

Lay the Draw Trading on Betfair: Complete Guide

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Introduction

Lay the Draw (LTD) is one of the best-known Betfair football trading strategies – a favorite among beginners and seasoned traders alike[1][2]. In simple terms, “laying the draw” means betting **against** a football match ending in a draw. Instead of picking a winner, you profit if either team wins the game. This comprehensive guide will walk you through the entire LTD strategy from the ground up. We’ll assume you have a Betfair Exchange account and love football, but no prior trading experience. By the end, you’ll understand how to execute LTD trades, manage your risks, and apply several profitable variations of the strategy. The tone throughout is friendly and down-to-earth – as if a seasoned trader is showing you the ropes, without ever talking down to you.

Who is this guide for? It’s written for football enthusiasts in the UK (or anyone familiar with British football) who want to learn **football trading** on Betfair. Whether you’ve only placed straight bets before or dabbled in Betfair without much success, this eBook will serve as a practical handbook. We’ll cover essential concepts (like what “laying” means, or how odds change when a goal is scored) and then dive into multiple LTD strategies. Everything is backed by data, examples, and proven logic so you can be confident the methods work. Importantly, this guide focuses on real-world application – you’ll also get pointers on useful tools (such as Bet Angel or Geeks Toy) to help make your trading smoother and more profitable.

Before we get into the nitty-gritty, remember that no strategy is a magic bullet. **Lay the Draw is not a “guaranteed win” system** – like all trading, it carries risk. However, with smart match selection, sound risk management, and the strategies you’ll learn here, LTD can produce consistent profits over time. Many full-time traders have used LTD for years as a core part of their income[3]. Let’s start by making sure we understand the basics of Betfair and what it means to lay a bet.

Betfair Exchange Basics & Laying Explained

Betfair is a **betting exchange**, which means you’re betting against other people, not against a traditional bookmaker. On the exchange you can **back** an outcome (bet *for* something to happen, like a team to win) or **lay** an outcome (bet *against* something happening). In an LTD trade, the outcome we bet against is the draw. In other words, we *lay the draw* to start the trade – we’re effectively saying “I think this match will **not** end in a draw.”

If you are new to exchanges, the concept of laying might be unfamiliar, so let’s break it down. When you place a lay bet on the draw, you are offering someone else the chance to back the draw. For example, suppose the draw is at odds of 4.0. If you lay the draw for a £10 stake, you’re staking £10 **against** the draw and **accepting a liability** of £30. That £30 is the amount you stand to lose if the game **does** end as a draw (because at 4.0 odds, a £10 backer would win £30 profit, and you’re covering that). If either team wins, your lay bet wins £10 (minus Betfair commission). Essentially, you get the backer’s stake as your profit since the draw didn’t happen.

It’s crucial to grasp the **liability** concept: when laying, your *stake is not the same as your risk*. Your risk (liability) can be significantly higher than your stake if the odds are high. In our example, laying at 4.0 with £10 stake meant risking £30 to potentially win ~£9.50 (after 5% commission). This risk/reward might sound poor if you treat it as a normal bet. That’s why we approach LTD as a **trade** rather than a simple bet. We are not planning to leave the lay bet open until full-time in most cases. Instead, we will trade out (close the position) after certain events – typically after a goal – to lock in a profit. By doing so, we’re not actually trying to predict the final result, just taking advantage of price movements during the match.

One more exchange basic to know: **hedging or “greening up.”** This is the process of locking in an equal profit on all outcomes. After you lay a bet, if odds move in your favor, you can place an opposite bet (a back bet) to secure profit. Betfair and trading software will often show a green figure when you’ve hedged a profit (hence the term “green up”). We’ll illustrate this with the LTD trades soon.

If any of these concepts – backing vs laying, liability, hedging – are unclear, don’t worry. As we go through an example trade, it will make sense. The key takeaway: Betfair allows us to **act like a bookmaker** by laying bets, and that opens up trading strategies like LTD where we profit from price swings rather than just picking winners.

Why Lay the Draw?

Why focus on laying the draw, of all things? LTD has enduring popularity because of its simplicity and logic. Consider the outcomes of a football match: Team A win, Team B win, or Draw. By laying the draw, you effectively have **two ways to win** (either team wins) and only one way to lose (the match is a draw)[4]. Many matches do not end in a draw – in the English Premier League, historically only about 23% of games finish level[5]. That means roughly 3 out of 4 matches have a winner, which tilts things in our favour from the start. Even across many leagues worldwide, the proportion of draws is around 25-26% on average[6][7]. And crucially, **goalless draws (0-0)** – the nightmare scenario for an LTD trader – are relatively rare. Only about 7-8% of matches end 0-0 in top leagues[8][9]. In other words, over 90% of matches see at least one goal scored. Since one goal is often all we need to secure a profit in LTD, those are encouraging odds!

The beauty of the LTD strategy is that you **don't need to predict which team will win**, just that *someone* will score eventually[10]. For many new traders, this is a relief – you can profit from the game dynamics without having to pick a side. Football is a sport where goals change games, and importantly for us, they also change **odds**. A draw's odds can swing dramatically when a goal is scored, and that volatility is exactly what we aim to capitalize on. Essentially, we're trading the probability of a draw as the match progresses.

Another reason LTD is popular is that it's **beginner-friendly** in execution. The steps are straightforward (lay, wait for goal, then back/hedge), and it typically involves just the main match odds market on Betfair. There's no complex multi-market arbitrage or fancy algorithm – you're trading in a market every football fan understands. Plus, it makes watching games even more exciting: a goal at almost any time is good news for you. Contrast this with some other strategies (like backing Under 2.5 goals, where a goal hurts you) – psychologically, many find LTD more fun and intuitive, since you're essentially rooting for goals.

That said, don't mistake "simple" for "foolproof." There are pitfalls if you use LTD blindly on every match. The **selection of matches** is critical (we'll cover how to choose good games in a later section). And you must have a plan for managing the trade if things don't go perfectly (like if no goal comes, or if the underdog scores first – scenarios we'll also address). With the right approach, LTD can deliver consistent profits, but it requires discipline and sound strategy, not luck or guesswork. Now, let's see exactly how an LTD trade works from start to finish.

How Lay the Draw Trading Works

A basic Lay the Draw trade involves a few simple steps. We'll outline them first, then go into detail:

- **Step 1:** *Lay the draw* at suitable odds (usually before kick-off, or sometimes in-play at a specific moment). This opens your trade with a liability if the match ends in a draw.

- **Step 2:** *Wait for a goal to be scored.* When a goal is scored by either team, the odds on the draw will change significantly.
- **Step 3:** *Back the draw at the new higher price* (after the goal) to lock in profit. The difference between the lay and back odds is your profit margin.
- **Step 4:** *“Green up” across all outcomes.* By hedging, ensure that the profit is spread so that whether it ends home win, away win or even (after you’ve traded out) a draw, you secure a profit (a green figure).

That’s the plan in a nutshell[11]. Let’s walk through a simple example for clarity:

Example: Suppose Team A (home) is playing Team B (away). Team A is a slight favorite. The draw odds at kick-off are 3.5. You have assessed this match as a good candidate (we’ll discuss how you’d decide that later) and you lay the draw with a £10 stake at odds 3.5. Your liability is £25 (meaning if the game somehow ends a draw after 90 minutes, you will lose £25). The match kicks off 0-0. Initially nothing much changes – the odds will slowly drift for the draw as time ticks, but let’s say in the 28th minute, Team A scores to take a 1-0 lead.

What happens to the markets? When that goal goes in, the probability of a draw diminishes (now one team is ahead). So the draw odds **shoot up** – perhaps from around 3.5 to around 6.0, for example. You now place a back bet on the draw at 6.0 with enough stake to cover your liability and secure profit. In this case, backing the draw for about £5.83 at 6.0 would return roughly £29.15 if the match did end a draw. That covers the £25 liability and leaves ~£4.15 profit. If either team goes on to win (which is now the more likely outcome), your lay bet wins £10 (minus commission) while your back bet loses its £5.83 stake – netting about the same ~£4 profit. Essentially, you’ve locked in roughly £4 whichever way the match ends. This “greening up” means you can relax – you’ve exited the trade with a profit long before the final whistle. **You don’t care who wins or if it somehow ends 1-1; you’ve already made your money.**

The above example is a “classic” LTD: one goal, quick profit, low stress. Of course, real trades can be more complex. Sometimes you might wait for two goals if the situation allows, or take action if the wrong team scores first – we’ll explore those cases. But the fundamental idea is always: **Lay the draw, then back the draw at longer odds after a goal.** It’s a real-life illustration of “buy low, sell high” – we’re effectively selling the draw (laying) when its price is low, and buying it (backing) when the price is high after a goal[12][13].

It’s important to execute Step 3 swiftly. When a goal is scored, Betfair will suspend the market for a few seconds (to prevent trading during the goal event). Once it re-opens, the odds will have shifted. A common beginner mistake is hesitating at this moment. You should already have an idea of your exit plan; typically, you’ll place the back bet as soon as reasonable odds are available after the goal. Using one-click trading software (or even Betfair’s own interface “Cash Out” button) can help ensure you get the trade closed efficiently. We’ll talk more about tools that can assist in the execution shortly.

Now that you know the mechanics, let's delve into how and why the odds move the way they do, and what happens in less-than-ideal scenarios. Understanding the market principles will make you a more confident LTD trader.

Market Principles

Goals and Odds Movement: When a goal is scored in football, it has a drastic effect on the match odds for each outcome. If Team A scores to go 1-0 up, the odds on Team A (to win) will drop sharply because they are now more likely to win. The odds on Team B (to win) will lengthen a lot, as they now need to come from behind. And importantly for us, the odds on the draw will **rise** (sometimes dramatically), since a draw requires Team B to equalise. The draw has effectively gone from the "starting position" (0-0) to a losing position (someone is leading), so the market reassesses the chance of a draw much lower[14].

Figure: Example Betfair price chart showing the draw odds (yellow line) and team odds reacting to goals. Each spike in the draw price corresponds to a goal being scored. Here, Team A scored two goals, causing the draw odds to soar both times – which illustrates the profit potential for a lay-the-draw trader[15].

In the figure above, notice how **each goal caused a huge jump in the draw's odds**. If you had laid the draw before those goals, you could back at the higher odds after and lock in a tidy profit. This cause-and-effect between goals and price is the cornerstone of LTD trading[16]. As traders, we don't particularly care which team scores – any goal is good news. (The size of the odds movement, however, can depend on who scores and when. More on that in a moment.)

Time Decay: The other factor influencing odds is time. As the clock ticks with no goals, the probability of a draw gradually increases (a 0-0 draw becomes more plausible, or a 1-1 if both might score one each). So the draw odds will **shorten** the longer a match stays level. For example, a draw that was 4.0 at kick-off might be 3.2 by halftime if it's still 0-0, and could drop below 2.0 by the 75th minute if no goals occur. This means if you lay the draw and there are no goals for a long time, your position worsens – the draw price is going down, so you'd have to back at a lower price (i.e. take a loss) to exit. This is why timing and match selection are important; we want games where a goal is likely before the draw odds shorten too much.

Who Scores Matters: If the **favourite team scores first**, it's usually ideal. The draw odds typically shoot up a lot because the match is expected to now go in the favourite's favor (making a draw less likely). If the **underdog scores first**, the draw odds may still rise, but in some cases not by as much – or they might even dip initially in very lopsided matches. Why? Because if a big underdog leads 0-1 early, the market might think a draw is now *more likely* than before (the stronger team might equalise later). In a match with a heavy odds-on favorite, a goal by the underdog can increase draw probability, thus sometimes the draw odds shorten slightly or don't drift much[17]. For example, if a top team like Manchester City is 1.5 to win and a huge underdog scores first in minute 10, the draw odds might momentarily drop because now a 1-1 draw has become quite plausible. In such cases, an

immediate profit from LTD would not materialize unless the favorite scores next. A key lesson is that **entry timing** can account for this: some traders avoid laying at kick-off in games with a very strong favorite, and instead wait until halftime if it's 0-0 (we'll discuss this strategy). By halftime, if the game is still goalless, a goal by either side in the second half tends to push the draw odds up enough to profit[18], because time is shorter and any lead is more significant.

Estimating Price Moves: With experience, you start developing a feel for how far odds will move after a goal. Two factors largely determine the post-goal draw odds: the **current match odds** (how strong the teams are perceived) and **time remaining**. Early goals cause bigger swings because there's plenty of time left for comebacks. Late goals (e.g. an 85th-minute goal) might hardly give you a chance to trade if it nearly settles the outcome. If maths is your thing, you can learn to approximate odds using formulas or models. But thankfully, trading software can help here – for instance, Bet Angel's software has a feature to display **predicted odds after a goal** for the draw, in real time[19]. This means you can see on your screen what the draw price would roughly become if the home team scores next, or if the away team scores next, given the current state of the match. This tool is incredibly useful for LTD, as it takes the guesswork out. You'll always have an idea of the potential upside (and downside) of a goal at that moment. We'll touch more on tools later, but it's worth noting how they can help quantify things that otherwise come only with experience.

Putting it together: As an LTD trader, you want to be in the market during periods when a goal is likely to happen before the draw odds shrink too much. And you want to be out (either with a profit or a controlled loss) before the risk of a draw result becomes too high. The good news is, football matches statistically tend to see goals. Even if a game is 0-0 at halftime, about 74% of those matches will have at least one goal in the second half[9]. However, the longer a game stays 0-0 into the late second half, the more the odds of a goal diminish rapidly. One analysis showed that if a match is still 0-0 at 75 minutes, there's only about a 19% chance of *any* goal being scored in the final 15 minutes[20]. This highlights why an LTD trader should not “hope indefinitely” for a late goal – by around 70-75 minutes, if you're still in a 0-0 trade, it's usually wise to cut your losses (because the odds are heavily stacked against a goal after that point). We'll cover concrete exit strategies in the risk management section.

Next, let's talk about getting prepared to trade – from ensuring you have the right tools, to planning your stakes and knowing your risk limits.

Preparation & Tools

Getting Your Setup Ready: At minimum, you'll need a Betfair Exchange account with some funds, and a device (computer or tablet) to place trades. While you *can* execute LTD trades on the standard Betfair website or mobile app, many traders prefer to use **specialist trading software**. Two of the most popular choices are **Bet Angel** and **Geeks Toy**, which are third-party applications that connect to Betfair. These tools provide

advanced interfaces (like one-click “ladder” trading views), faster updates, and automation features that are very handy for active trading.

Why use trading software? For one, speed and convenience. When that goal is scored and you want to lock in profit, software can have a preset one-click “green up” button – no need to manually calculate stakes. You also get a clear view of the market depth, which helps ensure your bets get matched quickly at the price you expect. Additionally, software often offers features tailored for strategies like LTD. For example, Bet Angel can display the **predicted draw odds after a goal** on your ladder interface, updating continuously as the match progresses[21][22]. This lets you plan your trade: you might see that if the home team scores next, the draw odds would jump from 3.0 to ~6.4, whereas if the away team scores, it would only rise to ~3.8[23]. Such insight can inform whether you enter now or wait. Geeks Toy, likewise, is known for its highly customizable interface and speed, and is one of the most widely used trading softwares among Betfair traders[24].

Most trading software offers a free trial or a basic free version. Bet Angel has a basic free mode and a paid “Professional” version; Geeks Toy typically works on a subscription or one-time fee but with trial periods. If you’re serious about trading, it’s worth trying these out. However, if you’re just starting and don’t want to jump into new software immediately, you can practice LTD using Betfair’s website. Betfair itself provides a “Cash Out” feature that essentially hedges your position for you – though be cautious, as the prices used for Cash Out might not always be optimal. Many traders prefer manual control or custom automation from software.

Using Practice Mode / Small Stakes: Before risking real money, get comfortable with the trading process. Betfair doesn’t have an official practice mode, but some software (like Bet Angel and others) have training modes or you could use very small stakes (e.g. £2 lay stakes) to simulate trades with minimal cost. This is highly recommended until you’re confident in executing the entry and exit without mistakes. Remember, when trading, timing matters – fumbling with placing a bet after a goal can turn a winning trade into a missed opportunity or even a loss if the odds move further while you delay.

Tools for Analysis: Apart from execution tools, have resources ready for match analysis. Websites like **Soccerway** or **SoccerStats** provide a wealth of statistics (recent form, goals scored/conceded, head-to-head records, etc.) which you’ll use to filter matches for LTD[25][26]. There are also dedicated trading stats sites (some paid services) which compile data like average goal times, percentage of matches that end 0-0, etc. You don’t necessarily need paid tools when starting; free sites and a bit of your own analysis go a long way.

Environment: Also consider your trading environment. If you plan to trade matches live, ensure you have a stable internet connection. It’s nerve-wracking trying to close a trade and having your Wi-Fi drop! Some traders even use VPS (Virtual Private Servers) or cloud servers to run their trading software for stability and speed, though that’s more an advanced setup. For most, a decent home broadband and a computer is fine.

In summary, while you can begin with just Betfair's site, using trading software like Bet Angel or Geeks Toy is highly beneficial for LTD. They give you speed, insight (like showing predicted post-goal odds), and efficient execution (one-click hedging), which can make the difference in tight situations. Now that your tools are ready, let's discuss how to protect your bankroll and handle the risks that come with LTD.

Risk Management

Like any trading strategy, LTD has risks. The two main risk scenarios are: **a) no goal is scored for a long time (or at all)**, and **b) the "wrong" sequence of scoring (like an underdog goal in a skewed match) reduces your profit potential or causes a loss**. Good risk management will prepare you for these situations so that one bad match doesn't wipe out many wins.

Bankroll & Staking: First, decide on a sensible stake relative to your bankroll. A common guideline is to risk only a small percentage of your total bank on any one trade – often 1-2%. Remember, when you lay the draw, the money at risk is the liability, not your lay stake. For instance, if you have a £500 bank, 2% risk is £10. That £10 could be your **potential loss** on a trade. If you lay at odds that imply £10 loss, that means the liability should be £10 (not the stake necessarily). For example, laying at 4.0, a £3.33 stake has ~£10 liability. Many traders actually think in terms of liability staking for LTD: e.g., "I risk 2% of my bank per trade." Using small, fixed liabilities helps ensure you can survive a run of adverse results. Losing trades will happen – perhaps a couple of 0-0s in a week – and you want to be able to absorb them without emotional stress.

Stop Loss Strategy: Because the draw odds shorten over time if no goal, you should decide at what point you'll cut your losses if the game remains 0-0. There is no single "right" answer, but a common approach is to set a time-based stop, like "if no goal by 60 minutes (or 65' or 70'), I will exit the trade for a loss." By that time, the draw odds might have dropped significantly from your entry, meaning you'd back the draw at a lower price than you laid (locking in a loss). Yes, it hurts to take a loss, but it's important to **limit your losses**. The alternative – staying in hoping for a very late goal – is statistically a poor choice. As noted earlier, once you're into the final 15-20 minutes, the probability of a goal becomes quite low[20]. And if you stay until full-time and it ends 0-0, you lose your full liability. It only takes one or two full-liability losses to wipe out many small wins. So decide your pain threshold. Many LTD practitioners choose somewhere around 65-75 minutes as the latest to stay in if it's still draw and not looking lively.

Another angle is an **odds-based stop loss**. For example, you lay at 3.5; you might decide if the draw odds fall to 2.0 (meaning the match has stayed 0-0 long enough that draw is now quite likely), you exit. Trading software can even place an automatic stop trigger at a certain odds level if you want. But even without automation, have a number in mind or keep an eye on the match progress to judge when the value of staying in is gone.

After a Goal – Don't Get Greedy or Slack: Suppose a goal is scored and you're in a winning position. How you manage it is also key. The safest approach (especially for

beginners) is to immediately green up – take the profit and be done. This prevents scenarios like an equaliser happening while you were still “hoping for another goal” and turning your win into a loss. There is an allure to “letting it run” for a second goal to make an even bigger profit, and that can be a strategy for advanced traders (we’ll discuss that in Advanced Techniques). But always remember: a profit not banked can disappear with the next twist in the match. If you do stay in after a goal, consider at least partially hedging – for instance, secure your initial stake as profit, and only leave some profit riding.

Dealing with Underdog Goals: If you laid the draw from kick-off and the underdog scores first, what should you do? This is a tricky spot that tests emotional control. One option is **Immediate Exit** – just accept a loss and close the trade as soon as the market stabilises[27][28]. There’s no shame in cutting out early; in fact it’s often the smartest move for newcomers. Your initial strategy was upset by an unexpected goal, so bow out and preserve capital for the next trade. Option two is **“Wait and See”** – you hold the position a bit longer to see if the favourite can respond quickly[29]. Since you laid the draw, the match is not a draw at the moment (it’s 0-1), so technically you’re not losing yet. If the favourite equalises to 1-1, the draw is back on and you might then exit at a smaller loss or break-even (depending on timing). However, waiting comes with a warning: don’t wait too long. If you reach the final 20-30 minutes with the underdog still leading 0-1, the draw odds might actually be lower than your lay price (especially in a one-sided match)[30]. A late 1-1 could then drop the odds below your entry, meaning a bigger loss. Many experienced traders advise never to let an underdog-led trade run much past halftime without a goal from the favourite[30]. Either the favourite pulls one back by then or you cut your losses. This way you avoid the scenario where an equaliser in the 80th minute still leaves you in the red.

Managing Emotions: Psychological discipline is huge in trading. It’s easy to get anxious watching the clock tick on a 0-0 at 60’, or to get greedy after a goal. Stick to your plan. If your plan says “exit at 65’ if no goal,” do it. Don’t suddenly convince yourself to push the limit because “the game looks like a goal is coming any second.” By that point, the market odds already reflect the likelihood of a late goal. Accept that you can’t win on every trade. Taking a small, controlled loss is a normal part of the business. What you want to avoid are **big** losses that come from hesitation or abandoning your strategy. Likewise, avoid “revenge trading” – if you do have a loss, don’t immediately jump into another random match out of frustration to try and win it back[31]. Take a breath, review what happened, and stick to your proven criteria for the next trade.

Insurance Bets (Yes or No?): Some traders consider hedging their LTD position with a small bet on the 0-0 correct score. For example, you might back 0-0 with a tiny stake such that if the match ends 0-0, that win covers your lay liability. This way, a goalless draw doesn’t hurt you. While this sounds nice, be careful: that “insurance” comes at a cost. The money you put on 0-0 is effectively lost in all the matches where a goal *does* occur (which is most matches). That reduces your net profit. If your strike rate of finding matches with goals is high, buying insurance every time will actually drag down your earnings[32]. The author of one LTD guide mentions he doesn’t take insurance because it just costs green

(profit) to save a bit of red, and over time it wasn't worth it[32][33]. Additionally, some people then start insuring other scores like 1-1, 2-2 (covering the scenario of a draw with goals), and before long you've eaten up most of your potential profit in hedges[34][35]. The bottom line: insurance bets are optional. They can psychologically reassure you, but mathematically they often reduce the edge. If you do use an insurance (like backing 0-0), use a minimal amount – just enough to soften a blow, not to make the trade completely risk-free (or there'd be no reward). As you gain experience, you'll likely find that careful match selection is a better “insurance” – trust your process to avoid 0-0s rather than paying for extra bets every time.

In summary, risk management for LTD means: use stakes that won't cripple your bankroll, have a clear exit plan for no-goal situations, be decisive and disciplined in following that plan, and avoid emotional decision-making. Now, let's focus on how to find the **right matches** for laying the draw – this is arguably the most important factor in making the strategy successful.

Match Selection with Stats

Not every football match is suitable for a Lay the Draw strategy. In fact, smart **selection criteria** will make the difference between consistent profits and random, risky gambling. The goal is to filter for matches that have a high likelihood of a goal (or multiple goals) and ideally where a draw is an unlikely final result. Here's how to approach it:

Initial Shortlisting by Odds: A quick way to sift through matches on a given day is by using the Betfair match odds **in-play coupon** (the list of games and their odds). Look for matches where the draw odds are in a “Goldilocks zone” – not too low, not too high. A common range is roughly **3.0 to 5.0** for the draw odds pre-kickoff[36]. If the draw odds are very low (say 2.5 or below), the market expects a tight game (perhaps two very evenly matched teams or low-scoring teams). Those games might end up 0-0 or 1-1, which isn't great for LTD. If the draw odds are very high (6.0+), that indicates a mismatch (a huge favorite vs a weak opponent). While mismatches can be good (because an underdog rarely draws a giant, usually they lose), the high draw odds mean high liability for you. Also, as discussed, if the underdog scores first in a mismatch, the draw odds movement might not favor you much. So ideally we look for moderately priced draws. Often, these are games where there is a clear favorite but not an extreme one (e.g., home win odds maybe 1.7 to 2.0, away win 4.0+, draw around 3.5-4.0). Also, as a quick rule, prefer games where the **home team is the favourite**[37]. Home advantage often means the home side will push for a win rather than settle for a draw, and it also aligns with typical patterns (away underdogs often play for a draw, which we'd like to avoid if possible).

Scanning the day's fixtures for draw 3.2–5.0 and home favs might give you a shortlist of, say, 5-10 matches that fit those basic odds criteria on a busy Saturday[36][38]. But we're not done – many of those should be eliminated after deeper research.

Statistical Analysis – Deeper Dive: For each shortlisted match, examine team stats and recent form. Great resources for this are free sites like Soccerway or Soccerstats[25]. Key things to look at:

- **Goals Scoring Record:** Do the teams score and concede goals regularly? Ideally, the home team should have a strong scoring average, e.g. scoring over 1.5 goals per game on average (especially at home)[39]. The away team should preferably have a weaker attack (scoring less often) and/or a leaky defense (conceding often)[39]. For example, one expert's basic filter: Home team scores ≥ 1.5 goals/game (and preferably concedes < 1.0 at home), away team scores < 1.2 goals/game and concedes > 1.5 goals/game[39]. This paints a picture of a likely home win with goals.
- **Recent Form & Motivation:** Check the recent 5-6 games of each team. Are they involved in high-scoring matches or a lot of stalemates? If a team has several 0-0 or 1-1 draws lately, maybe avoid. Also consider situational factors: is it a cup tie where a draw might lead to extra time? (Those can behave differently – often cautious – so many avoid cup games or only trade first 90 mins with caution). Is it end of season where a draw might benefit both (like both teams only need a draw to achieve something)? Such matches can be cagey – best avoid.
- **Head-to-Head History:** It can be insightful to see if these teams often draw with each other. Some teams just matchup in a way that produces stalemates. If you find that the last 4 meetings were draws, you might think twice (unless other factors strongly differ now). As a rule, if head-to-head shows frequent draws, scratch that match off your list[40][41].
- **League Characteristics:** Some leagues are more draw-prone or low-scoring (e.g., historically, top French and Italian leagues have had more 0-0's than, say, German or Dutch leagues). If you're new, you might focus on leagues you know well and that are generally high-scoring (English Premier League, Championship, Bundesliga, Dutch Eredivisie, etc.). That said, the English Premier League itself has around 23-26% draws historically[5][6] – it's not immune to draws, but goals are common. Always treat each match on its own merits too; even in high-scoring leagues, there are defensive teams.
- **In-Play Stats (for live selection):** If you don't enter at kick-off and are considering entering at halftime or later (some strategies do this), you should check the in-play stats (shots, chances, pressure) to ensure the game is lively. There's no point laying the draw at HT if it's been a boring 0-0 with no shots on target; that could be headed for a drab goalless draw. But if it's 0-0 and both sides have hit the post and missed big chances, that's a different story – a goal may be coming.

To illustrate, let's say you shortlisted a match where the draw was 3.6. On analysis: Home team is 3rd in the league, scoring 2 goals per game at home, rarely fails to score, and has a solid defense. Away team is 15th, averaging 0.8 goals away, conceding 1.6 away. The home

team wins most of their home matches. This scenario sounds promising: likely the home side wins with a good chance they score once or twice. This would qualify as a strong LTD candidate under many systems (the stats indicate that a draw is relatively unlikely)[39][42]. On the other hand, if you found a match where both teams score only 1.0 goals per game and often draw, skip that – LTD thrives on goals, not the lack thereof.

It's worth compiling a **checklist or template** for yourself when researching games. For instance: - Home favorite? (Yes/No) - Draw odds 3.0–5.0? (Yes/No) - Home avg goals scored? - Away avg goals scored? - Home clean sheet % and Away clean sheet % (to gauge how often they keep 0-0 at half, etc.) - Head-to-head recent draws? - Any key players missing (like if the home team's top striker is out injured, maybe they'll struggle to score)? - etc.

By being thorough with stats, you “stack the deck” in your favor[43]. It's about creating a high-probability scenario: you want to enter trades where, say, you estimate maybe a 75-80% chance at least one goal will happen in the first half or by early second half. That way, your strike rate (the percentage of winning trades) will be high. A high strike rate allows you to absorb the occasional 0-0 or bad result and still come out ahead.

In practice, you won't get everything perfect – surprise 0-0s happen even in great-looking fixtures. But if you're diligent, you might find that, for example, out of 10 carefully selected games, 8 or 9 produce the goal you need. That could translate to 7-8 profitable trades (some games might require scratch or small loss if goal timing wasn't ideal), and 1-2 losing trades. With sensible staking, that's a recipe for gradual profit growth.

Now that we know how to pick our battles, let's move on to executing specific LTD strategies. We'll start with the classic approach of entering at kick-off.

Strategy 1: Classic Lay the Draw (Kick-Off Entry)

The **Classic LTD** is the scenario we've mostly been discussing so far – you lay the draw before the match starts (or right at kick-off) and aim to trade out after the first goal. This approach is straightforward and is often the first method new traders learn.

When to Enter: Typically just before the match begins. You place a lay on the draw at the current market price. Some traders prefer to wait a few minutes into the game (5-10 minutes) to see how the teams are lining up and also to get slightly lower draw odds (draw price will tick down a bit if no early goal). However, waiting carries the risk you might miss an early goal entirely. As a beginner, entering at kick-off is fine – you have your plan set from the start.

When to Exit: As soon as a goal is scored by either team, and the market reopens with new odds, you execute the back bet on the draw to lock profit. Usually, within seconds of the goal you should be hedged. This will give you a green (profit) on both the home and away outcomes, and zero (break-even) on the draw outcome (or sometimes a small profit on all three outcomes if you click the “green all” button). Why break-even on the draw? Because

if a draw ultimately happens after 1-1 or 2-2, you didn't win the original bet, but your back bet won – so they cancel out to roughly nil (minus any small difference). That's okay, since our intention was never to win money if it ends a draw; we wanted to profit from the process of odds movement. In practice, you might leave a tiny profit on the draw too, which is fine.

If the Goal is Early vs Late: The timing of the first goal affects your profit size. An early goal (say in first 15 minutes) will cause a big swing – you'll usually make a larger percentage profit (relative to your stake/liability) because there was plenty of time left and the odds on the draw were hit hard. A later first goal (say just after half-time) will still move the odds, but less dramatically, because half the match is gone. You might still profit, but the amount could be smaller, or you may even decide to just exit at a very small profit or scratch trade (no profit, no loss) if the odds movement wasn't huge. Generally, any goal up to around 60-65 minutes should allow at least some profit if you entered at kick-off. After that, if it's still 0-0 and a goal comes at, say, 80 minutes, the draw odds might jump only a little (since a draw can still happen with a late equaliser and very little time, or the 1-0 may just hold). In those cases, you might not get a good profit opportunity. This again underscores why we often exit by 70' if no goal – the upside diminishes as well.

Dealing with No Early Goal: If it's creeping towards the 60th minute and still 0-0, you need to think about exiting to cap your loss. For example, perhaps you laid at 3.8 and by 60' the draw is 2.2. If you back at 2.2, you lock in a loss – maybe you lose about 40-50% of your stake. It's unpleasant, but much better than waiting till 90' and losing 100%. Sometimes, if the match is extremely lively (say multiple shots and near misses), a trader might hang on a bit longer than their planned exit because they sense a goal is imminent. That's a judgement call – just remember the stats: after 75' without a goal, probability is low[20]. It's better to take a managed loss at 65-70' than risk the full hit.

Real-World Example (Classic LTD): Let's illustrate with a hypothetical match: Liverpool vs West Ham at Anfield. Liverpool is the favourite. Draw odds at KO are 3.6. You lay £10 on the draw at 3.6 (liability £26). The game goes on and Liverpool scores in the 25th minute, making it 1-0. The draw odds jump to, say, 6.0. You back the draw for £6.20 at 6.0 (roughly — we're estimating). This returns £31.0 if the draw happens. That covers your £26 liability and leaves £5 profit. If the match ends with a winner (Liverpool wins or West Ham comeback and wins), your lay bet wins £10 (profit) while your back bet loses £6.20, netting ~£3.80 profit (after commission it'll be a bit less). If the match somehow ends a draw (say 1-1 or 2-2), your lay bet loses £26 but your back bet wins £24.8 profit (at 6.0 odds, minus commission), netting about -£1.2 loss. In practice, you'd adjust stakes to equalise so it's roughly +£4 on all outcomes or +£4 on win outcomes and £0 on draw. The exact numbers don't matter as much as the concept: after that first goal, you secure profit.

Pros and Cons: The classic method is straightforward and usually yields frequent small wins. However, one downside is that by entering from the start, you're exposed to the full period where no goal could happen (i.e., the entire first half potentially). Some traders find that a lot of matches are still 0-0 at half-time, meaning you have to sit through a long

drawdown in price and possibly exit. This leads to Strategy 2 (next) where one enters later to avoid that scenario. But the benefit of entering at KO is you catch those early goals that some matches have, and you're positioned to profit from any goal that comes.

Avoiding Early Red Cards or Unusual Events: Just a tip – if you're watching the match or monitoring, an early red card (especially if it's to the favorite team) can mess up an LTD trade. A red card can lower the chance of goals and change team dynamics. If, say, the home favorite gets a man sent off at 20', you might consider exiting the trade, even if it's 0-0, because the premise of the match has changed (maybe now the underdog is happy with a draw). Similarly, extreme weather or other interruptions, if you become aware of them, could be reasons to reassess. These are rare but be mindful.

By and large, Classic LTD is a great starting strategy: one lay, one back, job done. Now, let's explore a different timing for LTD that some traders prefer – entering at half-time.

Strategy 2: Second Half LTD (Half-Time Entry)

This strategy involves joining the action at the half-time interval, but **only if the match is still drawn at half-time** (commonly 0-0, or sometimes 1-1). The idea is that by the break you have more information about the game (how it's being played, whether it's open or tight), and importantly the draw odds will be lower (because half the match has gone with it still level). Lower odds to lay means smaller liability, which is attractive. Essentially, you're compressing the trade into the second half.

When to Enter: At half-time, if the score is 0-0 (or potentially 1-1 or 2-2, but 0-0 is the usual scenario for this strategy). Check the draw odds at HT – for a 0-0, they might be in the 2.0 to 2.8 range depending on how favored one team was initially. For example, if it was fairly balanced match pre-game, 0-0 HT might see draw around 2.2. If one team was a big favorite but hasn't scored, draw might be a bit higher or lower depending on the perceived second-half situation. You lay the draw at HT. Since it's halftime, you have a few minutes while the market is unsuspended to get your bet in (the match odds market is usually live during halftime).

Rationale: Why do this? A few reasons: - The price is **compressed** (lower) at HT, so your liability is much less for the same stake, or conversely you could stake a bit more and still not risk as much as a pre-match lay. For example, laying at 2.5 odds with £10 stake risks £15 (versus if you had laid at 4.0 pre-match, risk £30). Lower risk can be appealing, especially if you are more risk-averse. - Often by halftime, teams will adjust tactics if they need a result. A strong favorite drawing 0-0 at HT in front of home fans will likely come out pushing hard for a goal in second half. There's "pressure to score." Anecdotally, many traders find the period right after halftime (45-60') is ripe for goals as teams come out fresh with new instructions[44]. In fact, data shows if a goal is scored in second half, on average it tends to come around the 64th minute[45], with a large portion scored in the 46'-75' window. So by entering at HT, you align with that common pattern. - If the match was quiet first half, you might skip it (so you only enter those 0-0 HT games where you have reason to believe a goal will come – perhaps lots of chances were created but not converted). You

have the benefit of **filtering** in-play. You might say “out of 5 games that are 0-0 at HT, I will only trade the one or two where the stats show there should have been goals.”

Exit Strategy: Once in, treat it similarly: exit when a goal occurs. Because you entered later at a low lay price, the profit from a goal might not be huge in absolute terms, but often still a good return on your risk. Example: You lay at 2.2 for £10 (liability £12). If a goal is scored at 60', the draw might jump to, say, 4.0. Backing the draw at 4.0 for ~£5.5 would secure roughly £5.5 profit (minus commission). That's nearly 50% yield on your £12 risk in 15 minutes of play – not bad. If the goal comes later, say 70', maybe draw goes from 1.8 to 3.2 and you get a smaller profit. If no goal by, say, 70-75', you might again decide to cut out. The difference is if you exit at 75' 0-0, the draw odds might be like 1.6 or 1.5, so you'd be taking a loss for sure. But your loss would be smaller in size because the odds difference isn't as large as in a full match scenario.

Covering 1-1 at HT: Sometimes traders use second-half LTD if it's 1-1 at halftime in a game expected to be high scoring. If two goals came early, a third goal in second half could still bust the draw. But caution: a game that's 1-1 at HT often has draw odds maybe around 3.0 (because 1-1 is a more “balanced” scenario – both teams have scored). It could go on to 2-2 final easily if they score one each again. So 1-1 HT trading is a bit more advanced and not as clear cut. A 0-0 at HT is easier to think about: any goal will break the draw and likely you profit as long as it's not extremely late. For this guide, let's focus on 0-0 HT as the primary second-half trade scenario.

Real Example (Second Half LTD): Imagine a match: Arsenal vs Burnley. Arsenal was strong favorite but at halftime it's 0-0. Perhaps Arsenal had chances but couldn't score. Draw odds at HT are now 2.4. You lay the draw for £20 (feeling confident Arsenal will push hard – you risk £28). Early in the second half, at 55', Arsenal finally scores for 1-0. The draw odds jump from 2.4 to maybe ~4.5. You back the draw for about £10.70 at 4.5. This would yield ~£38.45 if draw (covering the £28 liability, leaving ~£10.5 profit which spread across outcomes after hedging might be ~£10 all outcomes). If Arsenal goes on to win, your lay wins £20, your back loses £10.7, net ~£9.3 profit. If somehow Burnley equalised later and it ended a draw 1-1, your back bet would win ~£38 (profit £27.3 after returning stake), your lay loses £28, net about -£0.7 (roughly break even). So again, profit if win, small scratch if draw happened.

If no goal had come by, say, 75', you might back the draw at perhaps 1.5 for, say, £32 to exit, resulting in maybe a £12 loss (since you layed for £28 liability, backing at 1.5 costs a bit more than half the liability). That's the trade-off: smaller liability but also smaller window of time.

Pros and Cons: Second half LTD gives you that nice lower liability and potentially higher % returns. It also means you skip the often goal-less first half in many matches, saving yourself stress. However, you will also **miss out on some trades** – any game where a goal is scored in the first half, the classic LTD traders already profited, while you never got in (because it wasn't 0-0 at HT). So you might have fewer opportunities on a given day. Also, if

a game is 0-0 at HT because it's truly dull, then you shouldn't enter anyway – which further reduces trades, but that's a good filter.

One more nuance: When you lay at HT, you have less time for something to happen (only 45 minutes). If it remains 0-0 until full-time, you lose. So you need confidence that second-half goals will come. As mentioned, statistically about 74% of 0-0 HT games see a goal in second half[9]. But it's not uniform across leagues; some leagues (like France Ligue 1 in that stat set) had a higher incidence of staying 0-0[46]. Use judgement and maybe focus on leagues/teams known for second-half action.

Pro Tip: Sometimes traders look at the **in-play odds for Over/Under goals** to gauge the market's expectation at half-time. For instance, at 0-0 HT, what are the odds for Over 0.5 goals (at least 1 goal in the game)? If that is like 1.30, it implies a high probability that at least one goal will come (about 77%). If it's 1.50, that's a lower implied probability (~66%). These can inform how confident the market (and you) might be. Similarly, if Over 1.5 goals is still odds-on at HT, it suggests expectation of possibly 2 goals in second half, which is encouraging for LTD (because at least one goal likely and maybe another to allow profit even if first equalises).

In summary, second-half LTD is a more focused approach: less time in the market, lower liability, but requiring careful selection of which 0-0 games to trade. It's a great tool in your arsenal for days where you have patience to wait and cherry-pick the best opportunities after seeing first-half performance.

Strategy 3: In-Play LTD After a Goal (Underdog Lead Scenario)

This strategy is a more advanced or opportunistic play. It involves entering a lay-the-draw trade **after the match has already seen a goal**, particularly when that goal creates a favorable setup for an LTD trade. The most common scenario is when an **underdog scores first against a strong favourite**. This might sound counter-intuitive – why would you lay the draw after a goal has happened? Let's unpack it.

The Scenario: A strong team (Team A) is playing a weaker team (Team B). Team A was heavily favored, but Team B scores first, say in the first 20 minutes, making it 0-1. Because Team A is so strong (and now desperate to catch up), you expect them to press for an equaliser and possibly go on to win. At the moment it's 0-1, the match odds draw price might actually be relatively low or not as high as it would be if roles were reversed. A draw is suddenly quite plausible (Team A might equalise to 1-1 eventually). However, as a trader, you anticipate further twists: maybe Team A will indeed score to make it 1-1 (pushing the draw odds up again), or even 2-1 (making draw odds shoot up even more). By laying the draw at 0-1, you position yourself to profit if Team A comes back.

Why It Can Work: In our scenario, at 0-1 the draw odds might be, say, 3.0 (despite one goal being scored, draw is now "on" as a possible outcome). If Team A equalises to 1-1, that is actually a goal that *restores* the draw at that moment. Interestingly, the draw odds often will jump **higher** at 1-1 than they were at 0-1, especially if there's ample time left and

Team A has momentum. For example, at 0-1 maybe draw was 3.0; when it becomes 1-1 at 60', the draw might go to 3.5 or 4.0 because now either team could still get a winner, but at least you got the volatility of the equalising goal. If Team A then scores again for 2-1, the draw odds will jump very high (like 10 or more) since Team A leads late. As an LTD trader, if you laid the draw at 3.0 during 0-1, you could take profit at 1-1 or certainly by 2-1.

Example: The UKFootballTrading blog gave an example of Atletico Madrid (strong team) vs Levante (weaker). Levante scored early to go 0-1[47]. The draw odds became quite low due to the shock lead. The trader laid the draw at 0-1 (which he rarely does, but made an exception because Atletico was so heavily fancied)[48]. He anticipated Atletico would equalise (which would push the draw odds up) or even take the lead. Indeed, Atletico scored to make it 1-1, then 2-1. After the 2-1, the draw odds had ballooned, and he could lock in a big profit[49]. Interestingly, in that story, the underdog scored again to make it 2-2, and the trader even entered again (laid the draw at 2-2, with some profit already banked, expecting a 3-2)[50][51]. Eventually the match ended 3-2, so all those lays paid off. It was an unorthodox trade sequence, but it shows the idea of using the market's "shock" to your advantage[52].

How to Execute: This is not a preset strategy you plan before the matchday; it's more something you keep an eye out for while matches are unfolding. If you see a big favourite go behind early, check the draw odds and the flow of the game. Questions to ask: - Is the favourite dominating despite the score? (Shots, possession, etc. If yes, an equaliser is likely.) - Are they highly motivated (e.g., a league game they must win, home crowd roaring them on)? - What are the odds now? If the draw is quite low (because market thinks favourite will at least draw level), laying at those low odds could yield a great reward if the favourite does overturn the draw.

You would place a lay on the draw after the underdog's goal, ideally as soon as the market reopens and odds settle. Then plan your exit either when the equaliser comes (for a moderate profit) or if the favourite goes 2-1 (for a big profit). The risk: if the underdog's lead holds for a long time and time runs low, the draw odds might drift higher gradually (because maybe it looks like underdog could outright win 0-1). In that case, if no equaliser comes, you might have to exit for a loss or let it go. Essentially you're betting on the favourite not only equalising but doing so with enough time or even taking the lead.

Risk and Mitigation: Because this approach deviates from the normal "two ways to win, one way to lose" (now one of the "ways to win" – favourite victory – requires two goals, not just one), it's riskier. If the match ends with the underdog winning 0-1, your lay loses. If it ends 1-1 draw, you'd actually break even if you traded out at 1-1? Not exactly, because if you waited till full-time 1-1 without trading out, you lose. You'd need to have hedged at some point. A prudent approach is to not be too greedy: if you laid the draw at 0-1 and the favourite equalises to 1-1, you might want to hedge at least partially there. That goal will likely give you an opportunity to secure some profit or at least remove the liability. If you strongly believe another goal is coming (favourite pushing for 2-1), you might leave some of the position open.

Another Use-Case – Late Draws: A variation of in-play LTD could be if a game is drawing 1-1 in second half and one team desperately needs a win (say for relegation or a cup knockout scenario, although in knockout a draw means extra time, different dynamic). You might lay the draw late on expecting someone to nick a winner (there are traders who lay the draw at, e.g., 70' in some games anticipating a late goal at good odds). But that's more speculative and not as high-percentage unless you have strong reasons. The more classic in-play scenario remains the underdog early lead scenario, because that's when the market can misprice the draw a bit.

Don't Chase Every Game: Not every time an underdog leads is a good LTD entry. For example, if a rank outsider scores and parks the bus, and the favourite looks out of sorts, it might actually peter out 0-1 or even the underdog scores another on counter. Use judgment, perhaps only attempt this in matches where the favourite is *much* stronger and clearly on top even after conceding. Also consider the time: if underdog scores at 70' to go up 0-1, there's less time for a comeback – probably skip that. If they score at 15', lots of time.

In-Play Tools: If you're doing this, you'll likely be monitoring live scores or watching the match. Set up alerts (many apps or Betfair's interface can alert goals). Some traders use services that signal when a heavy favourite concedes – because that often creates value opportunities (not just LTD, but also backing the favourite at better odds, etc.). With LTD after a goal, you should ideally monitor the odds or have a tool. Bet Angel's "Soccer Mystic" tool or similar might even help predict if an equaliser by the favourite happens by X time, what then the draw odds might become.

An Example to Cement it: Say Chelsea (fav) vs Crystal Palace. Chelsea 1.50 odds to win, Palace 7.0 to win. Palace scores at 10' to lead 0-1. Draw odds might now be ~3.0 (down from maybe 4.5 at KO) because now a draw (Chelsea equalising then no more goals) is a real scenario. You lay the draw at 3.0 for £10 (liability £20). Chelsea keeps pushing and at 60' finally scores, 1-1. Draw odds move to maybe 3.8. You could back the draw now at 3.8 for around £7.90 to hedge. This would yield ~£23 if draw, covering the £20 liability, leaving ~£3 profit, and if Chelsea wins you net similar. But perhaps you hold off fully hedging because you suspect Chelsea will get another. At 80', Chelsea scores again, 2-1. Draw odds jump to 15.0. Now you definitely back the draw (or simply green up) at those long odds. You might only need to stake £1.60 at 15.0 to cover liability. That costs £1.60 but your lay would win £10 if no draw. After distributing, you walk away with maybe £8 profit across outcomes. If unfortunately it ended 1-1 (no second goal after 60'), your partial hedge at 60' would have given you a small green or scratch on draw, so maybe you'd break even overall. If it ended 0-1 (Chelsea never equalised), you lose £20. That's why you choose such trades carefully and perhaps keep stakes lower on these opportunistic plays.

In summary, in-play LTD after a goal is about spotting special opportunities where the conditions are right to lay the draw mid-game. It requires more finesse and is recommended only once you have mastered the simpler approaches. It can be very lucrative when it comes off, but always remember to manage the additional risk.

Advanced Techniques & Variations

By now, we've covered the core LTD approaches. Here are some advanced variations and tips to further refine your trading:

Going for the Second Goal: Instead of always greening up fully after the first goal, experienced traders sometimes aim for even more profit by staying in the trade longer. For example, in a classic LTD, if the favourite scores to go 1-0, a trader might choose not to hedge immediately, believing another goal (to 2-0 or an equaliser making 1-1 that then could go 2-1) will come and yield a bigger swing. This is essentially a calculated risk to increase profit. One compromise strategy is to **partially hedge** after the first goal – e.g., hedge enough to cover your liability (so you can't lose anymore), but leave some stake active on the draw lay. If a second goal comes, that remaining lay portion will generate extra profit. If the match reverts to a draw (say it becomes 1-1), the part you hedged means you haven't lost overall. This tactic is useful if your research suggests that once the deadlock is broken, the match could open up and see more goals. It's often used in games where one goal triggers a flurry (some teams crumble after conceding, or two attacking teams trade blows).

Split Stake Entry: Another variation is not entering the full position at once. For example, you might lay half your intended stake at kick-off, and if by, say, 30 minutes it's still 0-0 and draw odds dropped, you lay a bit more at the better price (lower odds). This gives you a blended entry price. It can reduce risk if a very early goal (before your second tranche) means you had smaller stake (though early goal is usually good anyway). It can also get you a better average price if the game stays 0-0 for a while but you still trust goals will come later. This is an advanced money management technique – as a beginner you might keep it simple and one-time entry.

Progressive Hedging: Similar to partial hedging, some traders progressively hedge out as odds move. For instance, if no goal by 50', draw odds might be down to 2.5 from 3.5 entry; some might already take a small loss by hedging a portion in case a goal never comes (reducing liability), but keep most open in expectation of a goal. Or conversely, after a goal, instead of hedging everything at once, they might hedge 50% of profit, and let 50% run for another 5-10 minutes to see if second goal comes quickly (if momentum is high). This nuanced approach can squeeze more profit but demands quick decision-making and discipline to not get caught reversing a winning trade into a loss.

Use of Multiple Markets (“Insurance” in another form): Aside from 0-0 insurance, another idea some try is to back certain correct scores as a hedge. For example, backing 1-1 score line when doing a classic LTD – because 1-1 is a common draw that can bite you. If your match looks like it could end 1-1, that bet would pay. But again, these hedges eat profit from all other outcomes. Alternatively, instead of backing correct score, some traders will use the Over/Under goals markets to hedge or enhance their position. For instance, if you strongly expect at least one goal, you could double up by also backing Over

0.5 goals (effectively similar to laying 0-0). But these are more complex and often not needed. They can complicate the trade for little gain unless you have a very specific plan.

Hedging Late in Match: If you're in a profitable position (say you haven't hedged fully after a goal) and it's late, consider **hedging even if it means giving up some profit**. For example, you were going for a second goal but it hasn't come yet and now it's 85'. It's 1-0, you still technically are in a winning position (if it ends 1-0 you win the lay). But there's risk: a last-minute equaliser would turn the final result into a draw and you'd lose your lay bet. Many will choose to hedge at least partially at low odds (perhaps back the draw at 6.0 or something in 85' for a small stake) to protect some profit. It's a judgement call – do you take a guaranteed smaller win or gamble for the full amount until the final whistle? This is where knowing your own risk tolerance matters.

Leveraging Trading Software Features: Tools like **stop-loss triggers** or **conditional orders** can help remove emotion. For instance, you can set Bet Angel or others to automatically cash out if odds hit a certain point (like if draw odds drop to X due to no goal by Y time). Or conversely, some even automate the whole LTD: they set an “offset bet” to place a back bet at X ticks higher as soon as a goal happens. There are even community-shared automation scripts for LTD strategies. Using them requires careful testing, but it's something to explore as you advance, to eliminate human delay or error.

Record Keeping and Review: This might not sound like a strategy, but it's crucial for advancing your skills. Keep a **trading journal** or log of each LTD trade: why you picked the match, entry odds, exit odds/time, profit or loss, and notes (e.g. “goal at 42', hedged at 1-0 for £X profit; or “no goal, exited 70' for £Y loss – match had few chances, maybe should avoid Team X in future”). Over time, this record will highlight what's working and what's not. Maybe you'll discover, for example, your worst results come from a particular league or scenario (like when you deviated from criteria). You can then refine your strategy to improve.

Discipline – The Golden Rule: All the techniques in the world won't help if you break your own rules. Many LTD guides will tell you the biggest enemy is not the strategy but the trader's own lack of discipline[53][54]. Set your criteria, set your stop-loss plan, and stick to them. If you say “I only trade when home team is strong favorite,” don't suddenly lay the draw on two mid-table evenly matched teams out of boredom. If you say “I exit at 65' if no goal,” don't still be in at 80' praying for a miracle. Consistency is key.

Adapting to Market Changes: One might ask, does LTD still work year after year? Markets evolve; odds today may factor in things more efficiently (for instance, if many people do LTD, does it drive any prices? Possibly the draw odds might be slightly different due to traders' activity, but generally the strategy persists because it's based on fundamental match events). It's wise to stay updated on football trends – e.g., VAR introduction caused some changes (goals disallowed or delayed, meaning how you act around goal events might adjust). Or if rule changes increased scoring (like more injury time goals these days?), adapt your approach (maybe not exiting so early?). Keep learning and fine-tuning.

By experimenting with these advanced ideas carefully (preferably in small stakes at first), you can enhance the profitability of LTD beyond the basic level. However, if you ever feel complexity is hurting you, it's perfectly fine to stick to the simple formula that works. Sometimes, simple + discipline beats fancy but inconsistent.

Conclusion

You've now learned the full ins and outs of **Lay the Draw trading** on Betfair. We covered everything from the basics of laying bets, to why LTD is a smart strategy, to multiple ways to execute it in different scenarios. By understanding the underlying market principles – how goals and time affect odds – you can see why LTD gives us an edge to exploit.

For a quick recap, remember these key points: - **Pick the Right Matches:** Focus on games likely to produce goals and not end in a draw. Use stats and reasoning to avoid the dull 0-0s. A little homework on form and averages goes a long way in maintaining a high strike rate. - **Plan Your Trade:** Whether you enter at kick-off, at half-time, or opportunistically in-play, always have a plan for when you'll exit – both for taking profit and cutting loss. Don't wing it on the fly; decide your thresholds beforehand. - **Stay Disciplined:** Treat trading like a business. Losses are the cost of doing business – keep them small and move on. Never chase a loss or deviate from your proven strategy out of emotion. Likewise, keep your staking sensible so that no single result can knock you out. - **Leverage Tools and Data:** Use trading software to your advantage for quicker execution and better information (like predicting odds movements). Track your results and learn from them. The more data you gather on your own performance, the more you can refine your approach.

The LTD strategy, when executed well, can be a steady earner. It's not a get-rich-quick scheme – it's a methodical way to profit from the world's most popular sport by being smarter than the average punter. At £4.99, this guide is intended to deliver value far beyond its price, arming you with knowledge that can potentially return its cost many times over in profits. But knowledge only becomes power when applied correctly. So, take what you've learned, maybe practice on a few matches with small stakes, and gradually build up your confidence.

Finally, always remember to enjoy the process. Trading football should be engaging, and yes, even fun. There's nothing quite like the rush when a goal flies in and you know you've just locked in a profit before the crowd's cheers have even died down. We wish you the very best in your trading journey – stay smart, stay safe, and may your trades always find the back of the net!

Bibliography: *(Cited references for data and content in this eBook)*

1. UK Football Trading – “Lay The Draw – How To Profit From LTD Strategy in 2024” (ukfootballtrading.com) – Comprehensive guide by a veteran trader, provides strategy insights and statistics on draw frequencies and approach.

2. Betfair Trading Blog (Bet Angel) – “The perfect way to ‘Lay the draw’” (betangel.com) – Article explaining LTD, including the impact of who scores first and use of software for predicted odds.
3. Geeks Toy Trading Blog – “Laying the Draw Strategy: Betfair Football Trading...” by Caan Berry (geekstoy.com) – Discusses timing of entry (half-time LTD) and factors like price compression and match circumstances.
4. GoalProfits – “What Percentage of Football Matches End 0-0?” (goalprofits.com) – Provides statistics on 0-0 draw frequencies (average ~7-8% of matches) and overall draw percentages over seasons.
5. Medium – David Charles, “How often do matches end a draw when it’s 0-0 at half time?” – Data analysis of thousands of matches showing probability of goals in second half (74% chance of a goal if 0-0 at HT, etc.) and timing distributions.
6. SportTradingLife – “David G – How I Lay The Draw For A Living” (sportstradinglife.com) – Interview and insights from a trader who uses LTD as a primary strategy (useful for understanding the mindset and discipline needed).

End of eBook.

Bonus Items for Bundle

To further help you succeed with Lay the Draw trading, we’ve prepared several bonus resources that can be provided alongside this eBook:

- **LTD Match Selection Checklist (PDF):** A one-page checklist summarising the key criteria to look for when choosing a match. Tick boxes for odds range, team stats benchmarks, recent form, etc., to ensure each trade meets the recommended standards before you enter.
- **Trade Tracking Spreadsheet (Excel):** A ready-to-use spreadsheet for logging your trades. Includes columns for date, match, lay odds, back odds, profit/loss, notes, and automatically calculates running totals and strike rate. This helps you analyse performance and keep disciplined records.
- **Pre-Match Research Template:** A simple form (PDF/Doc) where you can jot down each team’s stats (goals for/against, head-to-head results, etc.) for potential trades. This serves as a “cheat sheet” so you have all important info at a glance during the match.
- **LTD Strategy Quick-Guide (Printable):** A condensed 2-page guide summarising the main strategies (Classic, Second Half, In-Play) with bullet-point steps and do’s & don’ts. Perfect for having by your side as a reminder while trading live.
- **Entry Signals and Warning Signs Sheet:** A reference list of positive signs (e.g. “both teams averaging 2+ goals, referee tends to award penalties, etc.”) and

warning signs (e.g. “heavy rain forecast – low scoring likely”) to consult when considering a trade. This helps reinforce good judgement calls.

- **Stake & Liability Calculator Tool:** An Excel sheet or small app where you input the odds and your intended risk %, and it calculates the lay stake and potential profit for you. Useful for quickly planning trades and understanding potential outcomes before you commit.

Each of these bonus items is designed to make your trading easier, more organised, and more confident. They complement the eBook by translating theory into practical tools you can use every day. With checklists, templates, and trackers, you’ll be able to implement the LTD strategies systematically and effectively. Enjoy these high-value extras as part of the bundle, and happy trading!

WooCommerce Product Listing (Plain Text)

Product Title: Lay the Draw Trading on Betfair: Complete Guide (eBook)

Long Description:

Unlock the secrets of one of Betfair’s most popular football trading strategies with *Lay the Draw Trading on Betfair: Complete Guide*. This comprehensive eBook takes you step-by-step through the process of profiting from football matches by betting **against** the draw. Written in clear, friendly British English, it’s packed with practical advice for beginners and intermediate traders alike – no prior trading knowledge required.

Inside the guide, you’ll learn why the Lay the Draw (LTD) strategy has stood the test of time, and how you can use it to generate consistent profits from the beautiful game. We cover everything from the fundamentals (how a betting exchange works and what “laying” means) to advanced techniques for maximising your returns. You’ll discover multiple LTD methods: the classic approach of trading out after a goal, clever stats-based filters to pick only the best matches, and second-half strategies for those 0-0 halftime situations. Every strategy is backed by real data and illustrated with examples, so you understand not just *how* to do it, but *why* it works.

We delve into match selection with a fine-tooth comb – you’ll learn which leagues and scenarios to target and which to avoid. We talk about crucial market principles like how odds move when a goal is scored and the impact of time decay on draw prices. Most importantly, this eBook teaches vital **risk management** skills: how to protect your bankroll, when to cut losses if things don’t go to plan, and how to stay disciplined (the key trait of any successful trader).

To make your trading even smoother, we reference top trading tools like Bet Angel and Geeks Toy, showing how they can display predicted odds and automate parts of your trading – giving you a serious edge in execution. The guide includes helpful visuals, such as example odds graphs, to ensure concepts click into place. Written in a down-to-earth,

non-patronising tone by an experienced trader, it's like having a friendly mentor by your side, guiding you through each trade.

Whether you're tired of straight betting and looking to add a professional trading strategy to your arsenal, or you've dabbled in LTD before but want to sharpen your approach, this eBook delivers. It's tailored for UK football fans and uses Premier League examples and UK terminology throughout. At only £4.99, *Lay the Draw Trading on Betfair: Complete Guide* offers incredible value – the know-how inside could potentially pay for itself many times over. Plus, you'll get a bundle of **bonus materials**: handy checklists, templates, and cheat-sheets to accelerate your success (see product bundle details).

Take the guesswork out of football trading and start making smarter trades. With this guide, you'll be fully equipped to turn every goal into an opportunity. Get ready to master Lay the Draw on Betfair and elevate your sports trading game!

Short Description:

A comprehensive, beginner-friendly eBook that teaches you how to profit from football matches by laying the draw on Betfair. Learn step-by-step LTD strategies (trading out after goals, halftime approaches, stats-based match selection) backed by data and expert tips. Includes risk management guidance, tool recommendations, and bonus checklists/templates. Written in clear British English for the UK market – perfect for new and intermediate traders looking to make consistent profits. Exceptional value with actionable insights and bonus resources included!

Product Categories: eBooks, Football Trading, Betfair Trading Strategies

Product Tags: Betfair, Football Trading, Lay the Draw, Sports Betting, In-Play Trading, Beginner Trading Guide, Sports Trading eBook

SEO Title: Lay the Draw Trading on Betfair – Complete Guide eBook

SEO Description: Master the art of Betfair football trading with our Lay the Draw Complete Guide. Beginner-friendly eBook (UK focus) covering LTD strategies, risk management & match selection. Learn how to profit from football matches by laying the draw – backed by stats, examples, and expert tips. Great value trading guide with bonus tools included!

Suggested Sora Cover Image Prompt

A possible prompt to generate a cover image for this eBook:

“Cover Art Concept: An exciting football trading scene blending sports and finance. Foreground: a football stadium at dusk with cheering crowd and a scoreboard showing 0-0. Overlay this with a translucent Betfair odds graph or ladder interface rising and falling. Perhaps include a silhouette of a trader at a computer on one side, and a football in the net on the other, symbolising the connection between analysis and the goal. Use vibrant, dynamic lighting (stadium floodlights contrasting with glowing data lines). The title ‘Lay the

Draw Trading' should be bold and clear (we will add text separately if needed). Overall vibe: energetic, professional, and inviting – capturing the thrill of in-play football and the analytical side of trading.**”

Teaser Blog Post: Introducing “Lay the Draw” – A Football Trading Strategy for Smart Punters

Title: Lay the Draw – How Betting Against the Draw Could Boost Your Football Profits

What if you could make money on a football match without needing to pick the winning team? It might sound too good to be true, but thousands of Betfair traders are doing exactly that every weekend using a popular strategy called “**Lay the Draw.**” In this post, we’ll introduce you to the concept of laying the draw and why it’s an attractive approach for savvy punters looking to step into the world of sports trading.

What Does “Lay the Draw” Mean?

On a betting exchange like Betfair, “laying” means betting against an outcome. So when you *lay the draw*, you’re betting that the match will *not* end in a draw – in other words, that either team will win. Think about a typical Premier League game: there are three possible results (Home Win, Away Win, or Draw). Historically only around 25% of matches end in a draw[5], which means roughly 3 out of 4 times, someone wins. By laying the draw, you’re positioning yourself on the side of that 75% probability. Not a bad starting point!

But here’s where it gets really interesting: Lay the Draw isn’t just a bet, it’s a **trading strategy**. Unlike a traditional bet where you’d have to wait until full-time to see if you won or lost, with trading you can lock in a profit as soon as certain events happen – most often, when a goal is scored. The mantra is “back low, lay high” or vice versa, and LTD traders take advantage of the fact that a goal causes the draw odds to swing dramatically[14]. You lay the draw before a goal (when odds are lower), and if/when a goal comes, you *back* the draw at the now higher odds. This nets you a profit regardless of who scores or even how the match ends.

Why All the Buzz Around LTD?

Lay the Draw has been around since Betfair’s early days, and it remains popular for a few key reasons: - *Simplicity*: The concept is straightforward – you’re trading on the idea of a goal being scored. You don’t have to predict the winner or exact score, just that the match won’t stay goalless. - *Quick Outcomes*: Often, you’ll know whether you’ve made a profit within the first 30-60 minutes of a match. One goal can be enough to “green up” (slang for securing a profit) and relax for the rest of the game[55][56]. - *Beginner-Friendly Process*: Even if you’re new to exchanges, the mechanics of placing a lay bet and then a back bet are easy to learn. Many newbies find LTD a great introduction to trading because it involves markets (match odds) and teams they’re already familiar with. - *Data-Backed Logic*: This isn’t a random gamble – there’s solid reasoning and stats behind it. For example, we know a vast majority of games have at least one goal (in 2021, only ~8% of professional matches

ended 0-0[57][58]). With such odds, betting on “at least one goal to occur” (which is essentially what LTD is doing) can be a sound strategy with the right execution.

A Simple Example:

Imagine a Premier League match between Team A and Team B. The draw odds at kick-off are 3.4. You lay the draw with a £10 stake. Now, you’re hoping for a goal by either side. Twenty minutes in, Team A scores – GOAL! The draw odds jump to, say, 5.5 instantly. Now you quickly back the draw for maybe £6 (roughly) at 5.5. By doing that, you’ve locked in a profit. No matter if Team A storms to victory, Team B stages a comeback, or even if it somehow ends a draw after a 1-1, your combination of bets guarantees you win a few quid. You essentially traded the draw outcome and capitalised on the odds movement that the goal triggered.

Mind the Risks:

Of course, like any strategy, LTD isn’t foolproof. The obvious risk is a lack of goals – if the match ends 0-0, your lay bet loses. Also, if you wait too long hoping for a goal, the draw odds will keep dropping (because as time dwindles, a draw becomes more likely), which can increase your potential loss. That’s why smart LTD traders always have a plan: for instance, they might decide “if no goal by 70 minutes, I’ll cut my losses and exit.” Statistically, after about 70-75 minutes of 0-0 play, the chance of a goal drops off a cliff[20], so it’s usually not wise to stay in too late. There’s also the scenario of the “wrong” team scoring first – if a heavy underdog scores early, sometimes the draw odds don’t drift up as much as expected[59]. In such cases, one might have to adjust on the fly or even accept a small loss and move on to the next game.

Why You Should Explore LTD:

If you’re a football fan who’s used to traditional betting (like accumulators or match result bets), Lay the Draw offers a refreshing, and potentially more consistent, way to profit. It leverages your football knowledge – you’ll be analysing matches for likely goal-scoring – and adds the dimension of timing and trading. Many people also find it more engaging: you’re actively managing the bet, not just placing it and praying. Every goal, or even the lack of one, is a trigger for a decision, making you feel more in control.

Interested in trying it out? The good news is you don’t need a huge bankroll. You can start with small stakes (even £5 or £10 lays) just to get a feel. There are also trading tools (like Bet Angel or Geeks Toy) that offer practice modes or simulation, so you can practice without risking real money. In fact, getting comfortable with the mechanics in a dry run is a great first step.

In upcoming posts, we’ll dive deeper into **how to select the best matches** for Lay the Draw (not all games are created equal – some are prime candidates, others are traps!). We’ll also talk about managing your risk and some clever variations of the strategy, like trading at half-time or using stats to filter games. So stay tuned.

Curious to Learn More? If you’re eager to jump ahead and get a comprehensive understanding of Lay the Draw trading, check out our newly released eBook “**Lay the Draw**

Trading on Betfair: Complete Guide.” It’s a deep-dive into the strategy, written for beginners through intermediate traders, packed with examples, data, and step-by-step instructions. We cover multiple LTD techniques, risk management, and even include bonus checklists and templates to help you succeed. It’s essentially a one-stop manual for mastering LTD – and it’s priced less than a fiver (a small investment that could potentially pay off big in your trading). [Note: no external link here, but you can find it in our products section.]

In Summary: Lay the Draw is an exciting and logical way to approach football betting from a trader’s perspective. It turns the usual betting on its head – you’re not picking a winner, you’re simply betting that someone *will* win. If you love football and have an analytical streak, this strategy might just become your new favourite. Next time you’re watching a 0-0 nail-biter, instead of dreading the lack of goals, you could be calmly waiting for that one goal that makes your trade profitable. Now that’s a different kind of excitement!

(Stay tuned for more on Lay the Draw – in the meantime, may your next bet be a green one!)

Blog Post Categories: Football Trading, Betting Exchange Strategies, Beginner’s Guide

Blog Post Tags: Lay the Draw, Betfair Trading, Football Betting Strategy, In-Play Betting, Draw Betting, Sports Trading Tips

SEO Title: What is Lay the Draw in Betfair Trading? A Beginner’s Guide to Football’s Smart Strategy

SEO Description: Discover the “Lay the Draw” football trading strategy – a Betfair technique to profit from goals without picking a winner. Learn how laying the draw works, why it’s popular, and how one goal can secure a profit. Perfect intro for punters looking to trade smarter on football matches.

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