

**THE SECRETS OF**

UNDERSTANDING AND USING

**HORSE RACING**

**RATINGS**

WRITTEN BY

**KEITH BOND**

A ONE STOP RACING PUBLICATION

## **The Secrets Of Horse Racing Ratings**

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Printed and bound in the United Kingdom

# INTRODUCTION

*“The human brain is an incredible pattern-matching machine.” — Jeff Bezos*

**T**his book is intended as a companion to the Horse Racing Ratings provided on a daily basis by One Stop Racing. Don't let that put you off though as many of the strategies can be applied to ratings from other sources too in many cases without any tweaking.

Both the book and website are aimed at those who enjoy horse racing study and analysis but know there are no simple answers, and you can't just be told what to back and expect long term success.

There are a million and one ways of using horse racing ratings and One Stop Ratings are no exception.

While we encourage you to work out your own methods of using ratings, during second half of this guide there are 10 strategies for you to try.

You can take these strategies as they come straight out of the tin or ADOPT, ADAPT, and IMPROVE to make them your very own.

**WARNING this is book is not for everyone.**

There are no magic answers, but you can do well if you have discipline, strategy, and common sense. That's what we cater to.

This is not the holy grail; this book will not make you instantly rich; but by following some of the advice hopefully you will learn the best way for you to get that edge over our friends the bookmakers and help you to be a little less poor.

**Like I just said, if you are looking for a get rich quick scheme this book is not for you so put it down right now.**

Hopefully between these covers you will find at least one gem that works for you, whether you use it straight out of the tin or adapt it to suit yourself. This book combined the ratings we provide will provide you with several strategies that you can use to make your own selections.

**With the right attitude you will get a lot out of this book, but then again it is intended to get a great deal more out of you.**

I do not consider myself an expert on the use of horse racing ratings (after all what is an expert? An “ex” is a has been and a “spert” (spurt) is a drip under pressure.

But I am experienced in the use of horse ratings, and it is those years of experience that I am passing on to you in this humble tome.

*You Are Just One Strategy Away*

***Keith Bond***

Co-founder of One Stop Racing ([www.onestopracing.co.uk](http://www.onestopracing.co.uk))

# **A LIFETIME AFFAIR WITH HORSE RATINGS**

*“Don’t make your journey toward success a competition—make it a love affair.”*  
— Debasish Mridha MD

My love affair with horse ratings goes back to the early 1980’s I had been regularly attending race meetings at Catterick since 1977 with mixed success on the punting front.

**A sustained run of losers got me thinking there must be a way of increasing the strike rate by using a more structured approach.**

Around this time, I came across “The Fineform Rating Formula” produced by professional punter Clive Holt (see appendix 1).

The formula was basic allocating points for wins and places for a horse’s previous two runs and additional points for course wins, distance wins and indeed course and distance wins.

On trying it out I had a bit of success at first possibly beginners’ luck, but I was hooked and as a quick and dirty ratings method the Fineform Rating Formula was a good starting point when narrowing down a race to a few possible contenders.

The problem was I was still green when it came to ratings and started backing the top-rated blind without any regard for class, form or indeed any factor that could affect the outcome of the race. A total recipe for disaster.

Despite a few reversals I was now hooked on ratings and wanted to learn more and over four decades of study using horse racing ratings from various sources some paid and some free including Timeform, Proform, Racing Post Ratings, various newspaper ratings. I even created my own speed ratings at one point based on a Book called “Mordin On Time” which is long out of print but worth a read if you can pick up a copy.

These years of experience has led to the development of One Stop Ratings.

# ONE STOP RATINGS

*“Experience takes dreadfully high school-wages, but he teaches like no other”.*

Thomas Carlyle

All of the ratings mentioned on the previous pages have one thing in common though; the horses have a ratings value, but there isn't a framework for using them.

Addressing this issue was a key reason for creating our own ratings One Stop Ratings.

That forty plus years of ratings experience has gone into the creation of the ratings produced by One Stop Racing and published daily on the website at [www.onestopracing.co.uk](http://www.onestopracing.co.uk).

The key to our success with One Stop Ratings has been putting into place a framework, you could call it a road map, designed to get members started using the ratings, paramount to this has been the development of successful strategies for using ratings.

This structured approach has the ultimate goal of getting an edge over the regular punter and indeed the bookmaker.

While all the strategies you will discover later in this book have been developed with One Stop Ratings in mind many of them can be adapted to be used with other horse ratings if you prefer.

# WHAT ARE HORSE RACING RATINGS?

*"Winning starts with beginning." - Robert H. Schuller*

**H**orse ratings explained. Horse racing ratings are sets of data that represent (in numbers) a horse's ability. They are based on a horse's previous runs. They can be used to your advantage and really improve your results when betting on the horses.

There are official ratings which are provided by the British Horse Racing Authority (you will see these on a race card usually with the abbreviation (OR)).

There are also commercial ratings (such as those offered by One Stop Racing) which are specifically designed to rate horses using many pieces of historical data about that horse, in a way which is easy to understand and make betting decisions from.

We will cover both types of ratings this article.

## **How does a horse get its official rating and why do we need these ratings?**

A young horse receives its first official rating (shortened to "OR" on most race cards) from the British Horse Racing Authority (BHA) when it has either:

- Won its first race, or
- Achieved a minimum of three performance figures – that is, have raced at least three times in order for the BHA to translate these into an initial handicap rating.

### **\*\*FAST FACT\*\***

**If a horse doesn't meet either of these 2 conditions it must keep racing until it does, presuming it wants an official rating.**

Once the horse has this OR number (sometimes also referred to as a handicap mark or handicap rating) it is then eligible to run in handicap races.

The OR rating will affect the type/grade of race it can run in for the rest of its racing years. A handicap race is one where the weight carried is determined by the official rating of the horse - this allows a more equal chance for each horse in the race to win with an aim to make racing more competitive by grouping similar ability horses (hence the term handicap).

From that first rating the OR can go up or down (on a weekly basis) depending on how the horse performs. So, if a horse repeatedly wins races or places then the handicapper is very likely to increase its official rating. The British Horse Racing Authority update the official ratings every Tuesday morning, so for eagle eyed punters, that is the time to keep an eye out!

There is a slight difference in the OR range for National Hunt and Flat racing horses. Those that run in the National Hunt races will have a rating between 0-170 and those that run in the flat season will have a rating between 0-140.

Individual races are set a rating band and only horses with a rating that fits in that band are allowed to run in that race with a few exceptions.

This brings us nicely on to why we have these ratings and what do the handicappers and race organisers do with them!

### **Why do we have handicap ratings?**

A handicap rating is an indication of a horse's ability compared with another; they also provide some context to compare the merit of horses currently in training with those that have raced in the past.

In simple terms the higher a horse is rated on the official handicap then the better standard races the horse can run in.



Naturally not all horses have the same ability or speed and to consistently see horses of lower ability run against horses of much higher ability wouldn't be much fun for anyone and would ruin the competitive nature of the sport

Simple Summary:

- An OR (official rating) tells you how good (or not) a horse is based on its past performances.
- This OR (handicap mark) also determines which grade (or group) race a horse can run in.
- The horses rating can change over its lifetime depending on whether it wins or loses races and this in turn will affect which races the horse is allowed to run in.

How do commercial ratings differ to the official ratings?

While not all ratings are created equally most use some element of historical data not unlike that used by the BHA when producing official ratings. This is then adjusted according to any number of factors such as distance, going, jockey, trainer etc the list can be endless.

One Stop Racing for example uses a series of complex algorithms to produce four different ratings for every horse in every race.

The four ratings are:

1. LR - Last Run
2. HS - Horse Score
3. SR - Speed Rating
4. OSR - One Stop Racings Master rating.

To view historical ratings from One Stop Racing visit <https://www.onestopracing.co.uk/one-stop-ratings/> and click on any previous day, this goes right back to April 2021 and is a wonderful resource for back testing.

# WHY USE RACE RATINGS?

*"You see things; and you say 'Why?' But I dream things that never were; and I say 'Why not?'" - George Bernard Shaw*

**W**hy use race ratings? This a very good question. After all there is plenty of free commentary and certain data available on horses so why use additional form ratings?

The easiest way to answer this would be for you to make your selections with the help of race ratings for a month and then try and make them without using any sort of help(ratings) after that. Once someone starts using ratings to improve their betting selections most people can't imagine betting without them ever again.

Let's get one thing clear from the start - race ratings cannot perform miracles or point out the winner of every single race, every single time. If you think about it, if a set of ratings could do that there would soon be no bookies as they'd be quickly out of business.

That doesn't mean there is no point in using ratings though- far from it! And here's why:

Of all the successful bettors I've met over the years and indeed all the successful bets I've had personally they have one thing in common: they were well researched, and TIME had been spent finding the right selection to bet on.

Which leads us nicely on to ratings and how they can benefit you and improve your betting and strike rate.

Time, or lack of it, is a huge factor in most people's lives nowadays and it is no different for the average punter.

This is where ratings come in- they are a great way to spot trends and patterns quickly and narrow down your selections using set criteria so you can really focus on those horses that have a better chance of winning. Then you investigate this shortlist further and cross reference with other

sources (e.g., reading comments about how the horse last performed, why it performed that way, if there was any particular reason it doesn't do well at a certain course or going etc) to make your final decision on which horse(s) to back. This narrowing down process is so important in making sure you only select those horses that you really do believe have the best chance of winning.

It can also help you eliminate horses that, although the data looks good on paper, when you investigate the horse further you can see that actually the data is that way for a reason and it has no chance of winning the particular race you happen to be looking at.

Ratings can help you avoid betting because you like the name of the horse and all those other good/sentimental reasons (or not) we use to choose our selections. When you bet using ratings then you know you have done your research and in as many ways as possible confirmed why, of all the horses in the race, the horse you have selected could actually win it.

You are no longer acting on hunches or hearsay from well-meaning folks on social media etc, you are backing based on all the info you have available to you on that horse. Betting using as much accurate and factual information as possible can only lead to greater success in the long run.

When you consider there can be anything between 2 and 7 meetings most days and 500+ horses running on a busy Saturday of racing you see how difficult it can be to know where to even start when choosing horses to bet on for the day. That is where I believe ratings really come into their own.

Without ratings you could literally spend hours reading all the comments from racing news, bookies pages on the horses that are running and really get overwhelmed with which horse to pick. **Using ratings can help you streamline that process and spot things quickly** - so you don't have to look at all the races and all the horses, just those that the data draws your attention to. In the long run this saves you both time and more

importantly money by not making random bets and ensuring you only bet on things that really have the best chance of winning.

Remember there is no such thing as a sure bet (there really isn't) so it's always about improving your chances so that in the long term you are profitable, and that's exactly what horse race ratings can help you do.

# 15 ROOKIE MISTAKES THAT ARE MADE WHEN USING HORSE RATINGS

*“Learn from the mistakes of others. You can’t live long enough to make them all yourself.” - Eleanor Roosevelt*

**T**here are a several common mistakes that people make when using ratings to evaluate horse races.

Some of these include:

1. Backing the top-rated horse blind: Not making any consideration to any other factors bar the ratings you are using is a recipe for disaster.
2. Changing strategies too often: It is very important that you give the ratings strategy you are using a fair crack at the whip, dropping a strategy after a handful of losers is not best practice. Even a strategy that finds the winner of a race 40% of the time can have losing runs. If you are a bit unsure just paper trade for a while.
3. Ignoring the data: Totally disregarding what the ratings are telling you is never a good idea.
4. Relying on ratings when there isn’t enough information: If several of the contenders in a race have no ratings for whatever reason be very wary about relying solely on the data.
5. Relying too heavily on past performances: While past performance can be a useful tool for predicting a horse's future performance, it should not be the only factor considered. Other factors, such as the horse's current condition and the conditions of the race, can also have a significant impact on a horse's performance.
6. Ignoring class changes: A horse's rating may change if it is competing in a different class of race than it has previously. For example, a horse that has been successful in maiden races may struggle in stakes races against more experienced and talented horses.

7. Not considering the competition: The level of competition a horse is facing should also be taken into account. A horse may have a high rating, but if it is facing tougher competition than it has in the past, its chances of winning may be diminished.
8. Not considering the track conditions: The condition of the track can have a significant impact on a horse's performance. For example, a horse that excels good to firm ground may struggle on soft or heavy going.
9. Not considering the trainer: Trainer has a big impact on how the horse is trained, how the horse may perform in certain conditions, the horse selection for certain race and so on.
10. Not adjusting for weight: Horses carry different weights in a race, and this can have a big impact on a horse's performance. A horse that is carrying a lot of weight may struggle against horses carrying less weight. It's important to adjust the ratings based on the weight that a horse is carrying.
11. Not considering the jockey: The jockey plays an important role in a horse race and can have a big impact on a horse's performance. A horse with a talented jockey may be more likely to win than a horse with an inexperienced jockey, regardless of their rating.
12. Not considering why a horse ran poorly last time: Factors such as the pace of the race, traffic, and the position of the horse can have a big impact on a horse's performance. A horse that fell, unseated rider, slipped up or was badly hampered could well bounce back to form in its next race, even if its rating hasn't changed.
13. Not considering the distance: Some horses are better suited for certain distances, and their ratings may be adjusted accordingly. It's important to consider the distance of the race when evaluating a horse's rating.
14. Not considering the track bias: Some tracks may have certain biases, such as a bias towards speed or a bias towards closers. This can impact how a horse is rated and should be considered when handicapping a race.

15. Not considering the breeding: breeding can give you some idea about the type of horse, if it can run on certain conditions, if its stamina is good and so on. This is not a major factor, but it is still important to consider when evaluating a horse.

Some Ratings such as One Stop Ratings do have many of the above factored into the algorithm used when generating the ratings values but that does not eliminate the need for at least a cursory glance at the form.

In summary, while horse ratings extremely useful, it's important to consider a variety of factors when analysing a race, not just rely solely on the rating alone.

While not everything listed above needs to be considered for every race it is important that you do at least take a look at the race in question to see if anything stands out as to why or why not a well rated horse will or will not win.

# ONE STOP RATINGS - WHAT THE COLUMNS MEAN

*"To know, is to know that you know nothing. That is the meaning of true knowledge".*  
- Socrates

If you are new to One Stop Ratings you may be wondering what all the columns mean.

Take a look at this example race and we will endeavour to explain:

Wed 14th Dec 2022 12.50 Lingfield (10 runners)

BetUK Over 40,000 Live Streamed Races Handicap Class 5, 6f , Standard, 3yo+, Win:  
£4536

No	Horse	Age	LR	HS	SR	OSR	Odds
2	Iustcallmepete	3	<b>76</b>	<b>174</b>	75	<b>279</b>	1.88
9	The Princes Poet	4	62	172	66	271	5.5
7	Beauzon	3	60	143	73	270	5
5	Show Me A Sunset	6	58	163	71	255	12
3	Lilkian	5	61	152	<b>76</b>	252	5

The number highlighted in **BOLD** is the Top Ranked in each column.

**No** - The left-hand side column is No - this is the race card number of the horse.

**Horse** - The second column is Horse - self-explanatory this is the name of the horse.

**LR** - LR stands for "Last Race" - This is the rating One Stop Racings calculations have awarded the horse in question for its most recent run.

**HS** - HS is the "Horse Score" - The last 10 races that a horse has run in are analysed with regards to several factors, these include: finishing position, class, conditions and course and a Horse Score is calculated.



**SR** - The SR is a "Speed Rating" - This is calculated using a complex formula which includes but is not exclusive to the race's distances, times races have been run in, distance behind winner.

**OSR** - OSR is the acronym for "One Stop Rating" - The One Stop Rating is the master rating accolated to each horse and it includes all of the previous rating plus additional weighting from other factors such as jockey form, trainer form and sire form.

**Odds** - Odds are the industry forecast odds for each runner in the race - These odds are taken from the "tissue price" which is the estimated odds prior to the betting market being formed.

# A CLOSER LOOK AT OSR

*"It's not what you look at that matters, it's what you see". - Henry David Thoreau*

**T**his article takes a closer look at OSR and how it can be used to narrow down the field in a horse race, eliminating losers and finding a good proportion of winners in the process

## **What is OSR?**

OSR is a horse racing rating, the master rating provided by us at One Stop Racing.

The acronym OSR stands for "One Stop Rating"

## **Is OSR any good?**

The top ranked OSR Rating generally averages better than 1 winner in every 4 races.

The following table shows the OSR Rank of the winners of 750 consecutive races between Friday 28th January 2022 and Tuesday 22nd February 2022.

203 / 750 or 26.57% of the winners were top ranked on OSR.

531 / 75 or 70.30% of the winners were ranked between first and fourth on OSR.

## **\*\*FAST FACT\*\***

**OSR is a great way of narrowing the field and eliminating a few losers along the way.**

If you are looking for each way opportunities, in our sample 52.88% of the Top Ranked OSR horses made the frame as did 42.03% of the second ranked, 34.89% of the third ranked and 28.14% of the fourth. Ranked.

<b>OSR Rank</b>	<b>Bets</b>	<b>Wins</b>	<b>Win%</b>	<b>Places</b>	<b>Places%</b>	<b>P/L</b>
1	764	203	26.57%	404	52.88%	-112.60
2	759	145	19.10%	319	42.03%	-143.02
3	751	108	14.38%	262	34.89%	-160.35
4	732	75	10.25%	206	28.14%	-201.80
5	668	60	8.98%	164	24.55%	-236.62
6	612	51	8.33%	152	24.84%	-29.64

The numbers for Non-Handicaps only are even more impressive take a look below at the following table which shows the OSR Rank of the winners of 750 consecutive non handicap races between Thursday 16th December 2021 and Tuesday 22nd February 2022.

<b>OSR Rank</b>	<b>Bets</b>	<b>Wins</b>	<b>Win%</b>	<b>Places</b>	<b>Places%</b>	<b>P/L</b>
1	757	264	34.87%	494	65.26%	-102.99
2	757	144	19.02%	358	47.29%	-137.36
3	752	98	13.03%	246	32.71%	-256.88
4	735	72	9.80%	207	28.16%	-84.43
5	688	43	6.25%	125	18.17%	-369.48
6	627	37	5.90%	119	18.98%	-263.39

## Where can OSR be found?

There are 2 ways of getting the OSR.

### 1) Getting OSR Via One Stop Ratings

Members of One Stop Ratings get every race rated by 4 separate ratings every day in the format as shown below.

The OSR is in the seventh column, all columns are sortable in ascending or descending order to aid research. The default order is by OSR in descending order i.e., Top Ranked first.

**Tue 22nd Feb 2022 8.00 Southwell (9 runners)**

**Watch Racing Free Online At Coral Handicap (Div 2)  
Class 6, 7f , Standard To Slow, 3yo, Win: £2970**

No	Horse	Age	LR	HS	SR	OSR	Odds
3	Gidwa (IRE)	3	86	174	59	285	2.25
1	Ringo Starlight	3	61	167	59	272	5.5
6	Kiritimati Island	3	72	160	57	243	2.5
8	Above It All (IRE)	3	69	149	58	229	10
7	Thin Lizzy	3	70	138	52	222	7.5
5	Bearcardi (IRE)	3	37	121	57	219	20
2	Almodovar Del Rio (IRE)	3	42	140	58	198	N/A
4	Rhino	3	53	118	59	189	10
9	Intriguing Lady (IRE)	3	55	117	58	179	16
10	Gurkhali Warrior (IRE)	3	49	104	53	163	25

**One Stop Ratings are only available to One Stop Ratings Members and Full Members of One Stop Racing.**

## 2) Getting OSR via One Stop Race Cards

The OSR is in the third column from the right, all columns are sortable in ascending or descending order to aid research. The default order is by the OSR number in descending order i.e. lowest first. All of the columns however are sortable and the below card has been sorted by racecard number in ascending order.

Tue 22nd Feb 2022

**8.00 Southwell** (9 runners)

**Watch Racing Free Online At Coral Handicap (Div 2)**

Class 6, 7f, Standard To Slow, 3yo, Win: £2970

No.	Form	Days	Horse	Age	Weight	Headgear	Jockey	Trainer	Stall	Miles	OR	Odds	OSR	CD	S
1	1540125	29	Ringo Starlight	3	9-7	Blk TT	Ghiani, Marco	Murphy, Amy	3	85	65	11/2	272	C	5
3	5859441	13	Gidwa (IRE)	3	9-5		Probert, David	Foy, Kevin	1	85	63	9/4	285	D	4
4	554	21	Rhino	3	9-4		Hamilton, Tony	Fahey, R A	10	91	62	10/1	189		2
5	6836280	55	Bearcardi (IRE)	3	9-2		Edmunds, Lewis	Eyre, J L	5	74	60	20/1	219		1
6	86723	37	Kiritimati Island	3	9-2	CkPc	ONeill, K T	Furtado, Ivan	9	8	60	5/2	243		2
7	0363	70	Thin Lizzy	3	9-1		Beasley, Connor	Dods, M	4	126	59	15/2	222		2
8	9966653	83	Above It All (IRE)	3	9-0		Coakley, Ross	Walker, Ed	7	131	58	10/1	229		2
9	3486773	10	Intriguing Lady (IRE)	3	8-11	Blk	Elliott, Andrew	Johnston, M	6	110	55	16/1	179		5

### **\*\*FAST FACT\*\***

**All Tips, Ratings and Full Members of One Stop Racing ([www.onestopracing.co.uk](http://www.onestopracing.co.uk)) get access to One Stop Race Cards as a FREE! Addition to the membership package.**

# 10 STRATEGIES FOR USING RACE RATINGS

*“Success is nothing more than a few simple disciplines, practiced every day.” – Jim Rohn*

**T**hese strategies were developed over more than four decades as a framework for using horse racing ratings. Born from a need to find a structured approach with the intention of beating the bookmaker, an impossible task if you just go in blind throwing handfuls of ten-pound notes in their direction. If that is your approach you might as well just put all your money into a woodchipper.

Unless you are using One Stop Ratings as your ratings provider, when we talk about OSR in the following pages please feel free to substitute it for the master rating from the source you are using.

Every one of these strategies can be used straight out of the tin but I recommend that you tailor them to suit your needs.

Nothing is set in stone, and as I stated earlier, I am a big believer in the philosophy of “ADOPT, ADAPT, IMPROVE”.

For example, take Strategy 2 the 40+ Method, have a play! It might work better being 50+ especially if too many losers are being highlighted. Or even 35 plus if you discover winners are being missed.

In the words of Del Boy “The world’s your lobster Rodney”.



<b>No Horse</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>LR</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>SR</b>	<b>OSR</b>	<b>Odds</b>
12 Starsinhereyes	4	56	131	43	193	14/1
3 Duke Of Deception (IRE)	4	43	101	60	191	12/1
6 Golden De Coeur (FR)	5	61	126	57	188	5/2
7 Nights In Venice	5	53	104	55	182	12/1
2 Bold Soldier	6	0	0	0	14	8/1
11 Whatsgoingon (FR)	5	0	0	0	3	33/1
10 Top Medici	5	0	0	0	2	33/1
4 Gege Ville (FR)	5	0	0	0	1	16/1
9 River Meadow (IRE)	5	0	0	0	1	5/1
8 Notnowbob (IRE)	4	0	0	0	0	50/1



## Strategy 2

# THE CONSENSUS METHOD

### What is the Consensus Method?

The Consensus Method is fast way of getting going with One Stop Ratings.

Navigate to the ratings for the day you wish to study and go to the "Full Ratings" section, look for the races where all the columns have the same horse top rated i.e., top ranked on LR, HS, SR and OSR.

You will see the ratings presented as shown below with the top rated in every column in bold. When all the bold numbers are lined up we have a consensus, and that horse is a selection on the Consensus Method.

No	Horse	Age	LR	HS	SR	OSR	Odds
2	Colonial Empire	5	<b>94</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>308</b>	1.5
9	Half The Freedom	6	56	151	60	224	4.5
14	Mac Be Lucky	5	43	123	57	221	5

### The Consensus Method - Version 1.jb

One Stop Ratings Member James gave us some feedback about the original version of this strategy and suggested a couple of modifications which made perfect sense, firstly he eliminated those races over 20% of the horses have incomplete data. We call these the NEDs (see strategy 1).

Then he eliminated all races where there are joint top ranked on any of the 4 ratings.

**This is a prime example of our mantra “ADOPT, ADAPT, IMPROVE”.**

### **Final criteria for The Consensus Method (version 1.jb)**

1. Top Ranked on all 4 columns LR, HS , SR and OSR
2. Eliminate the NED's
3. Eliminate any races where there are joint top ranked in any column.

### **Is the Consensus Method any good?**

The Short answer is Yes

We have been fully monitoring since August 2022 and the strike rate is very impressive.

- August – 39 winners from 95 qualifiers – 41% Strike Rate
- September – 35 winners from 82 qualifiers – 43% Strike Rate
- October – 30 winners from 75 qualifiers – 40% Strike Rate
- November – 32 winners from 75 qualifiers – 43% Strike Rate
- December – 16 winners from 40 qualifiers – 40% Strike Rate (up to 22<sup>nd</sup> December)

Total: 154 winners from 367 qualifiers – 42% Strike Rate.

# Strategy 3

## THE 40+ METHOD

**What is the 40+ Method?** Along with the Consensus Method, the 40+ Method is one of our “Go To Strategies” for quickly making a shortlist of possible bets on any given day.

Qualifiers for the 40+ Method are those horses top-rated on OSR that are at least 40 points clear of the next rated in the race. These are generally horses we would suggest as win bets but do not recommend backing them blind without some consideration to form.

The average strike rate month on month for qualifiers on the 40+ Method is 40% and that is without eliminating the NEDs

The table below shows the One Stop Racing 40+ qualifiers for Saturday 27th October 2021.

### Top Rated OSR 40+ (Possible Win Bets)

Time Track	Race Type	Card No	Top Rated Horse	Points Clear	Odds	Results
12.05 Doncaster	Handicap Chase (Class 5)	No. 1	Summit Like Herbie	40	15/2	WON
1.30 Newcastle	Handicap Novices Chase (Class 3)	No. 1	Valleres (FR)	57	11/10	3rd
1.36 Fairyhouse	Maiden Hurdle (Ire)	No. 16	Grangee (FR)	88	2/7	WON
2.11 Fairyhouse	Handicap Hurdle (Ire)	No. 13	Enjoy Dallen (FR)	93	5/1	7th
2.53 Doncaster	NH Flat (Class 5)	No. 4	Le Fils De Force	70	7/2	WON
3.15 Newcastle	Hurdle (Grade 1)	No. 3	Sceau Royal (FR)	41	4/1	3rd
4.30 Wolverhampton	Novices (Class 5)	No. 4	Papa Dont Preach (IRE)	64	1/8	WON

## **Strategy 4**

# **LAY BETTING USING THE ONE STOP RATING (OSR)**

**T**his strategy came about after a number of members of One Stop Racing enquired about the best way of spotting potential "Lays" using our ratings as they are interested in Lay betting.

### **What is a Lay betting?**

For the uninitiated, a "Lay" is a horse that is expected to lose. Lay betting is an option on a betting exchange such as Betfair which allows punters to play the role of bookmaker (or layer). You set the odds of the bet, and you potentially win the backer's stake if the selection loses.

There is an increased risk though. If the selection wins, you lose the backers stake multiplied by the price of the selection (minus the stake amount).

The risk can be reduced if you are prepared to lay more than one horse in a race as there can only be one winner.

### **How do I find horses for Lay betting?**

We have noticed over the time that we have been generating ratings at One Stop Racing that a significant number of those horses that are Top Ranked on OSR but only 1 to 5 points clear of the second ranked tend to lose.

Our reasoning behind this trend is that due to the cramped nature of the ratings spread the race is very competitive with any number of horses having the scope to win.

The table below shows the One Stop Racing OSR 1-5 qualifiers for 13th January 2023.

### **Top Ranked OSR 1-5 (Possible lays)**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Track</b>	<b>Race Type</b>	<b>Card No</b>	<b>Top Rated Horse</b>	<b>Points Clear</b>	<b>Odds</b>	<b>Results</b>
1.50	Sedgefield	Handicap Hurdle (Class 5)	No. 11	Coral Blue (IRE)	4	5/1	<b>6<sup>th</sup> – Winning Lay</b>
2.20	Sedgefield	Handicap Chase (Class 4)	No. 8	Cash Again (FR)	5	8/1	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> – Winning Lay</b>
3.10	Lingfield	Handicap (Class 5)	No. 7	Starfighter	3	4/1	<b>6<sup>th</sup> – Winning Lay</b>
3.20	Sedgefield	Handicap Hurdle (Class 5)	No. 5	Somewhat Cloudy (IRE)	4	5/1	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> – Winning Lay</b>
3.40	Lingfield	Handicap (Class 5)	No. 5	Sundayinmay (GER)	5	2/1	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> – Winning Lay</b>
3.45	Newcastle	Handicap (Class 6)	No. 11	Selfish Brian (IRE)	4	6/1	<b>8<sup>th</sup> – Winning Lay</b>
5.45	Newcastle	Non-Handicap (Class 6)	No. 12	Oriental Lilly	4	13/2	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> – Winning Lay</b>
7.00	Dundalk	Handicap (Ire)	No. 6	Kudbegood (IRE)	4	2/1	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> – Winning Lay</b>
7.30	Dundalk	Handicap (Ire)	No. 6	Harbanaker (IRE)	4	6/1	<b>5<sup>th</sup> – Winning Lay</b>

Not every day gives a 100% strike rate but they are not uncommon.

## **Does this strategy work?**

Between July and December 2022, 1045, horses qualified as possible lays using this strategy, a whopping 823 of the lost their races that means those 823 were winning lays a strike rate of 79% which is pretty good indeed.

### **\*\*FAST FACT\*\***

Qualifiers for both “Strategy 3 - Top Rated OSR 40+” and “Strategy 4 - Lay betting using the One Stop Rating (OSR)” are emailed to all monthly, quarterly, and annual members of One Stop Racing ([www.onestopracing.co.uk](http://www.onestopracing.co.uk)), every evening for the next day’s racing.

## Strategy 5

### BACK THE TOP OSR BLIND

The One Stop Rating (OSR) is our master rating and if you choose to back the top-rated blind you will find winners but in a similar way to backing favourites blind you may struggle to make any long-term gains if using level stakes, switching to variable stakes could well improve things (see appendix 2 for variable stakes)

Let's have a look at how the numbers stack up for the Top Rated OSR

#### **All Races - using the last 750 races matching the criteria as of 29/11/21\***

223 winners 29.7% SR. 407 Places 54.26%

#### **All Non-Handicaps - using the last 750 races matching the criteria as of 29/11/21\***

256 winners 34.13% SR. 475 Places 63.33%

#### **All Handicaps - using the last 750 races matching the criteria as of 29/11/21\***

172 winners 22.94% SR. 343 Places 45.73%

\*It is important to understand that a 750-race sample over a different time period will not give exactly the same results.

## Strategy 6

# NARROW THE FIELD USING THE TOP 3 RANKED OSR

Concentrating on the Top 3 Ranked on OSR is one way of narrowing down the field and it is far easier to pick the winner from 3 horses rather than say a field of 13.

By concentrating on the Top 3 rated on the master rating you will find the winner in approximately 70% of the races this varies from day to day and some days the figure will be higher and other days lower.

Going through the results for Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2021

14 winners had Top OSR

6 winners were second on OSR

6 winners were third on OSR

9 winners were fourth or worse on OSR

So on this day a pretty healthy 26 winners from 35 races were in the Top 3 on OSR and this doesn't take into account NED races (see strategy 1).

Once you have your shortlist of 3 you may want to get it down to one horse to have a bet on, how you do this is up to you.

Some methods you could use are:

- Pick the one with the shortest forecast odds
- Pick the one with the highest forecast odds
- Chose the one with the highest LR (Last Race) rating.
- Chose the one with the highest HS (Horse Score)
- Chose the one with the highest SR (Speed Rating)



- Delve into the form for each horse on a website such as the Racing Post who let you drill down the form for each runner.

You could even Dutch all 3 horses.

Or maybe you could consider forecasts and tricasts.

## **Strategy 7**

### **CONCENTRATE ON HORSES WITHIN 50 OF THE TOP RATED OSR**

**T**his strategy is similar to strategy 6 “Narrow the Field Using the Top 3 Ranked OSR” without the restriction of being in the Top 3 on OSR in that it is an alternative method of arriving at a short list.

Going through the results for Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2021

27 winners of the 35 races were within 50 points of the Top OSR.

You could use some of the methods listed in strategy 6 to get this shortlist down to one solid contender.

## Strategy 8

# CONCENTRATE ON HORSES TOP RATED ON BOTH LR AND HS

Consider all horses that are Top Rated on both LR and HS but not necessarily Top on OSR.

These **MUST NOT** be top rated on SR.

This race at Doncaster on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2021 is a good example. HERBIERS who qualified using this strategy won at 100/30.

**Sat 27th Nov 2021 2.18 Doncaster (8 runners)**

**virginbet.com Handicap Hurdle**

**Class 3, 2m3½f , Good, 3yo+, Win: £4956**

No	Horse	Age	LR	HS	SR	OSR	Odds
2	Courtandbould (IRE)	7	59	153	<b>91</b>	<b>332</b>	5
3	Ecco	6	45	163	76	317	3
7	Pyramid Place (IRE)	4	58	185	76	287	6
5	Herbiers (FR)	4	<b>75</b>	<b>186</b>	76	284	3.5
1	Global Citizen (IRE)	9	64	158	67	258	7
4	Ask Paddington (IRE)	7	48	153	75	247	7

## Strategy 9

# USING RATINGS TO IDENTIFY POSSIBLE EACH WAY BETS

**O**verview of Using Ratings to identify possible Each Way Bets  
The strategy of Using Ratings to identify possible Each Way Bets was born from a desire to find a regular supply of viable each way bets without being overwhelmed by the number of qualifiers.

### What is each way betting?

Each way betting is a type of betting where a punter places two separate bets: one to win and one to place (finish in the top few spots). The win bet pays out if the selection wins the event, while the place bet pays out if the selection finishes in a predetermined number of places, such as the top 3 in a horse race. The odds and pay-outs for each bet are typically lower than a win bet alone, but it increases the chances of winning something on the bet.

### Our main metric for finding potential qualifiers is Top Ranked on LR.

For the uninitiated LR (Last Race) is our performance rating for a horse's latest race, we have gone for this metric as if a horse has achieved a high LR it quite of means that the horse is on form and could well be capable of producing another equally good performance.

### Criteria for the Using Ratings to identify possible Each Way Bets:

- Handicaps only
- Minimum 8 runners
- Top Ranked on LR
- At least 6 on the forecast odds column
- Must not be a qualifier on Strategy 4 - Lay betting using the One Stop Rating (OSR)

We recommend backing these each way using a bookmaker that offers extra places.

### Example race

In the example below the qualifier is Thrilla In Manila.

#### Sun 1st Jan 2023 5.26 Southwell (8 runners)

No	Horse	Age	LR	HS	SR	OSR	Odds
3	Sir Gregory (FR)	5	72	172	69	272	4
5	Beneficiary	4	50	154	72	272	3
6	Thrilla In Manila	7	85	153	68	261	12
2	Dark Side Prince	6	46	144	70	258	6
1	Modular Magic	6	48	121	74	248	4
8	The Tron	5	75	169	65	244	6.5
7	Brandy Station (IRE)	8	71	147	65	242	16

# Strategy 10

## COURSE AND DISTANCE WINNERS TOP RANKED ON OSR

For this strategy we are using the racecards provided by One Stop Racing as they not only have the OSR Ratings but a lot of other information as well.

What we are looking for with this strategy is a horse that is Top Ranked on OSR and also a course and distance winner.

Course and distance winners are indicated on the racecard as CD in the CD column.

If a horse has C D with a space between the letters it does not qualify as this means that the horse has won at the course but its distance win has been at another venue.

To narrow down the number of qualifiers anything that qualifies on strategy 4 is eliminated.

In this example race Kracken Power is the qualifier.

No.	Form	Days	Horse	Age	Weight	Headgear	Jockey	Trainer	Stall	Miles	OR	Odds	OSR	CD	S
4	7052351	1	Kracken Power (IRE)	5	9-11		Mulrennan, Paul	Goldie, J S	9	146	52	6/5	273	CD	3
3	7696361	3	Mehmo (IRE)	5	9-6	H+B	Larson, Frederick (3)	Appleby, M	3	126	52	5/2	258	D	3
2	4116301	80	Zoom Star	5	9-8		Shaw, Harrison	Smart, B	2	119	54	11/1	236	D	0
7	5807325	80	Stroxx (IRE)	6	9-1	Blink	James, S H	Bailey, Liam	5	57	47	14/1	230		0
8	0003343	10	Nellie French (IRE)	6	9-0	TT	Dennis, Phil	Scott, Miss Katie	6	267	46	14/1	227	CD	4

# Strategy 11

## YOUR FIRST RATINGS STRATEGY

**Y**es I know I said 10 strategies and that is correct as strategy 11 hasn't been developed yet, this one is down to you.

How you approach your first strategy is personal choice, all you need is a germ of an idea, a flash of inspiration.

You could take an existing strategy and tweak it, possibly combine 2 strategies into a hybrid. Remember Adopt, Adapt, Improve!

Maybe you would rather start with a blank sheet and formulate a strategy from scratch.

Specialising is always a good option as it reduces the number of qualifiers, maybe pick just three-year-old class 4 races on the all-weather, or plump for handicap chases with less than 12 runners. It is entirely up to you; the only limitation is your imagination.

Three things we do recommend when developing a strategy are:

1. Paper trade at first or if you must use money make sure it is from the penny jar and not the mortgage account.
2. Stick with your strategy until you have a decent set of results before determining whether to run with it, tweak it or ditch it.
3. Back test using previous ratings and indeed Racecards, the archives on the One Stop Racing go back to April 2021.

Good luck, and remember:

**YOU ARE JUST ONE STRATEGY AWAY**

# APPENDIX 1

## “THE FINEFORM RATING FORMULA” BY CLIVE HOLT

We are including Holts “Fineform Rating Formula” as there may be a way you could utilise it in one of your ratings strategies.

All horses are assigned points based on their last two races, with the maximum possible score being 12 points. The horse that finishes with the most points is the one that you’re supposed to bet on.

Last 2 Races in the Current Season	
1st Place	5 points
2nd Place	3 points
3rd Place	2 points
4th Place	1 point
Course and Distance Success	
Course and Distance	3 points
Distance	3 points
Course	1 point

If two runners tie for the top spot, then you should award an extra point to a distance winner.



## **APPENDIX 2**

# **MAXIMISE YOUR RETURNS WITH VARIABLE STAKING**

*“Trust because you are willing to accept the risk, not because it’s safe or certain.” – Anonymous*

**Variable Staking is one of those secrets that the Bookmakers would rather you did not know.**

A frequent question we receive at One Stop Racing is: how much should I stake?

This is an exceptionally good question: however, you could ask a dozen regular punters, and receive a dozen different answers.

How much you decide to bet is entirely up to you, and obviously it depends largely on your personal circumstances.

**At One Stop Racing we recommend a method called “Variable Staking”.**

This means that the stakes do not rise in strict mathematical progression and are instead framed to take in to account the amount of risk, based on the odds being offered by the layers.

We always base the risk on actual bookmaker’s odds available, and NOT our own opinion of what the odds should be.

By using variable staking we are fixing the amount we want to win, and we recommend you aim for 5% of your betting bank.

**The following table shows how much of your betting bank should be staked, based on a £200 betting bank. Adjust to your own bank size.**

**We are aiming in this example to win £10**

Odds	Decimal	Stake		Odds	Decimal	Stake	
8/11	0.73	£	13.75	5/2	2.50	£	4.00
4/5	0.80	£	12.50	11/4	2.75	£	3.64
5/6	0.83	£	12.00	3/1	3.00	£	3.33
10/11	0.91	£	11.00	16/5	3.20	£	3.13
1/1	1.00	£	10.00	100/30	3.33	£	3.00
11/10	1.10	£	9.09	7/2	3.50	£	2.86
6/5	1.20	£	8.33	4/1	4.00	£	2.50
5/4	1.25	£	8.00	9/2	4.50	£	2.22
11/8	1.38	£	7.27	5/1	5.00	£	2.00
6/4	1.50	£	6.67	11/2	5.50	£	1.82
13/8	1.63	£	6.15	6/1	6.00	£	1.67
7/4	1.75	£	5.71	13/2	6.50	£	1.54
9/5	1.80	£	5.56	7/1	7.00	£	1.43
15/8	1.88	£	5.33	15/2	7.50	£	1.33
2/1	2.00	£	5.00	8/1	8.00	£	1.25
85/40	2.13	£	4.71	17/2	8.50	£	1.18
11/5	2.20	£	4.55	9/1	9.00	£	1.11
9/4	2.25	£	4.44	10/1	10.00	£	1.00

**Download an excel Spreadsheet to work out your own stakes [here](#).** If you experience any problems with the download simply [contact us](#) and we will email a copy to you.

If you like to bet win singles at odds on, even at odds of below 8/11, we do not recommend ever risking more than 7%, or approximately 1/14<sup>th</sup> of the betting bank.

At the other end of the scale our recommended minimum bet, even on horses with odds of over 10/1, is 0.5% or 1/200<sup>th</sup> of that betting bank.

**Using variable stakes in this way, you will maximise your returns over the long term.**