

HOW TO USE TIMEFORM

The aim of Timeform is to supply accurate information as to the merit and racing character of every runner on the Flat under Jockey Club rules, and to present it in a form in which it may be of greatest practical use in assessing the prospects in a race.

The merit of each horse it is possible to weigh up is given as a rating, in pounds, using a scale of weight for distance beaten which ranges from around 3 lb a length at five furlongs, and 2 lb a length at a mile and a quarter, to 1 lb at two miles. Put together, the ratings form a universal handicap embracing all horses in training, in which the ratings range from between 130 to 145 for the very best horses down to around 20 for the poorest horses.

[It is important to mention that all ratings are at weight-for-age, so that equal ratings mean horses of equal merit. Perhaps it would be clearer if we said that the universal rating handicap is really four handicaps side by side: one for two-year-olds, one for three-year-olds, one for four-year-olds and one for older horses. Thus a three-year-old rated, for argument's sake, at 117 is deemed to be identical in point of 'merit' with a four-year-old also rated at 117; but for them to have equal chances in, say, a mile race in May, the three-year-old would need to be receiving 9 lb from the four-year-old, which is the weight difference specified by the Age, Weight and Distance Tables on the inside back cover.]

The racing or general characteristics of each horse—its optimum distance, the going conditions and the type of track to which it is best suited, and any temperamental or other peculiarities it may possess—are incorporated in the comments on the horse as soon as they are revealed by or can reasonably be inferred from the horse's performances on the racecourse. In some cases it is possible to arrive at tentative conclusions regarding distance and going requirements quite early in a horse's career—much depends upon the animal's breeding and upon the nature and the amount of racing to which it is subjected—but in many cases it is not until a horse is into its second season that its character is clearly established.

In using Timeform to assess the prospects of the various runners in any race, you must first find out which of them are most favoured by the weights by using the ratings to evaluate the chances of all the runners purely on a handicap basis. This involves adjusting each horse's rating to take into account its age and the actual weight it has to carry. Then, examine the comments on the horses with a view to considering what factors, other than weight, might also affect the outcome of the race.

The procedure for making age and weight adjustments to the ratings (i.e. for the calculation of Race Ratings) is as follows:-

(A) Horses of the same age

- If the horses all carry the same weight, there are no adjustments to be made. The horse with the highest rating has the best chance.
- If the horses carry different weights, *add* one point for every pound which the horse carries *less* than 10st 0lb or *subtract* one point for every pound which the horse carries *more* than 10st 0lb. The highest resultant figure indicates the horse with the best chance.

Example (any distance; any month of season)

Reflect	3 yrs (10-2) ..	Rating 81 ..	less 2 ..	79
Saturn Moon	3 yrs (9-4) ..	Rating 72 ..	add 10 ..	82
Bay Pearl	3 yrs (9-0) ..	Rating 64 ..	add 14 ..	78

Saturn Moon has the best chance
and Bay Pearl the worst

(B) Horses of different ages

Refer to the Age, Weight and Distance Table printed on the inside back cover of this issue and compare the weight it has to carry in the race with the weight given in the Table, according to the horse's age, the race's distance and the date. *Add* one point to the rating for each pound the horse has to carry *less* than the weight given in the Table, or *subtract* one point for every pound he has to carry *more*. The highest resultant figure indicates the horse most favoured by the weights.

Example (5f race on October 14th)

(Table Weights: 5-y-o 10-0, 3-y-o 9-13, 2-y-o 9-0)

Eastern Law	5 yrs (10-1) ..	Rating 88 ..	less 1 ..	87
Water Moss	3 yrs (9-6) ..	Rating 88 ..	add 7 ..	95
Inclination	2 yrs (8-11) ..	Rating 80 ..	add 3 ..	83

Water Moss has the best chance
and Inclination the worst

Example (1 $\frac{1}{2}$ m race on April 10th)

(Table Weights: 5-y-o 10-0, 4-y-o 9-13, 3-y-o 9-0)

Regal Charge	4 yrs (9-7) ..	Rating 64 ..	add 6 ..	70
Velma	5 yrs (9-2) ..	Rating 59 ..	add 12 ..	71
Ardesco	3 yrs (9-1) ..	Rating 68 ..	less 1 ..	67

Velma has the best chance and Ardesco the worst

Thus [2002 6g⁶ 7s* f8g² :: 2003 p7g⁴ 8m* Mar 29] shows that the horse ran three times in 2002, finishing sixth over six furlongs on good going first time out, then winning over seven furlongs on soft before finishing second over a mile on standard going on fibreglass. It has run twice in 2003, finishing fourth over seven furlongs on standard going on polytrack then winning over a mile on good to firm going on turf, its latest outing on March 29.

Included in the pedigree details of the horses are the highest Timeform Annual ratings achieved by the sires, dams and dams' sires. Where sales prices are given they are in guineas unless otherwise stated. The prefix IR denotes Irish guineas and IR £ Irish punts. \$ refers to American dollars, francs refers to French francs. The prefix € denotes the Euro. Any other currencies are converted into guineas or pounds sterling at the prevailing rate.

THE TIMEFIGURES

Enclosed in the brackets at the end of the commentary are the horse's three best timefigures recorded in its last ten starts, which are expressed in pounds to the same scale as the Timeform Ratings, with the track, distance and going over which they were recorded. (A mark after a timefigure signifies a performance from last season.)

Thus (109' Go14s 93 Do12f) signifies that in the last two seasons the horse has recorded two significant timefigures, one of 109 over 14 furlongs on soft going at Goodwood in 2002 and one of 93 over 12 furlongs on firm at Doncaster in 2003. The full list of track abbreviations is as follows:

As- Ascot	Ha- Haydock	Re- Redcar
Ay- Ayr	Hm- Hamilton	Ri- Ripon
Ba- Bath	Ke- Kempton	Sa- Sandown
Br- Brighton	Le- Leicester	Sb- Salisbury
Bv- Beverley	Li- Lingfield	So- Southwell
Ca- Carlisle	Li- Lingfield	(all weather)
Ch- Chester	(all weather)	Th- Thirsk
Cp- Chepstow	Ms- Musselburgh	Wa- Warwick
Ct- Catterick	Nb- Newbury	Wi- Windsor
Do- Doncaster	Nc- Newcastle	Wo- Wolverhampton
Ep- Epsom	Nm- Newmarket	(all weather)
Fo- Folkestone	No- Nottingham	Ya- Yarmouth
Go- Goodwood	Po- Pontefract	Yo- York

The Timeform Computer Timefigures differ from the ratings in one important respect: a rating is a considered appraisal, on form, of a horse's full merit, whereas a timefigure reflects only the merit of a single time performance, which is often well below what the horse would be capable of recording at its best in a truly-run race. It is vital to understand that the timefigures recorded in a race depend largely upon what sort of pace there is in the early stages of a race; really fast timefigures can only be recorded when a race is truly run. So a timefigure doesn't necessarily tell you how good a horse is.

The timefigures have to be adjusted to take all weight differences and allowances into account. The procedure is exactly the same as that employed with Timeform Ratings; for the purposes of calculations, take each horse's best timefigure. Concern yourself

only with the good timefigures. If a good horse records a poor timefigure it may mean no more than that the race was slowly-run; but an exceptionally fast timefigure is positive evidence of an exceptionally good horse. Being alert for horses where time evidence provides independent confirmation of a horse's form rating or, with less exposed horses, compares favourably with its rating, will pay dividends. Generally speaking, the more recent a horse's good timefigure, the greater the significance.

THE RATINGS SUMMARY

The Timeform Briefing in this issue covering the weekend's racing provides a reference to the actual Timeform Rating the horse achieved in up to its last three starts. The Briefing for the rest of the week's racing is available on payment of a small supplement.

THE RATING SYMBOLS

The following symbols, attached to the ratings, are to be interpreted as stated:-

- p likely to improve.
- P capable of *much* better form.
- + the horse may be better than we have rated it.
- \$ unreliable (for temperamental or other reasons).
- \$\$ so temperamentally unsatisfactory as not to be worth a rating.
- ? the horse's rating is suspect. If used without a rating, the symbol implies the horse can't be assessed with confidence, or that the horse is out of form.

PROVISIONAL RATINGS FOR TWO-YEAR-OLDS

Provisional Timeform Ratings for unraced two-year-olds, based on an analysis of the horse's pedigree and other relevant factors, provide an assessment of the likely performance of a two-year-old on its debut. Subscribers should know, however, that they are not published on the Timeform Race Cards until May and do not appear at all for sellers and claimers. Provisional Ratings are displayed in square brackets.

HOW TO USE THE TIMEFORM BRIEFING

The Timeform Briefing is specially designed to be used in conjunction with the Timeform Black Book (or with Timeform Perspective, the Timeform form-book) and to make winner finding with Timeform even easier.

It is posted regularly to subscribers (usually three times a week) throughout their subscription to provide adjusted ratings for every race at every meeting, together with Timeform Commentaries on the latest new entries not included in the current issue of the Timeform Black Book. The Briefing also includes a 'Horses In Focus' feature, which highlights the most eye-catching recent performances.

THE COMPLETE TIMEFORM BRIEFING FOR EVERY RACE AT EVERY MEETING

The ratings show instantly which horses are best in at the weights. Selected 'Horses in Focus', those which caught the eye last time, are highlighted in bold, so you're alerted straight away to the most interesting runners.

What the Race Ratings said:

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Tuesday July 9th

NEWMARKET

DRAW: On occasions, it has seemed that a pitch nearest either running rail can be an advantage on the July Course, but the enterprise of riders tends to play a more important part than the draw in bringing this to bear, if it is to prove significant at all.

Nmj 3.25 6f 2yo Stakes (A) TRW 120 124 124 125 121 (Av 123)					
1326*	Aunt Rita <i>MBell</i>	8-9	103p	6m 103+	
2461*	Cassis <i>JNosedá</i>	8-9	102P	p5g 92+	
2250 ²	Luvah Girl <i>RCharlton</i>	8-9	111	6m 111	p6g 94+ 6m 94+
2167 ²	Never A Doubt <i>BHills</i>	8-9	115	5m 115	5m 111+ 5g 109
2250 ³	Pearl Dance <i>JGosden</i>	8-9	110p	6m 110+	6d 97+
2167 ⁶	Presto Vento <i>RHannon</i>	8-9	112	5m 110	5m 112+ 5g 109+
2422*	Spinola <i>PHarris</i>	8-9	104P	7m 97+	6g 98+
2225*	Spiritual Air <i>JWeymes</i>	8-9	100p	6d 100	5m 76+
2167	Wimple <i>CBrittain</i>	8-9	103p	5m 103+	6g 94+ 6m 83+
1941 ⁴	Zanoubia <i>CLaffon-Parias</i>	8-9	112p	5d 112	5d 109

Trainer (in bold if first time for new stable)

Weight allocated

Adjusted Timeform Rating

Index to latest entry in Perspective (last season in italic) and finishing position in first 6

Ratings summary for up to the last three starts, showing distance (in furlongs), going and Timeform Rating achieved

Straightforward to use

The Briefing has been made as straightforward as possible. This illustration is taken from last season's Cherry Hinton at the Newmarket July meeting.

Never miss an interesting runner

The Timeform Race Ratings are adjusted to the weights allocated — which means you can see instantly which horses are favourably treated. Selected horses that appeared in 'Horses In Focus' after their latest start—like Spinola and Cassis in the Cherry Hinton—are highlighted in bold, so you can be confident that you won't miss a potentially interesting runner wherever it figures in the ratings.

TIMEFORM BLACK BOOK

An individual commentary like this, packed with winner finding detail, for thousands of horses each week

SPINOLA (FR) 2 b.f. (Mar 6) Spinning World (USA) 130 – Exocet (USA) **85P** (Deposit Ticket (USA)) [2002 6g³ 7m* Jun 28] 230,000 francs F, 50,000Y; second foal: half-sister to 2001 2-y-o 1m winner Shot To Fame (by Quest For Fame): dam, sprint winner in USA, half-sister to useful performer up to 1½m Mixsterthetrixster out of half-sister to Prix du Cadran winner Molesnes: more than confirmed debut promise (beaten 2 heads behind Mubeen in 19-runner maiden at Ripon) when winning 5-runner maiden at Goodwood in June by 2 lengths (rated value 5) from Nasij, going bit freely but needing only to be pushed along to go clear from 2f out, eased: bred to stay 1m in due course, but isn't short of speed: sure to improve good deal further, and looks at least a useful filly in the making. *P. W. Harris (71 Ri6g 62 Go7m)*

"sure to improve a good deal further, and looks at least a useful filly in the making"



RATED WITH A LARGE 'P'
in the Cherry Hinton at Newmarket
SPINOLA WON 7/1
from CASSIS also rated with a large
'P' and a horse in focus

The Timeform Black Book & Briefing is the comprehensive Timeform service for up to eleven days' racing

The Timeform Black Book & Briefing covers up to eleven days' racing (from Thursday to the following Saturday or Sunday). Each Black Book includes the Timeform Briefing for Thursday to Sunday, then booklets follow three times during the week with the Briefing for the following week.