Stanley and the prices on the exchanges were closer so it would be easier to lay-off the bet. However being shorter priced they also had more chance of winning ~ so I had to be more skilful in my betting in order to find the short priced loser.

Stanley imposed a maximum bet of £1,000 on any given game, so a single £3,000 hit was not possible.

A further problem was the deductions and the spread between the Stanley price and the exchange price. My first move to reduce this was to bet with Betdaq as they seemed to offer similar value to Betfair but with only a 1% commission. I then decided to select my bets by picking the ones where the ratio between Stanley and Betdaq was as large as possible. To calculate this I divided the Stanley price by the Betdaq laying price.

At this stage I also decided to concentrate on the English Premier league because it had a strong market, this in turn ensured the spread between Stanley and Betdaq laying would be minimised.

When laying on Betdaq you enter the amount you are trying to win so if I lay £100 at 3.4 I can win £100 if the bet fails but I will pay out £240 if the bet succeeds.

I decided that this was the simplest way to proceed. It meant that if my bet with Stanley lost I was sure of covering it, but if the Stanley bet won I would make a loss overall because it would not quite cover the Betdaq bet. (See the first example)

I could have bet such that I would make a small loss which ever way the bet went, or arranged that if the Stanley bet won I would make a small profit ~ but lose overall if it lost.

This whole thing was looking more difficult as it went along so I decided to

keep it simple. To make things clearer, in all the examples I have ignored the Betdaq commission payment (I'll make the adjustment at the end)

		Stanley		Betdaq		Result	Stanley	Betdaq
Leeds v Southampton	Leeds	£500	2	£500	2.02	Lose	-£500.00	+£500

A good result with a ratio of 2/2.02 or 0.99.

Next was Liverpool against Everton. This was a good example of what can go wrong with even a simple plan. I took the lay on Betdaq for £500 only to discover that because apparently it was a midweek game I could only bet £100 with Stanley. I decided to bet £400 on Betdaq to cover part of my original lay at 1.84. My only excuse for this was that I panicked

		Stanley		Betdaq		Result	Stanley	Betdaq
Liverpool v Everton	L'pool	£100	1.8	£500	1.88	Lose	-£100.00	+£500
				£400	1.84	Lose		-£400

If Liverpool would have won I would have collected £80 from Stanley. But lost £336-£500 = -£164 with Betdaq. Still as luck would have it I was okay.

I had now reached two conclusions. First I was going to aim to lose £2,500 at least with Stanley, second, I would have a real go on the next bet to close in on my target.

On Boxing Day I actually found an arbitrage;

		Stanley		Betdaq		Result	Stanley	Betdaq
West Ham v Fulham	W Ham	£1,000	2.2	£1,000	2.17	Lose	-£1,000.00	+£1,000

Here the ratio is 1.01 a whole 1%. I decided to ignore the possibilities of making a profit whatever the result and proceed with my plans as normal.

West Ham duly failed to win. I was now a very pleasing £1,600 adrift with Stanley.

Next week it was West Ham involved again. This time I was betting on Blackburn with Stanley;

		Stanley		Betdaq		Result	Stanley	Betdaq
Blackburn v West Ham	Blackbn	£500	1.73	£500	1.77	Lose	-£500.00	+£500

This resulted in a 2-2 draw with some of the worst goals I have ever seen. It was at this point I decided football betting was more like a lottery than a strategy and I was riding my luck.

I thought it best to reduce stakes for when the inevitable arrived and I started winning.

		Stanley		Betdaq		Result	Stanley	Betdaq
Newcastle v Tottenham	Draw	£100	3.4	£100	3.5	Lose	-£100.00	+£100

My first attempt at draw laying and another loss. The ratio was 0.97.

		Stanley		Betdaq		Result	Stanley	Betdaq
West Ham v Newcastle	W Ham	£200	2.62	£200	2.75	Lose	-£200.00	+£200

I have no particular knowledge of West Ham but once again I was on the right side of them. I also noticed again for reasons I cannot explain that certain teams seemed to keep appearing.

It was now January 18th and I was getting a bit more (maybe too?) confident and I also needed to have enough bets to get me to 10 so I whacked in four bets on the same day.

Southampton v Liverpool	L'rpool	£72	2.75	£72	2.92	Win	+£116	-£73
Leeds v West Brom	Leeds	£130	1.53	£130	1.6	Lose	-£130	+£130
Everton v Sunderland	Everton	£118	1.67	£118	1.67	Win	+£79	-£90
Aston Villa v Tottenham	A Villa	£88	2.25	£88	2.4	Lose	-£88	+£88

The stakes are now adjusted so that any win on Stanley returns £200 ~ basically this is much like dutching. My reason for this was that I was getting near my target and I didn't want one particular bad result to inflict too much damage on my position. However with two of my Stanley bets winning I was only a little nearer my target. I also had the feeling that maybe, just maybe, my luck was running out.

Then another problem. The next week was FA Cup week and I was not over

confident about trying to get involved in this. However there was one more Premiership game Fulham v Middlesbrough.

Looking at the betting I was not very confident as the ratios were all about 0.85 rather than the 0.9 & above I'd been aiming at before. Now what the professional should do here is wait until the correct opportunity arises. But I'm no pro, and theory and practice don't always go hand-in-hand ~ what I did was try and sort out another market to trade.

This time I set my sights on the number of goals scored. Bear in mind my original thinking was I wouldn't try FA Cup in case my system didn't work. So it was obviously more likely to work on the goals market??? Snap financial decisions when you're in the front line with your own money and the rules you set yourself are not always so clear.

I decided Fulham v Middlesbrough would not be a feast of goals. Drifting away from my strict rule-based approach, this was my first and only *opinion* throughout the whole exercise. The bet is with Stanley that 3 goals or more will be scored, because I could lay 3 goals or more on Betdaq.

Sadly Stanley won't let you bet 3 goals or more, so I dutched what I felt were the more likely results which meant I could match it all on BetDaq.

Fulham v Middlesbro	Middlesbro 3-2	£31	26
Fulham v Middlesbro	Middlesbro 3-0	£24	34
Fulham v Middlesbro	Fulham 4-0	£16	51
Fulham v Middlesbro	Middlesbro 2-1	£73	11
Fulham v Middlesbro	Draw 2-2	£53	15
Fulham v Middlesbro	Fulham 3-1	£47	17
Fulham v Middlesbro	Fulham 3-0	£38	21
Fulham v Middlesbro	Fulham 2-1	£94	8.5

This meant a loss which if these came up of about £350 which was covered with a simple lay on Betdaq. at 2.36.

The final outcome went Fulham's way and they won the game 1-0 so my Stanley bet lost.

As an additional extra bit of excitement, if say Middlesbrough had won 4-1, I would be paying out on Betdaq with no money coming in from Stanley.

I had now dropped a grand total of £2,761 with Stanley and I felt I would like to rest on my laurels at this point ~ a wearing experience indeed. In mid February I got a very nice cheque for £920 from Stanley that meant I had made just over £850 allowing for losses and commission on Betdaq. The exercise though has also taught me several very useful lessons;

- There is free money about if you look for it.
- Any one betting on football is a braver man than I.
- Any one betting on any game involving West Ham may well be certifiable.
- With a modicum or in my case bucket loads of luck you can achieve anything.
- I am unlikely to ever be a professional gambler.



Thanks for the account of events Steve, hope you spend the money wisely ~ and you don't put it straight back into the machine!

- ed

FOR EVERY WINNER ~ THERE IS A LOSER

Quite obviously for each £1 won through gambling, betting or speculation there must be someone ~ or some group, somewhere, who is losing an equal amount. Steve's a winner, which was gained with much of the risk element removed. So won and who lost in this scenario?

Steve won by over £850.00

Betdaq were clearly also winners by almost £70, made from the commissions paid on Steve's additional activities.

It was Stanleybet whose refund paid Steve from the money he'd lost to them, but they wind up being the biggest winners of all, winning over twice as much as Steve did ~ in fact they gain by Steve and Betdaq combined. Which leaves the betting exchange players as the ones who funded the gains for the above trio. Nothing wrong there of course, exchange players are always betting against a hidden adversary.

But what excellent business for the bookmaker involved. So long as only one mainstream bookie is making the offer at any one time ~ ensuring they're being played against the exchanges, they can really make this offer pay handsomely. Are you listening Stanley? Keep making that offer of a one-third return to losing punters - you'll make a fortune. If you don't someone else will!

- Stef

Writing for various sporting titles throughout a career that has now spanned many decades. His in-depth and well researched ideas for the systems fan has secured Philip Alexander a band of loyal followers. SMARTsig is pleased to continue the tradition

PHILIP ALEXANDER

CHECKS THE FORM-BOOK TRENDS

THE SHORTER THE TIME SPAN
the more profitable certain results can be
Philip Alexander

Being capable of offering an answer in regard to those questions about which nobody really cares is to be classed invariably, and politely, as the possessor of useless information.

Knowing a thing or two in regard to the future prospects of those animals that make a return to racing within a very short space of time is rather looked upon as falling into the same category. Not for the first time (and certainly not for the last) do I discover myself out of step with the majority view on this matter.

Over a very long time, it has been my sad misfortune to encounter a host of self-styled racing know-alls who have tended to dismiss this circumstance as being of little concern to them in their constant search for winners.

The reason for this apathetic opinion has frequently been to effect that far too many animals turn out again little time between races for there to be anything worthwhile in wading through the relevant statistics.

Their words to some considerable extent can be appreciated for they are probably looking at the concept as a whole. If this is the case then there is little wonder at their adamant remarks, for the indiscriminate following of any generality, even if it appears to be founded on unquestionable common

sense, only seems to lead the unsuspecting towards the poorhouse. So I can safely say that it is all Lombard Street to a chocolate orange that the wholesale supporting of those that make a quick return to racing will prove to be no exception to this rule.

Obviously this last statement is correct, but it must be emphasised at the same time that it is the widely accepted belief that it is a long established practice that the individual must usually dig deep in order to find real gold!

Nothing, apart from poverty and old age appears to come easily to the not too determined racing enthusiast. On this score the only suggestion that comes readily to mind can best be expressed by the one word, which happens to be specialisation.

Exercises of any appreciable duration must have as their aim the collection and study of as many of the appropriate happenings as possible. In an ideal situation the object must be for the sampling to amount to as many hundreds of examples as are available. Maybe this Ideal could even be as high as a couple of thousand. At this point it is feasible to calculate to within a few percentage points in either direction what the margin of possible error may be. Unfortunately, however, this is the world of racing with which we are dealing and the ideal situation seldom (if ever) arises now, or at any time in the future.

Whilst the degree of specialisation increases in accordance with the number of codicils employed so the number of samples decreases and you are faced with a resultant rise in the margin of possible error. Once more there are several statistical tests that can be applied to this limited sampling in order to determine whether the outcome is likely to be replicated or not in the future, but serious doubts exist in my own mind as to the validity of many of these processes.

Speaking as someone who has spent the majority of his working life immersed in all the mumbo-jumbo that surrounds a great sport, all I can find to defend my opinion against these principles is the fact that it is the unique quality of horse racing that is again being discussed.

Alas, I find the likelihood of some of these statistical models becoming reality almost as hopeful as one of the good old chestnuts. The one whereby the assumption would have us believe that, given an adequate supply of blank paper and unused typewriter ribbons, a monkey will one day produce a copy of the bible in its entirety!

Once as a student I became involved with a penny tossing team where the object of the exercise was to cease the proceedings once the two so-called even-money chances had produced an equal number of completed spins.

Some years later the whole activity was abandoned with the only conclusion that could be drawn being that the nearest numerical solution to the problem was when only one spin had taken place and the reverse result would see the totals equal. This never happened though, and the futile undertaking was discontinued when either heads or tails (I forget which, it is so long ago) led by a margin of over 500.

Returning to the main issue. At this juncture, the individual stands alone. He must determine the value of his findings without seeking, and, if the results are not to his liking consequently laying the blame for failure upon someone else's doorstep. Indeed, the decision must be taken as to whether it will prove to be a sound policy upon which to base his future investments by taking a meagre handful of results extracted from several thousand races?

Or should the decision be delayed until more samples have been analysed and compared against what is required?

Years ago I was taken mildly to task by a reader for suggesting that, based upon the immediate past, a certain trend seemed to be a distinct possibility so far as the five classic races were concerned. The obviously learned correspondent went on to propound a theory that could not be challenged, but it did stretch over a sampling of several hundred races!

All I could proffer in defence of my tentative proposal was that I did not feel that any of my readers would live long enough to take advantage of his unquestionable knowledge! In sheer frustration I cannot recall who said "the opportunity of a lifetime must be taken during the lifetime of the opportunity" but he (or she) certainly knew something.

Making a racecourse re-appearance again with a time-span of seven days may very well constitute that duration of peak fitness that is required to form the basis of some quite useful systematic approaches.

With that pronunciation there can be little in the way of wholesale dissension. For an even more productive time-span, though, I have always found much to recommend the introduction of the 'half-week' period of time, namely an interval of no more than four days.

Definitely this is in keeping with the sooner rather than later philosophy, of which I am without doubt. one of the greatest exponents. So the next stage of this week's analysis was to find a challenging Group One venue, and in this respect the courses at the very top of my list were none other than those represented by the rolling acres of East Anglian turf at Newmarket.

This having been decided, the choice then produced the following four-day qualifiers:-

Season	Qualifier	days	LTO Course	Sex	Result	Place Only Dividend
1998						
30-May	Quite Happy	[3]	Folkestone	Filly	7th 11/2	£0.00
18-Jul	AFAAN	[3]	Catterick	Horse	Won 13/2	£2.60
30-Oct	Dalwhinnie	[2]	Yarmouth	Mare	2nd 12/1	£2.60
1999						
06-Jul	THAT MAN AGAIN	[3]	Sandown	Gelding	Won 10/1	£2.90
17-Jul	ALHAWA	[3]	Doncaster	Gelding	Won 3/1 (fav)	£2.20
30-Jul	Rare Talent	[3]	Beverley	Gelding	2nd 4/1	£1.50
01-Oct	Lamerie	[3]	Newmarket	Colt	2nd 3/1 (fav)	£1.60
16-Oct	KAYO	[2]	Redcar	Gelding	Won 5/1	£2.10
30-Oct	Bintang Timor	[3]	Yarmouth	Gelding	3rd 7/1	£2.60
2000						
30-Jun	Dandy Night	[4]	Yarmouth	Filly	3rd 11/2	£1.90
11-Jul	BLUE VELVET	[4]	Sandown	Filly	Won 8/1	£2.80
16-Sep	DANCING MYSTERY	[4]	Yarmouth	Gelding	Won 12/1	£3.00
27-Oct	Acebo Lyons	[2]	Yarmouth	Mare	4th 6/1	£0.00
28-Oct	GREENAWAY BAY	[4]	Nottingham	Gelding	Won 8/1	£2.30
2001						
02-Jun	Night Haven	[4]	Leicester	Gelding	16th 8/1	£0.00
22-Jun	OCEAN TIDE	[2]	Hamilton	Gelding	Won 7/4 (fav)	£1.50
30-Jun	Blue Gold	[3]	Kempton	Colt	5th 9/2	£0.00
04-Aug	Swynford Pleasure	[4]	Beverley	Mare	6th 5/1	£0.00
	Billadie	[1]	Newmarket	Gelding	10th 8/1	£0.00
02-Oct	Celtic Mission	[4]	Haydock	Gelding	2nd 7/1	£2.10
04-Oct	AAHGOWANGOWAN	[1]	Brighton	Filly	Won 8/1	£2.50
06-Oct	Swynford Welcome	[1]	Newmarket	Mare	2nd 7/1	£2.40
03-Nov	BEAUCHAMP PILOT	[4]	Redcar	Gelding	Won 3/1 (fav)	£2.00
2002						
21-Jun	LYGETON LAD	[4]	Warwick	Gelding	Won 6/1	£2.00
10-Jul	Football Crazy	[4]	Sandown	Gelding	7th 9/2 (fav)	£0.00
02-Oct	Robandela	[2]	Hamilton	Gelding	2nd 9/2 (fav)	£2.10
03-Oct	Calcutta	[3]	Bath	Horse	4th 12/1	£0.00
04-Oct	Fresh As A Rose	[4]	Hamilton	Filly	3rd 5/1	£2.00
18-Oct	Craic Sa Ceili	[3]	Ayr	Filly	4th 7/2 (fav)	£1.10
01-Nov	Uncle Bernon	[4]	Windsor	Gelding	3rd 12/1	£2.60

Briefly summarising these results it can be seen that the 11 winners from a total sampling of only 30, giving a strike-rate of 36.67 per cent, would have produced a £5 level stake profit of £261.25 at starting price, equal to a return of 174.17 per cent on investment.

Whereas the same number of qualifiers at the same level of staking would have produced a profit of £266.50 had they been supported on the Tote, which would have been the equivocal to 177.67 per cent of turnover.

In short, the impersonal method of betting would have yielded the better return by 3.50 per cent.

- The average starting price of all selections was a very healthy 8.12-1
- Whilst that of the winners only was 6.48-1

This would have been thought of as a highly desirable state of affairs; being the opinion because had the two amounts appeared in reverse order, then suspicions as to the future activities of the concept as a whole would have been alerted.

Two quite extraordinary facts have emerged from these results, or should that read 'a couple of totally expected happenings have been indicated.' (It all depends upon the opinion and/or the confidence or lack of conviction. behind the interpretation of the facts as presented to the individual by his diligent searching through the records of the immediate past.)

They were though:-

- (a) With the exception of Dandy Night (3rd 11/2) in 2000, Blue Gold (5th 9/2) in 2001 and Calcutta (4th 12/1) and Uncle Bernon (3rd 12/1) in 2002 all the remaining 26 qualifiers had featured in Newmarket handicap races and
- (b) Qualifiers Dalwhinnie (2nd 12/1) in 1998, Dandy Night (3rd 11/2) and Acebo Lyons (4th 6/1) in 2000, Night haven (16th 8/1) and Blue Gold (5th 9/2) in 2001 and Fresh As A Rose (3rd 5/1) and Uncle Bernon (3rd 12/1) in 2002 all attempted to win at Newmarket directly after competing non-handicap events beforehand.
None of them, however, managed to succeed.

Interestingly, in the last couple of years, Blue Gold (2001) and Calcutta and Uncle Bernon (2002). appear under both sub-headings.

Therefore, it is thought that it would not be unreasonable for these qualifiers to be considered as extremely doubtful betting propositions.

Following the normal route of an investigation of this nature, it is now time to consider several of the more important issues that can best be illustrated by recourse to the various distributions, which are shown below:-

		STARTING PRICES		TOTE DIVIDENDS	
		balances to		balances to	
		£5.00 level stakes		£5.00 level stakes	
	W:R	Profit	Loss	Profit	Loss
		£.p		£.p	£.p
a. MARKET PROMINENCE					
Favourites	03:07	18.75		23.00	
Remainder	<u>08:23</u>	<u>242.50</u>		<u>243.50</u>	
	<u>11:30</u>	<u>261.25</u>		<u>266.50</u>	
b. TYPE OF RACE					
Handicap	11:26	281.25		286.50	
Stake	00:04		<u>20.00</u>		<u>20.00</u>
		<u>281.25</u>	20.00	<u>286.50</u>	<u>20.00</u>
		<u>20.00</u>		<u>20.00</u>	
	<u>11:30</u>	<u>261.25</u>		<u>286.50</u>	
c. GROUP LAST TIME OUT					
One	03:10	70.00		69.00	
Two	03:03	80.00		92.00	
Three	03:13	58.75		53.00	
Four	<u>02:04</u>	<u>52.50</u>		<u>52.50</u>	
	<u>11:30</u>	<u>261.25</u>		<u>266.50</u>	
d. COLLECTIVE GROUPS LAST TIME OUT					
Gps 1 & 2	06:13	150.00		161.00	
Gps 3 & 4	<u>05:17</u>	<u>111.25</u>		<u>105.50</u>	
	<u>11:30</u>	<u>261.25</u>		<u>266.50</u>	

e. CLASS OF LAST TIME OUT RACE

A	00:01		5.00		5.00
B	00:01		5.00		5.00
C	03:07	130.00		125.00	
D	05:12	117.50		124.50	
F	01:05		5.00	0.00	
F	01:03		1.25	2.00	
G	01:01	<u>30.00</u>		25.00	
		277.50	<u>16.25</u>	276.50	<u>10.00</u>
		<u>16.25</u>		<u>10.00</u>	
	<u>11:30</u>	<u>261.25</u>		<u>266.50</u>	

f. RESPECTIVE CLASS OF RACES (FROM-TO)

AA	00:01		5.00		5.00
BC	00:01		5.00		5.00
CA	00:01		5.00		5.00
CB	00:03		15.00		15.00
CC	02:02	100.00		91.00	
CD	01:01	50.00		54.00	
DB	01:03	30.00		29.00	
DC	03:07	77.50		89.50	
DD	01:02	10.00		6.00	
EC	00:02		10.00		10.00
ED	01:02	10.00		15.00	
EE	00:01		5.00		5.00
FD	01:03		1.25	2.00	
GE	01:01	<u>30.00</u>		<u>25.00</u>	
		307.50	<u>46.25</u>	311.50	<u>45.00</u>
		<u>46.25</u>		<u>45.00</u>	
	<u>11:30</u>	<u>261.25</u>		<u>266.50</u>	

g.COMBINATIONS OF CLASS

Lower	01:01	50.00		54.00
Same	03:06	100.00		87.00
Higher	<u>07:23</u>	<u>111.25</u>		<u>125.50</u>
	<u>11:30</u>	<u>261.25</u>		<u>266.50</u>

h. BY SEX

Colts	00:02		10.00		10.00
Horses	01:02	27.50		32.50	
Geldings	08:16	203.75		197.50	
Fillies	02:06	60.00		66.50	
Mares	00:04		<u>20.00</u>		<u>20.00</u>
		<u>291.25</u>	<u>30.00</u>	<u>296.50</u>	<u>30.00</u>
		<u>30.00</u>		<u>30.00</u>	
	<u>11:30</u>	<u>261.25</u>		<u>266.50</u>	

i PLACE ONLY DIVIDENDS (by sex)

Colts	01:02	0.00			2.00
Horses	01:02	0.00		3.00	
Geldings	12:16	0.00		64.50	
Mares	02:04	0.00		5.00	
Fillies	05:06	<u>0.00</u>		<u>21.50</u>	
		0.00	<u>0.00</u>	<u>94.00</u>	<u>2.00</u>
		<u>0.00</u>		<u>2.00</u>	
	<u>22:30</u>	<u>0.00</u>		<u>92.00</u>	

Remembering to dilute enthusiasm so far as some of the astronomical profits experienced are concerned. because of the obvious scarcity of the number of samples taken, these are how the qualifiers from the various sub-headings above have withstood the challenge of level stake betting:-

a. MARKET PROMINENCE

From a percentage point of view there was little to choose between the two sections. First favourites had three winners from seven starts (42.86 per cent) whilst the remaining selections had eight winners from 23 starts (34.78 per cent). But when it came to the financial returns, there was a wealth of difference. The first clear favourites were found to have returned a level stake profit of 53.57 per cent of turnover as per stalling prices.

This bore little resemblance to the tremendous figure of 210.87 per cent for those selections that did not start in pole position so far as the market was concerned. All of this spoke volumes for the selections themselves clearly indicating that the overall position was not one that had been ruled by the market. The tote paid the better throughout.

b. TYPE OF RACE

Looking at the distribution from this angle did not present any room for a compromise to be made!

From only four selections those animals that appeared in other than handicap events did not produce a winner. Again the Tote came out on top.

c. GROUP LAST TIME OUT

Mixed results were experienced here and it would be entirely wrong to form any hard and fast opinion. Far better to proceed to the next sub-division where a more definitely defined picture emerged.

d. COLLECTIVE GROUPS LAST TIME OUT

When these returns were examined on a 'pairs basis' it was the higher ones, those for Groups One and Two, that were discovered to hold a rather commanding position. Their strike-rate was 46.15 per cent against the remaining strike-rate for Groups Three and Four which was no more than 29.38 per cent.

These findings increased proportionally when level stake profits were taken into account. They were 230.77 per cent of turnover against 130.88 per cent respectfully and were for starting price betting. The relevant Tote dividends were 246.15 per cent and 124.12 per cent.

e. CLASS OF LAST TIME OUT RACE

Categories C and D revealed much about the qualifiers as a whole: the type of handicap animal that had been dealt with, the market preference that was reflected in an average starting price of 8.12-1 for all selections.

These two salient facts coupled with the inherent belief that good quality animals are not asked to run twice within the space of four days was reflected by the total of 19 runners (from only 30 starters) that came from these groups.

At starting prices they produced a profit that was equivalent to a returned on investment of 260.53 per cent. Once more the same selections were slightly more profitable on the Tote.

f. RESPECTIVE CLASS OF RACES (FROM-TO)

Confirmation of the findings that were to be seen under the previous heading were merely reflected by what came to light in this presentation. The Group D to Group C conclusion reached simply strengthened the realisation that what was being dealt with was, in the main, a collection of very ordinary animals.

This comment is not made out of disrespect, but this is an opinion, which however harsh it may seem, must be appreciated by all.

g. COMBINATIONS OF CLASS

Animals that have attempted a step-up in class have accounted for no less than 76.67 per cent of the total qualifiers. This endorses so much of what has already been written that it would be futile to go over the same ground again.

h. BY SEX

Regular readers of my articles for a very long time will be expecting me to wax lyrical about the virtues of the poor deprived. Well. I will not disappoint them, but will say only one thing directly about geldings.

If you are hell bent on making your racing pay and do not wish to become 'bogged down' only with quality animals running in quality races due to the favoured ones being generally at short odds, then turn your attention to these unfortunate animals that now have nothing in their lives apart from racing. A diligent study will make it all worth while.

Recently I was engaged in a friendly conversation with an individual who has made a great deal of money by applying his undoubted computer skills to the publishing of several betting-based programmes.

During the course of our chat I ventured to suggest that his work would *possibly* enjoy even more success if he sub-divided the male animals into three groups, namely colts, horses and geldings. This was the alternative I innocently put forward instead of sticking to the single, more rigid heading. The answer was immediate and very much to the point.

Nothing, I was assured in no uncertain manner, would be gained by the adoption of the idea because the discrepancy between the profit/loss in

regard to colts as opposed to geldings would not prove to be enough to make any appreciable difference to the eventual outcome! It simply would not be warranted.

At this point I hastily decided that discretion was the better part of valour, so I tactfully decided to channel the conversation in an entirely and far less contentious direction.

Motivation for such ignorance I can only assume to be the result of lack of knowledge regarding the minutiae of racing itself.

No doubt in many instances the profit/loss of the colts and geldings will bare a distinct similarity one to the other. However, there will be those cases where the difference will be very marked indeed. and it is in those examples that I believe the punter has every right to be kept fully informed of the facts, warts and all.

Whoever the trainer was who first coined the expression. "Show me a yard filled with geldings and I'll show you a winning stable." may well have been guilty of some form of excusable exaggeration. but he was certainly not speaking with a forked tongue. In my humble opinion he should have been awarded a medal a long time ago, donated on behalf of all those more astute members of the betting public.

Prejudicial views I can sometimes manfully withstand. On occasions. and with certain distinctly unsubtle reservations. I can excuse these shortcomings. But to even think disrespectfully of animals that have been denied the pleasures they have looked forward to in a long and fruitful retirement is surely enough to test the tolerance of any self-respecting lover of animal rights!

Will all would-be computer programmers please take note of the above sentiments and act accordingly!

The trainer was who first coined the expression. "Show me a yard filled with geldings and I'll show you a winning stable." . . . should have been awarded a medal

i PLACE ONLY DIVIDENDS (BY SEX)

Frequently I utilise this means of betting as the acid test for the validity of the method that is currently being put forward.

With reference to this concern, the place-rate of 73.33 per cent gives way to a £5 level stake gain of £92.00 for a total outlay of only £150.00. This is equal to a yield of 61.33 per cent of turnover. The actual sequences are worth more than a casual glance:-

Colts	
• Placed	
• Lost	
Geldings	
• Placed	
• Placed	
• Placed	
• Placed	
• Placed	
• Placed	
• Placed	
• Placed	
• Lost	
• Placed	
• Lost	
• Placed	
• Lost	
• Placed	
• Lost	
• Placed	
• Placed	
	Horses
	• Placed
	• Lost
	Fillies
	• Lost
	• Placed
	• Placed
	• Placed
	• Placed
	• Placed
	• Placed
	Mares
	• Placed
	• Lost
	• Lost
	• Placed

Despite there being only a very small sampling you may rest assured that, all things taken into consideration, there are some quite remarkable sequences on display here.

None is more impressive than that which produced a financial return of 80.62 per cent, and that's for the geldings. On that note of wholehearted endorsement this month's offering draws to a close.

The jumps season now takes a summertime back seat whilst mainstream attentions turn to flat racing. But for the few NH meetings that do take place Peter May shows what trends to look for.

SUMMER JUMPING PROFILES

Dr Peter May

With Cheltenham over, and the Flat Season underway, it is time to look at Summer Jumping. So in this last of my Profiling articles for the time being attention is turned to Jumps races staged between the months of April and August.

Novice Hurdle Races

- The majority of winners in this category are rated between 80 and 109 by the BHB, and surprisingly a level £1 staked on all of these horses would have produced an extremely small loss at starting price.
- Restricting bets to those rated 100-109 would have produced a good profit, and should the better horses appear (i.e. those rated over 130) a bet is definitely recommended.
- Horses burdened with very extreme weights (i.e. 12-01+) are also worth following since they have an excellent success rate and return a healthy profit at starting price.
- Almost three-quarters of all winners will be priced at 4/1 or less, with odds-on shots losing least to level stakes.
- Nicky Richards is a good trainer to follow in these events.

Claiming Hurdle Races

- Age profiling favours younger horses with the exception of Claiming Hurdle races where the distribution of wins/age is more uniform with horses aged nine older taking a third of races.
- Horses rated between 80 and 119 by the BHB take the vast majority of races, with those rated 110 or higher returning an excellent profit.
- Over 75% of winners will be priced at 4/1 or less, with those priced between evens and 4/1 returning a level stake profit in recent years.
- No surprise that Martin Pipe is the trainer to follow in this race grade.

Handicap Hurdle Races

- Six-year-olds win the largest proportion of handicap hurdle races (excluding Novices' handicaps and selling handicap), approximately a quarter, though the spread by weight carried is quite even.
- Horses returning from a break of 15 to 28 days win the most races, those making a quick return of up to seven days produce a profit.
- Unlike novice hurdle races, there is a wider spread of results with respect to SP with half of all winners priced at 9/2 or higher.
- However the ones to follow are the odds-on shots. In recent years these have won at a strike rate of seven in ten, and have returned a profit of almost 20p for every £1 staked at starting price.
- Trainers to follow are Philip Hobbs, Lenny Lungo and Jonjo O'Neill.

Novice Chases

- Again horses with a course absence of between 15 and 28 days win the largest share of races, but for novice chases, those making a quick return are not worth following.
- Horses that were placed on their latest start take over 50% of novice chases, with those that failed to complete winning less than 15% of their subsequent races.
- Paul Nicholls, Philip Hobbs, Jonjo O'Neill and Nicky Richards have the best record in these Summer events.

Handicap Chases

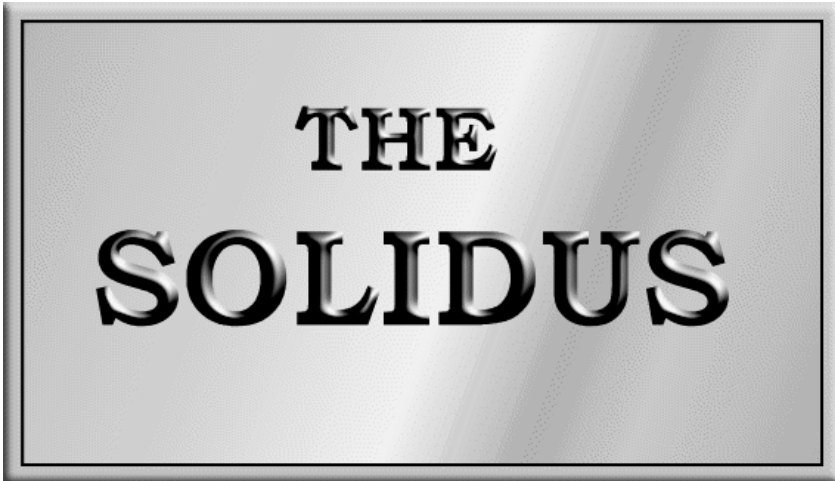
- Although 8 and 9-year-olds win almost 50% of Summer handicap chases, the best age group to follow for profits are those aged 6
- Quick returners show a slight profit, which doubles if the horse won its latest start.
- Favourites perform poorly, losing over 16p for every £1 staked in all races, even in small fields the loss is considerable.
- Jonjo O'Neill and Lenny Lungo do well and can be followed.



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THE SOLIDUS *serialisation [part 2]*
Davey Towey

Maximum distances

Glancing at the charts, three of which were printed in last month's extract, you will notice that the bands converge at a point somewhere past the end. It is safe to assume that the bands continue in straight line fashion for a short way beyond the end of the charts. The point of convergence of the bands occurs at a distance of 20 furlongs 88 yards for the Flat and 39 furlongs and 77 yards for National Hunt.

The convergence points occur where the vertical axis = Nil pounds/length.

This is no coincidence - to have convergence at any other point would be a nonsense because it would mean that at some distances, the carrying of extra weight would produce a faster time.

As a check that there is nothing strange happening; if we look at what happens beyond the convergence point: after the bands cross over, they are

on a negative scale with A band more negative than E band which is as we would expect because, on the positive scale, A band is more positive than E band.

Now we arrive at a conclusion that will probably rock the odd boat or two:

Remember that average race times for the Flat are adjusted to 9 stone. Therefore, to produce extra performance beyond 20 furlongs and 88 yards, weight must be removed from the horse.

Meaning that at this distance, 9 stone should be the top-weight

I would suggest that :

At	2m	the top-weight should be	10st
	18f		9st7lb
	20f		9st
	22f		8st7lb

It is hardly surprising therefore just how great an advantage lightly weighted horses have in long distance races. The advantage to the light-weights increases even more when conditions underfoot become testing.

Examination of the statistics of long distance races - 2m2f and over, confirms that horses at the top of the handicap are, in general, disadvantaged.

It has been found through years of experience what weight a Flat horse should be expected to carry. The weight-for-age scale took this a stage further. It is because the vast majority of racing takes place at shorter distances that statistics for these distances have yielded these scales.

We therefore have a very good idea of the weight that should be carried at short distances. It has then been assumed that, providing the distance is not too far, then the same weight limits win apply at longer distances. To my knowledge, the above figures are the first proof so far of what the limits should be.

Standard course times have, sensibly, been normalised to 9 stones. This is approximately the average weight carried and therefore the fulcrum around which pounds per length are added and subtracted.

If it is accepted then, that 9 stones is the normal weight at shorter distances, then it follows that this should be the top weight at 20.4 furlongs.

Incidentally, it does not matter whether standard course times are normalised to 9 stones or another weight, the convergence point is the same.

This is important because I am going to compare the Flat against National Hunt, where standard course times are normalised to 12 stones.

As stated, the convergence point of National Hunt races is 39.35 furlongs. This is different from the Flat because the pace of the races is slower. The pace of the race is slower because there are obstacles to be jumped and National Hunt horses are not as precociously bred as Flat horses.

This provides the answer to the following question:

Why is it, that horses who may not stay a yard over, say, 12 furlongs on the Flat, can win at 3 miles over hurdles?

The answer is simply: the slower pace that hurdle races are run at. A horse can run less fast for a longer time.

The convergence point is the limit that can be achieved by the average horse for the pace of the racing.

By taking the ratio of the National Hunt and Flat convergence points:

$$39.35 \div 20.4 = 1.9$$

This is saying something very important:

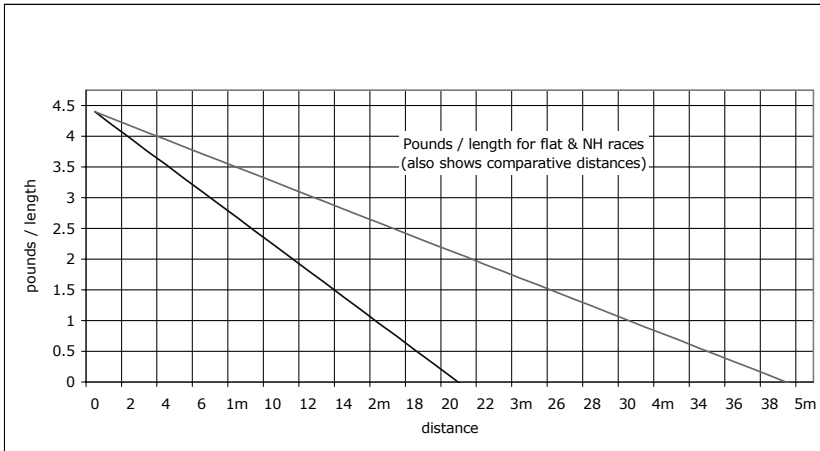
An average Flat horse will be able to sustain the pace of which the average hurdler is capable, for a distance of 1.9 times its optimum distance on the Flat.

Here are examples for some standard hurdle distances:

1m to 9f	on the Flat is equivalent to	2m	over	hurdles
10f to 11f	Flat	2m4f		hurdles
12f to 13f	Flat	3m		hurdles
14f to 15f	Flat	3m4f		hurdles

By using the graph below.- ‘Pounds/length for Flat and National Hunt races’, the effect of weight can be compared between Flat and National Hunt races:

Pounds / length for flat & NH races



1 pound/length is just over 2 miles on the Flat and nearly 4 miles over the jumps.

The information above can be read from the same graph:

1 mile to 9 furlongs on the Flat, is equivalent to 2 miles in a National Hunt race.

For a Flat horse to compete against the very best hurdlers at 2 miles, then it could either:

[1] be top notch at 1 mile to 9 furlongs.
 These animals usually have a breeding career ahead of them and are therefore not normally risked over the sticks,

. . . or:

[2] have less class but able to stay further on the Flat; for example: a top class handicapper at distances of 10 furlongs to 11 furlongs.

Obviously there are always exceptions to the rule, but on average it is true and the statistics confirm the theory.

This explanation is, what I believe, the answer to the puzzling question of why a horse who only stays so far on the Flat, stays many furlongs further over the sticks.

The convergence point for National Hunt races exceeds the longest distance (4m4f) by more than 3 furlongs and far exceeds the maximum hurdle race distance.

The average weight carried in National Hunt races is about 11st 3lbs. In some respects it would have made more sense to have normalised the standard course times to this weight.

However a round number such as 11st would be a neater number to use. It is a straightforward task to make the adjustments, if time-consuming.

Using 11st 3lb as the average weight, it follows that this should be the top-weight if there was such a thing as a 39 furlong race. It would then follow that: 12st be made the top-weight for all 4m4f races.

Pace is the reason that 2m4f horses stay the 4m4f Grand National distance. Before the fences were made easier, the pace of the race used to be steady, giving the 2m4f horses every chance of lasting out the trip. The faster pace now better suits the three-milers.

Pace is also the reason that the non-stayers get found out at the Cheltenham Festival. The Festival is the Royal Ascot of National Hunt. The jockeys (and everyone else) get such a buzz, that the races can be run at a furious pace. Horses that have won at Cheltenham previously, but not at the Festival can even be found out.

When the pace is strong, the jumpers must almost be foot-perfect at the obstacles. Meeting them on the wrong stride leaves precious little time for adjustments. Of course the professionals know that the big races (Flat or National Hunt) are true tests and consequently doubtful stayers will be held up to get the trip.

It still requires good judgement from the jockey as to how fast the pace of the race really is.

So near and yet so far

Flat courses have supplied us with very accurate distance measurements down to the nearest yard. The same attention to detail is eagerly awaited from the National Hunt fraternity. The National Hunt distances currently available are measured to an accuracy of the nearest 110 yards. This means that a distance can be 55 yards longer or shorter than stated. When comparing two courses, the difference can therefore add up to 110 yards.

When both hurdle race distance and chase race distance at the same course are the same figure and where there is nothing unusual to explain this, how can both be accurate?

It can be shown with some basic arithmetic, that a venue with a circumference of 10 furlongs and a width of just 10 yards on the inner course, will result in an extra distance on the outer course of at least 100 yards for races over 2m, 125 yards for 2m4f and 150 yards for 3m.

To answer my own question: both distances can be accurate if the starts are staggered by the appropriate amount. How confident can one be that this is done accurately, if the courses are only measured to an approximate figure in the first place?

It can be seen from the graph: 'Average of all standard race times' that the points lie very close to the line. I produced the same graphs for National Hunt races, one for chases and another for hurdles. There was again in both cases, a straight line, but the points deviated above and below it by a far greater amount. This strongly suggests that the distances are not accurate.

Interestingly, the biggest deviation occurred at the distance of 3 miles for both graphs. Of the 28 courses involved at this distance, only 5 were common to both. When these 5 were removed, it made no improvement.

The 3 mile deviation was approximately: plus 3.7 seconds in both cases, suggesting that either: all 3 mile races are really 3 miles 60 yards, or more likely, a few are considerably longer.

On average a jumper will cover 110 yards in about 7 seconds. This is an age when watching the 'business end of a race'. It is of no help to anyone to have such inaccuracies, least of all the connections of the horse who failed to last home that extra half a furlong.

The going

*‘Much to-ing and fro-ing, yes-ing and no-ing
but nothing doing with the going’.*

The three greatest factors which affect the performance of a fit horse are distance, weight and going. Flat racecourses have now supplied us with race distances measured accurately in furlongs and yards. Every racecourse’s clerk of scales goes to considerable trouble to ensure that every horse carries the correct weight. This leaves the question of the going.

The descriptions of the going given by some courses simply cannot be relied on to be anything more than a rough approximation.

The going is a crucial performance factor for the majority of horses. What would people think if the form of a horse read: Won by 1 length. Weight carried, approximately 9 stones?

The best way to assess the going is to see for yourself. The racegoer obviously can assess this better than the betting shop punter who needs the meeting to be televised and must watch a race prior to the one he is interested in. Seeing for oneself is not practical when entries and declarations are being made. One must rely on information supplied by the racecourse.

If anyone is sceptical about the variations that regularly occur, it is a simple matter to check the official going with the going corrections published a couple of days later in the Sporting Life and weekly in the Sporting Life Weekender. Remember that the form printed next to the name of the horse in any sporting paper is the official going. Going corrections also appear weekly in Raceform Update.

The official description of the going will vary according to whether the meeting is Flat or National Hunt. Good going for a National Hunt meeting will be described as soft for its Flat counterpart and similarly, hard going over the sticks would be described as good to firm on the Flat. This obviously makes a nonsense of *penetrometer* readings.

It is natural to assess a Flat horse that is relatively inexperienced over the sticks, according to its’ form on the Flat. If the going descriptions vary for both codes, the result is confusion.

The punter is the loser because he does not know this and why should he be expected to because it is so illogical.

The breeding of a National Hunt horse has given it different characteristics. It is generally larger and more robust. It is therefore better suited to the softer conditions of the winter sport due to its' strength and the size of its' feet. When selecting a Flat horse to race over the sticks it is better to choose one with a suitable conformation and bear in mind also the observations on optimum distance in the chapter: 'Maximum distances'.

Trainers have to constantly take issue with some racecourses concerning watering of the course. Watering has been known to continue whilst it is actually raining because the ground staff have been told to water until a certain time. Whilst watering, a prevailing cross-wind can blow the water that is supposed to land on one half of the course onto the other resulting in a faster side of the course.

There are arguments for and against watering.

The majority would probably say 'do a job properly - or not at all'. You can be pretty sure that there is a bookmaker's representative present when there is watering taking place.

The going description is very brief and does not impart the full story, so every effort must be made to water evenly. Most racecourses do an absolutely first class job, the trainers know who they are, have every faith in them and in return give them their fullest support.

There is so much money at stake in horseracing that its' problems become magnified. Magnification usually improves vision. When other sports' problems come under the magnifying lens, the solutions seem to be spotted and dealt with quicker.

There has been a tendency for the establishment and others to collectively don their rose-tinted spectacles. When everything in the park does actually come up roses, it will happen because of the anonymous, everyday hard work of the gardeners.

If a fun cross-section of the sport had permanent seats at the highest decision-making and regulatory level (if separate), then surely this would improve matters and restore confidence.

When jockeys report the state of the ground to the connections after the race they use words such as fast, on top, dead, tacky etc. These are accurate descriptions necessary to the professionals concerned to fill the gap.

The author proposes more categories which would hopefully encourage greater accuracy. These are:

- Hard
- Firm
- Fast
- Good to fast
- Good
- Good to yielding
- Yielding
- Yielding to soft
- Soft
- Heavy

<i>Going</i>		<i>Going Correction</i>	<i>Band</i>
Hard	subtract	0.8 secs/furlong from a/b figure	1
Firm		0.6	1
Fast		0.4	2
Good to fast		0.2	2
Good		Nil	3
Good to yielding	add	0.3 secs/furlong to a/b figure	3
Yielding		0.6	4
Yielding to soft		0.9	4
Soft		1.2	5
Heavy		1.5	5

The going correction table

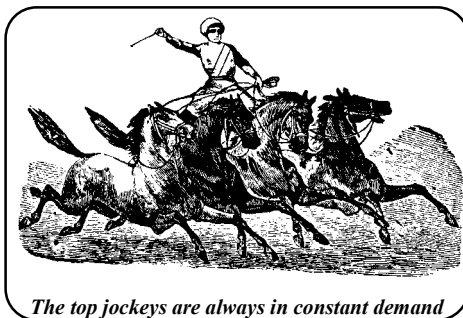
In the table above

the 'a' figure is the time in seconds *slower* than the standard

the 'b' figure is the time in seconds *quicker* than the standard

By using the categories suggested above with the going corrections published in the Sporting press, we have an accurate state of the ground.

Note the going (after going corrections) in a diary. For more information on going corrections, see the chapter: 'Speed Ratings'.



Using the charts with going corrections.

Each course and distance has been classified on good going. The ten types of going have been grouped into five bands. It can be seen from the table above that good going resides in Band 3.

In the 'Classification of courses' section, all the course and distances have been classified on good going.

To see how variations in going can shift the course and distance classifications up or down, refer to the table below. Five furlongs is used as the example:

5fA	on going band	1	becomes	5fA ₂
5fA		2		5fA ₁
5fA		3		5fA
5fA		4		5fB
5fA		5		5fC

5fB	on going band	1	becomes	5fA ₁
5fB		2		5fA
5fB		3		5fB
5fB		4		5fC
5fB		5		5fD

5fC	on going band	1	becomes	5fA
5fC		2		5fB
5fC		3		5fC
5fC		4		5fD
5fC		5		5fE

5fD	on going band	1	becomes	5fB
5fD		2		5fC
5fD		3		5fD
5fD		4		5fE
5fD		5		5fE ₁

5fE	on going band	1	becomes	5fC
5fE		2		5fD
5fE		3		5fE
5fE		4		5fE ₁
5fE		5		5fE ₂



Next month our serialisation of Davey Towey's *The Solidus* continues with ***The effect of going on the classifications***

The majority of horses perform best on a certain type or a certain range of ground conditions. This is largely due to the horse's action, soundness in leg joints and even the size of its feet. By looking at a horse's past achievements, an idea of the type of going it prefers, can be formed.

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Reporting on the month-by-month progress over the current jumps campaign of several commercial horses-to-follow lists - and the "free" list of horses from www.sportinglife.com

HORSES-TO-FOLLOW COMPARISONS

Terry Collins

Continuing the monitoring of a selection of those commercial horses-to-follow lists for the current National Hunt season. For our research purposes for monitoring it will run from 1st November and will end after the Attheraces Gold Cup is run in 2003.

The lists being followed are as follows;

One Jump Ahead (£4.99)

The Sun Guide to the Jumps (£4.99)

Freebies (£0!)

Timeform (£5.95)

Timeform was added after the start of our monitoring, but the results have been backdated to allow a straightforward comparison with the others.

FREEBIES

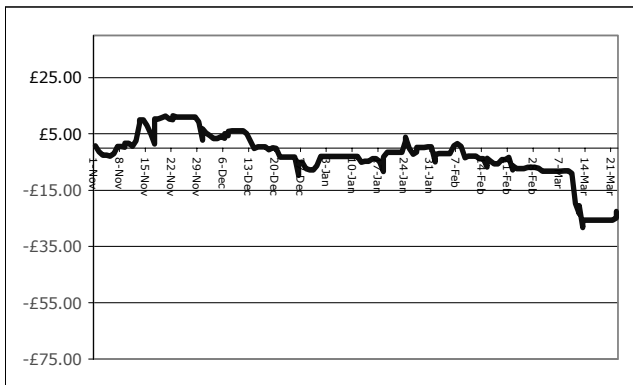
Balance sheet update;

	selections	winners	BALANCE	win prices
B/Fwd			-£3.67	
16-Feb	1	0	-£4.67	
17-Feb	1	0	-£5.67	
19-Feb	1	1	-£4.17	6/4
21-Feb	1	1	-£3.37	4/5
22-Feb	6	2	-£6.34	4/6,4/11
23-Feb	1	0	-£7.34	
26-Feb	1	1	-£6.84	1/2
01-Mar	2	1	-£7.23	8/13
02-Mar	1	0	-£8.23	
08-Mar	1	1	-£8.03	1/5
10-Mar	1	0	-£9.03	
11-Mar	13	1	-£19.78	5/4
12-Mar	12	2	-£20.53	15/2, 7/4
13-Mar	11	2	-£25.65	9/4, 13/8
22-Mar	3	2	-£22.53	11/4, 11/8

Performance statistics;

	selections	winners	strike%
This period:	56	14	25%
To Date:	216	80	37%

Progress graph;



A quiet month for the freebies until the Cheltenham Festival where it pushed the boat out with 36 selections.

Unfortunately it sank and leaves freebies floundering!

ONE JUMP AHEAD

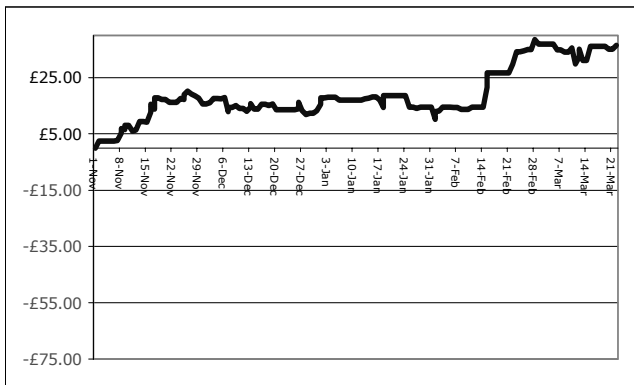
Balance sheet update;

	selections	winners	BALANCE	win prices
B/Fwd			+£26.73	
22-Feb	1	1	£29.73	3/1
23-Feb	1	1	£34.23	9/2
25-Feb	1	1	£34.57	1/3
26-Feb	1	1	£35.07	1/2
28-Feb	2	1	£38.57	9/2
01-Mar	3	1	£36.93	4/11
06-Mar	2	0	£34.93	
08-Mar	2	1	£34.13	1/5
10-Mar	2	1	£35.63	5/2
11-Mar	8	1	£29.88	5/4
12-Mar	6	2	£35.13	15/2, 7/4
13-Mar	4	0	£31.13	
15-Mar	3	1	£36.13	7/1
20-Mar	1	0	£35.13	
22-Mar	1	1	£36.50	11/8

Performance statistics;

	selections	winners	strike%
This period:	38	13	34%
To Date:	157	71	45%

Progress graph;



OJA takes only minimal damages to profits at Cheltenham and continues to plough a lone furrow at the head of affairs in what currently looks like a one horse race.

SUN GUIDE TO THE JUMPS

Balance sheet update;

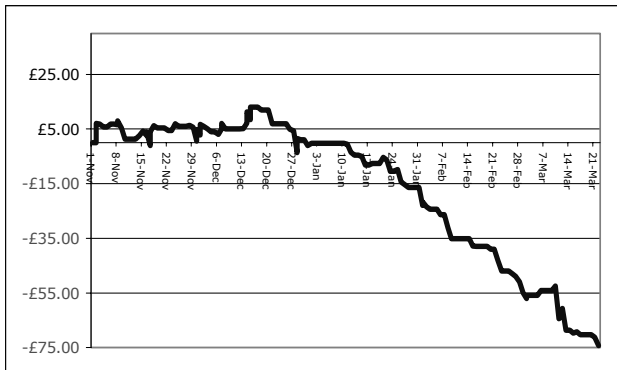
	selections	winners	BALANCE	win prices
B/Fwd			-£37.78	
16-Feb	2	1	-£37.98	4/5
20-Feb	1	0	-£38.98	
22-Feb	8	1	-£42.98	3/1
23-Feb	4	0	-£46.98	
26-Feb	1	0	-£47.98	
27-Feb	1	0	-£48.98	
28-Feb	2	0	-£50.98	
01-Mar	4	0	-£54.98	
02-Mar	4	2	-£55.83	evens, 2/13
06-Mar	1	1	-£54.08	7/4
10-Mar	1	1	-£52.46	13/8
11-Mar	12	0	-£64.46	
12-Mar	6	2	-£60.71	6/1, 7/4
13-Mar	8	0	-£68.71	
15-Mar	1	0	-£69.71	
16-Mar	1	1	-£69.26	4/9
17-Mar	1	0	-£70.26	
21-Mar	4	1	-£71.26	2/1
22-Mar	3	0	-£74.26	

Performance statistics;

	selections	winners	strike%
This period:	65	10	15%
To Date:	259	66	25%

Progress graph;

The Sun sets this month! Their Guide to the Jumps goes downhill at an alarming rate, very low strike rate resulting in a further loss of 30 points.



TIMEFORM

Balance sheet update;

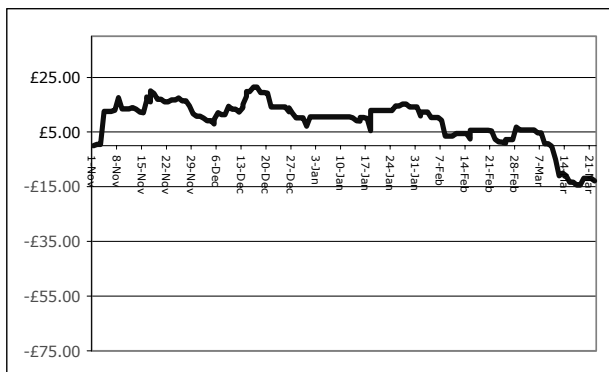
	selections	winners	BALANCE	win prices
B/Fwd			+£5.56	
21-Feb	2	1	£5.36	4/5
22-Feb	3	0	£2.36	
23-Feb	1	0	£1.36	
24-Feb	2	1	£1.27	10/11
25-Feb	2	2	£2.22	8/13, 1/3
28-Feb	1	1	£6.72	9/2
01-Mar	1	0	£5.72	
06-Mar	1	0	£4.72	
08-Mar	4	0	£0.72	
10-Mar	1		-£0.28	
11-Mar	7	1	-£5.03	5/4
12-Mar	6	0	-£11.03	
13-Mar	8	1	-£10.03	8/1
14-Mar	1	0	-£11.03	
15-Mar	4	1	-£13.42	8/13
17-Mar	1	0	-£14.42	
19-Mar	2	1	-£11.92	7/2
22-Mar	1	0	-£12.92	

Performance statistics;

	selections	winners	strike%
This period:	48	9	19%
To Date:	179	58	32%

Progress graph;

A low strike rate coupled with a 10 point loss over Cheltenham leaves Timeform trailing a distant second



With it being a year for favourites at Cheltenham, bigger priced outsiders were harder to find for the trailing lists so One Jump Ahead ~ as the only of our featured lists to make a profit this month ~ seems to have it in the bag.

With the final month approaching the others need nothing short of a miracle it would appear if they're to cause a last ditch upset. Come on Red Marauder!

3/1+ FILTER

Our systematic filter employed this and previous seasons whereby we only bet selections that have odds of 3/1 or better. In the past it has helped boost profitability . . . although this season it's not helping at all. However, there's a few more bets between now and the season's end so we'll reserve overall judgement until the final whistle blows.

	SP	3/1+	high profit	high loss
One Jump Ahead	£36.50	£11.83	£38.57	£0.00
Timeform	-£12.92	-£22.67	£21.44	-£14.42
Freebies	-£22.53	-£52.83	£11.47	-£25.65
Sun, Guide to the Jumps	-£74.26	-£85.50	£12.97	-£74.26

SPORTINGLIFE WEBSITE LIST

Ten To Follow	balance
Will Reilly	£13.29
Anthony Whitfield	£9.69
George Primarolo	£6.30
Simon Holt	£2.27
Dave Ord	£1.03
Jonathan Turner	-£1.46
Steve Jones	-£1.86
Richard Wade	-£1.98
Michael Clower	-£9.68

The free horses-to-follow list was found on the Internet at;
www.sportinglife.com
 and comprises the combined selections from nine individuals. Their separate performances are tabulated here.

Breakdown of individual contributors

SMARTsig

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www.trackingservice.co.uk (free trial period available)

SMARTsig simple-to-operate ratings have been popular in the past, and ever since they were last published we get a constant stream of requests for an updated table.

AI FORMFIGS-LTO FLAT RATINGS

SMARTsig

It was way back in October 2001 that the SMARTsig, artificial intelligence (AI) enhanced ratings were last published. The updated tables that follow are in response to the frequent requests we get to refresh the figures in light of more recent results.

Those who have been with us long enough will remember that the original ratings were as a result of work carried out by Jim Crawford. This avenue of research looked specifically at a horse's recent form figures and combined this with its age & gender ~ exploiting where we could the differences between the sexes and catching the potential for improved performances as an animal increased in age and strength.

However, that was then, and this is now. More recent examinations and research has clearly pointed the way that invariably the most strikingly clear indicators of performance are, in no particular order, [recent form], [days since last ran] and [handicap or non-handicap] races. It was decided then, as well as using more up-to-date results to calculate them, that our future ratings should be based upon the above criteria. It's as simple as that basically. Using any newspaper containing the race-cards, look at each runner in turn and from the following tables allocate a 'chance' rating by referring to the horse's most recent three form figures combined with the days since it last ran a flat race (turf or AW).

When noting the last 3 form figures, ignore seasonal break markers "-" and/or "/", and disqualification markers "d". Also any finish outside the first four should be deemed to be "0". Thus the last 3 from **66321-62** would be "102". Whereas the form line **07/1d2-5** would become "120". This month we're publishing the ratings for NON-HANDICAP races, the handicap ratings will appear in next issue. The ratings are calculated from, and can therefore be used on both turf and AW racing.

I'd suggest testing the ratings immediately on AW racing, but allow the turf season to settle for a week or two ~ check them out to monitor performances

<i>Last 3 form figures</i>	Flat Turf & AW NON-HANDICAPS						
	1-4 days	5-10 days	11-20 days	21-31 days	32-62 days	63-99 days	100+ days
1 1 1	106.8	101.7	102.0	95.6	97.3	86.9	71.9
1 1 2	99.6	92.8	97.6	93.3	93.4	79.6	73.0
1 1 3	88.2	91.0	89.6	88.7	85.1	83.0	72.5
1 1 4	100.8	88.9	96.9	81.9	88.3	76.2	72.9
1 1 0	69.6	66.1	70.9	63.7	63.2	57.9	54.9
1 2 1	108.0	96.5	98.8	93.6	89.2	85.2	74.9
1 2 2	101.3	92.6	93.4	91.3	90.8	78.2	83.1
1 2 3	97.6	93.5	89.6	88.6	78.8	73.2	68.2
1 2 4	97.8	94.2	85.9	83.0	75.6	70.5	67.7
1 2 0	82.5	75.1	74.0	69.2	68.7	60.0	60.3
1 3 1	92.4	89.0	87.0	85.2	86.9	82.3	83.0
1 3 2	84.9	93.2	90.1	83.2	84.6	85.1	67.4
1 3 3	103.5	85.4	88.9	80.2	80.5	64.0	73.3
1 3 4	97.5	89.2	83.4	78.8	71.0	63.2	64.0
1 3 0	86.1	74.7	73.9	71.1	66.1	67.1	65.0
1 4 1	89.7	91.4	85.5	83.4	82.6	84.3	84.0
1 4 2	86.4	87.6	78.9	89.3	71.5	85.9	91.5
1 4 3	84.6	85.9	81.9	73.8	80.1	62.5	64.1
1 4 4	73.9	67.2	83.6	65.8	74.5	68.4	52.2
1 4 0	69.7	68.7	68.0	64.5	69.5	63.0	68.4
1 0 1	74.4	80.0	75.7	72.4	72.7	65.8	57.0
1 0 2	87.5	80.3	82.5	73.6	73.7	65.8	66.4
1 0 3	86.3	72.7	77.8	72.0	67.9	62.9	55.3
1 0 4	70.0	72.5	71.1	64.7	68.1	53.5	64.4
1 0 0	63.0	49.9	55.3	51.4	49.6	47.9	49.4

<i>Last 3 form figures</i>	Flat Turf & AW NON-HANDICAPS						
	1-4 days	5-10 days	11-20 days	21-31 days	32-62 days	63-99 days	100+ days
2 1 1	104.7	99.7	97.2	93.5	88.9	80.6	73.0
2 1 2	91.4	94.9	99.5	94.1	98.5	83.9	86.0
2 1 3	77.3	88.9	92.0	90.5	90.0	77.3	72.8
2 1 4	81.7	91.4	84.0	82.4	79.3	65.9	78.5
2 1 0	67.5	70.5	69.3	70.0	69.2	64.4	60.1
2 2 1	103.0	101.5	93.7	93.5	87.8	80.8	82.2
2 2 2	96.1	100.2	99.9	101.3	95.8	95.2	74.6
2 2 3	90.6	94.0	96.3	91.8	92.9	85.1	85.5
2 2 4	90.7	93.4	89.1	85.7	79.1	75.5	70.0
2 2 0	78.3	82.2	76.1	74.3	74.7	68.0	70.4
2 3 1	100.3	90.6	94.2	84.0	80.6	75.8	77.8
2 3 2	91.7	99.2	91.9	93.7	91.5	88.9	87.1
2 3 3	91.3	93.8	90.8	90.4	83.5	81.8	77.6
2 3 4	93.7	82.0	84.9	81.1	73.1	72.7	74.0
2 3 0	81.2	80.3	75.6	71.2	71.6	66.5	65.4
2 4 1	107.9	93.2	91.0	85.9	79.7	74.5	69.4
2 4 2	101.8	95.6	93.4	91.0	84.3	82.1	80.6
2 4 3	86.9	85.5	85.4	81.0	76.8	75.7	71.3
2 4 4	75.7	76.9	74.6	71.4	73.4	65.6	61.3
2 4 0	77.6	72.0	67.6	63.1	62.2	61.3	62.1
2 0 1	84.3	83.8	83.4	72.6	71.8	57.8	62.5
2 0 2	94.5	86.5	85.4	81.5	73.9	66.0	53.3
2 0 3	80.2	84.9	79.6	77.1	71.7	61.8	61.1
2 0 4	73.4	74.6	73.9	73.7	68.2	65.8	51.5
2 0 0	53.5	60.1	55.8	52.2	51.5	46.0	45.6

<i>Last 3 form figures</i>	Flat Turf & AW NON-HANDICAPS						
	1-4 days	5-10 days	11-20 days	21-31 days	32-62 days	63-99 days	100+ days
3 1 1	100.1	87.2	86.5	82.9	68.8	72.3	79.2
3 1 2	93.6	98.3	91.7	92.3	87.8	90.5	76.5
3 1 3	86.8	89.0	89.6	83.5	87.8	79.5	91.6
3 1 4	76.3	75.6	79.2	78.4	70.0	66.3	68.2
3 1 0	70.4	65.0	69.8	66.3	69.7	61.5	62.8
3 2 1	102.8	99.8	90.4	79.9	80.5	68.3	71.3
3 2 2	104.9	98.7	100.4	94.1	89.9	92.1	91.8
3 2 3	93.5	94.4	93.2	96.8	91.0	87.8	79.4
3 2 4	80.3	85.3	83.1	80.3	80.7	77.9	87.0
3 2 0	68.2	71.4	65.4	72.7	64.6	65.0	59.5
3 3 1	101.4	91.3	87.4	84.1	70.5	75.0	70.5
3 3 2	99.3	98.2	97.7	92.9	90.8	82.2	86.0
3 3 3	87.3	92.2	91.0	91.2	91.4	82.6	91.1
3 3 4	80.4	79.9	82.9	81.6	81.1	80.8	82.5
3 3 0	74.6	66.7	67.7	62.5	60.6	61.3	55.8
3 4 1	95.9	94.7	93.8	83.8	81.5	78.7	71.5
3 4 2	103.1	96.4	97.2	91.2	95.8	80.6	76.2
3 4 3	87.1	86.1	90.9	89.6	89.0	81.2	77.7
3 4 4	72.7	80.3	74.6	79.8	78.2	74.1	77.8
3 4 0	70.7	63.2	64.9	57.2	57.8	48.8	51.7
3 0 1	90.5	91.4	84.8	75.4	80.9	53.4	51.5
3 0 2	88.5	87.4	87.7	78.0	70.9	58.8	54.2
3 0 3	78.2	75.9	75.6	68.2	70.1	48.2	49.0
3 0 4	74.4	66.3	71.5	65.7	55.1	57.1	45.9
3 0 0	52.4	47.6	50.0	49.2	40.9	45.0	34.5

<i>Last 3 form figures</i>	Flat Turf & AW NON-HANDICAPS						
	1-4 days	5-10 days	11-20 days	21-31 days	32-62 days	63-99 days	100+ days
4 1 1	84.3	98.2	85.9	76.6	79.7	64.5	63.4
4 1 2	89.8	87.7	84.8	87.0	74.5	74.9	80.7
4 1 3	86.1	80.0	81.4	78.0	71.8	71.1	70.4
4 1 4	78.6	72.0	70.9	73.8	72.7	75.5	73.9
4 1 0	68.9	70.5	69.1	64.2	62.0	59.4	55.4
4 2 1	108.7	95.0	95.7	85.6	80.1	59.5	79.2
4 2 2	105.3	101.6	100.9	94.6	94.2	86.0	74.6
4 2 3	96.7	93.4	94.9	95.7	97.4	92.4	87.7
4 2 4	79.9	81.5	82.8	83.3	84.8	89.1	91.6
4 2 0	72.9	67.6	67.5	67.1	66.1	64.7	60.3
4 3 1	100.4	90.0	97.1	83.9	82.2	75.2	65.5
4 3 2	95.8	98.4	98.7	100.6	104.7	96.3	92.5
4 3 3	88.7	88.0	97.0	97.5	105.9	103.0	89.5
4 3 4	79.7	74.8	82.2	85.3	93.9	95.5	78.1
4 3 0	68.3	69.1	66.2	63.9	67.0	56.2	60.9
4 4 1	90.2	89.2	85.5	88.0	88.5	86.8	85.2
4 4 2	85.0	90.4	92.6	97.8	97.9	94.5	95.3
4 4 3	70.2	82.3	86.9	89.1	102.9	96.8	87.5
4 4 4	70.3	66.7	75.1	74.6	84.2	87.2	88.3
4 4 0	63.3	68.1	62.8	59.2	56.8	53.4	49.5
4 0 1	99.4	81.9	94.4	81.0	77.2	80.4	80.2
4 0 2	83.9	83.2	82.4	76.4	82.8	70.4	66.0
4 0 3	70.3	66.4	70.0	64.4	61.7	58.4	58.4
4 0 4	64.7	57.6	58.9	57.3	52.8	56.3	46.9
4 0 0	38.8	39.6	40.3	41.9	37.9	37.7	36.2

Last 3 form figures	Flat Turf & AW NON-HANDICAPS						
	1-4 days	5-10 days	11-20 days	21-31 days	32-62 days	63-99 days	100+ days
0 1 1	101.9	90.6	84.5	70.1	71.9	65.2	68.4
0 1 2	88.1	95.1	81.5	75.3	69.7	60.4	67.7
0 1 3	91.4	81.9	80.0	74.0	67.3	61.8	57.3
0 1 4	85.7	77.5	73.9	73.2	70.0	66.6	57.3
0 1 0	68.2	64.2	60.6	59.3	53.3	55.5	43.7
0 2 1	98.2	96.0	88.6	81.1	71.0	72.4	70.4
0 2 2	95.2	96.4	91.1	84.5	80.8	72.5	73.9
0 2 3	87.2	86.6	83.7	81.0	73.5	67.7	61.4
0 2 4	75.5	87.8	74.9	75.5	67.3	65.5	68.3
0 2 0	62.0	66.1	63.1	62.1	56.9	55.9	53.2
0 3 1	95.3	91.7	85.7	76.9	77.1	66.2	77.4
0 3 2	87.7	89.5	90.3	87.1	79.0	77.7	70.8
0 3 3	88.8	79.4	80.9	77.4	75.3	64.5	64.8
0 3 4	79.6	77.5	70.5	65.9	65.1	60.6	59.0
0 3 0	60.2	58.5	56.6	54.2	53.8	51.1	50.2
0 4 1	85.1	92.1	81.4	76.1	73.1	62.0	68.5
0 4 2	91.0	90.7	87.1	83.7	82.4	75.1	72.9
0 4 3	75.1	84.6	79.5	76.0	71.7	68.9	68.9
0 4 4	80.9	76.2	70.7	63.7	64.6	61.4	64.7
0 4 0	50.0	49.2	46.8	47.9	46.7	44.7	44.5
0 0 1	81.2	81.3	76.4	71.6	72.4	59.2	76.2
0 0 2	80.1	75.8	74.9	70.1	66.3	64.9	60.2
0 0 3	69.4	66.1	65.1	62.7	54.7	57.4	49.5
0 0 4	60.8	59.7	56.1	52.7	51.6	46.7	49.6
0 0 0	28.3	28.5	29.1	28.1	26.3	25.2	24.8

<i>Last 3 form figures</i>	Flat Turf & AW NON-HANDICAPS						
	1-4 days	5-10 days	11-20 days	21-31 days	32-62 days	63-99 days	100+ days
1 1	102.5	96.1	93.5	82.6	78.9	78.4	79.8
1 2	105.0	97.0	92.2	81.8	82.7	76.4	73.2
1 3	95.9	89.0	84.9	76.9	77.9	63.4	80.4
1 4	80.2	73.7	77.4	73.0	69.8	70.6	69.2
1 0	71.9	64.4	61.4	66.4	58.8	55.4	59.0
2 1	113.8	100.5	98.8	87.9	85.2	79.7	85.4
2 2	111.9	106.5	102.0	98.9	89.2	92.4	85.8
2 3	100.6	96.3	96.8	90.2	89.6	83.4	75.7
2 4	84.0	84.5	79.4	79.2	81.4	81.0	70.2
2 0	65.0	66.0	66.6	62.1	62.9	65.2	56.9
3 1	97.7	98.1	90.3	90.5	83.1	89.1	85.1
3 2	99.3	100.2	99.9	99.0	93.5	98.5	88.9
3 3	85.3	92.3	90.3	90.8	90.2	83.6	87.2
3 4	77.4	79.7	72.6	80.6	68.5	78.2	82.2
3 0	61.3	56.1	56.2	57.7	60.6	54.4	55.9
4 1	94.6	93.6	93.1	87.6	84.6	86.4	90.9
4 2	100.1	93.5	97.0	94.1	97.9	93.1	89.9
4 3	85.7	85.7	85.1	86.4	85.9	85.9	81.0
4 4	83.0	68.6	73.8	71.8	72.3	77.5	72.3
4 0	45.6	47.5	45.5	46.6	44.2	44.1	45.2
0 1	91.8	91.4	86.9	87.0	83.4	85.4	79.0
0 2	84.2	85.6	87.5	84.7	85.6	81.1	82.8
0 3	69.3	71.9	72.1	71.7	71.7	71.3	68.9
0 4	61.0	61.7	60.3	59.6	61.8	57.4	61.7
0 0	28.0	27.6	29.6	29.5	31.4	29.4	30.9
1	98.3	94.2	92.9	90.7	89.8	87.1	88.0
2	95.3	96.0	96.3	94.3	93.6	90.3	90.3
3	80.1	80.7	81.1	82.9	84.8	79.1	82.8
4	71.0	72.3	68.2	68.6	71.1	71.4	71.1
0	31.3	31.3	33.4	35.6	36.0	34.9	32.8

Better late than never, Eric Bowers comes forward with the follow-up he promised in his Process of Elimination article a few months ago

STATISTICAL PRUNING METHODS

Eric Bowers

I did promise in issue 9.11 that I would explain the process I follow in reducing my retained list of possible winners after elimination, down to a final selection or selections.

At this time of the year I normally prepare my strategy for the coming flat season. However I am afraid I shall be a little late this year (May at the earliest), and therefore at this precise moment can only submit my views on the very basic requirements for success.

The reason for the delay is changing to a new computer with a larger screen, greater memory drive, and a faster processor, so that I can utilise the Raceform Interactive program. Unfortunately from my point of view, the package came with the latest Microsoft XP system. This seems to be a very good system but it has presented me with a few problems.

It does not work very well with old, MSDOS based programs, of which I have quite a lot, plus the older version of the RSB (Professional Edition) which completely fails to operate. This is confirmed by RSB.

Now I have no desire to upset anyone at RSB, it is a marvellous program and I cannot recommend it more highly. If you own a computer, believe in statistics, and can afford it, buy it.

No, my problem is a matter of circumstances.

I am now in my seventies, and have had a very serious cancer operation which required two months in hospital and well over a year in convalescence, in total almost two years in lost activities. During this period RSB changed their programs classification to update their product. The old version still works on all other Microsoft systems, but not the new XP.

After having been a customer of RSB for quite a few years, Flat and N.H., I

am a little peeved at having to fork out another few hundred quid for a newer version and start all over again from scratch, but that's progress. I repeat though, a great program.

Because of this and the time delay involved for this year, I have to backtrack from my usual type of bet, following trainers, to rediscover the art of all aged 5f and 6f sprints.

Another reason for delay, is getting to appreciate all the extra facilities of the Raceform Interactive. This is also very good, but not perfect. I still think it could do with a few more print facilities which would save having to make a lot of hand written notes when moving from one section to another.

It certainly does almost cover every aspect of form, the only things missing seems to be the colour of a horses eyes, and when a jockey pulls up his pants before a race, whether he normally dresses to the left or the right. This could be a very important factor on sharp turning tracks.

This large increase in available form statistics in the R.I. program also presents a slight, but welcomed problem. It makes form analysis much easier, but also very much slower, or I should say longer.

As an example, I have just timed myself by selecting the XTEND section for each horse (displaying via a rating assessment, how it has preformed in context to the other runners for the conditions of a declared race, course-distance-going-weight) and the COLLATERAL section for a typical 9 runner handicap race.

The collateral section alone, where each runner is assessed either directly or indirectly against all other declared runners, presented 189 races to be considered for further analysis. The time involved in just bringing up the lists and selecting the possibilities, not analysing and working out the form, took 23 minutes. The Raceform Interactive program instruction manual does give the following advice:-

“These tables can become quite confusing the more horses you have in a race. By using the Scratch facility you can reduce the number of horses in a race which you think have a chance of winning to a more practical number”.

I wouldn't like to estimate how long it would take to fully go through all the variations. It appears that more so than ever nowadays, there has to be some form of elimination prior to analysis. Even the daily and weekly racing

papers are getting very involved in improved form presentation.

The E-Mail group discussion after the November issue included remarks that on some occasions I was throwing out the baby with the bath water, this is perfectly true, but in no way am I losing in the long term.

The whole purpose of good elimination rules is to improve profit. If you can quickly eliminate the remote possibilities, it allows you more time to concentrate on the group where statistics tell you there is the greatest amount of winners.

My records show me that I consistently obtain a higher win strike rate by focussing my attention in such a direction for the limited time available. I may miss the odd 20/1 outsider at a low win strike rate and a low level stake, (because of the longest losing run sequence), but I more than make up for it in more reasonable directions. I'm not talking about odds on favourites, but the middle odds range, which if assessed more accurately and thoroughly can be very profitable.

Besides the No-Hoppers method, there are others introduced in previous writings. Extracts of which are produced below.

Favorites:

The front end of the betting market wins the majority of races, but how far down the price rank should we consider horses for precise form analysis.

The "academic purist", who normally has never had to hold down an 8 to 5 job, advises that every runner should be fully examined, this is both time consuming and non-productive. If the bookmakers, with all their computer systems and inside stable information, after assessing the possible potential of a runner, place it amongst the remote outsiders, there's little chance of you coming to a different conclusion.

The time saving procedure, therefore, is to note the number of runners in a race, then for Non-Handicaps divide this figure by 3, and for Handicaps divide it by 2.

Consult the betting forecast in either the Racing Post or the Daily Mirror, (the same source) and retain for further form analysis that number of favourites. The following table will give you some idea and show the percentage over the last 5 years.

<i>Non-Handicap</i>			<i>Handicap</i>		
Runners	Favs	%	Runners	Favs	%
6	2	70.3	6	3	72.4
9	3	77.4	8	4	75.5
12	4	81.8	12	6	76.1
15	5	82.3	16	8	79.9
18	6	82.7	18	9	75.3
21	7	81.8	22	11	73.1
Average % =		79.3%	Average % =		75.4%

Odds:

A further reduction can sometimes be obtained by comparing the betting forecast odds of the above retained favourites. It is also rare for the odds of winners to be greater than the number of runners in a race.

For example, in a 12 runner Non-Handicapped race, 83.1% of the time the winner will be 11/1 or less. In an 8 runner Handicap race, 79.2% of the time the winner will be 15/2 or less. These figures are reasonably consistent and accurate over the whole range of runners.

Therefore any retained favourite obtained by section (a) above, which is indicated as being equal, or at greater odds, than the total number of runners in the race, can be eliminated for further analysis.

For the in-experienced, the above action quickly cuts down any race to a more workable level yet retains the majority of winners.

Take last years result, there were 3,909 races.

ODDS	RUNNERS	WINNERS
15/2 or less	14,322 (35.25%)	2,875 (73.54%)
8/1 or plus	26,306 (64.75%)	1,034 (26.46%)
	40,628	3,909

These figures show the percentage level of runners against winners, above and below the 8/1 mark. Below 8/1, 35.25% of the runners produce 73.54% of the winners.

Value For Money:

Referring back to the VFM discussion. Another consideration you must fully understand is that operating amongst the higher odds range, you have a much lesser chance of obtaining specific VFM prices.

If you program the computer with the SP odds given, against the actual win strike rate of that particular level of odds, it gives you the following table.

SP	True Odds	Actual win%	Actual odds should be
1/2	66.67%	58.21%	5/7
EVENS	50.00%	44.74%	5/4
2/1	33.33%	25.92%	14/5
4/1	20.00%	14.50%	6/1
8/1	11.11%	7.62%	12/1
16/1	5.88%	3.96%	25/1
33/1	2.94%	2.06%	50/1
66/1	1.49%	1.15%	85/1

The actual success rate decrease rapidly for any S.P. odds given. Example, for every horse given an 8/1 S.P., its true chance of success is in actual fact 12/1.

Therefore the higher the odds range you operate at, the harder it is to achieve VFM.

Mental Aspects:

It may be as well at this point to explain the correct attitude required if you are to make a success of professional betting, this is the most important factor you must embrace.

If you cannot acquire the correct mental attitude with relationship to your betting activities, then turn the pages over and read the next article. It really is that important.

"Making a profit from betting is not easy, but certainly not as difficult as the majority supposes"

Making a profit from betting is not easy, but certainly not impossible, nor as difficult as the majority supposes.

Over the years I have known a few punters who could beat me hands down with regard to racing matters and the ability to interpret the formbook. Yet most of them have failed miserably to show a profit throughout a full season, let alone over a period of years. My record, from the last 24 years, 17 winning ones, a few I must admit by the skin of my teeth. Last losing year, 1989.

It's a well known fact that jockeys and trainers do not make the best of tipsters, if anyone could make a living from betting through their racing knowledge, they should. But the majority fail miserably because racing knowledge on its own is not enough. It requires a combination of knowledge and mental attitude, perhaps a ratio of 60/40.

The greatest single item of mental attitude is patience.

The most important point I'm trying to make is that racing knowledge alone will not guarantee success. You must acquire the correct mental attitude of being a winner, a successful businessman in your chosen field. No placing of bets in nearly every race, nor attempting to amass a fortune overnight. The aim must be for a slow and gradual increase in your betting bank and that each transaction will be meticulously recorded, analysed, and noted.

Getting back to that item called patience. Remember that if your average level stake profit on turnover is around 50%, for every £10 you invest, on average this will return £15, sometimes less, sometimes more. There will not be any rapid increase over a short period of time. There will be occasions when you get the impression of "treading water", it happens. Lack of patience and greed are the two main factors which cause most failures.

The temptation to become involved in the majority of races must be avoided at all costs. If there's nothing suitable today, forget it, there's always tomorrow or even next week. Patience, that's the name of the game. Greed also covers the assumption that a decent living wage can be made from a moderately sized bank, that's another monumental mistake.

On the other hand you must have commitment. To plan your work, then work your plan is very good advice. If your selections run into a sequence of losers, and they will, you must not lose your "bottle", never get up tight or excited, keep calm. I occasionally run into double figures, and this can sort out the men from the boys. At a win percentage of 33%, it is not a matter of W-L-L-W-L-L, ~ if it were only that simple.

I don't know what your particular level of involvement in racing is, but if its limited, no problem. Almost anyone with a reasonable knowledge of racing can be taught to improve.

The difficult ones are those who are long experienced, habitual, compulsive gamblers. The problem then can be like trying to teach an alcoholic to be a wine-taster. Very difficult, almost impossible.

So remember, read and digested all you can and try to improve slowly. The funny thing is most punters expect to become an accomplished, successful player straight away and earn a good living at the drop of a hat.

They should remember that it takes 3, 4 or even 5 years to learn the skills and trade of a bricklayer, plumber, engineer etc: and become financially independent.

There is no book which can teach you to become proficient in any of the above trades, you also need practical experience. This applies equally to horse racing.

Specialising:

If you are going fishing and you want to be successful, you have to cast your line where you will catch the most fish for the least effort.

So where are the best areas?

From amongst the runners of successful trainers. Those who have a distinct method which can be analysed. These trainers are not necessarily the top 27 in the winners list. Some operate without any discernible pattern and are not considered.

Excluding Irish and foreign races during last season there were 3909 races and these were contested by 408 different trainers. Consider the following facts:-

Trainers

Top	27	(6.62%)	won	1431 races	(36.56%)
Top	381	(93.38%)	won	2480 races	(63.44%)
	408			3909	

Therefore 36.56% of all races last year were won by this years selected 27 trainers (6.62%). Fantastic, but if you had bet £1-00 on all their runners you would have lost £2051-60 which represents -19.97% of the turnover.

The answer is to thoroughly dissect each trainer's modus operandi and separate their good and weak points. On the flat, each trainer has a different profile and must be analysed separately, some specialise in Handicaps, others in Sellers, Claimers, Maidens or Condition races, or a mixed combination of different types of the above races.

They are then subjected to further analysis of other important parameters, namely, month of season, class entry, age of horses, specialised distances, days from last run, starting price rank and odds, plus many more factors. The final part of the picture is provided from an analysis of the racecourse returns. All trainers, or the vast majority, have favourite racecourses where they seem to excel, both in winners and profit.

To fully understand and appreciate the amount of research and work involved in providing this list of profitable trainers, consider the following facts.

In supplying the Top 27 trainers, results over the last 5 years, (involving over 7333 successful races, from a source of over 49,257 runners), were fully examined and analysed.

Collective statistics for the 27 trainers over the last 5 years.

	<i>Wins</i>	<i>Runners</i>	<i>Win%</i>	<i>LSP</i>	<i>LSP%</i>
All runners	7333	49,257	14.89%	-9791	-19.88%
After analysis	2024	5,516	36.69%	+2863	+51.90%

By examination, analysis, and elimination of all the bad points we have turned a large negative figure to a respectable positive one.

Once having analysed and selected our Top trainers, they are subjected to one final test. Besides being profitable over a full period of 5 years, they must have shown a profit during each individual year of those 5 years. This they have done.

In each individual year the win% varied from a minimum of 34.4% to a maximum of 40 14%, and the LSP% varied from +39.35% up to 65.78%.

This is just the beginning, the pool from which we fish. All these figures are further improved by additional form elimination explained fully in later chapters.

The above is an extract from one of my previous Trainer books written many years ago when I fully realised the importance of trainers with the following remark. ***“It is important that as well swotting up and knowing your horses, you should apply the same diligence to the people responsible for their well being, fitness, and their placing in suitable races for which they have the class to succeed”.***

With the RSB computer program this task has become much easier, although you would be surprised at the effort involved. Each new factor you have introduced as a rule affects all the others you have already established, and there is a continual going backwards and forwards to adjust.

It is noted that the larger stables supply the most and normally higher percentage of winners. This is off-set by a reduction in the average odds available. The bookmakers are not fools, and a balance is strived for with smaller stables supplying a lower percentage of winners but at increased odds.

The advantage the larger stables enjoy is that they normally house the most expensive and better animals. Besides which, this type of trainer can make in-house comparisons and trials from possibly several horses and select the best one for that particular race. He can also produce more in-house competitive training which can lead to a higher percentage of first time out winners. He can also easily assess the progress of one good horse against another.

Note where the stable jockey is racing and what other stable horses are engaged at the meeting. Estimate if the horse is really fancied, or is it just a “van-filler” for some other highly rated favourite in another race. Try to assess the trainer’s intentions.

This is one of the great secrets of finding winners, it’s not all about horses, trainers figure very highly too.

Always be aware of the betting stables. These are normally in the small to medium sized establishments, who have to bet to subsidise their income and satisfy their owners. If you have access to the live betting market watch the market movements about their horses.

This quite often gives you an indication of whether a possible “job” is being operated. It would not be fair for me to give you a list of such stables, in any case it would only be my personal opinion, it is far better if you can construct your own.

They are relatively easy to work out. At the end of each season study the final trainers list normally printed in the racing press. Look for those small or medium sized trainers with a win strike rate of less than 10%, then note the figure in the returns-to-£1-stake column. Normally this will reflect a negative figure in keeping with the number of runners. If however it indicates an abnormal one approaching or even above zero, make a note of it for next season.

Finally remember, that although there are many good small trainers who play their part in the scheme of things, most good class horses are housed with the larger, good class trainers.

Distance However some professionals only bet in certain class races over a particular distance. This approach should certainly be considered by anyone who does not have the RSB program and only a limited time for study.

Before trainers, I myself specialised in all aged 5 and 6 furlong sprints with a penalty prize of greater than £5000. This restricted my activities down to approximately 200 races per season on the flat. These were contested by a nucleus of about 100 top class sprinters with a further fringe group consisting of another 400.

This is a vast reduction from the 10,000 or so horses in training. This allowed me to really get to know the peculiarities, requirements and capabilities of each horse, and assisted me enormously in the final analysis.

However if you do decide to specialise, pick your own distance that fits in with your idea of racing. If you have got the time, may I suggest you concentrate on class races above a certain value, over all distances.

First let me deal with sprints, and the reasons why I consider them the best to specialise in. It is because contrary to most popular beliefs, sprints results are less prone to inconsistency than middle to long distance races.

Sprint races are truly run races and are what they seem. Other distances can be correct or otherwise depending on the pace or lack of it.

In the extreme a 1 mile, 2 furlong race can develop into a sprint due to lack of pace at the start. How do you relate the form from such a result to a rating for a future event at the same distance? This happens more often than is realised. By their very nature, most middle to long distance races are tactical and the assessment of the physical effort expended by the winner over what can be an equivalent of a variable distance is harder to reconcile into a handicap rating than a shorter sprint.

I know the argument that if this was the case it is easy to spot the eventual winner by selecting the animal with the best “kick” or acceleration. This does not always apply, in the majority of races it’s the horse, with possibly a slightly lesser “kick”, who takes the first bite of the cherry and steals the initiative. Nothing is quite as simple as it appears.

Short sprint distances are easier for weight carriers. Weight is allocated in proportion to past results, and the better horses, in the view of the handicapper are always towards the top end of the scale for any particular race. I believe, certainly over short distances on good to firm going, that a horse has a greater weight carrying capacity than the increase allotted for improved performances from the official penalty scale.

This also helped to make selections more easy to pick as it encouraged me to concentrate towards the top end of the handicap. Because sprints are truly run races and not tactical as most middle to long distance races are. Form can be more readily converted to time and speed figures. Now this is a great advantage over other distances where speed figures can sometimes mean very little.

The draw can also make some sprints easier to work out, especially those with large fields at certain tracks. No, the only reasonable argument put forward against sprints is the possible delay of a horse leaving the starting gate. However, although without a doubt a disadvantage, the case against can be overstated.

I remember one author quoting an average speed of 55 feet per second in a 5 furlong race, implying that such distances around this mark could be lost. The truth is, from a standing start a distance of 25 feet is more appropriate, about 3 lengths. I wonder if he ever went dog racing where the average distance is only 2.3 furlongs and the animals do not have the advantage of a jockey who can watch the starter then give notice of the “off” with a dig. All in all sprints are easier to analyse, have less problems, more advantage, and for me they are the correct distances to specialise in.

However it's your choice, each to his own, so they say.

Middle distances vary from about 7 to 11 furlongs, and as distance increases so does the employment of pace and tactics. Over this distance range the ability of a horse to "kick" or accelerate becomes paramount. If you can find a horse that can do this at the business end of a race you are probably on to a winner, but I must stress that form from many of the races over these distances are hard to relate to pure handicap ratings based on time or speed, or for that matter even weight. Unless you are an expert, and have ample time, leave it to the professionals to supply the ratings. With races greater than 12 furlongs, stamina and tactics are paramount. Also the longer the distance the more the weight carrying ability is affected by the going. Under these conditions, if the horse you have selected in such a race is towards the top end of the handicap make sure it has the stamina, build and strength to carry large weights.

The other point to consider in races over middle to long distances is the configuration of the track, especially if the rails around bends have been moved which will vary the total race distance. Almost all sprints are raced on the straight and the ability of the horse to get the distance is easily worked out and can be converted for almost any track. It is not quite so simple over longer distances.

Consider a race over 10 furlongs and take two extremes. Newmarket with a 10 furlong straight that takes some getting, and one over the Chester course which is all on the turn and only a mile in circumference. If the going and all other conditions were identical it's possible a miler could be considered for Chester, but for Newmarket it would require a horse more suited to 11 or even 12 furlongs.

The point I am making is that the longer the distance of a race the more difficult it can become to work out the form accurately. More variables are introduced such as track configuration, pace, tactics and the going. If you decide to specialise in distances I have stated my preference and tried to give the pros and cons for each distance. However it's up to the individual to decide, but I do recommend that there should be some form of specialisation in betting, and next to trainers, distance is ideal.

So there you have it. I'm sorry for the delay but I do hope I have given you something to chew over and think about. If you are not making a consistent profit it could well be that your problem lies within these simple preliminaries, especially the Mental Aspects section.

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As last year we're publishing Peter May's course specific trainer & favourite tables in SMARTsig. Here's the updated trainer profiles, next issue we'll print the recompiled fate of the favourites at each course.

COURSE TRAINER STATISTICS

Peter May

Two tables I constantly keep updated and find invaluable are my 'Trainer Pointers by Course' and 'Favourite strikes rates by Course & Race Type'.

As last year, the two will be printed over two issues of SMARTsig, this month we present the trainer strikes, next month the favourites.

Trainer Pointer Table Key

Under the race type heading;

2yo refers to juvenile races,

3yo to non-juvenile races

(not those restricted to just three-year-old horses, but all non-juvenile races);

Fto stands for *First Time Out*,

Hcp denotes handicap races,

Stk refers to general conditions and stakes races including sellers.

Clm is shorthand for claimers

Mdn refers to maiden races.

Ret column shows the average return for a level 1 point stake at Starting Price.

Only those trainers showing positive returns for the period 1998-2002 are included in the tables. If the course is not featured, no trainer showed a race-specific profit to SP's over that period.

ASCOT

Trainer	RaceType	Wins	Runs	Percentage	Ret
JHMGOSDEN	3yoStk	5	12	41.7	0.23
SIRMRSTOUTE	3yoStk	5	10	50.0	1.05

AYR

BWHILLS	2yoMdn	10	21	47.6	0.67
WJHAGGAS	3yoHcp	6	13	46.2	1.15
WSTOREY	3yoHcp	5	14	35.7	1.34

BATH

GABUTLER	3yoHcp	4	15	26.7	0.20
GLMOORE	3yoHcp	7	22	31.8	1.36
MRCHANNON	3yoStk	7	17	41.2	0.56
MRS AJPERRETT	2yoMdn	4	12	33.3	2.03
MRS AJPERRETT	3yoMdn	6	22	27.3	0.38
PJMAKIN	3yoHcp	4	16	25.0	1.31
SIRMRSTOUTE	3yoMdn	7	23	30.4	0.40

BEVERLEY

EALDUNLOP	3yoHcp	4	14	28.6	0.68
JLDUNLOP	3yoHcp	10	26	38.5	0.50
JRFANSHAW	3yoMdn	4	12	33.3	0.24
TDEASTERBY	3yoStk	5	10	50.0	2.12

BRIGHTON

GABUTLER	3yoHcp	5	18	27.8	1.24
LGCOTTRELL	3yoHcp	4	13	30.8	3.00
MRCHANNON	3yoStk	6	19	31.6	1.41
MWIGHAM	3yoHcp	5	11	45.5	2.25

CARLISLE

MDODS	3yoStk	4	14	28.6	1.14
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CATTERICK

Trainer	RaceType	Wins	Runs	Percentage	Ret
ANDRWTURNELL	3yoHcp	4	14	28.6	0.45
DNICHOLLS	3yoClm	7	27	25.9	0.53
PFICOLE	2yoMdn	6	13	46.2	0.73

CHEPSTOW

BPALLING	3yoStk	4	15	26.7	2.90
JLDUNLOP	3yoMdn	5	12	41.7	0.69

CHESTER

BWHILLS	3yoList	4	16	25.0	0.25
JLDUNLOP	3yoHcp	6	15	40.0	0.59
PFICOLE	3yoHcp	9	26	34.6	0.80
SIRMRSTOUTE	3yoHcp	5	18	27.8	0.59

DONCASTER

APOBRIEN	2yoFto	3	12	25.0	0.57
BAMCMAHON	2yoStk	5	13	38.5	2.35
BAMCMAHON	2yoFto	5	11	45.5	2.61
BWHILLS	2yoStk	8	26	30.8	1.92
HRACECIL	3yoMdn	6	21	28.6	0.70
JLDUNLOP	3yoList	4	13	30.8	0.24
JRFANSHAWE	3yoHcp	6	20	30.0	0.47
MRCHANNON	3yoStk	4	15	26.7	1.68
PFICOLE	3yoStk	5	18	27.8	0.25
RCHARLTON	3yoStk	4	13	30.8	1.35
SBINSUROOR	3yoStk	7	11	63.6	0.65
SIRMRSTOUTE	3yoStk	4	13	30.8	0.27

EPSOM

EALDUNLOP	3yoHcp	6	23	26.1	0.75
GBBALDING	3yoHcp	4	16	25.0	1.50
RHANNON	3yoMdn	4	11	36.4	0.25

FOLKESTONE

Trainer	RaceType	Wins	Runs	Percentage	Ret
DWPARBUTHNOT	3yoHcp	4	11	36.4	1.05
JMBRADLEY	3yoClm	6	18	33.3	1.88
PFICOLE	2yoMdn	4	13	30.8	0.29

GOODWOOD

EALDUNLOP	2yoMdn	4	15	26.7	0.35
GWRAGG	3yoList	5	17	29.4	0.86
HRACECIL	3yoList	6	13	46.2	0.77
JHMGOSDEN	3yoMdn	14	43	32.6	0.49
MJOHNSTON	3yoGroup	4	12	33.3	1.20
SBINSUROOR	3yoGroup	5	14	35.7	0.49

HAMILTON

MJOHNSTON	3yoMdn	6	19	31.6	0.34
MRCHANNON	2yoMdn	5	12	41.7	0.79
SIRMARKPRESCO	3yoHcp	4	10	40.0	0.86

HAYDOCK

GABUTLER	3yoHcp	4	15	26.7	0.82
HRACECIL	3yoMdn	10	21	47.6	0.39
HRACECIL	3yoHcp	4	11	36.4	0.47
JLDUNLOP	2yoMdn	10	23	43.5	0.71
JLDUNLOP	2yoFto	3	9	33.3	0.61
LMCUMANI	3yoMdn	5	14	35.7	0.86
MAJARVIS	3yoHcp	9	23	39.1	1.59
MJRYAN	3yoHcp	7	20	35.0	0.64
MRCHANNON	2yoMdn	6	19	31.6	1.13
SIRMARKPRESCO	3yoHcp	6	14	42.9	0.92
SIRMRSTOUTE	3yoMdn	9	28	32.1	0.28

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KEMPTON

Trainer	RaceType	Wins	Runs	Percentage	Ret
EALDUNLOP	3yoMdn	4	15	26.7	0.39
JLDUNLOP	3yoList	8	18	44.4	1.00
MCPIPE	3yoHep	5	12	41.7	1.15
MPTREGONING	3yoMdn	4	14	28.6	0.22
MRSAJPERRETT	3yoMdn	4	11	36.4	4.91

LEICESTER

JLDUNLOP	3yoHep	9	35	25.7	0.27
JRFANSHAWE	3yoStk	5	13	38.5	1.51
MLWBELL	3yoStk	4	13	30.8	2.66
MRSAJPERRETT	2yoMdn	5	17	29.4	0.57
SIRMRSTOUTE	2yoMdn	13	48	27.1	0.23
SIRMRSTOUTE	2yoFto	8	32	25.0	0.54

LINGFIELD (turf)

BWHILLS	3yoMdn	5	18	27.8	0.54
CFWALL	3yoHep	7	22	31.8	1.08
DNICHOLLS	3yoHep	6	17	35.3	0.79
JNOSEDA	2yoMdn	4	12	33.3	0.38
MLWBELL	3yoHep	4	11	36.4	0.95
MPTREGONING	3yoMdn	5	13	38.5	0.47
RHANNON	2yoStk	6	18	33.3	0.67
RHANNON	2yoFto	5	20	25.0	1.17
SIRMRSTOUTE	3yoMdn	6	14	42.9	0.56

MUSSELBURGH

ABERRY	2yoMdn	11	43	25.6	0.18
ABERRY	2yoFto	5	15	33.3	0.37
MJOHNSTON	3yoMdn	5	14	35.7	0.55
MLWBELL	3yoHep	4	12	33.3	0.73
RMWHITAKER	3yoHep	5	16	31.3	2.81
SIRMARKPRESCO	3yoHep	9	14	64.3	2.33
TDEASTERBY	3yoHep	10	40	25.0	0.75

NEWBURY

Trainer	RaceType	Wins	Runs	Percentage	Ret
HRACECIL	3yoFto	6	17	35.3	2.69
IABALDING	3yoList	4	16	25.0	0.63
JHMGOSDEN	3yoStk	6	15	40.0	0.58
JLDUNLOP	3yoGroup	4	15	26.7	0.41
JLDUNLOP	3yoList	4	13	30.8	0.37
JLDUNLOP	3yoStk	5	14	35.7	0.88
MAJARVIS	3yoMdn	4	10	40.0	6.76
MJOHNSTON	3yoList	4	11	36.4	1.03
MRCHANNON	2yoList	5	10	50.0	0.94

NEWCASTLE

JLDUNLOP	2yoMdn	6	11	54.5	1.32
MJOHNSTON	3yoFto	4	12	33.3	0.63
SIRMARKPRESCO	3yoHcp	4	13	30.8	0.23
WJHAGGAS	3yoHcp	6	18	33.3	0.56

NEWMARKET

DRCELSWORTH	3yoMdn	7	25	28.0	0.72
JHMGOSDEN	3yoStk	11	28	39.3	0.27
JRFANSHAWE	3yoStk	7	21	33.3	0.74
MJOHNSTON	3yoStk	4	14	28.6	0.34
MPTREGONING	3yoList	8	17	47.1	0.67

NOTTINGHAM

ACSTEWART	3yoMdn	5	11	45.5	0.95
BRMILLMAN	2yoFto	4	11	36.4	2.14
HRACECIL	2yoMdn	6	15	40.0	0.19
HRACECIL	2yoFto	4	9	44.4	0.62
JHMGOSDEN	3yoMdn	6	24	25.0	0.18
JHMGOSDEN	3yoHcp	5	17	29.4	1.02
JRFANSHAWE	3yoMdn	4	16	25.0	1.58
SIRMARKPRESCO	3yoHcp	5	18	27.8	0.23
SPCWOODS	3yoStk	4	11	36.4	0.50

PONTEFRACT

Trainer	RaceType	Wins	Runs	Percentage	Ret
BWHILLS	2yoMdn	5	17	29.4	0.32
HRACECIL	3yoMdn	5	19	26.3	0.54
LMCUMANI	3yoMdn	5	18	27.8	0.24
MAJARVIS	3yoMdn	4	15	26.7	0.64
PWHARRIS	2yoMdn	4	10	40.0	1.05
SIRMRSTOUTE	3yoMdn	8	26	30.8	0.31
WJHAGGAS	2yoMdn	4	13	30.8	0.92

REDCAR

CADWYER	3yoHcp	6	16	37.5	1.02
DNICHOLLS	3yoCln	5	11	45.5	0.54
JHMGOSDEN	2yoMdn	6	13	46.2	1.50
JNOSEDA	3yoMdn	5	10	50.0	0.36
JNOSEDA	3yoHcp	4	10	40.0	1.98

RIPON

BWHILLS	3yoMdn	12	28	42.9	0.49
HRACECIL	3yoMdn	8	12	66.7	0.54
MJOHNSTON	3yoStk	6	11	54.5	2.12
SPCWOODS	3yoHcp	4	15	26.7	0.40
TDEASTERBY	2yoHcp	4	11	36.4	1.21

SALISBURY

BWHILLS	2yoMdn	4	13	30.8	1.14
JHMGOSDEN	2yoMdn	7	23	30.4	0.36
JLDUNLOP	3yoHcp	10	36	27.8	0.38
JRFANSHAWE	3yoHcp	4	11	36.4	1.23
RHANNON	3yoStk	5	19	26.3	0.49

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more complex)**

SANDOWN

Trainer	RaceType	Wins	Runs	Percentage	Ret
ACSTEWART	3yoHcp	7	21	33.3	1.50
JHMGOSDEN	3yoMdn	7	28	25.0	0.22
JHMGOSDEN	3yoFto	5	12	41.7	1.38
JRPOULTON	3yoHcp	7	18	38.9	4.18
MRCHANNON	2yoHcp	4	14	28.6	0.88
PFICOLE	3yoHcp	8	27	29.6	1.88
SCWILLIAMS	3yoHcp	4	16	25.0	2.69
SIRMRSTOUTE	3yoMdn	9	35	25.7	0.61
SIRMRSTOUTE	2yoFto	4	12	33.3	0.63
SIRMRSTOUTE	3yoFto	4	14	28.6	2.04

THIRSK

BWHILLS	3yoMdn	5	12	41.7	0.55
HRACECIL	3yoMdn	8	14	57.1	0.24
JLDUNLOP	3yoMdn	7	10	70.0	1.37
JLDUNLOP	3yoHcp	6	15	40.0	0.47
JRFANSHAWE	3yoHcp	4	11	36.4	0.61
MRCHANNON	2yoMdn	6	10	60.0	1.90
SIRMRSTOUTE	3yoMdn	7	24	29.2	0.50

WARWICK

HMORRISON	3yoHcp	4	11	36.4	2.28
JLDUNLOP	3yoHcp	6	14	42.9	0.67
JRFANSHAWE	2yoMdn	5	12	41.7	1.24
MCPIPE	3yoHcp	6	19	31.6	0.30
MJOHNSTON	3yoHcp	5	15	33.3	0.50
SIRMRSTOUTE	3yoMdn	4	11	36.4	0.47

WINDSOR

IABALDING	3yoStk	4	14	28.6	0.59
MISSDAMCHALE	3yoHcp	4	15	26.7	1.70
MJOHNSTON	3yoHcp	4	14	28.6	1.84
MRSPNDUTFIELD	2yoStk	7	13	53.8	3.43
PJMAKIN	2yoFto	3	10	30.0	1.32
SIRMRSTOUTE	3yoMdn	18	59	30.5	0.21

YARMOUTH

Trainer	RaceType	Wins	Runs	Percentage	Ret
ACSTEWART	3yoHcp	5	16	31.3	0.23
BHANBURY	3yoStk	5	14	35.7	0.44
EALDUNLOP	3yoHcp	6	24	25.0	0.40
HRACECIL	3yoStk	6	12	50.0	0.44
MAJARVIS	3yoMdn	4	10	40.0	0.67
SIRMARKPRESCO	3yoHcp	6	15	40.0	0.65

YORK

JLDUNLOP	2yoMdn	4	10	40.0	0.68
MRSAJPERRETT	3yoHcp	4	12	33.3	1.86
PFICOLE	2yoFto	4	12	33.3	0.24

LINGFIELD(AW)

APJARVIS	3yoMdn	5	19	26.3	1.84
DJSCOSGROVE	3yoStk	4	13	30.8	1.46
DWPARBUTHNOT	3yoMdn	4	15	26.7	0.68
GABUTLER	3yoStk	6	22	27.3	0.51
GABUTLER	2yoFto	4	12	33.3	1.32
HJCOLLINGRIDGE	3yoStk	4	14	28.6	0.34
JHMGOSDEN	3yoMdn	6	18	33.3	0.88
JNOSEDA	3yoMdn	11	33	33.3	0.32
JRFANSHAWE	3yoHcp	4	15	26.7	0.69
KTIVORY	3yoClm	4	15	26.7	0.18
MJOHNSTON	3yoStk	5	14	35.7	0.51
MRCHANNON	3yoStk	4	11	36.4	1.55
PCHASLAM	3yoClm	4	11	36.4	0.74
RHANNON	2yoStk	6	15	40.0	0.86
RINGRAM	3yoStk	6	20	30.0	0.93
SCWILLIAMS	3yoClm	4	11	36.4	0.84
SPCWOODS	3yoMdn	6	13	46.2	0.43
SPCWOODS	3yoHcp	6	23	26.1	0.95
TGMILLS	2yoMdn	4	12	33.3	0.52
TGMILLS	3yoClm	6	14	42.9	0.71
TGMILLS	3yoMdn	5	15	33.3	1.50

SOUTHWELL(AW)

Trainer	RaceType	Wins	Runs	Percentage	Ret
BAMCMAHON	3yoStk	7	24	29.2	1.17
BJMEEHAN	2yoStk	5	11	45.5	0.51
BJMEEHAN	2yoMdn	8	17	47.1	0.43
CREGERTON	3yoHcp	5	18	27.8	0.84
HMORRISON	3yoHcp	8	24	33.3	1.53
MBELL	3yoHcp	4	14	28.6	0.70
MJOHNSTON	3yoMdn	7	17	41.2	1.89
PFICOLE	3yoHcp	4	14	28.6	0.33
SPCWOODS	3yoMdn	5	13	38.5	0.34

WOLVERHAMPTON(AW)

APJARVIS	3yoClm	5	13	38.5	0.81
BAMCMAHON	2yoMdn	4	14	28.6	0.48
DJSCOSGROVE	3yoStk	4	13	30.8	1.92
ISEMPLE	3yoClm	4	15	26.7	0.70
JNOSEDA	3yoMdn	7	15	46.7	1.00
MAJARVIS	3yoHcp	11	32	34.4	0.91
MLWBELL	3yoMdn	5	15	33.3	0.38
NPLITTMODEN	2yoClm	5	12	41.7	2.29
PAULJOHNSON	3yoHcp	4	15	26.7	0.76
PCHASLAM	3yoClm	6	20	30.0	0.46
RGUEST	3yoHcp	7	24	29.2	0.90
RHANNON	2yoHcp	4	16	25.0	1.14
SKIRK	2yoMdn	5	12	41.7	1.76
TDBARRON	3yoStk	5	11	45.5	1.37
TDBARRON	3yoClm	8	19	42.1	0.67
TGMILLS	3yoHcp	12	42	28.6	1.26
WJARVIS	3yoHcp	6	23	26.1	1.13
WJHAGGAS	3yoMdn	13	24	54.2	0.77

NEXT MONTH:

Look out for course-by-course [favourites] statistics from the same source

NORTHERN TRACKS

Trainer	RaceType	Wins	Runs	Percentage	Ret
BHANBURY	3yoStk	4	10	40.0	1.00
BJMEEHAN	2yoStk	4	12	33.3	0.55
BWHILLS	2yoStk	4	13	30.8	0.24
BWHILLS	2yoMdn	28	93	30.1	0.27
DENYSSMITH	2yoFto	5	12	41.7	4.67
GASWINBANK	3yoStk	6	22	27.3	0.29
GWRAGG	3yoStk	5	14	35.7	0.74
HRACECIL	3yoMdn	40	94	42.6	0.20
HRACECIL	3yoHep	9	29	31.0	0.64
JAOSBORNE	2yoFto	3	12	25.0	2.46
JHMGODDEN	2yoMdn	12	42	28.6	0.19
JLDUNLOP	2yoMdn	30	81	37.0	0.21
JLDUNLOP	2yoFto	3	10	30.0	0.45
JNOSEDA	3yoHep	10	38	26.3	0.68
JRFANSHAW	3yoStk	6	22	27.3	0.52
KARYAN	3yoClm	8	26	30.8	0.92
LMCUMANI	3yoMdn	25	81	30.9	0.25
MAJARVIS	3yoStk	8	18	44.4	0.72
MAJARVIS	3yoHep	18	69	26.1	0.31
MJOHNSTON	3yoStk	25	85	29.4	0.33
MLWBELL	2yoStk	6	14	42.9	0.38
MLWBELL	3yoStk	13	50	26.0	0.30
MRCHANNON	2yoMdn	27	105	25.7	0.28
SIRMARKPRESCO	2yoHep	9	35	25.7	0.52
WJHAGGAS	2yoMdn	11	42	26.2	0.20
WJHAGGAS	3yoClm	5	14	35.7	0.78
WJHAGGAS	3yoMdn	13	42	31.0	0.62
WJHAGGAS	2yoFto	4	15	26.7	0.62

SMARTsig**GOLDEN
STREEK**

Sources tell me that Jim Streek, one of our longest serving contributors, whose articles have rightly earned him an enthusiastic following, has recently celebrated his Golden Wedding anniversary. Congratulations to the couple from all at SMARTsig. Here's to the next fifty!

2-Year-Old Ratings from Peter May

During the 2001 season Peter May's top-rated two-year-old won 277 of the 845 races run in Britain and returned a **profit of £159.07 to a level £1 stake** at SP.

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