

## Nigel Twiston-Davies: 'THE' Early Season Trainer

Intro:

It has long been known that Nigel Twiston-Davies is the 'go to' trainer in September and October. Year after year he has his string in better shape than anyone else. They are simply fitter, ready to strike and generally like a battle. For those of us who like following trainers and systems we couldn't ask for too much more. He has been very consistent. And it is a decent enough data set to attack.

Hopefully by the time you read this NTD will just be starting to roll with a good 6/7 weeks left to build up the profits.

There will come a time when he fluffs his lines but as yet there is no sign of that happening. Over recent years 'Twister Season' (a term used by my good racing pal Ben Aitken) has become more widely known but as you will see, 'backing all' still works. But, there are ways to improve the bottom line...

There are numerous 'ways in' and 'positive pointers' that will help build up the Christmas fund, or holiday fund, or whatever you spend your betting winnings on 😊 My aim is to find a few of those as well as the odd 'micro system' we can just follow. As always with such an approach it's wise to check the yard form. He will have a shocker one day, but fingers crossed it isn't this year! He helped my blog readers and I have a good start to the jumps season last year. Let's see if he can do it again...

I thought I would start with a general look at ALL of his National Hunt runners over the last five years, 2012/13/14/15/16, broken down by month...

Criteria	Bets	Wins	Win%	P/L(SP)	Place%	ROI(SP)	P/L(BF)	P/c(BF)	P/L(P/c)	A/E
January	306	44	14.38	-63.26	34.64	-20.67	-40.5	113	-6.54	0.99
February	323	32	9.91	-119.55	28.79	-37.01	-92.13	103	-57.88	0.7
March	369	49	13.28	-76.52	33.06	-20.74	-29.59	132	9.12	0.91
April	362	40	11.05	-122.65	32.6	-33.88	-96.37	124	21.7	0.77
May	217	24	11.06	-81.76	26.27	-37.68	-69.93	65	-62.97	0.71
June	115	19	16.52	-10.75	37.39	-9.35	6.57	46	-7.21	0.94
July	81	12	14.81	-19.33	38.27	-23.86	-1.19	31	3.6	0.94
August	79	17	21.52	-4.42	37.97	-5.59	0.97	32	-7.56	1.11
September	113	26	23.01	13.62	43.36	12.05	29.19	56	0.75	0.98
October	277	62	22.38	49.38	44.04	17.83	77.48	129	23.42	1.18
November	351	39	11.11	-172.68	34.76	-49.2	-163.17	128	-30.79	0.69
December	359	57	15.88	-46.96	37.6	-13.08	-4.24	144	-5.76	0.94

Hopefully you can see why Ben called these two months 'Twister Season'. You could have just backed all of his Sept/Oct runners blind and done ok, as you can see below...

	Bets	Wins	Win%	P/L(SP)	Place%	ROI(SP)	P/L(BF)	Plc(BF)	P/L(Plc)	A/E
ALL	390	88	22.56	63	43.85	16.15	106.66	185	24.17	1.11
2016	92	28	30.43	19.32	50	21	25.79	51	-0.7	1.19
2015	69	13	18.84	24.39	34.78	35.35	37.09	25	-7.07	1.12
2014	66	16	24.24	27.82	40.91	42.15	36.85	29	-0.91	1.15
2013	89	19	21.35	7.27	48.31	8.17	19.21	46	15.31	1.07
2012	74	12	16.22	-15.8	41.89	-21.35	-12.29	34	17.54	0.95

Now I could just stop there but that would be a rather short article! ☺

So, where should we focus...

*Odds*

It may be worth noting that with all runners sent off 25/1 or bigger NTD is 0/20,1p

\*

And as with all trainers he does well in certain race types over others...

Criteria	Bets	Wins	Win%	P/L(SP)	Place%	ROI(SP)	P/L(BF)	P/L(Plc)	A/E
Chase	3	0	0	-3	0	-100	-3	-2	0
Hurdle	8	3	37.5	-4.14	37.5	-51.75	-4.1	-4.83	0.9
NH Flat	22	3	13.64	0	50	0	5.5	4.67	0.82
Seller Hurdle	5	1	20	-1.5	40	-30	-1.19	1.14	1.39
Beginners Chase	8	1	12.5	-4	50	-50	-3.66	1.9	0.46
Maiden Hurdle	26	6	23.08	17.73	53.85	68.19	23.01	6.15	1.55
Maiden NH Flat	8	3	37.5	3.5	50	43.75	3.79	0.71	1.55
Novices Chase	26	8	30.77	-0.46	53.85	-1.77	0.99	2.35	0.95
Novices Hurdle	55	15	27.27	10.92	41.82	19.85	15.91	-15.71	1.13
Handicap Chase	113	25	22.12	30.79	42.48	27.25	44.44	12.47	1.19
Handicap Hurdle	77	13	16.88	-9.67	38.96	-12.56	-4.94	8.43	1.05
Handicap Seller Hurdle	2	0	0	-2	0	-100	-2	-2	0
Handicap Novices Chase	29	8	27.59	21.08	44.83	72.69	27.65	6.33	1.34
Handicap Novices Hurdle	8	2	25	3.75	62.5	46.88	4.26	4.58	1.64

So, a simple micro, focussing on those profitable race types to SP..

## Micro 1

- 22/1 or under SP
- Non handicaps: Maiden Hurdle/Maiden NH Flat / Novice Hurdle /
- Handicaps: Handicap Chase /Handicap Novice Chase / Handicap Novice Hurdle

	Bets	Wins	Win%	P/L(SP)	Place%	ROI(SP)	P/L(BF)	P/L(Plc)	A/E
ALL	227	59	25.99	99.77	47.14	43.95	131.05	26.52	1.26
2016	47	20	42.55	36.95	63.83	78.62	41.69	8.18	1.58
2015	41	7	17.07	19.33	34.15	47.15	25.55	-1.2	1.02
2014	38	9	23.68	23.19	42.11	61.03	30.82	-0.12	1.17
2013	56	14	25	26.6	50	47.5	37.97	14.09	1.26
2012	45	9	20	-6.3	42.22	-14	-4.97	5.57	1.06

You could either follow those systematically or use any qualifiers as a starting point in further analysis.

So, that is race types. Let's dive in and see if we can find any unique angles or home in on the 'type/profile' of horse that he does best with.

Back to the starter set of data, (all NH runners in Sept/Oct) no odds caps...

### Age

*Aged 4-6 : 55/206, 101 p, +89 BFSP*

*Aged 7+ : 33/182,70p, +19... AE 0.96*

As a general group the older horses perform below market expectations albeit there will be 'ways in' within that data set.

### Career Runs

Those that had yet to set foot on a race course under rules do ok...

31 bets / 6 wins / 14 p / +22 ISP / +30 BFSP / AE 1.12

You could use that as a micro in itself or in any case ensure you are not put off by those making race course debut.

### Track

Two tracks jump out at you when looking through. These stats are for all runners, all race types and no odds caps:

- Uttoxeter: 32 bets / 10 wins / 18p / +32 SP / +39 BFSP
- Worcester: 34 bets / 9 wins / 13 p / +25 SP / +33 BFSP

Meaning that combined they create a decent little

### **MICRO 2 ... NTD/Sept+Oct/All Runners/Uttox+Worc...**

	Bets	Wins	Win%	P/L(SP)	Places	Place%	ROI(SP)	P/L(BF)	P/L(Plc)	A/E
ALL	66	19	28.79	57.38	31	46.97	86.94	72.01	7.85	1.54
2016	19	5	26.32	1	9	47.37	5.26	1.9	-1.33	1.23
2015	19	7	36.84	30.38	9	47.37	159.89	38.07	3.76	2.08
2014	9	2	22.22	16	4	44.44	177.78	21.32	2.8	1.56
2013	12	3	25	4	5	41.67	33.33	4.75	0.81	1.35
2012	7	2	28.57	6	4	57.14	85.71	5.96	1.82	1.38

Next I want to have a look at the handicap versus non handicap split. In general I am a handicap punter and that is what I like to focus on. So, it makes sense to do so! You have to focus on what you enjoy in this game...

Criteria	Bets	Wins	Win%	P/L(SP)	Place%	ROI(SP)	P/L(BF)	P/L(Plc)	A/E
Non Handicap	161	40	24.84	19.05	46.58	11.83	37.25	-5.63	1.04
Handicap	229	48	20.96	43.95	41.92	19.19	69.41	29.8	1.17

Handicaps have been more profitable and perform better against market expectation.

So, let's see if we can find a few handicap angles of note...

Starting with handicap hurdles vs chases...

Criteria	Bets	Wins	Win%	P/L(SP)	Places	Place%	P/L(BF)	P/L(Plc)	A/E
Chase	142	33	23.24	51.87	61	42.96	72.09	18.79	1.22
Hurdle	87	15	17.24	-7.92	35	40.23	-2.68	11.01	1.08

### Handicap chases

#### **Micro 3... Handicap Chases...**

**Class 4+5:** 64 bets / 20 wins / 29 p / 31% sr / +50 SP / +62 BFSP / AE 1.39

#### **Fitness..**

Every man, woman and their dog knows that NTD can 'ready them' at home and those that have been off the track for 90 days or more are seemingly over-bet in these months.

That looks to be the case with his handicap chasers, having had 0 runs in the previous 90 days... 14/72, 30p, +2 SP, +8 BFSP, AE 0.99

If you just removed such runners and focussed on all his other handicap chasers, that had 1 run or more in the previous 90 days: 19/70,31p, +49 SP, +63 BFSP, AE 1.49

That is quite a difference in terms of performance against market expectation and gives us more room for manoeuvre moving forwards.

### **Recent Form...**

Those that had won at least once in their last three starts do not do that well: 8/52,19p, -10, AE 0.77.

There is some logic there... as they are more likely to appear in form they may be over-bet, and a recent win generally means they will have gone up in the handicap.

So, you could just focus on those handicap chasers that HAD NOT won at all on their last three starts. That would leave...

### ***Micro 4... Handicap Chases / NO win in last three starts ...***

90 bets / 25 wins / 42 places / 28% sr / +62 SP / +77 BFSP / AE 1.51

(of note: those within this angle that had 0 runs in the previous 90 days do much better than the base set)

### **Weight...**

NTD's chasers do very well when they either have nothing on their back (10-00) or are near the top of the handicap (11-9+) Ignoring jockey claims and simply going by the weight on the racecard you could just ignore all those outside of these weight ranges. Those carrying between 10-1 and 11-8 are: 12/91,34p, -25, AE 0.73.

There is plenty of logic there I think, which is always important. With those at the bottom NTD may be successful at identifying those chasers who would struggle to carry bigger weights and would be better in a higher class race with nothing on their back, as an example. Those near the top of the handicap are clearly some of the best chasers in the race, based on their OR. It would appear ability/class tells and NTD can place them.

### **Micro 5... Handicap chases / carrying 10-00 or 11-9 or more...**

	Bets	Wins	Win%	P/L(SP)	Places	Place%	ROI(SP)	P/L(BF)	P/L(Plc)	A/E
ALL	51	21	41.18	77.21	27	52.94	151.39	90.75	16.98	1.99
2016	13	8	61.54	20.88	9	69.23	160.62	22.75	5.03	2.38
2015	8	4	50	25.33	4	50	316.63	28.38	3.05	2.56
2014	10	4	40	24	5	50	240	29.54	3.68	2.14
2013	9	3	33.33	7	5	55.56	77.78	8.64	2.69	1.6
2012	11	2	18.18	0	4	36.36	0	1.45	2.53	1.07

Experience...

Another way in is to focus on those lightly raced handicap chasers, those with 0-4 career runs in chases to their name. Interestingly this angle is profitable where those above are not (the 'middle' weight range, and having won on their last three starts)...

### **Micro 6... Handicap chases / 0-4 chase runs...**

	Bets	Wins	Win%	P/L(SP)	Places	Place%	ROI(SP)	P/L(BF)	ROI(BF)	P/L(Plc)	A/E
ALL	51	16	31.37	37.58	24	47.06	73.69	45.97	90.13	7.08	1.47
2016	8	4	50	12.75	5	62.5	159.38	13.27	165.89	2.44	1.88
2015	14	2	14.29	-1.17	4	28.57	-8.36	-0.75	-5.37	-5.53	0.74
2014	9	3	33.33	4.75	3	33.33	52.78	5.9	65.59	-1	1.52
2013	16	5	31.25	16.25	9	56.25	101.56	22.12	138.23	8.83	1.58
2012	4	2	50	5	3	75	125	5.43	135.73	2.33	2.33

I think that is it for his handicap chasers. I have included a few 'micro systems' and I expect there to be plenty of crossover which is fine. I would just back such multiple qualifiers once but I will leave that to you.

Onto.. **Handicap Hurdlers...**

Odds

Well, it would appear the market is a real guide with these. Those sent off 8/1 or bigger are 1/36,8p, -25, AE 0.35 in the period and a strong case could be made to just focus on those that are under 17/2 or shorter SP

51 bets / 14 wins / 27 places / 27% sr / +17 SP / +21 BFSP / AE 1.26

Looking at the record since 2012 would make me wary of backing these systematically. But let's see if I can find an angle or two... so those that are 17/2 or shorter SP...

*Aged 6 or 7:* 19 bets / 8 wins / 10 places / 42% sr / +20 / +22 BFSP / AE 1.71

And that's it from what I can see. Handicap hurdlers are covered in the track stats earlier on in the article, at Uttoxeter/Worcester. But from what I can see there are no other major ways in.

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I will leave it there for this month's article. With any luck you are reading this just as NTD is starting to fire in the winners. Fingers crossed these angles/micro systems help us all make a few points profit in the coming weeks.

I don't know about you but I am rather excited that 'proper' racing has returned 😊

All the best, Josh ([www.racingtoprofit.co.uk](http://www.racingtoprofit.co.uk))