

John Henwood***The bookie's view***

Born London W10 in 1948. Mum worked on the Tote, father was in the Army and died when John was 16 months. First memory of greyhound racing was White City when he was 13. Always had an eye for gambling and the sports side and aesthetics of the sport came later. He came to Wimbledon in the late 1960s as a racegoer. Survived betting and so became a bookie 'I wanted to eat'. Started taking bets at school when 13. Racing was big then and winners would be on front page of the Telegraph.

Started off at a Flapping Track at Westerham in Kent. Worked around lots of different courses – Cambridge, Milton Keynes and moved from White City to Wimbledon when White City closed in 1984. There was a designated area for bookies and you were in competition with each other for punters. They would choose bookies for a variety of reasons: betting odds, service, like you, want to win your money!