

USING THE TIMEFORM RACE CARD

The RATINGS (expressed in pounds) indicate, at today's weights, the chances of the runners based on Timeform's interpretation of their form. Timeform Ratings on their own should never be taken as indicating a selection; a relatively low rating indicates the amount of improvement the horse will probably have to show and the commentaries may suggest circumstances in which it could find that improvement. The ratings are adjusted for Timeform weight-for-age (the TWFA is given under the race title) and to 12-7. The following symbols are to be interpreted as stated:-

- p the horse is likely to improve
- P the horse is capable of *much* better
- + the horse may be better than rated
- ? the rating is suspect or (used alone) the horse is out of form or can't be assessed with confidence
- § the horse is unreliable (for temperamental or other reasons)
- §§ the horse is so unsatisfactory as to be not worth a rating
- x a poor jumper
- xx so bad a jumper as to be not worth a rating

The **RATINGS SUMMARY** indicates, also at today's weights, how each runner with a Timeform Rating has performed in up to its last six races (most recent first, some foreign races may not appear). The first column is preceded by 'c' (steeplechase), 'h' (hurdle race) or 'F' (National Hunt Flat/bumper race).

The **COMMENTARIES** contain a wealth of valuable information about each horse's record, what sort of form it is in, ground and distance requirements, temperamental characteristics, favoured tactics, etc. Certain pieces of information appear only on the better horses, or on others only if we think it is of relevance to the punter (note: details of tongue straps usually included).

GUIDE TO ABBREVIATIONS

FORM SUMMARIES: These list a horse's performances in sequence, showing, for each race, its distance in furlongs (rounded down to the nearest furlong), the state of the going (as returned by Timeform) and the horse's placing (* denotes a win) if in the first six at the finish. The prefix 'c' signifies a steeplechase, no prefix signifies a hurdle race and the prefix 'F' a National Hunt Flat/bumper race. The superior letters indicate wowalkover, dis-disqualified, rtr-refused to race, F-fell (F3-denotes remounted and finished third), pu-pulled up, ur-unseated rider, bd-brought down, r-refused, su-slipped up, ro-ran out and co-carried out. The date of the most recent race is included.

The **GOING**: f firm, m good to firm, g good, d good to soft or dead, s soft, v heavy **RATINGS SUMMARY**: In the third column, where the BHB or adjusted Irish Turf Club mark appears if the race is a handicap, the following may also appear:

G1 Grade 1, G2 Grade 2, G3 Grade 3, W Weight-for-age/conditions event, N Novice or Maiden hurdle/chase, S Seller, C Claiming event, A Amateur, apprentice, ladies event, etc.

One of two symbols may appear with the Timeform individual performance figures:

- + the performance may be better than rated, or the horse has been rated value more than the bare form
- ? the performance may not be worth the rating shown, or the rating is suspect.

JOCKEYS: Overweight carried should always be deducted from the race rating (but please note that Timeform advertising statements are based upon the ratings given on the card). *Note: Jockeys on this Card are those that were declared at the time of going to press. Some of the riding arrangements may have changed.*

The **TRW FIGURES** (printed above the title of non-handicap races) are the weight-adjusted TIMEFORM RATINGS which the WINNERS have achieved in the same race in the five previous years, the most recent being to the right before the average. A horse with a rating better than the TRW figures should be considered seriously.

NOVICE HURDLES AND NOVICE CHASES: Until a horse has run over hurdles we cannot give it a hurdle rating. However, subscribers are advised to study the commentaries and be alert for horses with form on the Flat (or form in NH Flat/bumper races, which is covered by the ratings summaries) making their debut over hurdles. Similarly, we cannot give a horse a steeplechase rating until it has run over fences (horses may sometimes be rated on point-to-point form), and subscribers are advised to study the commentaries and ratings summaries for horses with good hurdle form making their chasing debut.

NATIONAL HUNT FLAT/BUMPER HORSES: It is assumed that most horses running in bumpers are open to improvement, so the 'p' symbols are used more sparingly.

Please note that the timings of some races at the televised meetings may be subject to change. Details are announced the day before on BBC Ceefax, page 691.