



# BRITISH HARNESS RACING CLUB

## Form Guide Report - Introduction

The office and a number of other brave souls including Stella Havard and Karina Pugh have worked on a recommendation, put to us by both Lord Lipsey and David Hood, that we need a Form Guide. The idea is that when race results are sent to the office, comments on how each horse performed are appended. Thus a library of form will be built up which can be available to view on our website or sent electronically to the Racing Media, Bookmakers or any other interested party and be put in racecards. Thus supplying some basic facts on how each horse has raced in say its last five races.

I am not going to preach how important this is, people more astute than me have already given their views. What I am going to say is how difficult this is to do .... and give a few tips on how we think it can be done most easily.

If done properly, in a timely and orderly fashion this is for any racetrack official a very easy job, taking no more than five minutes per race. Leave it till midnight on the day of the race, the children are crying, your partner is shouting at you and you cannot remember anything about race five and beyond and it will be a nightmare. Tips:

1. Less is more. We do not want an essay, a few short words/ letters etc from the "Language" is enough.
2. Have a form with the horses number in column [a], horse in column [b] official result and in column [c] and a few inches of space in column [d] to put YOUR COMMENTS IN YOUR WORDS.

So: No 1 - Frisky Flyer - 7th 20 lengths - Lead out of gate to first quarter, faded never figured.

If you can actually watch the race as it happens and make your notes then great. If you watch a recording just as good. If you rely on what "whatsisname" told you ... forget it!

3. Transfer to official form in manner prescribed .....

LOG ¼ fded,nvr fig.

Email to office and JOB DONE!

If you think a word or phrase is missing from the language tell us with your suggestions and if worthy of inclusion, we'll put it in ..... or similarly take words out. This is a dynamic process and we want to get better.

The success of this project starts with you. You have four options: Delay it - Delegate it - Drop it - or DO IT!

**Gordon Garnett**

Harness Racing is a terrific, exciting, engaging sport that off-course punters have had limited exposure to, yet showed good appreciation of during the William Hill Championship in 2008.

The sport undoubtedly requires standardised form, this is the overwhelming factor that that has held the sport back. The form is not something to be feared, it is not over complicated, once race secretaries are in the habit and have the pattern it will take no time at all.

Producing such form will easily open the doors for investment and prosperity within the sport.

**David Hood**

Ours is a wonderful sport; so why does it not get the recognition it deserves? One major "o" in my view THE major-reason is that we are unable to supply proper form.

This puzzles anyone with a knowledge of racing who goes to one of our tracks. If they visit a thoroughbred track, or even a greyhound track, they will get voluminous information as to the form of the runners both through the racecard and through the Racing Post. The Racing Post rarely covers harness racing - not our fault - but the racecards give no information of use to a novice either. Sticking pins in is not long-term a very satisfying way of betting, so newcomers will often not come at all.

Worse, lack of form paralyses our efforts to get harness racing accepted by the betting industry as a suitable sport for them. We know from the sponsored races run by Hills and Betfair just what they can do for harness racing, in terms of producing prominent events and big prizes. They even did feature in the Racing Post. And as a long-term goal, there is the possibility of persuading racing to let us have a slice of levy funding.

However, without form, all this is a non-starter. Indeed David Hood of Hills, our strongest supporter in the betting world, has made it clear that we really cannot do anything to progress until comprehensive form is routinely and regularly provided. Their customers expect it, and we have to pay heed to their wishes.

I commend the tremendous form guide report. I know it will be a fag at the end of a long day to compile the reports. No-one likes unnecessary bureaucracy. But this is not unnecessary bureaucracy but a basic essential if our sport is to go forward.

All Best to All

**Lord David Lipsey**

## Form Guide Report (continued)

### 1. What is it?

Written in running comments that give a brief description of a horse's performance in a race.

### 2. What is it for?

The Bookmakers - The bookies want to be able to publish the race history of horses with some indication of how the horse has performed in recent outings.

The Betting Public - People want to know how the horses have performed in previous races so that they can decide where to place their money.

### 3. What is needed?

Mainly the information should be provided for the prize winning horses and/or prominent performers.  
e.g.

#### [a] S4C Welsh Cup Heat 17th August 2009

1. Wexford Beach	1st	LOG,Mde all,All Out <i>Lead Out Of Gate, Made All, All Out</i>
2. Best Of The Fleet	3rd	Rn Wl ¾,Fded <i>Run Well ¾, Faded</i>
3. Catscam	2nd	WW,Chlngd ¾,Nvr Nrr <i>Waited With, Challenged at ¾, Never Nearer</i>
4. Scoobies Dream	UP	Nvr Fig <i>Never Figured</i>
5. Wellfield Emily	UP	Nvr Fig <i>Never Figured</i>
6. Real Deal	UP	Chlngd ½,Drvn hrd,Fded <i>Challenged at ½, Driven Hard, Faded</i>
7. Whiz Around	4th	WW,Rn on wl <i>Waited With, Run On Well</i>
8. Wellfield Lilly	UP	Nvr Fig <i>Never Figured</i>
9. Disraeli Rosette	UP	Nvr Fig <i>Never Figured</i>

#### [b] S4C Crock of Gold Final 2009

1. Heø For Real	2nd	Hld Pstn,NCWW <i>Held Position, No Chance With Winner</i>
2. Crown Manhattan	UP	BBG, Nvr Fig <i>Broke Behind ate, Never Figured</i>
3. Pan Lubber	3rd	Bxd in,Fded <i>Boxed In, Faded</i>
4. Bon Jasper	UP	Alwys bhnd,Btn <i>Always Behind, Beaten</i>
5. Blue Russian	4th	LOG,Wknd 1st ¼ <i>Lead Out Of Gate, Weakened Last Quarter</i>
6. Terripan Hanover	UP	Bhnd,Chlngd,Fded <i>Behind, Challenged, Faded</i>
7. Earned Income	1st	Styd,Imp Fnsh <i>Stayed, Impressive Finish</i>
8. Ayr Glory	UP	Bxd In,Fded <i>Boxed In, Faded</i>

These races can be viewed at:

Crock of Gold - [http://s4c.co.uk/rasus/cgi-bin/rasus.pl?rm=race\\_watch;tx=78;race=1063;l=e](http://s4c.co.uk/rasus/cgi-bin/rasus.pl?rm=race_watch;tx=78;race=1063;l=e)

Welsh Cup - [http://s4c.co.uk/rasus/cgi-bin/rasus.pl?rm=race\\_watch;tx=73;race=971;l=e](http://s4c.co.uk/rasus/cgi-bin/rasus.pl?rm=race_watch;tx=73;race=971;l=e)

Have a look, how would you write up the race - *have a go!*

### 4. How is it done?

[a] A designated person/official could watch the race as it happens and pencil in comments and then adapt their own comments to the form language at time of return to BHRC.

[b] A designated person/official could film the race with a hand held camcorder enabling the race to be watched back as many times as necessary whilst the form is collated.

A Steward would be an ideal person to film the race, and then using the correct equipment (a camcorder with an SD drive) the race could be watched back either on the camcorder or on a laptop (most modern laptops have an SD facility).

(a decent 12 Mega pixel digital camcorder with SD facility is circa £100 - 8GB SD cards are circa £25 - having two of these would be a good idea)

*This the most obvious option for tracks that do not have an electricity supply or the facility for the official track video to be reviewed*

[c] A designated person/official watches re-runs of the races on facilities (dvd/video player) already available at the track

*This is the most obvious option for tracks that already use such facilities for Stewards, Judges etc*

## **Form Guide Report** (continued)

### **5. How will it be sent to the BHRC?**

Each club/association will be given a username and password to access the results page of the BHRC Website via the internet, where they will be required to enter all the information currently returned to the BHRC (horse name, draw, S/P, position, driver etc) plus the form guide using the BHRC's language. It is anticipated that this website access will be available to clubs/associations towards the end of June 2010, and until this time the results should be returned as per 2009 (i.e. The results template downloaded from the BHRC website, completed in full and returned via email to harnessgb@live.co.uk).

### **6. What is 'the language'?**

The list below is the first tranche at building a library of form. The BHRC reserves the right to add and remove from the list as is considered appropriate.









All out	: All Out	Mde all	: Made All
Always bhnd	: Always Behind	Md div	: Mid Division
Always prom	: Always Prominent	MTO	: Moved To Outside
Bad	: Bad	NCWW	: No Chance With Winner
BBG	: Broke Behind Gate	Nk	: Neck
BD	: Brought Down	NRR	: No Racing Room
Bhnd	: Behind	Nvr	: Never
Bnd	: Bend	Nrr	: Nearer
Bk stride	: Broke Stride	On	: On
Btn	: Beaten	One-pcd	: One Paced
Bxd in	: Boxed In	P	: Pacer
CO	: Carried Out	PF	: Photo Finish
Chlngd	: Challenged	Plced	: Placed
Clse hme	: Close Home	Pstn	: Position
Cmftbly	: Comfortably	PU	: Pulled Up
Disq	: Disqualified	POW	: Parked Out Wide
DFL	: Drawn Front Line	Rgh gtd	: Rough Gaited
DBL	: Drawn Back Line	Rn	: Run
DNF	: Did Not Finish	Rn In	: Run In
DNP	: Did Not Parade	Scnd ovr	: Second Over
DH	: Dead Heat	SC	: Start Car
Drvn hrd	: Driven Hard	SH	: Short Head
Easd	: Eased	Shwd gd spd	: Showed Good Speed
Eqpmnt brke	: Equipment Broke	Sn clr	: Soon Clear
Fded	: Faded	SOW	: Stayed On Well
FFA	: Free For All	Stld	: Settled
Fell	: Fell	Styd	: Stayed
Fig	: Figured	Stwrds	: Stewards
Fnsh	: Finish	SU	: Slipped Up
FW	: Finished Well	Slky	: Sulky
Flse strt	: False Start	Swt'd up	: Sweated Up
GOL	: Galloped Over Line	T	: Trotter
Hcap	: Handicap	THMS	: Through Handicap Mark At Start
Hd	: Head	TNP	: Took No Part
Hld	: Held	Thr wde	: Three Wide
Hmprd	: Hampered	Tk kn hld	: Took Keen Hold
Hme strgt	: Home Straight	Trlg	: Trailing
Hnf bdly	: Hung badly	TUR	: Took Up Running
Hkd up	: Hooked Up	UD	: Unseated Driver
Hded clse hme	: Headed Close Home	UBG	: Unruly Behind Gate
Imp	: Impressive	Unchlngd	: Unchallenged
Imprvd	: Improved	UP	: Unplaced
Jst fld	: Just Failed	USP	: Under Strong Pressure
Jst hld on	: Just Held On	WI	: Well
Lame	: Lame	Wknd	: Weakened
Led	: Led	WW	: Waited With
Lst	: Last		
LOG	: Led Out Of Gate		

**Form Guide Report** (continued)

**7. How will this information be used?**

The information will be available on the BHRC website for each individual horse, printed in racecards and distributed throughout the betting industry and media as necessary.

Sample Racecard:

<b>Race 8. The First Race of 2010</b>				<b>10.30pm</b>			
Race Type: Free For All				<b>1 mile</b>			
<b>1st - £3500 2nd - £750 3rd - £500 4th - £250</b>							
<b>1.</b>	<b>HE'S FOR REAL</b>	Date 07.09.09	Track TP	Dist 1m	Pos. 2nd	Time 2m 1.0	Form Hid Pstr.NCWW
<i>Draw</i>	2000 - Bay - Horse - Life Sign x Armbro Image						
.....	<b>Grade: 11 [11070]</b> Owner: Porterstown Stud						
S/P	Lifetime: Trainer: Christy Dunne						
.....	Driver: Jonathan Dunne						
							
<b>2.</b>	<b>CROWN MANHATTAN</b>	Date 07.09.09	Track TP	Dist 1m	Pos. UP	Time -	Form BBG.Nvr Fig
<i>Draw</i>	2003 - Dk Br - Horse - Northern Luck x Wild Proposition						
.....	<b>Grade: 12 [32445]</b> Owner: Ruth Phillips						
S/P	Lifetime: Trainer: John Richardson						
.....	Driver: John Richardson						
							
<b>3.</b>	<b>PAN LUBBER</b>	Date 07.09.09	Track TP	Dist 1m	Pos. 3rd	Time 2m 1.3	Form Bxd in,Fded
<i>Draw</i>	2001 - Bl - Horse - The Panderosa x All Pans On Deck						
.....	<b>Grade: 12 [117614]</b> Owner: Felix O'Sullivan						
S/P	Lifetime: Trainer: Robert Cleary						
.....	Driver: Donal Murphy						
							
<b>4.</b>	<b>BON JASPER</b>	Date 07.09.09	Track TP	Dist 1m	Pos. UP	Time -	Form Alwys bhnd,Btn
<i>Draw</i>	2003 - Br - Horse - Hasty Hall x Bon Sian						
.....	<b>Grade: 11 [12245]</b> Owner: Glenys Jones						
S/P	Lifetime: Trainer: John Richardson						
.....	Driver: G Huw Thomas						
							
<b>5.</b>	<b>BLUE RUSSIAN</b>	Date 07.09.09	Track TP	Dist 1m	Pos. 4th	Time -	Form LOG,Wknd 1st ¼
<i>Draw</i>	2001 - Bay - Gelding - Disraeli Hanover x Blue Moon						
.....	<b>Grade: 12 [21375]</b> Owner: Mycock & Shanahan						
S/P	Lifetime: Trainer: Sally Teeboon						
.....	Driver: Andrew Stenhouse						
							
<b>6.</b>	<b>TERRIPAN HANOVER</b>	Date 07.09.09	Track TP	Dist 1m	Pos. UP	Time -	Form Bhnd,Chingd,Fded
<i>Draw</i>	2002 - Bay - Horse - The Panderosa x Terrie Letsco						
.....	<b>Grade: 10 [8504]</b> Owner: Aled Wyn Davies						
S/P	Lifetime: Trainer: John Rhidian Jones						
.....	Driver: Aled Wyn Davies						
							
<b>7.</b>	<b>EARNED INCOME</b>	Date 07.09.09	Track TP	Dist 1m	Pos. 1st	Time 2m 0.1	Form Styd,Imp Frsh
<i>Draw</i>	2000 - Bay - Horse - Dream Away x Kleen Acquisition						
.....	<b>Grade: 11 [11100]</b> Owner: O'Reilly & Enright						
S/P	Lifetime: Trainer: Sean O'Reilly						
.....	Driver: Alan Richardson						
							
<b>8.</b>	<b>AYR GLORY</b>	Date 07.09.09	Track TP	Dist 1m	Pos. UP	Time -	Form Bxd In,Fded
<i>Draw</i>	2003 - Bay - Horse - Matt's Scooter x Jazzercise						
.....	<b>Grade: 12 [25384]</b> Owner: Joe Sheridan						
S/P	Lifetime: Trainer: Joe Sheridan						
.....	Driver: Ciaran Morrison						
							
<b>Results:</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>3rd</b>	<b>4th</b>			
<b>Time:</b>	.....	.....	.....	.....			
<b>Distance:</b>	.....	.....	.....	.....			