RECOMMENDED RACING BOOKS

Continually striving to improve your knowledge about racing, betting and yourself is essential to long-term success as a punter. When I first became interested in betting in the mid 1990's, I spent countless hours reading as many racing books and articles as I could get my hands on. Some contained invaluable advice, while others steered me towards false beliefs and downright ridiculous approaches to betting.

I regularly receive emails from keen punters asking "where can I find good reading material to learn more?"

From my journey reading hundreds of racing and betting books over the last 20+ years and the experience now to reflect back on the quality of their content, I've put together a list of those I think are worthwhile reading for any punter that is keen to learn more.

Almost all are outdated as far as current racing is concerned, but that doesn't diminish the value of their content.

No single book contains the secrets to success or an all-round winning approach, but each contains different ideas, principles and advice that can add to your knowledge. Sometimes it can be just one or two small ideas you take from a book that sow the seeds for significant improvement in your punting career.

AUSTRALIAN BOOKS

Gallopers and Gamblers (Pat Craven)
A terrific comprehensive guide to the entire horse racing industry in Australia. It covers just about everything including breeding, conformation, training, horse ability, bookmaking, weight ratings, selection procedures, framing your own markets and much, much more.

Winning More (Don Scott)
One of the most influential books ever written as Don Scott was one of (but not the first) genuine punting experts that outlined the methods and approach he used to apply weight ratings and form analysis principles to achieve success. Many of today's successful punters and bookmakers (myself included) spent many hours studying and following Scott's work in their formative years. Times have certainly changed and I wouldn't recommend following his specific approach to the letter these days, but the book still contains many terrific foundation principles that all keen form students should know.

Australian Horse Racing & Punters Guide (Rem Plate)

Before Don Scott published his work, renowned punter Rem Plante produced what is still one of the best books ever written about the principles of form analysis and punting. The copy I have is dated 1974 and it was a revision of a previous edition. Rem covers a wide range of form analysis factors, ratings as well as professional punting and staking.

Hats In The Ring (Alan 'Hats' Aitken)

Not as comprehensive as the books above, but it's more modern (1997) and covers an excellent range of key racing factors from a punters perspective. It differentiates itself from other books by covering some current day topics such as sectional times, speed maps, track bias and video replays. Highly recommended for all punters.

Punting To Win (Rod Buttery)

A great all-round book on understanding racing and form analysis with a host of important topics. The author also devotes a number of chapters to what we can learn from well-known punting and bookmaking experts of years gone by. There's a stack of useful knowledge to gain out of this book.

Horse Racing Theory and Practice (Paul Segar)

An all-round coverage of key form analysis factors with some good content on the characteristics of races, why horses win or lose and how to use video replays in your analysis.

The "Compleat" Horseplayer (David Edleman Ph.D)

Published in 2001, this book offers a point of difference to most others in that it covers some of the more scientific topics relevant to betting such as technical analysis, ratings, value, money management, exotic betting and much more. There's plenty of content in this book that you won't find anywhere else.

OVERSEAS BOOKS

Betting Thoroughbreds (Steven Davidowitz)

It's written for American racing / punters but it contains some great material on a wide range of factors that are relevant to Australian racing such as class, key race analysis, speed handicapping, pace handicapping, race shapes and more.

Precision – Statistical and Mathematical Methods in Horse Racing (C X Wong)

Published in 2011, this book is a must have for those that are aiming to be more mathematically minded in their approach to horse racing analysis. It covers both basic and more advanced concepts for horse racing from the authors experience working in a large Hong Kong gambling syndicate.

Picking Winners (Andrew Beyer)

Beyer revolutionised the way American's look at racing with his speed handicapping methods, which led to his figures becoming a standard part of the Daily Racing Form guide from 1992 onwards. Dirt track racing in the USA is different to our Turf Track racing, but many of the principles are still relevant if this is an area you want to get into. Beyers other books "Beyer on Speed" and "The Winning Horse Player" extend his work in this area further and go into using his figures with other factors such as pace, track bias and trip handicapping to gain an edge.