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Follow these Winter Warmers with a 170% ROI

Discover the West Country Favourites with a 50% Strike Rate

Inside - The Systems that will Find You Winners this Christmas

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GOLD EDITION



Editor's Welcome

Imagine for a moment that you are a trainer who doesn't have super rich patrons with multi million pound budgets.

Instead you're struggling to get wins for ordinary, run of the mill horses.

How would you get those wins?

If you were smart and ambitious you'd target the races that are avoided by the top trainers and you'd base your whole campaign around finding these races.

And the fact is that there are some good races that don't attract the top trainers especially on the winter all weather scene.

Some of the top trainers do not have an AW string of horses to speak of and others simply take the winter off in preparation for the next flat season starting in April.

Dr Nick Hardman has done the research this month on the trainers that harvest these races over the winter and has uncovered a whole portfolio of micro systems which combined have shown an ROI of a massive 173%.

These angles look like they will be a great source of winners over the next three months.

Elsewhere John has paid tribute to Luca Cumani and assessed Taunton racetrack and identified some winning angles for that course.

John has also targeted the big Irish Christmas meeting for this month's Little Acorns systems.

As well as the usual reviews and tipster tables we also have part two of our chat with Nick McKenna.

With regard to the systems as I write (20/11/18) we are + 8.88 points at Betfair SP (5% commission deducted) and + 7.32 points at iSP both to 1 point level stakes for the month to date.

If you're following along you should be able to beat both iSP and BSP by getting on at the early prices with Best Odds Guaranteed bookies.

We have highlighted in red all the systems that are included in the portfolio that makes up the selections we send out to subscribers of our Selections Found For You service.

You can join that here...

<https://www.oncourseprofits.com/selections-found-for-you/>

Of course, if you prefer to find your own selections you can follow along by checking the systems in red that we have published this month and over the last few months.

All the best
Darren Power



AW Winter Warmers – Trainers to follow in December to February on the All Weather.

We continue with our seasonal take on things by looking at the AW racing during the cold winter months of December, January, and February.

With the flat runners all put to bed and the jumps season in full flow, one could be forgiven for having nothing more than a passing interest in the AW racing over the Xmas and New Year months. However, it can often pay to keep an eye on what is happening on the artificial surfaces of UK's AW racecourses during these months.

Some trainers do not have an AW string of horses to speak of and others simply take the winter off in preparation for the next flat season starting in April. It can often pay to focus on those trainers that really go for it on the AW during these winter months and on many occasions, there is value to be had at the prices for those runners whose stables may not be among the more high-profile ones that everyone knows about.

Personally, I do not mind a flutter on the AW during the winter months since at the end of the day a value bet is a value bet, be it in the King George at Kempton on Boxing Day or a Class 6 claimer at Southwell on an icy winter evening.

In this month's article I have looked at trainer performance on the AW tracks in the UK to see if I can unearth any profitable angles to put in my systems portfolio to keep the betting bank ticking along in the background in between the high class, high profile jumps meetings.

I am using 9 years' worth of data and will be paying particular attention to any "under the radar" trainers whose runners pop up at a big price on the AW over the months of December, January and February.

I will also be crunching the numbers to see what type of horse and what type of race the trainers excel with. I am going to sort the results by track, so we can see who does well where.

Without further ado let's look at our top AW winter trainers.

Chelmsford City

David Simcock

This trainer has a cracking record at Chelmsford during the winter months and it is not difficult to see where the winners come from.

First of all, you want to be concentrating on the lower class racing, namely classes 4, 5 and 6. We also want to concentrate on those races over the minimum trip of 5f, up to and including, 1m 2f.

When we apply these simple filters, we are left looking at the following set of results since 2015, when the track first opened its gates:

Bets	Wins	Win%	P/L(SP)	Places	Place%	Races	Race%	ROI(SP)	P/L(BF)	ROI(BF)
39	13	33.33	24.29	19	48.72	37	35.14	62.28	33.78	86.62

You will get around 10 runners during the months of December, January and February and he has had 3, 3, 4 and 3 winners each year, all combining for a nice profit.

One for the notebook.

System: Follow David Simcock runners at Chelmsford City during the months of December, January and February in classes 4,5 and 6 when running over 5f-1m2f.

Stuart Williams

Always a force on the AW tracks, Stuart Williams has a decent overall record at Chelmsford City.

Again, we can apply some simple filters and narrow down the race conditions that realise the most winners and most profit at Fred Done's track.

This time, race class is not a factor with winners in class 2 races all the way down to class 6.

Next, we need to add in race distance and we are looking at races over 6f to 1m. No surprise here as we know he does well with sprinters and those racing over trips of around a mile.

Next, we need to look at field size and we are looking at races with between 6 and 10 runners.

These two simple filters have produced the following results:

Bets	Wins	Win%	P/L(SP)	Places	Place%	Races	Race%	ROI(SP)	P/L(BF)	ROI(BF)
38	11	28.95	40	21	55.26	36	30.56	105.26	51.57	135.72

This year was not his best, but he still managed 2 winners from 7 runners at the track under these conditions and we still have December to come so I want to keep him onside.

System: Follow Stuart Williams's runners at Chelmsford City during the months of December, January and February when running over 6f-1mile where there are 6-10 runners.

Newcastle

Jim Goldie

The newest AW track in the UK and Ireland, Newcastle replaced their turf track with an AW surface recently to be met with a mixed response.

However, having one up North has proved to be a good move and the track is well supported by local trainers, including those that make the trip down from Scotland.

One such trainer is Jim Goldie and he has fired in 12 winners in the winter months over there in the last 3 years. In 2018 alone, his runners are 7-25 and well worth a look as winter approaches yet again.

All 12 winners have come in handicap races and that is a good place to start. All 12 winners appeared in class 4, 5 and 6 races and that is our second filter.

Similarly, all 12 winners were racing over trips from 5f, up to and including 1m 4 ½f.

That leaves us looking at the following set of impressive figures and it moves his 2018 record to 7-20.

Bets	Wins	Win%	P/L(SP)	Places	Place%	Races	Race%	ROI(SP)	P/L(BF)	ROI(BF)
53	12	22.64	12.21	20	37.74	50	24	23.04	22.7	42.83

System: Back Jim Goldie's runners at Newcastle when running over 5f-1m4.5f in classes 4-6 in Handicap races in December, January and February.

John Gosden

No surprise to see Champion trainer John Gosden on the list and he is one of many top class trainers from the Southern training ranks to fully support the advent of AW racing in the North.

He has had 11 winners in the winter months at the track and all have come in 7f and 1 mile races.

Bets	Wins	Win%	P/L(SP)	Places	Place%	Races	Race%	ROI(SP)	P/L(BF)	ROI(BF)
18	11	61.11	10.35	14	77.78	16	68.75	57.5	12.24	67.99

It won't make you rich but you will make a profit and if you like cheering on a winner then his runners over these trips will give you a 60% chance you have something to cheer about.

System: Back John Gosden runners at Newcastle when running over 7f-1mile in December, January and February.

Southwell

Karl Burke

I must admit this is my least favourite track in the UK but it sees plenty of racing over the winter months and one trainer with a pretty decent record is Karl Burke.

His record reads 16-69 since 2013 and that only begins to tell half the story. He is 1-10 with his 2yo runners at the course so we can strike a line through them and it brings his record to 15-59.

All 15 winners have come from class 3, 4 and 5 contests from 53 runners which boosts his strike rate a bit. All 15 winners did so in fields of 5 to 12 runners and all came in races over 5f to 1m 4f.

That leaves us looking at the following highly respectable set of numbers for Karl Burke:

Bets	Wins	Win%	P/L(SP)	Places	Place%	Races	Race%	ROI(SP)	P/L(BF)	ROI(BF)
48	15	31.25	153.78	23	47.92	46	32.61	320.38	278.28	579.74

System: Back Karl Burke's runners aged between 3 - 9 at Southwell when running over 5f-1m4f in class 4-6 races, and when there are between 5 - 12 runners. In December, January and February.

Lingfield

Archie Watson

A trainer on the up and up, Archie Watson is fast making a name for himself amongst the training ranks.

He does particularly well on the AW and Lingfield is a track where he has enjoyed a fair amount of success in recent times. Since 2016 he has had 12 winners from 41 runners at Lingfield during the winter months and that is a highly respectable 29% strike rate. Those runners have returned a level stakes profit of £41.94 at Betfair SP.

We can improve on those figures when we look at race class. In doing so we find that he is 0-8 in class 6, suggesting those runners in the basement level are truly awful. We also find that all his winners have come over trips between 6f and 1m 2f.

I am happy to add those filters in, although given his overall performance at the track, all his runners would interest me to some extent and are worth a second look.

Bets	Wins	Win%	P/L(SP)	Places	Place%	Races	Race%	ROI(SP)	P/L(BF)	ROI(BF)
28	12	42.86	46	17	60.71	28	42.86	164.29	54.94	196.2

System: Back Archie Watson's runners in class 1-5 races, running over 6f-1m4f at Lingfield in December, January and February.

Tom Dascombe

Tom Dascombe has done really well with his runners at Lingfield over the last couple of years notching up 22 winners from 82 runners at a very good strike rate of 27%.

You could just leave it there with a strike rate of better than 1 in 4 but we can improve on those figures by adding in a few simple filters.

First, 19 of the 22 winners raced over 6f, 7f or 1 mile.

Second, and perhaps more importantly, all the winners were aged 2yo to 5yo. He has run 11 over those trips that have been aged 6yo or older and all have been beaten.

So, adding in race distance and age, we are left with the following figures:

Bets	Wins	Win%	P/L(SP)	Places	Place%	Races	Race%	ROI(SP)	P/L(BF)	ROI(BF)
53	19	35.85	30.14	28	52.83	53	35.85	56.87	48.95	92.37

System: Back Tom Dascombe's runners aged 2-5, at Lingfield running over 6f-1m in December, January and February.

Wolverhampton

David Simcock

David Simcock has already made it on to our list with his runners at Chelmsford City, but we also need to sit up and take note of his runners at Wolverhampton.

He sends plenty over that way and has landed 41 winners from 171 runners at an excellent strike rate of 24%.

With such a big sample size you can analyse the conditions in more detail and when we do so, we end up with some interesting stats.

First, we can dismiss any horse older than 6yo as none of his winners have come from that ages group.

Next, all his 41 winners raced over 12f or shorter. Going back to the age groups, all of the Simcock profits have been achieved with his 3yo, 4yo and 5yo runners.

One potential angle is to back his 3yo to 5yo runners racing over 9.5f and 12f. They have the following record:

Bets	Wins	Win%	P/L(SP)	Places	Place%	Races	Race%	ROI(SP)	P/L(BF)	ROI(BF)
58	19	32.76	44.82	36	62.07	56	33.93	77.28	50.3	86.72

However, sticking to all race distance we see a near even split between non-handicappers (18-62) and handicapper (17-68).

Another is to go with the 3yo to 5yo's racing in handicaps at Wolverhampton up to and including 1m 4f as they produce the following results:

Bets	Wins	Win%	P/L(SP)	Places	Place%	Races	Race%	ROI(SP)	P/L(BF)	ROI(BF)
64	17	26.56	47.83	33	51.56	63	26.98	74.73	55.35	86.49

We have two angles here for David Simcock and they should generate a fair few bets and I have added both to my tracker.

System: Back David Simcock's runners at Wolverhampton aged between 3 and 5 years running over 9.5f-1m4f in December, January and February.

System: Back David Simcock's runners at Wolverhampton aged between 3 and 5 years and running in Handicaps over distances of 1m 4f or less in December, January and February.

Kempton

Simon Dow

We finish off with Simon Dow, a trainer who does well on the AW but is not always on everyone's radar.

Since 2010 his handicappers at Kempton are 19-91 (21% strike rate) which is highly respectable. 16 of those 19 runners came in class 4 and 5 races and we should stick with those. 15 of those 16 class 4 and class 5 winners did their winning in races from 5f to 1 mile and so we add that filter in too.

We also find that 14 of the 15 winners in class 4 and 5 races up to a mile were aged between 2yo and 6yo.

However, the icing on the cake is to stick to the all age handicaps, in other words, those handicaps open to horses aged 3yo+ or 4yo+.

Bets	Wins	Win%	P/L(SP)	Places	Place%	Races	Race%	ROI(SP)	P/L(BF)	ROI(BF)
32	12	37.5	66.25	15	46.88	31	38.71	207.03	84.79	264.98

We probably will only get a handful of runners, perhaps 1 every 2 weeks from the Dow Kempton mini-angle, but hopefully, we can make them pay when they come along.

System: Back Simon Dow's runners aged between 2 and 6, running in class 4 and 5 over between 5 furlongs and 1 mile, in 3yo+ or 4yo+ handicaps at Kempton in December, January or February.

Chelmsford City

Derek Shaw

Another trainer synonymous with the AW, Derek Shaw has notched up 13 winners at Chelmsford City since 2015. Interestingly, 12 of those winners have come in handicap races, although that is where most of his runners end up.

Even more interesting is that 10 of those have come in 4yo+ handicap races from just 39 runners. All 10 winners could be found contesting class, 4, 5, 6 and even a class 7 races. That leaves his runners in these races with the following results:

Bets	Wins	Win%	P/L(SP)	Places	Place%	Races	Race%	ROI(SP)	P/L(BF)	ROI(BF)
35	10	28.57	35.63	15	42.86	31	32.26	101.8	59.05	168.7

System: Back Derek Shaw's runners in 4yo+ handicaps in class 4 to class 7 races at Chelmsford in December, January and February.

Newcastle

Mick Easterby

This time a Northern trainer and one with a decent record at Newcastle's AW track.

In the last 3 years, he has had 8 winners from 30 runners at the track but that effort is improved upon markedly if we concentrate on his runners in class 5 and 6 races where he has had 7 winners from just 16 runners.

Bets	Wins	Win%	P/L(SP)	Places	Place%	Races	Race%	ROI(SP)	P/L(BF)	ROI(BF)
16	7	43.75	38.38	11	68.75	16	43.75	239.88	45.77	286.05

System: Back Mick Easterby's runners at Newcastle in classes 5 and 6 in December, January and February.

Southwell

Declan Carroll

Perhaps one who may have gone under the radar is Declan Carroll who has bagged 13 winners on the sand at Southwell in the winter months.

Encouragingly, 9 have come in the last 3 years after a barren spell between 2011 to 2015. 12 of those winners were racing over 6f to 1m 3f and all came in class 5 and 6 events. 11 of the 12 winners in those race classes were in handicaps and now we see a decent pattern emerging – 6f to 1m 3f class 5 and 6 handicaps.

These runners have produced 11 winners from just 46 runners at a very respectable strike rate of 24%.

Bets	Wins	Win%	P/L(SP)	Places	Place%	Races	Race%	ROI(SP)	P/L(BF)	ROI(BF)
46	11	23.91	37.25	15	32.61	45	24.44	80.98	50.21	109.14

We can further improve on those numbers when you consider that those winners were all aged 4yo to 8yo and now we have:

Bets	Wins	Win%	P/L(SP)	Places	Place%	Races	Race%	ROI(SP)	P/L(BF)	ROI(BF)
37	11	29.73	46.25	13	35.14	36	30.56	125	59.21	160.01

System: Back Declan Carroll's handicap runners aged 4-8yrs, in class 5 and 6 when running over 6f-1m3f at Southwold in December, January and February

Lingfield

Ian Williams

Ian Williams is one of my favourite trainers and he enjoys plenty of success in both codes. He keeps his flat string ticking over on the AW while his jumps runners are in full flow in the midst of the national hunt season.

He does well at Lingfield as shown by his record of 25 winners from 113 runners at a respectable strike rate of 22% since 2010. He has not had any 2yo winners at the track and he has run a few golden oldies with no success so best to stick with those runners aged 3yo to 9yo.

Perhaps the most striking statistic is that 23 of those 25 runners aged 3yo to 9yo have come in class 5 and class 6 races. So, adding in those simple filters (age and race class) we see his figures improve to a superb 23-77.

Bets	Wins	Win%	P/L(SP)	Places	Place%	Races	Race%	ROI(SP)	P/L(BF)	ROI(BF)
77	23	29.87	66.86	39	50.65	77	29.87	86.83	82.5	107.14

System: Back Ian Williams's runners aged between 3 and 9 in class 5 and 6 races at Lingfield in December, January and February.

Wolverhampton

Kevin Ryan

One of the bigger yards, Kevin Ryan sends a lot of runners to Wolverhampton over the winter and the results are quite interesting.

He has had 26 winners there during the months of December, January and February since 2010, but they have come from 149 runners and the strike rate comes in at a moderate 17.5%. That in itself is not too bad but expect plenty of losing runs with figures like that.

One potential micro angle is race distance.

11 of his 26 winners have come in races over 8.5f and 9.5f. However, those 11 winners have come from just 40 runners which is a strike rate of 27.5%. More interesting is the fact that 6 of his last 10 runners at Wolverhampton over these trips have won.

You will need to be patient and may only get 4 to 6 bets over the three months but they are worth backing if the stats are anything to go by.

Bets	Wins	Win%	P/L(SP)	Places	Place%	Races	Race%	ROI(SP)	P/L(BF)	ROI(BF)
40	11	27.5	82.95	18	45	40	27.5	207.38	129.93	324.81

System: Back Kevin Ryan's runners at Wolverhampton when running over 1m.5f to 1m1.5f in December, January and February.

Kempton

David Simcock

That man again, making his third entry onto our list of top AW trainers in the winter months and this time it is Kempton where we turn our attention to.

Similar, to his performance at Wolverhampton, we find it is the David Simcock handicap runners that generate the lion's share of the profits.

He has scaled down the number of handicappers he sends there in the winter months and so we may only get a handful of qualifiers. However, this article is all about a portfolio approach and combining our trainers across all the AW tracks should ensure plenty of action.

Back to Mr Simcock and his handicappers are 15-69 at Kempton since 2010. 10 of the 12 winners were racing over 7f and a mile and that alone is one potential angle. Interestingly, his runners are 0-12 in fields of 12 or more so sticking to small to medium size fields could be one way to go.

Adding that to the race distances of 7f and 8f leaves us looking at:

Bets	Wins	Win%	P/L(SP)	Places	Place%	Races	Race%	ROI(SP)	P/L(BF)	ROI(BF)
30	10	33.33	69.5	14	46.67	30	33.33	231.67	117.08	390.25

System: Back David Simcock's runners in Handicaps at Kempton over 7 furlongs or 1 mile in races with 1 to 11 runners in December, January or February.

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Luca Cumani: A Punters Perspective

In October Newmarket trainer Luca Cumani announced his retirement from the training ranks. There have been many tributes paid to him in recent weeks and I thought I would add a few words to the many already written.

When I started betting on horse racing in the 1980s, he was one of the trainers who I followed almost religiously. I just loved his training methodology. In fact, I have to say that without him I may not have continued my betting journey. There have been plenty of betting highs and lows over the years but they don't alter my admiration of him as a man and a trainer of thoroughbred bred racehorses.

From Milan To Newmarket

Luca Matteo Cumani was born in Milan in 1949. You could say he was born to be involved in horse racing. His mother was a Champion Amateur jockey in Italy and his father was the trainer Sergio Cumani.

Cumani decided in the 1970's that Britain and Newmarket, in particular, was the place to be if he wanted to become a trainer of top-class racehorses and he left Italy in the mid-1970's to become the assistant trainer to the late Sir Henry Cecil.

It was not long before he was training in his own right. He purchased Bedford House Stables in Newmarket in 1976 and the winners began to flow.

A whole raft of good racehorses has been trained at Bedford House. Indeed, too many to mention in any detail in this short article.

The horse that arguably put Cumani on the map was Tolomeo.

Cumani The Globetrotting Trailblazer

Tolomeo was taken over to the United States to contest the Arlington Million in 1983, which at the time was the world's richest horse race. The 3-year-old was ridden by my favourite jockey at the time Pat Eddery. Up against the colt was the American Legend John Henry. Eddery gave the horse a great ride, in a slowly run race, and produced Tolomeo with a daring run along the rail, to take the lead inside the final furlong and hold off the late run of John Henry.



Not only was this first win in the race by a European trained horse but it was also the first British trained horse to win a big American race for fourteen years.

It was a bold move by the trainer to send the horse over the Atlantic for the Million but it would be symbolic of the trainers' globetrotting instincts and targeting of big international races that would continue over the years.

He would go on to win Grade/Group 1 all around the world. Here are just a few of his big international wins:

USA – Breeders Cup Mile with **Barathea** in 1994.

Canada – The Canadian International Stakes with **Infamy** in 1988.

Dubai – The Dubai Duty Free with **Presvis** in 2011.

Hong Kong – The Hong Kong Cup with **Falbrav** in 2003.

Singapore – Singapore Airlines International Cup – **Endless Hall** in 2001.

Japan – Japan Cup with **Alkaased** in 2005.

He also trained Group 1 winners in Ireland including three classics, France, Germany and of course Italy.

Today British trained horses racing around the world is the norm but Cumani was the trailblazer.

Commanche Run And Kahyasi

It wouldn't be long before he won his first English Classic when he trained **Comanche Run** to win the St Leger at Doncaster in 1984. Commanche Run showcased the trainers' talent to bring along a horse slowly with the long term in mind. The colt improved with each of his starts as a 3-year-old. He was given a fine ride by Lester Piggott in the oldest classic and gave the jockey a record breaking 28th English Classic win.

The colt wasn't just a stayer. As a 4-year-old he would be dropped back in trip to win the 1m 2f Benson & Hedges Gold Cup, now known as the Juddmonte International, at York. In the process beating those great race mares Oh So Sharp and Triptych.



Cumani's successes meant he was also attracting some big-name owners as the likes of Sheik Mohammad and HH The Aga Khan began to send horses to be trained at Bedford House.

It was the latter owner who would provide the trainer with the first of his two Epsom Derby wins with **Kahyasi** in 1988. The colt won the Lingfield Derby Trial which set him up for a tilt at the Derby.

His ability to handle the switchback track was never in doubt. His pedigree was all middle distance and it was a bit of surprise that he had the speed to win his only start as a juvenile.

He needed every yard of the 1m 4f trip and swooped late to land the race under jockey Ray Cochrane who had become Cumani's stable jockey.



Barathea And Falbrav

Sheikh Mohammed sent **Barathea** to be trained by Cumani. Unbeaten on his two starts as a juvenile. He found only Zafonic too good in the 2000 Guineas. He was even better as a 4-year-old going on to win the 1m Queen Anne Stakes at Royal Ascot before finishing a close up 4th when dropped to 6f in the July Cup.

Cumani's keen sense of preparation was never more evident than when preparing Barathea for the 1994 Breeders Cup Mile. He had a Churchill Down's style track built at his stable and even sent the horse over to America earlier than all the other European horses to acclimatise. The preparation paid off as Barathea, who had finished 5th in the race as a 3-year-old, went on to beat a high-class field of milers to win by three lengths.

Falbrav joined Cumani as a five-year-old and is another testament to the skills of the trainer. He just got better as he got older. In the summer of 2003, he won the Coral Eclipse, The Juddmonte International and he just failed to beat High Chaparral in the Irish Champion Stakes, He was then dropped back to a mile to win the Queen Elizabeth II at Ascot, beating that seasons 1000 Guineas winner in the process.

His versatility was once more evident, after being supplemented for the 1m 4f Breeders Cup Turf. Where he finished third, just a head, behind the dead heating High Chapparral & Johar.

His season and globetrotting weren't over as he went on to win the Hong Kong Cup, showing a blistering change of gear a furlong out in the hands of Frankie Dettori.

Cumani The Ladies Man

Cumani was also a trainer of plenty of top-class fillies during his career.

Shamshir who won the Fillies mile as a juvenile, **Infamy** who won the Sun Chariot Stakes, & **The E P Taylor Stakes** over in Canada.

Ensconse who won the Irish 1000 Guineas in 1989 and **Gossamer** who won the same race 13 years later.

There was also **One So Wonderful** who once again benefitted from the trainer's patience. She didn't make her seasonal reappearance as a 3-year-old until August but went on to win the Sun Chariot Stakes in the Autumn.

As a 4-year-old she won the Group 1 Juddmonte International Stakes at York which was her first race in Group 1 company. That day she had to show plenty of heart to hold off Faithful Son and Chester House by two short heads.

Then there was **Free Guest**, who as a 3-year-old had won the Extel Handicap at Glorious Goodwood and later in her career went onto win the Sun Chariot Stakes in 1984 & 1985, a race the trainer would go on to win on four more occasions, and the Nassau Stakes also in 1985.

My all-time favourite filly of the Cumani years was **Embla**. Mainly because I landed one of my biggest bets. The filly gave Cumani his first Group 1 juvenile success when landing the Cheveley Park Stakes in 1995. I had been at Ripon when she had just scrambled home at long odds on. She didn't really like the track and you could see this was a high class 2-year-old filly from her paddock appearance and movement.

I couldn't really believe she was 25/1 when I entered my local William Hill shop on the morning of the Cheveley Park. Top American jockey Angel Cordero had been booked for the filly who ran in the colours of Charles St George. I thought I had done my money in the early stages of the race as Embla seemed to be struggling in the rear. But under the Cordero drive she made relentless progress and once she met the rising ground, she was able to collar the favourite Kingscote in the final 50yds.

Given the trainers' ability with the fillies and mares it was ironic that it would be a filly that would give the trainer his final Group 1 success when **God Given** won the Premio Lydia Tesio in Italy in November of this year.

The Handicap Plots

Cumani became well known for setting horses up for handicaps like the Extel Handicap at Goodwood. Back in the 1980s, the 1m 2f Extel Handicap was one of the highlights of Glorious Goodwood. It was for three-year-olds only and more often than not was won by an unexposed middle-distance horse who would go on to run in Group company later in their careers.

Cumani won the race three times in a row with **Free Guest**, **Fish N Chips** and **Chinoiserie** who all went on to win in pattern company.

Then there was **Knockando** who had been an ante-post gamble for the Magnet Cup at York. Knockando was first past the post but was disqualified in the Steward's room after the race. Much to the cost of my wallet.

Not Only A Master Trainer

Not only was Cumani a great trainer of a racehorse. He would help develop the careers of jockeys such as Frankie Dettori, Jimmy Fortune, and Jason Weaver. Indeed, It's fair to say that Dettori probably wouldn't have been the jockey he is today if he hadn't come under the guidance of Cumani so early in his career.

Not only were jockeys mentored by him so were plenty of future trainers with the likes of Rae Guest, John Berry, David Simcock, and Marco Botti all working with him at Bedford House in some capacity.

The Later Years

Sadly, things didn't always go his way off the racecourse. He suffered the loss of key owners such as Sheikh Mohammed and H. H. The Aga Khan, the latter moved all his horses from Newmarket after the Oaks disqualification of Aliysa after winning the Oaks.

In recent years he lost plenty of nice horses owned by Sheikh Mohammed Obaida. Including **Postponed** who Cumani had trained to win the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes in 2015.

The loss of that large number of horses probably hastened the end of his training career. Still, he tried to continue with horses who were not of the quality of horse he had been used to dealing with in the past.

Despite losing such big owners Cumani always acted like the true gentleman he was.

Luca Cumani trained some great horses during his 43-year career with a patience and finesse matched by few others in the training ranks.

Despite losing his best horses. You could always tell one of his horse in the paddock as they always looked so well turned out.

It's just a shame that he retires at the lowest ebb of his career. The trainer who held his own against the likes of Cecil, Stoute, Hern, Harwood, Hills, and Gosden deserved to retire at the top of his profession, Sadly, it wasn't to be.

He will now concentrate on Fiitocks Stud which he and his wife Sara have owned and managed since 1984.

Luca Cumani will be missed by me and many other punters of a certain age. But more importantly, the British training ranks have lost one of the greats.

John Burke

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Taunton Race Course

In last month's OCP magazine I looked at Wincanton one of the five National Hunt racecourses located in the south west of England.

This month I am moving west across the county of Somerset to look at Taunton.

As before I will look briefly at the track's location, history, configuration and a couple of big races run at the track. I will also highlight some significant winning stats at the course.

History and Location

Taunton is about 30 miles west of Wincanton as the crow flies. Located in the heart of the Somerset's cider making country. The racecourse isn't actually in the town of Taunton but is situated about two miles away in the small village of Orchard Portman.

The train station is just two miles away from the railway station at Taunton and offers train services to London, Bristol, and Birmingham & the North. Fortunately, the course provides a courtesy bus service from the railway station on race days. For those coming by car, the racecourse is just a short drive from the M5.

Unlike its Somerset neighbour, the racecourse can't claim 150 years of continuous racing heritage. In fact, the track is one of the newest in the country having first opened its door as late as 1927.

Racing did take place in Taunton up till the Napoleonic Wars in the early 19th century but all its fixtures were moved to the nearby Bridgwater racecourse which held on and off some National Hunt racing until the opening of the new Taunton track.

Given its relative size, the track boasts some excellent facilities with two stands to view the racing as well as bars and restaurants.

The course holds jumps meetings from October through to the end of April. The first meeting of the 2018 & 2019 National Hunt season was due to be held on the 31st of October unfortunately that didn't go ahead.

It's fair to say the course has a homely county feel. The track, unlike Wincanton, may not host any notable races during the season or see many top-class horses in action. But it's well loved by the locals and its small band of regular racegoers.

Track Configuration

Taunton is a tight oval speed favouring circuit of about mile & quarter. There are two long straights which suit galloping types but there are also two tight bends which favour horses who have the nimbleness to handle them at speed.

The track was built on Somerset red clay soil and for many years it was prone to very heavy going in the winter months. Since the building of the nearby motorway and more recent drainage improvements the course no longer retains water like it did in the past. Indeed, now the going is less extreme than at other racecourses during the winter months.

The Taunton fences are not big or stiff but the downhill run to the third last on the chase course and the close proximity of the fences in the home straight mean that decent jumping is a requirement particularly of a novice chaser.

Despite being a sharp track there's a slight uphill run to the finish which can catch out a tired horse after the last.

Big Races

In 2018 the first meeting of the autumn due to be held at Halloween had to be cancelled due to the firm ground due to the long dry spell in the area.

Racing is going ahead on Thursday 15th November on Good to Firm. There will now be thirteen race days at the course in 2018-19 National Hunt season.

The most valuable race at the course during the season is a 2m Class 2 handicap hurdle that is usually held in mid-February.

Last season the Peterborough Chase, normally run at Huntingdon, was run at the track due to the abandonment of the Huntingdon meeting due to bad weather.

Taunton Stats

Let's begin by looking at some general stats including favourite stats at the course since 2014.

The stats below are from Jan 1st, 2014 to the time of writing (10/11/18) and cover all jumps meetings at the course. Once again, I am using the ever useful www.horseracebase.com for the stats.

The results below contain **449 winners from 4027 runners**.

General Stats

- Top 3 in the betting provided 74% winners from 35% of the total runners.
- Top four last time out provided 59% winners from 38% of the total runners.
- Previous course winners provided 17% winners from 10% of the total runners.

Fate of Favourites

Now let's look at the fate of the favourites.

On average favourites, including Joint & Co favs, win about 35% of all National Hunt races. How have favourites fared at Taunton in the period under research?

All Favourites have produced - 176 winners from 476 runners 37% -18.91 A/E 0.99

Breaking those results down into no-handicap and handicaps and looking at last time out placings:

- Non -Handicaps – 78 winners from 152 runners 51% +1.47 A/E 1.03 122 placed 80%.
- Handicaps – 98 winners from 324 runners 30% -20.38 196 placed 60%.
- Favourites that won their last race have produced - 51 winners from 120 runners 43% +7.29 A/E 1.06 88 placed 73%.
- Favourites that had finished outside the top four on their last start produced - 46 winners from 130 runners 35% -5.08 A/E 1.02 87 placed 67%.

Jockeys & Favourites

If you're a favourite backer. Then the best jockeys when the money is down are:

Noel Fehily – 10 winners from 17 runners 59% +9.83 A/E 1.47 12 placed 71%.

Nick Schofield -9 winners from 16 runners 56% +8.83 A/E 1.46 14 placed 88%.

Daryl Jacob – 6 winners from 9 runners 67% +4.87 A/E 1.53 9 placed 100%.

Trainers Favourites

Harry Fry – 12 winners from 24 runners 50% +0.03 A/E 1.12 17 placed 71%.

Anthony Honeyball – 6 winners from 11 runners 55% +7.09 A/E 1.69 9 placed 82%.

Evan Williams – 6 winners from 12 runners 50% + 2.59 A/E 1.33 9 placed 75%.

Trainer Stats and Angles

Here are a few interesting trainer track stats. That will hopefully enable you to identify some winners at Taunton this season.

The top trainer at the track numerically, like at Wincanton, is Paul Nicholls – **54 winners from 181 runners 30% -15.54 A/E 0.97 110 placed 61%**

Paul Nicholls has had 26 more winners than his nearest rival Harry Fry.

Trainer: **Paul Nicholls**

Race Type: Non-handicap Hurdle

Career Runs: 1+

26 winners from 57 runners +6.18 A/E 1.17 47 placed 82% (Each way +20.7).

Interestingly you could have backed all the Nicholls qualifiers each way and made a nice profit in the period under research!

Trainer Angles

Anthony Honeyball's runners need respecting here – **10 winners from 57 runners 18% +12.09 A/E 1.29 22 placed 36%**. It may pay to focus on his handicap hurdlers – **8 winners from 23 runners 35% +39.71 A/E 1.87 15 placed 65% (each way +57.50).**

For those who like to follow trainer & jockey combinations, you could worse than focus on trainer **Jeremy Scott & jockey Matt Griffiths** who have teamed up for **7 winners from 18 runners 39% +19.13 A/E 2.69 11 placed 61% (each way +30.99)** in handicaps races.

Hopefully, you enjoyed this brief look at Taunton racecourse and some of the track's key stats.

Next month, I will head deeper into the south west of England and take a look at Exeter racecourse.

Until next time.

John Burke

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December Acorns

Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat... Well besides turkey, mince pies and presents December sees some tremendous horse racing action to get stuck into.

At the start of the month, we have the Ladbroke Trophy at Newbury. Meanwhile, over the Christmas Holiday period, we have the King George Meeting at Kempton and the Welsh Grand National at Chepstow (weather permitting of course).

Over the Irish Sea it's the Leopardstown Christmas Festival and four days of high-class racing, including seven Grade 1 races and some seriously competitive handicaps. With the racecourse reporting a 12% increase in prize money on last year, there are sure to be plenty of equine stars on show.

The Irish certainly like their Christmas racing festivals. In addition to Leopardstown, Limerick also hosts four days of racing, including a Grade 1 Novices Chase on Boxing Day (St Stephen's Day). As ever the meeting is sure to attract thousands of locals.

Christmas Festival Crackers

For this month's Acorns, I am doing something a little different. As I will be focusing on the Christmas racing, in particular, the Leopardstown Christmas Festival.

I know a lot of you will be looking to have a bet over the holiday period so this month's article will hopefully point you in the way of some nice priced festive winners.

As ever the excellent www.horseracebase.com with its mine of detailed information and stats is the starting point for this month's investigation.

Leopardstown Christmas Festival

Wednesday, December 26th to Saturday 29th December.

The figures below are from 2013 to 2017 and consist of 140 winners from 1593 runners 392 placed.

Trainers

Let's begin by looking at the top five trainers numerically at the festival in the past 5-years.

Criteria	Bets	Wins	Win%	P/L(SP)	Places	Place%	Races	Race%	ROI(SP)	P/L(BF)	MxOdd	MaxWINOdds	AvgOdd	A/E	chi	ExpWins
Mullins, W P	155	40	25.81	-24.77	71	45.81	98	40.82	-15.98	-4.89	67.00	17.00	8.59	0.87	1.06	45.85
Elliott, Gordon	136	16	11.76	7.99	50	36.76	84	19.05	5.88	82.99	67.00	26.00	15.78	0.89	0.23	17.9
Bromhead, Henry De	72	11	15.28	58.25	18	25	56	19.64	80.9	523.81	67.00	51.00	15.41	1.18	0.34	9.33
Martin, A J	94	7	7.45	-20.5	29	30.85	62	11.29	-21.81	23.29	101.00	21.00	26.43	0.95	0.02	7.36
Meade, Noel	68	6	8.82	-28.62	21	30.88	59	10.17	-42.09	-21.63	67.00	11.00	14.49	0.72	0.74	8.32

It's no real surprise that the top two trainers at the Leopardstown Christmas Festival are Willie Mullins and Gordon Elliott.

Those two master trainers really do rule the roost given they have had 40% of the winners from just 18% of the total runners. It would be remiss not to focus on those two trainers and see what profitable angles can be exploited by punters. Beginning with Willie Mullins.

Willie Mullins

Mullins has had 29% of all winners since 2013. However, as you can see from the results above if you had backed them blind you would have lost £24.77 to £1 level stakes.

So where is the profit to be found?

Breaking it down by non-handicap and handicap races:

Criteria	Bets	Wins	Win%	P/L(SP)	Places	Place%	Races	Race%	ROI(SP)	P/L(BF)	MxOdd	MaxWINOdds	AvgOdd	A/E	chi	ExpWins
Non Handicap	128	39	30.47	-5.77	66	51.56	86	45.35	-4.51	13.68	67.00	17.00	6.8	0.9	0.71	43.53
Handicap	27	1	3.7	-19	5	18.52	12	8.33	-70.37	-18.56	51.00	8.00	17.08	0.43	0.82	2.32

Whilst it would be foolish to rule out any Mullins runner at this meeting - 1 winner from 27 runners 5 placed 19% in handicap races indicates that it's not handicaps that will provide much in the way of profit if any.

Concentrating on non-handicaps and by race type.

Criteria	Bets	Wins	Win%	P/L(SP)	Places	Place%	Races	Race%	ROI(SP)	P/L(BF)	MxOdd	MaxWINOdds	AvgOdd	A/E	chi	ExpWins
Chase	37	9	24.32	-4.03	17	45.95	24	37.5	-10.89	6.3	41.00	17.00	7.22	0.73	1.3	12.27
Hurdle	74	22	29.73	-4.24	35	47.3	46	47.83	-5.73	4.76	67.00	13.00	7.51	0.9	0.33	24.32
NH Flat	17	8	47.06	2.5	14	82.35	16	50	14.71	2.61	4.50	4.00	2.8	1.15	0.27	6.94

Chasers

Criteria	Bets	Wins	Win%	P/L(SP)	Places	Place%	Races	Race%	ROI(SP)	P/L(BF)	MxOdd	MaxWINOdds	AvgOdd	A/E	chi	ExpWins
Chase	18	3	16.67	1.8	7	38.89	10	30	10	11.42	26.00	17.00	7.86	0.54	1.68	5.54
Beginners Chase	9	2	22.22	-4.12	4	44.44	6	33.33	-45.78	-3.96	41.00	2.50	7.52	0.72	0.32	2.79
Novices Chase	10	4	40	-1.71	6	60	8	50	-17.1	-1.16	17.00	3.25	5.81	1.02	0	3.94

Looking at those figures his runners in Novice Chases are clearly well placed. All four winners had won their last race and all were clear favourites – 4 winners from 6 runners 67% +2.29 A/E 1.12 5 placed 83%.

The two beaten were Vautour(1/4) in 2014 and Champagne Fever (8/15) in 2013.

Hurdles

It looks like there will be more opportunities with the Mullins non-handicap hurdle runners. Looking at the runners last time out placing.

Those who were either making their hurdle debut or finished in the top two on their last start have produced the following set of results:

Bets	Wins	Win%	P/L(SP)	Places	Place%	Races	Race%	ROI(SP)	P/L(BF)	MxOdd	MaxWINOdds	AvgOdd	A/E	chi	ExpWins
50	17	34	6.65	28	56	37	45.95	13.3	15.09	26.00	13.00	4.8	0.87	0.55	19.55

You currently have 6 categories with specifications in your system.

Race Data - All of these categories specify only the types of races included.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Festival	Leopardstown - Christmas
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Handicap/Non	Non Handicap
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		NH Race Type	Hurdle
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Date (Year)	2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018

Trainer Data - These categories specify characteristics of the trainer of the analysed horse.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Trainer	Mullins, W P
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Horse Last Race Data - Categories relating to the most recent run of the analysed horse.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		(LR) Placing	No Run First Second
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Despite the increase in the win strike rate. The A/E figure of 0.87 isn't brilliant and shows these qualifiers are over bet by the betting public.

How about the number of career hurdle runs?

Those either making their hurdle debut or a second start over the smaller obstacles has produced the following set of results:

Min	Max	Criteria	Bets	Wins	Win%	P/L(SP)	Places	Place%	Races	Race%	ROI(SP)	P/L(BF)	MxOdd	MaxWINOdds	AvgOdd	A/E	chi	ExpWins
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	0	14	7	50	10.83	12	85.71	14	50	77.36	15.53	13.00	13.00	3.77	1.2	0.41	5.82
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	1	20	6	30	3.74	11	55	17	35.29	18.7	7.43	19.00	10.00	4.58	0.86	0.21	6.97

It should continue to pay to note any of his runners who are making their debut over hurdles at the meeting:

System: Back Willie Mullins Leopardstown Christmas Festival runners making their debut over hurdles.

NHF Races

All eight of the Mullins bumper winners were either making their racecourse debut under rules or had won on their last start.

Performance of System Based on Below Set Criteria.															
Bets	Wins	Win%	P/L(SP)	Places	Place%	Races	Race%	ROI(SP)	P/L(BF)	MxOdd	MaxWINOdds	AvgOdd	A/E	chi	ExpWins
13	8	61.54	6.5	12	92.31	12	66.67	50	6.61	4.50	4.00	2.7	1.49	2.18	5.38

You currently have 6 categories with specifications in your system.

Race Data - All of these categories specify only the types of races included.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Festival	Leopardstown - Christmas
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Handicap/Non	Non Handicap
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		NH Race Type	NH Flat
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Date (Year)	2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018

Trainer Data - These categories specify characteristics of the trainer of the analysed horse.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Trainer	Mullins, W P
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Horse Last Race Data - Categories relating to the most recent run of the analysed horse.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		(LR) Placing	No Run First
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Six of the trainers eight winners were making their racecourse debut under rules.

Bets	Wins	Win%	P/L(SP)	Places	Place%	Races	Race%	ROI(SP)	P/L(BF)	MxOdd	MaxWINOdds	AvgOdd	A/E	chi	ExpWins
10	6	60	3.93	9	90	9	66.67	39.3	3.86	4.50	4.00	2.68	1.45	1.44	4.13

Those who were making their debut or had won their last race look the way to go with the trainers NHF runners.

System: Back Willie Mullins Leopardstown Christmas NHF runners making their racecourse debut or who had won their last start.

Gordon Elliott

The increase in prize money at this year's Leopardstown Christmas Festival has tempted the trainer and he indicated in the Racing Post that he will be targeting this year's meeting with some of his best horses.

Here is a reminder of his results at the meeting.

Bets	Wins	Win%	P/L(SP)	Places	Place%	Races	Race%	ROI(SP)	P/L(BF)	MxOdd	MaxWINOdds	AvgOdd	A/E	chi	ExpWins
136	16	11.76	7.99	50	36.76	84	19.05	5.88	82.99	67.00	26.00	15.78	0.89	0.23	17.9

Let's look at where the profit could lie.

The market has been a decent guide to his runners' chance. Those sent off at odds 12/1 & under have produced – **13 winners from 69 runners 19% +16.99 A/E 0.89 35 placed 51%**. Also favoured have been those of his runners that finished 1st or 2nd on their last start – **9 winners from 36 runners 25% +21.61 A/E 1.03 21 placed 58%**.

Performance of System Based on Below Set Criteria.															
Bets	Wins	Win%	P/L(SP)	Places	Place%	Races	Race%	ROI(SP)	P/L(BF)	MxOdd	MaxWINOdds	AvgOdd	A/E	chi	ExpWins
36	9	25	21.61	21	58.33	35	25.71	60.03	32.42	12.00	12.00	5.73	1.03	0.01	8.78

You currently have 5 categories with specifications in your system.

Race Data - All of these categories specify only the types of races included.

☒ Festival

☒ Date (Year)

Horse Data - These categories specify the individual traits of each horse in THIS race.

☒ Odds (SP)

Trainer Data - These categories specify characteristics of the trainer of the analysed horse.

☒ Trainer

Horse Last Race Data - Categories relating to the most recent run of the analysed horse.

☒ (LR) Placing

We can improve those figures by adding the following filters:

Race Type: Hurdle & Chases.

Days Since Last Run: 16 to 45 days.

Performance of System Based on Below Set Criteria.															
Bets	Wins	Win%	P/L(SP)	Places	Place%	Races	Race%	ROI(SP)	P/L(BF)	MxOdd	MaxWINOdds	AvgOdd	A/E	chi	ExpWins
23	9	39.13	34.61	17	73.91	22	40.91	150.48	45.42	12.00	12.00	5.7	1.52	2.14	5.93

You currently have 7 categories with specifications in your system.

Race Data - All of these categories specify only the types of races included.															
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Festival	Leopardstown - Christmas												
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		NH Race Type	Chase Hurdle												
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Date (Year)	2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018												
Horse Data - These categories specify the individual traits of each horse in THIS race.															
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Odds (SP)	Between 1.02 And 12.00												
Trainer Data - These categories specify characteristics of the trainer of the analysed horse.															
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Trainer	Elliott, Gordon												
Horse Last Race Data - Categories relating to the most recent run of the analysed horse.															
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		(LR) Days Since Run	Between 16 And 45												
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		(LR) Placing	First Second												

System: Back Gordon Elliott chase & hurdle Runners at The Leopardstown Christmas Festival that had finished 1st or 2nd on their last run, had their last run 16 to 45 days previously and are 12/1 & under in the betting.

Handicap Trainers

Finally, two trainers who will be worth noting in handicap races at the meeting.

Tony Martin

Race Type: Handicaps only.

Runs Last 90-Days: 1 or 2.

Headgear: None.

5 winners from 19 runners 26% +33.5 A/E 2.19 8 placed 42% (each way +41.38).

All five of Tony Martin's handicap winners had the above traits.

System: Back Tony Martin Handicap runners only at the Leopardstown Christmas Festival, with 1 or 2 runs in the previous 90-days and not wearing headgear.

Thomas Mullins

Race Type: Handicaps only.

Runs In 90-Days: 2 or 3.

3 winners from 7 runners 43% +15.6 A/E 2.91 5 placed 71% (each way +24.38).

System: Back Thomas Mullins handicap runners at the Leopardstown Christmas Festival that had 2 or 3 runs in the previous 90-days.

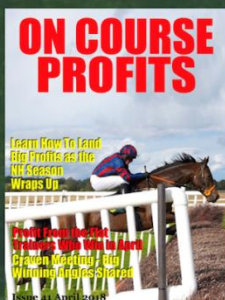
Like many of these methods, the above figures are based on historical data and whilst history has a good habit of repeating itself, it often doesn't.

It is important to remember that these bets are purely for the Leopardstown Christmas Festival and as such there may be too many or indeed too few qualifiers for you, depending on your betting strategies.

Wishing you all a happy and of course profitable Christmas.

See you next year.

John Burke



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It is important to understand that this is not a tipster service, we are just notifying members of the selections that the systems identify.

Because our commitment is to provide all the system selections we can't leave out any selection even if we think it is poor.

As an example, in April Willie Mullins was sending out huge numbers of runners, often all in the same race, in his quest to secure the Irish trainers title again.

On April 17th we had 10 Willie Mullins selections in the one race. Should you back 10 runners in the one race? Personally I didn't but one of them came in at 25/1!

However - the systems have been researched and created by experts and are expected to show a profit by following all selections but it's up to you whether you bet them all or not.

Finally, all the information you need to do this yourself is in the On Course Profits magazine, if you find the selections yourself you should make the same profit as you will if you sign up to have the selections sent. If you have more time than money, save what you have for your betting bank and find the selections yourself. You don't need to pay us to make a profit!

Click Here to Sign Up - Just £12.50 per Month



A Q and A with Nick of Cleeve Racing - Part II

This month sees the second part of our interview with Nick of [Cleeve Racing](#) where he discusses patience, discipline, consistency and racehorse ownership.

What traits do you think a good racing tipster should possess and what do you think the average punter is looking for from a tipping service?

First of all, you need patience and discipline and to try and focus on the bigger picture. Any service, like any punter, will always experience losing runs, in fact, Cleeve have just closed a bad September. You need to have the discipline to keep on doing what you are doing and try to take the emotion out of it... we've had losing months, but we've never had a losing season.

Secondly, consistency. If your members know you are consistently profitable they will stick with you through the down times as they've been there before and come up smiling. If they sense you are changing the way you do things as a reaction to results, then confidence starts to drain.

Cleeve are a selective service and operate a reasonable staking strategy. We average around 6 bets a week (outside of the big Festivals) and stake less than 40 points a month.

However, I know services that give more than 6 selections and stake more than 40 points a day... which is just not sustainable for the average punter.

What do you think Cleeve's strong points are as a service and what is your strategy and approach when it comes to your members?

Firstly, I think you join any service because you want to make a profit from your betting, 99% of people don't have the time or the tools to do the depth of analysis it takes to consistently find winners. In reality, what you are doing is paying an 'expert team' to be your personal betting advisors.

Think about it, we expect to go to the dentist if we have toothache, or a solicitor if we need legal help... because they're experts. If we are going to regularly put down our 'hard-earned' on horses why would we not pay a reasonable amount for similar expert advice?

We aim to impart a discipline on our members. Cleeve only bet in Class 2 races and above as we know for a fact that the form stands up much better than it does in lower class races. This gives us a filter which takes out 80% of races and by default provides us with important focus. Although we give ratings and a write-up on all class 2 races and above, we probably bet in less than half of them and encourage our members not to bet in races that offer poor value or are too competitive or have too many 'fun' bets as these soon add up.

Outside the major festivals, we give members 4 or 5 bets a week at an average stake of 2 points. We feel this is a sustainable betting profile and can be followed, rather than services that give 4 or 5 bets a day or advise £200 stakes (and you wouldn't get on for long at those stakes if you were backing winners!)

Any service can have a good or bad patch. It is consistency and discipline of approach that are paramount. We operate at an average win & place strike rate of 35%+ and our selections average 5/1 to 10/1. We have been profitable every year since we started and now had 15 profitable seasons on the bounce. Our consistency is underlined by the number of members who have been with us for 5+ years.

Finally, we look to give our members as much added value as we can think of... For example, we have just paid for a complementary service and given it away free to our members which will give them a fantastic lead-in to the Cheltenham festival. We are also in final discussions to set up a social side to Cleeve with race days and even horse ownership on the table.

Racing is about so much more than betting and we want to give our members (and us), the best possible experience of it.

New and old punters alike can struggle to make a success of their betting. If you could give them just one piece of advice to improve their profitability what would it be?

That's hard... there are plenty of things that are vital! If I had to choose one thing given my experience with Cleeve it would be when you have found a service that works for you and you have confidence in how it does things, then you need to stick with it through when it hits a bad patch.

If the profits trend is positive overall, then small retracements are irrelevant.

Our 2018 Flat Season performance is a classic example; We are 92 points up on the season, but in the 5 months to date we had 2 big winning months, 2 where we made a small profit and 1 losing month. Some people join for a month then leave and jump onto another service and repeat and repeat. If you find a consistently profitable service and can accept that losing runs are part and parcel of racing, you should be fine in the long run.



What would you consider to be a highlight of your racing experience to date? Do you have any personal racing/betting experiences which when reflecting back brings a smile, or for that matter any which bring a grimace; you can share with our readers?

There is nothing like owning a piece of a winner.

Ownership is within the reach of most of us through a wide range of syndicates which will suit every pocket from Elite Racing at under £200 a year to mid-market groups like Middleham and all the way to blue-bloods like Highclere.

However, if you are interested in getting involved it's definitely worth getting in touch with your local trainer and finding out what they can offer. A big part of ownership for me is yard visits, watching work, getting to know the trainer and being part of a group of like-minded people.

My racing highs and lows both relate to owning horses (it's amazing, even owning a small share somehow makes it 'your horse'!). I was involved in winners 4 years in a row at the Punchestown Festival and when Very Much So won the Goff's bumper on his debut, I literally didn't know what to do with myself I was beside myself with joy. It was not only the best racing experience I have had it was the best day of my life (with apologies to both my ex-wives!).

The worst experience I've had by far (and hopefully ever) was with Avant Tout. After having both a promising novice hurdle and novice chasing season, he began his second novice chasing season as the ante-post favourite for the Hennessey and 4th in the betting for the 2017 Gold Cup. We were fully invested in 'the dream' and with no word of lie he was probably my first waking thought most days.

We went over to Naas to see his prep run and watched him canter at Willie's the day before, laughing with his lass Rachel and David Casey after as we chatted and talked of what might be. He over-reached going to the first and severed a front tendon, they took him to Equine Hospital but he couldn't be saved, it was truly devastating and completely put me off racing for many months.

What about the gambling industry, is there anything you like to see changed there? Many website forums are full of criticisms of the bookmakers and their treatment of their customers? Is this something you have an opinion on?

To me it's obvious that bookmakers have way too much say over the sport, and take out of it a completely disproportionate amount to what they put in. I think that as corporates they don't really care for the sport, it is just another device to relieve customers of their money.

They tell you in almost blanket advertising on live sports to 'gamble responsibly' then offer markets on women's under 18 matches in Brazil.

They say 'when the fun stops... stop' as if punters are only betting for fun rather than to win. And heaven forbid if you even threaten to be a consistent winner, you are very quickly subject to stake restrictions followed by account closure... so they actually only want to do business with punters that lose... who are just in it 'for the fun'.

This is boldly underlined by their position on FOBT's. It takes a newbie a long time to become familiar enough with racing and interpreting form to place anything like significant stakes, but casino machines are another matter completely.

Just about anyone can play them and their addictive nature combined with stakes of up to £100 a spin along with a mathematically guaranteed profit sparked a stampede back to the high street and underpinned a big surge in corporate profits.

Study after study has confirmed the danger they pose to inexperienced, vulnerable gamblers, but the recent decision by the government to drastically reduce the maximum stakes prompted wholesale bleating and warnings of catastrophic impact on the industry. This just doesn't wash... profits, share price and shareholder returns are the only real motivators for the big bookies and damn the rest of us... pure and simple.

Rant over!

What do you do to relax and unwind? What interests have you outside the world of horse racing?

I do like to travel and spend chunks of time in different cultures... Spain and Thailand are my favourites. As I said before I can do this a lot as it doesn't interfere with my work... in fact, I tend to feel more energized when I am abroad so maybe even more productive! I also love to eat but am just as happy having street food as I am with fine dining (I'm not a fan of formality at all).

I love being in the outdoors and my favourites are long distance trekking and cycling. I tend to do one at least every other year usually in support of my favourite charity TEMWA (shameless plug) who I have worked with for over 12 years now.

My friends and family are really important to me... but ultimately, I love my work, I love racing and that is the main thing that fills my life.

Thanks for reading,

Nick

Proved Long Term Profitable Value Tips for Top Class Racing From Irish Field Naps Correspondent and Radio Pundit Rory Delargy

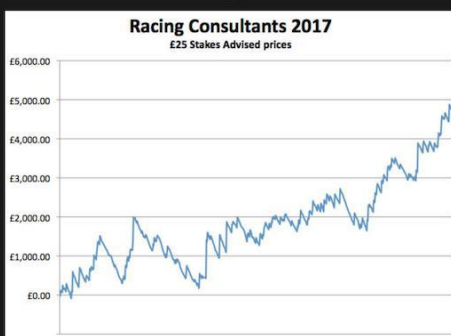
[Click Now for Half Price Introductory Offer](#)

Average £395 Per Month Profit to £25 Level Stakes

Every selection comes with a detailed analysis of why the horse has been tipped and why it represents value odds

"Just to let you know I joined your service this week for a month. Great service, I'm far from an expert on horses but how you picked 'Yasir' at 16/1 and American life in the 2 selections today was brilliant. I had an ew double on them. Also some great winners in the past few days. I'll be on board with a years membership when my month is up. Well done , keep up the great work."

Thanks Kieran



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Try for 3 Months - Just £59.99

[Click Here to Trial for £59.99](#)

If you're serious about your betting and already know you want to be a long term member then get a huge discount with an Annual Membership at just £299 - [Click Here](#)

Nice one, Rory. Was screaming at Mr Orr to stop looking behind him on the run-in, but did it pretty comfortably to be fair. Pity the sods at Unibet refused the bet, so I had to take "only" 28s elsewhere.

Cheers, Paul



The Latest On Course Profits Product Reviews



Cost:£15.00 for the first month then £30.00 per month thereafter.

The Trial: We have been following this service for a little while now and we have to say that month after month it has been consistent.

Our latest month has seen 11 winners from 22 selections and a profit of almost 8.50 points to the advised prices (7 points to obtained prices).

Our totals position currently stands at 23 points profit to advised prices and a still healthy 17 points based on the prices we were able to obtain.

The prices on the selections may seem low to some but if results are profitable we can't complain.

Conclusion: Definitely of interest. [Find out more here.](#)



Cost: £14.99 monthly or £79.99 quarterly.

The Trial: Over the past month we have received 59 selections which arrive in the morning of the days racing quoting the advised odds and suggested staking, (normally 1 point win / 0.5 point each way or 2 points win / 1.00 point each way).

Our strike rate currently stands at a shade over 18.50% with a profit of 18.50 points (29% ROI).

Conclusion: A good start. Find out more [here](#).



THE CHRIS WIGG EACH WAY RACING SERVICE

Cost: £9.99 per month.

The Trial: This is our final month for this service and it has shown a small loss of almost 6 points based on 1 point each way staking, which we are not going to cry over. Losing runs have been low and in fact, the early part of the month was a positive to 12 points with 21 winners from the 77 selections recorded and an additional 23 runners being placed.

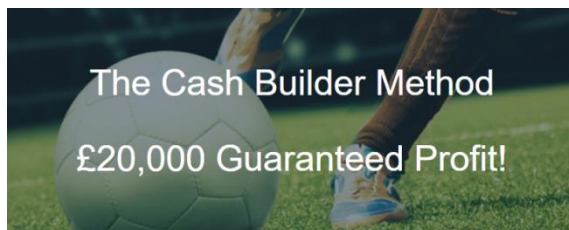
Conclusion: We are confident that Chris will soon bounce back to winning ways. Find out more [here](#).



Cost: £14.95 per month.

The Trial: 11 wins and 8 placed horses from 46 selections this month has given us a small profit of almost 3 points, and after 5 months we are in profit overall by 18 points.

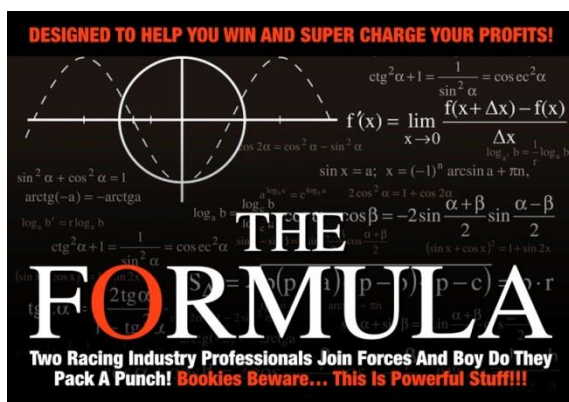
Conclusion: Staking levels need to be reasonable if you are to cover the monthly subscription costs. Find out more [here](#).



Cost: Currently closed to new members.

The Trial: The hole which had been dug last time month just got larger. 11 of the 21 Double Chance selections won, but the short odds-on returns could not prevent the continuing losses which saw us overall down 140 points based on 10 point stakes at advised odds.

Conclusion: Not recommended.



Cost: £57.00 for 28 days or £124.00 for 90 days.

The Trial: We are pleased to report that this service has not disappointed and has matched up to the pre-launch hype. With 2 selections per day we have had 13 winners varying in odds between 11/10 and 12/1 and landed a 25% strike rate, but the Brucie bonus was two winning doubles at 10.50/1 and 73.90/1!

As the month closed we were 130 points to the positive. Very nice!

Conclusion: Hoping that this isn't going to be a flash in the pan. You can find out more about the service [here](#).



Cost: £1.00 first 14 days then £39.99 per month thereafter.

The Trial: It's early days for this service and 3 winners from 51 selections doesn't bode well.

Conclusion: It's not going to be one for the fainthearted. You can find out more [here](#).



Tipster Top Ten

Our Tipster Top Ten results are based on Advised Stakes and use Best Odds Guaranteed for the last 90 days at the time of writing.

1. **Daily Doubles** – SR 6% ROI 158%

The SR and ROI speak for themselves. If you have a cast iron stomach and can sit out long losing runs you can land big as Daily Doubles did in October with Water Diviner and Confrerie at Brighton.

[Find out more about the service here.](#)

2. **Value Wins** – SR 23% ROI 87%

Maintaining their strike rate and even improving on an already high ROI Value Wins can still be found in the table this month. The latest month (November) has got off to a flying start with some 60+ points in the bank mid way through the month.

[Find out more about the service here.](#)

3. **Loves Racing** – SR 23% ROI 69%

There must be something in the wind as Loves Racing continues on good form with winners such as Shabbah 12/1, Insignis of Rank 9/2 and Innamorare 12/1.

[Find out more about the service here.](#)

4. Carl Nicholson's TV Specials – SR 47% ROI 65%

Carl Nicholson's form seems in no way to be waning as the TV Specials continue to bring in profit after profit. If you enjoy betting on the TV races then this could well be the one for you.

[Find out more about the service here.](#)

5. Low Blow – SR 37% ROI 61%

Low Blow comes from the Tipstrr yard and offers on average 15/16 tips per week: There have been consistent profits over the past 5 months, although the best seem to have come during late summer.

That said the latest complete month returned over 280 points profit so we can't complain at that!

[Find out more about the service here.](#)

6. Each Way Value Tips – SR 43% ROI 59%

Still with us is Each Way Value Tips. This service has been in the table regularly and that healthy strike rate suggests that there is a consistent stream of winners, while the ROI may suggest the odd nice double figure priced winner landing the spoils such as 12/1 Never Back Down and 14/1 Gabriel The Tiger.

[Find out more about the service here.](#)

7. Unity Racing Investments – SR 22% ROI 51%

Another service which is currently offering consistency is Unity Racing Investments although the latest month has got off to a slow start and a loss of 10 points is how things stand currently for November.

A good winning day on 11th with Springtown Lake and Eldorado Allen (both at 9/2) have helped to limit the negative spell and we are sure we will see them riding back in the positive by the end of the month

[You can find out more about the service here.](#)

8. Each Way Hits – SR 37% ROI 37%

This service had a poor month in September, albeit a modest loss of 16 points, but positively bounced back with profits of 70 points for October thanks to Sparkelalot (12/1). However, since then there have been a few placed selections but outright winners have been less prolific.

[You can find out more about the service here.](#)

9. Lucky 7 Naps – SR 26% ROI 37%

Back with us again are Lucky 7 Naps thanks to a steady and profitable October (100+ points). Like many though November, although starting off well with wins from Pauls Hill 5/1 and Vosne Romanee 8/1 has been struggling of late.

[You can find out more about the service here.](#)

10. Gentleman Tips - SR 32% ROI 29%

Gentleman Tips may not be in the dizzy heights of the table, but let's be realistic, 29% ROI is still outstanding and offers an almost 1 in 3 strike rate too. The service offers a mix of straight wins and each way selections. Recent winners include Strong Resemblance 9/4, Coachella 7/2 and Bradford Bridge 5/2.

[Find out more about the service here.](#)

Long Term Profits Using Betfair Exchange Starting Price!



NH Power – Tipster Profile

This month's Tipster Profile is for a new service from the Betfan stable, NH Power.

The man behind this National Hunt Racing Club grew up around parents who would place small bets now and then, but about 8 or 9 years ago he became interested in algorithms and ways to make his betting decisions easier, and which soon resulted in profits. Creating an algorithm for a range of different types of tips meant that the emotion was taken out of the betting for NH Power and we have all fallen into that trap before.

Mistakes, of course, have been made along the way but they have pretty much been as a result of the aforementioned emotional involvement to his betting, betting with the heart and not the head. Using statistics has made his betting a purely head related business these days and combining that with a strict bank strategy and only betting on the advices presented by the algorithm has led to profitability.

So realistically what is the most rewarding thing about running your own tipping service, and why sell your selections if you are making a successful living from betting?

Well according to NH Power it has to be winning and watching others win with you when you know that selection came from your hard work.

Now most tipsters will say that they spend a fair few hours sitting at the pc reading up on form, watching past races, and analysing a multitude of data, but for NH Power that just isn't the case. In fact, they need very little time to pull up their selections, why, because of the use an algorithm.

So okay they may not spend hours pouring of the desk to find you your selection for the day, but believe us when we say they have invested heavily in terms of man hours perfecting this piece of software. They were working long and hard well before the service was even launched.

After having completed in the region of 2 years of back testing using the algorithm the resultant number of selections on average per year are around 800 bets per year or 2-3 per day. Some days there may be more on others there may be less or none at all.

NH Power aims to send out all the selections the evening before the next day's racing, but as the service only uses the Betfair Exchange Starting Prices the time which the bets are placed really makes little difference, which is refreshing. Using the Betfair Exchange Starting Prices means that the dreaded "restricted" bookmaker accounts are avoided, and achieving the "advised" prices is taken out of the equation.

As a result, NH Power offers both value and long term profit and is a great long term investment for a serious punter.

You can a 14 day trial of NH Power for just £1.00 (usual price £37.00 for 28 days) by clicking [here](#). *(Offer expires 7th December 2018)*

Join NH Power today for just £1.00

Long Term Profits Using Betfair Exchange Starting Price!



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