Asian Handicap Basics

How to make money betting on football by following this proven, winning professional strategy

© Matthew Walton (August 2014)
Over the next few pages, I'm sticking a mortarboard on my head and stepping-in to teacher mode...

And I hope you'll be a good pupil!

I'm going to start off expecting you know nothing about Asian Handicaps.

If you do know a bit, or have even placed the odd bet in the past, so much the better.

But if you haven't got a clue, don't worry.

As long as you have an open mind, are willing to learn a little bit (and this isn't rocket science by the way), and you're ultimately not afraid to swim against the tide of most UK football punters who are stuck in a rut placing bets where they have no edge, then I'll be giving you a gold star.

So why do Asian Handicaps give you an edge and not bookies?

Before I whizz through the main advantages, let me take a step back and tell you the basic concept.

**Asian Handicaps don't offer you the option of backing the draw.**

So rather than having to choose from three 'standard' types of bet for a football game (home, draw or away), you simply decide which team you think is the best bet on the Asian Handicap - Team A or Team B.

And being football, this handicap is expressed in terms of goals or part of a goal.

So all the different types of Asian Handicap bets which I'll go into more detail about shortly...

- Half Goal Handicaps
- Whole Goal Handicaps
- And Split Handicaps (also known as Split Balls)

... well, they all boil down to exactly the same thing...

A straight win bet (either A to beat B or B to beat A). You don't have to consider the draw. That's **Advantage #1**.

And it works like this...

Say Team A is expected to win a match, they would be given a handicap where they have to concede a certain number of goals. An example might be (\(-1\)) meaning they start off from a goal behind.

So come the end of the match, this (\(-1\)) handicap is applied to the 90-minute score to determine the Asian Handicap result.
If the final scoreline was 2-0, to calculate the position on the handicap, you'd deduct the (-1) goal deficit meaning Team A would have effectively won 1-0.

And if Team A is the favourite, this means their opponents (Team B) must be the underdogs.

Their handicap is the opposite of Team A... so instead of (-1) it's (+1).

And again, it's just a matter of waiting for the final score, applying the handicap and seeing whether they have won.

Simple!

**What's the big deal about removing the draw?**

With the draw as a possible match outcome, bookies have a much bigger profit margin built-in to their 1-X-2 markets.

Margins of around 10% are typical, but take the draw out of the equation, and this 10% plummets to more like 2 or 3%.

That still works out as healthy profits over the course of a season for bookies. But you can see now why bet365 doesn't have Ray Winstone promoting Asian Handicaps when they're giving away around 7% of their advantage.

And this is where you can turn the tables on UK bookies...

Partly because, if you do manage to get involved with The Gibraltar Syndicate, I'll actually be recommending you do most of your Asian Handicap betting elsewhere.

Certainly by betting on Asians, the value will swing dramatically in your favour.

And let me quickly mention a few more benefits.

**Advantage #2**

I'm sure it's happened to you where you fancy Man United, or Arsenal, or Chelsea at home to a weak team, but the odds in the 90 minute markets are ridiculously short.

With Asian Handicaps though, you can end up being able to back heavily odds-on teams at a more acceptable price.

**Advantage #3**

With certain Asian Handicaps, your stakes can even be returned when results don't exactly go your way!

I know. It sounds great. And it's true.

One example happened to Boris and his partners on Thursday, July 17th.

Their bet was in the Europa League...
A £3,000 win bet on **Botev Plovdiv (-1)** to beat **St. Polten (+1)** at odds of **1.9** (or 10/11).

The 90-minute result was a **2-1** win for Plovdiv.

So applying the **(-1)** handicap, the Asian Handicap result came out at **1-1**... a draw.

And a draw on all Asian Handicaps means a void bet with ALL STAKES RETURNED. So **Boris** got his £3k back.

I’ll talk about this again in a minute.

**Advantage #4**

My colleague, **Steve**, has experienced real trouble with British bookies trying to place racing bets, and I've heard so many horror stories of ridiculously low staking restrictions from my other members.

But from what **Boris** has told me...

And my own experience of putting my money on the bets he's passed on to me...

Plus the homework I've already done...

Getting on Asian Handicaps should be a lot easier, especially with the bookies I'll be recommending you open accounts with before you sign-up to **The Gibraltar Syndicate**.

You see...

**High staking limits** and **accepting winning punters with open arms** are common amongst bookies who specialise in Asian Handicaps.

Right, let’s get on with the basics... **Lesson #1** follows...
Lesson #1 - Half Goal Handicaps

I’m going to start off with a real-life example to help you understand.

During the group stages of the World Cup, Boris and his partners had a £4,000 bet on Algeria to beat Russia.

And the Half Goal Asian Handicap, priced up by bet365 read like this...

Russia (-0.5) at odds of 1.975 vs. Algeria (+0.5), also at 1.975.

Let me explain what this all means.

Russia were the favourites to win the match, so they were given a handicap where they had to concede 0.5 of a goal (half a goal).

[I know half a goal sounds odd but bear with me for a second.]

And their price was 1.975 - a shade odds-on.

Algeria, on the other hand, were the underdogs, so on the Asian Handicap they were given a 0.5 goal headstart. Again, at the same odds of 1.975.

Now the final score of the match was 1-1.

So...

Did Boris & Co collect on their £4k Asian handicap bet on Algeria (+0.5) to beat Russia?

Yes, they did. And here’s why...

To settle an Asian Handicap bet, you apply the handicap to the 90-minute score.

You either add it to the team you backed (if, like Algeria, they were given a headstart) or take it away (if, like Russia, they had to concede a handicap).

Boris and his syndicate backed Algeria (+0.5).

So the actual handicap result for settling purposes was...

Russia 1 Algeria 1.5

That's the 1-1 score with the Asian Handicap for Algeria added.

And this meant they pocketed a £3,900 profit.

Does that make sense?

And in case you're wondering, just to complete this example...
Had the bet been on **Russia (-0.5)**, *Boris & Co* would have lost.

Why? Because the adjusted result would have been...

**Russia 0.5 Algeria 1**

0.5 of a goal would have been taken away from Russia's score when the final whistle blew.

Do you get it?

Read it through again if you don't because to start off with, Asian Handicaps can appear awkward to deal with.

They're actually not as you'll quickly start to realise when you become familiar with the format, and the way they're worked out.

*It's just a matter of waiting for the final score, applying the handicap and seeing whether your bet has won.*

And it's also worth noting...

With 0.5 goal handicaps, there can **never** be a draw. There will always be a winner and a loser.

**What about Asian Handicaps of 1.5 or 2.5 goals, how do they work?**

In exactly the same way!

Just apply the handicap (whether a plus or a minus) to the team you've backed when the referee has blown for full-time. And your bet is settled on this *adjusted* result.

Say, for example, the handicap had been...

**Russia (-1.5) vs. Algeria (+1.5)**

Algeria could have lost the match 2-1 and still won on the Asian Handicap. Why? Because the adjusted score would have been...

**Russia 2 Algeria 2.5**

You add the handicap of 1.5 on to Algeria's score (1 + 1.5 = **2.5**).

That's another major advantage of this type of bet. Algeria lost the match but you would still wind up at the payout counter!

Got it?

Right, onto **Lesson #2**...
Lesson #2 - Whole Goal Handicaps

Let me use another bet from Boris to illustrate how Whole Goal Handicaps work.

A few minutes after 8pm on Saturday, July 26th, he sent me a bet his crew were backing in the Columbian Primera League... didn’t I say this was an international betting syndicate!

**Junior (-1) at odds of 1.85 vs. Uniautonoma (+1).**

They’d put £3,000 on Junior (-1).

Now as you already know from Lesson #1...

The team with a minus handicap - in this case, Junior - are the favourites to win, and with this Whole Goal Handicap, they had to concede 1 goal to Uniautonoma (who were the underdogs).

Junior won the match 4-2 meaning Boris & Co yet again collected on one of their 'inside information' South American bets. They won **£2,550**.

Actually...

As a member of The Gibraltar Syndicate, you can expect a decent percentage of the bets advised to you to be in South American leagues or cup competitions.

This is because one of Boris’s key betting partners is based in Chile.

**So why was Junior (-1) a winning bet?**

Well, you know from Lesson #1 that to settle an Asian Handicap bet, you apply the handicap to the 90-minute score.

You either take it away from the favourite (if, like Junior, they had to concede a handicap)... Or you add it to the underdog (if you were backing the underdog - in this case Uniautonoma).

**Boris** and his syndicate backed the favourite **Junior (-1)**.

So the actual handicap result for settling purposes was...

**Junior 3 Uniautonoma 2**

That's the 4-2 score with the Asian Handicap of (-1) deducted for Junior.

**But what if the 90-minute score had been 3-2 to Junior instead of 4-2?**

The adjusted handicap result would then have been...

**Junior 2 Uniautonoma 2**
In other words, a draw.

And it would have meant Boris's syndicate would have got their £3,000 stake back.

Got their cash back?!

Yes, as I said earlier on, when it comes to Asian Handicap betting, if the adjusted result, after the handicap is applied to the 90-minute scoreline is a draw, then your bet is VOID and stakes are returned.

This is yet another plus point about this type of betting.

**Now let me just turn this example on its head**

Say Boris had chosen to back Uniautonoma (+1) instead of Junior.

The final score was 4-2 for Junior so the actual handicap result backing Uniautonoma (+1) would have been...

**Junior 4 Uniautonoma 3**

That's the 4-2 score with the Asian Handicap of (+1) added on for Uniautonoma.

A Uniautonoma (+1) bet would therefore have lost.

For the bet to have won, Uniautonoma would have needed to either...

- Draw the match (0-0, 1-1 or 2-2 etc)
- Or win the game (by a goal or more)

Because in any of these examples, adding on their advantage of a (+1) goal would see them win on the handicap.

**But what if they’d lost by a single goal?**

If the final scoreline had been Junior 2 Uniautonoma 1 and Uniautonoma (+1) had been backed, the actual handicap result would have been...

**Junior 2 Uniautonoma 2** (you've added the (+1) handicap to the goal they actually scored in the game).

So that works out as a draw, meaning a backer would get their money back.

This is where a bit of confusion crops up with Asian Handicaps because whilst it's true what I've already said...

"That you don't have the option of backing a draw"

When Whole Goal Handicaps are applied, the handicap result can turn out to be a draw when the size of the handicap is the same as the margin of victory.

And as you've just seen...
This means you can sometimes back a Whole Goal Handicap bet, you don't lose, and you get your stakes back.

**What about other Whole Goal Handicaps?**

Well, you can have any combination of a whole goal.

That can be \(-2/+2\) or \(-3/+3\) or even \(-4/+4\).

They all work in exactly the same way as I've described in the \((-1)\) and \((+1)\) example above.

I must mention as well...

You can also have a \((0)\) Whole Goal Handicap.

Bookies would use this type of Asian Handicap if two teams were evenly matched.

This bet is exactly the same as 'Draw No Bet' where you're betting without the draw being an option.

If the team you'd backed won the game, you'd obviously win... but if the game ended in a draw, your stakes would be returned.

Hope that all makes sense!

Finally, **Lesson #3**...
Lesson #3 – Split Handicaps

In the previous lessons, I’ve always used actual bets passed on to me from Boris, and it’s no different with your final lesson.

But before I run through a couple of examples, I need to explain a bit more about Split Handicaps (also known as Split Balls… which sounds like an unfortunate playground accident!)

Lesson #1 covered Half Goal Handicaps like -0.5/+0.5, or -1.5/+1.5, or -2.5/+2.5… or any other combination where there is half a goal.

Lesson #2 moved on to Whole Goal Handicaps like 0, or -1/+1, or -2/+2… or other full goal combinations.

So it’s no surprise that Split Handicaps are a combination of the two, sitting in between Half Goal and Whole Goal Handicaps.

-0.25/+0.25, or -0.75/+0.75, or -2.25/+2.25 are all types of Split Handicaps.

This graphic should make it clearer…

Why do bookies offer Split Handicaps?

In certain matches, bookies opinions of the strength of the teams can lie somewhere between Half Goal and Whole Goal Handicaps.

And this is where Split Handicaps come into play, allowing them to fine-tune their handicaps by making them more accurate.

How are Split Handicaps displayed?

There are two different ways you’ll see bookies show them.

Like this… Team A (-0.75) vs. Team B (+0.75).

Or… Team A (-0.5, -1) vs. Team B (+0.5, +1).

If you look at this graphic again…
... you can see 0.75 is the midpoint between 0.5 and 1.

But why do some bookies show, say, -0.75 whilst others go for -0.5, -1?

**Well, these bets from Boris will help to explain**

On April 6th in the Chile Primera Division, Boris's crew put £3,000 on Colo Colo (-0.25) vs. Universidad Chile (+0.25) at 2.02 (a shade over Evens).

Colo Colo (-0.25) is the same as saying Colo Colo (0, -0.5) because in a Split Handicap, there are two parts to the bet, and half your stake goes on each part.

The £3,000 staked on Colo Colo by Boris and his partners worked out as...

£1,500 on Colo Colo (0), and the other £1,500 on Colo Colo (-0.5).

Now Colo Colo won the match 1-0.

So when you apply these handicaps to the 90 minute result, it meant...

On the Colo Colo (0) bet... the actual handicap result was Colo Colo 1 Universidad Chile 0.

And on the second part of the bet - Colo Colo (-0.5)... the actual handicap result was Colo Colo 0.5 Universidad Chile 0.

This meant Boris & Co won on both their bets.

The £1,500 bet on Colo Colo (0) won at 2.02, and so did Colo Colo (-0.5), again paying out at odds of 2.02.

The total winnings of £3,060 based on 2 x £1,500 bets were just the same as placing one £3,000 bet.

**And here's another Split Handicap bet from the World Cup...**

Boris sent me this bet on June 25th...

£3,500 on Nigeria (+1.25) vs. Argentina (-1.25) @ 2.025.

So again, there were two parts to the bet...

Nigeria (+1) and Nigeria (+1.5), which would have been displayed by some bookies as Nigeria (+1, +1.5).

Let's say you'd put £100 on this bet (and not the £3,500 Boris's syndicate did). Half your stake (£50) would have gone on Nigeria (+1), and the other half on Nigeria (+1.5).

Now the final scoreline was Nigeria 2, Argentina 3.

So Nigeria (+1) meant an actual handicap result of 3-3 (that's the 90-minute 2-3 score plus Nigeria's goal start).

As I said in Lesson #2...
Whilst you don't have the option of backing a draw with all Asian Handicaps, the handicap result can turn out to be a draw as you can see above.

And when you get a draw on a handicap, as I said a few times already, you get your stakes returned.

So your £50 on Nigeria (+1) would have been winging its way back to you.

On the other half of your bet - Nigeria (+1.5) - well, the actual handicap result would have been Nigeria 3.5 Argentina 3.

And that would have been a winner. Your other £50 bet would have paid out at odds of 2.025.

This is an example of what I'd call a 'half' winner where you still make a profit.

In this match, you'd have won **£51.25**, which works out as £50 x 2.025 for your Nigeria (+1.5) bet, plus the £50 you'd get back on Nigeria (+1), giving a total return, including your £100 stake, of £151.25 - i.e. a profit of **£51.25**.

Of all the different types of Asian Handicaps we've covered in **Lesson's 1, 2** and this one, it's the Split Handicaps that can make you a bit cross-eyed....

And rather than 'Split Balls', it can feel like you've had a kick in them!

But as I've said all along, don't be put off learning the basics because you'll end up being light years ahead of the majority of UK football punters.
What next?

Hopefully, after reading all the lessons in this guide, you’re now a lot more familiar with how Asian Handicaps work.

If I can give you one piece of advice at this stage, it’s not to be afraid of them like most UK punters seem to be.

They’re making a grave error and I don’t want you to be in the same boat.

I admit...

On the face of it, they appear more complex than standard football bets. But invest a bit of time learning about them with my help in this guide and you’ll be a much more switched on football punter.

But don’t be afraid to spend a bit of time learning about them... as they can reward you with a lifetime of football winnings.

And remember...

Any problems, I’m always on hand by email (matthew@matthewwalton.co.uk) or you can contact me on the phone on 01625 315654 (office) or 07752 768094 (mobile) and I’ll do my best to answer all of your queries.

Kind Regards,

[Signature]

Matthew Walton