

"PRO-PUNTER" SOFTWARE

Dear Customer,

Perhaps inevitably, a manual produced by a practised user (ourselves) leaves some matters ill-explained for those unfamiliar with racing or the software. One or two questions have arisen and we repeat answers below for the benefit of all. If you are unfamiliar with racing terminology and require further support please do not hesitate to telephone.

1. All trainer tables should contain TRAINERS with the best PERCENTAGES rather than maximum wins. Thus, a trainer winning 2 races from 2 starts should be given priority over one with 40 wins from 40 starts. Race distance: there are eight furlongs in a mile.
2. The software will match slight differences in initials in the format of trainer and jockey names in different parts of the program. Thus, H R A CECIL in the trainers in form table would be matched with H CECIL elsewhere. It will also try to deal with the abbreviation of long, hyphenated names and with upper/lower case mismatches. However, it will not deal with spelling errors. As a general "working" rule you should enter initials and surnames in full and try to standardise all such input.
3. Input stage two. Form figures for the previous three runs should include those from last season if the horse has raced fewer than three times this season. THE MOST RECENT RUN IS ALWAYS THE LAST FIGURE TO BE INPUT.
4. Input stage three. Total FIRST PRIZE money should be entered for the whole of the horse's career, along with total number of wins. OMIT commas, hence £25,600 should be entered as 25600.
5. Input stage five. SPEED RATINGS are those printed under "STOP WATCH" in "The Sporting Life" and NOT those printed with the detailed form for each horse. The latter are unadjusted. COLLATERAL WEIGHT RATINGS are printed on page two of "The Sporting Life".

6. CLASS OF RACE. Input stages 1 and three ask you to select from a table the class of today's race, eg HANDICAP 0-100. In "The Sporting Life" the class of today's race should be given with the racecard information above the list of runners, the class of a previous race with previous form. However, occasionally the class of race may be unclear. If in doubt:

A NON-HANDICAP should be entered as a conditions Race unless given otherwise.

HANDICAPS:

AMSTRAD/ATARI/IBM - If a race rating (eg 0-75) is not given then enter as an UNCONDITIONAL HANDICAP. The software will do the rest.

BBC ONLY - The class of a HANDICAP should be obtainable by reference to the "Ahead of the Handicapper" table. The handicap mark of a race, eg 0-100, means that a horse rated at 100 is set to carry 10st on the flat and 12st 7lbs over the jumps. Thus a horse set to carry 8-8 in a flat 0-100 Handicap must be rated 80 since it carries 20lbs less than 10st.

Where the class of any handicap is not indicated then the class of race can be estimated as follows:

- a) Subtract the weight carried from 10st on the flat or 12st 7lbs over the jumps.
- b) Add that difference, in lbs, to the horses handicap rating for that race - given in "Ahead of the Handicapper" ("Sporting Life") - and the result will be a figure which indicates the upper handicap limit for that race.

BBC users need only adopt the above procedure to ascertain the class of TODAY'S race. If the handicap mark of a horse's previous race is unclear then assume it is the same class as today's race and the software will do the rest.

We are very pleased to hear that many customers are achieving good results. One interesting feature of the package is that the user tends to learn over over a period of time where it is best used. We would however remind all users that horses should only be backed at "value" odds, ie ODDS BETTER THAN THE COMPUTER SP. Making money from racing is as much about patience and accepting a "value" price as about finding winners and impatient backers invariably lose money. Of course, many of you will not be around a bookmaker's at the start of each race, in which case you may have to accept starting prices and hope that the average odds on a sequence of bets are better than the percentage strike-rate. Alternatively, you could 'build in' a safety margin, such that the forecast price must be one or two points above the computer SP before you will bet.

Finally, we have been asked for guidance on race selection. Our own methods are very instinctive and hard to rationalise, a 'nose' for a race being something which is perhaps acquired over a long period of time. However, we offer the following 'rules of thumb' which should put you in the right area:

1. Eliminate all races with fewer than five and more than fifteen/sixteen runners.
2. Eliminate all races where any horse is without a collateral weight rating.
3. Eliminate all races of a low prize value or status, for example Selling races, Apprentice Races, races for Amateur riders, Ladies races, low-rated handicaps. THIS IS VITALLY IMPORTANT. Pro-Punter will produce a forecast for such races but remember that MANY FORM 'UPSETS' OCCUR IN POOR CLASS RACES.
4. Flat season: eliminate all maiden races, races restricted to two year olds only and races restricted to three year olds only. Treat sprint races of 5 and 6 furlongs with caution as luck in running tends to play a greater part over shorter distances. .
5. National Hunt Season: eliminate National Hunt flat races and novice events.
6. If any races are left from the day's card after all the above have been eliminated, select the highest value race or that with the most exposed form for analysis.

7. Before you bet. Note that it is possible to generate 'weak' investment advice from PRO-PUNTER by 'dabbling' in the type of race where there is a distinct possibility of a form upset or where a 'dark horse' (eg improving three year old) is better than the form on paper suggests. Note too that there are times of the year when racing form is very suspect and when your money is best left in your pocket. These are, traditionally, MARCH/APRIL and OCTOBER/NOVEMBER on the flat and APRIL/MAY, AUGUST/SEPTEMBER National Hunt. Our experience with PRO-PUNTER seems to bear this out and we would advise you to keep this in mind before betting.

Example: Saturday 25th July 1987. The above procedure leaves one race at Ayr and three at Ascot for possible analysis. The Group One "King George" at Ascot has the highest prize money value and highest status but contains three horses trained abroad whose form is would be difficult for the computer to assess. The race of next value is the Sandringham Handicap at Ascot and all form is well exposed with horses having had several runs this season and all with previous season's form. The time of year is right. PRO-PUNTER selects Polish Count with a 2/1 probability of winning. Polish count goes on to win at value odds of 9/2. It also gives the winner of the King George (Reference Point) but the Sandringham is the logical choice for analysis.

We must stress that the above are only guidelines for race selection and do not constitute any kind of researched system nor any fixed pattern which we ourselves follow.

Regards,



PRO-PUNTER FOR THE

DATA ENTRY - AMSTRAD

Data entry on the Amstrad differs slightly from procedures outlined in the Instruction Manual in the following sections:

- 1,2,3,4 : ignore. Refer to the installation instructions (separate sheet).
- 6: you may enter up to 20 trainers in form.
the FLAT trainers in form file will NOT overwrite the NATIONAL HUNT file,
separate discs (LIBRARY) for FLAT and NH are not essential.
ignore the note on *COPY.
- 7: a spelling-checker for courses is now included.
- 6,9: you will be offered a choice of formats when entering data for each table. You may enter a percentage win figure or opt to enter the number of winners and number of runners. In the latter case a percentage will be calculated and displayed.
- 11: <RETURN> not required after each of the three placings.
- 20: the top 20 are displayed.
- 21: the printer is controlled on the Amstrad from the option on the final forecast screen. Note that pressing the PTR key will display the printer status and the + key will switch it on/off line.

INVESTMENT ADVICE

As explained in 'Choice of Races', lower class races may be dubious betting mediums.

Investment advice codes may be supplemented by the word (CLASS) which indicates a lower class race.

Named horses with a (CLASS) supplement indicates a weak investment advice generated by your choice of race.

APPENDIX 3

The Amstrad PCW range is very robust and disc operations appear to be very reliable. Ignore the notes on error-handling which relate to the BEC computer.

You are advised to treat yourself to a new WORKING COPY every now and then. There's nothing like a disc error after 30 minutes of input and ten minutes before the race for prompting a heart attack!

Finally, the Amstrad is fairly slow when accessing the disc. If nothing appears to be happening then give it time before tearing your hair out.

NB DURING INPUT AND ANALYSIS YOU SHOULD NOT PRESS THE 'STOP' KEY.
IF YOU ACCIDENTALLY PRESS IT DURING INPUT THEN TYPE 'RUN' TO
RESTART THE SECTION YOU ARE ON. ANALYSIS SHOULD BE RESTARTED WITH
'CHAIN "MENU2".'

PENALTY VALUES

Penalty Value is the profit made by the winner's connections, i.e. the winner's portion of the total prizemoney, less entry, forfeit (for bigger races) and declaration stakes. It determines penalties for future races and can be calculated at the four-day stage.

Total prizemoney for a race consists of:

1. Added money, including sponsor contributions.
2. Entry, forfeit and declaration stakes.
3. In guaranteed sweepstakes the prizemoney is either the guaranteed amount or total stakes, whichever is greater.

N.B. In non-sponsored novice hurdles with up to £2000 added, declarations (excluding winners) shall be ballot to 2.5 times safety factor (rounded down). Refunded stakes affect penalty value.

Prizemoney is distributed in the following percentages:

RACE TYPE	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Flat Pattern races (Groups 1,2,3)	60	23	11.5	5.5
Jump Championship & Feature races	60	23	11.5	5.5
Novice Chases & races with £4,000+ added	65	20	10	5
Other races	70	20	10	-

Penalty Value must be recalculated at the overnight stage when:

1. Fewer runners than places with prizemoney (including walkover).

Unclaimed prizemoney (plus stakes) goes to winner.

2. Horses are eliminated or balloted out to comply with safety limits. Their stakes are refunded and deducted from prizemoney pool.

3. Race is divided. Runners are split into as many different divisions as necessary, the the prizemoney for each division consists of:

- a. Added (guaranteed) money, which is the same as that for original race (extra is drawn from Race Division Fund).

- b. Stakes for all non-acceptors, shared among all divisions.

- c. Stakes for horses in that division only (so when odd number of declarations, division with more runners will have larger penalty value).

NB. Ballot applies when declared runners exceed safety limit, or multiple of it, by only one or two. Refunded stakes affect penalty value.

Penalty value must be recalculated after the race when:

1. Fewer finishers than places with prizemoney. Unclaimed prizemoney (plus stakes) goes to winner.

2. There is a dead-heat. Prizemoney for the relevant places is shared.

NB: Winning owner receives average of about 50 per cent of total prizemoney, trainer 6, Jump jockey 6, Flat jockey 4.5, stable 3, valet 0.2, jockey's pension fund 0.6.

RIDERS' ALLOWANCES

	71b until 10 Flat wins
Flat apprentices aged under 24	51b until 50 Flat wins
can claim:	31b until 75 Flat wins

Allowances can be claimed in:

1. Sellers and handicaps.
2. Races with up to £8,000 added.

Special allowances apply in apprentice races, which are excluded from above totals.

Jump jockeys aged under 25 can claim:

	71b until 15 wins under any rules
	41b until 30 wins under any rules

Allowances can be claimed in:

1. Sellers and handicaps other than the Grand National.
2. Races with up to £3,000 added.

Special allowances apply in conditional races, which with British apprentices and NH Flat races are excluded from above totals.

AMATEUR RIDERS

CATEGORY A can ride in NH Flat races and any amateur race. Flat or Jumps.

CATEGORY B can also ride against professionals over jumps.

Amateurs aged 25+ can claim amateur races or if they are category A riders in open NH Flat races.