Trainers

Introduction

The brains behind the operation, these are just some of the talents needed by a good racehorse trainer.

- Horseman
- Salesman
- Strategist
- Employer
- Public Relations
- Secret Agent

We would all like to know what is going on inside the trainer's mind. Its a bit like Mission Impossible.

Trainer Strike Rates

Win/Runner percentages (or Strike Rate) are the easiest statistic figures to understand. Below are tables that show current trainer strike rates in Hong Kong on turf for the past twelve months (at time of writing 26th Oct 2020)

_Trainer	_WinsAll	_RunsAll	_PcAll	_WinsST	_RunsST	_PcST	_WinsHV	_RunsHV	_PcHV
Chang, C	11	325	3.4%	8	181	4.4%	3	144	2.1%
Cruz, A	62	563	11.0%	36	367	9.8%	26	196	13.3%
Ferraris, D	20	370	5.4%	2	157	1.3%	18	213	8.5%
Fownes, C	51	480	10.6%	17	246	6.9%	34	234	14.5%
Gibson, R	16	294	5.4%	11	143	7.7%	5	151	3.3%
Hall, D	33	371	8.9%	22	218	10.1%	11	153	7.2%
Hayes, D	3	54	5.6%	3	33	9.1%	0	21	0.0%
Ho, L	10	365	2.7%	6	185	3.2%	4	180	2.2%
Lor, F	48	451	10.6%	25	286	8.7%	23	165	13.9%
Lui, K	54	440	12.3%	26	265	9.8%	28	175	16.0%
Man, K	21	374	5.6%	13	229	5.7%	8	145	5.5%
Millard, A	21	300	7.0%	15	193	7.8%	6	107	5.6%
OSullivan, P	23	326	7.1%	15	193	7.8%	8	133	6.0%
Shum, C	37	419	8.8%	24	254	9.4%	13	165	7.9%
Size, J	47	515	9.1%	34	330	10.3%	13	185	7.0%
So, W	32	390	8.2%	17	248	6.9%	15	142	10.6%
Ting, K	32	379	8.4%	12	210	5.7%	20	169	11.8%
Tsui, Y	31	536	5.8%	17	302	5.6%	14	234	6.0%
Yip, C	32	484	6.6%	21	284	7.4%	11	200	5.5%
Yiu, P	59	451	13.1%	40	290	13.8%	19	161	11.8%
Yung, T	19	391	4.9%	11	250	4.4%	8	141	5.7%
Whyte, D	37	441	8.4%	22	269	8.2%	15	172	8.7%
All	747	9186	8.1%	429	5456	7.9%	318	3730	8.5%

The above table shows a few interesting things, it is calculated from results over the past calendar year.

- The Win percentage strike rate for each trainer in all races, Sha Tin races, and Happy Valley races. These values can sometimes differ significantly.

- The average strike rate for all races, which is basically total races / total runners

A slight variation on the above table is shown below. This time I have only included horses where the odds are less than or equal to 20.00. As such extreme outsiders that have little chance of winning

are excluded, so giving more realistic values.

_Trainer	_WinsAll	_RunsAll	_PcAll	_WinsST	_RunsST	_PcST	_WinsHV	_RunsHV	_PcHV
Chang, C	8	127	6.3%	6	71	8.5%	2	56	3.6%
Cruz, A	60	382	15.7%	35	245	14.3%	25	137	18.2%
Ferraris, D	19	178	10.7%	2	52	3.8%	17	126	13.5%
Fownes, C	49	327	15.0%	16	135	11.9%	33	192	17.2%
Gibson, R	13	148	8.8%	8	68	11.8%	5	80	6.3%
Hall, D	31	215	14.4%	21	126	16.7%	10	89	11.2%
Hayes, D	3	28	10.7%	3	18	16.7%	0	10	0.0%
Ho, L	8	157	5.1%	4	65	6.2%	4	92	4.3%
Lor, F	47	314	15.0%	24	183	13.1%	23	131	17.6%
Lui, K	48	297	16.2%	22	154	14.3%	26	143	18.2%
Man, K	20	206	9.7%	13	127	10.2%	7	79	8.9%
Millard, A	21	164	12.8%	15	103	14.6%	6	61	9.8%
OSullivan, P	20	186	10.8%	13	109	11.9%	7	77	9.1%
Shum, C	35	269	13.0%	22	156	14.1%	13	113	11.5%
Size, J	46	384	12.0%	34	228	14.9%	12	156	7.7%
So, W	30	198	15.2%	16	113	14.2%	14	85	16.5%
Ting, K	27	204	13.2%	9	88	10.2%	18	116	15.5%
Tsui, Y	24	238	10.1%	13	104	12.5%	11	134	8.2%
Yip, C	30	264	11.4%	19	154	12.3%	11	110	10.0%
Yiu, P	52	337	15.4%	36	212	17.0%	16	125	12.8%
Yung, T	16	171	9.4%	10	106	9.4%	6	65	9.2%
Whyte, D	35	291	12.0%	21	177	11.9%	14	114	12.3%
All	687	5394	12.7%	393	3002	13.1%	294	2392	12.3%

As probably expected, now that we excluded the outsiders, the average winning percentage increases.

Trainer Actual/Expected Values

A/E values are a bit more tricky to understand than strike rates. They represent a ratio between actual number of wins and expected number of wins. The expected number of wins is a total of their chance percentage represented by the win odds.

The following table shows A/E values for current Hong Kong trainers for the past twelve months (at time of writing 26th Oct 2020). The columns relate to all runners, and runners at Sha Tin and Happy Valley.

There are a couple of things that need to be considered when viewing these values.

- I have only included results with odds less than or equal to 20.00, for reasons previously given.

- Only runners on turf are included

- The win odds have been adjusted to exclude the HKJC take out. That is, odds are based on a 100% book which I believe better reflects the chance of the horse.

_Trainer	_Act	_Exp	_Ae	_ActST	_ExpST	_AeST	_ActHV	_ExpHV	_AeHV
Chang, C	8	12	0.68	6	7	0.90	2	5	0.39
Cruz, A	60	53	1.13	35	35	1.01	25	18	1.37
Ferraris, D	19	18	1.05	2	5	0.44	17	13	1.26
Fownes, C	49	45	1.09	16	17	0.96	33	28	1.17
Gibson, R	13	15	0.89	8	8	1.03	5	7	0.73
Hall, D	31	29	1.06	21	18	1.15	10	11	0.90
Hayes, D	3	4	0.80	3	3	1.06	0	1	0.00
Ho, L	8	17	0.48	4	7	0.61	4	10	0.40
Lor, F	47	46	1.02	24	26	0.91	23	20	1.16
Lui, K	48	43	1.13	22	20	1.10	26	22	1.16
Man, K	20	28	0.70	13	18	0.73	7	11	0.66
Millard, A	21	19	1.10	15	12	1.24	6	7	0.85
OSullivan, P	20	22	0.91	13	14	0.94	7	8	0.87
Shum, C	35	38	0.91	22	24	0.90	13	14	0.93
Size, J	46	56	0.83	34	35	0.96	12	20	0.59
So, W	30	23	1.31	16	13	1.19	14	10	1.47
Ting, K	27	24	1.11	9	9	0.98	18	15	1.20
Tsui, Y	24	27	0.90	13	13	0.99	11	14	0.80
Yip, C	30	29	1.03	19	18	1.08	11	11	0.96
Yiu, P	52	46	1.13	36	30	1.18	16	16	1.03
Yung, T	16	19	0.86	10	10	0.99	6	8	0.71
Whyte, D	35	40	0.88	21	27	0.79	14	13	1.06

The A/E values above that are greater than 1.00 indicate that the trainer has performed well and trained more winners than expected based on the chance of each horse.

Ratings

I need to develop Trainer ratings that can be used during race evaluation. Strike Rates and Act/Exp values have their relative merits but also have downfalls. As such I have decided that if I multiply the two values together, I get pretty decent ratings that aren't far away from normally perceived trainer abilities. So the following table represents current trainer ratings overall and for each course.

_Trainer	_Code	_Rtg	_RtgST	_RtgHV
Chang, C	CCW	4	8	1
Cruz, A	CAS	18	14	25
Ferraris, D	FD	11	2	17
Fownes, C	FC	16	11	20
Gibson, R	GR	8	12	5
Hall, D	HAD	15	19	10
Hayes, D	HDA	9	18	0
Ho, L	HL	2	4	2
Lor, F	LFC	15	12	20
Lui, K	LKW	18	16	21
Man, K	MKL	7	8	6
Millard, A	MA	14	18	8
OSullivan, P	OSP	10	11	8
Shum, C	SCS	12	13	11
Size, J	SJJ	10	14	5
So, W	SWY	20	17	24
Ting, K	TKH	15	10	19
Tsui, Y	TYS	9	12	7
Yip, C	YCH	12	13	10
Yiu, P	YPF	17	20	13
Yung, T	YTP	8	9	7
Whyte, D	WDJ	11	9	13