

## **SMARTsig Confidential 8.01, Jan 2001**

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*February 2001, issue 8.02, is scheduled  
for posting on 1st February 2001.*

# SMART

# UP FRONT

*The intelligent choice*

## **Start the New Year Well**

**A**lways a very frantic time in the SMARTsig office at this time of year, getting the January issue out before the Christmas close-down allows me very little time to compose my usual Up-Front piece.

So when SMARTie Alistair Campbell sent me a few new year quotations it seemed an appropriate occasion, they may well serve to set us all up to get into the right frame of mind for a prosperous 2001.

So, I'll wish seasons greetings to all our members old and new before passing the column over to Alistair;

~

It's January 2001. A new approach required?. Perhaps the poet William Blake can help.

***“I must Create a System or be enslav'd by another Man's  
I will not Reason and Compare: my business is to Create”***

Surely a pointer to go your own way?

***“If you play a Game of Chance, know before you begin  
If you are benevolent you will never win”***

Obviously a guideline to be more ruthless. Ask for that penny underpayment. Seek that extra quarter point. Don't give that poker player his favourite seat.

And how to take the ups and downs of betting, here is the great man's thoughts.

***“Man was made for joy and woe  
And when all this we surely know  
Safely through the world we go”***

These have all been fairly upbeat quotations, but I fear the truth lies with Alfred Lord Tennyson

***“Our little systems have their day  
They have their day and cease to be”***

~



*These apt saying from yesteryear reminded me that I'd also had some other, more modern quotations from a few members a while back. Here's a selection.*

***“Guessers are losers”***

*Slim Amarillo (Former world poker champion)*

***“If you can pick stocks and shares then you are a financial wizard.***

***If you can pick the winner of a horserace - you're a bum”***  
*Andy Beyer (Picking Winners)*

***“Gambling - the sure fire way to get nothing for something”***

*All from member Vic Sobczak*

~

***“If you owe the bank £1,000, you've got a problem.***

***If you owe them £1,000,000, the bank has the problem.”***  
*Anon. (Maybe 'bank' and 'bookmaker' are interchangeable?)*

***“Bookmaker.***

***A pickpocket who gets you to use your own hands”***  
*Anon.*

*Both from Kevin Berry*

Punter, after the last race:

***“I had a good day, I broke even”***

From Roger Standing

~

The Bettor's Prayer:

***“Lord, let me break even - I need the money”***

From Torsten Lundgren

~

A remark from a racecourse bookmaker

***”The only way to make a small fortune at this game is to start with a large fortune!”***

George Kane

~

***“The road to ruin . . . fast women and slow horses”***

Anon.

***“All men are equal on the turf - and under it”***

Anon.

***“Racing is the sport of kings - and you don't see many of them around these days”***

Anon.

***“The way his horses ran could be summed up in a word. -  
Last”***

Groucho Marx

***“If there was no action around, he would play solitaire and bet against himself”***

Groucho Marx (of his brother Chico)

***“If it (the horse) hadn't shown a flash of speed in the straight, it would have got mixed up with the next race”***

P.G. Wodehouse

All from Tony Drapkin

*There's another saying along the lines of "When your luck's in everything goes right". Summed up well perhaps in this*

*offering from John Norris;*

- As Lucky Jim is walking along minding his own business, and skint, he finds a little oil lamp in the gutter.

So he picks it up and gives it a rub, as you do, and waits for the Genie, who eventually pops out, rubbing his eyes sleepily and mumbling, "I'll grant you one wish".

So our hero thinks for a while, and eventually requests that he be incredibly lucky for the day. "So be it" says the Genie, and disappears along with the lamp in a puff of smoke . . . .

Immediately, a £50 note appears where the lamp had been.

"How lucky" says Jim, setting off for the bookies, where he blows the lot on *Jimbo* to win at 400/1. Eventually his horse comes in second. What a shame.

Suddenly there is an announcement - there has been a stewards enquiry and the winner has been disqualified, making Jimbo the winner.

"How lucky", says our hero, deciding to celebrate in his local.

As he walks through the door hundreds of lights start flashing and a siren sounds as people cheer . . . .

"Congratulations! Jim" says the landlord "You are our 1 millionth customer - free drinks for you all night, no limit"

"How lucky", thinks our man, sitting and telling his pals of his incredible day . . . .

But, of course, none of them believe him so they set him a challenge to test his luck. The serene and lovely new Indian barmaid was as sexy as hell, and teased them unmercifully. But try as they may, none of them had yet managed to get off with her.

That was his challenge. So off goes our hero, chatting away and as charming as he can be . . . Soon, and to everyone's surprise, they are getting on superbly, to the point where he is invited up to her flat at closing time . . . .

"How lucky", thinks he, and sure enough not long after last orders the two of them make their way up to her comfortable apartment.

After a very short time however, she notices his attentions are wandering and she enquires as to what is the problem.

"Look" says he, "I'm sorry, I know its a religious thing, but I can't take my eyes off that red dot on your forehead. It's ruining my concentration"

"Don't worry" she says, "it's only a cosmetic, scratch it off if it will help"

"Okay" he says, scratching it off . . . . .

"How lucky" says he, "I've won a car!!"

~

*And finally something with a seasonal feel from Bruce Talbot*

Riding the favourite at Cheltenham, a jockey was well ahead of the field. Suddenly he was hit on the head by a turkey and a string of sausages. He managed to keep control of his mount and pulled back into the lead, only to be struck by a box of Christmas crackers and a dozen mince pies as he went over the last fence. With great skill he managed to steer the horse to the front of the field once more when, on the run in, he was struck on the head by a bottle of sherry and a Christmas pudding.

Thus distracted, he succeeded in coming only second. He immediately went to the stewards to complain that he had been seriously hampered!



*Terry Collins returns again this National Hunt season, reporting the progress of four horses-to-follow lists available through commercial publications.*

## **HORSES-TO-FOLLOW PUBLICATIONS**

*Terry Collins*

**C**ontinuing the checking of our four horses-to-follow publications namely . . .

***One Jump Ahead*** - Mark Howard. (£4.99)  
Available from WH Smiths and elsewhere.

***Jumping Annual*** - Racing & Football Outlook (£4.95)  
Available from most good newspaper shops.

***10 to Follow*** - Karl Dennis (£5.00)  
Available via email from [karlatkz@netcomuk.co.uk](mailto:karlatkz@netcomuk.co.uk)

***National Hunt Betting Guide 2000*** -Weatherbys (£6.95)  
As advertised on the back page of Smartsig 7.12.

Details of each publication can be found in Smartsig 7.12.

These lists are being checked from 20 October until after the Grand National which is roughly the period we've covered in previous years.

### ONE JUMP AHEAD (-£1.47)

	selections	winners	BALANCE	win SP's
<b>20-Nov</b>	1	0	-£2.47	
<b>21-Nov</b>	1	1	-£1.67	4/5
<b>22-Nov</b>	1	0	-£2.67	
<b>23-Nov</b>	1	1	-£2.22	4/9
<b>24-Nov</b>	3	1	-£2.35	15/8
<b>25-Nov</b>	6	2	-£3.03	11/4, 4/7
<b>30-Nov</b>	1	1	-£1.65	11/8
<b>02-Dec</b>	3	0	-£4.65	
<b>04-Dec</b>	2	2	-£4.12	1/4, 2/7
<b>06-Dec</b>	1	1	-£2.49	13/8
<b>07-Dec</b>	2	0	-£4.49	
<b>08-Dec</b>	5	3	£6.62	7/1, 11/2, 8/13
<b>09-Dec</b>	5	2	£7.79	7/2, 4/6

**Selections = 32**  
**Winners = 14**  
**Strike rate = 44%**

A busy time at the payout window (or using the 'withdraw cash' button for you on-line bettors!) for One Jump Ahead fans this time round.

Christmas comes early with a 9 point profit for the period.



**JUMPING ANNUAL (-£16.51)**

	selections	winners	BALANCE	win SP's
<b>20-Nov</b>	1	0	-£17.51	
<b>22-Nov</b>	1	0	-£18.51	
<b>24-Nov</b>	2	1	-£17.63	15/8
<b>25-Nov</b>	10	2	-£13.02	12/1, 8/13
<b>02-Dec</b>	1	0	-£14.02	
<b>04-Dec</b>	1	1	-£13.77	1/4
<b>05-Dec</b>	1	0	-£14.77	
<b>07-Dec</b>	3	0	-£17.77	
<b>08-Dec</b>	3	0	-£20.77	
<b>09-Dec</b>	6	1	-£22.27	7/2

**Selections = 29**

**Winners = 5**

**Strike rate = 17%**

**November 25th, 2000 STOP PRESS!  
Jumping Annual selects 12/1 winner!!**

True, but unfortunately there were 8 losers on the same day which vastly reduced its impact on the final balance and with 13 losers to follow. A 5 point loss was eventually recorded.

**KARL DENNIS (+£0.33)**

	selections	winners	BALANCE	win SP's
<b>24-Nov</b>	1	0	-£0.68	
<b>25-Nov</b>	3	0	-£3.68	

**KARL DENNIS (continued)**

	selections	winners	BALANCE	win SP's
<b>02-Dec</b>	1	0	-£4.68	
<b>09-Dec</b>	3	2	£4.33	7/1, 3/1

**Selections = 8**  
**Winners = 2**  
**Strike rate = 25%**

Not many visits to the bookies for Karl Dennis followers but with a 4 point profit recorded for the period the coffers are boosted. Not enough to retain the lead though.

**WEATHERBYS (-£7.61)**

	selections	winners	BALANCE	win SP's
<b>21-Nov</b>	1	0	-£8.61	
<b>24-Nov</b>	2	1	-£7.73	15/8
<b>25-Nov</b>	4	0	-£11.73	
<b>30-Nov</b>	1	1	-£10.36	11/8
<b>01-Dec</b>	1	0	-£11.36	
<b>02-Dec</b>	1	0	-£12.36	
<b>03-Dec</b>	1	1	-£11.11	5/4
<b>06-Dec</b>	1	0	-£12.11	
<b>08-Dec</b>	3	0	-£15.11	
<b>09-Dec</b>	5	1	-£12.11	7/1

**Selections = 20**  
**Winners = 4**  
**Strike rate = 20%**

No silver lining found under this cloud as of yet but third place spot retained as we get ever closer to 2001 (blimey that was quick . . . shame about the horses!)

## Staking

As long-standing SMARTies will remember, previous year's profits were increased by only betting on horses with SP's of 3/1 or greater. Results and rankings for backing all and the 3/1 plus strategy are as follows . . .

	normal	Rank (prev. posn.)	3/1+	Rank
OJA	£7.79	1 (2)	£14.50	1
KD	£4.33	2 (1)	£5.00	2
W	-£12.11	3 (3)	-£8.00	3
JA	-£22.27	4 (4)	-£18.50	4

As can be seen from the table the 3/1+ rule had a positive effect on each of the lists but none more so than One Jump Ahead so once again it looks a winning formula for punters following these type of lists.

## Summary

One Jump Ahead ominously takes over from Karl Dennis at the head of affairs with Weatherbys holding a distant 3<sup>rd</sup> spot with Jumping Annual bringing up a distant last. All this can change rapidly however, as we have seen in the past, so we won't start counting chickens (no, not turkeys!) just yet!

With the festive season getting underway we'll wait and see what happens. Will Santa bring Christmas presents for any of our quartet I wonder?



### Horses engaged monitoring service

To be automatically informed by email of your own list of hot-horses, or those you'd like to know the next and/or every time they're running - you'll need . . .

[www.trackingservice.co.uk!](http://www.trackingservice.co.uk!)

***The bookmakers over-round determines how large a slice of the cake he's taking for himself. Is this cut affected by field size or track, and have recent reforms made it better or worse for the punter?***

## **BOOKMAKER OVER-ROUNDS**

***Martin Kilgariff***

***From Peter Orchard;***

**R**eading the messages regarding early prices I wondered if anyone had monitored over-rounds with a view to assessing if it was possible to forecast the likely overround for the final SP's?

I recall someone indicated a rule of thumb was 2% per horse so a guide was that a 10 horse race would have an over-round on average of 120%, a 15 horse race 130%, 20 140% etc.

Given early prices for a 10 horse race showed an overround 110%, could one not anticipate the favourite or near favourite horses shortening and if this occurred the prices of some of the others extending?

***Keith Taylor***

Over the last couple of months I have been monitoring Ladbrokes early prices on races of up to eight runners. Their overround is invariably 3% or slightly more per runner. I wouldn't think they would be any more 'generous' in larger fields.

***Martin Kilgariff***

I generated a table showing over-rounds course-by-course, but discovered it was unuseable.

After some investigation I found that the Raceform data

from which I work, only started including the fact that runners had been withdrawn from the 1995 data onwards.

Prior to that time, if a runner had been withdrawn, the SP's may have been pre-Rule 4 prices, and hence for over-round purposes useless.

Therefore the following table are the Flat track over-rounds for 1995 - 1998 inclusive, with any race which included withdrawn runners removed from the calculations. Only about 3-4% of races had withdrawn runners recorded by Raceform.

### ***Betting book over-rounds, flat courses 1995-98***

Track	Average field size	Average over-round per runner
ASCO	11.86	1.66
EPSO	9.42	1.79
AYR	9.64	1.81
GOOD	10.18	1.86
NEWB	11.45	1.86
NEWM	11.24	1.92
SAND	10.07	1.93
HAMI	8.88	1.95
MUSS	8.83	1.95
CHEP	10.01	1.98
KEMP	11.44	1.98
BATH	10.14	2.05
PONT	11.33	2.10
BRIG	9.14	2.12
SALI	10.89	2.13
CHES	8.65	2.14
WARW	11.48	2.16
YARM	8.88	2.23
LEIC	11.97	2.23
HAYD	10.03	2.24
LING	9.46	2.29
WIND	12.74	2.30

**Betting book over-rounds, flat courses (continued)**

Track	Average field size	Average over-round per runner
THIR	10.62	2.33
DONC	11.63	2.33
CARL	9.56	2.34
YORK	11.11	2.35
REDC	10.60	2.43
FOLK	10.46	2.44
NEWC	10.14	2.45
WOLV	9.83	2.46
NOTT	12.93	2.49
SOUT	10.97	2.49
CATT	10.27	2.54
RIPO	10.88	2.62
BEVE	9.99	2.66
Average	10.46	2.22

If you look at the intra-year data for the last 6 years you can see what a bonanza we all had after the pitch reforms, and how the off-course bookies had only partially clawed back their degree of advantage with the SP reforms earlier this year.

Year	Average field size	Average over-round per runner
1995	10.00	2.24
1996	10.39	2.19
1997	10.60	2.24
1998	10.82	2.22
1999	11.04	2.07
2000	11.20	2.16
Average	10.68	2.19

The equivalent NH tables covering the 1995 - 1997 seasons is given next.

**Betting book over-rounds, NH courses 1995-97**

Track	Average field size	Average over-round per runner
PERT	7.91	1.74
AYR	8.92	1.79
AINT	9.21	1.80
ASCO	8.40	1.83
CHEL	9.47	1.87
MUSS	8.67	1.93
KELS	8.62	1.95
BANG	10.00	1.95
TAUN	10.04	1.96
NEWB	9.10	1.97
WORC	10.35	1.98
SAND	8.49	2.00
UTTO	9.11	2.02
STRA	9.04	2.03
WOLV	5.75	2.04
WARW	9.91	2.07
NEWC	10.20	2.08
KEMP	8.22	2.08
FONT	8.41	2.08
LUDL	9.86	2.09
LEIC	10.38	2.12
CHEP	9.24	2.13
PLUM	7.45	2.13
EXET	8.99	2.14
CATT	10.79	2.17
DONC	9.66	2.18
CARL	9.03	2.19
WINC	9.19	2.22
LING	9.59	2.29
WETH	8.29	2.30
NOTT	13.05	2.30
WIND	10.98	2.32
SEDG	8.95	2.33

**Betting book over-rounds, NH courses (continued)**

Track	Average field size	Average over-round per runner
SOUT	8.23	2.38
HAYD	8.65	2.39
HEXH	9.83	2.40
NEWT	8.17	2.46
FOLK	9.69	2.48
MARK	9.04	2.53
TOWC	9.33	2.60
HUNT	9.45	2.62
HERE	9.84	2.64
FAKE	8.62	2.79
CART	6.79	3.02
Average	9.18	2.19

For Jumpers, a similar picture emerges, although this summer has been the best time for the off course bookies with their SP reforms squeezing the punter more than ever before.

Season	Average field size	Over-round per runner
1995	9.58	2.18
1996	8.92	2.19
1997	9.04	2.19
1998	9.57	2.01
1999	9.36	1.92
2000	9.24	2.23
Average	9.29	2.11

The following table is the month-by-month breakdown for the last three years (NH), dramatically showing the effects of the pitch reform from Oct 1998, and how the bookmaker counter attack in May this year gave them a sparkling summer. The trend for this November looks promising.



	Jan	10.49	2.18
	Feb	10.11	2.24
	Mar	9.93	2.02
	Apr	9.20	2.03
	May	10.36	2.35
1998	Jun	10.18	2.23
	Jul	9.74	2.12
	Aug	8.46	2.45
	Sep	8.51	2.36
	Oct	8.74	2.07
	Nov	9.06	1.98
	Dec	9.51	2.00
	Jan	8.67	1.96
	Feb	10.02	1.91
	Mar	9.61	1.85
	Apr	10.80	1.91
	May	10.90	1.98
1999	Jun	10.82	2.04
	Jul	9.52	2.09
	Aug	8.44	2.18
	Sep	8.15	2.05
	Oct	9.11	2.01
	Nov	8.60	1.87
	Dec	9.14	1.88
	Jan	9.85	1.82
	Feb	9.58	1.86
	Mar	9.68	1.87
	Apr	10.26	1.96
	May	10.16	2.17
2000	Jun	9.53	2.31
	Jul	9.43	2.25
	Aug	7.03	2.47
	Sep	8.94	2.37
	Oct	9.05	2.20
	Nov	9.52	1.93

## ***Our football superiorities spread-betting series continues.***

# **SOCCER SUPERIORITY SPREADS**

**SMARTsig**

**Update period 25/11/00 to 10/12/00**

**Betting bank brought forward: -2.85**

**Profit/loss this period: -3.15**

**Betting bank carried forward: -6.00**

**F**or this year-end update, time-reduced because of the holiday period, it would have been nice to have been the bearer of better tidings. Fact is though, we've taken a few set-backs again this time and are still carrying forward a monthly deficit.

Results for the latest period;

Score	Date	Home	PI	Pts	Away	PI	Pts	Rate	Pred	Trade	Edge	Bet	Bank
0 1	25/11	Charlton	14	21	Sunderlan	14	20	0.0	0.5	no edge			-2.85
1 1	25/11	Coventry	14	11	Aston Villa	13	22	-1.0	-0.1	no edge			-2.85
0 3	25/11	Derby	14	10	Man Ud	14	33	-1.7	-0.6	(11/14) C,X	5	SAF	-1.90 -4.75
2 1	25/11	Everton	14	18	Chelsea	14	17	0.0	0.5	15ch H,S,X	4	BH	+0.85 -3.90
2 3	25/11	Man City	14	14	Ipswich	14	24	-0.8	0.0	no edge			-3.90
2 2	25/11	Middlesbro	14	10	Bradford	14	7	0.2	0.6	no edge			-3.90
2 3	25/11	Southampt	14	17	West Ham	14	18	-0.1	0.4	no edge			-3.90
3 0	25/11	Tottenham	14	20	Leicester	14	26	-0.5	0.2	no edge			-3.90
1 0	26/11	Leeds	13	19	Arsenal	14	28	-0.6	0.1	no edge			-3.90
2 1	26/11	Newcastle	14	20	Liverpool	14	24	-0.3	0.3	no edge			-3.90
1 0	2/12	Arsenal	15	28	Southampt	15	17	0.7	1.0	15/18 H,I	5	SHF	+0.50 -3.40
1 1	2/12	Aston Villa	14	23	Newcastle	15	23	0.1	0.6	no edge			-3.40
2 1	2/12	Bradford	15	8	Coventry	15	12	-0.3	0.3	no edge			-3.40
0 1	2/12	Ipswich	15	27	Derby	15	10	1.1	1.2	7/10 C,I,S	2	BHF	-2.00 -5.40
3 1	2/12	Leicester	15	26	Leeds	14	22	0.1	0.6	(0/3) X	6	SAF	+2.00 -3.40
3 0	2/12	Liverpool	15	24	Charlton	15	21	0.2	0.6	15/18 I	9	SHF	-1.50 -4.90
2 0	2/12	Man Utd	15	36	Tottenham	15	23	0.8	1.0	17/20 H	7	SHF	-0.30 -5.20
1 0	2/12	West Ham	15	21	Middlesbro	15	11	0.6	0.9	no edge			-5.20
2 1	3/12	Chelsea	15	17	Man City	15	14	0.2	0.6	13/16 H	7	SHF	+0.30 -4.90

## Soccer superiority spreads, monthly record continued

2	1	3/12	Bolton	20	36	Watford	18	39	-0.4	0.3	no edge				-4.90
2	0	4/12	Sunderland	15	23	Everton	15	21	0.1	0.6	no edge				-4.90
5	0	9/12	Arsenal	16	31	Newcastle	16	24	0.4	0.7	11/14 All	4	SHF	-3.90	-8.80
3	3	9/12	Bradford	16	11	Tottenham	16	23	-0.8	0.0	(2/5) X	2	SAF	+0.20	-8.60
3	3	9/12	Charlton	16	21	Man Utd	16	39	-1.2	-0.3	(12/15)	9	SAF	+1.20	-7.40
4	1	9/12	Chelsea	16	20	Derby	16	13	0.4	0.7	12/15 C	5	SHF	-1.80	-9.20
5	0	9/12	Man City	16	14	Everton	16	21	-0.5	0.2	no edge				-9.20
1	0	9/12	Southampt	16	17	Leeds	15	22	-0.5	0.2	(1/4) H,S	3	SAF	+1.10	-8.10
1	0	9/12	Sunderland	16	26	Middlesbro	16	11	0.9	1.0	no edge				-8.10
1	1	9/12	West Ham	16	24	Aston Villa	15	24	-0.1	0.4	no edge				-8.10
1	0	10/12	Coventry	16	12	Leicester	16	29	-1.1	-0.2	no edge				-8.10
0	1	10/12	Liverpool	16	27	Ipswich	16	27	0.0	0.5	11/14 I,C	6	SHF	+2.10	-6.00

Much of the damage to our position was inflicted by Arsenal on Saturday 9th December, crashing in with a 5-0 defeat of Newcastle . . . a much higher winning margin that would be suggested by the form-book.

But still, "Football is a funny old game" as they say.

You'll need last month's, or November's magazine to see the previous results and how the ratings are calculated. For those who already have that information here's an analysis of the results in thus far:

Total of 48 trades, trading balance -6.00

### **Edge (Predicted superiority vs spread)**

edge of	0.2	11 bets	+4.20
	0.3 & 0.35	8 bets	+ 0.15
	0.4	5 bets	-1.90
	0.5	7 bets	-4.00
	0.6	8 bets	-1.45
	0.7 & better	9 bets	-3.00

Surprisingly better performance showing where the edge between prediction and the spread is at its smallest.

What about the type of bet struck? Is there anything to be gained by examining buys and sells favouring home or away sides?

### **Bet Type (buy/sell home/away)**

Buy Home (BH) (when spread is 0.15ch)	2 bets	+0.70
Buy Home Favourite (BHF)	6 bets	+0.20
Sell Home Favourite (SHF)	22 bets	-19.70
Sell Away Favourite	18 bets	+12.80
Buy Away Favourite	no bets.	

Wow! It doesn't take a mathematical genius to see immediately where the profitable bets lie, and where we've been throwing money away!

Despite the limited sample size as yet, so stark is the comparison between the areas here that I must view this as being statistically significant, and look to amend the trading strategy accordingly.

Having said that I am reluctant, because of the small sample to abandon a large section of the bets altogether, so I'm going for a simple staking change.

From now on staking will be as follows, in an attempt to make maximum use of what looks to be the better areas;

- **SHF** bets ½ point
- **BH** or **BHF** bets 1 point
- **SAF** bets 2 points
- **BAF** bets (if we ever see any!) ½ point

See if we can't now make inroads into our negative bank balance before our next report.

***When one of our members carried out a comparison of the results from our own AI, AW ratings versus those from the Racing Post's Postmark, there was only one clear winner.***

## **SMARTsig AW RATINGS REVISITED**

***Roy Budd (via Royal Mail!)***

**M**uch has been written about Jim Crawford's usage of the SMARTsig artificial intelligence, all-age handicap ratings as used with all-weather racing – and it as all been stimulating stuff.

The views expressed by Stef in issue 7-11, to use the bare ratings as a platform to work from, are largely the views I share.

More than forty years of studying and devising systems have led me to the conclusion that the more rules a system has, the greater its chances of medium to long term failure. We are all (well most of us!) guilty of this sort of fiddling of course, the temptation to add more rules and filters to enhance the bottom line is great.

Because Jim's use of the all-weather ratings appeared to be most successful I decided to keep a check of the bare ratings once the AW season started this November. I now have the first month's results to hand.

My object was to discover if the results justified their use as a base for further research. After all, if for example the Racing Post's Postmark ratings achieved the same or better results, why on earth would anyone want to take the trouble to calculate the AI ratings from the SMARTsig tables anyway?

There were 65 all-weather, all-age handicaps included in my survey, and from these I had checked the three highest AI ratings. I also checked, for comparison purposes the three top-rated Postmark adjusted ratings. Where there were joint or equal ratings, I gave preference to the higher last run rating.

As can be seen below, the SMARTsig AI ratings were significantly more successful than Postmark.

***SMARTsig AI Ratings:***

	<b>Top Rated</b>	<b>2nd top</b>	<b>3rd top</b>
Runners	65	64	63
Winners	10	10	7
Strike Rate	15%	16%	11%

***Racing Post Postmark adjusted ratings:***

	<b>Top Rated</b>	<b>2nd top</b>	<b>3rd top</b>
Runners	65	63	64
Winners	4	5	7
Strike Rate	6%	8%	11%

Thus, the SMARTsig AI ratings found 27 winners from their top-three, that's 41% of the 65 races checked, against Postmark's 16 winners, or 25% of races rated.

There is also another very important fact to report! The starting prices for the winners was very impressive and none started at odds-on!

Listed on the next page are the actual winners prices which show the average SP to be around 5.8 to 1!

**SMARTsig AI Ratings starting prices**

<b>Top Rated</b>	<b>2nd top</b>	<b>3rd top</b>
6/1	6/1	16/1
6/1	10/1	9/2
2/1	4/1	9/1
10/3	9/4	10/1
7/2	9/1	4/1
8/1	4/1	16/1
9/4	5/2	7/2
6/1	6/1	
10/3	7/2	
5/2	4/1	

I intend to continue monitoring the bare ratings and will report significant findings in due course.

Meantime, the usual health warnings apply to the statistics – they will I know be regarded by many as too few to be representative. But I hope they are nevertheless of interest.

And finally . . . .

As one of the non-computer members (we used to be referred to as the SMARTsig C- brigade) I was interested to read Stef’s UP Front piece about email contributions in issue 7-12. Personally I enjoy them, I’m just waiting for Stef to set up three-day computer courses down their in sunny Cornwall to start us off and I for one will be joining the email brigade!



*The AI, AW, all-age handicap ratings for the January-March period are reproduced from the next page . . .*

# AI- AW All-age handicap Ratings (Jan-Mar) Rate all-age handicaps at any UK AW courses during January through March.

	3yo		4yo		5yo		6yo		7yo+		7yo+	
	male	female	male	female	male	female	male	female	male	female	male	female
- 1	406	367	394	361	381	353	367	343	353	332		
- 1	375	335	366	331	355	326	343	318	331	308		
- 1	341	303	334	302	326	299	317	294	300	286		
- 1	305	272	310	275	296	275	289	271	280	266		
- 1	249	231	251	236	250	243	247	244	242	242		
- 1	286	258	265	262	281	263	275	261	267	257		
- 2	390	344	380	340	368	334	356	326	343	317		
- 2	359	309	349	308	340	305	329	298	318	291		
- 2	316	274	315	276	308	275	301	272	291	267		
- 2	279	240	278	246	276	248	271	244	264	244		
- 2	0	219	194	205	226	212	225	216	222	217		
- 2	259	224	260	231	259	235	255	236	250	234		
- 3	371	318	363	316	353	312	343	306	331	298		
- 3	334	279	329	321	322	280	314	276	304	271		
- 3	293	240	292	245	288	248	282	247	275	244		
- 3	0	260	203	252	212	253	217	249	220	245		
- 3	0	184	151	192	166	197	177	199	164	195	188	
- 3	228	185	232	196	234	203	233	207	228	208		
- 4	0	350	287	344	288	336	287	327	283	317	277	
- 4	0	308	244	306	245	302	251	295	250	287	247	
- 4	0	264	201	265	210	264	215	261	218	255	217	
- 4	0	217	160	222	172	225	182	225	187	222	189	
- 4	0	144	101	156	121	164	136	170	147	172	154	
- 4	0	193	140	200	154	205	165	206	173	206	177	
- 0	1	311	231	309	238	305	241	299	241	292	239	
- 0	2	263	182	265	192	264	199	262	203	257	203	
- 0	3	211	132	217	147	212	158	222	165	220	169	
- 0	0	157	84	168	103	175	118	180	128	182	136	
- 0	0	74	15	92	41	106	62	116	80	124	92	
- 0	0	130	60	142	81	162	98	159	111	162	121	
- 1	313	235	311	241	306	240	304	244	291	241		
- 1	396	355	385	350	372	343	359	334	345	323		
- 1	365	323	357	321	347	316	335	308	323	300		
- 1	332	292	326	313	319	290	309	286	299	278		
- 1	297	262	294	266	288	267	283	265	274	260		
- 1	0	243	223	246	232	245	238	243	235	232	251	
- 1	0	279	249	278	254	275	256	269	255	262	251	
- 2	1	380	331	370	329	359	323	347	316	334	307	
- 2	1	361	304	353	304	344	301	334	296	322	286	
- 4	1	338	272	334	275	327	274	318	273	308	267	
- 0	1	296	215	298	222	294	227	289	228	282	221	
1	1	470	449	455	437	441	425	427	411	413	398	
1	1	441	418	428	408	416	397	403	385	391	372	
1	3	407	383	396	376	386	367	375	357	364	346	
1	1	368	348	360	343	351	336	342	328	333	318	
1	1	303	295	299	294	295	291	289	286	282	279	
1	1	347	330	340	326	333	321	325	314	316	305	
1	2	457	432	443	422	429	410	416	398	403	385	
1	2	425	397	414	389	402	380	399	378	358		
1	3	388	360	378	354	369	347	359	339	349	329	
1	2	345	321	340	319	333	314	325	307	316	300	
1	2	376	363	374	365	372	365	368	352	345	328	
1	2	323	302	319	301	313	297	306	292	299	285	
1	3	442	412	430	403	417	393	404	382	392	370	
1	3	407	374	397	367	387	360	376	351	365	341	
1	3	366	333	359	329	351	324	343	318	334	309	
1	3	320	290	316	290	311	288	305	284	298	278	
1	3	245	226	246	231	246	234	244	234	240	231	
1	3	296	269	294	271	290	270	285	267	279	262	
1	4	426	389	415	382	403	374	392	364	380	354	
1	4	386	346	378	342	370	337	360	330	350	321	
1	4	341	301	337	301	331	298	324	293	316	287	
1	4	291	255	290	258	287	258	283	256	278	252	
1	4	210	184	214	193	216	198	216	201	215	202	
1	4	265	231	265	236	264	238	261	238	257	235	
1	1	396	346	387	343	378	338	369	331	359	323	
1	0	349	327	345	329	339	325	321	324	286		
1	0	297	245	296	249	294	250	290	249	285	247	
1	0	241	191	243	199	244	204	244	207	241	207	
1	0	148	110	157	125	164	135	168	143	171	148	
1	0	211	164	215	174	218	181	219	185	219	187	
1	1	416	375	406	370	396	363	385	354	373	344	
1	2	375	331	368	328	360	324	351	318	342	310	
1	3	328	284	324	284	319	283	313	280	306	275	
1	4	276	235	276	239	274	241	271	241	266	238	
1	0	190	161	196	172	200	179	201	183	201	185	
2	1	452	426	438	416	424	404	410	392	386	374	
2	1	422	394	410	386	398	376	386	365	373	359	
2	1	387	360	378	354	368	347	357	338	346	328	
2	1	349	326	342	323	334	318	326	311	316	302	
2	1	0	286	275	284	277	280	275	275	272	268	286
2	1	328	308	323	307	317	303	309	297	301	290	
2	2	438	408	425	399	412	389	399	378	386	365	
2	2	405	372	395	366	384	358	373	349	361	338	
2	3	368	335	360	331	351	326	341	319	332	310	
2	4	326	297	321	297	315	294	308	289	300	282	
2	0	288	242	288	246	257	248	254	247	249	244	
2	0	278	242	288	246	257	248	254	247	249	244	
2	3	423	386	411	379	399	370	387	361	374	350	
2	3	386	347	378	343	368	337	358	329	347	320	
2	3	345	306	339	305	333	302	325	297	316	290	
2	3	299	264	297	267	293	267	288	264	282	260	
2	3	0	226	203	229	211	230	216	229	218	226	217
2	3	276	244	275	248	273	249	269	248	264	245	
2	4	405	360	395	366	385	349	373	341	362	332	
2	4	364	317	358	316	350	312	341	307	332	299	
2	4	372	316	374	311	374	305	371	298	266	233	
2	4	269	227	270	232	268	235	265	235	261	233	
2	4	190	159	196	171	200	179	201	184	201	186	
2	4	243	204	246	212	246	214	244	218	241	217	
2	0	372	314	366	313	358	311	349	306	340	299	
2	0	325	264	322	267	318	268	313	266	305	262	
2	0	273	212	273	219	272	223	270	225	266	224	
2	0	216	160	221	171	224	179	224	183	223	185	
2	0	126	82	137	99	146	113	152	123	156	130	
2	0	187	134	194	147	198	156	201	163	201	167	
2	1	395	346	386	342	376	337	366	330	355	322	
2	2	352	301	347	301	340	298	332	294	323	288	
2	3	304	254	303	257	299	258	294	257	288	253	
2	4	253	206	255	213	254	218	252	219	249	218	
2	0	170	135	177	148	183	158	186	165	187	169	



Simply reference the runner's last 3 form figures (including season-end dashes), age and sex to obtain a quick rating.

	3yo	3yo	4yo	5yo	5yo	6yo	6yo	7yo+	7yo+			
	male	female	male	female	male	female	male	female	male			
0	1	1	387	343	376	339	364	333	351	324	337	314
0	1	2	356	312	348	310	338	306	327	300	315	292
0	1	3	323	281	318	283	311	282	302	278	282	271
0	1	4	289	253	287	258	283	259	276	258	268	254
0	1	0	237	216	241	226	241	233	239	236	234	235
0	1	-	237	216	241	246	269	250	264	250	252	246
0	2	1	370	319	361	317	351	313	339	306	326	297
0	2	2	336	284	330	285	323	284	313	280	302	273
0	2	3	300	250	298	255	293	257	286	255	277	251
0	2	4	263	219	263	227	262	232	258	233	252	231
0	2	0	204	177	213	191	216	201	217	210	215	210
0	2	-	244	204	246	214	246	221	244	223	239	223
0	3	1	351	290	344	291	335	289	325	285	313	278
0	3	2	313	252	310	256	304	258	297	256	287	252
0	3	3	273	215	274	223	271	227	267	229	260	227
0	3	4	232	179	236	191	237	199	236	204	232	205
0	3	0	170	132	180	150	187	164	191	174	191	180
0	3	-	211	163	217	177	220	187	221	193	218	196
0	4	1	328	257	323	261	317	262	309	260	299	256
0	4	2	286	215	286	223	283	227	278	228	270	227
0	4	3	242	174	246	185	246	193	244	198	240	199
0	4	4	197	134	205	150	209	162	210	170	209	174
0	4	0	128	81	143	103	153	121	160	135	164	144
0	4	-	174	115	184	134	190	147	193	157	194	163
0	0	1	286	198	286	207	284	213	279	216	273	215
0	0	2	318	249	342	263	344	272	344	272	349	281
0	0	3	187	101	196	119	201	132	204	142	204	148
0	0	4	135	55	148	77	158	95	164	109	167	118
0	0	0	56	0	76	20	93	45	105	65	114	80
0	0	-	108	33	124	57	136	77	144	93	150	105
0	-	1	154	239	312	244	307	247	300	247	313	243
0	-	2	271	194	272	204	271	210	267	213	261	213
0	-	3	225	151	230	165	232	174	232	161	229	183
0	-	4	178	109	187	127	193	141	196	151	196	157
0	-	0	106	52	122	77	134	97	143	113	149	125

	3yo	3yo	4yo	5yo	5yo	6yo	6yo	7yo+	7yo+			
	male	female	male	female	male	female	male	female	male			
0	1	1	415	379	403	372	390	363	376	353	362	341
0	1	2	384	347	374	342	363	336	351	327	339	317
0	1	3	350	314	343	313	334	308	324	302	314	294
0	1	4	313	283	309	284	303	283	296	279	287	272
0	1	0	256	239	257	246	255	249	252	249	246	246
0	1	-	294	267	292	270	287	271	281	268	273	263
0	2	1	400	357	389	352	377	345	364	337	351	326
0	2	2	366	321	358	319	348	315	338	309	326	300
0	2	3	328	286	323	287	317	285	309	281	299	275
0	2	4	288	251	287	255	283	257	278	255	270	251
0	2	0	226	203	230	212	231	219	230	222	226	222
0	2	-	268	234	268	240	266	243	262	243	256	241
0	3	1	382	331	373	329	363	324	351	317	339	309
0	3	2	344	292	339	293	323	291	322	287	312	280
0	3	3	303	253	301	257	296	258	290	257	283	253
0	3	4	260	215	261	222	260	227	257	228	251	227
0	3	0	192	161	199	174	203	184	205	190	204	193
0	3	-	237	196	240	206	241	212	239	215	235	215
0	4	1	361	302	354	302	346	299	336	295	326	288
0	4	2	320	259	316	262	311	263	304	261	296	257
0	4	3	274	215	275	233	273	237	269	228	269	227
0	4	4	227	173	231	184	233	192	232	196	229	198
0	4	0	153	112	163	130	171	144	175	153	177	160
0	4	-	202	152	209	165	212	175	213	181	212	184
0	0	1	323	248	320	253	316	255	309	254	301	251
0	0	2	275	198	270	275	213	272	215	266	215	
0	0	3	223	148	228	161	231	170	231	176	229	179
0	0	4	169	99	178	116	185	129	188	139	190	145
0	0	0	84	28	100	52	113	65	128	88	129	99
0	0	-	140	74	152	94	161	109	167	121	170	129
0	-	1	349	285	344	287	337	286	328	282	318	277
0	-	2	306	240	304	245	300	247	294	247	287	244
0	-	3	259	194	260	203	260	209	257	212	253	212
0	-	4	209	150	215	163	218	172	219	178	217	181
0	-	0	131	86	144	106	153	121	159	133	162	141

	3yo	3yo	4yo	5yo	5yo	6yo	6yo	7yo+	7yo+			
	male	female	male	female	male	female	male	female	male			
3	1	1	434	403	420	394	407	384	393	373	379	360
3	1	2	403	370	392	364	381	356	368	346	356	335
3	1	3	368	337	360	333	351	327	340	320	329	310
3	1	4	331	304	325	303	318	300	310	294	301	287
3	1	0	270	256	270	260	267	261	262	260	256	255
3	1	-	311	287	307	288	301	286	294	282	286	275
3	2	1	419	382	407	376	395	367	382	357	368	346
3	2	2	386	347	376	343	366	336	355	328	343	319
3	2	3	348	310	341	309	334	305	325	300	315	292
3	2	4	307	274	304	276	299	275	292	272	285	266
3	2	0	241	222	243	243	233	241	234	237	232	242
3	2	-	265	256	284	260	260	275	258	269	254	4
3	3	1	402	359	392	354	381	347	369	339	357	329
3	3	2	365	319	358	318	350	314	340	308	329	300
3	3	3	324	279	320	281	314	280	307	276	299	271
3	3	4	279	238	279	244	276	246	272	246	266	243
3	3	0	208	181	213	192	216	198	216	203	214	204
3	3	-	256	219	257	226	256	230	253	231	249	229
3	4	1	383	331	375	329	365	324	355	318	344	310
3	4	2	342	288	337	289	330	287	323	284	314	278
3	4	3	297	244	295	248	292	250	287	245	280	245
3	4	4	248	196	250	208	253	218	248	215	244	215
3	4	0	171	135	179	150	184	161	188	168	188	172
3	4	-	222	178	227	188	229	195	228	199	226	200
3	0	1	348	281	343	283	337	283	329	280	320	275
3	0	2	300	231	298	237	296	240	292	240	285	238
3	0	3	248	180	251	190	251	197	250	200	247	201
3	0	4	192	128	198	143	204	154	207	165	206	165
3	0	0	104	54	118	75	129	97	137	105	142	114
3	0	-	163	104	172	120	179	132	183	141	185	147
3	-	1	372	316	365	315	357	312	347	306	337	299
3	-	2	329	270	325	273	320	273	313	270	305	266
3	-	3	281	224	281	230	279	233	275	234	270	232
3	-	4	230	177	234	188	236	195	235	198	232	199
3	-	0	150	110	160	126	167	138	172	148	174	154



***Winners are only half the battle argues  
Russell Hart, imaginative staking can  
improve the bottom line.***

## **RETURN ON INVESTMENT**

***A Better Way For Betters***

***Russell Hart***

**N**ever use level stakes as your staking plan. The only use for profit to level stakes is to compare the claims of one system against your buying criteria.

The real basis for deciding whether a system gives good results is return on investment. How much did you get back for the money you put in? The profit to level stakes gives you one potential return on your investment. It just is never the best.

Many people rubbish staking plans as being an attempt to turn bad systems into good ones. The system used as an example here made a profit in every year of its operation. The system's fully proofed results and spreadsheets are available.

### **What are the staking options?**

There are three readily usable types of staking plans; they are:

- ◆ Level stakes, you bet the same amount every time without regard to the performance of the system
- ◆ Arithmetic change, where you bet an amount that goes up or down by a fixed amount each time you bet

***"Never use level stakes as your  
staking plan"***

- ◆ Geometric change, where you bet an amount that is a proportion of your bank.

There are other more exotic ways of staking, most of which could be called targeted. In these cases, you are attempting to reach a fixed return from a series of bets.

One main disadvantage with this type of staking is that the size of the bet can reach unaffordable levels. We all know about betting black (or red) at Roulette and doubling your stake every time. If you get a bad run you can be faced with a large bet and when you win your profit is one unit.

The Roulette example is as follows, progressive betting, starting with a bank of 100 units:

<b>Bet</b>	<b>Result</b>	<b>Bank</b>
1 on black	Red	99
2 on black	Red	97
4 on black	Red	93
8 on black	Red	85
16 on black	Red	69
32 on black	Black	101

The total amount staked is 63 units and the return is 1 unit. That represents a return on investment of less than 1%. You can stay home and put the money into a deposit account in a high street bank; you'll be better off.

## **System**

If you are going to have a bet then using a system can be a good way to go about it. For the purposes of this discussion, I intend to use one of my systems that suggest bets for horses running in December. All stakes are to a 25 unit base.

YEAR	WINS	RUNS	STRIKE%	LSP	LSP%
1993	29	48	60.42	623.00	51.92
1994	26	48	54.17	151.50	12.63
1995	16	33	48.48	231.50	28.06
1996	25	47	53.19	411.50	35.02
1997	25	58	43.10	117.00	8.07
1998	26	44	59.09	577.25	52.48
1999	27	52	51.92	270.25	20.79
	174	330	52.73	2382.00	28.87

The system made a profit every year. It has a strike rate in excess of 50%. It gives a level stakes profit (return on investment) of almost 29%.

That's better than the banks, building societies and the Stock Exchange. But guess what, we can do better. We will examine three staking plans which are as follows:

- Geometric staking, where we bet a fixed proportion of our bank
- Arithmetic staking with increasing stakes, where our stake increases depending on the results we are getting
- Arithmetic staking with decreasing stakes, where our stake decreases depending on the results we are getting.

### ***Geometric staking***

There are many variants of this way of staking. The one we will use is based on the principle of increasing our stake when we have banked a certain amount of the bookie's money.

In our example, we start with a 500 unit bank and have bets of 25 units. When we reach a bank of 750 units, we increase our stake to 50 units. This is a fairly conservative version of this type of staking plan but many people favour it.

If we examine the results from the table beneath we can see that we make a return of 2671 units at a ROI of 25.74%. We have a greater return than at level stakes.

However we have not used our money so well, our return on investment is more than 3% less.

YEAR	WINS	RUNS	STRIKE%	RETURN	ROI%
1993	29	48	60.42	712.25	42.52
1994	26	48	54.17	151.50	12.63
1995	16	33	48.48	209.75	20.98
1996	25	47	53.19	358.75	18.16
1997	25	58	43.10	117.00	8.07
1998	26	44	59.09	926.50	54.50
1999	27	52	51.92	195.25	14.20
	174	330	52.73	2671.00	25.74

For this system, level stakes is better than a geometric staking plan.

### ***Arithmetic staking with increasing stakes***

There are also many variants of this way of staking. The one we will use is based on the principle that we will increase our stake after a loser. We are chasing the winners looking to get our money back from a winner with a bigger bet on it.

In our example, we start with a 500 unit bank and start with a bet of 25 units. If we have a loser then we increase the stake by 1 unit. We continue to do this until:

- Either we have a winner and return to our 25 unit bet
- Or we reach a limit (35 units) when we return to our 25 unit bet.

This is a fairly conservative type of staking plan. It allows for a losing run of 10 horses and then says enough is enough. It does not increase the stakes if it is on a winning run.

If we examine the results from the table beneath we can see that we make a return of 2430 units at a ROI of 28.43%. We have a greater return than at level stakes. But we have not used our money so well, our return on investment is 0.4% less.

YEAR	WINS	RUNS	STRIKE%	RETURN	ROI%
1993	29	48	60.42	642.23	52.26
1994	26	48	54.17	159.46	12.92
1995	16	33	48.48	237.79	27.98
1996	25	47	53.19	428.41	35.38
1997	25	58	43.10	104.18	6.76
1998	26	44	59.09	583.73	51.25
1999	27	52	51.92	224.79	20.40
	174	330	52.73	2430.59	28.43

For this system, level stakes is better than an arithmetic staking plan with increasing stakes.

### ***Arithmetic staking with decreasing stakes***

There are also many variants of this way of staking. The one we will use is based on the principle that we will decrease our stake after a loser. We are not chasing the winners looking to get our money back. We are minimising our risks against a losing run.

In our example, we start with a 500 unit bank and start with a bet of 25 units. If we have a loser then we decrease the stake by 1 unit. We continue to do this until:

- Either we have a winner and return to our 25 unit bet
- Or we reach a limit (15 units) when we return to our 25 unit bet.

This is a fairly conservative type of staking plan. It allows for a losing run of 10 horses and then says we can now get our money back. It does not increase the stakes if it is on a winning run.

If we examine the results from the table beneath we can see that we make a return of 2333 units at a ROI of 29.35%. We have a lesser return than at level stakes. But we have used our money better; our return on investment is almost 0.5% greater.

YEAR	WINS	RUNS	STRIKE%	RETURN	ROI%
1993	29	48	60.42	603.77	51.56
1994	26	48	54.17	143.54	12.31
1995	16	33	48.48	225.21	28.15
1996	25	47	53.19	494.59	34.64
1997	25	58	43.10	129.82	9.55
1998	26	44	59.09	570.77	53.80
1999	27	52	51.92	265.71	21.21
	174	330	52.73	2333.41	29.35

Here we have a staking plan that is superior to level stakes.

### ***Can we do even better?***

With the advent of spreadsheets and [what-if?] simulations, we can go one step further in the search for better returns. The last part of our search uses a spreadsheet to find improved returns on investment.

The following table shows a range of ROI percentages for differing values of:

- the cut-off for end of losing runs, ranging from 25 down to 5 units
- change amount, ranging 0 to 5 units.

With either the cut-off at 25 or the change amount at 0, we get the ROI for level stakes staking. We can see that, with one exception, any of the other combinations offer a greater ROI.

	25	20	15	10	5
0	28.87%	28.87%	28.87%	28.87%	28.87%
1	28.87%	29.03%	29.35%	29.35%	29.35%
2	28.87%		29.19%		29.87%
3	28.87%			29.36%	
4	28.87%				29.55%
5	28.87%	28.15%	29.36%	29.24%	29.33%

In this example, we can gain about .7% more from use of the best combination of checkout and change amount. As the strike rate and average SP change, so does the level of benefit we get from the staking system.

And of course the size of the base stake affects our return.

### **Conclusions**

The conclusions are as follows:

- use level stakes profit to compare systems
- use an arithmetic change staking plan, based on a computer analysis of the system’s performance, to get the optimum return from your money.





# SMARTsig Confidential

## Magazine index 2000, Volume 7

### January 2000 SMARTsig Confidential (Vol 7 no. 01), contents list

**Upfront - SMARTsig** – Mistaken Identities. There's a certain comfort in seeing a product name you recognise, but all may not be what it seems so don't jump to conclusions.

**Decisions, Decisions, Decisions – Jaygee** – Refining a system with additional filters can make its implementation a little complex. How can you be sure that you're adhering to the rules, and if those rules still remain logical. A Decision Table is the answer.

**Neural Networks with Soccer Scores – SMARTsig** – More work with artificial intelligence attempting to crack the nut that is football correct scores!

**Premier League Score! – SMARTsig** – Your best statistical chance of collecting a dividend with the new weekend correct score coupon.

**One Paced Final Furlong, Won by a Length – Davey Towey** – Apply caution when reading the race results comments, there are all too many interpretations. "One paced" for example can be both a positive and a negative observation.

**Framing Your Own Betting Market – Brian Blackwell** – On quite simple, yet logical pen & paper solution to the puzzle of calculating your very own race betting forecast.

**MINI-KISS – Beaten Favourites System – Jim Perks** – Simple to operate horseracing system for you to check out.

**KISS#1 Fixed-Odds Football Systems – Steve P** – The first concentrates on the half time/full time result bet.

**KISS#2** A Lucky Fifteen strategy with 0-0 no score draws.

**Dynamic Modelling – Peter May** – Looking at the 'weighting' of individual system factors, progressing to thoughts on a computer strategy that "thinks like a pro".

**Full Index to SMARTsig Confidential Volume 6 (1999)** – Issue by issue, every article, author and subject from SMARTsig throughout 1999

**How Important That Last Form Figure? – Geoff Arnett** – Research on the significance to results of the last time out result. Full tables and findings published here.

**The Punter's Revenge Serialisation XVII - Drapkin & Forsyth** – Moving through chapter 8 to chapter 9, still examining soccer betting strategies.

**Premium Staking – Bob, Edinburgh** – Punters who seriously want to win money ought to eliminate, or at the least discount those bets where value is least. Conversely, to consider placing premium stakes on bets where value is the greatest.

**National Hunt AI Ratings - SMARTsig** - Month by month, artificial intelligence ratings based upon last 3 runs, age & gender for Chase and hurdle all-age handicap races for January.

**February 2000 SMARTsig Confidential (Vol 7 no. 02), contents list**

**Upfront - SMARTsig** – Another Turn of the Screw? All the major bookies are increasing their overrounds on the football fixed-odds coupons. Is this as they say, due to better informed punters, or is it abusing a dominant position in the market place to increase their profits?

**Commercial Horses-to-Follow Lists – Terry Collins** – Direct head-to-head comparison of this NH season's horses-to-follow lists from Timeform and One Jump Ahead. Worth subscribing to? – or better left alone?

**Book Review #1, Basic Instincts – Mike Dove** – The Little Book of Poker by David Spanier. Look over the shoulders of Ben Roberts, Scotty Nguyen and Jan Ludberg with \$350,000 in the pot!

**KISS – Rating the Runners – Lin Bedford** – A seven point checklist to rate each runner of your chosen race on a scale of 100.

**KISS – 6.10 Clarification – Jim Streek** – Getting the rules straight on a KISS from last October, plus a couple of additional filters to make it even more profitable.

**Back With A Vengeance, Fact Finding Mission – Ron Taylor** – More investigations, statistics and insights into jump season runners returning to racing following long lay-offs.

**Book Review #2, Oh What a Lovely Lot We Are – John Lucas** – "The Racing Tribe" (Kate Fox). Racing folk, the "tribe", are so good-natured win or lose, and that's official! An anthropologist studies the race-goers.

**AI All-age Handicap Ratings for All Weather racing – SMARTsig** – Our January to March figures re-printed.

**Opposing the Sure Thing – Davey Towey** – Spotting 'Bismarks' and opposing short-priced favourites.

**Fixed-Odds Football – SMARTsig** – A hedging bet for fixed odds that returns a 68.6% win strike rate!

**The Punter's Revenge Serialisation XVIII - Drapkin & Forsyth** – Concluding chapter 9. Thoughts on fixed-odds and football forecasting the authors discuss the most favourable options open to the soccer punter.

**Narrowing Down the Options – Steve Poxon** – An alternative tactic to winner finding is by a process of elimination. Remove the no-hopers and those with little chance will improve your chances.

**Book Review #3, Woe, Woe & Thrice Woe – Andy Burton** – The Punter's Irony by Jenny James.

**Take Off Those Blinkers – R Farmer** – Are some of us, as is suggested here, digging far too deeply to find gold? When, if we only took the time we'd see it scattered all around us on the surface.

**Better Safe Than Sorry – Terry Boulton** – A few gripes over Victor Chandler International were expressed a few issues back. One member would like to redress the balance.

**Ten Winning Years From Ten – Keith Thompson** – An interesting angle, checking the performance of a system against a known percentage strike.

**Tipsters & Ratings – Email Group** – Extracts from our Email discussions

**National Hunt AI Ratings - SMARTsig** – Month by month, artificial intelligence ratings based upon last 3 runs, age & gender for Chase and hurdle all-age handicap races for February.

## March 2000 SMARTsig Confidential (Vol 7 no. 03), contents list

**Upfront - SMARTsig** – Bookmaker’s Odds-Making Skills – Horseracing SPs are shaped by market forces whereas football fixed-odds are down purely to the skill of the odds compiler. This comparison of SPs and fixed-odds illustrates clearly how one is far superior to the other.

**Games For Horseplayers – Bob, Edinburgh** – The bookmaker has excellent skills for extracting the best possible rewards from his betting market. The way for the punter to extract real value then is to understand just how the bookie plays the game.

**Weatherbys Cheltenham Festival Betting Guide** – Book review.

**Low Tax, No Tax & Concession Bookmaker Directory - SMARTsig** - All the contact numbers and web addresses for telephone and on-line bookmakers now brought bang up-to-date.

**Variable Tax Return Calculator – Martin Ray** – It’s no good just plunging in with the bookie offering the lowest tax rate. This calculator helps you quickly locate the best return-per-pound

**Misleading Advertising – Ron Taylor** – This particular topic never seems to go away. Which scenario is more punter friendly? An advertising platform that publishes strict standards for its advertisers to adhere to, but then apparently fails to enforce such a code . . . Or, an advertising platform that makes no checks on advertiser’s claims, thus allowing prospective customers to proceed with caution.

**Please Nurse (Big, strong men need more anaesthetic) – Davey Towey** – A cunning plan to bow out of the National Hunt season on a high.

**SWAP SHOP** – Blackjack books and magazines for sale.

**Value Yes, Value No, Value what? – Email Group** – Many agree on the value approach, but there are still many differences in its interpretation.

**Courses vs Courses (Let’s ask the horses!) – SMARTsig** – The relationship between different flat racing courses (both turf and AW). Not a subjective opinion, but based upon actual results of just how the horses perform from one course to another.

**Cheltenham Festival 2000 – Timefan** – Significant statistics from the best three days of the jumps racing calendar.

**KISS#1 – Henk Eilerts** - 6-y-o handicappers system

**KISS#2 – Henk Eilerts** – Back to win again.

**KISS#3 – Steve Tilley** – Cheltenham KISS (the shortest KISS ever?)

**Ten From Ten is now Thirteen From Thirteen! – Hugh Spilsbury** – A follow-up to last months research from Keith Thompson which showed 10 winning seasons from 10. Three more seasons have now been examined, including the latest two, and the overall picture is still 100%!

**Commercial Horses-to-Follow Lists – Terry Collins** – Direct head-to-head comparison of this NH season’s horses-to-follow lists from Timeform and One Jump Ahead. Which one should you have been better subscribing to? – or better left alone?

**National Hunt AI Ratings - SMARTsig** - Month by month, artificial intelligence ratings based upon last 3 runs, age & gender for Chase and hurdle all-age handicap races. Our final instalment, March.

**April 2000 SMARTsig Confidential (Vol 7 no. 04), contents list**

**Upfront - SMARTsig** – And Then There Was One . . . – What ever happened to the need for placement agencies? . . . also news of our horserace tipping competition, how good are you at selecting winners?

**Who Wants to be a Millionaire? – Bob, Edinburgh** – Take a closer look at the popular TV game show, it is more than just trivia, there are some important learning indicators for the regular punter.

**Proportional Stakes – Various Contributors** – Should the size of your bankroll affect the selections made, or should the wealthy punter be using exactly the same strategies as the two-bob each way man?

**The Ups & Downs of a Profit Seeker – R Farmer** – Life can surely be a roller coaster ride for the horseracing hobbyist. One minute elation, the next it's the pits and you will never, ever make a profit from this game.

**Grand National Lotto – Davey Towey** – Analysis of the big race.

**Grand National Statistics – Timefan** – Use the evidence of the past twenty years to home in on the winner.

**Grand National Chat – SMARTsig Email Group** – Further musings.

**How To Master Golf Betting – Fearnley & Miller** – There are more opportunities for the astute and well researched punter in golf than in more mainstream betting activities. Where else can you make an excellent case for the chances of one of the 'runners' and be offered 150/1?

**The Punter's Revenge Serialisation XIX - Drapkin & Forsyth** – On to chapter 10 where roulette is the subject under discussion.

**Commercial Horses-to-Follow Lists – Terry Collins** – How our two big players faired over the NH big event, the Cheltenham Festival. Hope you heeded Terry's suggestion of last month urging you to ignore one of these HTF lists at the Festival, which once again proved to be accurate advice.

**KISS – Postmark Novice Hurdlers – Steve Poxon** – A simply found source for a very high percentage of winners.

**Ask ARCHIE! – Steve Tilley** – You're using you carefully developed plan and you're showing a good profit over the first series of bets. Can you begin planning you future in the sun at this stage? ARCHIE is a method for assessing the longer term potential of your ideas indicating whether you profits are the result of good development or just good luck!

**Adapting to the Circumstance – Alan Potts** – Dispelling the myth that for effective professional gambling it is necessary to avoid odds below a certain limit. Everyone is different, adapt our styles to suit the situation.

**Value Betting – Bob, Edinburgh** – If you prefer your money to be riding on the longer odds chances against the shorter losing runs encountered with the lower priced animals, think again. You are increasing enormously your chances of ending up in the punter's financial graveyard!

**Pittsburgh Phil, Master Craftsman – Henk Eilerts** – In order to beat the game, you must beat the price. The methods of the great man from 100 years ago are still just as relevant today as they ever were.

**Seeking The Best Returns – Seymour** – Mathematics can be used to prove a case, but they can also be used to disprove the very same thing. The age-old question, for those stuck with paying betting tax, is it better to pay tax with your stake or not? The case for both viewpoints.

**Variable Tax Return Tables – Martin Ray** – An additional set of tables to those given last month, giving further help to those looking for the best possible returns.

## May 2000 SMARTsig Confidential (Vol 7 no. 05), contents list

**Upfront - SMARTsig** – Soccer Betting – Correct scores is a difficult nut to crack, the reason it makes it so appealing. But looking at the end-of-season games there's maybe value to be had for one particular score.

**Commercial Horses-to-Follow Lists – Terry Collins** – The final instalment from our on-going comparison of the horses-to-follow lists as sold by Timeform and One Jump Ahead. Both did fairly well over last season, but one in particular is a recommended buy for next time.

**Genuine Value in Golf Betting – Derek Fearnley & Scott Miller** – The dominance displayed by the phenomenon known as Tiger Woods has frightened the bookies into pricing this particular player out of the running. But as a direct result of these low prices many other players have become extremely attractive bets, especially when backing for a place.

**Speedmax Program, a Progress Report – John Williams** – Speedmax is probably the highest profile program currently available for the PC horserace computer fan. A user of the software gives his assessment.

**Pace, Timing & Stride Counting – Email Group** – Extracts from the SMARTsig email discussion List. Topics include pace, speed race-watcher comments and the art of 'stride-counting'.

**Archie the Second – Steve Tilley** - Archie II offers the same features as last month's original, but this version is far easier to work with. We check out Racing Post's 10-Year Trends to test its long-term profit prospects.

**Flat Jockey Statistics (From a Different Angle) – Mike Dove** – Think of the ways jockeys are traditionally ranked, most winners, best percentage strike, etc. Mike takes a totally different approach to the subject awarding marks more akin to effort and individual ability. From the two tables published, one has MJ Kinane head and shoulders above his rivals, the other table has K Fallon rated 176th of 176.

**Backing the Draw for Profit (Book Review) – SMARTsig** – Racecourse and draw information and statistics have been updated in this follow-up to Raceform's best seller of 1998.

**The Punter's Revenge Serialisation XX - Drapkin & Forsyth** – Our book serialisation moves on the blackjack and card counting techniques.

**KISS #1 – Simple Summer Soccer – John Norris** – Blast the Aussie treble chance pools coupon with these perms for the 6 ways and 9 homes.

**KISS #2 – Raceform on Saturday System – Steve B** – Extremely simple method from the pages of ROS. Very selective but an excellent strike rate. 18 wins from 30 selections over the 18 month period checked.

**Getting It For Free – Jaygee** – Getting it is one thing, getting it for free is even better! Computer users can gain access to full daily racecards and results services without even paying for a telephone call. We look at the uses for a Hauppauge TV & Teletext card.

**SMARTsig Tipping Competition – SMARTsig** – Update on our in-house battle for the title of master tipster.

**Fantasy Sports Betting League (FSBL) – Terry Collins** – Pit your wits and sports-betting selection skills by email against others.

## June 2000 SMARTsig Confidential (Vol 7 no. 06), contents list

**Upfront - SMARTsig** – A Fool and His Money – Confidence tricksters operate in all areas of life, and unfortunately for many of those who populate the world of betting they can display many of the weaknesses so susceptible to this age-old profession.

**Barbed-Wire Betting – Henk Eilerts** – There was another very famous Bill Gates who was around at the beginning of the 20th century, many of his betting practices and money management techniques however as just as relevant now in the 21st century as they ever were.

**The Punter's Revenge Serialisation XXI - Drapkin & Forsyth** – The king of all card games, Poker. It has such a relevance to day-to-day life argues the authors that it should be compulsorily taught in schools.

**Go To The Dogs For Value – Alan G Hitchcock** – Some feel that greyhound racing is somehow beneath them. But with genuine opportunities for obtaining value you'd be unwise to ignore the possibilities.

**I Hate Computers! – Brian Harfoot** – You'd have thought that after all this time down the digital revolution road system quirks would have all but disappeared - not a bit of it! Even using one of the UK's top racing sites brings problems on an almost daily basis. We never had these problems with the newspapers!

**Bias 2000 – SMARTsig** – Book mini-review of a new publication from AD Renham. First impressions of this analysis of draw and class biases evident at our major tracks are very favourable.

**Is Each-Way Betting Worthwhile? – SMARTsig Email Group** – The prose & cons of betting win & place are examined in an extract from our email discussion group.

**KISS#1 The Favourite Five – John Norris** – Pattern recognition, a dirty word for many a statistician. For the believers however John offers a way of taking advantage of the fact that favourites win a high percentage of races.

**KISS#2 Just Watch, I'll Show 'Em – Trevor Taylor** – Keeping an eye on winning distances can throw up some good priced winners.

**Player Ratings, One Size Fits All?- Derek Fearnley & Scott Miller** – The way to get an advantage over the bookmaker is to compile ratings which give a more accurate picture than the ones he uses. Dissecting tournaments into a day-by-day basis is one way of doing just that.

**Remember The Bottom Lines – William Hutton** – Data is the key. Not just a snippet of recorded information though, you must be well armed with copious amounts of information in order to base a robust decision.

**The Ups And Downs of Share Trading – SMARTsig** – A cautionary tale from one of our members where thing almost went terrible wrong and for an initial bet of just £200 he almost incurred a loss into five figures – and all on the quirk of a single share in a very volatile market.

**Know Your (Racing Post) Tipsters – Steve Poxon** – Comparing the performances of some Racing Post regulars over a six week period.

## July 2000 SMARTsig Confidential (Vol 7 no. 07), contents list

**Upfront - SMARTsig** – Gone Fishin’ – Wouldn’t it be nice if you could choose from a pre-selected list of horses knowing that even if you backed the lot you would make a profit? We’re working on it . . . .

**Avoiding Whiplash – Jacques Black** – Wherever money changes hands in the name of speculation there are those who will benefit from manipulating the outcome. Make doubly sure you avoid being skinned!

**Golf Value Betting – Fearnley & Miller** – Sorting where to get the maximum value in golf betting. Some areas are so productive for the punter that many bookies no longer offer the bets – but some still do.

**The Punter’s Revenge Serialisation XXII - Drapkin & Forsyth** – The final instalment of our punter’s classic serialisation. Summarising the main conclusions and more money management and artificial intelligence.

**Pssssst! – Want a Free £50 Bet?** – Internet bookies in the UK are currently falling over themselves to increase their “on-line” customer numbers. A £50 free bet from the ‘magic sign’ is one of many such offers.

**Tipsters, Value, Reality and Overnight Success – Ross Farmer** – Betting in the real world is so much different to ‘paper trading’. Many become casualties of volatile betting patterns, copping out of a sequence at the wrong time often leaving the bookmaker in front.

**TippingComp, Punter’s Portfolio? – Peter Orchard** – One player in our in-house tipping competition tells not only of the excitement generated, but also of ways to financially profit from the top player’s advices.

**The Effects of Weight on All Weather Racing – Peter May** – Additional weight may or may not slow down the best horses in turf flat racing. What conclusions though can we draw from the statistics from the AW returns?

**Draw Bias, Tricasts and Trifectas – AD Renham** – Flat racing stall numbers are influential in the dividends paid. But even though when all three are drawn together or close the dividends may suffer, there are still ways to profit from the increased chances of getting it right!

**Horserace Spread Betting – SMARTsig** – Analysing results from the last five years to extract a profit from the spreads.

**KISS #1, Five Day Method Update – Jim Streek** – Whenever I’m asked “Are there really any horseracing systems that work, and continue to do so?” my answer is always positive. Jim’s ‘5 Day Method’ is a fine example.

**KISS #2, Horses For Courses – Alan G Hitchcock** – Rather than looking ‘how’ a horse ran its last race we should be more interested in ‘where’.

**Profits From Racing – Bob, Edinburgh** – The punter should learn valuable lessons from the way a bookmaker operates. Change your approach to be more like that of the bookie and you’re well on the way to beating his book with your own!

## August 2000 SMARTsig Confidential (Vol 7 no. 08), contents list

**Upfront - SMARTsig** – The Armchair Coach – The start of a new domestic soccer season. Following England’s disappointing Euro 2000 tournament, the editor grabs the chance to sound off about the British game.

**Enhancement Through Staking – Email Group** - People will always use staking plans whatever proofs are presented, fair enough, but never assume a they are a magic formula for extracting profits.

**Essential Football Betting Guide (Book Review) – SMARTsig** – A worthwhile new footy book has appeared for the start of the new season, and we're offering a discount and freebies for our members.

**A Winning System Using The Internet – Martin James** – The Information technology era delivers an abundance of information to the horseracing computer-user's fingertips. One member here is taking full advantage making a winning system from downloaded statistics.

**Proportional Staking – Steve Tilley** - Betting with a proportion of the bank, as suggested by a writer in issue 7.06 has advantages. But when Steve puts the idea under the microscope things do not look quite so rosy.

**Soccer Data Mining – SMARTsig** - Being well armed with statistics from previous seasons and a source that keeps you up-to-date during the current one will pay dividends. We examine the coupon fixed-odds from last season and pinpoint where the 'value' is – and where it definitely isn't!

**Enhancing Golf Profits – Fearnley & Miller** – There is more to golfing profits than merely finding the winners or high-priced placers. Our master-class continues to point the way forward.

**KISS#1 – Verily It Came To Pass – Rammy Peasant** – It was only after spending on the mainstream horseracing information providers that this punter saw the light. Good information need not be high cost and can be equally if not even more effective!

**KISS#2 – Topspeed System – D Johnstone** - Increasing the winning percentage using the Racing Post's Topspeed ratings.

**Increase Your Winning Chances by Using Perms – Paul Steele** -

Whether you wish to bet on the divisional winners or just five selections on a Saturday, perming your bet greatly increases your chance of success.

**Forecasts Are The Answer – AD Renham** – Using draw bias statistics only, records show that by carefully selecting the right tracks and appropriate distances, a good return can be made from forecast betting.

**Horserace Spread Betting II – SMARTsig** – Pour race results from the past 5 seasons into a neural network and mix well. Apply the resultant mixtures to spread-betting and returns of over 100% profit on investment can be achieved. A two month record sheet illustrates the point.

**O'Pinions, O'Pinions, My Wallet for O'Pinions. – Mike Gittos** - Turning the clock back thirty years and more, he's heady on the nostalgia of great races, great horses and some steward's decisions.

**Beware The Bookmaker Give-aways! – Lincs Racing** – A bookmaker asks us to pass on a warning of the offers that now abound to tempt the punter. All that glitters is not gold.

## September 2000 SMARTsig Confidential (Vol 7 no. 09), contents list

**Upfront - SMARTsig** – An Honest Buck? – Pro gamblers who make a living from form study and a better assessment of situations than the bookie are people to be revered. Those who aim to profit from manipulation of the results and/or players are not pro gamblers, they are cheats.



**Big Fish in Little Ponds – Bill Willoughby** – Comparing board prices with Tote odds could be very tempting, but be very aware of how a seemingly insignificant stake can affect the whole pool. An easy chart allowing you to see the impact your £20 can have on various pool sizes.

**Fine Tuning Neural Networks – Peter May** – Artificial Intelligence and Artificial Neural Networks (ANNs) can sometimes be just too good at mapping the mathematical significance of a set of factors from series of results. Profits may well depend on some 'toning down' of this feature.

**Weekly Fixed-Odds Perms – Paul Steele** – There is often only a very small edge to be exploited in fixed-odds soccer betting, follow this method to extract the very best potential profit from the weekly soccer coupons.

**SMARTsig SWAP-SHOP** – A member making room on his bookshelf by clearing out his stocks of old books, magazines and newsletters.

**KISS Handicap Chase System – Mike Hill** – A discussion with a trainer prompted this research, recognise when a stable is placing with a win.

**Variation On A Theme (I) – Edward Walker** – A KISS system featured recently used selection information from the Daily Mail. Would the same system be effective using the Daily Express? Result, indeed yes!

**Variation On A Theme (II) – Edward Walker** – The same technique of switching information source from Mail to Express on another previous KISS system. This time with a less favourable outcome.

**Moving Trainer Statistics – Tony Hazzard** – How to work with trainer statistics when they alter almost on a daily basis as fresh results come in?

**Extracts From the SMARTsig Email Forum – Email Members** – The effects of the draw are discussed.

**A Bad Draw? There's No Such Thing – Vic Sobczak** – A beneficial draw is easy to prove mathematically, but can the same be said for a negative draw? Vic thinks not, and illustrates the point using examples at Chester.

**Proportional Staking – Duncan Johnstone** – Staking plans seem to fascinate so many people. They're aimed at improving the winnings and limiting the losses – is this really possible?

**Solving 'Impossible' Sprint Handicaps Using Draw Bias – AD**

**Renham** – An advocate of the effects of the draw gives an example of how he uses the theories in a real life case.

**Plan For Success – Derek Fearnley & Scott Miller** – Concluding this summer's golf betting master classes. The basics for a successful punter.

**The Price Is Right – SMARTsig** – The odds a horse starts at are an accurate guide as to its real winning chances, but can the same be said for its chances of a place? We delve into the record books to show you an historical picture of how well different odds fare in percentage places with regard to number of runners, then show how this information can be used to beat the bookie and the spreads.

## October 2000 SMARTsig Confidential (Vol 7 no. 10), contents list

**Upfront - SMARTsig** – Banks & Bankers – There's more than the bookmakers out there who are keen to get hold of your money. Are all the procedures the big banks use are in the customer's best interest?

**Stop-At-A-Winner, A Loser! – Mike Dove** – The fact that a bookmaker accepts this type of bet is an indication that it is in his favour. Mike investigates the mathematical conclusions of SAAW betting – it is not good.

**Racing Post Pricewise – Email Group** – Why on earth should anyone want to part with huge sums of money for a tipping service when the time-proven Pricewise delivers the goods for the cost of the Racing Post. But just how do Ladbrokes seem to know the Pricewise selection in advance?

**The Irish National Hunt Festival at Punchestown – SMARTsig** – Like for a few days away next spring, in good company at the jewel in the crown of Irish jumps racing? Here's an offer you won't want to miss!

**On Top Form – Mike Francis** – Class, speed, trainer intentions, recent form. Which is the best method of determining the likely race winner?

**SWAPSHOP** – Members classified ads. Your unwanted form books wanted.

**Juggling The Draw Figures – Seymour** – A report from a member who has been making annual profits from flat racing draw bias, and long may it continue. The many different ways of interpreting the same info ensures the subject will always provoke comment for both sides of the argument.

**KISS#1 – Dropped In Class – Philip York-Jones** – Using a standard daily paper to help highlight possible winning selections.

**KISS#2 – Handicap Chase Top-Weights – Tony Symonds** – If you know exactly where to look a long term profit can be achieved from following this simple method. Seven winning years from the last nine, 27% strike rate and over 17% level stake profit.

**Fine Tuning Neural Networks (II) – Peter May** – Concluding his two-part look at using neural networks to solve to horseracing puzzle. Our expert applies the technology to all-weather flat racing.

**Tote vs. SP – Are You Missing Out? – Bill Willoughby** – Examined last month, Bill further explains there are definitely occasions when the prudent punter could increase winnings by making good use of the Tote pool.

**Money For Nothing – Is that the way to do it? – Mike Gittos** – A filly with a very modest – to say the least - racing record still holds the sprint record at Haydock Park after almost 40 years.

**Racing Post Topspeed – Email Group** – Speed figures are traditionally weight adjusted, but get confusing when other factors are introduced. Can such ratings be accurately described as 'speed' figures?

**SMARTsig Bookmaker Directory October 2000.** – Full up-to-date reprint of our internet based directory.

### November 2000 SMARTsig Confidential (Vol 7 no. 11), contents list

**Upfront - SMARTsig** – Co-operation, a two-way process – If you've enjoyed reading the many items and ideas we've printed over the years, remember they come from individuals many of whom are just like yourself – and they would dearly love to read your ideas and proposals too.

**Improving System Performance – Harry Demetriou** – You start with the bare bones of an idea, one which shows promise. The next step is to evaluate the application of filters. Here's a project doing exactly that with details of how each can affect the bottom line, the same principles can be applied to and improve any selection method.

**NH Season Betting Guide 2000/2001 – SMARTsig** – Appraisal of the latest publication from Weatherbys. Will it help sort out a few winners for the coming national hunt campaign?

**Soccer Superiority Spreads – SMARTsig** – A well researched, but extremely simple method of indicating good value bets in the superiority spread markets. This is the first episode explains the ground-work for a season-long experiment in the hope of making sufficient profit to fund a nice little vacation at the end of the season.

**Class of 2000 – Email Group** – Everybody knows that class will tell, the better horses will succeed more often than the rags. Only trouble is there is no clear-cut definition of 'class', our email group get to grips with the thorny problem.

**The Rules Of Engagement – Kevin Berry** – A set of golden rules for financial traders which are applicable to all who aspire to succeed in profiting from predicting future events.

**Horseracing Version Rules – Malcolm K Smith** – A horseplayer adapts the stock trading rules above, calling on his first hand experience. Is this the definitive "winning punter's rule book"?

**Two-Year-Old Review 2000 (Peter May) – SMARTsig** – This season-end mathematical appraisal of juvenile performances over the past season has been a Raceform publication until now. The only way to obtain Dr Peter May's figures now is direct from the man himself – and of course SMARTsig subscribers qualify for a discount.

**Artificial Intelligence, All-Weather, All-Age Handicap Ratings – SMARTsig** – We've covered this area before and given our in-house AI generated ratings, but it always generates an interest when the turf flat season ends and the AW winter campaign begins.

**Evaluating System Results – Steve Tilley** – We've all been there before, you can't do anything wrong and winning every day, but inevitably it all too often turns sour. Steve's innovative "Archie" method helps you test the integrity of a method beforehand helping you spot those that are less robust than the early results would indicate – or visa-versa!

**Racing Post TopSpeed – Email Group** – Calculating speed figures in the time honoured way using the hard evidence of the stopwatch and the going conditions is what it's all about. But if the author then fiddles with the values using non-time based judgements, can they still be called speed figures?

**KISS – Five-Year-Old Handicappers – Email Group** – Martin Kilgariff gives a suggested horseracing system the third-degree through his extensive results database.

## December 2000 SMARTsig Confidential (Vol 7 no. 12), contents list

**Upfront - SMARTsig** – The World Moves On – When SMARTsig first started in 1994, 90% of all correspondence was by letter. Now, just as we prepare to enter the year 2001 the situation has totally reversed, less than 10% of all communication comes the route of traditional mail.

**Going, Going, . . . Gone – SMARTsig** – Scientifically generated and standardised going reports is almost with us. A handful of tracks now have the equipment installed and operational. Once fully implemented there are moved afoot to add-in all kinds of other technical wizardry including on-course weather reports, sectional timing, horse racing weights, etc.

**The Turfrax Revolution – Solutech Ltd** – The innovators of the new on-track monitoring services tell their own story.

**Early Odds Versus Starting Prices – Email Group** – We're constantly being told by self appointed 'racing experts' that beating SP by taking an early price will greatly enhance profits. We don't need a racing expert to know the truth of this statement, it's simple mathematics. But have you any success in regularly beating SP using early odds?

**Commercial Horses-To-Follow Lists – Terry Collins** – Back for another season is our ever-popular in-running examination of some of the widely available horses-to-follow lists. Four commercial lists battle it out for title of this seasons best compilation. Can you spot the winner early?

**Soccer Superiority Spreads – SMARTsig** – Our own method of beating the spreads is into its second month and has profit levels heading in the right direction. Of the final 13 trades in the month, only 3 were losers.

**Fancy 4/1 About An 11/4 Shot? – Brian Oldham** – Brian explains how, using the betting exchange services now available, the shrewd player can benefit by both betting and laying the same selections.


**KISS#1 – Only One Tip, But Napped – Syd Lowe** – Simple system throwing up some good priced winners.

**KISS#2 – Watching The Tipsters – Bill Sheen** – Let the newspaper tipsters take on your burden of form study. It's their job after all, but how best to benefit from their efforts?

**A Chance In A Million or Underhand Tactics? – Alan Hitchcock** – The voice of experience tells us what can (and does) go wrong when your selections get into the wrong hands and too wide an audience.

**Enthusiastic For Archie – Email Group** – The 'Archie' formula for mathematically testing the long-term validity of systems, created by SMARTsig member Steve Tilley, may prove to be one of the most significant punter's tools we've ever dealt with – it has certainly stirred much interest.

**KISS#3 – Official Handicap Ratings – Bill Gourley** – The official handicapper is an expert at his trade, make best use of this expertise.

**Handicap Bottom Weights Re-Visited – Martin Kilgariff** – One of our KISS systems researched last year had showed eight winning seasons from the previous eight. Re-visited it can now boast nine consecutive winning seasons, but will the unavoidable losing runs mean that this winning method is not for the faint hearted? Are you brave enough? 

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***A football style, league table approach to  
analysing trainer performances***

**NATIONAL HUNT TRAINERS  
REVIEW**

***Ron Taylor***

**Y**ou and fellow SMARTsig members will no doubt be sorry to know that the Racing Post has confirmed that the much missed Trainers Review, produced annually by the Sporting Life, has not been published since the demise of the Life and there are no plans to resurrect it.

Perhaps naively, in the hope that the Racing Post Form Book would contain similar gems regarding trainers' statistical records and returns (the advertisement for it in the Post indicated there was a wealth of information regarding trainer records), I ordered a copy. Alas, there is one single page of the 1240 pages the Book runs to, headed "Top Trainers in Britain". Interesting detail but very basic and bland and the average racing fan can gain very little from it in its existing format, which really points out what we already know, i.e. the bigger trainers are at the top of the table and the smaller trainers towards the bottom, many not being mentioned at all.

The Post does arrange a daily production of top trainers for the courses where there is racing that day. Whilst this is stimulating guidance for some, and there are indeed a number of newly created systems built around the daily trainer statistics information produced by the Post, it is doubtful that the detail provided is really of as much use as we would wish. The publication covers the years 1996 to date and gives a full record of trainer's achievements throughout that period. This is commendable in regard to the trainers who have consistently produced the goods over the full period, but there are numerous instances of established trainers six years ago who have suffered

setbacks, for whatever reason, and their recent record shows no comparison with that for 1996/97; yet the full record is published and a trainer shown with a 20% strike rate may not have had a winner well over a year! Similarly, younger trainers were not training in 1996 (several were riding then) and it does seem unfair that the statistical detail published indicates that the mounts of a promising trainer with limited experience are given a lesser winning chance than the mounts of more senior trainers, with solid reputations of yesteryear.

I suspect most punters find it difficult to accept the detail provided by the Post at face value because it does not really compare like with like. Indeed the occasional Post publication of the full season's trainer statistics is of real interest, but reference to it does not necessarily readily show which trainers are having a successful time, sole importance being attributed to the value of prize-money won by the bigger trainers than the achievements of their counterparts down the line.

So, what would be more meaningful for the average punter in making use of the statistics provided by the Post? Everybody understands the significance of Football League tables, how the land's major clubs are placed in the Premier League and the lesser clubs in lower leagues, progressively down from One to Three, depending on ability and performance, which are largely ruled by the club's financial backing. The bigger clubs will always be successful, the lesser clubs finding it difficult to be so, without support. Are training establishments any different?

We all know that the Pipe/Nicholls/Williams/Henderson establishments (and deservedly so) are the equivalent of the Manchester Uniteds/Arsenals/Liverpools/Leeds of our racing/soccer world, but would it not help to know how the likes of trainers such as Jonjo O'Neill/Ginger McCain/Toby Balding/Josh Gifford for example fit in to the equivalent of the Aston Villas/Blackburn Rovers/Bury Towns/Scunthorpes of this land? I feel that such information is useful in placing an

accurate interpretation on the prospects of a trainer's charge in a race, wherever it may be. What follows here is an endeavour to place our National Hunt trainers into league format based upon the strengths of their individual yards, that is to say a trainer is placed into the league applicable to the number of horses in his charge, on the assumption that the more successful a trainer is, the more owners he will attract.

## Premier Division 1998/99

	Trainer	No of Horses	%Wins
1	P Nicholls	86	28CH
2	V Williams	78	28CH
3	N Henderson	92	23HC
4	M Reveley	103	22CH
5	M Pipe	209	21HC
6	L Lungo	58	19CH
7	P Hobbs	116	19CH
8	F Murphy	55	18CH
9	R Ainer	58	17HC
10	D Nicholson	96	17CH
11	K Bailev	82	16HC
12	J O'Neill	66	16HC
13	P Webber	66	15CH
14	I Williams	55	15HC
15	N Twiston-Dav	106	13CH
16	M Hammond	85	12CH
17	H Daly	62	11H
18	H Knight	66	11HC
19	S Smith	75	11HC
20	J Gifford	62	07CH
21	R Frost	55	07CH

## Premier Division 1999/2000

	Trainer	No of Horses	%Wins
1	M Pipe	207	27HC
2	V Williams	89	25HC
3	M Reveley	114	24CH
4	P Hobbs	123	23HC
5	P Nicholls	84	22CH
6	N Henderson	98	21CH
7	H Knight	58	18CH
8	I Williams	70	18HC
9	F Murphy	62	17CH
10	N Twiston-Dav	110	17CH
11	H Daly	62	15CH
12	J O'Neill	73	15HC
13	R Ainer	52	14C
14	D Nicholson	65	14CH
	/A King		
15	L Lungo	66	14CH
16	P Webber	66	14CH
17	K Bailey	82	16C
18	M Hammond	71	13CH
19	J Gifford	55	12HC
20	S Smith	73	12CH
21	R Frost	45	08CH

## Division 1 1998/99

	Trainer	No of Horses	%Wins
1	GM Moore	37	19HC
2	J Old	51	19CH
3	O Sherwood	51	17CH
4	S Sherwood	44	16CH
5	C Mann	47	15HC
6	T Easterby	45	15CH
7	D Gandolfo	46	14CH
8	P Bowen	48	14CH

## Division 1 1999/2000

	Trainer	No of Horses	%Wins
1	N Richards	46	22CH
2	S Sherwood	30	20CH
3	O Sherwood	39	16CH
4	T Easterby	32	15CH
5	J Jefferson	39	15CH
6	P Bowen	49	13CH
7	G McCourt	39	11CH
8	H Johnson	44	11C

## Division 1 1998/99 (continued) Division 1 1999/2000

9	M Todhunter	36	13C
10	S Brookshaw	35	12CH
11	N Richards	36	12HC
12	J Fitzgerald	35	11CH
13	J King	37	10C
14	R Buckler	45	10C
15	J Jefferson	35	10CH
16	G McCourt	41	09C
17	JW Mullins	35	08HC
18	G Balding	43	08CH
19	B Llewellyn	37	08HC
20	R Hodges	40	08H
21	H Johnson	49	08C
22	J Neville	44	07H
23	D McCain	35	06C
24	R Rowe	49	04C

9	R Rowe	44	11C
10	C Mann	48	11HC
11	J Fitzgerald	29	10H
12	JW Mullins	40	10CH
13	D Gandolfo	41	10CH
14	J Old	43	10HC
15	R Hodges	39	09C
16	GM Moore	50	09CH
17	B Llewellyn	26	08HC
18	D McCain	37	08HC
19	M Todhunter	34	08HC
20	R Buckler	42	08C
21	J Neville	44	08CH
22	S Brookshaw	40	07C
23	J King	30	05HC
24	G Balding	34	05C

## Division 2 1998/99

	Trainer	No of Horses	%Wins
1	C Egerton	28	25CH
2	M Pitman	32	19HC
3	M Jones	32	17HC
4	R Lee	30	14C
5	C Grant	32	13CH
6	N Mason	33	13C
7	P Beaumont	34	13C
8	GL Moore	31	12H
9	G Hubbard	28	11C
10	D Williams	30	10CH
11	K Morgan	31	10H
12	P Monteith	28	10H
13	MW Easterby	28	10CH
14	R Dickin	32	09C
15	P Eccles	34	09CH
16	J Jenkins	29	08H
17	C Morlock	28	08C
18	B Ellison	30	08C
19	A Carroll	32	08H
20	J O'Shea	32	07C
21	J Mackie	31	07CH
22	R Curtis	30	04C
23	JM Bradley	28	03C
24	R Baker	29	0

## Division 2 1999/2000

	Trainer	No of Horses	%Wins
1	C Egerton	27	28HC
2	MW Easterby	42	24HC
3	M Pitman	67	17CH
4	P Monteith	26	14H
5	C Grant	28	13CH
6	N Mason	33	13CH
7	K Morgan	29	12HC
8	GL Moore	39	11CH
9	R Curtis	25	10C
10	R Baker	30	09C
11	P Beaumont	32	09C
12	A Carroll	42	09HC
13	J Mackie	22	08H
14	B Ellison	26	08HC
15	R Dickin	27	08C
16	R Lee	29	08C
17	JM Bradley	29	08C
18	J Jenkins	33	08H
19	G Hubbard	17	07C
	/C Kinane		
20	D Williams	23	07C
21	P Eccles	20	05CH
22	M Jones	22	05H
23	C Morlock	25	05C
24	J O'Shea	30	02C



## Division 3 1998/99

	Trainer	No of Horses	%Wins
1	D Wintle	21	17CH
2	A Streeter	25	14HC
3	A Whillans	21	14CH
4	N Gaslee	22	14HC
5	T George	26	14C
6	J Spearing	25	12H
7	C Parker	27	11HC
8	T McGovern	21	11H
9	W Turner	23	10C
10	L Russell	27	10CH
11	D Haine	26	09HC
12	K Milligan	23	09H
13	A Turnell	26	08CH
14	M Wilkinson	21	07CH
15	F Jordan	27	06CH
16	W Storey	21	05C
17	M Chapman	22	05CH
18	O O'Neill	21	04C
19	C Popham	23	04C
20	W Clay	22	04H
21	D Thomson	21	03C
22	H Manners	21	02C
23	J Wade	27	02C
24	N Hawke	23	01C

## Division 3 1999/2000

	Trainer	No of Horses	%Wins
1	T McGovern	15	17CH
2	O O'Neill	12	15CH
3	T George	41	15CH
4	C Parker	26	13CH
5	D Wintle	36	13CH
6	J Wade	15	12C
7	M Wilkinson	22	12HC
8	W Turner	20	11H
9	H Manners	11	10C
10	W Storey	17	09HC
11	N Gaslee	20	09C
12	A Streeter	30	08HC
13	A Whillans	18	07CH
14	D Haine	18	05C
15	C Popham	20	05C
16	D Thomson	23	05C
17	N Hawke	24	05CH
18	K Milligan	27	05CH
19	J Spearing	19	04H
20	F Jordan	20	04H
21	M Chapman	22	04H
22	A Turnell	20	03C
23	L Russell	24	03H
24	W Clay	25	02H

## Conference League 1998/99

	Trainer	No of Horses	%Wins
1	AJ Martin	14	39CH
2	R Phillips	20	19CH
3	D Bridgwater	6	18H
4	J Upson	18	14HC
5	S Dow	19	14HC
6	J Golie	20	14HC
7	N Chance	10	13C
8	E James	20	13CH
9	R Ford	20	10HC
10	J Tuck	18	09H
11	P Hedger	20	09C
12	A Hobbs	21	09CH
13	D Burchell	18	08CH
14	M Sowersby	19	08H
15	T Casey	20	08C
16	F Murtagh	20	07C

## Conference League 1999/00

	Trainer	No of Horses	%Wins
1	AJ Martin	23	29HC
2	J Upson	18	23CH
3	N Chance	26	19CH
4	S Dow	15	14C
5	D Burchell	26	11HC
6	R Price	22	10CH
7	J Golie	17	09C
8	P Hedger	16	08C
9	R Ford	24	08H
10	T Casey	12	07C
11	J Norton	13	07H
12	F Murtagh	22	07H
13	R Phillips	23	06H
14	D Bridgwater	26	06H
15	E James	21	05C
16	M Sowersby	25	05H

Conference League 1998/99      Conference League 1999/00  
(continued)

17	J Norton	18	05H	17	K George	22	04C
18	K George	20	05C	18	J Tuck	23	04H
19	R Price	16	04H	19	K MacTaggart	18	03H
20	K MacTaggart	19	04C	20	K Marks	22	03H
21	K Marks	17	03C	21	A Hobbs	21	02C
22	L Jewell	20	02H	22	L Jewell	16	0

Leading trainers 2000/20001 as of 8 December 2000

	Trainer	No of Horses	%Wins		Trainer	No of Horses	%Wins
1	C Mann	33	34CH	28	GL Moore	25	14CH
2	L Lungo	44	33HC	29	T Easterby	29	14HC
3	N Chance	18	30HC	30	T George	29	14C
4	N Henderson	76	30CH	31	P Webber	38	14C
5	R Phillips	22	29CH	32	N Twiston-Davi	88	14CH
6	M Pipe	160	25CH	33	D Williams	18	13C
7	J Mackie	19	24HC	34	L Russell	22	13C
8	O Sherwood	33	23CH	35	S Sherwood	30	13HC
9	P Nicholls	77	22CH	36	G McCourt	43	13H
10	P Hobbs	104	22HC	37	M Hammond	63	13CH
11	H Knight	53	21CH	38	J O'Shea	23	12CH
12	V Williams	66	21CH	39	N Mason	25	12CH
13	K Morgan	20	21CH	40	R Rowe	37	12CH
14	D Gandolfo	29	20CH	41	C Morlock	20	11CH
15	M Pitman	34	20HC	42	R Buckler	27	11HC
16	J O'Neill	73	19CH	43	GM Moore	32	11CH
17	R Ford	22	18CH	44	H Johnson	31	10C
18	N Richards	31	17CH	45	D Wintle	33	10HC
19	MW Easterby	35	17CH	46	S Brookshaw	20	08C
20	I Williams	66	17HC	47	P Beaumont	27	08C
21	J Gifford	30	16CH	48	R Frost	33	08CH
22	S Smith	50	16CH	49	H Daly	49	08CH
23	R Alner	51	16CH	50	J Jefferson	26	07CH
24	F Murphy	73	16CH	51	P Bowen	34	06H
25	R Dickin	25	15CH	52	D McCain	33	05CH
26	A King	40	15CH	53	K Bailey	53	05C
27	M Reveley	95	15HC	54	J Mullins	35	02H

So there we have it. Each trainer is allotted his/her own place based on achievement in % wins at the appropriate level and it can be seen whether each individual has an improving or not so impressive record over the past two full

racing years. The final table indicates which of the trainers is doing well enough in this current season (which is fast approaching its half-way mark as I write this on 8th. December) to appear in the season's top fifty (to qualify, a minimum of eighteen horses must have appeared this season).

Additionally, we can tell (by use of H and/or C) which trainers do better with their Hurdlers and which produce better results with their Chasers. Where both H and C are shown, better results are achieved from the first indicated, but respectable results are also achieved by the other. Where H or C is omitted altogether, the one shown is the strong point, but to wager on the other is not recommended.

Unlike the Football League, promotion and relegation issues are not catered for in the tables produced. Strictly, this should be so, as it will be seen that certain trainers are growing in stature and their ability is being recognised by owners who are happy to provide them with their horses to train, thus increasing the trainer's prospects further.

An example of this is Mark Pitman who has rapidly produced credentials for inclusion in the Premier League. Similar progress has been seen from the established Irish trainers, Noel Chance and A J Martin who have stepped up their operations over here and climbed the progress ladder. Unfortunately, other trainers have lost, for whatever reason, the ability they possessed a few years ago to place them amongst the elite, and these can readily be identified from perusal of the league tables.

A summary of what this article covers may be of some use to SMARTies and shown on the next page are suggested guidelines to consider adding to our weaponry in our perpetual battle with the Old Enemy. This is an endeavour to assist in selecting the right trainers to follow, avoiding those identified as no longer worthy of our support.

<b>Those to FOLLOW</b>		<b>WORTHY of</b>	<b>Those to AVOID</b>	
<b>With confidence</b>	<b>When oportune</b>	<b>consideration</b>	<b>Unless oportune</b>	<b>Persistently</b>
R Alner CH	O Brennan CH	R Baker C	K Bailey C	G Balding
N Chance CH	R Buckler HC	M Bames CH	P Bowen H	J M Bradley
S Dow CH	M Chapman H	P Beaumont C	A Carroll HC	D Bridgwater
M Easterby CH	R Dickin CH	S Brookshaw C	K George C	D Burchell
C Egerton HC	T Easterby HC	T Casey C	D Haine C	W Clay
R Ford CH	B Ellison CH	R Curtis C	P Hedger C	P Eccles
D Gandolfo CH	T George CH	H Daly CH	R Hodges C	J Fitzgerald
N Gaselee C	J Gifford CH	J Goldie CH	E James C	R Frost
N Henderson CH	M Hammond CH	S Gollings H	J Jenkins H	A Hobbs
P Hobbs HC	N Hawke CH	C Grant CH	J King HC	L Jewell
H Knight CH	A King CH	J Jefferson CH	R Lee C	M Jones
L Lungo HC	N Mason CH	H Johnson C	B Llewellyn HC	F Jordan
J Mackie HC	G L Moore CH	C Kinane C	H Manners C	K MacTaggart
C Mann CH	C Morlock CH	G McCourt H	D McCain CH	K Marks
A J Martin HC	F Murphy CH	T McGovern CH	P Murphy C	S Mellor
K Morgan CH	J O'Neill CH	P Monteith H	F Murtagh H	K Milligan
P Nicholls CH	M Pitman HC	G M Moore CH	J Neville CH	J Mullins
R Phillips CH	M Reveley HC	J O'Shea CH	J Norton H	O O'Neill
M Pipe CH	N Richards CH	C Parker CH	J OM HC	C Popham
L Russell CH	S Sherwood CH	R Rowe CH	R Price CH	M Sowersby
O Sherwood CH	W Storey HC	A Streeter HC	A Tumell C	i Spearing
S Smith CH	J Upson CH	M Todhunter HC	W Turner H	D Thomson
I Williams HC	P Webber C	N Twist-Dav CH	J Wade C	J Tuck
V Williams CH	D Williams C	D Wintle HC	M Wilkinson HC	A Whillans



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## ***Slow starters, but they finish well!***

# **FIRST-HALF CHAMPIONS**

***Phil Booth of the Yorkshire Post***

**F**ootball, they say, is a game of two halves, but fans of Hull City must be wishing it wasn't. If the final whistle came after 45 minutes instead of 90, Hull could be promoted by Christmas. As the season moves towards its half-way point, the Tigers find themselves in the remarkable position of never having been behind at half-time in 24 league and cup matches.

It is an incredible statistic, made even more startling by the fact they have conceded a goal during the first half in just two matches this season.

The record puts the men from Boothferry Park well ahead in a half-time league table for Division 3, but they are in 21st place in a table based just on the 2nd half performance.

In their 20 league games so far this season, Hull have gone in at half-time ahead in 9 and level in 11. In their 4 cup ties, they've reached the break winning 1 and drawing 3.

The two games in which they conceded first half goals were both in August so it is now almost four months since they let in a goal before the break.

Manager Brian Little, still enthusing about Saturday's 1-0 victory at Scunthorpe which moved the Tigers up to eighth in the league, said the first half record had made Hull more competitive.

*"We have a saying in the dressing room never to be embarrassed if it's 0-0 at half-time, and whether that has anything to do with it I don't know."*

*"The nice thing is that every game we have played, we have had a chance of winning. In that respect there is something pleasing about it."*

*"The only game in which we were not competitive was when we lost 2-0 to Cheltenham and even then it was 0-0 at half time."*



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***Ensuring the data samples on which your system is based have enough data to be conclusive is not just desirable, it's essential.***

## **LESSON OF THE LOTTERY**

***- Or what it teaches us about gambling systems  
William Hutton***

**Y**ou will see below a table showing the statistics for the first six years of the UK National Lottery. Closer study shows that they are most revealing

Main Draw	Ball No.	Bonus Ball
65	1	8
70	2	12
65	3	10
61	4	8
63	5	13
59	6	12
64	7	9
61	8	7
66	9	16
62	10	11
69	11	11
64	12	8
47	13	6
69	14	13
58	15	10
53	16	9
62	17	7
61	18	3
53	19	3
46	20	18
53	21	12
57	22	11
72	23	7
56	24	12
76	25	15

Main Draw	Ball No.	Bonus Ball
60	26	10
71	27	7
73	28	14
61	29	9
59	30	12
72	31	13
66	32	7
60	33	14
51	34	16
64	35	6
64	36	8
50	37	13
83	38	14
50	39	4
70	40	5
56	41	11
58	42	8
72	43	14
74	44	11
62	45	16
66	46	12
68	47	18
64	48	9
60	49	9

There have been roughly 500 draws, one every Saturday night since November 1994 and one each Wednesday evening since February 1997. The average number of times that each ball should have been drawn should be – and indeed is! – just above 60. But – and this is a massive but – a few balls have had fewer than 50 outings (number 20 only 46 times!) and some have had well over 70 showings (ball 38 has appeared 83 times)

Now study the variations in the bonus ball statistics. Numbers 18 and 19 have both been drawn only 3 times for this feature, yet numbers 20 and 47 have each been selected no fewer than 18 occasions. We can safely assume that the Lottery draw is a truly random one and not rigged in any way. Given this fact, does everyone immediately grasp the significance of the uneven draw results when considering horseracing systems?

As a randomly drawn numbers game the correct strike rate for each of the Lottery balls can be calculated with great accuracy. But when compared to reality, even after 500 draws it is quite normal for the variations around the expected percentage 'hits' to be well off target. And not by a mere fraction, some of the discrepancies are huge!

It must be much the same with a horseracing system. The main difference being that as an inexact science, frequencies are extracted from the results – and has been illustrated, even with sample sizes of 500, the results may not be representative of the underlying *real* chance.

So just how reliable is my system (or yours) of always backing the second favourite at Plumpton in November if x is jockey and y is trainer and the going is good? I'm too polite to give the answer here!

I wouldn't put any serious money on a racing system based upon the results from anything less than 1,000 races. The Lottery statistics show clearly why – even 500 is not a large enough sample to give reliable results.

***Investigating methods suitable for reducing losing runs I developed the following idea ideally suited to the week-end punter. May be just the betting solution to put a New Year smile on many a face!***

## **A PROCESS OF ELIMINATION**

**SMARTsig**

**T**he membership of SMARTsig is a broad church. We have those who attend the racetrack several times each and every week and whose betting profits provide a substantial part, if not their entire income. At the opposite end there are those who do not bet at all, but thoroughly enjoy the intellectual challenge of winner finding.

Somewhere between the two we have a strong contingent who are betting part-timers. Work commitments prevent them from betting or studying too much during the week, yet they look forward to exercising their powers of deduction at the weekend. A substantial proportion of the bookmaker's profit comes from this group, spending as the part-timers do, too little time at the task in hand to become too proficient.

This article is aimed primarily at the punter who bets mainly at week-ends and would like a fairly straightforward system or plan to give him/her a good chance of a profitable (and therefore more enjoyable) hobby.

Starting with a blank sheet of paper, I scratched my head and thought where would be the best place to start? The week-end punter would like winners, that goes without saying. They would also dearly love some good priced winners too (wouldn't we all!). But unfortunately, the combination of part-time punter and big prices do make comfortable bedfellows.



The long losing run is an inescapable companion to big-priced betting. And if there's one thing the weekend punter can certainly do without, it's extended periods without a winner. Because he's only plying his craft once a week, where losing can be measured in months, it takes a special kind of resilience to endure half a year without a winner!

No one, least of all me, has a magic wand which can be brought into play to extract a good few 10/1, 20/1 or even bigger winners – without it being accompanied by a fair sprinkling of long losing runs.

If the unbelievers of this truth are still reading at this stage, look – if you want big winning odds and no long losing runs you'll have to look elsewhere. The racing papers are full of tempting ads, and if you're on the magic roundabout of racing tips & systems mailing lists, the you'll see the offers pouring through your letter box on a regular basis. Go out and try them if you must, then come back to SMARTsig at a later date – we won't shout "told you so".

So, with the myths and magic out of the way lets get on with our plan. Rather than winner finding as such, I decided to concentrate on identifying potential losers for elimination purposes. If you like, we'll detect the ones least able to succeed, strike a line through them, and so be left with a much clearer picture of which group the winner is most likely to come from.

One of the best guides available for finding winners, is the market. At the front end it is quite efficient, even money shots win close on 50% of the time.

The higher the odds though, the more is the discrepancy between the percentage chance suggested by the SP and the percentage that these animals win. We've published these tables before (issue 7.09 was the last time), but for example, a 20/1 chance would win between 4 and 5 races every 100 attempts if the odds were 'fair'.

But results show a different reality. Those 20/1 shots actually win only 2 to 3 races in every 100.

Now no one can possibly know what the returned SP's will be prior to the race, but we do have the betting forecast. It is not going to be spot-on, but if we use a good one, we can be assured both that it will be fairly representative, and that it has been compiled by people who know what they're doing – the compilation of the better betting forecasts is a task which is not taken lightly.

It is generally accepted that the Racing Post forecast is probably the best there is, it is the one that we will use for this project.

Using the betting forecast then, if we eliminate the higher priced horses we should be rejecting far more losers than we do winners.

The average odds of favourites in National Hunt racing is lower than it is in flat racing, as a consequence a higher proportion of favourites win over jumps. From this fact we can deduce that the market is more efficient at winner-finding under NH rules, and because we will be using the market as our guide, it makes sense then to target jump racing only.

## ***Race Types***

Is there anything to be gained by restricting a selection method which is based upon starting prices to specific race types? Well a glance at any favourites statistics will give you a very big clue.

Favourites traditionally win a greater percentage of non-handicap races than they do handicaps. Makes sense when you understand that the very task of a handicap race is to even out the chances of all the contenders.

So, we'll only be looking at National Hunt non-handicap

events, because we're using odds to determine our selections, and it is this area where the market is at its best.

To enhance our chances even further, and still using the starting prices (or a good estimate of them) as our guide, we'll also look to reject claiming, selling and auction races at the one end of the scale, and graded/listed races at the other. According to the statistics such race types are a little less predictable than the no conditions non-handicaps.

We are left then with the straight, no frills, run-of-the-mill non-handicap event.

Another thing our week-end punter can do without is odds-on chances. They may well give us very short losing runs, but the 'fun' punter is probably using smaller stakes and odds-on returns at this level are hardly worth the effort. So we'll also reject any qualifying race where the forecast favourite is not even-money or better.

One further area that can confuse the market totally is where a horse is having its first run. Market speculation on such candidates is based upon reports from the training ground, pedigree (for which I have very little time), performances in other race types or surfaces or just plain rumour. This therefore is NOT a good area for those of us depending upon the market's accuracy.

Any race containing a runner with no previous form, whether it is well respected in the betting forecast or not, such a race will be rejected.

We're getting a bit closer to the nitty-gritty now then, so here's the plan. Halve the number of runners in the qualifying race, then, counting from the forecast favourite we'll only consider that number of the runners, striking out of contention all those of higher prices.

For example, in a 10 runner race we only consider the first 5 in the betting forecast. Where a race has an odd number of

runners, ignore the .5 So when halving. e.g. a 13 runner race we consider the first 6 in the betting, for a 9 runner race we consider only the first 4.

There will be occasions where horses down the betting will be forecasted at the same odds, in such cases we will be selecting more than half the field.

Take an 8 runner event for example, where we'd be looking to select the first 4 in the betting. The forecast is as follows; HorseA 5/4; HorseB 11/4; HorseC 7/1; HorseD, HorseE & HorseF all at 10/1. In order to include the forecast fourth favourite we'll need to include all those at 10/1 – this means that on this occasion our shortlist from this 8 runners race amounts to 6 selections!

The eventual race winner is extremely likely to come from this reduced list, but we need to do a little more pruning yet, I'm looking to get the list down to a maximum of 3.

The first suggestion I'd make at this point is to restrict our initial race selection to those with 13 or fewer runners, this gives us a maximum of 6 candidates at the first stage. Any more than that may prove too difficult a task to prune down to a workable final number.

Another filter to employ is that if any one of our short-listed group is forecast at 20/1 or greater, reject it. We've already shown that by throwing out candidates at these odds we're only losing 2 to 3 winners in every 100, a ratio that I, and I'm sure you, will be extremely comfortable with.

Such a plan is useable even at this stage for those amongst you who prefer to use your own skill and judgement to find the eventual winner. As I said earlier, the winner will be amongst this reduced group in the vast majority of cases.

For those who like to be told exactly what to do though, and to follow a systematic path, here is my suggested method.

My recommendation, and the results published below, are based upon the betting forecast from the Racing Post – so we'll assume that you'll have the publication to work from.

With regard to the race under scrutiny, we can hope that if connections are looking to win, they'll do whatever they can to ensure everything goes according to plan. And a good jockey may make all the difference - between winning and an also-ran.

Associated with the every race meeting in the 'Post is the Jockey's table, with rider statistics specific to today's course. We'll use this as our final eliminator.

Examine the record of each jockey in turn from the short-list of horses. If a jockey's overall strike rate (column to the left of the jockey's names in the Post's tables) is below 10%, or he/she is not listed, then reject this runner.

If the jockey's strike is 10% or higher, check to see if the jockey-trainer strike rate (to the right of the jockey names) relates to the same trainer as this horse. If a different trainer is referred to, keep the selection.

If it does indicate the same trainer however, if this strike rate is below 10% reject the selection.

You now have your final short-list. If there are still more than 3 runners, then reject the race.

To summarise then;

- National Hunt racing only
- Non-handicap races only
- Reject Listed/graded, claiming races, sellers & auction races
- Maximum of 13 declared runners
- ALL runners must have previous form displayed
- Reject races where favourite is forecasted to be odds-on

- Divide the number of runners by 2 and select this number of candidates from the favourite end of the betting forecast. Reject the rest.

For each remaining selection;

- Check the jockey's statistics in the course jockey's table and . . .
- Reject the selection if the jockey's strike rate is below 10%
- Reject the selection if the jockey is not listed in the table

For each remaining selection;

- Check the jockey/trainer strike listed in the jockey's table, if the trainer of this selection matches the jockey/trainer strike rate referred to in the table . . .
- If the strike rate is below 10% then reject the selection
- If the final short-list is more than 3 runners then reject the race.

Perhaps a worked example would be in order. I'm working my way through the Racing Post of Saturday 28 October 2000.

Track	Race	Type	Rnrs	Reject/ Accept	Reason if rejected
Ascot	1.30	Nov Hdl	6	Rejected	1 runner with no form
Ascot	3.45	Nov Chase	5	Rejected	Forecast Fav odds-on
Ascot	4.20	Nov Hdl	6	Rejected	1 runner with no form
Weth	2.15	Nov Hdl	10	Rejected	Grade 2 race AND runners with no form
Weth	2.45	Chase	4	Rejected	Grade 2 race AND odds-on favourite
Weth	3.20	Hurdle	8	Rejected	Grade 2 race
Weth	5.25	Nov Hdl	13	Rejected	4 runners with no form
Kelso	1.45	Nov Chase	11	Accepted	
Kelso	2.20	Nov Hdl	17	Rejected	Too many runners

Nine non-handicap, non-seller/claimer/auction races to consider. Eight of the nine were rejected prior to processing for the reasons stated in the right-hand column of the table.

We'll continue then to analyse the Kelso 1.45 race where 11 runners are declared with a betting forecast of;

9/4 Red Striker, 4 Fatehalkhair, Smart Spirit, 8 Gunner Marc, 10 Amber Moss, Billy Nomaite, Hailstorm, 14 Saragann, 16 Victor Laszio, 33 Gymcrak Jester, Political Mandate.

11 runners so we short-list half, or the first 5 from the betting. The fifth forecast favourite is co- of three, so our 'short' list on this occasion is actually Red Striker, Fatehalkhair, Smart Spirit, Gunner Marc, Amber Moss, Billy Nomaite and Hailstorm. No fewer than 7!

Now we vet each selection in turn referring to the Kelso jockey's table;

**Red Striker**, jockey Richard Guest, trained by NB Mason  
 Jockey strike 15%  
 Guest/Mason 19% Selection **RETAINED**

**Fatehalkhair**, jockey C McCormack, trainer B Ellison  
 Jockey strike 7% Selection **REJECTED**

**Smart Spirit**, jockey A Ross(3), trainer Mrs M Reveley  
 Jockey strike 17%  
 Ross/Reveley 20% Selection **RETAINED**

**Gunner Marc**, jockey T Siddall(5), trainer JM Jefferson  
 Jockey strike 0% Selection **REJECTED**

**Amber Moss**, jockey M Bradburne(3), trainer SC Bradburne  
 Jockey strike 18%  
 Bradburne/Bradburne 9% Selection **REJECTED**

**Billy Nomaite**, jockey J Crowley, trainer Mrs SJ Smith  
 Jockey strike 6% Selection **REJECTED**

**Hailstorm**, jockey JP McNamara, trainer Lucinda V Russell  
 Jockey strike 4% Selection **REJECTED**

This race assessment allows us to reject 5 of the 7 leaving a final short-list of 2;

Red Striker 2nd 11/10f  
 Smart Spirit Lost

Pity we couldn't start you with a winning weekend, but SMARTsig is all about presenting the facts accurately, not engineering things to make them look better than they are. The method appears to be based upon good, sound logic and will produce winners. The following weeks results indicate this quite clearly.

Date	Track	Time	Final Selections	Results
04-Nov	Chep	4.15	Silver Pot Black	2 - 8/13f
			Benick	<b>W - 9/2</b>
11-Nov	Ayr	2.45	Lord Of The Sky	<b>W - 4/6f</b>
			Errand Boy	Lost
18-Nov	Catt	3.45	Red Imp	Lost
			Grey Expectations	Lost
			Blue Bud	Lost
	Ascot	3.05	Shooting Light	<b>W - 5/4f</b>
			Star Of Dungannon	2nd - 11/4
			Silver Streak	Lost
	Aintree	12.30	Cruise The Fairway	<b>W - 11/10f</b>
			Cruise Leader	2nd - 3/1



Date	Track	Time	Final Selections	Results
25-Nov	Newc	1.50	Venture To Fly	<b>W - 11/4</b>
			Tobesure	Lost
	Newb	12.45	Bacchanal	<b>W - 13/8</b>
			Wahiba Sands	2nd - 7/2
			Ask The Natives	Lost
	Hayd	2.10	Croca Dee	<b>W - 11/4jf</b>
			Under Wraps	2nd - 9/2
02-Dec	Towc	2.15	Mistletoe	Lost
			Flying Trix	<b>W - 7/2</b>
	Chep	3.10	Ask The Natives	Lost
			Pateley	3rd - 9/1
			Jolly Green Giant	<b>W - 20/1</b>

The first week chosen for the example was in fact the only week without a winner.

Looking through the results we've achieved the objective of no extended losing runs and a fair sprinkling of winners. We've not managed to completely avoid the odds-on shots, using forecast prices will always be like that.

But equally, I said not to expect big prices to accompany short losing runs, yet lo and behold we drop onto a 20/1 winner! – I wouldn't expect too many of those with this system though.

Just how you back these selections is up to the individual, level stakes, dutching, proportional stakes or backing each to win the same amount. There are also a fair proportion of first and seconds in there too, you could go the way of forecasts, CSF (Computer Straight Forecast) or its Tote equivalent the Exacta.

The basic rules are not of course set in tablets of stone either – you may find a better way of pruning the selections.

If you do however find a way of improving things, or have an alternative strategy, don't hesitate to let us know about it. I'd be pleased to hear what you have to say and how you approach such problems, so too would other SMARTsig readers I'm sure.

### **Stop press:**

Just to bring you bang up-to-date, the final weekend before going to press saw system bets at Haydock, Cheltenham and Doncaster. Following our pre-set elimination rules, the first of these races, at Haydock, whittled the contenders down to a single selection - which duly obliged at 2/1.

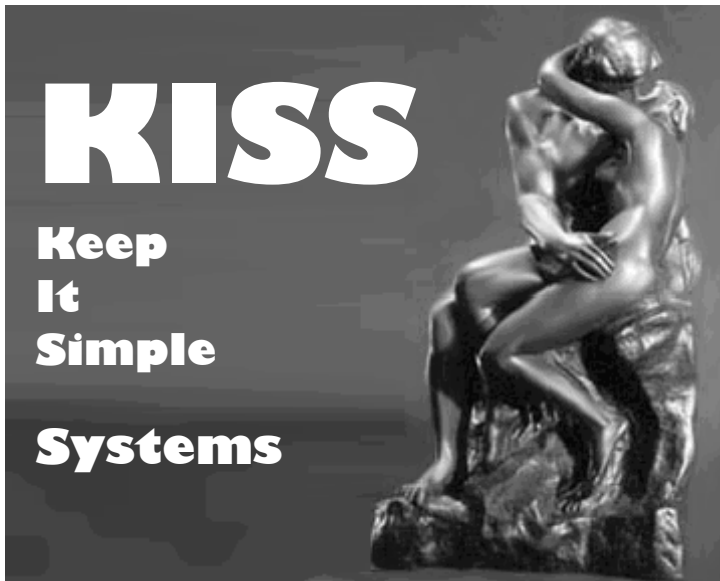
Selections and results were as follows;

09-Dec	Hayd	12.25	Fiori	<b>W - 2/1</b>
	Chelt	1.55	Cadougold	Lost
			Dusk Duel	<b>W - 11/10</b>
	Donc	2.10	Tashreef	Lost
			The Butterwick Kid	Lost

Although only just sneaking a pre-tax profit this weekend, we still had a couple of first places amongst our 5 picks, thus keeping up with one of the original brief - a good sprinkling of winners and to avoid extended losing runs.

The Cheltenham 1.55 race had 7 runner in the morning paper, but two non-runners were declared before noon. This left the race with only 5 runners, i.e. a short-list of only 2 - neither of which was rejected using the jockey's table.

The Doncaster 2.10 race of 6 runners was won by the 4th forecast favourite, and as such was outside of our catchment criteria.



***More angles on making maximum use of the hard work of other, newspaper tipsters.***

## **MINIMISE THE LOSING RUNS**

***PJ Widdicombe***

### **KISS#1**

**H**ere's a KISS system that I worked out whilst in "depressed mode" following sub-optimal results using my main method.

*(There are more modern, although expletive filled ways of expressing the above sentiments, but the English language has so much more to offer! – Thanks PJ)*

My main method makes a long-term profit on paper, but because it has long losing runs it is just too expensive for me to follow properly. Fed-up with the lack of funds I decided to re-read a SMARTsig article about newspaper

tipsters. Spurred on further by Stef's earlier comments about "give and take" being the true SMARTie spirit, I set about analysing the Tipster Tables in the *Racing Post*.

Now this wasn't really a monumental task as I have only kept all copies of the *Racing Post* since the start of the current All-Weather winter season (AW being my favourite area). As a matter of fact, this coincided with the Tipster Tables starting afresh. Yes, I know it's early days yet and there isn't enough data to be conclusive, but here's what I did anyway.

### **Objective:**

To find a way of utilising tipsters to shorten long losing runs.

### **Method:**

In the Tipster Tables, look down the column headed "Longest sequence of Losers". Select only tipsters with a LOW number here and bear in mind that the few profitable tipsters are near the top of the table.

In fact, because it was the start of a new season, I waited about a week to let them establish a bit of form before I picked out three top tipsters (top ten of the table) with minimum losing sequences.

As time passed two tipsters managed to maintain a losing sequence of no more than two. This is very good, so these were the tipsters I chose to survey.

### **Results:**

Strike rate is too good to be sustainable! One tipster has scored 7 from 13 and the other 7 from 10. Although winning odds have been terribly short, both systems have made a level stake profit (just) and an increased profit using d'Alembert staking.

### **Question:**

Would the dreaded "doubling up" method of increasing stakes following a loser work here? I'll monitor future

selections and let you know!

Rather than bore you with past facts and figures why not check out the results for yourselves? The tipsters are Chris Russell of the Herald and Bob Watts of the Western Daily Press.



~

## KISS FOLLOW-UP #1

*Mel Johnson (by email)*

*Last month's KISS#1, One tip & Napped had been mentioned earlier on our email group by Mel Johnson. He'd collated the last few month's results too.*

**W**ith several recent postings on the subject of newspaper tipsters, I thought it might be a good idea to give an update on a system I mentioned back in October - and a featured KISS in SMARTsig issue 7.12 - but from a different author!!!

To re-cap, the system uses the tipster tables for each meeting in the Racing Post. A qualifier is a horse who is selected by only one of the 15 tipsters, and the selection is also that tipster's "nap" of the day (denoted by a star).

The logic here is that if a horse is selected by only one tipster, it is likely to be under-bet. The fact that the tipster naps the horse indicates that the tipster is using information not available to, or discovered by, the majority of the betting public, hence (hopefully) value bets.

I have monitored the system since my original posting on Thursday October 19th and the results up to today are;

Bets 57, Wins 10, Win% 17.54  
Returns 94.10 points, Profit 37.10 points (65.09% profit)

The Tote returns are slightly better with a 97.00 point

return, for a 40.00 point gain and a 70.17% profit

Although the strike rate is on the low side, the profits to date have been good. I suspect, however, that I have probably monitored a purple patch for the system but I feel that the logic is solid and that this system may well realise decent profits for those who don't mind the odd losing run.

Besides the winners, there has been a good percentage of placed horses at decent prices.

The reason why I believe that the selections of the system qualifiers suggest that the tipster is using undervalued information or information not available to the majority is twofold.

- (a) If only 1 of 15 tipsters selects the horse and that tipster considers it the best bet of the day he must have an angle that has been ignored or undervalued by the majority.
- (b) The system is currently showing a healthy profit - therefore these horses are sent off at odds that are in excess of their true winning chances. The average winning S.P of selections is currently 8.41 to 1 .

As providing an example of a particular horse, then I'm afraid I'm unable to do this due to the fact that unless the horse is selected by Spotlight or Training Centres of the Racing Post then I have no idea of the reasoning behind the tipsters selection.

I also bin all my Racing Post's after about a week (my better half becomes quite ferocious once the build up of Racing info starts spilling out of the drawers!)

I will list the winners below, however, along with the tipster so that anyone with the relevant copies can read the reasoning behind winning selections.

I would certainly be interested in any feedback on this area.

Winners record:

20/10/00	Loop The Loup	4.30 Donc	The North (Racing Post)	Won 14/1
21/10/00	Rasoum	2.00 Nwby	Daily Express	Won 12/1
22/10/00	Charter Ridge	2.30 Aint	The North (Racing Post)	Won 5/2
28/10/00	Greenaway Bay	4.05 Nmkt	Telegraph	Won 8/1
31/10/00	Concert Pianist	3.20 Wrwk	Telegraph	Won 12/1
04/11/00	Young Sparticus	2.30 Chép	Spotlight (Racing Post)	Won 12/1
12/11/00	Hulyse Royal	2.50 Chel	Lambourn (Racing Post)	Won 9/1
14/11/00	Raffles Rooster	3.10 N.A	The Guardian	Won 11/2
16/11/00	Churchstanton	2.20 Wrwk	Daily Express	Won 11/10
17/11/00	Gola Cher	2.10 Ascot	The Star	Won 8/1

~



## KISS FOLLOW-UP #2

**Bill Sheen**

*Last month's KISS#2 was 'Watching the Tipsters'. Bill Sheen who wrote the piece was asked to put a little more flesh on the bones of his idea.*

**I** will give you an idea of just where I am coming from which might wet your appetite. Going back to the flat of 1999 I started to monitor the two main tipsters of the *Daily Mail*, Goodfellow and Gimcrack and through this channel it has gradually lead me to where I am today. You

may find this strange but I do not bet, well at least I have not since I started along this road, but now feel confident enough with approach to venture back into the bookies.

The pieces of the jig-saw have gradually come together and I will refer you two contributions in SMARTsig. The first of these was from Peter Orchard (July, 707) page 41 where Peter advocates the use of a portfolio of different systems. The second being "The Price Is Right" (September 709) page 51, however my interest starts on page 56. I will only refer to the column regarding 8 runners because for no other reason than it is the area I have been working.

Now if you start with Evens to 3/1 you should have a strike rate that averages around 35%, not bad, but of course you can't back every runner that falls in this span, however should your favourite tipster point you to an 8 horse race and his selection is between Evens and 3/1 I say you should be able to beat 35%.

To get back to Peter's portfolio, let's turn his theory on it's head and instead of having a portfolio of different systems, why not have the same system but worked through a portfolio of different tipsters.

This may be old hat or it maybe radical, but I have not heard or read of it before - but then again I only consider myself a novice.

One tipster (with a bit of fine tuning) is giving me a 65% strike rate and since July along with a staking plan (love `em or hate `em) has resulted in 110 points profit allowing 9% tax, another area is throwing up 50% strike rate.

I have asked Stef if he will help in setting up a study group to monitor different tipsters and suggest we post the selections daily along similar lines to the Tipping comp but without the competitive element, we should then be able to weed out the poor tipsters and end up with the Holy Grail.

I really do not want to reveal any further details because



I'm on holiday for a week, but should anyone want to take this any further I shall look forward to hearing from you.

**Doug Luscombe**

I did a note some time ago pointing out that with the exception of Computerman (Daily Express) all the tipsters shown in Racing Post breakdown list had a lower strike rate on naps than overall selections which I thought was quite strange and even the Express only equalled it.

So it may be that concentrating on naps is the wrong strategy?

**Bill Sheen**

Thanks for your comments, perhaps ALL the tipsters naps to which you refer do have poor records and I am sure the statistics will prove you to be 100% correct, on that point I am not in dispute.

The points I am raising are firstly, this information is free with the cost of your daily newspaper or even totally free if it your choice to follow a T.V. pundit such as Stan Steer (who ever he is).

Maybe you are an expert (I am certainly not) and therefore any chosen tipster worthy of his pay should be far better informed than I.

I will go on to say that the selections chosen as naps and 'nb' should in theory be the better ones with a greater chance of winning. All this can be debated and I am sure there will be arguments both for and against.

However if you refer to the September issue of SMARTsig, page 56 you will find some fascinating statistics. I have been following the daily Mail tipsters and the information gained has lead me to races with;

- a) up to 8 runners and
- b) with races up to 10 runners.

So let's have a look at the column with 8 runners.

Most of us will ignore odds-on shots, so if we take Evens to 3/1 there is a 33% chance of picking a winner.

My guess is, if you backed every horse between 1/1 and 3/1 in every race with 8 or less runners, you will soon be out of pocket. But . . . if your newspaper tipsters gives his nap/nb in a 8 runner or less horse race it should be possible to beat the 33% given by bare statistics.

In fact I am in the process of proving this to be so.

Over a period I have found it essential to add a filter and one tipster is now giving me a 65% win ratio. No 20/1 shots but with the aid of a simple staking plan my paper profit is 110 points over 4 months.

This is certainly not a get rich quick plan but then again that's not my style. I am currently watching other tipsters naps/nb to see if the same pattern re occurs or if their expertise is in another sector.

Although it looks to be working out very similarly. Certainly Goodfellow looks to be currently out of form and as a consequence I have dropped him from my portfolio (although I still keep an eye on him)

It is impossible for me to monitor all the tipsters in all the papers but would like to be part of a study group which shares the gathered information on a daily basis similar to the tipping comp. without the competitive edge, then I am sure a successful formula would soon be found and the less productive tipsters dropped.

Any way, I wish you good luck.

*Bill is still looking for collaborators to help monitor as many newspaper tipsters as possible on a day-by-day basis.*

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