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Consistency

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- **The Tips Page**
- **Systems and angles**
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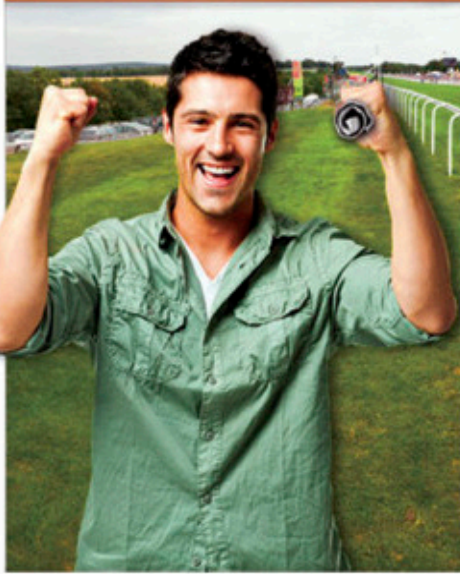
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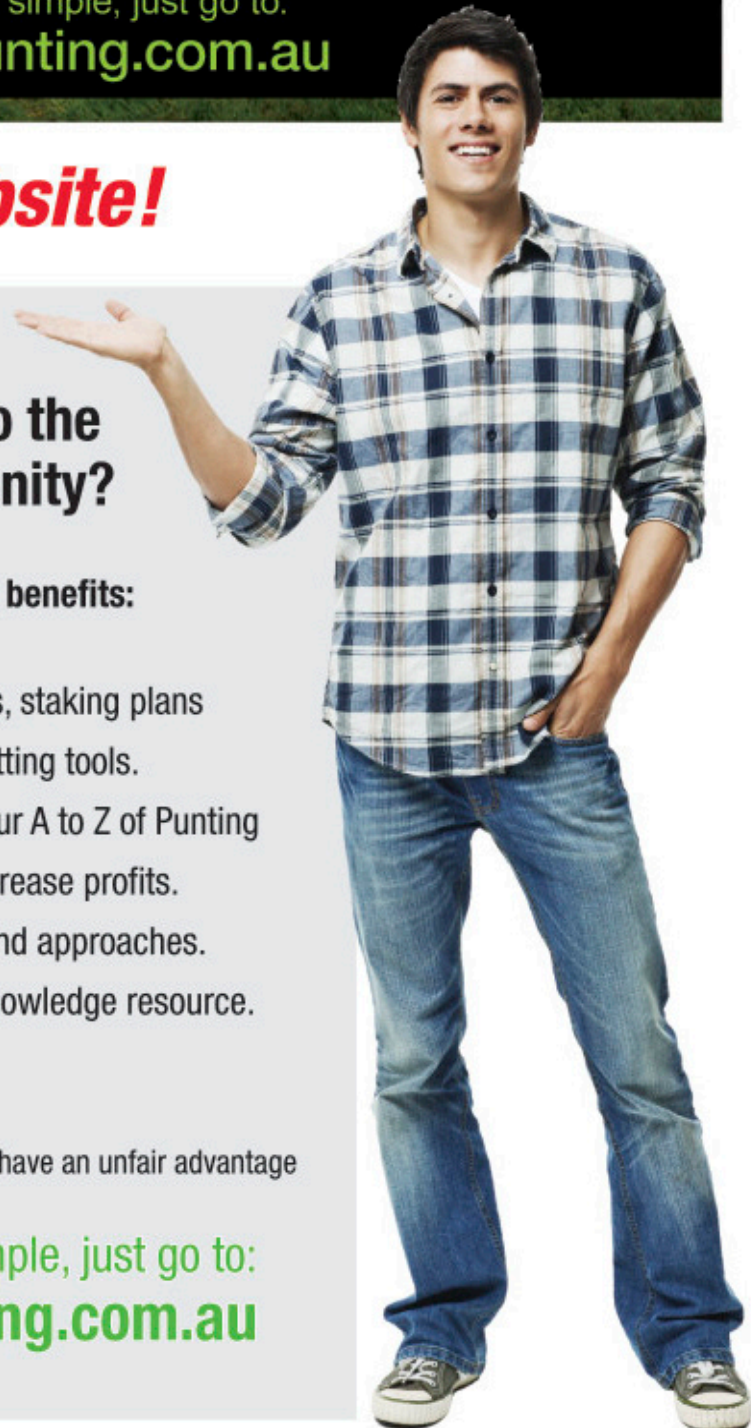
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CONTENTS: May/June 2013 Vol.28, No.260

- 3 Contents plus What The Editor Says • Brian Blackwell
- 4 The Tips Page • Brian Blackwell
- 4 New Zealand Specials • Neil Franklyn
- 5 Systems and Angles • Jon Hudson and Philip Roy
- 5 Best of the Daily Race Notes
- 6 Pedigree Pointers • Julian Mould
- 7 Plan of the Month • The Optimist
- 8 Sensible Betting • Statsman
- 9 Educating The Punter • The Optimist
- 11 Clive Allcock talks racing • Clive Allcock
- 12 Practical Punting Online • Brian Blackwell
- 13 Chew over these • The Optimist
- 14 The Maximum Money tsunami
- 15 Alphabetical List of Horses



The Editor says

Great shot of Pierro on our cover this issue. Next issue we will throw the spotlight on rider Nash Rawiller. It'll be a big feature on consistent jockeys. Like the Queenslander Damien Browne. He has a great record. In the current season, Browne (a Kiwi) is maintaining a 24% win strike rate. That's a huge accomplishment. Compare this with Chris Munce at 15% and Steven Arnold at 14%. Both are top jockeys but can't get a strike rate like Browne!

FRONT COVER PICTURE

Our front cover special – Pierro – **Photo: STEVE HART.**





The Tips Page

Check in for our weekly updates

• With Brian Blackwell

THE HUNTRESS

Mick Kent has a smart one with this 2YO Husson filly. She won on debut at Sandown Lakeside 1200m and followed that with a crisp victory at Caulfield 1200m on April 27. Bright future assured.

DRAGO

Three runs to date have all been promising, especially his 4th to Guelph in the Grp 1 Champagne Stakes at Randwick on April 27. The Anthony Cummings trained colt had a torrid passage and did well to finish as close as he did.

MISSY CUMMINGS

Three starts, three wins...It doesn't get any better. This Magnus 3YO filly is shaping up very well. Her Randwick 1400m win, in Listed class, on April 27 was an excellent performance, and followed her wins at Wyong 1000m Mdn on Apr 7 and the same track over 1100m in Cl 1 on Apr 18.

VIBRANT ROUGE

This 4YO mare had little luck when finishing fast into 2nd behind the smart Serene Star in a Mares plate 1100m at Caulfield on Apr 27. She's been racing well since early in the year and has a lot left in the tank.

YOU TELL ME

A 4YO gelding from the Colin & Cindy Alderson team, he shaped nicely in a recent trial run at Cranbourne, and was impressive when 3rd/6 over 1500m at Yarra Valley on Mar 17. He deserves a better record than his current 1 win and 8 placings from 16 starts.

KEYARNA BLUE

Having her first start off a spell, she looked the good when scoring a Maiden 1612m win at Kilmore on April 29. She just took control of the race in the straight and drew clear – an indication she can improve a lot and move into city class.

SPEEDINESS

This 5YO won the Pink Ribbon Cup 1400m at Caulfield on Apr 20 and the win was good enough to highlight potential for him in good class country and city race. There's talk of a Scone and Hawkesbury campaign. He's won 5 from 19 and will rack up more wins.

PRINCE OF PENZANCE

There was much to like about his strong finale into 2nd over 1800m at Caulfield on Apr 20. That followed a Ballarat 1600m win in RB62 class on Apr 11. Darren Weir has the Pentire 3YO in great nick.

SACRED FALLS

He's a top-class 3YO and showed all his class when beating Pierro in the grp 1 Doncaster Mile 1600m at Randwick. He's now won 7 of his 10 starts. He measures up as bright spring prospect for the all-conquering Waller stable.

ZEVADA

The 7YO has been lightly-raced and the patience is paying off. He won very well at Flemington 2000m and connections immediately began eyeing a Brisbane carnival campaign. Worth following!

STOPWATCH SPECIALS

BRIDIE O'REILLY Looked slick winning 1550m trial at Cranbourne in late April.

CAST IRON Shaping well for Greg Eurell stable. Slick 800m at Cranbourne.

ZARZING Nice 3YO filly from Tony Noonan's stable. Impressive 800m breezeup at Cranbourne.

BOMBALATOMBA Trial win over 990m augurs well for this Chris Hyland trained galloper.



Neil Franklyn's NZ Specials

LET'S GO FRATELLI – Does not visit the winner's circle often, but loves the heavy stuff. Keep an eye out for him when the tracks are bog-like.

MENDOZA – Consistent 3YO who looks in for a good winter. Narrowly beaten into 3rd last start behind the classy Ambitious Champion.

WHO SHOT THEBARMAN – Bolted home by 6.5 lengths in the Trentham mud on debut. There are plenty more wins awaiting this Yamanin Vital gelding.



Each issue of PPM features a chat between Jon Hudson and Philip Roy about betting ideas, angles and systems. If you have some fresh, bright ideas, then let us know about them.

JH: I thought this issue we could have a look at a way of betting on several selections and giving yourself a good chance of a big collect with a small outlay.

PR: That sounds good to me and I'm sure most punters will be interested.

JH: The plan I have was originally designed to cover bets on 3 specials. It required a daily capital of 7.5 units and calls for three straight-out bets each of 1.5 units and three doubles of 1 unit each. With a bank of \$15 the betting procedure would be like this:

- (1) * \$3 straight out on each of the three specials, and then the three doubles to combine all three specials
- (2) * \$2 on the 1st special all up the 2nd special...\$2 on the 1st special all up the 3rd special...\$2 on the 2nd specials all up on the 3rd special.

PR: That's a bet, then, of \$15 and if one of the three specials should win at 4/1 it would square the transaction. Two winners would mean a return on two straight-out bets plus one double.

JH: You can see that when you do land all three specials the returns will be excellent. If you can get one winner you will get most of your bet back – and I am assuming the punter will stick to value bets at, say, 5/2 and longer.

PR: I like the use of the doubles, or all ups. They give the bet some oomph. I think the average punter can have a lot of fun with this one.



New systems in every issue

NEXT MONTH: Jon and Philip discuss Sydney racing – and come up with a system that nails good value winners on a regular basis. **PPM.**

Best of the Daily Race Notes



Sunday, April 28

The David Hayes trained **ABRAXAS** shaped okay in a Mfn 1400m; probably needs 1600m to produce a win.

Saturday, April 27

Ordinary ride for **CRITERION** in the Champagne Stks at Randwick; stick with this 2YO on a long-term basis. **GUELPH** was a brilliant winner; no knowing how far she can go and is certainly a spring big-race prospect. At Caulfield, we noted an excellent win by **THE HUNTRESS** over 1200m; look for her at Scone and follow-up next campaign. We liked the run of **HARRY TRIMBOLE** for 3rd over 1800m. Keep close tabs on **COUNTER SIGN**; ran well enough in the Durban Plate 1000m. **SERENE STAR** was an impressive 1st-up winner over 1100m; can win again, perhaps in Adelaide. At Morphettville, we noted a bold finale from **BRING A RING** over 1100m. **MAYBE DISCREET** was a highly impressive Oaks 2000m winner; one for the spring.

Thursday, April 25

There was an impressive debut win by

PAXIMADIA over 1400m at Warwick Farm; comes from the Peter Snowden team and should win again. At Flemington, we liked the run of **TIKITOUR** for 2nd over 1410m; shows much promise. **LATEVA** is one to follow after her bold 4th over 1000m. Keep an eye on **PRINCE OF CAPERS**; good effort 3rd over 1610m.

Wednesday, April 24

We noted **INAFRENZY** from a Mdn Plate 1216m at Mornington. **MEZULLA** is worth keeping an eye on after a strong finale for 2nd in a Mdn 1013m. John O'Shea has a promising filly in **BOUND FOR EARTH**, winner on debut at Canterbury. **DOUBLE HALO** had no luck in an OMW hdcp 1200m; ran 4th at second run off a spell. In the same race we noted **ANIMOSO**.

Tuesday, April 23

MR COOLEY is one to follow from the Geelong card; came home with a late burst over 1000m to finish 3rd.

Friday, April 19

We liked the win of **LIMITATION** in a Cl 1 900m scamper at Scone.

PPM.





Pedigree Pointers

With Julian Mould

It's A Dundee (NZ)

High Chaparral - Stareel (Zabeel (NZ))

Gender: Male

Birth-date: 18/11/2009: Official Age: 3YO

Dosage Profile (DP) = 2-1-9-2-0 [Brilliant-Intermediate-Classic-Solid-Professional]

Total Dosage Points = (14)

Dosage Index (DI) = 1.15

Centre of Distribution = 0.21

It's A Dundee made a serious impact this autumn with several cracking displays that culminated in his winning the autumn triple crown: The Randwick Guineas, The Rosehill Guineas and ATC Derby. All of which made four Group 1s racked up for the season, after he deftly picked up the Spring Champion stakes in October when he came from behind to beat the odds-on Proisir by a head.

I have to be honest though because, even though I'd tipped him on my blog, when It's A Dundee had won his Spring Champion stakes I didn't feel like going overboard at the time. Winners of that race since Savabeel in 2004 (bar Monaco Consul) had not seemed to be all that special and the race looked like it was starting to lose its lustre. Of course, I was pleased that the winner did at least have a pedigree that resembled a middle distance horse.

Still, the Spring Champion does act as the best springboard for Sydney horses who want to leap from there on to the Victoria Derby, and the record of those that do read pretty well. Since the start of the 21st century four winners had gone to the VRC Derby before It's A Dundee; Universal Prince (subsequently 2nd in the Derby), Savabeel (2nd too), Teranaba (3rd) and Monaco Consul (1st). So, the Spring Champion winner really ought to have been one to follow if he goes to the Victorian showpiece.

Yet the day came for It's A Dundee to have a bash at the VRC Derby where he was a big odds-on shot. Sadly he ended up beaten by an outsider called Fiveandahalfstar (Hotel Grand x Cryptic Miss (Snippets)) and a slipper youth called Super Cool (Fastnet Rock (AUS) x Queen Mother (USA) (Kingmambo)). Well, of course, those two horses went on to become stars of the Melbourne summer/autumn carnival, so perhaps It's A Dundee still had prospects in stakes class after all, I thought. I considered, too, the possibility that he hadn't travelled all that well from Sydney to Melbourne. Horses are often like that. They step away from familiar surroundings and flounder rather badly when they travel on flights or long float trips.

Funnily enough, later on I discovered further information to make me feel even more benevolent about It's A Dundee's failure in the VRC Derby. As I reviewed the spring stakes races in December I looked over the VRC Derby result again and ran through the major pedigrees using the Australian Stud Book. In doing so, I found that It's A Dundee was the youngest horse in the field. This was very interesting.

Born on 18th November 2009, It's A Dundee was under a disadvantage in the VRC Derby when compared those who had finished in front of him. It turned out that he was some 2 months younger than Fiveandahalfstar (born: 04/09/2009) and a full 3 months younger than Super Cool (born: 10/8/2009). This fact was unquestionably significant for a horse bred like a true stayer and it put him in a very difficult position on VRC Derby day.

What's more, Fiveandahalfstar and Super Cool had very attractive speed sources in the first two lines of their pedigree but this could not be said of It's A Dundee. His sire and damsire contain High Chaparral and Zabeel and while they are of the highest calibre both were very much the sort of staying stallions to influence their progeny for later maturity. The sort of progeny that become considerably stronger in the latter half of their three-year-old career and stronger still when reaching four and five.

As you can gather, It's A Dundee was at a major maturity disadvantage due to his birthday and pedigree. Still, he came back for his autumn campaign and showed exactly the late maturing tendency expected of a High Chaparral/Zabeel mix. But, boy, did he come back! He blitzed his triple crown trouncing a subsequent Doncaster Handicap winner (Sacred Falls) by 5 lengths in the Rosehill Guineas - in conditions that I was convinced would favour Sacred Falls far more. From there on there was no question about what It's A Dundee would do in the ATC Derby.

Now spring 2013 beckons and he could well star in a major race then. Some may want to point out that his Melbourne record is rather average but I don't think that at all. His 1.75L second to Super Cool in the VRC Derby Trial at Moonee Valley (Michelton Wines Vase-Gr.2) looks excellent now that we know what we know about Super Cool. The all-too-quick back up of seven days for the immature It's A Dundee set the seal on his failure in the VRC Derby but that - coupled with the above facts - show his loss to be completely forgivable.

But, in spite of his subsequent autumn wins, looking over It's A Dundee's 2012 Melbourne form is important here because he will doubtless be set for a Cox Plate. In a small field on a Good3 he could still be vulnerable to Super Cool but not so much Fiveandahalfstar now. However, if the track is softened by rain then It's A Dundee could dominate. From there on, he's obviously a top-class Melbourne Cup contender where he'll definitely have weight and pedigree on his side in that race.

PPM.



An Oldie might be worth another look in the 21st century.

Discipline in race betting?

"What's that?" asks the gambler.

And he passes.

"I do try," says the conscientious punter.

And he does too.

"It's a state of mind," advises the serious investor.

And he does it.

Spot the difference.

So now, Dear Reader, which category do you fit?

Ever tried the old "Stop at a Winner"?

It's self-explanatory, of course: you set your bets up to stop after your first winner. In some parts of the world you can name the best in your preferred order. For example, if you fancy Arinosa in the eighth as your best chance all day, then she can be named first. And so on, until your very last chance is your weakest one, maybe a get-out longshot.

There can be variations, but here in Oz I'm afraid I don't know of any TAB or bookie offering this kind of bet where you can list the horses in order of your choice (and not the race times). In fact I've never seen a corporate offering "stop at a winner" at all. Probably too much work and encouraging you to pull out with the booty. But you can do it for yourself IF (a) you're in a position to listen to all your selected events and (b) IF you're prepared to do a little bit of work prior to placing all your bets and then again during the race meeting(s).

Say on Derby Day you fancy Royal Descent, Overreach, Philippi and Arinosa.

Your order of preference is Arinosa, Philippi, Overreach and Royal Descent.

Well, of course, we all know that Royal Descent won early in the day, Philippi ran a gallant but hopeless second in the Derby to It's A Dundeel, Overreach ran third at very cramped odds and Arinosa brained the field in the fourth of your chosen races. Betting best TAB/starting price with a corporate, your first and last choices won around \$5.50 each.

Staking? I think that we can assume you'd

have perhaps \$100 outlay (maximum) to throw amongst your four, at \$25 each average. If you were to put out \$25 per horse, you'd be well aware that Overreach's investment might not even pay even money! So perhaps you must introduce staking rule:

RULE 1: Always bet level stakes, but eliminate any of the four that are quite clearly not going to pay at least \$3 (that's 2/1 in real odds) and raise each of the other bets.

This is a sensible rule. Sure, you miss a winner here and there, but that winner was only going to cover your bets if it was the first or perhaps the second runner (OK, maybe the third, but you can't be sure about that, and frankly it's a weak-hearted bet to start with). Just kick the horse out, regardless of your feelings.

That being done, let's say all your picks are better than \$3. IF your lowest pick is very close to \$3, you may be struggling to cut even, but then there's nothing to say it won't run earlier than fourth runner, so that's a calculated risk of slight proportions. Let's say the predicted prices are (using our four selections nominated above) \$5, \$8, \$1.70 and \$5.

The first thing you do as a strong punter is eliminate Overreach. She's not your top bet and anyway her odds are hopeless. The fact that she lost is not known to you at this stage, remember. You're getting rid of her because she's a pointless investment for a small punter to make. The other three all qualify. So how do we bet?



New plan every issue

Royal Descent will demolish her field, so that \$5, which will end up around \$5.50, started and finished your day. What then? Two losers, glad to be rid of both!!! But then your BEST bet wins and at great odds considering she also does a demolition job on her field. Royal Descent is actually your least favoured of the three qualifiers.

Well, I wouldn't play with fire. I'd play safe and have three \$33 bets, but one at a time. Stopping at a winner, there will be no bet on Philippi. But then your best bet turns up, and you're around \$150 in front. Decision time, huh?

My view would be that, under these circumstances, so far in front, I'd still make my best bet! Breaking the rules, sure, but everything's gone right today, so why not, knowing I'll end the day winning at least close to 100% on the day's outlay. If I were JUST in front, with maybe two losers and a \$3 winner, I'd stop betting. Different story then.

Try it anyway. It's a nice disciplinary experience.

Sensible betting with Statsman

Weight in racing – we talk about it all the time. It plays an integral role in the form analysis of any race, at big or small meetings, no matter what the class of race.

Some of the best-known ratings men years ago employed a sliding scale of relatives. The late Eric Connolly adopted a different value for various distances.

So did the Australian Jockey Club's late handicapper G.F. Wilson, who was regarded as one of the country's greatest handicappers.

My colleague Denton Jardine has reported on this issue, as follows:

Wilson never revealed publicly his relative handicapping formula but I know that it went something like this: He allowed 1.5kg to a length for 1600m. He increased the measurement as the distances decreased and reduced it as the distances increased. He may have estimated 2kg for 1400m, 2.2kg for 1200m and 2.5kg for distances under 1200m. His length measurement might have been 1.25kg for 2000m and 1kg for 2400m and further.

Connolly was another weights man to work along similar lines. Both men argued that the further a horse travelled, the greater the slowing effect of weight on the back. This is beyond argument.

My own feeling is that we can use 1.5kg to a length for all races up to 2300m, and then use 1kg to a length after that (say 2350m through to 3200m). The relative value of a 'length' in weight terms is important for all punters to understand, especially those working on weight handicapping ratings.

For example: Horse A is beaten, say, 4 lengths at 1200m. Using 1.5kg to a length we would say that he was beaten 6kg. But working to the Wilson formula of 2kg per length, the horse would have been beaten 8kg.

If we are looking at, say, a 2400m race and the horse is beaten 4 lengths, the Wilson formula would say the horse was beaten 4kg (1kg equalling a length).

Knowledge of these values can prove decisive when you are rating a horse in a race. Of course, you can get away with using an overall 1.5kg equalling a length. My colleague Brian Blackwell has often explained how he prepares his weight ratings using this formula. It's a successful one for him.

One of my great friends, a merchant banker who likes to bet up big on Saturdays, does weight ratings as well, but he uses the sliding scale to good effect. He's been doing it for years. He's a pretty successful bettor. When you are allocating bonuses and penalties in your handicapping, then the 1.5kg to a length principle is fine. Let's suppose you are going to penalise a horse against its rating due to the fact that it's resuming from a spell.

Most professional punters would penalise a horse between, say, 3kg and 15kg; that is, between 2 lengths and 10 lengths, depending on the horse's previous first-up form and the calibre of the opposition it now meets, plus the class and distance of the current race. Personally, I band out severe penalties, right up to 15kg, for horses resuming from long spells and which do not possess any significant first-up form. However, if a horse has won before first-up and if it looks suited in the current race, I will penalise it the minimum of 1.5kg (1 length) or up to around 3 lengths (4.5kg).

If you follow weight handicapping, and you really should apply yourself to it to some degree, then the manipulation of weight, and the relative lengths, will form an important part of your work.

You will hand out bonuses and penalties for good, bad or unlucky runs, the same for improvement expected or deterioration in form, and so on. If a horse is carted wide on the home turn, how much do you allow for lost ground? Did it lose a length, two lengths or three lengths? If so, the horse may deserve a bonus of 1.5kg, 3kg or even 4.5kg.

Even if you don't do actual weight ratings, you should at least consider lengths in terms of kilos. Think in your mind that when you see a horse was beaten a length it was actually beaten, say, 1.5kg, or 1kg or 2kg, etc., depending on the distance of the race.

Having a knowledge of weights, and relative lengths value, is part of your armoury as a punter. You'll be amazed at how many punters simply cannot be bothered to find out all these little points.

That means you have an edge over them. The punter who cannot understand that a beaten margin has a value is at a real disadvantage with the punter who does understand it.

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Pav, huh?

“The Black Caviar appearance in the new Randwick opening would be like having Pav opening the Opera House”, waffled Simon Marshall on Channel 7 after the wonder mare won on April 13 (amongst another God knows how many platitudes). I just wondered if a better example might have been Joan Sutherland (for about twenty five reasons, but above all gender, and then nationality).

But for all that wasn't it utterly fantastic? The Elvis colours resurrected so many years later, those of us old enough drooling to see pink and black shining large on the stage. That power. That sheer disdain (done with honour) for her Group One opponents. The gleaming black coat. Oh for more such ambassadors of Racing.

And now, please, please, retirement with total glory. Don't wait too long. Don't take one trip too many (as they say) to the well. The entire population needs our unbeaten champion to remain that way.

Some Proud Record? Not Really.

There has been some criticism about a certain Sydney gent's level of English (he never has understood the parts of the verb "to run", for example, and doesn't know there's a past tense to the verb "to come"). All quite obviously true, and he must have been a challenge to a struggling English teacher, but I had cause to listen to the radio on a recent Saturday and realised that the record is still comfortably in the hands of one of my locals.

It's not a record we want here, but it's been with us for a long time. The king of all time sentences for me has been, for many years, his appraisal of a greyhound race: "D' favrit jumped bad, miss the start, never done nothink and git beat easy".

Even the younger Sydney challenger will never quite match that one, but he's in there trying! And, as I said, it's not a record to be proud of.

Speaking of Attendance.

I haven't been to Sydney races for some time

now. I am vastly better educated by watching the two (even three at present on Saturday) racing services every day. I see, record, replay, and can also hear what is actually being said (when I care to listen... which is selective where Sydney is concerned). In other words I am spoilt rotten by choice.

What more could a punter need? Little, I suppose. But what might he want? Well, I used to love going to the track because I had that special experience you only get by being there. I saw Black Caviar win first time round, so I didn't need to try to get back this year. Hay List was a real force then. But this year I didn't get a press pass. I was told by the boss of the media area that she would notify me etc etc, but I was ignored. Oh well, too bad.

Had I been asked I'd have gladly explained my absence last year. I'd have still gone, but I live a long way from the ATC tracks and there were ongoing circumstances. But nobody asked anything. Not even bye-bye after almost 40 years. It would be less galling if I didn't know that some of press badge contingent hadn't been near a racing paper or magazine for a long time, and some never were. So be it, but last time I did go, the population was mainly very young. Nonetheless, in the spirit of the game, here are a couple of tips for the ATC. You don't get a Black Caviar to fill the coffers every Saturday.

Firstly, properly police and shut up the younger set that only comes to drink and generally shout loudly. There are several spots that one just didn't go to when I was last a regular. People who swore off ever going again, people who loved the track but loved it for the horses and the racing, told me of their sadness. It wouldn't surprise me if half the attendees these days don't even know that Black Caviar is a lady.

They must be absolute sucker bait for a few young blades who offer all the special deals if you bet with them. So clear out the drinkers. Oops. Sorry. Revenue!!! How silly of me.

Then there are the clothing rules for the old AJC. Good grief, coats and ties in 2013? What country are we in? But if it's hot (say about 40+), you may be allowed to take your coats off... but not to remove the silly piece of material hanging around your tight neck. I've told you about my being chipped and prevented entry one year because I wore a brand new Carnaby Street leather jacket. It had a zip, you see, not buttons. A kind greencoat, Reg by name, well known to many of us including my pal the late Reg Maloney, lent me his coat for the afternoon and

Continued page 10 ➔

Continued from page 9

all was sweet with the other officious character. Probably a zip's OK now but I wouldn't bet on it.

Thirdly (yes I did say a couple, but then...) there's the betting ring. Why would a serious investor, or for that matter anyone who's trying to make money, be at the track, restricted to limited internet access and basically one tote, plus a set of odds that can be quite often beaten online by several points? Example: on Black Caviar day I realised that Guelph was fantastic overs in the Sires Produce at \$13. She was only there for a minute or two, and with one major corporate. But I got that price and hit it. Third, hard finishing on in the Slipper over the far easier 1200, now asked for something that looked more eminently suited to her latent talents. I doubt I'd have known at the track. My info is that she was twelve (11/1) best and briefly, and that the moment the cash came she was nines. Tremec was \$31. I got ten points more with a corporate! Many punters have told me over the past ten or so years, "No corporates, no me". Hard to argue against that.

In fact all in all hard to argue for going.

The new crop

I suspect we're going to have a powerpack year of four year olds in August. Naming names can be disastrous, as they grow and improve, or don't, and don't. Some precocious babies just don't kick on, whilst some just amaze you (witness Arinosa recently: sure, she's five, but a year ago who, and where, was she?). It happens every year. I always issue a caveat. I used to make it a big feature of the new season's first magazine, and was always able to call as evidence several of the previous year's three year old failures which had done so well as juveniles the season before. I'm not sure this will happen with the threes who turn four this August.

I would be very surprised if Philippi doesn't get the full two miles in November. He doesn't

have that explosive zip that ruins all opposition hope, the one we see from It's a Dundeel, but I've seen him put away decent fields twice now, and the more recent exhibition suggested to me that he probably has quite a long sustained sprint and lots of stamina. Keep him in mind anyway.

Diverging for a moment, the Northern Hemisphere horse, Jet Away, looked very good in those two recent wins in Victoria. Not knocked about but too classy by far for his opponents. A more judicious ride might have seen a clearer result in town. The days are gone when we could spot something early and get great odds for November: my best achievement was Makybe Diva in 2003 at 50/1. But the TAB actually did offer 20/1 late in betting (about a month out) in 2005, and I did well there. You had to be crafty as the limit was \$50, but there was nothing to stop anyone walking back to the window several times... as some of us did. We didn't feel guilty. The bet was available to everyone, and they advertised it for two days, so why shouldn't we?

Brian's best was, I would surmise, Media Puzzle just before then. A wonderful tip that all PPM punters must have followed. But now the punters are more canny. It happens.

That Dratted Market Mover.

Nothing will happen, I know that, but are you as sick as I am at having the "market mover" rammed down your throat? If it wins, we may as well turn to another station and avoid the backslapping. But that's irrelevant. What's very annoying is when you have backed the horse because the TABs are (in your view) out of whack, and every lazy lounge lizard in town is urged (no other words fits) to get on. You watch your overlay disintegrate in front of your eyes.

It's a money-making ploy, of course, and as such isn't going to be affected by any rational comment such as the one I just made. But for you and me, keen students who suss something out, get it right, then watch it peddled to the drones who do nothing at all... well, that wrankles.

Have a good day.

PPM



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CLIVE OF PPM

Clive Allcock
talks racing



RECORDS REVEAL!

We always emphasise the need to keep records – one of my colleagues did so in the last issue. I am going to repeat the urge with an example of the value of this habit – which I hope it is for you, reader!

Off to lunch a month or so back with two likeminded punters, only one of which keeps records. He has them on his lap top and on the bus in (a wise way to travel considering it was – well – lunch by the water and a free afternoon to follow) he went through the results for the last six months of his way of selecting.

Being more thorough than I am with the range of data he keeps he announced that he could have improved his results (which were pretty fair anyway, showing a healthy profit) by changing some parameters. Basically he had refused to bet on any race with less than ten starters and found that if he had gone down to eight, results were better. Also for various statistical reasons he would not bet on horses carrying saddle cloth thirteen or higher but his retrospective analysis showed from an admittedly small sample that also was unwise.

Various other minor tweakings came to light as lunch went on but I also realised I had been a little slack and complacent and had not put the work in to doing a similar check for a while. I was in the throes of a sustained decay of profits so it made all the more sense to recheck the one of my methods that was losing at least. Based on some comments from my colleague (while I could still remember them – it was a longish lunch!) I decided to run over the selections of two and three year old races. I then found that from 70 bets there was a return of only 58 units.

Now we get into the old debate about how big a sample is needed to reach a conclusion (more soon) but I felt that was good enough and dropped those races out. Needless to say the next would have been bet won at \$4 (!) but since then there have been enough losers to justify the decision at the time of penning this. And a good priced winner has helped to perhaps halt the downhill run.

But the purpose of all this is to emphasise the value of keeping records as none of this could have been done without them – or at least not without a lot of extra work. All my main bets are listed by name and outcome so such backward looking is quite easy. My small fun bets are not recorded individually but the betting totals and results are so I can tell if they are costing too much. Mostly I lose on those bets but the damage

is small – indeed one year the profit came from them. All can be revealed from recording your action!

BOOK BUYING.

Our Editor is quoted on the back of the book I am going to briefly mention (and others may have done so as well!) but he eulogises the book accurately as “packed with good betting ideas”. It is called “In Search of the Winning System” by Peter May and highlights his high powered education in maths and related fields that spills over into working with racing to find calculated ways of winning.

Look, I am not going to say much other than I loved reading about his life in racing and academia, all of which adds to the charm of the story. But much practical work is there and one I found relevant relates to the question of sample size. He makes the point at one stage that if you subtract the longest priced winners from your sample and quickly run into the red if those winners are not counted then your sample is too small for you to start betting the house!

For example looking at one sample of 214 races I found taking out the three largest priced winners saw me down to a return of less than the outlay.

This meant the sample size is too small to be confident that this angle was reliable. It doesn't mean you stop betting on it (I didn't, thankfully, and scored a \$21 winner a couple of weeks later) but simply that you need more results before reaching a conclusion. For another method I could take out 10 and still be in front – and it was a much larger sample – so I feel that although it is losing at the moment there is a fair chance it will come right.

I asked a high powered academic maths guy at an Australian University what he thought of this way of viewing the samples and he thought it was an excellent short cut method. Not as good as his very complex techniques of course (he does need to keep himself in a job!) but for lesser mortals of much more feeble maths skill (me) a quite useful approach. A book I would highly recommend and not costly at all from the usual sources!

CARNIVAL CONSIDERATIONS.

It is always a challenge to select horses to follow out of the carnival in Sydney as you can never be sure how they have pulled up or whether they will go to Brisbane rather than stay at the home base. Still one for home is Brightest. I think she is an under rated mare but she did disappoint me second up – normally a run she is placed at. It may have been the Randwick mud that day and she is meant to be heading to the staying races but if all is well could collect wins at shorter trips on the way. Potions is reportedly going north and the run on the middle day suggested a sound campaign lies ahead. And who could not like the run of Fiorente in the now controversial All Aged Stakes! While the price may be short a number of wins look likely to pay his way.

Until next issue – have fun punting!

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How to keep track of all your betting **TALLY HO TO REALISE BEST PROFITS**

Why do I do this? The answer is simple – I want to know where I am going with my betting. I want to keep track of everything I do and everything I spend. It's no use getting to the end of a year's punting, believing you are in a profit situation, when you haven't taken into account all the expenses associated with your punting!

These expenses can run into thousands of dollars per year. Newspapers alone can be expensive, probably around \$2 a day if you are serious and take, as I do, at least four. At \$14 per week, that makes \$728 in a year. Then there are your form guides; let's say you get the Sportsman each week, plus the Sporting Globe once a week. That's a total of \$7 a week, or \$364 a year. Get my drift?

Punting is not simply about going to the TAB, or the track, and adding up your profit or loss situation from betting alone. You must take into account everything associated with being a punter. If you don't, you are fooling yourself. Can you imagine a businessman adding up a 'profit' without taking account of the cost of running his business?

Bad gamblers fail to keep a proper account of their outlays. Losing gamblers are the worst offenders. Many punters, not wanting to know the full extent of the weekly battering they cop, turn a blind eye to losses. They probably would receive a big surprise if they knew the exact amount of money they lost each week in terms of bets and expenses.

A friend of mine some years ago decided to keep a check. In three years he was down more than \$8000 in losing bets alone, and he wasn't what could be called a big punter. In those three years, though, he lost an average of around \$50 a week. He reckoned that on top of this he would have spent another \$50 a week in related expenses. That makes about \$16,000 down the drain. If my pal had kept a check of his betting he could well have done something about the dollar drain a long time before he did.

To keep a check of your betting, I suggest you buy a big, lined accounts book. Then set it out as follows:

Date - Bet Type - Stake - Placing - Win - Lose - Balance

Always have a set bank when you start, and then use the balance column to let yourself know immediately how much you are ahead, or behind. On a separate page, list all expenses associated with your punting. To keep a track of the exact bets you make, use a separate book and rule off the pages as

follows:

Date - Track - Horses/s - Bet Type - Tnr - Jock - Wgt - Barr. - Price - Plcd

Alternatively, you can list your bets under their separate categories like Win, Place, Each-Way, Quinella, Double, Trifecta, Quadrella, Treble, etc.

The reason for this? After a while you will soon know which form of betting is winning for you, and which form of betting is a loser for you.

If, after about six months, you are showing steady losses with, say, trifecta betting, then it would be sensible to reconsider your approach and, perhaps, switch to something else? If you have no record, you have only a murky idea in your head about which forms of betting are sending you broke.

In his excellent book, *The Guide To Good Gambling*, Dr Clive Allcock makes the following comments: "Even if you do not recover every bet, at least record the total bet, whether you won or lost, and keep a progressive tally of how much in front, or behind you are, at the end of each year.

"Keeping a record of every bet has the advantage of enabling you, on those soul searching Sundays, to look back at your betting ... and allows you to learn your strengths, and your weaknesses, and so hopefully shape your future betting skills."

It's interesting to note, as Dr Allcock points out, that research shows 95 to 99 per cent of all punters lose over a period time, and 70 per cent of them expect to lose! They only hope to win.

Older punters, having been through the mill, mostly expect to lose. And yet, 99 out of 100 of them would probably have no idea at all of how much money they had lost in a lifetime of betting. If they did know, it would probably shock them. Even if a punter lost just \$20 a week over 40 years he would be more than \$41,000 in arrears!

Enough to have made him relatively comfortable in his retirement!

So, the facts speak for themselves: Do yourself a favour and keep a close tally of all your betting activities. Don't let them get out of control. If you see 'danger' signs, then do something about it.

In simple terms-act professionally. Studies have shown that merely by starting to keep records you can start the move to cut down on your betting, especially if you are losing. Why? Because the evidence of a problem is there in front of you and not in the back of your mind, where it can be conveniently forgotten.

By David Whitney
PRACTICAL PUNTING - APRIL 1989

PPM



Chew Over These

By The Optimist



Black Caviar and Her Place in Racing History.

Elsewhere in an earlier submission for this issue, I pleaded with the connections of our wonder mare to pull the plug. There just seemed to me to be nothing remaining to prove. I'm so relieved that they've done so. Tough luck Brisbane and Adelaide, but the lady comes first, and thanks to her caring body of owners and to Peter Moody, she has. The Lady's not for burning out.

Where does she fit into it all? No baloney, no hype, but where? Firstly let's get rid of a couple of ignorant questions asked by TV people who knew stuff-all about racing, and who made silly pronouncements about her overall ranking.

You cannot compare her with Phar Lap, or Kingston Town, or Tulloch. I won't insult my readers by telling them why. They know why. And you can't even compare her with lesser lights that were great, such as Leilani and Surround. They'd brain her once they got up to 2000 metres and possibly well before that. Carbine would destroy her. But over 1200 metres, God help them all! That's what it's all about, so what about comparing apples with apples?

I never saw Vain, being overseas for those years, but I believe he was, as they say, pretty damn good. I wonder sometimes how the wonder mare would have withstood the withering finish of Luskin Star. And where would Sunline cut in? It's all too hard. But what did we get with this amazing mare?

A total gap of more than 80 lengths (that's a lot of metres) between her and her runner-up rivals in her 25 races.

Twenty five wins from twenty five starts, including fifteen at the ultimate level, Group One. Sure some were not that hard for such a champion, but other asked her for all she had. The guts she showed at Ascot was, in retrospect, almost beyond belief, given that horrid pain barrier that had been breached.

We had the world champion three years in

a row. And remember that it was Frankel, not Black Caviar, which dodged the showdown race. I don't pay a lot of attention to certain celebrated ratings that are calibrated locally. I've not found them to be much help to me as reported in the newspapers. Other racing folk may well disagree. The ups and downs of the ratings' individual race assessments seemed to me to be rather (let's say) out of line with a lot of my thinking. To each his own, but my assessment of that final Sydney run was, in a word, sensational. I've never seen such a sprint destruction in a topline's race. She was the visitor, and she was there to be beaten. Fat chance.

Pink and black. As I said in that other article, the Elvis colours. Yes, I had a pink shirt and a black tie. As teens we rocked to those colours. So there's be many older race fans such as myself who thrilled to those silks for different reasons.

It's nice that the connections are talking of keeping the progeny and racing them as a team. Peter Moody is hardly likely to complain. He and Luke Nolen, who suffered that horrendous fall a few years ago, were giants in this story. Funny to relate now, I picked Moody as my trainer to follow when he went to Melbourne and I went in on him one spring too soon. I got

close a few times but I missed mostly. The next year was his. I was glad for him but

sad for myself! And I told a good pal, Charlie, now dead, that Luke Nolen would be as good as any rider in the land. Charlie followed him up to the fall, and passed on soon afterwards. He missed the best of young Luke, who incidentally is a great speaker: careful, thoughtful, not given to exaggeration. Jockeys could do worse than watch some his speeches as he brought Nellie (Black Caviar) back after all those wins.

My own favourites? The Lightning in February last year when a well Hay List stretched her for a while, The Orr Stakes when we all held our breaths over that final 300 of her longest race to date (why bother? We later agreed), and probably the two awesome Sydney runs. Ascot, for sure, but they missed the best of the explosive mare. The UK merely witnessed a thoroughbred racehorse who ran fast, the great line used many years ago by the celebrated Australian poet Peter Porter about Phar Lap.

Australians love and revere such animals. Happy retirement, Nellie!

(That poem can be found on this web reference:)

<http://www.poetrylibrary.edu.au/poets/porter-peter/phar-lap-in-the-melbourne-museum-0578002>

PPM



Follow the 'FOCUS' every issue



How to make Maximum Money from Crunch Horses

One of the indisputable facts about horse-racing is that on-pace horses (those runners positioned from 1st to 4th in the early stages of a race) win a high percentage of all races.

In fact, they are true 'crunch' horses, usually highly dependable, especially when well-supported in the betting. In contrast, horses that race back in the field win very few races with their 'get back and finish fast' pattern.

It makes sense, then, for punters to pay greater attention to the on-pacers than the backmarkers.

On-pace runners usually miss trouble in the running; they don't get caught wide, they don't get bottled-up in the pack, they can dictate their own terms to a great degree and they are usually positioned well enough on the home turn to have every chance of winning or running a placing.

Maximum Money's handicapping approach is designed to 'cash in' on these on-pace runners. It's a handicapping approach that seeks out those horses who are VERY LIKELY to figure in the money and who will win an above-average share of races when shown to be well-supported in the betting market.

Research that Practical Punting magazine did some years back proved conclusively the power of the on-pace horses.

It showed that 61.5 per cent of all winners are positioned 1st to 4th at the 400m, while a mere 8.6 per cent of winners are placed 9th or worse - compelling statistics. Who amongst you can honestly state that they bet backmarkers with any confidence?

There is clear evidence that punters face a dilemma when considering backmarkers as a betting proposition, with the all-the-way on-pacers having a very positive RF Factor of 1.7, the midfielders an RF of 0.9 (very much a neutral situation) but the backmarkers' RF of 0.4 causes real concern.

The RF Factor is the Relevant Frequency Factor, which means that a factor of one or higher is a positive, while a factor of below one is a negative.

A further analysis of the on-pacers also reveals that 15.2 per cent of all winners led all the way, with a total of 29.6 per cent of winners positioned either first or second throughout.

Taking the analysis a little further, we can look at the distribution of runners to winners over the various distance ranges broken up into three

categories: sprints (less than 1500m), middle-distance (1500m to 2000m) and distance races (more than 2000m).

Once again there is a level of stability in the statistics compared to the overall analysis, with the on-pacers again dominating the strike rates. In particular, at 2000m or longer, the on-pacers win over 70 per cent of races, while backmarkers really struggle, managing to win a mere 6.7 per cent.

Analysis of the in-running positions and varying track conditions (fast/good, dead, slow and heavy) shows that irrespective of the number of starters in a race, the distance of the race or the track conditions, on-pacers have at least four times more chance of winning than backmarkers!

These are compelling statistics for any punter to consider. Long-term, the percentages favour the on-pace horses. They are going to win a high percentage of races.

So with this information, how can we adapt the on-pacers factor to produce winning outcomes for punters?

The answer is that we keep it simple. To know how to put our money on a horse with a tip-top chance we merely concentrate on each horse's latest start.

This is the start that usually provides the best guide to future winners.

We cannot release the precise rules here, as they are for members only, but we certainly will give you the full logic behind this handicapping approach.

We want our horse to be fit and to have had recent racing.

Secondly, we require a horse to have good form.

And that is the Maximum Money approach. Very easily understood and highly effective.

The approach provides a handful of excellent betting propositions each Saturday on the Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane tracks.

You will find that these bettable runners are terrific propositions. The strike rate for the place (1st, 2nd, 3rd) is very high. The win strike is excellent.

You will also find many of the other qualifiers bobbing up at good odds, too. (At Stoney Creek on February 12, for example, Way In The Black won at \$22.10/\$5.50 from just 2 qualifiers in the race).

For the purposes of the Maximum Money approach, though, we are concentrating on our fancied qualifiers.

December 15, 2012

The Sydney and Melbourne meetings were at Flemington and Rosehill.

At Flemington, we had only one final qualifier.

This was Lampedusa in race 8. The 3YO was 2/1 in the pre-post market. He was a last start winner, his position in running figure last start was 4 and he won by 3.2 lengths. That race was on December 1.

LAMPEDUSA WON AT \$2.70.



The Rosehill meeting turned up four final qualifiers.

In race 1, it was Let's Frolic, quoted in the pre-post market at 11/8. The 2YO filly had its only start at Warwick Farm on December 1 and finished 3rd, beaten one length. The position in running figure was 2.

LET'S FROLIC RAN 2ND at \$2.50.

In race 2, the final qualifier was Gullible. The 3YO filly was quoted at 9/4 in the pre-post market. Last start she was a Canterbury winner and her position in running figure was 3.

GULLIBLE WON At \$5.00.



In race 3, the qualifier was Long Lasting, quoted at 5/2 in the pre-post market. The 3YO had run 2nd at Rosehill on December 8, beaten 1.3 lens. His position in running figure was 4.

LONG LASTING RAN 6TH at \$3.25.

The remaining qualifier for the Rosehill meeting was Cantonese **in race 6**. Bjorn Baker's 5YO ran 4th at Rosehill at his latest start on December 8. He was btn 0.6 length and his position in running figure was 2.

CANTONESE WON AT \$3.30.



Total bets for these 2 meetings were 5 for 3 winners at \$2.70, \$5.00 and \$3.30. Even allowing for 2 losing bets at the Eagle Farm meeting in Brisbane, the day's betting resulted in a profit at level stakes of 57%.

57% Profit

The key point about the approach is that it will always provide you with a set of superb prospects. A high percentage will be placed in the first three. A good percentage will win.

January 5, 2015

Let's now have a look at the meetings for January 5 (2013).

There were 6 final qualifiers.

One of them was at Eagle Farm. This was Vintage Moss. The 4YO was at 2/1 in the pre-post market. He was a last start winner on December 23, scoring by 4.8 lengths.

VINTAGE MOSS WON AT \$5.00.



There were 4 final qualifiers at the Caulfield meeting.

The first of them was Go The Knuckle in race 3, quoted at 7/4 in the pre-post market. He had run 2nd at his latest start on December 22, btn 0.2 length, and his position in running figure was 4.

GO THE KNUCKLE RAN 3RD AT 3/1.

The next final qualifier was Tariana, quoted at 5/2 in the pre-post betting. The 5YO mare was a last start Caulfield winner on December 26 and her position in running figure was 1.

TARIANA WON AT \$2.80.



Then the approach had WHISPER DOWNS 1st in race 7. It paid \$3.00.

WHISPER DOWNS WON AT \$3.00



The final selection Fast & Free was unplaced.

In all, then, 6 bets for 3 winners at \$5.00, \$2.80 and \$3.00 – a total return of \$10.80.

80% Profit

February 9, 2015

Much the same result on February 9 with 6 bets for 3 winners - Kuroshio \$3.30, Happy Galaxy \$3.30 and Vintage Moss \$3.20 for a return of \$9.80.



63% Profit

Continued page 16 ➔

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Can I use the approach on any race meeting?
Yes. It works very well at both city and country/provincial meetings and is very likely to work just as well in other countries, especially the United States.
2. Do I have to work off the pre-post markets? If you want advance selections, yes, but you can wait until race time to determine if a qualifier has the correct price range.
3. Is it worth betting the longer-priced selections? It can be OK but the recommendation for consistent returns is to stick with those qualifiers within the approaches price range. Longer-priced qualifiers do win, often at very good odds, and it may well be worth throwing them into your trifecta, First 4, quadrella combinations.
4. Do track conditions matter? Not really. These types of on the pace runners do well in any conditions. If the track is slow or heavy and the selection has winning form on such ground then they will give added confidence.
5. Can I achieve good returns using the qualifiers at midweek meetings? It will always be worth checking up on the qualifiers in each race. Sometimes good prospects will stand out on form at value prices. For example, at Stony Creek on February 12 I was looking at the form for an RB58 race and saw that the approach had clearly labelled only 2 contenders. They were Broken Jaw and General Hap. I thought that both held excellent chances. As it turned out, General Hap won paying \$790 and Broken Jaw was 2nd. The exacta returned \$100 and the quinella \$67.80.

To sum up, then:

This is a handicapping approach that sets out to find horses that will finish in the first 3 and which will win a solid percentage of races. It finds as final qualifiers only those horses we fancy in the betting. It requires a fit horse and an in-form horse.

Each set of selections for each meeting assessed will provide a sound collection of bright prospects.

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Hugh Stanley, CEO, Practical Punting

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CAN'T BE
WRONG

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF HORSES IN THIS ISSUE

A Abraxas 5
Animoso 5
Arinosa 7

B lack Caviar 9-14
Bombalatomba 4
Bound For Earth 5
Bridie O'reilly 4

C ast Iron 4
Counter Sign 5
Criterion 5

D ouble Halo 5
Drago 4

F iveandahalfstar 6

G uelph 5

H arry Trimbole 5
High Chaparral 6

I nafrenzy 5
It's A Dundee 6-7

K eyarna Blue 4
Kingston Town 14

L et's Go Fratelli 4
Limitation 5
Luskin Star 14

M aybe Discreet 5
Mendoza 4
Mezulla 5
Missy Cummings 4
Mr Cooley 5

O verreach 7

P aximadia 5
Phar Lap 14
Philippi 7
Prince Of Capers 5
Prince Of Penzance 4
Proisir 6

R oyal Descent 7

S acred Falls 4-6
Savabeel 6
Serene Star 5
Speediness 4
StarEel 6
Sunline 14
Super Cool 6

T eranaba 6
The Huntress 4-5
Tikitour 5
Tulloch 14

V ibrant Rouge 4

W ho Shot Thebarman 4

Y ou Tell Me 4

Z abeel 6
Zarzing 4
Zevada 4

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