

## QUADRELLA BETTING – PART 2

In the first part of this series we explored the basics of Quadrella betting, the importance of staking and where you can find the best value in the Quadrella pools. In part 2 we look at some ideas that will help you to develop your own Quadrella strategy with the aim to maximise the chance of finding value and of course, winning in the long-term.

### The optimal approach

If you are serious about Quadrella betting and have a decent betting bank to generate income, then my advice is to invest in having your own software written that will allow you to price individual combinations, stake them at different levels and automatically send them to your TAB account as bets.

I'm not aware of any publicly available software that allows you to bet Quadrellas this way.

There are plenty of highly qualified programmers looking for work in a marketplace such as [Upwork](#) and hourly rates can be very reasonable.

If that's not a realistic option then you can still adopt a far more intelligent strategy for Quadrella betting than level staking every combination and adopting the approach of "those I think can win legs 1, 2 and 3... with a stack of extra runners in the last leg so I maximise my chance of getting it!"

### Developing a strategy to maximise your chance of finding value

**My four key pieces of advice are:**

1. Build your Quadrellas around key value runners you like on the day. Don't take combinations without at least one of your value runners winning.
2. Think intelligently about the additional runners to include and those to exclude.
3. Separate your combinations into short, medium and long with different stake sizes.
4. Focus on combinations up to 3,000 / 1

#### Build combinations around key value runners

This is the most important point as it underlies your entire strategy to find value dividends. Identify the runner(s) in each leg you think are genuine value in the win market and make sure each Quadrella bet is built around at least one of those horses winning (example below).

Don't waste money on 4 leg combinations that don't have any of your value runners winning. The horses in those bets might all be good winning chances, but you wouldn't back them in the win market because they don't represent value, so don't take a Quadrella that only includes those horses winning.

## Example

Take a look at the table below where you will see different horses listed in the legs of a Quadrella with the “value” runner in each race highlighted in yellow. Of course, there can always be more than one value runner in each race, but for this exercise we’ll focus on one. To make the combinations easier to follow I’ll also assume that Horse A is the value runner in each leg.

	Leg 1		Leg 2		Leg 3		Leg 4	
Horse	Price	Win %	Price	Win %	Price	Win %	Price	Win %
A	\$2.50	40%	\$4.00	25%	\$3.00	33%	\$3.30	30%
B	\$4.00	25%	\$6.00	17%	\$5.00	20%	\$6.00	17%
C			\$10.00	10%	\$10.00	10%	\$8.00	13%
D			\$10.00	10%	\$10.00	10%	\$12.00	8%
E			\$12.00	8%			\$14.00	7%
TOTAL		65%		70%		73%		75%

The default approach many punters would take to this would be to place a 2 x 5 x 4 x 5 Quadrella, which costs \$200 for a \$1 bet, or part thereof for a flexi bet. This is a highly ineffective way to take Quadrellas because firstly it includes combinations that are unlikely to be genuine value and secondly you have the same stake on each one.

A better approach is to structure your bet so that your Quadrella has at least one of your value runners winning. To collect the Quadrella you need to get one of your value runners to win (doesn’t matter which leg) and then find the winner of the other 3 legs in your remaining runners.

Taking the bet in this way would require 4 separate Quadrella bets structured as follows:

	Leg 1	Leg 2	Leg 3	Leg 4
Ticket 1	A	A,B,C,D,E	A,B,C,D	A,B,C,D,E
Ticket 2	B	A	A,B,C,D	A,B,C,D,E
Ticket 3	B	B,C,D,E	A	A,B,C,D,E
Ticket 4	B	B,C,D,E	B,C,D	A

There is one key value horse winning (highlighted) in each of the four bets you have placed. It can be a little hard to follow how these bets are structured, but if you take it step by step it will start to make sense.

In leg 1 you have taken 2 horses in the Quadrella, A & B. If your value horse A wins, then you have achieved your one value winner in the Quadrella and the remaining three legs can be won by any of the other horses you have included.

If Horse B wins leg 1, then ticket 1 is now lost, however you are still alive with 3 remaining tickets. If Leg 2 is won by your value runner Horse A, then you have achieved your one value winner and the last two legs can be won by any of your other included runners.

If your value horse (A) doesn’t win leg 2 then you can get the winner with B,C,D or E and you then need to find your value winner in either the 3<sup>rd</sup> leg (ticket 3) or the last leg (ticket 4.)

The cost of this bet is \$152 vs \$200 taking every combination.

With at least one key value runner in every winning combination, the overall Quadrella dividend is much more likely to provide a worthwhile return.

If you have multiple value runners in each leg then you can structure your tickets so that you need to get two or three winners in the Quaddie from your value runners. Just step through the logic as I have done above to make sure that you cover the right combinations. It can take a bit of practice to get your head around the bets needed, but it's certainly worth the effort.

There are no fixed rules or an optimal approach to use in every case, each Quadrella is different. The nature of winning chances and value runners across the legs for each meeting should drive your strategy. The key is to create bets that are more likely to deliver a value dividend by containing at least one genuine value winner.

Avoid combinations that don't contain any value winners. If your Quadrella only contains winners that are either around their right price or under the odds in the win market, then it's highly unlikely the Quadrella dividend will be genuine value.

### **How many extra runners do you include?**

This is a key question for every punter that takes Quadrellas. Where do you start and stop with the runners that you include in each leg?

There are no hard and fast rules for this. The key is to think intelligently about it and have a reason why you include or exclude certain horses.

You need to include enough runners to give yourself a decent chance of landing the Quadrella (see part 1 for how to work out your potential strike rate) but you also need to be mindful of value and not including too many horses that can detract from the value generated by your underlying approach.

My key advice for helping to decide additional runners to include or exclude is:

- **Always include the likely leader(s) in your additional runners.** Leaders have the highest strike rate and on average clearly the highest profit compared to any other settling position. If there is to be an upset in one or more of the legs to add even more value to your Quadrella, then it's 2.5 times more likely to come from a longer priced horse racing up on the lead compared to midfield or worse.
- Further to the above, **risk (leave out) those that look certain to settle back in the field**, especially those outside the top two chances in the market, unless you happen to like them for some reason. These horses are on average horrendous betting value.
- **Monitor the first few races before the Quadrella to assess any clear track bias** and use that to help determine your additional selections. This only applies to the traditional 'late' Quadrella, not the early Quadrella that starts in race 1. The key is to include those that might be helped by the bias and look to have some winning chance, while avoiding those that might be hindered by the bias. A clear bias is the only reason why you would make decisions contrary to the first two points mentioned above.
- **Always include the favourite unless it looks a risk on one of the points mentioned above.** They have the highest strike rate of all runners and can help generate value in the Quadrella dividend because most punters have the same stake on them in their combination as their longshots (see part 1.)

- **Consider those that have firmed notably in the market** from the start of the day until whenever you are putting your bets on. While it doesn't take a big amount of money to move early corporate bookmaker prices, the fact that a runner has notably firmed means at least one punter that is respected by the bookmakers likes it, so you should use that intelligence to your advantage. Most corporate bookmaker sites show their fluctuations or you can easily see them in Dynamic Odds.
- **The greater the value in your key runners or the more heavily your Quadrella is structured around them winning, the more additional runners you can include in other legs.** The logic here is that just one value winner in your Quadrella with a moderate edge can be easily depleted if you include too many marginal horses in other legs. However, if you have a massive value edge on your one winner or structure bets so that your key runners need to win at least two legs, then you have more edge to play with in the overall bet. You can then afford to be more aggressive with your additional runners to maximise your chance of capitalising on the result.

### Separate your combinations with different stake sizes

As mentioned in part 1 of this series, the tendency for punters to level stake every Quadrella combination is a terribly ineffective way to bet. It will help you increase your overall profits if you can separate your combinations into a few different groups and stake them accordingly.

Once you work out your bets, separate them into short, medium and longer priced combinations and vary your stake on each.

As you aren't staking every individual combination there is no real science to this general approach, but I would suggest that whatever you stake on the short-priced combinations, you halve that for the medium priced combinations and then halve it again for the longer priced combinations. That will give you a ratio of 1.0, 0.5 and 0.25 for the three different groups. You can do this with the aid of flexi betting.

This is obviously an inconvenience as it takes extra time to create the bets, but maximizing your chance of winning requires a bit of effort. There are no short-cuts in this game.

### Focus on combinations up to 3,000 / 1

As mentioned in part 1, my research and Quadrella betting experience clearly shows that the best value in the Quadrella pool is found when the all up price is relatively short. I picked a limit of 3000 / 1 but you could easily make it 2,000 / 1 or 2,500 / 1

The key reason for this is the amount of level staking in the Quadrella pool where many tickets have the same amount placed on combinations that are 10,000 / 1 or longer to win as those that are much shorter. The shorter priced combinations are much more likely to get up and when they do, the dividend for them includes all of that disproportionate investment from punters on the longer priced combinations.

There's little point chasing combinations that have a 10,000 / 1 chance of winning if they only pay \$7,000. You might get lucky and one of these dividends could sustain your Quadrella betting for 6 to 12 months, but it's far more likely the extra money spent on those poor value bets will slowly deplete your betting bank and create an overall losing strategy.

Focusing on shorter combinations and avoiding the “huge dividend chase” doesn’t mean excluding longshots in your runners. Consider that a combination with 3 fancied runners e.g. \$3 x \$4 x \$5 and one big longshot at \$26 is still only \$1,560, well within the 3,000 / 1 limit. These type of Quadrellas can often pay \$3,000 to \$4,000, which is enormous value.

The key point is that there’s plenty of scope to capitalise on longshots winning, while staying within the most likely “value zone” for the overall Quadrella dividend. You want to avoid the gradual accumulation of bets on combinations that don’t pay a value dividend and only serve to suck profit away from the genuinely good value results you do achieve.

## **Wrapping Up**

Remember that the nature of Quadrella betting means you will miss many more times than you collect and annual profits will typically come from a small number of good results each year. You need to be prepared for this from both a bankroll and psychological perspective. If you can approach it with the right mindset and adopt an intelligent strategy then it is possible to make significant profits!

It’s important to make sure you have a deliberate strategy with intelligent thought behind the way you bet. The aim is to maximise your chances of receiving a genuine value dividend when you do collect, while avoiding the habits that slowly but surely deplete your bank and threaten any chance you have of making a long-term profit.

Smart punting!

**Daniel**