

## Early-season angles

### Introduction

My Proform database contains almost 1500 individual systems and I want to share several of them in this article to assist you in finding value bets, lays and trades in the early months of the peak jumps season. I also want to demonstrate the power and versatility of the Proform software, a smart piece of kit that I could not do without.

### Why a systems approach to betting?

There is so much racing in Britain and Ireland (the two jurisdictions covered by the Proform software) that it's virtually impossible to keep track of the action without using computers. When I first became interested in racing and betting, I would specialise in the classier jumps races, but I soon realised that I needed a broader approach, especially when employed as a pundit for William Hill racing radio as I might have to give an informed opinion on a 5f all-weather sprint and a hunter chase in the course of a few minutes.

### The Welcome Screen

Once the final declarations are known, any qualifiers on my various systems will appear on Proform's Welcome Screen. Here's the first handful from Monday, October 23rd...

System Qualifiers running today, tomorrow or in 2 days: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Today <input type="checkbox"/> Tomorrow <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Days Time				
Date	Time	Course	Horse	System Name
23/10/2023	13:25	Windsor	Longuerue	SireRecorderAW-LAY-Turf-BACK?
23/10/2023	13:25	Windsor	Al Kherb	SireAlKazeemTurf4yo+BACK-5f-10fOnly?
23/10/2023	13:55	Windsor	Mrs Thrump	Trainer2ndTimeOut2yoDavidEvansWindsor-BACK
23/10/2023	13:55	Windsor	Pearl Of Rowdown	SirePearlSecret2ndTimeOut-BACK
23/10/2023	14:25	Windsor	Pride Of Nepal	SireTheGurkha9f-1m2f-BACK
23/10/2023	15:15	Plumpton	Star Legend	TrainerJamesOwn-BACK-HcapsOnly?
23/10/2023	15:15	Plumpton	King Otis	TrainerJamesOwn-BACK-HcapsOnly?
23/10/2023	15:55	Windsor	Astronomica	SireBellardo3yo+1m+Flat-BACK
23/10/2023	15:55	Windsor	Astronomica	SireBelardo3yoSystem-BACK
23/10/2023	16:05	Wolverhampton	Battle Queen	Trainer2ndTimeOut2yoAndrewBalding2nd-4thOnDebut-BACK
23/10/2023	16:05	Wolverhampton	Battle Queen	Trainer2ndtimeOut2yoAndrewBaldingBtnLessThan10LOnDebut-BACK
23/10/2023	16:05	Wolverhampton	Secret World	JockeyJamesDoyleWolverhamptonNON-Hcaps-BACK
23/10/2023	16:05	Wolverhampton	Overture	SireNewApproachTapeta2yos-LAY?
23/10/2023	16:15	Plumpton	Kaleb	TrainerAmyMurphyNoHeadgearWoreHeadgearLTO-BACK

Each day I transfer these into a spreadsheet and add my tracker horses (another feature available in Proform) before studying the qualifiers in more detail. Some of my systems might be related to just one event in the racing calendar such as the Boodles Juvenile Handicap Hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival. I have a few systems for this race but one of my favourites is to side with horses who finished fourth or worse last time out. This simple angle has found eight winners from 89 qualifiers since 2011 for a huge profit of £190.00 to a £1 level stake at SP. The systems results are shown below. The expected number of winners (Ex Wins) was only 2.55 given a WAX (winners against expected score) of 5.45...

System Results (BOG ON) Betfair Price Used : Betfair SP (Prices up-to-date to: 13/10/2023 20:30:00)																
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	P/L to SP	ROI to SP	
89	8	8.99	1.88	47.90	34.02	5.45	2.55	3.14	11.98	46.07	338.44	380.27	-13.00	190.00	213.48	

As well as showing the profit/loss at SP, Proform also gives Betfair SP details (after commission).

However, we've got to wait until March 2024 before this system becomes useful, so let's kick on with some more general systems for the coming jumps season based on trainers, jockeys and breeding.

### Willie Mullins, maiden hurdles, October to December

Oposing Willie Mullins runners blind in maiden hurdles might seem like folly but they have tended to underperform in the early months of the season. Since 2019, he's won with 59 of the 223 qualifiers (26.5% strike-rate) for a loss of £93.83 to a £1 level stake at SP...

System Results (BOG ON) Betfair Price Used : Betfair SP (Prices up-to-date to: 13/10/2023 20:30:00)																
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	P/L to SP	ROI to SP	
223	59	26.46	4.21	75.14	65.52	-15.54	74.54	0.79	4.86	38.12	-76.91	-34.49	-78.84	-93.83	-42.08	

Laying these runners at Betfair SP (after 2% commission) would have returned a profit of 32.44% on turnover...

Lay P/L BF	Lay ROI BF	L
72.34	32.44	

### Jamie Snowden, handicap chase system

Jamie Snowden has a good record with his young (aged four, five or six) handicap chasers, scoring with 40 of the 176 qualifiers (22.7%) since the beginning of 2014 for a profit of £38.46 to a £1 level stake at SP...

System Results (BOG ON) Betfair Price Used : Betfair SP (Prices up-to-date to: 13/10/2023 20:30:00)																
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	P/L to SP	ROI to SP	
176	40	22.73	1.72	52.18	42.29	6.73	33.27	1.20	1.68	43.75	66.48	37.77	-22.36	38.46	21.85	

...plenty of the winners were making their chase debuts so don't be put off if he runs one under a big weight in a handicap rather than take the novice or beginners chase route.

### Richard J Bandey, chase debutants

Trainer Richard Bandey has a fine record with chase debutants, scoring with seven of the 16 qualifiers for a profit of £101.25 to a £1 level stake at SP. This is obviously a small sample size, but the market has started to cotton on to the trainer's ability and the qualifiers often provide good trading opportunities if you can get on at a price the night before.

System Results (BOG ON) Betfair Price Used : Betfair SP (Prices up-to-date to: 13/10/2023 20:30:00)																
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	P/L to SP	ROI to SP	
16	7	43.75	3.80	73.39	65.41	3.72	3.28	2.14	5.32	56.25	106.35	664.66	-3.00	101.25	632.81	

### Sean Bowen, chases at Ffos Las

Jockey Sean Bowen is especially effective over fences, scoring on approximately one in every five rides for a profit of £97.30 to a £1 level stake at SP. Here's the breakdown of all his jumps rides...

System Results (BOG ON) Betfair Price Used : Betfair SP (Prices up-to-date to: 13/10/2023 20:30:00)																
Race Type	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	P/L to SP	ROI to SP
Chase	1777	353	19.86	1.70	50.21	39.60	51.91	301.09	1.17	10.78	45.58	389.56	21.92	-81.18	97.30	5.48
Hurdle	2247	380	16.91	1.68	54.93	42.08	22.72	357.28	1.06	1.72	45.71	999.93	44.50	-121.97	-105.03	-4.67
NHF	405	62	15.31	1.53	57.53	42.50	-1.02	63.02	0.98	0.02	44.94	-68.67	-16.96	-108.80	-117.82	-29.09

He seems especially adept at judging the pace in chases at Ffos Las – often run on very soft ground. His strike-rate over fences at the Welsh venue improves to 27.1% for a profit of £56.74...

System Results (BOG ON) Betfair Price Used : Betfair SP (Prices up-to-date to: 13/10/2023 20:30:00)																
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	P/L to SP	ROI to SP	
144	39	27.08	2.20	58.02	47.16	12.92	26.08	1.50	7.81	51.39	98.60	68.48	-15.22	56.74	39.40	

### Fame And Glory, jumps, 8yo+

Jumps progeny of sire Fame And Glory show a tendency to improve with age and backing all the eight and nine-year-olds (the sire's oldest crop) would have found 52 winners from 415 runners (12.5%) for a profit of £82.38 to a £1 level stake at SP (prior to racing on Saturday October 21<sup>st</sup>).

System Results (BOG ON) Betfair Price Used : Betfair SP (Prices up-to-date to: 13/10/2023 20:30:00)																
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	P/L to SP	ROI to SP	
415	52	12.53	1.35	47.09	34.42	10.21	41.79	1.24	2.77	39.28	229.76	55.36	-54.24	82.38	19.85	

Ardera Ru provides a good example – Eoin Doyle's mare blanked in all 15 starts aged five, six or seven but scored at odds of 9-2 at Tramore on New Year's Day 2023 – her eighth Birthday – and has since added wins at 14-1 and 11-2.

System Results (BOG ON) Betfair Price Used : Betfair SP (Prices up-to-date to: 13/10/2023 20:30:00)																
Age	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	P/L to SP	ROI to SP
5	2	0	0.00	0.00	70.00	53.00	-0.37	0.37	0.00	0.45	50.00	-2.00	-100.00	-2.00	-2.00	-100.00
6	5	0	0.00	0.00	75.30	56.88	-0.65	0.65	0.00	0.75	0.00	-5.00	-100.00	-5.00	-5.00	-100.00
7	8	0	0.00	0.00	67.81	50.59	-0.89	0.89	0.00	1.00	37.50	-8.00	-100.00	-8.00	-8.00	-100.00
8	5	3	60.00	9.24	96.11	92.61	2.39	0.61	4.91	10.64	100.00	30.77	615.42	-1.00	22.00	440.00

## Territories, soft or heavy going

One sire I've been following closely on the Flat this year is Territories, whose progeny do well on soft or heavy going. It's early days where his jump progeny are concerned but four of his 14 hurdlers have won for a small profit...

System Results (BOG ON) Betfair Price Used : Betfair SP (Prices up-to-date to: 13/10/2023 20:30:00)																
Race Type	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	P/L to SP	ROI to SP
Hurdle	14	4	28.57	3.45	63.14	52.06	1.76	2.24	1.78	1.64	64.29	6.60	47.15	-4.39	2.86	20.45

Those who started at odds of 8-1 or shorter were four from seven for a profit of £9.86 and, though this is a dangerously small sample size, his progeny could be worth siding with when the mud's flying.

## Milan, first run after a wind operation

Since late January 2018, wind operations, like headgear, have had to be declared when a horse is entered for a race in Britain. Certain trainers have done exceptionally well with runners on their first start back after undergoing wind surgery though beware of small sample sizes. This is the record of David Pipe, split by year...

System Results (BOG ON) Betfair Price Used : Betfair SP (Prices up-to-date to: 13/10/2023 20:30:00)																
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	P/L to SP	ROI to SP
2018	37	0	0.00	0.00	43.39	30.26	-3.31	3.31	0.00	3.63	37.84	-37.00	-100.00	-37.00	-37.00	-100.00
2019	39	9	23.08	2.35	59.84	50.30	4.01	4.99	1.80	3.70	56.41	22.72	58.27	-7.00	14.83	38.03
2020	37	4	10.81	1.16	40.16	27.17	-0.52	4.52	0.88	0.07	35.14	-20.39	-55.10	-29.00	-22.23	-60.08
2021	40	4	10.00	1.12	41.97	30.83	-0.08	4.08	0.98	0.00	40.00	-7.65	-19.12	-22.22	-16.17	-40.43
2022	45	9	20.00	2.02	46.21	35.03	4.00	5.00	1.80	3.61	37.78	28.92	64.26	-11.00	14.54	32.30
2023	24	4	16.67	1.58	44.69	33.90	1.58	2.42	1.65	1.14	37.50	12.31	51.29	-12.81	7.00	29.17

It might have been tempting to lay these runners after Pipe went 0-37 in 2018 but his wind-op recipients did much better the following year.

The progeny of certain sires often improve for wind surgery with the record of Milan being of particular interest...

System Results (BOG ON) Betfair Price Used : Betfair SP (Prices up-to-date to: 13/10/2023 20:30:00)																
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	P/L to SP	ROI to SP	
113	22	19.47	1.87	51.22	40.40	7.79	14.21	1.55	4.88	45.13	230.58	204.05	-22.36	114.88	101.66	

## by Andrew Mount

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