

# TIMEFORM'S GUIDE TO SECTIONAL TIMING



**Simon Rowlands**  
SECTIONAL TIMING  
EXPERT

The All-Weather Championships were launched in the winter of 2013/2014, culminating in the first All-Weather Championships Finals Day, which took place in front of a capacity crowd at Lingfield Park Racecourse on Good Friday, 2014.

As with that initial All-Weather Championships, racing at Lingfield Park in 2014/2015 has been accompanied by sectional timing, provided by TurfTrax. **Sectional times will**

**again be displayed on screens at the course as a feature of the 2015 All-Weather Championships Finals Day.**

That sectional timing, and this Timeform leaflet explaining sectional timing and its uses, has come about as a result of The British Horseracing Grant Scheme, administered by the British Horseracing Authority on behalf of the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

*Simon Rowlands, Timeform*



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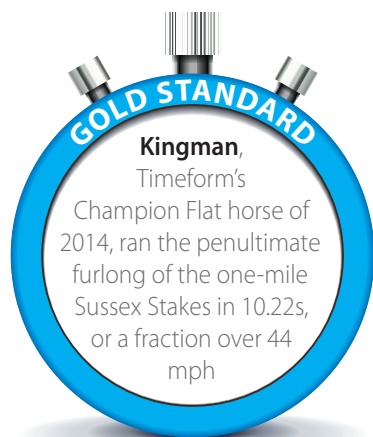
## What is sectional timing?

Sectional timing breaks a race into timed sections, establishing the time taken by individual horses in these various "sections" of a race, rather than just for the race overall.

TurfTrax technology records the precise location of every horse several times a second by means of wireless signals sent between transmitters in those horses' saddlecloths and receivers located around the course, from which times and speeds can be instantaneously calculated and relayed "as live".

The way in which a horse runs its race will affect its ability to get from A to B in the fastest possible time and/or its ability to win the race in question.

Sectional times identify how efficiently a horse has raced and can be used to establish the degree to



which that horse was advantaged or disadvantaged by circumstances.

The sectional times displayed as an accompaniment to live pictures are for the leader of the race, for quick reference.

Post-race sectional times go into much more detail for each and every horse and may be found at

[www.turftrax.co.uk/tracking-technologies.html](http://www.turftrax.co.uk/tracking-technologies.html)

Timeform captures sectional times more widely through sophisticated post-race video analysis.

## Why is sectional timing useful?

There is an efficient way for a horse to run a race: this will approximate to "even pace" but is affected by several factors (including the overall distance of the race and the topography of the track).

Timeform have established Par sectional %s using races over the course and distance that resulted in good overall times. Any significant departure from this benchmark of efficiency will harm a horse's overall time and may compromise its ability to perform to its best.

**Timeform's unique methodology converts sectional times into finishing speed %s, which show the average**

**speed in the closing sectional compared to the average speed for the race overall.**

A finishing speed higher than 100% indicates that the closing stages of a race, or of an individual horse's performance within that race, were quicker than the average speed during that race. The reverse applies when a finishing speed is lower than 100%.

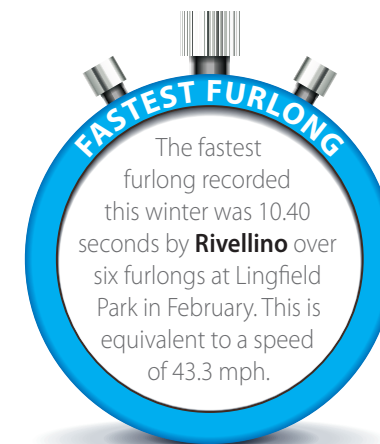
Traditionally, judgements about pace have been made visually. Finishing speed %s are a more accurate way of identifying fast finishes, in which energy has been conserved earlier in the race and usually test speed more than stamina, as well as slow finishes, which usually test stamina over speed.

The difference between an actual finishing speed % and a "Par" finishing speed % for the course, distance and circumstances is used by Timeform to upgrade individual performances.

## What is a truly-run race? What's Par?

The times given are Par times for the leaders if the race were truly-run. Slower times may well indicate that the pace is steady – so that horses held up will be at a tactical disadvantage – while faster times may well indicate that the leaders are going faster than ideal.

Race Name	2	4	6	Overall Time
<b>13:40 - Fillies' and Mares' Championships Conditions Stakes (7f and 1 yd)</b>	After 2f <b>24.8s</b>	After 4f <b>48.1s</b>	After 6f <b>1m 10.8s</b>	<b>1m 22.6s</b>
<b>14:10 - Sprint Championships Conditions Stakes (6f and 1 yd)</b>	After 2f <b>24.5s</b>	After 4f <b>46.4s</b>		<b>1m 09.4s</b>
<b>14:40 - 3-Y-O Mile Championships Conditions Stakes (8f and 1 yd)</b>	After 2f <b>25.4s</b>	After 4f <b>49.2s</b>	After 6f <b>1m 12.4s</b>	<b>1m 36.1s</b>
<b>15:15 - Mile Championships Conditions Stakes (8f and 1 yd)</b>	After 2f <b>25.1s</b>	After 4f <b>48.6s</b>	After 6f <b>1m 11.5s</b>	<b>1m 34.9s</b>
<b>15:45 - Middle-Distance Championships Conditions Stakes (10f)</b>	After 2f <b>26.8s</b>	After 4f <b>50.6s</b>	After 6f <b>1m 14.5s</b>	<b>2m 01.8s</b>
<b>16:15 - 3-Y-O Sprint Championships Conditions Stakes (5f and 6 yds)</b>	After 2f <b>24.2s</b>	After 4f <b>45.9s</b>		<b>57.4s</b>
<b>16:45 - Marathon Championships Conditions Stakes (15f and 169 yds)</b>	After 2f <b>24.2s</b>	After 4f <b>49.7s</b>	After 6f <b>1m 13.9s</b>	<b>3m 17.6s</b>
	(1.77f in reality)			



## What to back?

Three horses to look out for in the coming weeks.

### Jellicle Ball

Fastest last 3f (33.70s) by any 2-y-o at Kempton Park in 2014, when winning only start, and looks a credible fillies' classic candidate

### Spiritual Star

Mile handicapper whose recent sectionals (including a sub-22.0s last 2f at Lingfield Park last time) suggest another win is imminent

### Peterhof

Joint-fastest last 2f (21.93s) by any 2-y-o at 7f plus at Lingfield Park in 2014, when winning only start, and type to do well in handicaps at around a mile



**Free Download!**

*Want to know more?*

Read a comprehensive guide at  
[www.timeform.com/sectional-timing](http://www.timeform.com/sectional-timing)

**TIMEFORM**

For making this Timeform guide to sectional timing possible, thanks to: Arena Racing Company (owners of Lingfield Park and the creators and investors in the All-Weather Championships), BHA, British Horseracing Grant Scheme, Department for Culture, Media & Sport.



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