

SMARTsig magazine 2.7 - July 1995

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SMART

Up Front

Happy birthday to SMART, happy birthday to SMART, etc., etc. We've made it then! Our twelfth issue, I remember it seemed a long way off to those of us who were there at the start last August. Were we going to go the same way as What Tipster, and so many, many more before us, disappearing without trace along with the members subscriptions. There is obviously a certain ingredient that we have, that the others didn't! Not only have we weathered the storms of those initial first twelve months, I'm sure that we have arrived at this stage a stronger team, and the only way from here is up. (pause while I put down my cymbal and drum)

What's New? - Your Address Label

I've changed the address labels (again!) the *UNTIL* date was causing slight confusion, it used to display the first day of the month corresponding to your final magazine - i.e. Member xxxx UNTIL 1/7/95 meant that your last mag would be the July 1995 issue. To end any misunderstandings the date displayed now shows the last day of the month in which your membership expires. 1/7/95 becomes 31/7/95, similarly, 1/11/95 becomes 30/11/95.

email rides Again

My Delphi account has been resurrected, and I am now hosting a Forum, aptly titled SMARTsig on Delphi Internet. It has only just opened so there is nothing to report so far, but whatever happens in there you can be sure I'll pass the information on to you. A reminder of my email address;
stef@smartsig.com

SMARTsig Address

To help me with my administration as our membership grows, I have opted to use a Royal Mail PO Box number address, it is;

**SMARTsig
PO Box 44
HAYLE
TR27 6YH**

It would much appreciated if you would all use this new address in your correspondence for the future. The reason has nothing to do with *hiding* behind a box number it simply helps me keep things tidier this end. Some I know will often look suspiciously at box number locations and assume the worst, but from what I have seen so far the Royal Mail go to great lengths to ensure that the box number service is NOT abused, and welcome information from the public if something less than legal, decent and honest is being conducted from such an address.

You may be unaware of this fact, I know I was, the Royal Mail have an obligation to supply the real address to which ANY box number is linked. upon request, call them at local rate on 0345 950950

SMARTsig “the Book”

This subject you will remember has been raised before, and although some liked the idea, enough of you objected for me to put a stop to the idea. There were two main areas of objection, firstly, that many did not want to submit articles to what is essentially a closed special interest group only to find it on sale at a later date for just anyone to read. The second argument was purely from a financial standpoint, e.g. “I’ve paid £36 for an annual subscription, so why should someone else have the opportunity of buying it, off the shelf, at WH Smiths for £4.95 or whatever.”

Both points are of course quite valid. But my reasons this time are somewhat different. You’ll appreciate that new members are joining the group as we progress. Well, by far the majority of these new members tell me that they wished they’d joined earlier and understandably want to have all the back copies to give them a “full set”. Back copies are available at £4 each to members, or, I will also be flexible at their time of joining at allow memberships to be back-dated. e. g. A new member joining in, say, July 1995 has the option of backdating his/her membership from any month since we started, effectively having all the issues to date sent in one job lot, and needing to re-subscribe immediately.

This situation is likely to create problems with storage space here at SMARTsig as time goes on. My idea therefore is to have each Aug. - July period bound into one volume, for the sole purpose of supplying future members with back numbers (it will ONLY be supplied to full SMART members). The cost will be £36 to these people so as not to disadvantage current members. But, as always, I’ll listen to you, if you don’t like the idea I’m sure you’ll let me know!

- Stef



Are These the Confessions and Nightmares of a Premium Rate Tipster Addict?

THE CAT'S BOTTOM *(and what I got out of it)*

David Sheen

Dear Stef,
Thanks for sending the current & back issues of SMART. I would like to join the "Customer Intelligence Network". I have some experience to share of Premium Rate tipsters etc. but I'm afraid my experience reveal a striking lack of intelligence on my part, as well as on many of the selections. At least I can, hopefully, save other SMARTies from squandering their hard earned.

Over several months, I have sampled the delights of Tipster W (lost £423.32), Tipster X (lost £99.71), Tipster Y (lost £180. 17), Tipster Z (lost &227.88) ...need I go on? I even found one who merely pirates other services (Tipster XX of Sheffield).

I was locked in a financial life or death struggle with, in the one corner, the bookmaker, and in the other corner, a host (a gaggle? a litter?) of Premium Rate tipsters. I fell for the old salesman's trick: tell people you can give them what they want, give them a plausible reason for believing you can deliver, and ask for their money.

But now, thanks to SMARTsig, I have seen the light, I have repented of my former shameful associates (in the main): I may bet but I no longer Tipple - I am a born again punter.

Keep this up and you've found another life long subscriber - assuming, that is, I can refrain from committing financial suicide on today's "Bet of the Decade" or next weekend's headline billed "Insider Bet of the Century".

***“I fell for the
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Give them a
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Ask for their
money.”***

Father Stefan, may I confess to you the dark secrets of my recent past - not only have I been losing, but - the shame of it - I have been losing unintelligently. The penny dropped for me only when my latest "Private Gamble" (a 25-1 sure thing - to you, my "Special Friend" - yes, that is the phrase - only £25) lost in the 3.40 at Newmarket on 3rd June. The name of this beast, specially chosen to do the business for (or is that "on"?) all those who got behind it -

The Cat's Bottom!

Funnily enough this bet coincided with my other brilliant idea of replacing my lawn with shrubs and bark chippings (no more mowing, you see). Ever since that day dozens of cats have visited my garden, treating it as a giant cat litter. Sometimes, after a bad losing day, I lie awake listening to their singing, until, counting horses over the jumps, I slip into a nightmare where all my losing horses turn into giant incontinent singing cats, intent on sending me messages from a great height...

But I have heard it said that a man of genius makes no mistakes, that his errors are the portals of discovery. What, then, could I learn from my experiences? Why, I asked myself, do Premium Rate Tipsters get taken to the cleaners so often? I am now close to solving, if not

“THE RIDDLE OF THE SPHINX”,
then at least

The Riddle of The Cat's Bottom:

Where do Premium Rate Tipsters come from?

As they say on Vulcan, "Live long and prosper, SMART". It's people like you, Stefan, who could give gambling a good name.

P.S. I have found 2 Racing Services that I believe to be genuine. I say believe, because so far I have managed to lose money with them. However, they both show signs of intelligence, and I remain confident they will show a profit by the end of the flat. I'll let you know, if you're interested.

 SMARTsig

The choice of type faces above is David's choice, so don't blame me!

Must admit that it's the first time I've conducted a confessional! Wonder if I should respond by referring to you as "My son" and say some thing like "Yea verily, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff and thy copy of SMARTsig they comfort me" - no perhaps not, I'll get smitten from above by a thunderbolt - or perhaps something from a cat's bottom?

By the way, I'm not in the business of saving anyone from anything - but I'd like to think that SMARTsig can help people to help themselves.

Like your comment/question on the collective noun that we should use for a group of Premium Rate Tipsters, you suggest host, gaggle or litter. My first thoughts are for terms like an illusion of PRTs or perhaps a promise of PRTs. I did think about a "thicket", but that perhaps is the term that best fits the people who use and lose with the PRTs.

That reminds me of a word I discovered recently, from of all places an American computer software journal, you may well be aware of it already - Oxymoron. It's a figure of speech by which contradictory terms are combined. Among the examples given were, rather cruelly I thought, Postal Service and Terribly Good. But I did like Military Intelligence! The PRT brigade would appear to be an ideal candidate for an oxymoron, any suggestions? Let me know of your thoughts on collective nouns and oxymorons - I'll print the best ones.

Didn't realise before just how similar the initials PRT are to PMT! both of them I suppose are liable to bring out the very worst in people.

There was a rumour going round at one time that the many PRTs around were in fact actually run by only a handful of individuals, all operating under different banners. They can't ALL be losers, can they?? C'mon members, do you know different?
- Stef

S.O.S.

SMARTsig Survives On your Subscriptions

So please don't share your copy with others.
Show us off by all means, but then tell them to join.
We're straight with you - please be straight with us!

A member who believes that he is close to a potential moneymaking system.

SYSTEM T34

John O’Riordon (Ireland)

Dear Stef,

I have been working on the system outlined for several months now, and believe I have a potential money-maker on my hands. However, It is not yet perfect, so I wonder if any other SMARTies could comment on it and offer suggestions.

The selection process is as follows;

- Select all races where the forecast favourite is quoted odds against in your racing paper
- Starting with the race with the greatest prize-money, work your way through the card until you find the days sole selection
- The selection must be forecast favourite.
- The selection must be proven on today’s going
- The selection must have an equal or better CD record than the opposition
- In the event of two or more horses tying with equal prize-money, the shorter of the two forecast odds is the selection.
- Races must have fewer than twelve runners to qualify



SMARTsig

Quotation of the month

"The trouble with hindsight is that it's never around when you need it!"

Jim Streek answers the questions raised regarding his Daily Mail Formcast analysis.

MORE FORMCAST

Jim Streek

Dear Stef,
I have some more questions to answer, but first a thank you to SMARTie John Wall for his letter, kind remarks and gift. He has been informed of the charity I have sent it to as I will not take money from a fellow member.

David Pemberton asks about profitability, I assume he is referring to Formcast Special bets and System X. I have not kept records of them recently except for what has already been given.

The Formcast ratings have not let me down since Nigel Taylor took over in 1979, if anyone else should take over we would be informed. Regarding Formcast Special bets, I repeat, ALL non handicaps. For system X, All non handicap hurdles only - NO 'chases.

*26 selections
giving 12
winners? - or
eleven selections
producing nine
winners?
The choice is
yours!*

On the subject of the best races to concentrate on another questioner asks if I only use races with three year old in the race title. The answer to that one is yes, other races can be considered but I will leave those for another time to avoid confusion.

Also "can the number of selections be reduced?"

I always try to avoid having rules that are too rigid, but the following will give about one selection per day:-

- Select the top rated by Formcast in 3-y-o, non handicaps of seven furlongs up to one mile, two furlongs.
- Six runners or more.
- Providing it was 1st or 2nd last time out.

Results for May 1995, from the 5th are;
26 selections Giving 18 winners.

Because I am writing this early in June I will give an update on profits later.

Check the above rules in one mile races especially;

During May it showed
11 selections Giving 9 winners.

*I've not looked too
deeply at the "value"
aspect -*

On the question of value, will we ever get true value in our betting shops? I think not, we'll just get the leftovers.

*I'm too busy looking
for winners!*

This is not a subject that I have looked into too deeply, my time is taken up finding winners.

Providing I can maintain a good percentage and avoid odds on chances I consider I get good value.

To end I will just give a few other recommendations.

- In three year old, non handicaps where the top rated was not first or second last time out, but Formcast's second rated was, then this second rated horse should be considered.
- Use caution if a first time out runner is listed as one of the first two in the betting forecast.
- Beware if the going is heavy, a change in the weather is one of the biggest causes of upsets.
- The performance of most systems can be improved by only using a selection with a good last time out placing as previously described.

***Looking to build yourself a winning system?
Here's some helpful advice gained over the
years***

IDEAS GROW FROM IDEAS

Mail Boy

Dear Stef,

I have been interested in reading Jim Streek's articles in past issues of SMARTsig with regard to Formcast of the Daily Mail. He has obviously done his homework on this particular feature of his daily paper.

It costs a lot to subscribe to the professional rating services, so why not use your daily paper's ratings. The same chap who compiles these ratings may be working for the big firms next week! An in depth study of such ratings can prove profitable as Jim Streek has already highlighted.

When forming any method you can't expect to come to a conclusion after one months results. I've found that when using newspaper data, what is required is a long term strategy of collecting and examining results, marking off all the results every day to easier highlight the trends, etc. This can be laborious, but rewarding.

Making a profit, and especially a long term profit, from horse racing, and off-course as well means hard work. There's no overnight get rich quick solution, if you are prepared to put the time and effort in you may be rewarded, but it will not come easily. But as Jim Streek as found, the research can give you many hours of pleasurable study.

***“Making a profit,
and especially a
long term profit,
from horse racing,
and off-course as
well means hard
work.”***

Personally I would use a two year study to establish an idea, a third year for a dry run (i.e. no betting) and, if successful, start betting in the fourth year. Boring eh? but if you're serious about long term profit, the homework has got to be correct and accurate for your organised attack on the bookies.

Before you even get to this stage you may well have gone down many blind alleys, but when conducting the research into one particular aspect, other

ideas may well be forthcoming. Cross referencing from your daily paper with a racing paper will help also, especially for accurate betting forecasts and other features. There are countless combinations to use before you find your own little niche.

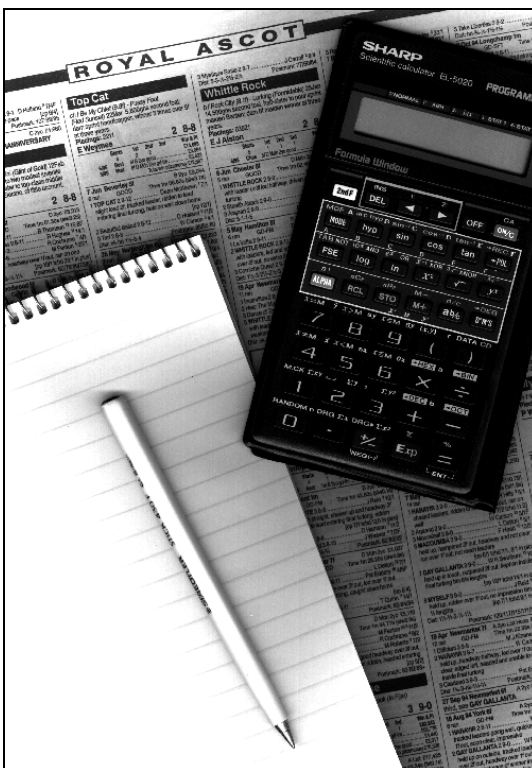
During research a losing year or two may be found but it may not be a reason to consign your research to the bin. If the capacity of Jim Streek's system is 33 points (1993) and 38 points (so far 1995) a couple of losing years is a tolerable situation, especially considering a ten year study.

A long term look at any method is essential for a serious backer of systems. Too many seem to want to blunder in and then quickly burn themselves out without proper preparation and assessment of all the variables. It may be that some require too much from a system (i.e. ten winning years from ten). Perhaps they'd be happy with eight winning years from ten, but what if they'd researched the two losing years first? - In the bin??

A losing year for one particular system in a portfolio of half a dozen can be weathered without too much loss of faith.

positive signs in losing years are near misses and unlucky losers, seconds and thirds. A losing year has to be looked at in the context of five or six years of results, it is all part of the psychology along with the actual physical act and hassle of the betting, even off course.

I'm talking about getting the best early prices and the various concessions, e.g. guaranteed odds, which are all essential in the long term analysis for



"Your own study of such ideas can sometimes lead to better results and more interesting offshoots"

beating SP. My systematic approach to betting was developed in the 1980s when systems were at the forefront in the market provided by the pirates (telephone relaying seems more popular now).

This enabled the systemite to study and analyse products at a reasonable price.

Considering 95% of these items were rogue systems the 5% that looked to have some substance were often highlighted by the pirate. Peter Morris, of Poundstretcher systems was helpful on this.

Ideas grow from ideas, I would not advocate following strict system rules as laid down by the vendors, but your own study of such ideas can sometimes lead to better results and more interesting offshoots.

In SMART issues 2.6 D Pemberton quizzes Jim Streek on details of his Formcast method. If he started collecting the Daily Mail racing pages, instead of eating his fish and chips out of them, and watched Jim's ideas develop he could then formulate his own conclusions, which could be even better than Jim's and perhaps more rewarding.

If you've got the time and patience and are genuinely interested it can be very stimulating. You don't have to start backing tomorrow, see it develop, watch the losing runs, could you survive them? The trend you study today should work just as well in three or four years time if the ingredients stay the same. If the ingredients do change, try to be flexible and change accordingly.

Personally I favour developing methods which produce prices from 3-1 to 10-1 and occasionally higher, to counter losing runs. My first priority when developing any method in the past, was winners at any cost, it took me three years to realise this was wrong. It was then that I started moving away from the front end of the market, a lower strike rate but slightly better prices and more rewarding bets.

For those interested in back checking newspapers, this can be done at some local libraries, quite a number of them in major towns have copies of old papers on microfiche machines, going back many years. However, take a pair of sunglasses and a packed lunch - I've been there!

Last month I voiced my concern about my telephone experiences with IG Index, their response is printed here.

SPREAD FRIENDLY?

Stefan Perry

14th June 1995

Dear Mr Perry,

I have read the interesting article which you wrote in the 2nd June edition of SMART. I am naturally very concerned to have read what you said about our dealers at the end of the article.

You are obviously quite right that if we are not friendly and helpful on the telephone, punters will indeed be looking elsewhere. I am extremely sorry about the impression you received from our dealers and I would like to ask you to come and visit us to meet the dealers and also to have lunch with me, and at least one of them, so that you can find out what type of people we really are!

I will ask my secretary to give you a call to see whether you would like to do that and, if so, to fix a date.

Yours sincerely, Stuart Wheeler

Although I will not be taking up your kind offer, it is refreshing to see when a company is quick to respond to the concerns of a customer, do you invite all who complain out to lunch? But reading between the lines of your letter, are you saying that the attitudes I encountered were in fact only perceived as a problem by me?

The fact that you are all nice guys is one I do not dispute, but since my few words last month I have spoken to and heard from a number of our members who have had similar “hostile” encounters. One went so far as to write to tell me that he now knew what IG meant, enough for me to say that the first initial, he thought, stands for Ignorant.

On the brighter side though, my last contact with IG was just what the doctor ordered! Fast, efficient, professional service from a dealer who treated me as though it was important to him that I was well served. A credit to you IG, I don’t know who it was, but an attitude that will make customers

feel looked after and have no hesitation in returning. You echoed my views in your letter that punters may look elsewhere if they are not handled with care. However, my recent call to City Index makes me wonder just where they will go if they wish to continue spread betting. I called City Index to enquire about opening an account, from the time they picked up the 'phone the conversation went something like this;

“City” [this was said at such a speed as to imply that whoever had answered was in training for a Guinness Book of Records attempt for saying the word City in the shortest possible time. Or was it simply a very busy man who did not have the time to waste on the common courtesies often used in verbal communication.]

“Pardon?” [I’m like a lamb to the slaughter]

“CITY!” [congratulations, he’d just broken his own world speed record at the second attempt. Pity though that in his quest for that last ounce of speed his voice had been raised. Anyone who was unaware of his record attempt could have misinterpreted the tone for one of impatience.]

“Can you give me details about opening an account please?”

“Hold on” [another record attempt, failed though]

The call was then transferred.

No worries IG, if my experience is true to form, you won’t lose too many customers in that direction.

This was followed a few days later by a City Index application form. These have to be seen to be believed. I can understand credit businesses being ultra careful with their client list, but this one fell just short of asking me to withdraw all my money from all my accounts, have the bank manager write my name on each note as proof of ownership, and for me to take it along and show it to them. At least I can’t remember IG wanting so much personal financial detail!

Talk about grannies inside leg measurement!

p.s. How did Sporting Index sway all that free publicity? It seemed as though every World Cup rugby game I watched Sporting Index were given a mention by the ITV commentator - prime time TV advertising, for free!

 **SMARTsig**

Is Artificial Intelligence being used by anyone to predict horse racing? - asks a SMART Mensa member.

NEURAL NETWORKS & PAIRS

T Holland

Dear Stefan,

I read SMART magazine with interest. Although I have not yet read all the issues to date, so if this letter has stuff which is old hat I apologise now.

The racing method I am working on is to break down races into horse pairs. Then look at how similar horse pairs did in previous, similar races. Then to combine the past performance of all the horse pairs into the probability of each horse winning the new race (using formulae I derived myself). Up to now I have only used F.S.P. and The Racing Post's TopSpeed and Master TopSpeed to define the horses.

Although F.S.P.s repeat a lot and TopSpeed and Master TopSpeed values repeat quite a lot combinations of pairs of F.S.P.s and TopSpeed and Master TopSpeed values repeat rather rarely. Thus when defining a pair of horses compared class with more than one value per horse there is this problem of the same set of values being so rare in the past that there is too little past result data to predict from.

This problem becomes greater the more values there are being looked at together. The only way round is to somehow group similar horsepair sets of values together. Although you may not find a past result from a horsepair with the exact same set of values to predict from you could look at the past results from horsepairs with the N nearest sets of values you have data on (there would be an optimum value of N).

Unfortunately the computational problems of all this are daunting. The multidimensional arrays that seem to be needed would be too vast for even a modern PC to cope with. As a way round I am working on a Neural Network to classify the data.

I feel sure that generating race-win probabilities by looking at as much detail as you can and seeing how similar COMBINED details performed in the past would show betting edges. And the more details looked at together, the larger and more frequent would be the betting edges.

Neural Networks can help with the programming problems of dealing with a number of factors together. Is there anyone out there using Neural Network Simulation programs for betting on racing? If so I would love to hear from them.



Now it's funny you should mention Neural Nets! Only today (23/6/95) I was discussing this very topic with a member, Mark Sullivan, over the 'phone. He has used Neuroshell, as it would appear you have because the "pairing" approach is one suggested by them. Mark agreed to submit a

"The computer hating Smarties, and they number more than a few, may be allowed a self satisfied and smug grin at this point !"

letter for printing in the near future, detailing his experiences. He did disclose however, that despite all his access to "state of the art" technology, his most profitable system is still a paper based one, that takes minutes to analyse a race! (the computer hating Smarties, and they number more than a few, may be allowed a self satisfied and smug grin at this point)

For our members with more conservative tastes, I should explain that Neuroshell is one of the few commercial Neural Network (NN) programs around and retails at several hundreds of pounds.

I have brushed on the subject before in SMART, but as a reminder NNs are computer software modelling programs that try to emulate the way science "thinks" a biological brain works. Neurological research still deals with theory, no one has yet "cracked the code", they know which part of the brain does what, but they still don't know how it does it!

To ask a NN to solve a problem for you it must first be trained or "taught" by showing it some examples of the kind a data sets you are interested in, it will then attempt to offer a solution to a problem when you feed it new, or incomplete data that it has not necessarily seen before, using the experience or "learning" it has gained earlier.

My own experiences with NNs has been with shareware versions costing pence, but I have no reason to believe that they are any less capable than their more costly cousins. I am not an expert in the theory behind them either, but I can boast several hundreds of computer hours taking them through their paces. The biggest fault I have noticed is that they are totally confused when the training data shows conflicting results from

matching, or closely matching criteria. To illustrate this point I had better give examples.

If I take sample pairs of coins from my pocket and jot down the value of each, these will represent the NN input data, the combined value will be written down and become the NN output. If I do this a number of times I have built a rudimentary NN training model. The NN cycles through this information many times to build its "learning", I should then be able to give it a two coin sample and it will estimate the combined value - easy. Using a much simplified example from your letter TH, of pairing FSP with Topspeed, I can give the NN the same type of input pairs as with the coins, but the output is now Win or NotWin.

With the coins model the NN will do quite well, because of the fact that the same input pairs will give a constant and reliable result. A 50p added to a 50p will ALWAYS be £1, and even with incomplete data if one coin is a 50p the output result will ALWAYS be in the range of 51p to £1. But with FSP + Topspeed, or any other racing data you use the results can conflict. An SP of Evens with a Topspeed of 113 will one time give a Win, and on another occasion give a NotWin. In this latter category the NN simply gives what amounts to a mean average of its past experience, e.g. Evens/113 has shown 200 Win and 100 NotWin in the training set, the NN will predict a 66% win probability if it given the same data pair to analyse.

I know that some very big companies use NNs for various reasons. But I believe that is a simple economic argument, it can often be more cost effective for a computer to give predictions based upon massive amounts of stored data, than it is to employ statisticians to give a marginally better result. Mark did comment that some very big financial outfits used NNs for their stocks and shares trading, but I'm not sure if that is a recommendation

Just how many of the stock market traders significantly beat the FT index on a regular basis? I wonder if Nick Leason used a Neural Network? I remain unconvinced of the worth of NNs in betting, unless you dear reader, know otherwise
- Stef

I have sorted my three favourite shareware NNs onto 3 x 3½ disks for PC users. Be warned though, they are not the most user friendly of programs, so experienced PC users only need apply. Just send £1 for each disk required.

The programs are - Neural (DOS, and my favourite)
- The Visible Neural Network (Windows) - and Neural Planner (Windows)

A study of 213 horses that were quoted at 7-2 in the betting forecast - submitted for discussion.

RESULTS OF FSP 7-2 SHOTS

John Williams

I hope these figures will provide fodder for your eyes and stimulation for the brain cells. The shaded areas are, in column one Saturday meetings, in column three where more than one qualified and column four is shaded for flat meetings.

Abbreviated column headings are; no = number of runners, pib = position in betting and fav = Y(es) N(o) or JFav

Date	Meet	time	Race Type	Prize £	no	pib	fav	Result
22/2/95	FOLK	1.40	NOV H/C HU	2193	15	1	JF	W 3/1
22/2/95	FOLK	2.40	H/C CH	2586	6	3	N	W 6/1
22/2/95	FOLK	4.10	H/C HURD	2422	13	1	Y	3 3/1
22/2/95	FOLK	4.40	HUNT CH	1618	6	2	N	W 16/1
23/2/95	HUNT	3.20	H/C CH	4565	5	3	N	2 7/2
23/2/95	HUNT	4.55	H/C HURD	2302	15	1	Y	L 9/4
23/2/95	WINC	2.35	NOV CH	3548	10	3	N	W 9/4
23/2/95	WINC	4.05	H/C CH	4406	6	2	N	W 11/4
24/2/95	HAYD	3.30	H/C CH	6970	6	3	N	W100/30
25/2/95	HAYD	2.00	H/C HURD	7142	7	2	N	L 4/1
25/2/95	HAYD	2.30	H/C CH	25523	12	1	Y	3 9/4
25/2/95	KEMP	5.10	N.H. FLAT	1996	19	1	N	L 3/1
25/2/95	EDIN	3.50	NOV HURD	2655	12	2	N	L 5/2
27/2/95	NEWC	4.10	MAID HURD	2494	21	1	N	W 5/1
28/2/95	NOTT	4.10	HUNT CH	1308	18	2	Y	2 11/4
28/2/95	CATT	1.50	NOV H/C HU	2048	9	2	N	L 7/1
1/3/95	TAUN	2.00	NOV HUR	2802	14	2	N	W 4/1
1/3/95	TAUN	3.30	NOV H/C CH	2840	10	3	N	L 7/2
1/3/95	TAUN	4.00	NOV HURD	2197	14	2	Y	L 2/1
1/3/95	WETH	2.20	HUNT CH	1874	4	3	N	2 3/1
1/3/95	WETH	4.50	H/C HURD	3106	16	2	N	L 4/1
2/3/95	LEIC	2.50	H/C CH	3427	4	3	N	2 5/2
2/3/95	LUDL	2.30	SELL H/C CH	2775	11	3	JF	W 7/2
2/3/95	LUDL	3.00	H/C HURD	2970	18	1	N	2 7/1
4/3/95	DONC	3.00	H/C HURD	3834	12	2	N	L 5/1
4/3/95	DONC	5.10	N.H. FLAT	1444	18	1	N	W 4/1
6/3/95	DONC	5.40	N.H. FLAT	1392	18	2	Y	W 6/4
8/3/95	FOLK	4.20	H/C CH	2733	7	2	N	L 11/4
9/3/95	WINC	4.30	H/C HURD	2337	14	1	Y	L 5/2
10/3/95	AYR	3.30	AM H/C HUR	2626	5	2	N	L 5/1
10/3/95	MARK	3.50	H/C HURD	2355	14	2	N	L 4/1
10/3/95	SAND	3.40	H/C HURD	3610	9	2	N	L 7/2
11/3/95	CHEP	1.30	NOV HURD	13875	10	1	Y	2 6/4
11/3/95	CHEP	3.35	H/C HURD	4825	7	3	N	W 5/2

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11/3/95	CHEP	3.35	H/C HURD	4825	7	2	N	L 6/1
11/3/95	AYR	2.15	H/C CH	3355	5	3	N	L 11/2
11/3/95	SAND	4.40	H/C CH	6677	5	2	N	3 6/1
11/3/95	SAND	5.10	N.H.FLAT	1940	22	1	Y	L 9/4
11/3/95	SOUT	1.40	AM MDN CH	3590	8	2	N	2 9/2
13/3/95	PLUM	2.20	NOV HURD	2441	11	3	N	2 13/2
13/3/95	PLUM	4.50	H/C CH	2768	4	3	N	2 4/1
13/3/95	HUNT	2.10	MAID HURD	2635	21	2	N	2 7/2
13/3/95	HUNT	2.40	NOV H/C CH	2883	7	2	N	L 7/2
14/3/95	SEDG	2.05	H/C HURD	2617	5	3	N	2 9/2
14/3/95	CHEL	2.50	CHASE	46625	11	1	N	L 6/1
14/3/95	CHEL	3.30	HURDLE	103690	14	2	JF	2 4/1
14/3/95	CHEL	4.05	H/C CH	32660	17	1	Y	L 7/2
15/3/95	CHEL	2.50	CHASE	77848	10	3	N	3 7/2
15/3/95	NEWT	3.40	H/C HURD	2700	5	3	Y	W 9/4
15/3/95	NEWT	4.50	MAIDEN CH	2710	5	2	N	3 5/2
15/3/95	NEWT	5.25	H/C HURD	2650	7	2	N	2 9/2
16/3/95	HEXH	2.35	NOV HURD	2304	13	3	N	L 5/1
16/3/95	HEXH	3.15	H/C CH	2740	6	3	N	W 11/4
16/3/95	HEXH	5.00	H/C HURD	2048	9	1	N	L 7/1
16/3/95	CHEL	2.15	HURDLE	39098	28	1	Y	L 7/2
16/3/95	CHEL	2.50	HURDLE	47422	12	2	Y	W 11/4
17/3/95	FAKE	3.50	H/C CH	4699	8	3	N	2 5/2
17/3/95	FAKE	5.30	MAID HURD	2587	9	2	N	3 4/1
17/3/95	CHEL	2.15	HURDLE	10601	8	2	N	W 7/2
18/3/95	HERE	3.20	H/C HURD	2697	7	3	N	L 4/1
18/3/95	NEWC	3.15	JUV H/C HUR	4879	8	2	N	L 9/2
18/4/95	NEWC	4.45	AM H/C CH	2723	5	4	N	3 7/2
18/4/95	UTTO	4.10	NOV H/C CH	14785	10	1	Y	W100/30
18/4/95	UTTO	5.10	NOV HURD	3712	16	2	N	2 9/2
20/3/95	UTTO	3.10	NOV H/C HU	2400	12	2	N	L 9/2
20/3/95	UTTO	5.15	H/C HURD	2263	7	2	N	L 9/2
20/3/95	NEWC	4.25	H/C HURD	3344	8	2	JF	2 5/2
20/3/95	NEWC	4.25	H/C HURD	3344	8	3	N	L 3/1
21/3/95	STRA	2.40	SELL HURD	1970	13	2	Y	L 11/4
21/3/95	NEWC	4.50	NOV HURD	2333	21	2	Y	2 2/1
21/3/95	FONT	3.00	H/C HURD	2085	9	1	JF	3 4/1
21/3/95	FONT	3.00	H/C HURD	2085	9	2	JF	L 4/1
22/3/95	LUDL	2.10	JUV NOV HU	2556	18	2	N	L 9/2
22/3/95	EXET	3.00	H/C HURD	2363	12	2	N	W 10/1
22/3/95	EXET	4.00	HUNT CH	1245	16	2	N	W 11/2
23/3/95	DONC	3.05	LISTED	12690	9	2	N	2 4/1
23/3/95	PLUM	3.00	H/C CH	2635	7	3	N	L 4/1
23/3/95	PLUM	4.00	H/C CH	2611	7	3	N	3 3/1
24/3/95	NEWB	2.25	HUNT CH	6872	9	1	Y	W 11/4
24/3/95	NEWB	3.25	NOV CH	3574	8	2	N	2 7/2
25/3/95	NEWB	12.50	H/C HURD	5994	10	1	N	L 9/2
25/3/95	NEWB	2.20	NOV HURD	10112	16	1	Y	W100/30
25/3/95	NEWB	3.20	NOV HURD	3135	18	2	N	L 9/2
25/3/95	DONC	5.15	MAIDEN	4273	21	2	Y	L 7/4
25/3/95	BANG	2.40	SELL H/C HU	2057	12	1	N	2 9/2
25/3/95	BANG	3.10	H/C CH	4394	7	1	JF	2 3/1
25/3/95	BANG	4.55	MAIDEN CH	3501	11	2	N	L 6/1
27/3/95	NOTT	2.10	SEL H/C CH	2611	12	2	N	2 9/2
27/3/95	NOTT	3.40	H/C HURD	2343	7	2	N	L 4/1
27/3/95	NOTT	4.10	H/C CH	2709	7	2	Y	L 11/4

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27/3/95	NOTT	5.10	N.H. FLAT	1276	15	2	Y	L 2/1
27/3/95	FOLK	1.50	STAKES	2519	8	3	N	L 4/1
29/3/95	WORC	2.00	MAIDEN HU	2414	22	2	JF	3 3/1
29/3/95	WORC	4.00	H/C CH	4118	5	2	Y	W 13/8
30/3/95	EDIN	2.10	MAIDEN ST	2634	7	3	JF	2 5/2
30/3/95	EDIN	3.10	CLAIM H/C	2655	9	1	Y	W 3/1
30/3/95	EDIN	4.40	MAIDEN H/C	3035	9	2	N	W 7/2
30/3/95	LEIC	3.20	SELL ST	2735	18	1	Y	3 7/2
30/3/95	LEIC	3.50	H/C	5796	8	3	N	L 7/2
30/3/95	LEIC	4.50	MAIDEN ST	4205	16	2	N	L 9/2
30/3/95	CHEP	5.00	N.H. FLAT	1868	20	1	N	2 11/4
31/3/95	HAMI	2.30	H/C	5020	11	1	JF	L 5/1
31/3/95	HUNT	4.20	H/C CH	2849	11	1	Y	3 5/2
1/4/95	WAR	1.50	MAIDEN ST	4273	17	1	Y	L 5/2
1/4/95	SEDG	1.55	H/C HURD	2346	13	2	Y	2 5/2
1/4/95	SEDG	3.25	H/C CH	5865	13	3	N	L 5/1
1/4/95	SEDG	4.00	NOV CH	2997	12	2	N	W 11/4
1/4/95	ASCO	1.30	NOV HURD	3777	10	2	N	2 7/2
1/4/95	ASCO	4.25	NOV HU CH	2762	7	2	N	2 11/4
3/4/95	FONT	2.40	H/C CH	3003	13	1	N	3 11/2
3/4/95	KELS	5.00	H/C HURD	2738	12	1	N	L 11/2
4/4/95	HEXH	2.10	MAIDEN CH	2672	12	1	N	L 9/2
4/4/95	HEXH	2.40	NOV HURD	2578	20	2	Y	L 9/4
4/4/95	HEXH	3.10	H/C CH	2635	7	2	N	W 7/2
4/4/95	HEXH	3.40	SELL H/C HU	2059	12	1	Y	W 5/2
4/4/95	NOTT	3.00	MAIDEN ST	4110	17	2	N	L 13/2
5/4/95	RIPO	2.25	MAIDEN ST	4240	16	2	Y	W 15/8
5/4/95	RIPO	2.55	SELL H/C	2905	17	1	N	3 9/2
5/4/95	RIPO	4.00	COND ST	4832	7	2	N	L 7/1
5/4/95	RIPO	4.30	H/C	3017	7	2	N	W 6/1
5/4/95	RIPO	5.30	MAIDEN ST	4056	18	3	N	3 13/2
5/4/95	LUDL	2.15	NOV HURD	2626	18	1	N	L 4/1
5/4/95	LUDL	3.50	HUNT CH	1954	9	2	N	2 3/1
5/4/95	ASCO	3.05	NOV H/C CH	14265	5	3	N	3 7/2
6/4/95	AINT	2.00	NOV HURD	11702	15	2	N	L 11/2
6/4/95	AINT	4.50	NOV HU CH	10308	8	2	N	2 9/2
6/4/95	BRIG	3.20	H/C	3732	9	1	N	W 5/1
7/4/95	LING	2.45	MAIDEN ST	3525	8	2	N	L 9/2
7/4/95	BEVE	4.25	H/C	3996	15	1	Y	L 3/1
8/4/95	BEVE	1.00	H/C	3309	19	1	Y	L 11/4
8/4/95	AINT	4.35	AM NOV H/C	7253	10	1	N	L 4/1
8/4/95	HERE	4.20	NOV H/C HU	2388	8	3	N	2 5/2
10/4/95	EDIN	4.30	H/C	3126	11	1	N	W 5/1
11/4/95	BANG	2.20	SELL HURD	2130	18	1	N	L 5/1
11/4/95	KELS	2.10	JUV NV H/H	2248	8	2	N	L 11/2
11/4/95	KELS	4.10	NOV HURD	3609	16	2	N	2 7/2
11/4/95	KELS	4.40	NOV HU CH	1707	5	3	N	W 7/2
12/4/95	EXET	3.20	H/C HURD	5026	6	3	N	2 4/1
12/4/95	WORC	3.30	AM H/C HUR	2495	18	1	Y	W 3/1
13/4/95	FOLK	3.40	NOV CH	2872	8	2	N	L 5/4
13/4/95	SEDG	4.50	NOV HURD	2495	15	2	N	L 4/1
13/4/95	SEDG	4.50	NOV HURD	2495	15	3	N	3 7/2
15/4/95	PLUM	2.55	SELL H/C HU	1975	9	2	N	L 9/2
15/4/95	PLUM	3.55	JUV NOV HU	2480	7	2	N	3 5/2
15/4/95	CARL	2.35	NOV HURD	2239	13	3	N	L 11/2
15/4/95	CARL	3.05	H/C CH	3615	12	2	N	W 9/2

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15/4/95	KEMP	3.15	STAKES	13118	13	1	Y	L100/30
15/4/95	TOWC	4.50	N.H. FLAT	1476	16	2	N	L 5/1
15/4/95	NEWT	2.10	MAID HURD	2305	9	2	N	L 5/1
15/4/95	NEWT	3.10	CL HURD	2220	10	2	N	W 2/1
17/4/95	HERE	3.40	H/C CH	2905	9	2	N	W 5/1
17/4/95	HERE	4.50	NOV CH	2762	7	3	N	L 4/1
17/4/95	CHEP	3.00	HURDLE	8721	5	2	N	W 11/4
17/4/95	MARK	2.15	NOV HURD	2966	12	3	Y	W 2/1
17/4/95	MARK	3.55	H/C CH	3910	7	2	N	3 7/2
17/4/95	MARK	5.30	N.H. FLAT	1392	16	2	N	W 4/1
17/4/95	WINC	2.00	NOV HURD	2687	4	2	N	W 7/4
17/4/95	WINC	4.30	NOV HURD	2285	8	3	N	L 9/2
17/4/95	CARL	3.20	NOV HURD	2480	9	2	N	L 100/30
17/4/95	CARL	3.50	H/C CH	3777	18	1	Y	W 9/4
17/4/95	CARL	4.50	MDN HU CH	1223	5	3	N	L 100/30
17/4/95	NEWT	2.15	SELL H/C HU	1960	9	2	Y	L 2/1
17/4/95	NEWT	3.25	NOV HURD	2791	9	3	Y	3 7/4
17/4/95	NEWT	4.35	NOV H/C HU	2249	12	1	N	L 11/4
17/4/95	KEMP	2.40	LISTED	12712	10	2	Y	3 100/30
17/4/95	KEMP	3.40	COND ST	7996	10	2	Y	L 7/2
17/4/95	WAW	2.35	H/C	3465	16	1	Y	2 4/1
17/4/95	WAW	3.35	H/C	4137	12	1	Y	3 3/1
17/4/95	WAW	5.05	H/C	3494	12	1	Y	3 100/30
17/4/95	FAKE	2.30	SELL H/C HU	2804	10	1	N	L 9/2
17/4/95	FAKE	4.15	HUNT CH	2559	11	2	Y	L 9/4
17/4/95	FAKE	5.25	NOV H/C HU	2570	9	1	Y	W 2/1
17/4/95	TOWC	3.15	H/C CH	4094	7	2	Y	W 7/4
17/4/95	UTTO	3.25	NOV HURD	2347	10	2	Y	3 3/1
17/4/95	TOWC	4.00	H/C CH	3647	9	1	N	L 5/1
17/4/95	TOWC	5.45	N.H. FLAT	1698	16	1	Y	L 3/1
17/4/95	TOWC	6.15	N.H. FLAT	1691	16	2	N	2 5/1
18/4/95	WETH	3.20	H/C HURD	4207	7	2	Y	W 2/1
18/4/95	WETH	3.55	NOV H/C CH	6791	7	3	JF	2 11/4
18/4/94	WETH	5.05	H/C HURD	3020	11	1	N	W 5/1
18/4/95	NMKT	2.35	MAIDEN ST	5208	12	2	Y	3 11/4
19/4/95	PONT	3.50	MAIDEN ST	4021	18	2	N	L 9/2
19/4/95	PONT	4.25	H/C	6160	12	1	Y	L 5/2
19/4/95	SOUT	1.50	MAIDEN CH	2794	8	3	N	L 5/1
19/4/95	NMKT	3.05	STAKES	21574	7	3	N	3 6/1
19/4/95	NMKT	4.45	MAIDEN ST	5117	11	1	N	W 3/1
19/4/95	NMKT	4.45	MAIDEN ST	5117	11	2	N	L 11/2
20/4/95	AYR	3.20	NOV H/C HU	4890	7	2	N	L 3/1
20/4/95	NMKT	3.40	STAKES	21574	6	3	N	W 5/1
20/4/95	NMKT	4.10	H/C	5900	9	2	JF	2 3/1
21/4/95	AYR	2.30	H/C CH	3821	8	2	N	L 6/1
21/4/95	AYR	3.00	NOV HURD	3824	12	2	JF	W 9/4
21/4/95	UTTO	5.35	NOV H/C HU	2298	12	1	Y	L 7/2
21/4/95	UTTO	7.05	H/C CH	4706	10	1	Y	W 3/1
21/4/95	UTTO	8.05	MAIDEN HU	3036	16	3	N	L 9/2
21/4/95	NEWB	5.10	H/C	6131	11	2	N	W 4/1
21/4/95	NEWB	5.10	H/C	6131	11	3	N	L 5/1
21/4/95	THIR	3.20	CLAIM ST	3182	10	2	Y	W 7/4
22/4/95	AYR	5.40	N.H. FLAT	1329	14	2	N	L 9/2
22/4/95	ASCO	5.45	NOV H/C CH	3615	10	1	N	L 3/1
22/4/95	THIR	5.20	H/C	4070	11	1	N	L 9/2
22/4/95	NEWB	2.30	STAKES	22020	10	2	N	L 11/2

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22/4/95	NEWB	4.30	MAID AUC	3622	9	2	N	W 3/1
22/4/95	NEWB	5.00	H/C	3777	8	1	Y	L 15/8
22/4/95	BANG	5.15	H/C HURD	3109	8	3	N	2 7/2
24/4/95	CHEP	7.00	H/C HURD	4857	6	3	JF	3 100/30
24/4/95	CHEP	7.30	H/C CH	3510	8	3	N	L 7/2
24/4/95	BRIG	2.30	H/C	3302	13	1	N	L 6/1
24/4/95	BRIG	3.30	H/C	6264	11	1	N	L 13/2
24/4/95	BRIG	4.30	MAIDEN ST	3935	10	3	JF	2 2/1
24/4/95	SEDG	5.45	CLAIM HU	2136	18	2	N	L 11/2
24/4/95	SEDG	6.15	MAIDEN CH	2860	11	2	Y	W 9/4
24/4/95	SEDG	6.45	H/C CH	4206	9	2	N	L 4/1
25/4/95	FOLK	2.30	APP MDN ST	2364	14	1	JF	L 5/2
25/4/95	FOLK	5.30	H/C	2519	15	1	N	W 6/1
25/4/95	PONT	2.45	APP LTD ST	2929	11	2	Y	L 11/4
25/4/95	PONT	5.15	H/C	3980	13	1	Y	W 11/4
26/5/95	NEWT	7.15	H/C HURD	3408	8	3	N	W100/30
26/4/95	NEWT	7.45	NOV H/C CH	2626	14	2	N	L 7/2
26/4/95	CATT	2.10	APP LTD ST	2776	13	2	N	L 4/1
26/4/95	PERT	4.00	H/C CH	4250	7	3	Y	3 2/1
27/4/95	WAR	7.30	MDN AUC S	3073	13	2	N	L 9/2
27/4/95	PERT	2.30	NOV CH	7025	8	1	N	L 5/1
27/4/95	EXET	7.45	SELL H/C HU	1989	8	3	N	L 6/1
27/4/95	BEVE	3.10	H/C	3944	10	2	Y	L 15/8
27/4/95	BEVE	3.40	H/C	7767	8	2	N	L 6/1
28/4/95	TAUN	5.35	MAIDEN HU	2289	14	2	Y	W 9/4
28/4/95	TAUN	6.35	H/C CH	3387	6	3	N	L 9/2
28/4/95	TAUN	8.05	AM NOV H/H	1994	10	1	N	L 7/2
28/4/95	PERT	2.55	SELL H/C HU	2827	9	1	Y	2 100/30
28/4/95	PERT	3.25	H/C CH	7100	8	2	JF	W 9/4
28/4/95	PERT	4.30	NOV CH	4757	7	2	N	2 6/1
28/4/95	CARL	2.10	CLAIM ST	2689	8	3	N	L 7/2
28/4/95	CARL	3.15	H/C	3656	9	1	JF	L 4/1
28/4/95	SAND	2.00	AU MDN ST	3647	12	2	N	W100/30
28/4/95	SAND	5.20	MAIDEN ST	4260	16	1	N	L 12/1
28/4/95	LUDL	5.50	NOV SEL HU	2070	14	2	Y	L 4/1

You might note that 103 of the sample started at odds lower than those forecast. Whereas 110 drifted out of the betting. A total of 29 from the sample remained at 7-2.

Of the ones whose odds shortened, 35% won, but only 15% of the sample whose odds lengthened came in first. The static group produced 17% winners.

I apologise in advance if there are any small inaccuracies, but it still I think it provides interesting reading.

 SMARTsig

From a member burning the midnight oil . . .

STAKING PLAN STRATEGIES & other topics

Peter Jacobs

Dear Stef,

With regard to “Off the Cuff”, Vol. 2 no. 6, Roger Neale. I did not say that if the system/staking plan combo didn’t work I would scrap the system. I completely agree with him that if the percentage strike rate and the average odds obtained are not correct, THEN I would bin the system, but if they are correct, then I would use a staking plan to enhance the performance.

I would not be searching for a staking plan either, I have used the ones I have for over thirty years now, with success. All this is missing the point of my getting involved in this in the first place, which was, you said in one of the magazines that someone wanted to submit an item involving a staking plan, but you gave it the old heave ho.

“Surely the value of a staking plan or lack of it is in the eye of the beholder”

Surely the value of a staking plan or lack of it is in the eye of the beholder. One winner in three bets and I’m happy, if you (Smarties, that is) cannot see the value then don’t use one, but don’t stop everyone else doing so if they wish.

Staking	L	L	2-1	
Stakes	1	2	3	= +3

Level	L	L	2-1	
Stakes	2	2	2	= 0

I realise that some will say “What if the winner had been the first or second bet?”, but as part of a sequence the plan on one winner in three must inevitably win on larger stakes and lose on lower at some time. The level will never be better than nothing.

You’re doing a fine job, be lucky. Peter

(I accept your point Peter and would not want to stop anyone using a staking plan if that is what they want to do. The case you refer to where I gave a system the “heave ho” as you put it, was not quite as you have stated above. The case in point refers to a system submitted, from Engineer IOM, which I printed in our very first issue, he made claims of 65% to 92% winners over a two to three year period and a profit of around 35% per week. Following that I had dozens of letters from members who had tested it out over different periods and had found nothing like the results claimed - all in fact made substantial losses. When I appealed to EIOM to respond it was pointed out that the original article had said “using a series staking method”. For the same reasons you point out above I said I would not have printed it had I realised beforehand that it was a level stake losing system, jacked up to a winning one by the use of a retrospective staking plan. - Stef)

Note no. 2 from PJ, (written later that same evening) . . .

You obviously have a list of teams from your 2.2 system, minus the foreign teams, I would love a copy as I have been trying to fit them to a staking plan and a much reduced list would make things a lot easier.

(A full list should be with you now Peter - Stef)

and Note no. 3 . . .

Going to the dogs? Try this for forecasts;

- 1 & 2 Reversed forecast
- 3 & 4 Reversed forecast
- 5 & 6 Reversed forecast

You will have every winner and it's 4-1 against landing the forecast.

Note no. 4 . . .

Net the patterns - football pools

A)	1	X		X	X
	2	X		X	
	3	X	X		
	4		X		X
	5		X	X	X

- B) 10
- C) 15 Repeat eight groups down the coupon to team 40
- D) 20
- E) 25 Label groups A,B,C,D,E,F,G & H
- F) 30
- G) 35
- H) 40

I) perm any two		J) perm any two		K) perm any two	
41	X	46	X	51	X
42	X	47	X	52	X
43	X	48	X	53	X
44	X	49	X	54	X
45	X	50	X	55	X

Perm any 3 from any 2 groups A to H with any two from I, J or K

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= 4 \times 4 \times 28 \times 30 \\
 &= 13,440 \text{ lines @ } \frac{1}{9} \text{p} \\
 &= \text{£}14.94 \text{ staked}
 \end{aligned}$$

Latest win £61,000 on Zettlers, first week of Aussie coupon.

and finally . . .

A couple of other topics. the Tote Jackpot and the fact that a bookmaker jackpot bet paid more? Which was the wise bet in hindsight? What if fewer people had shared the pool? Would the couple who backed the accumulator in the betting shop have made the bet at all but for the £2 million pool they thought they were in.

Then there is the mug bet stigma which goes with multiple bets, Yankees and the like. Why don't punters face the facts that these are terrific bets and that people who knock them simply can't select winners.

That should wind one or two of our pessimists up!

With reference to Bernard Rasmussen. I did point out the scenario he describes on one of the Computer Challenge workings I sent to you, in the case of a 4-1 winner followed by weak results. But the fact remained two of the losing competitors were made worse than at level, two losers were made into winners and most of the others were improved.

I would like a sequence of genuine results from a successful system or tipster of Bernard's to see how it would compare.

When Smarties give win/lose sequences could they please show the SP of the losers because it would be interesting to compare the sequences with bottom price limits applied to them, and maybe perhaps top price limits as well. This includes the Computer Challenge.

ps Would like to see the sequence of John Blades 70% system, including the SPs of the losers.

Jesus! I'm only up to page 39 and I have written all this, no wonder the postman only knocks once. Good night, it's nearly morning.



Any other Smarties who would like to submit their betting sequences I can pass them on to Peter for analysis - could prove an interesting exercise. Better still, submit half your betting sequence, then, following Peters analysis, operate the suggested staking plan on the second half of your results and report back

- Stef

PSSSST!

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET YOUR MAGAZINE
THAT LITTLE BIT SOONER THAN THE
OTHERS?**

All new members are now given the option of 1st class mail. For an additional charge of £2.00 I can send all your magazines to you by first class post. (This makes the annual subscription with first class post option £38.00)

You may upgrade to this status at any time during your membership by sending me £1.00 per six month, or part of six month period.

This option has been added to the Subscription/Re-subscription forms.

All packets sent to non UK locations are one class only.

***Yet another successful use of the Daily Mail
for winner finding, this time from a new
member in Holland.***

TOP JOCKEY PLAN

Henk Eilerts (Holland)

Here is the method I use here in Holland, using your Daily Mail as my guide. It makes small but consistent profits for me over the flat season, although I bet on the Tote here (tax free) and the prices I get are sometimes higher, sometimes lower, I end up with prices that average out about the same as your S.Ps.

“ . . . achieves regular profits . . . providing my holiday spending money and funding my SMARTsig subscription.”

It is a simple but strong plan, and for it to fail the entire pattern of racing would have to fail; here are the rules:

- Bet on the jockeys Pat Eddery, Frankie Dettori and Willie Carson.
- If all 3 are riding at the same course then they are the ones to follow.
- If only two are riding then I select the highest placed jockey from the Mail's "past 5 years" jockey tables, this ensures three jockeys to follow at this course. (always you have three jockeys at the meeting)
- Of course, flat racing only.
- I play only on Saturdays, this provides good jockeys, good trainers, good horses, good races and good prices. (In addition I have many miles to travel in order to place my bets, so it suits my circumstances)
- Looking at each race in turn, if any of our trio are riding and the odds for their mount is even money or better, but NOT over 10-1 then we have a selection.
- If three qualify in the same race then eliminate the highest priced, never back three in a race. (usually there will be one to back, occasionally two)

- If betting on course, or at the betting office delay your bets until shortly before the “off” so you know the prices more accurately, the second best alternative is to use the betting forecast.

This does achieve small but regular profits and winning Saturdays are far more common than losing ones!

It provides my holiday spending money, my subscriptions to UK papers and for my SMART subscription.

Results for May '95

Date	Course	Time	Selection	F/C SP	Result	Actual SP
-------------	---------------	-------------	------------------	---------------	---------------	------------------

6/5	Newmkt	1.55	Tamure	2-1	WON	4-5
		2.30	Special Dawn	3-1	9th	
			Burooj		WON	5-1
		3.00	Oberons Boy	10-1	2nd	
		4.15	Blue Siren	7-1	13th	
		5.20	Brier Creek	5-2	3rd	
			Baron F'dinand	3-1	WON	2-1

13/5	Lingfld	1.30	Fakih	7-2	WON	7-2
			Brass Tacks	4-1	6th	
		2.00	Twilight Patrol	8-1	3rd	
		2.30	Asterita	6-1	WON	6-1
		3.00	Commoner	7-1	5th	
		3.30	Shahid	5-4	WON	8-11
			Axeman	8-1	4th	
		4.30	Moujeeb	8-1	2nd	
		5.00	Decorated Hero	6-4	WON	15-8
			Zatopek	5-1	5th	

20/5	Newby	2.00	Yamuna	2-1	5th	
			Ocean Grove	7-2	6th	
		2.30	Grey Shot	9-2	3rd	
		3.00	Linney Head	5-1	3rd	
			Escarpment	5-1	WON	9-1
		3.30	Forest Cat	5-1	WON	5-1

20/5	Newby	4.00	Artful Dane	9-2	7th	
	(cont.)		United Force	6-1	2nd	
		4.30	Barossa Valley	9-2	9th	
			Thatcherella	8-1	3rd	
		5.00	Mountains of M	9-2	WON	5-4

27/5	Kempton	2.10	L'Ami Louis	9-4	WON	5-2
			Oberons Boy	5-2	2nd	
		2.40	Restructure	2-1	WON	5-4
		3.10	Blaze Away	5-2	4th	
			Latahaab	7-2	WON	9-4
		3.40	Statajack	7-2	4th	
			Benfleet	5-1	2nd	
		4.10	Peace Envoy	2-1	WON	2-1
			Ihtiram	5-2	2nd	
		4.40	Humberts Ldng	3-1	WON	5-2
			Actual Fact	6-1	2nd	

Grand total of 39 bets, providing 15 winners (38.5%)

Henk's tax free outlay 39 points

Total Return 60.65 points

Profit of 21.65 points (55.5%)



But for humble UK betting office clients who pre pay the tax element on their bets the figures are;

Stakes (incl. 10% tax) 42.9 points

Total Return 60.65 points

Post tax profit of 17.75 points (41.4%)

Stef

To those poor souls who have passed through, or still suffering from, that pain barrier better known as "getting to grips with a computer" Elements of the following will sound very familiar indeed.

TAMING THE BEAST IN THE CORNER

Halcyon (Wales)

Dear Stef,
After many years of storing my racing data in exercise books and then having to laboriously slog through the research I decided to use some of my profit and purchased a 25sx 486 Personal Computer.

Bringing the beast under control has proved an arduous task and as I write it sits on its stool in the corner snarling and spitting, claws unsheathed. The occasional saucer of milk has brought short periods of harmony during which I have been able to extract vital information providing ammunition in the battle against the book. Now instead of scraping the topsoil with a trowel I now rent the earth with a JCB.

Having fed the beast all the data I have I am considering buying the Raceform data advertised in this months SMART but I need your advice. I use Lotus 123 and the data is purely numerical having maybe twelve criteria fields. Would it be easy to extract the numerical data from the Raceform format into my database tables? I would appreciate your comments.

I have read with great interest the contributions made by members and the search for winners is indeed as highly complex as it is fascinating.

To produce regular profits is the holy grail of all punters, but one must have a hard and realistic view of what is possible and what is not. Fifty to one hundred points profit per year is within reason, so relatively high stakes are required if one is to receive the return commensurate with the work involved. needless to say, high stakes severely test the metal of all but the foolhardy, and gamblers need not apply!

"Fifty to one hundred points profit per year is within reason . . . gamblers need not apply!"

With regard to your dealings with the spread betting firms I too once made an enquiry and received a condescending snide comment. Since that time I have realised why it is called spread betting, it is because punters are required to remove their trousers, fold them neatly over their left arm, bend forward, **spread** their legs and await the outcome.

To return to reality, before I committed any hard earned I confined myself to notional paper profits until I was sufficiently confident to lay down the cash.

(Isn't it great - how many other hobbies can you think of that make money? - my neighbour's hobby is golf and he pays the thick end of one grand just for his annual membership, and that's just the beginning! - Stef)

As with any successful strategy profits soon accrued and with an initial input of £300 (my first two £100 bets went down) I have turned over nearly £100,000 and have remained in profit for five years.

I have of course learned many lessons along the way, none more so that as one is most vulnerable changing horses midstream, one is equally vulnerable when significantly increasing stakes. It appears to defy logic but on a recent survey of my bets I found that stakes of up to £300 made a handsome profit, but stakes over that showed an overall loss.

Having burned my boats five years ago I am now fully committed to earning my living from horse racing but even if one is reasonably certain of not losing, making enough profit to live on is another matter. Here I could write reams on bookmakers, but I must enter tonight's racing results.

Here Kitty Kitty - Where's that bloody whip?

Yours in combat. H

 SMARTsig

Halcyon has been offered help through our Customer Intelligence Network. I'm sure we would all like to hear more of his adventures with Kitty and a little more of his selection methods.

- Stef

***Jonathan Wellingham's report on Winning Line/RID
last month brought the following faxed response***

WINNING LINE/R.I.D. - The Right to Reply

Having read Jonathan Wellingham's article in last months edition regarding the differences between the figures compiled by R.I.D and the figures compiled by himself using a relay agent, I would like to point out that by his own admission the figures will never be the same if price stipulations and ante-post selections are not took into consideration (could this be that relay agents do not always pass on this information?).

Seeing that this is a major part of the betting market, indicated by the bookmakers putting up early morning prices and ante-post lists (what would John McCririck have to shout about if there were no steamers !) it would be unfair to the clients of any racing tipping service not to give them the opportunity to operate in these markets.

As for obtaining advices from relay agents then you are taking a chance that you get the right information passed on to you in the first place (remember Chepstow last year and Tajjanub given out as the Winning Line selection when it was in fact Fawly Towers in the same race) By all means criticise a service if you are not happy with them but at least have the courtesy to follow their instructions, after all, that is what the subscribers pay their money for.

Yours sincerely

Ken Botham
R.I.D.

I will always reserve space for, and indeed welcome comments from, vendors of commercial products and services, so long as they're not adverts in disguise.

Ken at R.I.D. is not a member of SMART so I asked him how he had seen the article. He told me that the Winning Line had brought it to his attention. He wouldn't however disclose the name of the member who subscribes on the Winning Line's behalf. I will not be attempting to find out for myself either, I'm not overly concerned about who subscribes to SMART, so long as they abide by our Codes of Conduct. But I sometimes wonder why all the "Cloak & Dagger" stuff. So, Winning Line, I assume you're reading this, why did you not give us your point of view direct?

- Stef

A new computer package released around Easter this year sets out to give the PC computer user all he needs to research, test and refine racing systems. One very pleased member has had a good look at it.

RacingSystemBuilder The Review

Len Hutton

I bought this package not long after it had been released in mid April and I have to thank SMART's Customer Intelligence Network since I spoke to a purchaser before I parted with my funds (by the way, I wish you improved health soon O.W. and look forward to many chats).

System Requirements (IBM PC or Compatible only)

The suppliers recommend a 386 or above with Windows 3.1 or better. You need 20MB Hard Drive space for the two year package and 40MB for the nine year package. It comes on 12 High Density disks.

Price

It is priced at £99 for the program and the Flat data for 1993 and 1994. It is £199 for the program and the Flat data for 1986 to 1994.

Review

I would regard myself as an improving novice in relation to reading racing form but I have used over a dozen computer packages although only a couple very extensively in the three years I have been involved in this hobby (or is it passion?).

I awaited the package eagerly and was pleased that it arrived very promptly - within two days of my order. The installation procedure was simple and straightforward. There is no manual provided which I originally considered to be a serious omission but the program is an absolute breeze to use. Of course, it helps considerably if you are well acquainted with Windows but really no-one should have significant problems. It has extensive on-line help and this is more than adequate. I seem to remember reading somewhere recently that software manuals are rarely referred to anyway - most users would rather experiment or use help.

I have listed the research variables as an appendix as there are so many. Within each variable there are a number of categories (up to a maximum of eleven). For example:-

Horse, Interval Time (which is days since last run):

- First run in Britain
- < 4 days
- 4-7
- 8-15
- 16-31
- 32-47
- 48-79
- 80-111
- 112-223
- 224-547
- 548+

You can select as many or as few of each of these categories as you wish. I have not actually counted the total number of categories available but there must be at least 500. Those who are more mathematically inclined than I can calculate the number of possibilities you can research.

The research sequence is as follows:-

- Choose the years (seasons).
- Choose the variables. As each variable is chosen, you will be required to select one or more categories within that variable.
- After you have chosen the variables and categories you can run the system. The software will identify the runners that satisfy the system rules and calculate the results for a one point bet on each qualifier.

The result page shows:-

- the number of winners against the runners
- the % strike rate,
- the level stake profit at SP (tax not deducted - you can incorporate this if you wish)
- the level stake % profit
- variable stake % profit (which highlights if the system results incorporate perhaps fluke big priced winners that inflate the level stake profits artificially).

You can save to disk and/or print the results and the system rules. You can also save and print a list of the qualifiers. Appendix II shows one profitable system. It itemises the variables and the categories within each. It also shows the results of the research.

You are able to constantly refine the system up to a maximum of 15 variables and as many categories within each as you wish.

I, like most others, have had my fingers burnt in the past by those in the business who appear to have no scruples whatsoever. Hence, I wanted to check the accuracy of all this data. I subscribed to the OEM Form Book in 1992 including its System Checker so I reinstalled this software and ran a number of comparisons. I found no problems at all. The two sets of results were identical.

Since my purchase I have used this software constantly. My hard disk has never had such a battering. It is not only very informative, it is great fun. I have had a tremendous amount of pleasure using it. I would describe it as being more addictive than the game "Lemmings". You just have to go back to it just one more time to see if your latest idea will refine the strike rate and profitability.

On receipt, my first thought was to check the large number of paper systems I have. I whittled it down to a manageable number to check. Suffice to say they are all now languishing in the waste bin. A lot were completely useless, others produced profits only over one year and failed miserably beyond. Others were so horrendously complicated that they were either virtually impossible to check or just not worth the effort. Anyway, there has to be a tremendous amount of satisfaction gained from producing a profitable system yourself. Additionally, it has the big advantage that no-one else knows what it is.

I have since spent a lot of time researching my own systems and have come up with a number which have been very profitable in the past and I shall be testing them on the 1995 Flat live before too long.

I feel it makes much better sense, if you can afford it, to buy the larger amount of data as this increases your sample sizes to such a degree to make your research far more trustworthy. From my experience of this software, I would not wish to start betting on a system which is derived from the results of just two years.

The software should not just appeal to those interested in systems. For example, the thoughts of Ray Webster regarding course peculiarities in May's issue and handicap winners in June's issue are easily verified (although one current omission of the data is Draw). Indeed, most form questions you have can be answered by RSB.

You have to take into account the time your machine will take to analyse all the variables. A maximum search with 15 variables selected and searching on another 15 over nine years will take 15-20 minutes on my DX2-66 so be prepared. However, this is totally insignificant when you consider the alternative!

I would like to see draw, individual trainers and jockeys added. Some of the information, tips etc. is based on data from the Sporting Life and the Racing Post. It would be fascinating to break this information down further. For example, to study Postmark and Topspeed separately. Some people are never satisfied!

I would like to be able to differentiate between 3+ and 4+ all age handicaps but I do not appear to be able to do so. The race values are based on 1985 levels with no indication what they would be over the years up to the present day. As you can see these are only minor details.

You do have to be careful with regard to foreign horses because their detailed form is not included. For example their last six positions are included but not the fact that they have won over the distance. It is something that will be addressed at some stage

I know that the supplier plans to enhance the Flat data and will produce a National Hunt version if the demand for the product is sufficient. I certainly look forward to the enhancements and you can count me in for the Jumps version.

In fact, I spent quite a while recently talking to him about the product. I was very impressed with his attitude that he is very keen to receive feedback from customers as the company are constantly assessing the product. Some of the ideas he has for the future are very exciting.

I feel that the vast majority of punters who own a PC will benefit from this package. It is an excellent product which deserves to succeed. It receives ten out of ten from me.

Appendix I

List of Research Variables

Course Group A	Course Group A, last run
Course Group B	Course Group B, last run
Course Group C	Course Group C, last run
Course Group D	Course Group D, last run
Horse, Age in Years	Horse, Blinkers
Horse, Foaling Date	Horse, Interval Time
Horse, Overexposure	Horse, Sex
Info, Overall News	Info, Rating Rank
Info, Tips	Jockey's Claim
Jockey's Claim, last run	Jockey, Course Rides Since Win
Jockey, Course Wins Rank	Jockey, Rides Since Win
Jockey, Rides at Meeting	Jockey, Rides on Day
Jockey, Strike Rate	Last Losing Distance
Month	Odds, Forecast Price
Odds, Forecast Price Rank	Odds, Fp to Sp Ratio
Odds, Last Market Rank	Odds, Last Starting Price
Odds, Starting Price	Odds, Starting Price Rank
Penalty	Position, 2 runs ago
Position, 3 runs ago	Position, 4 runs ago
Position, 5 runs ago	Position, 6 runs ago
Position, Average last 6	Position, Best of last 6
Position, last run	Race Class (Official)
Race Class (Official), last race	Race DistanceGroup, last race
Race Distance (long)	Race Distance (short)
Race Distance Group	Race Distance Ratio
Race Distance (long), last race	Race Distance (short), last race
Race Going	Race Going Difference
Race Going Surface Change	Race Going, last race
Race Runners	Race Runners, last race
Race Type	Race Type by Age Group
Race Type by Rider	Race Type by Weight
Race Type, last run	Race Value
Race Value, last race	Race, FP2nd/FP1st
Race, Runners Rank on Day	Race, Total LTO Winners
Race, Value Rank on Day	Runs With No Wins
Total Course Wins	Total Distance Wins
Total Going Wins	Total Races Run
Total Races this Season	Total Wins
Trainer, Course Runs Since Win	Trainer, Course Wins Rank
Trainer, Journey	Trainer, Runners at Meet
Trainer, Runners on Day	Trainer, Runs Since Win
Trainer, Strike Rate	Training Centre
Weight Allotted	Weight Ascending Rank
Weight Change	Weight Descending Rank
Weight, last run	Winner Running Style
Winner, C / D / G Wins	Winner, Days Since a Win
Winning Dstnce, last run	

Appendix II
All Weather Penalty System

Years 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994

Variable **Category**
Penalty < 4 lbs
 4 - 5 lbs
 6 - 7 lbs
 > 7 lbs

Odds, Forecast Price < 1/2
 1/2 - 20/21
 1/1 - 11/8
 6/4 - 15/8
 2/1 - 7/2
 4/1 - 15/2
 8/1 - 15/1

Course Group D Lingfield (aw)
 Southwell (aw)
 Wolverhampton (aw)

Horse, Age in Years 2yo
 3yo
 4yo
 5yo

Horse, Interval Time last ran <4 days ago
 last ran 4-7 days ago

Horse, Sex colt/gelding vs. c/g only
 colt/gelding in open race

Year	Wins	Runs	Strike%	LSP	LSP%	VSP%
1990	9	28	32.14	11.20	40.00	24.58
1991	9	31	29.03	9.07	29.26	7.80
1992	8	23	34.78	14.25	61.96	49.10
1993	14	40	35.00	23.03	57.57	-0.79
1994	20	48	41.67	35.44	73.83	54.41
	60	170	35.29	92.99	54.70	24.29

Footnote to Racing System Builder Review **THE PRICE OF HI-TECH?**

Stefan Perry

There is no doubt that the resources available to the researcher today are better than ever, and improving almost daily. Even the thought of having a tool available that could check a set of criteria over a nine year period and complete its task almost before the kettle had boiled, was pure science fiction until quite recently.

The vendors of such products have a dilemma however in attempting to fix a price for these innovations that will on the one hand repay the R&D costs, while still attracting customers in sufficient numbers. If only the marketing men had a crystal ball that could show how many products would sell at price A and how many would sell at price B. The sums would then be so easy.

Look back to the price of the early colour TV, more expensive than they are now, and if inflation was considered the difference would be enormous! More recent examples are microwave ovens and mobile phones.

One thing is for certain though, there will always be somebody willing to pay £20 (ten times the cost of the more traditional item) for the revolutionary Sinclair Black Watch (remember?).

The prices of new products where the R&D element is significant will always fall eventually, and the choice of when to purchase will always be one for the individual to make. An early move will give you a head start on the more cautious buyer, who in turn is looking for a lower price. Each to his own and both policies have merit.

From a personal viewpoint, the racing computer data now offered by the various companies, looks to me to be massively overpriced and is surviving on an exclusive market who are willing to pay the cost of being in there today. Surely this is severely limiting the potential size of these markets which must even now be close to saturation. It is inevitable that the day will come, and it is not too far away, when someone with a little more savvy will use the “pile ‘em high, sell ‘em cheap” approach and will wipe the floor with any firm who doesn’t follow suit.

Mobile phones have eventually got the message. Give the phone away free,

make money on its use. Why can't Raceform, OEM, RSB could all do the same thing? Give the basic product away for free, together with perhaps six months data. Additional data can then be sold, at a reasonable cost, to customers as and when they want it. (I suspect that this proposal will fall on deaf ears with the established players, who will be clutching their wallets in shock at such a crazy idea)

But I remain convinced that the better the offer is up front, the more customers are attracted, the bigger the user base gets, more units are sold through recommendations and public awareness.

A brief and much simplified example; 500 customers purchase a weekly form update on disk from you at a cost per customer of £2 per week, £104 per year. Total cash in: £52,000 p.a.

500 disks, duplicated, labelled, envelope & postage, pessimistic estimate would be around 85p each, £425 per week. Expenditure: £22,100 p.a.

A gross profit per customer of £1.15 per week, $\times 52 \times 500 =$ £29,900 p.a.

The £29,900 needs to cover the costs of a word processor operator to input the daily info, advertising and admin., which I know doesn't exactly put you in the Rupert Murdoch class. Okay, I accept you need to get 500 customers in the first place, which won't happen overnight, but once you do get there, each additional 100 customers thereafter generate more than £6,000 gross profit, because the WP costs remain constant and duplication costs actually reduce!

A classic example of "uneven" pricing policy must be the Raceform "form on a disk" that we have on offer at £40 per season. On the face of it 1p per race seems like a good deal. But this data is a spin off from Raceforms Computer Form Book, so the WP cost is covered in their main product charges. The only additional cost to Raceform to provide this data therefore is disk duplication, postage and a little admin.

How then, does that square with the fact that here at SMART we were selling the 1994/5 N Hunt form book, containing much more information, which is far more expensive to produce and duplicate, and many times the postage costs, for £18.50 including postage? Is it a case that new technology costs more merely *because it is new technology?*

There is no doubt that our two members who are using RSB look upon it as

great value and a terrific product. I have found Tim Drakeford to be an honest and enthusiastic person, a view which is echoed by everyone else I know who has contacted him.

DISCOUNT FOR SMARTsig MEMBERS

I contacted Tim to negotiate a discount for SMARTsig members. His initial offer was for a 10% discount to our members subject to a minimum of five. That's a saving of £20 on the full product. I tried to open negotiations to get an even better deal and sent him the following fax;

18 June 1995

Dear Tim

Since our telephone conversation Len Hutton has sent me his review and it has now been readied for printing in our July magazine. Anything that you wish to add, amend or make clearer will have to be submitted separately and I will reserve the space to print it in conjunction with Len's review.

I must admit to being rather disappointed at the level of discount you were willing to offer to our subscribers, the 10% mentioned is a level that I would maybe expect to see in return for the advertising value of the review alone. I'm quite aware that your final product would only have been possible through your investment of both time and money and that the important thing from your viewpoint must be to repay that investment and then onward into profits.

However, a few points that may well be worthwhile considering. The discount I am looking for is for SMART members only, it is not as though you will be losing too many sales generated by traditional methods - and only our members will be aware of the discount. What we can offer is the chance of sales that would otherwise not be open to you, the opinions expressed in our magazine are now very well respected. If we could interest perhaps ten, fifteen, twenty, etc., etc. members in the potential of your product (and the bigger the discount, the higher the number) then this could be viewed as ADDITIONAL sales, over and above what you would otherwise have produced. For example, twenty of the 1980-1994 packages sold at 50% discount generates a revenue of £2,000 - from people who would not otherwise have purchased.

A two thousand pound return for the cost of duplicating the disks must be worthwhile. I could even make the offer for a limited period only if you were worried that it may rock the boat (which I doubt). If you've ever sat next to the pool on a continental holiday you'll know that the chances are that if you did a straw poll of the holidaymakers there you will find that some had paid two, three or even four times as much for the same package, people accept that sort of thing these days.

The discount you give should be looked upon as a potential investment. The more SMART members that use the package, the more likely are we to print letters in the future that refer to the source of their research as being Racing System Builder. This in turn encourages other users to write in. Non RSB members pick up on these "conversations", their curiosity is raised and you have more potential customers, a snowball effect. It also has the potential of being well represented on our Customer Intelligence Network - this is our database of members who pass on their experiences of commercial products/services to other members who are thinking of buying (our own which? magazine - verbal reviews by actual users)

Nothing is going to happen overnight though, it is a slow process in this game to earn the right to a potential customers respect, 99% of them will view all new products with suspicion, they've been stung too often in the past. Coupled with the fact that we may not have any customers for you at all, even if you sold the packages at £5 and £10 respectively, such are the uncertainties of marketing.

In the meantime I do hope there is further room for negotiation with the discount available, the bigger it is, the louder and more often I'll shout your name out, including in the new SMART sig forum on the News International's Delphi Internet which is read by computer users world-wide.

Best regards

Stefan Perry SMARTsig

I am still awaiting a reply from Tim. If you want to register your interest at the 10% discount then please let me know. If you want to wait for a bigger discount then watch this space, but be warned - don't hold your breath!



SMARTsig
CUSTOMER INTELLIGENCE NETWORK
***Has already helped many members reach a
purchasing decision.***

***C.I.N. is a network of members who offer advice to
others within the network on commercial products
from a customers viewpoint.***

***Membership of the C.I.N. is FREE to all SMARTsig
subscribers. Simply let me know what products you
have had experience of and can offer advice to others.***

***Getting at the "value" is still a talking point,
David Pemberton answers a critic and tries
to convert the sceptical (me included)***

THE HEART OF PROFITABLE BETTING
David Pemberton

At the risk of boring readers of SMARTsig magazine, I would like to make another contribution to the subject of Value betting, which is, I believe, at the heart of profitable betting.

First, I should like to correct a misunderstanding of my argument which appeared in the April issue. In the June issue John Rushe says that I claimed that if a horse's price drifted from 9/4 to 3/1 it was automatically a value bet. I hope I would never be guilty of such a foolish argument. What I said was this; if a bookmaker puts a horse in the market at 2/1, we can assume that he regards the horse as a 9/4 chance, and as bookmakers normally estimate a horses' chances correctly (after all, their livelihood depends on it) we should accept their estimate as being accurate. If the price then drifts in the market to, say, 3/1, we now have a 9/4 chance being laid at 3/1, and we have value.

Now, the crux of my argument, which John has missed, is that the price of 3/1 is only value, **if you accept the premise that the initial price represented an accurate estimate of the horse's true chance.** That is why John's 'counterexamples' don't work.

For example, he says, quite rightly, that if Ladbrokes lengthened their price against the earth being flat from 1,000,000/1 to 5,000,000/1 this would not mean that the bet had value. Of course it wouldn't, and the reason for that is that nobody would accept that the initial price of 1,000,000/1 was an accurate estimate of the real chance of the earth being flat! Since we are certain that the earth is round, we would not accept any odds - even trillions to one - as being value.

I should like to make some stipulative definitions:

A value bet is one where the odds available are more generous than the real chance that the bet has of winning.

A fair bet is one where the odds available are equal to the real chances that the bet has of winning.

A non-value bet is one where the odds available are less generous than the real chance that the bet has of winning. For example, if a bookmaker laid Evens against getting a Head with the toss of a coin, this would be a fair bet since the chances of getting a Head is Evens (assuming the coin were true). A value bet would be any price better than Evens (e.g. 11/10), and a non-value bet would be any price less than Evens, (e.g. 10/11).

Even though the amount of value here (11/10 vs Evens) is tiny, it is enough to ensure that anybody getting such odds would be certain to win in the long run; suppose you placed £100 on Heads @ 11/10 for 100 spins. You could expect to win 50 times and lose 50 times. Your total winnings would be £5500 (50 x £110), and your total losses would be £5000 (50 x £100); net result, a profit of £500. (I am ignoring betting tax). This shows that even a very small amount of value in the bet can produce quite substantial winnings in the long term.

So, given the obvious importance of value, why do some people still criticise the value approach? The argument that you often hear from critics of value betting is that finding winners is more important than finding value. In any race, they say, you should try and find out which horse is most likely to win, not which horse has value. But consider another example. Imagine you could bet on the outcome of a roll of a die. Suppose a bookmaker laid you odds as follows:

(A) Throwing a '6' - 11/2

(B) Throwing any number other than a '6' - 1/6

The value bet is (A), because the real chance of throwing a '6' is only 5/1. Bet (B) is non-value, the real chance of throwing other than a '6' is 1/5.

The follower of the value approach will therefore back (A) even though he knows he will only win, on average, once in every 6 throws, whereas if he backed (B) he will win 5 times out of 6. Someone who backed (A) would be certain to win in the long-run, because although he could expect to win only once every 6 rolls, on that winning roll he would make a profit of £550 (assuming his stake is £100), whereas on his 5 losing rolls he would lose only £500. Every 6 rolls then, on average, he would win £50. The person who backed (B), however, although he would win 5 times out of 6, would lose in the long run, because he would win only £83.33 on his 5 winning spins (5 x £100 x 1/6) but would lose £100 on his one losing spin. Every 6 spins, therefore, he would lose c.£17.

It is clear therefore that backing the bet that is most likely to win is not wise,

unless that bet has value. But some people still persist in rejecting the value approach. You may have heard people say "a losing 'value' bet is still a losing bet" or "a winning bet, even at non-value odds, is still a winner". Well, of course it is true that if you knew, before a race was run, that a certain horse was not going to win, then you should not back that horse, however generous the odds were.

Similarly, if you knew for certain that a certain horse was going to win, you should back that horse, however cramped the odds may be, because, yes "a winner is still a winner". But we don't know, before a race, whether a particular horse is going to win or lose, so such advice is meaningless. All we can do is place bets which have value, and, as we have seen, even though we will undoubtedly back some losers and miss some winners, in the long run we are certain to win.

But how do we know which bets have value? Here, perhaps, we come to the real reason why some people are sceptical of the value approach. For the problem is that, unlike with the sorts of examples that I have given, of coins and dice where the chance of any event can be calculated with precision, it is, as John Rushe indicated in his article, extremely difficult to know what the true chance of a horse is. Ask 20 experts and you will get 20 different answers. And if you do not know what a horse's true chance of winning a race is, you cannot know what would constitute a value price, since, by definition, a value price is one which is better than the horse's true chance.

So, is there no chance of ever being able to identify value bets? Is it necessary to spend hours every day poring over the formbook, and to pay a fortune for 'inside information' to try to spot those rare occasions when the bookmaker has offered an over-generous price? Fortunately I think spotting value is easier than that. I believe that the answer lies in the approach suggested in the Thornside system, to which I referred in my original article. The central idea is that, rather than trying to pit your estimate of a horse's true chance against that of the bookmaker, you use the bookmakers own estimate to find out the value price.

The premise is that bookmakers are pretty good at estimating horses' chances. After all, if they weren't, they wouldn't last very long as bookmakers. Their very existence depends on their being able to judge accurately the true chance of every horse in every race. Moreover, the vast resources of the 'big 3' enable them to employ the shrewdest judges of form, and their Extensive contacts in the racing industry give them access to more and better 'inside information' than any punter is ever likely to have. So

instead of trying to beat them, you accept their estimates as accurate. (The beauty of the system is that rather than spending hours trying to beat the bookmaker, you let him do your work for you!) Thus, when William Hill put a horse into the market at, say 7/4, we hold up our hands and say "OK, it's a 7/4 chance". Or rather, we say "it's a 2/1 chance". (The difference between 7/4 and 2/1 being the bookmaker's 'overround'). We then wait to see what happens in the market. If the price stays at 7/4, or contracts, obviously we do not bet. If it drifts out to 2/1 we still don't bet, as although we now have a fair price we don't have a value price. Even if it drifts to 9/4 or 5/2 we don't bet, as we need 10% of profit just to cover our betting tax, if we are betting off course. Once it starts reaching prices like 11/4, however, the amount of value begins to look attractive. (The Thornside system contains instructions on how to calculate when you have enough value).

Of course, this approach will only throw up infrequent bets (between 1 and 5 per week in my experience), as bookmakers will only allow a horse's price to drift to this extent on rare occasions (e.g. when a lot of money has been placed on some other horse), but patience and selectivity are crucial in any form of successful betting. As you wait for your betting opportunities to arise, however, you should comfort yourself with the knowledge that so long as you place only bets that have value, even though you may have more losers than winners (after all, a 2/1 shot will lose twice as often as it wins), you are mathematically certain to win in the long run.

SMARTsig

You will be aware that I am among the group you refer to as "some people are sceptical of the value approach", I can follow and understand your well written argument and note that you agree that calculating the possible outcome of the toss of a coin toss or the roll of a die is much easier than predicting the chances that a horse has of winning. But I wonder if you are relying a little too much on statistics and their implementation. Statistics can be wonderful, but they can also kick you in the teeth. They are informative, enlightening, invaluable and true. They are also deceptive, deceitful, misleading and false! There are people who work full time for big companies who job it is to "adapt" statistical conclusions to meet the corporate needs. You will be aware of the saying

>You can "prove" anything with statistics<

Statistics can point the unwary in totally the wrong direction, or used skilfully, they can at best indicate probabilities. One thing they cannot ever do is to indicate certainties! For this reason I am entirely at odds with your final statement, and would change your phrase of "mathematically certain to win" to "statistically more likely to win than to

lose” - and there is a world of difference! Earlier this year I made the point that with one toss of a coin the statistics show that both head and tail have a 50% chance of success. But in the real world of course one toss can only result in a 100% - 0%, or 0% - 100% split - half a head is a real world impossibility, but a statistical probability. It’s a bit like the average family, 2.4 children!?! So, we can only use statistical information to predict the possible outcome of a series of events, which your letter pointed to with 100 coin tosses and 6 rolls of a die. But let’s take the dice rolls to illustrate an example of statistical “tampering”

You pointed out that with each six throws we’ll get one “6” showing, on average. I sure we would all agree with that conclusion. But, we also know, that because each throw is totally independent there is a chance that no “6” will show at all. If this did happen, of course it has no influence on the subsequent odds of no “6” showing for a second or third set of six throws. Let’s look closer at some figures.

Each throw in a series of six, has itself six possible outcomes, i.e. numbers 1 through 6. So for the full series of six throws there are 46,656 different permutations possible. Each one of those permutations is just as likely as any other, e.g. throwing 6,6,6,6,6,6 is just as likely as throwing 2,5,2,1,4,6.

Analysing the figures a little deeper, shows that the number of permutations that contain at least one “6” is 31,031, and a simple subtraction tells us that there are 15,625 possible outcomes where no “6” shows at all. Therefore the likelihood of a “6” occurring in a series of six throws is 31,031 times in 46,656 possibilities, or 66.5%, odds of 1-2. Conversely that means there is a 33.5% chance, odds of 2-1, of losing the bet. How does that compare with the claim that, on average, one “6” will show every six throws?

I have used the statistics here to mislead, by only giving a partial picture, whilst trying to give the impression of statistical “proof”. But I’ll go no further and leave it in mid air, it should give you Smarties something to contemplate and keep those brain cobwebs at bay for a while. Have I done anything wrong? or missed something out? I’m not going to tell you, work it through for yourself, then write in and tell us! Answers, as they say, on the back of a £20 note (a bit of paper will be okay though).

And remember, it is much easier to suss the percentages when throwing dice than it is with the horses. What chance do we mere mortals stand, eh?

- Stef

Just how useful is a computer to the betting man?

COMPUTERS IN HORSE RACE SELECTION

Graham Farmer

Dear Stef,
Smart Sig magazine goes from strength to strength and is for me the best regular reading about gambling that I have come across.
(Gambling? wash your mouth! that's what non-SMARTies do! - Stef)

I'm a computer user and a computer fan and I've watched some of the correspondence about the use of computers in Smart Sig with some interest. I would like to offer a few thoughts to perhaps clarify some peoples thinking. Firstly I use a computer to help me analyse data more quickly and efficiently than I could by pencil and paper, however any conclusions my analysis reaches should it seems to me, be able to be put into practice without the computer.

Secondly many of the so-called computer programs offer methods that would perfectly well without the computer. By using a computer program, the author appears to offer something 'new, desirable and easier'. Also he can hide his methodology within the program. From a business point of view this is probably fair enough, but for research it's most unhelpful. For instance I would like to know in more detail the algorithms for Computer and Combeyes for mathematical, statistical and horse-racing reasons.

Thirdly using a computer isn't always easy for the novice user. I have been working on Computer Raceform for the Flat 1994. There is a huge amount of data, but its not in the form that I require it. What gamblers use are the facts prior to the race, what Raceform gives you, are the facts about the race. I have spent a lot of hours manipulating the data into a Racing Post type format.

Whatever database you use to handle the data, you need to be confident enough to write programming macros to rewrite it into a useful form. Of course what I would really like is the Racing Post data, preferably on CD. Keep up the good work!

SMARTsig

Asking a horse race selection program vendor to reveal the algorithm used, would I suspect, be about as productive as Jehovah Witnesses' knocking on the door of the Vatican - Stef

SMARTsig Computer Challenge Results for June (sixth & final month)

The competition is now concluded. The six month head to head with the best of the computer programs available, and of course the ones who were willing to be examined in this way.

The final months results are given in the usual way, and the final positional awards at the end of these reports. A further analysis is also given for the full six month period.

DATE	SELECTIONS	RESULT	ODDS	STAKES	RETURNS
BETTING MANAGER - 0181 6898875					
03/06/95	At Liberty	W	7 / 1	£11	£80.00
	Marsoom	2	(13/8)	£11	£0.00
10/06/95	Carnegie	L		£11	£0.00
	Dancing Sensation	L		£11	£0.00
	Francfurter	3	(11/4)	£11	£0.00
17/06/95	Royal Scimitar	L		£11	£0.00
24/06/95	Keep Battling	L		£11	£0.00
	Royal Rebuke	2	(5/1)	£11	£0.00
	Sadlers Walk	3	(13/2)	£11	£0.00
STAKES		Returns		%	
				profit	
JUN '95	£99	£80.00	-19%		
TO DATE	£715	£573.96	-20%		

GENESIS - 305 Kings Road, Bradford, Yorks. BD2 1NW					
03/06/95	Fard	2	(5/1)	£11	£0.00
	Emerging Market	L		£11	£0.00
	Baaderah	W	3 / 1	£11	£40.00
10/06/95	Burooj	W	4 / 1	£11	£50.00
	Vettori	L		£11	£0.00
	Join the Clan	L		£11	£0.00
	Mutakddim	W	3 / 1	£11	£40.00
17/06/95	Periston View	L		£11	£0.00
	Sycamore Lodge	L		£11	£0.00
	Rockerby Bowl	W	9 / 2	£11	£55.00

SMARTsig Confidential - July 1995

24/06/95	Karayb	L		£11	£0.00
	Cuango	L		£11	£0.00
	Burooj	2	(7/2)	£11	£0.00
	Double Quick	2	(7/2)	£11	£0.00
STAKES		Returns	%		
JUN '95	£154	£185.00	20%	profit	
TO DATE	£902	£867.50	-4%		

HORSE SENSE - 0772 745193

03/06/95	no bet				
10/06/95	Larghetto	L		£11	£0.00
17/06/95	Rockerby Bowl	W	9/ 2	£11	£55.00
24/06/95	no bet				
STAKES		Returns	%		
JUN '95	£22	£55.00	150%	profit	
TO DATE	£198	£230.00	16%		

PRO PUNTER (DGA) - 061 3300184

03/06/95	Marsoom	2	(15/8)	£11	£0.00
	Al Rawda	L		£11	£0.00
	Tanami	L		£11	£0.00
10/06/95	Carnegie	L		£11	£0.00
	Burooj	W	4 / 1	£11	£50.00
	Mutakddim	W	3 / 1	£11	£40.00
17/06/95	Slasher Jack	2	(7/4)	£11	£0.00
	Ela Aristokrati	2	(10/11)	£11	£0.00
	Lucky Parkes	2	(5/2)	£11	£0.00
24/06/95	Don Pepe	3	(4/1)	£11	£0.00
	Virtual Reality	L		£11	£0.00
	Moscow Mist	2	(11/8)	£11	£0.00
STAKES		Returns	%		
JUN '95	£132	£90.00	-32%	profit	
TO DATE	£385	£337.27	-12%		

THE SWORD - 0253 698843

03/06/95	no bet					
10/06/95	Jawaal	L			£11	£0.00
17/06/95	Kindergarten Boy	L			£11	£0.00
	Rokeby Bowl	W		9 / 2	£11	£55.00
	Lucky Parkes	2	(5/2)		£11	£0.00
	Ela Aristokrati	2	(10/11)		£11	£0.00
	Capias	W		11 / 8	£11	£23.75
	Royal Scimitar	L			£11	£0.00
24/06/95	Hi Nod	W		15 / 2	£11	£85.00
	Mowlaie	L			£11	£0.00
	Surprise Mission	3			£11	£0.00
STAKES				Returns	%	profit
JUN '95	£110			£163.75	49%	
TO DATE	£385			£430.37	12%	

PRICEWISE - RACING POST

03/06/95	French Grit	3	(10/1)		£11	£0.00
	Metal Boys	L			£11	£0.00
10/06/95	Burooj	W		4 / 1	£11	£50.00
	Presenting	3	(12/1)		£11	£0.00
	Shikari's Son	3	(9/1)		£11	£0.00
17/06/95	Superpride	L			£11	£0.00
	French Grit	L			£11	£0.00
	Country Lover	L			£11	£0.00
	Forever Diamonds	L			£11	£0.00
24/06/95	Karayb	L			£11	£0.00
	The Happy Fox	L			£11	£0.00
	Sadlers Walk	3	(13/2)		£11	£0.00
STAKES				Returns	%	profit
JUN '95	£132			£50.00	-62%	
TO DATE	£748			£803.33	7%	

PRICEWISE - RACING POST

03/06/95	New Inn (13)	2	(8/11)		£11	£0.00
	Capture the M (12)	W		13 / 8	£11	£26.25
	Boldina Bay (12)	3	(Evs)		£11	£0.00

10/06/95	Faal Mario (12)	W	8/ 11	£11	£17.27
	Vintage Tattingr(11)	3	(9/4)	£11	£0.00
	Sparrowhawk (11)	2	(9/4)	£11	£0.00
	Lucky Lionel (11)	L		£11	£0.00
	Green Perfume (11)	2dh		£11	£0.00
	Bedevil (11)	L		£11	£0.00
17/06/95	Lankridge (16)	W	4/ 9	£11	£14.44
	Kilvine	W	1/ 1	£11	£20.00
24/06/95	Heresthedeal (13)	W	8/ 15	£11	£15.33
	Gulf Shaadi (12)	L		£11	£0.00
STAKES					
		Returns	%	PRO	FIT
JUN '95	£143	£93.30	-35%		
TO DATE	£715	£554.42	-22%		

JUNE SUMMARY

GOLD AWARD WINNER The Sword
SILVER AWARD WINNER Genesis

No qualifiers for Bronze Award

JUNE TABLE

	<i>bets this month</i>	<i>profit</i>	<i>loss</i>
1 The Sword	10	+49%	
2 Genesis	12	+20%	
3 Betting Manager	9		-19%
4 Pro Punter	12		-32%
too few bets to qualify was:-			
Horse Sense	2	+150%	

SMARTsig Computer Challenge Final Six Month Awards

SMARTsig GOLD CUP WINNER & OVERALL CHAMPION
1995

THE SWORD

12% overall after tax profit from 35 bets
with 6 winning weeks & 10 losing weeks

No other programs with the minimum qualification of 20 bets returned a post tax profit

The also-rans in % order;

Program	No. of bets over 6 months	No. of winning weeks	No. of losing weeks	Final after tax % result
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PROGRAMS THAT MADE A MINIMUM OF 20 SELECTIONS

Genesis	82	11	14	-4%
Pro Punter	35	6	11	-12%
Betting Mgr.	65	6	14	-19%

PROGRAM FAILING TO MAKE 20 SELECTIONS

Horse Sense	18	5	11	+16%
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Week by week sequences for all finishing programs
(W = winning week L = losing week - = no bet)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
The Sword	-L--	LLL-	-WWL	W-WL-	L-LL	-LWW
Genesis	WLLW	LLWW	LLWL	LLLWL	WWLL	WWWL
Pro Punter	-LLL	WLWW	LL--	W-WL-	--L-	LWLL
Betting Manager	-LLL	L-LW	WL-W	LL-WL	LLW-	WLLL
Horse Sense	LWWL	W-WL	LLL-	L---L	LL--	-LW-

Individual bets	Horse Sense	Betting Manager	Genesis	Pro Punter	The Sword
WON	5	14	16	10	13
PLACED	3	18	17	15	9
LOST	10	33	48	10	13

Do you want to see another competition?

I hope you have found the Computer Challenge both interesting and useful. The suggestion has been made by a few of the competitors that they would like to do it again, but under slightly amended conditions. The changes suggested would allow each competitor far more freedom and allow SMARTsig members to judge the merits of each program under more realistic conditions.

Rule changes

The changes would be something along the following lines;

The competition would be run over a full season, Flat or N Hunt (or both)

No restrictions on the day of each bet.

No restrictions on the number of bets, maximum or minimum.

Either win, each way or a mixture, to be indicated by the competitor.

All commercial programs again invited to compete.

Stakes may be indicated by the competitor (although for comparison purposes and to decide a winner, SMART will keep a total of the bets to level stakes)

Let me know your feelings

Early on with SMARTsig I realised that I can't please all of the people all of the time - so with due democratic process, the majority will have their wish. I am prepared to organise and run the contest, we have competitors willing to participate, but the final say is in your hands members! So let me know your feelings on the proposals - do we run it or not?

Preparations are in hand to begin in September and run through to March on the next jumps season proper.

SPECIAL OFFER! exclusive to SMARTsig - 66% OFF

GENESIS

(the only competitor to submit selections on *every week* of the competition)

Reviewed by a member in last months magazine

RRP £60.00, **exclusive to SMARTsig members for just £20.00 inclusive.**

Write, quoting your membership number direct to

J.Edwards, 305 Kings Road, BRADFORD, Yorkshire. BD2 1NW

A fax from David Atherton, DGA Software

COMPUTER CHALLENGE FEEDBACK

Dear Stefan,

I read with interest Allan Knight's (The Sword) comments on the your Computer Challenge so far.

I would offer the general observation that the competition has been an excellent idea, offering software publishers the chance to put their product publicly through its paces, and I hope it will continue - or preferably re-start - at some future time with amended rules.

The essential problem with the current format - as Allan points out - is the "Saturday only" betting rule. There have been many Saturdays when we have not wanted to bet (and didn't) and plenty of weekdays when we wanted to (and couldn't)! It is instructive, for example, to compare our Saturday competition performance with the performance of "Investment Advices" produced by Pro-Punter over the same period: 20+ points profit (to date), over 60% strike rate and 90% profit on turnover. (Proofed, as always, to the racing press).

That said, I wonder whether contestants (and I include ourselves) have been guilty of taking the competition rather too seriously! We all obviously want to show off to the best advantage the products that earn us a living and perhaps this has prevented us from entering truly into the spirit of things. Perhaps we should all have had to submit three bets each Saturday in designated races so that all products could have been measured on a truly equal sample.

I note that at the time of writing PRO-PUNTER is second in the accumulative rankings to the end of round five from a fairly careful and Lilly livered approach! Now that we are into the final round we have decided to come out boxing and submit three bets for each of the Saturdays in June. If we fling enough mud we may win from a lucky strike or - more likely - drop down the list fighting! It doesn't really matter as, to pick up on another of Allan's points, the final rankings will not really prove who is best.

What the competition has shown is that there are half a dozen or so forecasting products around whose publishers have been unafraid and confident enough to put their reputation on the line for a six month period. In a marketplace currently awash with racing programs - some of which do not stand up for six weeks, let alone six months - that cannot be a bad thing for potential customers scratching their heads and wondering to which address they should send their hard earned cash.

David Atherton

SMART SWAP SHOP

If you have any items for inclusion in SwapShop please send details to SMART sig. 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;

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or 'phone 01257 278923 (often on ansafone)

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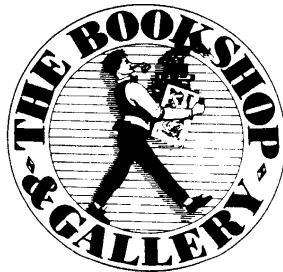
FOR SALE:

How to Win the Pools (1992) Meander Press, 41 x A4 pages £5 - Win the Pools (1990) John Sullivan, 64 x A4 pages £5 - Poolmaster (1991) Intraset Ltd., 2 x cassette tapes for the Amstrad 464/6128. Suitable for Aussie & English pools complete with manual, as new, half price, £22.50. Will swap for interesting items of equal value. W.H.Y?

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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
John Bellis	Tipping service	1	0	0
Winning Line	Tipping service	5	2	11
Bet Better	Horse Computer Prog	5	2	8
Brimardon	Horse Computer Prog	1		2
Combeys	Horse Computer Prog	4	2	3
Compunter	Horse Computer Prog	3	3	7
First Post Racing Ltd	Horse Computer Prog	1		8
Oracle Racing System	Horse Computer Prog			9
ProPunter	Horse Computer Prog	5	1	5
22-1 football method	Football Fixed Odds		1	
James Ashley Formula2	Football Fixed Odds		1	14
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!

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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.

Rex Towers

Overseas betting

Systems, Methodologies And Rational Thinking - Special interest group

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