GREYHOUD RACING AND BETTING GUIDE

A guide to Greyhound Racing and general considerations you can use to bet on the dogs.

Before we start and get in to the guide, some things you need to know:

- This guide is brought to you by http://www.greyhoundracinginfo.co.uk

- You are granted give-away rights to this guide – this means you can freely distribute this guide by any legal method however you MAY NOT change the content in anyway. For example you may give it to your friends, post it to your Facebook page, give it away from your web site etc.

- The information contained in this guide is intended for informational and recreational purposes only.

- The information contained in this guide is valid at the time of writing.

- NEVER, EVER use money for gambling or betting which you cannot afford to lose under any circumstances.

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

Greyhound racing is very popular here in the UK. As well as being a fun night (or afternoon) out, the greyhounds offer up betting opportunities all day long pretty much every day. Why? Because with many meetings to chose from starting around 11am and running through to around 10:30pm you will never be short of action as the typical greyhound meeting generally consists of around 14 races at roughly 15 minute intervals.

In this guide we will take a look at how greyhound racing works, the races, how to read the form in the race card through to ratings and systematic approaches you can take to help you identify potential betting opportunities together with tools available to make this easier.

After reading this guide I hope you are more "clued up" about the dogs and have a different dimension to your betting activity whether for the more serious punter or if you simply fancy a night out at your local track and a bit of fun.

Now please read the rest of this ebook. We'll start with the basics of greyhound racing on the next page.

GREYHOUND RACING BASICS

The typical greyhound track consists of four bends joined by two longish straights. Race distances vary from track to track with this being dependant on the number of "bends" the race is run over.

For example:

- ➢ sprint races are run over two bends and tend to be around 280 – 330 metres
- ➢ the majority of races are run over four bends and tend to be around 450 – 550 metres taking in the run to the first bend then one full lap of the track
- ➢ staying races are run over six bends and tend to be around 650 metres or so taking in about one and a half laps of the track
- ➢ occasionally a race may be run over a more extreme distance

The typical greyhound race consists of six dogs all starting together from the traps (think stalls in horse racing as an equivalent example) and racing around the track chasing something they think is a rabbit. It's their natural instinct to do this.

Handicap races take place with staggered starts based on the dog's ability/form/times over the trip – for example the "best" dog in the race might start say 10 metres behind the "worst" dog who starts with a 10 metre advantage with the other four dogs spaced out behind based on their judged ability in the context of the race.

It is suggested that all handicap races and sprints are avoided for betting purposes though take your own view on that.

The standard fare are "graded" races where dogs race generally based on their race times and performance. This is where it is suggested you concentrate your betting efforts on as you have form at your fingertips in the race card and the dogs leave the traps together from the normal start line.

Also in graded races the dogs all run exclusively at the same track on average around once every week to ten days or so thus giving some (arguable) reliability to the form.

Graded races are ranked using numbers with the higher the number, the better the grade of race. So for example if you see an A8 race that has a much lower grade of dog in it than an A2 race.

Greyhounds move up and down the grades depending on how they perform and the race times they achieve. The challenge of the each track's racing manager is to grade the dog's accordingly so that, generally speaking, graded races consist of dogs of very similar ability.

There are also "Open" races which are, like they sound, open to dogs from different tracks to race at and generally considered to be of a much better standard than the standard graded races. If an owner is fortunate enough to own a greyhound of open race standard then they may travel around the country with their dog chasing the bigger open race prizes.

It is suggested that, like sprint races and handicaps, open races are avoided for betting purposes instead concentrating on standard graded races though again, take your own view on that.

The main reason for suggesting only standard graded races (ideally those over four or six bends) is that:

You have all the recent form in the race card

The dogs are used to running at the same track

Sprint races are over so quickly (less than 20 seconds) that a tardy start makes it very tricky for a greyhound to recover from

Handicaps made difficult from a form study perspective given the staggered starts

So that's an overview of the basics of a greyhound race – where can you go to get the action live?

In the UK, greyhound racing is governed by the Greyhound Board of Great Britain. You can find out more about what they do and where tracks are located at their web site: http://www.thedogs.co.uk

In Ireland, where greyhound racing is also very popular, the Irish Greyhound Board run the show. More about them at tracks in Ireland at their web site: http://www.igb.ie

OK, that's the basics explained – next it's time to look at the various types of bets available on the dogs.

TYPES OF BET

Bookmakers will be in operation at all tracks. They generally take win only bets though some may operate a book excluding the favourite – so if your dog wins or finishes second to the favourite you win.

On course you can also bet with the Tote which offers a greater variety of bet as follows:

BET	WHAT IT IS
Win	Choose one dog to finish first (one bet)
Place	Choose one dog to finish first or second (one bet)
Straight forecast	Choose two dogs to finish first and second in the correct order (two bets)
Reversed forecast	Choose two dogs to finish first and second in either order (two bets)
Forecast with the field	Choose one dog to finish first with any dog to finish second (five bets)
Trio	Choose three dogs to first, second and third in correct order (one bet)
Trio all ways	Choose three dogs or four dogs with any three to finish first, second and third in any order (3 dogs = 6 bets, 4 dogs = 24 bets)
Trio with the field	Choose one dog to finish first with any other dogs to finish second or third (20 bets) or choose two dogs to finish first and second in the correct order with any other dog to finish third (4 bets)

So with the Tote on course you can go for a more exotic type of bet with the potential for a nice win if one of your trio bets comes in for example.

Or if you prefer and/or are not at the track you can bet on the dogs in your local bookies or online. Most (if not all....) the major online bookmakers have extensive greyhound betting markets including win, forecast and trio so you will not be short of choice.

Fancy some free bets to get you started. Then check out the free bets section later in this guide and you'll be all set.

But next we'll look at how to read the form and the race card.

READING THE FORM AND RACE CARD

OK, now you have an overview of greyhound racing, the types of race and the types of bets available on and off course and online. But how do you read the form?

The race card contains all sorts of useful information and recent form (each dog's last six appearances) to help you make your selections. It can look a bit confusing a first though is not difficult to get used to. Here's a scan of an A5 graded race from a meeting at Sheffield. Let's run through what it all means.

 Along the very top it tells us that this is an A5 race over 500 metres. Underneath that we have the recent form of all six dogs. The large numbers down the very left hand side column are the trap numbers of the dogs. Now let's take one of the dogs at random and work through what the race card tells us.

Here we go – Strangford Cathy is in trap 6. The (W) next to her name signifies that she's a wide runner with a tendency to stick to the outside of the track. Such dogs generally have trap 5 or trap 6.

6	STRANGFORD CATHY (W)	Mr.A.Cutler			Mr M.Cutler
	Runs: 25 1sts: 6 2nds: 4			(Season Unknown)bdw b Ballymac Maeve-Strangford Katie Jy'10 Ir	
Stripes	06 Jy 500 6 04.54 4456 6th 4¼ Kilrush Worker	EveryChance	30.50	-10 25.3 6/1 A4	30.75
	02 Jy 500 6 04.52 1222 2nd ¼ Pennys Valley	EveryChance	30.20	+20 25.6 6/1 A4	30.46
	26 Jn 500 5 04.48 3556 6th 8 Catunda Samson	EveryChance	29.95	+10 25.6 4/1 A4	30.69
	21 Jn 500 5 04.46 2345 5th 6¼ Fast Defector	EveryChance	30.23	N 26.0 9/2 A4	30.73
	16 Jn 500 5 04.53 5456 6th 13¼ Romeo Captain	Crowded1 Bumped3	30.19	-30 26.5 6/1 A4	30.97
	18 My 500 6 04.42 3111 1st SH True Kheleyf	Led1	30.22	N 25.6 3/1 A5	*30.22

"Cathy" has had 25 runs of which she has won 6 and been second four times. She is owned by Mr A Cutler and trained by Mr M Cutler. Underneath the trainer's name we are told when she was last in season (in this case it's not known though if it was the date would be here as for bitches it is an important consideration as they must have a break from racing when in season) and her breeding plus month of birth.

Underneath this we have the real good stuff – Cathy's form for her last six races. This is what we want to scrutinise. So reading from left to right, we have the following information.

- ➤ Date of last run
- ➤ Distance
- ➤ Trap number
- ➤ Time to the first split time
- ➤ Position through the race
- ➤ Finishing position
- ➤ Distance beaten (or won by if won the race)
- ➤ Winning dog (or dog in second if Cathy won)
- ➤ Comments about how she ran
- ➤ Winning time
- ➤ Going adjustment in hundredths of a second (+ is fast, - is slow going, N is normal going)
- ➤ Weight (in kilos)
- ➤ Starting price (or number of runners if it was a trial, for example T3 would be a three dog trial)
- ➤ Grade of race
- ➤ *(asterisk) shows the dog's best recent time over the trip
- ➤ Adjusted time to take account of the going adjustment (if any)

So for example looking at Cathy's last race we can see that it was on 6 July over 500m and she started from trap 6. She reached the first timing split in 4.54 seconds then over the four splits through the race she was in fourth position, fourth position, fifth position before fading in to last place. The comment of "every chance" would indicate that she had a clear run though wasn't good enough on the night. The winner's time was 30.50 seconds and the going was -10 (one tenth of a second slower than normal). Cathy weighed 25.3 kilos, started at odds of 6/1, ran in grade A4 clocking an adjusted time of 30.75 seconds.

Looking back over her last six runs we can see that five of her last six runs have been in grade A4 though she doesn't appear quick enough to make a mark generally having a clear go of things though fading away in to the rear bar 2 July when she nearly won after leading early.

She did win on 18 May though that was in today's grade of A5 so perhaps the drop back in grade may have helped her. Sidenote: It didn't – I checked the result and she was down the field.

So with a little practice and getting used to reading the form you may be able to build a picture of how the race might be run, how a certain dog might perform, if it has optimum conditions, if it is improving through the grades or dropping back.

The abbreviations are things you will need to get used to also around the performance comments. For example "Crowded 1" means that the dog found trouble at the first turn.

There are a fair few abbreviations used in greyhound racing form. Here are the more frequent/typically used to help you become familiar with them.

ABBREVIATIONS IN USE

A	-	Always	Drpd	-	Dropped	Lm	-	Lame
Aw	-	Away	E	-	Early	lt	-	light
B	-	Badly	EvCh	-	Every Chance	Mid	-	Middle
b	-	bitch	Ext	-	Extra	N	-	Normal
bd	-	brindle (Colour)	F	-	Favourite	Nk	-	neck
be	-	blue (Colour)	f	-	fawn (Colour)	O/C	-	Off Colour
bk	-	black (Colour)	Fd	-	Faded	Outp	-	Outpaced
Blk	-	Baulked	Fight	-	Fought	P	-	Pace
Bmp	-	Bumped	Fin	-	Finished	Q	-	Quick (Away,etc)
Bnd	-	Bend	FsHt	-	False Heat	r	-	red (Colour)
Br	-	British Bred	Fr	-	From	Rec	-	Record
Brk	-	Break	Gr	-	Graded Race	ReRn	-	Re-Run
C	-	Co-Favourite	H	-	Hurdles	Rls	-	Railed
Calc	-	Calculated	Hcp	-	Handicap	RnIn	-	Run-In
Chl	-	Challenged	Hd	-	Head	RnUp	-	Run-Up
Clr	-	Clear	HndTm	-	Hand Timed	Rst	-	Rest
CmAg	-	Came Again	Imp	-	Impeded	S	-	Stayers (Class)
Crd	-	Crowded	Ir	-	Irish	Schl	-	Schooling
d	-	dog	J	-	Joint Favourite	Scr	-	Scratch
DH	-	Dead Heat	Ja	-	January	SH	-	Short Head
Dis	-	Distance	Jn	-	June	SP	-	Starting Price
Disq	-	Disqualified	Jy	-	July	SP1	-	Sectional Placings
dk	-	dark(Colour)	Kil	-	Kilograms	Ssn	-	Season
DNF	-	Did Not Finish	Lck	-	Lacked	SsnSup	-	Season Supressed

S	-	Slow (Away, etc)
Styd	-	Stayed
STm	-	Split Time
Stb	-	Stumbled
T	-	Trial
Th'out	-	Throughout
Tk	-	Track
Tkd	-	Ticked
Tm	-	Time
Tp	-	Trap
Unatt	-	Unattached
Wtg	-	Waiting
w	-	white (Colour)
(w)	-	Wide runner

So now you know what a race card looks like and the basics of how to read the form. Next let's take a look at ratings and systematic approaches/considerations you might factor in when looking to back a greyhound.

The Racing Post greyhound section is a great resource for up to date form and research: http://www.racingpost.com/greyhounds

On the next page we'll look at some general considerations you might take in to account and how to create your own ratings.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

Generally speaking a greyhound knows how to do one thing – run as fast as it can after the bit of rag it thinks is a bunny. It's a natural thing for the dog to do. It wants to catch that bunny.

Taking that in to account and the form and information available to you in the race card you might bear in mind the following when looking for betting opportunities.

Early pace from the traps is important. With six dogs chasing that make-believe bunny, particularly in to the first turn, trouble can (and often does) arise with bunching, crowding, dogs running in to each other. A dog blessed with early pace or that race card form shows is generally leading to the first turn, faster away that the competition may well be able to avoid any first turn trouble and scoot away from the field. Look for dogs with early pace who can take advantage of it.

A good percentage of dogs which get to the first split in the lead go on to take the win. To help you quickly identify such animals, here's something which you may find of considerable use when looking for the likely first turn leader. Please click here for more information.

Staying with starting times consider the opposite also. A dog which has recorded slow starting times to the first split may find it hard to make up the lost ground unless it has a knack for weaving through the field. The in-running split positions and in-running comments will help you to take a view on that.

Look at the * to see which is the "time" dog – i.e. the dog in the field with the fastest recent time over the trip.

Is the dog racing in its grade or is it on the upgrade or downgrade. For example if it is an A4 race how has the dog performed at that same grade. Has it been upped from A5 and a potential improver or has it not got a good record at A4 struggling to make the step up.

Conversely, is the dog dropping back in grade to that which it last won at after struggling in the higher grade.

If it is a bitch (female greyhound) and the race card shows when she was last in season take note of how long it was and her trial times to get back on the card (if recent). General thinking is that a bitch returning from being in season needs a few weeks to return to full racing peak.

RATINGS

Making ratings to help with your considerations can be a help and fun too. This could be as simple or as complicated as you want it to be.

For example using the * you could award say 10 points to the fastest dog, 8 to the second, 6 to the third, four to the fourth, two to the fifth and zero to the slowest. That might give you an "at a glance" view of the fastest to the slowest and might be useful to help with forecasts or trios.

You might add to that by working out the average time to the first split for each dog awarding the same points as above from fastest to slowest then adding the two ratings together to come up with

an overall score based on fastest dog and fastest to the first split. The bigger the combined number the better. Then say back any dog more than say five points clear on your ratings.

Or to get more complex you might average the dog's last six race times and its last six first split times and go at it that way.

There are so many ways you can approach making your own greyhound ratings with other factors you might want to bring in such as grade (same, up or down) , average position in the previous six races adding up all the split numbers and dividing by six, average finishing position or any combination of everything available to you.

However there is a potential problem with this. Yes, it can be fun and informative to play with your own ratings particularly if you are just concentrating on one meeting – for example your local track if you are going for a night out – as it wouldn't take too long even between races to figure out the fastest dog and rate on that.

However with so many meetings and so many races each day you are probably going to need a little help with ratings. Fortunately there is help at hand making it very easy to very quickly put together ratings for UK greyhound meetings and then use your ratings to identify backing, forecast or even laying opportunities if the exchanges are your thing.

GREYHOUND RACE GRADER
Analyse and create your own greyhound race ratings in a matter of seconds with all the work done for you. In addition to the forecasting side of things you also have a very versatile betting calculator which will allow you to produce some very useful bets which can be placed with any traditional bookmaker or betting exchange. Overall, everything is quick, easy, very flexible and free from a great deal of drudgery.

>> PLEASE CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION AND WATCH THE VIDEO <<

CREATE YOUR OWN SPEED RATINGS – FAST
The greyhound which produces faster average times has a good chance of winning. Some followers of greyhound racing advocate that a large percentage of greyhounds which are capable of hitting the first bend first go on to win the race. For you to work that out manually would take a very long time indeed. So why do the work when this will do it for you, analyse the race and present you with a forecast of the dogs to finish first and second.

>> PLEASE CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION <<

Now you have an overview and understanding of greyhound racing, how to read the form, the different types of bet available and how you can create your own race ratings or have software take out all the hard work for you and produce race ratings in seconds.

Now crack on and get stuck in!

Before you do, please see the remaining couple of pages to help yourself to some tasty free bets and free ebooks.

FREE BETS

Who does not like free bets? I'm guessing you **DO** like them. So here are some. Help yourself!

All free bet offers valid at time of writing though are subject to change.

UP TO £200 FREE
Open an account, make a deposit of £10 or more and you will be entitled to a 100% bonus on your qualifying deposit up to a maximum of £200. Please **click here** for yours.

UP TO £25 FREE
Open an account and have the value of your first bet matched with free bet up to a maximum of £25. Please **click here** for yours.

£10 FREE
Open an account, stake £5 and £10 free bet. Please **click here** for yours.

£32 FREE
Open an account, deposit £20 and get £32 free. Please **click here** for yours.

FREE EBOOKS

Here are links to some more free ebooks on racing systems, poker, blackjack etc which you may enjoy:

FREE PLACEPOT EBOOK – a free guide to the Placepot plus systematic approaches.
http://www.placepotsystem.co.uk

FREE GUIDE TO EACH WAY BETTING - all about each way betting - races, strategies, more....
http://www.eachwaybetting.co.uk

FREE HORSE RACING SYSTEMS – two free systems for favourite backing.
http://www.favouritebacker.com

FREE POKER EBOOK – tournament poker strategy.
http://www.freepokerebook.co.uk

FREE GUIDE TO BETFAIR EXCHANGE BLACKJACK – just like it sounds – Betfair exchange blackjack.
http://www.exchangeblackjack.info

FREE BLACKJACK EBOOK – the "perfect blackjack" strategy explained.
http://www.perfectblackjack.co.uk

FREE LAYING SYSTEM – Find your own "lay of the day."
http://www.layoftheday.co.uk

THANKS FOR READING – GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR GREYHOUND BETTING