

One Track Trainers Review: 2014*

(as of 28/12/14)

Introduction

As 2014 draws to a close I have reviewed the system and the trainers' performance to ensure we are giving ourselves the best chance of making profits.

Below you will see the overall results for 2014 and then the results broken down by trainer as well as a quick commentary on each.

Without doubt it has been a difficult and unprofitable final two month of the year. From July to launch the system was 90 points up betting live but a disappointing final quarter has reduced that to 60 points. Of course everyone who joined the service is yet to make any profit and losses are around -30 points at the moment. I have lost around £600 since launch and the sooner we start backing more winners the better.

The performance in the first three quarters of 2014, and the overall performance of the trainers during the year, should give you confidence that 2015 will be much better. I know many subscribers lost confidence and have left already. While I can understand their frustration I hope you can see the long term potential of this system. The majority of the trainers have had a very good year and it is just a shame that some of their profits were not in the final two months of 2014 but that is how it goes sometimes. I know that this system needs to prove itself live and at the moment it is proving a bit of a struggle but 40% of the runners have finished in the top 2 and the trainers will turn it around.

Considering that we follow quite a few flat trainers as well as some on the AW and NH trainers who would appear to fire after Christmas the next few months will be much better than the previous two. The approach is intended to be used all year round but obviously there are more profitable periods than others. While we all would have liked a much better start over the past 8 weeks the results should be viewed in the context of the whole year, especially when broken down by trainer.

There are no reasons at all why 2015 should not be a repeat of 2014 and I have every confidence in this system moving forward.

Having said that I have reviewed a couple of trainers in depth and made some slight changes. I am always monitoring all trainers however I don't believe you should ever make changes in year, or too hastily. At the start of 2014 there were a couple of areas for 3 trainers that I wanted more evidence for before making any decisions. Having now had another full year of results I am confident that we can tighten up the rules for three trainers to make them more profitable. The review of these trainers, and the slight rule changes, can be found below the results breakdown.

OTT 2014 Results

	Bets	Wins	Win%	Places	Place %	P/L (BF)	P/L (plc)
2014	641	155	24%	318	49.6%	225.41	58.54

- Taking early prices would have been worth an extra 129 points above BFSP, leaving a grand total of **354.41 level stakes profit**.
- The P/L (plc) figure is for the Betfair Place Market, betting 1 point on each selection at Betfair Place SP.

Results by Trainer

TD Barron

	Bets	Wins	Win%	Places	Place%	P/L(BF)	ROI(BF)	Plc(BF)	P/L(Plc)	MxOdd	A/E
ALL	386	85	22.02	170	44.04	179.31	46.57	174	22.41	15.00	1.24
2014	81	19	23.46	40	49.38	34.67	43.33	40	8.42	15.00	1.13

+9 points above BFSP taking early prices

Another solid year from Mr Barron with a solid win/place strike rate as well. He has been very consistent and it only needed a couple of those 21 placed horses to win to make it an even better year. A great trainer to look forward to for the 2015 flat season.

George Baker

	Bets	Wins	Win%	Places	Place%	P/L(BF)	ROI(BF)	Plc(BF)	P/L(Plc)	MxOdd	A/E
ALL	164	49	29.88	85	51.83	103.97	63.39	90	38.97	15.00	1.33
2014	27	10	37.04	14	51.85	29.71	110.04	15	6.87	15.00	1.76

+15 points above BFSP taking early prices

Again another flat trainer who had a solid 2014 and we can look forward to his runners during the 2015 flat season.

Ralph Beckett

	Bets	Wins	Win%	Places	Place%	P/L(BF)	ROI(BF)	Plc(BF)	P/L(Plc)	MxOdd	A/E
ALL	177	55	31.07	102	57.63	156.35	88.33	103	32.12	15.00	1.38
2014	32	8	25	19	59.38	6.39	19.97	19	0.04	11.00	1.08

+ 8 points above BFSP taking early prices

Nearly 60% of his runners finished in the places and with a bit more luck and a couple more winners his figures would have been even better. By taking early prices he still made a decent 14 points profit and is another to look forward to during 2015.

Ruth Carr

	Bets	Wins	Win%	Places	Place%	P/L(BF)	ROI(BF)	Plc(BF)	P/L(Plc)	MxOdd	A/E
ALL	253	59	23.32	118	46.64	185.28	73.23	121	57.3	15.00	1.46
2014	56	11	19.64	25	44.64	22.21	39.67	26	5.98	15.00	1.16

+5 points above BFSP taking early prices

Ruth Carr performed slightly below her historical averages but still managed a decent profit and was consistent enough. Given her decent win/place strike rate I see no reason to make any changes to how we back her runners. She normally makes a few points on the AW over the winter and will hopefully be having some runners in the next couple of months.

Sue Smith

	Bets	Wins	Win%	Places	Place%	P/L(BF)	ROI(BF)	Plc(BF)	P/L(Plc)	MxOdd	A/E
ALL	81	19	23.46	37	45.68	61.54	75.97	37	17.47	15.00	1.38
2014	19	6	31.58	13	68.42	21.8	114.73	13	12.74	11.00	1.69

+ 13 points above BFSP taking early prices

Sue Smith was one of two wildcards (because of sample size) and she has had a decent 2014. Her win % and win/place% has been very impressive and there is no reason why she will not repeat these stats in 2015. She clearly places her handicappers well when only sending one to the course.

Roger Charlton

	Bets	Wins	Win%	Places	Place%	P/L(BF)	ROI(BF)	Plc(BF)	P/L(Plc)	MxOdd	A/E
ALL	394	102	25.89	194	49.24	70.46	17.88	206	26.33	15.00	1.12
2014	84	20	23.81	44	52.38	1.27	1.52	44	8.08	15.00	0.96

+30 points above BFSP taking early prices

The profit to BFSP is nothing to shout home about but his profits continue to be massive when taking early prices. The majority of selections are heavily backed and he will continue to be a member of the team until the time comes when the bookies get their early prices right. At the moment there is still a lot of money to be made by focussing on his horses when they are his only runner at the track.

Rae Guest

	Bets	Wins	Win%	Places	Place%	P/L(BF)	ROI(BF)	Plc(BF)	P/L(Plc)	MxOdd	A/E
ALL	131	32	24.43	58	44.27	61.9	47.25	61	7.49	15.00	1.24
2014	36	8	22.22	15	41.67	-1.09	-3.02	15	-4.9	15.00	1.02

+ 4 points above BFSP taking early prices

While not a disastrous year, and another where a couple more winners from those that placed would have made a big difference, it is clear that his record could be better. Having reviewed his record I have made one slight change to the rules. You can read more in the review that follows the trainers' results. All in all I am happy with his consistency over 5 years and bar a minor tweak will stick with him.

Anthony Honeyball

	Bets	Wins	Win%	Places	Place%	P/L(BF)	ROI(BF)	Plc(BF)	P/L(Plc)	MxOdd	A/E
ALL	202	53	26.24	103	50.99	84.57	41.86	103	24.67	15.00	1.18
2014	49	10	20.41	24	48.98	-6.86	-14	24	-3.25	15.00	0.93

+ 5 points above BFSP taking early prices

Even taking account of a virus in the yard Anthony Honeyball has had a below par year and I have reviewed his record in depth and made some changes. Having monitored the results during 2014 it is clear, as you will see below, that there are a couple of areas where his runners are to be left alone. I still think he is worth following for the next year as his record with those remaining types of horses is very strong.

David Lanigan

	Bets	Wins	Win%	Places	Place%	P/L(BF)	ROI(BF)	Plc(BF)	P/L(Plc)	MxOdd	A/E
ALL	132	40	30.3	75	56.82	93.41	70.77	76	24.8	15.00	1.33
2014	27	6	22.22	15	55.56	11.5	42.59	15	1.87	13.00	0.82

No difference BFSP and early prices

David Lanigan slightly underperformed but made a decent enough profit and his win/place strike rate is strong. 9 horses placed (in addition to the winners) and it doesn't take many of those to win to make it an even better year. Given his consistent record since 2010 he is another to look forward to in 2015

Sir Mark Prescott

	Bets	Wins	Win%	Places	Place%	P/L(BF)	ROI(BF)	Plc(BF)	P/L(Plc)	MxOdd	A/E
ALL	293	97	33.11	163	55.63	109.88	37.5	171	32.86	15.00	1.13
2014	52	11	21.15	25	48.08	8.81	16.94	25	-0.05	13.00	0.87

+17 points above BFSP taking early prices

It was well publicised that Sir Mark had problems in his yard last season and indeed he didn't have his first runner for a number of months. As you can see above he did underperform but his stats are still solid and is another to look forward to during 2015. Taking early prices is essential with his horses as they tend to be well backed.

John 'JJ' Quinn

	Bets	Wins	Win%	Places	Place%	P/L(BF)	ROI(BF)	Plc(BF)	P/L(Plc)	MxOdd	A/E
ALL	149	49	32.89	89	59.73	148.78	99.85	90	36.57	67.00	1.31
2014	47	15	31.91	26	55.32	21.28	45.27	27	6.84	34.00	1.26

+15 points above BFSP taking early prices

JJ Quinn has had a solid year in line with his overall historical results. His win/place strike rate is always solid and his profit at BFSP, and taking early prices, is very good. There are no reasons why he won't repeat his performance next year.

Nick Williams

	Bets	Wins	Win%	Places	Place%	P/L(BF)	ROI(BF)	Plc(BF)	P/L(Plc)	MxOdd	A/E
ALL	149	37	24.83	68	45.64	101.45	68.08	71	24.72	15.00	1.41
2014	26	7	26.92	11	42.31	30.49	117.25	11	4.26	15.00	1.68

No difference early prices vs BFSP

Nick Williams has had a decent year and is a solid member of the team. There is not too much more to say and he should continue his form into 2015.

Colin Tizzard

	Bets	Wins	Win%	Places	Place%	P/L(BF)	ROI(BF)	Plc(BF)	P/L(Plc)	MxOdd	A/E
ALL	64	21	32.81	37	57.81	70.2	109.69	41	32.41	15.00	1.54
2014	11	3	27.27	7	63.64	6.13	55.7	8	7.36	15.00	1.52

+ 2 points taking early prices

Colin Tizzard, along with Sue Smith, was the other 'wildcard' but he has kept up his decent win/place strike rate. He is never going to make stacks of profit over the year but is consistent and his runners rarely let us down.

Bill Turner

	Bets	Wins	Win%	Places	Place%	P/L(BF)	ROI(BF)	Plc(BF)	P/L(Plc)	MxOdd	A/E
ALL	126	36	28.57	63	50	108.82	86.36	66	23.46	15.00	1.35
2014	13	2	15.38	4	30.77	12.79	98.37	4	-2	15.00	0.85

No difference early prices and SP

Bill Turner has been profitable to follow however his number of runners this year has been a slight concern. During the previous 4 years he averaged 28 runners a year and is clearly down on that figure during 2014. However, it is a certain type of horse that we back of his and clearly he hasn't had as many of that type run. When they are his only runner at the track they have historically performed very well so hopefully he has more runners in 2015.

Ian Williams

	Bets	Wins	Win%	Places	Place%	P/L(BF)	ROI(BF)	Plc(BF)	P/L(Plc)	MxOdd	A/E
ALL	160	43	26.88	82	51.25	82.46	51.54	86	27.39	41.00	1.31
2014	28	6	21.43	13	46.43	14.73	52.6	13	8.02	26.00	1.09

No difference early prices and SP

Another decent performance from Ian Williams and although slightly below his historical averages and there is every reason to think 2015 will be another solid year.

Roger Varian

	Bets	Wins	Win%	Places	Place%	P/L(BF)	ROI(BF)	Plc(BF)	P/L(Plc)	MxOdd	A/E
ALL	215	53	24.65	101	46.98	72.15	33.56	106	15.84	15.00	1.13
2014	53	13	24.53	23	43.4	11.58	21.84	24	-1.73	13.00	1.12

+6 points taking early prices

Roger Varian is another who had a solid year however I think his performance can be improved. I have been monitoring his runners running under 7f and I am now happy to exclude these runners as you will see below. All in all he continues to mean business when only sending one handicapper to the race track.

Trainer Review

Rae Guest

The performance of Rae's runners at Kempton have been slightly underwhelming as you will see below and until he is more consistent I am now happy to remove these runners.

Kempton

	Bets	Wins	Win%	Places	Place%	P/L(BF)	ROI(BF)	Plc(BF)	P/L(Plc)	MxOdd	A/E
ALL	49	9	18.37	20	40.82	-4.94	-10.07	21	-4.92	15.00	1.09
2014	13	2	15.38	4	30.77	-3.72	-28.64	4	-5.7	15.00	1.06
2013	8	2	25	5	62.5	-0.25	-3.16	5	2.65	15.00	1.33
2012	12	4	33.33	7	58.33	11.29	94.04	7	3.66	15.00	1.84
2011	7	1	14.29	2	28.57	-3.25	-46.36	3	-2.25	9.00	0.78
2010	9	0	0	2	22.22	-9	-100	2	-3.29	13.00	0

His performance in 2012 and 2013, especially the placed horses, gave confidence that 2014 would be ok. However after another losing year, and a losing overall record at the course when only sending one runner, I am now confident that we can exclude these runners. He obviously has winners at the course and may well do in the next couple of month but since 2010 his record is underwhelming and unprofitable.

His record at the other three All-Weather tracks combined is as follows...

	Bets	Wins	Win%	Places	Place%	P/L(BF)	ROI(BF)	Plc(BF)	P/L(Plc)	MxOdd	A/E
ALL	82	23	28.05	38	46.34	66.84	81.51	40	12.42	15.00	1.31
2014	23	6	26.09	11	47.83	2.64	11.46	11	0.81	15.00	1.01
2013	23	5	21.74	8	34.78	24.47	106.41	9	4.23	13.00	1.07
2012	16	7	43.75	11	68.75	17.98	112.38	11	6.62	15.00	1.91
2011	12	2	16.67	4	33.33	-0.41	-3.38	5	-1.34	15.00	0.91
2010	8	3	37.5	4	50	22.15	276.89	4	2.1	13.00	2.59

By removing this unprofitable track his results are more solid and it will mean we are not backing as many losers.

Anthony Honeyball

We will no longer back his non-handicap hurdlers and handicap chasers. Following a poor 2014 it's clear these runners are to be avoided for now.

Handicap Chasers

	Bets	Wins	Win%	Places	Place%	P/L(BF)	ROI(BF)	Plc(BF)	P/L(Plc)	MxOdd	A/E
ALL	38	6	15.79	10	26.32	-12.17	-32.04	10	-15.15	15.00	0.86
2014	10	0	0	1	10	-10	-100	1	-7.77	15.00	0
2013	9	1	11.11	1	11.11	-6.43	-71.47	1	-7.4	9.00	0.55
2012	1	0	0	0	0	-1	-100	0	-1	4.50	0
2011	14	5	35.71	7	50	9.26	66.14	7	0.57	11.00	1.96
2010	4	0	0	1	25	-4	-100	1	0.46	15.00	0

Unlike his non handicap hurdlers there is no real logical reason why his performance with handicap chasers should be so poor, especially as his record with non-handicap chasers is decent. I would like to think it is just a case of not having the ammunition to go to war with. I didn't expect 2014 to be so poor but it confirmed that until there is a consistent turn around his handicap chasers should be left well alone.

Non-Handicap Hurdlers

	Bets	Wins	Win%	Places	Place%	P/L(BF)	ROI(BF)	Plc(BF)	P/L(Plc)	MxOdd	A/E
ALL	34	5	14.71	21	61.76	-13.53	-39.81	21	3.04	13.00	0.54
2014	5	1	20	2	40	1.46	29.25	2	-1.42	11.00	1.25
2013	9	1	11.11	6	66.67	-7.89	-87.62	6	1.2	11.00	0.27
2012	9	1	11.11	5	55.56	-7.14	-79.28	5	0.66	11.00	0.47
2011	9	2	22.22	7	77.78	2.03	22.5	7	2.66	8.00	0.86
2010	2	0	0	1	50	-2	-100	1	-0.07	13.00	0

Overall the win record is poor. As we know there are many trainers who use non-handicap hurdles as a route towards getting a handicap mark and I think that is the case here. While the win % has always been quite poor the place record has always been very good and that did make me think that with a bit more luck his record would turn around. However, we are in the business of backing winners and I am now happy to exclude these runners as the overall win record is poor.

By excluding these runners we are left with a more solid profile and moving forward we can be more confident when backing his horses.

	Bets	Wins	Win%	Plcs	Plc %	P/L (BF)	Plc (BF)	P/L(Plc)	A/E
ALL	128	42	32.8	70	54.6	112.28	70	35	1.53
2014	32	9	28.125	19	59	3.68	19	4.18	0.93
2013	41	11	26.8	22	53.6	17.9	22	10.92	1.37
2012	29	12	41.37	15	51.72	44.18	15	11.39	2.36
2011	18	7	38.8	10	55.5	31.67	10	6.88	2.16
2010	8	3	37.5	4	50	14.86	4	1.66	2.42

2014 has still been poor but I am happy to forgive any trainer an underwhelming year. His place strike rate does give me confidence moving forward.

All in all I think we can expect a decent 2015. However if he does underperform again I may have to consider his place in the team.

Roger Varian

Quite simply it is now clear that his handicappers up to 7 furlongs are best avoided.

His form with these runners when only sending one runner to the track is as follows...

Bets	Wins	Win%	Places	Place%	P/L(BF)	ROI(BF)	Plc(BF)	Plc%(BF)	P/L(Plc)	MxOdd	A/E
32	2	6.25	6	18.75	-12.24	-38.26	8	25	-11.24	15.00	0.38

Overall this is rather poor and for whatever reason it makes no sense to keep backing these runners when the flat season starts again.

His form with handicappers over 7 furlongs +, when only sending one runner, is very solid and these are the horses we will focus on moving forward.

	Bets	Wins	Win%	Places	Place%	P/L(BF)	ROI(BF)	Plc(BF)	P/L(Plc)	MxOdd	A/E
ALL	183	51	27.87	95	51.91	84.39	46.12	98	27.08	15.00	1.22
2014	46	13	28.26	22	47.83	18.58	40.38	23	2.78	13.00	1.22
2013	52	17	32.69	26	50	29.08	55.92	27	5.33	12.00	1.33
2012	47	8	17.02	19	40.43	2.79	5.94	19	-5.01	15.00	0.85
2011	38	13	34.21	28	73.68	33.95	89.34	29	23.97	11.00	1.44

Conclusion

That concludes the review of 2014. With trainer systems it is always important to keep on top of their records and to pick up and act on any underperformance, once you are convinced you have enough evidence. I personally like to see a whole year of results before making any changes, hence why I have reviewed them now. There will be no further changes to the portfolio of trainers until this time next year when I will write another review report. I will of course continue to monitor all of their performances during the next year however I am content with the portfolio as it stands.

The changes to the three trainers will come into effect tomorrow. Of course we have a few months before we are backing Roger Varian's horses.

This group of trainers have made **354 points profit** during the past 12 months. Rather annoyingly for all of us this profit was amassed in the first 9 months of the year. While that is no consolation to our current position I hope that with the above review of all trainers, and the pre 2014 records included in the main manual, you can have confidence moving forward. Having said that I know many people have lost confidence in the approach already but I would urge you to stick with the system and judge it properly after a full year of service. The majority of trainers have performed very well during 2014 and there is no reason why this year's results will not be repeated during 2015.

There will be a post in the blog and you are welcome to make comments or to email me. I am away until Sunday and will get back to you on my return. Selections will be posted as normal.

I can only apologise for the current position but re-emphasise that the trainers' records and the performance during 2014 gives me every confidence that we will have a very profitable 2015.

All that is left for me to say is Happy New Year and here is to a more prosperous 2015.

Josh