

THE WINABOBATOO FOOTBALL BETTING GUIDE

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WINABOBATOO: THE THINKING MAN'S BETTING SERVICE

The Winabobatoo Guide To Profitable Football Betting

Published 9th September 2020

By Mike and Carol Lindley



- Traffic Lights

- Mindset

- Match Ratings

- Bankrolls

- Betting Systems

- Results File

- Team Records

- Losing Runs

**Putting members ahead
of the bookmakers since 2006.**

Published

9th September 2020

Next Guide Update:

1st August 2021

WWW.WINABOBATOO.CO.UK

The Winabobattoo Guide To Profitable Football Betting

Introduction

First launched to the public at the start of the 2006-07 season, I have been providing profitable match ratings and betting advice for well over a decade. With a membership limit of 300, subscribers can be assured of being treated with respect and courtesy at all times.

This Guide:

This guide was published on Tuesday 1st September 2020.

Next Guide:

The next guide update will be published on 1st August 2021.

The Challenge:

Getting ahead of the bookmakers and staying ahead of them is incredibly difficult. The degree of difficulty and the amount of work needed to beat multi-million pound organisations (the bookmakers) is huge. Sadly, due to marketing hype and mis-information, punters are led to believe that winning is easy; it isn't. Sensible bettors know and appreciate this.

Betting services tend to come and go. They ride the crest of a good luck wave until the good and bad luck eventually averages out. Most then disappear because it becomes apparent they didn't really have a genuine edge at all.

The reason Winabobattoo is still here is because we do provide a genuine edge, not an edge borne out of short-term good luck. But please don't be confused by that, having an edge doesn't make winning easy, or inevitable.

Winabobattoo has been my full-time job for the last 15 years. It's been a huge pleasure and privilege to be able to help so many people during that period. I thank everyone for their continued and loyal support.

The year 2020 and the coronavirus:

Who could have envisaged 2020 turning out the way it has? The whole world has been turned upside down by what seemed an innocuous virus when it first appeared in China in December 2019.

At the time of writing in August 2020, the leagues we cover intend to play their 2020-21 campaigns but the virus will determine when, if, and how many fans will be allowed into grounds.

The first rated matches of the new season should take place on Saturday 28th September, with the first ratings of the season appearing in the magazine due to be published on Thursday 26th September.

The rest of the guide will take you through all you need to know about the Winabobattoo service.

Thank you for taking the time to check it out.

Mike Lindley

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About The Author



Betting has always played an extremely important part in my life. Not many people are lucky enough to be able to make their living from doing something they love. I first started betting seriously in the 1980s when I owned shares in several racehorses but my connection with horses and gambling started quite some time before that.

At the end of the Second World War, my mum and dad moved to South Africa. My dad was a jockey. They returned to England in the mid-1950s to live in London. In 1957, they moved back to Doncaster where my mum's parents lived. I was born in 1958 being an only child.

In the late 1960s, my dad started training horses in this country. Sadly, they weren't very good but being part of such an environment was amazing. I loved the excitement of going to the races to watch the horses (my friends) run. It was something I will cherish forever.

As much as I loved being around them and riding them out, I was never going to be a jockey. I always felt I was one step away from them taking control of me, rather than me being in control of them. My dad only needed to give them a glance and they behaved... most of the time anyway!

I had a happy childhood. I loved playing whatever sport was going at school. My favourite subject was maths. My mum had got me addicted to numbers before I even started school. I got on very well with my senior school maths' teacher, who was also the headmaster. I don't think he'd have taken too kindly to me asking him questions about how to calculate the bookmakers' over-round though!

I seemed to by-pass those rebellious teenage years. This was in no small part due to being head-boy at school. Being burdened with such responsibilities made me old before my time!

As the 1980s approached, my dad was still involved with horses but his training days were well behind him. He took it upon himself to help youngsters from all over the country to find jobs in racing. He was the driving force behind setting up the Northern Racing College in Doncaster, now known as the National Horseracing College.

I was a regular racecourse attendee from the mid-1980s until the late 1990s, visiting tracks from as far north as Sedgefield to as far south as Huntingdon. I recall having a 'Go Racing In Yorkshire' passport. The cost was very reasonable. You were then allowed free entry into all Yorkshire courses. This scheme is still going today.

At that time, the only way to make money from betting was to bet on-course. There was little scope to make any money at all betting off-course due to the government's 10% betting tax. Even on-course bets had a 4% tax until 1987 when Chancellor Nigel Lawson abolished it.

My racecourse visits ended in the late 1990s when my mum became ill. I spent the next five years at home caring for her. With plenty of time on my hands, I turned my attention from betting on horses to betting on football.

In 2006, I set up the Winabobattoo football match ratings service, still crunching the football numbers with the same dedication some fourteen years later.

In October 2016, I decided the time was right to revisit the horses. Could I still make the same levels of profit I made in the late 1980s and 1990s? Could I by-pass the bookmakers by betting solely on the betting exchanges? Do the same strategies that worked before still work today? The answer to the first two questions is: yes. The answer to the last question is: most do, some don't!

I'm in my sixties now but I still approach every betting day with the same anticipation and enthusiasm as ever. My brain tells me I'm thirty but the mirror tells me I'm not. With continued good health, I hope I'm still doing what I love in another twenty years' time.

I must mention my long-suffering wife Carol and thank her for putting up with me in the way she does, tolerating my long working days. I need to thank her for all the contributions she makes in helping keep the Winabobattoo show on the road; and finally, a mention for Border Collie Charlie who brings so much happiness to the Lindley household with all his tricks and antics!

Mike Lindley

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CHAPTER 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

When the Winabobattoo ratings service first began, we covered matches in the top four English Leagues plus the Scottish Premiership. We then added the National League in 2007-08.

The National League had to be withdrawn in 2016-17 due to the required match stats no longer being recorded.

The Scottish Lower Leagues (Championship, League One and League Two) began recording the required stats. Those leagues are now part of the Winabobattoo service.

You may be a long-standing Winabobattoo member or you may be reading about Winabobattoo for the very first time. For established members, I will write items in red that relate to changes for the 2020-21 season.

What's changed or due to change?

From the start of the 2019-20 season, the English Premiership and English Championship match ratings will no longer feature as part of Winabobattoo.

Why the change?

I estimate the edge that the ratings provide in these leagues is only around 1% to 2%. Whilst such small profit margins may work for some high stakes bettors who are prepared to invest large amounts for a small ROI. I do not believe these levels of profits will suit the majority of bettors

With the aid of good fortune, some seasons in the top two leagues will produce profits far in excess of the average but based on my calculations, expectation in the very long-term is low, lower than most people will find acceptable.

As profit margins decline, variance in returns from season-to-season increases. With such small profit margins, the risk of losing seasons is high. Around one in two seasons could make a loss.

The reason why the top two leagues are so hard to profit from is twofold:

Firstly, the bookmakers invest most of their time and effort into them, resulting in fewer pricing errors.

The second reason is that these divisions are the most predictable of them all. You may think this should benefit the bettor but it doesn't! If they are easy to predict, the bookmakers are going to be incredibly good at getting their odds right!

The Winabobattoo ratings have developed over the years to change with the times and have become easier for members to follow. The current ratings fall under the Traffic Light ratings banner. The Traffic Lights went live at the start of the 2016-17 season. During the first three full seasons a profit of 3.15% on turnover was made from blindly backing all Green Light cases.

Without the Premier League and Championship and with the addition of the now included Scottish lower leagues, Green Light profits to date have exceeded the 5% level. These profit levels are more in line with what most bettors would hope to achieve. With such profit levels, variance will still play a part, but the number of winning seasons should by far exceed the number of losing seasons.

The trends of recent seasons with regards to the Premier League and Championship are not new. Since Winabobattoo began the top two leagues have always produced the lowest profit levels. With increased bookmaker efficiency, these profit margins have been squeezed further over time.

I apologise to Premiership and Championship followers for this change but I have a responsibility to be completely honest with you; it makes more sense to concentrate our efforts on the leagues where we have a greater edge, offering better profit potential.

Leagues now covered:

English League One, English League Two, Scottish Premiership, Scottish Championship, Scottish League One and Scottish League Two.

Winabobattoo Magazines:

From the start of the 2020-21 season, magazines will be published at 5pm instead of 12 o'clock midday.

What is the reason for this?

Some of the match stats I use are not always available until Monday morning; this causes me headaches in trying to get the ratings updated in time for the 12 O'clock magazine publications. Rather than risk potential delays to a 12 o'clock publication time, I am moving the issue time to 5pm.

This change takes effect from September 2020.

A pdf version of each magazine will be emailed to members. An Excel version will be available for download from the members' website at the same time.

The e-mail system is generally very reliable but some internet service providers (ISPs) block or delay messages that are sent out as blind carbon copies, especially those with attachments. Even though we send the messages out in small batches, to try to avoid issues with ISPs, we cannot guarantee the emails will get through. With this in mind, if an e-mail doesn't arrive, please visit the website to download the magazine.

Should you want to get the information at the exact moment it is released, then you need to be logged into the website ready for the clocks to chime at 5pm!

Please see Appendix Two for more Winabobattoo Help.

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CHAPTER 2: THE AIMS OF WINABOBATOO

There are seven over-riding aims of Winabobattoo:

- 1) Provide members with a genuine edge over the bookmakers
- 2) Use an odds policy that is totally transparent and fair to both members and Winabobattoo alike
- 3) Provide data in such a way that it is easy and simple to follow
- 4) Supply in-depth analysis of matches via the various Winabobattoo ratings allowing members to use their judgement alongside the ratings, or devise betting systems of their own
- 5) Provide the highest levels of customer service with email replies sent within 24 hours
- 6) Continually improve the Winabobattoo product and service year-on-year
- 7) To provide weekly updates of results in the Winabobattoo magazines and on the Winabobattoo website

We're never normally away from our desks for very long but Border Collie Charlie does need to be taken for some long walks at the weekend. Unless there is some breakdown to the email system or our computers have blown up, it's unlikely you will ever have to wait more than 48 hours for a reply, should you have a need to contact us.

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CHAPTER 3: THE WINABOBATOO RATINGS

Odds policy:

The prices shown in the Winabobattoo magazines are the best odds available from just five leading bookmakers at the time the magazines are published. According to the Oddschecker website, better odds are typically available with other bookmakers in over 40% of home and away outcomes. The bookmakers presently used are: Bet365, Hills, Coral, Betvictor and Betfred.

Unless otherwise stated, this guide will show you the returns for the period since the Winabobattoo Traffic Light Ratings went live at the start of the 2016-17 season covering matches played in the leagues we are now covering.

Basic Results:

Blindly backing every home team, draw, and away team in the matches assessed since 2016-17 in English League One, English League Two, Scottish Premiership, Scottish Championship, Scottish League One, and Scottish League Two to the end of the 2019-20 season has given:

All Games	ALL							
Level Stakes	LIVE	Bets	Win	Win%	Lose	Returns	Profit/Loss	% Profit
Homes		5,165	2,249	43.54	2,916	5,120.08	-44.92	-0.87
Draws		5,165	1,310	25.36	3,855	4,785.01	-379.99	-7.36
Aways		5,165	1,606	31.09	3,559	4,864.72	-300.28	-5.81

Backing the draw has lost the most, backing home sides has lost least, backing away sides has lost considerably more than backing home teams. No advice is given on backing draw outcomes. I know of no way to gain a profitable edge from backing the draw.

When removing the draw, we can see that blindly backing all home and away teams would have resulted in a loss of 345.20 points to one point single win bets, to show a loss on turnover of 3.34%.

All Games	2016-17 to							
Level Stakes	2019-20	Bets	Win	Win%	Lose	Returns	Profit/Loss	% Profit
Homes		5,165	2,249	43.54	2,916	5,120.08	-44.92	-0.87
Aways		5,165	1,606	31.09	3,559	4,864.72	-300.28	-5.81
Total		10,330	3,855	37.32	6,475	9,984.80	-345.20	-3.34

I should point out that there has been a 'home bias' to results during the seasons from 2016-17 through to the 2019-20 season. This is what has facilitated the better home returns.

Take a look at the returns for the same leagues for the years from 2006-07 through to 2015-16:

All Games	2006-07 to							
Level Stakes	2015-16	Bets	Win	Win%	Lose	Returns	Profit/Loss	% Profit
Homes		16,081	6,957	43.26	9,124	15,198.51	-882.49	-5.49
Draws		16,081	4,142	25.76	11,939	14,597.33	-1483.67	-9.23
Aways		16,081	4,982	30.98	11,099	16,052.31	-28.69	-0.18

Even though both tables cover large samples of bets, I would not be quick to draw the conclusion that home advantage has increased over the last four seasons. Closer analysis of the home and away win rates shows relatively little change between the two tables.

The returns are markedly different though. This is because fewer longer-priced away teams won during the latter period whilst more longer-priced home teams won.

Regardless of trends, whichever way we look at it, any backer without skill is likely to make a loss in the region of 3.5%.

The challenge we face is to turn that loss into a profit.

Winabobattoo Ratings:

The Winabobattoo ratings use rather complex, non-conventional methods of assessing the abilities of teams. It is from these ratings that we are better able to predict the outcomes of matches than the bookmakers.

The Traffic Light ratings use additional algorithms not used by the basic ratings.

The Traffic Light ratings will be covered separately in the next chapter.

There are four different ratings shown in each Winabobattoo magazine:

- 1) The Command Rating
- 2) The Form Rating
- 3) The Predictor Rating
- 4) Enigma Rating

Additional ratings were also provided prior to the 2019-20 season. The other ratings have now been fully integrated into the main ratings described above. This has been done to improve the overall accuracy of the ratings and also help make Winabobattoo easier to follow.

The Command Rating:

This rating, amongst other things, establishes a team's ability to control possession and create shots at goal. It also calculates a team's home ability separately from its away ability.

The Form Rating:

Current form plays an important part in determining how much of a team's overall ability might be on show in the next game. A poor 'in-form' team might be more of a match for a good team that is 'out-of-form' than you may first imagine.

The Predictor Rating:

This is the main Winabobattoo rating. It is determined by adding together the other two ratings.

All ratings are calculated for you. You don't need to do a thing.

A Match Rating simply subtracts the away team's ratings from the home team's ratings. The result being that a positive rating implies the home side is favoured whilst a negative rating implies the away side is favoured.

The Enigma Rating:

The Enigma rating compares the Winabobattoo ratings with the League Tables. The Enigma ratings are shown as +2, +1, -1, or -2.

A rating of +2 indicates the home team's rating significantly favours the side when comparisons are made with what the league table is saying. A +1 rating favours the home side slightly. Similarly a -1 rating slightly favours the away team whilst a -2 rating significantly favours the away side.

How powerful are the ratings when used in isolation of the Traffic Lights?

The Predictor Rating is shown in the magazines on a scale of +20 to -20.

The table below focuses on the returns from backing home teams.

Predictor Rating - Home Returns								
Ratings	ALL	Bets	Win	Win%	Lose	Returns	Profit/Loss	% Profit
15 to 20		583	374	64.15	209	588.73	5.73	0.98
10 to 14		570	308	54.04	262	573.31	3.31	0.58
5 to 9		601	306	50.92	295	623.35	22.35	3.72
0 to 4		870	397	45.63	473	858.13	-11.87	-1.36
All Zero +		2,624	1,385	52.78	1,239	2,643.52	19.52	0.74
Under Zero		2,551	864	33.87	1,687	2,476.56	-74.44	-2.92

Had we limited bets to home teams with a Predictor Rating of zero or better (bold row), we would have found over 52% winners and made a small profit.

Had we backed home teams when the Predictor Rating is between -20 and -1 (shown in the Under Zero row), we would have only found 34% winners, and made a loss.

Away returns:

Predictor Rating - Away Returns								
Ratings	ALL	Bets	Win	Win%	Lose	Returns	Profit/Loss	% Profit
-20 to -15		738	387	52.44	351	770.17	32.17	4.36
-14 to -10		605	228	37.69	377	586.98	-18.02	-2.98
-9 to -5		658	231	35.11	427	648.76	-9.24	-1.40
-4 to -1		540	190	35.19	350	574.52	34.52	6.39
Under Zero		2,541	1,036	40.77	1,505	2,580.43	39.43	1.55
All Zero +		2,624	571	21.76	2,053	2,282.29	-341.71	-13.02

Had we limited away bets to cases where the Predictor Rating was less than zero, we would have found 41% winners and made a level stakes profit.

Conversely, had we bet on away teams when the Predictor Rating is positive (favouring the home side), the win rate would have dropped to 22%, making a loss in excess of 13%.

The next table combines backing home teams with positive ratings along with backing away teams with negative ratings:

Predictor Rating		Ratings	ALL	Bets	Win	Win%	Lose	Returns	Profit/Loss	% Profit
Zero +	Homes	2,624	1,385	52.78	1,239	2,643.52	19.52	0.74		
Under Zero	Aways	2,541	1,036	40.77	1,505	2,580.43	39.43	1.55		
	Total	5,165	2,421	46.87	2,744	5,223.95	58.95	1.14		

Had we done nothing other than back the side favoured by the Predictor Rating we would have found 47% winners and made money.

The teams that we wouldn't have backed showed:

Predictor Rating		Ratings	ALL	Bets	Win	Win%	Lose	Returns	Profit/Loss	% Profit
Under Zero	Homes	2,551	864	33.87	1,687	2,476.56	-74.44	-2.92		
Zero +	Aways	2,624	571	21.76	2,053	2,282.29	-341.71	-13.02		
	Total	5,175	1,435	27.73	3,740	4,758.85	-416.15	-8.04		

The win rate for this group is 28%, some 19% lower than the previous group. The losses from backing the 'unfavoured cases' are considerable.

In summary, it pays to only consider backing home teams when the Predictor Rating is zero or better, and to only consider backing away teams when the Predictor Rating is negative.

As can be seen, the results shown cover a large number of 'live rated' games. They provide powerful evidence to show why the Winabotatoo Predictor rating is ahead of the game.

The Ratings Calculations:

I can't go into detail as to how each team's ratings are calculated as that must remain confidential but the details below show the various elements included in the assessment of the Accrington V Tranmere game on 7th March 2020:

1	11	1	7/3/20	3	L1	0	Accrington	262	-59	65	0	-75	16	7
2	7	18	3	8	7	200	156	0	0	34	3	3	1	44
0	Tranmere	147	-79	0	-87	-43	17	3	6	8	15	3	2	
10	0	0	87	213	32	1	0	1	18	20	475	300	441	378
525	550	403	494	41	31	450	250	367	567	50	16	-300	225	-283
83	31	26	59	-125	-500	-267	-350	-150	323	25	13	31	26	535
503	544	320	381	480	550	493	444	587	37	27	100	100	1356	1172
1259	1413	1200	1175	1600	1575	1550	907	1169	1520	130	110	118	81	

My database chews over all these numbers before allocating the various ratings to the match.

I realise these figures won't mean much but they give an insight to show how calculating ratings is an involved and complex task.

CHAPTER 4: THE TRAFFIC LIGHT RATINGS

The Winabobattoo ratings do the leg work but in order to maximise profit potential we must also consider the odds we are betting at.

As the tables in the last chapter showed, a home team's win rate will be higher when it has a higher rating. For example, if a home team has a Predictor Rating of +3, it is 'less strong' than if it had a Predictor Rating of, say, +14. Similarly, should the Predictor Rating be -17, the away team's chances of winning will be higher than if the rating was -7. The Traffic Light ratings take into account both the strength of the ratings and the odds on offer.

Red Light Cases: These are the most difficult to make money from.

Amber Light Cases: There are no obvious signs that these teams offer good value for money but by deeper form study and knowledge of team selections and injuries, you may be able to find profits by selectively betting on them.

Green Lights Cases: These are the teams that potentially offer the best value. Backing all of them is likely to result in a level stakes profit. By betting selectively, using your skill and judgement, you may be able to reduce the bet numbers and improve on the overall profit levels.

Red Lights:

Red	2016-17 to							
Level Stakes	2019-20	Bets	Win	Win%	Lose	Returns	Profit/Loss	% Profit
Homes		2,607	950	36.44	1,657	2,495.01	-111.99	-4.30
Aways		2,271	569	25.06	1,702	2,065.79	-205.21	-9.04
	Total	4,878	1,519	31.14	3,359	4,560.80	-317.20	-6.50

Since the Traffic Lights went live in 2016-17, the Red Lights have lost over 300 points, confirming they're a tough group to make money from.

Amber Lights:

Amber	2016-17 to							
Level Stakes	2019-20	Bets	Win	Win%	Lose	Returns	Profit/Loss	% Profit
Homes		1,486	714	48.05	772	1,511.49	25.49	1.72
Aways		1,641	563	34.31	1,078	1,458.77	-182.23	-11.10
	Total	3,127	1,277	40.84	1,850	2,970.26	-156.74	-5.01

The Amber Lights haven't lost as much as the Red Lights. The home Amber Lights have made a profit; the away Amber Lights have made significant losses.

The home profits are a by-product of the 'home bias' I mentioned that we've seen in recent seasons. I do not expect this trend to continue over the coming seasons.

Green Lights:

Green		2016-17 to						
Level Stakes	2019-20	Bets	Win	Win%	Lose	Returns	Profit/Loss	% Profit
Homes		1,071	585	54.62	486	1,113.58	42.58	3.98
Aways		1,252	474	37.86	778	1,338.16	86.16	6.88
	Total	2,323	1,059	45.59	1,264	2,451.74	128.74	5.54

Covering 2,323 bets, the Green Lights have found over 45% winners, securing a good overall profit, with a very decent return on investment. The 2,323 bets have occurred across 5,165 matches.

This means that Green Lights crop up in 45% of games, providing potential bets in just under half of all matches played.

Understanding Variance:

When I eventually depart this world, which I hope isn't for some considerable time yet, I want this engraving on my headstone: [Betting should always be seen as a 1,000 bet project!](#)

The relationship between luck and skill is almost certainly one of the least understood aspects of betting. Luck will determine whether we win in the short-term; skill will decide whether we win in the long-term.

Good luck and bad luck does not average out quickly. The longer the odds we bet at, the greater the number of bets needed for skill to be a bigger driver than luck. Betting in the odds ranges up to 4/1, which encompasses most single win football bets, means the 1,000 bet project is realistic. Betting at odds above 4/1 would require the betting project to cover more than 1,000 bets.

Others may try to kid you we have control at all times: we don't! Such misrepresentations are either because the writer doesn't understand variance themselves or they're deliberately trying to mislead you.

In the long run, you and I will get no more good luck than average and we will get no more bad luck than average.

Closer analysis of the live Green Light returns shows variance in action:

Green		2016-17						
Level Stakes	2016-17	Bets	Win	Win%	Lose	Returns	Profit/Loss	% Profit
Homes		291	152	52.23	139	294.77	3.77	1.30
Aways		296	102	34.46	194	291.26	-4.74	-1.60
	Total	587	254	43.27	333	586.03	-0.97	-0.17

The 587 Green Lights in the 2016-17 season didn't make money.

Green		2017-18						
Level Stakes	2017-18	Bets	Win	Win%	Lose	Returns	Profit/Loss	% Profit
Homes		312	167	53.53	145	325.44	13.44	4.31
Aways		418	162	38.76	256	464.24	46.24	11.06
	Total	730	329	45.07	401	789.68	59.68	8.18

Bet numbers were higher in the 2017-18 season. The overall win rates were up by almost 2%. Profits exceeded the long-term average of 5.54%. A gain of 59 points was made with an ROI of 8.18%.

Green								
Level Stakes	2018-19	Bets	Win	Win%	Lose	Returns	Profit/Loss	% Profit
Homes		234	131	55.98	103	235.42	1.42	0.61
Aways		313	125	39.94	188	348.73	35.73	11.42
	Total	547	256	46.80	291	584.15	37.15	6.79

Bet numbers were down on the previous season. The win rate was improved upon again. The ROI was slightly lower than the 2016-17 season but the ROI remained slightly above average.

Green								
Level Stakes	2019-20	Bets	Win	Win%	Lose	Returns	Profit/Loss	% Profit
Homes		234	135	57.69	99	254.95	20.95	8.95
Aways		225	85	37.78	140	233.93	8.93	3.97
	Total	459	220	47.93	239	488.88	29.88	6.51

The Green Light returns for the 2019-20 season were above average with home bet numbers exceeding away bets. In previous seasons, away bets have always exceeded home bets. This was due to the ratings being able to identify the strong 'home bias' that prevailed.

The variations in results from season-to-season are simply a reflection of the swings in returns that will happen. Some seasons will always be better than others, no season is ever likely to be 'average'.

I believe the 5% profit threshold is psychologically important. Whilst many uninformed bettors may feel higher returns on investment ought to be possible, the 5% target is both realistic and achievable based on the evidence of four seasons of Traffic Light ratings.

The next chapter shows how the ratings information is presented in the Winabobatoos magazines.

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CHAPTER 5: THE WINABOBATOO MAGAZINES

Magazines are produced as Excel documents and pdfs. The pdf version will be emailed to members, the Excel version can be downloaded from the website.

The front page of an example magazine:

Season14	Winabobattoo Private Members Club Magazine 2019-20						
Date of Issue: Thurs 13th February 2020		Issue Number: Mag 65/2020			Next Mag: Monday 20th February 2020		
Season 2019-20 (Example Magazine)		Winabobattoo Limited - Company Number 06991901			All rights reserved		
Green Lights: 1st September 2016 to 15th March 2020		Fixtures: Friday 14th February to Sunday 16th February 2020					
	Bets	Win	Win%	Lose	Returns	Profit/Loss	ROI
	2,323	1,059	45.59	1,264	2,451.74	128.74	5.54
Today's Bets:		Number Of Bets					
1	Home Green Lights		3				
2	Away Green Lights		10				
3	Xtreme Bets		6				
Today's Match Ratings:							
4	Traffic Lights & Ratings Data		● ● ●				
5	Market Impact Data						
6	Form Guide & Team Records						
Behind The Numbers:							
7	Behind The Numbers Index						
8	Latest Article:						
Results Section:							
9	Match Reviews Of Recently Played Games						
10	Results From 1st September 2016						
11	Results: Season 2020-21						
Legal Stuff:							
12	Copyright & Guide Amendments						
Click here to visit the 2020-21 Winabobattoo Members Only Website							
Click here to visit www.winabobattoo.com for emergency back-ups if the main website is down							

You can see at a glance how many Green Light cases feature in the mag. There is a running record of the returns for the Green Light bets since they went live along with details of the Xtreme Bets (see the separate Xtreme Bets chapter) plus details of when the next magazine will be published.

Inside the magazine, the home and away Green Light cases are listed separately:

winabobattoo - winabobattoo - winabobattoo					
Home Green Lights					
		Home			Mag Odds
Date	Div	Colour	Home Team	Away Team	Home
15 Feb 20	L1	●	Accrington	Lincoln	2.30
15 Feb 20	S L1	●	East Fife	Peterhead	1.83
15 Feb 20	S L1	●	Montrose	Dumbarton	1.75
There are	3	Home Green Lights in today's magazine.			

Away Green Lights

					Mag Odds
Date	Div	Home Team	Away Team	Colour	Away
15 Feb 20	L1	Bolton	Wycombe	●	2.25
15 Feb 20	L2	Crawley Town	Carlisle	●	3.40
15 Feb 20	L2	Grimsby	Morecambe	●	4.00
15 Feb 20	L2	Macclesfield	Exeter	●	1.91
15 Feb 20	L2	Mansfield	Newport County	●	3.20
15 Feb 20	L2	Stevenage	Salford	●	2.25
15 Feb 20	L2	Walsall	Northampton	●	2.75
15 Feb 20	S Ch	Arbroath	Queen of Sth	●	3.10
15 Feb 20	S L1	Forfar	Stranraer	●	3.60
15 Feb 20	S L2	Cowdenbeath	Stirling	●	3.00

There are 10 Away Green Lights in today's magazine.

The Traffic Light ratings page then lists every single game to be played. An extract is below:

winabobattoo - winabobattoo - winabobattoo - winabobattoo - winabobattoo - winabobattoo																		
Winabobattoo Traffic Light Ratings										Ratings Info						Xtreme Bet	Draw	
Date	Div	Home	Home	Home Team	Predictor	Command	Form	Enigma	Away Team	Res	Odds	Light	Odds					Light
		Light	Odds															
14 Feb 20	S Ch	Red	8.50	●	Alloa	-20	-10	-10	-2	Dundee United	3	●	1.36	Amber	5.00			
15 Feb 20	L1	Green	2.30	●	Accrington	12	5	7	2	Lincoln	1	●	3.20	Red	3.50			
15 Feb 20	L1	Red	3.20	●	Bolton	-2	-9	7	1	Wycombe	2	●	2.25	Green	3.40			
15 Feb 20	L1	Amber	3.20	●	Bristol Rvs	1	-4	5	1	Blackpool	1	●	2.38	Red	3.40			
15 Feb 20	L1	Amber	2.60	●	Fleetwood Town	-3	1	-4	-1	Peterboro	1	●	2.75	Red	3.40			
15 Feb 20	L1	Amber	2.35	●	Gillingham	3	-1	4	1	Doncaster	1	●	3.25	Amber	3.30			

New Feature

Market Impact Data:

Traffic Lights: Market Impact Data																				Xtreme Bet	Draw
										Market Impact			Market Impact								
										Big	Mkt	Drift	Big	Mkt	Drift						
Date	Div	Light	Odds	Steam	Appr	Alert	Home Team	Away Team	Res	Steam	Appr	Alert	Odds	Light	Odds						
14 Feb 20	S Ch	Red	8.50	6.77	7.83	9.29	●	Alloa	Dundee United	3	●	1.31	1.34	1.38	1.36	Amber	5.00				
15 Feb 20	L1	Green	2.30	2.15	2.25	2.35	●	Accrington	Lincoln	1	●	2.92	3.10	3.31	3.20	Red	3.50				
15 Feb 20	L1	Red	3.20	2.92	3.10	3.31	●	Bolton	Wycombe	2	●	2.11	2.20	2.30	2.25	Green	3.40				

Markets are extremely clever. Through the "Wisdom Of The Crowds" theory, as more information is drip-fed into the markets, the more efficient they become. They are at their least efficient in early proceedings and most efficient by kick-off.

In effect, the biggest pricing errors are when the markets are first formed. This is when the largest profits can be had.

The Winabobattoo ratings are very smart, providing an edge over the bookmakers in the early markets, but they cannot take issues such as injuries and suspensions into account. They are beyond the scope of what we can do.

Even if we could assess every player in every team, we wouldn't be able to assess matches until the starting line-ups had been declared. By which time we would have missed the boat with many of the best prices anyway.

By comparing the Magazine Odds with the Pinnacle kick-off odds, a Price Movement (PM) rating can be calculated. A positive rating indicates a team has shortened in price whilst a negative rating shows a team has drifted. The more a team steams, the greater the rating; the more a team drifts, the lower the rating.

If a team is being supported at a particular price, this is generally a good sign. If a team is drifting, this can be indicative of all not being well. There may be issues at force that the ratings haven't been able to get to grips with. We can use this data to provide an added layer of input.

I will discuss this shortly in more detail but firstly I want to show the Price Movement ratings relative to the historic Green Light cases. The first table shows the home bets:

Green Lights	Home Bets							BestKO		
PM Rating	Bets	Win	Win%	Lose	Returns	Profit/Loss	% Profit	Odds	Profit/Loss	ROI
>= 300	306	182	59.48	124	343.40	37.40	12.22	322.78	16.78	5.48
200 to 299	129	63	48.84	66	118.75	-10.25	-7.95	116.12	-12.88	-9.98
100 to 199	116	72	62.07	44	134.13	18.13	15.63	133.18	17.18	14.81
0 to 99	142	80	56.34	62	152.28	10.28	7.24	154.25	12.25	8.63
-99 to -1	91	54	59.34	37	108.70	17.70	19.45	111.88	20.88	22.95
-199 to -100	106	48	45.28	58	92.25	-13.75	-12.97	96.56	-9.44	-8.91
<= -200	181	86	47.51	95	164.07	-16.93	-9.35	180.31	-0.69	-0.38
Total	1,071	585	54.62	486	1,113.58	42.58	3.98	1,115.08	44.08	4.12

Almost 29% of all home Green Lights have Price Movement ratings of 300 or bigger. Backing them at Magazine Odds has made 37.40 points, +12.22%. Backing these same cases at the best odds available at kick-off, according to OddsPortal, shows they have still made 5.48% profit. A team achieving a Price Movement rating of 300 or bigger is categorised as a 'Big Steamer'.

The Green Lights that have done poorly are the ones with negative Price Movement ratings (drifters) where the PM rating is -100 or lower. Their win rates are also lower than the rest. As the columns on the right show, even though they drifted in price, they still haven't drifted enough to be profitable at the longer kick-off odds. A team that drifts to achieve a Price Movement rating of -100 or lower will be defined as: 'Drift Alert'.

The next table shows the same analysis for the away Green Lights:

Green Lights	Away Bets							BestKO		
PM Rating	Bets	Win	Win%	Lose	Returns	Profit/Loss	% Profit	Odds	Profit/Loss	ROI
>= 300	358	157	43.85	201	464.25	106.25	29.68	418.34	60.34	16.85
200 to 299	156	51	32.69	105	141.57	-14.43	-9.25	136.84	-19.16	-12.28
100 to 199	140	53	37.86	87	153.10	13.10	9.36	179.76	39.76	28.40
0 to 99	162	55	33.95	107	155.66	-6.34	-3.91	157.72	-4.28	-2.64
-99 to -1	143	55	38.46	88	151.33	8.33	5.83	158.18	15.18	10.62
-199 to -100	107	34	31.78	73	90.07	-16.93	-15.82	95.69	-11.31	-10.57
<= -200	186	69	37.10	117	182.18	-3.82	-2.05	204.14	18.14	9.75
Total	1,252	474	37.86	778	1,338.16	86.16	6.88	1,350.67	98.67	7.88

A similar 29% of cases have had Price Movement ratings of 300 or greater. Backing these teams before they steam is particularly rewarding. Even at the best kick-off odds, they've made a significant amount of money.

The drifters, with a PM rating of -100 or lower have done poorly, similar to the -100 or lower home drifters. The away drifters have made a small profit at the longer best kick-off odds, unlike the homes.

The next table combines the home and away Green Light details:

Green Lights	All Cases							BestKO		
PM Rating	Bets	Win	Win%	Lose	Returns	Profit/Loss	% Profit	Odds	Profit/Loss	ROI
>= 300	664	339	51.05	325	807.65	143.65	21.63	741.12	77.12	11.61
200 to 299	285	114	40.00	171	260.32	-24.68	-8.66	252.96	-32.04	-11.24
100 to 199	256	125	48.83	131	287.23	31.23	12.20	312.94	56.94	22.24
0 to 99	304	135	44.41	169	307.94	3.94	1.30	311.97	7.97	2.62
-99 to -1	234	109	46.58	125	260.03	26.03	11.12	270.06	36.06	15.41
-199 to -100	213	82	38.50	131	182.32	-30.68	-14.40	192.25	-20.75	-9.74
<= -200	367	155	42.23	212	346.25	-20.75	-5.65	384.45	17.45	4.75
Total	2,323	1,059	45.59	1,264	2,451.74	128.74	5.54	2,465.75	142.75	6.15

The biggest money spinners are the Big Steamers. Getting on them at Mag Odds has made over 143 points profit, +21.63%. They've still made over 77 points at best kick-off odds, +11.61%.

The drifters, with a Price Movement rating of -100 or lower, lost over 50 points at Mag Odds.

The numbers show that the teams that drift significantly (-100 or lower) appear to offer no profit potential at the Mag Odds.

Here's an abbreviated summary:

Green Lights	All Cases							BestKO		
PM Rating	Bets	Win	Win%	Lose	Returns	Profit/Loss	% Profit	Odds	Profit/Loss	ROI
100+	1,205	578	47.97	627	1,355.20	150.20	12.46	1,307.02	102.02	8.47
-99 to +99	538	244	45.35	294	567.97	29.97	5.57	582.03	44.03	8.18
<= -100	580	237	40.86	343	528.57	-51.43	-8.87	576.70	-3.30	-0.57
Total	2,323	1,059	45.59	1,264	2,451.74	128.74	5.54	2,465.75	142.75	6.15

The evidence, in effect, is saying that Green Light drifters (-100 and lower) are potentially bad news.

Approximately 25% of all Green Light cases become 'bad drifters', whilst 75% get market approval.

In all matches played, 38% of sides are 'bad drifters'. Comparatively speaking, the Green Lights do particularly well.

This means the non-Greens (Amber and Red Lights) see 42% of teams gravitate into the 'bad drifter' category.

We don't have a crystal ball so we never know at the outset which teams will steam or drift but by using Market Impact Data had we waited until kick-off to avoid backing the Green Light drifters (-100 or lower) we would have made 146.05 points (8.37%) from 1,743 bets, as opposed to making 128.74 points (5.54%) from backing 2,323 teams.

Of course, having accounts with all bookmakers listed on OddsPortal is an additional hassle but the evidence shows how using market knowledge alongside the ratings can be advantageous. We should remember that 42% of all teams have 'better than mag odds' available according to Oddschecker at the times the mags are published, so there is some scope for improving on the mag odds returns too.

To help you process this information, you will need to check out the Market Impact Data page of the Winabobattoo magazine.

Traffic Lights: Market Impact Data										Check Pinnacle's odds with the odds shown below to check a team's 'Steamer Status'.						Xtreme Bet	Draw Odds
Date	Div	Light	Home Odds	Market Impact			Res	Home Team	Away Team	Res	Market Impact			Away Odds	Away Light		
				Home Steam	Home Mkt	Home Drift					Big Steam	Mkt Appr	Drift Alert				
14 Feb 20	S Ch	Red	8.50	6.77	7.83	9.29	3	Alloa	Dundee United	3	1.31	1.34	1.38	1.36	Amber	5.00	
15 Feb 20	L1	Green	2.30	2.15	2.25	2.35	1	Accrington	Lincoln	1	2.92	3.10	3.31	3.20	Red	3.50	
15 Feb 20	L1	Red	3.20	2.92	3.10	3.31	2	Bolton	Wycombe	2	2.11	2.20	2.30	2.25	Green	3.40	

Next to a team's odds, there will be a Big Steam price (when the Price Movement rating reaches 300). The Market Approval price is the price when the Price Movement rating reaches +100. The Drift Alert price signifies the team has a Price Movement rating of -100.

You will need to compare Pinnacle bookmaker prices with the Magazine Odds to establish whether a team has become a Big Steamer, got Market Approval, or falls into the Drift Alert category.

You may wish to utilise this data to make further assessments in the intervening periods between mag publication time and kick-off.

If you miss the best of the odds when magazines are published, there's still very good reason to believe decent levels of profits can be achieved right up to kick-off.

Team Records:

Designed specifically for the analysts, there is a Team Records page. This shows a variety of information ranging from details of games won in the last six matches, games since winning, games since losing, home and away records for the season, average goals scored and conceded, etc.

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Date	Div	Wins In Last 6	Since Last Win	Since Last Defeat	Home Record				Away Record				Goals		Home Win %	Team Records			Wins In Last 6	Since Last Win	Since Last Defeat	Home Record				Away Record				Goals		Home Win %	Magazine Odds		
					Home Played	Home Won	Home Drawn	Home Lost	Away Played	Away Won	Away Drawn	Away Lost	Av H Goals For	Av H Goals Ag		Home Team	Away Team	RES				Home Played	Home Won	Home Drawn	Home Lost	Away Played	Away Won	Away Drawn	Away Lost	Av A Goals For	Av A Goals Ag		Home	Draw	Away
14 Feb 20	S Ch	3	1	5	11	3	3	5	12	3	4	5	0.91	1.55	27	Alloa	Dundee United	3	3	2	0	12	9	2	1	11	8	0	3	1.55	0.91	73	8.50	5.00	1.36
15 Feb 20	L1	2	0	2	14	6	2	6	16	3	7	6	1.93	1.43	43	Accrington	Lincoln	1	1	5	1	15	9	2	4	17	2	3	12	0.76	1.41	12	2.30	3.50	3.20
15 Feb 20	L1	1	2	0	15	4	7	4	13	1	1	11	1.13	1.40	27	Bolton	Wycombe	2	3	1	0	17	12	3	2	14	3	5	6	0.57	1.21	21	3.20	3.40	2.25
15 Feb 20	L1	0	11	1	15	5	6	4	15	5	3	7	1.27	1.13	33	Bristol Rvs	Blackpool	1	1	1	0	14	7	2	5	15	2	8	5	1.07	1.20	13	3.20	3.40	2.38
15 Feb 20	L1	3	0	6	15	8	6	1	14	5	3	6	1.47	0.80	53	Fleetwood Town	Peterboro	1	6	0	6	16	11	3	2	16	5	4	7	1.56	1.50	31	2.60	3.40	2.75
15 Feb 20	L1	2	0	12	15	8	3	4	15	2	10	3	1.60	0.93	53	Gillingham	Doncaster	1	3	0	3	18	9	5	4	12	4	4	4	1.58	0.92	33	2.35	3.30	3.25

Did you back a 'lucky winner' or back an 'unlucky loser'?

The Match Reviews page shows the 'shots at goal' details for the previous round of matches:

winabobattoo - winabobattoo - winabobattoo - winabobattoo											
MATCH REVIEWS OF RECENTLY PLAYED GAMES											
		Home	Home					Away	Away		Shot
Date	Div	Shots	Shots%	Home Team	SCORE	Away Team	Shots%	Shots	Res	Res	
14/02/2020	S Ch	7	37	Alloa	0 0	Dundee United	63	12	3	-5	
15/02/2020	L1	14	58	Accrington	4 3	Lincoln	42	10	1	4	
15/02/2020	L1	11	61	Bolton	0 2	Wycombe	39	7	2	4	
15/02/2020	L1	19	59	Bristol Rvs	2 1	Blackpool	41	13	1	6	
15/02/2020	L1	10	63	Fleetwood Town	2 1	Peterboro	38	6	1	4	
15/02/2020	L1	10	50	Gillingham	2 1	Doncaster	50	10	1	0	
15/02/2020	L1	16	59	Ipswich	4 1	Burton	41	11	1	5	
15/02/2020	L1	10	63	Oxford	0 1	Sunderland	38	6	2	4	
15/02/2020	L1	18	62	Portsmouth	2 0	Shrewsbury	38	11	1	7	
15/02/2020	L1	22	81	Rotherham	2 2	AFC Wimbledon	19	5	3	17	
15/02/2020	L1	7	33	Southend	0 2	Coventry	67	14	2	-7	

Dundee United had five more shots at goal than Alloa but could only draw 0-0.

Rotherham won the shots by 22 to 5 but Wimbledon managed to score twice from their five shots to gain a draw.

The 'shot result' column (on the right) shows +17 for the Rotherham v Wimbledon match. This is 22 minus 5.

A detailed breakdown of long-term and current season returns can be seen in the results section of each magazine:

All Games	ALL							
Level Stakes	LIVE	Bets	Win	Win%	Lose	Returns	Profit/Loss	% Profit
Homes		5,165	2,249	43.54	2,916	5,120.08	-44.92	-0.87
Draws		5,165	1,310	25.36	3,855	4,785.01	-379.99	-7.36
Aways		5,165	1,606	31.09	3,559	4,864.72	-300.28	-5.81

Green	ALL							
Level Stakes	LIVE	Bets	Win	Win%	Lose	Returns	Profit/Loss	% Profit
Homes		1,071	585	54.62	486	1,113.58	42.58	3.98
Aways		1,252	474	37.86	778	1,338.16	86.16	6.88
	Total	2,323	1,059	45.59	1,264	2,451.74	128.74	5.54

Amber	ALL							
Level Stakes	LIVE	Bets	Win	Win%	Lose	Returns	Profit/Loss	% Profit
Homes		1,486	714	48.05	772	1,511.49	25.49	1.72
Aways		1,641	563	34.31	1,078	1,458.77	-182.23	-11.10
	Total	3,127	1,277	40.84	1,850	2,970.26	-156.74	-5.01

Red	ALL							
Level Stakes	LIVE	Bets	Win	Win%	Lose	Returns	Profit/Loss	% Profit
Homes		2,607	950	36.44	1,657	2,495.01	-111.99	-4.30
Aways		2,271	569	25.06	1,702	2,065.79	-205.21	-9.04
	Total	4,878	1,519	31.14	3,359	4,560.80	-317.20	-6.50

The Results File is a separate publication.

It is updated every Tuesday and provides even more details. This can be downloaded from the members' website:



Behind The Numbers articles:

I write occasional articles about various betting topics under the heading of: Behind The Numbers.

Summary:

Whether you want to follow a list of bets or whether you want to add your judgement to the ratings, everything is presented in an easy to follow way.

Throughout an average season, there will be in the region of 1,500 matches assessed by the ratings.

Whether you want a few bets per week or many bets per week, home bets or away bets, long odds bets or short odds bets, you can adapt Winabobattoo to meet your specific needs.

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CHAPTER 6: THE XTREME BETS

The Xtreme Bets are a betting system using a subset of the away Green Light bets.

Historically, the best Winabobatoos profits have been when backing away teams priced at 3.00 or better. The Xtreme Bets focus solely on away bets priced 3.00 or better.

The table below shows the returns from backing all away Green Light cases in the leagues we presently cover, with odds of 3.00 or bigger, by season, since they went live:

Green								
3.00+	Aways	Bets	Win	Win%	Lose	Returns	Profit/Loss	% Profit
2016-17		136	41	30.15	95	148.98	12.98	9.54
2017-18		215	62	28.84	153	226.64	11.64	5.41
2018-19		137	55	40.15	82	190.40	53.40	38.98
2019-20		92	24	26.09	68	92.48	0.48	0.52
Total		580	182	31.38	398	658.50	78.50	13.53

Overall, these cases have bettered the 5.54% ROI achieved from backing every Green Light, albeit with a particularly strong 2018-19 season.

Whilst better profits often come at longer odds, variance is also at its greatest, meaning bigger swings in returns from season-to-season can occur. The good seasons can be very good whilst the bad seasons may see losses.

With the reduced season due to Covid-19, there were relatively few Xtreme Bets identified:

Xtreme Bets								
3.00+	Aways	Bets	Win	Win%	Lose	Returns	Profit/Loss	% Profit
2019-20		74	19	25.68	55	68.78	-5.22	-7.05

On this occasion, they didn't improve on the overall Green Light position. The eighteen 3.00+ Green Light cases that were omitted found five winners that returned 23.70 points.

The next table shows the Xtreme Bets record for the earlier years:

Xtreme Bets								
3.00+	Aways	Bets	Win	Win%	Lose	Returns	Profit/Loss	% Profit
2016-17		105	44	41.90	61	154.08	49.08	46.74
2017-18		151	48	31.79	103	172.74	21.74	14.40
2018-19		119	51	42.86	68	176.80	57.80	48.57
2019-20		92	24	26.09	68	92.48	0.48	0.52
Total		467	167	35.76	300	596.10	129.10	27.64

In the three earlier seasons, the added filters had improved the basic Green Light returns.

If you want to narrow down the 3.00+ aways to a smaller group of bets, in the hope of snaring better profits, you may choose to follow the Xtreme Bets rather than the 3.00+ away Green Lights.

The Winabobattoo Magazines will list the Xtreme Bets as follows:

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Xtreme Bets						
				Away Odds	Minimum Bet	Est Win %
Date	Div	Home Team	Away Team	Away	Odds	%
15 Feb 20	L2	Crawley Town	<u>Carlisle</u>	3.40	2.83	33.82
15 Feb 20	L2	Grimsby	<u>Morecambe</u>	4.00	3.33	28.75
15 Feb 20	L2	Mansfield	<u>Newport County</u>	3.20	2.67	35.94
15 Feb 20	S Ch	Arbroath	<u>Queen of Sth</u>	3.10	2.58	37.10
15 Feb 20	S L1	Forfar	<u>Stranraer</u>	3.60	3.00	31.94
15 Feb 20	S L2	Cowdenbeath	<u>Stirling</u>	3.00	2.50	38.33
There are 6 Away Xtreme Bets in today's magazine.						

Each bet will be listed with suggested 'minimum bet odds'. Should a price decline below these odds, all value may have gone.

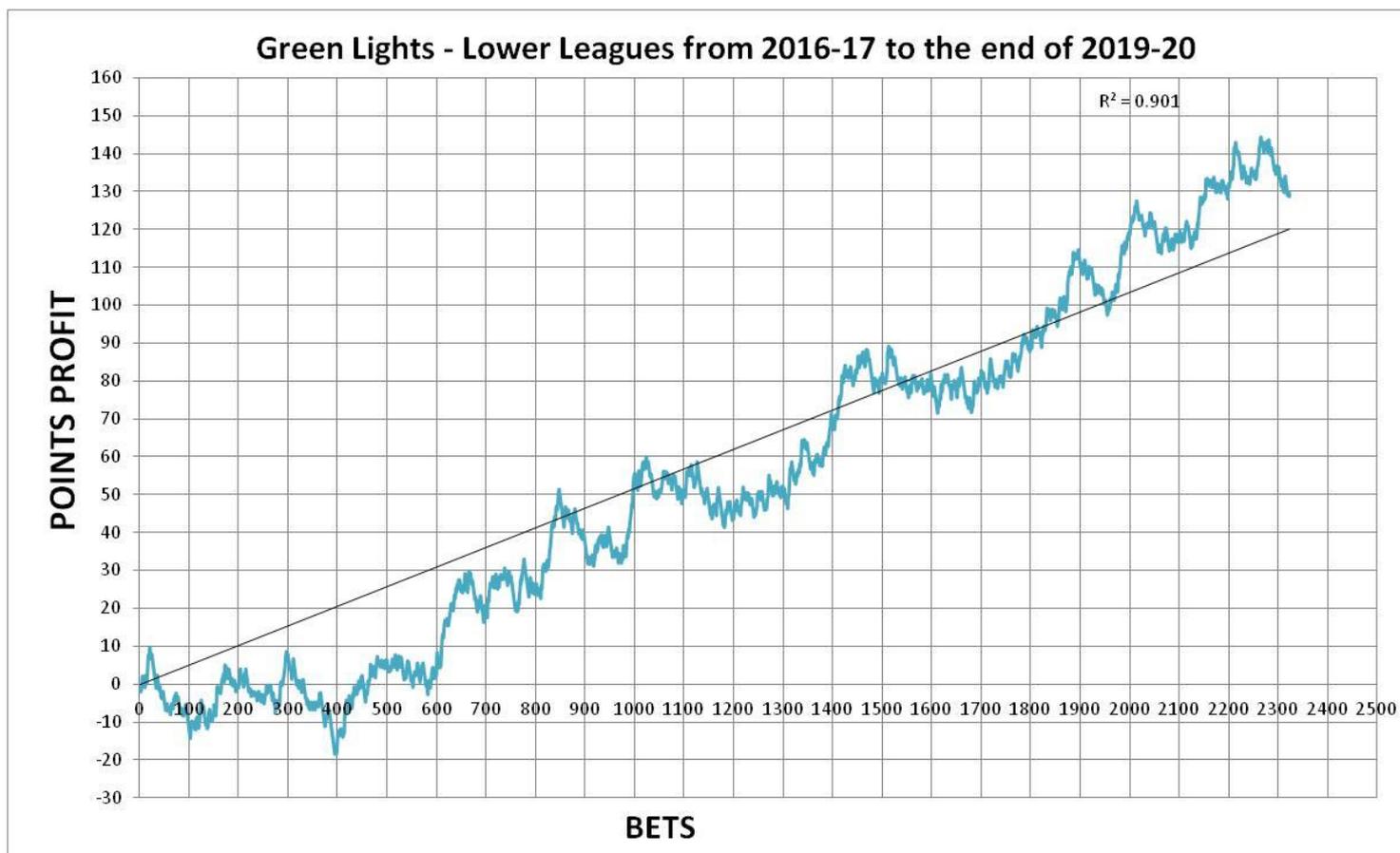
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CHAPTER 7: WINNING RUNS/LOSING RUNS

In an ideal world, life would be much more straightforward if profits were to come in a straight line. For every 100 bets we place, it would be great if we knew we were going to get 105 points back. Unfortunately, that's not how it works. The live returns from the Green Light bets provide a perfect case study to show the ups and downs, the winning runs and the losing runs, over a substantial number of bets.

Successful betting isn't just about having an edge over the bookmakers. Successful betting also requires the ability to deal with adversity. We can bury our heads in the sand and pretend bad runs, even dire runs, are things that happen to other people. They're not. They happen to everyone, including us. Recognising they exist is the first requirement, learning how to deal with both the financial and emotional demands they bring is the second requirement.

The graph below shows the returns from backing the 2,323 Green Light teams:



The table on the next page shows the bets in batches of 100.

Green Lights	2016-17 Onwards							
		Bets	Win	Win%	Lose	Returns	Profit/Loss	% Profit
0 to 100	100	37	37.00	63	87.73	-12.27	-12.27	
101 to 200	100	47	47.00	53	111.98	11.98	11.98	
201 to 300	100	49	49.00	51	107.22	7.22	7.22	
301 to 400	100	33	33.00	67	80.07	-19.93	-19.93	
401 to 500	100	48	48.00	52	118.38	18.38	18.38	
501 to 600	100	45	45.00	55	100.88	0.88	0.88	
601 to 700	100	47	47.00	53	113.41	13.41	13.41	
701 to 800	100	40	40.00	60	104.77	4.77	4.77	
801 to 900	100	47	47.00	53	112.34	12.34	12.34	
901 to 1000	100	49	49.00	51	118.89	18.89	18.89	
1001 to 1100	100	41	41.00	59	93.75	-6.25	-6.25	
1100 to 1200	100	40	40.00	60	94.88	-5.12	-5.12	
1201 to 1300	100	48	48.00	52	107.02	7.02	7.02	
1301 to 1400	100	50	50.00	50	118.86	18.86	18.86	
1401 to 1500	100	49	49.00	51	111.98	11.98	11.98	
1501 to 1600	100	45	45.00	55	97.77	-2.23	-2.23	
1601 to 1700	100	41	41.00	59	102.97	2.97	2.97	
1701 to 1800	100	50	50.00	50	107.78	7.78	7.78	
1801 to 1900	100	50	50.00	50	120.02	20.02	20.02	
1901 to 2000	100	48	48.00	52	108.02	8.02	8.02	
2001 to 2100	100	46	46.00	54	98.16	-1.84	-1.84	
2101 to 2200	100	51	51.00	49	115.29	15.29	15.29	
2201 to 2300	100	48	48.00	52	103.55	3.55	3.55	

The fewest winners in a 100 bet sequence was 33 (Bets 301 to 400).

The highest number of winners was 51 (Bets 2101 to 2200).

The two largest losses in 100 bets were 12.27 points and 19.93 points.

The best profits were 20.02 points and 18.89 points.

Whilst the 100 bet sequences are interesting they still don't tell the full story.

Here are more details:

At Bet 27, the Green Light profit was 9.66 points. By Bet 136 all the profits had gone, there was a deficit of 11.75 points. A run of 109 bets had leaked over 20 points. Not until Bet 165 were the returns back in the black.

Things hovered around level for the next 70 bets before another downturn took place. By Bet 274 the balance was showing a loss of 7.27 points. This quickly turned around and by Bet 296, the profits stood at 8.63.

The rally was short-lived. The Green Lights hit their worst low at Bet 397. The losses at this point were 18.45 points. Some 66 more bets were needed before the returns were back in profit. The last skirmish with negative territory didn't end until Bet 587.

It's hard to grasp the concept that something can be long-term profitable when 587 bets have made no profit. The naysayers are likely to be out in force when such a sequence occurs but they will be drawing conclusions from a sample size that is still more indicative of levels of luck rather than levels of skill.

Of course, it cannot be denied that placing 587 bets without profit would be extremely testing for anyone but my 1,000 bet rule was written long before this sequence took place.

What happened next? By Bet number 657, some 70 bets later, the returns were showing a profit of 29.22 points, +4.45%, after a run of favourable results. Things had returned back nearer to normal.

All wasn't plain sailing though as the returns dropped back again, but after 847 bets there was a profit of 51.46 points, giving an ROI of 6.08%. 587 bets with no profits had more-or-less returned to 'average' by Bet 847, some 160 bets later.

Now, if we only knew when the bad runs were going to happen, we could 'sit them out'. Oh, if we were only that wise!

There were some other drawdowns:

There were 167 bets between 1,513 and 1,680 where a loss of 17.56 points was made.

A 16 point loss occurred between bets 1,896 and 1,959.

A 14 point loss happened over 66 bets between bets 2,014 and 2,080.

Coping with poor runs most certainly provides bettors with difficult mental challenges. Failing to acknowledge they will happen isn't the answer. Being prepared for them and coping when they occur is the only way to stay in the betting game for any length of time.

Those words will be engraved on my headstone for good reason: *Always view betting as a 1,000 bet project!*

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CHAPTER 8: WHY ALMOST EVERY FOOTBALL BETTOR LOSES MONEY

This chapter was first included in the 2018-19 Winabobattoo Guide, covering results from 2006-07 to 2017-18. It's well worth another look.

Using league table positions, or more specifically a Points Per Game (PPG) rating, we can check how well league table knowledge does in relation to profit-finding.

The scale of ratings range from 200+ when the home teams are significantly better than the away teams to -200 and lower when the away teams are significantly better than the home sides.

Points Per Game Ratings								
Rating	2006-18	Bets	Win	Win%	Lose	Returns	Profit/Loss	% Profit
200+	Homes	1,316	893	67.86	423	1,284.43	-31.57	-2.40
	Draws	1,316	248	18.84	1,068	1,146.58	-169.42	-12.87
	Aways	1,316	175	13.30	1,141	1,262.34	-53.66	-4.08
150 to 199	Homes	1,432	866	60.47	566	1,356.14	-75.86	-5.30
	Draws	1,432	336	23.46	1,096	1,363.81	-68.19	-4.76
	Aways	1,432	230	16.06	1,202	1,334.30	-97.70	-6.82
100 to 149	Homes	2,602	1,441	55.38	1,161	2,468.06	-133.94	-5.15
	Draws	2,602	654	25.13	1,948	2,471.88	-130.12	-5.00
	Aways	2,602	507	19.49	2,095	2,451.62	-150.38	-5.78
50 to 99	Homes	3,799	1,963	51.67	1,836	3,704.44	-94.56	-2.49
	Draws	3,799	919	24.19	2,880	3,294.00	-505.00	-13.29
	Aways	3,799	917	24.14	2,882	3,807.80	8.80	0.23
0 to 49	Homes	5,082	2,265	44.57	2,817	4,742.96	-339.04	-6.67
	Draws	5,082	1,398	27.51	3,684	4,820.55	-261.45	-5.14
	Aways	5,082	1,419	27.92	3,663	5,032.74	-49.26	-0.97
-49 to -1	Homes	4,320	1,796	41.57	2,524	4,198.17	-121.83	-2.82
	Draws	4,320	1,196	27.69	3,124	4,071.18	-248.82	-5.76
	Aways	4,320	1,328	30.74	2,992	4,100.19	-219.81	-5.09
-99 to -50	Homes	3,865	1,418	36.69	2,447	3,657.34	-207.66	-5.37
	Draws	3,865	1,095	28.33	2,770	3,718.62	-146.38	-3.79
	Aways	3,865	1,352	34.98	2,513	3,673.21	-191.79	-4.96
-149 to -100	Homes	2,733	883	32.31	1,850	2,577.67	-155.33	-5.68
	Draws	2,733	732	26.78	2,001	2,506.88	-226.12	-8.27
	Aways	2,733	1,118	40.91	1,615	2,674.68	-58.32	-2.13
-199 to -150	Homes	1,521	443	29.13	1,078	1,533.54	12.54	0.82
	Draws	1,521	403	26.50	1,118	1,420.88	-100.12	-6.58
	Aways	1,521	675	44.38	846	1,445.88	-75.12	-4.94
-200 or lower	Homes	1,456	341	23.42	1,115	1,444.03	-11.97	-0.82
	Draws	1,456	339	23.28	1,117	1,256.47	-199.53	-13.70
	Aways	1,456	776	53.30	680	1,429.22	-26.78	-1.84

You can see from the vast amounts of red everywhere that nothing stands out as being a good area for the backer.

To help follow the data more easily, I've split the table into home returns and away returns.

Points Per Game Ratings								
Rating	2006-18	Bets	Win	Win%	Lose	Returns	Profit/Loss	% Profit
200+	Homes	1,316	893	67.86	423	1,284.43	-31.57	-2.40
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50 to 99	Homes	3,799	1,963	51.67	1,836	3,704.44	-94.56	-2.49
0 to 49	Homes	5,082	2,265	44.57	2,817	4,742.96	-339.04	-6.67
-49 to -1	Homes	4,320	1,796	41.57	2,524	4,198.17	-121.83	-2.82
-99 to -50	Homes	3,865	1,418	36.69	2,447	3,657.34	-207.66	-5.37
-149 to -100	Homes	2,733	883	32.31	1,850	2,577.67	-155.33	-5.68
-199 to -150	Homes	1,521	443	29.13	1,078	1,533.54	12.54	0.82
-200 or lower	Homes	1,456	341	23.42	1,115	1,444.03	-11.97	-0.82

The highest percentage of home wins occurs at the top of the table (see Win% column) when the home teams are most superior according to the PPG rating. The fewest home wins are in the bottom row, as we'd expect. Even though the top three rows find the most wins, backing those home teams has lost more than backing the home sides in the bottom three rows.

Points Per Game Ratings								
Rating	2006-18	Bets	Win	Win%	Lose	Returns	Profit/Loss	% Profit
200+	Aways	1,316	175	13.30	1,141	1,262.34	-53.66	-4.08
150 to 199	Aways	1,432	230	16.06	1,202	1,334.30	-97.70	-6.82
100 to 149	Aways	2,602	507	19.49	2,095	2,451.62	-150.38	-5.78
50 to 99	Aways	3,799	917	24.14	2,882	3,807.80	8.80	0.23
0 to 49	Aways	5,082	1,419	27.92	3,663	5,032.74	-49.26	-0.97
-49 to -1	Aways	4,320	1,328	30.74	2,992	4,100.19	-219.81	-5.09
-99 to -50	Aways	3,865	1,352	34.98	2,513	3,673.21	-191.79	-4.96
-149 to -100	Aways	2,733	1,118	40.91	1,615	2,674.68	-58.32	-2.13
-199 to -150	Aways	1,521	675	44.38	846	1,445.88	-75.12	-4.94
-200 or lower	Aways	1,456	776	53.30	680	1,429.22	-26.78	-1.84

Turning to the aways, if we look up from the bottom of the Win% column, the table shows the better away sides win more often. Like before, there is no hint of any profits from blindly backing the better sides. In fact, the two rows combined that lose least in terms of away returns are the 0 to 49 and 50 to 99 groups.

Points Per Game Ratings								
Rating	2006-18	Bets	Win	Win%	Lose	Returns	Profit/Loss	% Profit
200+	Draws	1,316	248	18.84	1,068	1,146.58	-169.42	-12.87
150 to 199	Draws	1,432	336	23.46	1,096	1,363.81	-68.19	-4.76
100 to 149	Draws	2,602	654	25.13	1,948	2,471.88	-130.12	-5.00
50 to 99	Draws	3,799	919	24.19	2,880	3,294.00	-505.00	-13.29
0 to 49	Draws	5,082	1,398	27.51	3,684	4,820.55	-261.45	-5.14
-49 to -1	Draws	4,320	1,196	27.69	3,124	4,071.18	-248.82	-5.76
-99 to -50	Draws	3,865	1,095	28.33	2,770	3,718.62	-146.38	-3.79
-149 to -100	Draws	2,733	732	26.78	2,001	2,506.88	-226.12	-8.27
-199 to -150	Draws	1,521	403	26.50	1,118	1,420.88	-100.12	-6.58
-200 or lower	Draws	1,456	339	23.28	1,117	1,256.47	-199.53	-13.70

The table showing draw returns identifies that the most draws occur in the ratings ranges between -99 and +49. Again, nothing shows any indications of putting us onto any bets that are likely to make money.

The tables can be simplified even further:

Points Per Game Ratings								
Rating	2006-18	Bets	Win	Win%	Lose	Returns	Profit/Loss	% Profit
Zero +	Homes	14,231	7,428	52.20	6,803	13,556.03	-674.97	-4.74
	Draws	14,231	3,555	24.98	10,676	13,096.82	-1,134.18	-7.97
	Aways	14,231	3,248	22.82	10,983	13,888.80	-342.20	-2.40
Under Zero	Homes	13,895	4,881	35.13	9,014	13,410.75	-484.25	-3.49
	Draws	13,895	3,765	27.10	10,130	12,974.03	-920.97	-6.63
	Aways	13,895	5,149	37.06	8,746	13,323.08	-571.92	-4.12

The top three rows show all games where the home team is above the away side in the league table; the bottom three rows show the games where the away team is above the home side in the table.

Backing all home teams when they're 'better' than the away side has lost 4.74%; backing all home sides when they're 'worse' than the away sides has lost 3.49%.

Backing all away teams when they're 'better' than the home teams has lost 4.12%; backing away sides when they're 'worse' than the home teams has lost 2.40%.

These numbers show that blindly backing the 'better' teams leads to greater losses.

Compare these figures to the returns based on the Winabobattoo Predictor Rating (shown on page 10) to see how the ratings provide an edge whereas league tables clearly don't.

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CHAPTER 9: BANKROLL MANAGEMENT & STAKING

Is it of vital importance to have a 'bankroll'?

If you're a casual backer who likes to invest £20 or £30 per week on your hobby and you can afford to take this money out of your weekly wage without missing it, then you probably don't need a bankroll. Having a bankroll, and keeping records of your bets, may cause you more stress than not having one. That would defeat the object.

If you take betting more seriously or have a set amount of money to play with, then a bankroll is absolutely essential. I presume the majority of readers will fall into this category.

The second question: What is the purpose of a 'bankroll'?

The primary purpose of a bankroll is to provide protection against running out of money – known as ruination - when hit with downturns and losing runs.

If we knew that given two chances to back a winner at 11/10, we were certain to find one winner in every two bets, we could start out with a bankroll of £200, place £100 on each bet, and worry no more. A £200 bank would suffice; we would never run out of money. We could go a stage further. Once we've got £400 in our betting bank, we could increase the stakes to £200 per bet, and again we'd never run out of money.

Of course, this is based on the premise that we can find one winner in every two bets at 11/10. As we can't guarantee that, in order to cope, we have to have a bankroll that can handle whatever losing runs we're faced with.

Many people believe that when they sign up to a betting service doing so removes all risk. In effect, they believe they are guaranteed to win money. All they need to do is work out how to squeeze every last drop of profit out of their bankroll and the job's sorted. As a consequence, it can be very easy to under-estimate risk.

I recall a situation from the start of the 2008-09 season. A new member, called Eddie, had joined Winabobattoo during the summer of 2008. He'd written to me about a couple of things shortly after signing up. He seemed like a nice guy. I suspected he was relatively new to betting from the content of his messages but I didn't envisage what was going to happen next.

After the first two weekends of the new season he wrote to me to ask if he could have his money back as he'd run out of money! I couldn't believe it. I was astounded that anyone could find themselves in such a position, even someone relatively new to betting.

I wrote back to him to seek further clarification as I was intrigued to know how this had happened. He gave me details of a very silly staking plan he'd bought. The vendor guaranteed it would work. It involved increasing stakes quite dramatically after each loser. After having only backed one winner in his first twelve bets, he'd run out of money.

The main issue was that the staking plan seemed like a very silly one to me but it had obviously seemed like a very sensible one to him! I tried to contact the vendor but my requests constantly fell on deaf ears. The website continued to trade for some time afterwards but I couldn't get any answers.

More experienced bettors probably wouldn't have fallen for this 'three card trick'. Nevertheless, the tricks used by many internet sellers can at times seem compelling. They're experts at telling us what we want to hear. We can all fall victim to such ploys if we don't have our guard up. Eddie learned the hard way. I gave him his subscription fee back but I suspect that was scant consolation given the circumstances. I never heard from him again.

Essentially, bankroll management and staking is risk management. In order to manage risk, you need to have a reasonably decent understanding of it. We never know how bad a losing run might be, so we can never be 100% sure we've got things fully covered. Different approaches carry varying degrees of risk. The key is to have a good idea of what those risks are. We can then plan accordingly.

By nature I'm a cautious character. I'm not one of life's natural 'risk-takers'. I think this has stood me in good stead over the years. My betting habits have never got me into any serious strife and at no time have I ever felt overly stressed by any losing runs. It's actually a hundred times more stressful passing advice onto other people, knowing they're using your advice for their investments.

Whilst I'm particularly cautious, some people don't mind taking greater risks in the hope of getting bigger rewards. I don't have a problem with this but difficulties arise when someone thinks the risks are minimal when in fact they're substantial!

Our personal circumstances affect the way we need to think too. If we have £2,000 in cash available to bet with but couldn't afford to place another bet should that money be lost, we would need to apply a more careful strategy than if we had another £2,000 in savings waiting to top up the original bank. I've always had a 'reserve bank' available should the first one get drained but I realise not everyone is able to do that.

Another important point: if you start out with a £5,000 bank but get cold feet once £1,000 has been lost, you haven't really got a £5,000 bank in the first place, you've got a £1,000 bank. Your stakes should be relative to a £1,000 bank, not a £5,000 bank. We're all a little bit braver at the outset compared to how we'd feel should our bankroll decline by 20%.

A large number of people will wave the white flag once they've lost a certain percentage of the bankroll. Losing 50% seems to be the point of no return for many. Again we need to reflect on this. If that's the case, we've only really got half the starting bankroll we thought we'd got.

As a general rule, I tend to find it's the people who have least who want to risk the most. They feel it is the only way to win an amount that will be meaningful enough to make a difference. This is a poor starting position. Betting is like any business, if you start out with too little capital, you substantially increase your risk of failure.

Another common way of assessing a bankroll's performance can be based on return on capital (ROC). Starting out with a bank of, say, £1,000, the objective may be to turn it into £2,000. If achieved, a return on capital of 100% will have been made. I'll discuss this in more detail later.

How does a bankroll work?

Just for a moment, we'll assume we're going to bet to level stakes and place the same amount on each bet. If we have a betting pot of £1,000, we have to decide how many pieces we want to split the £1,000 into. This will determine our stake.

Bankroll = £1000	
Points	Stake
200	£5
150	£6.66
100	£10
75	£13.33
50	£20
25	£40

If we divide our £1,000 into 200 equal parts (or points), we would be able to stake £5 (or one point) on each bet.

We could divide the pot into 150 equal parts. One point staked would mean we would invest £6.66 on each bet. If we opted to split our funds into 25 equal parts, we'd place £40 on each bet.

It may seem obvious but the person who stakes £40 on each bet, out of funds totalling £1,000, is much more likely to run out of money at some point, than the person who stakes £5 per bet.

The more we stake, relative to the total funds we have, the greater the risk of bankruptcy but the more we stake, the more we stand to win! Greed and fear are often the driving forces! These two behaviours are not confined to betting. Indeed, they are two of the major factors that drive the world's financial markets.

How safe are various starting bankroll levels?

The levels of risk are relative to the odds at which we bet. If someone had a 100 point bank when placing level stakes bets at 100/1, they'd be taking an extraordinarily high risk. With losing runs in excess of 200 almost certain, it wouldn't take anything out of the ordinary to run out of money.

Conversely, if betting to level stakes at odds of 1.50 with a 100 point bank, the risk levels are exponentially lower.

Therefore, with regards to level stakes betting, no one can categorically tell you what the risk levels are without factoring in the odds range of the bets. As we tend to bet across a range of odds, calculating a 'safe level' is difficult.

Staking Options:

There are fundamentally three ways in which you may choose to stake your bets:

- 1) Level stakes
- 2) Percentage stakes
- 3) Variable stakes

What are the advantages and disadvantages of each?

Level stakes:

Advantages: Calculating the stake is easy; we place the same amount on each bet.

Disadvantages: Establishing a safe bankroll size (as explained) is difficult as it has to reflect the odds range we're betting in.

Percentage stakes:

Staking a percentage of our bankroll on each bet is an approach that many people find appealing.

Bankroll = £1000	
Percentage	Stake
1%	£10
1.50%	£15
2%	£20
2.50%	£25
3%	£30
5%	£50

Using a £1,000 bankroll, if we were to stake 1% on the first bet placed, we would risk £10. Should we opt to stake 2% on each bet, we would place £20 on the first bet. Placing 5% on the first bet would give a stake of £50.00.

From here on, our stakes would adjust depending on whether our bankroll grows or shrinks. If we staked £20 (2%) on the first bet and it won at 5/1, our bankroll would then be £1,100. The stake for our next bet would be £22 which is 2% of £1,100.

The logic behind this approach is that if the first bet wins we have more money in our bank, we can then afford to invest slightly more on the next bet. Had our first bet of £20 lost, the bankroll would have dropped to £980. The stake for the next bet would reduce to £19.60.

The downside to percentage stakes betting is very similar to level stakes betting. Betting a fixed percentage of the total amount of the bankroll takes no account of the risk (odds) involved. Should we place ten bets at odds of 10/1, it is quite probable that we could back ten losers. Given this scenario, staking 2% of our bankroll would see our £1,000 bank quickly tumble to £834.

2% of Bankroll			
Bet No:	Bankroll	Stake	% Lost
1	£1,000	£20.00	2.00
2	£980	£19.60	3.96
3	£960	£19.21	5.88
4	£941	£18.82	7.76
5	£922	£18.45	9.61
6	£904	£18.08	11.42
7	£886	£17.72	13.19
8	£868	£17.36	14.92
9	£851	£17.02	16.63
10	£834	£16.67	18.29

After just 10 bets our funds would have dropped by a rather large 18.29%.

The risks when staking 2% of the bankroll on bets at 10/1 are extremely high. The risks when betting 2% of the bankroll at odds of 1.50, would be considerably lower. For this reason, I don't think percentage stakes handles risk very well at all.

Variable stakes:

There are two different ways in which variable stakes can be operated:

- 1) We aim to win a fixed amount from each bet,
- 2) We aim to return a fixed amount from each bet.

At first glance, there may not seem to be much difference between the two but on closer inspection, you'll find there is.

The table below shows how much we would need to stake in order to win £100 at various prices.

Table 1:

To Win £100	
Odds	Stake
1.33	£303.03
1.50	£200.00
1.80	£125.00
2.00	£100.00
3.00	£50.00
4.00	£33.33
5.00	£25.00

By staking this way, when we bet at 5.00 (4/1), we're acknowledging that we're less likely to win than when betting at shorter odds, so we risk a smaller part of our bankroll. When betting at 1.33 (1/3), we're less likely to hit a long losing run so we're able to stake a larger proportion of our bankroll. This makes sense as we're acknowledging the relationship between win rates, odds and risk.

This approach works reasonably well if you don't bet odds on. When betting odds on, the stakes for the odds on bets quickly jumps to very high levels, as the table shows. Should you place a bet at 1.10, your stake to win £100 would be £1,000.

One of the fundamental betting principles is that you should never be taken out of your comfort zone with your staking methods. Staking £100 on an even money chance may be okay for most people, but I don't think staking £1,000 on a very short-priced bet would help most of us sleep easily on the night before the match!

Table 2:

Betting to return a set amount from each bet removes this weakness. I believe this is the better of the two variable stakes options:

To Return £100	
Odds	Stake
1.33	£75.19
1.50	£66.67
1.80	£55.56
2.00	£50.00
3.00	£33.33
4.00	£25.00
5.00	£20.00

The stakes stay within a much more confined range. Even with long odds on bets, the stake is always going to be less than £100. This approach works equally well across all odds. Notice how the stake in Table 1 ranges from £25 to £303.03, whereas in Table 2 the range is from £20 to £75.19.

In table two, the risks we are taking are **directly** in proportion to the odds on offer. When betting to win £100, the stakes are still somewhat disproportionate to the risk.

In terms of managing risk, this staking method is by far the most effective.

The next table expands on table two.

Table 3:

To Return £100		
Odds	Stake	Amount Won
1.33	£75.19	£24.81
1.50	£66.67	£33.33
1.80	£55.56	£44.44
2.00	£50.00	£50.00
3.00	£33.33	£66.67
4.00	£25.00	£75.00
5.00	£20.00	£80.00

When aiming to return a set amount from each bet, the amount won isn't a constant. It varies depending on the odds of the bets.

The table shows a limited number of prices. To calculate the stake for any price, take 100 and divide it by the decimal odds for the outcome. For example: $100 \div 3.50 = £28.57$.

When betting to level stakes, the range of returns on a week-by-week basis can be extreme, especially on weekends when you back a string of longer-priced losers. Variable stakes will help reduce this volatility. The range of returns will not be as extreme. If this is important to you, I would strongly recommend that you consider using variable stakes instead of level stakes or percentage stakes.

The demands on a bankroll:

A bankroll has to cope with the most extreme of demands. It is our defence against the worst possible losing runs you can imagine ever happening. No matter how skilled we are at selecting the right bets in the long-term, if we run out of money somewhere along the way, it is game over!

I touched on Return On Capital earlier. I will use ROC as an example of how easily we can under-estimate risk. If we start out with a bankroll of £1,000 and end up with a bankroll of £2,000, we've doubled our money, or made a 100% return on capital. Some people look upon their bankroll as a means of facilitating this or a similar aim.

Embracing this type of approach generally involves looking at past betting records to examine losing runs and drawdowns to try to establish a safe bankroll size. If we can set the bankroll at the 'optimum level' (not too high and not too low) we can improve our chances of maximising our ROC. After all, we want to be able to turn our bankroll over relatively quickly in order to make it work as effectively as it possibly can.

The conundrum is that if we turn our bankroll over too slowly we have money lying around doing nothing and our ROC will be lower. If we turn our money over too quickly we increase the risk of going broke. Finding the right balance is the objective.

Checking for drawdowns involves looking at past results. We compare the peak bankroll figure with the low point. If a bankroll reached a peak of £2,500 at some point in the past and then dropped to a low of £1,500 before recovering, the drawdown would be classed as £1,000.

A typical view may then be to double the size of the worst drawdown and deem this to be a safe bankroll level. This seems quite logical but it worries me. Unless the sample size of bets is extremely large, the size of the worst drawdown perhaps doesn't mean all that much. Even large sample sizes of bets can be misleading.

In a previous season Winabobattoo guide, we looked at the returns from backing all 1,040 away teams priced 3.50 or bigger in the 2012-13 season. The worst drawdown from that season, when betting to one point single win bets, was 30.19 points. Bet number 818 saw the profits sitting at 201.70 points. By bet number 916, the profit level had dropped to 171.51 points. The drawdown was 30.19 points.

Had we taken this as our cue and doubled the worst drawdown figure to determine our bankroll size, we would have opted for a bank of 60 points. Even some quite experienced bettors may perhaps consider a 60 point betting bank as adequate given these circumstances.

Considering that a bankroll needs to be an adequate bankroll for all seasons, had the results from the 2009-10 season then followed, a bad outcome for the 60 point bank would have ensued.

How would backing all away teams at odds of 3.50 and above in the 2009-10 season have fared had we used a 60 point bankroll?

2009-10	Bet No	Balance	Diff
	42	-42.00	-42.00
	68	-59.50	-17.50
	119	-89.20	-29.70
	167	-78.20	11.00
	269	-105.70	-27.50
	346	-91.50	14.20
	411	-71.40	20.10
	773	-132.40	-61.00
	950	-143.75	-11.35
	1132	-208.25	-64.50
	1143	-201.15	7.10

Quite amazingly, the season started off with a losing run of 42. This was certainly extreme by any standards but it reaffirms that anything is possible. By Bet number 119, the losses had increased to 89 points. That still wasn't the end of the carnage. There was worse to come.

The worst drawdown during the season occurred between Bet 412 and Bet 1,132. Covering a sequence of 720 bets, the losses came to 136 points!

This run alone would have wiped out two bankrolls of 60 points. We'd have gone broke long before Bet Number 1,132 though. We'd have virtually been skint as early as bet 69!

The 2012-13 season results, even though they covered more than 1,000 bets, proved a very poor guide as to what losing runs and drawdowns were possible.

None of us bet because we think we're going to lose money in the long run but I believe it is prudent to base bankroll calculations around the assumption of 'breaking even' rather than assuming we will make money. After all, breaking even isn't the worst case scenario, losing money is, and the bankroll has to deal with worst case scenarios!

I think being cautious is a good attribute to have. Some sceptics would even say that by assuming a break-even position over 1,000 bets, I could even be deemed to be overly optimistic, but, on balance, I'm happy with that.

The Risks: You choose your preferred bankroll and staking methods

Here are some examples of how the risk/reward relationship may look based on a 1,000 bet project assuming no profitable edge:

Level Stakes:

Assuming average betting odds in the 1X2 markets we operate in, a 50 point bank has around a 30% chance of running out of money during a 1,000 bet period and a 17% chance of being doubled.

If we start with a 75 point bank we would reduce the bankruptcy risk to 15% but we would also reduce the chance of doubling the bankroll to 8%.

Starting with a bankroll of 100 points sees the bankruptcy risk drop to 8% but the upside potential of doubling the bank drops to 4%.

As the risk of losing everything declines, the chance of doubling your money diminishes too.

Percentage Stakes:

Betting to percentage stakes means we never go broke. The stakes will diminish to meaningless levels at some point.

Within the odds ranges we're likely to be betting in, staking 2% of the bankroll on each bet means there's around a 40% chance of losing more than 50% of the bankroll at some point during the 1,000 bets, with about a 9% chance of more than doubling the initial bank.

Staking 1.50% of the bankroll reduces the risk of losing over 50% to around 30%, with the chances of doubling the bankroll reduced to 8%. Staking 1.00% of the bankroll means the chances of losing over 50% drops to 15% with doubling the bankroll's chance dropping to 5%.

The risk would obviously drop if you place more bets at shorter odds, and would increase if you placed the majority of your bets at longer odds.

Variable Stakes (aiming to return £100 from each bet):

Starting out with a bankroll of £1,500, over 1,000 bets, assuming the same break-even scenario, the chances of going broke at some point during the 1,000 bets is around 20%, the chance of losing over 50% of the bankroll is about 38%, and the chance of doubling your money is 16%.

The risks reduce with a £2,000 bankroll. The chance of going broke is nearer to 17%. Losing over 50% drops to 28% and the chance of doubling your money drops to 10%.

With a £3,000 bank, the risk of bankruptcy drops to 9%; losing over 50% is a 16% chance and doubling the starting bank has a 3% chance.

A £4,000 bank has a 1% chance of going broke; losing over 50% is around a 9% chance, and winning over 100% is also in the region of a 1% chance.

Basically, there are no 'free rides'. If you take more risk in the hope of winning more, you increase the chances of going broke. The key for every bettor is to find a 'risk level' that you feel happy with.

Risk Tables

Level Stakes:

Level Stakes		Starting Bank	Bankrupt Percentage	Lose Over 50%	Win Over 100%
	Risk Level				
	Very High Risk	50	30%	35%	17%
	Medium Risk	75	15%	25%	8%
	Lower Risk	100	8%	18%	4%

Percentage Stakes:

Percentage Stakes		Staking Percentage	Bankrupt Percentage	Lose Over 50%	Win Over 100%
	Risk Level				
	Very High Risk	2%	x	40%	9%
	Higher Risk	1.50%	x	30%	8%
	Lower Risk	1%	x	15%	5%

Variable Stakes:

Variable Stakes		Starting Bank	Bankrupt Percentage	Lose Over 50%	Win Over 100%
	Risk Level				
	Very High Risk	£1,500	20%	38%	16%
	Higher Risk	£2,000	17%	28%	10%
	Medium Risk	£2,500	9%	22%	5%
	Lower Risk	£3,000	4%	16%	3%
	Low Risk	£4,000	1%	9%	1%

Please remember, these figures assume you are betting with no edge and no disadvantage.

The results are based on the research I did when writing the publication, *The Complete Winabobatoos Guide To Bankroll Management*. This can be downloaded from the Winabobatoos members' website.

I would urge everyone to err on the side of caution. The emotional turmoil, as well as the financial losses, can play havoc with our well-being. Please don't take risks that could take you to a place you would find hard to deal with. If an approach has a 10% chance of going broke, recognise that that is what it means. Don't assume the 90% chance of not going broke is inevitable, and that the 10% chance won't happen!

For the reasons stated above, I would never tell anyone what their bankroll level should be, or how they stake their bets. It all comes down to personal choices based on your financial circumstances, risk preferences, and ability to cope with adversity.

Ultimately, everyone needs to remember that if your betting strategy loses money in the very long-term, no matter what bankroll or staking method you use, you will go broke eventually.

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CHAPTER 10: THE COVID-19 INFLUENCE

The 2020-21 season is going to be different to any other due to the influence of coronavirus. At best, limited crowds will be allowed into matches. At worst, the season might not end should the country have to go into lockdown again.

I suspect 'local lockdowns' are more likely as the country's economy couldn't stand another full lockdown.

At the time of writing, at the start of the 2020-21 SPL season, Celtic and Aberdeen have already had early season matches cancelled. With the European Championships scheduled for June 2021, there is little leeway to extend the new season beyond its normal end.

Home advantage is clearly affected by 'no crowds'. The effect of 'reduced crowds' will be hard to gauge. For these reasons making predictions in the 2020-21 season is going to be potentially more volatile than normal. I will do my best to 'factor in' these issues but as we're in uncharted waters certain 'best guesses' will come into play.

With this in mind, the Winabotato database of past matches will not be available for the 2020-21 season.

The ratings held up particularly well in the English Premier League and Championship when 'behind closed doors' games resumed at the end of the 2019-20 season. This does give me confidence the ratings will be able to keep on top of the job in 2020-21.

Should the virus curtail the season whereby fewer than 80% of the expected rated games are played, I will arrange for partial refunds to be made to members.

The tables below show the impact on games played in the Premier League and Championship with 'no crowds':

Before Lockdown		2019-20						
All matches	Prem/Cham	Bets	Win	Win%	Lose	Returns	Profit/Loss	% Profit
Homes		555	244	43.96	311	545.85	-9.15	-1.65
Draws		555	148	26.67	407	550.81	-4.19	-0.75
Aways		555	163	29.37	392	546.68	-8.32	-1.50

No Crowds		2019-20						
All matches	Prem/Cham	Bets	Win	Win%	Lose	Returns	Profit/Loss	% Profit
Homes		200	84	42.00	116	207.10	7.10	3.55
Draws		200	46	23.00	154	173.80	-26.20	-13.10
Aways		200	70	35.00	130	190.35	-9.65	-4.83

Whilst the number of home wins reduced, the returns from backing home sides improved.

Blindly backing all home teams after lockdown made a profit.

The 'shots at goal' figures pre-lockdown and post lockdown:

Before Lockdown		2019-20
Av Shots	Home	Away
Prem	13.77	11.41
Cham	13.33	11.25

After Lockdown		2019-20
Av Shots	Home	Away
Prem	11.90	11.34
Cham	12.48	10.92

Differences		2019-20
Av Shots	Home	Away
Prem	-1.87	-0.07
Cham	-0.85	-0.33

The number of 'shots at goal' were lower for both home teams and away sides. The reductions for home teams was greater than the reduction for away sides.

The 'home advantage' element to the ratings is automatically adjusted by factoring in the details shown above. Switching from 'limited crowds' to 'no crowds' (or vice versa) will cause greater complications.

I will do my best to keep on top of the job throughout the season.

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CHAPTER 11: THE WINABOBATOO HORSE BETTING SERVICE

My love of horse racing has taken a back seat during the Winabobattoo years as I've been dedicating all my time to football but in October 2016 I resurrected my horse racing interests. Since then, I've created a database of results that has helped me to reach a stage where betting on horses now generates the bulk of my income.

My bets are profitable at Betfair Starting Prices (BSP). This allows me to completely by-pass the bookmakers and all the account restrictions that go with them.

I cannot risk releasing my bets to a large number of subscribers as this could seriously damage the returns I get on my bets. It wouldn't make sense for me to lose more in lost winnings than I bring in through subscriptions. With this in mind, the service will be limited to TWENTY at the outset. I will keep this under review and may stretch to thirty at some point in the future.

All bets will be on horses running at British racecourses. The bets will cover flat racing, jumps racing, and all-weather racing. The aim of the service will be to make at least 10% ROI at BSP. Each bet will be supplied with a 'minimum bet price' as price is critical. Setting a minimum bet price is extremely easy to do with Betfair. I would estimate there will be at least 100 bets per month that meet or exceed the 'minimum bet odds'.

The bets will be sent out by email no later than 1pm each day.

The cost to join the service will be £99 per calendar month.

By moving the football magazines to 5pm on Monday and Thursday, this will also allow me to provide horse bets on magazine days too. My form study will take place between 7am and midday each day.

The bets provided will be horses that I will be backing. All returns for those bets will be shown to BSP.

If you would like to register an interest in subscribing to the service, please send me an email at mike@winabobattoo.co.uk

If you have registered an interest earlier in the year, there's no need to contact me again.

I had intended to start this service on 1st September 2020 but due to the Covid-19 outbreak, I will have to spend considerably more time than I intended keeping on top of the football match ratings with matches not being played with 'normal crowds'. The start date of the racing service has therefore been suspended for now. A new start date will be announced later in the year.

Please don't delay in registering an interest as this will put you further down the queue and may mean waiting for some considerable time for a place.

I will produce a separate, more detailed guide to **Winabobattoo Horse Bets** later in the year.

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CHAPTER 12: A FEW FINAL THOUGHTS ...

This guide will be updated on 1st August 2021.

I've been writing these guides for fifteen years now. No matter how much care I take when I type, or how studiously Carol proofreads every page, I'm sure you'll spot something somewhere that will have sneaked through.

My brain often out-races my typing skills. This is indicative of slow typing skills rather than a fast brain! Form can become 'gorm' or 'from', shots can become diarrhoea, goals can become 'gaols' (old spelling of the word jails), and win rates can become 'sin rates'! Why do those keys have to be so close together?!

It's not just single words that cause problems. Over the years, many sentences have become garbled.

Try these:

- 'The size of the worst drawdown doesn't mean much all that much.'
- 'I could still be might still have been willing to take them on'.
- My concern for wildlife overtook me on this one: 'I would certainly look beyond the bear numbers.'

I also seem to have problems remembering my 'roles' from my 'rolls' and 'superseded' is the one word I can never remember how to spell. Thankfully someone gave this name to a horse. It runs quite frequently so I'm now getting regular reminders of the correct spelling!

I've tried to keep this guide as brief as possible whilst including all the important points. I hope I've managed to strike the right balance.

Many thanks to all Winabobattoo members, both past and present – without your loyal support over the years there would be no Winabobattoo.

Where do all the years go? I was a mere boy of 47 when this journey began!

I hope you enjoy the return of the Winabobattoo Ratings in March 2020 and if you're new to them that they whet your appetite in readiness for the 2020-21 season. If you're an 'old hand' it'll be like welcoming an old friend back!

Good luck and best wishes,

Mike Lindley

APPENDIX ONE: LEGAL STUFF: TERMS AND CONDITIONS

By signing up to the Winabobattoo service, you are confirming that you are 18 years of age or older.

If you are involved in running or managing a website forum, or receive income from football either directly or indirectly through a website, or by running a service of your own, or through any other means, you must declare this to Winabobattoo immediately on joining the service.

Failure to do so may result in prosecution and will certainly result in your membership being terminated with immediate effect and no refund, or partial refund of subscription will be made. If you are a non-member you may not use or pass on any information, content, or system data contained in this publication without prior written permission from Winabobattoo.

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The sharing of passwords, for access to the website is strictly forbidden; logging into the website is monitored.

Full terms and conditions are available on the Winabobattoo website.

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Mike Lindley

www.winabobattoo.co.uk

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APPENDIX TWO: WINABOBATOO HELP

- **Where do members find the latest magazine?**

Visit the website: <http://winabobatoo-members-2019-20season.webeden.co.uk/>

- **Where can I find the latest news or details of technical issues?**

If there are any issues of note, details will be posted on the Magazines page of the members' area of the website.

If the main website www.winabobatoo.co.uk is down or unavailable for any reason, emergency magazine downloads will be available from www.winabobatoo.com

If you have any problems please send me an email and I will get back to you as soon as I am able.

- **What happens if I can't log into the website or if I change my email address?**

E-mail me at mike@winabobatoo.co.uk We'll get back to you as soon as possible.

- **What can I do if I don't understand some parts of the magazine?**

If you cannot find the answer in this guide, please get in touch. I'm always here to help.

Links and Contact Details:

Main website: www.winabobatoo.co.uk Back-up website: www.winabobatoo.com

Private Members' Club website: <http://winabobatoo-members-2019-20season.webeden.co.uk/>

E-mail contact: mike@winabobatoo.co.uk

Your computer settings may not allow links to be clicked in documents. Copying and pasting the website address into your internet browser may be necessary.

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APPENDIX THREE: **ADDITIONS, AMENDMENTS, AND ALTERATIONS**

Any additions, amendments, or alterations to the guide will be noted here.

The latest version of the guide will always be available for download from the website.

This version is: [The Winabotoo Guide To Profitable Betting published on 9th September 2020.](#)

This guide updates the original guide published on 1st September 2020.

The next guide update will be published on 1st August 2021.

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