

Picking The Winners – 2010 Grand National Tips

At TRH we have strong beliefs on how to invest our client's (and our own) money. When investing for the long term we believe in –

- Only taking market risks that are proven to be rewarded.
- Only taking the amount of risk required to deliver client's objectives.
- The asset allocation of a portfolio will determine the variance in performance.
- Rebalancing portfolios to maintain the agreed risk exposure.
- Using only liquid funds that can be accessed immediately
- Using the lowest cost suitable product – every £1 saved in costs is £1 earned in investment return.

By developing the above process and holding firm during the volatility of the last two years we have delivered consistent market returns for our clients. But what relevance is any of this to the big race tomorrow? Well, as many clients know, I enjoy horse racing and last year wrote a note to guide the once a year punter through the mysteries of horse race betting and attempt to improve the odds of beating the bookies who usually make a killing on this race.

As with TRH's investment methodology I have a structured process for selecting winners and placing a bet. In 2009 this produced a 100/1 winner in Mon Mome that made many clients happy.

Gareth's betting system

Risk warnings!! –

- Past performance is definitely no guide to success this year! This is the toughest jumps race in the UK and any horse can be brought down or lose its jockey.
- Only bet for fun and with an amount you would be happy to lose. If you want decent long term returns send your money to TRH not Ladbrokes.

The System

1. Bet 'each-way' when the odds on your horse are greater than 6/1. An each way bet is two bets. One to win and one if the horse is placed. So £10 e/w costs you £20. If your horse wins your £10 win bet pays out at 6/1. If your horse places (in most races in the first 3 – but see the next tip below) your £10 place bet pays out at ¼ of the odds i.e. 1.5/1. As the winning horse is also placed, you collect on both bets. You also get your stake back on a win bet. So a £10 e/w bet on a winning horse at 6/1 pays out - £10 x 6 + £10 (stake) + £10 x 1.5 + £10 (stake). A win of £95. But even if your horse is placed you still collected the second part of the sum i.e. £25. So you are in profit.

Each way betting becomes even more attractive at higher odds. Because of the large field, the Grand National offers more horses at attractive odds than any other horse race.

The Red House

2. Bet with a bookie that pays out down to 5 places. Most high street bookies should pay down to 4 places, most internet bookies pay down to 5 places. These were the odds for the top 5 places in the last 3 Grand Nationals:

2009	100/1 – 14/1 – 8/1 – 14/1 – 100/1
2008	7/1 – 20/1 – 16/1 – 10/1 – 12/1
2007	33/1 – 12/1 – 33/1 – 100/1 - 40/1

All of these great each-way bets. Look at the 5th place odds. 14/1 pays out £45 and 100/1 pays out £260 for a £10 each way bet.

3. Weight carried. The best placed horses generally carry 11 stone or less.
4. Age matters. The optimal age for a Grand National horse is 8 or 9. There were just three 10 year olds and one 11 year old in the above 10 placed horses. This is not as realistic a guide however as a horse's weight and I have included a 10 year old in my selection.
5. The going. Some horses love slogging their way through the heavy ground. Saturday is forecast to be good going so it will favour the faster horses.
6. Horses for courses. The Grand National course and jumps are unique and a horse that has already proven form over the course often does well. Two of my last years tips are running again and fit the system!
7. Trainers and jockeys. This is just about the most difficult race to both prepare a horse for and to then pilot one successfully over the formidable fences and past other loose and falling horses. Experience really counts.

Sad that I am, I have spent the last few evenings checking all 40 entries against the above criteria and my selections this year are :

Big Fella Thanks	8/1 (tipped last year came 6 th)
Arbor Supreme	16/1
State of Play	20/1 (tipped last year came 4 th)
Backstage	25/1
Flintoff	66/1
Ellerslie George	100/1

I would hope that one or more of these would appear in the top 5. But remember past performance is no guarantee of future success and I am still working!

Best of luck tomorrow if you have a bet.

Gareth Marr
9th April 2010

Post race report. No way the probably unrepeatable success of 2009 tips but a couple were placed. State of Play at 16/1 and Big Fella Thanks at 10/1. A £5 e/w bet on all 6 horses tipped would have cost £60 and produced a return of £37.50 – a small loss.