



The effect of the new top weight for NSW BM races

Since October 1, 2015 the new top weight for Benchmark (BM) races in NSW has risen to 61kg (up from 59kg previously). We have now had 195 races run (as at 09/11/2015) under the new rules and whilst the sample is small we thought we might take a look to see whether there is any trend developing?

It would seem natural to assume that lumping horses with an extra 2kg just because they have the highest handicap rating for that race might affect their winning chance. So what does the data so far tell us?

In order to boost sample size we have taken the top 2 handicapped horses (after scratching's) and compared their performance to the results from the most recent completed racing season (01/08/2014-31/07/2015). Interestingly the strike rate for the period from October 1 to November 9, 2015 reveals these horses have won 57 races of the 195 run (29.23% SR) versus 370 of the 1,606 races for the 2014/2015 racing season (23.03%).

Summary

- Whilst the sample size for the current period only covers 390 horses the results so far reveal that the extra weight applied to the top weight has not had a negative impact in so far as strike rate is concerned.
- Perhaps the best explanation for the above, assuming that this trend continues is that the top weighted horses are still the best performed overall under these handicap conditions relative to the others they are competing against.
- Based on the evidence thus far I would not be too concerned about supporting a top weighted horse in a NSW BM race assuming that on a race to race basis you also consider the other relevant form factors for the horse.

Good Punting!

Paul Daily