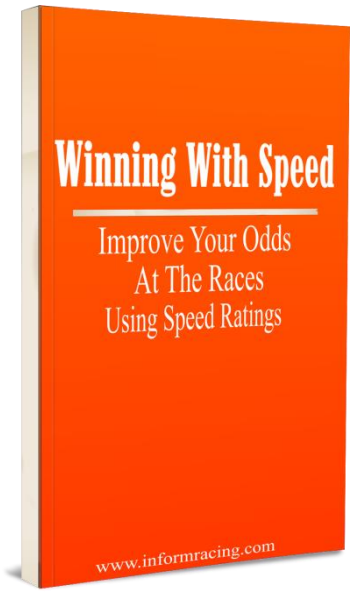
Inform Racing Speed Ratings



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Introduction

The idea behind speed ratings is simple:

The easiest way to measure one race horse against another is by how fast it runs and a speed rating translates performance into an easy to use number.

How fast horses run is the single most important factor in finding your winners and is the only place to start when looking at a race.

Normal ratings are compiled using judgement and basic opinion, using outdated and unreliable pounds per length as the variant.

Speed ratings on the other hand are measured by the actual time the horse took to run the race, using time to determine the beaten horses and is an absolute measure of a horse's ability that can be accurately compared to all the other runners in the race.

What's more, Inform Ratings are compiled manually by hand, using an old fashioned calculator, pen and paper as well as human experience and understanding, allowing for any discrepancies regarding goings, track conditions and race class etc. all ironed out at source and applied to the final ratings.

Most other speed ratings available are calculated using a computer programme, feeding in race times and basic track conditions and simply cannot be as accurate because it is the understanding of everything other than the clocked time that makes the rating so valuable.

Speed Ratings allow you to compare horses in a race that have run on different goings, (firm, good to firm, soft, etc.) at different courses and over different distances and this allows for a quick and reliable comparison.

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Again normal ratings just rate the performance and take no account of course, distance and going etc..

If every horse ran over a standard surface at the same distance we could compare their speeds simply by looking at their finishing times and normally comparing these horses would be practically impossible but the use of this one speed rating number that encompasses everything required about a run, now allows you to do this.

For example, a horse that rates 80 over seven furlongs should theoretically run 80 going over a mile, assuming it can handle the extra distance and a horse that rates 76 over five furlongs on good ground at Sandown should theoretically get a similar rating over five furlongs on soft ground at Epsom, assuming the horse can handle the easier surface.

A speed rating of 77 from Windsor represents the same level of ability as a speed rating of 77 from York or anywhere else and so numbers can be compared.

You can now use identifiable and profitable patterns in the ratings to find value bets every day because they take into account how each rating in the past was run with regards to trip and track etc., allowing you a deeper look at the ratings and the race in question in an effort to predict what kind of rating the horse will run today.

Given the huge variety in British racecourses and goings throughout the year, most horses show preferences for some conditions and speed ratings are the best tool for uncovering these.

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Some years ago I looked into all sorts of methods and systems to help me find winners in British horse racing and finally came across speed ratings.

Underused then and incredibly to me now still underused today, the most effective way of making it pay for me since then has always come from my speed ratings.

Over the years I have found ways to make my speed ratings profitable and every successful and professional punter I have come across at race meetings or those I know from the media, all use speed ratings as one of their main betting tools and that should inspire you to look into using the speed ratings already available or even begin to compile your own.

Initially I read all the books on the subject by Nick Mordin, Andy Beyer and other US books etc. and was immediately fascinated by the subject, I decided to set about mastering my own way of rating horses by speed.

I created my own methods after studying these books and I incorporated the main points of the various angles, especially those suggested by Beyer and at the end of the process I had a method for producing my own unique speed ratings, which I believe are as accurate an assessment of a horse's performance available.

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I believe that anyone can pick a winner but it is difficult to keep on doing so and extremely hard to grind out a profit year after year but by using the ratings to find stand out bets especially – those 3 or more clear on the ratings, first suggested as a method by Andy Beyer – along with other recognised patterns a profit can indeed be made long term.

Bearing in mind 98% of punters lose over the long term, breaking even or just losing a small percentage can be called an achievement these days when the average punter loses up to 20% of their bank every year according to reports.

Inform Racing speed ratings give subscribers a unique angle and an edge to use throughout the year and many have been ongoing members right from the beginning, back in 2003.

This offers genuine proof of how useful the speed ratings really are and while nothing can be guaranteed, it must be said that an intelligent use of the ratings can certainly put the odds in your favour.

"I use IR (Inform Racing) stats every day and base my betting regime around the LTO figures which have proved profitable over the year for me." Mark

"My betting using your M+A ratings is going great guns and I'm already in profit to the tune of over £600 in 4 days." Mike

"The LTO (last time out) ratings with a clear rating of 7+. Since Sun 15/02/15 have virtually doubled my bank using these ratings." Brian

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12 Month Discount Subscription Offer

If you wish to improve your betting, there is a 12 month discount subscription offer for you at the end of this e-book.

So read on to learn more about speed ratings and how they can help you make money and win, then save money on your subscription today.

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ABOUT THE RATINGS

So speed ratings allow us to analyse a horse's particular performance in a race simply and easily, without having to worry about what course the race was run at, or what the condition of the ground was during the race.

First however the calculation has to be made.

1. The first part we have is called the raw speed rating. This is simply calculated using the finishing time and the distance of the race. These are compared to standard times and par figures to determine how fast or slow the winner of the race actually ran.

2. The second adjustment to the raw speed rating is the going allowance which compensates for different surfaces through from hard/firm ground to heavy which can even vary during a meeting as conditions change, as well as having different goings on different parts of the same course.

   It is not uncommon for example for the five furlong straight at Sandown to be quite different from the round course or the hurdle course at Carlisle not to be the same as on the chase course.

These factors combined together now produce a single figure which is the final speed rating.

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Average Speed Ratings or 'Par' Figures

Every race type for each age group has a par figure or average winning speed rating which is the average rating required to win a race of that grade and type and finding those not up to the par, helps narrow down the field to find those selections with the best chance of winning the race.

Determining if a horse has previously or recently raced to the par figure will immediately eliminate those that cannot win.

Looking at all past ratings for each horse by using the form guide link for each race, or simply by looking at the Best Ever Rating for each horse in the first form pop up, allows you to compare a horse's best speed figures with the par for today.

Many professional punters use speed figures to quickly identify the real contenders in a race and using par figures in this way will often eliminate false favourites and short priced runners from the reckoning that the general public will always over bet.

Yes, the par ratings increase as the class of the races improve, however horses don't just run to the level of the race they are in, they run to the speed that they run to and will therefore rate accordingly.

For example, you can find a horse that has won a Class 4 Handicap or two before but has only ever run to a mid 70's rating, against a horse that has only won in Class 5 company before but regularly rates in the high 70's or low 80's.

The ratings and pars will highlight those horses with a better chance of winning than most punters or experts would have you believe and often at far bigger prices than they should be.

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"Just couldn't believe a top rated speed figured horse could go off at Betfair 24.19 in a 5 horse race, almost all the indicators screaming back me! Nova Princesse at Lingfield (Won 16/1). Paid the subs and then some. Your figures just keep on producing, get in." Roger

"Hi Ian I had a good day other day backed Last Supper @80/1 also had others so a good day sticking with the M&A (column)." Andy

"Just a quick email to thank you for the brilliant ratings as Surf and Turf stormed in at 33/1 and one look at the c/d ratings tell you that's the one to be on. Top drawer." Andy

I think yesterday's start on 2 non handicaps producing 40/1 & 33/1 winners says it all. Best site I've ever found." Lee

Standard Times

The first thing we need to establish when compiling our speed ratings are our standard times for each course and distance.

A horse running over the downhill five furlongs at Epsom will run a faster time than one running over the same distance on the uphill finish of the Rowley Mile at Newmarket so a different standard time for each course and distance is needed to level things up for the differences of each course.

The standard time is the median time from a large, constantly updated number of races, that have been run over a given course and distance on good or good to firm going.

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It would be easy of course to just use the Racing Post standard times but I have found many discrepancies over the years with these and often no allowance is made when a rail is moved or the distance of a race is changed as it is on quite a few occasions which may surprise some.

Calculating the ratings manually allows me to take all of these changes into account and the more race times you include the more effective the standard times will be.

It's a time consuming process, but incredibly worth the effort and all standard times are updated throughout the year to make the ratings as accurate as possible.

The Going Allowance

The second piece of the puzzle is to calculate the going allowance.

Some tracks are inherently fast or slow, for instance Bath is a track that is a notoriously fast and is one of the few that will have the going as Hard during the course of a season, so a horse that runs five furlongs in sixty one seconds at Bath would have to have his figure adjusted downward to compensate for the fast track he is likely to be running on.

Likewise, a horse running on a Heavy track at Ffos Las for example would have his figure raised in compensation.

By taking the difference between the race times to standard times and pars you end up with an initial allowance for each race at a meeting.

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It is normally the case that the fastest and slowest races on the day are discounted and an average of the remainder is used as the going allowance but this is not always the case.

I prefer to take what on paper were the most competitive and quite often this will be the handicap races for older horses.

Races closest to a mile on the flat and competitive chases over three miles over the jumps are often the most truly run in my experience.

So rather than just mechanically looking at the results it is well worth delving a little deeper to see what type of race you are rating the days racing against.

You also need to look at certain courses where you will have different goings on different parts of the course and factor this into the calculations and final ratings.

As well as different goings for the Chase course and the Hurdle course on occasions there will also be differences on the straight course or round course at some tracks too.

Speed ratings give you a far better understanding of the going too as you will find that good going at one course means something different at another and I have also seen how often the official going is ‘wrong’ compared to my final going allowances on the day and is one thing I would like to see improved by the racing authorities.

For example I have seen my going allowance at a meeting end up at -0.23 seconds per furlong, generally good racing ground, supposedly be called Soft as the official going.

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Weight

Inform Racing ratings take no account of weight. All of the material and literature I came across in the early days ignored the weight carried and this is the way I have always gone.

In a survey I once came across, a large number of horses were looked at to see the affect that weight had on their speed figure performances for every pound more or less they carried on the previous run.

It turned out that for every one pound extra the horse ran a slower figure of 0.4 but interestingly for every one pound less that was carried the horses ran slower again but by 0.3.

Horses running round a tight track can win carrying more weight because they are slowing down more often round the bends than those running on a flat, straight, speed track.

Horses are also very different in size and like humans can carry more or less weight because of their build and factoring any of this into a rating would be nigh on impossible.

Wind

There are some people who ask whether a strong headwind will slow down the horses or speed them up if it is coming up the straight behind the horses and if I make any allowance for this.

Well if there is any difference - and I think it would have to be a hell of a wind to make any difference in the first place - it is actually factored into the going allowance automatically if you think about it.

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WINNING USING THE RATINGS

The good thing about speed ratings is that they are used less frequently by punters here in the UK. This means that they are not factored into bookmaker's odds to the same extent as other ratings.

Therefore those who do use them correctly can gain a definite edge over other punters and value prices in many of the bets that they place

A genuinely high speed figure represents a fast performance irrespective of the conditions on the day, but one high speed figure should not be taken as evidence that the horse can run to this level every time, however if the horse in question has run only a couple of times a very good speed rating can often be relied upon.

Backing the top rated or top three rated horses is a good place to start and from these many good winners will be found.

The Inform Racing top rated horses win an average of 24% of the time, nearly one in every four races and the top three rated win over 50% of all races so if you want a quick method of narrowing down the field then this is certainly as good a place to start as any.

The top rated horses are taken from the Master column and if you bear in mind that this is simply the best rating for each runner from the last 12 months, irrespective of the course, distance and going where the rating was achieved and we can still achieve these excellent strike rates, then I'm sure you can see how successful you can be if you take a little time to look a little deeper into the ratings.

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By weeding out those that shouldn't be winning or by following some of the patterns we suggest that you look out for you will soon see some improvement in your betting

For example, speed ratings will highlight horses to you that the general punting public will not be looking at. Horses that ran down the field in fifth or worse perhaps but still ran a good speed rating will largely be ignored but these horses are a real potent source of winning bets, especially if they are one of the top three rated horses last time out too.

In fact the last time out figure (Lto), or latest rating for the horse is often considered to be the most relevant rating as it shows the current form of the horse, its well being and how fit it is, especially when the rating was from a recently run race.

If this latest rating is close to or above the par for this type of race and the horse has earned these high figures under similar conditions they will be encountering today, then this horse will certainly be worth a closer look and more than likely win.

As you can already see when used properly, speed ratings can help make a very positive impact to the fortunes of the shrewd punter.

"I have tried about everything on the market and nothing compares to the accuracy of the ratings. This is now going to be my only source of information regardless. Week in week out the ratings remain constant. I will definitely be renewing my membership when my subscription expires." Malcolm

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The overall picture

Ideally you need more than just one single speed figure to give an overall picture of how the horse gained its ratings over the past year or from its full career.

This will give a far clearer picture and allow you to see whether the horse has preferences for a particular type of going, specific courses, field sizes, length of time between runs, class levels and race distances to name a few factors.

Some sites only provide one figure but it is helpful to have a full database of speed ratings which stretch back over at least one season for them to be most useful.

Inform Racing provide the full career ratings for every horse running and a quick check can be done on a whole race or even a meeting in a matter of minutes.

Having a full set of speed ratings will enable you to see if there are any patterns in the horse's speed ratings and will make your decision on whether to back the horse much more informed and more valuable.

As I have said before you may see a horse who regularly has ratings in the mid 70's that is racing against runners in supposedly the same class or lower who are always rating in the high 70's or low 80's and you can confidently throw this lower rated horse out.

On a positive note, when a horse is consistently producing superior speed figures and its lowest rating from the last three runs is better than the best figure of the competition it will win a very high percentage of the time.

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Andy Beyer noted this as one his favoured early methods and it still picks good winners today. In some races it will be relatively easy to separate the contenders from the non-contenders, but in other races you will not be able to separate them no matter what you do.

You will find there are just too many horses in the race that are capable of running similar figures, or you have over the half the race within two or three for their Master rating.

You can look for one that stands out on its latest rating, or try to separate them using the better jockey or trainer or some other method but there is no shame, indeed it is good practice, to give the race a miss.

If you are able to reduce the contenders in a race to a reasonable number, you can then look into the past speed figure patterns and look for something that wouldn't be obvious to other punters, otherwise you can bet your two or three contenders all to win or in a forecast or tricast bet that will make you a profit.

Digging deeper into past ratings

Sometimes a horse will have scored a high rating in the past at today's distance and class but the rating is buried back in the past performance lines by recent races in which the horse was running at the wrong distance or on a disliked going or even with a poor jockey on board perhaps.

Sometimes it takes some digging to discover these horses but they can be great winners at great prices and well worth the effort.

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Good speed ratings recorded by three year olds with only a few starts can be very deceiving and if I were to suggest any races to avoid it would be for this age group, especially early in the season.

These horses can and do improve dramatically as they mature and step up in distance plus it is these three year olds who have now run three times and get into handicaps for the first time and knowing how they will perform can often be anyone's guess.

Lifetime best ratings, especially last time out, recorded by older horses with established form in the book are much more reliable as an indicator of how a horse may now perform.

Interestingly I am quite keen on two-year-old form as these horses seem to run to form in their first season and do not step up or down so dramatically in distance as they do when they become three year olds.

Form Cycles

Sometimes unusually high or low ratings will be hard to explain but in many cases the horse is simply going through its normal form cycle. These form cycles, which are many and varied, can be uncovered through deeper analysis of the speed ratings.

You will find among mature horses that improving speed ratings will highlight a horse coming into peak form, despite what the actual form figures look like.

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Recent speed figures of 68, 72, 76 show a horse who is improving by ratings even if the finishing positions were 5th then 6th then 8th.

If this latest 76 is one of the best three ratings last time out in the race, then you have an excellent betting opportunity and one that is unlikely to be at a short price either considering the form figures, because the public likes to concentrate on and over bet those horses that recently finished 1st, 2nd or 3rd.

If time allows, analysing the overall pattern of a horse combined with a deeper look at how each rating was achieved will give you some amazing insights into the form, how the horse is likely to run and some excellent betting opportunities too, often in races that would normally be left alone on first inspection.

Occasionally you will find a horse you think is ready to cycle back up to or close to its best ever rating in the same race as a very short priced favourite with high recent ratings but who is unlikely to run up to its best due to the race conditions perhaps and this can make for a very lucrative betting opportunity.

In fact, I can often spot a false favourite a mile away using the ratings and this gives me a value edge on the other runners in the race.

Those who take the the time to understand the ratings and how each horses patterns and cycles evolve will uncover one value bet after another. These bets won't always win however but they will win often enough to make you a profit.

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PACE AND RUN STYLE FIGURES

Is the pace of the race, or how the race will unfold an important part?

Well the answer is yes and to help you see just how the race is likely to unfold, Inform Racing provides Run Style Figures for every runner and this number shows how a horse ran in the early part of a race.

We take the in running comments and turn this into a number that shows a 1 if the horse led or was prominent, a 2 if it ran behind the leaders, a 3 if it ran in midfield and a 4 if it was held up or slowly away.

A race where you have just one likely front runner, a horse with a majority of 1's and maybe the odd 2, running against horses with mostly or all 3's and 4's, is likely to suit this one horse.

If you have more than one of these front running horses then they are likely to make it a fast pace and this can suit the held up horses much more because the front runners are going to take each other on, run too fast too early and burn themselves out, allowing the horses who started out the back at a steadier pace to come through and win.

On the race card the R/S column gives the most likely run style figure for each horse so you can see at a glance how each horse will be positioned in the race.

You can also see all Run Style Figures on the form pop up box, the form guide or In Depth Form Tables too.

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If you find a top or highly rated horse that is either a lone front runner or the only horse likely to be held up then you have an excellent bet as the ratings suggest a good horse and the pace of the race that is likely to suit.

This is all down to the pace of the race and the Run Style Figures will highlight a number of value betting opportunities for you, day in, day out.

Most talented punters and professionals in this country are very adept and skilful with speed ratings and you should be too.

As you have seen there are many ways to use the ratings depending on what time you have available but there is so much to this fascinating subject that will give you a massive betting edge over other punters and a profit to your betting.

"Ian, I'm speechless for a change, I've been around the punting block a few times over the last 4 decades and I'm doing my best to keep a calm level head about your ratings. In a nutshell I'm mightily impressed thank you." Neil

"Even though I have only been a client of yours for a short while I was a customer in the past and I have to say that I cannot understand why I ever left you." George

" Congratulations on making Many Clouds clear top rated, winner of the Grand National at 25-1. Totally unconsidered by the 'expert tipsters'. Keep up the good work." David

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- ✓ Join for 12 months and use Inform Racing just when required. Dip in and out to gain the information you need, when you need it, or access the ratings and form every day.
- ✓ Subscribe today for ongoing access
- ✓ Ratings posted before 6pm the night before, quite often before 4pm

Start afresh with your betting today and let speed ratings become your new winning edge!

"I couldn't bet without your superb ratings which help me find big priced winners on a daily basis. Inform Racing really is the secret to value!" Darren

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