

## Football Betting: Lay Draw Strategy

**Idea:** Lay the bets for the draw on Betfair.com. Look when a team scores a goal (I think the favourite team will have to be winning) and see if the draw odds increase. If it does then we click to bet on a draw happening for the same amount we initially bet. This should guarantee profit if there is a draw, and a cancelation of bets if there is not a draw i.e. a profit of zero. You can then equalise the profits by placing another lay bet using the formula  $Profit\ amount \div Lay\ Odds$ .

Still need to investigate what happened if:

1. The favourite team concedes first
2. The Draw odds do not increased when the favourite team gets ahead
3. Nobody scores

### **Notepad Notes:**

Initial Lay Bet-

Money loose if it is a draw:

$Amount * Lay\_Odds - amount$

Amount gained if it is a win is:

If there is a win you get back the stack you put down as profit

Amount of money got back when placed on the draw is:

$Amount * Odds - Amount - (previous\ loss\ amount\ from\ above)$

To work out the value to equalise once profit is guaranteed do:

$Profit / Lay\ odds$

And then lay that amount.

### **Initial Test: 09/08/11**

These were the top matches for highest draw odds. Notice that each has a big favourite in the match.

19:45	Livingston v Stirling Albion	1.36	4.75	6.50
19:45	East Fife v Elgin City	1.44	4.33	5.50
19:45	Burnley v Burton Albion	1.40	4.20	7.50
19:45	Hull City v Macclesfield Town	1.44	4.20	6.50
19:45	Ipswich Town v Northampton Town	1.40	4.20	7.50
19:45	Portsmouth v Barnet	1.44	4.20	6.50
19:45	Southampton v Torquay United	1.44	4.20	6.50
19:45	Brighton & Hove Albion v Gillingham	1.50	4.00	6.00
19:45	Leeds United v Bradford City	1.50	4.00	6.00

(Above sorted by bluesq.com decimal odds for ease). For each of the test we will use an initial stake of 100 units, about 40 minutes before play.

### Livingston and East Fife Games

For both of these matches betting was suspended during the match so I was unable to continue with the method despite the fact that the odds were working correctly. I was able to lay bet the draws for 4.5 and 6.6 respectively. With hind sight I could have looked on bluesq.com to see the in play betting odds for these games once one of the teams scored. Overall result = +200

### Burnley v Burton Albion

Successful Lay bet of 100:

<b>Burnley v Burton</b>	1.42	1.43	5.2	5.3	9.2	9.6
Start: 19:45						

After Burnley scored the draw odds did increase as expected and so the betting was completed:

<b>Burnley v Burton</b>	1.19	1.21	6.4	7.4	36	40
Start: 19:45 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-play						

When equalised this gave a profit on any outcome of +14.86

### Hull City v Macclesfield Town

Lay bet of 100

<b>Hull v Macclesfield</b>	1.47	1.48	5.1	5.2	7.8	8
Start: 19:45						

A problem occurs when Macclesfield score the first goal

<b>Hull v Macclesfield</b>	2.36	2.42	3.65	3.75	3.2	3.35
Start: 19:45 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-play						

However when they get a second goal the odds work out nicely for us

<b>Hull v Macclesfield</b>	11	13.5	7	7.4	1.28	1.29
Start: 19:45 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-play						

We use this jump in the odds to guarantee profit and then equalise. This gave a profit on all outcomes of +24.32. (It is worth considering later what would have happened if it had stayed at 1-0).

### Ipswich Town v Northampton Town

I missed the goal for Ipswich so was a little late following up on the odds. This led to slightly less favourable odds than we could have achieved.

<b>Ipswich v Northampton</b>	1.57	1.58	4.4	4.5	6.8	7.2
Start: 19:45						
<b>Ipswich v Northampton</b>	1.24	1.26	6.6	7	16.5	21
Start: 19:45 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In-play						

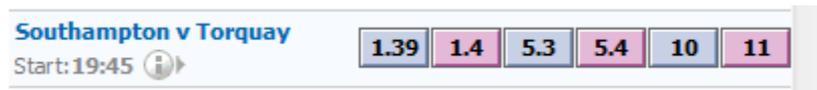
As planned. Overall result: +30.00

### Portsmouth v Barnet

Match cancelled due to riots.

### Southampton v Torquay United

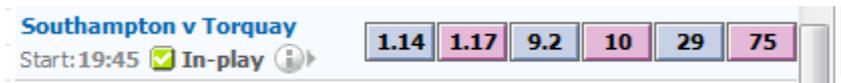
Started well..



Somehow lost the information until it was 1-1



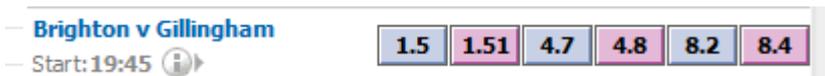
Not looking good until Southampton score again



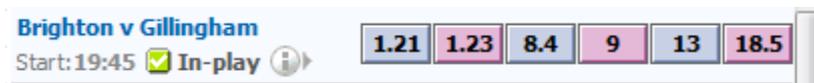
And we are able to proceed. Overall result: +38.00

### Brighton & Hove Albion v Gillingham

The most straight forward match.



Then after Brighton score:



Overall result: +40.00

### Leeds United v Bradford City

The starting odds were fine.



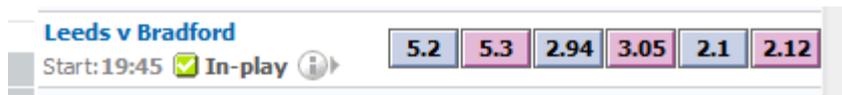
However Bradford scored first which upset the system.



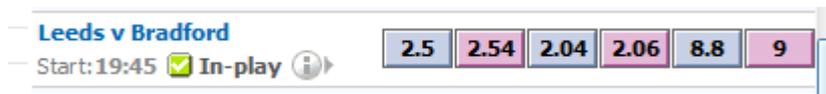
Then Leeds equalised with did not greatly fix things.



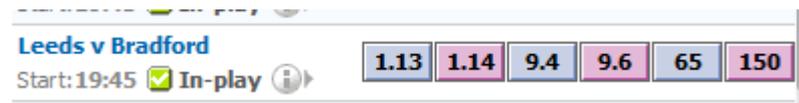
Then Bradford scores again which makes things even worse.



And Leeds make it 2-2 to make the problem even worse.



And then suddenly Leeds score again and all is well in the system again.



If we were just waiting for the odds to work out then overall result is +40.63....but I am not sure just hoping for the best is wise.

**Evaluation of initial test:** If we count the Scottish games then we have a result of +387.81 units, which is pretty good. However we cannot really count the Scottish games as we would have got less profit if we have been able to bet correctly, and also we could have used another betting site to continue with the system. Which gives us a total of +187.81 from the six played matches. Burnley and Brighton matches worked perfectly showing the system does work. From the Ipswich and Southampton matches we can see how important it is to pay attention and react as soon as the goals are scored. Although the Leeds and Hull matches did work out had we stayed faithful to system working out on it own we need to consider what to do when the odds do not improve.

From my initial concerns I think that point 2 will not become an issue. There were no no-score draw so we cannot look at concern 3. However we can look at concern 1 with the Leeds and Hull matches.

**Hull and Leeds Matches:** If we are forced to bet after the first goal we can minimise losses by betting 100 on the draw as usual and equalising by using  $our\ expected\ loss \div draw\ odds$ , and placing an additional draw bet (as opposed to the equalising lay bet when we are winning). At this stage the equalised losses are 42.50 for Hull and 60 for Leeds. I do think this would be ok. Looking at adding this to the other 4 played matches we end up with a final total of: +20.36. Interestingly waiting for the second goal seemed useful, since this created profit for the Hull match and only increase our loss for the Leeds match by 19%.

**Future Plan:** After a look at the previous football statistics it appears that no-score draws are 6% of all league games, so with a huge favourite I think we have to just not include this and treat it as a second goal scored by the favourite team scenario. The system works if the favourite team scores first. If the other team scores first we need to wait for another goal. If it is the same team again the odds should work out favourably so we can apply they system. If it is the favourite team, I think we should cut our losses and equalise as a loss (unless possibly there is a huge amount of time left of the match). So the question comes in how long to wait for the second goal (or deal with the no score draw). I will continue to test within this framework and see if these questions can be answered by looking at odd trends.

## Football Lay Strategy: Test 2

Continuing from the last section I looked to start playing some imaginary bets. The first lesson to learn that only the “bigger” games were allowed for in-play betting by Betfair (For the games I looked at this meant, Premier league, the Championship and the Scottish Premier league. Other Divisions were initially looked at but the in-play option was not available. Lesson 1: if the match will be allowed for in-play betting). The matches were selected if the odds of a draw on Bluesq.com were 3.75 or better and there was a favourite for the match with odds of less than evens. I also looked to see how the odds were affected by when the pre-match bet was placed. Generally it appeared that 30-15minutes prior to the match seemed to get about the right sort of price (this was only a rule of thumb and could use further investigation to maximise profit, but not essential at this stage as we have not yet established a winning system).

The games selected were:

Birmingham City v Coventry City  
Celtic v Dundee United  
Colchester United v Wycombe Wanderers  
Doncaster Rovers v West Ham United  
Fulham v Aston Villa  
Heart of Midlothian v Aberdeen  
Ipswich Town v Hull City  
Leicester City v Reading  
Leyton Orient v Tranmere Rovers  
Liverpool v Sunderland  
St Johnstone v Dunfermline Athletic  
Watford v Derby County

The system did involve refreshing the odds and staying alert to all the matches and odds for the entire duration of the matches. The table below shows the results when betting 100 units per match.

Match	Draw Lay Odds Achieved	Draw Odds (in-play)	Equalising Odds (Lay in-play)	Profit/Loss
Birmingham City v Coventry City	3.5	7	7.6	46.0526316
Celtic v Dundee United	5.9	10.5	12.5	36.8
Colchester United v Wycombe Wanderers	3.85	4	5	3
Doncaster Rovers v West Ham United	3.8	6.6	13.5	20.7407407
Heart of Midlothian v Aberdeen	3.45	11	15	50.3333333
Ipswich Town v Hull City	3.7	4.5	4.6	17.3913043
Leicester City v Reading	3.55	3.85	3.9	7.69230769
Liverpool v Sunderland	4.9	8.4	8.6	40.6976744
Watford v Derby County	4	4.6	5.3	11.3207547

This yields a total profit of 234 units. Notice however that there are some matches missing in the table. For the matches *Leyton Orient v Tranmere Rovers* and *St Johnstone v Dunfermline Athletic* the

non-favourite team was winning right up until the 87<sup>th</sup> minute, and I had to make a decision what to do. I decided to leave the lay-bet how it was. This could have resulted in a loss of 530 units if both games ended in a draw or a profit of 200 units if these teams were still winning at the end of the game. As it was both games ended with no more goals and so the result was +200 units.

The other game that does not appear in the table is *Fulham v Aston Villa*. This game was 0-0 at 87 minutes. I decided that I would cash this in to minimise loss as much as possible. The draw odds at this stage were 1.25. The initial pre-match lay odds were 3.7 giving a loss of 270 units if there is a draw and a profit of 100 units if there is a late goal. If we now bet on a draw at the odds of 1.25 then if the match ends in a draw as it currently stands we only lose:

$$270 - 0.25 \times \text{"Bet amount"}$$

However, if there is a late goal then we lose:

$$\text{"Bet Amount"} - 100$$

We can minimise by making these two expressions equal and solving to give: Bet Amount = 296. I.e. we put this amount on the draw at 1.25 so that any result in the match gives us a total loss of 196 units. (Interestingly the amount can be found easily by,

$$\text{Pre\_Match\_Lay\_Odds} \times \text{Pre\_Match\_Bet\_Amount} \div \text{In\_play\_Draw\_Odds}.$$

The final total for today's test is  $234 + 200 - 196 = 238$  units.

The system appeared to work, however I did have to make the decision to leave the 1-0 matches to play out and try to minimise losses on a draw after we had not been able to place a bet on an increased odds (however it is worth remembering that other matches did end in a draw, but these were score draws where I was able to time it correctly to bet at higher draw odds). More testing required.