




The **Proform** Racecard

# Racecards

## racecard

/ˈreɪskɑːd/ 

*noun*

noun: **race-card**

1. a programme giving information about the races scheduled for a particular race meeting.

- Racecards have been in existence since the Victorian Era.
- Apart from a few changes their content and format has changed little to the present day, .. **until now** ...
- Using the power of Proform, we have developed our latest product, the **Proform Racecard** which breaks the mould and uses sophisticated statistical techniques to provide information to hobbyists and expert bettors who seek informative handicapping data and content.

# In this presentation we will cover

- The issues with racecards on offer today.
- How the Proform Racecards address these issues.
- The key concepts and principles of the Proform Racecard format.
- An overview of the key features in the Proform Racecard.

# The problem with current racecards

- Racecards should provided information on:
  - The race, race time, venue, value, distance, going and list of declared runners, riders and trainers,
  - The form of each declared runner,
  - A concise biographical account of each runner.
- In theory, a typical racecard should also help you make an informed choice about which horse to bet on.

However a typical racecard will look like this ....

# Current Racecard Issues

- Unfortunately, given the example; it is hard to make an informed decision due to the cramped layout and inability to decipher key pieces of information .
- Especially if you are trying to ascertain:
  - A. The merits of the horses recent form,
  - B. The recent performance of the trainer,
  - C. If it's a turf race, the effect of the draw bias,
  - D. The pace in the race, how will it be run,
  - E. The performance of the favourites under race conditions,
  - F. Profitable trainers and Jockey's, who are they?
  - G. Profitable angles for each Runner, Trainer or jockey,
  - H. Negative factors in the race.

- These issues are common to most racecards in existence today

# The Proform Racecard

- Before we present our racecard that addresses the issues highlighted previously, we first need to cover the key concepts and principles of our racecard format, these are:
  1. Present numbers when absolutely necessary,
  2. Where possible take advantage of the human brains ability to detect patterns,
  3. Utilise modern statistical methods and metrics where appropriate,
  4. Provide information not easily obtainable or not in the public domain.

# The Proform Racecard

## 1. Present numbers when absolutely necessary

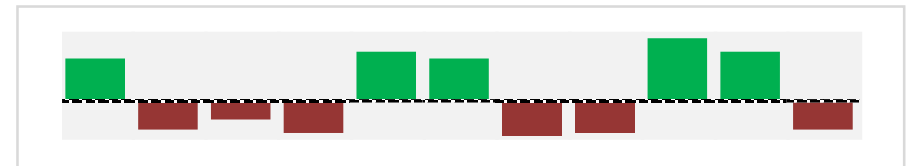
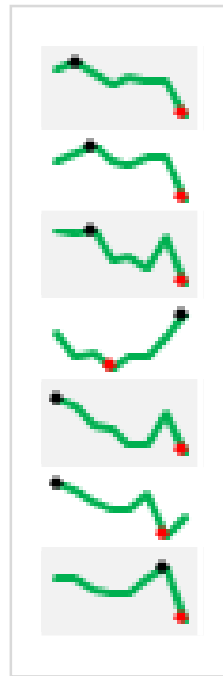
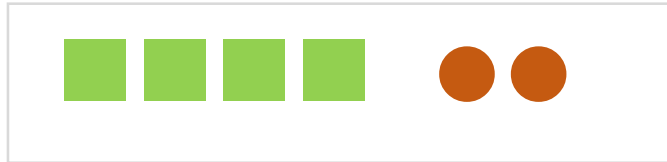
- Given the poor racecard example provided earlier, in theory the numerical information on the racecard should be represented in a different way.
- However, there's no getting away from the fact that if a measure or a piece of data has meaning in its magnitude, you cannot hide its value.
- Our racecards do not break this rule so where necessary we will display numerical data on the racecard in a tabula format per the example to the right.

W-R (%)
3-14 (21%)
12-49 (24%)
35-191 (18%)
5-23 (22%)
5-23 (22%)
5-23 (22%)
23-248 (9%)
8-68 (12%)
11-235 (5%)
0-0 (0%)
0-2 (0%)

# The Proform Racecard

2. Where possible take advantage of the human brains ability to detect patterns

- In the **Proform Racecard** we use a combination of shapes and colours to represent data per the examples below:





# The Proform Racecard

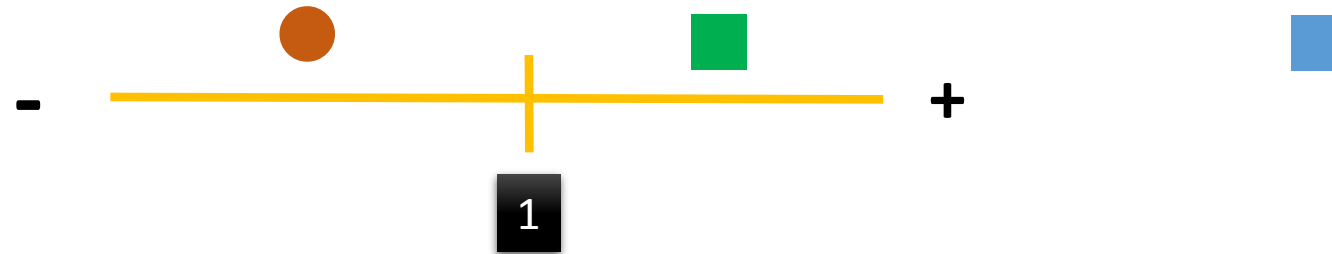
## 3. Utilise modern statistical methods and metrics

- There are lies, dam lies and statistics. However some statistics can be extremely useful.
- The key statistic used in the race card is **Actual** verses **Expected**, commonly know as the A/E index.
- The A/E index simply put, is a statistical measure of goodness for a particular group of data.
- Within the racecards we use the A/E index in a number of areas to benchmark **actual** wins verses **expected** wins e.g trainer course form.
- The actual wins is derived from real results, the expected win part of the equation is calculated statistically.

# The Proform Racecard

3. Utilise modern statistical methods and metrics

- The output of the A/E calculation results in a number:



- an A/E Index of **1** is considered to be as expected
- an A/E Index of greater than 1 is better than expected
- an A/E Index of less than 1 is worse than expected
- an A/E Index greater than 2 or higher is superior to the norm

The significance of the coloured symbols will be covered later in the presentation

# The Proform Racecard

## 3. Utilise modern statistical methods and metrics

- Why do we use the A/E Index in the racecards?
- The rationale is as follows:
  - a) **Value** is an integral part of the A/E index calculation.
    - In betting if you can identify situations where something is performing better than expected then you have found something that is value i.e. a situation that is not being over bet by the general public or a factor that is being overlooked by the crowd.
  - b) A/E Index statistics are not commonly found in newspapers and the racing media.
- Making betting decisions using the A/E Index will provide an edge over others who are not using A/E.



# The Proform Racecard

4. Provide information not easily obtainable or not in the public domain

- The Proform Formbook offers unparalleled and industry leading statistics and data.
- Our analysis of our data had revealed literally 100s of profitable statistics covering many trends and angles not available in other sources of data, for example:
  - Sire records in National Hunt Flat races,
  - Trainer switch 1st time out,
  - Horses record on going (Soft/Heavy), etc .
- To leverage this power we have included in the race card positive and negative statistics derived from the Proform database.
- Of course, each statistic is validated using the A/E index statistic.

# The Proform Racecard

4. Provide information not easily obtainable or not in the public domain

- On the racecards, positive and negative statistics are presented using the principles described earlier.
- Per the example to the right, #5 Mannaro has 3 positive statistics and 1 negative statistic.
- Using our positive and negative indicators you can factor this information into your decision making process.

#	Form (Turf)	Horse	+Pos	-Neg
8 (3)		Second Step (IRE)		●●
12 (11)		Wrangler		
10 (6)		Stout Cortez	■	●
11 (12)		Tactical Strike t <sup>1</sup>	■	
1 (7)		Alexanor (IRE) t <sup>1</sup>	■	
6 (8)	00	Masterpaver <sup>13</sup>		●
2 (10)		Astrovirtue		
5 (2)		Mannaro (IRE)	■■■	●
7 (4)		Rock Of Leon		●
9 (5)		Sternrubin (GER)	■	●
4 (9)		Itsnowcato	■■■	
3 (1)		Bourbon Prince		●

# The Proform Racecard

4. Provide information not easily obtainable or not in the public domain

How long does it take to determine if a horse is well handicapped?

How long does it take to calculate speed ratings?







How long does it take to determine the pace in the race?

- These are examples of handicapping activities that take time.
- Time is a valuable asset for the handicapper. If you have time you can examine all potential investment opportunities available to you. If your time is limited the opposite is true.
- One of the key design objectives of our racecards was to determine situations where Proform can do the “heavy lifting” for the user and allow you time to focus on your handicapping process!

# The Proform Racecard

4. Provide information not easily obtainable or not in the public domain

- Here are some examples

Horse	OR	vs	HiOR
Full Of Joy (IRE) <sup>29</sup> tp D	124		5
Incentivise (IRE) <sup>156</sup> D	119		6
Dusky Bob (IRE) <sup>196</sup> p C D	118		8
Chac Du Cadran (FR) <sup>228</sup> p BF	124		9
My Boy Paddy (IRE) <sup>199</sup> D BF	112		
Sun Cloud (IRE) <sup>35</sup>	116		
Papamoa <sup>187</sup> D	106		-4
Ultra Du Chatelet (FR) <sup>18</sup> t BF	112		
Mohi Rahrere (IRE) <sup>168</sup> b <sup>1</sup> D	111		-1

## *Is a Horse Well Handicapped?*

Horses running off a mark below their highest winning Official Rating can in theory win again off that mark

The graphic to the left indicates whether a horse is well handicapped against its official rating (OR) in a handicap of the same race type. If today's OR is higher than horse's highest winning OR (HiOR) the chart indicates **red**.

If the horse's HiOR is below today's OR the chart indicates **green**. The figure to the right indicates the number of pounds the official rating is above or below HiOR.

Full of Joy is running off an OR of 124, 5lbs **above** its highest winning handicap.

Papamoa is running off an OR of 106, 4lbs **below** its highest winning handicap.



# The Proform Racecard

4. Provide information not easily obtainable or not in the public domain

- Here is another example

*A faster than class indicator*

Horses that ran faster than class last time out have demonstrated an ability to beat winners!

Horse	Speed	vs Par
Full Of Joy (IRE) <sup>29</sup> tp D	52	-15
Incentivise (IRE) <sup>156</sup> D	73	6
Dusky Bob (IRE) <sup>196</sup> p C D	63	-4
Chac Du Cadran (FR) <sup>228</sup> p BF	65	-2
My Boy Paddy (IRE) <sup>199</sup> D BF	43	-24
Sun Cloud (IRE) <sup>35</sup>	0	
Papamoa <sup>187</sup> D	72	5
Ultra Du Chatelet (FR) <sup>18</sup> t BF	60	-7
Mohi Rahrere (IRE) <sup>168</sup> b <sup>1</sup> D	56	-11

The “Speed” column is the horses last time out Proform Speed Rating. This number is compared to the Class Par for winners at todays race type. The chart indicates how much the rating is above (green) or below (red) this median rating.

Full of Joys Speed Rating Last time out was 52, 15 below the median speed rating for this class.

Incentivise Speed Rating Last Time Out was 73, 6 above the median speed rating for this class.

# The Proform Racecard

4. Provide information not easily obtainable or not in the public domain

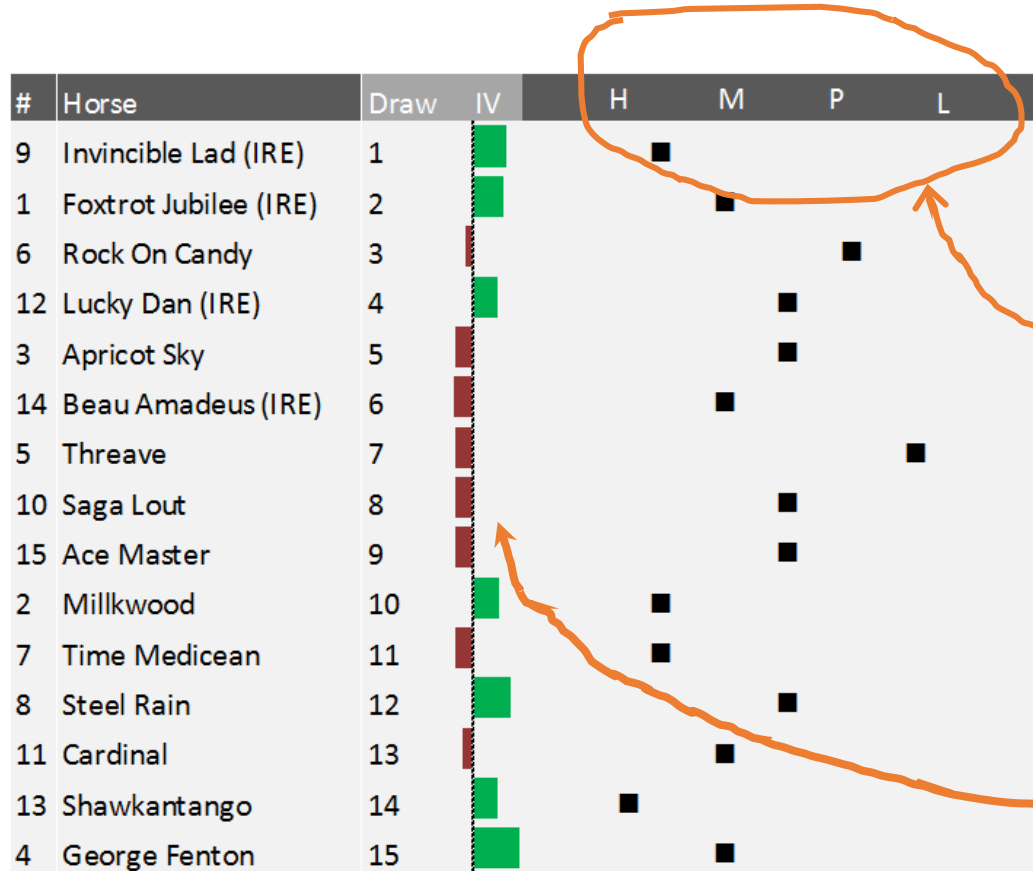
## Pace

- When looking at a race, the first question you should try to answer is: how is this race going to be run?
  - Is it probably going to be won from starting stalls to finishing line
  - Is a horse from the back of the pack likely to run down the leaders?
- Pace Mapping tires to visualise the pace within the race.
- In conjunction with any draw bias, pace/draw analysis form a powerful weapon in the handicappers armoury!

# The Proform Racecard

4. Provide information not easily obtainable or not in the public domain

## Pace Map



The Pace column is calculated from the horses last three runs, the number is then used to map the horses pace profile on the scale below based on the following key

Pace Style Statistics		Wins	Runs	IV	£	IV	£
L	Led	117	516	2.27	340.32	█	█
P	Prominent	172	1671	1.03	-336.73	█	█
H	Held Up	85	1524	0.56	-732.54	█	█

The table above details the Pace statistics for the course and distance in question. From the data the “course pace bias” can be determined i.e. does the course favour horses that like to lead?

The draw bias is also shown: **green** for positive stall, **red** for negative stalls, the length of the bar indicates by magnitude of the advantage/disadvantage

# The Proform Racecard – Summary

- In this presentation we have shown that there are number of issues with racecards on offer to handicappers today
- However, we have demonstrated that an alternative approach exists in the Proform Racecards which are:
  - i. More informative,
  - ii. Display data that is difficult to obtain,
  - iii. Present statistics in an visual format to allow ease of interpretation.
- Consider the Proform Racecard as a resource which provides you unique informational indicators to supplement your own methods.
- We **are** planning new features for the racecards so please ensure you visit [www.proformprofessional.com](http://www.proformprofessional.com) for future updates and enhancements.



# PROFORM RACING

THE PROFESSIONALS FORMBOOK

---