

NTF 2018/19

Profiting from the front...



***The yards that you want to be backing off
the front end...***

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If you were able to successfully back all **front-running horses** in hurdle and chase races since the beginning of 2013 you would have made a very comfortable profit indeed.

In fact, you would have made a profit to SP of **+£4059.16** to level stakes. That figure would have improved to **+£12103.83** if using Betfair SP.

Backing all horses that ran **close to the pace** would have lost you **-£20494.38** to SP.

Backing all **hold-up horses** since 2013 would have lost you a whopping **-£54947.61** to SP.

Front-runners strike at 20.5% (26% above expectation)

Close to pace runners strike at 13% (2% above expectation – so pretty much what is expected)

Hold-up horses strike at 6% (16% below expectation)

So, it's simple really; **BACK ALL FRONT RUNNING HORSES AND QUIT YOUR JOBS NOW!**

Well no, not really...let's be honest here.

I'm not going to back all front runners in every hurdle and chase race run in the UK & Ireland.

YOU are not going to back all front runners in every hurdle and chase race run in the UK & Ireland.

The long and short of it is that it's not really a feasible method.

For starters you would have backed **28646 horses** in the past five years, and that's only if you had successfully managed to identify who the front-runners would be in EACH AND EVERY race that has been run in the past five years, including those that were going to be front-running for the first time (as in there was no back data to suggest they would be front-running in their current race).

It's not an *impossible* method...but it would be a sole-destroyingly difficult mind-f**k of a method for your everyday punter like you and me!

But...

...knowing this information can lead us down some interesting (and profitable) paths and there are more manageable ways we can profit from the fact that **Front-Runners strike at the highest rate of any running style AND produce by far and away the greatest profits of any running style.**

One of my favourite methods of attack with the front-runner knowledge, and I wouldn't call this a system, it's much more a method or 'angle in'/'starting point' to be used in conjunction with other forms of study, is to look in to the trainer side of things and specifically **those trainers whose horses excel off the front end.** Those trainers whose horses are so bouncing fit and

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ready to fire that nothing is going to get past them at the front end without really having to dig deep into their battling reserves.

If you can find a group of trainers whose horses are **dynamite off the front-end**, can be relied upon to **strike at an eye-watering rate** AND pull in a **serious amount of level stakes profits** to boot...well then you are in business my friend! It's a game changer and it really doesn't take that long to find who the front runners are, especially when you are only concentrating on a certain sub-set of the training population.

But Ben, I hear you ask, how the hell do we find these front-runners!?

Good question and thankfully, in this day and age, there are a number of ways to find this information...

There are paid databases/race cards such as [Proform Professional](#) and GeeGeez, both of which offer up Pace Maps for every race on a day's card. A quick look over them will give you a good indication of whether or not the trainer's horse you are looking at is likely to be a front-runner.

On the [full NTF service](#) I create pace maps for all races covered by myself on the race analysis section of the service.

You could go old school and look at a horse's last three races on the Racing Post website and then make your own assessment,

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based on the position they took up on recent starts, as to their likely racing position in their current race.

For me, however, the best **FREE resource** to look for a horse's likely running style is the **attheraces web-site** (www.attheraces.com). They have added a 'Pace' tab to their race cards in the past couple of years and it gives a great overview of the likely pace of any race.

This is what their pace tab looks like...

No.	Form	Horse	Age / Wt / OR	Jockey / Trainer	Pace (Forecast: Even)
1	U1233P-	SIZING TENNESSEE (IRE) 167 ch g Robin Des Champs - Jolivia (Dernier Empereur)	10 11-12 144	T Scudamore C L Tizzard	[Pace bar]
2	221-124	PRINCETON ROYALE (IRE) 68 br g Royal Palace - Chalkersstraight (Rising)	9 11-7 b 139	M J Andrews (7) N B King	[Pace bar]
3	123-411	CABARET QUEEN 100 b m King's Theatre - La Dame Brune (Mansonnien)	6 10-13 f 131	Harry Skelton D Skelton	[Pace bar]
4	35P41-2	ANTONY (FR) 131 b g Walk In The Park - Melanie Du Chenet (Nikos)	8 10-11 129	J E Moore G L Moore	[Pace bar]
5	2/242-22	CAPELAND (FR) 75 b g Poliglote - Neiland (Cyborg)	6 10-10 t 128	H Cobden P F Nicholls	[Pace bar]

From this example (run at Fontwell 05-10-17) you can see that PRINCETON ROYALE is highly likely to be the front runner (probably a solo front-runner) and the horse is trained by Neil King.

For the record Princeton Royale is a very trustworthy front-runner when he gets his conditions, his conditions being...

Good-G/S | 2m4f+ | C3 & below | OR 133 or less | LH | DSLR 60 or less = 11221311211 (7/11, 4p – all 7 career wins)

This is a very quick, efficient and free way to find who the likely front-runners are in any given race and, of course, to see who is set to ride them.

BUT Ben, I hear you ask again, which trainers should we be concentrating on when they send out front-runners?

Very good question, it is, after all, the point in this FREE NTF guide!

What follows are FIVE trainers whose horses excel when they are asked to race from the front, whose front-runners do a job at a frightening rate AND, most importantly, pull in a truck load of profits when their runners go from the front.

Not only will I give you the trainers and their associated front-running stats I will also, in my usual NTF manner, dig a bit deeper and find the REAL hot-spots within their already strikingly hot figures.

Enjoy...

****stats from Jan 1st 2013 – Oct 3rd 2018 – UK & IRE Chase and Hurdle races only – Sourced from the excellent [Proform professional](#)***

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- ✓ *The NTF UTR Squad*
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Willie Mullins

An obvious one to start with but the front-running stats Mullins pulls in are just too strong to ignore...

316/687 | 46% S/R | +£86.63 BFLSP (+£114.28 Early Price)

17% above expectation

It's hard to squeeze a profit out of the Mullins battalion but there *are* ways to do it and this is one of those ways! A 46% strike-rate with his horses that are sent to the front is simply outstanding and it's another example of his ability to get his horses exceptional fit and ready to fire.

The hot-spots...

Favs...

256/403 | 64% S/R | +£62.03 BFLSP (+£90.56 Early Price)

No surprise that the front-running favs go in at a hefty rate but the fact they are 15% above expectation and throw up some juicy profits make them worthy of inclusion here.

Punchestown...

50/99 | 51% S/R | +£62.43 BFLSP (+£63.84 Early Price)

Gowran...

23/33 | 70% S/R | +£30.34 BFLSP (+£33.10 Early Price)

The Mullins front-runners are clearly well-suited to bombing round off the front end at both these tracks, indeed Right-Handed tracks in general looks strong for the Mullins front-runners...

RH tracks – 232/466 | 50% S/R | +112.77 BFLSP

LH tracks – 84/221 | 38% S/R | -£26.14 BFLSP

Days Since Last run 16-65...

222/477 | 47% S/R | +£91.01 BFLSP (+£109.69 Early Price)

A small but not lengthy break from their last run looks the best rest period for those Mullins front-runners.

Willie Mullins front-running mini-angle...

DSLR 16-65 - RH tracks - Non-Handicaps

151/287 | 53% S/R | +£86.38 BFLSP (+£102.43 EP)

W&P – 200/287 | 70% S/R

Nicky Henderson

The Henderson team are another bunch that can be hard to squeeze profits from but if you can isolate the front-runners amongst his squad then you won't go far wrong...

112/246 | 46% S/R | +£112.42 BFLSP (+£117.04 Early Price)

25% above expectation

Bizarrely it's the same strike-rate as Mullins with the front-runners in team Henderson, albeit from about a third of the runners. Still plenty enough juice of the numbers front, however, to allow ample room to seek profits...

The hot-spots...

Class 2 level & below...

100/201 | 50% S/R | +£123.35 BFLSP (+£126.41 EP)

Makes sense that it's trickier to front-run in the class 1 races against high-ranking opposition so concentrating on the Class 2 & below levels does tighten things up a touch.

Novice contests...

62/118 | 53% S/R | +£45.80 BFLSP (+£52.03 EP)

Win & place – 83/118 | 70% S/R

Fitness and class tell plenty in the novice races and when Henderson has one going from the front they get the job done more often than not.

Kempton...

14/24 | 58% S/R | +£23.70 BFLSP (+£24.67 EP)

Win & place – 18/24 | 75% S/R

Statistically Kempton is one of the best tracks for front-runners so it's no surprise 'Hendo' has such strong figures at the track.

Nicky Henderson front-running mini-angle...

Novices Chases – Class 2 level & below

31/54 | 57% S/R | +£30.87 BFLSP (+£32.38 EP)

W&P – 37/54 | 69% S/R

Harry Fry

The Harry Fry front-runners are another bunch that excel off the front-end...

58/157 | 37% S/R | +£63.14 BFLSP (+£95.66 EP)

25% above expectation

A 37% strike-rate is definitely not to be sniffed at and neither are those level-stakes profits, especially if you are able to get on the front-runners the evening before (early prices).

The hot-spots...

July – Jan period...

42/88 | 48% S/R | +£70.57 BFLSP (+£84.55 EP)

From the height of summer right through to the end of January looks the best time to be catching the Fry front-runners, striking at almost 50% and pulling in some juicy profits to boot.

Novices...

32/68 | 47% S/R | +£42.55 BFLSP (+£61.06 EP)

Fry is another that makes his front-running novices pay handsomely. He's clearly a trainer that likes to have his novices bang ready and fit to fire, allowing his jockeys to use the horse's fitness and readiness to burn the opposition off from the front.

Harry Fry front-running mini-angle...

Novices – July to January period

21/40 | 53% S/R | +£27.00 BFLSP (+£25.78 EP)

W&P – 27/40 | 68% S/R

You've probably noticed those first three are pretty high profile yards, but that makes perfect sense, you need to be bang fit to successfully front-run and the big yards have the best facilities at their disposal to make sure their runners are ready, willing and able to keep the revs up off the front end for long enough to hold off their competitors.

The 'smaller' yards can do the job as well though and here's three slightly lesser lights that can also ready a front-runner...

Jamie Snowden

Jamie Snowden has been finding the winners enclose more and more each season, with his last three seasonal winner's tallies reading 17 >> 25 >> 35. A chief weapon for his string are their front-running skills...

40/154 | 26% S/R | +£84.63 BFLSP (+£90.17 LSP)

34% above expectation

A 26% strike-rate is very healthy and the juicy profits on offer show he's still very much a yard that the wider betting public have not quite latched on to.

The hot-spots...

Left-handed tracks...

35/114 | 31% S/R | +£107.42 BFLSP (+£110.12 EP)

The figures improve significantly when you only consider his runners on LH tracks. His runners on RH tracks are a 'poor' 5/40 | 12.5% S/R | -£22.79 LSP.

Jamie Snowden front-running mini-angle...

LH tracks - Handicaps

22/67 | 33% S/R | +£103.10 BFLSP (+£101.10 EP)

W&P – 39/67 | 58% S/R

Henry De Bromhead

De Bromhead is a trainer who likes his horses to go from the front, indeed only two other trainers have saddled more front runners than De Bromhead in the period under analysis (McCain & Mullins). As such it's no surprise to me to see him return solid front-running stats...

122/468 | 26% S/R | +£220.03 BFLSP (+£184.08 EP)

38% above expectation

38% above expectation and profits in excess of 200 points tells us that the wider market has really not cottoned onto the front-running prowess of the De Bromhead string. That profit figure is not boosted by a couple of excessively high exchange winners either, it's simply consistent front-running winners from De Bromhead, season upon season.

The hot-spots...

Favourites...

56/102 | 55% S/R | +£33.82 BFLSP (+£54.42 EP)

A solid strike-rate at play when an HDB front-runner starts as fav and they are also out-performing market expectation by 33%.

2m – 2m2f trips...

79/279 | 28% S/R | +£227.02 BFLSP (+£167.28 EP)

HDB has trained plenty of speedy sorts in recent years and it's those runners of his over the shorter trips that really pull in the front-running profits.

Henry De Bromhead front-running mini-angle...

Favourites – 2m – 2m2f trips

36/59 | 61% S/R | +£29.66 BFLSP (+£43.12 EP)

W&P – 47/59 | 80% S/R

Philip Kirby

A proper under-the-radar type here but one that's well worth noting on the front-runner angle...

35/122 | 23% S/R | +£225.09 BFLSP (+£182.33 EP)

70% above expectation

70% above expectation and a serious whack of profits to play with make means we should be taking the Kirby front-runners damn serious.

Philip Kirby front-running mini-angle...

February to August – 2m3f+

25/75 | 33% S/R | +£242.96 BFLSP (+£189.00 EP)

W&P – 35/75 | 47% S/R

Others to note...

Lucy Wadham Front-Runners

22/48 | 46% S/R | +£75.08 BFLSP (+£71.96 EP)

Win & Place – 30/48 | 63% S/R

102% above expectation

Kerry Lee Front-Runners

17/40 | 43% S/R | +£39.84 BFLSP (+£40.88 EP)

Win & Place – 26/40 | 65% S/R

63% above expectation

Tom Lacey front-Runners

22/64 | 34% S/R | +£37.70 BFLSP (+£56.49 EP)

Win & Place – 35/64 | 55% S/R

62% above expectation

Running styles remain a very much untapped source of profits for punters and are a vital piece in the analysis jigsaw for any race, on any track at any time of the year (well some tracks more than others, but I'll cover that in the NTF members area).

As mentioned at the start of this guide, I do believe using running styles to form a 'system' is just not really a feasible way forward. If going down that route then I would certainly advise using the narrowed down stats as the way forward rather than the wider stats.

What I would advise, and it's something I utilise in my own betting, is to use the knowledge gained from this guide to source profitable betting opportunities with the trainers highlighted, when their horse looks like being a front-runner.

For example, you see that a Harry Fry horse looks the likely front-runner in a novice race... BAM! That's your way in. **You know this is a profitable starting point.** You know the Fry front-running novices strike at almost 50%. You know there is a healthy level of profits at play when a Fry novice is likely to get the lead.

From there you can do a bit more digging (does horse handle ground, is it fit/likely to be fit, is in running at the correct class level, etc...) to see if you can find further positives and strengthen your case for getting your money down.

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The front-runner's trainer angle is a unique and different way in to a race and it's going to give you an extra edge to your form study and punting approach.

Best Regards

Ben (NTF)

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**We must remember that although trends and stats are a good pointer they are not a guarantee for future success and should be used as an aid to your overall betting approach.*

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*This guide was created with the help of the excellent **Proform Database***



Proform comes highly recommend by NTF

