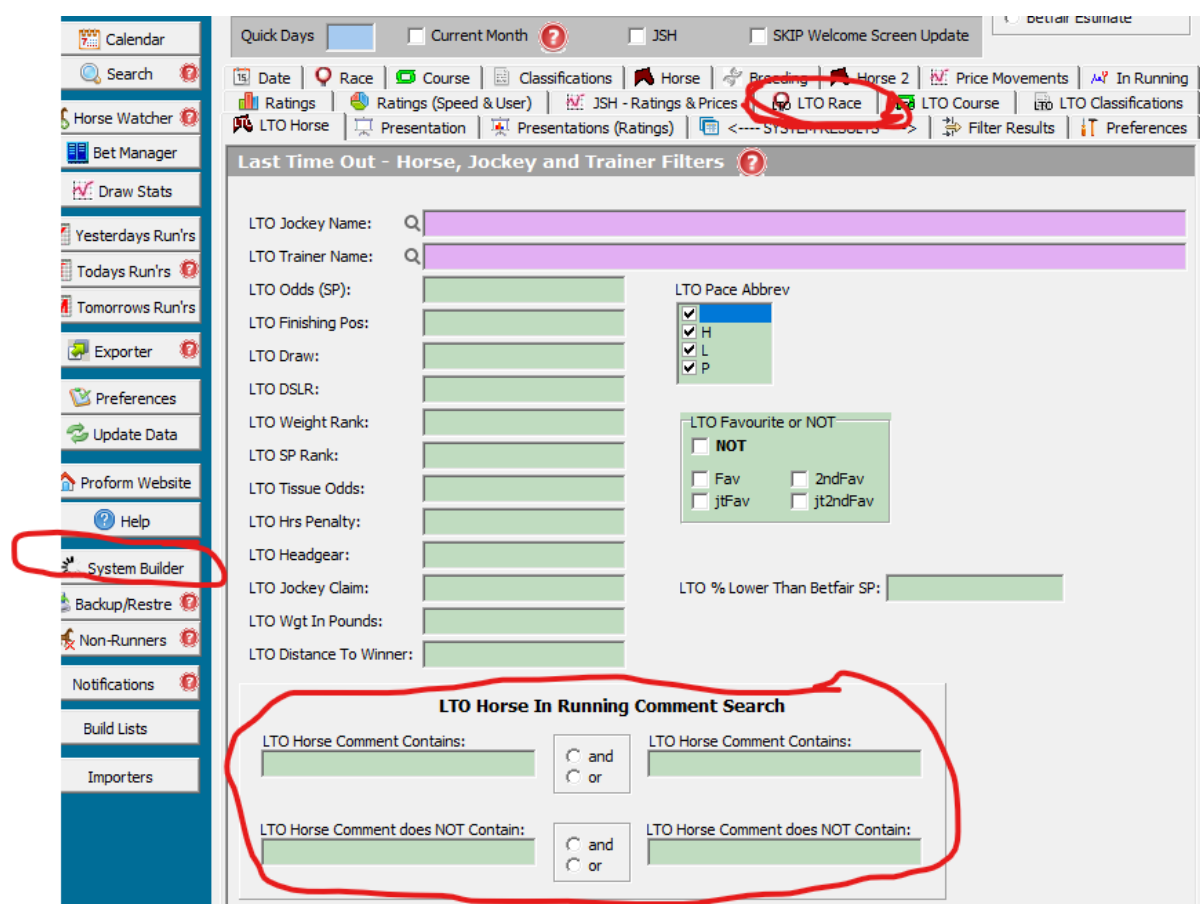


Making the most of In-running Comments in Proform

There's a useful feature in the Proform System Builder that is worth investigating – the LTO Horse In Running Comment Search:



Proform uses the Press Association as a data source so you're getting their in-running comments and they're consistent enough to be used as an extra edge. I appreciate that relying on in-running comments - which by their nature are subjective - could appear to be a little dangerous but given the yearly breakdowns in terms of runners and profits are showing reasonably steady numbers it's worth a good look.

Some of these screenshots have some headings which are clarified in the Proform Glossary document available for download here: https://www.proformracing.com/learn_more.html

1. A/W Last Time Out Winners with LTO comment 'Headway'

I had been flicking through the in-running comments I had exported from Proform and noticed 'headway' cropped up often and had a look to see if there were any angles.

If you input 'headway' into the LTO comment box and Finishing Position '1' and select years 2014 to 2023 plus all race types, this time out and last time out you get this:

System Results (BOG ON) Betfair Price Used : Betfair SP (Prices up-to-date to: 31/12/2023 15:45)															
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
38542	7141	18.53	1.85	60.37	46.73	-64.07	7205.07	0.99	0.70	43.34	-1429.73	-3.71	-1581.92	-6598.18	

An impressive sample size but nothing exciting about the returns. But a sample size this big should have a nice 'seam' to mine.

Breaking down the results by Race Type this time out gives this:

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	Pi
A/W	9160	1902	20.76	2.00	63.24	49.38	31.74	1870.26	1.02	0.68	41.21	-48.51	-0.53	299.10	-
Chase	3921	716	18.26	1.64	54.46	42.60	-36.28	752.28	0.95	2.16	45.01	-374.29	-9.55	-592.50	-
Hurdle	7839	1571	20.04	2.09	62.30	49.39	7.86	1563.14	1.01	0.05	47.43	-100.22	-1.28	348.56	-
NHF	842	163	19.36	1.97	64.03	49.76	0.38	162.62	1.00	0.00	44.42	43.42	5.16	-157.51	-
Turf	16780	2789	16.62	1.70	59.10	44.85	-67.77	2856.77	0.98	1.94	42.14	-950.12	-5.66	-1024.12	-

A/W and Hurdle races look interesting given the Return on Investment at Betfair Starting Price is slightly better than the standard 2% commission factored into these results. I'm not interested in the NHF profit at all. The sample of 842 is already too small to start dissecting. The Actual/Expected Winners of 1.00 indicates there's an outsider or two creating the profit and there's a very good chance this profit will not replicate in the future.

After a bit of trial and error with the Breakdown feature I ended up with this for the A/W:

2, 3, 4 and 5-year-olds in A/W races (all types) broken down by distance of race 2014 to 2023

Distance in Furlongs	Runners	Winners	Win S/R	IV	PRB	PRB^2	WAX	EX Wins	A/E	Chi Scr	50%SR	P/L Betfair	ROI Betfair	I
4	38	7	18.42	1.70	63.66	49.70	-0.12	7.12	0.98	0.00	36.84	-8.88	-23.36	
5	518	106	20.46	1.86	62.45	48.06	-3.25	109.25	0.97	0.12	39.00	-37.88	-7.31	
6	994	221	22.23	2.14	64.13	50.84	12.36	208.64	1.06	0.93	40.34	54.00	5.43	
7	1350	270	20.00	1.99	63.52	49.51	-14.57	284.57	0.95	0.95	38.81	68.41	5.07	
8	1526	318	20.84	2.03	63.21	49.67	-15.06	333.06	0.95	0.87	40.63	-97.96	-6.42	
9	278	67	24.10	2.31	66.61	53.50	1.32	65.68	1.02	0.03	44.24	3.54	1.27	
10	731	169	23.12	2.25	65.76	52.33	9.63	159.37	1.06	0.74	45.28	-6.48	-0.89	
11	251	62	24.70	2.43	67.68	54.51	3.40	58.60	1.06	0.26	44.62	-14.46	-5.76	
12	651	181	27.80	2.60	68.13	55.49	26.65	154.35	1.17	6.03	48.85	78.91	12.12	
13	143	40	27.97	2.43	66.34	53.90	6.71	33.29	1.20	1.76	48.25	41.63	29.11	
14	109	34	31.19	2.41	67.27	54.97	7.30	26.70	1.27	2.64	51.38	22.21	20.38	
15	131	36	27.48	2.54	71.39	58.48	4.74	31.26	1.15	0.94	48.09	10.57	8.07	
16	179	55	30.73	2.79	69.83	57.89	9.92	45.08	1.22	2.92	46.93	74.44	41.58	
18	2	1	50.00	3.50	85.71	75.51	0.16	0.84	1.19	0.05	50.00	0.66	32.81	

This makes sense because the ability to make headway in a race is probably more useful at longer distances and it's the younger horses that are more capable of further improvement and will likely be less exposed.

But it's always worth seeing if the track or the surface is significant:

System Results (BOG ON) Betfair Price Used : Betfair SP (Prices up-to-date to: 31/12/2023 15:45)														
Distance in Furlongs	Runners	Winners	Win S/R	IV	PRB	PRB*2	WAX	EX Wins	A/E	Chi Scr	50%SR	P/L Betfair	ROI Betfair	b
5	180	38	21.11	1.95	63.28	49.35	1.73	36.27	1.05	0.10	39.44	-4.74	-2.63	
6	137	26	18.98	1.88	61.94	48.67	-0.87	26.87	0.97	0.04	33.58	-12.73	-9.29	
7	292	67	22.95	2.19	66.41	52.90	4.81	62.19	1.08	0.47	42.81	86.34	29.57	
8	247	60	24.29	2.28	63.71	51.13	3.31	56.69	1.06	0.25	42.51	-13.92	-5.64	
9	264	65	24.62	2.37	66.95	53.98	3.63	61.37	1.06	0.28	45.08	10.21	3.87	
12	160	43	26.88	2.41	67.96	55.53	4.88	38.12	1.13	0.82	50.00	4.86	3.04	
13	83	24	28.92	2.64	69.03	57.08	4.78	19.22	1.25	1.54	49.40	32.16	38.75	
14	1	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.07	0.07	0.00	0.07	0.00	-1.00	-100.00	
16	42	18	42.86	3.37	72.33	62.70	5.18	12.82	1.40	3.01	52.38	19.73	46.97	

Wolv.

Wolverhampton looks ok with a 12f+ system cut-off. The 7f return is just a blip helped a lot by a winner at 40.

System Results (BOG ON) Betfair Price Used : Betfair SP (Prices up-to-date to: 31/12/2023 15:45)														
Distance in Furlongs	Runners	Winners	Win S/R	IV	PRB	PRB*2	WAX	EX Wins	A/E	Chi Scr	50%SR	P/L Betfair	ROI Betfair	b
4	18	3	16.67	1.61	63.09	46.60	0.09	2.91	1.03	0.00	33.33	-3.47	-19.25	
6	48	11	22.92	2.40	64.34	51.65	1.12	9.88	1.11	0.16	41.67	-7.91	-16.49	
7	43	10	23.26	2.34	61.02	48.60	1.40	8.60	1.16	0.29	34.88	-6.16	-14.32	
8	45	7	15.56	1.53	60.57	46.11	-2.08	9.08	0.77	0.60	24.44	-7.38	-16.41	
11	22	2	9.09	0.89	66.19	50.98	-2.61	4.61	0.43	1.87	40.91	-16.25	-73.85	
12	28	6	21.43	2.16	75.05	62.07	-1.20	7.20	0.83	0.27	39.29	-5.70	-20.37	
14	15	4	26.67	2.57	74.67	59.68	0.44	3.56	1.12	0.07	46.67	-1.41	-9.37	
16	7	2	28.57	2.57	77.92	64.21	0.65	1.35	1.48	0.39	42.86	3.58	51.21	
18	2	1	50.00	3.50	85.71	75.51	0.16	0.84	1.19	0.05	50.00	0.66	32.81	

Southwell 2022/3

Southwell tapeta 12f+ can be included despite a tiny loss. Early days.

System Results (BOG ON) Betfair Price Used : Betfair SP (Prices up-to-date to: 31/12/2023 15:45)														
Distance in Furlongs	Runners	Winners	Win S/R	IV	PRB	PRB*2	WAX	EX Wins	A/E	Chi Scr	50%SR	P/L Betfair	ROI Betfair	b
4	20	4	20.00	1.77	64.16	52.48	-0.22	4.22	0.95	0.01	40.00	-5.41	-27.05	
5	14	2	14.29	1.12	52.99	37.39	-1.06	3.06	0.65	0.47	28.57	3.50	25.03	
6	74	18	24.32	2.06	63.47	50.21	0.52	17.48	1.03	0.02	44.59	-6.57	-8.88	
7	67	8	11.94	1.11	57.23	41.82	-6.84	14.84	0.54	4.05	28.36	-26.68	-39.82	
8	85	18	21.18	1.83	64.57	51.20	-4.28	22.28	0.81	1.11	36.47	-7.78	-9.16	
11	22	5	22.73	1.94	66.44	51.73	-1.34	6.34	0.79	0.40	45.45	-10.92	-49.62	
12	45	10	22.22	1.76	67.67	53.84	-1.82	11.82	0.85	0.38	35.56	0.21	0.47	
14	15	8	53.33	3.54	72.93	66.74	3.69	4.31	1.86	4.44	66.67	12.35	82.30	
16	7	1	14.29	1.12	49.65	35.38	-0.97	1.97	0.51	0.67	28.57	7.10	101.47	

Southwell 2014-21

The old Southwell Fibresand surface isn't responsible for a big chunk of profits at 12f+. Good news.

System Results (BOG ON) Betfair Price Used : Betfair SP (Prices up-to-date to: 31/12/2023 15:45)														
Distance in Furlongs	Runners	Winners	Win S/R	IV	PRB	PRB^2	WAX	EX Wins	A/E	Chi Scr	50%SR	P/L Betfair	ROI Betfair	b
5	19	6	31.58	2.54	68.60	56.63	1.06	4.94	1.22	0.31	47.37	6.54	34.43	
6	205	55	26.83	2.55	65.33	52.98	8.98	46.02	1.20	2.26	44.88	24.61	12.00	
7	272	55	20.22	2.03	65.59	51.52	-2.34	57.34	0.96	0.12	40.81	2.41	0.89	
8	388	76	19.59	2.04	64.18	50.49	-0.77	76.77	0.99	0.01	43.81	46.96	12.10	
9	14	2	14.29	1.26	60.35	44.63	-2.31	4.31	0.46	1.79	28.57	-6.67	-47.63	
10	127	29	22.83	2.32	65.83	52.21	3.91	25.09	1.16	0.76	46.46	-13.43	-10.57	
11	207	55	26.57	2.66	67.97	55.19	7.35	47.65	1.15	1.47	44.93	12.70	6.14	
12	56	15	26.79	2.46	68.59	55.73	2.82	12.18	1.23	0.83	62.50	20.42	36.46	
15	63	15	23.81	2.25	67.80	53.81	1.17	13.83	1.08	0.13	47.62	-7.75	-12.30	
16	28	8	28.57	2.34	62.00	51.42	1.48	6.52	1.23	0.44	39.29	6.50	23.21	

Kempton

Kempton looks interesting at first glance but an Actual/Expected of only 0.96 and 0.99 for 7f and 8f respectively doesn't instil much confidence. There's a winner at 95.0 over 8f so we can stick with 12f+. I wouldn't make an exception for including 11f at Kempton only unless I had a very good reason.

System Results (BOG ON) Betfair Price Used : Betfair SP (Prices up-to-date to: 31/12/2023 15:45)														
Distance in Furlongs	Runners	Winners	Win S/R	IV	PRB	PRB^2	WAX	EX Wins	A/E	Chi Scr	50%SR	P/L Betfair	ROI Betfair	b
5	61	11	18.03	1.44	56.98	42.24	-4.16	15.16	0.73	1.52	36.07	-26.56	-43.5	
6	192	43	22.40	1.94	61.94	48.38	2.95	40.05	1.07	0.27	41.67	20.35	10.6	
7	226	43	19.03	1.80	61.02	46.87	-6.67	49.67	0.87	1.15	36.73	1.20	0.5	
8	187	35	18.72	1.65	63.59	49.51	-9.39	44.39	0.79	2.60	43.85	-66.65	-35.6	
10	225	52	23.11	2.10	64.95	51.90	-2.14	54.14	0.96	0.11	47.56	4.95	2.2	
12	167	57	34.13	2.91	69.21	57.23	11.90	45.10	1.26	4.30	49.70	9.14	5.4	
13	23	6	26.09	2.49	64.27	50.65	1.62	4.38	1.37	0.74	52.17	17.02	73.9	
15	68	21	30.88	2.79	74.72	62.80	3.57	17.43	1.20	0.98	48.53	18.32	26.9	
16	1	1	100.00	14.00	100.00	100.00	0.93	0.07	14.56	13.56	100.00	13.29	1328.8	

Ling.

Lingfield looks good for 12f+

System Results (BOG ON) Betfair Price Used : Betfair SP (Prices up-to-date to: 31/12/2023 15:45)														
Distance in Furlongs	Runners	Winners	Win S/R	IV	PRB	PRB^2	WAX	EX Wins	A/E	Chi Scr	50%SR	P/L Betfair	ROI Betfair	b
5	127	27	21.26	2.19	64.50	50.16	2.93	24.07	1.12	0.44	43.31	11.87	9.34	
6	161	38	23.60	2.51	68.01	55.35	6.53	31.47	1.21	1.69	47.20	85.49	53.10	
7	188	38	20.21	2.06	64.97	50.56	-3.51	41.51	0.92	0.38	40.43	-24.12	-12.83	
8	220	47	21.36	2.04	62.81	49.69	-5.65	52.65	0.89	0.80	38.18	-34.43	-15.65	
10	105	21	20.00	2.07	66.61	53.46	0.51	20.49	1.02	0.02	46.67	-0.27	-0.26	
12	111	27	24.32	2.30	64.48	51.49	1.67	25.33	1.07	0.14	46.85	-1.44	-1.30	
16	58	14	24.14	2.70	70.75	57.21	1.63	12.37	1.13	0.27	50.00	9.89	17.06	

Newc

Newcastle don't really have many races at 12f+ but there's still a profit there. I would ignore the 5f and 6f profits. You could argue the straight course there could make things work differently but if it did we should expect a better return at 7f and 8f.

System Results (BOG ON) Betfair Price Used : Betfair SP (Prices up-to-date to: 31/12/2023 15:45)														
Distance in Furlongs	Runners	Winners	Win S/R	IV	PRB	PRB^2	WAX	EX Wins	A/E	Chi Scr	50%SR	P/L Betfair	ROI Betfair	b
5	77	17	22.08	1.66	61.02	46.09	-1.26	18.26	0.93	0.11	36.36	-4.04	-5.25	
6	130	25	19.23	1.78	63.53	49.27	-3.70	28.70	0.87	0.61	32.31	-22.67	-17.44	
7	157	28	17.83	1.75	59.82	45.40	-3.78	31.78	0.88	0.56	35.67	22.59	14.39	
8	232	49	21.12	1.96	61.56	47.39	-0.26	49.26	0.99	0.00	38.36	-25.63	-11.05	
10	185	49	26.49	2.31	65.96	52.62	5.83	43.17	1.14	1.03	41.62	15.47	8.36	
13	37	10	27.03	1.87	61.60	48.77	0.31	9.69	1.03	0.01	43.24	-7.55	-20.40	
14	78	22	28.21	2.12	65.62	52.50	3.24	18.76	1.17	0.74	50.00	12.27	15.73	
16	26	8	30.77	2.19	70.08	57.54	-0.17	8.17	0.98	0.00	38.46	-3.70	-14.23	

Chelmsford

Chelmsford ticks over and makes a small profit at 12f+

System Results (BOG ON) Betfair Price Used : Betfair SP (Prices up-to-date to: 31/12/2023 15:45)														
Distance in Furlongs	Runners	Winners	Win S/R	IV	PRB	PRB^2	WAX	EX Wins	A/E	Chi Scr	50%SR	P/L Betfair	ROI Betfair	b
5	40	5	12.50	1.29	63.70	47.88	-2.50	7.50	0.67	1.03	32.50	-24.45	-61.14	
6	45	4	8.89	1.06	62.72	46.15	-3.88	7.88	0.51	2.31	24.44	-29.85	-66.33	
7	103	21	20.39	2.44	64.03	50.79	2.46	18.54	1.13	0.40	36.89	14.83	14.39	
8	122	26	21.31	2.53	62.48	48.91	4.06	21.94	1.19	0.92	39.34	10.87	8.91	
10	89	18	20.22	2.48	66.30	51.63	1.53	16.47	1.09	0.17	43.82	-13.20	-14.83	
12	84	23	27.38	3.39	68.74	55.74	8.41	14.59	1.58	5.86	48.81	51.42	61.21	
16	10	3	30.00	3.53	80.77	67.81	1.20	1.80	1.66	0.97	60.00	18.04	180.39	

Dundalk

Dundalk looks good. Almost too good with A/E of 1.58 and 1.66 for 12f and 16f. I would expect this to regress to the mean in the future i.e. make less of a profit. I will definitely ignore the profit at 7f and 8f. There will always be 'blips' and if you make something course-specific without good reason it's asking for trouble.

We have ended up with:

3, 4, and 5yos 2014 to 2023 running in A/W races at 12f+ which have the comment 'headway' lto:

System Results (BOG ON) Betfair Price Used : Betfair SP (Prices up-to-date to: 31/12/2023 15:45)														
Distance in Furlongs	Runners	Winners	Win S/R	IV	PRB	PRB^2	WAX	EX Wins	A/E	Chi Scr	50%SR	P/L Betfair	ROI Betfair	b
12	651	181	27.80	2.60	68.13	55.49	26.65	154.35	1.17	6.03	48.85	78.91	12.12	
13	143	40	27.97	2.43	66.34	53.90	6.71	33.29	1.20	1.76	48.25	41.63	29.11	
14	109	34	31.19	2.41	67.27	54.97	7.30	26.70	1.27	2.64	51.38	22.21	20.38	
15	131	36	27.48	2.54	71.39	58.48	4.74	31.26	1.15	0.94	48.09	10.57	8.07	
16	179	55	30.73	2.79	69.83	57.89	9.92	45.08	1.22	2.92	46.93	74.44	41.58	
18	2	1	50.00	3.50	85.71	75.51	0.16	0.84	1.19	0.05	50.00	0.66	32.81	

And broken down by year:

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
2014	107	37	34.58	2.97	68.69	57.64	10.75	26.25	1.41	5.83	57.01	51.15	47.80	-13.57	33.34
2015	107	29	27.10	2.36	67.42	54.59	3.39	25.61	1.13	0.59	45.79	26.60	24.86	-9.25	10.67
2016	117	33	28.21	2.52	69.55	57.17	6.47	26.53	1.24	2.04	53.85	27.22	23.27	-16.64	12.42
2017	106	30	28.30	2.81	69.78	56.94	5.08	24.92	1.20	1.36	53.77	20.79	19.61	-10.15	6.18
2018	145	36	24.83	2.25	63.44	50.84	0.60	35.40	1.02	0.01	46.90	-6.12	-4.22	-36.21	-21.81
2019	137	38	27.74	2.64	70.13	57.43	5.10	32.90	1.15	1.04	45.99	19.61	14.31	-16.81	3.80
2020	92	23	25.00	2.25	66.90	53.23	-1.23	24.23	0.95	0.09	46.74	-26.82	-29.15	-29.82	-31.74
2021	130	39	30.00	2.56	67.64	55.18	7.79	31.21	1.25	2.56	43.08	24.77	19.06	-14.48	7.28
2022	136	41	30.15	2.66	72.35	60.63	6.00	35.00	1.17	1.39	52.94	33.84	24.88	-15.52	13.30
2023	138	41	29.71	2.87	68.86	55.83	11.54	29.46	1.39	5.75	42.75	57.36	41.57	-16.00	31.26

2020 was a weird year (lockdown) and that can probably be ignored.

Note I've changed it to 3, 4 and 5yos because there are no 2yo races at 12f+.

We can then run the Reports which will give us a breakdown of all the factors. Way easier than going through each one using the Presentation feature. We're looking for logical things we can exclude.

The screenshot shows a software interface with a 'System Results (BOG ON)' table and a list of reports on the right. The table has columns for Weight Rank, 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, and P. The reports list on the right includes items like 'Report on - BOTTOM LINE', 'Report on - Horse', 'Report on - Horse Country', 'Report on - Horse Age', 'Report on - Horse Distance Travelled', 'Report on - Horse Sex', 'Report on - Horse Colour', 'Report on - Dam', 'Report on - Dam Country', 'Report on - Sire', 'Report on - Sire Country', 'Report on - DamSire', 'Report on - DamSire Country', 'Report on - Weight Rank', 'Report on - Weight Pounds', 'Report on - Odds (SP) (Numeric)', 'Report on - SP Rank', 'Report on - Tissue Odds', 'Report on - Headgear', 'Report on - Pace Abbreviation', 'Report on - Finishing Positions', 'Report on - Placed', 'Report on - Penalty Carried', 'Report on - DSLR', 'Report on - DSLR RANGES', 'Report on - RUNS IN LAST 1 MONTH RANGES', 'Report on - RUNS IN LAST 3 MONTHS RANGES', 'Report on - RUNS IN LAST 1 YEAR RANGES', 'Report on - Draw', 'Report on - Owner', 'Report on - Trainer', 'Report on - Trainer Nationality', 'Report on - Owner/Jockey', 'Report on - Owner/Trainer', 'Report on - Trainer/Jockey', 'Report on - Jockey', and 'Report on - Jockeys Claim'.

There's a strong case for sticking with runners ranked in the top 6 in the weights (for this race, not the previous 'headway' run). The sample sizes below rank 6 are not big though and the loss could be variance. Remember that weight ranks are determined in the final declaration data so may not always

be totally accurate at the time of race due to non-runners and jockey allowances. In reality you are still going to be correct or fairly close a lot of the time though. Your choice if you want to include this or not.

In the Report on all LTO Race, Course and Horse Filters there's this:

The screenshot shows a software interface for horse racing analysis. At the top, there are buttons for 'Reset Sys Vars (F2)', 'Run System (F5)', 'Save System (F8)', and 'Delete System (F11)'. Below these are various filters and options like 'Quick Days', 'Current Month', 'JSH', and 'SKIP Welcome Screen Update'. A central table displays 'System Results (BOG ON)' for different race types (A/W, Hurdle, NHF, Turf) with columns for Runners, Winners, Win S/R, IV, PRB, PRB*2, WAX, EX Wins, A/E, Chi Scr, 50% SR, P/L Betfair, ROI Betfair, and bsp DD. To the right, a 'Report on ALL LTO Race, Course & Horse Filters' menu is visible, listing various reports such as 'BOTTOM LINE', 'Weight Rank LTO', 'Odds (SP) (Numeric) LTO', etc. A 'Help' section on the far right explains some of the metrics like 'Runners = Num', 'Winners = Num', 'Win S/R = Win', etc.

Looks iffy and Turf lto could be excluded on the basis that pace variance in turf races is greater than A/W races so headway lto could be less meaningful.

But if we go back and include only those with weight rank 6 or less we get this:

This screenshot shows the same software interface but with a filtered view of system results. The table below shows the results for weight rank 6 or less.

Race Type LTO	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
A/W	749	254	33.91	2.87	71.49	59.88	49.82	204.18	1.24	16.71	51.94	222.63	29.72	-25.87
Hurdle	14	4	28.57	2.43	58.73	44.82	1.40	2.60	1.54	0.92	42.86	12.32	88.03	-7.21
NHF	5	2	40.00	3.76	67.78	55.62	0.84	1.16	1.73	0.80	40.00	10.96	219.30	-2.32
Turf	157	36	22.93	2.06	63.11	49.85	3.51	32.49	1.11	0.48	45.22	15.17	9.66	-32.20

weight rank < 7

Going for top 6 in the declared weights has converted Turf races last time out into a profit.

We've ended up with a bottom line of:

3, 4 and 5yos 2014 to 2023 running in A/W races at 12f+ (2640 yards+) which have the comment 'headway' lto and where they have a weight rank of <7 for the current race:

System Results (BOG ON) Betfair Price Used : Betfair SP (Prices up-to-date to: 31/12/2023 15:45:)																
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 t	
925	296	32.00	2.73	69.86	57.93	55.57	240.43	1.23	17.35	50.59	261.30	28.25	-31.94	131.01	1	

That's quite a low drawdown of -31.94 and a decent Actual/Expected Wins ratio of 1.23.

And by year:

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
2014	75	25	33.33	2.65	67.52	56.58	5.25	19.75	1.27	1.89	57.33	14.96	19.95	-8.57	6.76
2015	80	26	32.50	2.65	68.45	56.48	4.92	21.08	1.23	1.56	48.75	42.74	53.42	-8.57	27.17
2016	94	27	28.72	2.47	68.20	56.07	5.05	21.95	1.23	1.51	54.26	32.19	34.24	-12.71	17.84
2017	74	23	31.08	2.80	71.25	59.38	3.63	19.37	1.19	0.92	55.41	14.53	19.64	-8.37	5.93
2018	110	33	30.00	2.60	66.57	54.66	3.28	29.72	1.11	0.50	50.00	19.11	17.37	-24.98	3.72
2019	103	34	33.01	2.94	72.64	60.66	6.99	27.01	1.26	2.45	49.51	37.60	36.51	-11.38	22.42
2020	73	19	26.03	2.24	67.39	53.71	-1.97	20.97	0.91	0.26	47.95	-23.14	-31.69	-27.94	-26.46
2021	107	36	33.64	2.68	69.32	57.54	9.18	26.82	1.34	4.20	45.79	34.45	32.19	-8.14	19.18
2022	107	38	35.51	2.95	73.95	63.07	8.70	29.30	1.30	3.56	53.27	32.97	30.81	-15.50	19.30
2023	102	35	34.31	3.15	71.97	59.52	10.53	24.47	1.43	5.96	46.08	55.88	54.79	-17.12	35.13

Going back to the sample of 925 we can also see a reasonable place return and a fairly low average Betfair starting price which will help prevent those horrible lengthy drawdowns on the betting bank:

System Results (BOG ON) Betfair Price Used : Betfair SP (Prices up-to-date to: 08/01/2024 19:00:)																
bpP/L	bpRoi	bpspDD	bpWAX	bpEXP	bpAE	bpCHI	bpLWR	bpLLR	bpAO	bpAWO	bpHO	bpHWO	Avg Odds	Avg Win Odds	High	
57.15	6.56	-15.89	38.98	466.02	1.08	7.01	10	8	2.25	1.85	12.33	6.40	6.20	4.07		

2. Two and a Half Mile+ Hurdlers with LTO comment 'Headway'

DATE TAB

2014 to 2023

RACE TAB

Hurdle only

Handicaps only

Number of runners >6

Distance >=4400 yards

Race Class 1 to 4

LTO RACE TAB

LTO Race Types Turf and Hurdle

LTO No. Runners >6

Handicaps only

HORSE TAB

Age >4

LTO HORSE TAB

LTO Finishing Position 1

LTO Horse Comment contains Headway

System Results (BOG ON) Betfair Price Used : Betfair SP (Prices up-to-date to: 08/01/2024 19:00:															
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 t
1549	288	18.59	2.23	61.37	48.72	43.89	244.11	1.18	9.37	50.29	688.17	44.43	-45.49	203.71	1

A decent return from a reasonable sample. There's a winner at 146.94 but it's not relying on one or two high odds winners to make a profit. A nice Betfair Place SP profit of 171.87 in there with 52 placed more than expected. Average odds of 12.13 means the highest drawdown was 45.49 so not too bad there either.

System Results (BOG ON) Betfair Price Used : Betfair SP (Prices up-to-date to: 08/01/2024 19:00:															
bpP/L	bpRoi	bpspDD	bpWAX	bpE	bpAE	bpCHI	bp	bpLLR	bpAO	bpAWO	bp	bpHWO	Avg Odds	Avg Wi High Odds	High Wi LWI
171.87	11.69	-19.01	51.95	5.05	1.09	7.58	8	10	3.18	2.53	00	16.00	12.13	7.90	273.31 146.94

There's another element that can't be entered into the system if you want the software to flag qualifiers in advance – the Betfair starting price. This is obviously not known until the start of the race so must be left out.

It seems this system is best with a BFSP of ≥ 4.5 . If you enter < 3.5 in the Horse tab Odds (BSP) field below you get the results underneath. It is Numeric rather than Decimal so it is Betfair price minus 1.

Wgt In Pounds:

Odds (BSP):

(Enter in numeric format i.e. for < evens enter <1.0)

Dist Travelled:

System Results (BOG OFF) Betfair Price Used : Betfair SP (Prices up-to-date to: 08/01/2024 19:00:00)																
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	EP
332	110	33.13	3.27	72.42	62.09	1.82	108.18	1.02	0.05	48.80	-9.71	-2.93	-33.58	-26.36	-1.00	

If we enter ≥ 3.5 in the Odds (BSP) field in the Horse tab we get the results from ignoring Betfair Starting Prices of less than 4.5:

System Results (BOG OFF) Betfair Price Used : Betfair SP (Prices up-to-date to: 08/01/2024 19:00:00)																
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	EP
1216	178	14.64	1.83	58.36	45.09	42.24	135.76	1.31	14.80	50.74	698.34	57.43	-47.69	231.07	19.00	48.79

We've cut out a chunk of low odds horses (332) that don't generate a profit.

And by year:

System Results (BOG OFF) Betfair Price Used : Betfair SP (Prices up-to-date to: 08/01/2024 19:00:00)																
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
2014	112	15	13.39	1.58	53.81	39.34	2.49	12.51	1.20	0.56	54.46	25.64	22.89	-35.32	3.50	3.13
2015	117	18	15.38	1.83	59.89	46.56	4.30	13.70	1.31	1.53	56.41	108.57	92.79	-27.48	41.25	35.26
2016	150	19	12.67	1.51	56.47	44.00	2.32	16.68	1.14	0.36	56.00	57.51	38.34	-30.49	18.50	12.33
2017	135	23	17.04	2.10	58.06	45.52	7.53	15.47	1.49	4.14	56.30	78.48	58.13	-18.00	37.50	27.78
2018	145	21	14.48	1.80	57.38	43.74	5.63	15.37	1.37	2.31	53.79	68.69	47.37	-34.85	22.50	15.52
2019	134	20	14.93	1.90	57.86	44.90	4.81	15.19	1.32	1.71	47.01	162.31	121.13	-22.10	31.50	23.51
2020	90	14	15.56	2.10	59.45	47.12	4.10	9.90	1.41	1.91	46.67	42.85	47.61	-15.00	22.33	24.81
2021	103	11	10.68	1.41	61.84	47.52	-0.57	11.57	0.95	0.03	44.66	-9.58	-9.30	-35.24	-26.00	-25.24
2022	97	17	17.53	2.31	59.08	45.97	6.97	10.03	1.69	5.40	46.39	72.35	74.59	-17.63	38.66	39.86
2023	133	20	15.04	1.92	60.88	47.19	4.68	15.32	1.31	1.61	42.11	91.53	68.82	-22.00	41.33	31.08

The place returns and Win Odds analysis (2014 at top, 2023 at bottom):

System Results (BOG OFF) Betfair Price Used : Betfair SP														(Prices up-to-date to: 08/01/2024 19:00:00)				
bpSR	bpP/L	bpRoi	bpspDD	bpWAX	bpEXP	bpAE	bpCHI	bpLWR	bpLLR	bpAO	bpAWO	bpHO	bpHWO	Avg Odds	Avg Win Odds	High Odds	High Win Odds	L
44.00	16.99	33.99	-7.27	3.80	18.20	1.21	1.25	6	6	3.34	3.08	9.80	6.52	13.95	9.34	64.10	32.42	
42.74	36.05	30.81	-12.52	9.07	40.93	1.22	3.09	4	7	3.33	3.10	12.00	12.00	12.59	12.76	95.00	95.00	
40.67	26.72	17.82	-6.65	9.05	51.95	1.17	2.41	5	7	3.46	2.93	17.50	5.90	12.94	11.11	84.71	21.17	
38.06	2.90	2.16	-12.48	4.18	46.82	1.09	0.57	7	8	3.60	2.71	36.06	5.30	13.02	9.44	120.00	23.11	
38.46	31.98	22.36	-11.26	7.23	47.77	1.15	1.64	3	6	3.84	3.22	14.24	12.65	16.48	10.36	131.20	30.00	
39.55	29.89	22.30	-9.59	6.09	46.91	1.13	1.22	5	9	3.82	3.13	21.00	16.00	17.25	15.09	156.93	146.94	
38.89	13.17	14.63	-12.43	4.46	30.54	1.15	0.99	4	6	3.67	2.99	17.00	6.08	15.26	9.65	205.36	13.81	
36.27	-0.58	-0.57	-16.63	1.49	35.51	1.04	0.10	3	9	3.49	2.77	11.77	6.20	13.89	8.64	84.09	22.05	
35.79	5.04	5.30	-15.77	1.71	32.29	1.05	0.14	2	7	3.76	2.98	37.70	8.41	15.66	10.14	182.25	38.00	
39.10	5.22	3.92	-15.36	3.71	48.29	1.08	0.45	5	8	3.77	2.69	60.00	10.60	14.54	11.43	273.31	68.86	

A decent Betfair Place strike rate, profit every year except 2021 for place bets, Average Odds and Win Odds will be acceptable for most and it's not relying on outrageous winners every year to crank out a profit.

To show the effect of the comment 'Headway' here's the system set up with LTO comment NOT 'Headway' with bfp >=4.5 added (>=3.5 in the Numerical field):

System Results (BOG ON) Betfair Price Used : Betfair SP														(Prices up-to-date to: 08/01/2024 19:00:00)				
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	EP	ROI to EP	ep DD
2029	217	10.69	1.36	54.00	40.35	-5.57	222.57	0.97	0.16	47.86	-181.86	-8.96	-358.23	-481.78	-23.74	-325.43	-16.04	-365.18

We've gone from a profit of +639.94 to a loss of -181.86. That's a massive swing for one word. There's also a loss of -105.33 for Betfair Place SP bets.

Have a go at some other variables. There's a good chance you will be able to improve on what I have found so far.

3. Comments 'Switched' and 'Strongly'

The following are just a few ideas that might get you started:

Here's the results for all A/W races 2014 to 2023 where the horse was held up and did not win last time out. All Races and Race Types last time out.

System Results (BOG ON) Betfair Price Used : Betfair SP (Prices up-to-date to: 31/12/2023 15:45:														
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 R
125548	10982	8.75	0.84	47.71	32.77	-115.71	11097.71	0.99	1.32	39.83	-9165.84	-7.30	-9226.40	-36963.29

Looks not so good with Winners against Expected of -115.71 and an ROI of -7.30% on Betfair (including 2% commission)

Now let's add in 'Switched' in horse last run:

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 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 Contains:

LTO Horse Comment does NOT Contain:

and or

LTO Horse Comment does NOT Contain:

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
7493	877	11.70	1.21	55.09	39.88	-76.69	953.69	0.92	7.07	38.30	-844.57	-11.27	-998.37	-2028.72	-

Actual/Expected has dropped to 0.92 and ROI now down to -11.27%. This wouldn't be interesting at all with a much smaller sample but this is impossible to ignore with a sample of 7493. The Chi score has shot up to 7.07 from 1.32 in the sample without the comment which indicates this is highly unlikely to be down to just variance.

Quite why 'Switched' is a negative I can only guess at. We are looking at Hold-up runners that did not win LTO. If there was a pace collapse LTO they still couldn't capitalise because they didn't win. Maybe they don't start particularly well and use up too much energy earlier then need to be switched because there's traffic issues due to them not being able to keep up with the pace early. Andrew Mount has suggested one reason could be that it is horses that perform better in small fields that find trouble in running that requires them to be switched. It looks like there is something in that. Here's the breakdown by field size in the race after the 'switched' race:

System Results (BOG ON) Betfair Price Used : Betfair SP (Prices up-to-date to: 09/01/2024 20:30)														
No of Runners	Runners	Winners	Win S/R	IV	PRB	PRB*2	WAX	EX Wins	A/E	Chi Scr	50%SR	P/L Betfair	ROI Betfair	bsp DC
3	9	3	33.33	1.00	55.56	44.44	0.00	3.00	1.00	0.00	44.44	0.88	9.77	-2.00
4	62	17	27.42	1.10	60.75	47.13	-0.45	17.45	0.97	0.02	38.71	3.52	5.68	-12.61
5	187	39	20.86	1.04	56.28	42.48	-2.37	41.37	0.94	0.17	48.66	48.32	25.84	-22.38
6	333	59	17.72	1.06	52.61	38.87	-2.46	61.46	0.96	0.12	42.94	-47.54	-14.28	-79.08
7	504	79	15.67	1.10	53.47	39.20	-1.29	80.29	0.98	0.02	43.25	111.00	22.02	-62.16
8	676	80	11.83	0.95	52.03	37.20	-20.00	100.00	0.80	4.69	35.95	-206.50	-30.55	-227.81
9	895	116	12.96	1.17	55.46	40.47	-8.58	124.58	0.93	0.69	41.68	-168.66	-18.84	-226.05
10	975	111	11.38	1.14	56.42	40.80	-16.26	127.26	0.87	2.39	39.08	-199.28	-20.44	-230.70
11	1025	106	10.34	1.14	54.76	39.29	-8.87	114.87	0.92	0.77	36.68	-204.59	-19.96	-230.52
12	1043	102	9.78	1.17	55.13	39.72	-6.90	108.90	0.94	0.49	34.71	63.98	6.13	-228.95
13	830	82	9.88	1.28	56.62	40.93	-3.12	85.12	0.96	0.13	38.43	-152.45	-18.37	-201.99
14	910	81	8.90	1.25	56.01	40.14	-4.93	85.93	0.94	0.31	34.84	-59.74	-6.56	-129.03
15	28	2	7.14	1.07	50.26	35.73	-0.49	2.49	0.80	0.10	46.43	-17.52	-62.58	-17.52
16	12	0	0.00	0.00	37.22	21.52	-0.78	0.78	0.00	0.83	41.67	-12.00	-100.00	-12.00
18	1	0	0.00	0.00	17.65	3.11	-0.05	0.05	0.00	0.05	0.00	-1.00	-100.00	-1.00
20	3	0	0.00	0.00	85.96	74.70	-0.14	0.14	0.00	0.14	33.33	-3.00	-100.00	-3.00

It looks like fields of 7 runners or less are better for horses that were switched last time out.

If you substitute 'Switched;' for 'Strongly' you get the opposite effect:

System Results (BOG ON) Betfair Price Used : Betfair SP (Prices up-to-date to: 05/01/2024 20:30)															
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
766	135	17.62	1.85	62.91	48.48	1.23	133.77	1.01	0.01	40.08	97.25	12.70	-73.33	-27.44	-

And if you then take out LTO Finishing Pos >1 and include all Pace Abbreviations from LTO like this:

East 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 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

You should end up with this:

System Results (BOG ON) Betfair Price Used : Betfair SP (Prices up-to-date to: 05/01/2024 20:30:)																
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 t	
3510	715	20.37	2.05	63.02	49.59	41.06	673.94	1.06	3.10	42.02	594.23	16.93	-83.00	-60.66	-	

An Actual/Expected ratio of 1.06 is reasonable but not fantastic. But it's an interesting angle. And a Win Strike Rate of 20.37% helps ensure Drawdown is kept at a manageable -83. There might be more to this if you experiment with the Presentation and Report options. However, the sample size of 3510 may not offer enough room to filter further and leave a profitable sample that is meaningful enough to replicate in the future.

One option is to combine comments to get more meaningful samples. I've just input the filters below because I'm trying to get an idea of whether Hold-up horses that give a more 'honest' but unimpressive effort are actually worse betting propositions than others, particularly if they are not fancied by the market.

I tried 2014-2023 A/W Races this race, Held Up LTO, Finishing Position LTO >1, ran again within 21 days (less likely to improve in a short period?), and which did NOT earn the comment 'Switched' or 'No Extra'. This is all Races and Race Types LTO.

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 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

LTO Horse Comment does NOT Contain:

I added Betting Rank >4 in the Horse tab to get the less-fancied runners.

Weight Rank:

SP Rank:

Tissue Odds:

The end results are:

System Results (BOG ON) Betfair Price Used : Betfair SP (Prices up-to-date to: 05/01/2024 20:30:)															
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
34447	1389	4.03	0.42	40.34	24.89	-22.05	1411.05	0.98	0.36	38.59	-3457.27	-10.04	-3490.92	-12012.50	

Fairly predictable. We already know Hold-up LTO horses aren't as good propositions as those that ran Prominently or Led LTO.

If I keep everything as it is except move the 2 comments in the LTO Horse tab like this:

LTO Horse In Running Comment Search

LTO Horse Comment Contains: and or

LTO Horse Comment does NOT Contain: and or

The results are:

System Results (BOG ON) Betfair Price Used : Betfair SP (Prices up-to-date to: 05/01/2024 20:30:)															
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
3609	117	3.24	0.37	41.47	25.57	-37.19	154.19	0.76	9.37	37.43	-1271.11	-35.22	-1301.62	-1880.00	

It's a big loss of -35.22% ROI for Betfair Starting Price, a terrible A/E and a decent Chi score. The comment 'No extra' actually produces slightly worse results than 'Switched'

I have no idea yet if the <22 days cut-off produces the worst results. Or even if the comments 'switched' and 'no extra' should really be grouped together. I put this together as an experiment late on and decided I should definitely include it in this article. I'll be digging into this more in the next few weeks. I'll be looking to get as big a sample of 'extreme negative' horses as possible.

Conclusion

There's a lot to look at. I suggest adding in these comments - and combinations of them - to your existing A/W systems and seeing what happens. Then have a go at some more comments. I'll find a

way of working out the most common words in the comments and post them in the forum with their frequency.

Remember there's some comments that might not fit what you want to look at – for example you'll occasionally see a comment 'started strongly'. Not many of these but it explains why there's a small sample of horses either not finishing or finishing way down the field that appear when looking at 'Strongly'.

Hopefully this has got you thinking. It might improve some of your systems. I haven't got the time to watch replays for hours and have already added some comments into my own models. Even if you do not use Proform systems or build your own models and you prefer the more 'old school' form study it's still worth investigating angles such as these and noting down large sample positives and negatives so you can narrow the fields down more easily.

By Richard Slater

Very interested in finding angles in horse racing since late 90s. I live in Yorkshire with my remarkably tolerant wife and 11 year-old twins. I've worked mainly in the sports betting industry since 2004, although unfortunately I don't deal with horse racing at the moment. Still developing logistic regression models which are designed to spot wrongly priced horses and future market moves and I'll be working hard on finding even better ways of modelling this in 2024.