

Aintree Angles 2024

Saturday, April 13th

4.00 – Randox Grand National Handicap Chase

This race is a very different beast since the fences were made easier ahead of the 2015 renewal and they tend to go hard up front, setting the race up for a closer. The best way to predict who is likely to be given a patient ride is to use the Proform pace ratings. The Proform software uses three pace abbreviations based on last-time out comments...

L = led (4pts)

P = prominent (2pts)

H = held up (0pts)

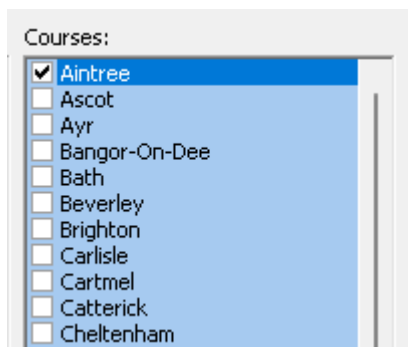
The last three runs for each horse are added together to give the pace rating and, in the eight renewals of the Grand National since the fences were modified, those with a rating of six or higher have failed to register a single win from 113 runners (the expected number of winners, based on their odds was 2.96).

To study recent Grand National trends using the Proform software we use the system builder, first setting out date parameters...

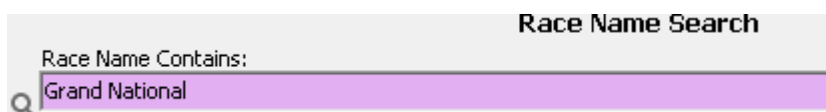
The screenshot shows the 'Race Date Filter' window. It has a title bar with a question mark icon. The main area contains several sections:

- When ticked your system is enabled and qualifiers will be shown on the welcome screen** (checked).
- Turn OFF BOG Calculations** (checked), with a sub-note: **Untick to turn off BOG**.
- Restrict by years**: A list of years from 1997 to 2010, all of which are checked.
- Restrict by months**: A list of months from January to December. 'April' is checked, while all others are unchecked.
- Restrict system to look at races from the past:** A dropdown menu set to 'Days'.
- Restrict system to start on a certain day (dd/mm/yyyy):** A text input field containing '01/04/2015', with 'EP' and 'TOTE' buttons to its right.
- Restrict system to look at certain days of the month:** An empty text input field.
- Restrict system to look at races on a set day of the week:** A dropdown menu.
- Restrict Searches to a Specific Day, Course or Race**: A section with a 'Date to use for declaration filters below:' label. Below this is a calendar navigation showing 'April 2024' with navigation arrows. To the right is a 'Choose your Declaration Type' dropdown menu with two options: 'All Races' (selected) and 'Use HORSEs decs'.

Next, we select Aintree only in the 'course' tab...



...then type 'Grand National' in the 'race' tab...



...running the query now gives us the following results...

System Results (BOG ON) Betfair Price Used : Betfair SP (Prices up-to-date to: 02/04/20)															
Runners	Winners	Win S/R	IV	PRB	PRB*2	WAX	EX Wins	A/E	Chi Scr	P/L Betfair	ROI Betfair	P/L to SP	ROI to SP		
315	8	2.54	1.00	33.28	27.14	-0.36	8.36	0.96	0.02	-155.92	-49.50	-152.00	-48.25		

...next, we click the 'presentation (ratings)' tab and select 'By Pace Ratings Value' to present the results by the Proform pace rating...



...giving the following results...

System Results (BOG ON) Betfair Price Used : Betfair SP (Prices up-to-date to: 02/04/2024 20:30:00)															
Pace Rating	Runners	Winners	Win S/R	IV	PRB	PRB^2	WAX	EX Wins	A/E	Chi Scr	P/L Betfair	ROI Betfair	P/L to SP	ROI to SP	
0	61	2	3.28	1.29	36.80	30.26	0.84	1.16	1.72	0.62	-14.38	-23.58	5.00	8.20	
2	76	4	5.26	2.07	42.48	35.05	1.61	2.39	1.67	1.12	-14.10	-18.55	-16.00	-21.05	
4	65	2	3.08	1.21	29.38	24.16	0.15	1.85	1.08	0.01	-16.20	-24.92	-28.00	-43.08	
6	62	0	0.00	0.00	31.78	25.69	-1.45	1.45	0.00	1.48	-62.00	-100.00	-62.00	-100.00	
8	28	0	0.00	0.00	26.16	19.72	-0.83	0.83	0.00	0.86	-28.00	-100.00	-28.00	-100.00	
10	19	0	0.00	0.00	20.87	16.99	-0.47	0.47	0.00	0.48	-19.00	-100.00	-19.00	-100.00	
12	4	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.21	0.21	0.00	0.22	-4.00	-100.00	-4.00	-100.00	

I now want to concentrate on the runners with a pace rating of between 0 and 4, so I enter '<=4' in the pace value box in the 'Ratings' tab...

Ratings by Value		Clear by
MAIN Ratings:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MAIN+STATS Ratings:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
STATS Ratings:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tissue Ratings:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
PFR Ratings:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trainer Stats Ratings:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jockey Stats Ratings:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trnr/Jky Comb. Stats Ratings:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Horse Stats Ratings:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pace Ratings:	<input type="text" value="<=4"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Official Ratings:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
PRC Average:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
PRC Last Run:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
PRC 2nd Last Run:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
PRC 3rd Last Run:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Splitting the qualifiers by age gives some interesting results, with those aged ten or more failing to register a win from 86 runners...

System Results (BOG ON) Betfair Price Used : Betfair SP (Prices up-to-date to: 02/04/2024 2														
Age	Runners	Winners	Win S/R	IV	PRB	PRB^2	WAX	EX Wins	A/E	Chi Scr	P/L Betfair	ROI Betfair	P/L to SP	ROI to SP
7	12	1	8.33	3.30	42.19	35.99	0.68	0.32	3.16	1.52	16.54	137.82	39.00	325.00
8	43	4	9.30	3.66	45.16	39.03	2.46	1.54	2.59	4.05	36.85	85.70	21.00	48.84
9	61	3	4.92	1.94	32.57	26.62	1.04	1.96	1.53	0.57	-12.57	-20.61	-13.00	-21.31
10	41	0	0.00	0.00	37.60	29.89	-0.84	0.84	0.00	0.85	-41.00	-100.00	-41.00	-100.00
11	27	0	0.00	0.00	26.23	20.91	-0.53	0.53	0.00	0.54	-27.00	-100.00	-27.00	-100.00
12	12	0	0.00	0.00	18.10	13.44	-0.13	0.13	0.00	0.13	-12.00	-100.00	-12.00	-100.00
13	4	0	0.00	0.00	87.30	76.85	-0.06	0.06	0.00	0.06	-4.00	-100.00	-4.00	-100.00
14	2	0	0.00	0.00	66.19	43.91	-0.03	0.03	0.00	0.03	-2.00	-100.00	-2.00	-100.00

Combining a pace rating of 0-4 with the nine-year-old or younger angle gives the following results...

System Results (BOG ON) Betfair Price Used : Betfair SP (Prices up-to-date to: 02/04/20														
Runners	Winners	Win S/R	IV	PRB	PRB^2	WAX	EX Wins	A/E	Chi Scr	P/L Betfair	ROI Betfair	P/L to SP	ROI to SP	
116	8	6.90	2.72	38.23	32.19	4.18	3.82	2.09	4.73	41.94	36.15	47.00	40.52	

Backing the qualifiers blind would have seen us hit the winner in every year since the fence modifications and make a profit of £47.00 to a £1 level stake at SP. We can use the above as a base system and play around with other angles. For example, of the 116 qualifiers, those who failed to complete the course last time were 0-18, so we could exclude those. Those who prepped in a chase at Cheltenham were five from 43 for a profit of £59.00. The standout qualifier at this stage is seven-year-old MEETINGOFTHEWATERS, a hold-up horses who was third in the Ultima Handicap Chase at last month's Cheltenham festival.

1.20 – William Hill Handicap Hurdle

Saturday's Aintree card gets underway with a 3m handicap hurdle, which can also be narrowed down using the Proform software. Horses who ran well and exceeded market expectations in their prep race have a good record – I defined this as a top four finish when 6th or worse in the betting...

Last Time Out - Horse, Jockey and Trainer Filters ?

LTO Jockey Name:

LTO Trainer Name:

LTO Odds (SP):

LTO Finishing Pos:

LTO Draw:

LTO DSLR:

LTO Weight Rank:

LTO SP Rank:

LTO Tissue Odds:

LTO Hrs Penalty:

LTO Headgear:

LTO Jockey Claim:

LTO Wgt In Pounds:

LTO Distance To Winner:

LTO Placed YES/NO: (Enter 1 for placed or 0)

LTO Pace Abbrev: H L P

LTO Favourite or NOT: NOT Fav jtFav 2ndFav jt2ndFav

LTO % Lower Than Betfair SP:

LTO Horse In Running Comment Search

...in the 13 renewals since 2010 (COVID intervened in 2020) this angle found the winner on nine occasions (from just 48 bets) for a profit of £50.50 to a £1 level stake at SP...

Runners	Winners	Win S/R	IV	PRB	PRB^2	WAX	EX Wins	A/E	Chi Scr	P/L Betfair	ROI Betfair	P/L to SP	ROI to SP
48	9	18.75	3.89	59.29	47.08	6.01	2.99	3.01	12.87	69.95	145.72	50.50	105.21

Those qualifiers who had been rested for more than 21 days did even better...

Runners	Winners	Win S/R	IV	PRB	PRB^2	WAX	EX Wins	A/E	Chi Scr	P/L Betfair	ROI Betfair	P/L to SP	ROI to SP
34	9	26.47	5.50	64.66	53.47	6.79	2.21	4.07	22.26	83.77	246.37	64.50	189.71

MONMIRAL and KYNTARA, the first two home in the Pertemps Final at 25-1 and 16-1 respectively, both qualify this year, as does Ascot winner HONOR GREY.

Friday

2.20 – William Hill Handicap Hurdle

Another race at the Aintree festival where horses ridden patiently might be favoured is the 2m4f handicap hurdle run on Friday. We can again use the Proform pace rating to our advantage, eliminating those with a rating of 6 or higher. Since 2009, they have failed to register a win from 91 qualifiers...

Runners	Winners	Win S/R	IV	PRB	PRB^2	WAX	EX Wins	A/E	Chi Scr	P/L Betfair	ROI Betfair	P/L to SP	ROI to SP
91	0	0.00	0.00	45.80	31.17	-4.08	4.08	0.00	4.27	-91.00	-100.00	-91.00	-100.00

We'd have lost money at SP (-£7.00) by backing all those with a pace rating of 4 or lower, but would have made a profit of £37.79 at Betfair SP (after 2% commission)...

Runners	Winners	Win S/R	IV	PRB	PRB^2	WAX	EX Wins	A/E	Chi Scr	P/L Betfair	ROI Betfair	P/L to SP	ROI to SP
207	14	6.76	1.44	50.23	35.20	3.97	10.03	1.40	1.66	37.79	18.26	-7.00	-3.38

Splitting these 207 runners by trainer nationality makes interesting reading, with the Irish-trained runners over-achieving...

Trainer Nationality	Runners	Winners	Win S/R	IV	PRB	PRB^2	WAX	EX Wins	A/E	Chi Scr	P/L Betfair	ROI Betfair	P/L to SP
	2	0	0.00	0.00	30.95	19.16	-0.12	0.12	0.00	0.13	-2.00	-100.00	-2.00
GB	183	10	5.46	1.16	49.93	34.74	1.21	8.79	1.14	0.17	-15.28	-8.35	-41.00
IRE	22	4	18.18	3.88	54.49	40.52	2.89	1.11	3.60	7.92	54.09	245.87	36.00

BLACK BAMBOO, sixth under a patient ride in the Coral Cup, will be very interesting if lining up here instead of in the 3m handicap hurdle on Saturday. The Gordon Elliott-trained TED HASTINGS, runner-up over course and distance on Boxing Day, is another one for the shortlist.

Thursday

1.45 – Manifesto Novices’ Chase

This Grade 1 contest has not been a happy hunting ground for Paul Nicholls, with his 15 runners this century failing to notch a single win...

Date	Time	Horse	Course	Fin Pos	SP	SP Num	BSP
02/04/2009	16:55	Chapoturgeon	Aintree	FE	15/8	1.88	3.03
08/04/2010	16:55	The Nightingale	Aintree	3	11/4	2.75	4.50
07/04/2011	16:50	Royal Charm	Aintree	3	100/30	3.33	4.70
12/04/2012	16:50	Al Ferof	Aintree	3	6/5	1.20	2.32
12/04/2012	16:50	Cristal Bonus	Aintree	2	7/1	7.00	8.40
04/04/2013	16:50	Fago	Aintree	5	11/2	5.50	8.17
03/04/2014	16:50	Dodging Bullets	Aintree	5	9/1	9.00	11.75
09/04/2015	13:40	Vibrato Valtat	Aintree	2	9/4	2.25	3.65
07/04/2016	13:40	Bouvreuil	Aintree	4	16/1	16.00	18.22
06/04/2017	13:45	Frodon	Aintree	5	5/1	5.00	6.60
12/04/2018	13:45	Modus	Aintree	5	14/1	14.00	19.00
12/04/2018	13:45	Cyrname	Aintree	4	2/1	2.00	3.10
08/04/2021	13:45	Hitman	Aintree	3	100/30	3.33	4.78
07/04/2022	13:45	Pic D'Orhy	Aintree	PU	7/2	3.50	5.44
13/04/2023	13:45	Stage Star	Aintree	5	6/4	1.50	2.58

He has GINNY’s DESTINY this year, the 7-2 second favourite at the time of writing.

4.40 – Close Brothers Red Rum Handicap Chase

The market for this 2m handicap chase is often dominated by horses who ran well in the Grand Annual at the Cheltenham festival but those who ran in that contest have a poor recent record, scoring just once from 63 runners since 2010...

Runners	Winners	Win S/R	IV	PRB	PRB^2	WAX	EX Wins	A/E	Chi Scr	P/L Betfair	ROI Betfair	P/L to SP	ROI to SP
63	1	1.59	0.24	51.74	36.82	-3.57	4.57	0.22	3.01	-33.34	-52.93	-42.00	-66.67

In the past ten years (nine renewals) it has paid to concentrate on lowly weighted runners (carrying 10-10 or less) who ran in a lower grade (Class 2 or 3 company) last time out...

Runners	Winners	Win S/R	IV	PRB	PRB^2	WAX	EX Wins	A/E	Chi Scr	P/L Betfair	ROI Betfair	P/L to SP	ROI to SP
37	7	18.92	2.84	46.76	38.41	5.02	1.98	3.53	13.44	116.99	316.19	64.50	174.32

Spring horse BLACK GERRY, runner-up in a Class 2 handicap chase at Plumpton last time, is set to carry 10-06 and could be the answer to this year’s renewal.

by Andrew Mount

Racing pundit/journalists with daily tipping/analysis columns for GG.co.uk, SportsLens.com and Tote.co.uk. I also write a weekly column for Racing & Football Outlook.

Past lives include racecourse bookmaker, author of the Trend Horses books for Raceform, full-time pro punter and racehorse owner.