

Horse-to-Follow: How Speed Figures Reveal Hidden Potential in Horse Racing

By Ben Aitken

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Introduction

Following on from my previous article - [The Power of Proform: How Speed Figures Can Help You Uncover Future Winners](#) – I'll now be aiming to pinpoint some horses to follow, using the Proform Speed Figures as my basis to find these horses...

Today I'm heading to **Doncaster** and the **Class 2 Handicap Hurdle** that was run on **Saturday 27th January** (12:55 race)...

Horse to follow: RICH SPIRIT (S Smith)

To start with let's look at how the race panned out on the Proform Speed Figure front...

Doncaster (LH - Galloping) (Saturday 27 Jan 2024)												Going: Good (Act: Good) (1.5)							
12:55 SBK Handicap Hurdle (GBB Race) (Class B) (Class 2)												£15843							
2m 3f 88y												13 Run (14)							
Hurdle Handicap (0-145) (New Class B / 2) (Speed Class Par: 72)												4yo+							
Time: 276.10 Seconds (Total SP 124.1%)																			
Draw	#	Position	Horse	Pace	PaceForm	Trainer	Jockey	Age	Spd Rat	stLTO	stHA C	stLTO 2	stLTO 3	stLTO 4	DSL R	Weight	Equip	OR	OR HWin
0	9	1	Geromino (FR)	8	LL/HPPHPPPL-	Donald McCain	Mr Charlie Maggs (10)	8	76	73	79	40	0	0	42	10.5	IWS	128	135
0	12	2	Rich Spirit	4	HH/HPPP-	Sue Smith	Ross Chapman	6	75	64	66	66	64	56	39	10.7	t	120	114
0	7	3	Luttrell Lad (IRE)	8	PP/HHHHPPPL-	Tom Lacey	Cameron Iles (7)	8	73	66	65	71	76	69	42	10.10	t	130	123
0	11	4	Alien Storm (IRE)	4	HHHHHH/HPPH-	Charlie Longsdon	Mr B Roberts (5)	6	72	67	67	67	56	0	92	10.3		121	0
0	2	5	Punctuation	0	H/HHHH/HHHHH-	Fergal O'Brien	Paddy Brennan	7	71	70	79	79	78	0	69	11.10	IWS	137	129
0	10	6	In From The Cold (IRE)	0	H/PHHHHHHH-H	G Harris	Mr J.A. Anderson (5)	7	70	65	75	45	58	56	14	10.6		134	93
0	4	7	Sans Brul (FR)	0		Paul Nicholls	Bryony Frost	6	69	0	0	0	0	0	11.7	HWST	134		
0	1	8	No Ordinary Joe (IRE)	0	H/PHLLH/PHHH-	Nicky Henderson	Mark Walsh	8	68	85	85	76	65	0	57	12.0		141	134
0	3	9	The Big Bite (IRE)	6	PH/HHHH/PPP-	Henry Oliver	Ryan Mania	11	68	0	69	0	0	0	57	11.7	WS	134	139
0	8	10	Call Of The Wild (IRE)	0	PHL/HPPH/HHH-	Alan King	Tom Cannon	7	68	43	76	0	0	0	65	11.1		128	122
0	6	11	Wolf Prince (IRE)	12	HP/HHHH/LLLL-	Fergal O'Brien	Connor Brace	8	49	0	82	0	0	0	532	11.5		132	137
0	5	PU	Lunar Power (IRE)	4	PPPPH/PPP-H	Donald McCain	Brian Hughes	6	0	62	79	70	75	0	26	11.6	p	133	129
0	14	PU	Hunting Brook (IRE)	2	H/HHPLPHH-	Gordon Elliott	Mr Jack Tudor	7	0	49	64	54	44	39	56	10.2	t	115	93

As you can see the race looks strong on the Speed Figures... the Speed Class Par figure was 72 and the first three home all ran above that figure... the fourth horse ran to a figure bang on par and the fifth and sixth home ran just a smidge below par... so on Proform Speed Figures this looks like a decent piece of form to keep on the radar...

The winner – GEROMINO – was a comfortable enough winner, posting a figure that was the second best of his career, having been able to run off a mark only 2lbs higher than the course victory he had recorded the previous month. He's a consistent type and is clearly benefiting from the assistance of his 10lb claimer, and although he could go in again if they keep making use of the claimer, he was raised to a career high hurdle mark (OR 136) off the back of this run and is a bit of an exposed type, being an 8yo with 31 career starts in the bank...

As such it is the runner up – **RICH SPIRIT** – who catches my eye...

The Sue Smith trained 6yo was making his handicap debut here and was travelling strongly throughout the contest, unfortunately for the youngster his inexperienced jockey told in the closing stages (he was the least experienced runner in the field with only 6 previous starts), with the Iktibas gelding producing some scrappy jumps as he tried to make a move to challenge for the win down the Doncaster home-straight.

He will have learned plenty from the run, however, and the 6lbs rise he received for the run (up from OR 120 to OR 126) shouldn't in any way be enough to anchor him given the Proform Speed figure he produced here on Handicap debut.

To add further meat to the bone... Sue Smith has some very solid stats with her Handicap Hurdlers during the January to February period, especially when it comes to her Male 5yo & 6yo's that already had at least 1 previous Handicap Hurdle start on their CV...

System Results (BOG ON)		Betfair Price Used : Betfair SP															(Prices up-to-date to: 30/01/2024 20:30:00)			
Runners	Winners	Win S/R	PRB	PRB*2	WAX	EX Wins	A/E	Chi Scr	50%SR	P/L	Betfair	P/L to SP	EP	BP	MP	Plc Only	Plc Only S/R	Win & Plc	Win & Plc S/R	
69	25	36.23	74.03	62.66	11.92	13.08	1.91	13.41	52.17	139.61	95.82	70.58	63.83	111.71	14	31.82	39	56.52		

Assuming the horse has come out of the race well he will hopefully be out before the end of February, with the above set of figures telling us that Sue Smith has a history of placing similar types to **RICH SPIRIT** to best advantage during the first couple of months of the year...

RICH SPIRIT should be a worthy addition to your trackers, and he can hopefully land the second victory of his career in the coming weeks/months...

By Ben Aitken

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Race Trends analysis and horse profiling alongside personally researched systems and angles are my preferred analysis and betting methods

Proform user for over 10-years