

Your guide to the wonderful world of Thoroughbred horses

RACING IN ZIMBABWE

is not all about betting



GAVIN MACLEDD/EQUINE



Have you noticed....

that people who love racehorses talk about them a lot?



If you haven't fallen for these brave and beautiful athletes, yet, you probably wonder why racing fans are so obsessed. This e-book aims to explain that, and introduce you to a world where you will always have something to talk and think about.

Horses come in all shapes and sizes and almost everyone who comes in close contact with them finds they are noble and kind. However we are primarily interested in thoroughbred racehorses - a breed with a proud history, developed by careful breeding over hundreds of years.

Racehorses combine speed with stamina, and are bred by putting the best to the best. The racing industry has grown, world-wide, based on this concept. It provides entertainment and employment for millions of people.



Your guide to the world of racing and Thoroughbred horses

In this guide we cover the history of racing, finding your way around the racecourse, what goes on behind the scenes, the people involved, how to bet, and why you don't need to bet because studying form and following your favourite racehorses is actually the best mind game of all.

A racecourse needs local support...

People who live in Harare have every reason to be proud of their racecourse because it is one of the best in Southern Africa - an asset to be appreciated and enjoyed.

Many Harare residents have forgotten Borrowdale Park, where race meetings are held once a fortnight. This free e-book is a reminder to everyone that we are still here and to explain, in a user-friendly manner, what racing is all about.

No racecourse can thrive, or continue to exist, without significant local support. Please forward this e-book to anyone you think would like to learn more about racing in Harare.

It would be a good idea to read this e-book in its entirety the first couple of times - because one thing tends to lead to another- and an explanation you are looking for should appear later.

(While compiling this e-book we have referred to a horse as 'it', but only to keep things simple. Horses are definitely not 'its'.)



Your guide to the world of racing and Thoroughbred horses

Contents

An Arabian Legacy

Short History of Racing, The Stud Book

How It Works

Racing Clubs, Jockey Club & NHRA, Stipendiary Stewards

Who's Who In This Zoo

Owners, Jockeys, Trainers, Grooms, Punters and Spectators

It All Happens In The Parade Ring

Off To A Good Start And Racing

Handicapping Explained

By An Expert

Reading The Race Card

It's Easy When You Know How

Betting On The Tote

Winners Know When To Stop

Studying Form - a mind game

That's All - Plus some useful links and terminology

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An Arabian Legacy

Although the word thoroughbred is sometimes used to refer to any breed of pure-bred horse, it really refers to the Thoroughbred breed, specifically bred to race and known for their agility, speed and spirit.

This breed dates back to England in the 17th and 18th Centuries when native mares were cross-bred with imported stallions of Arabian, Barb and Turkoman descent, named Byerley Turk, Darley Arabian and Godolphin Arabian.

All modern stallions can trace their pedigrees to these three stallions originally imported into England - and to a larger number of foundation mares, mostly of English breeding.

The new breed quickly spread throughout the world. From England the first Thoroughbreds were exported to North America in 1730, and to Australia, Europe, Japan and South America in the 19th Century. Millions of Thoroughbreds exist today, all with pedigrees registered in **The Stud Book**.

This concentration on pedigrees and keeping records has paid off. Breeding the best to the best, while bearing in mind which 'families' are likely to result in progeny suited to certain distances, has meant breeders have been able to develop the modern racehorse into the athletic marvel it is today.

Not many horses can both sprint and stay.

Think of the Olympics or any other athletic competition. Not everyone excels at every distance. For example, Usain Bolt is best from 100 to 200



Your guide to the world of racing and Thoroughbred horses

metres (a sprinter) whilst Haile Gebrselassie steps out from 5000 metres plus (a stayer).

At each race meeting there will be races over a variety of distances. In Zimbabwe these generally range from 1000 to 2000 metres, but there are the odd exceptions.

Certain races are programmed for specific horses, such as races limited by the age of the runners - primarily for two and three-year-old horses. Or by sex - i.e. races for fillies and mares (females) only. Sometimes races are at Weight-For-Age, which means two-year-olds or three-year-olds competing against older rivals get a weight advantage. Then there are **Handicaps**.

A young female horse is called a filly until the age of four. From five onwards they are referred to as mares. A colt is a young male horse, and a gelding is one which has been castrated. Entire males are referred to as horses from the age of five.

Most male racehorses are gelded sooner or later - only the exceptionally well bred and/or well performed become breeding stallions.

In the Southern Hemisphere all Thoroughbred horses turn a year older on the first day of August - regardless of when they were born. The breeding season is timed to ensure a foal (baby horse) is not born before August 1, to avoid being at a disadvantage for the rest of its racing career.



The Stud Book

The Stud Book is a division of the **Jockey Club** and is responsible for the registration of every Thoroughbred born in or imported into the country. All these horses have an identification passport and are micro-chipped.

Records are regularly checked by the relevant Turf Club or Stipendiary Board, and verified, and every horse taking part in a race has its identification checked to ensure there has been no mix-up of runners.

This may seem strange to the uninitiated, but a surprising number of horses look very similar at first glance, so distinguishing marks are recorded in the original registrations.

A breeder, when registering a newborn foal, applies for a name, and the Stud Book officials check whether this name is available. There are certain taboos which include names considered vulgar or in poor taste, names of famous brands or celebrities, and names already registered. Names are limited to 18 characters, including spaces and hyphenation.

When choosing names one can combine the name of the Sire (father) with that of the Dam (mother) and come up with something smart. This is not always easy to do.

How It Works

Racing Clubs

A race club, commonly known as a Turf Club, is a designated venue where racing takes place. In most countries in Africa racing is on grass, referred to as Turf, but some South African racecourses also provide an artificial surface



Your guide to the world of racing and Thoroughbred horses

known as a polytrack.

The advantage of an artificial surface becomes evident when it is too wet to race on the turf.

Turf Clubs are usually administered by an elected Board of members, known as the Stewards. They in turn appoint permanent administrative staff and a CEO, just like any commercial business.

The CEO usually holds a Bookmaking or Betting Licence issued by the Government Licencing Department, and the holder of such a licence is known as the Racing Operator.

A Turf Club is responsible for the staging and running of every race meeting under the laws of the land. At Borrowdale Park, in Harare, we have the Mashonaland Turf Club which was founded in 1892 when racing in Harare took place at Belvedere. The Borrowdale Park racecourse dates back to 1958.

The racing industry offers plenty of employment and business opportunities. It is a global, multi-billion dollar operation which provides jobs for trainers, jockeys, work riders, stable employees, farriers, veterinarians, feed merchants, transporters and caterers - to mention but a few.

National Horse Racing Authority - NHRA formerly The Jockey Club

The Jockey Club is the governing body of all horse racing. Zimbabwe falls under the South African Jockey Club, known as the National Horse Racing Authority(NHRA). They are responsible for annual licences and colour registrations, race handicappers, the drug testing laboratory, and all race records and statistics.



Your guide to the world of racing and Thoroughbred horses



Every racing country falls under a Jockey Club, and some smaller racing districts might be administered by a sister organisation. For example Kenya is licenced by the Jockey Club of the United Kingdom, whereas Hong Kong and Mauritius have their own facilities.

Stipendiary Stewards

A Stipendiary Steward (often referred to as a Stipe) is very much the policeman of the racing industry. His role on the racecourse is to ensure the rules of racing are adhered to and he is employed by the NHRA.

With such a wide array of rules this can be quite a job, and there are at least two Stipes in attendance on race days.

The Stipes will meet well before the first race and discuss any issues that are likely to arise during the meeting. They then liaise with the racecourse Stewards at a team briefing, which can also include the Clerk Of The Scales (who is responsible for seeing jockeys weigh out, and back in, at the correct weight), the Starter, the Judge and the Veterinary Officer on duty.



Your guide to the world of racing and Thoroughbred horses

The Stipendiary Stewards will be in the **Parade Ring** to ensure that horses and riders are on time, both entering and leaving the Parade Ring, as races should start as scheduled.

During the actual race one Stipe and one racecourse Steward will usually watch it on a TV screen to ensure no riding offences occur. If an Enquiry is necessary the Stipendiary Board calls in all the parties involved, be it trainers, stable staff, jockeys or other officials.

This gives everyone a chance to defend themselves and provide information which might not be apparent from the video footage. Dependent on the facts, a course of action may be implemented, be it a fine or suspension. The trainer of a horse that runs significantly above or below its recent performances (form) is usually required to explain why this happened.

After each race meeting the Stipendiary Board publishes a report - which can be accessed on the Mashonaland Turf Club website <http://www.mashturf.co.zw/> or at <https://zimracing.wordpress.com/> .

Who's Who In This Zoo

Owners

Owners of racehorses are very important because without them there would be no racing. Although a few people own many, the majority of owners have



Your guide to the world of racing and Thoroughbred horses

maybe one or two racehorses in training at a time.

Syndication is another form of ownership which is growing rapidly in popularity. A Syndicate can have between 7 and 40 members (in some countries far more). One can join or form a Syndicate and sharing the costs of a horse in training has led to more people becoming involved in racing.

There is huge camaraderie between racehorse owners. They love both the sport and the horses, and collectively forge a special bond.

There are many advantages to becoming an owner or part owner. Apart from financial gain, **providing one is lucky enough to own a 'super star'**, inviting friends to come racing when you have a runner is fun. You cannot begin to imagine the joy and elation you experience when your horse wins. There is nothing quite like leading the horse into the Number One enclosure (box) with cameras flashing and congratulations all round.

Plenty of networking occurs on a racecourse both from a social and corporate point of view. It is particularly beneficial to the racing industry when those in the corporate world become involved in on-course advertising or even in sponsoring a race.

Racing Colours

Racing colours, or silks as they are sometimes called, are selected by the owners, and a jockey wears them when he teams up with a horse to race.



This is how racing commentators identify horses and details of these colours are published in the race card under each runner's name. Owners can design their own colours, which have to be approved by the governing body, or select them from colours that are available.

Jockeys

A jockey usually begins his/her riding career as an apprentice at the age of 14 when his parents apply to a Jockey Academy for him (or her) to be indentured. There is a rigorous selection procedure before acceptance. Applicants must be athletic and physically suitable.

The apprentice will continue his academic education but will also be taught the fundamentals of working with horses and learning to ride.

The apprenticeship takes four years and there is an Academy at Borrowdale. During that period the apprentice, when competent, will be given qualifying rides in races. Initially he will claim an apprentice (weight) allowance of 4kgs. Horses are allotted a weight to carry in each race and this is reduced by 4kgs when ridden by a qualifying apprentice - a definite advantage but offset, in most cases, by the inexperience of the rider.

As the apprentice becomes more successful (i.e.wins a certain number of races) the weight allowance is reduced.

Once the apprenticeship is completed the now licenced jockey has to maintain a high level of fitness and a low weight for the rest of his career. It can be a hard life because the most successful jockeys get the best riding opportunities. It seems glamorous from the outside, but courage, positivity and endurance are definitely required.



Your guide to the world of racing and Thoroughbred horses

In addition to riding in races jockeys are also expected to 'ride work' at the training track in the mornings.

Work Riders do not have to serve an apprenticeship but they are also up bright and early to ride horses in training at various race tracks.

Grooms work in the stable yards, caring for and grooming the horses. They ride their charges to and from the training track, and when walking out in the afternoon. This is more than a job, it is a way of life, and Grooms are an integral part of the racing scene.



Trainers

Trainers are responsible 24/7 for the care and well being of their horses, and nurture them through every stage of their development into racing 'machines'. Of course horses are not machines, so some learn and mature quickly, others take longer.



Your guide to the world of racing and Thoroughbred horses

A young horse entering a trainer's yard has usually never had a saddle, let alone a person, on its back. They have a lot to learn and the trainer has to ensure the newcomers are happy and comfortable in their new surroundings and with the new routine.

Depending on maturity, and whether they are ready to run, some horses make their racing debut as two-year-olds, and others later.

Generally a close relationship exists between owners and their trainers, and it needs to because owners should be kept informed about the progress of their horses. No matter how often one visits a yard the trainer knows ones racehorse better than you do.

Regular racegoers often have a favourite trainer, whether or not they have a stake in a racehorse. Stables have loyal fans.

In addition to teaching a horse to race, training it to peak fitness, and choosing the right races in the Racing Calendar, a trainer has to keep up with the paper work which takes some doing. A horse cannot race unless all the necessary documentation is in order - and then there are nominations and final acceptances to consider. Larger yards often employ Assistant Trainers.

Nominations (entries) to run in a race go in on a specified date, and then the Turf Club publishes the weight each horse will carry, together with the



Your guide to the world of racing and Thoroughbred horses

draw. The draw establishes from which starting stall the horse will jump. At this stage the trainer must decide whether the horse should run in a particular race, taking into account the other entries, the allotted weight and the stall drawn. Dual nominations are allowed but a horse may only run in one race.

A few days after publication of the Weights and Draws, Final Acceptances are due. After this a horse has to run - it can only be scratched (withdrawn) from the race on production of a Veterinary Certificate, or with the Stewards permission, in rare cases.

On race day the trainer arrives on course with the relevant Silks and equipment, other than saddles which the jockeys supply. He or she must also make sure that the correct runners are at the course an hour before their race is due to start - and woe betide anyone who does not. Racing has its fair share of rules and regulations and, if not strictly adhered to, offenders are punished!

Not only jockeys are licenced by the NHRA. Trainers, Assistant Trainers, and Stable Employees, must renew their licences annually.

And you can't wake up one morning and decide to be a trainer. Those new to the game must first be employed in a racing yard as a Stable Employee for a certain amount of time. Afterwards one becomes an Assistant Trainer (for even longer) and only then can you apply to become a Licenced Trainer (if you pass the written exam).



Punters & Spectators

Successful racing depends primarily on Owners and Punters - but those who support this sport as Spectators must be included. Turf Clubs derive most of their income from Punters (people who bet seriously); Owners supply racehorses, and racing fans add atmosphere and excitement.

Without them a racecourse is rather bleak. Racing needs people to shout the horses home, chat, take the occasional bet, and generally enjoy themselves. This can be a family outing in pleasant surroundings - children are welcome with adult supervision.

It All Happens In The Parade Ring





Your guide to the world of racing and Thoroughbred horses

All the important and essential people mentioned before gather in the Parade Ring. This is where it is all happening - before and after each race - and where one can have a good look at the horses.

Trainers and staff saddle horses in a designated area. The runners are then led, by their Grooms, into the Parade Ring where they walk around the perimeter, each horse wearing a number, as it appears in the race card.

The owners are now in the centre of the ring, waiting for their trainers to join them. Jockeys are the last to arrive, from the Weighing Room, where it has been established that they, plus their saddles, will ride at the correct weight.

This is when Trainers give Jockeys their final riding instructions, and Owners try to appear relaxed and confident, but are usually pretty tense.

The horses are groomed to perfection, hopefully behaving well, but one never knows what will happen in a race.

A bell rings, the Jockeys mount and proceed along the 'chute' onto the course. Owners, Trainers and Spectators hurry from the Parade Ring to watch the horses canter past the stands.

After a race the atmosphere is totally different. Winning connections (the people concerned with the winner) dash back to the Parade Ring to lead their horse into the Number One box. Connections of the other three placed



Your guide to the world of racing and Thoroughbred horses

horses are also rather chuffed - hugs and kisses all round - and those who didn't finish in the first four grin and bear it. Talk about the agony and the ecstasy - but that's racing.

The Jockeys, with their saddles, go back to the Weighing Room to weigh in. They must weigh in at the correct weight or be disqualified. In order to reach the correct weight extra weights may have been slotted into the saddle cloth and there is always the extremely slight possibility these have dropped off during the race.

In a very close finish the winning numbers don't go up until the Judges, after studying the photograph of the finish, and maybe the video, announce the result. However, in most cases, the Jockeys know if they won or were placed.

Handicapping Explained By An Expert

In a Handicap the official Handicapper allots the weights to the runners based on a horse's Merit Rating (MR).

MR's do not apply in races where the runners carry set weights, which are done according to the conditions of the race. There are many different types of these "conditions" races, which include, but are not limited to: Maiden Juvenile Plates, Maiden Plates, Novice Plates, Graduation Plates, Weight for Age (WFA) races and various "set weight" races like The Guineas, Derby etc. It goes without saying, that the higher the MR of the horse, the higher the



Your guide to the world of racing and Thoroughbred horses

weight, less any WFA allowance that may be applicable. The full WFA is applied in all Handicap races, whilst in "Plate" races, in South Africa and Zimbabwe, only a portion of the WFA is applicable.

All horses begin their racing careers without a MR. In South Africa and Zimbabwe, it is generally understood that any horse that wins first time out, or has had three runs, will have a MR published. Two Year Olds (Juveniles) will generally only have their ratings published towards the end of the racing season, in order to give the Handicapper time to build up a file (profile) of ratings, based on collateral form.

All races, and therefore all horses, are re-assessed after each and every run, whether it is a Handicap or not. The Handicapper may or may not adjust the MR's of some of the runners, depending on their performance/s and in line with their profile of ratings achieved in their career.

Winners, and sometimes even the placed horses in a Handicap, usually go up in ratings, depending on the Handicapper's overall assessment of their performance, against that of the other runners in that race.

The Handicapper's job is to ascertain a "line horse/s" or the "key horse/s" in any given race, to which all other runner's ratings are then based and possibly adjusted, be it upwards or downwards. The "line horse/s" is generally the horse/s the Handicapper feels have run to their best ability or have been consistent over that particular distance, course, going etc.

To put it simply a horse with a MR of 90 and upwards has impressed the Handicapper. Horses with MR's still in the 30's and 40's need to show improvement, or may have simply lost their previous form for whatever



Your guide to the world of racing and Thoroughbred horses

reason.

Two horses may run off an identical weight in a Handicap, yet have vastly different MR's. This would be where the WFA (weight for age) allowance would have been applicable to a younger horse.

The basic "rule of thumb" in Handicapping is 1kg = 1 length over 1 mile (1600m). More weight over less ground, and less weight over more ground.

Example

If horse A beats horse B by 10 metres, and horse B beats horse C by 5 metres, what would the "handicap" be? If it is known that 5kg stops the average runner by 5 lengths then on "MERIT", the weights in a handicap would look something like: A carries 15 kg B carries 5 kg C carries nothing. Looking at this as an example, predicting who wins is not straightforward - but the runners are now "COMPETITIVE"

Take note of the rise and fall of MR's – it's interesting.

It must also be noted that the Handicappers in South Africa and Zimbabwe have "guidelines" in which to work, placed on them by the Racing Industry in Southern Africa.

These "guidelines" must also be taken into account when a punter is assessing any given race, as there could easily be a horse or horses that are "well in" at the weights simply because of the "guidelines" in place. No fault of the Handicapper.

An example of this was a three-year-old in Cape Town, called RAINBOW BRIDGE. After winning his Maiden over 1200m, he was given a MR of 74.



After winning two Group/Grade 3 races over 1600m and 1800m, RAINBOW BRIDGE was rated only 94.

Because of the restrictions in place, he could only go up 10lbs for each win. He was still rated lower than Rocket Countdown (102) and Doublemint (96), who placed behind him in both these Group/Grade 3 races.

Bear in mind though, that this anomaly would only matter in a Handicap, should they all meet. However, it was clearly obvious that RAINBOW BRIDGE was rated lower than he should be, and would therefore be “well in” in any Handicap when he next ran.

The latest MR of each runner is published in the race card.

If you would like to read more about handicapping follow these links:

<https://www.sportingpost.co.za/insight/a-matter-of-merit-1-merit-ratings-how-they-work/>

<https://www.sportingpost.co.za/insight/a-matter-of-merit-2-merit-ratings-how-they-work/>

Reading The Race Card

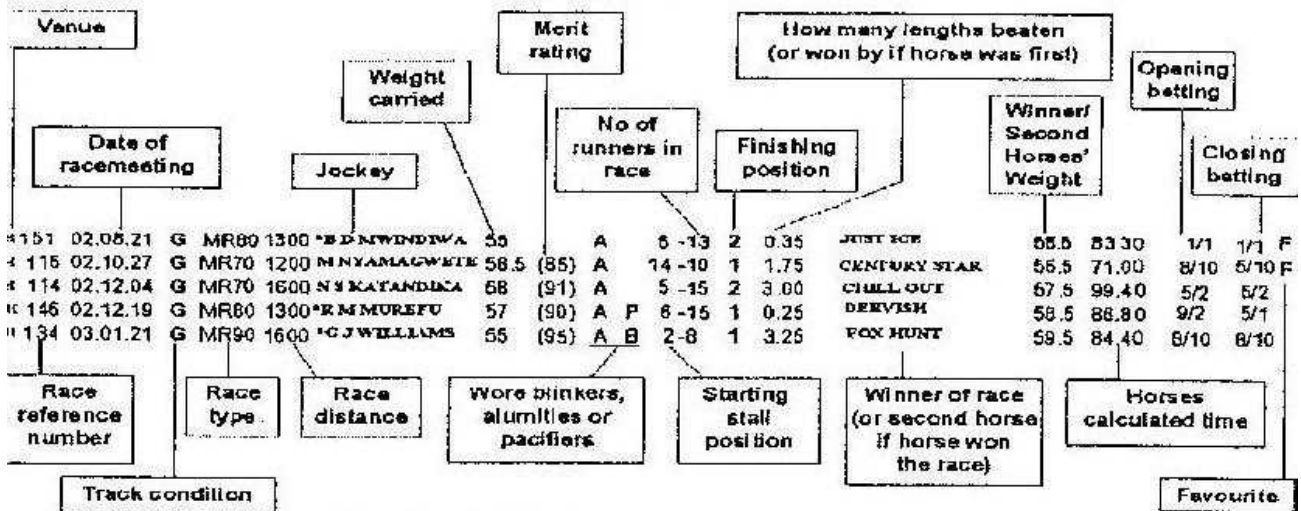
At least once in your lifetime please beg, borrow, steal or buy (for \$1) a copy of the official Mashonaland Turf Club race card because it contains a wealth of information, too detailed for inclusion here.

In addition to listing the runners in each race, with the number the horse will carry, the names of the Jockey and Trainer, the draw, weight, relevant racing colours etc, a summary of every horse's form in its five previous races appears in the card.



The results, in full, of the previous meeting, are published at the back of the race card.

HOW TO READ THE RACE CARD



Off to a good Start And Racing

Once the horses have cantered past the stands they make their way to the start and wait behind the starting stalls until the Starter calls the roll. His job is to ensure each runner goes into the right stall, according to the race card, and that the field leaves the stalls (pens) on even terms.

Handlers are employed to help 'load' the horses, some of whom are more difficult to load than others. If a horse is particularly troublesome or fractious when loaded, thereby delaying the start, its Starting Certificate will be temporarily withdrawn. It has to be reschooled before it may race again.



Your guide to the world of racing and Thoroughbred horses



The stall gates open and the field is off (we hope) to an even break. Racing tactics come into play, depending on the distance of the race.

At Borrowdale Park races from 800m to 1260m are up the straight so the draw is not so important. Racing over 1400m and further involves racing 'around the bend' and being drawn on the outside (furthest from the inside rail) can, in a large field, be a distinct disadvantage. Racing wide increases the distance so jockeys angle for position accordingly.

Certain rules apply during a race and the Stipes are watching carefully. The commentary keeps everyone informed about the running order, and this is where racing Colours come into play. The Commentator distinguishes the runners by the Colours worn by the Jockeys, and it is a good idea to



Your guide to the world of racing and Thoroughbred horses

memorise the Colours of a horse you fancy. Only then can you keep track of that horse, every step of the way.

If two or more horses under the same ownership take part in a race the jockeys will wear caps of different colours.

When “your” horse is in with a good chance about 200m from the finishing post, it is guaranteed you will be yelling it home.



Betting On The Tote

The Tote is operated by the Turf Club and in Zimbabwe the unit of betting is \$1, including VAT. When you bet to WIN your selected horse obviously has to WIN the race.



The PLACE pool operates on any race with six or more runners, and your selected horse must finish in the first three or four PLACES, depending on the number of runners. Even if the selected horse wins the race you will be paid out for a PLACE. You will win more money if you have taken a WIN bet, but betting on a PLACE is safer.

If the horse you selected is an outright favourite the return on WIN and PLACE bets can be disappointing, and to counteract this many punters choose to take SWINGER bets.

For a SWINGER you select two horses to run in the first three places, *in any order*. However if there are only 4 or 5 runners there will be only one SWINGER dividend, not three.

THE DOUBLE - Select the winning horse in two consecutive races

There is another bet known as the EXACTA. In this case one selects two horses to finish first and second *in the correct order*.

A TRIFECTA is selecting three horses to finish first, second and third, *in the correct order*.

If you take a QUARTET bet you must select four horses to run first, second third and fourth, *in the correct order*.



Your guide to the world of racing and Thoroughbred horses

As a rule the more difficult the bet, the better the resulting payout, which is why the Exotics - PLACE ACCUMULATOR, PICK SIX, JACKPOT AND PICK THREE and BI-POT - are so popular.

PLACE ACCUMULATOR - (Races 1-7) Select a horse to run in the first three in each of the seven races (legs) of the P.A. The number of placed horses applicable to the Place Accumulator Pool shall be three, regardless of the number of runners.

To win the PICK SIX you have to select the *winner* of six consecutive races. At Borrowdale Park the PICK SIX usually involves Races 2 - 7 on the card.

The JACKPOT usually operates on the last four races on the card, and you must select the winner of each race.

The PICK THREE (usually Races 5-7) involves selecting the winner of the three consecutive races.

THE BI-POT - Choose a horse to finish First or Second in each of the 6 races that comprise the BI-POT.

When you place your bets with the Tote Operator it is always wise to check your ticket to make sure you have been given the correct numbers. There is nothing worse than thinking you have won only to find you don't have the right horses.



SCRATCHINGS

Win, Places, Swinger, Exacta, Trifecta, Quartet.

If a horse is scratched there is a FULL refund on all bets affected by the scratched horse.

All the Exotics

There are NO refunds on scratchings. If a horse is scratched in any leg it is automatically replaced with the **Tote Favourite**.

This is a simple summary of most available bets. When (and if) you become a serious punter you might consider taking permutations. This increases your chances of winning but costs more.

Y*ou have to be in it to win it and for racing newbies a straight line bet costing \$1 is the way to go. To enjoy racing and betting never spend more than you are prepared to lose.*

One can also place a variety of bets with a bookmaker. Both the Tote and the bookmakers take a percentage of the betting pools but the Tote's 'skim' goes back into racing.

Turf Clubs need funds to keep racing going and for improving the amenities. Promoting racing is what this e-book is about.



Studying Form - a mind game

There are different ways to select horses. First timers will probably go with their gut feelings, or because they like the name or the look of a horse.

Other people study form, and one can become hooked on this exercise whether or not one chooses to place a bet. It is possible to derive a great deal of satisfaction just by being right about a race result. It's a mind game.

Basically studying form is taking into account a horse's previous performance, by noting what weight was carried, the distance of the race, and where the horse finished in comparison with other runners.

The state of the going will also be considered. Did a horse perform better when the conditions underfoot were good, soft, yielding or heavy?

Every race has a reference number so one can keep, looking back, and back, as long as you have collected the racing results published at the back of the race card. If you have not -there are websites which provide this information, such as:

<http://www.gallop.co.za/> or <http://www.formgrids.org/>

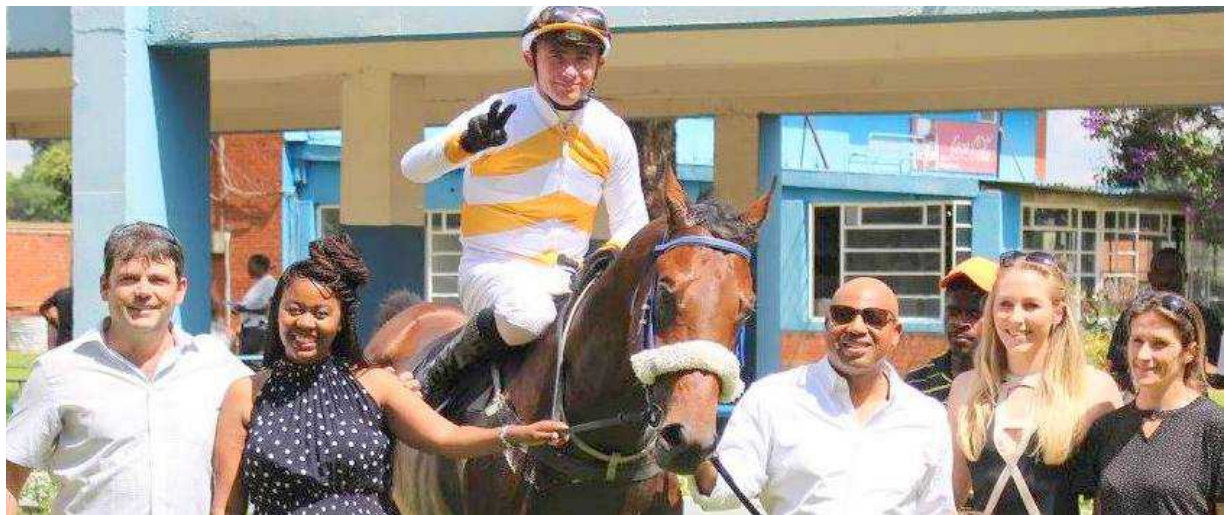
On the Formgrids site you can find absolutely everything you need to know, for free - or pay if you want to know even more.



That's All

Congratulations! We hope you now have a better understanding of what is involved in horse racing, and that you will come to Borrowdale Park, bringing all your friends.

The lawns are lovely and the views from the stands excellent - so there is no better place to be on a sunny racing afternoon.



Although entry is free there is a charge for access to certain areas such as the Owners & Trainers Stand & Bar (known as the Ipi Tombe Room).

As for the dress code most people opt for smart casual (men have to wear longs in the Parade Ring and Ipi Tombe Room). On sponsored race days, such as the Castle Tankard and OK Grand Challenge meetings, some people seize the opportunity to really dress up, which adds to the occasion.



Last but not least, we have included useful links and some Racing Terminology....just in case you are not sure what someone is talking about....

<http://www.formgrids.org/>

<http://www.gallop.co.za/>

<https://zimracing.wordpress.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/racinginzim/>

<https://www.facebook.com/zimracing/>

<https://www.sportingpost.co.za/>

<http://www.bsa.co.za/>

Racing Terminology

ALLOWANCE: The weight concession given to two-year and three-year-old to compensate for their inexperience.

ANTE-POST: Betting posted up before the race is due to take place.

APPRENTICE: Young jockey apprenticed to the Jockey Academy.

APPRENTICE CLAIM: A weight concession to compensate for the rider's inexperience. It starts for 4 kgs for new apprentices and ends at 1.5kgs, based on the number of winning rides.

BACKWARD: Describes a young horse slow to mature.

BOOKMAKER: Person taking bets at Fixed Odds.

COLOURS: The racing silks worn by the jockeys.

COLT: Male, ungelded horse up to four years old.

CONNECTIONS: The owner and trainer of a racehorse.



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COURSE SPECIALIST: A horse that tends to run well at a particular course.

DAM: Mother of a horse.

DISTANCE: The length of a race.

DRAW: Describes a horse's position in the starting stalls. High numbers are favoured on the straight up to 1260m, and low numbers on the bend from 1400m and further.

FILLY: Female horse up to four years old.

FOAL: Horse of either sex from birth until 1st August of the following year.

GELDING: Castrated horse.

GOING: Description of the underfoot conditions on the course. On a race day the current state of the going is displayed at the racecourse.

HAND: Unit of four inches in which a horse's height is measured.

HANDICAPPER: The official who assesses each horse after each race and awards or deducts merit rating points.

HORSE: Male horse, five years and above not yet castrated.

JUDGE: Official responsible for declaring the finishing order and distance between horses.

JUVENILE: Two-year-old horse.

MAIDEN: A horse who has not yet won a race.

MARE: Female horse, five years and over.

OBJECTION: Complaint by connections of one horse against another regarding a breach of rules during a race.

ODDS ON: Where a bet's winnings are less than the stake i.e. Winning a \$2 bet on a 5/10 favourite wins you \$1, so you get \$3.

PACE: Up with the pace means close to the leaders.

PENALTY: Weight added to the handicap weight of a horse, which has won



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since the weights were published.

PHOTO FINISH: Electronic photo device which determines minimal distance in a close finish.

PLATE: Shoe worn by a horse during racing, known as Steels or Alumites.

SEX ALLOWANCE: Weight allowance given to female horse in certain races (from 2.5 kgs to 3.5kgs depending on distance of the race).

SIRE: Father of a horse.

SPREAD A PLATE: When a racing plate becomes detached from the hoof.

SP/STARTING PRICE: Official betting price of a horse at the start of a race.

STEWARDS ENQUIRY: Enquiry by panel of men and women who are responsible for seeing rules are adhered to during the running of a race.

STIPENDIARY STEWARD: Official in charge of running the race meeting.

WEIGH IN/WEIGH OUT: Weighing jockeys before and after a race to ensure the correct weight has been carried.

YEARLING: Horse of either sex from 1st August to 31st July of the year following its birth



Hoping to see you soon at Borrowdale Park