

Picking the Winners – 2012 Grand National Tips

OK, I know it is Friday the 13th but avid followers of Gareth's Grand National Tips, particularly those who got his 100/1 winner in 2009 (Mon Mome), will be delighted to know that he is sharing his wisdom again for 2012. Following a less successful series of tips in 2010 (which to be fair at least broke even) and a break in 2011 (although I understand he had a cheeky personal win) I have tracked him down on his family holiday in Cornwall to get this year's Red (House) Hot Tips.

As you know, TRH has 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.
- In only taking the amount of risk required to deliver client's objectives.
- That the asset allocation of a portfolio will determine the variance in performance.
- In regular rebalancing portfolios to maintain the agreed risk exposure.
- In only using liquid funds that can be accessed immediately
- We should use 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 four years we have delivered consistent market returns for our clients.

But what relevance is any of this to the big race tomorrow?

As with TRH's investment methodology, Gareth has a structured process for selecting winners and placing a bet.

Gareth's betting system

Risk warnings!!:-

- Past performance is definitely no guide to success this (or any) 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 +

The House

£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.

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.
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.
5. The 'going'. Some horses love slogging their way through heavy ground; the faster ones favour 'good' going.
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.
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.

Gareth's Red (House) Hot Tips this year are:-

- Cappa Bleu - 14/1
- Chicago Grey - 14/1
- Seabass - 20/1
- Shakalakaboomboom - 18/1
- West End Rocker - 12/1

Sea Bass represents the first time he has tipped a horse with a female jockey, Katie Walsh. Come on Katie!

He predicts that one or more of these should appear in the top 5.... But remember past performance is no guarantee of future success and he, and I, are still working!

It just leaves me to wish you the best of luck tomorrow if you have a bet. Let us know how you get on!

Ruth Sturkey
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