



**36th asian
racing conference
Mumbai India 2016**

24TH - 29TH JANUARY 2016, MUMBAI INDIA

GALLOPING AHEAD GLOBALLY



Hosted by:



www.arcindia2016.com

HANDICAPPING & RACE PROGRAMMING

External Systems

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A Brief History of Timeform



Sports data and content provider

Entirely Business to Customer to begin with, increase in Business to Business

- 1948 Timeform founded
- 1949 'Racehorses' annual launched
- 1976 'Chasers & Hurdlers' series starts
- 2006 Timeform becomes a wholly owned subsidiary of Betfair Group PLC
- 21st Century
 - Harnesses algorithms and automations
 - Increasingly Global:
 - North American coverage added in 2010
 - Australia/NZ added in 2011

Automated Assessments



- **Race Standardisation**
 - What the race has produced previously
- **Prior-Rating Standardisation**
 - What the individual horses have done previously
- **Predicted Ratings**
 - What can be expected of unraced/lightly-raced horses
- **Time Analysis**
 - Overall time and sectionals
- **Automated Back-Handicapping**
 - Past form revisited in the light of subsequent developments
- **Human Input**
 - In terms of digitised race reading and fine-tuning of ratings

Race Standardisation

- Considers past runnings of the same or similar races
- Establishes race strength, weighted by *rating divided by position*, aka Zipf's Law
- Adjusts for circumstance (going, field size, time, margins, etc)
- Reapplies to the race now under consideration

The Derby, Epsom	Rating	Weighting	Race Strength
Average of winner	124.9 (+/-5)	124.9 / 1	120.8
Average of second	121.1 (+/-3)	121.1 / 2	
Average of third	118.1 (+/-2)	118.1 / 3	
Average of fourth	113.5 (+/-4)	113.5 / 4	
Average of fifth	111.7 (+/-5)	111.7 / 5	

Automated Horse Commentaries



Horse: TRENDING (IRE), 7 gr.g. (28 Feb 2009)

Date	Course	Result	Surface	Dist	Eq	Master Rate	Perf Rate	Ran To Form?
22/12/2015	Wolv	8 of 10	AW (tap)	7.15f	(tt)	66	55	✘
02/12/2015	Kemp	8 of 13	AW (pol)	7.00f	(h+tt)	67	53	✘
19/11/2015	ChlC	4 of 12	AW (tap)	8.00f	(h+tt)	67	63	✔
28/09/2015	Bath	8 of 12	G/F (turf)	5.05f		67	57	✘
15/08/2015	NwmJ	9 of 15	G/F (turf)	6.00f		68	45	✘
07/08/2015	Brig	2 of 8	Gd (turf)	5.27f	(b+tt)	68	65	✔

Trending 7 gr. g. 6wins/58runs, £42,045 in career: 1win/7runs, £6,755 in 2015: Modest handicapper: 16/1, 8th of 10 to Rosalee at Wolverhampton 16 days ago: stays 8f: acts on tapeta and good to firm going: usually in tongue tie, sometimes in blinkers/hood: tends to start slowly: none too reliable.

Automated Odds Lines

Bayesian Updating



Timeform Flags



ainer's recent form, based on Timeform ratings-related measurement.

Difficulties in obtaining useful data



- Different protocols for returning margins between horses
- Different descriptions of race types
- Large variations in the racing calendar over a short time
- Terminology
- Language
- Inaccurate time and distance measurements
- Renaming of horses
- Uncertainties regarding regulation (such as for betting)

When every business has free and ubiquitous data, the ability to understand it and extract value from it becomes the complimentary scarce factor. It leads to intelligence, and the intelligent business is the successful business, regardless of its size.

Data is the sword of the 21st century, those who wield it well, the Samurai.

Jonathan Rosenberg
Google, 2009

Thank you!



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