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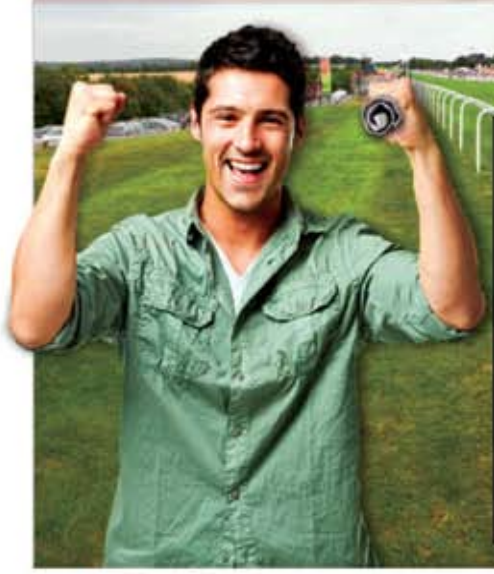


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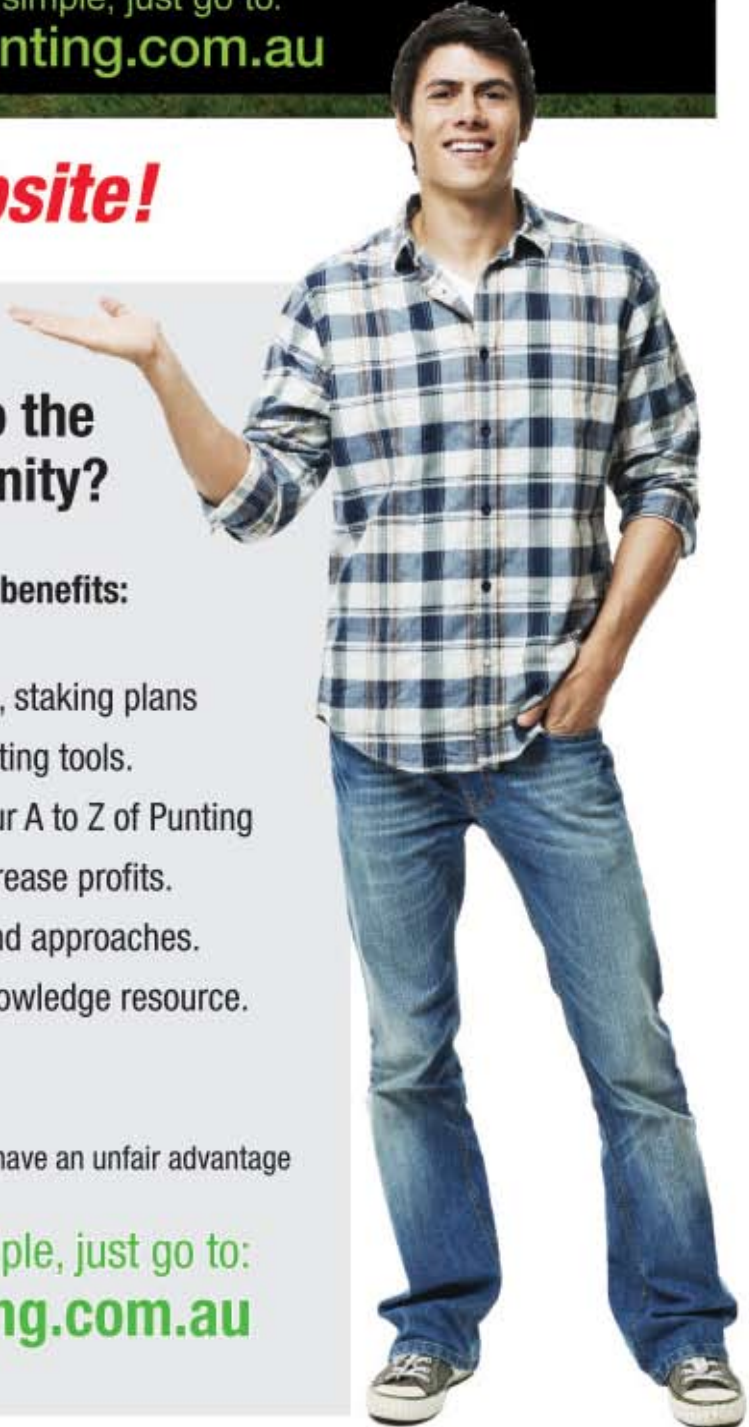
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## Since 1985

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### The Editor says

Fancy a trifecta on the Melbourne Cup? One of the best angles is to take two runners for 1st and 2nd and link the Field for 3rd. In a 24-horse race that will cost \$44. Another idea is a 3x3x7 for \$30. You pick your best 3, link them for all three placings, then add 4 more for 3rd place. To get your bankers – choose any runners priced at 20/1 or under on race morning. Make sure you throw in some big longshots for the 3rd place. You have to hope for that roughie to arrive to land a juicy divvy!

### FRONT COVER PICTURE

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





# The Tips Page

Check in for our weekly updates

• With Brian Blackwell

## ARROGANT

John Moloney should get a win or two from this promising 4YO. He resumed from a spell to finish a closing 4th wide out in a Mdn Plate at Kyneton 1479m on October 22. Once he goes over 1600m and further he will pick up a maiden win and then go through better grades.

## ASSERTIVE EAGLE

Tony McEvoy's 5YO mare ran a first-up 3rd at Gawler 1100m on September 29 and was then taken to Melbourne where she was a luckless 2nd to the useful Aerobatics in the Sprint Series Final 1200m at Caulfield on October 12. That was a pretty slick formline race. Assertive Eagle is no world-beater but she's a capable type who has racked up a career record of 20 starts for 4 wins and 9 placings. She's a winner up to 1550m. McEvoy has the uncanny ability to select the right spots for his runners.

## CHATEAU LAFAITE

This sister of Royal Descent shows enormous promise. The Chris Waller trained 3YO filly began her career with a Canterbury 1250m win on June 5 and had her second start on September 25, finishing a close 2nd at C'bury 1250m. She then faced BM74 company at Randwick on October 12 and scored a decisive win over 1400m. The way she went to the line was most encouraging. Waller will ensure she gets the right assignments.

## MISSY LONGSTOCKING

There's much to like about this Queensland 3YO filly from the Liam Birchley stable. She scored a cracking win at Caulfield 1200m (Grp 3) on October 12, and that followed wins at Eagle Farm 1200m on June 8 and September 28 (1st-up). Birchley reckons she can win better races against mares so we should definitely look for her at Flemington's carnival – and then follow her into 2014.

## PIACENZA

This newcomer from the Tony McEvoy stable was a good thing beaten on debut over the Caulfield 1000m trip on October 12. She went into the race off a smart 850m trial win. She has good bloodlines (Denman out of a Redoute's Choice mare) and if all goes well she should enjoy a

fruitful 2YO season, and progress into her 3YO year as a classy conveyance.

## RISEN FROM DOUBT

A 2YO colt from the Tony McEvoy stable, he made an auspicious debut at Flemington on October 5, scoring a bold win over 1000m in the Maribyrnong Trial Stakes (Listed). The manner in which he won looks like a signal he is well above-average, and if he can keep improving, as is likely, he can take out Group races.

## ROMANTIC MOON

John O'Shea's 3YO filly was unlucky in the Edward Manifold Stakes 1610m at Flemington on October 5. It was her first start outside Sydney. She was a winner at Grp 3 level at Warwick Farm back on March 16. The More Than Ready galloper is a promising type and well worth an eachway bet whenever she races. Keep in her your 'black book'.

## STOPWATCH SPECIALS

**TWINZIG:** One of the Gerald Ryan team, he looked slick winning a Rosehill 900m trial on Oct 17 in 55.4s, hard held.

**AMOVATIO:** This Chris Waller trained 3YO made ground easily for 2nd in as Rosehill 900m trial. Looks set to go.



## Neil Franklyn's NZ Specials

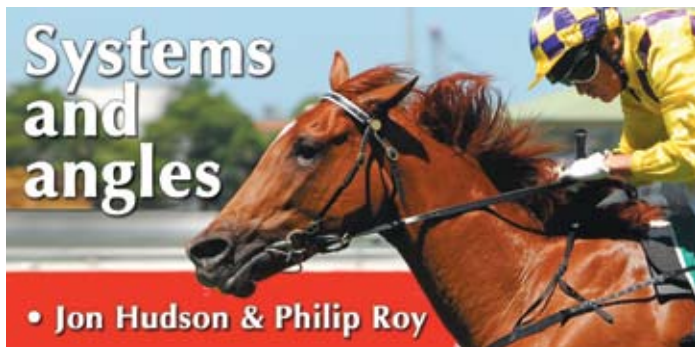
**COSMIC CUBE** – Exciting 3yo colt racing out of the Graeme & Debbie Rogerson barn. He toyed with a poor field at Rotorua on October 18 and will be tough to handle in upcoming classic events.

**GUNS AT FIVE** – Talented stayer who caused an upset second-up when destroying an open class field at Rotorua in mid-October. He's good enough to secure a major cup race over the summer period.

**VIADANA** – Class mare who claimed a listed plate event recently when narrowly defeating the talented Ginner Hart. She will prove dangerous in any sprint or mile race that she contests.







**I**n **Systems and Angles** this issue, we take a look at an in-depth discussion between Mike Jenkins and Jon Hudson. They discuss aspects of form and weight up the 'power' of the top 4 horses in a field.

**JON HUDSON (JH):** Mike, you're a relatively new member of the PPM team so I don't know much about your thinking on various aspects of the game, so I'll ask you straight away what your thoughts are on this top four business. Is this grouping something the punters should get excited about?

**MIKE JENKINS (MJ):** Well, we're actually talking, I take it, about TAB #1 through to #4, and then the top four in the betting market. That is, the first four lines of betting? If that's so, then, yes, I'd have to say we need to take serious notice because the statistics from years and years of racing indicate that this is the safest way to go.

**(JH):** I'm looking here at recent statistics from the season up to the middle of June and they show that on the Melbourne tracks there is significant advantage in backing TAB #1, 2 and 3. There were 889 races and #1 won 142 of them, #2 won 137 and #3 won 103. In all, then, we saw these three saddlecloth numbers winning a total of 382 races, which is 43 per cent of all the races.

**MJ:** We are talking about the top four but here's evidence that maybe we should trim it back to the top three! What about the other metropolitan tracks? Do the statistics pan out in much the same way?

**(JH):** In Sydney, there were 816 races, and #1 got away with 121 of them, #2 got 131 and #3 won 130. Then we had #4 getting home 99 times. If we look at the top three, they won a total of 382 races (same as Melbourne) and the strike rate for them was almost 47 per cent, even better than Melbourne. Brisbane was a little bit different, with 657 races, of which #1 won 101, #2 got 78, #3 won 74 and #4 scored 79 times.

**MJ:** So if we look at the top three in Brisbane we get a strike rate of 38.5 per cent, which is somewhat lower than the previous two cities.

**(JH):** As for the Adelaide meetings, we had 466 races and the top three saddlecloths claimed

a total of 193 winners, which is a strike rate of 41.4 per cent.

**MJ:** Maybe this tells us that whatever form of betting you happen to be using, you should always have one of these numbers going for you! The exotics, particularly.

**(JH):** What we have to always keep in mind, though, is that any of these numbers can hit rather worrying losing runs. In the statistics I've been looking at, #4 in Melbourne was on a losing streak of 21, and #1 in Sydney was on a losing run of 22. That's sobering.

**MJ:** It shows that no matter how much you might love a certain number it can kick you in the teeth. The fact that #1 can go so many times without producing a winner is interesting, and a bit frightening.

**(JH):** Let's do a survey of one, the Randwick meeting on June 25. TAB #1 won the opening race with Beau Covet at 6/4, in the second race only numbers two and three were left after scratchings, and there was no winner; in the third race, number two won at 11 / 4, in the fourth race only two, three and four were left after scratchings and there was no winner; the fifth race saw two, three and four again and no winner; the sixth race and all four of them failed; in the seventh race, #1 won at 15/4 from only two runners, while in the eighth race only one, two and three competed and there was no winner.

**MJ:** This is what I call a sobering meeting. There were lots of bets for the top four numbers but not many winners. It shows that while the overall statistics look promising, it's the day to day delivery that will shake your confidence.

**(JH):** I guess it comes back to the old issue of LOOKING at all of them, but only backing SOME of them. A study is probably needed into the backgrounds of the winning horses in this one to four bracket. Are there certain characteristics that make some of them stand out as bets. Now we know that the group will win between, say, 40 and 50 per cent of all races, so this statistic is on our side. Next we have to do the old trimming down approach.

**MJ:** With the winners that cropped up at Randwick on this particular day (June 25), Beau Covet had run 2nd at his most recent start, was well-backed and had Darren Beadman aboard. And, perhaps crucially, his last start was 14 days before. More Than Hugs was a last start winner 15 days earlier, came in for substantial backing, and had Hugh Bowman aboard. Rich Megadale was 16th of 20 in a Group 1 wfa race at Doomben at her latest run, which was more than a month ago, and she was dropping in class to a Mares race and had Craig Agnew

**Continued on page 6** ➔

## ► Continued from page 5

aboard. She, too came in for a lot of betting support.

**(JH):** Maybe, then, we should start thinking about any of the top four who have good last start form, a win or a placing, within a couple of weeks or so, and who are now to be ridden by a top jockey?

**MJ:** Well, that could be a starting point although I'd certainly like to see some in-depth statistics. There may well be the chance of unearthing a typical winner in the top four saddlecloth horses, a sort of "profile" horse.

**(JH):** That's worth thinking about. I'll have to ask one of my pals with a deep computer database to seek out the stats on such a thing. Maybe something could pop up.

**MJ:** At the very least, I'd suggest that using the top four horses, via saddlecloth or betting, is a good enough starting point for your form analysis. If you really fancy a horse in the bracket, then the percentages seem to be on your side. I mean, if it's a tossup between a horse with saddlecloth #2 and another with #12 then you'd have to lean towards the lower number, percentage wise.

**(JH):** As far as the betting market is concerned, well, I've read and heard so much about it over the last 20 years that I am in as much of a quandary as I was back then! One thing I have learned is that it's tough to win backing

favourites but I know most punters are still not game enough to back against them, and can easily be drawn in time and again to put their money down.

**MJ:** It's psychological. We see a horse listed as favourite and we immediately mark it up in our mind and give its form more importance than perhaps we should on many occasions.

**(JH):** We are never going to avoid this sort of thing. Most of us are open to suggestion where picking a horse is concerned, and we're affected by just about everything, from our own indecision through to hearing someone say something or other on radio, or TV, or through the newspapers. We have to always stand back and understand that everything in this game is speculation, especially where the betting is concerned. When we look at the top four horses in the early market we need to understand that they are there only because one man, the price assessor, thinks they should be there. It's his opinion.

**MJ:** Yes, we could very well sit down at night and do it ourselves. Which, I might add, I do, and have done for a very long time.

**(JH):** Me, too. But I wonder how many punters are like us? P.P.M.



**New systems in every issue**

## Best of the Daily Race Notes



*Saturday, October 12*

**PIACENZA**<sup>\*\*\*</sup> was a good thing beaten on debut in the Inglis Debutant 1000m at Caulfield; she won't be long in posting a win.

*Thursday, October 10*

We noted a good run from **REDNAV** in a 3YO Mdn Plate 1600m at Ballarat. At Gosford, newcomer **DUBAWI DREAM** went well for 2nd in a 3YO Mdn 1200m. Another one to watch closely is **MADDHAL**, 2nd in a Mdn c&g 1200m; finished well.

*Wednesday, October 9*

There was a good effort from **PRINCESS ZARIEL** min a 3YOF Mdn 1300m at Warwick Farm.

*Tuesday, October 8*

We liked the late closing run of **TEMPEST ROCK** first-up from a spell in a Mdn 1400m at Echuca. **STEAL THE SHOW** was an impressive winner in a 3YOF Mdn 1200m, and we noted a nice effort from newcomer **KEEP THE CURRENCY** for 4th. At Nowra, we noted **COURAGE TO DANCE** in a fillies & mares BM65 over 1200m; strong finale.

*Sunday, October 6*

Follow the Steve Richards trained **HIGH DESIGN** after her bold 2nd over 1606m at Benalla.

*Saturday, October 5*

**ROMANTIC MOON** was luckless in the Edward Manigold 1600m at Flemington. In the Turnbull 2000m, **FIORANTE**<sup>\*\*\*</sup> was a good thing btm; set too hard a task and didn't go to the outside soon enough. Great Melbourne Cup chance. **RISEN FROM DOUBT**<sup>\*\*\*</sup> was a highly impressive winner of the Maribyrnong Trial 1000m; will win better races.

*Sunday, September 29*

We liked the run of **ESSAY RAIDER** in the Testa Rossa 1200m at Caulfield; the 4YO was coming home nicely wide out. **PRINCESS PEGGY**<sup>\*\*\*</sup> ran a big race for her close 2nd over 1800m; she is peaking at the right time for 2000m. **ALZORA** came home very well for 4th over 1400m at her second run since late April; she's just about ready.

*Saturday, September 28*

**HEYDAY** was luckless in a 1510m fillies and





# Best of the Daily Race Notes



mares RB64 at Mornington; bad check on the turn and then closed wide. In the same race, we noted a nice run from **HINDU'S GIRL**. At Rosehill, we marked down **APPEARANCE** for her good effort over 1400m in the Golden Pendant; she needs 1500m/1600m to produce best. **EUROZONE** won well in the Fox Stakes and is one to follow in better class races, maybe 2014.

*Friday, September 28*

Keep an eye on **BRING SOMETHING**; the 3YO ran a good race in the Stutt Stks 1600m at Moonee Valley. **HUCKLEBUCK**\*\*\* was a good thing btn when 3rd over 1200m; got blocked to inside the 100m and then forged home.

*Thursday, September 26*

**SMOOTH DANISH**\*\*\* was very unlucky when 5th over 1209m at Seymour; the 5Yo was 1st-up off a spell; got blocked for clear running. At Hawkesbury, **WILD JOURNEY** made a big impression with a 1st-up 4.8 lens win in BM60 class; can score again.

*Wednesday, September 25*

One to keep a close eye on is **ROCK RIGHT ON**; the 3YO filly newcomer ran on well wide out in a Mdn 1010m at Sale. **MCNULTY** looked useful winning over the Sale 1733m; Mick Kent will keep him for country Cups.

*Wednesday, September 11*

We liked the closing run of **BLATANT** in a Mdn c&g 1400m at Warwick Farm. **PENDOLIN** caught the eye with a flashing finale down the outside for a close 2nd to Fare Well in a fillies & mares BM70 1300m. In the same race, **LAMARTINE** had no luck at the top of the straight when trying to improve; keep safe. At Mornington, **MCNULTY** produced a strong finale from well back on the turn in a 3YO Plate 1500m; it was the 4YO's first start since early May.

Monday, September 9

**GOLD A PLENTY** is worth following from a Mdn 1400m at Warrnambool.

*Sunday, September 8*

At Bendigo, **MARWOOD** scored a crushing win in a Showcase RB64 at Bendigo 1400m; will win better races. We liked the run of **COLICCHIO**

over 1400m. A huge win was notched by newcomer **NOT LISTENIN'TOME**\*\*\* from the Team Hawkes stable; sat 3rd early in the straight then shot away in brilliant fashion; looks like a really smart type.

*Saturday, September 7*

**SCREAM MACHINE**\*\*\* had nowhere to go in the final 400m of the Tramway 1400m at Randwick; this one can win at big odds.

**ROYAL DESCENT**\*\*\* turned in a cracker of a run' closed strongly final 100m. **KELINNI** went to the line very nicely in the Chelmsford 1600m; his target is the 3200m Melbourne Cup. **HAWKSPUR**\*\*\* showed his class in the Chelmsford; capable of winning major Grp 1 races. **SHARNEE ROSE** came from a long way back 400m out to close well over 1200m at her first run off a spell; keep safe. There was a lot to like about the win of **AUSSIES LOVE SPORT** over 1400m; seems to have more in the tank. Keep an eye on the Queenslander **TERONADO** who made ground well after being switched course at the 200m in the Ming Dynasty Quality; looks good enough to win a key race. At Flemington, **LONG JOHN** was a most impressive winner over 1400m. **GREGERS** did enough in the Danehill to suggest she's worth another chance. There was a terrific first-up run from **MASKED MARVEL**\*\*\* in the Makybe Diva 1600m; he was picking up strongly in the final 100m and shapes like a true all-out stayer capable of being a big show in the Melbourne Cup. In the Bobbie Lewis Quality, the longshot **BLACKIE** finished of well wide out for 8th at his first start since early July; could be a KO chance in a good race.

*Friday, September 6*

At Geelong-S, we noted **LEAPING LEROY** making late ground over 2000m. The 8YO might sneak away with a moderate race.

*Wednesday, September 4*

From the Canterbury card, we liked the run of **BRILLIANT CRYSTAL** over 1250m; back on the turn, only got going in final 100m. At Cranbourne, **SAKER** turned in a good 2nd on debut in a Mdn 1200m.

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# Melbourne Cup preview

**Fiorente and Dandino** . . . This is the pair I expect to be fighting out the finish of this year's Melbourne Cup. This is an ambitious call, I know, but on form and figures these two stayers emerge as the 'kings' of the likely final lineup.

I am writing this the day after Dandino ran such a cracking 2nd in the Caulfield Cup. The move to the 3200m shouldn't worry him at all – he's a fine stayer. **Fiorente**, who has been my #1 pick for many months, is in the same mould.

The following is a summary of the key chances in the great race. The horses are listed in 'order of entry' for the race (at October 16). The prices are from the IASBet market of October 20.

**FAWKNER** (exempt from ballot) He produced a big effort to win the Caulfield Cup and has copped a penalty of 1.5kgs to take his weight to 54.5kgs. The 3200m trip will really test him.

**DUNADEN 40/1**: He's a proven 2400m/3200m stayer with a Melbourne Cup and a Caulfield Cup to his credit. But is he as good as he was? Probably not, though I rate him in my top 10 prospects.



**GREEN MOON 33/1**: Difficult to know if connections are going to have another go following his brilliant win in the Cup a year ago. He's on 57.5kgs now and this will test him to the limit.

**IT'S A DUNDEEL 33/1**: I've always rated this NZer very highly and he's been my second choice for some time, although 'overtaken' by Dandino following the Caulfield Cup. It's A Dundee is a Grp 1 winner at 2400m, he's a slick stayer with a bold finishing burst. He will be a big show if connections decided to have a go.

**RED CADEAUX 50/1**: Has run a close 2nd (to Dunaden) in the Cup 2 years ago and he continues to run tremendous races in good staying events. The handicap weight of 56.5kgs will be a tester. He will need all the luck that's going if he's to play a role in the finish.

**SEA MOON 16/1**: I like the look of this import – and he is certainly in the right stable (Lloyd and Nick Williams) to be seen as a major Cup chance. It's hard to fault his formlines. Even with 56.5kgs, he is a good chance and he's in my top 10 prospects.

**MANIGHAR 100/1**: Doesn't quite seem up to the task. He ran 15th in the Caulfield Cup and would need to have done better to gain respect for Flemington.

**SUPER COOL 50/1**: He was scheduled for a run in the Cox Plate and then a decision was to be made about a start in the Melbourne Cup. Has he come up this time around? I am little wary of him and I'd be surprised if he struck the big one this time around.

**VOLEUSE DE COEURS 12/1**: Has come right into the reckoning following his excellent form in Ireland, winning the 2800m Grp 1 Irish St Leger in mid-September. He is now with Mike Moroney and deserves utmost respect. Bookmakers have been keeping him very safe. I have now included him in my top 10 for the big race.

**FIORENTE 5/1**: This terrific stayer, trained by Gai Waterhouse, is a wonderful prospect. He has proven himself in Australia and internationally. He gets back and finishes hard. That's how I see it for him in the Melbourne Cup. He will come powering home.

**TRES BLUE 25/1**: This one comes to Australia with a big reputation. He ran 2nd in the Grp 1 German Derby on July 7 and then won the Grand Prix Deauville 2500m on Aug 25. Those are solid formlines. It's hard to assess how he will go at his first start in Australia though betting on the day may tell us a lot.

**ROYAL DESCENT**: She ran 5th in the Caulfield Cup but has now been sent for a spell.

**HAWKSPUR 8/1**: He failed in the Caulfield Cup but there was nothing wrong with his performance. He stayed on stoutly to finish only about 2 lengths from the winner. The way he finished off signals that he could well be Chris Waller's best chance of winning the Melbourne Cup. He remains in my top 10 chances.

**BROWN PANTHER 33/1**: He's a fine stayer from the UK. His credentials are imposing and I have always included him in my 10 major prospects. I fancy he will be nicely tuned up for the challenge of the 2 miles. Whether he can win – well, that's the big question. Maybe he'll prove a couple of lengths off the best?

**FORETELLER 100/1**: Shaped up well at one point but has drifted in the market despite



running 2nd to Atlantic Jewel on October 12. Has only won up to 2000m.

**DANDINO 8/1:** Stormed home from well back on the turn for 2nd in the 2400m Caulfield Cup. This race is often a potent guide to the Melbourne Cup. Dandino has strong form internationally, winning the USA St Leger 2700m at Arlington before coming to Australia. A major chance!

**VEREMA 12/1:** This French mare, trained by Alain de Royer Dupre of American fame, has to be greatly respected. She won a Grp 2 at Longchamp in France in July and then won the Grp 2 Prix Kergolay at Deauville on Aug 18. Those are sound formlines. Keep very safe.

**MOURAYAN 50/1:** Seems to be struggling. Only 8th in the Metropolitan 2400m at Randwick and looks like he'd need sharp improvement to be considered a chance.



**PUISSANCE DE LUNE 10/1:** The grey has been among the major fancies for the Cup for many months and has made gradual progress, running good races without being sensational. He will have Glen Boss aboard so he won't lack for piloting skills. Is he good enough to down all of them? If he gets a cosy run, perhaps; if not, he will struggle in the final 200m.

**SEVILLE 20/1:** His Metropolitan 2400m win at Grp 1 at Randwick is enough to say that he has to be respected. He's in the Lloyd Williams stable so the 'force' is there as far as a race like the Cup is concerned. Can a Metrop win translate to a Melbourne Cup win? Probably not, though it will be interesting to see if there's a push for him.

**SILENT ACHIEVER 33/1:** She has promised much but not quite delivered against the best company and her 8th in the Caulfield Cup saw her 2.5 lengths off the winner. The 2 miles will test her right to the limit.

**DEAR DEMI 40/1:** Her 3rd in the Caulfield Cup was a brave effort. She was right in the firing

line until the final 50m. She will probably run out a good 3200m and has only 51kgs to carry. At the long odds, perhaps she would be worth throwing into the exotics?

**MOUNT ATHOS 11/1:** He ran 5th in the 2012 Melbourne Cup, beaten 3.3 lengths. Overall, his formlines look OK without being tremendous. He can obviously stay and he's in good hands. One of the 'maybe' runners from overseas.

**ROYAL EMPIRE 25/1:** The only Godolphin runner – and he's a pretty good type. Won the Grp 3 Freer 2700m on August 17 and after ran well at Ascot on October 5. He can stay, he's got class and he will certainly make a most interesting runner. Can I pick him? Not at this stage but I do offer him much serious thought.

**MASKED MARVEL 14/1:** Another likely runner from the Lloyd Williams stable. He has shaped OK so far in Australia although a 2nd to Honorius at Grp 3 doesn't seem to suggest he can win a Melbourne Cup. With Williams, though, they can improve six lengths from one start to the next.

**WALDPARK 100/1:** He could run only 17th in the Caulfield Cup and that's not good enough for the Melbourne Cup.

**GLENCADAM GOLD 100/1:** He's in need of some form invigoration – he failed in the Caulfield Cup running 14th and would need a dozen lengths improvement – at least.

**TANBY 100/1:** Was due to run in the Geelong Cup 2400m on Oct 23. If he emerges OK from that race, then Lloyd Williams may be tempted to let him have a crack at the 2-miler. He has won over 2400m and 2520m in Listed class and usually more is needed to win a Melbourne Cup.

**SIMENON 25/1:** Out and out stayer who may even need more than 3200m! Had his first start in Oz with his 3rd to Sea Moon over 2400m at Caulfield on October 12. May find the rush and bustle of a Melbourne Cup a bit too flashy for him.

**MR MOET 100/1:** Far from disgraced when 6th in the Caulfield Cup, btn 2.25 lengths but cannot see him as a Melbourne Cup winner.

Continued on page 10 ▶

  
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## ► Continued from page 9

**KELINNI 100/1:** He was rated Chris Waller's #1 Cup chance until hitting a setback. He looked OK in the Caulfield Cup, finishing 9th, btn 2.65 lengths, so perhaps the master blaster from Sydney has him back in fighting form again? At his best he could be a chance. Late market moves on the day may tell us more.

**MY QUEST FOR PEACE 100/1:** Seems to lack a few lengths and could finish only 16th in the Caulfield Cup.

**MORIARTY 40/1:** Ran 10th in the Caulfield Cup after failing in the Metrop at Randwick – and would need to find sharp improvement to be a Melbourne Cup champ.

**MR O'CEIRIN 100/1:** He's in the tough battler area. He finished 11th, btn 4 lengths, in the Caulfield Cup and this doesn't really translate into Cup winner.

**BRIGANTIN 200/1:** Can't have him on his 12th at Flemington 2520m on October 5.

**FORGOTTEN VOICE 200/1:** He's a 9YO but racing with great zest overseas. He was due to run in the Geelong Cup 2400m on October 23 in a bid to get into the final field. If he gains a start he will be a key contender. He stays all day, he has pace and a fierce will to win. He's a stayer in Vintage Crop mould.

**JET AWAY 20/1:** Still trying to pass the balloting conditions at October 20. He ran well for 4th in the Caulfield Cup. Can he get a strong 2 miles? Can he secure a start?

**My top 10 contenders are:** Fiorente, Dandino, Brown Panther, It's A Dundee, Hawkspur, Sea Moon, Verema, Voleuse de Coeurs, Forgotten Voice, Dunaden. From my original top 10 I have dropped Puissance de Lune and Simonon to 'reserve' status.

### **Brian's Cup selections**

- (1) FIORENTE
- (2) DANDINO
- (3) SEA MOON
- (4) HAWKSPUR
- (5) IT'S A DUNDEEL
- (6) FORGOTTEN VOICE

### **The Optimist's Cup tips**

- (1) HAWKSPUR
- (2) IT'S A DUNDEEL
- (3) ROYAL DESCENT
- (4) BROWN PANTHER
- (5) JET AWAY
- (6) KELINNI

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## Winning on Points

Once upon a time we used to allot points for the polls to find the best chance: three for a first pick, two for a second pick and one for a third pick. There were no trifectas and first fours, just a daily double and quinellas.

Off course there was only a last race quinella. Some states had race to race doubles but only on-course. When the TAB's came on board in the mid sixties, they moved heaven and earth to lock out the "illegal" operators who offered starting price etc. In fact it was illegal to broadcast the odds! That is absolute truth, not a figment of my imagination. You were seriously threatened with big fines and even gaol.

There were two markets, one for on and the other for off course, and then there was one when suddenly the off course odds would arrive on course about a quarter of an hour before the start of the race. The tote would go berserk. Needless to say anomalies abounded with tote prices very different from bookies' boards. As to the polls, the best was produced by (will you believe this?) the Australian, which had a fantastic racing section. Even a great greyhound section!

Systems based on its polls, many costing quite sizable sums, proliferated. A chap I got to know quite well named Chris Lee marketed a set of systems that all did well and were all soundly based on the well-versed tipsters whose ideas were grouped into perhaps ten or even twelve sets of selections. They were good plans for the time.

Hence a hot favourite could score very nearly (or even make) 36 points. Systems that identified horses that had been selected in the top three by every selector, systems that all did this without one tipster naming the horse to win, and systems that selected horses with not fewer than (say) 28 points, were all rife and all had their moments. Races where the favourite as named in the paper was not picked in the top three (at the right hand end of the poll) were popular.

However, the markets were hopelessly out of kilter and then press were not even allowed to publish actual odds. Just the order that the market framers thought might be the way things would turn out when the bookies stood up and framed their offerings. The paper market was, of course, more often than not misleading and got even worse when "prices" were allowed, prior to professional punters taking over and setting reasonably accurate predictive boards. If you were not around for all this, well, you just learnt how lucky you are!

But points can still be used to formulate a plan. The idea of this plan is to make your own selections and have a very clear view in your mind as to your reasons for selecting a horse in a race. I mean that your criteria should be fairly consistent. You can have three tiers of bets, just like the three tips that were once published for every tipster in the Australian, and the final poll at the end.

Here's a way you might do it:

Level One: 20

Level Two: 40

Level Three: 60

Now remember these three numbers could be anything. 5, 10, 15; or 30, 60, 100... or for that matter 1, 2 and 3.

What do you do to identify the levels? Aha! That's up to you. Entirely, I'm afraid. I can give you a few clues that work for me. Firstly, there will always be more than one top chance in a top handicap. However, sometimes there will be an obvious class gap, such as there was between Boban and the rest of the field on Caulfield Cup Day.

Next, none of the levels should accommodate any horse that you cannot honestly declare is worth a bet. Fear of missing a winner is never enough to have a bet. Greed can push you to Level Three, however, on a bet that should not be there, so it's every bit as important to be tight with your money at the top end.

Thirdly, don't set your levels too far apart. If you want, make that top one reserved for the very best bets and space it a little, but not so as it costs you your daily profit when two or three Level Two or Three selections win.

That's it in a nutshell. The polishing and refining is up to you. It's a lot of fun and it tightens your focus, as you debate in your mind the level at which your horse should be supported. Give it a try on paper if you like, and clean out the personal gremlins first.

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# Pedigree Pointers

With Julian Mould

**A**nd so the behemoth that is the Melbourne cup has come upon us once again. So exciting, so difficult (I find anyway) to find that winner.

This year's Melbourne cup has the usual flavour about it with international entries making their mark and local ones (often imported from Britain, France or Ireland). I'll start from those highest in the market.

I should mention here that, while I'll attempt to make a worthy selection, the real power behind pedigree pointers is much more about who are bred too fast or too slow to be a Cup winner.

Puissance De Lune has been high in the Melbourne cup market if not actually favourite) for quite some time now but I pointed out in the last issue of PPM that there are flaws in the ancestry of this horse which make him look as if he is unable to see out the distance of the Melbourne cup.

Still, I think that PDL is very well bred - exciting even - and it would be great to see him go to stud because he has such excellent familial connections. However, I still see him faltering, through lack of stamina, in the last 800m.

Nevertheless his performances have been superb over this spring and he deserves to win a Group 1 even though I really see him as a group 2 horse. Perhaps an Australian Cup, Ranvet or even BMW is within his grasp.

Hawkspur has also been high in the market for a while now but seems to be even faster bred than Puissance De Lune. His ancestry coming via the stallions Purrealist, Catbird, Turf Ruler and Kaoru Star are just too quick to create the overall profile needed for a Melbourne Cup winner.

Fiorente has an obvious chance after some terrific efforts in last year's Melbourne Cup and in other races this year - most notably when facing All Too Hard in the All Aged Stakes in Sydney earlier this year.

His ancestry and performance leave us in no doubt that he can win this year's Melbourne Cup, however, the handicapper will have seen him coming from a long way off and I worry that

he has assessed him just right - without any margin for advantage or improvement.

Having a bit up your sleeve in terms of weight helps a great deal in this race. Still, what's not to like about this horse?

Mount Athos will of course stay the trip of the Melbourne Cup. Nonetheless this is not his issue. His problem is that he is a year older than when he called in fifth in last year's Melbourne Cup and this year and he will probably have become more dour as he has aged. His pedigree will only help him if there is a true downpour the night before the race.

Voleuse De Coeurs is a fascinating runner. She won the Irish St Leger with a ton in hand and Dermot Weld then said that she was not going to Australia. Yet Australians somewhere wanted her here and bought her off Weld for a very large sum of money. She is now being trained by Michael Moroney.

Still, I think it's a little odd that Weld parted company with her and I must say that when I look at her pedigree I am not so sure she will stay 2 miles in a large field - even in a handicap. I think she's more a small field 10-11f horse who had all the right conditions to win the Irish Leger.

After Voleuse De Coeurs comes a clutch of horses who take the eye as possible to lift the trophy namely Verema, Simenon, Sea Moon and Masked Marvel. Remarkably, all of them come with good Group 1 form to their names and, even more remarkably, they look like they're in form and ready to do a bit of justice to themselves. Two are trained in Europe and two are trained here. They all have a decent chance and will stay if they're fit and not carrying injuries.

Away from that clutch of horses in the betting is another horse that was trained in Europe but is now trained here is Tres Blue. Gai Waterhouse has got hold of this three-year-old and he only has 51 kg to carry. By the time you read this I will be hoping that this young colt will have had a run before the Melbourne Cup, as I suspect that he will need one. Even so, Gai Waterhouse is an individual who is probably capable of getting this horse to win the Melbourne Cup at the first time of asking. He's improving and has the pedigree of a 2000-2200m horse but with that critically huge weight drop that gives a real edge. If this horse shows up then perhaps Nash Rawiller will board him and so make up for his loss of the ride on Fiorente.

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# CLIVE OF PPM

Clive Allcock  
talks racing



## PERCENTAGE PERFECTION

**T**he win of Rain Drum at Rosehill on my first day back from a holiday and struggling to catch up with the form reminded me of one of our colleague's favourite angles. The Optimist always likes 100% horses – that is those whose total win and place percentage means they have never been placed back further than third.

An obvious strength with this approach is you know you are backing a consistent horse who can clearly mix it well with the opponents they have met to date. I did try to fiddle around with this a few years ago and while I couldn't come up with a solid systematic set of rules it none the less did show lots of strength and clearly is a factor worth weighing in for your analysis.

Some obvious difficulties exist though. Firstly, how many starts do you allow before being impressed by the form. After some research I settled on at least five as a fair starting point. Less than that may reflect good placement by the trainer but not necessarily a lot of quality by the horse. After five goes however, especially if a couple of wins are included then there are class rises that have been thrust upon the animal and it has still run well.

But class is still an issue. In the Epson for example, Ecuador had eight starts for three wins and five seconds which is a solid record but was up in class and lost. It was still in my view a mighty effort as he was beaten only a length after leading all the way and I think you will see better results from that horse but it was a loss perhaps in part due to the class rise at that stage of his career.

Rain Drum presented another problem – he had not raced for over a year! So do you ignore his ten start record of five wins (a winning percentage impressive in itself!) with one second and four thirds? Just dismiss it as “old hat”? That coupled with the factor of a class rise also led most to neglect the \$20 SP winner but perhaps the consistency in itself over that numbers of starts should have been given more weight. I certainly stayed out but was a tad annoyed afterwards. As I said – this is always a factor to include in your analysis even if it is not likely to lead to a successful mechanical solution – although you may succeed where I failed.

And on failure and staying – since my return from the break away history is repeating itself. I found it hard to grasp the form in my absence but have not bet in too many races so damage is liveable with. Hopefully my eye will be in by the Cup!

## EYE CATCHERS

While the wins of Guelph and Zoustar over the spring carnival were most impressive for the style and margin another two performances have caught my eye more.

The win of Arinosa was exceptional. She came from well back with such strong acceleration you have to think only the troubles of caring for horses will stop her wining more over the remaining carnival.

At the other extreme of performance I did not think going into the Caulfield Guineas that it was one of the best fields in recent years although time may prove me wrong. Still, I did really like the win of Long John. Yes, I know – six starts for four wins and two thirds prior to this victory!!

But he showed a lot of fight to fend off a strong challenge Divine Calling who may turn out also to be a fair performer and register an impressive win. I noted the trainer Peter Snowden has indicated they will be careful in where they place him – the Cox Plate may be too big a call at this stage – so wherever he is placed he will a strong chance and worth following.

Of course he will be shortish odds but maybe next year also if he retains that fighting quality a chance for a better dividend may arise.

## THE CUP

I didn't know the Editor was going to squeeze in another edition before the Cup so will plagiarise myself and repeat my system. Back all in the paper that morning at \$10- \$21 inclusive.

Beyond that this far out it is looking the usual tough call. I write before the Caulfield Cup and clearly that event will have impact. Still the Moons are going in different directions. Green Moon has had a couple of hassles already and even if he makes the Cup field there have to be doubts about his chances of defending his crown.

On the other hand if Sea Moon backs up, his form is right on line. If he runs in the Caulfield Cup he carries mine but if they side step that and target Flemington instead then that call alone needs my financial support!

But other imports are looking promising – both those bought for the race and those brought over. It gets tougher every year to line them up. I thought when this import flood started a few years back that my little system would fall apart but to my surprise (and pleasure) it has weathered this storm to date. I stress it does not get the winner every year (what would?) but does have a high percentage. That good mare winning three years in a row cost me (although I did back her anyway for that last magnificent win) as her prices were always outside the range so that is one losing run for you. Still given the quality of her wins it was (almost) worth it.

Until next edition – have fun punting.

PPM



# Sensible betting with "Bad Bill"

**I** Have often been asked to speak about the importance of position posting as a factor in greyhound racing.

Does the #1 box have an advantage? Are dogs starting from the "middle" boxes, #4, #5 and #6, disadvantaged? Isn't the outside, #8 box, pretty good? The answer? ABSOLUTELY! The next question: "HOW absolutely?"

You can look up, or compile for yourself, a chart of how the starting box bias works out. (Be aware that it may be vastly different for different tracks, and may even vary at one track, from grade to grade, and certainly from course length to course length!) In the majority of cases, you will see some positive bias toward the #1 box, perhaps also the #8, and, in some cases, the #2 or #3 boxes may show a slight edge. Likewise, in most cases, the #4, #5, #6 boxes will indicate a lower percentage of winners.

The most common explanation of this is summed up in terms of likely interference, or lack of same. The #1 and #8 dogs start with dogs only on one side of them. All of the other dogs face possible contact from dogs on both sides. Considering this, what one factor makes interference on the break less likely? FAST BREAKING ABILITY! The dog that gets out faster than his neighbours is far less likely to make, or experience, contact from other dogs, regardless of its starting position.

Thus, a dog starting from the "middle" boxes is less likely to have contact problems if it breaks quickly, far MORE problems if it breaks more poorly than its neighbors. Likewise, a dog starting from the #1 or #8 box, though it has fewer "next door neighbours", will still face probable contact if it breaks slowly.

Keep in mind, too, that although the #1 and #8 dogs have other dogs only on one side of them, this is not as strong an advantage as it may seem at first thought. While the #1 dog has only the #2 dog to be immediately concerned with, it also has the RAIL on its left side and seven dogs on its right side, some of which will be trying to get themselves to the rail, or at least to the inside.

Likewise, while the #8 dog has only one "neighbour" to be concerned with on the break, it also has the outside FENCE on its right, and


probably at least a couple of outside running dogs to its left, who will sometimes push the #8 dog to the outer edge of the track. (Note: In the US, several tracks are providing a space, or an empty box, between the #4 and #5 positions, to minimise the disadvantage to the "middle" dogs.)

There are those who claim that the inside starting dog, if it continues the rest of the race on the inside of the track, has an edge because the inside running dog has a shorter race to run than the wide running dogs. While this is mathematically true, a dog running the rail has tighter turns to negotiate, and somewhat more chance of getting squeezed against the rail. Think in terms of racing cars on an oval track. It has long since been proven that the fastest way to get around the track is to run fairly "wide" on the straightaways and to cut down on the inside of the turns.

Though this is hard to train for, from time to time you will see a greyhound who has figured this out. I call this the ability to "sling shot" into and out of a curve. Generally, this dog's record will prove that this is a strong advantage! Otherwise, simply determining that a dog is an "inside", "mid-track" or "outside" runner is no big advantage, unless you can see how this particular style fits, or doesn't fit, with the other seven dogs' running styles.

Even so, as you compile statistics on this factor, you may well find that, in some instances, a substantial edge does seem to exist for some boxes and a distinct shortcoming for others. In this case, you may have a factor to consider in your handicapping. But before you assign too many "plus" points to the good boxes, or deduct points for the poorer boxes, you must take into mind each of the dog's breaking abilities. In general, a slow breaker suffers more from the poor boxes, and usually benefits far less from the better boxes, and a fast breaker can overcome the poor boxes, and enjoy even stronger benefit from the better boxes. But, as with any other handicapping factor, don't make the common mistake of "making mountains out of molehills"!

Like boxers, gymnasts and other athletes, the biggest difference between greyhound



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contestants is the “will to win”. The “WANT”. He who wants the win the most is most likely to achieve it. Often, this factor alone carries more weight than physical ability. The same is true with dogs. Basically, they are pack animals. And, you will observe some who perform this way – they take delight in just running with the pack. Some of these dogs will “hang on” for months or years, finishing in the money just often enough to avoid being eliminated. A few, however, will carry that spark of competition – they just don’t like seeing other dogs’ tails in front of them. They want, more than the other seven dogs, to, by golly, CATCH that lure!

Since you can’t interview or psychoanalyse these dogs, how do you spot them? By their records. They will be seen to have the drive. They don’t give up. They’re not out there just to romp with their buddies. They can’t win every start, but their desire is evident. We handicappers measure “speed”; “jump”; “class”; “early and late speed”; and many other factors. Sometimes we can sort out, in a particular dog’s records, an elusive quality that we might call “TRY”, or “HEART”. It’s not always that evident. But when you see it, consider that it can carry a good deal of weight in your handicapping process!

To speak briefly of some other handicap-able factors that usually don’t deserve the time sometimes wasted on them. (Remember my warning of the hazards of OVER handicapping?)

Don’t, for example, give a great deal of time in trying to unravel the factor of “weight”. Do heavier dogs do better on the turns? Do lighter dogs tend to break faster? Are heavier or lighter dogs best on the inside of the track, or outside? The truth, here, is in the dogs’ records. While you can measure and compare weight factors using the “of & in” method. (OF the last 30 dogs who weighed over 32kg, how many finished IN the Trifecta, as an example...) Some “heavy” dogs do well, some lighter dogs do well. Again, it is more a matter of desire than weight. Look more at how the dog has been performing, as opposed to how much it weighs!

Is it important to check a dog’s sire and bitch? Only, perhaps, if you consider it a factor in a Maiden race. Otherwise, the dog’s record speaks for itself, and its mum and dad aren’t going to be out there on the track clearing a way for it to win.

Likewise with trainers and owners. Clearly, some trainers do a far better job than others, but, again, this will show up in each dog’s past performance records. A dog doing poorly is not going to be pushed faster in the race at hand by its trainer.

And even a poor trainer gets lucky now and then with a dog that has both ability and spunk! If you start handicapping trainers and owners,

other than, perhaps, in Maiden races, you’ll find yourself in a black hole of losses.

How about the post parade? Do you pay a lot of attention to this? Can you spot the stronger dogs by their looks or behaviour? The weaker dogs? Does a dog pulling strongly at its leash indicate more desire? Is a dog needing to be pulled to the starting boxes a sure loser? A lot of otherwise serious handicappers put a lot of stock in the parade. In my opinion, the smarter ones don’t. I’ve seen dogs who had to be carried to the starting box break out and win. I’ve seen dogs which couldn’t seem to wait to get to the boxes proceed to chase seven tails around the track.

On the other hand, I once noticed a lady sitting behind me at one track who seemed to be cashing several more Trifecta tickets than I could manage. I had to ask her: “How are you picking the dogs, and how are you betting?” She gladly answered, “I just watch the post parade, and box the three dogs with the brightest eyes, for \$6!” I had spent several hours handicapping the race program, and was betting an average of nearly 10 times that much. Yikes! On the other hand, I did notice in one post parade, years ago, that the favourite dog was actually limping.

I deleted it from my wager, and scored quite well. I watched a few hundred post parades for a while after that, but seldom do so anymore.

By the way, if you fancy you are a good judge of dog flesh, do you think you could tell, from observing the post parade alone, if the forthcoming race was a Maiden race or a top class race?

How about the dogs’ gender? Do males, (dogs), fare better than females, (bitches)? Again, let the records speak for themselves. In the US, female dogs tend to carry a slight edge on the longer courses, but you would not give a female any extra points for being female if she had not been performing well. Again, to test this factor for yourself, the “Of and IN” test will tell the tale. Don’t let heresay affect your approach. Check these kinds of factors for yourself!

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By William ‘Bad Bill’ McBride  
PRACTICAL PUNTING – JULY 2009

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## Bulls and bears ... it's all the same in the long haul Bulls and bears

I have created more systems than I have eaten hot dinners, and in my everlasting quest for something different, I have come up with a plan that's a bit odd.

Some readers would have thought of the stock market when they read this month's title. Bears sell shares in the anticipation of a fall in prices (and buy up at the lower rates) and bulls buy in the hope, or even expectation, that the market will rise. Sometimes they are both correct, but not at the same time.

Not so with racing. Sometimes I will be right, sometimes you will be right, but sometimes we will both be right (when we pick the same horse and it wins).

At time of writing, the NSW TAB is about to offer shares to the public in what we all thought, ultimately, belonged to us anyway (a bit like Telstra). If you buy shares at, say, \$5 each, and they pay a dividend of, say, 10 per cent per annum, in today's terms you will wait 10 years to get your money back.

Of course, the shares ought to appreciate, so you could end up owning a swag of good shares, and also receiving your divvies fully franked (i.e. much or all of your tax pre-paid). That's what I want you to remember as we try to do something a little different with our betting bank.

It is possible to regard racing as a sound market investment. If you establish a bank of, say, \$10,000 and regard it as spread over five years, you would hope to better bank-interest rates and also beat tax payments associated with other investments.

You would be investing 2 per cent (\$40) per week, on average, of the \$2000 per year (20 per cent of the bank). Hang onto that other \$8000 for a while. Whatever is returned each year from your betting would be added to the following year's \$2000 allocation, still retaining the 2 per cent weekly investment.

Let's explain: Say the first year is a good one and the bank gradually edges up to \$2500 (a tax-paid 25 per cent profit for the year ... try to get that from your bank!). In the second year you bring the next \$2000 into play and seek to increase it. You may choose a set amount as a target, but so long as you restrict yourself to 2 per cent (\$90) per week of that \$4500 you ought to be OK.

On the second year's investment, say you made 10 per cent profit. That's \$450. The bank is now \$6950, which includes another \$2000 for the third year's bank. So, in the third year you outlay \$140 per week (round figures, 50 weeks, two weeks

off for a break). Let's say it's a good year and you make 20 per cent profit. The bank is \$8340 plus the fourth year's \$2000 = \$10,340. Bets are averaged at \$206 per week. This is a bad year and you lose 8 per cent. The bank is now \$9512, plus the \$2000 for year five. Year five wins 12 per cent and we have almost \$13,000 in the bank.

So, over five years, we have managed to win \$3000, 30 per cent net on \$10,000. But hang on a minute. In year one, \$8000 of that money earned interest. In the second year, \$6000 earned interest. In the third year \$4000 earned interest, and in the fourth year \$2000 earned interest.

Then there was the money earned from the interest that \$8000 earned in year one, invested for four more years, plus whatever the \$6000 earned, invested for three more years, plus interest from the \$4000, invested for two years, and, finally, the final \$2000's interest.

But wait another minute. Only 2 per cent of ALL the money was in the TAB at any time, and every other cent not being thus used was earning interest. Maybe not much, but some interest.

I am not suggesting that this is the ultimate way of making a fortune, but you should benefit by the realisation that betting with a longterm, time-allotted bank will keep on toting up dividends as your betting progresses.

From five or six different sources! Get the idea? Maybe this ought to be a huge article in an annual, but it will start you thinking. So how do we set this up?

- Decide on a long-range plan of, say, five years, with \$10,000 to invest.
- Commence with an investment of \$2000 for year one on the TAB, betting 2 per cent of the starting bank each week.
- Invest the remaining \$8000 to mature in one, two, three and four years at \$2000 each. As we withdraw each \$2000, its interest earned will be reinvested for the remainder of the five-year period.
- Each year we add the maturing \$2000 to our bank, still betting 2 per cent per week of the new starting bank.

Sound easy? OK, sounds hard. It requires careful bookkeeping and a starting bank, but it could prove quite exciting. How you invest your capital is your choice. Bank bonds, shares, property loans, gold, whatever . . . it could be a new interest for you to discover. But the betting side is tax-free and, if you are successful, it's the icing on the cake.

By The Optimist

PRACTICAL PUNTING - JUNE 1998

PPM







## OH WHERE ART THOU NOW?

**T**he Channel Seven coverage of the bigger racing is getting better (finally) although it still affords a few laughs at the expense of a certain gentleman. The chap I'm thinking of recently called the stewards' hats "porcupine hats", and makes such sagacious statements as "E's gonna give ya 'is 'eart and soul"... whatever that means about a horse. Oh well, we can't have everything and some of this fellow's more outlandish quotes over the years have added a lighter touch to the serious business of picking winners.

By the way, how do you feel about these claims by every news medium to have "experts"? Some of them, especially the ones who fill in the poll charts, often look as if they've been called in from the gardening column or somewhere that has no earthly idea about racing. At least their tips (expert???) seem to suggest that they know absolutely nothing at all about the upcoming races. There used to be a good system that identified the "ghost" selection, sometimes known as the "orphan", as a real show at odds. This was based on the assumption that this selector was, in fact, an expert and knew something.

And he was expert! The papers employed perhaps four or five class acts, who knew their stuff and were intriguing conversationalists. I often tried to buttonhole various scribes at the races, as I could be so sure their views and their experience would be valuable to me. Writers like Billy Whittaker and Tom Brassel were walking encyclopaedias of horse racing. In these same "olden dayes", a system had a chance of really skinning the unsuspecting bookies. Furthermore, my pals and I made small fortunes (well, big for us) picking off the anomalies in the markets. The age of the computer, great as it is (and I'd never be without it) killed all chance of the "edge" we lived for in every race meeting.

One more thing about the "experts". Try this one (to a prominent bookie):

"Do you see Sea Moon as a chance in the Melbourne Cup?" This was asked of a high profile (to put it mildly) bookmaker the week prior to the Caulfield Cup.

"Yes," replied the sage, "I give the horse a very good chance".

The horse had just won a group race with a rare display of guts. Good grief, what insight that answer suggested! A really dopey question and an answer that told everyone nothing.

I think I must be getting old.

## THOSE DOUBLES

The old doubles charts we used to love poring over have, of course, disappeared forever. Now we have a situation in which situations such as same horse both legs is met with horrendous deductions. I could hardly believe one that I was told of recently, so I tried it myself and sure enough, there it was.

Now this is not a small outfit. It's one of the biggest and is backed by something even bigger. I tried to back a horse for each leg of the Cups. A notification came up that the odds would be reduced. I expected that. Not fair, but they make the rules and it's nearly always thus. HOWEVER, I read further and found that the odds on the second leg would be reduced to (are you sitting down?) FIVE PER CENT of the stated odds.

Let's look at this in context. Say you'd backed Radish in both Cups. But now you thought you'd bet a double just in case the planets were aligned. So, Radish at \$40 into Radish at \$40 is around \$1600 when multiplying the odds. (Yeah I know they aren't odds but returns, but bear with me).

You're being offered \$40 and \$2!!!!!!!!!!!!

That's right, the odds are evens the second leg. All up it's \$80, or 1/20th of the odds of a simple multiplication. That really has to be highway robbery. But it exists, all the time, with one major player.

## OMENS ANYONE?

I bought a book recently from a seller in the UK. On the Friday I received an email from them confirming the sale. They were called GOLDSTONE Books. You're ahead of me.

Yes, I was keen anyway. I'd seen the horse race so well in the Standish and I'd been just as patient as Bart and his grandson, and I reckoned tomorrow was the day. Benefit of a good memory! I'd taken 40's on the Friday. I emailed BB and a few mates and asked "Do you believe in omens?" and included the message from the bookseller. Goldstone won a thriller, as I'm sure you know.

BB sent me an email soon after. It simply said: "Now I do!"

## THEY THINK WE WON'T NOTICE

The Sydney Morning Herald's once wonderful "The Form" is 20 pages, not 40. Their form guides on all other days are abbreviated horribly. They provide no results.

Do they think we'll be loyal for long? How long? Mine will be until my subscription is up, then farewell Granny. Sad.

RPM

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