SMARTsig magazine 2.12 - December 1995

In this months issue . . .

January '95 (issue 3.1) will be with you by or before Tuesday, January 9th 1996
(a little later than usual, my printers close down over the holiday)

SMART   Up Front

What happened to last year, did I blink? It doesn't feel as though it was twelve months ago I was wishing all members a Happy Christmas 1994. Time flies when you're enjoying yourself!

So without further ado;

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all SMARTies past, present and, I hope, future.

Although our membership has more than doubled over the past twelve months the year has not been without it's usual crop of casualties. The Racing Winner has disappeared after only a few weeks, although I am assured that it is only technical reasons keeping it off the news-stands and that it is due to re-appear in the new year.

One that does look to have died a death is Bredwinner. My sympathy to all the members who wrote to me about it, not too many were complimentary and many had not had issues delivered. I'm told that calls are going unanswered and word on the street is that it will not be seen again, I do hope all concerned get reimbursed for any subscriptions paid in advance.

Pirates & Tipsters revisited

Following on from my thoughts regarding the pirates in the editorial of issue 2.10 Tom Wiggans writes in their defence, he says;

"You have got it quite wrong! Vendors steal the systems, the Pirates pay the full asking price and then sell it on at a realistic price. The vendors are ably assisted by the Advertising Managers of all the trade papers to mislead punters.

Only recently Odds On allowed a vendor to enclose a flyer inside the current issue, they called it the Brompton Club System - 'Like having tomorrow's paper today' It conveyed to everyone that this was the horseracing system of the century.

Priced at double figures, wait for it, when it turned up it was a dog racing

system of 5-6 reversed through the card, stop at a winner. A system most people already know! The advert was cunningly worded to give every indication it was a horseracing system.

I consider myself to be a reasonably and honest member of society and have no qualms about buying at cut price rates. The vendors themselves have a simple remedy. Sell their wares at the same price as the pirates - they seem to make a good living out of it!"

So, Tom and I have totally opposing views on this subject and I don't think either one of us is likely to convince the other. We will agree to differ.

The Wizards in Oz

Not quite on the same subject, but closely related, was a contact I had with one of our Australian members, Brian Blackwell. He was kind enough to send me a selection of Oz racing papers and magazines to look through, they were very interesting and highlighted just how different the two cultures approach their subject. But this is not the point I wish to raise.

Looking through the pages, one major difference between our racing press and theirs stands out like the proverbial sore thumb. In fact it was the very first thing that struck me on first viewing - the pages are almost totally devoid of tipsters and system sellers.

Where are they all?
I'm often told that our Racing Press would cease to exist, at least at current cover prices, without the revenue gained from these regular advertisers. I contacted Brian and asked him about it, here is part of his reply;

"Thanks for the messages regarding the SMARTsig get-together. Alas, the tyranny of distance will probably prevent me attending, though it sounds as if it would be well worth travelling 13,000 km to attend!

I was interested in your comment about the lack of rampant advertising for tipping services etc. in the racing magazines I sent you. There is not a great deal, though there is some. Recently, the Victorian State Government introduced a law which requires any advertiser of racing systems, tips etc. to be 'licensed' by the police. Now while this applies only to Victoria, it means that interstate publications which are sold in Victoria face prosecution in that state unless their advertisers have the Victorian police licence!

So in fact even advertisers based outside Victoria are now applying for the licence, otherwise the publications will not take their ads for fear of prosecution in Victoria. It has meant that some of the 'shonkier' types have been eased out of the business. The Victorian police make checks of criminal backgrounds etc. As I understand it there have been quite a few knock-backs to applicants.

Over here we have an excellent private consumer watchdog based in Sydney called Punters Choice, which checks the profitability or otherwise of most systems, ratings services, guides, weeklies etc. and tipsters and produces quarterly updates and an annual book. I have posted you a 1994 annual which I think you will find interesting because it covers a lot of what SMARTsig is all about."

I particularly like the line that says "It has meant that some of the shonkier types have been eased out of the business" Just how many Shonky types do we have in the UK?

Brian is in fact the editor of an Australian Racing magazine called Practical Punting Monthly that has been around for quite a while (the one I'm looking at now is Vol 11, No. 129). It's an 'Odds On' sized full-colour glossy of 60 odd pages, is very well produced and sells at $6.00, add an extra $2 for overseas postage.

The most recent exchange rate I saw was £1 = $A2.11 - so the $8.00 is less than £4.00 - but watch out for the sneaky, heavy exchange charges! It does show extremely good taste, the November '95 issue recommended SMARTsig as an aid to betting saying ". . you'll probably love SMARTsig. ."

If your curiosity gets the better of you, you can order a copy of PPM from; Equestrian Pub. Pty Ltd., 9 Oaks Avenue, Dee Why, NSW 2099, Australia Credit card orders may be phoned to 02 9982 5933 or faxed 02 9982 5112.

- Stef

No room for our regular special offers page this month, but we have a few more spread throughout this issue for you.
No room either for the usual Merit Table or 2-2 system update (but no winners this month).
All the figures and details will be kept up to date and normal service will be resumed as soon as possible

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SMART CHRISTMAS SPECIAL OFFER

THE SCIENCE OF WINNING

A RANDOM WALK ALONG THE ROAD TO INVESTMENT RICHES

Burton P. Fabricand
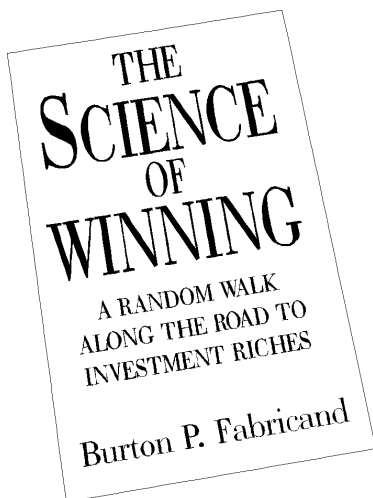
In conjunction with Ion Mills of Gamblers Book Services/ Oldcastle Books we can offer the new re-print of this title at the very special price of just;

£6.99

(post free)

The cover price is £9.99 and p&p would normally be £1.20 - giving

A SAVING OF £4.20

The author is also responsible for *Horse Sense* and *Beating the Street*, which introduced methods of investment for both share dealing and horseracing. The book's jacket proudly boasts this updated and revised version (previously published 1979 & 1983) employs *Chaos Theory, Efficient Market Hypothesis* and *The Symmetry of Free Markets* to help investors in both codes improve their investment performance.

Well that's as maybe, all fine words but what does it all mean? Although I have not finished reading it as yet, what I've read thus far has managed to hold my interest. The 242 pages are liberally sprinkled with charts, graphs, calculations and examples, in fact just the sort of thing that keep this amateur statistician happy for hours on end.

This is not reading for the faint-hearted, you will certainly NOT find the *"if BF, CD and won last time out"* stuff here! I'm sure that once I've read it all, even though I may not agree with all of the proposals put forward, already I've formed the opinion that the journey will have been well worth it.   *- Stef*

**Orders to: Oldcastle Books, 134 Southdown Road, Harpenden, Herts. AL5 1PU
Telephone 01582 761264   Fax 01582 712244
Cheques etc. payable to Oldcastle Books, All major Credit Cards accepted**

"Take care of the Pence – and the Pounds will take care of themselves" William Lowndes 1652 - 1724

BEST VALUE IN BOOKMAKING
A Personal View

Jacques Black

Introduction

Successful trading depends on securing the best prices on offer. This applies to speculation on horses or sports just as much as it does to street markets. In order to maximise profits, the trader must buy low and sell high.

I have just finished reading the recently published biography of Phil Bull (Bull : The Biography, by Howard Wright). Bull was one of the most successful professional gamblers Britain has produced this century. According to an analysis of his betting record provided on pages 36 and 37 of the book, he amassed a profit of £300,000, equivalent to £4.6 million in 1995 prices, from betting on horseracing between the 1940s and 1970s. He made profits in 24 of these years and incurred losses in only 8 years during the period. He achieved these results by applying his knowledge of statistics and mathematics to develop the Timeform system which provided a scientific method for ranking the comparative strength of racehorses.

But the point is this;

Impressive as Bull's gains were in absolute terms, they represented a percentage margin of less than 10% of the amount of money he put into action. When betting tax was introduced, most of this margin was wiped out. At the end of 1977, he complained to George Wigg that his records for that year indicated that he had won a gross amount of about £37,000, of which £17,000 had disappeared in betting taxes.

The fact that a model professional like Phil Bull could be forced into retirement by the introduction of a 4% on-course betting levy demonstrates that even an apparently small reduction in the margin earned on speculative activities can turn a profit into a loss.

In some respects, the opportunities open to a professional gambler in the mid-1990s are superior to those which prevailed when Bull retired twenty years ago. The 4% on-course betting duty has been abolished. It is also possible to bet tax-free through Channel Islands bookmakers. The off-course bookmaking market is also quite competitive, and the development of index betting (which did not exist in Bull's day) offers a range of new possibilities to speculators.

". . . Add these factors together, and it can be seen that a gambler is almost 7% better off betting with Bowmans than with the Big Three"

Nevertheless, it remains true that in order to speculate profitably, care must be taken to search out the best prices.

At the time of writing, two bookmakers stand out as offering superior value for money to their clientele.

Best Value among Fixed Odds Bookmakers

In the fixed odds market, Bowmans offer vastly superior value to the "Big Three" of Ladbrokes, Hills and Corals. For example, in the Courage League rugby union handicaps :

- they levy tax on bets placed at a rate of 8% (the actual rate) rather than the 10% charged by the Big Three. This immediately gives a 2% advantage to the gambler;

- they currently quote odds of 10/11 on either side of their handicap bets, rather than the standard odds of 5/6 offered by the Big Six. This is worth just over 2% to the punter;

- their handicap spreads are quoted in half-points, so there is no possibility of a draw. The Big Three quote in full points, and thus win both sides of the bet if the actual result is exactly the same as the pre-match spread. As this will happen in about one in twenty games, it represents an effective additional charge of approximately 2.5%.

Add these three factors together, and it can be seen that a gambler is almost 7% better off betting with Bowmans than with the Big Three.

In addition, Bowmans allow punters to bet on individual matches. All the other bookies specify minimum trebles, which means that their line has to be significantly wrong on three of the ten matches played on any weekend for the gambler to have an edge. Bowmans are showing a great deal of courage in exposing their odds-maker on every one of the individual matches played.

How long Bowmans will continue their current policies remains to be seen. One of the reasons they are able to be more competitive is that, as a credit bookmaker, they do not carry the heavy overhead associated with a network of high street outlets which the Big Three have to bear. I would also guess that, as a new entrant to the market, they are cutting their margins in order to win market share. Once they become an established player, their trading terms may become less favourable. But for the time being, they are to be commended for the superior value they offer.

Best Value among Index Bookmakers

Among Index bookmakers, City currently offer the best value. Incidentally, this applies to their quotes on financial markets as well as on sporting markets. The spreads they quote on both are consistently lower than those of IG Index, their only rival on the financial markets. They also quote lower spreads than Sporting Index on sporting events. For example, Sporting and IG typically quote opening spreads of 2.2 - 2.5 goals for their index of total goals in televised soccer matches, while City's spread might be 2.2 - 2.4. While this may not sound like a big difference, it actually means that City are earning a 10% commission on their market-making activities, while Sporting and IG are earning 15%.

". . . IG Index reserves the right to close winning accounts . . ." whereas "City Index have yet to close a winning account . . ."

Furthermore, City Index have yet to close a winning account. In a Racing Post article on November 2 1995, IG Index chairman Stuart Wheeler admitted that IG does reserve the right to close winning accounts "in circumstances where the punter may be proving too good for us."

Now, you don't have to be George Soros to conclude that there is no justification whatever for an index bookmaker to close a winning account. Index bookmakers make their money on the difference between the buying and selling prices they offer.

As long as they balance their books, they will make money irrespective of who wins. This is different from the position with fixed odds bookmakers, where the gambler who takes the odds is a direct adversary of the bookmaker who lays them.

To their credit, Sporting Index also stated in the November 2 Racing Post article that it was not their policy to close winning accounts. Hopefully, William Hill will adopt the same policy in their index operations, even if they continue with a policy of closing winning accounts in the fixed odds market (needless to say, I do not approve of the policy of closing fixed odds accounts either - but at least this practice has some business rationale from the bookmakers' viewpoint).

For the avoidance of doubt, I should emphasise that I have no axe to grind in these matters. In fact, a few months back I got it into my head that City Index chairman Jonathan Sparke was deliberately trying to talk up the total points index in the Rugby Union World Cup. I was imprudent enough to put my money where my mouth was, and sold the line heavily. Things seemed to be going OK until one Sunday morning when the All Blacks ran up an all-time World Cup record victory against Japan.

I don't remember exactly how many points were scored - I think it was something like 150 - but I do know that statistically it was more than three standard deviations from the expected maximum score in a World Cup game. In plain English, the odds against such an occurrence were 99-1. I think that game may well have represented the most expensive 80 minutes of my life, as several thousand pounds of my speculative capital were instantaneously transferred to City Index.

Even now, it hurts just to think about it. I know that there is seldom gain without pain, but the whole experience left me with an urgent need for a lot more gain and a little less pain.

Nevertheless, I have to say that City have always been absolutely straight and professional in their dealings with me, and that their willingness to quote finer margins than their competitors is to be appreciated.

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Following the theme of the contribution by Jacques Black in issue 1.5, a member investigates …

THE CERTAINTY OF PROFITABILITY
Martin A Russell

Having developed a number of apparently profitable horse racing systems with the aid of the excellent Racing System Builder software, I recently turned my attention to establishing a method for determining whether profitability could be expected on future bets.

Having reviewed the contributions made by your correspondent Jacques Black, I was concerned that insufficient importance is given to the size of the sample and to the level of strike rate.

For a punter to believe that he has a viable system, he must be confident that any profitability shown up in historical results is likely to be repeated. The statistical technique which allows for establishing such confidence is the calculation of the Standard Error of a Proportion ;

this formula takes into account two fundamentals of a potentially profitable method, namely Strike Rate and Sample Size, and can be calculated as follows:

$$\text{S.E.} = \sqrt{\frac{p \times (1 - p)}{\sqrt{n}}}$$

Where;

  S.E. is the Standard Error of the Proportion.
  p   is the Strike Rate expressed as a value between 0 and 1.
  n   is the sample size.

Having calculated the Standard Error, it can be used to moderate the historical Strike Rate achieved by the system under review to a level which can be expected, with 95% confidence, to be repeated in future samples.

This is accomplished by multiplying the S.E. by a factor of 1.96 and deducting the result from the historical Strike Rate.

The revised Minimum Expected Future strike rate can then be applied to the system's average return per winning bet to see if profitability is still achieved; if it is, one has achieved 93% certainty of profitability in the relevant system.

As an example of the methodology described above, one can take the results for StopWatch top-rated Distance selections summarised on page 29 of issue 2.10. This shows :

Sample Size (Selections)   =   92
Strike Rate (Won/Selections)   =   0.315
Average Return per Win (pre-tax),
given by

$$\frac{\text{Points Profit} + \text{Selections}}{\text{Wins}} = \frac{34.28 + 92.00}{29} = 4.35$$

The Standard Error can be calculated as follows;

$$\frac{\sqrt{0.315 \times 0.685}}{\sqrt{92}} = \frac{0.465}{9.59} = 0.048$$

This gives a minimum expected future Strike Rate of

$$0.315 - (1.96 \times 0.048) = 0.221$$

When applied to the average return per win, this amended Strike Rate provides a result as follows:

$$0.221 \times 4.35 = 0.961$$

or 96.1% Return on Stakes.

Therefore, one cannot be 95% certain of future success with this system.

It was not my intention, however, to detract from the excellent contribution made by Harry Demetriou and I chose his final table at random. My evaluation method, when applied to his selections finishing worse than 2nd last time out shows that any future sample using this system is 95% likely to show a Return of at least 111% pre-tax.

The above method does not adjust for the effect which any long-priced winners may have on the profitability of a system. Such exaggerating effect can be discounted by adopting a procedure based upon the Standard Deviation of a Win; the calculation of S.D. was explained by Jacques Black in his article in Issue 1.5.

However, lam still considering its proper application to a system sample and this will be the subject of a future contribution.

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SWAP SHOP

FREE (for collection): Racing Post Monday 24th Jan. 1994 to Saturday 7th May 1994 inclusive AND Tuesday 1st Nov. 1994 to Saturday 13th May 1995 inclusive.
Raceform Update w/e 5th Feb. 1994 to w/e 29th July 1995 inclusive.
John de Little (Bournemouth area)   01202 518664 (pm only)

WANTED: Sporting Life National Hunt Results Annual 1990/91.
Any pre-1867 copies of "Steeplechasers Past"
Kaz Lissowski (London) 0836 734574

FOR SALE: Winners Back Winners (Clive Holt) - Swiftwin Sources for Busy Bettors (Clive Holt) - How to Win at Handicap Racing (Patrick Kilgallon) - How to Analyse Form (ML Midgley) - Uncle Ernie's System (David Benedictus) - The Punter's Friend (Jack Waterman) - 100 Jumpers to Follow (1994/5) - Backing Trainers (NH 1994/5) - Backing Trainers (Flat 1994) - Odds On Companion (NH 1993/4) - Racing Post 1000 Top Jumpers (1993/4) - Every Chance at the Last (1993/4) - Planning a Pools Win (Perman)   - No reasonable offer refused
Stephen Barr (Herts) 01992 620663

With computerised form-books becoming more and more popular it appeared to be a good time to print a members review of one of them.

COMPUTER RACEFORM - A REVIEW

Harry Demetriou

Let's start at the beginning, bearing in mind that I am not very computer literate but would describe myself as knowing my way around a PC.

Having read an article by Nick Mordin in the Sporting Life Weekender (28/1/95) about computers as an aid to betting, I wrote off to Aesculus Press to purchase a book by Robin Lloyd,

Guide to Computer Racing Programs, £4-95.

On reading this there were simply two choices; OEM or Computer Raceform. OEM was described as the Rolls Royce whilst Computer Raceform was described as the Daimler by Robin Lloyd although there was little to choose between the two.

The next step was to contact both companies for literature which duly arrived within two days. Computer Raceform also contained a demonstration disk which unfortunately was defective.

My choice made easier by the responses

I then contacted both companies and asked whether I could visit them and see the software in operation. OEM refused outright saying they were too busy to allow this and that I had to pay for the trial period if I wanted to see it in operation. OEM also appeared to be noticeably more expensive and the abrupt manner of the response to my call (a potential customer who was going to be parting with what is, to me, a lot of money) resulted in the choice being reduced to one.

Computer Raceform said that I was more than welcome to visit them and were very polite on the phone so from here on in it was them or nothing. I told them that the demo disk did not work and after a short discussion managed to ascertain that certain files were missing from the disk. They promised to send another disk which alas did not arrive. I rang them again and this time they promptly sent me another disk which was fully

functioning together with a photocopied manual.

Three days before the start of the flat I decided to take the plunge and phoned them asking if I could go to their offices and pay for and collect the package as I did not want to miss the start of the flat. On the Tuesday I arrived and was given a quick demo and proceeded to part with the deposit and give them five post dated cheques but decided against the Edecs service because they told me that I would have to join CompuServe as they couldn't provide me with the service via Demon (my then current service provider). However they did also state that in August they were expecting to provide the declarations directly themselves without the need for CompuServe.

On getting home I quickly and easily installed the software on my PC following the very simple instructions in the manual.

All the update disks are installed from the main C:\ prompt in DOS rather than from Windows as apparently there can be problems doing this via the latter method. A slight inconvenience but one that I think we could all live with. These disks are sent on 3.5 inch disks and are installed quickly and easily from the floppy drive by typing a: update (if that is what your floppy drive is designated). You are then asked to confirm the letter of the floppy drive in use, after which a message appears "You have sufficient Space, Proceed Yes or No". (I assume if you do not have enough space then you would have to make some before proceeding). Nearly all the update disks arrived on the intended days (Wednesdays and Saturdays) with very few exceptions. Wednesday disks included results to the preceding Sunday whilst Saturday disks had the Mon - Wed results.

The original literature sent out was glossy well written and in colour but because of this I found the photocopied manual rather disappointing. Most of the basic information was there but I would think that a complete rewrite of this manual is necessary. Another disappointing feature of the manual is that it was obviously out of date and the reproduced copies of various screens were difficult to read and some of the features in the pictures no longer existed.
Clearer and more examples would have been appreciated. However the manual itself is sub-divided into sections which explain the various functions available within the various screens and they must be applauded for the clarity with which these sections have been written.

Essentially the software is easy to use and if you use a mouse it is quite simple and quick to move from one area to another. However the program

will crash if you try and do too many things at once. You will get a run time error message in a box which takes you out of the program. In fact these errors seem to crop up all over the place and are most annoying and are due to errors in the software and not operator induced except for the previous example given.

Edecs a must

Having originally started with manual entry of the declarations it soon became apparent that the Edecs service was a must. As the season had already started I obtained the service for the proportionately reduced price of £106. I also had to pay CompuServe £15-50 for software that I already had and subscribe to their standard service for £6-50 per month. (Fortunately I already had a modem). This in itself may seem pricey but as far as time saved is concerned it is an essential extra.

This service however is not without fault. Some of the problems encountered include having the wrong horse declared, the omission of a meeting (although they usually send this on later or the next day) and sometimes when attempting to load up the race certain horses cause the system to crash resulting in that particular race having to be skipped for analysis. When I have inquired about these problems I have disappointingly received less than satisfactory responses. (More on this later).

Versatile

The software itself is very versatile and you are able to select any horse's entire racing career in seconds (assuming that you have all the relevant years in the database) in a horse window. Likewise by clicking on any one run for that horse the entire race can appear before you in a race window, and, if you click on any horse in that race then that horse's career appears in the horse window. However the program will crash if you try and do this too many times on top of older information.

Within the race window you can move up and down through the horses and get the Raceform Notebook and Comments for that run. You can switch these off if you want but I find them useful.

If you follow horses there is also a Note facility where you can enter a note against a horse's name which is supposed to display itself in a box whenever that horses name is highlighted. Personally this would have been

useful but I have been unable to use this as described despite speaking to Raceform. The horses are easily identifiable however as they are marked.

Once you have a race window on display other features allow you to see instantly how each horse has subsequently run after contesting that race so that you can see at a glance how many have gone on to win or get placed. This feature shows all the horses subsequent runs to date. (known as the Since feature)

When loading up declarations for any race onto the screen there is also another feature called Collateral. This allows all horses in the race to be run, to be compared to each other. All form lines between all the runners are shown with priority given to direct runnings of each horse against the others and then via other common horses which may have run in separate races behind the entered horses.

The form here is expressed in terms of weight advantage of one horse against the other and shows the form-line from which it was taken. These advantages are based on Raceform's own ratings but can be changed instantly to the official Jockey Club ratings or Raceform Speed ratings at the touch of a button. These are all stored on the database and updated via the disks. You can even use your own ratings if you enter them on the database.

When declarations are called up onto the screen the going is also displayed for the race and this can also be changed instantly. Each horses previous six runs is displayed along with the Raceform ratings. The ratings can again be changed quickly by clicking on the appropriate button for Own, Jockey Club, or Speed ratings. There is also a Top button which displays the horses in order of forecast SP (solely judged on Raceform Ratings) which only works if a jockey is declared for a runner.

I found the price forecast of little use and often very inaccurate as they are a direct reflection of the Raceform Ratings. In my opinion using the ratings blindly on the flat would not be profitable, (although friends assure me they are better for National Hunt) but this was not my main reason for buying the package. The Top facility is however very useful, as it lists which horses are top for distance, course, weight and going..

In place of the ratings alongside the horses position for its last six runs you can easily display the value, distance, course, weight, race type, class, days since last run, weight, SP or class of race. You can also reveal a profile box which gives a summary of the horses performance over the last 6 runs (or

whatever you choose) which shows the horses breeding together with performance summaries for going, distance, course and weight. You can also allow for weight for age allowances here.

Wherever you are in the software you can always call up a horses career history or any past run by simply clicking on it and by clicking on a date or race get that race in the race window.

From the main menu you can also carry out very quick analyses of trainers, sires or much more slowly dams performances. The results are tabulated in an extensive summary and this is very easy to use. For trainers it gives you a breakdown by race type by jockey and by horse, whilst the sire analysis gives race type, distance, going and prize money statistics.

The main feature of the software is the Database Screen. At first sight this is quite impressive and you can carry out analyses on more or less anything you want to look up. However you should note that some of these analyses can take several hours to be completed. You can even create your own tailored lists to look at specific courses, trainers, sires, mares, horses or jockeys with this feature which is primarily accessed from the main menu. Aside from these tailored lists you can look up more or less anything in terms of distance, going, race value, type, class, sex , price, ratings etc. etc.

The database facility is the main reason that I purchased this package. Unfortunately, the best way I can describe it is to say that although there is a lot that you can do with it, there is also much you cannot. I think perhaps I was expecting that a package at this price would do anything and everything I wanted it to, but I am restricted to what is available.

Having said that, the range of analyses that are available seem endless. You can look at a very wide range of specified criteria. Basically you name it and the facility is there, although often it is not exactly what I wanted. There is however, a built-in data-export facility (i.e. free of charge), allowing those who have the appropriate skills with database programming to gain access to the data. The manual accompanying this feature is quite basic, but of course it does enable you to carry out any analysis in exactly the way that you want, and at a much faster rate, using the information from their database.

There is also a Print menu that enables any and/or all information from Raceform's database to be printed in various formats.

Occasionally the database will get stuck on a particular race or date, which I find unacceptable. The idea is for the database to save time when carrying out analyses but if it gets stuck somewhere along the line then it means that you have to re-run the analyses or sit and watch it via the Browse facility to see where it gets stuck. The Browse facility is useful as it permits the operator to view the qualifying selections, thereby ensuring that you are analysing what you want.

However, you must remember that a database is simply a tool that will give you exactly what you asked for, and if you make a mistake when setting the parameters, the results may not always be what you had in mind. Another drawback to the manual is that although it is fairly detailed in this particular section it is not as clear as in other sections.

You can have endless hours of fun with the database facility but it can make you lazy and "Hindsightis" can quite easily be a major problem when attempting to compile a profitable system.

Another big plus about the whole package is that you can enter your own ratings. This can be done at one of two places. Firstly via an individual race or (more commonly) via the Database facility on a weekly basis. There is even a table that allows you to enter your own weight allowance for distance beaten for all race distances in place of their default settings.

Should you experience problems Raceform state that you are free to e-mail or phone them for assistance. However I have found this service wanting. Whilst they are always polite they often seem either unable or unwilling to assist you with anything but the most basic problem.

I have found errors within the database itself and would imagine that the ones I've discovered are a fraction of the total. Some have already been mentioned but others I have chased up with Raceform and to be frank their responses have been disappointing to say the least.

When they have responded the answers have often been poor e.g. "It is not easy to correct errors in the database." (This I find very hard to believe as friends who are computer literate say that it would not be that difficult).

Other answers have stressed that this will not be a problem when the new software comes out next year. All in all their level of customer service has been less than I expected, especially in today's customer orientated society.

Summary

I would have to say that now that I have a commercial horseracing database package it is very difficult to envisage life without it. My knowledge of racing has been improved by it and especially my betting, because I can now access more information far more quickly than via the racing press. I can also delve as far back into a horses form that I wish and am not restricted to the last three runs as printed in the sporting press. But I still feel strongly that a better product could be produced at this price, bearing in mind I do not save any money by not getting the racing papers, I still regard them as an essential purchase. The big plus factors are the database analyses that can be carried out, the facility to store my own ratings within the system and instant access to a horse's career. Raceform comments and Notebook are also useful but I have not found a use for their own ratings.

Before subscribing next year they will have to demonstrate that they have overcome the problems with the existing software and I would expect a far better customer service than I feel I received this year. At least now Timeform have brought out their own computer database the competition is likely to result in a better product although I wonder if it will be any cheaper?

Package details:

(Cost): Full turf '95 flat season £469 (includes all 1994 Flat form Jan '94 - Mar '95). Deferred terms were also available which totalled slightly more than the above by about £15. This involved a deposit followed by five monthly payments of £80 for May - September '95 inclusive.
(Extras): Edecs Service £120 per season. Download the declarations on a daily basis from around 2-00pm the day before via email. However you have to sign up with CompuServe as a Service Provider which works out at around £6-50 per month (not including telephone calls). You will also need a modem for your computer to utilise this.

Ideally you would need at least a 386 or 486 Computer with 4MB RAM and have Windows v3.1 or later software. You will also need 50MB space on your hard disk (minimum). What you get: Initially some installation disks together with the 1994 results for Turf and All Weather and a photocopied manual (very tacky). Thereafter there was a once weekly update disk (received every Wednesday) which became twice weekly after the first few weeks (received Wednesdays and Saturdays.)

❏

THE RIGHT TO REPLY

Raceform Ltd

In replying to Harry Demetriou's review of Computer Raceform, the central part of Computer Raceform, the Form Book and Race Analysis, is extremely robust, quick and functional. In analysing a future race, accessing past races and assessing the form for a future race, Computer Raceform has been widely credited as being very functional, quick to understand, and easy to use. We also know that there are many customers who are using the software extremely profitably on a daily basis. Having said this we are not complacent and perhaps I can answer Mr Demetriou's criticisms.

The main reason he purchased the system was for one particular area, The System Analyser. Whilst the selective Browse function works well, there are a number of short-comings with the Systems Analyser. We are working on several enhancements to incorporate in Version 4.0 at the beginning of the 1996 Turf Flat Season. The new version will also have better verification routines with our central database to ensure that corrections to data can be made remotely to subscribers' databases.

On price we are reducing the Flat Season subscription in 1996 by £50.00 and the cost of the Edecs service to £1 per week. These are substantial reductions to our current competitive pricing structure. In addition existing subscribers receive a loyalty discount. Take VAT out of the cost (which regretfully has to be charged on computer software at 17.5%), and Computer Raceform plus the Edecs service is cheaper than taking a racing paper every day of the week.

On customer support, if a customer has a problem with corrupt data, a hard disk crash etc., they always receive prompt and urgent attention to rectify the problem. In addition to this current service we are taking on a Product Manager who will be responsible for the day to day operation of Computer Raceform to improve customer service and response times for more specific problems.

To conclude we look forward to welcoming Harry back to the ranks of subscribers of Computer Raceform in 1996 and hope he will find the enhancements and improvements, particularly to the Systems Analyser to his liking.

❏

THE 1995/96 SMARTSIG AND

RACING WINNER

COMPUTER CHALLENGE RESULTS

Month 2 - Oct 27 1995 to Nov 23 1995

1st prize	**PROPUNTER**	**+49%**
2nd prize	**THE SWORD**	**+10%**
3rd prize	**- - - no qualifier - - -**	

The full up to date tables are as follows (last months figures in brackets);

This Month return on investment			Overall table	ROI	
1 (8)	ProPunter	+49%	1 (8) ProPunter	-1%	
2 (5)	The Sword	+10%	2 (2) ChaserAce	-4%	
3 (6)	Shield (NH)	-6%	3 (5) The Sword	-6%	
4 (3)	Pricerite	-8%	4 (3) Pricerite	-10%	
5 (2)	ChaserAce	-13%	5 (6) Shield (NH)	-12%	
6 (-)	Solidus	-24%	6 (1) Genesis	-18%	
7 (4)	HorseSense	-45%	7 (-) Solidus	-24%	
8 (-)	Speedmaster	-51%	8 (4) HorseSense	-26%	
9 (1)	Genesis	-86%	9 (-) Speedmaster	-51%	
10 (-)	Race Sage	-100%	10 (7) Shield (Flat)	-59%	
			11 (-) Race Sage	-100%	

With 11 now in the competition, the results have been printed in full over the following pages, but the type size has been reduced in order to conserve space. They are listed in overall competition order;

Bet Number	DATE	MEETING	Selection	Stk	+tax	Type	Plcd-Rnnrs	Odds	Return	THIS MONTH Acc.Stakes	Balnc	%prof	SINCE START Acc.Stake	Balnc	%prof

ProPunter, DGA Software, 0161 3300184   retail £99.00

Bet Number	DATE	MEETING	Selection	Stk	+tax	Type	Plcd-Rnnrs	Odds	Return	Acc.Stakes	Balnc	%prof	Acc.Stake	Balnc	%prof
2	06-Nov	Car220	Romany Creek	1	1.1	w	1-6	6/4	2.50	1.10	1.40	127%	3.30	-0.80	-24%
3	11-Nov	Chel150	Bertone	1	1.1	w	1-6	11/10	2.10	2.20	2.40	109%	4.40	0.20	5%
4	18-Nov	Asc120	Run up the Flag	1	1.1	w	1-6	10/11	1.91	3.30	3.21	97%	5.50	1.01	18%
5	23-Nov	Taun200	Toureen Prince	1	1.1	w	2-7	15/2	0.00	4.40	2.11	48%	6.60	-0.09	-1%

ChaserAce, Nucleus Direct, 0802 223447   retail £99.99

Bet Number	DATE	MEETING	Selection	Stk	+tax	Type	Plcd-Rnnrs	Odds	Return	Acc.Stakes	Balnc	%prof	Acc.Stake	Balnc	%prof
30	27-Oct	Bang150	Rectory Gardens	5	5.5	w(fpp)	2-10	4/1	0.00	5.50	-5.50	-100%	185.90	18.71	10%
31		Bang220	Spanish Light	5	5.5	w(fpp)	U-9	6/4	0.00	11.00	-11.00	-100%	191.40	13.21	7%
32		Weth320	Wind Force	5	5.5	w(fpp)	1-3	4/5	9.00	16.50	-7.50	-45%	196.90	16.71	8%
33	28-Oct	Weth120	Mr Woodcock	5	5.5	w(fpp)	4-5	7/4	0.00	22.00	-13.00	-59%	202.40	11.21	6%
34		Asc130	Glemot	10	11	w(fpp)	3-4	6/4	0.00	33.00	-24.00	-73%	213.40	0.21	0%
35		Asc205	Clay County	5	5.5	w(fpp)	4-8	6/1	0.00	38.50	-29.50	-77%	218.90	-5.29	-2%
36		Warw220	James Pigg	5	5.5	w(fpp)	3-5	6/5	0.00	44.00	-35.00	-80%	224.40	-10.79	-5%
37		Kelso245	Kilcolgan	5	5.5	w(fpp)	4-7	6/4	0.00	49.50	-40.50	-82%	229.90	-16.29	-7%
38		Kelso345	Beldine	5	5.5	w(fpp)	2-4	5/4	0.00	55.00	-46.00	-84%	235.40	-21.79	-9%
39		Warw400	Victor Bravo	5	5.5	w(fpp)	2-6	15/8	0.00	60.50	-51.50	-85%	240.90	-27.29	-11%
40	01-Nov	Kemp210	Noblely	5	5.5	w(fpp)	3-7	7/2	0.00	66.00	-57.00	-86%	246.40	-32.79	-13%
41	02-Nov	MRa320	Paris Fashion	5	5.5	w(fpp)	1-7	7/4	13.75	71.50	-48.75	-68%	251.90	-24.54	-10%
42	03-Nov	Utt340	Large Action	10	11	w(fpp)	1-6	2/7	12.86	82.50	-46.89	-57%	262.90	-22.68	-9%
43	04-Nov	Chep100	Pontynyswen	5	5.5	w(fpp)	4-8	11/2	0.00	88.00	-52.39	-60%	268.40	-28.18	-11%
44		Chep200	Cherrynut	10	11	w(fpp)	U-9	11/4	0.00	99.00	-63.39	-64%	279.40	-39.18	-14%
45		Utt220	The Bud Club	5	5.5	w(fpp)	1-4	6/5	11.00	104.50	-57.89	-55%	284.90	-33.68	-12%
46		Sand240	Far Senior	5	5.5	w(fpp)	3-4	15/8	0.00	110.00	-63.39	-58%	290.40	-39.18	-13%
47		Newc245	Pink Gin	5	5.5	w(fpp)	R-4	9/4	0.00	115.50	-68.89	-60%	295.90	-44.68	-15%
48		Winc300	Wise Approach	10	11	w(fpp)	F-6	9/4	0.00	126.50	-79.89	-63%	306.90	-55.68	-18%
49		Utt350	Elite Reg	10	11	w(fpp)	1-5	15/8	28.75	137.50	-62.14	-45%	317.90	-37.93	-12%
50		Winc400	Larry's Lord	10	11	w(fpp)	F-5	11/4	0.00	148.50	-73.14	-49%	328.90	-48.93	-15%
51	08-Nov	Worc130	Act of Parliament	7	7.7	w(fpp)	1-4	13/8	18.38	156.20	-62.47	-40%	336.60	-38.26	-11%
52	09-Nov	Towc250	Over the Stream	7	7.7	w(fpp)	1-4		21.00	163.90	-49.17	-30%	344.30	-24.96	-7%
53		Kels310	Bayrouge	7	7.7	w(fpp)	4-9	5/2	0.00	171.60	-56.87	-33%	352.00	-32.66	-9%
54	10-Nov	Ayr130	The Grey Monk	7	7.7	w(fpp)	1-8	Evs	14.00	179.30	-50.57	-28%	359.70	-26.36	-7%
55		Hunt330	Kilfinny Cross	7	7.7	w(fpp)	1-5	8/11	12.09	187.00	-46.18	-25%	367.40	-21.97	-6%
56	11-Nov	MRas150	Reve en Rose	7	7.7	w(fpp)	1-6	7/2	31.50	194.70	-22.38	-11%	375.10	1.83	0%
57		Wind305	Go Universal	7	7.7	w(fpp)	1-6	9/4	22.75	202.40	-7.33	-4%	382.80	16.88	4%
58		Ayr315	Wee River	7	7.7	w(fpp)	3-7	4/6	0.00	210.10	-15.03	-7%	390.50	9.18	2%
59		MRas325	Gorby's Myth	7	7.7	w(fpp)	4-5	6/5	0.00	217.80	-22.73	-10%	398.20	1.48	0%
60	12-Nov	Font240	Frozen Drop	7	7.7	w(fpp)	2-5	9/4	0.00	225.50	-30.43	-13%	405.90	-6.22	-2%
61		Font315	No Pain No Gain	7	7.7	w(fpp)	2-7	8/13	0.00	233.20	-38.13	-16%	413.60	-13.92	-3%
62		Chel335	Doclands Express	7	7.7	w(fpp)	3-14	10/3	0.00	240.90	-45.83	-19%	421.30	-21.62	-5%
63	13-Nov	Plum140	Paper Star	7	7.7	w(fpp)	3-4	Evs	0.00	248.60	-53.53	-22%	429.00	-29.32	-7%
64	16-Nov	Winc230	Romany Creek	7	7.7	w(fpp)	3-12	2/1	0.00	256.30	-61.23	-24%	436.70	-37.02	-8%
65		Warw240	Maamur	7	7.7	w(fpp)	U-7	2/1	0.00	264.00	-68.93	-26%	444.40	-44.72	-10%
66	18-Nov	Aint1230	Linden's Lotto	7	7.7	w(fpp)	1-3	4/6	11.67	271.70	-64.96	-24%	452.10	-40.75	-9%
67		Towc130	Elegant King	7	7.7	w(fpp)	2-5	11/10	0.00	279.40	-72.66	-26%	459.80	-48.45	-11%
		Towc235	Really a Rascal	7	7.7	w(fpp)	NR			279.40	-72.66	-26%	459.80	-48.45	-11%
68		Aint250	Go Universal	7	7.7	w(fpp)	1-4	15/8	20.13	287.10	-60.24	-21%	467.50	-36.03	-8%
69	21-Nov	Hunt245	Martha's Son	7	7.7	w(fpp)	2-7	11/10	0.00	294.80	-67.94	-23%	475.20	-43.73	-9%
70		Chel300	Dextra Dove	7	7.7	w(fpp)	1-7	9/2	38.50	302.50	-37.14	-12%	482.90	-12.93	-3%
71	22-Nov	Chep120	First Century	5	11	ew(fpp)	3-9	11/2	10.50	313.50	-37.64	-12%	493.90	-13.43	-3%
72	23-Nov	Carl210	The Grey Monk	7	7.7	w(fpp)	1-7	2/7	9.00	321.20	-36.34	-11%	501.60	-12.13	-2%
73		Taun300	Sophism	3	6.6	ew(fpp)	P-12	9/1	0.00	327.80	-42.94	-13%	508.20	-18.73	-4%

The Sword, Elswick Enterprises, 01253 698843   Retail £129.95

Bet Number	DATE	MEETING	Selection	Stk	+tax	Type	Plcd-Rnnrs	Odds	Return	Acc.Stakes	Balnc	%prof	Acc.Stake	Balnc	%prof
24	28-Oct	Asc130	Straight Talk	3	3.3	w	1-4	15/8	8.63	3.30	5.33	161%	119.90	-20.76	-17%
25		Asc205	Big Matt	3	6.6	ew	2-8	7/1	0.00	9.90	-1.28	-13%	126.50	-27.36	-22%
26		Asc410	Admirals Well	3	3.3	w	1-6	6/4	7.50	13.20	2.93	22%	129.80	-23.16	-18%
27		Weth300	Cab on Target	10	11	w	1-4	8/11	17.27	24.20	9.20	38%	140.80	-16.88	-12%
28		Newm245	Bin Rosie	3	3.3	w	3-7	5/2	0.00	27.50	5.90	21%	144.10	-20.18	-14%

29	04-Nov	Sand205	Silver Groom	3	3.3	w	1-6	10/11	5.73	30.80	8.33	27%	147.40	-17.76	-12%
30		Sand240	Straight Talk	5	5.5	w	1-4	5/4	11.25	36.30	14.08	39%	152.90	-12.01	-8%
31		Sand315	Dextra Dove	3	3.3	w	1-3	10/11	5.73	39.60	16.50	42%	156.20	-9.58	-6%
32		Chep100	James the First	1	1.1	w	F-8	4/1	0.00	40.70	15.40	38%	157.30	-10.68	-7%
33		Chep200	Lindons Lotto	8	17.6	ew	3-9	7/1	19.20	58.30	17.00	29%	174.90	-9.08	-5%
34		Newc215	Astaleon	7	7.7	w	3-5	15/2	0.00	66.00	9.30	14%	182.60	-16.78	-9%
35	08-Nov	Worc130	Act of Parliament	6	6.6	w	1-4	13/8	15.75	72.60	18.45	25%	189.00	-7.63	-4%
36		Newb220	Hops 'n' Pops	3	3.3	w	1-3	4/5	5.40	75.90	20.55	27%	192.50	-5.53	-3%
37	10-Nov	Chel230	Wonder Man	3	3.3	w	1-2	6/5	6.60	79.20	23.85	30%	195.80	-2.23	-1%
38		Chel305	Unguided Missile	3	3.3	w	1-2	4/9	4.33	82.50	24.89	30%	199.10	-1.20	-1%
39	11-Nov	Ayr210	One Man	3	3.3	w	1-7	8/11	5.18	85.80	26.77	31%	202.40	0.69	0%
40		Ayr315	Wee River	3	3.3	w	3-7	4/6	0.00	89.10	23.47	26%	205.70	-2.61	-1%
41		Chel335	Straight Talk	3	3.3	w	7-8	3/1	0.00	92.40	20.17	22%	209.00	-5.91	-3%
42		Chel410	Cab on Target	5	5.5	w	4-6	9/4	0.00	97.90	14.67	15%	214.50	-11.41	-5%
	12-Nov	Font130	Polden Pride	2		w	NR			97.90	14.67	15%	214.50	-11.41	-5%
43	15-Nov	Kemp200	Glemot	5	5.5	w	2-10	4/1	0.00	103.40	9.17	9%	220.00	-16.91	-8%
44		Hay320	Full O'Praise	3	3.3	w	2-3	9/4	0.00	106.70	5.87	5%	223.30	-20.21	-9%
45	17-Nov	Asc240	Large Action	7	7.7	w	1-5	8/15	10.73	114.40	8.90	8%	231.00	-17.18	-7%
46	18-Nov	Aint250	Go Universal	2	2.2	w	1-4	15/8	5.75	116.60	12.45	11%	233.20	-13.63	-6%
47		Asc340	Sheriff	1	1.1	w	2-3	11/8	0.00	117.70	11.35	10%	234.30	-14.73	-6%

Pricerite★, 0116 2874130   Retail £29.95

15	27-Oct	Bang120	Persian View	1	1.1	w(15/8)	6-18	2/1	0.00	1.10	-1.10	-100%	20.90	-4.03	-19%
		Weth140	Simply Dashing	1		w(5/4)	1-6	6/5		1.10	-1.10	-100%	20.90	-4.03	-19%
16	28-Oct	Asc1255	Backgammon	1	1.1	w(5/4)	7-11	9/4	0.00	2.20	-2.20	-100%	22.00	-5.13	-23%
		Asc130	Glemot	1		w(13/8)	3-4	6/4		2.20	-2.20	-100%	22.00	-5.13	-23%
		Asc310	Woodrising	2		w(Evs)	7-8	4/5		2.20	-2.20	-100%	22.00	-5.13	-23%
17		Asc410	Salwan	1	1.1	w(11/8)	3-6	2/1	0.00	3.30	-3.30	-100%	23.10	-6.23	-27%
		Weth300	Cab on Target	2		w(Evs)	1-4	8/11		3.30	-3.30	-100%	23.10	-6.23	-27%
		Weth410	Executive Design	1		w(11/8)	NR			3.30	-3.30	-100%	23.10	-6.23	-27%
18		Warw400	Victor Bravo	1	1.1	w(5/4)	2-6	15/8	0.00	4.40	-4.40	-100%	24.20	-7.33	-30%
19		Kelso345	Golden Isle	1	1.1	w(11/8)	F-4	9/2	0.00	5.50	-5.50	-100%	25.30	-8.43	-33%
20		Kelso415	Flintlock	1	1.1	w(11/8)	7-7	14/1	0.00	6.60	-6.60	-100%	26.40	-9.53	-36%
	31-Oct	Exe130	Bell One	1		w(15/8)	1-10	11/10		6.60	-6.60	-100%	26.40	-9.53	-36%
	01-Nov	Hayd250	Broctune Bay	1		w(13/8)	1-4	6/4		6.60	-6.60	-100%	26.40	-9.53	-36%
21		NAb330	Persian View	2	2.2	w(Evs)	1-8	15/8	5.75	8.80	-3.05	-35%	28.60	-5.98	-21%
22		Kemp340	Simply George	1	1.1	w(5/4)	2-5	11/4	3.75	9.90	-0.40	-4%	29.70	-3.33	-11%
23	03-Nov	Utt110	Tilty	1	1.1	w(11/10)	2-8	2/1	0.00	11.00	-1.50	-14%	30.80	-4.43	-14%
24		Hex230	Willie Sparkel	1	1.1	w(11/10)	1-6	7/4	2.75	12.10	0.15	1%	31.90	-2.78	-9%
25	04-Nov	Sand105	Alltime Dancer	2	2.2	w(Evs)	1-8	9/4	6.50	14.30	4.45	31%	34.10	1.53	4%
		Newc140	Supertop	1		w(11/10)	F-3	4/6		14.30	4.45	31%	34.10	1.53	4%
		Utt220	Stoney Burke	1		w(15/8)	NR			14.30	4.45	31%	34.10	1.53	4%
		Utt320	Father Sky	1		w(11/10)	1-3	4/5		14.30	4.45	31%	34.10	1.53	4%
26	06-Nov	Car220	Romany Creek	1	1.1	w(6/5)	1-6	6/4	2.50	15.40	5.85	38%	35.20	2.93	8%
27		Car320	Strong Approach	1	1.1	w(11/10)	1-4	3/1	4.00	16.50	8.75	53%	36.30	5.83	16%
28	07-Nov	Sedg230	Briar's Delight	2	2.2	w(Evs)	2-6	11/8	0.00	18.70	6.55	35%	38.50	3.63	9%
		Lud245	Super Sharp	2		w(Evs)	2-4	10/11		18.70	6.55	35%	38.50	3.63	9%
29		Lud315	Circulation	2	2.2	w(Evs)	3-4	11/8	0.00	20.90	4.35	21%	40.70	1.43	4%
	08-Nov	Newb220	Hops 'n' Pops	2		w(Evs)	1-3	4/5		20.90	4.35	21%	40.70	1.43	4%
30		Worc100	Sprung Rhythm	2	2.2	w(Evs)	3-8	11/8	0.00	23.10	2.15	9%	42.90	-0.78	-2%
31		Worc230	Cherry Nut	2	2.2	w(Evs)	2-4	6/4	0.00	25.30	-0.05	0%	45.10	-2.98	-7%
	09-Nov	Kels210	Addington Boy	1		w(5/4)	1-11	11/10		25.30	-0.05	0%	45.10	-2.98	-7%
		Towc320	Atherton Green	1		w(2/1)	1-4	4/5		25.30	-0.05	0%	45.10	-2.98	-7%
		Towc350	Royal Ag Nag	1		w(Evs)	2-4	4/6		25.30	-0.05	0%	45.10	-2.98	-7%
		Taun230	Sea Breaker	1		w(6/4)	2-8	11/8		25.30	-0.05	0%	45.10	-2.98	-7%
32	10-Nov	Hunt330	Drumstick	2	2.2	w(Evs)	2-5	5/2	0.00	27.50	-2.25	-8%	47.30	-5.18	-11%
33	11-Nov	Wind235	Wixoe Wonder	1	1.1	w(2/1)	5-6	11/4	0.00	28.60	-3.35	-12%	48.40	-6.28	-13%
34		Chel115	Wishing	1	1.1	w(11/8)	6-12	7/4	0.00	29.70	-4.45	-15%	49.50	-7.38	-15%
35		Chel150	Bertone	2	2.2	w(Evs)	1-6	11/10	4.20	31.90	-2.45	-8%	51.70	-5.38	-10%
36		Chel410	Trickle Lad	1	1.1	w(15/8)	5-6	4/1	0.00	33.00	-3.55	-11%	52.80	-6.48	-12%
		Wind130	Lucky Dollar	1		w(Evs)	2-4	4/5		33.00	-3.55	-11%	52.80	-6.48	-12%
	12-Nov	Font315	Hawaii Youth	2		w(Evs)	NR			33.00	-3.55	-11%	52.80	-6.48	-12%
37		Chel225	CumbrianChalleng	1	1.1	w(13/8)	3-5	5/2	0.00	34.10	-4.65	-14%	53.90	-7.58	-14%

	Date	Course	Horse					Odds							
	14-Nov	NAbb130	Certain Angle	1		w(15/8)	U-7	6/4		34.10	-4.65	-14%	53.90	-7.58	-14%
38		Weth140	Sea Breaker	2	2.2	w(Evs)	4-6	11/8	0.00	36.30	-6.85	-19%	56.10	-9.78	-17%
39		Weth210	Yacht Club	1	1.1	w(13/8)	3-6	5/2	0.00	37.40	-7.95	-21%	57.20	-10.88	-19%
40		Weth310	Malawi	2	2.2	w(Evs)	1-4	6/5	4.40	39.60	-5.75	-15%	59.40	-8.68	-15%
	15-Nov	Hay120	Queens Consul	2		w(Evs)	1-6	4/6		39.60	-5.75	-15%	59.40	-8.68	-15%
41		Here240	Stoney Burke	2	2.2	w(Evs)	1-7	6/5	4.40	41.80	-3.55	-8%	61.60	-6.48	-11%
42	16-Nov	Warw110	Inculate	1	1.1	w(2/1)	2-16	11/4	0.00	42.90	-4.65	-11%	62.70	-7.58	-12%
	17-Nov	Sedg300	Monaru	1		w(15/8)	Off			42.90	-4.65	-11%	62.70	-7.58	-12%
		Asc240	Large Action	1		w(6/4)	1-5	8/15		42.90	-4.65	-11%	62.70	-7.58	-12%
		Asc240	Kibreet	1		w(6/4)	1-4	5/4		42.90	-4.65	-11%	62.70	-7.58	-12%
43	18-Nov	Asc1245	Alltime Dancer	1	1.1	w(2/1)	4-13	11/4	0.00	44.00	-5.75	-13%	63.80	-8.68	-14%
44		Asc230	Strong Promise	1	1.1	w(11/10)	1-10	5/1	6.00	45.10	-0.85	-2%	64.90	-3.78	-6%
		Asc305	CumbrianChalleng	2		w(Evs)	1-3	8/11		45.10	-0.85	-2%	64.90	-3.78	-6%
45		Catt1240	Delgarth Lady	1	1.1	w(15/8)	P-10	15/8	0.00	46.20	-1.95	-4%	66.00	-4.88	-7%
46		Nott245	Danzig Island	2	2.2	w(Evs)	1-9	7/4	5.50	48.40	1.35	3%	68.20	-1.58	-2%
		Aint1230	Linden's Lotto	2		w(Evs)	1-3	4/6		48.40	1.35	3%	68.20	-1.58	-2%
47	20-Nov	Catt210	Nadiad	1	1.1	w(7/4)	5-6	9/2	0.00	49.50	0.25	1%	69.30	-2.68	-4%
		Catt240	Master of the Rock	1		w(11/10)	1-3	8/13		49.50	0.25	1%	69.30	-2.68	-4%
48	21-Nov	Hunt135	Lucky Dollar	2	2.2	w(Evs)	U-6	11/10	0.00	51.70	-1.95	-4%	71.50	-4.88	-7%
		Hunt210	Martha's Daughter	2		w(Evs)	3-5	4/5		51.70	-1.95	-4%	71.50	-4.88	-7%
49		Hunt350	The Blue Boy	1	1.1	w(13/8)	2-4	15/8	0.00	52.80	-3.05	-6%	72.60	-5.98	-8%
50		Chel120	Preenka Girl	1	1.1	w(11/10)	2-4	13/8	0.00	53.90	-4.15	-8%	73.70	-7.08	-10%
	23-Nov	Utto250	Smiths Band	1		w(15/8)	1-4	11/10		53.90	-4.15	-8%	73.70	-7.08	-10%
		Carl210	The Grey Monk	2		w(Evs)	1-7	2/7		53.90	-4.15	-8%	73.70	-7.08	-10%
		Carl310	Strong Approach			w(6/4)	1-5	10/11		53.90	-4.15	-8%	73.70	-7.08	-10%

Sheild(NH), Elswick Enterprises, 01253 698843   Retail £89.99

	Date	Course	Horse					Odds							
8	13-Nov	Leic330	Who is Equiname	1	1.1	w	6-7	4/1	0.00	1.10	-1.10	-100%	9.90	-4.28	-43%
9		Leic400	Memorable	1	1.1	w	4-6	4/1	0.00	2.20	-2.20	-100%	11.00	-5.38	-49%
10	14-Nov	NAbb230	Evening Rain	1	1.1	w	7-8	10/1	0.00	3.30	-3.30	-100%	12.10	-6.48	-54%
11		NAbb330	Keano	1	1.1	w	3-7	5/4	0.00	4.40	-4.40	-100%	13.20	-7.58	-57%
12	15-Nov	Hayd220	Couldn't be Better	1	1.1	w	1-6	11/8	2.38	5.50	-3.13	-57%	14.30	-6.31	-44%
13		Kemp200	Mulbank	1	1.1	w	P-10	7/2	0.00	6.60	-4.23	-64%	15.40	-7.41	-48%
14	16-Nov	Warw240	Toogood tobe True	1	1.1	w	1-7	7/2	4.50	7.70	-0.83	-11%	16.50	-4.01	-24%
15		Warw340	Tejano Gold	1	1.1	w	2-7	4/1	0.00	8.80	-1.93	-22%	17.60	-5.11	-29%
16		Winc400	Keep me in Mind	1	1.1	w	5-6	9/2	0.00	9.90	-3.03	-31%	18.70	-6.21	-33%
17		Aint250	Rosina Mae	1	1.1	w	1-4	5/2	0.00	11.00	-0.63	-6%	19.80	-3.81	-19%
18		Asc240	Large Action	1	1.1	w	1-5	8/15	1.53	12.10	-0.19	-2%	20.90	-3.37	-16%
19		Asc310	Wonder Man	1	1.1	w	4-4	3/1	0.00	13.20	-1.29	-10%	22.00	-4.47	-20%
20	18-Nov	Aint100	Bimsey	1	1.1	w	1-9	7/2	4.50	14.30	2.11	15%	23.10	-1.07	-5%
21		Ain135	Young Buster	1	1.1	w	1-10	2/1	3.00	15.40	4.01	26%	24.20	0.83	3%
22		Ain250	Wind Force	1	1.1	w	F-4	15/8	0.00	16.50	2.91	18%	25.30	-0.27	-1%
23		Catt255	Flash of Realm	1	1.1	w	3-4	5/2	0.00	17.60	1.81	10%	26.40	-1.37	-5%
24		Catt325	Rich Desire	1	1.1	w	1-5	4/7	1.57	18.70	2.28	12%	27.50	-0.90	-3%
25		Asc120	Bas de Laine	1	1.1	w	4-6	5/2	0.00	19.80	1.18	6%	28.60	-2.00	-7%
26		Asc155	Sound Man	1	1.1	w	1-5	4/5	1.80	20.90	1.88	9%	29.70	-1.30	-4%
27		Asc340	Sheriff	1	1.1	w	2-3	11/8	0.00	22.00	0.78	4%	30.80	-2.40	-8%
		Towc235	Really a Rascal	1		w	NR			22.00	0.78	4%	30.80	-2.40	-8%
28		Towc345	Nordansk	1	1.1	w	3-8	9/4	0.00	23.10	-0.32	-1%	31.90	-3.50	-11%
29	20-Nov	Folk200	Vicosa	1	1.1	w	1-7	11/8	2.38	24.20	0.95	4%	33.00	-2.23	-7%
30		Folk230	Dawn Flight	1	1.1	w	4-9	8/1	0.00	25.30	-0.15	-1%	34.10	-3.33	-10%
31		Folk300	Jimmy O'Dea	1	1.1	w	2-6	9/4	0.00	26.40	-1.25	-5%	35.20	-4.43	-13%
32		Catt210	The Minister	1	1.1	w	1-6	7/2	4.50	27.50	2.15	8%	36.30	-1.03	-3%
33		Catt240	Master of the Rock	1	1.1	w	1-3	8/13	1.62	28.60	2.67	9%	37.40	-0.51	-1%
34		Catt310	Hurricane Blake	1	1.1	w	4-7	15/8	0.00	29.70	1.57	5%	38.50	-1.61	-4%
35	21-Nov	Chel155	Northern Village	1	1.1	w	5-5	5/1	0.00	30.80	0.47	2%	39.60	-2.71	-7%
36		Chel225	Titan Empress	1	1.1	w	U-8	4/1	0.00	31.90	-0.63	-2%	40.70	-3.81	-9%
37		Hunt320	Cheryls Lad	1	1.1	w	1-8	5/6	1.83	33.00	0.10	0%	41.80	-3.08	-7%
38		Hunt350	Buckshot	1	1.1	w	3-4	9/1	0.00	34.10	-1.00	-3%	42.90	-4.18	-10%
39	23-Nov	Taun230	He's a King	1	1.1	w	F-6	9/2	0.00	35.20	-2.10	-6%	44.00	-5.28	-12%

Genesis, 305 Kings Rd, Bradford. BD2 1NW Retail £55 (Smart £20)

48	28-Oct	Adc205	King Credo	1	1.1	w	P-8	13/2	0.00	1.10	-1.10	-100%	52.80	6.30	12%
49		Newm355	Conspicuous	1	1.1	w	8-30	11/1	0.00	2.20	-2.20	-100%	53.90	5.20	10%
50			Night Dance	1	1.1	w	16-30	15/2	0.00	3.30	-3.30	-100%	55.00	4.10	7%
51	30-Oct	Newc130	Mbulwa	1	1.1	w	2-10	9/4	0.00	4.40	-4.40	-100%	56.10	3.00	5%
52		Newc400	Double Splendour	1	1.1	w	1-20	5/2	3.50	5.50	-2.00	-36%	57.20	5.40	9%
53	31-Oct	Redc245	Contrafire	1	1.1	w	4-7	3/1	0.00	6.60	-3.10	-47%	58.30	4.30	7%
54		Redc315	Coureur	1	1.1	w	9-17	8/1	0.00	7.70	-4.20	-55%	59.40	3.20	5%
55	01-Nov	NAb300	Northern Starlight	1	1.1	w	2-12	7/2	0.00	8.80	-5.30	-60%	60.50	2.10	3%
56	02-Nov	Edin210	Cuango	1	1.1	w	7-16	7/1	0.00	9.90	-6.40	-65%	61.60	1.00	2%
57		Edin410	Super High	1	1.1	w	9-14	3/1	0.00	11.00	-7.50	-68%	62.70	-0.10	0%
58	03-Nov	Don420	Quilling	1	1.1	w	13-21	8/1	0.00	12.10	-8.60	-71%	63.80	-1.20	-2%
59	04-Nov	Chep130	Nemuro	1	1.1	w	6-15	8/1	0.00	13.20	-9.70	-73%	64.90	-2.30	-4%
60		Don220	Naked Welcome	1	1.1	w	4-8	10/3	0.00	14.30	-10.80	-76%	66.00	-3.40	-5%
61		Don250	Royal Figurine	1	1.1	w	3-12	4/1	0.00	15.40	-11.90	-77%	67.10	-4.50	-7%
62		Don325	Foundry Lane	1	1.1	w	5-18	7/1	0.00	16.50	-13.00	-79%	68.20	-5.60	-8%
63	08-Nov	Ling310	Upper Mount Clair	1	1.1	w	5-14	9/2	0.00	17.60	-14.10	-80%	69.30	-6.70	-10%
64		Ling340	Balasara	1	1.1	w	8-11	12/1	0.00	18.70	-15.20	-81%	70.40	-7.80	-11%
65	11-Nov	Chel225	Stompin	1	1.1	w	13-15	11/2	0.00	19.80	-16.30	-82%	71.50	-8.90	-12%
66		Chel300	Coulton	1	1.1	w	7-12	4/1	0.00	20.90	-17.40	-83%	72.60	-10.00	-14%
67		Chel335	Rough Quest	1	1.1	w	F-8	6/1	0.00	22.00	-18.50	-84%	73.70	-11.10	-15%
68	18-Nov	Aint100	Windward Ariom	1	1.1	w	3-9	7/1	0.00	23.10	-19.60	-85%	74.80	-12.20	-16%
69		Aint135	Over the Stream	1	1.1	w	3-10	10/1	0.00	24.20	-20.70	-86%	75.90	-13.30	-18%

Solidus SF2, PO Box 59, Ipswich, IP4 2BL   Retail £74 & £439 (offer page 34)

1	23-Nov	Taun300	Reve en Rose	5	11	ew	3-12	10/3	8.33	11.00	-2.67	-24%	11.00	-2.67	-24%

HorseSense v3, Chris Mostyn, PO Box 379, Preston PR1 9BZ - £9.95

5	04-Nov	Winc330	Jonjas Chudleigh	5	5.5	w	P-6	4/1	0.00	5.50	-5.50	-100%	26.40	-8.90	-34%
6	18-Nov	Aint100	Windward Ariom	2.5	5.5	ew	3-9	7/1	6.00	11.00	-5.00	-45%	31.90	-8.40	-26%

Speedmaster, 0181 6898875. Retail £159 (current special offer £99)

1	03-Nov	Utt240	Ferrufino	4	4.4	w	F-13	6/1	0.00	4.40	-4.40	-100%	4.40	-4.40	-100%
2	09-Nov	Taun230	Nadiad	2	2.2	w	5-8	7/1	0.00	6.60	-6.60	-100%	6.60	-6.60	-100%
3	15-Nov	Here340	Spinning Steel	2	2.2	w	1-6	11/4	7.50	8.80	-1.30	-15%	8.80	-1.30	-15%
4		Kemp330	Destiny Calls	2	2.2	w	3-9	9/2	0.00	11.00	-3.50	-32%	11.00	-3.50	-32%
5	21-Nov	Chel155	Northern Village	2	2.2	w	5-5	5/1	0.00	13.20	-5.70	-43%	13.20	-5.70	-43%
6	23-Nov	Taun300	Reve en Rose	2	2.2	w	3-12	10/3	0.00	15.40	-7.90	-51%	15.40	-7.90	-51%

Sheild(Flat), Elswick Enterprises, 01253 698843   Retail £89.99

NO SELECTIONS THIS MONTHLY PERIOD	0	0	0%	11.00	-6.50	-59%

RaceSage, DGA Software, 0161 3300184   retail £10.00 per month

1	18-Nov	Aint1230	Bone Setter	1	1.1	w	U-3	5/2	0.00	1.10	-1.10	-100%	1.10	-1.10	-100%

★ Programs marked with a star are "Value specific" and insist upon a minimum SP odds or no bet. The minimum odds required are marked in brackets.

Two others are being monitored along side the eleven above but are not part of the competition. Hoof V5 gives the output from a computer program on Internet (http://www.cityscape.co.uk/users/gx34/hfintro.html).

Chris Whitehorn has followed the competition using the Combayes95 program, the results are printed here;

Hoof V5 ★ after the same two months, thus far is showing

This month			**Overall**		
stakes	balance	ROI	stakes	balance	ROI
78.10	-18.10	-23%	110.00	-39.00	-35%

Combayes95 ★ showed the following after 15 bets during our first month;

16.50	-8.63	-52%	16.50	-8.63	-52%

Last month (26 Oct-22 Nov) Combayes95 produced

16	27-Oct	Weth245	Hit the Canvas	1	1.1	w(4/11)	1-4	4/5	1.80	1.10	0.70	64%	17.60	7.93	-45%
17	28-Oct	Kels245	Kilcolgan	1	1.1	w(11/8)	4-7	6/4	0.00	2.20	-0.40	-18%	18.70	9.03	-48%
18		Warw250	The Balck Monk	1	1.1	w(6/5)	3-5	7/4	0.00	3.30	-1.50	-45%	19.80	10.13	-51%
19		Weth300	Great Marquess	1	1.1	w(6/4)	3-4	11/4	0.00	4.40	-2.60	-59%	20.90	11.23	-54%
20	01-Nov	Kemp310	Yeoman Warrior	1	1.1	w(3/1)	3-7	9/2	0.00	5.50	-3.70	-67%	22.00	12.33	-56%
21	04-Nov	Sand315	Southolt	1	1.1	w(6/5)	2-3	5/4	0.00	6.60	-4.80	-73%	23.10	13.43	-58%
22		Newc110	Salvo	1	1.1	w(6/5)	2-3	5/2	0.00	7.70	-5.90	-77%	24.20	14.53	-60%
23		Newc215	Astaleon	1	1.1	w(15/8)	3-5	15/8	0.00	8.80	-7.00	-80%	25.30	15.63	-62%
24		Newc245	The Boiler White	1	1.1	w(10/3)	2-4	6/1	0.00	9.90	-8.10	-82%	26.40	16.73	-63%
25	07-Nov	Sedg230	His Way	1	1.1	w(5/4)	3-6	2/1	0.00	11.00	-9.20	-84%	27.50	17.83	-65%
26		Sedg300	Bad Trade	1	1.1	w(3/1)	4-6	12/1	0.00	12.10	-10.30	-85%	28.60	18.93	-66%
27	08-Nov	Worc130	Arthurs Minstrel	1	1.1	w(11/4)	3-4	7/2	0.00	13.20	-11.40	-86%	29.70	20.03	-67%
28	10-Nov	Chel155	Wisley Wonder	1	1.1	w(6/5)	1-6	7/2	4.50	14.30	-8.00	-56%	30.80	16.63	-54%
29		Ayr205	Hit the Canvas	1	1.1	w(1/2)	2-8	9/4	0.00	15.40	-9.10	-59%	31.90	17.73	-56%
30		Hunt330	Young Pokey	1	1.1	w(11/4)	3-5	9/2	0.00	16.50	-10.20	-62%	33.00	18.83	-57%
31		Chel410	Cab on Target	1	1.1	w(4/5)	4-6	9/4	0.00	17.60	-11.30	-64%	34.10	19.93	-58%
32			Trickle Lad	1	1.1	w(3/1)	5-6	4/1	0.00	18.70	-12.40	-66%	35.20	21.03	-60%
33	15-Nov	Hayd220	Chatam	1	1.1	w(7/4)	2-6	4/1	0.00	19.80	-13.50	-68%	36.30	22.13	-61%
34	17-Nov	Asco240	Ayours	1	1.1	w(5/6)	2-5	10/3	0.00	20.90	-14.60	-70%	37.40	23.23	-62%
35	18-Nov	Aint135	Feathered Gale	1	1.1	w(3/1)	U-10	15/2	0.00	22.00	-15.70	-71%	38.50	24.33	-63%
36		Aint250	Go Universal	1	1.1	w(6/5)	1-4	15/8	2.88	23.10	-13.93	-60%	39.60	22.55	-57%
37		Aint320	Guinda	1	1.1	w(6/5)	1-3	2/1	3.00	24.20	-12.03	-50%	40.70	20.65	-51%
38		Asco120	Bas de Lane	1	1.1	w(13/8)	4-6	5/2	0.00	25.30	-13.13	-52%	41.80	21.75	-52%
39		Asco155	Morcelli	1	1.1	w(10/11)	F-5	5/2	0.00	26.40	-14.23	-54%	42.90	22.85	-53%
40	21-Nov	Chel120	Preenka Girl	1	1.1	w(10/11)	2-4	13/8	0.00	27.50	-15.33	-56%	44.00	23.95	-54%
41		Hunt135	Golden Madjambo	1	1.1	w(11/4)	2-6	3/1	0.00	28.60	-16.43	-57%	45.10	25.05	-56%
42		Hunt245	Travado	1	1.1	w(6/4)	1-7	5/2	3.50	29.70	-14.03	-47%	46.20	22.65	-49%
43	22-Nov	Wind200	Atherton Green	1	1.1	w(9/4)	6-10	7/2	0.00	30.80	-15.13	-49%	47.30	23.75	-50%

Combayes is another "Value" specific program, the required price is shown in brackets. No "non-value" bets are recorded.
Chris strictly adhered to the program rules operating Combaayes, they were;
◆ 3 to 10 runners, inclusive ◆ No novice handicap chases or hurdles
◆ No sellers ◆ No claimers ◆ No amateurs ◆ No hunter chases
◆ No conditionals ◆ No ladies ◆ No juvenile hurdles ◆ No maidens.

I trust Chris has operated the program fairly, but it cannot be used in our competition because the selections are not proofed in advance. It should however be useful for comparison purposes. ❏

SMART CHRISTMAS SPECIAL OFFER

INDEX TO SMARTsig VOLUME 1 (August 1994 to December 1994)

An index to our past magazine subjects, letters and articles has been an item on my "things to do" list for a long time now. Eventually, at the end of our Volume 2, I've got around to doing something about it. Here at last is the first of them, relating to Volume One.

It was necessary, as I saw it, to provide an index which would be useful for finding references to past subjects and not simply a list of past headings. After all, if that were the case it would have been a simple task for a member simply to photocopy the index page from each issue. (notwithstanding the fact that the index page has varied over the months, especially in the early days when things were taking shape)

What I have attempted to do is this;

- Give a few words as to the content of the article (not necessarily the original article title)
- The contributor or source of the article
- Where to find it (Volume, Issue, Page number)
- The location of articles it specifically refers to
- Location of any articles that refer back to this one (following up)
- A marker to indicate the general topic of the piece ★.

★ The final group of categories (general topics) was split into various headings to try and indicate the "flavour" of the article/letter. It is however quite difficult to be exact on this one with so many subjects covered over the months.

The format chosen will hopefully allow the user to find specific articles or subjects much quicker than has been the case in the past.

I have not managed to catalogue all issue as yet, but I'm beavering away in the hope of being able to print a Volume 2 index in our January issue, and in each January thereafter.

Hope it serves the purpose.

- Stef

❏

INDEX to past SMART magazines
From Launch (August 1994, issue 1.1) to date:

Key:

G = General Betting	S = Soccer
X = Sports (general) betting	K = Soccer Correct Scores
F = Horseracing Flat	Y = Systems (indicating selection)
J = Horseracing Jumps	T = Strategies (less specific)
H = Horseracing both/general	R = Research/Statistics/Formulae
D = Dog/Greyhound racing	V = "Value" references

B = Betting/Staking	
I = Ideas for further consideration	
E = Evaluating another product/idea	
A = Spread betting references	
C = Computer references	
P = Pedigree/Breeding	

Brief Content	Author	Vol. No. Page	Refers to	Followd up	G	X	F	J	H	D	S	K	Y	T	R	V	B	I	E	A	C	P
Top trainers for courses	Alan Coldrick	1.1.5		1.2.40	X		X															
Essential requirements of a winning system	Iain W Simpson	1.1.8		1.3.40			X		X							X						
Soccer score frequencies/2-2 system	Stefan Perry	1.1.9		1.2.30			X				X	X	X									
				1.4.3																		
Effect of the draw	Bob Roper	1.1.19					X								X							
A "Professionals" strategy	Derek Brown	1.1.24					X							X								
Group 1 system	Rex Towers	1.1.26		1.2.36			X		X		X					X						
				1.2.38																		
				1.3.40																		
Tote betting	Derek Brown	1.1.28							X					X			X					
Handicaps/Favourites system	EngineerIOM	1.1.30		1.2.25					X				X									
				1.2.39																		
				1.3.43																		
				1.5.15																		
Tax free betting	Rex Towers	1.1.32		1.2.28	X											X						

Brief Content	Author	Vol.No.Pg	Refers to	Follwdup	G	X	F	J	H	D	S	K	Y	T	R	V	B	L	E	A	C	P
Racing Post's "Pricewise" successes	Stefan Perry	1.1.32		1.2.26														X				
Over 20 years of Raceform Updates	Alan Coldrick	1.1.36							X						X							
Following selected horses	Roy Thornton	1.2.3		1.5.24			X							X								
Racing Post Teledata	Rex Towers	1.2.8							X		X		X	X								
Match ratings & score frequencies	Stefan Perry	1.2.9		1.3.39			X		X		X		X	X								
Racing Post Topspeed	MAK	1.2.16		1.4.32				X				X										
Numeric evaluation of class	Bert Jones	1.2.17					X						X									
Calculating Value for money odds	Alan Coldrick	1.2.18		1.3.41					X		X		X		X							
				1.3.49																		
Golden Oldies revisited	EngineerIOM	1.2.21		1.4.38					X		X		X	X								
				1.4.42																		
Official race times	John de Little	1.2.25	1.1.30	1.3.47					X		X		X									
No profit in system	T Southern	1.2.25	1.1.30		X																	
Misleading "Pricwise" profit figures	John E Newton	1.2.26	1.1.32	1.3.42	X				X				X	X			X					
2 Can I have £1 tax free bets?	J Wellingham	1.2.28	1.1.32		X				X								X					
Tax free betting	Graham Kendall	1.2.29	1.1.32	1.3.36	X				X								X					
High scoring football games	MAK	1.2.30	1.1.9			X		X														
Football observations	Leigh Trevmaine	1.2.32		1.5.23		X											X					
Correction to figures	Roy Thornton	1.2.36	1.1.26			X			X		X		X	X	X							
Group 1 system follow-up	Ray Webster	1.2.38	1.1.26			X			X		X		X	X	X							
Handicaps/Favourite system follow-up	EngineerIOM	1.2.39	1.1.30					X	X				X	X								
Trainers/Courses system	Alan Coldrick	1.2.40	1.1.5				X						X	X	X							
Beaten favourites/days since ran	A Hall	1.2.46							X													
High priced forecast favourites	Batman	1.2.47		1.3.44					X		X		X									
Speed figures – Adjusting standard times	JAC	1.3.7		1.4.25					X		X		X	X	X		X					
Following fast horses	Vic Lee	1.3.9				X																
Football Intelligence network	Andy Davis	1.3.10				X				X					X							
Daily paper analysis/Raceform "Longbow"	Jim Streek	1.3.14		1.3.17			X		X				X				X					
Betting banks & losing runs	Stefan Perry	1.3.16			X				X					X			X					
"Longbow" system results	Alan Coldrick	1.3.17	1.3.14						X		X		X	X	X		X					
"Pattern recognition" law of averages	Stan Fox	1.3.20		1.4.29					X													
Favourite odds and winning chances	EngineerIOM	1.3.26		1.3.29					X				X				X					
				1.4.41																		

Brief Content	Author	Vol.No.Pg	Refers to	Follwdup	G	X	E	J	H	D	S	K	Y	T	R	V	B	I	E	A	C	P
Favs/Racetype/going win statistics	Stefan Perry	1.3.29	1.3.26			X									X							
Horserace Handicap research	T Southern	1.3.32		1.5.25 / 1.5.29					X						X				X			
Soccer records, data & statistics	Tony Brown	1.3.33					X			X				X								
Tax free betting – fact & fancy	John Main	1.3.36	1.1.32 / 1.2.29		X											X						
Regression analysis of Soccer research	John Main	1.3.39	1.2.9			X									X			X				
Group 1 system	BS Rasmussen	1.3.40	1.1.26			X	X				X			X	X							
Calculating Odds			1.1.8						X					X	X	X						
Harvos 3 method				1.4.35					X					X	X	X						
Calculating "Value" Odds	Edward Walker	1.3.41	1.2.18	1.4.34					X						X	X		X			
Unavailable Pricewise Odds	Rex Towers	1.3.42	1.2.26	1.4.34					X	X					X	X		X			
James Ashley system	J Wellingham	1.3.42				X				X				X	X				X			
EngineerIOM system		1.3.43	1.1.30	1.4.37					X	X	X			X	X				X			
High priced favourites	Robin	1.3.44	1.2.47									X		X	X							
Daily Mail Formcast VFM	Alan Coldrick	1.3.44				X								X	X	X						
AW reliable speed ratings	Bouncer	1.3.47	1.2.25	1.4.43		X					X			X		X						
Football Spread Betting		1.3.47				X													X			
Dog Racing advice		1.3.48										X							X			
Calculating VFM	Colin Evans	1.3.49	1.2.18						X					X	X	X						
Pro Punter/Dataform combination		1.3.50							X					X	X	X						
Psychological effect on results	Stefan Perry	1.3.59			X									X	X	X	X				X	
Alternative 2-2 draw strategy	Noah	1.4.3	1.1.9			X				X		X		X	X	X	X					
Simpson's "Always Back Winners"	Peter Howes	1.4.6				X							X									
Spread Betting Explained	Toby Brereton	1.4.7			X	X											X			X		
Football pools strategy	Alan Coldrick	1.4.15			X	X				X				X	X							
First time out Trainers to Follow	Ray Webster	1.4.16					X											X				
Predicting Draws	T Southern	1.4.17				X				X	X			X	X	X	X					
Football results forecasting	EngineerIOM	1.4.19				X				X	X		X	X	X		X					
Golden Oldies (Horses & Dog systems)	EngineerIOM	1.4.22				X				X	X		X	X			X					
Speed Ratings track to track	Ray Webster	1.4.25	1.3.7			X											X					

Brief Content	Author	VolNoPg	Refers to	Follwdup	G	X	F	J	H	D	S	K	Y	T	R	V	B	I	E	A	C	P
High scoring football games	Stefan Perry	1.4.27				X						X	X	X								
General comments	Ray Cox	1.4.29	1.3.20		X									X	X	X						
Racing Post "Topspeed" system	Mel Collier	1.4.32	1.2.16	1.5.30			X	X				X	X	X	X							
Adjustin odds for Value	Alan Coldrick	1.4.34	1.3.41						X							X						
Members commercial interests	SM Diggle	1.4.34	1.3.42																X		X	
--ditto--	Robin Lloyd	1.4.35	1.3.42																X		X	
? Staking Plans	J Wellingham	1.4.37	1.3.43														X					
Profitable adjustments to a Golden Oldie	Albert Singer	1.4.38	1.2.21																			
? Starting Price Strike rates	Jay Cook	1.4.41	1.3.26	1.5.8	X		X		X			X			X				X	X		X
Non Handicap naps	Ray Webster	1.4.42	1.2.21				X					X										
Spread betting rules to follow	Vic Lee	1.4.43	1.3.47		X		X		X								X	X	X		X	
Computer Form Books	Grant Ward	1.4.52																	X		X	
National Lottery launch	Stefan Perry	1.5.2			X														X			
Value in football home wins	Dave Pollard	1.5.5				X					X					X						
Starting Prices win percentage research	Questor	1.5.8	1.4.41						X			X	X	X					X		X	
Computer Challenge I - rules	Smart	1.5.12							X			X	X		X				X		X	
Backing Favourites	Dadje	1.5.15	1.1.30				X					X	X	X	X							
Trainers in form	Stefan Perry	1.5.17										X	X	X			X		X			
Football fixed odds research	Trevor Southern	1.5.20					X		X		X	X	X	X			X		X			
Football perm	AW Anthony	1.5.23	1.2.32				X		X		X	X	X			X						
? Quality Horse system		1.5.24	1.2.3		X		X		X			X	X									
Handicap race statistics	Philip Alexander	1.5.25	1.3.32		X			X	X			X	X			X						
Handicapping ideas	Ewan Dunlop	1.5.29	1.3.32					X	X			X	X			X						
Topspeed - more results	Reg Ramsay	1.5.30	1.4.32					X				X	X	X								
Data sample sizes & losing runs	Jaques Black	1.5.31			X				X			X	X	X	X	X		X				
Raceform Form book on disk	Smart	1.5.49						X				X	X	X					X			X

A Speed Figure method for both "Pen & Inkers" and computer users.

THE SOLIDUS
A Personal View

Andy Alexander

Product details:
Book - "The Solidus" - £25.00
Computer program - £74.00 (requires regular upkeep by the user)
Weekly upgrade disks for one year [all racing codes] - £439.00
STANZA, PO Box 59, Ipswich, Suffolk. IP4 2BL

Dear Stef,
I first ordered **The Solidus** software in January of 1994 as a result of having had success with the book that Davey Towey released some time prior to that. The book was a fascinating read but the methods contained within were a little time consuming. I ordered the basic version of the program which was to be supplied as fully functional but with only a small part of the database included.

Around one month after my order Davey contacted me to tell me that there had been some problems with the program and it was going to take a little longer to release than he had first thought. After this I had a number of phone conversations with Davey when he constantly kept me up to date with the progress. The program finally arrived in early June , but as a result of the wait Davey had included the full database with all that year's form. I should also point out that my cheque was not cashed until the program was sent.

The database itself is very easily accessible and allows the user to view a horse's complete record for the season in seconds. It allows you to examine such factors as courses where the horse has been successful, the time of year, time between runs, optimum going and distance requirements etc. The mainstay of the program is the Solidus speed figures which it generates. These figures are unique in that they take into account the nature of the course they were gained on.

The ratings are derived form Dave's unique rates tables which classify courses from A to E and award a pounds per second figure for each distance. The theory of this is that it allows the user to accurately compare speed figures from different courses. We may all have been aware that

Epsom's five furlongs is not as testing as Ascot's but up until now no one has attempted to define it as scientifically as this. Of course the proof of the pudding is in the eating and, as with all ratings, I have found there are times when they are more successful than others. The most prolific areas have been when the ratings have been achieved in better class fields and in strongly run races. The other area is on the All Weather, particularly in sprints where if I have had a good deal of success. Like any other ratings they rely on the interpretation of the user to gain maximum benefit.

The operation of the program is very simple although the updating of records is time consuming and if like myself, the user does not take the costly weekly updates, you may well find yourself having to specialise in certain types of races to meet your own time budget. But the rewards are there and the layout of the screen allows you to see the whole picture of a horse's history (similar to *Profile,* although not as detailed).

Davey clearly has a great love and understanding of racing and I would not dissuade anyone from buying either The Solidus, book or program

❏

Calculating speed ratings is not a "two minute job" - a brief overview of 'The Solidus' project, by its author.

THE PACE OF THE RACE

Davey Towey

Racing people have always been aware of the importance of speed ratings but many punters ignore them because they seem rather technical. I set out to demystify the topic in The Solidus, where I show the methods I use to calculate them. To achieve accuracy these methods involve several factors; e.g. going, standard time, nature of the course, distance of the race, the distance beaten and the weight carried.

Also shown is just how these factors are likely to affect the result when the horse is raised or lowered in class. The book therefore has a strong technical bias which hitherto was often lacking in racing publications. The intention was to steer the punter away from the common misconception that if horseA beats horseB and horseB beats horseC, then horseA will beat horseC, after allowing for weight. The notion is trotted out almost each and every day in the racing pages, but is conspicuously absent in the football or boxing reviews. How long would any coach or journalist last in these latter professions if their tactics/predictions depended upon such analyses? I'm not pretending that speed ratings give the whole picture, but many surveys show that they are the surest way of giving consistent, long-term profits. The amount of profit depends on choosing correctly just when to bet and how good the ratings are.

Having researched the subject for several years, I believe my efforts have contributed a great deal to promoting the concept of speed ratings and produce what I consider to be among the best available. The driving force behind my methods was an early recognition of the following fact: the emotive word, Winner, is an ardent description of a horse that has completed its task in the fastest time. Admittedly, those not interested in bashing out the calculations may have found the book too technical, but I hope the message that the pace of the race was highly influential in determining the outcome came through strongly. Many races can be turned into a lottery if the jockeys get the pace wrong, but when they get it right, speed ratings are reliable and rewarding. When a record is made of the speed ratings of individual horses, this gives an insight into the pace of their races and a better understanding of the difficulties faced by jockeys generally. ❏

A suggestion here that an overwhelming majority of our members are interested primarily in simple, quick and easy to operate systems and have little time to bother the more complex approaches we print.

QUICK, EASY & PROFITABLE

Rex Towers

The latest SMART magazine consisted of 72 pages, yet it only took me about 15 minutes to read it. Over the past few months, there has been a marked swing towards the computer literate and members with degrees in mathematics.

Surely the majority of Smarties have full-time jobs and do not have hours to spare every day to analyse statistics and input vast amounts of data in to a computer system which eventually may recommend that you ought to invest your hard-earned pennies on such and such a horse.

". . .80% of the membership . . . are crying out for some simple selection methods . . ."

I suspect that 80% of the membership - or maybe even more - are crying out for some simple selection methods which are profitable. A method where they can find worthwhile investments whilst riding the bus to work with the Post or the Life on their knee, and not a laptop computer! I believe that the following will help satisfy that hunger for many.

The Ramsden Gambles

1) It is a well known fact that the Ramsdens run a gambling yard and are adept at pulling of regular winning gambles. How often do you see a Linda Ramsden trained horse go off favourite and get beaten? Answer: OFTEN!

This is quite clearly part of their gambling technique.

This very simple system is to back any Mrs. Ramsden trained horse on the Flat which was a Beaten Favourite (BF) last time out and today is to be ridden by the retained stable jockey Kieran Fallon.

The qualifiers so far for this year are as follows;-

Date	Horse	Result	Date	Horse	Result
25Mar	HARRY BROWNE	L	26Jul	CARLITO BRIGANTE	W 11/2
01Apr	KEMO SABO	L	28Jul	BENZOE	L
10Apr	SLAPY DAM	W 6/5		KILDRUMMY CASTLE	L
17Apr	SHINEROLLA	L		THE KINGS RANSOM	W 5/2
0lMay	SHINEROLLA	W 9/4	03Aug	KILDRUMMY CASTLE	L
08May	PERFECT BERTIE	L		ALLTIME DANCER	W 2/1
10May	TOP CEES	W 8/1	09Aug	BARATO	L
12May	THE KINGS RANSM	W 6/4	17Aug	KEMO SABO	L
15May	SLAPY DAM	L		ITS ACADEMIC	W 13/8
18May	CHIMING IN	L	22Aug	CAPTAIN CARAT	L
23May	KILDRUMMY C'STL	L	27Aug	CREATIVE ACCOUNT	W 9/1
01Jun	HARRY BROWNE	L		SHINEROLLA	L
06Jun	ADVANCE EAST	L	28Aug	CAPTAIN CARAT	L
10Jun	KEMO SABO	L		ANNABERG	L
14Jun	SHINEROLLA	L	01Sep	HARRY DROWNE	L
16Jun	BENZOE	L		ON A PEDESTAL	L
17Jun	HALMANERROR	L	05Sep	IN PARADISUM	W 8/1
19Jun	THE KINGS RANSM	W 15/2	11Sep	ITS ACADEMIC	W 4/1
21Jun	ITS ACADEMIC	L	16Sep	CAPTAIN CARAT	L
26Jun	KILDRUMMY C'STL	L		ROSINA MAE	L
03Jul	HALMANERROR	W 7/2	21Sep	SOUL OF HONOUR	L
08Jul	SELF EXPRESSION	L	27Sep	CAPTAIN CARAT	L
11Jul	MASTER CHARTER	L	05Oct	HARRY BROWNE	L
17Jul	BARATO	L	14Oct	ITS ACADEMIC	L
19Jul	FAME AGAIN	W 13/8	20Oct	MASTER CHARTER	W 5/1
	WHITE EMIR	L			

51 Runners   15 Wins (29%)   Profit 22.1pts After tax = 43% on turnover.

❏

Back to our usual 60 pages this month Rex, you'll be through it in 10 mins! I see you suspect that over 80% of the members are crying out for simple selection methods. Okay, why then is by far the overwhelming majority of my mail from a group who, using the figures suggested, make up less than 20% of the membership? The letters and articles received by SMART are the best clue to what are the preferred topics and their degree of complexity, what is eventually printed, reflects this. I also try to cover as broad a range as possible and cater for all the tastes that I see in the correspondence.

Our members range from those who don't bet at all, to those who make their living from it, from teenagers to a few who've reached the age of 80 plus. Their likes and dislikes, in keeping with the individuals they are, vary a great deal. I speak to and hear from many who like nothing better than having a project which takes several days or even weeks/months to complete But others, like Rex, who adopt the "keep it simple" approach. - What is it they say? "You can't please ALL of the people, ALL of the time!"

- Stef

Continuing to redress the balance for the 'pen & ink' brigade, Rex continues with the 'keep it simple' approach and looks at Sports Betting.

THE BOOKIES RICK

Rex Towers

It must be a nightmare for bookmakers to make a book in some sporting events where there are large fields and you will often be able to obtain wildly differing prices about the same player. Here is a very simple system which will often give a rewarding investment and can be utilised in Golf; Snooker; Tennis and many other sports.

Back players who are offered at odds of more than double the odds offered by different bookmakers. Example below;

RACING POST - November 2nd.
The KAPALUA INTERNATIONAL Golf Tournament

		Bo	Co	De	Hi	La	SJ	Su	To
-/-/-/-/-/-	F Couples	11/2	6	5	6	6	6	6	6
-/-/-/-/-//12	T Lehman	8	14	12	12	9	11	12	12
/-/-/7/-/l6	D Love III	9	10	10	10	8	10	10	10
-/-/-.'0/-/16	P Jacobsen	18	16	20	14	12	16	20	16
-/0/Rtd/-/-/l4	S Simpson	10	22	16	14	25	14	20	16
-/56/49/l/-/-	J Furyk	14	40	28	25	25	18	33	25
-/24/0/71/-/4	W Austin	18	28	20	16	25	18	25	18

Starting with the tournament favourite and working down the table, the first player we come to where one bookmaker is offering at least double the odds of another is on Scott Simpson; 10/1 with Bowmans, but 20/1 with Surrey Racing. So Simpson is one selection.

I back two system qualifying players each-way and the next we come to Jim Furyk who is offered at 14/1 with Bowmans but 40/1 with Corals!

With Furyk, either Bowmans are being very cautious or Corals have made a serious rick with their price. It is a wonderful feeling getting on at 40/1 when you know that elsewhere you would be offered just 14/1! Corals made

a serious mistake with Furyk because not only had he won his last tournament, he is also the number 1 "putter" on the US Tour. So here we are backing a player at the peak of his form and at 40/1 - an outstanding bet.

Result; After day one, Furyk was joint-leader and steadily drew away from the
field over the remaining 3 days. He had a minor scare on the 17th hole of the final round but was never headed.

Winner; Jim Furyk 40/1

Can I make a few further points? Do SMARTies really have to use monicas like "Homer Simpson" and "Turnip T" when writing in the magazine?

(Some members request anonymity, does this offend? - Stef)

Finally, Alan Surtees gave details about some research he is doing in to following horses which have market support. If he uses the betting shows reported in the ***Racing Post*** he will get false statistics. The odds quoted by the Post are not those which are relayed by SIS to betting offices, e.g. yesterday, 15 November, I backed Can Can Charlie with the opening show in the shop being 5/2, yet the Post show that it opened at 2/1.

Perhaps someone from the ***Racing Post*** could explain where the prices come from?

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Reports and complaints in the press often ask questions of the SIS service, who allegedly often do not give a 'show' as early as they might. A extract from a recent letter to the Racing Post contained;

". . . On Monday 13 November, a rival bookmaker rang to say he had four shows on the 1.00 at Leicester (he had the rival text) and that SIS had not passed one. he informed me that Eriny had the shows 8/1, 10/1, 12/1, 16/1, 25/1. At 12.55, Eriny came through at 12/1. It retained this price until the off, when it suddenly went to 25/1. . ."

The betting shop customer really is getting the dirty end of the stick if this occurrence is not an isolated one.

Stef

Is betting in singles the only way to go, or is there a potentially bigger profit to be made using multiple betting. The mathematics of singles vs. doubles is examined here.

WINNING WITH DOUBLES

Allan Buchan

After studying singles betting for a short time, I began to wonder if there was another way with which to make more profit, perhaps a type of betting with a mathematical edge. But general opinion seems to be that doubles etc. are a fools game, only for the non-serious punter. But I wasn't yet convinced. I had to prove to myself that this was correct, so I attempted to work it out.

I started by choosing a fairly simplistic situation. Suppose we have a means of selecting horses to win which has a 50% strike rate, and we know the average odds. In 100 bets 50 would win, and 50 would lose (I did say it was simplistic).

Ignoring tax, that would mean the profit as a formula would be;
(if a stands for average odds)

$$50a - 50$$

That of course is for singles. With doubles it is obviously quite different. Firstly we have to consider the strike rate, which becomes 25% since this is 50% of 50% - the chance of winning two in a row.

Now, if we take the formula for the calculation of a double (again using a, and assuming the same odds twice):

$$(a + 1)(a + 1)$$

and combine this with the 25% strike rate, we get

$$25(a + 1)(a + 1)$$

because we have won 25 doubles out of the 100. Now we can subtract the 75 losses, and multiply the brackets out:

$$25\,(a+1)\,(a+1) - 75$$

$$= 25\,(a^2 + 2a + 1) - 75$$

$$= 25a^2 + 50a + 25 - 75$$

$$= 25a^2 + 50a - 50$$

This is the profit formula for doubles, and if we now compare the two formula:

$$50a - 50 \qquad \text{(for singles)}$$

$$50a - 50 + 25a^2 \qquad \text{(for doubles)}$$

it's very obvious that the doubles have an extra figure. In fact, the doubles have every bit as much profit as the singles, plus an extra 25 times the average odds squared!

I may be wrong, but I would assume that this is the case for other strike rates as well (but with a different difference between singles and doubles profit). It may also be the case that the more bets in the accumulator, the more marked the difference (but also the larger the reduction in strike rate).

It would appear that doubles are more profitable than singles, which sounds fine to me, even though the strike rate is reduced. Just to make things clear, here is an example using the same 100 bets.

Average odds 2/1, £20 stakes

Singles

Profit from winning 50 bets:

$$£20 \times 2/1 \times 50 \text{ bets} \qquad = £2000$$

Minus 50 losses:

$$£2000 - £20 \times 50 \text{ bets} \qquad = £2000 - £1000$$
$$= £1000 \text{ profit}$$

Doubles

Profit from winning 25 bets:

$$£20 \times ((2/1 + 1) \times (2/1 + 1)) \times 25 \text{ bets} \qquad = £4500$$

double with 2/1 and 2/1

Minus 75 losses:

$$£4500 - £20 \times 75 \text{ bets} \qquad = £4500 - £1500$$
$$= £3000 \text{ profit}$$

Some might point out that we are dealing with 100 bets, not 100 races, in the case of doubles. However, even if only 100 races were available, and therefore only 50 doubles, the doubles would still give £500 more! And that's not taking into account the fact that with only 50 bets, the tax would now be lower than that of the singles with 100 bets.

❏

Every week the soccer fixed-odds coupons give the punter an opportunity to back in singles on certain games. Can we use statistics to provide an 'edge'?

SOCCER GAME SINGLES

Stefan Perry

Prompted by an idea from another Smartie (and I don't need much of an excuse) I was interested in the feasibility of using statistics to show the likely outcome of a particular match, rather than a 'block' of matches. What sort of game could be targeted and how could such a game be converted into a 'situation' suitable for analysis?

The suggestion was, that the majority of games played by any one team will be against opposition from their own division, it is here then that a greater amount of more reliable data would be available. Also, taking the view that because up to date records are printed in the papers each week the operator of any proposed method should be able to sort out the prospects in a few minutes without the need to keep records of his/her own.

The elements used to create our 'situation' would have to detailed enough to reflect each teams merits without overcomplicating things. In fact two variable factors were used, enough to give a reasonably accurate picture of the game, yet not so diverse as to invalidate the data sampling sizes. Although the data used goes back over the previous eight seasons and contains almost 30,000 games it is easy to demolish this figure by using too many categories in sampling.

To give you some idea, if for example we look at something which sounds very simplistic, each teams previous three games. Each one of these previous games could have been a home win, draw or loss - or - an away win, draw or loss. Six variants then, in each of both teams previous games. This gives 46,656 possible combinations, (6x6x6 x 6x6x6) which, when the 30,000 games in our data is distributed, gives an average of less that one game per variant. Definitely not the sort of distribution to reach any firm conclusions.

So, with that in mind, and without going into the finer details of just why these criteria were chosen, the method used to sample the data and therefore the method rules, which are quite simple, are;

The game can be either league or cup, and in order to qualify;

• Both teams must be from the same division
• Each teams previous game must have been against an opponent from the same division

The details required to establish a match rating are;

• The 90 minute result of each team's previous game
• The current league table

Previous games
A teams previous game is converted to an identification number using the formula;
Home Win, Draw or Loss is marked as 1, 2 or 3.
An away W, D, L is marked as 4, 5 or 6

Look at the home side first, then the away side, and put both numbers together as an identifying code. e.g. code 42 indicates today's home side had an away win last match (4), and today's away team's last game was a home draw (2)

Relative League table Positions (RLP)

Calculate the teams Relative League Positions by;
Home team fig. =   Total points ÷ Total games played (to 2 decimal places)
Away team fig. =   Total points ÷ Total games played (to 2 decimal places)

RLP = Home team fig minus Away team fig.

e.g. Home team Played 18, points 30   Away team Played 18, points 25
Home team fig = 30 ÷ 18 = 1.67   Away team fig. = 25 ÷ 18 = 1.39
RLP = 1.67 - 1.39 = 0.28

(A positive RLP favours the home side, a negative figure the away team.)

Our game in question then would be identified as   42   0.28

Table 1, next, shows the historical percentages of home, drawn or away games using the two figures. Where data were less than 50 in any category the sample was deemed to be unreliable and chart location left blank.

Fig 1
Home, Draw & Away % chances given RLP and previous game result

Teams Prev. Result	RLPfigures -0.49& below			-0.48 to -0.16			-0.15 to 0.11			0.12 to 0.44			0.45 & above		
	H	D	A	H	D	A	H	D	A	H	D	A	H	D	A
11	37.72%	26.32%	35.96%	35.40%	34.51%	30.09%	49.54%	30.28%	20.18%	51.88%	26.32%	21.80%	54.03%	27.42%	18.55%
12				50.00%	20.69%	29.31%	33.75%	36.25%	30.00%	50.00%	28.57%	21.43%	60.42%	25.00%	14.58%
13				38.89%	29.63%	31.48%	46.97%	28.79%	24.24%	54.00%	28.00%	18.00%	71.76%	14.50%	13.74%
14	30.51%	22.03%	47.46%	50.00%	23.53%	26.47%	48.75%	36.25%	15.00%	50.00%	28.38%	21.62%	65.75%	20.55%	13.70%
15				42.37%	30.51%	27.12%	55.22%	19.40%	25.37%	49.30%	28.17%	22.54%	64.00%	19.00%	17.00%
16	33.82%	32.35%	33.82%	42.57%	27.72%	29.70%	48.23%	26.95%	24.82%	56.78%	27.12%	16.10%	66.67%	21.11%	12.22%
21	33.33%	22.99%	43.68%	45.12%	30.49%	24.39%	49.15%	28.81%	22.03%	52.00%	36.00%	12.00%			
22															
23	33.96%	32.08%	33.96%	47.06%	33.33%	19.61%							48.21%	35.71%	16.07%
24							47.54%	31.15%	21.31%						
25	36.21%	20.69%	43.10%	38.18%	30.91%	30.91%	43.28%	23.88%	32.84%	47.37%	34.21%	18.42%	53.25%	24.68%	22.08%
26	24.35%	33.04%	42.61%	44.58%	24.10%	31.33%	45.68%	23.46%	30.86%	45.45%	30.91%	23.64%			
31	36.21%	20.69%	43.10%												
32															
33															
34	35.21%	32.39%	32.39%	36.00%	26.00%	38.00%	38.89%	34.72%	26.39%						
35	27.14%	34.29%	38.57%				41.73%	29.32%	28.95%						
36	39.66%	31.03%	29.31%	33.82%	33.82%	32.35%	46.97%	31.06%	21.97%	50.00%	26.92%	23.08%	40.98%	36.07%	22.95%
41	29.11%	33.33%	37.56%	38.65%	29.48%	31.87%	42.52%	30.71%	26.77%	55.92%	26.94%	17.14%	56.18%	26.59%	17.23%
42	34.25%	34.25%	31.51%	41.43%	30.00%	28.57%				52.00%	27.00%	21.00%	60.32%	23.48%	16.19%
43				47.78%	31.11%	21.11%				55.23%	24.42%	20.35%	61.22%	22.44%	16.35%
44										41.18%	37.25%	21.57%			
45							39.44%	33.80%	26.76%	50.00%	30.77%	19.23%	55.56%	25.40%	19.05%
46				39.29%	33.93%	26.79%	47.13%	29.92%	22.95%	40.48%	35.71%	23.81%	50.39%	31.01%	18.60%
51	35.57%	28.57%	35.86%	42.61%	30.58%	26.80%	42.56%	29.23%	28.21%	51.36%	27.24%	21.40%	61.40%	21.64%	16.96%
52	32.03%	27.34%	40.63%	41.72%	31.29%	26.99%	60.58%	18.98%	20.44%	56.02%	25.46%	18.52%	60.34%	23.46%	16.20%
53	39.53%	29.07%	31.40%	38.17%	21.37%	40.46%				55.26%	19.47%	25.26%	65.52%	20.69%	13.79%
54	26.79%	35.71%	37.50%												
55															
56	32.74%	28.10%	39.15%	40.85%	28.17%	30.99%	48.65%	27.03%	24.32%	49.38%	34.57%	16.05%	68.63%	19.61%	11.76%
61	30.95%	28.17%	40.87%	41.36%	27.75%	30.89%	43.02%	31.53%	25.45%	50.70%	25.63%	23.68%	64.97%	17.77%	17.26%
62	36.46%	28.18%	35.36%	39.46%	25.08%	35.45%	44.41%	28.47%	27.12%	48.84%	29.07%	22.09%	58.45%	25.12%	16.43%
63	30.71%	26.77%	42.52%	38.25%	29.08%	32.67%	45.65%	24.64%	29.71%	58.24%	24.91%	16.85%	59.09%	25.38%	15.53%
64	31.03%	27.59%	41.38%	32.26%	41.94%	25.81%	36.36%	33.33%	30.30%						
65	30.65%	26.61%	42.74%	41.76%	24.18%	34.07%	43.84%	24.66%	31.51%	56.67%	16.67%	26.67%	56.60%	28.30%	15.09%
66				44.76%	24.48%	30.77%	39.71%	28.68%	31.62%	45.11%	30.08%	24.81%	52.63%	26.32%	21.05%

Locate the previous game's code, 42, down the left most column in Table 1 and locate the RLTP figure of 0.28 along the top categories (the fourth band is headed 0.12 to 0.44). The table indicates that this game has a Home, Draw, Away likelihood of 52%, 27% and 21% respectively.

We can now compare these, with the ***best*** odds on offer using Table 2.

Table 2
Odds, %, and effective % when 10% tax is pre-paid

Bookies Odds	Odds as %	Effective % when tax is pre paid	Bookies Odds	Odds as %	Effective % when tax is pre paid
1/7	87.50	96.25	13/8	38.10	41.90
1/6	85.71	94.29	7/4	36.36	40.00
1/5	83.33	91.67	9/5	35.71	39.29
2/9	81.82	90.00	15/8	34.78	38.26
1/4	80.00	88.00	2/1	33.33	36.67
2/7	77.78	85.56	11/5	31.25	34.38
3/10	76.92	84.62	9/4	30.77	33.85
1/3	75.00	82.50	12/5	29.41	32.35
4/11	73.33	80.67	5/2	28.57	31.43
2/5	71.43	78.57	13/5	27.78	30.56
4/9	69.23	76.15	11/4	26.67	29.33
1/2	66.67	73.33	3/1	25.00	27.50
8/15	65.22	71.74	10/3	23.08	25.38
4/7	63.64	70.00	7/2	22.22	24.44
8/13	61.90	68.10	4/1	20.00	22.00
4/6	60.00	66.00	9/2	18.18	20.00
8/11	57.89	63.68	5/1	16.67	18.33
4/5	55.56	61.11	11/2	15.38	16.92
5/6	54.55	60.00	6/1	14.29	15.71
10/11	52.38	57.62	13/2	13.33	14.67
Evens	50.00	55.00	7/1	12.50	13.75
11/10	47.62	52.38	15/2	11.76	12.94
6/5	45.45	50.00	8/1	11.11	12.22
5/4	44.44	48.89	9/1	10.00	11.00
11/8	42.11	46.32	10/1	9.09	10.00
7/5	41.67	45.83	11/1	8.33	9.17
6/4	40.00	44.00	12/1	7.69	8.46
8/5	38.46	42.31	14/1	6.67	7.33

Let us suppose the best odds from a variety of bookies were H (6/4), D (9/4) and A (6/4). If we pre-pay the tax element, which most of us do, the bookies odds can be converted to effective percentages using the table.

	Home win	Draw	Away win
Bookies	44.00	33.85	44.00
Our figures	52.00	27.00	21.00

If our figures indicate a ***higher percentage*** chance of any result than given by the best, tax paid odds offered, we have an edge. In the example given, our figures show an advantage for the home win. Remember though, our figures still indicate only a 52% chance of the home win. We are not necessarily looking for the ***most likely*** outcome, rather than detecting when the bookie has a match priced wrongly to bet in singles. If there were three similar priced games the chances of correctly forecasting the treble would be 52% of 52% of 52%, or $0.52^3 = 0.14$ or 14%

Some examples from 7th & 8th November are;

		prev results	RLP	H%	D%	A%	Bet or Not?
Darlington	Lincoln	52	+0.87	60.34	23.46	16.20	No Edge
		Best tp odds>		70.00	27.50	16.92	result 0-1
Gillingham	Hereford	23	+0.68	48.21	35.71	16.07	Draw bet @ 13/5
		Best tp odds>		68.10	30.56	18.33	result 2-2
Northampt	Plymouth	52	-0.37	41.72	31.29	26.99	Home bet @ 7/4
		Best tp odds>		40.00	32.35	44.00	result 1-0
Notts C	Stockport	45	+0.57	55.56	25.40	19.05	No Edge
		Best tp odds>		66.00	30.56	22.00	result 1-0
Preston	Scarboro	16	+0.82	66.67	21.11	12.22	No Edge
		Best tp odds>		73.33	27.50	14.67	result 2-1
Walsall	Wycombe	24	-0.69	33.96	32.08	33.96	No Edge
		Best tp odds>		40.00	32.35	46.32	result 5-0
Charlton	Wolves	26	+0.34	47.37	34.21	18.42	Home bet @ 11/8
		Best tp odds>		46.32	33.85	36.67	& draw bet @ 9/4 90 mins result 1-1
Tranmere	Birminghm	12	-0.02	33.75	36.25	30.00	Draw bet @ 9/4
		Best tp odds>		48.89	33.85	38.26	90 mins result 1-1

Our strategy indicated 5 bets from 8 games, 4 of which did the business at 13/5, 7/4, 9/4 and 9/4. Do we have possibilities here?

❏

It's All Systems Go for ...

THE SMARTsig GET TOGETHER

FOREST HILLS HOTEL
Overton Hill,
Frodsham,
Cheshire
WA6 6HH

Venue;

Forest Hills Hotel, as above (between Manchester & Chester) just off M56, J12. 30 mins from Manchester Airport, 10 mins from Runcorn station (direct link to London Euston)

A modern hotel, 58 bedrooms, all en suite, direct telephone, satellite TV etc. Facilities include adjoining 18 hole golf course, indoor swimming pool (looks quite big in the brochure), Spa bath, Squash courts, snooker room, solarium, sauna, gym and beauty salon.
I'm sure they'll send you a brochure if you telephone 'em.

Date & event;
Saturday 24 February 1996

Greenalls Gold Cup, Haydock Park.

The Deal;
Saturday 24th February 1996
Morning of, check into the hotel.
Coach transfer to Haydock
Afternoon at Haydock Park races.
Coach return to hotel.
Evening 4 course dinner.
A drink and a chat. (or a swim and a game of squash for the
masochists)

Sunday 25th February 1996
Full English breakfast.
Tearful farewells (until the next time)

The Cost;

Hotel	£45 per person (sharing twin room)
Haydock members	£15
Coach transfers maximum	£4 (any surplus will be wine with meal or it can go behind the bar)
TOTAL	£64

Booking;

By telephone, (01928 735255) (fax 735517) quote the SMARTsig event and ask for Viv Stanton who is dealing with all enquiries. (Mon to Fri 8.00am - 5.00pm) Credit cards welcomed.
Please book as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. You may get killed in the rush!

Forest Hills have kindly agreed to reserve their entire accommodation EXCLUSIVELY for SMART members and all other enquirers will be turned away. This will facility will remain UNTIL JANUARY 12th 1996.

If anyone needs a guarantee of the quality of the food, our member who has done much to help pull the event together, Chris Morris, is the Head Chef!

There are around twenty Smart members with e-mail addresses and they were informed of the details around two weeks ago. If we have the same percentage take up from the general membership as I've seen from the email list, we'll fill the place!

There is also racing on the Friday and the same hotel deal is open to SMART members who want the extra day. A good day (or two) out with the most excellent of company.

Wives, Husbands, partners, etc. are also welcome (but not compulsory!) Come along and help to put a face to that name, I'm sure we can fill the place.

Getting a discount from Haydock for Members admission was liking getting blood out of a stone! They only do discounts in the 'cheap seats'. Likewise I could squeeze no special deals out of Greenalls (must be losing my touch!)

❏

A horseracing system using a daily paper and aimed at a specific time period.

DAILY MIRROR SYSTEM

Allan Knight

Dear Stef
enclosed is a short, about an old system I used to use, for the benefit of other SMARTsig readers.

In my steady progress to betting professionally, I developed many systems and came up with a wide variety of ideas. About 15 years ago I used a very simple system that proved effective for a set period of time during National Hunt seasons.

The system operates from the Daily Mirror, I can't vouch for other papers or even the Mirror today, but I presume there isn't too much difference. With the National Hunt upon us I thought I would share this system with SMARTsig members. I would be happy to hear how they get on with it over the coming months.
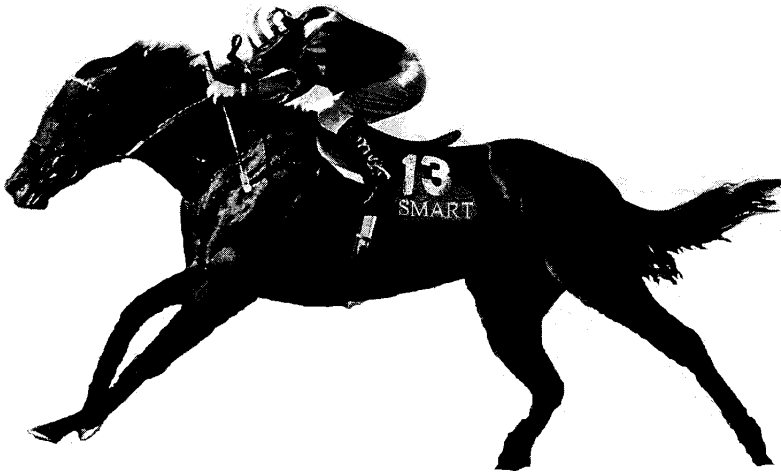
First of all and quite crucially, the system only ever seemed to work from November to the start of the Cheltenham Festival, at which point it went to pieces. During the qualifying period many good bets are found and sometimes at very reasonable prices. At the time I used to stake between £10 and £15 per bet and the system used to show between 1 and 6 bets per week.

My earnings in one very good season averaged out at £80 per week during the period outlined. £80 a week wasn't great even 15 years ago but it was respectable.

Although I do remember being a little less strict occasionally than outlined below, but these are the system rules (I sometimes did not insist on a C win).

The Rules.

1   12 Runners Maximum

2   No Apprentice, Amateur, Ladies or Novice Races.

3   The selection must be "Black Spot" selection.

4   The selection must be SF (Strongly Fancied)

3   The selection must be Course and Distance winner.

6   The selection must have a going abbreviation matching the current going

7   The horse must have won at least once in it's last two races

There you have it,

I did try the system on the flat but it fell down, that is until I insisted that the horse was ridden by a top jockey, it didn't do too badly then. I eventually gave up on it because I became more involved reading in depth form and applying myself more thoroughly to the task of Pro gambling.

Nevertheless the system did work for a time and I remember the first heady months of victory with a fond glow.

❏

Memo
From Elswick Enterprises Allan Knight

IMPORTANT

Dear Stefan,

We are in the process of closing the following areas of operation.

- Pen and Ink Systems.
- Telephone Line Subscription Services.

We must also retract all offers and discounts on all our products. With reference to Smartsig, this means that our offer on the RACING SWORD BOOK is withdrawn and discount on the Sword Software is withdrawn. From the 1st of December 1995 we will return cheques and orders requesting goods at offer prices.

With regard the telephone subscription line. after careful study of my personal betting for this flat, I have noted that mainly because of lower average returns, my profitability has suffered. The losses far exceeding the gains from subscriptions.

The bookie only needs to shave off a point or so off known bets to ruin or seriously reduce the profitability of backing the animals. Even if the bookmaker doesn't deliberately do this, one customer backing heavily can seriously reduce the odds.

As my personal bets are put through layers it is difficult to avoid the effect. Lindons Lotto on Saturday the 4th of November (given as an EW bet on line) was the last straw. I watched in horror as the "all morning price" dropped from 10/1 to 7/1. I had thought it might go out to 12's.

We still intend to continue with software, and I am still looking for someone to program for us. Or maybe a software house would like to program my ultimate program and market it themselves?

I have concluded (many people are saying I told you so) that giving others bets is counter productive.

Allan Knight

One the one hand we have avid computer users.
On the other we have computer haters.
But in between I know we have many members who
would perhaps like to take the plunge.

DO YOU <u>REALLY</u> WANT A COMPUTER?
Iain W Simpson

"**O**h no, not ANOTHER computer article", I hear the non keyboard bashing, non eye strained members amongst you mumble, but surely there's got to be something that makes these boxes of boards, chips, roms, rams and resistors such an apparently essential tool for so many people? Well let's look at some facts.

We're all bettors, so how useful can a computer be to us? Well, in a recent survey I carried out, 38.9% of bettors who owned a computer, said it was an essential aid to their betting, 27.8% classed it as very useful, while 25% rated it as useful. Okay, so maybe they are useful,

. . . but what exactly IS a computer?

A computer is an electronic device that is able to accept input, process it according to a given set of instructions, store both the instructions and the results of carrying out the instructions, and produce the results as output. So what does all that mean in normal language?

Well it means that you could for example type in all of your betting details for a particular week (input), press a button, and the computer, almost instantaneously, could calculate your total stakes, your average bet size, your profit/loss over the week, your percentage profit on turnover, your strike rate and the average price of the bets you placed (assuming you provided it with all of the raw data necessary to calculate such figures), and display all of these figures on a screen (output).

Of course the computer can't just magically calculate these figures, it has to be told what rules to follow in order to carry out the task, just like your mother would be unlikely to know how to calculate your percentage profit on turnover, until you showed her how (i.e. you told her a set of instructions to follow).

These rules or instructions which the computer follows are called computer programs or software, and they can either be written by you (if you take the time

to learn a programming language), or far more often by a professional programmer working for a software company. The ability to write your own specialised software is a great benefit, but a programming language cannot be learned in a day, it takes time to gain the necessary knowledge and experience. Many computer owning bettors clearly believe it to be well worth the time and effort as 88.9% of those surveyed had learned at least one programming language, while 52.8% knew 2 languages or more.

The simplest form of programming language, and therefore the easiest to learn, is BASIC. There are many forms of this language such as Quick BASIC and Visual BASIC, and 77.8% of those surveyed had learned at least one form of the BASIC language. There are various major categories of software, but before we get onto them, let's find out how the computer is actually able to carry out instructions?

At the heart of . . .

. . . every computer is the key to the whole device and that is the chip or CPU (Central Processing Unit). It is this chip, CPU or processor (all valid names) which does all the hard work, without a chip, a computer is unable to do anything. The chip is the computer equivalent of the brain. In fact the human body is a good analogy for explaining the basic components of a computer, and that is what I'm going to do now.

Input devices:

The human input devices are eyes (sight), hands (touch), nose (smell), ears (sound), and mouth (taste). Computer input devices are varied but the main ones are keyboard (to type in letter or numbers), mouse (a pointing device - move a mouse around on a table top, and a pointer moves in a corresponding direction on the computer screen, allowing you to point at things and click on them), scanner (allows you to scan photographs, documents, etc. into your computer), microphone (allows you to give signals to the computer via human voice input, or to record sounds).

There are two other input devices which are very important, but are of a slightly different type, in so far as they are both used to input (or load) pre-written software into your computer.

The first is the floppy disk drive, which forms an integral part of every modern computer system. Small thin diskettes (or disks) which contain data are slotted into the drive unit, and the data can then be transferred fairly quickly into the computer.

These disks can also be used to record (or save) you own computer programs or data on to. The disks can be re-used many times (the same as recording, then re-recording sound onto a conventional audio tape).

The second of the software loading devices is called a CD Rom drive. It uses CD's of the sort you may play in your Hi-Fi at home (indeed if you have a device called a sound card, you can also play music CD's through your computer). The CD Rom is another way to load software or data into your computer, but it is different from a floppy disk drive in two main ways. Firstly you cannot record onto a CD (unless you invest about £1000 in a player/recorder), and secondly the CD can store about 450 times as much information on it's surface.

Output devices:

Humans have many output devices. Our main ones are vocal chords (speech), hands (signals and gestures. Also used to output information with the aid of another instrument such as a pencil) and face (expressions). A computer can have many different forms of specialised output devices, but by far the most widely used ones are the monitor, screen or VDU (Visual Display Unit) (similar to a TV screen where text or graphics can be displayed) and a printer (where output can be recorded permanently on to paper etc.).

Short-term memory:

When we think about things, we bring them into our short term memory, fetching further necessary data from our long-term memories as and when it is needed. A computer also has a sort of short-term memory which it uses to store information which is currently needed (such as a program you are running). This memory is called RAM (Random Access Memory). The random part is derived from the fact that you can gain access to any random part of the memory within an equally short space of time - there is no need to start at the beginning and search sequentially through the computers entire memory until you come across what you want, you can gain instant random access to any part which you require.

Long-term memory:

When we have to store a particular piece of information for a long period of time, it gradually works it's way into our long-term memory (things like our phone number, date of birth, how to calculate 2 + 2, etc.), so that we never forget it. A computer's form of permanent storage is called a hard disk or hard

drive, the capacity of a hard disk is commonly 60 to 100 times greater than the capacity of the computers RAM (short-term memory). The hard disk is where all your computer programs (software) are stored when they are not in use. When you wish to use one of your pieces of software, your computer can locate it easily and load it from the permanent storage (hard disk) into memory (RAM).

Three main models

There are three main models of computer in use at the moment by the majority of home users, they are the PC (Personal Computer), Apple Macintosh, and the Commodore Amiga.

The PC is by far the most widely used type, mainly due to it's absolutely huge world-wide support by both hardware manufacturers (hardware is the term used to cover all the bits of computers excluding computer programs, so things like RAM, monitors, keyboards and hard disks are all known as bits of hardware), and software companies.

For this very reason it is normally the best type to opt for if buying a new computer, because quite simply if something is available for a computer, it will be available for the PC, while it may not be available for the Amiga or Macintosh models. Of those bettors surveyed, 81.1% used a PC, 8.1% used an Amiga, 5.4% used a Macintosh, while 5.4% used other models. I only have knowledge and experience of the PC, so it is this model that I will focus my attention on throughout the remainder of this article.

Your very first computer

Let's say you decide to splash out on a flashy new computer, what do you do once that big brown cardboard box is sitting in the centre of your living room carpet?

Well firstly you take it out the box, rig it up, plug it in, and switch it on! Then the fun really begins!

The first thing you will see (if the damn thing works) is the start-up screen of the computer's operating system. This may either be a black screen with a small flashing cursor (in which case you are looking at the start-up screen of an operating system called DOS), or it may be a brightly coloured screen with a few box like 'windows' (in which case you are almost certainly looking at the start-up screen of the worlds most popular operating system - Windows).

Operating System

Okay so what on earth is an operating system? Quite simply it is software that manages the overall operation of the computer system (the monitor, the memory, the chip, the hard disk, etc.), and it provides a platform upon which computer programs written by software companies the world over, can operate (i.e. it provides a standard to which all software can conform).

An operating system is also a user friendly way of allowing you to interact with the computer, and it allows you to carry out common tasks by either typing a few words of text, or in the case of the Windows operating system, by simply clicking on a couple of on-screen icons (small on-screen pictures).

If it wasn't for the operating system, the user would have to write a small computer program to carry out even the simplest task, in which case computers would be as good as useless to the average person. So don't bother too much about what an OS (operating system) is, just be glad they exist.

Software (the programs you use)

Okay so the computer is now switched on and raring to go, but what then? What can you do with this heap of electronics? Well the answer is, not a lot, at least not until you get some software to run on it. There are pieces of software on the market to carry out just about every common task you could ever need, but the biggest selling groups of software applications (excluding games) are:

Word processor:

Just like a typewriter, although the words are not physically printed as you go along, instead the document does not need to be printed until you are ready, if at all.

You can cut bits of documents and paste them in again in new positions, import graphics and tables into documents, spell and grammar check letters when you are finished, and design documents with various sized lettering etc., then preview the finished product before printing it to paper. Modern word processors can do much, much more than I could ever tell you here, their manuals run to several hundred pages.

❏

Iain's advice to budding computer users concludes with part 2 of this article in next month's magazine.

- Stef

Plenty of response to a National Lottery syndicate proposal by a member in last months mag., none of whom wanted to join. Just a few of the replies are printed here. . .

LOTTERY LUNACY?

Various Members

Noticed in the editorial of the current issue of SMARTsig that you are considering a National Lottery syndicate.
(Remember that we publish the views of the members - SMART does not necessarily agree or disagree with the views, but merely allows them to be expressed - Stef)
Uhhmmm. I thought the "RT" in SMART stood for rational thinking?

Of course people who play the Lottery say that someone has to win so it may as well be me. I always say to those who play the Lottery, "Would you bet on a 14 million to 1 long shot in the Derby?" Such a horse would probably be a one-legged, blind donkey, that just happened to be dead! Of course applying Lottery logic to my statement then a Lottery player would say, "Well a one-legged, blind donkey, that just happened to be dead has got to win the Derby one day."

All the possible combinations have an equal chance of coming up so each combination has odds of 14×10^6 to 1 to return just £8 million on a regular week. A bad bet!!!

The only way to guarantee success is wait for a roll over with say a jackpot of 20×10^6. Your syndicate then fills out 14 million slips with each possible combination. If you are lucky and nobody else gets the winning number you make a profit. Needless to say *I* won't be joining the syndicate.

James Butler

Surprised to see that a SMARTsig member is interested in the National Lottery ! Systems, Methodologies And *Rational Thinking* - the only conclusion I can get when applying these to the National Lottery is "don't bother!"
The two good reasons not to do the Lottery are obvious:
(1) the numbers are completely random, so cannot have a rational system applied to them . . . and

(2) the "bookmaker's margin" (i.e. total stake - total prize money) is huge (something like 50%) making the bets uneconomic. For this reason, I hope that we don't end up with too much space devoted to Lottery Systems, Methodologies And Rational Thinking !!

Paul Freeman

(LSMART? - doesn't have the same ring to it, does it?   - Stef)

Very surprised that a member has suggested a National Lottery syndicate. Does SMART really want to promote something which is totally random, is the worst investment and where no skill whatsoever is required to select entries?
Surely the brain cells of the members could be far better employed in placing multiple entries in the Tote/Racing Post Ten-To-Follow competition!

Rex Towers

In a recent BBC1 documentary (*Here and Now*) they discussed the National Lottery. The program was investigating all the so called systems out on the market, surely, anyone with any common sense would realise that these systems do not work. One number has just as much chance as any other of being picked. For example 34, 23, 47, 12, 23, 38 or 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 have just the same chances of winning.

Nick Kiddell

Speaking as one of the 10% who have never bought a Lottery ticket, (pause while I polish my halo) the interesting points raised from my point of view on the Here & Now program were the programs investigations around the fact that the systems sellers claimed to be able to significantly increase your chances of winning, by effectively reducing the odds. So we have two conflicting assurances;
1.   The Lottery Organisers have an obligation under law that the numbers selected have to be completely random and unpredictable.
2.   The system sellers have an obligation under law that whatever claims they make about their product have to be true.
 They can't both be right!
The Trading Standards people are now investigating.
For those who think a dead donkey will win the Derby one day, I am indebted to a member who pointed out that all Lottery numbers for the past six months can be found on BBC2 Ceefax page 750. Or for those without teletext facilities, a premium rate telephone number, 0891 300 450
- Stef

!! FREE SOFTWARE !!

RACEXRAY by Stefan Perry (formally retailed at £55.00)

HORSE SENSE (v2) by Chris Mostyn (retailed 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.