

The below article was posted to our forums by one of our form analysts. It is a great read and a good learning tool for budding form analysts.

Enjoy the read!!! and take note of what is being said. This is powerful information!!!

I am going to start a new thread regarding the pros and cons of following "strong form races" so to speak.

What Is A Strong Form Race?

A strong form race can be identified as one that is above its true class level. True class level refers to the advertised race quality. Most racing jurisdictions have different class structures within minor degrees. In each jurisdiction though one can say that overall class can be identified by the dollar value of any event.

This is not to say that dollar value of class can be compared across different countries when assessing International events with competitors from different jurisdictions.

Take for instance a 2yo Group 1 winner from South Africa that may be in a race worth 15K GBP which in South Africa would be approx 220K Rand and it goes to Dubai and races in Group events worth 250K USD or 120K GBP, that would seem a big class rise from 15K GBP to 120K GBP but the true assessment here would be G1 South Africa to G2 International, that jump in class is much more achievable than a natural 15K GBP jump to 120K GBP jump so to assess across racing jurisdictions is totally different.

So when assessing true class if the top choices in the event are above the advertised race quality in dollar terms we can suggest that there will be hidden merit associated to the winners/place getters of the race, as long as it is truly run where class becomes the dominant factor instead of the race pace scenario.

Under pressure scenarios it can be said that class wins races, not pace, not speed.

All of these factors must be taken into account when working out if a race is above its true class level.

Once you have identified a race as being above its true class level you have armed yourself with a powerful betting tool for future reference.

Lets now look at an example of what we are talking about.

The first race in question we can look at is from 28 April 07 at Ripon in The UK at 5.50.

This was a 6.8K event with a small field of 5 runners engaged.

The post race comment reads as follows "small field of 5 engaged but that does not take away from the quality here, first 4 home were all above this level last season, the race quality here is definitely above the 6k advertised level, more like an 11k field."

That comment I recorded itself suggests that the race quality is very good for the grade with all 4 of the first 43 home worth following out of it.

1st was Peppertree Lane, this is what I said about its performance, "2nd up this term won a 6k 5 field 12f handicap, not great margins but 2nd to 4th all naturally above this class, looks to have found form and will be competitive up to 11k handicap level next few starts."

This one has started twice since, 4th of 6 at Group 3 level, too big a rise in class, then last start won a 17K listed event at 9/2 defeating Day Flight, very good value!!!

2nd was Lets Roll, this is what I said about its performance, "1st up effort this term finished 2nd to Peppertree Lane, race quality above advertised level, subject to minor improvement for fitness, will win very soon if kept in this company."

At its only start since finished 6th of 8 in a very strong Listed race behind Scriptwriter, rose in class and started 12/1.

3rd was Camrose, this is what I said about its performance, "decent effort 1st up 0.71 3rd to Peppertree Lane, subject to improvement for fitness, race quality definitely above advertised level, win in next 2 starts if kept to this level."

At its only start since Camrose finished a short head 2nd to Scriptwriter at Listed level in

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another very strong form race, he started 10/1 and margins of 21 and 5.51 to 3rd and 4th suggest once again it was another big performance.

So the first three across the line that day seperated by a neck and a half length have since produced a win at 9/2 and a 2nd at 10/1 from 3 backable starts out of 4 runs.

Sure this is only a small sample but to go into a hundred different ones in depth would take way too much time.

These three runners had what is called "hidden merit" through that high rating 7k race they finished 1,2,3 in.

Lets revisit this over time to see what they do in the future.

Arming yourself with the knowledge of the high quality race performances gives you a big advantage as an overall betting tool and also drastically reduces the amount of time you have to spend doing form study for future events as you already know what are the strong races to follow and what are the weak ones to avoid or in other terms the weak ones can also be used as very strong laying propositions!!!