How to read the Visual Form Guide.

The Visual Form Guide

The Visual Form Guide shows the same information as a standard form guide together with 4 charts for each greyhound.

The first section of the form guide contains most of the information found in a traditional guide: race distance, trap no, going adjustment, positions during the race, finishing position and comments in running.

TRAP	DST	TRP	GA	GD	PN	FN	COMMENTS
1	480	2	0	A4	2333	3rd	rls mid, chl e, bmp1
	480	6	-10	HP	6666	4th	mid rls fcd ck3, rn on
	480	2	-50	A5	5311	1st	mid rls led 3/4
	480	2	-20	A5	5666	6th	s aw mid rls fcd ck& crd3
	480	2	-10	A5	6666	5th	s aw mid rls

> Any GREYED OUT rows show races with a different distance to today's, are runs in handicap races or are races run at different tracks to today's.
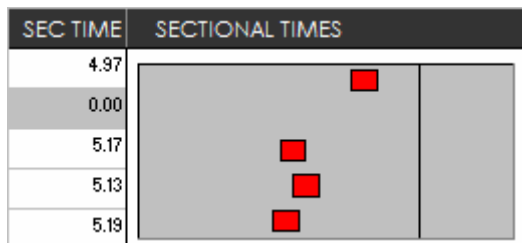
As with a traditional form guide form is read from bottom to top i.e. the most recent run is at the top.

The Charts

For each chart the length of each block corresponds to a distance of 1 metre and the colours are as the colours worn by the greyhound in the race. The "winning" line or the bold line within the chart shows where the dogs in the race with the best performance (fastest sectional, race time etc) would be positioned if it ran that time. The closer to this line the blocks are the quicker the run was.
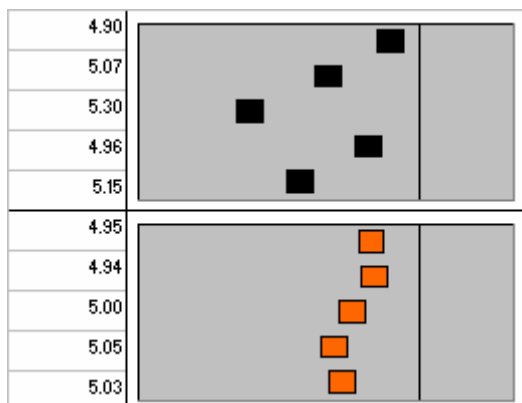
Chart 1 – Sectional Times

The sectional time is the time it take the greyhound to reach the winning line first time round and is an indicator of how quickly the greyhound has started in the race.

SEC TIME	SECTIONAL TIMES
4.97	
0.00	
5.17	
5.13	
5.19	

> Trap 1 has been showing an improving trend for starting times (blocks trending closer to the line) and a much improved start last time out.

Showing the form visually means the user can easily assess the form and identify trends.

The Visual Form Guide shows the last 5 runs for each greyhound so that runs can be compared for all greyhounds and trends and consistency with an individual greyhound´s performance can be evaluated.

4.90	
5.07	
5.30	
4.96	
5.15	

4.95	
4.94	
5.00	
5.05	
5.03	

> Trap 4´s recent starts have been improving.
>
> Trap 5 looks the much more consistent starter (blocks are less spread out).

Chart 2 – Position at First Bend

The expected position at the first bend is key to evaluating likely trouble (crowding, bumping etc) at this point in the race. The second chart in the Visual Form Guide uses timing information of the start and the calculated time of the race to estimate the likely posItions of the greyhounds at this point.

SEC TIME	SECTIONAL TIMES	POSITION AT 1ST BEND	CALC TM	CALCULATED TIMES
4.97			29.46	
0.00			29.45	
5.17			29.19	
5.13			29.67	
5.19			29.73	
5.11			29.83	
5.08			29.30	
4.96			29.31	
4.92			29.18	
5.07			29.63	

Trap 1 here looks likely to lead trap 2 at the 1st bend judging by recent start time trends.

Chart 3 – Calculated Times

In the same way as for sectional times (Chart 1) this chart takes the calculated times for each greyhound and represents them visually.

CALC TM	CALCULATED TIMES
29.11	
29.49	
30.25	
29.22	
29.59	
29.48	
29.31	
29.29	
29.23	
29.65	

Trap 4´s runs have seemingly been improving whilst trap 5´s seem to have been getting worse.

Indicator Columns

Next to the Calculated Time charts are three indicator columns.

CALC TM	CALCULATED TIMES	C	G	O
29.48				
29.31				H
29.29				T
29.23			▲	
29.65			▲	

Trap 5´s poor performance last time out could be explained by the trouble encountered (RED crowding indicator).

The Crowing Indicator "C" indicating trouble in running that a greyhound may have encountered during the race. RED for significant trouble, ORANGE for minor trouble. This feature is useful when evaluating the charts showing the times of previous runs in evaluating the usefulness or otherwise for the time of the run.

The column headed "G" indicates a movement in grade. A red upward arrow means today´s grade is higher than for that performance. A green down arrow means today´s race is a lower grade.

The "O" column shows other indicators. "H" indicates the run was a handicap. "T" indicates a trial.

Chart 4 – Adjusted times

Chart 4 adjusts Chart 3 (Calculated Times) to take trouble in running and grade into account.

CALC TM	CALCULATED TIMES	C	G	O	ADJ TM	ADJUSTED TIMES
29.48					28.53	
29.31				H	29.18	
29.29				T	29.29	
29.23			▲		29.29	
29.65			▲		29.36	

The calculated time is adjusted to take grade and crowding into account and chart 4 shows the adjusted times. You can see that although trap 5´s performances in the calculated time section appear to be worsening, once we factor in crowding and grade we can actually see that this dog is showing an improving trend.

Best Recent and Average Performances

The bottom 2 rows of the guide bring the dogs Best Recent and Average Performances together into single charts. This helps us see more readily things such as best performances and is especially useful when we want to consider the dogs' likely positions at the fist bend.

The charts are the same in these two rows but the information is slightly different :

BEST RECENT TIMES :

TRAP	NAME	TRAINER	SEC TIME
1	Heart Of Glass	S W Deakin	4.96
2	Sunnycroft Me	J R Hall	5.18
3	Compass Eve	S M Buckland	5.03
4	Fast Track Home	A T Bodell	5.01
5	Whip Ahoy	A K Jenkins	4.98
6	Copeland Elana	G B Ballentine	5.00

AVERAGE TIMES :

TRAP	NAME	DOB	SEC TIME
1	Heart Of Glass	Jul '08	4.99
2	Sunnycroft Me	Aug '10	5.28
3	Compass Eve	Mar '10	5.10
4	Fast Track Home	Sep '08	5.08
5	Whip Ahoy	May '10	5.08
6	Copeland Elana	Mar '11	5.03

The trap numbers, names of the dogs and birth dates are shown in this section. Highlighted in the times columns are the best performances in each section. i.e. the best recent time and the best average time.