

## **SMART sig magazine 2.3 - March 1995**

### **In this months issue . . .**

<b>2</b>	<b>Upfront</b>	<b>Club news and views</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Golden Oldie</b>	<b>Philip Alexander</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Kelly Criterion</b>	<b>Peter Jameson</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Searching out the Value</b>	<b>Stefan Perry</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Apothecary Staking System</b>	<b>The Apothecary</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Calculating the Value</b>	<b>Colin Evans</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Most Popular Selection</b>	<b>Gary Davidson</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>Most Popular Selection</b>	<b>Syd Lowe</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>Simpson's Method Study</b>	<b>Jonathon Wellingham</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>Observations</b>	<b>Piccolo Pete</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>More Greyhounds</b>	<b>Jeremy Cogger</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>Anyone Help me with Staking?</b>	<b>Albert Tucker</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>Comparing Courses</b>	<b>Ray Webster</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>Unproven Favourites</b>	<b>Trevor Southern</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>Commercial Systems Review</b>	<b>Trevor Southern</b>
<b>32</b>	<b>Points Arising . .</b>	<b>Roy Budd</b>
<b>36</b>	<b>Feedback</b>	<b>Alan Coldrick</b>
<b>36</b>	<b>VDW explained</b>	<b>Alan Coldrick</b>
<b>40</b>	<b>Probably?</b>	<b>Stefan Perry</b>
<b>41</b>	<b>Easy to Follow Strategies</b>	<b>Rex Towers</b>
<b>43</b>	<b>Computer Challenge</b>	<b>February winner announced</b>
<b>48</b>	<b>Magazine Review - Football</b>	<b>Stefan Perry</b>
<b>51</b>	<b>Arsenal - The Fall Guys?</b>	<b>Make money from Arsenal</b>
<b>52</b>	<b>Whoops!</b>	<b>Corrections to February issue</b>
<b>54</b>	<b>SMART Swap Shop</b>	<b>Sell, swap or buy it here!</b>
<b>56</b>	<b>2.2 Correct score system update</b>	
<b>57</b>	<b>Books &amp; Publications</b>	
<b>59</b>	<b>SMART Merit Table</b>	

# SMART

## Up Front

**T**he SMART police had to swoop into action last month. Thanks to our diligent members it was very quickly brought to my attention that a new subscriber had taken advantage of his membership by systematically telephoning all the numbers listed in our Swap Shop.

### ***PSSST! - Want to know what's in for the 3.30?***

He introducing himself as a professional gambler, and was of course, only too willing (so kind of him) to supply the names of some very good horses to anyone who wanted him to.

Well, the horses names he supplied as free samples may have in fact been very good, but they didn't win. Luckily, most of the members receiving these calls were wary enough to be suspicious of this caller and so watch the horses and not back them, although one members was fooled enough into losing some money.

It is not at all good for the image of SMART when this sort of thing happens, and thankfully no one suffering from this scam puts the blame with us. One thing we do have in our favour though is our Code of Conduct and the fact that the magazine is only available by mail. It means that this sort of character can be dealt with very swiftly indeed and removed from the membership list. Rest assured, now he has defaulted on his terms of membership he is no longer a member and will not be sent any more copies of the magazine.

But all Smarties beware, you will all I hope act as defenders of our principles but a lunatic fringe will always be able to penetrate our defences before the alarm bells ring. So, if anyone at all connected with the group contacts you and the circumstances are not to your liking, inform me in order I can investigate further.

### ***SMARTie badges***

The first of the SMARTie badges have been dispatched with this issue, next time you go racing keep your eyes peeled! Remember, they are issued free

to members renewing twelve month subscriptions, or can be supplied earlier at a cost of £1.50 including postage.

### ***Racing Post Ten To Follow***

We are fast approaching the start of the flat season proper and it occurred to me that perhaps we should have a SMART entry in the Racing Post's ***Ten to Follow*** competition. This year it runs from Friday May 5th (Newmarket Guineas meeting) until Breeders Cup day, October 28th. It won't cost you anything to enter, simply send your ten selection to me. The votes per horse will be counted to give us a top 10, the first nine letters to be drawn from the hat will be included in the SMART entry for a share of a pool which last year was over £600,000!

### ***"The very best of SMART" annual***

The possibility of an annual mentioned last month has been put on hold. Comments were received from twelve people, nine for the idea, three against.

But this remember is *your* magazine and I figured that if that percentage is widespread it would perhaps be better to wait. Publishing an annual could upset 25% of our members, not publishing would not upset anyone. Watch this space . . .

### ***BOXING . . . Sport or . . . ?***

The *Up Front* section is always the very last thing I put together before the magazine goes to print. So this time I'm still reeling from what is probably the best boxing contest I can ever remember watching, I refer of course to the terrific Nigel Benn vs Gerald McClellan fight.

Of course the consequences of this particular battle for the loser were horrific and I'm sure that all our sympathies will go out to him and his family, he was at least, the last I heard, in a stable, although critical condition following his brain surgery. It is bound to raise the anti boxing arguments all over again and, even though I consider myself an ardent fan of the sport, even I begin to question the morals and ethics of it all with an outcome such as this.

Any of the superlatives I was thinking of using now seem to be glorifying what should be a more sombre occasion. Let's get on with the business in hand, are you sitting comfortably? Tinny by your side, Form books on the shelf, feet up, chocks away - March here we come . . .

- Stef

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***If recycling is the way to a better environment then here at SMART we should be due a commendation from Friends of the Earth for our efforts.***

## **GOLDEN OLDIE**

***Philip Alexander***

**O**ver 20 years ago, a most successful commercial system appeared the market. It was called the ***HIGH VALUE RACING SYSTEM***, and the rules were something along the following lines.

Operated on only one race each week-end during the flat season, commencing with the first Saturday in May and continuing until the last Saturday of the season. From The Sporting Life consul the value to the winner of each flat race to be staged. The race which is worth most to the winner is the one in which we are interested.

The first three quotations in the betting forecast are the selections, so long as they each show current season's form, if one or more doesn't, then leave the bet alone. Otherwise, they are supported in accordance with the respective forecast prices, on the following staking basis:-

Forecast Price	Stake
Odds-on	10
Evens to 11-8	9
6-4 to 13-8	8
7-4 and 15-8	7
2-1 to 5-2	6
11-4 to 7-2	5
4-1 to 6-1	4
13-2 to 100-8	3
13-1 to 19-1	2
20-1 and above	1

Apart from the betting tax, there is no reason why the system should not work to-day. Anyhow, it's worth a try!



**SMARTsig**

## ***Problems for a member who describes himself as a non-mathematician***

### **KELLY CRITERION**

***Peter Jameson***

**D**ear Stef,  
In his excellent book *The Moneyspinners*, Jacques Black quotes the Kelly Criterion as follows :-

A gambler should bet the . . .

- SAME PERCENTAGE OF HIS BANKROLL AS THE ESTIMATED PERCENTAGE ADVANTAGE HE ENJOYS.

Formally

$$b = (p - q) B$$

Where

- b = the value of the optimal bet
- p = the probability of success
- q = the probability of failure
- p + q = 1 or 100 percent
- B = total value of gamblers bankroll

I understand that in certain casino games the advantage over the 'house' may be calculated. My problem, as a non-mathematician, is how to make this calculation (probability of success) in a horse race.

The answer would seem to be a rating method. But is it? To be effective any such method has to result in the top rating being at least 50% higher than the second rated - otherwise the formula produces a MINUS figure as the optimal bet! Any such top rated horse would hardly be a value bet, due to its probable odds-on price.

Guidance from Jacques and other SMARTies on how to use the Kelly Criterion in horse racing would be appreciated.

***Why do people pay more money for goods or services, when the very same item is available at lower cost elsewhere?***

**SEARCHING OUT THE VALUE**

***Stefan Perry***

**Y**our favourite sporting paper is sold in two shops on your local High Street, one shop charges 50% more for it than the other, so which shop do you buy from? - No contest, is there? or so you would think! Fact is, both shops will sell the newspaper, the cheaper option will probably sell more copies, but the fact remains that the expensive outlet will still do business.

The self same thing happens with the bookies and their customers. No doubt many of you will have seen on course someone snapping up a 6-4 with bookie "A" when three strides to the left bookie "B" is offering 13-8!

So why do people do it? is it because they can't be bothered? or is it simply an individual too naive to spot where the better value is? The bookies do offer precious little in the way of free handouts, so it is up to each and every one of us to go looking for the best value and get as much of an extra edge as we can, it all helps to swing the sums a little more in our favour.

The reason for my putting this piece together, is because of my correspondence with too many members for my liking, who, when betting on the football fixed odds, simply go down to their local bookie and fill out a coupon.

**Simply by using a little careful forethought, investigation and planning they will ALWAYS find better value than they can get by using a single coupon. I bet on fixed odds football but . . .**

**I VERY RARELY FILL OUT A COUPON!**

To explain a little further I will use an example of eight games from the weekend of 17/18 February 1995. There is no trickery in my choice of games, I simply selected eight games that finished as away wins with the lowest overall odds offered. i.e. the ones thought most likely to be away wins by the bookmakers themselves. Here is a list of the matches chosen and the odds offered by the five leading operators.

Odds for Home win					HOMETEAM	AWAYTEAM	Odds for Away win					
1	2	3	4	5			1	2	3	4	5	
Co	La	Hi	SS	BL			Co	La	Hi	SS	BL	
6-4	13-8	7-4	7-4	8-5	Burnley	1	Grimsby	11-8	11-8	5-4	7-5	6-4
7-4	13-8	7-4	7-4	15-8	Southend	2	Sheff Utd	5-4	11-8	5-4	5-4	11-8
13-8	13-8	13-8	13-8	13-8	Brighton	3	Crewe	11-8	5-4	11-8	11-8	11-8
13-8	6-4	6-4	13-8	13-8	Chester	4	Shrewsbury	11-8	11-8	6-4	11-8	11-8
6-4	6-4	7-4	13-8	8-5	Swansea	5	Brentford	6-4	6-4	5-4	11-8	6-4
6-4	11-8	11-8	6-4	11-8	Scunthorpe	6	Chesterfield	6-4	13-8	13-8	6-4	13-8
8-1	8-1	13-2	13-2	13-2	Huntly	7	Dundee Utd	2-7	3-10	2-5	1-3	1-3
11-8	11-8	6-4	6-4	11-8	E Stirling	8	Forfar	6-4	11-8	11-8	11-8	11-8

We're looking here at the right hand side columns, the odds on offer for the away win. I have headed the columns 1 through 5 which correspond to the abbreviated firm below each number, i.e. Coral, Ladbroke, Hills, Super Soccer and Big League. From now on I will refer to the firms by their number.

As usual when comparing the odds in this way there is very little to choose between them, this adds credence to the theory that all the firms base their prices on the same set of centrally produced odds. They are always too close to one another to be coincidence, they obviously use the same source for the basic prices then each individual firm tweak them very slightly around the agreed odds.

This is of course quite understandable from their point of view, if left to their own compilers many bookies would leave themselves very exposed indeed and it would be "dip your bread" time for punters who would be able to exploit many under-round books!

Although the difference in the single odds is very small, punters are forced into striking minimum treble bets. Once you bring the multiplication factors into play the differences are then also multiplied and increase accordingly.

To fully cover the eight selections with trebles would take 56 bets and the selections did in fact all finish as away wins. What then, would be the payout from each of the five firms, *for the same bet of 56 x 1 point trebles*;

Firm	Win	inc. stake	equiv. overall odds
1	590.90	646.90	10.55 - 1
2	592.44	648.44	10.58 - 1
3	577.89	633.89	10.32 - 1
4	573.20	629.20	10.24 - 1
5	623.66	679.66	11.14 - 1

Enough of a difference there to make you sit up I hope, the best single firm (5) paid out over 50 points more than the worst (4) ***on the identical 56 point bet.***

But this story is not yet over, even more value can be gleaned by using whatever incentives are being offered by the big firms to attract our business. William Hill offer a 10% bonus on ALL weekend football coupon bets placed BY TELEPHONE before 8.00 pm on Friday. If we then take the time and trouble to select all the trebles individually and find the best offer for each we can stake our claims to an even better potential payout.

The table below shows all the trebles and their odds offered by each of the five firms and an additional firm (6) which equates to the Hills added 10% offer detailed above. The columns have been sorted into best/worst order, the best odds in the left most column, the worst on the extreme right. The numbers used for the treble combinations are the 8 games listed earlier, numbered from top to bottom as 1 to 8.

***The odds offered by 6 top bookies (includes Wm. Hill standard and Wm. Hill plus 10% offer) for each of 56 trebles from 8 selections.***

Treble combination	Firm	Odds	F	Odds	F	Odds	F	Odds	F	Odds	F	Odds
123	5	13.10	6	12.13	4	11.82	2	11.69	1	11.69	3	11.02
124	5	13.10	6	12.82	2	12.40	4	11.82	1	11.69	3	11.66
125	5	13.84	2	13.10	1	12.36	4	11.82	6	11.43	3	10.39
126	5	14.59	2	13.81	6	13.52	4	12.50	1	12.36	3	12.29
127	5	6.92	6	6.70	2	6.33	4	6.20	3	6.09	1	5.87
128	5	13.10	2	12.40	1	12.36	6	12.13	4	11.82	3	11.02
134	6	13.60	5	13.10	4	12.54	1	12.40	3	12.36	2	11.69
135	5	13.84	1	13.10	4	12.54	2	12.36	6	12.13	3	11.02
136	5	14.59	6	14.33	4	13.25	1	13.10	3	13.03	2	13.03
137	6	7.13	5	6.92	4	6.60	3	6.48	1	6.25	2	5.95
138	1	13.10	5	13.10	6	12.86	4	12.54	3	11.69	2	11.69
145	5	13.84	2	13.10	1	13.10	6	12.82	4	12.54	3	11.66
146	6	15.14	5	14.59	2	13.81	3	13.77	4	13.25	1	13.10
147	6	7.56	5	6.92	3	6.88	4	6.60	2	6.33	1	6.25
148	6	13.60	5	13.10	1	13.10	4	12.54	2	12.40	3	12.36
156	5	15.41	2	14.59	1	13.84	6	13.52	4	13.25	3	12.29
157	5	7.33	2	6.72	6	6.70	1	6.63	4	6.60	3	6.09
158	1	13.84	5	13.84	2	13.10	4	12.54	6	12.13	3	11.02
167	6	8.00	5	7.75	3	7.27	2	7.10	4	7.00	1	6.63
168	5	14.59	6	14.33	1	13.84	2	13.81	4	13.25	3	13.03
178	6	7.13	5	6.92	1	6.63	4	6.60	3	6.48	2	6.33
234	6	13.60	5	12.40	3	12.36	4	11.69	2	11.69	1	11.69
235	5	13.10	2	12.36	1	12.36	6	12.13	4	11.69	3	11.02
236	6	14.33	5	13.81	2	13.03	3	13.03	1	12.36	4	12.36



SMARTsig Confidential - March 1995

237	6	7.13	5	6.52	3	6.48	4	6.13	2	5.95	1	5.87
238	6	12.86	5	12.40	1	12.36	4	11.69	2	11.69	3	11.69
245	2	13.10	5	13.10	6	12.82	1	12.36	4	11.69	3	11.66
246	6	15.14	5	13.81	2	13.81	3	13.77	1	12.36	4	12.36
247	6	7.56	3	6.88	5	6.52	2	6.33	4	6.13	1	5.87
248	6	13.60	5	12.40	2	12.40	1	12.36	3	12.36	4	11.69
256	2	14.59	5	14.59	6	13.52	1	13.06	4	12.36	3	12.29
257	5	6.92	2	6.72	6	6.70	1	6.23	4	6.13	3	6.09
258	2	13.10	5	13.10	1	13.06	6	12.13	4	11.69	3	11.02
267	6	8.00	5	7.31	3	7.27	2	7.10	4	6.50	1	6.23
268	6	14.33	5	13.81	2	13.81	1	13.06	3	13.03	4	12.36
278	6	7.13	5	6.52	3	6.48	2	6.33	1	6.23	4	6.13
345	6	13.60	5	13.10	1	13.10	4	12.40	3	12.36	2	12.36
346	6	16.04	3	14.59	5	13.81	1	13.10	4	13.10	2	13.03
347	6	8.04	3	7.31	5	6.52	4	6.52	1	6.25	2	5.95
348	6	14.41	3	13.10	1	13.10	5	12.40	4	12.40	2	11.69
356	5	14.59	6	14.33	1	13.84	2	13.77	4	13.10	3	13.03
357	6	7.13	5	6.92	1	6.63	4	6.52	3	6.48	2	6.31
358	1	13.84	5	13.10	6	12.86	4	12.40	2	12.36	3	11.69
367	6	8.50	3	7.73	5	7.31	4	6.92	2	6.68	1	6.63
368	6	15.19	1	13.84	5	13.81	3	13.81	4	13.10	2	13.03
378	6	7.59	3	6.90	1	6.63	5	6.52	4	6.52	2	5.95
456	6	15.14	5	14.59	2	14.59	1	13.84	3	13.77	4	13.10
457	6	7.56	5	6.92	3	6.88	2	6.72	1	6.63	4	6.52
458	1	13.84	6	13.60	5	13.10	2	13.10	4	12.40	3	12.36
467	6	9.01	3	8.19	5	7.31	2	7.10	4	6.92	1	6.63
468	6	16.04	3	14.59	1	13.84	5	13.81	2	13.81	4	13.10
478	6	8.04	3	7.31	1	6.63	5	6.52	4	6.52	2	6.33
567	6	8.00	5	7.75	2	7.53	3	7.27	1	7.04	4	6.92
568	1	14.63	2	14.59	5	14.59	6	14.33	4	13.10	3	13.03
578	6	7.13	1	7.04	5	6.92	2	6.72	4	6.52	3	6.48
678	6	8.50	3	7.73	5	7.31	2	7.10	1	7.04	4	6.92

Best single firm	6	win 635.67 points
Worst single firm	4	win 573.20 points
Best combination of firms		win 654.20 points

Placing the bets as individual trebles, with the best offers around, you would have won **EIGHTY points more** than by using the worst single coupon offer! That's a difference, in this example at least, of taking 10.24-1 for the total bet when overall odds of 11.68-1 were available!

The smallest difference between firms in the table was treble 2,3,8 where firm (6) paid 10.01% more than firms (2), (3) and (4).

The largest difference between firms in the table was for treble 4,6,7 where firm (6) paid a massive 35.9% more than firm (1)



In the best payout column the following frequencies were noted;

Firm (1)	5 entries	
(2)	3	
(3)	0	[impossible for firm (3) to score here,
(4)	0	because (6) = (3) + 10%]
(5)	15	
(6)	33	

In the poorest payout column the following frequencies were noted;

Firm (1)	10 occasions	
(2)	13	
(3)	23	
(4)	10	
(5)	0	
(6)	0	[impossible for firm (6) to score here, same reason as above]

The *percentage* increases shown in this example are all fairly typical, so the higher the odds you are aiming at, the amounts won increase proportionally.

Do not read into this that any one particular firm gives better or worse overall value all of the time, but the more you use this type of comparison the more you will notice where the value is most of the time.

***The Apothecary offers members a ride on his broomstick - exploring a inhabitant of the Staking Plan world - Fasten your seatbelts!***

## **APOTHECARY STAKING SYSTEM** **(with apologies to Labouchere)**

*The Apothecary*

***How to reduce your stakes by over 75% without reducing your winnings or altering your chances of success!***

***Yes, you've read it correctly, so where's the catch? Well there isn't one!!***

**T**o participate you don't need a magic wand, nor even a black cat, only a working knowledge of the Labouchere staking system. For those of you who are not familiar with this, just sit on the back of my broomstick and I will show you exactly how the system operates.

It is ideally suited to even money chances and for illustrative purposes we can consider its application to the colours, red and black, in roulette. (*I thought you said even money chances? - Stef*)

To start with we write down three figures, the sum of which amounts to the target for our coup. For example, we can write down the figures 1, 2 and 3, the sum of which would result in a target win of six points. To determine the size of our stake, we add the first and last figures in our series (if there is only one figure, we use that).

If we lose, we write on the sum lost at the end of the series. If we win, we cross off the first and last figures in the series, which added up to our stake.

The attraction of the system is that two numbers are crossed off the series after each win, and only one figure is added on after each loss. As soon as all the figures have been crossed off, our target profit has been achieved. With even money chances we are crossing off numbers twice as quickly as we are adding on, so success is assured!!!

The system can be illustrated by considering a black series in roulette, so hang on to the broomstick while I take you through a typical series;

R = red B = black

Spins [1] R; [2] B; [3] B; [4] R; [5] R; [6] B; [7] R; [8] B

Suppose we decide to bet on RED, and start with figures 1, 2 and 3 for a target of six.

### ***Betting RED***

Bet	Series		Bet	Win	Lose	Alteration to Series
1	1,2,3	1+3	4	+4		cross off 1st & last figures
2	2		2		-2	add 2 to end
3	2,2	2+2	4		-4	add 4 to end
4	2,2,4	2+4	6	+6		cross off 1st & last
5	2		2	+2		cross off 2 & start a new series
6	1,2,3	1+3	4		-4	add 4 to end
7	1,2,3,4	1+4	5	+5		cross off 1st & last
8	2,3	2+3	5		-5	add 5 to end
9	2,3,5	2+5	7	+7		cross off 1st & last
10	3		3		-3	add 3 to end

The series shows a profit of 6 points (for an outlay of 42 points)

So much for the lucky red punter, but what about the black?

### ***Betting BLACK***

Bet	Series		Bet	Win	Lose	
1	1,2,3	1+3	4		-4	add 4 to end of series
2	1,2,3,4	1+4	5	+5		cross off 1st & last
3	2,3	2+3	5	+5		cross off 1st & last and start new series
4	1,2,3	1+3	4		-4	add 4 to end
5	1,2,3,4	1+4	5		-5	add 5 to end
6	1,2,3,4,5	1+5	6	+6		cross off 1st & last
7	2,3,4	2+4	6		-6	add 6 to end
8	2,3,4,6	2+6	8	+8		cross off 1st & last
9	3,4	3+4	7		-7	add 7 to end
10	3,4,7	3+7	10	+10		cross off 1st & last

The series shows a profit of 8 points (for an outlay of 60 points)

So, what have we shown so far? If we back RED, we make a profit of six points for an outlay of forty-two points; if we back BLACK we make a profit of eight points for an outlay of sixty points.

***It seems we can't lose . . . but, the best is yet to come!!***

Instead of choosing to follow red or black on the Labouchere system shown above, we operate the "Apothecary System". To do this we compare the red stake to the black stake, for each spin of the wheel.

The bet then, is the difference between the two stakes and the selected colour is of course that pertaining to the higher figure. Using the same ten spins we have considered above, the Apothecary System operates as follows;

Labouchere Betting

Spin	Red	Black	difference	Bet	Result	win/lose
[1]	4	4	0	no bet		0
[2]	2	5	3	3 pts black	black	+3
[3]	4	5	1	1 pt black	black	+1
[4]	6	4	2	2 pts red	red	+2
[5]	2	5	3	3 pts black	red	-3
[6]	4	6	2	2 pts black	black	+2
[7]	5	6	1	1 pt black	red	-1
[8]	5	8	3	3 pts red	red	+3
[9]	7	7	0	no bet		0
[10]	3	10	7	7 pts black	black	+7

To summarise the "Apothecary Profit" is 14 points, which is of course the same as the sum of the two profits (+6 and +8) on the original Laboucheres.

The difference is that the 14 points profit from the Laboucheres were achieved from an outlay of 102 points, whereas the same 14 points on the "Apothecary System" was derived from a mere outlay of only 22 points.

In effect the profit on outlay is increased from 13.7% to 63.3% with no extra risk whatsoever!

***(Wealth warning: If you operate the above system, be careful not to fall off the broomstick!)***



***Is there really an accurate method of calculating the value of all the horses in a race that will stand scrutiny?  
- An argument from a member who say's there is!***

## **CALCULATING THE VALUE**

***Colin Evans***

**E**ncouraged by B.S.Rasmussen's response in the current SMART to my earlier piece on the importance of value betting, I'd like to expand a little on the same theme, if I may - and perhaps at the same time answer his query.

To be certain you are using an accurate method for calculating value it's only necessary to keep an extended record of the calculated prices (together with results) matching the win/lose ratio to the average percentage indicated by the value odds.

If the method is accurate, they should of course come out the same (well, almost!) For what it's worth, based on an analysis of close to 5000 races, the following approach delivers the required goods.

Using the Racing Post betting forecast (the Sporting Life would probably work as well, though not the daily papers, since every runner must have a price) convert the forecast prices to percentages (3/1 25% etc.) and then total the lot. This will always show a figure in excess of the whole (100%) - the difference being the market's theoretical profit margin.

Now divide each individual price by the total (assuming a total of 115% a 3/1 shot would come out at 4/1 - 25% divided by 115 = 21.73%, which is closest to 4/1 when converted back into odds).

These, then - theoretically, at least - are the value odds about each runner in the race (they should total close to 100%). In other words, we have stripped out the anticipated bookies profit margin.

But how do you know the calculation will hold water - as B.S.Rasmussen is wise to query? If it isn't, we'll still lose in the long run - albeit at a slower pace!

Well, I've already done the spadework. The same 5000 races, with the new "book" calculated as above, compared with the actual over-round at SP, came out almost spot on. Individual races vary a bit, of course, but the overall trend evened out any discrepancy, resulting in a balance close enough to confidently accept the calculations "true" for betting purposes, (I should say, perhaps, that the 5000 sample races were of my own choosing - selected for their strength of form - and not all races over a given period. This doesn't affect the basic principle, of course, but it's worth mentioning)

It's not enough to simply back a horse (or anything else) at a "true" price to show a profit, however. An accurate value price will, by definition, return precisely the outlay - no loss *or* gain. The facts of the market being what they are, it's necessary to make an allowance for both tax and required return if you want to come out ahead on permanent basis. A percentage must therefore always be added to determine the lowest price you would be prepared to take to allow for these extra factors. (On my personal scale, a value 3/1 would require a minimum 4/1)

On this basis, it is theoretically possible to back any value horse in a race and show a long term profit, the only determining factor being just how temperamentally prepared you are for the kind of losing runs you may have to endure! (With a true 3/1 shot, for instance, there is a one in a hundred chance of meeting a losing run of 17!)

A final thought:

If you consistently find yourself backing more winners than losers, watch out! It's an excellent value bet that - sooner or later - you'll lose your bank!

Doesn't seem to make sense does it?



***Odds On magazine recommended following Sheffield Wednesday this season to score 3.3 in each of their home games. (at 50-1 minimum, one correct is a profit, and they did it three times last season!)***

***The Owls first game ended 3.4 against Tottenham, but since that they've come nowhere near! Quite the opposite in fact, 10 of their 17 home games have been combinations of 1s and 0s.***

***Funny old game!***

***Quite an interest was stirred by Hugh Tebbett's comments regarding an "old chestnut" in issue 2.2***

**MOST POPULAR NEWSPAPER SELECTIONS**

***Gary Davidson writes . . .***

**I**'ve finally got around to writing something to your/our excellent little magazine. I do look forward to receiving it every month. It was Mr Tebbett's mention of the "Most Popular Selection of the Day" from the old *Sporting Chronicle*.

It reminded me of a selection method which I used at the time. It was certainly true that backing all the selections of the above mentioned feature NEVER showed a profit, but because the losing sequences were so short, backing the selection that ran after one loser DID show a small, long term, profit. It also cut down the number of selections by around 80%. Is that a good or a bad thing?

With Mr Tebbett's example his forty five selections would have been reduced to just eight, all of which won (100% strike rate is not bad is it?), they were 4-11, 2-9, 4-7, 8-13, 5-6, 1-2, 13/8, 2-5. The actual profit is down to 3.75 points, but profit on turnover is up from 19.6% to 42.5%.

I don't remember using the term "profit on turnover" seventeen or eighteen years ago, but I did recognise there was less risk involved!

In the *Racing Post* example the 29 selections would have been reduced to 5, giving 4 winners. The sequence here was 2-5, 2-5, 1-2, L, 1-2. Actual profit down to 0.3 points and profit on turnover again up, from 5.18% to 5.5%

In any case at the time the profit available was not enough to keep me happy for too long and that other systemites bugbear, the boredom/greed factor set in. (I've had plenty of time since to realise that a tiny profit is infinitely preferable to any loss!)

I had noticed that the selections plus the forecast second favourite were coming up with straight forecasts quite frequently. After checking for some



months I recall the ratio of winning forecasts was in the region of 35 - 40% (apologies here, but none of my actual records have survived this long)

Over the past few days I have done a little more recent back-checking, only a *very* small sample, but with the following results.

### ***Selection procedure;***

- As per *Racing Post* selection box method.
- Only bet after one selection has lost.
- Selection + *Racing Post* forecast second favourite.
- Back as straight forecast.  
(If forecast is joint second favourites then split the bet)

### ***Sample***

20 June 1994 - 12 Aug. 1994

Date	MPS	SFC
25/6/94	W 4-9	£3.70 (Joint 2nd favs)
2/7/94	W 8-11	£4.62
14/7/94	W 1-2	lost
19/7/94	W 1-2	£2.76
22/7/94	lost	
25/7/94	lost	
29/7/94	W 30-100	lost
29/7/94	W 8-15	£3.03
5/8/94	W Evens	lost
11/8/94	W 8-11	£2.36

***10 bets      5 wins    +4.62 points nett      46.2% profit on turnover***

I hope the magazine makes us all think just that little bit more and that you're (we're) not simply preaching to the converted.

Just one final thought on systems and gamblers.

### ***The risk's the thing!***

If we were presented with the perfect system - one that always won in the end, with little or no risk, just how happy would we, as gamblers be with that? Good luck with the search for the Holy Grail!

***and again, on the same subject, from Syd Lowe . . .***

**M**any thanks for the February edition of SMART, I really look forward to receiving them, it is like a friend dropping in. The article on the most popular selection caught my eye and brought back many memories.

On February 25th 1955 I advertised a racing system in the *Handicap Book* called the Formulator Method. It was based on the most popular selection and by applying strict selection rules it produced 70% winners, a level stakes profit, a longest losing sequence of three and a longest winning sequence of fourteen. (*Forty years on, and little changes - Stef*)

The system was advertised for about three years, on and off. Although the system made a profit in each of those years, I lost money because I did not sell enough systems to cover the expense of advertising etc.

A bank of fifty points was used and ten points bet on each selection. The result was a profit of at least seventy points each year. (in the days before off course betting tax)

***Selection procedure;***

- Most popular selection
- Non Handicap races only
- Must have won one of its last three outings
- Not ridden by apprentice or amateur

Having just re-read a letter from one of my clients dated October 1956 who made several useful suggestions. One was based on the number of votes a horse received, the higher the number the better the chance of success. Another was based on the meeting being favourable to favourites. I would expect a level stake loss today with the betting tax involved, perhaps a running-on accumulator could be the answer?



***One of the few saving graces of accumulative betting is that tax is only paid on the original stake, any money “rolled forward” from element number two and onwards therefore is effectively “tax free”. By using a running-on accumulator money accrued is all placed on the next selection AS A SEPARATE BET, and as such attracts the dreaded tax!***

***Accumulators used this way have no advantage over straightforward level stake betting!***

***- Stef***

***A member responds to the Peter Howes' article from the November magazine examining Stuart Simpson's theories.***

## **SIMPSON'S METHOD STUDY**

***Jonathon Wellingham***

**A**fter reading Peter Howes' article on Stewart Simpson's method, I started to look at the results for the 1994 flat season. Unlike Peter, I don't have a computer, so there are bound to be errors in a time consuming survey like this. The overall trend should show through though.

Using the returns section of Raceform Update, I listed all the runners in handicaps that won with the word "*quickened*" in the race commentary between Raceform number 368 (March 29th - the start of my records) and 3985 (October 17th).

I have included a list of those runners and their Raceform numbers. Simpson doesn't consider 3 year olds until mid season, but I've included them from the start. Also I covered all distances from 7f upward (15f was the highest), whereas Simpson's limit was 12f.

Looking at all the subsequent handicap outings for these horses (all non-handicap outings are ignored), I applied various sets of rules to those outings. What follows is a list of those rules in numerical order.

There is a separate table which gives the full results for each set of rules in the same order.

1. The first check I did was by taking only the first handicap outing after the quickening run (as I think Peter Howes did)
2. Then I allowed one further outing, but only if the horse was placed (including a win) in the first six in the first outing after the quickening run
3. Next, I followed the horses for every outing following the quickening run.
4. Then I noticed that, after their quickening run, horses frequently ran in races which seemed above their "class" - perhaps their owners or

trainers were being over optimistic about their chance of winning. So I devised the following qualifying rule. It is arbitrary, but it works. Compared to the quickening run, horses are considered if an outing involves:

- (a) a distance of no more than 2f extra
- OR -
- (b) 1f extra combined with one class up and one group up.

For the purposes of distance 190 yards and over is rounded up to the next furlong, Class is the official rating of each race from A to G. Group is the racecourse groups 1 to 4.

As an example, assume a horse had a quickening win in a class D, 10f race at Chester (Group 2). If it then ran at Newbury (Group 1), then an 11f class C race would be allowed. However, if the distance increased to 12f, the race class and racecourse group must be the same as before or lower. I have made no allowance for horses going down in class - a future study?

- 5. Having done that, there were still a lot of losers. Some horses seemed particularly useless - they were correctly entered into races that would suit their class, yet they kept on losing time and time again. To reduce these losses, I only consider the first two qualifying outings after the quickening run, while having the same qualifying rules as in (4) above.
- 6. Are racecourse groups important? The point of the class system (A to G) was to enable a comparison between races at different tracks, but does a class D race at Catterick really involve the same class of animal as a class D race at Newbury? For this test, I ignored racecourse groups. Otherwise the rules are identical to (5) above.
- 7. Simpson had other limits: no selling races, 12f maximum, and handicap rating 50-75 at the original quickening run. Applying these limits in addition to the rules in (5) gives a similar number of runners as the example season in his book, but far fewer winners.
- 8. Simpson seems to follow a good horse throughout the season, not just for two outings, so this rule takes all outings as in (4), but also complying with Simpson's limits shown in (7).

9. Finally, Simpson includes detailed descriptions of the tracks and which ones are good for supporting his theory. Taking the outings generated by (7), I applied my interpretation of Simpson's track information. This result was very disappointing!

### **Conclusion**

Simpson was obviously very successful, but taking all his rules, limits and track details into account only produced four qualifying outings.

One rule I didn't apply was that Simpson likes to back horses when they are at or near top weight. Checking this manually from *Raceform* returns would be very tedious, but a quick check showed that most were near to the handicap rating limit in most races anyway.

The best results were produced by conditions (5) and (7), although I would want a few seasons results before following (7) as the sample is so small.

I don't have any other season's results, so if anyone has Raceform results on disk and the time to program in the rules I would very much like to hear the results. If any clarification of my rules is needed for that purpose then Stefan can put you in touch with me either by telephone or post.

### **Table of results for methods 1 to 9**

Rule No.	Runners	Winners	Strike Rate %	Points profit	%Profit on turnover
1	54	11	20	-3.5	-6
2	94	26	28	26.6	26
3	255	50	20	-4.4	-1.6
4	143	32	22	25.8	16.4
5	81	24	30	43.4	49
6	91	27	30	42.4	42
7	34	12	33	36.6	98
8	90	15	17	3.5	3.5
9	4	0	0	-4.4	-100

Note: Profit and turnover figures in the table are all after tax

***Complete list of all qualifying "quickenings"  
handicap winners, 7f and up:***

384	Blurred Image	2060	Tomashenko
524	Beaumont	2091	Hever Golf Rose
588	Slasher Jack	2245	Jubran
591	Petals Jarred	2253	Prince Songline
750	Spin Doctor	2263	Exotic Forest
754	Wainwright	2313	Mam'zelle Angot
791	Double Echo	2480	One Voice
827	Star Rage	2514	Gold Surprise
830	Lunar Mission	2515	Philgun
934	American Swinger	2568	Brilliant
947	Greek Night Out	2569	Queens Consul
1086	Realities	2681	Shifting Mist
1182	Cheerful Groom	2817	Its so Easy
1204	Big Pat	2819	Leif the Lucky
1234	Kissair	2837	Wilcuma
1253	Tawafij	2845	To Crown it All
1322	Eire Leath-Sceal	2898	Indian Fly
1406	Shortfall	2962	Amidst
1456	Bird of Time	3040	Sues Artist
1539	No Comebacks	3087	Miss Pin Up
1574	Greenback	3090	Halling
1624	Three in One	3200	Polish Admiral
1656	Looking for a Rainbow	3253	Tethys
1720	Great Oration	3388	Bold Gait
1771	Montone	3517	On Air
1827	Ever So Lyrical	3708	Ball Gown
1917	Desert Symphony	3796	Calder King
1949	Captain Jack	3931	Transsiberia
2055	Sharp 'n' Smooth		

# OBSERVATIONS

*Piccolo Pete*

**D**ear Stef,  
I would like to express how delighted I am that SMART has taken off so well, and for the first time in my own betting life, feel that we are dealing with people who are on the right track. SMART keeps me going, especially during the winter, when we have so many miserable days, with poor quality racing.

## ***Like the Mag!***

I remember when I was a kid, and lived in the heart of Liverpool, and my hobby was collecting footballers autographs. I and many other kids used to send team photographs to certain team individuals, usually recommended by your friends, who had tried by trial and error to find out who would perform this task. The thrill of seeing that thick, bulging letter coming through the letterbox, opening it and finding that the team had done their best, and signed their autographs was something that has stuck in my memory. The arrival of my SMART magazine is the nearest similar feeling that I have experienced since those days. I guess that we really don't ever grow up do we? I hope not anyway.

## ***Greyhounds***

And now for something completely different (as Monty Python would say). Although I have never been much involved in dog racing, something has been brought to my attention, which might appeal to one of our dog racing enthusiasts, and possibly benefit us all. Time and time again, winning trainers are having winning doubles, in consecutive races. This is something that has been happening for some considerable time, apparently, and I have done some small amount of research into it.

Even allowing for losing runs, and backing every trainer that has a winner, in the next race there is certainly some meat in it. There must be someone on our members list who could possibly research this properly and tidy it up. I am at present making records daily, to see if some pattern of names and meetings emerge. This would be much easier for someone who already had past records or winners, trainers and tracks.

## ***Football scores***

This is worth looking at as well (I'll have to give up my day time job!). This relates to your own 2.2 system, and to Dave Pollard's article in the

December issue regarding 1.0, 2.0 and 2.1 scores. Have you noticed from your list of updates of the 2.2 plan, just how many of these games end up as 1.0, 2.0 & 2.1? Again, this may be food for thought. Hope I am not giving someone candle burning nights with all this research, but I suppose that's what were all about, isn't it? Keep up the very good work, and many thanks for your considerable efforts.

**SMARTsig**

## MORE ON GREYHOUNDS

*Jeremy Cogger*

**J**eremy Cogger also sent in a very similar greyhound idea, the difference was that successful trainers in early races should be followed through the rest of the card, subject to price limitations. A limited amount of research was submitted - about 90 races showing a 2% profit.

**SMARTsig**

*Whilst both of the above ideas may well show merit, in order for another member to research the idea it has to be one that fires his/her imagination. The vast majority of our membership who carry out research, do so primarily for themselves. This is not a selfish attitude, in fact very far from it. Much of the research we print in SMART will be the result of many hours of an individuals time, who then kindly consent to share the fruits of that labour with other members through these pages.*

*Although it is fine to ask for assistance, I wouldn't hold your breath waiting. The best chance would be that someone had already compiled that or similar information. Far better to do as much as we can as individuals. For instance, Pic Pete mentioned that he was currently compiling records from daily checks. Subject to the outcome of these checks he could then inform the rest of us. But if a member had already researched along similar lines, they could get in touch, let us all know how it went. This approach not only is of benefit to Pete and Jeremy, but to all other members as well.*

*Many members have noticed patterns emerging from the 2.2 football updates, all I can say on that is that it probably purely coincidence! The 2.2 system is nothing more than a pure value based approach, it does not select the games that are more likely to end 2.2, merely the matches where the odds offered represent value against the known likelihood of the event happening. Pic Pete noticed that by backing all the games to finish 2.0 would have made huge profits to date. - Don't bank on this observation continuing!*

*- Stef*



***A heart felt plea from a member who is looking for a simple to follow staking plan***

**ANYONE HELP ME WITH STAKING?**

***Albert Tucker***

**D**ear Stef,  
I have enjoyed the magazines this far but my only worry is the continual mention of computers. I do hope you don't concentrate too much on them and forget us poor folk who, at sixty five years, don't own one, nor for that matter wouldn't know what to do with it or know where to start if I did have.

Through the years I have collected a few hundred systems and I'm still waiting for that one method that will make me rich! I do have a favourite system that shows up 59 wins from 70 bets, the only trouble is that the system requires me to back the first three or four in the betting and I'm afraid I don't know what staking plan to use.

Could someone please help, and to put it in a simple and straight forward way so that I can understand it.

I know my bookie wouldn't be too pleased at me backing four horses in one race, but where I live I have access to four bookies and could place one bet with each of them.

But I still need a good staking plan, so please someone **HELP!**

**SMARTsig**

*I'm sure that most bookies would only be too delighted to accept four wagers in one race, the best you can hope for is a 25% chance of success.*

*But, if the prices you're achieving are good enough . . .*

*Can anyone help Albert with his predicament? or would some other alternatives be forthcoming? Over to you members*

*Stef*

***Comparing different courses is a subject that is an essential part of the winner finding process to many members - Here is a suggestion for a SMART guide to National Hunt & Flat race courses.***

## **COMPARING COURSES**

***Ray Webster***

**D**ear Stefan  
My February magazine did arrive eventually - I think it came the scenic route - via Tibet! *Many apologies for the many, many members who's magazines were delayed, they were all posted on the same day! The blame lies with the Royal Mail, although I have now slightly amended the label format and repositioned them on the envelopes to adhere strictly to the postal guidelines.*

*Just spare a thought for new member Robert Davies in Wales - his copy didn't arrived at all! - Stef*

It was interesting to see a further reference to race courses (page 46). I agree that this is a very important aspect of form evaluation and most information seems to be connected with flat racing. You have mentioned that you are researching this area.

With the varied expertise amongst our members maybe we could produce the SMART guide to National Hunt and Flat Race Courses. Perhaps I could put forward some thoughts on NH courses and, hopefully, there will be some feedback and additional information and views from other members.

Listed below are some of the course characteristics I feel are relevant, but I would welcome other members views on this topic.

1. Left Handed
2. Right Handed

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3. Galloping
4. Sharp
5. Undulating

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6. Stiff Fences
7. Easy Fences

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8. Uphill Finishes

Once we have collated all of the agreed information we could produce a grid for each grade of race course with the tracks down the left hand side and the various characteristics.

**COURSES**                      **COURSE**                      **FENCES**    **FINISH**  
Grade One

Aintree	1	3		
Ascot	2	3	6	8
Cheltenham	1	5	6	8
Chepstow	1	5		8
Haydock	1	3	6	8
Kempton	2	4	6	
Newbury	1	3	6	8
Newcastle	1	3	6	
Sandown	2	3	6	8
Wetherby	1	3	6	
Wincanton	2			

Grade Two

Ayr	1	3		
Doncaster	1	3	7	
Fontwell	1		7	
Huntingdon	2			
Lingfield	1	4 & 5	7	
Newton Abbot	1	4	7	
Stratford	1	4	7	
Warwick	1	4		
Windsor	2	4	7	
Worcester	1	3		

Grade Three

Exeter	2	5		8
Leicester	2	3	7	
Market Rasen	2	5		
Nottingham	1	3	7	
Towcester	2	3 & 5		8
Uttoxeter	1	3		

***COURSES***                      ***COURSE***                      ***FENCES***    ***FINISH***

Grade Four

Bangor	1			
Carlisle	2	5	7	8
Cartmel	1	5	7	
Catterick	1	4	7	
Edinburgh	1	4	7	
Fakenham	1	5	7	
Folkestone	2	5	7	
Hereford	2		6	
Hexham	1	5		
Kelso	1	4		
Ludlow	2			
Perth	2	4	7	
Plumpton	1	5	7	8
Sedgefield	1	5	7	
Southwell	1	4		
Taunton	1		7	

Can you help us to fill in the gaps??

If all you course analysts out there would get in touch so that we can fill in the gaps on the above grid it would be appreciated. Even if is only to let us know about your own local track. Any other points, and a similar grid for our flat courses will also be very welcome.



## In The News

Cuttings were sent on to me this month from recent editions of the Mail on Sunday and the People both of whom have plenty to say about James Ashley and Palacegate respectively. I asked the papers concerned if I could reprint the articles, but legal reasons prevent me from doing so.

Your local library should be able to help you if you missed them.

***One members results from last year  
following favourites in maiden races***

**UNPROVEN FAVOURITES**

***Trevor Southern***

**D**ear Stef,

With the turf flat season only a few weeks away I thought I would send you the results of a system I tried last season for the first time. Its basis is betting on maiden races.

The rules are that you bet on the forecast favourite in the morning paper (I use the Daily Mail) providing that:-

Either;

- It has never run before  
or
- It has never been placed in the first three in its career

The theory being, that as the horse has no obvious “form” it must have other reasons for being placed as clear favourite by the betting forecast compiler of the paper.

e.g. Dropped in class  
Rumours of being a class act  
From one of the key stables  
etc.

The results for 1994 were as follows;

Part A (never run before)

56 bets:	won 12	lost 44	(-20.84 points) <b><i>(-37% loss on turnover)</i></b>
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Part B (never been in first three)

47 bets:	won 20	lost 27	(+12.05 points) <b><i>(+26% profit on turnover)</i></b>
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This was over a three month period, so I gave it a good run to see if it worked.

The other point was that both systems performed best up to the end of JUNE - when both were getting about 50% winners. The system then tailed off as the season progressed. I don't know if there is any reason for this or simply a random factor.

I was also surprised that part A got so few winners (12 from 56). I can only suppose this is due to horses "needing a run" to get used to racing on courses in the "real world" of racing, in front of big crowds etc., but this is only speculation on my part.

The other point being that most of the winners were at pretty small prices, e. g. 4-6, 10-11, Evens, 6-4, etc. I guess this was due to their reputation causing the price to go so low even though they had not "proved themselves" by running previously.

Anyway, it should at least give members some idea of what to expect when they choose to follow this specific type of horse.

*The figures you've given would point to a tactical bet against the first time out favourite in this type of race. There will be plenty of chances to see it in action over the coming weeks. - Stef*  
*And more from Trevor . . . .*

## **COMMERCIAL SYSTEMS**

On page 55 of the February SMART was a plea for views on a list of commercial systems. I tested a number of the Racing Data publications / Midgley Systems last year.

There are about eight or ten of these systems in total. I concentrated on the more simple ones. The results of my testing were as follows:-  
***(all results are at SP and the 10% tax is taken into account on the bet)***

[1] Winning Edge - Flat system

a) part 1	30 bets	7 won	+8.25 points
			+27.5% on turnover
b) part 2	53 bets	15 won	+42.04 points
			+79.3% on turnover

n.b. one 25-1 winner boosted these figures somewhat

[2] Value Challenge system				
a) part A	15 bets	0 won 11 placed	-15.37 points	-51% on turnover
b) part B	30 bets	2 won 14 placed	-19.25 points	-32% on turnover
[3] Punters Paymaster	68 bets	11 won	-16.75 points	-25% on turnover
[4] The Challenge				
a) part 1	18 bets	3 won	-12.28 points	-68% on turnover
b) part 2	13 bets	4 won	-2.95 points	-23% on turnover
[5] Golden Midas	19 bets	3 won	-11.25 points	-59% on turnover
[6] Bet to Win	80 bets	15 won	-16.24 points	-20% on turnover
[7] Double Bonus	40 bets	3 won	-26.7 points	-67% on turnover

As you will see, apart from the Winning Edge, parts 1 and 2, all the rest were losers. So I gave up on the other systems - they were very complicated and entailed keeping lists of horses to follow etc.

***I can't see why all of these were not winning systems, they all have such promising names. If you do stumble across a perfect system all you need do is call it the "Plonker System" and no one else will use it! - Stef***

If anyone is looking for a source of horse racing systems (well produced, at a reasonable price) can I please recommend Dave Garrett of Precision Racing Systems, PO Box 1136, Chester, CH2 2WE. He has 150 systems for sale, @ 50p each (up to ten systems) and then the unit price of each gets cheaper as you purchase more, up to £37.50 for all 150, the equivalent of 25p each. They are not the usual badly photocopied stuff either - they have all been reprinted, by computer, and laid out in a sensible, readable order.

***Or would it be better to spend the £37.50 by backing Alderbrook for the Champion Hurdle? - Stef***



***The thoughts of one of our newer members  
on some of the items in the February issue***

**POINTS ARISING**

***Roy Budd***

***Staking Plans***

**I**wonder if we give enough thought to *why* we use a staking plan? For example, is our objective to preserve our bank? or is it to increase our return as a percentage of our total outlay? Many staking plans will only do one or the other.

In his excellent book, *Betting For a Living*, Nick Mordin advocates the percentage of the bank policy but cautions that the percentage used should be related to the win percentage your selections achieve.

In theory, by using a percentage of your current bank, your bank can never be exhausted. I find the practice of having your lowest stake on the winner after a losing run depressing and prefer staking a fixed 5% of the bank on each bet, not reducing stakes after a loser.

True, a run of twenty losers wipes the bank out, but that possibility is a remote one.

Staking plans designed to increase the profit percentage compared to stakes employed are a different proposition. Planned staking increasing stakes by only one point following each bet is a good example. My own system over the past eight weeks has shown a level stakes profit equal to 75% of stakes. Using the planned staking this increases to 111%, whereas the profit percentage for staking 10% of the bank actually dropped to 69%.

I agree the actual profit made was considerably enhanced by the percentage of the bank staking, but this was because stakes increased significantly as profits accrued. The same effect could have been achieved by periodic leveling the value of a point on level stakes, or planned staking.

Incidentally, the system to which I refer to is a new one “under test” and therefore the extraordinary results so far may only be a flash in the pan, but one lives in hope!



## **Calculating the Value**

Edward Walker queries the apparent anomaly of two theoretical sets of ratings which show that in an example where the opposition was weaker Horse "C" had longer odds than in the example with stronger opposition.

I did not see Alan Coldrick's article last September which provoked this latest query, but my interpretation of value odds allowing for a 130% book would be;

<b>Horse</b>	<b>rating</b>	<b>%odds</b>	<b>price</b>		<b>rating</b>	<b>%odds</b>	<b>price</b>
<b>A</b>	5	7.6	13-1		5	7.9	12-1
<b>B</b>	14	21.4	4-1		13	20.6	4-1
<b>C</b>	20	30.6	5-2	★	20	31.7	9-4
<b>D</b>	11	16.8	5-1		11	17.4	5-1
<b>E</b>	5	7.6	13-1		4	6.3	16-1
<b>F</b>	4	6.1	16-1		3	4.7	22-1
<b>G</b>	11	16.8	5-1		11	17.4	5-1
<b>H</b>	4	6.1	16-1		4	6.3	16-1
<b>I</b>	6	9.2	10-1		6	9.5	10-1
<b>J</b>	5	7.6	13-1		5	7.9	12-1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>129.8</b>			<b>82</b>	<b>129.7</b>	

I have rounded the starting prices to normally expected figures.

*See Alan Coldrick's reply to this same query immediately following this letter. - Stef*

## **Midweek vs Saturday Racing**

In his preamble to the results of the computer challenge (page 5) Stefan makes the comment that he wouldn't want to be restricted to Saturday only betting.

A point of view shared by many no doubt. However, such is the enormous difference in class and quality of midweek and Saturday racing that it is not

difficult to see why some systems fail overall, particularly those soundly based on form. It has been my experience that my own systems perform best when applied to Saturday racing, and in some cases only the principle meeting at that.

Frankly, to try to systematically make money on midweek large fields of indifferent horses running only for their trainers is a mine field. Stick to quality racing where most of the field are at least trying and have been properly prepared to do their best. Yes, I know all generalities are dangerous but so are 20 runner novice hurdles around some tiny course on a wet Tuesday!

p.s. Avoid Bank Holidays like the plague!

*Thanks for your observations Roy, I welcome your views and hope that you will accept my reply in the same spirit. Although I can quite understand your point of view here - I do think that perhaps you are letting your argument run away with your better judgement!*

*I am in total agreement with your point that overall the best place for betting is in the better class races at the better class meetings. And that these events are more common to Saturdays than to midweek racing, but certainly not all of them!*

*I am writing this on Thursday 23 February after just watching some excellent sport on Channel 4 Racing and seeing impressive performances from both Monsieur Le Cure and Alderbrook, the first in a Class B Chase and the second in a Grade 2 Hurdle, both races worth five figure sums to the winners. This is a far cry from the picture you paint.*

*My wife is a great one for using a similar approach, I'll say  
"Beef's a bit pricey, let's save a few bob and try the pork chops this week"  
She'll say  
"Oh, I see! I'll buy gruel if you like, or should we just have bread and water for a week?"  
From one extreme to the other and ignoring all the good stuff in between.*

*Surely the diligent investor explores all avenues and ignores potential profit areas at his peril. We do have at least one member I know who just loves the all weather tracks and tells me he makes it pay exploiting this specialist area.*

*The main point of my preamble last month was not in defence of the computer programs, but rather pointing out that in its current format the competition was helping to compare one against the other. In hindsight, perhaps if the competition rules had allowed the programs more freedom in selection we would be comparing them against the bookies as well as each other, to the benefit of all our members. - Stef*

## **And finally - Hi Tech . . . .**

I hope we are not all becoming too absorbed by electronic wizardry. Let's not lose sight of the fundamental requirements of a winning system. At best a computer will only reproduce data faster (and not even that in some cases). The ingenuity that really counts is the racing knowledge, research and application, not a replacement for quill pens and parchment.

*Dead right Roy! I hope to put something together for inclusion in the magazine at a later date on this very subject. It is apparent that we have many members who hold false hopes for the ability of computers. Much of this is due to the hype that surrounds the subject and is too often prolonged by many computer experts who like to bask in the reflected glory that comes from this myth that computers are somehow magical and super intelligent.*

*For the time being let there be no mistake that computers are nothing more than elaborate adding machines and will only do exactly what you tell them. If any members see references to Artificial Intelligence, pay no heed to it whatever. It has nothing to do with what you and I accept as being the definition of the word intelligence, There is no such thing as an intelligent computer. Much of the artificial intelligence hype comes from research in an area known as Neural Networks, as the name suggests these are computer programs that attempt to mimic the operation of a real brain. The majority of the modelling for this was based on the brain cells of a particular species of sea slug, research is continuing to attempt to match this creatures brain power. If I had to rank in order of intelligence a computer, an earthworm and a traffic light, the earthworm would win hands down!*

*In his book "Guide to racing computer programs" Robin Lloyd states that he has checked hundreds of paper based systems but none or them are better than the worst of the computer programs he's reviewed. I'm sorry Robin, but this just adds to the myth. In order to write a computer program the rules of the particular task are needed on paper beforehand. So ALL the programs reviewed are in fact originally paper based systems! - Stef*

## ***Regular contributor Alan Coldrick responds to some recently raised points***

### **FEEDBACK**

***Alan Coldrick***

**M**y reply to Edward Walker's query about the anomaly he identified when calculating value odds has to be fairly negative. The reason being that I am not able to explain why this should occur.

*Any mathematicians in our membership able to help? - Stef*

In the original method the formulator used four separate ratings to calculate the percentage chances and then averaged out to arrive at the final figure. I offer this as a possible solution to Edward.

With regard to the above and the mention elsewhere in the February issue by Bill Priest regarding Robert Hattrell's request for information about the VDW approach. Perhaps I could tie the two together by offering my synopsis of the method.

Many members will be aware of the method, but I doubt whether any of them have access to all the original published correspondence as I have. The synopsis is entirely direct quotes from his correspondence with but a few linking words from myself. With this being a synopsis, quotes are taken out of context, out of sequence, but contain all the relevant information to make sense of it - hopefully!

Perhaps at a later date I might be allowed to expand on it with some variations that I tried relating to ability and consistency ratings as well as the notorious "missing link"

#### ***A Synopsis of the VDW Approach***

The VDW approach is a method, not a system, which produces a numerical evaluation of the odds based upon relevant factors, thereby creating a picture from which it is possible to determine whether there is a winner IN the race, not a winner OF the race.

Applied correctly it has proved consistently profitable for a considerable number of years and has continued to be so.

Backing anything other than a form horse is bucking the odds. Form alone is not enough, it must be consistent. Good consistent form is what is required to produce results which in turn provide long term profit. The combination of consistent form and class is a formidable factor, but the horse must be in the situation where it is capable of capitalising on it.

***Early Signposts on the Road to Success***

1. Narrowing the field
2. Looking at horses that win a high percentage of races with regard to their form figures
3. Studying the first five in the betting forecast of non-handicap races and the first six in handicaps
4. Using two rating methods
5. AND perhaps most important of all, combining these points . . . .  
“Subject to other considerations”

The concept taken step by step and starting with the principal meeting the agenda is;

1. Select the most valuable race on the card
2. Consider the next most valuable race.
3. Select the most valuable race from other cards
4. Rate entire field for ability
5. Select most consistent form from the first five or six in the betting forecast
6. Apply selected rating method to entire field

The basic method is to select the race from each card giving the highest prize money. It would not be wise to use a novice hurdle, seller or novice handicap. Always start appraisal by looking at the horse with the highest ability rating and check how it balances out with the other data.

Class should be defined as ability and it becomes necessary to compile a rating. This can be done by considering the prize money won to date in hundreds of ££s and then dividing by the number of races won. A horse that has won eight races worth a total of £20,000 would be:- 200 hundreds divided by 8 = rating of 25.

Consistent horses win a high percentage of races. If we add the last three places of the respective horses in the betting forecast we have a numerical picture. A high percentage of winners come from the three lowest figures.

**“ . . . a vital factor, call it the missing link if you like, was not deliberately pointed out.”**

With only two places, the most recent figure is doubled. Form figures should be taken to the ninth place at par value, but beyond this calculate as a ten.

VDW has declared that he uses two ratings. One from the *Sporting Life* and one from the *Daily Mail*.

## **The Missing Link**

The whole concept was explained piece by piece. Calculating consistent horses, ability ratings and everything else providing you READ WHAT WAS THERE. The last part in capitals because it was all there, although a vital factor, call it the missing link if you like, was not deliberately pointed out.

The card from Sandown, 5th January 1985 to illustrate a few points:

1.00 Brave George won - consistent in much better class, but not a race to bet on

1.30 Wing and a Prayer won - with a pull at the weight

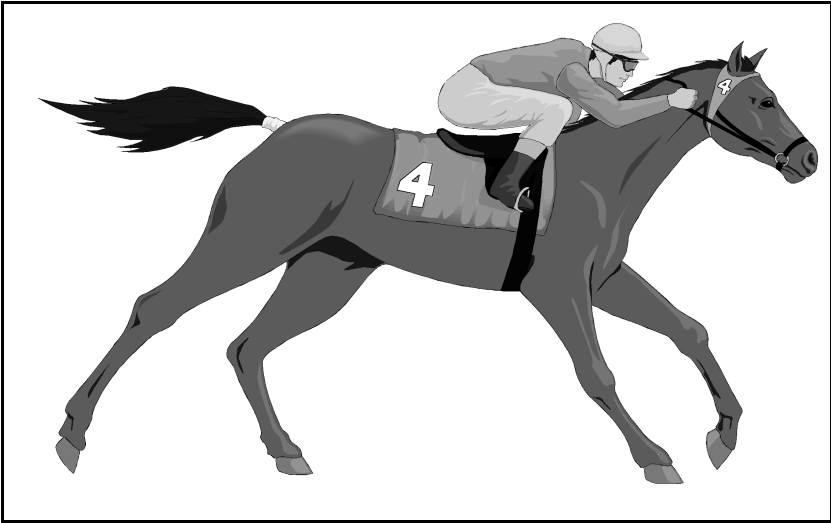
2.00	Form	Ability	Cons	SLife	DMail
	872-221	Canny Danny	75 ★	5 ★	13 78 ★
	12P-412	Lean Ar Aghaidh	18	7 ★	11 72
	8729-63	West Tip	15	18	6 ★ 75
	422315	Bold Yeoman	38 ★	9 ★	13 68
	8-03310	Little Polveir	21 ★	14	7 ★ 76 ★

Result: West Tip won 11-4

It shows a situation where it is unwise to bet. Canny Danny the class/form horse gives over a stone in actual weight to the next in the handicap.

2.30 Beat the Retreat - The class/form horse wins with a stone in hand

3.00 Cool Gin won - the class/form horse



## ***Subject to Other Considerations?***

I have consistently said the class/form horse is the most likely to win. I stated that consistent horses win a high percentage of races. I also stated in my contribution that all the relevant horses were rated by two different methods. The indicated horse should have a three point advantage on the class ratings to qualify for selection.

Give thought not to the race as a whole but to the respective horses performances over the last two furlongs in each of their three previous outings. A horse that notably improves to make a race of it at this stage without winning can be looked upon as a potential candidate in the near future.

***consistency + form + ability + capability + probability  
+ hard work  
=  
WINNERS***

With a sensible staking plan the method works well for me.

## SMARTsig magazine

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## PROBABLY?

### *How good is your concept of probability?*

**Stefan Perry**

If I flip a coin, what are the chances of it landing heads and what is the likelihood of tails. If I roll a die, what are the chances of it showing a 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6?

If you answered 1 in 2, or 50% for the first question and 1 in 6, or 16.66% for the second you would be wrong. One spin of a coin can only ever be a head or tails, so one option has a 100% chance and the other option has no chance. The die roll gives one number a 100% chance and the other numbers none!

It is only when you look at a series of spins, or rolls can you talk in terms of 50% or 16.66%, and here you are making predictions on a series of events.

Bear this in mind when you are striking a bet. You should not be thinking terms of one bet on one event, but that your one bet is a multiple of smaller wagers, some of which will lose and some will win. If your percentages are correct, and you've taken the right odds, you're a winner!

 SMARTsig



***A couple of very simple rules to follow in time for the new turf Flat season which is almost upon us***

**EASY TO FOLLOW STRATEGIES**

***Rex Towers***

**D**ear Stef  
With the Flat season just around the corner, here is a very simple system which consistently shows a profit. There are only five bets per year though! The five **Classics** run in Britain bring together the *creme de la creme* of European race horses so you would expect the races to be very competitive - not so!

Simply back the un-named favourites in each of the five Classics, The Derby, Oaks, 1000 & 2000 guineas and St. Leger. Following this method over the past fourteen years has results in;

70 runners 35 winners      Strike rate 50%

Longest losing run: 4      Longest winning run: 6

Profit: +27.6 (pre tax)      +20.6 (tax paid)      (27% profit on turnover)

***Won First Time Out***

In the February issue of Odds On magazine there was an interview with trainer Philip Hobbs in which he was asked what tip he would give to punters. His answer was "Follow horses that win first time out in a season, because those that manage it once, very often do it again."

This seemed worth checking out, so I decided to look at horses which had won their first race of the current jumps season and were now going to have their second run. The results for January are listed below;

January 1995

02:    Trying Again 8-15

06:    Ivy Edith

      Cyborgo                    11-10

      Do Be Have

07:    Major Summit

      Palacegate King        15-2

      Forbidden Time

	Big Strand	10-11
	Miracle Man	14-1
11:	Redeemyourself	8-11
15:	Braes of Mar	
	Luv U Frank	
	Kibreet	11-2
	Orswell Lad	
16:	Kamikaze	7-4
	Gobsmacked	
	Brackenfield	
	Tronchetto	
18:	Balanak	8-13
	Lumumba Days	5-2
	Stompin	
	Star Market	9-2
	Rectory Gardens	
20:	Familiar Art	6-1
	Another Venture	
21:	Butlers Twitch	
26:	Oats N Barley	
28:	Weaver George	
	Fixturesecretary	
31:	William Tell	

30 Runners

12 winners

40% Strike rate

Profit: +27.6 (pre tax)

+24.6 (tax paid)

75% profit on turnover

Looks very promising!



# SMART sig

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# SMART sig Computer Challenge

## Full results for February (month 2)

**DATE      SELECTIONS      RESULT      ODDS      Stakes   Returns**

**BETTING MANAGER - 081 6898875**

04/02/95	Maid Welcome	L		£11	
	Ivy House	L		£11	
11/02/95	no bet				
18/02/95	Squires Silk	W	9/4	£11	£32.50
	Primula Bairn	3	6/4	£11	
	Camalot Knight	L		£11	
	Nigels Lad	L		£11	
25/02/95	Party Politics	L		£11	
	Nordic Crown	L		£11	
	Balanak	W	11/4	£11	£37.50
	Kadi	2	7/4	£11	
	Princely Gait	W	9/4	£11	£32.50
	Silver Wedge	2	40/85	£11	
	Cyborgo	W	8/11	£11	£17.27
	Sweet Duke	W	4/11	£11	£13.64
	STAKES		RETURNS	PROFIT	
FEB '95	£154		£133.41	-13%	
TO DATE	£308		£193.91	-37%	

**BRED - 0932 779393**

04/02/95	no bet				
11/02/95	no bet				
18/02/95	My Rossini	2	2/1	£11	
	Peterscu	2	13/8	£11	
25/02/95	Plumbob	2	9/2	£11	
	Superior Finish	3	9/4	£11	
	Kadi	2	7/4	£11	
	STAKES		RETURNS	PROFIT	
FEB '95	£55		£0.00	-100%	
TO DATE	£121		£50.00	-59%	

**COURSEMASTER - 0257 276800**

04/02/95	High Baron	2	5/4		£11
11/02/95	no bet				
18/02/95	no bet				
25/02/95	no bet				
	STAKES		RETURNS	PROFIT	
FEB '95	£11		£0.00	-100%	
TO DATE	£176		£171.36	-3%	

**GENESIS - 66 New Lane, Laisterdyke, Bradford, Yorks. BD3 1LR**

04/02/95	Seagul Hollow	L			£11
	Cool Ground	L			£11
	Banjo	W	11/4		£11 £37.50
	Sacre d'Or	L			£11
11/02/95	Willsford		Abandoned		
	Bibendum		Abandoned		
	Trying Again	2	5/2		£11
18/02/95	Unguided Missile	L			£11
	Peanuts Pet	L			£11
	Willsford	W	4/1		£11 £50.00
25/02/95	Val D'Alene	W	11/2		£11 £65.00
	Nuaffe	W	4/1		£11 £50.00
	Isaiah	3	11/1		£11
	Court Master	3	4/1		£11
	Mutual Trust	L			£11
	STAKES		RETURNS	PROFIT	
FEB '95	£143		£202.50	42%	
TO DATE	£308		£352.50	14%	

**HORSE SENSE - 0772 745193**

04/02/95	Uncle Ernie	W	5/2		£11 £35.00
11/02/95	Billygoat Gruff		Abandoned		
	Prince Yaza		Abandoned		
18/02/95	Nigel's Lad	L			£11
	Bibendum	W	9/2		£11 £55.00
25/02/95	Kadi	2	7/4		£11
	STAKES		RETURNS	PROFIT	
FEB '95	£44		£90.00	105%	
TO DATE	£99		£175.00	77%	

**ORACLE(ESP) - 0702 600557**

04/02/95	Whispering Steel	3	9/2		£11
	Little Saboteur	L			£11
	Maid Welcome	L			£11
11/02/95	Lo Stregone	2	13/8		£11
	Pridwell	3	8/1		£11
	Bibendum		Abandoned		
18/02/95	Arthurs Minstrel	F			£11
25/02/95	no bet				
	STAKES		RETURNS	PROFIT	
FEB '95	£66		£0.00	-100%	
TO DATE	£165		£0.00	-100%	

**PRO PUNTER (DGA) - 061 3300184**

04/02/95	Uncle Ernie	W		5/2	£11	£35.00
	Absaloms Lady	2	6/4		£11	
	Banjo	W		11/4	£11	£37.50
11/02/95	Atours	L			£11	
	Kadi		Abandoned			
	Bibendum		Abandoned			
18/02/95	My Rossini	2	2/1		£11	
	Top Spin	W		7/2	£11	£45.00
	Auburn Castle	W		2/1	£11	£30.00
25/02/95	Balanak	W		11/4	£11	£37.50
	Kadi	2	7/4		£11	
	Zeta's Lad	UR			£11	
	STAKES		RETURNS	PROFIT		
FEB '95	£110		£185.00	68%		
TO DATE	£165		£185.00	12%		

**PUNTERS REVENGE - Unit 11, Oakfield Ave, Hitchin. SG4 9JB**

04/02/95	Banjo	W		11/4	£11	£37.50
11/02/95	Kadi		Abandoned			
	Minhonna		Abandoned			
18/02/95	no bet					
25/02/95	Kadi	2	7/4		£11	
	Silver Wedge	2	40/85		£11	
	Sheer Ability	L			£11	
	Cyborgo	W		8/11	£11	£17.27

	STAKES	RETURNS	PROFIT
FEB '95	£55	£54.77	level
TO DATE	£187	£72.77	-61%

**THE SWORD - 0253 698843**

04/02/95	Thumbs Up	L		£11
	Native North	L		£11
11/02/95	Lo Stregone	2	13/8	£11
18/02/95	Tartan Tyrant	F		£11
25/02/95	no bet			

	STAKES	RETURNS	PROFIT
FEB '95	£44	£0.00	-100%
TO DATE	£110	£50.00	-55%

**TIPSTER 4 WINDOWS - 0395 567073**

04/02/95	Thumbs Up	L		£11
	Land Afar	W	2/1	£11 £30.00
11/02/95	no bet			
18/02/95	no bet			
25/02/95	no bet			

	STAKES	RETURNS	PROFIT
FEB '95	£22	£30.00	36%
TO DATE	£44	£30.00	-32%

**PRICEWISE - RACING POST**

04/02/95	Friendly Fellow	L		£11
	Mr Pickpocket	L		£11
	Dominant Serenade	L		£11
11/02/95	Hill Trix	W	6/1	£11 £70.00
	Trying Again	2	5/2	£11
18/02/95	Chief Minister	W	8/1	£11 £90.00
	Valiant Warrior	2	9/2	£11
25/02/95	Viscompt de Valmont	L		£11
	Whispering Steel	UR		£11
	Zeta's Lad	UR		£11

	STAKES	RETURNS	PROFIT
FEB '95	£110	£160.00	45%
TO DATE	£209	£220.00	5%

**TOP TWO NEWSPAPER M.P.S.**

04/02/95	Forgotten Empress	W		1/2	£11	£15.00
	Teaplanter	W		4/5	£11	£18.00
	Bayariyka	2	7/4		£11	
11/02/95	Vik.Flagship(16)	F			£11	
	Sheelin Lad(14)	2	4/7		£11	
	Ali's Alibi(14)	W		2/5	£11	£14.00
	Livio(14)	F			£11	
18/02/95	Large Action(14)	W		2/9	£11	£12.22
	Kissair(14)	W		6/4	£11	£25.00
	Royal Athlete(14)	2	1/2		£11	
25/02/95	Silver Wedge	2	40/85		£11	
	Sweet Duke	W		4/11	£11	£13.64
	STAKES		RETURNS	PROFIT		
FEB '95	£132		£97.86	-26%		
TO DATE	£231		£164.97	-29%		

**PERFORMANCE TABLES in merit order  
(minimum qualification of 6 bets per month)**

**February only**

**Overall Competition**

Program	no of bets	profit	Program	no of bets	profit
Pro Punter	10	+68%	Horse Sense	9	+77%
Genesis	13	+42%	Genesis	28	+14%
Betting Manager	14	-13%	Pro Punter	15	+12%
Oracle	6	-100%	Coursemaster	16	-3%
			Tipster 4Windows	4	-32%
			Betting Manager	28	-37%
			The Sword	10	-55%
			Bred	11	-59%
			Punters Revenge	17	-61%
			Oracle	15	-100%
<b>Too few bets to qualify this month</b>					
Horse Sense	4	+105%			
Tipster 4Windows	2	+36%			
Punters Revenge	5	level			
Bred	5	-100%			
The Sword	4	-100%			
Coursemaster	1	-100%			

**FEBRUARY MONTHLY AWARDS**

**1st: PRO PUNTER**

**2nd: GENESIS**

**3rd: no qualifier**

***Why has no one ever published a football statistics journal that is updated through the season, a bit like a Raceform Update for soccer fans - Well it is published and I've only just found it!***

## **MAGAZINE REVIEW**

***Stefan Perry***

### **FOOTBALL FACTS MONTHLY**

***£18.50 for 10 monthly 40 page journals (£17.50 for SMART members)***

**“W**here have you been all my life!” That was my remark to the voice at the other end of the ‘phone when I called the Association of Football Statisticians (AFS) to congratulate them on their excellent monthly football statistics magazine.

If you’ve not seen this already then it’s just what all you football students have been looking for, if you have seen it, then why haven’t you let me know about it before now!

The journal is in A5 format (just like SMART), no frills, no colour, simply facts, facts, facts, and just for good measure some more facts. And, again like our magazine, and so ***unlike*** our commercial counterparts, it ***does not*** have between 25% and 33% of the pages filled with advertising and another 15% to 20% with pictures.

This monthly is jammed packed full, in it’s 40 pages, of everything you need to know to keep abreast of just what is happening on the football scene throughout the season. It covers the news from the Carling Premier League, Endsleigh Football League, Bells Scottish League, GM Vauxhall Conference and The Konica League of Wales, and uses the slogan “Covering all that’s happening throughout the football season” It is published and distributed at break-neck speed after the final weekend in each month and arrives through your letter box on the Wednesday. Issues 1 to 10 cover the months of August through to May.

It is obviously the product of some very dedicated football lovers who must burn the midnight oil to get all this excellent material together in one place at the right time. Their enthusiasm for the sport really radiates from each and every page, unlike much of what is written today, which leans towards



opinion by over paid journalists who are more concerned with the sound of their own voices than they are with providing a good service to readers.

It is in it's second season and apparently goes to many newspapers and football clubs already.

In order for me to review this magnificent journal fully and to do it justice would probably take me the same forty pages so I'll do my best to give you the flavour in just two, simply by telling you a part of what is contained in issue number six (up to & including Feb. 5th)

- All the teams league results so far, from the start of the season giving scores and dates.
- All the teams league fixtures to come, with dates.
- Current league tables.
- All the cup results from previous month.
- Tables showing each teams position at the end of each month of the season so far.
- All Premier team WDL sequences to date.
- All sending offs for the previous month, date and time.
- All hat tricks scored during the previous month.
- All players who have scored 4 goals in one game since the start of the season.
- Up to date, full goalscorers list, for all clubs, league & cup.
- Top goalscorers for all leagues.
- The quickest goalscorer for each team, and the time scored
- All games where one club has scored at least 6 goals.
- Managerial changes for the previous month.
- All player transfers for previous month, with fee if known.
- The average goals scored per match, for all leagues, for each of the previous months, and the running totals.
- Each teams total home attendance so far, the highest, lowest and the average.
- Highest and lowest attendances for each league to date.
- List of games due for live TV for coming month.
- Full European competition statistics for coming games, records of all the competitors in all European Cup competitions and in the specific Cup competition.
- A feature called "Saturday Watch" which gives 17 different statistics, for each Saturday of the season so far, for each league, in terms of attendances and games played.

I even enjoyed reading snippets like these - (and the mag is full of 'em)

- Stan Van den Buys scored a hat trick for Anderlecht against Germinal Ekeren on 22nd January, trouble was he was playing for Ekeren! His three own goals gave Anderlecht a 3.2 victory!
- Chester's 4.4 draw with Rotherham on 4th Feb was the first 4.4 draw since Leicester v Watford on 27th December 1993!

The list just goes on and on and on. For anyone who is serious about their football betting, fixed odds or treble chance, this is the sort of information you would kill for! Indeed I know of no other source of such detailed and useful information. Even for someone who is not into football betting this is a treasure trove of facts and figures, a cornucopia for any soccer fan.

Overall, a refreshing package of up to the minute facts which should provide much of interest for every follower of football, from a betting point of view, a little gem in a sea of *Fanzine* dross!

A journal produced with the sports fan as a priority will always be preferred, by this reviewer anyway, to the magazine produced with profit for the publisher as it's number one aim. More power to your elbow AFS, you have given us a little beauty.

### ***Sample it for FREE!***

A sample, albeit out of date copy, can be yours to sample simply by telephoning AFS on 0268 416020 or you can fax them on the same number. Alternatively you can write, giving them your name and address to;

**Football Facts Monthly**  
**Association of Football Statisticians**  
**22 Bretons**  
**BASILDON**  
**Essex**  
**SS15 5BY**

**SMART members can subscribe at a £1 discount, tell them you're a SMART member when applying. I have no doubt you'll like what you see!**



## **ARSENAL, forever the fall guys**

Always the brunt of the boring jokes Arsenal, the no goals specialists. Fact is that last season only five Premier clubs scored more away league goals than they did. But the boring tag still stays with them.

At the beginning of the season, among some tongue in cheek football quotes in the *Racing Post* was one which went  
“Arsenal 0 . . . .”

If you agreed with the Posts biased views you should have took the line of backing Arsenal in every game to finish 0.0  
Results to 26 February 1995 are:- played 40      0.0 results 7 (17.5%)

assuming a minimum of 8-1 for each one, the balance sheet shows;

Stakes 44 (including tax)	
Return 63	
Profit on investment	+43.2%

If you had followed the same idea during the 1993/94 season your balance sheet would have looked like this;

Stakes 66 (including tax)	
Return 72 (all taken at 8-1)	
Profit on investment	+9.1%

If a 0.0 result means that from a spectators viewpoint the term boring is the one to use, then so be it.

But from an investors angle, predictable, low scoring, and if need be boring clubs can offer a good opportunity for a profitable strategy as part of his overall portfolio.

Remember also, that when available, the “no goalscorer” bet offers an even better edge for the punter. It is opportunities like this one which offer a far better chance of success than the speculative 3.3 at 50-1!

This seasons leading 0.0 experts are; (up to 24/2/95)

<b>Watford</b> played	39/ 10 x 0.0s	(25.6%)
<b>Aberdeen</b>	33/ 7	(21.21%)
<b>Hibernian</b>	30/ 6	(20%)

***But is it an indication of what is to come??***

## Whoops! - copy errors

*I do hope you will forgive the one or two errors that creep into the magazine now and again, considering the amount of material I handle it doesn't happen too often - now does it?*

Members can perhaps amend last months magazine with the following corrections.

### **The VDW Approach - by ??????**

Last months issue (Vol2 No 2) had an article headed "The VDW Approach". The name of the member responsible for the piece was Bill Priest and not Edward Walker as stated.

Apologies to both Bill and Edward - Stef

### **Comparing Different Systems - John Main**

The gremlins were at work again on the above named article in last months magazine, page 44. In scenario 4B the 0.005 printed should have read 0.05, the table should have been as follows

		Win prob	Return for Win	Expected Return		Exp. ret. %
1	A	0.5	2	$4 \times 0.5 \times 2$	= 4	100
	B	0.25	4	$4 \times 0.25 \times 4$	= 4	100
2	A	0.5	2.2	$4 \times 0.5 \times 2.2$	= 4.4	110
	B	0.25	4.4	$4 \times 0.25 \times 4.4$	= 4.4	110
3	A	0.5	2.2	$4 \times 0.5 \times 2.2$	= 4.4	110
	B	0.25	4.6	$4 \times 0.25 \times 4.6$	= 4.6	115
4	A	0.5	2.1	$4 \times 0.5 \times 2.1$	= 4.2	105
	B	0.05	40	$4 \times 0.05 \times 40$	= 8	200
5	A	0.8	1.5	$4 \times 0.8 \times 1.5$	= 4.8	120
	B	0.4	3.75	$4 \times 0.4 \times 3.75$	= 6	150

**Starting Price Survey - John Main (issue 2.2 page 27)**

Columns (8) and (9) were corrupted in last month's reprint showing the wrong values, the table should read as follows;

(1) SP	(2) SP Prob%	(3) Wins X	(4) Runs	(5) Wins/ Runs% Y	(6) Return %	(7) Pred Prob% $\hat{Y}$	(8) Requ retn I	(9) Requ retn II
1/5	83	43	51	84	101	80	1.25	1.37
1/4	80	74	96	77	96	77	1.30	1.43
1/3	75	104	139	75	100	72	1.39	1.53
2/5	71	159	230	69	97	68	1.46	1.61
1/2	67	221	330	67	100	64	1.57	1.73
4/7	64	266	440	60	95	63	1.60	1.76
4/6	60	356	626	57	95	57	1.75	1.93
4/5	56	412	776	53	96	53	1.90	2.09
1/1	50	547	1185	46	92	47	2.12	2.33
5/4	44	589	1365	43	97	42	2.39	2.63
6/4	40	714	1856	38	96	37	2.67	2.94
7/4	36	834	2616	32	88	34	2.95	3.25
2/1	33	1106	3585	31	93	31	3.24	3.56
5/2	29	1103	4168	26	93	26	3.82	4.20
3/1	25	1282	5778	22	89	23	4.41	4.85
7/2	22	1332	6611	20	91	20	5.02	5.52
4/1	20	1419	8332	17	85	18	5.64	6.20
9/2	18	1140	6945	16	90	16	6.27	6.90
5/1	17	1458	9485	15	92	14	6.92	7.61
6/1	14	1240	10087	12	86	12	8.25	9.08
8/1	11	1162	13356	9	78	9	11.12	12.23
10/1	9	1152	16699	7	76	7	14.28	15.70
12/1	8	963	17990	5	70	6	17.77	19.54
16/1	6	683	19418	4	60	4	26.00	28.59
20/1	5	651	27608	2	50	3	36.44	40.08
25/1	4	404	21364	2	49	2	54.26	59.69
33/1	3	392	40220	1	33	1	105.01	115.51
50/1	2	86	23286	0	19	0		
66/1	1	19	4599	0	28	0		
100/1	1	11	4975	0	22	0		

***In this re-printed computer viewed version the corrections referred to on these two pages HAVE BEEN MADE***

## SMART SWAP SHOP

If you have any items for inclusion in SwapShop please send details to SMARTsig. Your telephone number or address will be included unless you say otherwise. Alternatively you may use your membership number as a box number, in this case please include 2 x 1st class stamps to cover any postage.

### **To obtain items from the SwapShop, either;**

- contact the address or telephone number accompanying the ad.  
Or, in the case of a box number;
- send a letter or telephone SMART with;
- your name
- membership number
- preferred contact address/telephone number
- the reference number of the item(s)

### **DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY WITH YOUR REQUEST**

The goods are being offered by our members - not by SMARTsig  
Many items offered through SwapShop will keep their value even when you have finished with them, simply recycle them once again through our SwapShop pages.

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**FOR SALE:** (All mint condition) Playing Bookie with the Bookie (Richard Rees pp16) £2 - The Value Seeker (P Graham pp44) £2 - Formula Two - The Science of Fixed Odds Success (James Ashley pp69) £7 (was £79.99) - Greyhound Racing for Profit (Liam Connolly - Raceform pp48) £2 - The 500/1 Plan (Edwin J Payne pp10) £2 - A "Job Lot" of approx 80 racing systems (both flat and jumps) approx pp200 £10

***OR £20 for the lot (post free)***

**Trevor Southern 0386 831172**

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**WANTED:** "The Cream" Guide to winners, published by Hutton.  
**Ray Webster 0472 824931**

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**WANTED:** "The Solidus"  
**Stefan Perry 01623 812400**

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**FOR SALE:** \*Win at Racing with the Experts (A Ewart) £10 - The Punters Friend (J Waterman) £9 - Betting for Fun & Profit (T Hill) £9 -

Complete Guide to Horse Race Selection & Betting (Braddock) £9 - \*The Handy Guide to Successful Betting (Midgley) £11 - Betting for Profit (Duncan) £6 - \*Fortune for a Little Money (J Edwards) £9 - \*Spot the Winner (J Herbert) £11 - \*The Punters Bible (Ultraform) £11 - \*How to Win on the Flat (B Giles 1975) £5 - Backing Trainers (Ashford & Carnaby 1992) £4 - Racing Away (Carnaby 1992) £4 - Traveform (McCusker) £5 - Betting for Profit the Easy Way (P Murrell) £9 - \*Everymans Guide to How Professionals Find Winners (M Preston 1974) £10 - \*How to Read Your Racing Page (W Swan 1974) £10 - Fineform Rating Formula £5 - \*Synchro-Sequence Master Formulas for Football (Promath) £21 - Football Pools & How to Win (Prof F George) £11 - Football Pools, Large Profits from Small Stakes (C Brown) £9 - \* 12 Sporting Investor Magazines (1964 - 1974) £4 each or £46 all twelve - n.b All books marked \* are rare. Also a "job lot" of approximately 50 systems for flat jumps and football £13 Will sell entire list for £195 - All prices include postage.

**John Flannigan (N Ireland) 01762 871497 (Mon - Fri after 5.30pm)**

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**WANTED:** Rothmans Football Yearbooks; 1972/73, 1974/75, 1978/79, 1989/90, 1990/91 and 1991/92.

**Stefan Perry 01623 812400**

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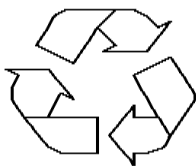
**FOR SALE:** Formula Two (Fixed Odds) - Be A Successful Punter (Holt) - The Winning Streak (Graham) - Flat Racing Aide Memoire (pp99). Offers invited for Nos 1 to 34 Odds On magazines in mint condition.

**Tickler 0270 820011**

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**FOR SALE:** The Complete Professional Horse Racing System (WJ Davies pp192) - Braddocks Complete Guide to Horse Race Selection and Betting (pp272) - Lose Less, Win More at Gambling (Jack Lemon pp204) - Dark Secrets of the Turf (John White pp175) - Racing to Win (Statistician pp79) - Profitable Betting Strategies (Clive Holt 104pp) - The Favourites Report (pp32) - The Secret Companion (Matthew Thole pp40).

WHY? Exchange or sell all eight for £30 + £5 p&p **Rex Towers Rivendell, Les Tracheries Est, St Sampson, Guernsey. GY2 4ST 0481 44565**



**SMARTsig SWAP SHOP**  
**The ultimate in**  
**RECYCLING**

# SMART SOCCER 2.2 DRAW SYSTEM

Results from 29 January 1995 to 26 February 1995

*Opportunities are getting very thin on the ground now, we didn't even make double figures with the selections this month!*

7/2/95	Liverpool v Burnley	1.0
	Clyde v Dundee Utd	1.5
	Hearts v Clydebank	2.1
14/2/95	Dunfirmline v Stranraer	3.1
18/2/95	Celtic v Meadowbank	3.0
	Huntly v Dundee	1.3
	Kilmarnock v East Fife	4.0
	Ross v Arbroath	0.1
24/2/95	Forfar v Albion	4.0

## *Balance Sheet to date:*

Bets	Stake (inc Tax)	Returns	Profit or Loss
163	179.3	136	43.3 loss (- 24.1%)

**SMARTsig**

## Were you on it??

The match between Ross and Arbroath on 24th February, listed in the 2.2 system above, was very interesting.

Ross are currently are doing quite well in Scottish Div 3 and are second in the league, whereas Arbroath are second bottom. But all the bookies looked upon the game as a foregone conclusion, as though there could not *possibly* be any other result than a home win.

However, this was the second time this season that Ross had played Arbroath at home, **the previous fixture resulted in a whacking 1.4 win for the away side!** In fact, Arbroath's best away win of the season. Coral went 9-1 against an away win, I spotted it, but didn't have the bottle!



## **BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS**

### **GENERAL BOOKS**

An effective 10% discount and free postage on books. Book finding service. Contact Jay Cook, The Book shop & Gallery, 40 Earsham Street, Bungay, Suffolk, NR35 1AQ. Tel: 0986 895164. Fax: 0986 895748

### **BRED**

Tim Coe the author is able to offer a discount to full members. Contact Tim Coe, 19 Cherry Way, Upper Halliford, Shepperton, Middx. Tel: 0932 779393

### **RACING POST**

Current form books @ £18.50 (all prices are post paid. Contact me here at SMART sig. Cheques etc. made payable to S. Perry.

### **SOCCER**

Every professional football result is available in book and on computer disk from a member of the Association of Football Statisticians.

Tony Brown, 4 Adrian Close, Beeston, Nottingham. Tel: 0602 736086

Football Facts Monthly. ALL the soccer student needs to know in a regular monthly seasonal journal. £1 subscription discount to SMART members @ £17.50 for ten, including first class postage.

AFS, 22 Bretons, BASILDON, Essex. SS15 5BY Phone/Fax 0268 416020

### **HORSE RACING**

Computer Raceform offer their "form on a disk" at a discount to full members.

FLAT 1994 - Now available!

**Members who have offered help, research, etc. Write to SMART with any queries, the answers will then be published for everyone's benefit. If any members would care to offer their services to other club members please let me know.**

### **Alan Coldrick**

Has a very extensive collection of Raceform Update and Handicap books (Raceform's previous guise). Offers research, all manual, for facts, figures and the like from this collection.

## **Stefan Perry**

Home league and cup soccer on computer from 1987/8 season, can test theories etc. over that period.

## **Tim Coe**

Racehorse breeding and the study of pedigrees

## **Mel Collier**

Help with Racing Post facts and figures, Topspeed, Postmark, Pricewise, Diomed, etc.

## **Rex Towers**

Overseas betting

### **WELL FANCY THAT!**



In a recent telephone conversation a member passed on a snippet of statistical news he'd recently heard

“If you buy a lottery ticket on Monday, statistically you stand more chance of being murdered that week than winning a £multi-million jackpot”

# SMART

## Merit Table

Our 'Merit Table' of all the products and services referred to by members in their correspondence. No quoted comments will be added, simply one mark under the ( + ) column when I hear a positive comment, or under the ( - ) if the remarks are not complimentary. A mark under the ( ) column denotes a non committal statement.

Additional marks and/or other products will be added to the list as the months roll on. SMARTsig will leave you to your own individual interpretations.

Product/Service	Type	numbers of comments		
		( + )	( )	( - )
Bet to Win	Horse System			1
Challenge The	Horse System			1
Double Bonus	Horse System			1
Eternity	Horse System			1
Golden Midas	Horse System			1
Law of Averages	Horse System			1 ***
New Ultimate	Horse System			1
Peter Wards 'One a Day'	Horses System			2
Punters Paymaster	Horse System			1
Strudden method	Horse System			1
Value Challenge	Horse System			1
Winning Edge	Horse System	1		
Winning for Life	Horse System			1
ALL premium line tipsters				off the scale
Winning Line	Tipping service	2	1	4
Brimardon	Horse Computer Prog	1		2
Combeys	Horse Computer Prog	1	1	
Computer	Horse Computer Prog		1	5
Oracle Racing System	Horse Computer Prog			6
ProPunter	Horse Computer Prog	3	1	3
22-1 football method	Football Fixed Odds		1	
James Ashley Formula2	Football Fixed Odds		1	7
Perfection	Football correct scores			2

\*\*\* This system makes a profit usually! However it employs the notorious "double stakes after a loser" method. This technique really is a recipe for DISASTER! It is not a case of if it goes wrong, but when!

## **Systems, Methodologies And Rational Thinking - Special interest group**

The SMARTsig magazine is published by

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With help from and thanks to:

SMARTsig members (letters, contributions & advice)

A large letter box and an understanding Postman

IBM compatible PC (published using Microsoft Word)

Panasonic laser printer (it's never worked so hard!)

An understanding family (at the moment)

A very large work area (I am a messy worker!)

Turkey & mince pies (to soothe the savage b(r)east)

Any one else I've forgotten

### **The legal stuff:**

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