

Cheltenham Festival Punting Angles with Proform Part 1

By Andrew Mount

Introduction

With the 2024 Cheltenham festival just around the corner, I want to take a look at a few punting systems using the power of the Proform software that might help us to win a few quid next month. I'm going to take a detail look at specific races in due course but first, a few general pointers...

First up is the system that could kill the Cheltenham festival preview night gravy train dead...

BACK EVERY HORSE IN EVERY RACE AT BETFAIR SP

Sounds daft, doesn't it? But had we backed every runner in every race at Betfair SP at the past five Cheltenham festivals we'd have made a profit of £376.19 to a £1 level stake at SP (+16.91% on turnover, after 2% commission). Here's the breakdown year-by-year...

System Results (BOG ON) Betfair Price Used : Betfair SP (Prices up-to-date to: 24/02/2024 20:20:00)																	
Year	Runners	Winners	Win S/R	IV	PRB	PRB^2	WAX	EX Wins	A/E	Chi Scr	50%SR	P/L Betfair	ROI Betfair	bsp DD	TEW_PL	TEP_PL	P/L to SP
2019	497	28	5.63	1.00	45.30	32.77	-0.09	28.09	1.00	0.00	46.68	194.50	39.14	-122.89	202.87	-497.00	-114.01
2020	477	28	5.87	1.00	47.16	33.68	-0.14	28.14	1.00	0.00	47.38	106.41	22.31	-124.39	113.26	-477.00	-159.02
2021	402	28	6.97	1.00	47.25	33.84	-0.04	28.04	1.00	0.00	42.54	60.23	14.98	-58.20	63.94	-402.00	-54.85
2022	405	28	6.91	1.00	46.63	33.60	-0.44	28.44	0.98	0.01	38.52	-15.46	-3.82	-56.09	-12.49	-405.00	-102.28
2023	444	28	6.31	1.00	45.48	32.98	-0.30	28.30	0.99	0.00	35.81	30.50	6.87	-89.36	-17.98	-34.38	-105.96

...I'm not suggesting that we adopt this method but it's fascinating to note that however uncompetitive jumps racing seems to be in recent years, there will always be a shock or two at the Cheltenham festival.

TRAINERS

PAUL NOLAN is rarely represented in handicaps at the Cheltenham

festival but his 21 runners this century have produced two winners (20-1 and 12-1) for a profit of £13.00 to a £1 level stake at SP as well as ten other top-seven finishes (at odds of 100-1, 66-1, 33-1, 25-1, 22-1, 11-1, 8-1, 8-1, 7-1 and 11-2). With many bookmakers offering enhanced place terms, it could pay to back his handicap runners each-way. He has PALOMAN (40-1) and TRANQUIL SEA (20-1) in the Boodles Juvenile Handicap Hurdle as well as DAILY PRESENT (16-1) in the Kim Muir.

ALAN KING's hurdlers are just one from 133 at the Cheltenham festival since 2009 and backing them blind would have returned a loss of £99.00 to a £1 level stake at SP. The expected numbers of winners based on their prices was 6.47 giving an actual over expected ratio of 0.15. The non-handicappers were 0-68 in this period...

Handicap or Not	Runners	Winners	Win S/R	IV	PRB	PRB^2	WAX	EX Wins	A/E	Chi Scr	50%SR	P/L Betfair	ROI Betfair	bsp DD	TEW_PL	TEP_PL	P/L to SP	ROI to SP	E
HANDICAP	65	1	1.54	0.37	50.81	36.53	-1.46	2.46	0.41	0.90	38.46	-25.81	-39.71	-38.00	-25.05	-65.00	-31.00	-47.69	↓
NON HANDICAP	68	0	0.00	0.00	47.53	32.35	-4.01	4.01	0.00	4.26	32.35	-68.00	-100.00	-68.00	-68.00	-68.00	-68.00	-100.00	↓

EASY WINNERS OVER HURDLES IN IRELAND

The Proform software allows us to base systems on the close-up comments given to a horse on its latest start and one simple system is to look for those who scored in Ireland last time out when described as winning 'easily' or 'comfortably'. This information can be entered in the LTO (last time out) HORSE IN RUNNING COMMENT SEARCH area in the LTO HORSE tab in the Proform system builder...

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 2ndFav jtFav jt2ndFav

LTO % Lower Than Betfair SP:

LTO Horse In Running Comment Search

LTO Horse Comment Contains: and or

LTO Horse Comment does NOT Contain: and or

Since the 2017 Cheltenham festival, those who won 'easily' or 'comfortably' over hurdles in Ireland in their prep race had a 19 from 65 record at festival for a very healthy profit...

Runners	Winners	Win S/R	IV	PRB	PRB*2	WAX	EX Wins	A/E	Chi Scr	50%SR	P/L Betfair	ROI Betfair	bsp DD	TEW_PL	TEP_PL	P/L to SP	ROI to SP
65	19	29.23	4.84	62.77	52.23	8.56	10.44	1.82	8.37	50.77	86.34	132.83	-11.21	87.88	-56.83	60.00	92.31

WIND OPERATIONS

Wind ops have only had to be declared since the 2018 Cheltenham festival, but a few interesting patterns have emerged, especially with regard to trainers. Dan Skelton's five wind-op recipients who ran at the Cheltenham festival produced a 12-1 winner in the shape of Ch'tibello in the 2019 County Hurdle as well as a 25-1 fourth and 16-1

fifth. Backing all Cheltenham festival handicappers who had undergone wind surgery since their latest start would have found three winners from 39 runners for a profit of £12.00. Obviously, this is a small sample size and a low strike-rate but it's worth giving such runners a second look, especially when it comes to the Placepot as the beaten horses included a 16-1 runner-up as well as a 50-1 third.

by Andrew Mount

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