

TRADING SECRETS

Those of you who have bought books and plans off me in the past will know that I specialise in handicaps, focusing my attention on stats, figures and times etc, this however goes in completely the opposite direction, targeting horses that on form, would not exactly jump out of the page at you. The result of this is some exceptionally high priced horses and an equally impressive strike rate to match with winners up to 16-1.

What this plan does is put you on to horses that on some occasions may be forecast as the complete outsider but are actually fancied to run much better than their bare form would have us believe. A lot of gambles are landed by horses that have been specially laid out by connections that have run the horse in such a way to ensure that when the gamble is landed, it is done so when big prices can be taken.

When following any system, you are bound to get frustrating runs, and this plan is no different, however I know of no other systems around that can produce a strike rate like this at such big prices.

THE RULES.

You need to use the Racing Post or have access to the Racing Post website to use this plan.

1. The plan has been written for turf flat, all weather and national hunt racing.
2. Target **Handicaps** only and only consider all aged handicaps and do not include 3year old only handicaps. Do not use **selling** handicap races. With national hunt racing only consider handicap hurdles and avoid handicap chases.
3. We are looking for horses that start at considerably shorter prices than those that are forecast in the Racing Post. The criteria put in place for this particular plan is set out as follows. The following table shows you the maximum price you can back a selection at in comparison to the forecast price in the Racing Post, so if for example a horse is forecast at 10-1 in the Racing Post it becomes a bet if the on course price gets down to 6-1 or less and it meets with all the other criteria in the plan.

Racing Post Forecast.	Maximum on course price to qualify.
6-1	7-2
13-2	7-2
7-1	7-2
15-2	4-1
8-1	9-2
9-1	5-1
10-1	6-1
11-1	6-1
12-1	13-2
14-1	15-2
16-1	9-1
20-1	14-1
25-1	14-1
33-1	16-1

For Example: If a horse is forecast at 16-1 in the Racing Post but goes off at 9-1, this would be a potential qualifier providing it met with all the other rules. Obviously there will be horses that go off much shorter than half price, I have seen horses forecast at 33-1 in the Racing Post that have gone off at 6-1.

Be wary of horses that although they may be half price on course, they may still have opened up short and then prove to be big drifters in the live market. Ideally we are looking for horses that meet with the price comparison rule but are also heavily backed on course.

A very good example of this was 'Osteopathic Remedy' who won at Thirsk on May 10th. This horse was forecast at 25-1 in the Racing Post then opened up on course at 12-1 before being heavily backed into 15-2. This horse was a 4yo that had previously won a maiden so also qualified on that rule, details of which are covered in rule 4.

Result: Osteopathic Remedy won 15-2.

4. Once you have established that there is a potential qualifier based on price comparison, you need to look at the horses handicap mark. In order to qualify, a horse must be running off a mark the same or shorter than what it has previously won off.

For Example: You have identified a potential qualifier and it is running off a handicap mark of 73. You now look at its last winning mark to see if has won off a mark the same or lower. All this information is found on the form pages of the Racing Post and would be set out as follows:

Top Seed.

OR 50.

All flat races.

80 5/06 Gdwd

73 4/06 Bath

As you can see Top Seed is running off an official rating today of 50 (OR50) but had previously won a race at Goodwood off a mark of 80 so would therefore qualify as a bet. Do not consider a horse that is running off a mark that is higher than what it has previously won off. There are exceptions to this rule for 4 and 5 year old horses which I will cover in rule 5.

Top Seed was forecast at 16-1 in the Racing Post but went off at 7-1 and therefore a qualifier.

Result. Top Seed won 7-1.

Another point that you need to take into consideration when looking at the weights is if the horse is ridden by a claiming rider as this has an effect on the handicap mark. If a horse is running off a mark of 75 but is ridden by a 5lb claiming rider, this brings the mark down to 70 which could make the difference between horses being a qualifier or not so always take note of this. One rule which I have implemented myself is not to include 7lb claimers in this rule as I feel they are too inexperienced and therefore not always value for their claim. I have implemented this rule in all the handicap plans that I have written myself and although you will miss a few winners, it will in the long run pay dividends.

5. There are some extra rules to take into account when assessing a 3 year old, 4 year old and 5 year old horse running in a handicap. The reason for this is that as relatively young horses they may not have won a handicap yet or if it has, it may still have considerable improvement to come and therefore may be capable of winning off a mark higher than what it is running off today. Because of this, the following rules need to be applied when assessing the merits of a 3yo, 4yo and 5yo.

A 3yo, 4yo and 5yo will qualify if it is still a maiden and not yet won a handicap providing it meets with the other rules.

A 3yo, 4yo and 5yo will qualify if it has previously won a handicap and is now running off a mark which is no more than 6lb higher than its previous win. Running off a slightly higher weight can be accepted as they are still young enough to have enough improvement in them to win off a higher mark than what they have been given. If it is strongly backed on course, this would also indicate that it is expected to defy a higher handicap mark. Older horses tend to find their own level as they get older and usually win when they are back to a handicap mark at which they have proved they can be competitive.

Example. A 4yo qualifier is running off a mark of 80 but its last winning mark was 74 so it is 6lb higher but will qualify as we allow 6lb extra to compensate for any potential improvement.

6. Do not consider any horse that is forecast to start any bigger than 33-1 in the Racing Post. This means the maximum priced winner you will back is no bigger than 16-1. Also I would suggest not to back any qualifier that drops below 11-4, any shorter than that is getting a bit too short in a handicap.

7. Beware of races where there are a lot of non runners as this will of course affect the prices on course against what they were originally forecast in the morning before any non-runners were announced.

8. In the event of there being more than one qualifier in a race, you can either split stakes to cover them or leave the race alone. Obviously we are dealing with horses at very good prices with this plan and a very good profit can still be taken by backing more than one qualifier in a race. This does not happen often but it is a shame to miss a good priced winner by leaving a race alone because of more than one qualifier. I personally prefer there to be just one qualifier in any one race. All results shown on the website concern races where there has only been one qualifier so to avoid any confusion.

9. When monitoring the live betting market, I use the sporting life website which gives you the up to date live on course betting shows. By monitoring the live on course prices you can quickly identify if any horse meets the criteria by looking at the forecast SP in the Racing Post and comparing it with the current on course price that is available just before the off.

10. Leave placing your bet as late as possible because a lot of horses can shorten up considerably just before the off and a horse shortening a couple of points can often make the difference between a horse being a bet or not.

NOTE. Always pay special attention to those horses that as well as meeting with all the criteria set out in the plan, are also taking a drop in class. Often you will see horses that maybe dropping from a class 5 to a class 6 or

class 3 to class 4 etc. If these horses are also heavily backed on course you can expect a big run especially with the horse being favourably handicapped.

Also make note of the draw at courses where it can make the difference between winning and losing. The draw at courses such as Chester and Beverley can make a huge difference so make a note of this when looking at qualifiers. All draw information can be found in the Racing Post under "Topdraw".

Additional Rules..

I have not written this particular plan myself but I have been instrumental in putting it down on paper in an easy to understand format. Having monitored this plan for some time I do feel I can improve it even further by adding some of my own input which will I know will add a lot more winners to the results sheet.

Rule 4 states that you should not consider any horse that is running off a mark higher than what it has won off before unless it is a 3yo, 4yo or 5yo in which case an allowance of 6lb is allowed to take in to account any improvement that may be forthcoming because it is a relatively young horse with the potential for improvement. I believe this rule can also be applied to certain older horses especially if they are heavily backed on course. Sometimes a horse may be half price on course compared to the forecast SP in the Racing Post but that is the price it opens up at and not weight of on course money that has bought it into that price. When this happens it is just a difference of opinion between on course bookmakers and the Racing Post forecast, and the on course betting does not actually indicate that the horse is strongly fancied.

Ideally we want a horse that is almost half price or more on course than it is forecast in the Racing Post and that is also heavily supported on course.

Take Napolitano for example who ran on April 27th. This horse was forecast 10-1 in the Racing Post and was very heavily supported into 9-2 on course indicating that it was fancied to run a very big race.

Napolitano was a 7yo running off a mark of 56. It had previously won a handicap off a mark of 54 so in effect it was running off a mark only 2lb higher than what it has ever won off and would therefore be eliminated from our calculations if we follow the rules to the letter.

Even though Napolitano was 2lb higher than what it has ever won off, connections must have felt he was capable of defying his current handicap mark or he would not have been so strong in the market. It is circumstances like this when I really think we need to read a bit more in to the market signals even if the horse is a few lbs above a weight it has proved it can win off.

On some occasions you will get a horse that opens up bigger than it is forecast in the Racing Post and is then heavily backed on course to below its forecast price. This again is an area I think needs exploiting as it does throw up winner after winner, providing it meets with all the other criteria set out in the plan.

An example of this is Rothesay Dancer who was forecast at just 6-1 in the Racing Post but was heavily backed on course from 15-2, 7-1, 13-2, 6-1, 11-2, 5-1 before winning easily at 5-1. This was strong support and the horse was running off a mark of 59, its previous win coming off 61 so it was 2lb lower than its last winning mark and with Kelly Harrison claiming 5lb, this made Rothesay Dancer 7lb below its last winning mark and the gamble was landed in good style. This horse only went off one point below its forecast price but it had sustained support on course indicating that a very big run was expected.

Do not worry if a trainer / yard are considered out of form.

Many people take too much notice as to if a trainer/yard is in form. I covered this subject when I wrote the Professional Handicap Strategy. My personal opinion is that it is not always wise to ignore a qualifier just because a trainer may not be in form according to the Racing Post postdata.

As an example I will use Sunday May 4th when a horse was running called 'The Bear' who landed quite a touch for connections. Looking at the rules of the plan, this horse qualified on all counts apart from the fact that the trainer had an x against his name in the Racing Post postdata section.

First of all it was forecast at 33-1 in the Racing Post and went off at 16-1 so qualified on the price rule.

It was running off a mark of 60 and had previously won a race off 93 so was very well in and therefore qualified on the handicapping rule

Also another point to note was that this horse was supported from 60-1 on Betfair down to 16-1 which is another strong sign that a much improved performance was expected from this horse.

The result was The Bear won very easily landing a major touch for connections at 16-1.

This is just one example but there are many more so it is worth looking at the markets and do not totally dismiss a horse just because the trainer would appear to be out of form especially when all the signs point to a big run.

SUMMARY.

Having monitored this plan for quite some time now it is quite obvious that it is very impressive. It targets horses that are running off a very lenient handicap mark that are heavily supported in the market. Following the Trading Secrets plan on its own will provide you with a lot of big priced winners, however I really do think that by putting in some extra work and looking a bit deeper at some of the examples I have just shown you will increase the potential of this plan even further.

Good luck with this system, it will provide you with many big winners,