

## Successful Horse Laying Strategy

The class par is the speed rating that a horse should have achieved before or recently, to win a race or to be competitive. This Par figure is shown at the top of each race card and is the average rating that has been recorded by all previous winners of the race in question, going by race type/race class and race age group.

The Master rating is the best rating each horse has achieved in the past 12 months.

We know that a horse that runs in Class 5 or Class 6 races will never beat a Group horse because of the obvious difference in class, but when horses are running all the time in similar class bands, how can you tell those that can win and as importantly, those that can't?

The answer is in the speed ratings.

A speed rating takes the time of the race and calculates the going on the day and turns this into a useable number that can be compared to all of the runners in the race.

Any that have not achieved a speed rating the same as or better than the class par, can normally be discounted from any shortlist and as I am going to explain further, be laid on the betting exchanges to lose - even when they are considered by those in the know as contenders.

We also know that the top 3 rated horses in the Master rating column win over 50% of all races, so that is where we will start looking for horses to lay.

Below you can see a race run at Lingfield yesterday where the top three rated horses were:

Newyorkstateofmind (84)

Chitra (83)

Pink Flamingo (82)

14:00 LINGFIELD (A.W) (LH Flat)																			
READ KATIE WALSH ON BETWAY INSIDER HANDICAP (0-75) (5) 3YO+, 04-Nov-2020																			
Race: 11, Distance: 6f, Forecast Going: SD, Winner: £3,429, Runners: 12 ClassPar: Par 77 H 84																			
Result: Winner: Newyorkstateofmind 3/1, 2nd: Spanish Star 28/1, 3rd: Little Brown Trout 11/2																			
No	Dr	R/S	Silks	Horse	Cl	OR	C	D	Master ↓	Lto			Avg	M+A	Crs	Dis	Ability	Form	F/C
▶ 5	3 <sup>11</sup>	2		Newyorkstateofmind		+1			84 <sup>97</sup>	73 <sup>20</sup>	72 <sup>37</sup>	56 <sup>54</sup>	67	151	73	77	38	16	4/1
▶ 2	6 <sup>10</sup>	1		Chitra			2	4	83 <sup>256</sup>	72 <sup>20</sup>	66 <sup>101</sup>	81 <sup>118</sup>	73	156	83	79	35	14	6/1
▶ 8	5 <sup>9</sup>	1		Pink Flamingo		-2	2	1	82 <sup>49</sup>	68 <sup>20</sup>	69 <sup>35</sup>	82 <sup>49</sup>	73	155	68	69	35	19	16/1
▶ 12	2 <sup>11</sup>	2		Ahorsecalledwanda		-1	1	1	81 <sup>91</sup>	55 <sup>68</sup>	71 <sup>83</sup>	81 <sup>91</sup>	69	150	81	81	34	14	11/1
▶ 11	11 <sup>9</sup>	1		Buy Me Back		-3		1	80 <sup>147</sup>	67 <sup>26</sup>	72 <sup>82</sup>	61 <sup>109</sup>	67	147		80	38	22	14/1
▶ 6	10 <sup>6</sup>	3		Sword Exceed		-2	4	3	79 <sup>305</sup>	27 <sup>55</sup>	59 <sup>102</sup>	70 <sup>130</sup>	52	131	79	79	40	27	20/1
▶ 10	4 <sup>11</sup>	2		Mews House		-2	1		79 <sup>109</sup>	71 <sup>27</sup>	75 <sup>41</sup>	67 <sup>59</sup>	71	150	79	72	35	22	25/1
▶ 1	9 <sup>9</sup>	4		Little Brown Trout		-1	1	2	77 <sup>51</sup>	77 <sup>51</sup>	66 <sup>66</sup>	68 <sup>100</sup>	70	147	77	77	39	12	6/1
▶ 3	8 <sup>11</sup>	2		Lilkian		-1	-1	2	77 <sup>11</sup>	77 <sup>11</sup>	74 <sup>25</sup>	76 <sup>41</sup>	76	153	68	77	36	15	8/1
▶ 4	12 <sup>6</sup>	3		Spanish Star		-1		3	77 <sup>82</sup>	60 <sup>21</sup>	76 <sup>29</sup>	73 <sup>38</sup>	70	147		76	41	13	7/1
▶ 7	1 <sup>7</sup>	4		Brunel's Boy		-2			77 <sup>154</sup>	70 <sup>26</sup>	63 <sup>46</sup>	71 <sup>54</sup>	68	145		76		15	14/1
▶ 9	7 <sup>8</sup>	4		Fresh Snow		+1			76 <sup>63</sup>	73 <sup>14</sup>	68 <sup>43</sup>	76 <sup>63</sup>	72	148		73		14	9/2

Form Guide  
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 Class Pars - Average Winning Rating  
 In Depth Form Tables (Race Conditions, Run Style, Official Ratings, Race Class)  
 Daily Stats Table  
 Last 20 winners run style: 1, 40% 2, 30% 3, 15% 4, 15%

[Key to the race card](#)

Two other things you can see are that the top rated horse won the race at 3/1 and that the Class Par for the rating shown in the header of the race, was 77.

When looking at horses to lay, it is wise not to be laying at too high a price, so initially I am looking at horses that have a forecast price of around 6/1 or less and that are not one of the three top rated horses. Or you could decide to lay the horse to not be placed.

Whilst not an exact science, the forecast price does normally shape the market so on most occasions, those horses that are forecast as one of the first four or five favourites, will start as one.

Immediately you can see that the horse at the bottom called Fresh Snow, with the lowest Master rating in the race, yet forecast at 9/2 second favourite, is one horse I would be interested in laying and would at least go on my shortlist.

Looking at the result, Fresh Snow came 6th of 12, starting at 9/2 and therefore was a successful lay not only in the win market but also in the place market, where it's BSP's were 7.04 for the win and 2.39 for the place.

Using the Class Pars.

Having found a successful lay using the Master Ratings, you can also see that this horse would have also stood out as a possible lay using the class pars because it's Master rating was only 76, whilst the class par for the race, shown in the race header, was 77.

Whether you are looking to lay horses or remove horses from your calculations, horses that have a Master rating less than the par for the race, can certainly be considered as not having a realistic chance of winning, given all that is known about its previous speed ratings.

(You may also notice that the winner had a Master rating of 84, equal to the highest ever achieved for the race type/race class/race age, so would have been on many Inform Racing backers shortlist for the day).

It is worth noting that Fresh Snow did have form figures of 22482 from its only previous five races, with two of the seconds coming on the same All Weather surface as the race at Lingfield, so on all known form you can see why this unexposed horse would have been put in as the second favourite.

The difference was that the speed ratings told a different story and those not using the Inform Racing speed ratings, would just look at the form figures without having any knowledge of what sort of runs the horse produced when coming second.

As I have said many times before, second place is just a position behind the winner and a number 2. *What you really need to know is the value of the race and the run itself and you can only know that by using the proven and profitable speed ratings.*

Back to the race and you can see that there is a +1 in the OR column for Fresh Snow and I want to talk about what this means further on in this post as we will be using this and other data on the card to filter out horses that may have more of a chance of winning despite their ratings.

Let's take a look at another race yesterday at Kempton.

17:50 KEMPTON (A.W) (RH Flat)																			
UNIBET 3 UNIBOOSTS A DAY NURSERY HANDICAP (0-85) (4) 2YO, 04-Nov-2020																			
Race: 28, Distance: 7f, Forecast Going: 5S, Winner: £4,464, Runners: 6 ClassPar: Par 76 H 82																			
Result: Winner: Farasi Lane 7/2, 2nd: Fabrizio 9/4, 3rd: Host 100/30																			
No	Dr	R/S	Silks	Horse	Cl	OR	C	D	Master ↓	Lto			Avg	M+A	Crs	Dis	Ability	Form	F/C
▶ 5	1 <sup>13</sup>	2		Host	+1	+2			79 <sup>29</sup>	79 <sup>29</sup>	76 <sup>47</sup>	45 <sup>74</sup>	67	146	76	79		8	7/2
▶ 6	4 <sup>16</sup>	4		Farasi Lane					78 <sup>47</sup>	76 <sup>24</sup>	78 <sup>47</sup>	66 <sup>84</sup>	73	151	66	78		12	7/1
▶ 2	5 <sup>13</sup>	1		Fabrizio	+1				74 <sup>20</sup>	74 <sup>20</sup>	67 <sup>32</sup>		71	145		74		7	7/4
▶ 3	2 <sup>15</sup>	1		Cotai Bear	+1				71 <sup>42</sup>	67 <sup>22</sup>	71 <sup>42</sup>	59 <sup>61</sup>	66	137	71	71		13	4/1
▶ 4	6 <sup>11</sup>	1		Lightening Shore	-2	-1	1		71 <sup>61</sup>	48 <sup>41</sup>	71 <sup>61</sup>	70 <sup>78</sup>	63	134	71	70	41	9	10/1
▶ 1	3 <sup>15</sup>	1		Basilicata		-1	1	1	70 <sup>142</sup>	69 <sup>47</sup>	47 <sup>76</sup>	69 <sup>95</sup>	62	132	69	70	90	13	13/2

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[In Depth Form Tables \(Race Conditions, Run Style, Official Ratings, Race Class\)](#)

[Daily Stats Table](#)

Last 20 winners run style: 1, 50% 2, 17% 3, 11% 4, 22%

[Key to the race card](#)

The horse I am looking at here is Cotai Bear because it is not one of the top 3 Master Rated horses and is forecast at 4/1 third favourite. It also has a Master Rating 5 less than the par for the race and eventually came fifth of six beaten over 15 lengths.

*To go back to my earlier point, especially if you are not a regular user of our speed ratings, it is worth noting the last time out rating of 76 for the winner and the 71 rating for Cotai Bear two runs ago because for the 76 rating the horse came third and was beaten by three and a half lengths whilst for the 71 rating, Cotai Bear came second and was only beaten by a short head.*

*How many punters would look at the form figures and distances beaten and give Cotai Bear the nod over the other horse?*

*This must prove as a reminder that form figures themselves and how far a horse has been beaten can be more than a little misleading and again, I will say, it is the value of the run itself providing the actual speed rating itself that will highlight where the winners and losers will come from.*

So on the race card, you will also see that Cotai Bear has a +1 in the Cls column and now I want to talk about this and bring in the +1 from the horse in the previous example.

The Cls column shows if a horse has gone up or down in class since the last race and the OR column shows if a horse has had its handicap mark raised or lowered since the last run.

For my purposes, I am ignoring any horses that would qualify either by a poor Master rating or Class Par, if they have a minus number in green, in either of these two columns.

If they did, it would mean that despite the ratings, the horse is being given an easier task than before and could provide a better performance if it has been dropped in class or has a lower handicap mark.

All horses either with nothing in both Cls or OR columns or a plus figure in red, means that on all known speed ratings evidence the horse should not be able to win PLUS they are running in the same class, with the same handicap mark or worse and hopefully will be unlikely to improve.

Despite everything as we know, horse racing is what it is and some of these qualifiers will still improve and run well or win and that is where you need to restrict the prices that you lay to, delve a little deeper into the connections of the race perhaps, or look to the place market for shorter lay prices.

#### Yesterday's results.

Qualifiers: 29

Lost: 25

Winners: 4 at BSP's of: 7.69, 3.86, 3.79 and 3.6

Unplaced: 19

BSP Lay to lose profit incl. 5% commission: +8.81

BSP Lay to place profit incl. 5% commission: +6.74

If you only laid those horses that had a Master Rating below the Class Par for the race you would have had 8 winning lays from 9 bets and a 5pt profit on the day.

If you took all qualifiers and only laid those that were not top 3 rated in any of the Master, Lto1 and Avg columns, so all black ratings not red, you would have had 7 winning lays from 7.

If you then laid only those that had no red ratings as well as a Master rating below the class par for the race you would have had 4 winning lays from 4.

### General Rules.

Races with plenty of form for all if not most horses.

Look for horses that are not top 3 rated in the Master column.

Look for horses whose Master rating is less than the Class Par rating for the race.

Look for horses that have a forecast price around 6/1 or less.

Ignore horses that have a minus number in green in the CIs or OR column.

### Conclusion

All this hopefully goes to show how you can look for lay bets using the Inform Racing speed ratings, using several different strategies or by combining them together.

Generally, horses that have poor ratings compared to others in the race, will not win and if they have a short forecast price, then most punters will assume it has a chance. However, knowing what the actual value of a race is, can be key and this can only be known by using the speed ratings.

Please remember that horses that 'aren't supposed to win', do sometimes win and that laying horses can be dangerous so you need to watch what prices you are laying to, however the majority will lose or run poorly and you can use the information here to help you find your losers.