



R2W NSW JOCKEYS – SPECIAL REPORT

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NSW Jockeys – Special Report (March 2015)

Knowing the true relative ability and performance of jockeys can assist you in making the right betting decisions or at the very least add a critical variable to your form analysis and/or betting model. Most punters know that a “good, average or poor jockey” can significantly affect a horse's chance however very few can actually tell you accurately who's hot and of course who's not as the reference point for most of this type of analysis is either based on statistics associated with jockey premiership tables and/or other publically available free information which is ridden with error. Why? Because the official data sources are sufficiently wrong so as to skew any chance of accurate analysis being undertaken (more on this in a different article).

When looking at the current NSW Jockeys Premiership tables (period 01/08/2014 to 03/03/2015) the best performing jockeys at or above the benchmark strike rates plus 50% can be seen in the tables below.

Top Performers - Sorted By Strike Rate

Jockey	Rides	Wins	W%
James McDonald	373	91.5	24.7
Hugh Bowman	328	71	21.6
Greg Ryan	315	64	20.3
Blake Shinn	440	86.5	20
Robert Thompson	385	68.5	17.9

These above figures obviously consider all rides regardless of market rank and do not provide any basis to determine which riders are either over bet or under bet by the broader market. Another level of performance criteria sometimes used in a general sense is to examine how riders perform in terms of prize money earned. Interestingly from the top six riders listed in the above table three, namely Blake Shinn, James McDonald and Hugh Bowman qualify in terms of prize money earned. This is in contrast to VIC where only Damien Oliver meets that criteria. The other three for NSW are Tye Angland, Tommy Berry and Brenton Avdulla.

For the purpose of this Special Report we will examine each of these selected riders (those listed in the table above) and compare them across three levels of assessment criteria for a rolling twelve month period. This focus will isolate and measure Overall Performance, Starting Price Rank, and Track Types. There is somewhat little point in examining all three of these indicators for the latest three month period due to the smaller sample size, however we will still examine overall performance in that context so as provide a comparison to their medium term performance levels.

Top Performers – Overall performance 12 months

Jockey	Rides	Wins	W%	POT%
James McDonald	733	155	21.1	6.39
Hugh Bowman	536	99	18.5	-0.31
Greg Ryan	616	118	19.2	-0.74
Blake Shinn	843	167	19.8	-4.39
Robert Thompson	762	118	15.5	-16.07

The best performing jockey in the last twelve months from this list is clearly James McDonald when using the most appropriate of metrics, namely real dollars won and/or the least amount lost, as strike rates and POT only reveal part of the answer. Now let’s examine the same data over the latest three month rolling period.

Top Performers – Overall performance 3 months

Jockey	Rides	Wins	W%	POT%
James McDonald	171	37	21.6	6.18
Hugh Bowman	189	41	21.7	13.25
Greg Ryan	129	20	15.5	-23.66
Blake Shinn	222	40	18	-14.34
Robert Thompson	162	39	24.1	11.48

Once again James McDonald shines as the best performer with Hugh Bowman coming in second. Both have a good strike rate across all rides and a level of profitability that would spell utopia in any punters world. Clearly Greg Ryan and Blake Shinn’s recent performance is well below their medium and longer term levels.

Sorted By Starting Price Rank - 12 months

Jockey	SP Rank	Rides	Wins	W%	POT%
James McDonald	1	185	77	41.6	8.08
	2	138	28	20.3	-10.72
	3	106	22	20.8	20.34
Hugh Bowman	1	119	48	40.3	5.15
	2	95	17	17.9	-23.01
	3	64	13	20.3	18.7
Greg Ryan	1	178	59	33.1	-1.2
	2	108	19	17.6	-17.93
	3	88	18	20.5	24.73
Blake Shinn	1	240	94	39.2	0.6
	2	158	34	21.5	-7.91
	3	97	15	15.5	-11.81
Robert Thompson	1	177	53	29.9	-17.22
	2	130	27	20.8	-6.67
	3	115	15	13	-23.37

Four of the five jockeys' performances on favourites are above the long term market benchmarks with the most notable of those performances being for James McDonald and Hugh Bowman.

Sorted By Track Types - 12 months

Jockey	Track Type	Rides	Wins	W%	POT%
James McDonald	Metropolitan	529	101	19.1	3.95
	Provincial	188	50	26.6	8.86
	Country	7	3	42.9	66.34
Hugh Bowman	Metropolitan	403	74	18.4	3.24
	Provincial	94	17	18.1	-12.8
	Country	28	8	28.6	4.69
Greg Ryan	Metropolitan	1	0	0	-100
	Provincial	1	0	0	-100
	Country	566	110	19.4	0.84
Blake Shinn	Metropolitan	520	89	17.1	-0.84
	Provincial	202	41	20.3	-14.35
	Country	121	37	30.6	-0.11
Robert Thompson	Metropolitan	31	5	16.1	79.3
	Provincial	115	5	4.3	-66.83
	Country	611	108	17.7	-11.5

Key Performance Indicators

Let's summarise our focus some of NSW's leading jockeys with some important tips that can be applied to your future form analysis and betting decisions.

- Four of the five jockeys' performances on favourites are above the long term market benchmarks with the most notable of those performances being for James McDonald and Hugh Bowman.
- In the case of those riders analysed, the best profits can be obtained by supporting the big name riders despite their public profile the market has undervalued these riders.
- Some jockeys excel when riding at different track types. Accordingly it does not automatically follow that a top rider in the city will be equally as effective at the provincial and country meetings either in terms of their strike rates and/or betting returns. James McDonald has been the clear exception with outstanding levels of performance across all track types.
- For those that also deal with country racing, Robert Thompson is currently riding a lot better than Greg Ryan.
- Remember strike and POT only provide part of the answer. If you want to analyse data properly you need to have access to a database that is built off accurate verified data. To our knowledge, R2W Axis is the only publically available database that meets this requirement.
- Ratings2Win Axis Professional database clients have the ability to quickly isolate other key performance indicators for a range of key variables including trainers and jockeys. This information including that which is published in this report provides exclusive insight into some of NSW's leading jockeys. Arm yourself with the data that cannot be found elsewhere in any other commercially available product.

Notes

All statistics in relation to the POT figures published in this report are based on examining runners with a starting dividend of $\leq \$8.00$ and a proportional bet to collect 4% of a starting bank using the best of Starting Price and NSW Tab dividends.

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