



## The Shifting grounds of the official track condition

In this Special Report Ratings2Win ("R2W") deals with:

1. The issues associated with the retrofitting and incorrect reporting of the official track conditions after the race has been run; and
2. The problems punters face with these changes and the fact that as they become the official form no one is the wiser.

### **R2W are acutely aware of these issues that most punters don't even know exist!**

There has been a lot of talk recently regarding official track conditions. Whilst the subject was recently again placed into the spotlight courtesy of comments made by Rob Waterhouse and others, the issues associated with unreliable track condition readings and other race form inaccuracies have long plagued most punters and placed them at a distinct disadvantage compared to the professional who instead relies on data not widely available to the general betting public. R2W are proud to have been instrumental in leading the way in delivering the most accurate Australian horse racing data available within the public domain.

It has become more apparent, over the last year or so, that we have recorded more track condition discrepancies than ever before. Given we already fix so many things otherwise contained within the official form each day, our attention was not focused on this issue. We just corrected it and moved on. However, given recent problems (detailed below), we felt we had to expose examples of these constant anomalies.

### ***"Why is there so much discrepancy between the reported race day track condition and the subsequent track condition reported in the official form?"***

It took a while but we finally figured it out. Whilst the powers that be can be reluctant to change track conditions during a race day, they are less reluctant about doing so after the races are run. It occurs often that the post-race track condition reported (as official form) differs to what was officially declared by the Stewards.

### **WHAT?**

Let me explain. One would expect that the track condition reported just before a race is the official track condition for that race. Not quite it seems! The track condition assigned to a race before it is run can and does change after it has been run. Hands up all that knew this happens!

What is interesting about this retrofitting practice is that it becomes the 'official' record. Multitudes of websites and form providers automatically follow so most of the evidence that this is the case is wiped

away. I must confess it had us thinking twice about where the fault lies. Sure, correcting a typo occasionally in the official records is fair enough but this is far from that.

***“With so much racing every day, most punters rely on the official records, if it is wrong what do they do?”***

R2W have always maintained that the only way to deal with the track condition is to apply a consistent algorithm that deals with all tracks equally and consistently. To this end, we have always had our own internal ‘track condition’ which we call the R2W Track Speed.

Having our own, means that we are not generally interested in what the official track condition is recorded as (although we see both ours and theirs). After all, why would we? Using our own track speed effectively eliminates the impact of these errors resulting from the inconsistency associated with the official track condition.

In summary:

- Pre-race (and on race day) we use the ‘Verify Race-Day Track Condition’ module in Axis to verify the accuracy of the reported official track condition. This not only gives us a better indication of what the likely “real” track condition is but also helps us pin point track bias before the general market becomes aware. That can offer a great edge. Post-race we use and rely on the R2W Race Track Speed.

Overall, we only use the official track condition as one of the inputs in an algorithm that then creates our overall and sectional time pars. That process deals with several levels of verification that most either don’t know or bother about.

You would be well within your right to ask why we go to such lengths and if it is necessary?

Here are a few examples of what punters unknowingly face every day:

### **CASE 1: ALBURY 10/10/2015**

**On race Day** - Looking at the picture of the Stewards’ Report for the meeting tells us that the track started as Good 4 and was upgraded to Good 3 after first race. Fair enough. All of Australia was betting to a Good 3 track, Tatts website also confirms this change, establishing some further ‘evidence’.

#### **STEWARDS REPORT**

**Albury Racing Club  
ALBURY RACECOURSE**

**Saturday 10 October 2015**

Weather: Fine  
Track: Good (4), Upgraded to Good (3) at 2.12pm  
Rail: + 4m 800m-400m

**After the races** and as off 26/10/2015 the official form lists the entire meeting as a Good 4 for all races and the industry followed suit. Online providers show the same 'corrected' track condition. We included a picture collage of the first few races to preserve evidence of the issue because when and if they fix it, everything will again change.

Further, all horses coming out of this meeting have their official TC recorded as a Good 4. Is this a typo or something else that will affect many horses official form in races to come?


PROGRAMS	NOMINATIONS	WEIGHTS	ACCEPTANCES	RECENT F
<b>Albury: Albury Racing Club Saturday 10, October 2015</b> Meeting Type: Country (TAB MEETING)				
Rail Position: Timing - Electronic : Rail - +4m 800-400m Then Normal				
Track Condition: <b>Good 4</b>				
Track Type: Turf				
<b>Race 2 - 2:41PM PINNERS REFRIGERATIC</b>				
<b>Race 1 - 2:06PM VISION S</b>				
Of \$8,000.1st \$4,400, 2nd \$1,325, 3rd \$625, 4th \$				
Class 1, Handicap, Minimum Weight 54kg, Apprent				
BenchMark 55, Handicap, Mini				
BOBS&BOBS Extra Bonus ave				
Track Condition: <b>Good 4</b> Time: 1:09.41 Last 600r				
Track Condition: <b>Good 4</b> Time: 1:09.41 Last 600r				
<b>Race 3 - 3:16PM JOHNS</b>				
Of \$8,000.1st \$4,400, 2nd \$				
BenchMark 55, Handicap, M				
BOBS Bonus available: \$5,0				
<b>Race 4 - 3:51PM ALBURY DEMOLITIONS MA</b>				
Of \$8,000.1st \$4,400, 2nd \$1,325, 3rd \$625, 4th \$300				
Maiden, Set Weights, Apprentices can claim.				
BOBS Bonus available: \$5,000				
Track Condition: <b>Good 4</b> Time: 1:26.50 Last 600m:				
Track Condition: <b>Good 4</b> Time: 1:10.36 Last 600n				

## CASE 2: BAIRNSDALE 19/10/2015

The Stewards Report states a Good 4 for the entire day. On the day, the TC everywhere else was also a Good 4.

Now, the Official TC is Good 3 for all races. Again, the industry flips a switch and this becomes the official record replicated across websites and many form providers.

All horses coming out of this meeting will have their official TC recorded as a Good 3.

<b>Bairnsdale</b> Monday, 19th October	
	Track Condition Good 3
BDLE	Rail Rail True Entire Circuit
<b>RACE LIST</b> <b>STEWARDS' REPORT</b>	
BAIRNSDALE RACING CLUB	
Date:	Monday October 19, 2015
Track:	Good 4
<b>Bairnsdale: Bairnsdale Racing Club Monday 19, October 2015</b> Meeting Type: Country (TAB MEETING)	
Rail Position: the overall rail location was TRUE	
Track Condition: Good 3	
Track Type: Turf	
Weather: Fine	
Penetrometer: 5.1	
Total Number of starters for this meeting (including emergencies) 80	
Finalised 19/10 - 7:45am. Late Scratching R8 N15	
Race 1	Race 2
Race 3	Race 4
Race 5	Race 6
Race 7	Race 8
Back to top	
<b>Race 1 - 1:06PM Donalds Motors Maiden Plate (1000 METRES)</b>	
Of \$20,000.1st \$11,000, 2nd \$3,400, 3rd \$1,600, 4th \$900, 5th \$600, 6th \$500, 7th \$500, 8th \$500	
Maiden, Set Weights, Three-Years-Old and Upwards, Apprentices can claim.	
Track Condition: Good 3 Time: 0:58.28 Timing Method: Electronic	

### **CASE 3: NOWRA 18/10/2015**

I won't waste my time with creating pictures for this one. Just accept the fact that the track condition before race 1 was a Good 4 and that there was a change to a Soft 5 after race 1 which was retrospectively applied to race 1 also. This is a totally different situation to the ones shown above and it seems a standard practice with many examples that we encounter.

The cases illustrated above are just examples collected over a few days and certainly not the whole extent of the problem. It goes far beyond that! There are many other single races retrofitted every day and we have been observing this on an ongoing basis.

Does anyone else care what they are passing down to most punters?

Maybe their motivation is different to ours, as we rely on our data as part of our and clients betting success.

Consider that in just 3 meetings, a few days apart there are 14 races affected with all the horses coming out of them having their form rendered incorrect for the rest of their racing career, unless of course they change it.

#### **How does this affect punters?**

For the ordinary punter, the answer is simple, unfortunately they get what they get. It's hard to maintain anything as being correct or reliable when the official data changes and the historical form is automatically processed as it is with most data providers.

**The average punter clings to the belief that official form can't be that wrong and any issues, even if they do exist, are minor and irrelevant. Talk about ignorance being bliss!**

R2W Axis clients are taken care off by our relentless attention to detail. Our official track condition recorded before the race is retained unchanged in our Axis database, so our records show what was available when clients were making their betting decisions; right or wrong it's the only way to retain sanity when trying to reconcile records, running tests or analysing ones' bets. Further when using statistical data to gauge horses' TC ability in the past form, Axis uses our internal Track Speed figure.

The resulting edge gained is evident not only in our results but also in the calibre of clients we attract.

## **The solution**

If you are serious about achieving your betting objectives you need to arm yourself with data that is superior to that used by the mainstream betting public so that you can have an edge over the market.

### **So what do we do?**

Simply put:

**"We arm our clients with the necessary tools, information, knowledge, education and understanding that enables them to profit from racing on a consistent basis".**

### **Necessary tools and information**

R2W Axis contains the most accurate ratings and data that is commercially available in the marketplace today. In addition other, key components and data analysis tools that form part of our software are proprietary in nature and are unavailable elsewhere.

### **Knowledge, education and understanding**

I am available to anyone wanting answers to their betting related questions. Our Learning to Bet like a Pro section of our website contains relevant and factual betting education that will assist you in gaining a better understanding to the difficulties associated from making a living from betting. With this knowledge education and understanding you can learn what it takes to stay in front!

For more information on why Axis is **Australia's leading horse racing software and database** please contact Paul Daily.

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