

# GO BET!

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THE EASY BETTING GUIDE






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## THE EASY BETTING GUIDE

Horseracing has been at the heart of British popular and sporting culture for centuries and, for many, 'having a flutter' is key to the enjoyment of the raceday. Racing For Change has created this guide to help you get the most from your day at the races.

In this short guide we have tried to simplify the experience by answering ten simple questions

- Q1** WHY BET?
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# Q1

## WHY BET?

**A BET CAN MAKE AN ALREADY EXCITING RACE FAR MORE THRILLING. BACKING YOUR SELECTION WITH CASH AND WATCHING YOUR CHOSEN HORSE WIN IS A GREAT FEELING**

Since horseracing's beginnings, when horse owners challenged each other as to whose horse was better, people have speculated (**had a punt**) on the outcome of the race. A number of variables influence the result of a race. Some horses are simply better than others, but other factors play a part in the final result – the state of the ground (**going**), the skill of the jockey, the distance of the race. For most visitors, part of the magic of the day is the excitement of placing a bet – beating the bookmaker and walking away with a win, however modest.

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## **Words of wisdom**

*Decide at the beginning of the day how much money you are prepared to invest in your bets. Put this in your left pocket. Winnings are put into your right pocket and are not for betting. Once your left pocket is empty, stop betting.*

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# Q2

## WHERE DO I BET?

### WITH THE BOOKMAKERS OR WITH THE TOTE

At the racecourse you will be offered two alternatives: **The Tote** and the **bookmakers**.

**The Tote** has selling points throughout the racecourse – easily identified by the Tote Betting or totepool signs.

The **bookmakers** are usually located in front of the grandstand in the ‘betting ring’ or on ‘the rails’ dividing the different enclosures on the racecourse. The bookmakers display their odds for each race and compete to offer the best price to customers. These are fixed price bets and the amount of your winnings will be printed on your betting slip. Search around to get the best price for your selection.

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## The Tote

The Tote operates in a different way to the bookmakers, in that it does not offer a fixed price for your selection. All the money bet on a race goes into the equivalent of a ‘pool’ which – after deducting an amount for costs – is shared between the holders of winning tickets. The Tote provides information on what the price would be for each horse if the pool were to close at that point, but the actual price is not finalised until the race begins.

### Minimum stakes

The Tote has a minimum bet of £2. The bookmakers vary but if they have a minimum it will be shown on the boards displaying their odds. If in doubt – ask.

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## WHAT ARE THE TYPES OF BETS?

**WIN: YOUR HORSE FINISHES FIRST  
EACH WAY: TWO SEPARATE BETS –  
ONE FOR YOUR HORSE TO COME FIRST;  
THE OTHER FOR YOUR HORSE TO BE PLACED**

### Win

The simplest of all bets – and arguably the most thrilling. Your horse must come first – with the jockey still on board!

### Each way

Two bets in one: a Win bet and a Place bet. You are betting on your horse to either win or be placed. This bet costs as much as two bets, because that's what it is. So a £5 each way bet will cost you £10 (a £5 bet to win plus a £5 bet for a place).

### Place

A bet for your chosen horse and jockey to be 'placed'. The Tote is the only betting outlet on the racecourse that accepts a

Place-only bet. The payouts on a Place bet will be less than for a Win on the same horse, but you do have more chances of getting some money back.

**Watch out – a "Place" will depend upon how many horses are running and the type of race.**

Number of horses running	Place details
1-4	No place betting
5-7	Horse comes in 1st or 2nd
8+	Horse comes in 1st, 2nd or 3rd
Handicap 16+	Horse comes in 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th

If you would like to know more about the other bets available, we recommend you start by asking the staff at the Tote.

**Tote Exacta** – A great bet with the Tote. You need to select the first two horses home in the correct order. It's not easy, but the rewards often reflect that.

Try selecting more than two horses to give you a better chance of winning.

**Tote Swinger:** A fun bet, unique to the Tote. Pick two horses to finish in the first three - they can be 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Available on races with six or more runners.

# Q4

## HOW MUCH SHOULD I BET?

### START SMALL - GET THE HANG OF THINGS AND DON'T SPOIL YOUR DAY

Bet the amount you feel you can afford comfortably.

Try starting with small bets of £2 to £5 per race.

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Please bet responsibly – For more information go to [www.gamcare.org.uk](http://www.gamcare.org.uk)



### Words of wisdom

W.C Fields said

*'Horse sense is the thought a horse has which keeps it from betting on people'*



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# Q5

## HOW DO 'THE ODDS' WORK?

### THE ODDS ARE THE FIGURE YOU MULTIPLY YOUR STAKE BY TO WORK OUT YOUR POTENTIAL WINNINGS

The odds (**or price**) express the probability of a horse winning a race.

**Odds against:** less than 50% predicted probability of winning for example 2/1, 5/1, 50/1.

**Odds on:** more than 50% predicted probability of winning, eg 10/11, 4/6, 1/2. There are no halves in fractions. So 7/2 is 3.5/1 and 15/2 is 7.5/1.

The Tote shows its probable prices in decimal format. Bookmaker prices reflect a price for your winnings. You will also receive your stake back. Tote prices show the total of your return (your winnings plus your original stake).

### ODDS READY RECKONER

The amount you win increases as the odds increase – and the probability of winning decreases.

'Evens' means a predicted 50% probability of winning. This looks like 1/1. If your horse wins, you win back all your stake plus the same amount in winnings.

With a £1 bet on a horse to win

ODDS AGAINST	Stake	Odds	Pays	Plus stake	Tote prices	Total return
	£1	16/1	£16	£1	17.00	£17
	£1	10/1	£10	£1	11.00	£11
	£1	5/1	£5	£1	6.00	£6
	£1	7/2	£3.50	£1	4.50	£4.50
	£1	13/8	£1.63	£1	2.63	£2.63
	£1	2/1	£2	£1	3.00	£3
EVENS	£1	1/1	£1	£1	2.00	£2
ODDS ON	£1	4/5	80p	£1	1.80	£1.80
	£1	1/2	50p	£1	1.50	£1.50
	£1	1/5	20p	£1	1.20	£1.20
	£1	1/10	10p	£1	1.10	£1.10
	£1	1/16	6p	£1	1.06	£1.06

## TOTE POOL

**totepool**

NEWBURY 14/05/2010  
 RACE 7 17:06:25  
 STAKE: £5.00

**toteeachway**

Selections  
 1. Rowan Tiger

TOTAL: £10.00

WN 1101 DVC 5614

AE14-8602-B7BC-4400


Time and place  
of race meeting

Stake

Selection

Total bet

## BOOKMAKER AT THE RAIL

**PETE HOUGHTON**

NEWBURY 14/05/2010 RACE 7  
 8 : SEVENTH CAVALRY @ 9/2  
 £5.00 Win

Return Win : £27.50

PLEASE CHECK YOUR TICKET  
**600349**  
 3490299979013

Time and place  
of race meetingSelection  
Stake

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## Example 1. A 'Win' bet

You place a £10 'Win' bet on a horse priced at 9/2. It wins. The bookmaker will pay you £55. That's £45 (£10 x 4.5) in winnings plus your £10 stake back.

## Example 2. A 'Place' bet

'Place' bets pay a fraction of the advertised 'Win' price. Hence a 25/1 horse may pay 1/5 of those odds for a 'Place'. It is worth checking the 'Place' terms before placing your bet.

You place £10 'Each Way' on a 25/1 horse. The bet costs you £20. Your horse finishes third in a field of 15. Your 'Win' bet is lost but your 'Place' bet pays out £60. That is £50 for the 'Place' (1/5th of 25/1 = 5/1) plus your original £10 stake for the 'Place' bet.

## Example 3. A bet at the Tote

You place a £5 bet to 'Win' at the Tote. The price on the screen says £6.80. A £5 bet at this price would pay £34 (£5 x 6.8).

Remember that the Tote price is inclusive of your original stake – so no additional £5 will be paid.

Your horse wins and you are paid £35 – more than you expected; because the price at the start of the race had moved to £7.00 (£5 x 7=£35). But remember that the price can also go down as well as up before the race starts – so be prepared!

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# Q6

## HOW TO PICK A WINNER

**READ THE RACECARD OR RACING POST. LOOK FOR TIPS IN TODAY'S NEWSPAPER. TAKE A LOOK IN THE PARADE RING**

A combination of observation, knowledge and luck! Racehorses are fickle characters and even the horse with everything in its favour – fitness, the going, in form trainer, choice of jockey and past form (**see Q7**) may not win its race. The challenge of predicting the race's outcome is what makes it especially rewarding when you do get it right – particularly if you have had a bet.

So, what can help us decide?

### The Favourite

A good place to begin is with the Favourite – the horse judged most likely to win the race, and on which the most money has been bet. The favourite is the horse offered at the shortest odds. The winnings will be less than a longer priced horse – but it is more likely to win!

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### Form

Your Racecard (Raceday Programme) or *Racing Post* will print details of today's 'runners and riders'. Against each horse, preceding its name, are up to six figures – such as 420131. This is the horse's form. The numbers indicate where the horse finished in its last six races; for example 4<sup>th</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, unplaced, 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup>.

### The jockey

There are 500 professional jockeys in the UK. Some, like Frankie Dettori and Tony McCoy are megastars in the sport. Many punters have favourite jockeys – you could choose one to follow throughout the day.

### The trainer

Like top jockeys, there are a number of highly successful trainers. Reading the *Racing Post* will give you more background on which trainers are currently 'in form'.

### The odds (see Q5)

The choice is yours – the higher the odds, the bigger your potential win. The underdog does sometimes succeed, so use your own judgement.

### Tips and tipsters

Your newspaper or *Racing Post* may include racing correspondents' tips and selections for today's racing.

### The 'going'

The state of the ground on-course. Depending on recent weather the 'going' may be heavy, soft, good to soft, good, good to firm, firm or hard. Different horses prefer racing on different ground and this will influence their performance. Comments on the going for today's race can be found in the Racecard and in your newspaper.

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**Parade Ring viewing**

Finally, take a look at the horses in the parade ring before the race – you may see a horse which you like the look of. An expert eye can read a lot about a horse in the Parade Ring.

**Handicaps**

In a handicap race the chances of each horse winning are, in theory, equalised by giving the best horses extra weight to carry. Most horses have an Official Rating **(OR)** which determines the weight they will carry in a handicap. The average flat racehorse is rated at around 60 and the average jumps horse around 95. This system means that horses of different levels can compete in the same race.

**(also see Q7).**

**Colour of silks or an interesting name**

Some base their choice on the colour of the jockey's racing clothes – the silks. For others, it is the name or number of the horse. Grey horses are often popular. No science, but fun all the same.

**A note of caution**

Form does not always run true. The result of a race can be unexpected, and the underdog may succeed. This is the origin of the phrase 'that's a turn up for the books'.



**Words of wisdom**  
*Nobody has ever bet  
enough on a winning horse*



## Q7

## HOW TO USE THE RACECARD

## THE RACECARD IS A SMALL BOOK LISTING THE DAY'S RACES AND OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

The Racecard, or Raceday Programme, is usually available to purchase at the main entrance. It includes an illustrated guide to each race showing the horses' names and their jockeys (**runners and riders**), owners, trainers, colour of the silks and a summary of recent form. Some Racecards contain tips from a racing expert.

For most people, the Racecard is their main reference for the day. The diagram on the following page will help you to better understand the information in the Racecard.

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## Form figures

Recent finishing positions (most recent to the right)  
1=1st, 2=2nd, 3=3rd,  
0=outside first six,  
P=pulled up,  
B=brought down,  
F=fell, R=refused,  
U=unseated rider

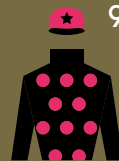
1320U6

Horse's name

(25,BF)

90

9

Trainer  
Owner5 9-11  
Jockey

## Horse's number

Carried on saddlecloth

## Age and weight

Age of horse and weight carried, including jockey (stones/lbs)

## BHA form rating

The higher the number the better.

Racing's Superstars - Jump:  
Kauto Star: 190  
Desert Orchid: 187

Racing's Superstar - Flat:  
Sea the Stars: 136

## Days since last run and additional information

D: horse has won over the distance

CD: horse has won at this course and distance

BF: horse was a beaten favourite in its last race

## Non-runners

There may be several non-runners on the day. These are horses which have been pulled out of running in the race for various reasons.

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## HOW DO I PLACE MY BET?

**SIMPLY TELL THE BOOKMAKER OR THE TOTE HOW MUCH YOU WANT TO BET, THE TYPE OF BET AND ON WHICH HORSE(S)**

### The Tote

Simply say how much you want to bet, the type of bet you want to place, and the number of the horse. It is advisable to confirm the time of the race you have selected. The number of the horse can be found in your Racecard and on the screens near the Tote counter. For example, '£5 to win on number 4 in the 4.25'. The amount you could win will only be known after the race has finished but the screens will give you an approximate indication of the likely payout.

You'll be given a receipt (see Q5) that shows the details of your bet. Check it and keep it safe. You will need it again later if you want to collect any winnings.

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### Bookmakers

Usually located in the 'betting ring' at the front of the stands, the bookmakers will give you fixed odds on your bet. This tells you from the outset how much you will receive if you win, and will be printed on your receipt (see Q5). You can shop around before placing your bet, and find the bookmaker who is offering the best odds for your chosen horse.

Simply tell the bookmaker the amount you wish to bet, the type of bet you want to place, and the number of your chosen horse. Not all independent bookmakers will accept an Each Way bet, so please ask first.

The bookmaker will give you a printed betting slip that tells you the amount you will win if your horse is successful. Keep it safe and remember the location of your bookmaker – you can only collect your winnings from the bookmaker with whom you placed your bet.

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# Q9

## HOW DO I FOLLOW THE RACE?

### GO OUTSIDE AND WATCH!

About five minutes before the race begins **(the off)** find a good place to stand and watch. Look out for the jockey's silks and the horse's number on the saddlecloth. Listen to the commentator on the racecourse public address system for a mention of your horse's name.

Many racegoers bring along binoculars to watch the race. At many racecourses you can also follow the action on the big screen in front of the grandstand. Settle in and enjoy the action.

**Good luck and happy punting.**

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**Words of wisdom**  
*The safest way to double your money is to fold it over once and put it in your pocket*

”

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# Q10

## I'VE WON! WHAT NEXT?

**CONGRATULATIONS! TAKE YOUR BETTING SLIP BACK TO YOUR BOOKMAKER OR THE TOTE. THEY WILL CHECK THE TICKET AND GIVE YOU YOUR WINNINGS**

The horse and jockey return to the parade ring and the jockeys are weighed by the stewards. Once 'Weighed In - Weighed In' is broadcast on the tannoy system the result of the race is official. Bookmakers and the Tote will pay out before this announcement so it is not necessary to wait until you hear it, although if there is a problem, a Stewards' Enquiry will be called and the result of the race will be delayed. Bookmakers and the Tote will then delay paying out until the result of the Stewards' Enquiry has been announced.

You may choose to go to the Winner's Enclosure to watch the presentation - especially if your horse has won!

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With races starting every 30 or so minutes it will soon be time for the next race and your next bet.

*- enjoy yourself*

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# GOOD LUCK!

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