



## Key to British Racecards

- (1) **Horse name** For non-British bred horses, includes country of breeding in brackets
- (2) **Prize money** Horse's British earnings from 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place money during the current and preceding season
- (3) **Trainer form** From left to right, this comprises:
- up-to-date record at the course, from 1983 for Flat and from August 1985 for National Hunt races, comprising wins, places (including wins) and runs
  - the result of a level-stake bet on all runners at the course expressed as a percentage on turnover (+ is a profit, - a loss)
  - course form (explained below) – the form shown by trainer's runners at the course
  - recent form – form shown by stable's runners over the two weeks prior to going to press

Trainer form assessments are a comparison of the form shown by runners with their overall form. Preceded by 'F' they are expressed on a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 denoting 'poor', 2 'fair', 3 'average', 4 'good' and 5 'very good'. 'F-' denotes no assessment has been made due to insufficient data.

- (4) **Type of race** Contains the following elements:

2 – restricted to 2 year olds	F – fillies or mares
3 – restricted to 3 year olds	G1/G2/G3 – Group races
c – steeplechase	H – handicap
h – hurdle	M – maiden
b – National Hunt flat race	N – novice
A – apprentices	Nn – non-handicap (used only for Flat races in absence of a more specific description)
Au – auction race	S – seller
B - (bumper) amateur riders	T - hunter
C – colts or colts and geldings	
Cl - claiming race	
Co – conditional riders	

e.g. 3FM – 3yo fillies' maiden, HCoh – conditional riders' handicap hurdle

- (5) **Value to winner** Expressed in thousands of pounds, to the nearest thousand  
'1' is used for any value less than one thousand  
'-' is used for races with no prize money

- (6) **Course** Abbreviated to the first three letters, except for

Cml – Cartmel	Ncl – Newcastle	Nab – Newton Abbot
Chm – Cheltenham	NmJ – Newmarket July	Sfd – Stratford
Chp – Chepstow	NmR – Newmarket Rowley	Wcn – Wincanton
Nby – Newbury		Wsr – Windsor

- (7) **Equipment** b – blinkers, visor, hood, eye shield, cheekpieces or combination of these  
t – tongue strap  
a – blinkers (or some other equipment for the eyes) and a tongue strap

- (8) **Jockey** Preceded by the jockey's allowance, where applicable.  
For flat races the rider's normal allowance at the time of the race is given, as opposed to any allowance specified by the conditions of the race itself.  
For National Hunt races, the allowance actually claimed in the race is given.

- (9) **Finishing position** The horse's position when passing the post. If this differs from its official position then it is indicated, e.g. 2p3 - finished 2nd, placed 3rd; 4d - finished 4th, disqualified; = - horse dead-heated for that position

For non-finishers, the following abbreviations are used:

f – fell	s – slipped up	t –took no part
b – brought down	r – refused during race	l – left at start
p – pulled up	o – ran out	n – refused to race
u – unseated	c – carried out	

(10) **Separating distance** Distance beaten or distance clear, in lengths to the nearest tenth. A nose or short head is taken as 0.0 and a head as 0.1.

- If this horse is not the winner, then this is the number of lengths in finished behind the winner. A following '+' indicates the horse was beaten at least this far, though we don't have the exact distance. For example, '21.0+' means the horse finished at least 21 lengths behind the winner. 'dist' means the horse was beaten 'a distance'.
- If this is the winner, then this figure is preceded by an asterisk and is the number of lengths back to the second. So '\*10.0' means the horse won by 10 lengths. By 'winner' here we mean first past the post. 'alone' means this was the only finisher and 'w.o.' means the horse walked over.

(11) **Time rating** The figure representing the time value of this performance, expressed in pounds and already adjusted to today's weight. The notation used is identical to that for the form rating which is explained in (13) below.

(12) **Distance and going**

- Distance, in furlongs. Up to 10 furlongs the distance is given to the nearest tenth, beyond 10 furlongs to the nearest furlong. For courses with straight and round versions of the same distance the prefix 'r' denotes the round version. 'j' denotes a third course,
- Going is given in the following grading:

**Turf**

V – heavy

S – soft

D – dead or good to soft

G – good

M – moderately firm or good to firm

F – firm

H – hard

**All-Weather**

s – slow

d – standard to slow

m – standard to fast

f – fast

(13) **Form rating** Expressed in pounds and already adjusted to today's weight. The higher the rating the better the performance.

For non-Flat races the race category 'c', 'h' or 'b' is appended. Other notation as follows:

'-', a minus following the rating occurs when we don't know the exact distance beaten. It means the horse ran to some rating less than this figure, e.g. '103h-' means the horse ran to some rating less than 103, in a hurdle. This may or may not be useful information – it depends on the horse's other ratings. If the horse normally runs to around 125 then 103h- implies that it ran well below form. But if the horse's usual rating is around 70 then 103h- doesn't tell us much at all. Performances so poor that they are off the scale are denoted by '0-', '0c-', '0h-' or '0b-'.

'-', a dash, on its own means that the race was one of the relatively few for which ratings could not be assigned due to insufficient data.

'ds' denotes the horse was beaten 'a distance'

'wo' mean the horse walked over.

For non-finishers, the appropriate abbreviation (see (9) above) is printed followed by the furlong in which this occurred (for flat/National Hunt flat) or the obstacle at which this occurred (for hurdles/chases. e.g. 73h - a hurdle rating of 73; f4c - fell at the fourth in a chase; pFh, pulled up on the flat in a hurdle; p8b, pulled up in the 8th furlong of a bumper.