

SMARTsig magazine 2.11 - November 1995

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***Dec '95 (issue 2.12) will be with you by or before
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SMART

Up Front

Once again I can't fit a quart into a pint pot! It's merely a case of too many items to fit into our usual sixty pages, so we bring you an extended bumper package again this month. So much interesting post arriving from so many members!

But we must also be wary of complacency.

There may well come a time when the number of letters arriving drops to that dangerously low level where I may be finding it difficult to know just how the pages are going to be filled. It doesn't look likely on current form, but one always has to be wary of the inevitable losing run.

The other point is that I've been told by more than a few members that sixty pages is quite enough brain fodder for one month, thank you very much! With too many pages too often, you may be unable to dig as deep as you might want to on a particular subject.

Computer Users vs. "Pen & Inkers"

The debate goes on. Response has been about 50/50 supporting the views of the non-computer contingent against the computer fraternity. Let me make it perfectly clear to begin with where I stand on all this.

I have no intention of making SMARTsig into a computer only magazine! - But it all revolves around the contributions I receive.

It is quite understandable that the non-computing members (C-) have a gripe, they are of course at a disadvantage in comparison with the computer buffs (C+)

C+ can gain much from articles by C- and join in the debate because they can understand what is going on. The main thrust of the argument from C- is that they are totally baffled by the computer terminology used by C+ and have nothing in common with them. Thus C- sees all articles with the dreaded "C" word included as a total waste of space.

Tom Wiggans wrote to me in favour of fewer computer articles noting that there were over 40 pages devoted to it last month. That's one viewpoint.

John Denton wrote to say that he was now retired, is not, and does not intend to ever be computer literate. But he could not understand the viewpoint expressed by many C- people. He noted that although many articles were by C+, they should be perfectly understandable to the average C- because they discussed systematic and statistical principles most of which were possible to perform, albeit slower, with a pencil and notebook.

He went on to point out that although computers were referred to in many articles, the actual number of *computer specific* articles, in his view, were very few indeed and that even they were fine, “. . . One mans meat . . . etc.”. He hoped that other C- members were not simply “switching off” on seeing the word computer, they could be missing a great number of good ideas.

The content of the magazine is in the main a cross section of what is received here at the SMARTsig office. And, much as I would like, it is impossible to be all things to all members. The magazine reflects the post-bag content.

Jim Streek, a regular C- contributor, makes a plea once more on behalf of the C- community in this issue. So c'mon you lot, where are you? Don't just join in the chorus and ask others to write in, sit down and *you* do it!

Lottery Syndicate

One of Tom Wiggans' other points was to promote the idea of a SMARTsig syndicate in the National Lottery, with syndicate members putting up a £20 stake per person for a 20 week run. He has sounded out one or two other members with the idea with favourable response. Numbers could be published in the mag close to the “off”. Well let us know more Tom and I'll print it next month. However, were you asking me to administer the scheme? If you were, I'm sorry, but I would have to decline. To be honest the work involved putting the mag together and the other bits I get myself into take up all of my time and I've had to put off too many things as it is.

But we are a friendly club, a bunch of happy, helpful individuals. So, I'm asking for a volunteer, please take one pace forward that man, and let us know who you are and that you will administer such a scheme on behalf of the interested parties. I await your call.

Stef ♦

The following correspondence was prompted by Martin Kilgariff's speed ratings article of last month.

DOES WEIGHT MATTER? (I)

Richard Green

I'm very interested in speed figures but the time required to compile them, and the desire to produce my own standard times, means that I have yet to set about the task.

However, I have followed Martin Kilgariff's speed ratings with interest (via a racing newsgroup on the Internet) and can report that Martin does have some decent winners by using this approach.

His article last month was very interesting but one aspect of his ratings, which he didn't touch on in his article, is that he doesn't take a horse's weight into consideration when allocating his ratings. A horse is given a rating on how fast he has run against the clock - period. That rating is the horse's mark no matter what weight he is given in future races and would only be replaced if a superior rating was achieved.

Martin argues, as does Nick Mordin, that it is unwise to make assumptions about weight. So they choose to ignore this factor. But it leaves me wondering about the validity of such a move. Have they any hard evidence to back up this assumption?

Dave Edwards of the Sporting Life does make allowances for weight and adjusts his figures accordingly, and he manages to make a level stake profit on all selections over the course of a season. Surely if it is wrong to make assumptions about weight then Dave Edwards should be made to look foolish by doing so. But this is not happening.

Are we to believe that if Dave Edwards made no assumptions about weight then his ratings would be even more profitable? It seems hard to believe so. It may be difficult to prove that weight does matter but Dave Edwards has the advantage in that he has achieved a level stake profit over a number of seasons. Can Martin or Nick boast such a record by ignoring the weight factor? Or is it possible that both approaches have merit and are profitable in their own right?



One of the big advantages for SMARTsig with modern electronic mail is the rapid response time of replies. Enabling you all to read replies, and replies to replies all in the same issue.

DOES WEIGHT MATTER? (II)

Jason McCaul

I feel that the problem lies deeper than simply modifying ratings to take weight into account. Take the following scenario:-

Horse A beats horse B by a length at 6 furlongs. The next time the two horses meet their weights are adjusted accordingly. The first race was at Newmarket which is perfectly straight. The race they are about to contest is at Wolverhampton's all weather, a very tight track that is constantly on the turn.

Which horse would you select?

I'd be on horse A

Maybe I'm stating the obvious here but on a track like Wolverhampton the horses are not going flat out as they have to reduce their speed to handle the bends (just like we do in a car), however Newmarket is a fair test of a horse in that they are able to gallop at maximum speed. The logic being that although Horse A is now conceding more weight this is offset by the fact that the horse is saving energy by going at a slower pace and should therefore still have enough left in the tank to repel horse B.

The subject is further confused by another scenario:-

However horse B is a small quick actioned horse, whereas A is a big galloping brute, in this situation I would go for horse B as horse A would not be able to get into his big long stride over such a tight track.

My conclusion is that the current weighting system is flawed, it is based on theory of a horse travelling flat out. I think that a big edge could be gained in having a weight scale by course, i.e. 1lb for 1 length at Newmarket = 4lb at Wolverhampton, etc. Of course this will never be done by the Jockey Club but I believe a private handicapper would benefit from such an approach.

Just another note on something I read a while ago. The idea of weight slowing a horse down was developed by the army (French, I think) some time ago, it was based on a horse travelling flat out and the conclusion was that there was only a noticeable reduction in speed when the weight reached 13 stone but I don't know what distance this was over.

If this was true it makes a mockery of the current weighting system particularly at shorter distances.

Perhaps someone else may have read something similar and can enlighten us with the full details of this study.

Just my two pennorth on a fascinating subject.



DOES WEIGHT MATTER? (III)

Mark Tomlinson

The story Jason refers to was detailed in Nick Mordin's superb book *Betting for a Living*. There is a chapter called *Why you should ignore weight*. The upshot was that the British army worked out that it was only when the horses were carrying 14 stones that they were affected.

There were a couple of provisos though. The times were only over a quarter of a mile and the horses were running at below racing pace. Nick argued that most horses on a racetrack run below racing pace most of the time (i.e. slow down for turns etc.) and thus weight becomes less important.

Obviously for a galloping track weight might have to be taken into account. I worked out a system based on this idea a couple of years ago which worked (but not very well).

For a really good analysis of weight and speed I would suggest reading *The Solidus* by Davey Towey. It's the most scientific contribution to weight/speed interpretation that I have seen.

But having said that, I don't go overboard on trying to take weight into account with my speed figures. But then I don't bet on handicaps.



DOES WEIGHT MATTER? (IV)

D Bellingham

Having also read *Betting For A Living* I would also recommend it strongly. It certainly changed my betting habits very much for the better. Of course you don't blindly adopt all of Nicks Mordin's opinions but it makes you think, you then add a few theories and ideas of your own and then hopefully become more successful. The chapter on weight is one of the most thought-provoking in the book, and the most controversial. The bottom line is that whether weight makes any difference is impossible to prove either way. Weight may bring two horses together but then so might trip, fitness, ability to act on the track, ground, etc.

Nick did praise Dave Edwards for his success with his speed ratings, but seemed to suggest that he would be even more successful were he not to take weight into account. I do take weight into account when producing my own speed figures but not to the extent of 1 lb = 1 point. I had not considered weight previously but was finding that many horses who I considered to be standouts were getting beaten and more often than not they were horses carrying large weights. Also I had noticed that Amateur riders races were always a good deal slower than other races, and that the reason for this could not always be put down to lack of style in the saddle. It had to be because of the higher weights carried in these races.

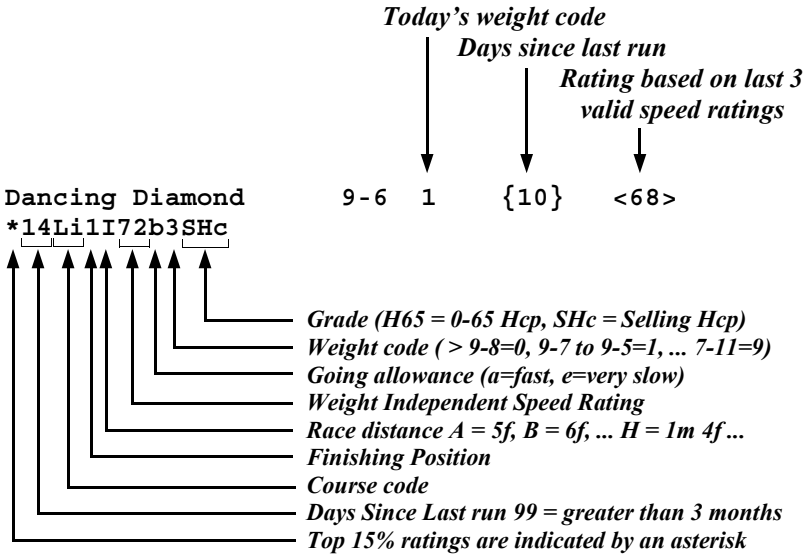
One man whose opinion I value is Andrew Beyer, the American speed ratings guru. In his book *Beyer On Speed*, he concedes that weight does have an effect on his speed figures. Without going into detail (I recommend getting the book) he concludes that a rise or fall of 1 lb in weight carried in a race results in a difference of 0.4 in his speed figure. This is an average but I have adopted this theory to an extent in that I adjust the figure by 1 point for every 2 lbs more or less carried today as opposed to the performance I am analysing. I had the honour of meeting the man himself at Santa Anita in 1993, he had already stated that he thought speed figures were of little use in turf racing as these races were more tactical than down to pure speed. However, he told me that he would love the chance to come over and use his methods on our All-weather tracks as most members of the betting public do not realise how powerful speed ratings are. Hence, the odds of horses with standout figures are a great deal longer than they should be, unlike in America where his figures are so popular that they drive down the odds of the horses they identify. The value has all gone. His arguments were good enough for me! ♦

DOES WEIGHT MATTER? (V)

Martin Kilgariff

You are quite correct Richard in stating the speed figures I produce are Weight Independent. (see page 4) What is not true is that I ignore weight differences when assessing a race. What I don't do is change the speed figure by using a fixed formula. I'm not too sure if I'm too lazy to determine my own weight/speed formula or whether I believe that no fixed formula will do justice to the intricacies of speed/form analysis. The latter is my generous assessment.

Unlike many available speed figure "systems", I do not assign a *master rating* to a horse. To analyse a race I generate a form card, via my own software, which produces the following encoded format which gives me eight pieces of information for each of the horse preceding runs (up to 20 races).



Using this form card I can determine under what conditions the speed figure was achieved and its relevance to today's race. For each horse in the race I have the Track, Grade, Weight Carried, Going, and Race Distance for each of its last 20 races.

The format is not very user friendly but it allows a typical race to be summarised on a single sheet of A4. With practice its becomes second nature.

Dave Edwards is far more experienced in speed analysis than I am, or ever likely to be. I've only been this interested in speed figures for the last three years, a veritable novice.

I believe weight has an effect on speed, but I'm unable to quantify its effect, and at this point in time I'm unwilling to accept the perceived wisdom.

When I study a race, I like my selection to have a recent high speed figure (preferably better than the rest of the field) gained carrying a similar weight to what its being asked to carry today.

It should have winning form at today's distance, going and if possible track. I sometimes accept a less perfect match before I bet, which is one of the reasons this is still a hobby and not an occupation!

At the end of this is an example of a race card printed in my own format;

To understand the format, the first entry is the horse's last race for which I have data, it then reads in columns, i.e.

```
1 Dancing Diamond      9-6  1  {10}  <68>
Last_run      Last_run+4
Last_run+1    Last_run+5
Last_run+2    etc etc
Last_run+3    etc etc
```

The form lines are formatted to use as few line as possible, therefore a horse with only eight previous runs would have the following format;

```
1 Dancing Diamond      9-6  1  {10}  <68>
Last_run      Last_run+2  Last_run+4  Last_run+6
Last_run+1    Last_run+3  Last_run+5  Last_run+7
```

On the following pages the full output for the forthcoming William Hill November Handicap at Doncaster.

I did not have the weights to hand when I compiled the list, the reader can add the finishing touches him/herself.

1 Dato Star (IRE)	9-0 3 31Do0H68a0H00	99Cs2I55c1M4k	9-0 3 21Th4H69a0M4k	{ 8 } < 64>	00Hy5L70b4Okk	
2 Blisland	64Nm0E73b4H0p *15Go2F78a6H10	35Nm3D70c1H95 63Bv1D75d4M3k	9-0 3 00Sb7D60c3M4k	{ 29 } < 74>		
3 IndigoTime (IRE)	07As1H72d3H90	99Nm6F66a4H00	9-0 3 99Cp1D67b3M3k	{ 23 } < 68>	00Sb8C56b3M4k	
4 Capias (USA)	99FR6Hzzz2Gr2 15Cu2J 0c0Gr3	9-0 3 *17Le1H86b4Lst *99Nb1F76b4O5k	9-0 3 99So3G59c4H70	{ 14 } < 80> *22Nm2L78b7Gr3 *24Do5H84a4Lst	00Nm4F66c3M3k *41Y06H78a5Gr2 19Nm1F60b3M5k	
5 Monarch	99Le3H75b1H85 *07As3H79b7H05	36Nb1H64a1H80 18Cs2H74b6H95	9-0 3 11Nb1H73b6H85	{ 20 } < 73>	17Nm0D72b6Okk 29Br6C58a3M3k	10Cp8D65b4M3k 00Cs3C65b3M4k
6 Foundry Lane	12Nc4L75b0H0p *11Yo3J80a9H0p 28Hy1J59a0H85	9-0 3 35As9H72a6H05 *99Yo2J77c1H90	9-0 3 27G09H56a7H05	{ 62 } < 71>	23Hy3J64b1H80 15Po3H59b1H80	10Nc2F62b7M3k 07Ca3H60e5M3k
7 Kuffa	07Nb1F69d1H05 79Do6F71c1H95	9-0 3 16As0H65b2H05 19Po1F59b3M3k	9-0 3 07Ke3F69b5M4k	{ 43 } < 68>	00Nm7D64a3M5k	
8 Mistinguet (IRE)	99Hy2G67d1H80 07Nb6H60b3H85	9-0 3 *40Le1D76c5M5k	9-0 3 00Fo4C56b4M3k	{ 18 } < 66>		
9 Seckar Vale (USA)	*16Nm2H80a8H00 *10Nm1H76b8H00	10Nb7F60d4H05 18Do4F73a4H80	9-0 3 16Th0D63a2H90	{ 17 } < 72>	99Nm7E66a4Lst 10Nc2B64d3O4k	37Do7D56c3Gr1 00Ay1C61e3M3k

10 Mystic Hill	9-0 3 { 22 } < 68>	38G03H72a0H90 11As0H67a3H05 99Ep3F61a9H05	*25G03H76a4H05 16Hy9H70a8H10 30RA4H71a3H05	07G01H54d4H05 *14Yo1F78a5H00	20Cp6D71d3M4k 00Sb2D52b3M4k
11 Whitechapel (USA)	9-0 3 { 8 } < 75>	56Yo0J62a6Hop 33As0H66a4H05 *99Nb4H76b0H90 29Do0H47e3Hop	13As4L65c1H00 *17As1H81c6Hop 25Do3K72a0Okk *99Nb4H80c0H00	*19Nm2H77d3H95 *37As2H85d5Hop 26Yo6H70b0H95 38As1H62d2H90	00RA0H39e7H05
12 Rambo's Hall	9-0 3 { 10 } < 68>	19Nb0F61d0H90 24Ri15F71b0H90 21Nm0E71b5Hop 11Do5D72c5H05	*09Nm3E83c1Hop *26As1D79c1H00 *70Nm6F76b2H00	08As2F69c1H05 11G01F67c1C2k	19Y06F68b1H05 10Le5C72b4Lst
13 Naked Welcome	9-0 3 { 17 } < 73>	13G00F70a4H10 *25Yo1F76a6H10 *99As4D78b5H05	09Nm7F68e4Lst 06Po3D73d3Lst *07Nm1D84b2Okk	30As0C61b4Okk 06Do1D63b3O5k	05Wi3B65a3M4k 11Wi4B62a6M3k
14 Royal Scimitar (USA)	9-0 3 { 107 } < 70>	19Cp0H 0c2Gr1 20Le3H65b3O5k	10Ca1H61a3M3k *99Nm2H77b3M5k	16Nm2F75e5Lst 16Nm3D72b3Mkk	00Nm3D73a4M5k
15 Better Offer (IRE)	9-0 3 { 28 } < 75>	07Br2H62b1H00 *22As2H80c8Hop *17Hy2H83b6H00	11Ke1H70a0H90 06Nm2F26a3H95 44Li1F75b0H80	55G00F41b3H85 99Nb5H62b2H85 14FO3F60e3M3k	25Li2C70d3M3k 00Nm9C62a3M5k

16 Taipan (IRE)	9-0 3 31Yo4F72b3H00 *25Hy2G76b4H95	{129} < 72> 08Do1C67e3M4k 00Ng08D56d3M3k			
17 Daraydan (IRE)	9-0 3 *90Go4L80c3H00 *12Nm4H78a5H00	{17} < 79> 00Cu0H 0c3Gr1 {27} < 63>			
18 Turnpole (IRE)	9-0 3 59Po2H70a0H70 11Re1G46b0H70	{27} < 63> 10Le0F70b0M4k 00Po5F52b0M4k			
19 Express Gift	9-0 3 18Do6K63a5H85 10Po3H69a3H70 99Re0D45c0H70 16Ay0F52d1H75	{9} < 59> *19Hy1G82e4H90 19Ha0D60a2H70 26Ca7D69a0H70 07Po0F48a3H80		00Ca3D70b0H70 21Ha1D70b4H80 09Do2F66b4H80 11R12FF65b5H65 09Hy8D68b9H90	
20 Warm Spell	9-0 3 15Br0H52b6H00 10Nb5I59d6H00 09Ep5H69a1H85 44Ep9H52b0H90	{28} < 60> 11Nb2H38e1H80 04Cp2H75c0H80 20As3H72c4H90 *14Nb1I81d6H95		09Ke8H59b2H90 71L18G43d0H80 12RA0H55a6H05 *15Q 4H76a6H05	*14Go4H76d3H00 31Sb9J63b0H90 99Ke0L 8e0H90 05No3J72e1H80
21 Penny a Day (IRE)	9-0 3 15Hy4H62d004k 41Nm5H72b1H00 68Yo9F68a2H05	{18} < 67> *17Do1H82d1H00 *18Hy1H80d0H85 *30Ct1H77c0H85		13Ay2F66b2H80 20Re1G72b0H70	12Hy2G62a4H80 00Po6F59b0H70
22 Bayrak (USA)	9-0 3 99As0H18d3H90 06As0P56b3H90 09Bv4H70b0H80	{23} < 48> 04Ke4H68b1H85 16Th1H67c0H70 99Le0H58c0H70		09Cs2H71b0H80 99Ba1H72a1H75	28Br3D64b3H70 23Ba9F52a4M3k

23 Proton	9-0 3 { 43 } < 57>							
19Nb0I27d4H00	27As7H74a9H05	*14Do3H82e9Hop	13Gc2H72b7H95	14So6J48b0H60				
16Ep1HG7b0H90	*17Go3H80b5H00	23Do3H75d7H00	57Ll1lG67a3H70	24Ll10H18a0H75				
*14Nb2H77b4H00	21Ke5H70a0H80	14Ll1lG59d0H65	09Go8F37a4H80	55So9J50c2H70				
38Go2H74a4H90	99Ke0F65a2H90	20Ll12F60e1H75	99Ke0D56b4H80	31Sh0F32g1H70				
24 Braille (IRE)	9-0 3 { 28 } < 63>							
09Hy4G53e3H70	18Le3F71a1H75	14Hy8J37a5H85	08Do4F67a0H70	83Ay0D49e2H90				
09Hy3H75b4H90	01Cs1F65a2H70	40R15F63b2H80	26Po4F62a2H75	21Nc9C57a3H00				
04Sn2F60c2H70	06Ay1F67c8H80	21Po9F60b0H70	12R10B57c5H90	07Hy8D68c2H00				
*04Do2F77c9H95	06Hy1H20a1H80	13Eg0G50a1H75	99Do0D54c2Hop	16Hy0B64a5Lst				
25 Reimei	9-0 3 { 23 } < 70>							
99As3H69d5H90	11Sn2G68c2H70	22Br0H36a0M3k	00Fo3H 7e0M3k					
22Sn1G74b3H80	*18Le1H76c5H85	09Ke8F51e0M3k						
26 Burning (USA)	9-0 3 { 8 } < 62>							
14Do0H66a0H00	41Nm8H69b3H00	*34Go4H77a1H05	30Sb3H71b4O4k	00Nm5D66b4O4k				
11As0F51e4H05	21Yo0J46a6Hop	*35As6H77b1H05	*9Nm1F76b3M5k					
27 Snow Princess (IRE)	9-0 3 { 12 } < 58>							
16Cp1H51e6H80	09Hy1G57e6H70	99Hy6G65b5M4k	99Ke7F68a5M4k	00Cp6C60b4M4k				
28 Danjing (IRE)	9-0 3 { 17 } < 66>							
14Nm6H72a9H00	*12Ep3F78a9H05	43Go0H64a2H05	10Ba3F67c3M3k	00Nm4C59b3M3k				
12Nm1HG9a1C4k	14Go4H75b0H95	24Sb5J69a2O5k	17Nb3D71d4Okk					
10Nb7I56d6H00	16Nb9F67b3H00	99Nb1F58a3M3k						
29 Beauchamp Jade	9-0 3 { 20 } < 64>							
99Le2H75b4H85	99Po4H56b2H80	51Sb6D63c5M4k						
09Cp3H60a4M3k	12Le3C62c4M4k	00Le3C56a4M3k						
30 Embryonic (IRE)	9-0 3 { 28 } < 55>							
15Hy0H25e2H85	99Ay3I70b2H90	17Ha1I69a2H70	99Nc1H71b3M2k	00Cs2C73e3M3k				



That champion of the 'pen and inkers', Jim Streek writes again with comments on recent issues and a simple system for this jumps season.

BECAUSE THE MUGS FALL FOR IT

Jim Streek

Dear Stef,

The October issue has prompted me to comment on a few contributions. Firstly, I agree with your comments about Nigel Taylor (*Formcast, Daily Mail*), a pity he decided not to join us with some of his wisdom.

(As a private handicapper, working under the conditions set by a national daily paper, i.e. to rate EVERY race on EVERY racing day and submit them by a strict deadline, you can envisage Nigel's lifestyle. The only time he's not working is when he's asleep! - the original human dynamo. Even when he visits his parents in the Midlands at Christmas, while others are pulling crackers, Nigel is preparing the next day ratings. Perhaps if the Mail ever put him out to grass and he has more time we'll hear more from him - but then you won't have his daily ratings! - Stef)

I can understand Ray Webster's frustration with so many computer letters, technology has also overtaken me. I picked up a magazine at the newsagents recently named *Windows*, I thought it was about double glazing.

It is up to the pen and inkers to get cracking and send in your pet plans. Your ideas are bound to be better than many of the systems on the market at present, I saw one that promised a winner a day and gave a long list of daily winners. It turned out to be a stop at winner on about six selections each day. How do they get away with it? Because the mugs fall for it.

Another was ten pages of calculations. Others are stake ideas that were discarded in the 1960's and earlier.

I liked the effort of Reg Ramsay. Nigel Taylor once said that form in races of over one mile is "a little in and out" on the flat. My studies of his ratings confirmed this.

Reg is right to select 3-y-o events, but may I suggest that those of 5 furlongs and over one mile can be discarded.

As I have said before, concentrate on runners that were 1st or 2nd last time out.

Another little tip, if the top rated was not 1st or 2nd consider the 2nd rated if it was. The period for best results is May to the end of September. Races of one mile are the best, this season once again it produced 16 winners to 7 losers for top **Formcast** rated. Remember this for next years holiday money.

This method can be used during the winter on the all weather courses, but the results will not be quite as good.

Colin McGregor has been checking **Formcast's** ratings on 2-y-o races and finds 40% top rated winners over a short period. This does not surprise me but care must be taken with so many out for the first time. Note if any juvenile out for the first time is first or second in the betting forecast. If all have form, note if the top two rated are also the first two in forecast.

T.W.Fitt mentions the **Sporting Investor**. I have about 400 issues of this great little mag that wound up in 1977 after many years. It started life as **The Betting Magazine** and I have the first few published. Like you Stef, I have not come across **Flutter**.

By the time this is read the jumpers will be in full swing with many systemites specialising in that old favourite the three mile chase. I submit the following method for these races with thanks to Ray Webster for his help with research.

Using the **Daily Mail**, back the **Formcast** top rated in three mile plus chases.

Handicap and non handicap, November to March. Providing the selection was 1st or 2nd L.T.O. Exclude Hunter and novice chases.

Some winners will be missed, but you should obtain about 45% winners and a profit.

Tom Wiggins wrote to me in defence of the "Pirates", no room unfortunately this month, but I hope to re-print it in the December issue. A member did mention Flutter in passing, apparently it was another one that went the same way as What Tipster. i.e. it survived a few months and then disappeared with everyone's subscription money.

Why can't everything in life be as reliable as a SMARTsig? - Stef

Last month we carried an article titled "Mutual benefit Club?". At the time I was unsure of the specific aim of the idea, but printed it anyway in the hope that others may see what I couldn't.

MUTUAL BENEFIT CLUB

THE RIGHT TO REPLY

Homer Simpson

My article on page 42 of the October issue attracted comments from Stef that clearly indicated that my communication was deficient in clarity. If Stef did not understand my objective perhaps many other members were similarly mystified, consequently I will make a clearer effort (hopefully!).

Suppose I have a system/selection process which produces 25 points level stakes profit per annum, after tax. If I start with a bank of £200 and bet in £10 stakes, then at the end of the year I will have won £250.

If you have a similar process that produces 25 points level stakes profit per annum, after tax, and bet in £10 units, you will also win £250 per annum.

If we unite and agree to each back all selections from both sources with £10 units from our respective £200 banks we will BOTH win £500 per annum.

If then, there were for example five of us similarly uniting we could ALL win £1250 per annum from each of our £200 banks. If we all added our winnings to our banks and increased our stakes accordingly (@ 5% of the bank) the winnings to each member could approach £20,000.

I have thought through the answer to most anticipated questions and would welcome discussion with all interested members who would wish to consider the benefits of working together with other profitable members, for mutual benefit. Telephone me direct on 01925 758756 (ansafone) for discussion.

In the words of the song "I can see clearly now". Although it must be pointed out that the speculative £20,000 mentioned depends on many factors other than a straight 25 points profit achievable by each of the participants!

- Stef

Another reply also came through on this very same subject via e-mail, the dialogue was as follows;

E-mail From MartinK

I'm sure Homer Simpson will reply to your "puzzled" comment on his article but just in case;

The thrust of Homers article is that if I have say 50 selection in a season and make a 12 point level stake profit, then if I join together with another four like minded Smarties then we will ALL have 250 selections in the year, and hence each of us will generate a larger turnover and hence generate larger profits.

My reply

You're dead right Homer did get back to me.

He has explained again and you are quite correct in your interpretation. My problem is I get very suspicious of proposals like this where members are being asked to part with their money and perhaps become too over-protective. The thing is, if anything goes wrong, then I am to blame for printing the stuff in the first place.

MartinK

Don't you have some sort of disclaimer, or is it that you feel you are still open to legal action?

Stef

It's not quite as straightforward as disclaimers or worried about litigation. Do not take this as a comment on Homer's suggestion but, I can't get away from the moral obligation I have to protect the interests of our membership who read the articles and to preserve the good name of SMARTsig in preventing dubious material appearing in the magazine.

The article was printed in the first instance because, although I somehow missed the point that Homer was trying to make, he did convince me that the idea had merit. In my conversations with Homer beforehand I made no secret of the fact that I was unable to see the merits he was suggesting, which is the reason I put my comments with the original article.

All sorts of flim-flam men (***NOT a reference to Homer***) attempt to misuse the platform that SMART has achieved, but I am in a position to police the content. Although most members are wise enough to make up their own

minds, I would feel responsible should anyone be conned out of some money because of what I had printed.

Call it over-caution on my part if you will, and I know I'll probably get caught one day, but, in the meantime, I treat everything out of the ordinary with the utmost care. Looking at Homer's suggestion with fresh eyes though, it has the merit, among others, of being a belt and braces approach, whereas one members selections could show a loss and he could still come out winning. As long as the situation did not arise where the same name always came bottom of the successful selection league.

MartinK

I was clarifying Homers article, not agreeing with it, although with the right people it has, as you say, merit.

Stef

But on the down side.

What would your reaction be if as a member of a 5 man syndicate, your selections made the best profits? You would be subsidising the rest.

MartinK

As long as the other members made a post tax profit, even less than mine, my bank would still grow faster than with only my selections, hence the "Mutual Benefit" in the title.

Stef

Is it a charter that would attract people who were unsure of their own abilities? Hoping to feed off the others. One man could operate this on his own using 4 or 5 different systems.

MartinK

Yes I'm sure some already do, but this can itself be viewed as a single system to be combined with other peoples systems, since at the sharp end all that is seen is a series of selections.

Stef

If you have a successful approach, of which you are confident, then why not simply increase stakes by 4 or 5?

MartinK

You need an initial starting bank of 4 to 5 times the size.

Stef

Am I still missing the point if I foresee potential disagreement and arguments?

MartinK

There are lots of problems, the main one being trust, which quite rightly in this sphere needs to be earned. Imagine hearing your selections being given out on an 0891 number!

What would probably need to happen, as with most systems, is a trial period - a year in my view would be needed. That takes patience and might weed out the less genuine amongst us. If any of the members wanted to bet during this period they could do so at their own risk.

The biggest problem is deciding the percentage stake which is related to the longest expected losing runs, which means that any systems included need to have been in existence, and use, for at least a year, preferably more.



In conversation with Homer since, he has in fact suggested a trial period for interested parties where things could be discovered and ironed out. A trial period by the way that would involve no financial risk to the participants.

- Stef

SMARTsig E-MAIL change of address

For members who have the facility my e-mail address has now changed to;

smartsig@dircon.co.uk

While on the subject of electronic mail. It has been suggested that it would be useful to compile a list of all members who have email addresses.

I know we have more than a few, but I must admit to not having kept records of you all. **PLEASE CONTACT ME BY E-MAIL** to remind me who you are and of your email address. Identify your main area(s) of interest using up to 6 or 7 words, and let me know if you wish the address to be kept private.

Addresses **that are not** marked as private will be circulated to other SMARTies via e-mail. They will NOT be published in the magazine.

THE 1995/96 SMARTSIG AND



**RACING
WINNER**

COMPUTER CHALLENGE RESULTS

The first monthly period of our second Computer Challenge has tempted eight programs to join in to date, with wide ranging numbers of selections and varying degrees of success. Very early days yet, but we can announce our first monthly winner.

SMARTSIG / RACING WINNER MONTHLY AWARDS

Month 1 - Oct 1 1995 to Oct 26 1995

<i>Placed</i>	<i>Program</i>	<i>After tax profit</i>
1ST PRIZE	GENESIS	+14%
2ND PRIZE	CHASERACE	+13%
3RD PRIZE	- - - NO QUALIFIER - - -	

The full up to date table is as follows;

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program	No of bets	Total stakes (tax paid)	profit/loss	percentage
Genesis	47	51.70	+7.40	+14%
ChaserAce	29	180.40	+24.21	+13%
Pricerite	14	19.80	-2.93	-15%
Horse Sense V3	4	20.90	-3.40	-16%
The Sword	23	116.60	-26.08	-22%
Shield NH	7	8.80	-3.18	-36%
Shield Flat	9	11.00	-6.50	-59%
Pro Punter	1	2.20	-2.20	-100%

A full analysis of the first months betting activity is listed below;

GENESIS
305 Kings Road, BRADFORD. BD2 1NW
retail £55.00, Price to SMARTsig members £20.00

DATE	MEETING	Selection	BET DETAILS						THIS MONTH			
			Stk	+tax	Type	Plcd-Rnnrs	Odds	Rtn	Stakes	Balanc	%profit	
1	01-Oct	Hay 2.30	Embyonic	1	1.1	w	13-13	4/1	0.00	1.10	-1.10	-100%
2		Bri 3.15	Casual Water	1	1.1	w	1-11	9/1	10.00	2.20	7.80	355%
3		Long 3.50	Lammtarra	1	1.1	w	1-16	21/10	3.10	3.30	9.80	297%
		Hay 2.30	Embronic		0	dbles	13-13	4/1		3.30	9.80	297%
			Kalou		0	any 1	2-13	8/1		3.30	9.80	297%
		Bri 3.15	Casual Water		0	from each pair	1-11	9/1		3.30	9.80	297%
7			Glide Path	4	4.4		9-11	10/1	0.00	7.70	5.40	70%
8	03-Oct	Red 3.10	Hawkiish	1	1.1	w	4-16	5/1	0.00	8.80	4.30	49%
9		Red 3.40	Rolling the Bones	1	1.1	w	7-7	40/1	0.00	9.90	3.20	32%
10	04-Oct	Yor 2.30	Cool Edge	1	1.1	w	6-8	4/1	0.00	11.00	2.10	19%
11		Yor 3.00	Royal Dome	1	1.1	w	1-22	8/1	9.00	12.10	10.00	83%
12		Yor 3.35	Sadlers Walk	1	1.1	w	7-13	7/1	0.00	13.20	8.90	67%
13	05-Oct	Yor 3.30	Sommersby	1	1.1	w	8-21	6/1	0.00	14.30	7.80	55%
		Yor 4.00	Alzanti	1	0	w	NR			14.30	7.80	55%
14	06-Oct	Asc 3.05	A La Carte	1	1.1	w	1-10	5/1	6.00	15.40	12.70	82%
15		Asc 4.15	French Ivy	1	1.1	w	3-12	5/1	0.00	16.50	11.60	70%
16		Asc 5.15	Kalou	1	1.1	w	11-15	10/1	0.00	17.60	10.50	60%
17	07-Oct	Asc 2.50	Ball Gown	1	1.1	w	8-14	11/2	0.00	18.70	9.40	50%

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18	Asc 3.50	Coastal Bluff	1	1.1	w	1-24	8/1	9.00	19.80	17.30	87%
19	Asc 5.0	Conspicuous	1	1.1	w	2-22	13/2	0.00	20.90	16.20	78%
20	Yor 3.15	Coureur	1	1.1	w	10-25	14/1	0.00	22.00	15.10	69%
21	Yor 4.15	Brecongill Lad	1	1.1	w	4-23	14/1	0.00	23.10	14.00	61%
22	Yor 4.45	RossiniBlu	1	1.1	w	12-23	8/1	0.00	24.20	12.90	53%
23	09-Oct Lei 3.00	Michellisa	1	1.1	w	3-20	12/1	0.00	25.30	11.80	47%
24	Lei 4.00	Paradise Waters	1	1.1	w	10-18	14/1	0.00	26.40	10.70	41%
25	10-Oct Lei 3.00	Rival bid	1	1.1	w	4-19	7/1	0.00	27.50	9.60	35%
26	Chep 5.15	Tinker Osmaston	1	1.1	w	1-19	12/1	13.00	28.60	21.50	75%
27	11-Oct Hay 3.00	First Veil	1	1.1	w	13-24	14/1	0.00	29.70	20.40	69%
28	12-Oct Newm 130	Bal harbour	1	1.1	w	1-9	5/2	3.50	30.80	22.80	74%
29	Newm 340	Soviet Line	1	1.1	w	2-8	7/1	0.00	31.90	21.70	68%
30	13-Oct Newm 235	Lap of Luxury	1	1.1	w	2-8	4/1	0.00	33.00	20.60	62%
31	Newm 450	Boundary Express	1	1.1	w	4-7	3/1	0.00	34.10	19.50	57%
32	14-Oct Newm 145	Scaraben	1	1.1	w	15-23	6/1	0.00	35.20	18.40	52%
33	Newm 300	Saleel	1	1.1	w	5-21	5/1	0.00	36.30	17.30	48%
34	Newm 4.45	Royal Figurine	1	1.1	w	1-12	9/2	5.50	37.40	21.70	58%
35	16-Oct Pont 2.30	Hawkish	1	1.1	w	2-17	7/2	0.00	38.50	20.60	54%
36	Pont 4.30	Chadwell Hall	1	1.1	w	8-16	7/2	0.00	39.60	19.50	49%
37	17-Oct Chep 2.30	Intiaash	1	1.1	w	13-20	10/1	0.00	40.70	18.40	45%
38	Chep 5.00	Soviet Bride	1	1.1	w	7-18	14/1	0.00	41.80	17.30	41%
39	18-Oct Yarm 2.30	Queens Insignia	1	1.1	w	13-19	11/4	0.00	42.90	16.20	38%
40	Yarm 5.00	Keston Pond	1	1.1	w	12-18	7/1	0.00	44.00	15.10	34%
41	19-Oct Newb 3.10	Brandon Magic	1	1.1	w	3-9	4/1	0.00	45.10	14.00	31%
42	Newb 3.40	Cyrano's Lad	1	1.1	w	14-16	16/1	0.00	46.20	12.90	28%
43	20-Oct Donc 2.30	Floating Line	1	1.1	w	12-13	11/2	0.00	47.30	11.80	25%
44		Berkley Bounder	1	1.1	w	13-13	14/1	0.00	48.40	10.70	22%
45	21-Oct Newb 130	SecondCh.	1	1.1	w	4-12	7/1	0.00	49.50	9.60	19%
46	Newb 230	Alriffa	1	1.1	w	6-12	9/1	0.00	50.60	8.50	17%
47	Donc 240	Coffee n Cream	1	1.1	w	2-10	9/1	0.00	51.70	7.40	14%

CHASER ACE
4 Angel Hill TIVERTON Devon. EX16 6PE. 0802 223 447
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DATE	MEETING	Selection	BET DETAILS						THIS MONTH			
			Stk	+tax	Type	Plod-Rnrrs	Odds	Rtn	Stakes	Balanc	%profit	
1	02-Oct	Font 3.30	Magsood	4	4.4	w	4-10	3/1	0.00	4.40	-4.40	-100%
2	04-Oct	MRas 3.45	Bertone	5	5.5	w	1-9	4/7	7.86	9.90	-2.04	-21%
3	05-Oct	Winc 3.40	Wise Approach	5	5.5	w	1-6	4/5	9.00	15.40	1.46	9%
4	07-Oct	Bang 2.35	Dr Rocket	5	5.5	w	3-4	10/3	0.00	20.90	-4.04	-19%
		Bang 2.35	Dr Rocket			reversed	3-4	10/3		20.90	-4.04	-19%
5			James the First	5	11	forecast	1-4	15/8	0.00	31.90	-15.04	-47%
6	Bang 3.40	Stop the Waller	5	5.5	w	1-5	15/2	42.50		37.40	21.96	59%
7	Worc 4.00	Ask the Governor	5	5.5	w	1-5	11/4	18.75		42.90	35.21	82%
8	Bang 4.15	Addington Boy	5	5.5	w	1-11	Evs	10.00		48.40	39.71	82%
9	14-Oct	Kemp 2.15	Drumstick	5	5.5	w	4-5	13/2	0.00	53.90	34.21	63%
10		Kemp 3.55	General Rusty	10	11	w	1-9	2/1	30.00	64.90	53.21	82%
11		Strat 3.25	Glemot	5	5.5	w	2-7	7/4	0.00	70.40	47.71	68%
12		Strat 5.05	Starlap	5	5.5	w	3-5	3/1	0.00	75.90	42.21	56%
13	17-Oct	Plum 3.45	Oh So Handy	5	5.5	w(fpp)	2-4	9/4	0.00	81.40	36.71	45%
14	20-Oct	Newb 3.10	Seven of Diamonds	5	5.5	w(fpp)	3-6	6/4	0.00	86.90	31.21	36%
15		Newb 4.10	Simply George	5	5.5	w(fpp)	2-5	5/4	0.00	92.40	25.71	28%
16		Fake 4.20	Cantor's Frater	5	5.5	w(fpp)	5-8	11/10	0.00	97.90	20.21	21%
17	21-Oct	Worc 235	Full O'Praise	5	5.5	w(fpp)	2-6	4/1	0.00	103.40	14.71	14%
18		Worc 305	Cherrynut	5	5.5	w(fpp)	1-7	9/4	16.25	108.90	25.46	23%
19		Hunt 345	Spanish Fair	5	5.5	w(fpp)	2-3	9/4	0.00	114.40	19.96	17%
20		Car 355	Ninfa	5	5.5	w(fpp)	1-6	9/4	16.25	119.90	30.71	26%
21	22-Oct	Winc 145	Banntown Bill	5	5.5	w(fpp)	1-4	4/5	9.00	125.40	34.21	27%
22		Weth 230	Silver Stick	5	5.5	w(fpp)	2-4	15/8	0.00	130.90	28.71	22%
23		Winc 245	Coulton	10	11	w(fpp)	1-3	Evs	20.00	141.90	37.71	27%
24		Winc 345	Frozen Drop	5	5.5	w(fpp)	3-6	10/3	0.00	147.40	32.21	22%
25		Weth 400	Addington Boy	5	5.5	w(fpp)	2-5	10/11	0.00	152.90	26.71	17%
26	25-Oct	Chel 255	Wise Approach	5	5.5	w(fpp)	F-3	4/6	0.00	158.40	21.21	13%

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27	Chel 405	Storm Falcon	10	11	w(fpp)	1-4	6/4	25.00	169.40	35.21	21%
28	26-Oct Strat 230	Romany Creek	5	5.5	w(fpp)		2-7	11/10 0.00	174.90	29.71	17%
29	Strat 330	Time Won't Wait	5	5.5	w(fpp)		F-4	Evs 0.00	180.40	24.21	13%

PRICERITE
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ALL PRICERITE BETS REQUIRE MINIMUM ODDS (detail under BET Type)

BET DETAILS										THIS MONTH		
DATE	MEETING	Selection	Stk	+tax	Type	Plcd-Rnnrs	Odds	Rtn	Stakes	Balanc	%profit	
	02-Oct	Font 2.30	Fairy Park	2		w(Evs)	2-7	8/11	0.00	0.00	0%	
	05-Oct	Lud 3.20	Jawani	1		w(15/8)	1-4	11/8	0.00	0.00	0%	
1	06-Oct	Car 4.00	Golden Nugget	1	1.1	w(5/4)	1-7	9/2 5.50	1.10	4.40	400%	
2	Chel 3.15	Roberts Toy		1	1.1	w(7/4)	P-4	15/8 0.00	2.20	3.30	150%	
	Chel 3.50	Egypt Mill Prince		1		w(15/8)	3-5	7/4	2.20	3.30	150%	
	07-Oct	Bang 4.15	Addington Boy	1		w(11/10)	1-11	Evs	2.20	3.30	150%	
	09-Oct	Sedg 4.15	The Toaster	1		w(2/1)	NR		2.20	3.30	150%	
3	11-Oct	Weth 4.50	Aritam	1	1.1	w(6/4)	2-4	10/3 0.00	3.30	2.20	67%	
	12-Oct	Taun 5.25	Merlins Dream	1		w(2/1)	1-10	5/4	3.30	2.20	67%	
	14-Oct	Kemp 3.20	Atours	2		w(Evs)	1-4	8/11	3.30	2.20	67%	
	Kemp 4.30	Bertone		2		w(Evs)	3-4	4/11	3.30	2.20	67%	
	Kels 3.05	Dancing Dove		1		w(6/5)	1-4	8/11	3.30	2.20	67%	
4	Kels 2.30	Donovans Reef		1	1.1	w(13/8)	F-8	5/1 0.00	4.40	1.10	25%	
5	17-Oct	Plum 4.15	Script	2	2.2	w(Evs)	3-8	5/2 0.00	6.60	-1.10	-17%	
	18-Oct	Newc 2.10	McGregor the 3rd	2		w(Evs)	1-6	2/9	6.60	-1.10	-17%	
	Newc 3.10	Sword Beach		1		w(11/8)	1-4	6/5	6.60	-1.10	-17%	
	Newc 4.10	Monkey Wrench		1		w(11/8)	1-5	8/13	6.60	-1.10	-17%	
6	Exe 1.50	Sozzled		1	1.1	w(15/8)	2-7	7/2 0.00	7.70	-2.20	-29%	
	Exe 4.20	Tour Leader		2		w(Evs)	2-5	8/11	7.70	-2.20	-29%	
7	20-Oct	Newb 4.10	Simply George	2	2.2	w(Evs)	2-4	5/4 0.00	9.90	-4.40	-44%	

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	21-Oct	Hunt 245	Sensitive King	1		w(7/4)	2-5	Evs		9.90	-4.40	-44%
8		Worc 340	Lead Vocalist	1	1.1	w(11/8)	1-4	13/8	2.63	11.00	-2.88	-26%
9		Worc 500	Royal Circus	1	1.1	w(2/1)	2-5	13/2	0.00	12.10	-3.98	-33%
	22-Oct	Weth 130	Mulligan	2		w(Evs)	1-4	4/11		12.10	-3.98	-33%
10		Winc 415	Holy Wanderer	1	1.1	w(6/4)	2-3	2/1	0.00	13.20	-5.08	-38%
	25-Oct	Chel 255	Wise Approach	1		w(15/8)	F-3	4/6		13.20	-5.08	-38%
		Chel 330	Multy	1		w(6/5)	1-5	10/11		13.20	-5.08	-38%
11		Chel 405	Storm Falcon	2	2.2	w(Evs)	1-4	6/4	5.00	15.40	-2.28	-15%
12	26-Oct	Sedg 140	Classic Statement	1	1.1	w(2/1)	1-4	11/4	3.75	16.50	0.37	2%
		Sedg 240	Camptosaurus	1		w(11/10)	2-5	10/11		16.50	0.37	2%
		Strat 130	Sam Lee	2		w(Evs)	2-9	8/13		16.50	0.37	2%
13		Strat 230	Romany Creek	2	2.2	w(Evs)	2-7	11/10	0.00	18.70	-1.83	-10%
14		Strat 300	Morstock	1	1.1	w(6/4)	2-14	6/1	0.00	19.80	-2.93	-15%
		Strat 330	Time Won't Wait	1		w(11/10)	F-4	Evs		19.80	-2.93	-15%

HORSE SENSE Version 3

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			BET DETAILS						THIS MONTH		
			Total			Plcd-Rnnrs	Odds Rtn		Acc.		
DATE	MEETING	Selection	Stk	+tax	Type				Stakes	Balanc	%profit
1	14-Oct	Kemp 2.50 Muskora	4	4.4	w		5-6	9/2 0.00	4.40	-4.40	-100%
2		Newm 415 Bahri	5	5.5	w		4-8	5/2 0.00	9.90	-9.90	-100%
3	21-Oct	Donc 415 Resounder	5	5.5	w		2-7	11/10 0.00	15.40	-15.40	-100%
4		Hunt 450 Wamdha	5	5.5	w	1-5		5/2 17.50	20.90	-3.40	-16%

THE SWORD

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retail £129.95, SMARTies price £89.95**

			BET DETAILS						THIS MONTH		
			Total			Plcd-Rnnrs	Odds Rtn		Acc.		
DATE	MEETING	Selection	Stk	+tax	Type				Stakes	Balanc	%profit
1	03-Oct	Red 4.10 Monaassib	3	3.3	w		2-4	11/8 0.00	3.30	-1.10	-33%
2	04-Oct	Yor 2.30 Verzen	3	3.3	w		3-8	7/2 0.00	6.60	-4.40	-67%
3	05-Oct	Yor 3.00 Hi Nod	3	6.6	ew	1-6		4/1 21.00	13.20	10.00	76%
4	06-Oct	Chel 3.50 Egypt Mill Prince	1	1.1	w		3-5	7/4 0.00	14.30	8.90	62%

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5	Chel 4.55	James Pigg	3	3.3	w	1-3	5/6	5.50	17.60	11.10	63%	
6	07-Oct Yor 3.45	Warning Time	3	3.3	w		2-5	2/1	0.00	20.90	7.80	37%
7	11-Oct Hay 3.30	Sebastian	3	3.3	w	1-5		1/2	4.50	24.20	9.00	37%
8	12-Oct Newm 130	Burooj	3	3.3	w		3-9	3/1	0.00	27.50	5.70	21%
9	13-Oct Newm 235	Restructur	1	1.1	w	1-8		11/4	3.75	28.60	8.35	29%
10	14-Oct Kemp 2.50	Jalcanto	3	3.3	w	1-6		5/4	6.75	31.90	11.80	37%
11	Kemp 3.20	Atours	8	8.8	w	1-4		8/11	13.82	40.70	16.82	41%
12	Kemp 3.55	General Rusty	6	6.6	w	1-9		2/1	18.00	47.30	28.22	60%
13	Newm 415	Bahri	8	8.8	w		5-8	5/2	0.00	56.10	19.42	35%
14	20-Oct Newb 2.05	Jathib	5	5.5	w		2-5	6/4	0.00	61.60	13.92	23%
15	Newb 3.10	Seven of Diamonds	1	1.1	w		3-6	6/4	0.00	62.70	12.82	20%
16	Newb 3.40	Clifton Beat	6	6.6	w	1-8		6/4	15.00	69.30	21.22	31%
17	21-Oct Donc 240	Name the Tune	3	6.6	ew		5-10	13/2	0.00	75.90	14.62	19%
18	Donc 3.10	Prince of India	6	6.6	w		3-4	8/11	0.00	82.50	8.02	10%
19	Donc 3.40	Mons	6	6.6	w		3-4	4/5	0.00	89.10	1.42	2%
20	Worc 3.40	Go Ballistic	5	5.5	w		2-4	4/5	0.00	94.60	-4.08	-4%
21	Donc 415	Resounder	4	4.4	w		2-7	11/10	0.00	99.00	-8.48	-9%
22	22-Oct Weth 230	Silver Stick	6	6.6	w		2-4	15/8	0.00	105.60	-15.08	-14%
23	25-Oct Chel 255	Wise Approach	10	11	w		F-3	4/6	0.00	116.60	-26.08	-22%

SHIELD (NH)
Elswick Enterprises 01253 698843
retail £89.99

		BET DETAILS							THIS MONTH		
		Total			Plod-Rnrs			Acc.			
DATE	MEETING	Selection	Stk	+tax	Type	Odds	Rtn	Stakes	Balanc	%profit	
1	05-Oct Lud 3.20	Badastan	1	1.1	w	3-4	4/5 0.00	1.10	-1.10	-100%	
2	Winc 3.40	Romany Creek	1	2.2	ew	2-6	7/2 1.87	3.30	-1.43	-43%	
3	06-Oct Car 4.35	Mr Woodcock	1	1.1	w	1-5	11/4 3.75	4.40	1.22	28%	
4	Chel 3.50	Egypt Mill Prince	1	1.1	w	3-5	7/4 0.00	5.50	0.12	2%	
5	Chel 4.25	Innocent George	1	1.1	w	2-4	3/1 0.00	6.60	-0.98	-15%	
6	Chel 4.55	Grange Brake	1	1.1	w	2-3	13/8 0.00	7.70	-2.08	-27%	
7	07-Oct Bang 3.40	Tug of Peace	1	1.1	w	2-5	4/5 0.00	8.80	-3.18	-36%	

SHIELD (Flat)
Elswick Enterprises 01253 698843
retail £89.99

			BET DETAILS						THIS MONTH		
DATE	MEETING	Selection	Total		Type	Plcd-Rnrs	Odds	Rtn	Acc.		
			Stk	+tax					Stakes	Balanc	%profit
1	03-Oct	Red 3.40 High Patriarch	1	1.1	w	3-7	2/1	0.00	1.10	-1.10	-100%
2	04-Oct	Yor 2.30 Pay Homage	1	2.2	ew	7-8	6/1	0.00	3.30	-3.30	-100%
3	05-Oct	Yor 3.00 Cyranos Lad	1	1.1	w	3-6	7/2	0.00	4.40	-4.40	-100%
4		Yor 4.00 Jo Mell	1	1.1	w	3-11	10/3	0.00	5.50	-5.50	-100%
5	12-Oct	Red 2.20 Trazl	1	1.1	w	2-4	13/8	0.00	6.60	-6.60	-100%
6		Newm 2.35 Seckar Vale	1	1.1	w	2-10	3/1	0.00	7.70	-7.70	-100%
7	13-Oct	Catt 3.50 Sea Victor	1	1.1	w	1-6	7/2	4.50	8.80	-4.30	-49%
8		Newm 4.50 Harry Brown	1	1.1	w	5-7	9/2	0.00	9.90	-5.40	-55%
9	21-Oct	Donc 240 Ziggys Dancer	1	1.1	w	6-10	6/1	0.00	11.00	-6.50	-59%

PRO PUNTER
0161 3300184
retail £99.00

			BET DETAILS						THIS MONTH		
DATE	MEETING	Selection	Total		Type	Plcd-Rnrs	Odds	Rtn	Acc.		
			Stk	+tax					Stakes	Balanc	%profit
1	14-Oct	Kemp 3.55 Unholy Alliance	1	2.2	ew	U-9	8/1	0.00	2.20	-2.20	-100%

Owing to the amount of magazine space these listings consume, future months may merely show a shortened progress report giving the main betting facts, summaries and relative positions.

However, the full details as above from the competition start will be kept up to date here at SMART and provisions will be made to supply this detail as a separate publication to members who request it, either month by month, or as a full end of competition report showing all bets made.

One member, Chris Whitehorn, has offered his services in supplying program output information. Should I not be contacted directly by Padraig Kirby of DFL Software - providers of Computer & Combayes, Chris will

operate the CombayesNH software, strictly applying the program rules, in order to supply the results on a monthly basis to me for comparison purposes. I will be taking up his kind offer because I can't see Padraig doing anything other than declining the chance to compete.

Chris has already devoted much time and effort in checking out the DFL products and has supplied me with the following full results;

<i>CombayesNH 94/95 complete NH season</i>	<i>July 1994 - April 1995</i>
<i>CombayesFLAT 95 (version 954)</i>	<i>March 1995 - July 1995</i>
<i>Compunter (option favourite) flat</i>	<i>June 1995 - July 1995</i>

... and he is also compiling similar results for The Sword!

My grateful thanks to him for this monumental task and the information, I will analyse these results fully and give my findings next month.

If any other members have similar records of results please send them on to me, they will make very interesting reading for the magazine.

Cross Checking

If any member has access to one or more of the programs in our Challenge, it may be useful if they could cross check one or two of the selections at random to ensure that the ones proofed to me are in fact bona fide.

Hoof V.5

On a final note, selections from a program called *Hoof V5* by Tony Drapkin (co-author of *The Punters Revenge*) is also proofing his selections to the competition. However, although I am keeping a full record of them, Tony is aware that they will not be included in the competition. This is because Tony intends to supply *only the selections* from the program (they are value based the same way as *Pricerite* in our main listing), and not the program itself for fear of piracy.

Tony admits to having had a very poor month (29 bets and overall -66%) but to his credit, had no objection to my reporting on these grim statistics, in fact he wanted me to! The selections are given free at the moment, but you do need an Internet connection - try

<http://www.cityscape.co.uk/users/gx34/hfintro.html>



Another member prompted by last months speed figure piece gives us some thoughts of his own.

MORE ON SPEED FIGURES

Turnip "T"

Dear Smartsig,
I have read the October article by Martin Kilgariff on speed figures and thought I might add my own two penny-worth.

Speed figures are perhaps the most difficult area of horse racing. I once read an article by split second proclaiming that total computerisation of speed figures was impossible. To a programmer like myself this was like a red rag to a bull and I set about writing that program to confound split second. I did not get very far and contented myself with writing a snotty letter to Raceform's letter page.

From the comments of Nick Mordin it appears that going allowances are still calculated manually. I do think it is possible to computerise speed figures and outline a possible method.

Standard times are essentially the firm foundations on which speed ratings are built. However, the statistical sample of six which the days racing provide have the effect of putting tons of quicksand on top of those firm foundations. They alone provide the basis for the going allowance.

Initially I thought that the whole subject was fundamentally flawed. I still think time is flawed but not quite as fatally. I incorporated split seconds ratings into my own and found that the results were better.

Nick Mordin talks of an inadequately sized sample but that applies much more to the mere sample of six races from which speed figures are forged. I gave up the computerisation of speed figures on the grounds that if you get two slowly run sprints in a day your figures are bound to be way out. This is because sprints are the real benchmark of time since they finish in a narrow band.

Although, I have never designed a program (essentially because I lacked a database), I did think up a method. This is a method to designate going allowances, the heart of time ratings. Firstly, the expected median time would have to be calculated. This would be the average time that that race

would expect to achieve given the class of the race and the previous ratings of the horses in the race. This would be calculated for all the races that day.

The next step would be to trawl through a list of all possible going allowances.

Take for instance a going allowance of plus one second per furlong. Logically this would be incorrect if the going was firm. However, the computer would be doing the work so there's no problem.

The essential part of the method would be to find out if the going allowance being checked is compatible with the time expected for the class of race. More to the point the exact degree of compatibility would have to be worked out, to two decimal places. This would all be done with database searches of specially designed processed files.

After trawling through the list of all possible going allowances the most compatible one would become apparent. This would be the then chosen.

The main idea behind this is that any given race should fit within a band of times. Take a sprint race. It should fit within a band of times perhaps two seconds thick. If the time plus the going allowance comes up with a figure which comes outside that band it clearly does not fit. A long distance race will fit into a much broader band so many times and going allowances will be compatible with the given race.

I talk of bands but this is only to show my point. The essential idea is to find the degree of compatibility rather than just seeing if a given series of times and going allowances fit within bands. For instance a time and going allowance which points to a very slowly run race is at least compatible with a two and a half mile race whilst it is hardly compatible with a sprint.

This method could be used to designate a base going allowance. From this slight alterations could be made to take account of wind directions and differences in the round and straight course goings. This would be aimed at fiddling about with the figures until the exact going allowances appear right.

This may seem a bit of a cop out to the scientifically minded but I am sure this is what speed figure merchants do. After all with a mere sample of six races on which to base a time rating it's far better to have a system which gives believable results.

As an after thought I also had a second idea about time. This would concentrate not on the fastest horses but on the slowest horses. This would be based on the logic that winning times concentrate on the horses which are running tactically.

However, those which are at the back of the field do not run tactically they all get knackered and run out of steam. Fast run races have strung out fields whilst slow run races leads to bunching .

I know it sounds a bit crackpot but I am sure that it has some truth in it .



Exclusive offer to SMARTies from member Ion Mills of Gamblers Book Services/Oldcastle Books.

Following on from last months article on backing more than one horse in the same race, Ion has sent a Basic listing for an amended US “dutching” program.

It prompts the user for;

- Number of horses to bet?
- Win probability?
- Odds for each horse?
- Bankroll size?
- Use Kelly bet?
 If yes - Half?, Quarter?, Full?, Own?
- Risk limit?

And prints out;

- Break even point
- Kelly bet amounts
- Expected bankroll growth
- Growth as a percentage
- Bankroll after 100 plays.

It should be quite easy to adapt the program to run for any computer type and is only about 60 or so lines of Basic code. I had no room to reproduce it here, but I will send it upon request to me at the SMARTsig address. Just enclose 2 x 25p stamps to cover costs.

Alternatively, Ion will send the PC disk for £5 inc. p&p. Cheques in this case should be made to Oldcastle Books Ltd. but credit cards are accepted.

Send to;

**Oldcastle Books Ltd., 134 Southdown Road, Harpenden, Herts. AL5 1PU
Tel: 01582 761264 Fax 01582 712244**

Constructing workable systems is a far more difficult task than it perhaps looks at first glance - even with the power of new technology to help.

RACINGSYSTEMBUILDER - AN UPDATE

Len Hutton

Several months on and a great deal of research have made me realise that to find a profitable system is not as easy as it looks. "I knew that all along" I hear you say.

I started to test the systems I had constructed on the 1995 season but it did not go as well as I would have liked. They were conspicuous by their lack of success. I am therefore waiting for the 1995 data to check them fully. As a test I constructed a number of systems based on data from 1986 - 1993 and then ran them on 1994. The results were very variable to say the least with some systems making nice profits until 1993 and then making a thumping loss in 1994.

I have to say that the systems I had originally designed were quite complex with a lot of variables. To have a very complex system in my experience is asking for trouble. It has to be said the simpler the better. I spoke to Tim Drakeford about this and he has not really used RSB to any great degree as it is an offshoot of his research. However, he is an ex-Methodmaker from Raceform Update and he feels the less variables used the more chance of a consistent profit. My conclusions are that systems are a real minefield - I still have not found a paper system which works consistently. I shall keep working on it but it is not as easy as it would first seem.

The aspect of RSB that I feel has tremendous potential is to analyse form. It has the ability to answer a huge number of questions. Whilst I do not yet possess the latest version with trainers, jockeys and breeding, I can see this has a great deal to offer. It may be that I will finally use RSB in a way not originally intended but I still feel it's worth the money.

The latest version of the software was reviewed by Andrew Barr in the Racing Post on 6th September. It is evident he is a fan of this product.

Racedata have recently announced that the cost of the 1995 Flat data will be £49. This will be available in the early days of the New Year. I personally feel this is rather expensive and that £25 would have been a more

appropriate figure. Having said that I shall purchase it to see how many of my twenty seven mutually exclusive systems I have designed make a profit (They made 600 points profit in 1994). I don't think it will be as many as I first considered - Watch this Space!

To ameliorate Ray Webster to some extent I have enclosed an analysis of the performance of the Top Weights in all age handicaps broken down by all racecourses. I hope this will keep him going for a short period. He discussed this in the May Issue.

David Sheen's system in October's Issue is a good example of the power of RSB. However, you do have to be careful. The system is an incredibly complex affair and I would defy anyone to be able to correctly check every race in the season for those eighteen opportunities. I would be concerned about a system which ignores July and November. I have looked at the system and David is quite right to ignore them in that they are unprofitable months. However, I have absolutely no idea why.

David has very properly raised doubts about the viability of the system. My gut feeling is it may well be profitable in 1995 but nowhere near the dizzy heights to which it has so far aspired. It should also be noted that the race values are erroneous in that they are based on 1985 values. To bring them up to 1995 levels you should add 63%.

Performance of Top Weights in All Age Handicaps 1986 - 1994

Group A Courses

CATEGORY	Wins	Runs	Strike%	Lsp	Lsp%	Vsp%
Ascot	20	239	8.37	-109.96	-46.01	-22.52
Doncaster	39	389	10.03	-139.73	-35.92	-15.31
Epsom	17	146	11.64	-21.07	-14.43	-6.28
Goodwood	45	310	14.52	43.31	13.97	7.85
Kempton	26	302	8.61	-104.17	-34.49	-26.56
Newbury	25	241	10.37	-35.3	-14.65	-3.66
Newmarket (July)	24	206	11.65	-42.46	-20.61	-17.33
Newmarket (Rowley)	13	208	6.25	-77.9	-37.45	-29.03
Sandown	35	298	11.74	-35.81	-12.02	-0.35
York	19	291	6.53	-151.29	-51.99	-37.15

Group B Courses

CATEGORY	Wins	Runs	Strike%	Lsp	Lsp%	Vsp%
Ayr	53	316	16.77	0.38	0.12	0.64
Chester	21	176	11.93	-11.95	-6.79	-16.58
Haydock	51	361	14.13	-32.71	-9.06	4.13
Leicester	25	204	12.25	-18.62	-9.13	1.2
Lingfield (turf)	52	384	13.54	-79.58	-20.72	-9.73
Newcastle	33	242	13.64	-42.85	-17.71	3.33
Nottingham	30	292	10.27	-10	-3.42	-11.68
Salisbury	29	269	10.78	-83.91	-31.19	-12.84
Windsor	12	165	7.27	-100.24	-60.75	-40.14
Yarmouth	36	294	12.24	-73.59	-25.03	-27.28

Group C Courses

CATEGORY	Wins	Runs	Strike%	Lsp	Lsp%	Vsp%
Bath	28	223	12.56	-58.58	-26.27	-17.54
Beverley	59	381	15.49	-88.1	-23.12	-7.73
Brighton	60	376	15.96	-80.9	-21.52	-3
Chepstow	25	217	11.52	-6.25	-2.88	-6.55
Pontefract	33	305	10.82	-106.14	-34.8	-18.9
Redcar	56	370	15.14	-33.45	-9.04	3.2
Ripon	47	270	17.41	7.84	2.9	25.65
Thirsk	29	241	12.03	-30.15	-12.51	-17.4
Warwick	37	251	14.74	-43.46	-17.31	0.99
Wolverhampton (turf)	20	153	13.07	-13.25	-8.66	-0.93

Group D Courses

CATEGORY	Wins	Runs	Strike%	Lsp	Lsp%	Vsp%
Carlisle	28	168	16.67	-27.12	-16.14	-3.39
Catterick	36	244	14.75	-28.85	-11.82	-8.25
Edinburgh	35	299	11.71	-128.28	-42.9	-32.39
Folkestone	38	289	13.15	-44.3	-15.33	-3.88
Hamilton	46	349	13.18	-73.26	-20.99	-16.74
Southwell (turf)	3	19	15.79	-1.75	-9.21	4.69
Lingfield (aw)	93	595	15.63	-79.86	-13.42	-9.88
Southwell (aw)	76	575	13.22	-71.29	-12.4	-9.58
Wolverhampton (aw)	18	143	12.59	-56.49	-39.5	-18.39



As promised last month, and as a follow up to the article "Form Study & Handicapping" by Henk Eilerts in issue 2.9, Steve Ellis shows us the nomograph and how it is used.

ADE - Nomograph

Steve Ellis

The ADE-Nomograph is a tool devised by Rem Plante and published in his book *Australian Horse Racing and Punters Guide* published in 1969. It was devised to calculate the Acceleration/Deceleration Effect (ADE) of carrying different weights over different distances.

The graph (reproduced on pages 36 & 37) has four scales as follows;

Distance

Based on common racing distances in Sydney I Melbourne in the 1960's, hence the minimum trip of 4f and the odd distances like 7f+80.

(These odd distances were removed from my reproduction - Stef)

Weight Carried

Used for calculating ADE between any two races.

Weight On-Terms

Used for calculating On-Terms weights following a race, i.e. the necessary weight change to bring about a dead-heat.

ADE

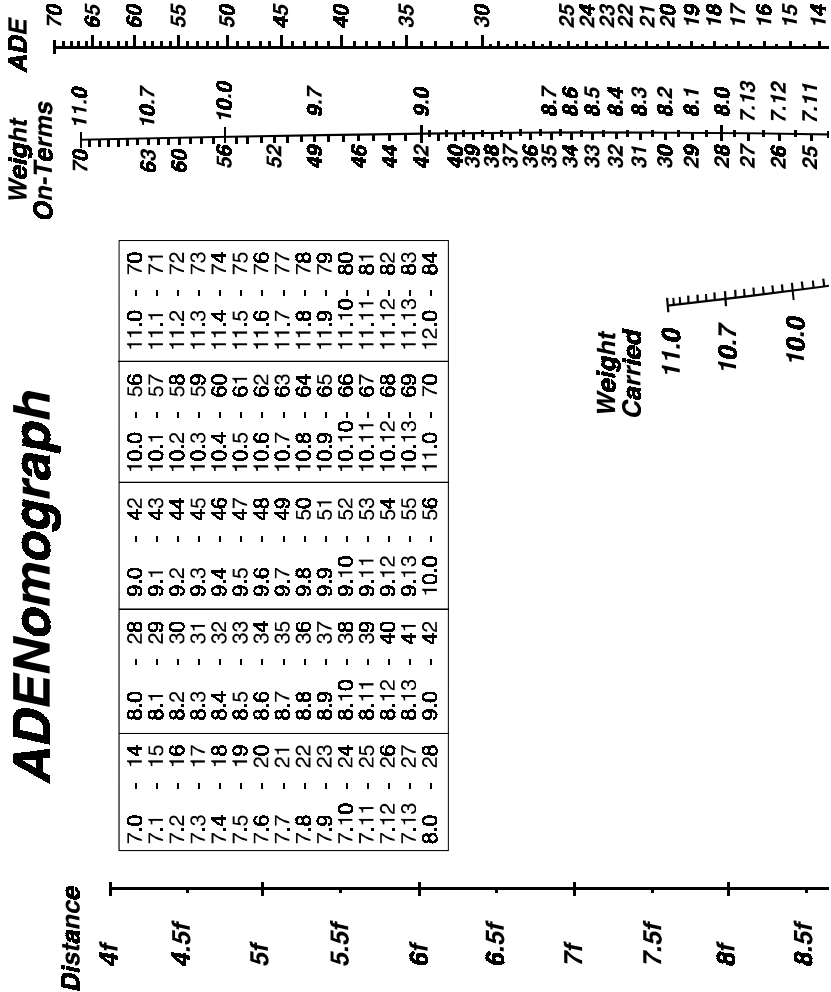
The Acceleration/Deceleration Effect scale expressed in pounds.

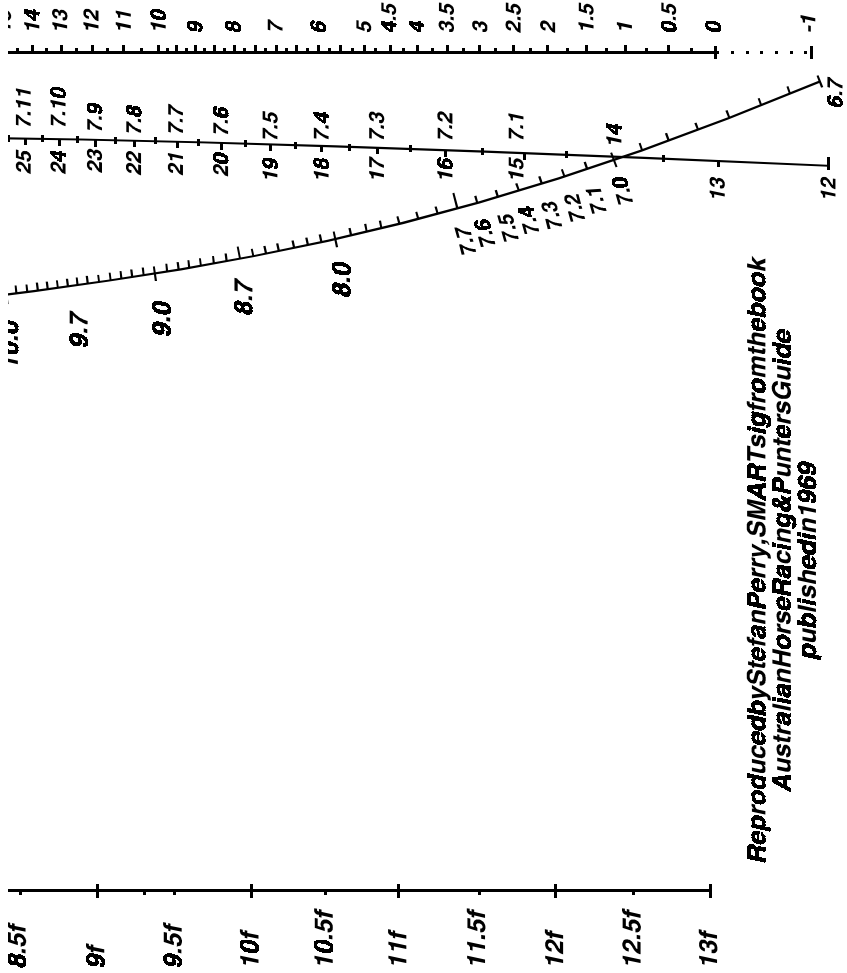
A table is also provided converting weight into pounds above six stones.

As you may gather from the two weight scales there are two ways of using the ADE-Nomograph. Firstly when assessing the result of a race and calculating the required weight change to bring about a dead-heat, hence "On-Terms".

Following is a simple example of this, and for simplicity I'll assume 3 lbs for a length for all distances and also convert weight to lbs above six stones.

ADENomograph





Reproduced by Stefan Perry, SMARTsig from the book
 Australian Horse Racing & Punters Guide
 published in 1969

Example 1:

In a 6f event **Alpha** beats **Beta** by one length and both were carrying 9st 0lbs.

Without considering ADE the race would be assessed as follows;

	Alpha	Beta
Weight	42	42
Margin		-3
On-Terms	42	39

Hence next time out if **Alpha** were to carry 9.0 and **Beta** 8.11 then in theory they should dead-heat.

However this does not allow for the acceleration effect of removing 3 lbs from the back of **Beta**. The true "On-Terms" weight for **Beta** can be calculated using the ADE - Nomograph.

Run a ruler from the Distance scale at 6f through the Weight On-Terms scale at 9.0 to the ADE scale. The ruler dissects the ADE scale at 34 in this instance. Then keeping the ruler in place on the distance scale the ruler is moved down the ADE scale by the 3 lbs, being the margin of defeat, to 31 and then note the point at which the ruler now dissects the Weight On-Terms scale. In this case it's 39½.

Therefore the true On-Terms weight for **Beta** should be 8.11½, and reassessing the race we have:-

	Alpha	Beta
ADE On-Terms	42	39½

Note:

Often the ruler will run between values on the ADE or Weight scales. In which case the value should be rounded up or down. Whichever way is your preference you should stick to it.

The other, and perhaps primary, use of the ADE-Nomograph is in assessing the ADE value from a past race to the race we are currently assessing.

Example 2:

Let's assume the handicapper has put **Alpha** up 3 lbs and that **Alpha** carrying 9.3 (43) is to meet **Beta** 9.0 (42) over 7f next time out.

Alpha's ADE is calculated by running a ruler from the Distance scale at 6f through the Weight Carried scale at 9.0 (42) and noting where it dissects the ADE scale, in this instance $5\frac{1}{2}$ for the qualifying race (i.e. the race we are basing our assessment on).

Then do the same for the race being assessed. Run the ruler from the Distance scale at 7f through the Weight Carried scale at 9.3 (45) and noting where it dissects the ADE scale, this time $7\frac{3}{4}$.

Subtract the first ADE figure of $5\frac{1}{2}$ from the latter $7\frac{3}{4}$ to give a figure of $+2\frac{1}{4}$, or a decelerating effect of $2\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.

Do the same for **Beta** - first the qualifying race -

A distance of 6f and Weight Carried of 9.0 registers $5\frac{1}{2}$ on the ADE scale.

Then the race being assessed -

A distance of 7f and Weight Carried of 9.0 registers $6\frac{3}{4}$ on the ADE scale.

Therefore $6\frac{3}{4} - 5\frac{1}{2}$ gives an ADE of $+1\frac{1}{4}$, or a decelerating effect of $1\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.

If we now apply both methods to the race we are assessing we end up with:-

	Alpha	Beta
ADE O-T (last time 6f)	42	$39\frac{1}{2}$
Weight to Carry	45	42
Relative Handicap	+3	$+2\frac{1}{2}$
ADE for 7f	$+2\frac{1}{4}$	$+1\frac{1}{4}$
Corrected Handicap	$+5\frac{1}{4}$	$+3\frac{3}{4}$
Levelled off to zero	$+1\frac{1}{2}$	0

In conventional handicapping terms **Alpha** and **Beta** would be inseparable but by applying ADE, in which we are considering the effect of weight and distance, **Beta** is shown to have a $1\frac{1}{4}$ lbs (or $\frac{1}{4}$ length) advantage over **Alpha**.

**"The ADE -
Nomograph is a
tool and like all
tools it is how it is
used that matters.
The tool alone will
not provide an
endless stream of
winners"**

Obviously this is just a simple example to explain the principles and there are many other variables that have not been considered like jockey, draw, likely improvement, fitness etc.

Although the ADE-Nomograph is intended for relative weight handicapping it may be applied to other methods. Anybody who uses the ratings of a private handicapper (e.g. Superform, Raceform etc.) can apply the ADE to these figures.

For example Superform use the best rating attained from a horse's last three outings. The ADE can be worked out between that race and the current race to see the likely Acceleration/Deceleration effect that may occur and add to (if acceleration) or subtract from (if deceleration) the final rating.

I can see some people wanting to apply the ADE alone when assessing the likely outcome of a race, without taking account of other factors. A horse be getting an acceleration factor of 10 lbs from it's last run, but if that was trailing in last in a weak claimer and we are assessing it's chances in a valuable handicap at Royal Ascot then it is not likely to find us the winner. The horse may well run that much quicker but is still not likely to be quick enough in comparison to other runners in the race.

The ADE - Nomograph is a tool and like all tools it is how it is used that matters. The tool alone will not provide an endless stream of winners.

Two photocopies of the nomograph were supplied by Steve. One from a fold out appendix at full size which unfortunately missed off the outer edges of the chart, and another reduced in size. They were difficult to obtain because it is a hard backed book.

So, the version printed here is my own re-draw of the photocopied originals as provided. You will I know be sympathetic to hear that it took several hours and fascinated to know it contains 465 separate drawing elements!

- Stef

Some other responses to last months nomograph observations by Steve Ellis

- **A fax from Australian member Brian Blackwell**

Dear Stefan.

Thanks very much for another absorbing issue of Smart, which arrived today. I was interested to read the reference to the late Rem Plante's book and ADE nomograph.

You may be interested to know that Rem's son Marcel Plante now runs Australia's No 1 computer ratings service (The Rating Bureau, based in Sydney) I am a subscriber to his service (complimentary, thank goodness) and part of the computerised set-up you can arrange the rate in ADE order, described in the manual as "measures the advantage or otherwise of the weight and distance shifts from the qualifying run to the race under review". I have found it a most useful extra "tool" in form analysis.

Rem's book that you mention is ranked alongside the professional punter Don Scott's books as the best and most in-depth to have been published on Australian horse-racing. Even today, some 26 years after it was first published, it remains essential reading. I am lucky enough to have a copy, given to me by a pal in Brisbane. The pullout nomograph chart is at the back. It could be that Marcel has copies of his late father's book still available. If anyone is interested, his address is:

Marcel Plante
The Rating Bureau
PO Box 521
Pymble
NSW 207. Australia

- One of our members, John Williams, has taken the trouble to contact Marcel Plante but the result was that unfortunately no supplies of the book are available any more. Marcel said that enquiries do still come in from time to time, but this was the first he'd had from overseas!
- Henk Eilerts, whose article in our September issue (2.9) sparked off this investigation, replied to last months story from Steve by faxing to say that the graph he used is called RAE and not ADE, so he thinks it may be different, but we'll see. ♦

Flat racing is a twelve month pursuit now that the all weather tracks are here to stay. Many shy away from the competition on this surface, but, asks Richard Green, is breeding a key to a more profitable outlook for the punter?

ALL-WEATHER SIRES

Richard Green

With the flat turf season almost over I thought I'd put together a list of All-Weather Sires in an attempt to show that breeding can be a winner no matter what the class of horse.

It is probably true that the higher class the animal the more breeding is useful as a winner-finding tool. However, by checking out the AW winners it seems that some sires do rather better than others.

The list below comprises sires who's 3 year old progeny performed very well over certain distances. This age group is worth investigation because a good many are unexposed.

Alongside the name of each sire is the distance at which their progeny made most impact. This is very important because sires often return negative figures when all distances are taken together. Separate them and a clearer picture emerges.

All runners who qualify from the list can be backed, but it would be interesting to see if further qualifying rules lead to greater profit.

You could bet all qualifiers who's trainer is in profit at the track, all qualifiers who are top rated on form/time. Or all qualifiers who are quoted in the first 3 in the betting.

Whichever way you want to play it I'm sure that this list will help you to make a profit on your all-weather bets.

Thanks Richard, I'm sure it will make an interesting diversion for many members through the dark nights and cold days of winter. Perhaps we'll have a recap come next spring when the winter AW program is finishing.

- Stef

All Weather Sires

Sire

Progeny best distances in furlongs

	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Alzao				✓						
Absalom			✓							✓
Be My Guest						✓				
Bluebird		✓	✓							
Ballad Rock				✓						
Cadeaux Geneueux				✓						
Croft Hall	✓									
Cyrano De Bergerac					✓					
Dominion			✓							
Dowsing		✓								
Formidable		✓	✓							
Kahyasi								✓		
Most Welcome		✓								
Night Shift				✓		✓			✓	
Nordico	✓									
Never So Bold				✓						
Prince Sabo	✓									
Primo Dominie						✓				
Risk Me					✓					
Robellino				✓						
Sharpo			✓							
Taufan			✓	✓						
Warning			✓							



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A demo version of the latest upgrade from DGA Software Pro Punter 2+ (DOS)

Simply send a blank disk and a stamped, self addressed envelope to;

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0161 330 0184

£99 program for just £25!

They also have a very limited quantity of shop soiled Pro Punter (DOS), the full

package, for PC and Amiga, available for £74 less than current retail price. As

the saying goes "Only while stocks last!"

After a brief mention last month of a members gripe with the Betting Manager outfit, Len Hutton sent a full documented case history of his dealings with the same computer software supplier. The details are printed here without prejudice.

AND ALL I WANTED WAS A FAIR DEAL!

Len Hutton

The amount of documentation sent to me by Len would fill our magazines pages on its own, so I am just reprinting the relevant extracts to give you a flavour of this on-going saga.

Once upon a time, (August/September 1994 in fact) a SMARTsig member, in response to a magazine review, wrote to Betting Manager to ask about their computer program. How good was it?, and other such questions, he also made a specific request regarding the advertisers reference to a planned new version.

A friendly and comprehensive reply came back dated 13th September 1994. All the questions were answered and below I re-print the paragraphs that dealt specifically with their planned upgrade.

..... (4). Version 3 is due out next spring. The most dramatic new feature will be self generating speed figures. Many people have asked me why I do not include speed figures at present. Well, first of all whose speed figures should I include and from what paper? They are all worked out differently according to the correspondent's reckoning, and vary from hack to paper. Another factor is that even Raceform Update's published speed figures are usually only the best ever achieved, and are often ten months old or over a completely different distance and going, so are likely to be an unreliable indicator to today's events, in fact they can influence some bad decisions. Not the sort of stuff to throw in at the computer end for what may be the novice punter.

Version 3 will have two ratings interfaces. One will be as it is now, full form analysis. The other will be full form analysis, self generating speed ratings and an overall rating. The speed rating part will require several inputs. Firstly the Course, Distance and Going of the horses previous race. These are simple and fast to enter from drop down list boxes. There are nine possible course classifications which are all programmed in according to distance(course, and, allowances are also programmed in to

adjust for the going. These parameters will calculate one parameter for sets of hidden tables for Flat, NH and All Weather tracks. The official clock rating must be entered, (the time slow or fast against the course and distance standard), the weight corned to get the weight adjustment, and the number of lengths or part of a length beaten. Via hidden tables referring to lbs/length and secs/furlong and several calculations taking into account all adjustments, a speed figure is thus calculated. The big advantage of my system is that it provides a uniform speed rating for all the concerned runners, regardless of where they ran or under what conditions. Handicap weight movement where applicable is also taken into account.

I have been programming the initial code and tables for this feature and the ratings produced so far have been very, very accurate in terms of results. This is a super tool, particularly for the flat and has often found some unlikely winners compared to the bare form, needless to say at juicy prices. At my six from six Goodwood day, I was pleased to see that all the winners came out with the top Betting Manager speed ratings as well as the form. I still have considerable work to do on the user interface design for ease of use, and to complete the code for the National Hunt speeds. When Version 3 arrives the program price will be going up £10, but all present users will be able to upgrade free of charge according to my twelve month upgrade guarantee.

(The final sentence was highlighted by me for clarity, it was not highlighted in the original letter - Stef)

Len ordered the software and included with his cheque he sent a complimentary letter about the service he had received. The software package arrived in due course and it was accompanied by the **Betting Manager Guarantee and Registration Document**.

This document set out in clear terms the software licence conditions and the warranty. In capital letters at the bottom of this A4 sheet was printed their policy, re-printed here;

AS IT IS OUR POLICY TO ADD NEW FEATURES AND PRACTICE A POLICY OF IMPROVEMENT FROM TIME TO TIME, WE WILL GUARANTEE REGISTERED COPIES OF BETTING MANAGER FOR 12 MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF PURCHASE, REGARDING ANY NEW VERSIONS OF THE PROGRAM, PROVIDING THE ORIGINAL DISKS ARE RETURNED. IN THE EVENT OF EXTRA DISKS BEING USED IN SUBSEQUENT VERSIONS THESE WILL BE NOMINALLY CHARGED AT

£2.00 PER DISK. A CONDITION OF THIS GUARANTEE IS THAT ORIGINAL PROGRAM DISKS MUST BE RETURNED ACCOMPANIED BY £2.00 TO COVER POSTAGE AND PACKING. VERSION UPDATES MAY BE OFFERED AFTER THE GUARANTEE PERIOD AT PRE-DETERMINED PRICES.

This was reassuring to Len who was particularly interested in the Speed Figure approach and he looked forward with keen anticipation to the new version and the upgrade at minimal cost.

Then in late April 1995, Odds On, May 1995, carried a full page advert proudly announcing the arrival of Betting Manager 3 - "with self generating speed figures"

Detail from the advertisement in May 1995 issue of Odds On magazine

"The most professional package in the round up." PC Home (5 Star Verdict). "I would not hesitate to recommend your product to anyone." A. Alexander, Glasgow. "I love the program and use it most successfully for straight forecasts." N.A. London. "Its point and click methods make it extremely user friendly . . . the Frankie Dettori of racing programs." S.G. Hull. "Many thanks for an excellent program and also an excellent backup service." I.C. Southampton.

Priority Orders sent by Recorded Delivery
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Betting Manager, 3 Pemdevon Road, 
Croydon, Surrey CR0 3QQ

Please send me **Betting Manager** and your new Colour Tutorial including 'Ten Top Tips for Better Betting' I enclose a cheque/PO for £89, made payable to **BETTING MANAGER**

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
POST CODE _____

New Version 3.0 With Self Generating Speed Figures

Just £89

System Requirements:
PC 386SX or above. Windows 3.1
9MB free hard disk space

Betting Manager

But, (there is often a "but") shortly afterwards a letter from the Betting Manager User's Club, dated 08 May 1995, arrived through our members door. Its two main paragraph headers were *First the Good News*, and followed halfway down the next page by *So What's the Bad News?*

Good News and Bad News

The good news told of the imminent arrival of Betting Manager *Speedmaster*, what the user needed to operate it effectively and much praise of its capabilities.

So What's the Bad News? went on to explain that the extra expenses incurred by the programmer (a new computer and new programming

software) and the additional time involved in the production of the latest product, meant that this was not an upgrade, but a new program. But what about the **Odds On** ad. thought our member? The text in the letter goes on to explain. I quote;

“ . . . My latest ad. was booked last December, and what with me being behind schedule due to a lot of unforeseen extra implemented design, I did try to postpone my ad to June, but the space had gone and it was too late for **Odds On** to sell the May space. Result - one rushed ad that has caused a bit of confusion. New program or upgrade? Well in fairness - new program. Some **BM2** customers do not have the extra time required for the inputs, or the extra to invest annually in **Raceform** Annuals or **Raceform Update** weekly, so I have decided to keep **BM2** going, and upgrades in the form of more courses and minor changes will be available from time to time. Betting Manager Speedmaster is a different ball game. It's a pro's tool requiring a bit more expertise. The advertised price of £89 is very much under par in all honesty, and I will be plonking it up a fair bit in July. However to those of you who have not contacted me and are therefore blissfully ignorant at the moment, I am supplying it for £69 to members of the **BMUC** and those who have purchased **BM2**, or software maintenance within the last 12 months, and I will hold this offer open to the end of June. Still, I know that you are a loyal bunch and if you enjoy using **Betting Manager 2**, you will get positively excited when you have rated a few races with this one. You do get a view from the top of the stands, and if you stick to those that are **clearly** top speed rated (they usually work out overall rated as well), any BM Speedmaster and Raceform investments on your part will only be money lent. Just to cheer you up - have a look at the betting sheet on the next page Of course I have rated about a dozen races more than this but the ratings, were too close for comfort so were discarded and only two shortish prices winners were lost”

Editors Note:

The last four lines of that extract are interesting, it refers to a list of bets made, I assume, by using BM Speedmaster (although it doesn't actually say so), which show 48 bets between mid April and mid July. The chart which is headed “SPEEDAST.BET” turns a £1,000 starting balance into a £161,178 balance by the end of the period shown!

Impressive? - yes. But, during that same period Betting Manager was proofing selections with SMARTsig's Computer Challenge. Our competition was restricted to Saturdays only, and the BM Speedmaster list was not. However, I was able to compare the Saturday selections on the

list presented from BM with what was received by SMARTsig and Raceform Ltd. in our Computer Challenge.

Saturday date	SMART Computer Challenge selections	Result	BMUC list of selections made	Results
22/4/95	Stiffellio	L	Stiffellio	L
	Monarch	W 8/1	Monarch	W 8/1
29/4/95	Two O'clock Jump	L	Cashe Fleur	W 10/1
	Desert Shot	L		
	Star Talent	L		
6/5/95	Diffident	L	Diffident	L
13/5/95	Cheyenne Spirit	2nd	Cheyenne Spirit	2nd
	Pitcroy	L	Muchtarak	2nd
	Muchtarak	2nd		
20/5/95	Hardy Dancer	L	Escarment	W 9/1
	Escarment	W 9/1		
	Ihtiram	W 8/11		
27/5/95	NO BET		Sonic Boy	W 9/1
			Don Corleone	W 11/2
3/6/95	At Liberty	W 7/1	At Liberty	W 7/1
	Marsoom	2nd		
10/6/95	Carnegie	L	NO BET	
	Dancing Sensation	L		
	Francfurter	3rd		
17/6/95	Royal Scimitar	L	NO BET	
24/6/95	Keep Battling	L	Saddlers Walk	3rd
	Royal Rebuke	2nd		
	Saddlers Walk	3rd		

Comparison of Saturday bets for the period 22 April 1995 to 24 June 1995

SMART Comp. Challenge	LS Profit/Loss (tax paid)	BMUC Speedast chart	LS Profit/Loss (tax paid)
Bets (21)	Stake 23.10	Bets (11)	Stake 12.10
Winners (4)	Return 28.73	Winners (6)	Return 54.50
Points Profit	+5.63		+42.40
% Profit	+24%		+350%

Len's response to the **BM** letter of explanation was to reply voicing his disappointment. He did not see it as fair to be asked to pay an addition £69 in view of the **BM** stated intention of offering free upgrades to users in the first 12 months. The software was described as version 3 in both the Odds On advertisement and in the first newsletter received by Len, dated 4/4/95.

In order to give a fair and unbiased report on the situation, the reply from John Hooton of Betting Manager is printed here in full.

21 May 1995

Dear Mr. Hutton,

Thank you for you letter. I appreciate that what has happened is not exactly what I told you would happen last September, so let me tell you what actually did happen.

First of all after a time, I could see that in order to incorporate the kind of accurate speed figure calculations that I wanted, I would have to write an entirely new program. As you can see from the interface advertised in Odds On the program is entirely different. This has involved about 2,000 hours of actual programming and about 3,000 hours of research for the last two years.

There is an inbuilt library of over 800 course, distance, and going combinations which are sought by the program every time the OK button is pressed, and three sets of large invisible spreadsheet type tables with over 1000 cells, which are referred to for part of the calculations. Many people have imagined that 'speed figures' meant one more number being added to a set of existing calculations, and a couple of evenings work. What I have done is a bit more than that. There are still about three hundred hours more work to do regarding the data disk and modem down load side, which should be ready in about four weeks. Much of which is to write a program to convert the data for my supplier from ASCII to .MDB format. Hardly "upgrade" material. Just a tool to enable my data supplier to make the data work in the program format.

I have already personally spent over £4,500 of my own money in tools to develop this program, and over £600 on copy protection software which has been necessary owing to the large amount of "pirate" copies of Betting Manager 2 that are in circulation. There have been some pirates selling the program blatantly, by mail shots which I estimate has cost me over £10,000 in lost sales. I am not Bill Gates and the market is far too small to support

such losses, but that's water under the bridge and is not your problem, although it adds to the cost of the new program, which I am determined will not be copied.

The program itself is far superior to Betting Manager 2, *in terms of selecting big priced winners*, and is without question the most revolutionary and most powerful racing tool on the computer racing market. (Ludgate 16/1 on Wednesday at York, Escarpment 9/1 today at Newbury, amongst other winners.) Just a moderate tenner on each of them returns more than a weeks wage for most people. You have seen other results.

In short, the user who uses this program intelligently can make a lot of money for a very small investment at the moment. The program is far too cheap and many people have told me so. It is accurate and good enough to be a serious danger of undermining the betting market in the future and must be kept out of the hands of the bookmakers 'narks' or the SP's will tumble.

In June I am increasing the price to £159 to limit sales. Why should I do that'? Because I can make 50 times the amount of money I make selling betting software, using the program myself to back professionally, which was my intention in the first place when I set out on this project three years ago, and I don't want everybody to be on the same horses, otherwise the 16/1's will only be 8/1's. This time next year, I may well disappear from the software scene altogether, or at least take a low profile. I want to have some time to make some serious money using this tool.

Most nights I get to bed little before 5.00a.m. and many nights not at all. If you find that hard to believe try phoning me at some unearthly hour, you will almost certainly find me here to answer. If the results continue as they have been going and I have enough faith to know that they will, we are in line for an astonishingly successful flat season.

Next year I may well be increasing the price of the program to not far short of a 'monkey' (£500) in order to deter all but the most serious of punters. Even at this price it will still be feasible for most investors to get their money back in a week or so, and they can have an exceptionally good income from betting for years to come.

Individuals can earn from it considerably more than I have made in the three years it has taken me to reach this 'super' software development in considerably less time.

My ad was booked before Christmas and I did attempt to cancel it because I realised that the copy might mislead a few people. but it was written well in advance of the development of the program and the unforeseen cost of it. I have not advertised next month but have published a notice in the classified section of the magazine.

As the author and originator of Speedmaster I am not actually obliged to sell the program to any one. but in order not to disappoint the many people who have had faith in me and eagerly been awaiting it, I have made the concessions mentioned in the news letter.

Over half the BMUC members have taken it up without complaint, which is fine by me as they represent my most loyal users of the program and I believe that this will be an elite group who will be making a lot of money from racing. Two weeks ago one Scottish member was inspired to look into multiple bets for the first time, and has just won over £35,500 in a 50p Super Heinz.

I am glad my message has reached somebody who has acted on the general advice that I give, it makes all the hard work worth while. There will be the full story in next months news letter if the member will allow me to tell it and refer to him by name.

What was envisaged six months ago as an upgrade, has developed into a completely new program. Even the original Bank features, etc of BM2 have been tarted up. The new program is supplied in 97 files compressed onto one floppy disk and even those who have returned their BM2 disks will get them back (with ver. 2.51) as the program, apart from the betting files, is non compatible with BM2 and as such must be supplied on a different disk, otherwise they lose BM2 altogether.

I must go now it is well past midnight and I hope to have most of the new instructions written before six o'clock. New manuals will hopefully be on the printer by Sunday night and on Monday the first of the backlog will be in the post. Maybe next week I'll get a chance to use the program myself. I have my wife to thank for doing the ratings so far. She has taken to it like a duck to water since she saw the first bet come rolling in at 16/1 and it has been a job to get her away from the other computer. Even the kids are complaining.

I am sorry if you feel you have been "gazumped", I can assure you, you have not and BM2 guarantees will still be honoured with respect to courses

or minor add-ons. One thing lead to another and I didn't have time to devote much more than half a day to the marketing side of things with respect to the new program. Consequently I made a hash of it and have clumsily caused a bit of bad feeling amongst some of the faithful few. It has cost me a lot of my time to attempt to put things right, time that I can ill afford at the moment. I work extremely long hours. There is probably 500 hours work between each newsletter, so what I say in one could well be out of date or out of context by the next.

I should put a proviso on any announcements about plans - all plans are announced in good faith, but may be changed without prejudice - or words to that effect, anyway I hope this letter will alleviate any bad feelings as far as you are concerned and even sweeten any disappointment.

Anyway it **is** a new written program, as different as two books, as you can see from the advert in Odds On, and is certainly worth more than two quid, and probably at least twice what I am asking at the moment. As I have said, I will be advertising it for nearer the true worth. probably in July and there will be no concessions to anybody!

Why should I give something new away, that has cost me £1000's, that call make the recipients £1,000's for about 30p loose change. The fact is I can't. I have made more money using it in the last month than the whole of last year selling BM2, and a chap who has been testing it for me has made over £1,000 for himself in only three weeks, with just a few bets. one of which was a lucrative £5 double.

For the time being I am willing to sell the means for anyone to do the same. Next season I may not sell it at all. I'll be too busy using it myself. If I hadn't had a few bets in the past couple of years, I would have gone broke long ago, let alone pay the advertising bills which represent at least £32 of every program sold.

The racing software market is so small as to make it hardly worth while from a financial point of view. but I have had enormous enjoyment from making some good friends, albeit by telephone or letter, and the reward for me is to hear the kind of news such as my Scottish friend has imparted. I hope you remain in the latter category and can give me some good betting news yourself one of these days.

Yours sincerely,

John Hooton



Private handicapping by the individual can prove to be very profitable, you will need to devote time and discipline to progress, but the rewards can be well worth all the effort. Here are a few pointers for further consideration.

HINTS FOR BETTER HANDICAPPING

Henk Eilerts

Many punters do not like to follow automatic systems but prefer to select their own horses. But with so many horses in training, handicapping is a full time job. So many factors must be considered that only professional handicappers, who do it as a means of a livelihood, can be expected to reach any degree of proficiency. But for the punter who likes to pick his/her own, some simple rules can help them avoid many a bad risk. If you like to select your own then these handicapping hints might prove helpful.

The principal factors in handicapping are weight, speed, consistency, etc., etc. "Weight brings them all together" is the gospel of the handicapper. Even the highest class Stakes horse cannot give too much weight away too many pounds to an inferior horse yet still win. But the better the horse, the more weight he can pack. At the same time, the longer the race the more chance that a horse will tire with too big a weight disadvantage.

There is also a difference between 'live' and 'dead' weight. A horse might pick up six pounds of live weight and win with ease, whereas if those six additional pounds were dead weight he might lose. Live weight of course is the weight of a jockey; dead weight is the lead put into the saddlecloth pockets to make up the difference between the weight a horse is assigned to carry and the lower weight of the rider.

For example, let's assume the club handicapper today assigns a horse 8-5 and the jockey to ride him weighs 7-0. Therefore the horse must carry 19 lbs of dead weight. If a heavier jockey were substituted some horses would show a better performance than with so much dead weight.

Many times I feel too much importance is paid to weight increases. Most horses can pick up five pounds or more without having it affect them too

much. That is, provided other horses in the race do not have a decided weight advantage. Age, sex and time of year also must be considered as weight factors. To make these allowances it will be well to study the weight-for-age (WFA) scale.

The important weight angle is what we call "relative weight" - that is the weight one horse should carry in relation to another. Club officials in handicap races try to juggle the poundage so as to give every horse an equal chance. They can rarely achieve this while in non-handicap events they have no chance because the imposts are determined by age or special circumstances.

A horse, as mentioned, may be able to pick up extra weight and still win but he will probably not win if that additional weight places him at a disadvantage with another runner who, apart from weight, rates an equal chance.

The professionals who work on "relative weight" allow so many pounds to equal a length, mostly it is 3 pounds, and they then handicap one runner against another. By doing so they can eliminate a number of runners, and more can be tossed out for other reasons. To finish with they may be left with just a few probables. They either back them all if the odds permit, or apply other factors to make further eliminations.

Weight is the only means by which horses can be brought together by club officials, so relative weight must be a prime factor in selecting. It can be the most powerful weapon when applied to non-handicap races. At set, or special conditions, or at WFA it is obvious a number of horses will have no chance of winning against better treated opponents.

One of the misconceptions about class is that a horse belongs in the company he keeps. For example, a horse running in a WFA race is usually classified as a WFA horse. But he may be far from it. It may be obvious then that this horse is not a top-notch. The simplest way to find his true class is to check back and find a race in which he either won or finished within 2 len. of the winner. That race shows he is in his proper company.

In handicapping the horse he should be considered the type as indicated by the race in which he made his best effort. In seeking a horse's classification the course on which he was running must be noted. For example, a horse may be a good performer on small tracks handling the sharp turns with ease and is all at sea on large courses. On the other hand a horse

may light to stretch out, thus the larger tracks are to his liking. A horse may have a paralysing finishing run, in which case a long straight is to his advantage.

Another fallacy is that any horse being dropped down in company is a good bet. Even professional handicappers talk about a horse "being dropped into a spot". More often he loses simply because he was dropped into a spot, but was only being moved down into his own company. When punters see a horse being moved down is that the "stable is shooting today". So, many times a horse dropping down may be doing so because he is not in the right company and by that time he may be off-form or becoming unsound. It may be necessary to drop him to even poorer company before he wins.

The best bet always is the horse that has shown good form in the same class.

There are times however when the drop in class angle can prove to be a valuable clue. If a horse is commencing its career, or perhaps resuming after a spell off, is deliberately raced in higher class events by a shrewd trainer. Watch for it when brought back to inferior company.

Some trainers, with a likely good prospect, will put the horses in races they cannot win ⊗ (see later the race that was won by Shikari's Son) They will condition in public to gain race experience and so be educated for the day the stable bets. In so doing the trainer will mislead the betting public which mostly overlooks this angle and judges runners on their most recent performances irrespective of the class of race in which those performances were registered.

Such trainers have the support of officials who will rarely ask a question if a horse wins when lowered to a marked extent in class. The drop in class angle does not mean so much with old gallopers who may be off-form, or with inconsistent animals. But it can be a betting sign with younger horses raced in events they could not win, selected to improve a horses condition and experience - and at the same time, hide its real ability.

In 'time handicapping', times recorded on the same day can be an important clue if you also take into account weight differences. It does not always work out, but it does supply many winners and is a good method of rating early two year-olds. In time comparisons it is best to concentrate on sprint distances. Over a short course most races are run 'flat-out' so times can be a true indication of relative speed.

Over distances of a mile or more the pace can be muddling, there can be some slow furlongs which means that the times are not a true guide.

Say that Red ran six furlongs in 1m 13s and carried 8-8. the same afternoon White ran over the same distance and with 9-0 was beaten $3\frac{1}{2}$ lengths in 1m-12s.

One week later the two horses meet, so a comparison is required. In the race to be studied both are weighted 9-0, Red is up six pounds for clocking 1-13, White has the same weight, he ran 1-12 plus $3\frac{1}{2}$ lengths. As horses cover six or seven lengths in a second his time was equal to 1-12.5.

If both horses can be relied upon to run the same time, White would have it over Red has he would have an advantage of six pounds in weight and a half second in time.

In time handicapping there are a number of other factors to be taken into account. Post positions may call for adjustments and also whether one horse was under pressure and another being treated easily. Also remember that you cannot place too much on times from heavy tracks. In fact all form on a heavy track can be unreliable unless it is being studied in relation to a race to be run under similar conditions.

Consistency is on occasions a more important factor in handicapping than speed. Once you have established the horses proper class, note the number of races he ran in his proper class and the results. A horse that shows a record of being in the money $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of all his starts within his own class is certainly a good risk if other handicapping factors are in his favour.

But no horse is a good risk if he has laid off for more than a month, the more recent a horses last race was, the better it is. A horse may have good work-outs but only the competition of actual racing gets him into the peak of his form. Even then, some horses show preferences for a particular course, just like a soccer team often does better on its home ground.

Finally, horses are temperamental and subject to all the emotional and nervous tension of a human being. A trainer may know if his horse is fit and ready, if he is entered among the right company, at the proper conditions and with the correct course considerations.

But horses have their days, just like athletes, the only difference is that horses cannot talk and tell you about it!

⊗ Example of how to find a winning horse.

29 July 1995

Shikari's Son Won 11 races between 5f and 8f and on good to firm

3 races won at 5f
 6 races won at 6f
 1 race won at 7f
 1 race won at 8f

So we can see that 6f is the best distance. we now start to weight Shikari's Son

5/7/95	7f carrying 9-7	No Chance	Comments	Held up behind leaders, shaken up, ran on.
15/7/95	7f carrying 9-4	No Chance	Comments	Chased clear leader ridden (outpaced final furlong)

Horse is now ready when coming back to 6f.
 This was the horses qualifying run.

29/7/95	Weight carried previously	9-4
	To carry today	8-9
	Relative handicap	-9

Adjustments for;

Barrier position	-1	Draw advantage high
Ground	0	Box 30 (in Formula One
Finishing run	-1	terms speaking of
Improving	-1	Pole Position)
Retarding/accelerating effect	-4	
Adjusted handicap figures	-16 lbs.	

You know the outcome, Shikari's Son won at 40/1

Paid here in Holland, on our Tote, 43.20



Following on from his article in our August issue (2.8) Alan Surtees keeps us up to date.

COLLATOR & OTHER ITEMS

Alan Surtees

Dear Stef
It's been a few months since I last wrote to you but I've been saving up a number of items and thought that I might pass them on in one go. You may recall that there were a number of avenues of research that I was following and I hope to clear these up in this letter. There are also a number of additional ideas which I thought were worth a mention.

By the way, I thought Rex Towers comments about the Collator were quite fair: it is quite complex and I have been trying to simplify it without losing its' rationale. More on that subject at a later date, perhaps.

It remains a pen and paper method up to the point of finding the top-rated horse, but to take it further requires the use of a calculator and some knowledge of percentage probabilities and their equivalent odds (see below).

My first item concerns the Collator which, as I explained in August's Issue (page 15), isn't a complete system because I made no suggestion as to how to utilise the output. I merely stated that I had found it useful in analysing races objectively and consistently in the face of a mass of information that confronts a reader of a trade racing newspaper (in my case, the Racing Post). I also find it quite quick, but then I have used it for many years to assess a race quickly when time is short.

I have recently analysed July's racing looking at all races at **all** grades, and seeing how horses rated higher than 35 performed. The results were as follows:

Summary July 1995

All races (A-G), Points score greater than 35

Average points score	37.6	
Number of winners	31.0	37.8%
Bets	82.0	
LOSS (after tax)	-£9.65	-11.8%

Races A, B and C only

Number of winners	6.0	27.3%
Bets	22.0	
LOSS (after tax)	-£9.33	-38.6%

Not very encouraging following decent results for ABC graded races in May and June, but still early days. I will report on August/September in due course.

In order to make the method into a system in the true sense, I feel that it is necessary to somehow convert the ratings into odds. I don't mind saying that, to me, this is perhaps the most difficult aspect of perfecting a system which relies on ratings. I don't think that the Collator in its present form uses sufficient information to give a reliable guide to what odds might be acceptable about a top-rated horse. I have tried various *rules of thumb* at different times, but invariably I return to an intuitive approach which isn't really as systematic as I would wish.

I read an interesting book some years ago by Malcolm Howard, who often has letters in the Racing Post. Malcolm suggested a method for turning ratings into odds, but it was quite involved and wasn't really a pen and paper exercise, although the method was fully worked through in the book using a calculator, which seems quite reasonable for non computer users. My thinking at the moment on this problem is along these lines:

Imagine a race of 5 runners, to keep it simple. By means of the Collator, we arrive at the following ratings:

A	34 points
B	30 points
C	24 points
D	18 points
E	16 points

We then look at a combination of other factors Ø in order to arrive at an additional score on a scale of about 0- 50 for each horse.

A	36
B	27
C	20
D	12
E	10

The scores are added together:

A	$34 + 36 = 70$
B	$30 + 27 = 57$
C	$24 + 20 = 44$
D	$18 + 12 = 30$
E	$16 + 10 = 26$

I then introduce the notion of a standard or base score which is defined as:

‘the minimum score required for a horse to have any sort of a chance in a particular race, bearing in mind the number of runners in the race’

Let us suppose that in the sample race the standard score is 20. All horses with a rating greater than 20 are then supposed to have a chance directly proportional to their score **above** the standard.

		% of total	equivalent odds
A	$70 - 20 = 50$	39	6/4
B	$57 - 20 = 37$	29	5/2
C	$44 - 20 = 24$	19	4/1
D	$30 - 20 = 10$	8	12/1
E	$26 - 20 = 6$	5	20/1

Total	127	100	

Ø The additional points are based on the Forecast Starting Price(FSP) in the Racing Post and the Press Selections as published in the 'Selection Box' in the same newspaper. They are awarded as follows:

<i>Odds Against</i>	<i>Forecast SP</i>	<i>Odds On</i>
25	Evens	25
24	11/10	26
23	6/5	27
22	5/4	28
21	11/8	29
20	6/4	30
19	13/8	31
18	7/4	32
17	15/8	33

16	2/1	34
15	9/4	35
14	5/2	36
13	11/4	37
12	3/1	39
11	10/3 or 7/2	40
10	4/1 or 9/2	41
8	5/1 or 11/2	42
7	6/1 or 13/2	43
6	7/1 or 8/1	44
5	9/1 or 10/1	45
4	11/1 to 14/1	46
3	16/1 to 20/1	47
2	22/1 to 40/1	48
1	over 40/1	50

The points are equal to approximately a half of the percentage probability which the odds represent.

The remainder of the points are for press selections (Postmark, Postdata and TopSpeed should be omitted since they have already been dealt with in the Collator points).

3 points for a nap or star bet, 2 points for a NB, and 1 point for a selection. 14 tipsters provide selections and in the unlikely event that everyone napped the same horse, the points score would be 42.

The main problem is estimating the standard score since the points awarded for FSP and press selections are greatly dependent upon the number of runners in a particular race. The Collator points are also influenced, but to a much lesser extent.

I would suggest the following:

No. Runners	Collator Standard	FSP/Press Standard	Total
2,3 or 4	16	10	26
5,6,7 or 8	14	8	22
9,10,11 or 12	13	5	18
13,14,15 or 16	12	3	15
17 or more	11	2	13

Odds can then be estimated for each horse in a race.

The recommended bet would be a horse that is **both** top-rated by the Collator and is available at odds more favourable than those indicated by an estimation of the odds for all horses in the race. The system is then complete and can be applied to any race.

An example:

Race 3.40: Newmarket: 28 September: (Standard Score =22)

Horse	FSP/P		T-Standard		Odds	
	Collator		Total(T)	% Total		
Kahir Almaydan	30	33	63	41	51	Evs
Lucky Lionel	22	6	28	6	7	14/1
Resounder	11	3	14	0	0	0
Royal Applause	23	22	45	23	28	5/2
Woodborough	25	8	33	11	14	6/1
			Total	81	100	

Kahir Almaydan is top-rated with the collator (30), and would be a bet at odds greater than Evens. In the event of a withdrawn horse, the odds need to be adjusted to take account of the withdrawal. A quick way of adjusting the odds is to:

1. Subtract the percentage of the withdrawn horse from 100.
2. Express the answer as a fraction of 100, and simplify if possible.
3. Multiply the odds of your selection by this fraction to give the adjusted odds.

For example, in the race looked at previously, if Royal Applause (28%, odds 5/2) was withdrawn, the adjustment would be:

1. $100-28=72$
2. $72/100 = \text{approx } 7/10$
3. (Selection is Evens) $1 \times 7/10 = 7/10 = 2/5 \text{ approx.}$

I will be reporting on the results of this method in due course. Perhaps you would prefer to wait until then before considering whether or not to include this material in the magazine.

It's my opinion that many members like to see research "in progress" as well as finished products. This can give rise to interest at an early stage or perhaps other contributions or suggestions along the same lines. Maybe someone has trodden this path before and can suggest lucrative lines of enquiry or even to warn of the pitfalls that can be met.

- Stef

Follow the Money

On another matter, I have been interested for some time in the old theory that following the money can be profitable. In order to test this, I have set up the following parameters:

1. All races in Great Britain to be examined on a weekly basis.
2. Only the betting shows reported in the Racing Post results section will be used. Morning prices and 'steamers' before the first show from the course are not included.
3. The performance of horses that attract significant market support ♣ following the opening show will be noted. Opening show must be mentioned as 'opened' or 'op'. 'In places' will not count as the opening show. If a horse is reported to have 'touched' a certain price, it will be understood that such odds were freely available and relayed by SIS to betting offices. If it is reported that a price was seen or touched 'in places' or 'in a place', it will be understood that such odds were unlikely to have been freely available and hence not relayed by SIS.
4. An analysis will be carried out to see if backing those horses produces a level stake profit at Starting Price.

♣ Significant market support is defined for this purpose as a contraction in price equivalent to at least 5 percentage probability points.

For example, a price movement from 6/4(40%) to Evens(50%) is a contraction in price equivalent to 10(50-40) percentage probability points.

The following table shows price movements equivalent to (at least) five percentage probability points:

50/1 → 14/1	7/2 → 11/4
33/1 → 12/1	3/1 → 9/4
25/1 → 10/1	11/4 → 2/1
20/1 → 10/1	5/2 → 15/8
16/1 → 8/1	9/4 → 7/4
14/1 → 7/1	2/1 → 13/8
12/1 → 13/2	15/8 → 6/4
10/1 → 6/1	7/4 → 11/8
9/1 → 11/2	13/8 → 5/4
8/1 → 5/1	6/4 → 6/5
15/2 → 5/1	11/8 → 11/10
7/1 → 9/2	5/4 → Evs
13/2 → 9/2	6/5 → Evs
6/1 → 4/1	11/10 → 5/6
11/2 → 4/1	Evs → 4/5
5/1 → 7/2	
9/2 → 10/3	
4/1 → 3/1	

At Odds-on, the price movements are the reverse of those in the table.

For example,

4/7 → 4/9 is a contraction in price which is the same as
9/4 → 7/4.

Again, I have not really carried out any detailed research on this.

Unfortunately the System Builder(which I haven't got, by the way) doesn't appear to offer any short cuts to carrying out a survey on price movements encompassing many seasons. However, it can be carried out fairly quickly manually without reference to a database, so I should have been able to get some idea whether or not there is any substance in this theory when I write to you again.

I would expect that there will be more market movements at those courses where the market is relatively weak and may have to increase the size of the **significant market moves** at such places.

Jim Streek's 3-y-o Non Handicaps

Finally, I do have a positive piece of research which I carried out after reading Jim Streek's articles about 3-Y-0 non-handicaps from 7f up to 10f. Jim uses Formcast in the Daily Mail and reported a decent profit particularly in races of around 8f.

Using Postmark of the Racing Post, I looked at all such races in May-roughly the same period that Jim used.

The results were quite good:

All 3-y-o Non-Hcaps 7f to 10f.

	Bets	Winners	Stakes(tax-paid)	Returns	Profit /(Loss)
AW	3	1	3.30	1.72	(1.58)
Turf (all bets)	55	23	60.50	79.21	18.71
Turf (approx. 8f)	24	9	26.40	29.66	3.26

For the Turf (all bets)

the longest losing-run was 6 and
the longest winning sequence was 5.

Of course more research needs to be done but it does seem to be a fruitful area for form horses, provided that May wasn't a freak month.

I'm sure many readers would like to hear more from Jim Streek or anyone else who has done any work in this area.



Whoops!

A typing mistake in last months issue got me into *Iain Simpson's* bad books. In his letter on page 57 of that issue, "Multiple Staking in the Same Race", I pressed the wrong keys when re-typing his calculations. The last of the three calculation examples should have been.

$$7/1 = 50 \div 8 = 6.25 \quad \text{so bet } 6.20 + \text{tax} = 6.28 \quad \text{to return } 49.60$$

I'd slipped "*so bet 6.25 + tax = 7.81*" into the middle, obviously wrong, members will notice that copy typing is not my forte.

The Nottingham Forest vs. Bradford City result brought our seasonal 2-2 bank into the black.

SMARTsig 2-2 DRAW SYSTEM

Selection method: Back any game involving an English or Scottish league side to finish 2-2, where the odds for that score is OVER 20/1. In effect that means with Ladbroke the draw odds must be 3/1 or above (22/1 for 2-2), with all the other firms the draw odds must be 10/3 or above (25/1 for 2-2).

**Second table of the 1995/96 football season
(from 28 Sept. '95 to 25 Oct. '95 inclusive)**

(Profit/Loss brought forward from last month -4.90)

	Date	home team	away team	best draw odds	final score	2-2 odds	balance 1pt(tp) stakes
50	28-Sep	Celtic	D Batumi	10 / 3	40		-6.00
51		Everton	Reykjavic	5 / 1	31		-7.10
52	03-Oct	Arsenal	Hartlepool	11 / 2	50		-8.20
53		QPR	Oxford	7 / 2	11		-9.30
54		York	Man Utd	4 / 1	13		-10.40
55	04-Oct	Blackburn	Swindon	3 / 1	20		-11.50
56		Chelsea	Stoke	7 / 2	01		-12.60
57		Derby	Shrewsbury	3 / 1	11		-13.70
58		Newcastle	Bristol C	11 / 2	31		-14.80
59		Nottm Forest	Bradford	4 / 1	22	28 Tote	13.10
60		Sheff Wed	Crewe	7 / 2	52		12.00
61		Southampton	Cardiff	9 / 2	21		10.90
62	07-Oct	Brechin (L)	Albion	10 / 3	01		9.80
63	11-Oct	Genoa	Luton	10 / 3	40		8.70
64	17-Oct	Crewe	Hartlepool	7 / 2	80		7.60
65	18-Oct	Juventus	Rangers	3 / 1	41		6.50
	24-Oct	Reading	Bury	10 / 3	Abd		6.50
66	25-Oct	A Villa	Stockport	4 / 1	20		5.40
67		QPR	York	4 / 1	31		4.30

(L) represents a league game

Best draw odds are taken from the Racing Post listings. For most weekend games they only show the *best* draw odds available, without stating the source. So in such cases only draw odds EXCEEDING 3/1 are selected.

***E & OE (Errors and Omissions excepted)
Errors are not included on purpose!***

Douglas Bryson has been in contact again to let me know that the dates of two of last months matches were one day out.

Apologies for that, but it doesn't make that much difference to the listing.

He also pointed out that I had apparently missed the games of Dundee-Cowdenbeath on Sept. 11 and Dundee-Stenhousemuir on Sept. 25 which were at Ladbroke draw odds of 4/1 and 9/2 respectively.

The reason for these is quite simple. I didn't know they were playing!

Not in a position to obtain a Ladbroke coupon on a regular basis I am reliant on the football service provided by the Racing Post, who display comprehensive odds from all the major coupons for the midweek fixtures, and a more limited service for the weekend coupons.

Although William Hill, Tote and Stanley send their weekend (but not mid-week) coupons to me by post, that service is not available (certainly not on a reliable basis) from Ladbroke or Coral.

Unable then to get a full picture from the coupons I am at the mercy of the Racing Post's coverage and typographical errors. (The Crewe-Hartlepool game on Oct. 17th in the list opposite was quoted the day before in the Post as Crewe vs. Huddersfield!).

The two Monday evening matches mentioned by Douglas were not featured in the Racing Post which is the reason for their omission.

I really do try to do my very best to keep this listing fair and unbiased, but the occasional errors are bound to creep in from time to time. If a match is not featured in the sports pages of the 'Post, or, if it is featured but the odds are mis-quoted, these can and will affect the listing.

- Stef



A few of the letters I receive are not intended for printing, some are private correspondence, and some merely passing a comment. Others could leave me open to litigation. But I can print one or two extracts.

NOTES & JOTTINGS

With reference to Ray Webster (Issue 2.10, Oct. '95, page 41) regarding Postdata systems, did he see the contribution in Raceform Update on Sept. 16? "Using Postdata boxes. 2-y-o races, 60% of horses must be un-raced. Add the ticks in the Trainer first time out column and the Trainer in form column. The highest total of ticks is the selection. If tied, no selection. Starting price odds of Evens to 3/1 inclusive.

This year up to August, 29 bets with 15 winners. profit to £10 level stake (tax pre-paid) £183.08" - by Martin Heath, Llandudno

John Williams

"The Jason McCaul Pricewise feature was fascinating - the Sporting Life has its own answer to Pricewise, Beat the Book by Mark Winstanley, it seems to be enjoying a purple patch at the moment. I'm currently working on/dabbling with a simple rating system involving the Life's speed figures. I find the Life easier on the eyes, although I'm well aware of failings in other departments compared with the Post. However I do prefer Dave Edwards' speed ratings. It all comes down to price and strike rate, and the bookies over-round puts things in their favour. This is Sod's Law - does this make the bookies Sod's Lawyers? If so, I give thanks to SMART for the Legal Aid."

Julian Quinn

"I now have your RaceXray program and the manual says not to use it too early or late in a season, just when is the best time to start and to stop?"

Kate Jackson

RaceXray relies heavily on a horses previous 3 races, it is better therefore that the 3 races are this seasons form. Look for a time in the season where most of the runners in a race have had 2 or 3 runs this season, they'll start showing up in November. Use RaceXray as a barometer of when to start betting, you should see the results start picking up when the form is there. Similarly when RaceXray's results start misfiring later on in the season take this as a sign to curtail activities. It usually shows a three month "purple patch" in each of the two racing code seasons.

- Stef

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, simply contact the address or telephone number accompanying the ad.

DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY WITH YOUR REQUEST

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

WANTED: To beg, borrow, buy or hire; Issues of the Sporting Life from 6th November 1993 to 23rd March 1995 inclusive.

**David Wilkinson, 15 Etherley Moor, Bishop Auckland, Durham. DL14 0JU
01388 600140**

FOR SALE: I need to raise funds for my new computer so, RacingSystemBuilder, full version 1986 - 1994. Original disks and instructions. £40

**Simon Moore, 87 Devonshire Avenue, Portsmouth, Hants. PO4 9ED
01705 296994**

FOR SALE: Books: "The racing Success System" and "How to Win Big Money Using Systems". Both by Bob Rothman. £20 for the two, or negotiable individually.

S. Howe. (Warwick) 01926 491859

WANTED: Computer Racing Form and Computer Chasing Form annuals from John Whitley

Philip Alexander (Rotherham) 01709 377628 phone or fax

WANTED: Rothmans Football Yearbooks 72/73, 74/75, 90/91 & 91/92
Stefan Perry, SMARTsig 01736 754400 phone or fax

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'	Horse 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
Profile	Horseracing Book	8		
Betting for a Living	Horseracing Book	4		
John Bellis	Tipping service	2		
Winning Line	Tipping service	7	2	20
Bet Better	Horse Computer Prog	7	4	17
Brimardon	Horse Computer Prog	1		2
Combeys	Horse Computer Prog	12	2	8
Computer	Horse Computer Prog	4	3	10
First Post Racing Ltd	Horse Computer Prog	1		23
Oracle Racing System	Horse Computer Prog	1		14
ProPunter	Horse Computer Prog	13	1	5
The Sword	Horse Computer Prog	5	2	2
22-1 football method	Football Fixed Odds		1	
James Ashley Formula2	Football Fixed Odds	3	1	17
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!

CURRENT DISCOUNTS BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS

GENERAL An effective 10% discount & free postage on any book. Book finding service. Jay Cook, The Book shop & Gallery, 40 Earsham Street, Bungay, Suffolk, NR35 1AQ. Tel: 01986 895164. Fax: 01986 895748

HORSE-RACING, Knight's Racing Sword Current version at HALFPRICE, £17.50. (reviewed last month) Elswick Enterprises, 17 Greenacres Avenue, Kirkham, Preston. PR4 2TX 01253 698843

PROFILE Reviewed last month, £2.50 discount to members, £13.50 including postage. Nomadic Press, The Courthouse, Erfstadt Court, Denmark Street, Wokingham, RG11 2AY Phone/Fax 01734 328246

SOCCER All domestic football results, league & cup. available at discount from Tony Brown, 4 Adrian Close, Beeston, Nottingham NG9 6FL 0115 9736086

Football Facts Monthly. Everything the soccer student needs to know in a regular monthly seasonal journal. £1 subscription discount to SMART members @ £17.50 for ten, including first class postage. AFS, 22 Bretons, BASILDON, SS15 5BY Phone 01268 416020 (fax 543559)

COMPUTER SOFTWARE

HORSE-RACING

Pro Punter (DOS) The current version in damaged/marked boxes. Strictly limited number at just £25 (retails at £99) See panel on page 43

Computer Raceform

"form on a disk" discounted to members. £40 per season. Coupon from us.

Horse Sense full version FREE!

RaceXray full version FREE! (for both free offers see last page)

Good To Firm Own & train your own horse HALFPRICE! at £12.50 and reviewed last month. New Era Software, PO Box 19, Livingstone, EH27 8EH 0131 3334958

The Sword Software £40 off for our members. Address and telephone as per Knight's Racing Sword, listed above.

Racing System Builder 10% off. Racedata, Upper Buckenhill Farmhouse, Fownhope, Herefordshire. HR1 4PU 01432 860864

FOOTBALL

Football Yearbook, £10 discount for Smarties at £15.00

Forth Dimention, 28 Macbeth Rd. Dunfermline, Fife. KY11 4EG Tel: 01383 721729

Pro Pools v2, Discounted to £37.50 for members.

DGA Software, 437 Kings Rd. Ashton-under-Lyne, OL6 9AT. Tel:0161 330 0184

Football data on disk, back to 1888 if you want it. Tony Brown, address as at the top of the page.

Some of you will be aware that I am the author of a computer horse-race selection program called "RaceXray". It has never been advertised, but has been reviewed from time to time, for example in Robin Lloyd's Guide to Racing Computer Programs.

It has long been a sticky situation for me. On the one hand to remain as impartial editor of SMARTsig, upholding the pledge not to use our magazine as a vehicle for system sellers, whilst selling a racing computer program of my own. Consequently it has been on and off of the market more times during the past year or so than I care to think about.

But the solution is at hand. The program will now be given away for free to all SMARTsig members with a minimum of twelve months membership** This approach hopefully removes the element of direct financial gain for myself and gives any computer owning member the opportunity of trying it out if they so wish.

Similarly, any enquiries I receive for RaceXray from non members will be offered the same deal, but in reverse. It will be sold with a one year subscription to SMARTsig, subject to the usual conditions, for £36.00. The engine behind the RaceXray software is detailed in this issue on pages 41 to 51.

!! FREE SOFTWARE !!

RACEXRAY by Stefan Perry (formally retailed at £55.00)

HORSE SENSE by Chris Mostyn (retails at £12.95)

Both or either of the above programs can be supplied **FREE*** to any SMARTsig **FULL** member**

* a charge of just £1.00 for each program for handling, media and postage.

** Full membership is held by any current member who has paid subscriptions covering a twelve month period.

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