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## **BETTING ON TWO YEAR OLDS**

**Written exclusively for the  
Betting School Insiders Club**

With the colossal amount of horse racing that takes place throughout the year it can be very difficult to return a profit on your punting activities. One way is to try and specialize on one particular type of racing and a good place to start is with two year old races.

For starters two year olds are, in the main, much more consistent than older flat horses. They may lack experience but they are also less likely to have picked up bad habits. Secondly there are far fewer two year olds than horses of other ages. Thirdly, and also on the positive side is the fact that most horses will progress consistently throughout their juvenile year and will continue to grow in both size and strength during the season. As two year olds race almost entirely against their own age there is not the added complication of trying to weigh up the relative merits of different generations. Finally performance comparisons are a great deal easier throughout the juvenile season as the majority of two year old races are over sprint distances (over 60% are over five or six furlongs) and as a result are a good medium for the use of a number of credible and in some cases free form and speed ratings.

### **The Two Year Old Season**

The first race of the new turf season is the Brocklesby Stakes run over 5F at the Doncaster Lincoln meeting towards the end of March. The race tends to attract quite a few above average types since the prize money is good. Quite a few winners tend to come from the runners that ran well in this race so they can be worth following.

During April there is generally at least one race for juveniles almost every day, all of which are over 5F. The going can often be soft and a check on a horses breeding can be a good guide to it acting on this.

Moving onto May which is where the form begins to settle down and the market can be a good guide. Trainers start introducing their better Ascot bound juveniles and also around the middle of the month the first 6F races take place which provides an opportunity for the slightly more stoutly bred two year olds.

Also this month sees the introduction of the "Listed" contests which are important to owners as winning or being placed can enhance the value of the horses concerned far more than the actual prize money on offer.

June sees the main targets at Royal Ascot which the top trainers use as these are the most important shop window, both in prize money and stud value.

July heralds the start of nurseries which are handicaps exclusively for two year olds and can be notoriously difficult to predict although top weights have consistently run well in the past.

By August the early two year olds are beginning to struggle against the later maturing types and horses that have been on the go from March or early April may start to become jaded. The highlights of this month are the festivals at Glorious Goodwood and the York Ebor meeting. There are several Group contests for two year olds and also high value maidens.

During September races over 9F and 10F are contested but also the first Group 1 race, the Fillies Mile at Ascot. In the remainder of the turf racing calendar a lot of backward types get the chance to gain experience with a race course outing, however the market can be a useful guide as the work watchers will have taken note of the better runners on the gallops during the previous few months.

During October the year's most prestigious races for juveniles take place, the Cheveley Park Stakes for fillies, the Dewhurst and Racing Post Trophy for colts. These races and the other Group stakes held during the month are very significant for predictions for the following years Classics.

### **Profitable Two Year Old Method**

Now that we are aware of the various patterns of races during the turf flat season for two year olds how can we profit from betting on them. It was mentioned in the opening section of this report that two year old races can be suitable to evaluate with form and speed ratings. One particular free source on the internet is the ratings available on the [www.adrianmassey.com](http://www.adrianmassey.com) site. I ran a few simple but logical parameters through the extensive database and came up with what has been during the last three seasons a consistently profitable method, the rules of which are as follows:

1. Turf flat season only.
2. May-October inclusive (March and April are omitted to allow the form to settle down).
3. Classes 1-4 inclusive (excluding Group races – this concentrates on the better quality races but not the very top ones which are ultra competitive).
4. Maidens and Stakes Races only (nursery handicaps are very difficult to work out).
5. 5 and 6 furlongs only (this keeps the emphasis on speed).

6. Adrian Massey clear top rated by a minimum of 10 points.
7. Priced at 2/1 or above (if using the exchanges use 3.10 as the minimum price to allow for commission.

On average there have been 60-70 bets in each of the three years researched and a very respectable Return on Investment to level stakes at Industry SP. These profits are very likely to be higher using the exchanges and you have the added benefit of placing the bets at any time prior to the race time using the Betfair SP facility set to 3.10 minimum odds value.

The summarised results are:

Totals							
	Bets	Wins	Win Strike Rate	Win %Return at SP	Placed (inc wins)	Place Strike Rate	Each-Way %Return at SP
All Selections	198	56	28.3%	134.7%	106	53.5%	117.7%

Results broken down by Year							
	Bets	Wins	Win Strike Rate	Win %Return at SP	Placed (inc wins)	Place Strike Rate	Each-Way %Return at SP
2007	63	20	31.7%	136.5%	33	52.4%	113.1%
2008	63	16	25.4%	128.0%	34	54.0%	122.4%
2009	72	20	27.8%	138.9%	39	54.2%	117.7%

Results broken down by Month							
	Bets	Wins	Win Strike Rate	Win %Return at SP	Placed (inc wins)	Place Strike Rate	Each-Way %Return at SP
May	54	16	29.6%	156.5%	32	59.3%	141.9%
June	26	5	19.2%	105.1%	14	53.8%	102.0%
July	43	10	23.3%	129.7%	20	46.5%	109.7%
August	39	12	30.8%	122.6%	21	53.8%	106.7%
September	17	5	29.4%	107.4%	9	52.9%	96.9%
October	19	8	42.1%	173.7%	10	52.6%	130.0%

Results broken down by Race Distance							
	Bets	Wins	Win Strike Rate	Win %Return at SP	Placed (inc wins)	Place Strike Rate	Each-Way %Return at SP
5 furlongs	64	16	25.0%	129.7%	34	53.1%	115.1%
6 furlongs	134	40	29.9%	137.1%	72	53.7%	119.0%