

Winner's File: The Logic Behind Successful Handicapping (Winner's Circle Book)

Henry Kuck

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Henry Kuck : Winner's File: The Logic Behind Successful Handicapping (Winner's Circle Book) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Winner's File: The Logic Behind Successful Handicapping (Winner's Circle Book):

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Logic, a lost artBy PTWoodmanIt is a quick-paced electronic social network age in which we live. Many experts claim that as a society we are losing the ability to think and reason like we did in the past. Perhaps they are right, as it appears "logic" is in short supply. Quite a few years ago I subscribed to the excellent combined speed, pace and class figures which (the late) Henry Kuck provided to a select client list. I found his figures to be extremely accurate and valuable in the handicapping process. Prior to the publishing of the "hard-copy" version of "Winner's File", Kuck privately sold periodic mailings of the individual chapters that eventually were compiled into this fine book. I had the good fortune of studying, absorbing and successfully applying these articles many years ago. I recently purchased the "hard-copy" version from .com and am enjoying the "reread". Although I have an extensive racing and handicapping library, the book that I recommended as a "first read" to my son-in-law was "Winner's File". As an experienced horse bettor (since 1977), I appreciate that this book which uses racing examples from 1989 is as appropriate in it's teachings today as when it was written. It is rare for an older handicapping book to provide current value. By properly applying the book's well defined principles to today's available racing data such as Daily Racing Form Web-based Formulator, a handicapper/horse player can't help but prosper. Of course the

key to success today as in the past is the proper application of principles and careful interpretation of past performance running lines. Repeated race track studies continue to illustrate the fact that a mere 2% of race track bettors make consistent long term profits. In addition, an approximate 3% of daily (different) bettors profit on any given race day. Of course, the previously mentioned 2% of bettors is the group worth joining. I have long believed that a handicapper's ability to "read between the past performance lines" is the major difference between betting success and failure. To understand what is going on during the career of a particular racehorse by reading the past performances properly (from the "bottom up") is also crucial. Kuck strives to build upon this theme throughout his book and in my opinion accomplishes it quite succinctly. The beauty of "Winner's File" is that each topic generally consists of 2 chapters of 3 pages each - an easy read. In addition the chapters are arranged in a logical teaching sequence. Readers will do themselves a favor by a serious reread of the entire volume and an additional subsequent study of any chapter or topic that was not well absorbed. With the volume of race data and information available to the public these days, it is my opinion that the skill and ability to decipher race records is more valuable today than in the past when information was scant. Too bad Tom Ainslie, Henry Kuck, Howard Rowe and their associates are no longer with us. I, for one, owe them my gratitude for their teachings. 8 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Not bad. Not great, but not bad. By Robert Beveridge Henry Kuck, Winner's File (Morrow, 1993) When one is picking up a book on handicapping the horses, one is likely to find two things: outdated information and thoroughly inaccurate information. Sift through the book enough and you may well find some new ideas and things of value. The more of those you find, the better the book it is. (Hint: to date, I have not read any book on "smart money" that has a single word in it worth reading. Avoid them like the plague.) Winner's File, unfortunately, has little either new or accurate to offer. There is some stuff that makes it worth your time, though, but it's more a "take it out of the library" than "spend lots of time hunting down a copy." Kuck has some interesting insights to offer, especially in the worlds of class and workouts, but most of the rest you've read before. Multiple times. It's arguable, as well, how much one can fault Kuck for his chapters on speed figures and bounce theory, both of which were relatively new as widely-accessible ideas at the time this book was written, but almost every word of the chapters he wrote on those topics in 1993 has by now been thoroughly discounted as the public has gained better knowledge about such things. (On the other hand, he's dead on about the public's use, abuse, misuse, and overuse of the term "track bias." Go figure.) It's worth a look, but you probably won't canonize it. **

"There is a logic behind the craft of successful handicapping anyone can learn. Winner's File comprehensively demonstrates that logic." - Henry Kuck Today's handicapper must navigate through a blizzard of information in order to beat the game. Yet there are bettors who do it every day. What separates these clear-eyed winners from the rest? They have mastered two important skills: first, knowing how to uncover the information that matters in the past performances; and then, knowing how to spot the acceptable odds on possible plays. These skills together are indispensable for successful play. They can be learned, and Winner's File shows how. Throughout the book, handicapping decisions are discussed in relation to betting odds. Sometimes the leading contenders stand out clearly and the offered odds will determine what course of action to take. Other races are more confusing. In these cases, Kuck teaches which races are worth the risk and which ones should be avoided at all costs. Readers will understand how and why to choose among the possible bets-all without the use of complicated formulas and computers. Winner's File is complete and self-contained. It has all of the information a handicapper needs to start winning. With increased skill and the broader understanding it reflects, readers will greatly increase their pleasure and profit. Henry Kuck is a professional handicapper and the author of thousands of articles and two books on handicapping. He is also the creator of the Henry Kuck ratings, speed pace and class figures for all major race tracks in North America. The unique accuracy of his figures has been acclaimed for nearly twenty years by owners, trainers, agents, professional handicappers, and plain lovers of the game.