

Secret Betting Club

The good, the bad and the ugly of the tipster world...revealed!!!

WELCOME

April 2009.

Hello and welcome to a special taster edition of the Secret Betting Club (S.B.C.).

We are professional gamblers who put our own money on the line in our quest to make regular profits from sports.

We started the club because we realised it was something that could have saved us a lot of time and money as we sorted out the wheat from the chaff ourselves.

By joining the club, you'll automatically have an edge over thousands of punters still scratching around for consistent profits. **Welcome to the club or welcome back!**

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On The Forum:

Our member's forum at <http://www.laytheodds.com/forum/index.php?showforum=18> is becoming more and more popular and a fine resource for all SBC subscribers.

Each month we intend to highlight some of the more interesting and most popular topics to ensure you don't miss out on any useful information.

Laying Horses

Thread at <http://www.laytheodds.com/forum/index.php?showtopic=51533>

One members request for assistance in finding a good laying service with interesting feedback and assistance on what you need to know with regards to laying.

The Form Analyst

Thread at <http://www.laytheodds.com/forum/index.php?showtopic=51552>

Feedback on the Form Analyst service, which has been proofing to us since late 2008 and is expected to be reviewed in the next few months. Generally a very positive vibe and performance from TFA, around the 15% ROI marker over 345 bets, so is proving itself one to watch. Also has its own busy forum featuring plenty of betting advice and form analysis of value.

Skeeve

Thread at <http://www.laytheodds.com/forum/index.php?showtopic=51535>

Another positive thread and this time highlighting the great work done by Skeeve and his non-league tipster service which has had a great few months. In 2009 alone he has made a whopping profit of 41.4% ROI, which made up for a slow start to the 08/09 season, and illustrates nicely how patience can be rewarded with the right service. Good to hear some of the success stories of various services and the punters who follow them.

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Research:

We are sent tons of the latest promotions, and lots of requests for us to look at the latest things you've received or seen. To speed up the process of feedback and to help us help you better, we've set up a contact point.

If you receive a promotion via email simply forward it to research@secretbettingclub.com. We won't always get back to you straight away individually, but this will create a database of the latest promotions you're getting so we can see what our members are receiving. If you come across a site or receive a physical mailshot, send these to the research hotline so we can see how many people are interested in our views on the service.

So far the response to this has been excellent with a lot of interesting emails being forwarded on, and a lot for us to look at on your behalf.

NOTABLE RESEARCH THIS MONTH

Bet For A Living

<http://www.betforaliving.co.uk>

A new service that recently began proofing to us is Bet For A Living, who have been supplying racing advice since 2003. They select a large number of bets each day for placement at Betfair SP, and appear to have done very well in time gone by. It would be very useful if alongside the results summary on their website, they listed a spreadsheet of past bets in order to analyse this further. A full review will no doubt follow in the coming months if the proofed bets impress.

Place Betting

<http://www.placebetting.org/>

Results at <http://www.racing-index.com/tipsters/tipster-performance.php?tipster=PLACEBETTING>

Place Betting are another new tipster proofing to us this month. Their advice is to be placed in an 80/20 split on each horse to place and also win their race. No real progress as yet but its very early days and we will report back as and when we have more concrete performance to talk about.

Horse Betting Index

<http://www.horsebettingindex.com/>

A new site focusing on racing selections from the team behind the Golf service Sports Betting Index. Ian from SBI has recruited a specialist racing tipster who has got off to a very good start over the first 60 or so bets. On a recent Saturday he picked out 3 winners from 3 bets at 20/1, 16/1 & 15/2!

It is however very early days for this service and we need to be sensible when it comes to analysing and reviewing properly.

Winning Racing Tips - Lays

<http://www.winningracingt看tips.co.uk/>

Results at: <http://www.racing-index.com/tipsters/tipster-performance.php?tipster=WINNINGRACINGTIPSLAY>

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With the new flat racing season now upon us, the Winning Racing Tips Lay service is back up and running. Paul from the service has been following this system for a few years now, and believes it to be a long-term profitable angle. The 2008 performance was profitable with an ROI of 6.02% to a fixed liability on each bet. With only 10 lays for 2009, it is very early days for this season, although a small loss notched so far.

It is believed that the best angle for success with this system is to work to a fixed liability which will be set at £70 this year. We will be monitoring the lays this season and will no doubt report back in the near future.

CD Systems

<http://www.cdsystems.uk.com/>

A superb website for any betting professional is CD systems from pro gambler Steve Jones. Alongside his betting advice, a whole host of interesting articles and features can be found that make for essential reading.

We have spoken with Steve about proofing his daily betting advice to us, and he has agreed to begin doing this from the 1st May. We look forward to monitoring his advice with a view to a full article, but in the meantime do take the time to browse his website and read some of his insightful columns.

System Selections

<http://www.systemselections.com/>

System Selections is the brainchild of one of our very own SBC members, Andrew AKA 'James Bond' who many of you will be familiar with from our forum. Advice from this service has been proofed to a variety of locations; including the Punters Lounge forum and our own members forum.

They are also being proofed to us at SBC directly and we have been very impressed by their performance to date. There is a free trial available to all until the end of May 2009, so anyone interested is welcome to take up this offer.

It's great to see SBC members getting involved with the design and development of their own systems and we will no doubt be reporting back on this service in the near future.

Tungsten Tipper

<http://www.thetungstentipper.co.uk/>

On The Oche can no longer claim to be the only dedicated darts tipster around, this month we began proofing the tips from Tungsten tipper. In fact Tungsten tipper has been around for some time, but like many promising services, has been operating under the radar for some time.

We like our niche markets as we believe this is where the most value can be had, so it's great to have a new angle in this regard. Profits in April have been excellent with most of the bets being proofed to ourselves since the start of the month. Naturally we'll wait before we've got more proofed results under our belt, before doing a full review, but from a customer service point of view at least, we've been impressed so far.

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UK Racing Insider

No Website

The worrying trend for spam emails selling supposed winning racing information continued this month with an offer from 'Anton' from ukracinginsider@yahoo.co.uk. Bold claims of a 97% success rate when it comes to laying seem highly unlikely and these anonymous out of the blue offers should always be treated with disdain. If you receive similar emails do forward them onto us, so we can investigate further.

Workrider emails

<http://www.newmarketwhispers.com/landing.html>

Another offer of insider information came from 'Ken' who claims to be a workrider based in Newmarket. His website offers to supply you a sample of his information in exchange for your details. Again no proof or evidence of this service and another one to give a wide berth.

Football betting syndicates

<http://www.horselayingsystem.com/offer.html>

This offer of a space in a Macau based professional betting syndicate was forwarded on by a concerned SBC member. The results look almost too good to be true and the website is very basic indeed. Additionally there is no proof or evidence of this history being verified and the cost to join of \$200 upfront should be enough to put us all off.

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Monitored Services News:

We were told off a little on the forum this month (quite rightly) for not giving XXXXXXXX enough praise recently for his fine form, so are happy to rectify this here. XXXXX quite simply has been a phenomenon in 2009, making a profit of 160 pts and a ROI of 38.9%. This has come after a slow start to the 08/09 season and to tweak a well-used football term, it has been a season of two halves! The non-league football season has nearly finished with just the play-offs to be resolved so XXXXX will be taking a well-earned break over the summer months. His is a tremendous service that has lived up to the standards set over previous years. Make sure you climb aboard for next season while there is space on the waiting list.

We've just completed 12 months of proofing for XXXXXX this month and although they've not managed to repeat the spectacular returns from 'that' month back in May 2008, they made a very respectable profit which puts them high up in our tipster ranking tables. We have therefore decided to put them in our Hall Of Fame. This month we also go into detail on the various methods of following XXXXXXXX. Our analysis uncovered some surprising results that could slightly increase your profits and massively boost your profit on turnover (ROI).

Another absolutely fantastic month for the XXXXXX service which we re-reviewed in our articles last month. They have been 31 bets in April so far, which has generated a profit of 98.4 pts (31.74% ROI) which follows on from a bumper March (83.7 pts, 27% ROI). Considering this is a free service, since they restarted back in October 2008 the 6 month profits are outstanding with a profit of 312 pts (16.63% ROI). Can they keep this up? Well only time will tell but at the moment it's a big thumbs up and the end of the football season has come at exactly the wrong time!

A cracking month also for followers of the XXXXXXXXX service with a profit of 7.13 pts (44% ROI). This is just rewards for those who have stuck patiently with them over the past 4 months when a slight loss was posted and it's great to see another long running service continue to do the business. The past 12 months ROI stands at 14.2%, which is nicely in line with their long-term ROI of 13.6% and their profit graph continues to go in the right direction.

In complete contrast with XXXXXXXXXX and their highly selective approach is XXXXXXXX service, which supply a large amount of bets with April no different. The 130 bets so far for April has produced a profit of 123 pts (11.64% ROI) which is in line with the long-term expectations of 10% ROI. There is no doubt this service has a decent edge on the bookies as this has been proven over time. The issue here though is the amount of bets you have to place and the work involved. They often bet on obscure leagues making it quite hard to get meaningful stakes on at the advised odds.

XXXXXXX continue to do very little, despite an increase in the number of bets supplied this month and are fully justifying our decision to remove them from any kind of recommendation this month. The removal of key personnel seems to have hit BSR hard with the volume of bets and profits slumping markedly. Barely 10 pts profit from their season (July to June) and a ROI of 5.15% does not justify the expensive membership fees. Dropped down to only closely monitored this month and XXXXXX has it all to do to regain our confidence.

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It has slowed up a little bit over the past 2 months for the XXXXXXX service in terms of profits, but overall the picture here is looking fairly rosy. Performance for this season stands at +230 pts (11.8% ROI) and we will be making a decision on any upgrade for them once this season is concluded.

A busier month for XXXXXXX in April with 30 bets so far and a profit of 6.72 pts if doing both his win and place bets. If as recommended you follow his place bets only, your April returns will be 3.64 pts up. It continues to be a steady if unspectacular service.

The phrase 'long-term service' could well have been designed especially for XXXXX who as we never tire of mention, is most suited to the more patient gambler. Only the six bets so far this month but a loss of 16.7 pts and the last 6 months performance are showing a loss. That has to be in put in context though as it is only over less than 50 bets and the expectation long-term, is for a ROI of around 13.3%

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CLOSELY MONITOR: KARL DENNIS RACELINE

Service Name: Karl Dennis Raceline

Website: <http://www.racing-online.co.uk/>

To find out more about joining the Raceline, please email Karl via karl@racing-online.co.uk in the first instance.

Summary of findings

- High odds/low strike rate service from Karl Dennis with a history of big priced winners.
- Requires further monitoring with only 500 bets so far not enough evidence to grant a recommendation.
- Appears to be a very long-term based service, with a minimum of 12 months investment required.
- Members of the service obtain free access to the Karl Dennis Raceletter and weekly updates.

SERVICE IN DETAIL

Many members will no doubt already be familiar with the Karl Dennis Raceletter service, which is an interesting monthly magazine for those involved in the UK racing and betting scene.

One spin-off from the magazine is the supply of betting advice, the likes of which we have reviewed in the past in the form of the Jack Lord Lays service. This review looks at the Karl Dennis Raceline, which has been in operation since 2008 and provides daily betting advice at generally big prices.

We have been dealing with Karl for a long period of time and have been impressed by his genuine nature and the service he provides. His emails are always courteous, professional and punctual and he can be considered to be one of the good guys in the racing and tipping industry.

We began proofing his Raceline service on January 1st 2009, however the service has been in operation since 2008, so we have a fair amount of bets to work with. The cost to join the Raceline is either £55 per month or £550 per year and members of the service also receive copies of the Raceletter, and weekly updates as part of their subscription.

Advice from the Raceline is supplied 7 days a week via email, and is very straightforward to follow as all bets are supplied to win with a staking of between 1 and 5pts per bet. Members are advised which bookmaker(s) are offering the best prices and very often these will be at best odds guaranteed (this means if you take an early price, which is bettered by the eventual SP, the bookmakers will pay out at SP).

Below is recent sample email...

Karl Dennis Racing

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Thursday April 23rd

Today's selections

3.10 Perth **Star Lord** 1pt @ 3/1 Bet365*//PP*

* denotes guaranteed odds

Yesterdays results

5.30 Southwell **Gus** 2pts @ 7/2 Lost

Loss on the year to date is £5917 to £100 per point.

What may well catch the eye from above is the loss so far for 2009, which is at a considerable sum and requires further analysis.

PERFORMANCE

First off let's look at the big picture and that is the results for both 2008 and 2009.

Please note only the 2009 results were proofed to us.

	Bets	Stakes	Profit	Yield	Rating
2008 results	368	876	319.413	36.46%	134.18
	Bets	Stakes	Profit	Yield	Rating
2009 results	135	305	-57.17	-18.74%	-25.30
	Bets	Stakes	Profit	Yield	Rating
All bets	503	1181	262.243	22.21%	111.69

As you can see the results for 2009 after the first 135 bets are disappointing in contrast to 2008, which showed a superb profit.

One of the reasons for this tail-off in returns for 2009 could well be the average odds of selections that Karl selects. The average price for a bet in 2009 is just a shade over 11/1 and thus considerable losing spells can occur when betting at large odds.

It is not rare for Karl to advise a 2pt win bet on a horse trading as big as 33/1 or even 50/1, so you can only imagine the massive difference if and when such a bet should win.

2008 illustrates this nicely with a number of big winners

20/1 3pt winner

25/1 2pt winner

33/1 2pt winner

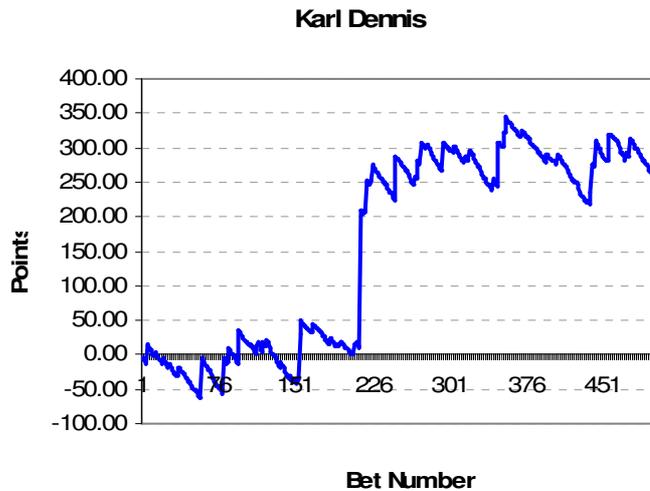
16/1 4pt winner X 2

Perhaps of greatest interest is the 4 pt 50/1 winner on the 2nd August 2008, which contributed 200 pts of profit to the service. Prior to that winner, the overall picture for the first 8 months of the service was a mere +10.41 pts in profit!

This is illustrated perfectly by the performance graph below, just look at the 200 pt spike!

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Without that 50/1 winner, the profits for the service over the first 500 bets would only be at 62 pts, with a ROI of just over 5%. The majority of profits have come via the returns made by some of the winners at big prices. It stands to reason then that so far, ignoring the lower priced selections (under 10/1) may be an interesting proposition here.

SERVICE EXPECTATIONS

The Karl Dennis Raceline service stands as a perfect example of ensuring you have the correct expectations and understanding of a tipster before committing to placing money on their advice. It is always worth applying this to any tipster you follow as it will certainly help you during a losing run of any type. Very often if you are unprepared you may be tempted to stop following a service at the very worst time....which is just before a winning run!

Let's illustrate this for you here, and to do this we need to look at the frequency with which Karl picks a winner. The strike rate for this service over the 500 bets so far is 12.32% so roughly every 1 in 8 bets goes on to win.

The excellent stats table at http://www.cdsystems.uk.com/dont_go_broke!.htm illustrates just what you can expect from a 12.32% strike-rate.

There is a 75% chance that at some point in following the service you will experience 30 losing bets in a row! It gets worse though as there is a 50% chance of 37 losers on the bounce, a 25% chance of 44 in a row and even a less than 1% chance of 69 losers in succession!

Factoring that into the real life KD results, we have experienced a losing spell of 30 consecutive losses in 2009, which accounted for a 71 pt loss. Curiously though, when this losing spell was broken, we saw 5 winners from the next 8 bets, which made a 90.83 pt profit. Overall during those 38 bets and despite 33 losses, you actually would have come out of it with a 19.83 pt profit! Just imagine if you had stopped and quit after the 30th loser and missed out...you would be as sick as a parrot!

Now by ensuring you had the correct expectations of the service, you would have understood a bit easier during that losing run of 30 bets, that this was par for the course in terms of a service with a 12.3% strike-rate. Thus when the losing spell was

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broken, you would have kept your staking in line with your betting bank, kept punting through it and came out the other end.

Of course this is always easier to talk about in writing, as in theory it can be very testing. This is why we always suggest working to the correct staking plan for each service to ensure such outcomes are well catered for.

WHAT TO MAKE OF KARL DENNIS RACELINE

Overall we are impressed as we have seen a profit of 262 pts and a ROI of 22% so far. Only the 2009 results have been proofed to us, so we can only judge those officially, however in all our dealings with Karl we have no reason to doubt the authenticity of the 2008 results.

His service has posted a loss over the past 3 and 6 months, and it's abundantly clear these tips should only ever be followed by someone who is very understanding and patient. You should also be in a position to place every bet as it comes in, as you would hate to miss a big winner.

As mentioned already, in August 2008 after 8 months of the service, the profit stood at just 10 pts before the 200 pt winner. Admittedly there had been a number of large priced 2nd placed bets prior to that, but how would you feel having just eked 10 pts in 8 months?

This is why our recommendation for this service at the current time is that it should be closely monitored only. Dealing at such a high price range and low strike-rate we are very keen to track how the service progresses over a larger number of bets, rather than just the 500 to hand at the moment.

Indeed the service shows great promise, and Karl is a very genuine guy, but following at the moment would be a little bit of a step into the unknown. With more results under our belt we will certainly know a lot more.

3 Key Pointers:

1. Statistics

Results on Racing Proofing and available directly from Karl

2. Practicality Of Profits

Very easy, all emails through before midday and placed with a variety of bookies

3. Customer Service

No problems here, Karl has always responded to our emails promptly.

SBC ratings:

Returns: ★★★★★

Risk: ★

Cost: ★★

Transparency: ★★★★★

Suggested portfolio weighting: ★★

Overall: ★★★★★

Rating: Very tentative buy

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RECOMMENDED: XXXXXXXXXXXXX

Service Name: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Website: [XXXXXXXXXX](#)

Summary of findings

- XXXXXXXXXXXXX
- XXXXXXXXXXXXX
- XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
- XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

SERVICE IN DETAIL

Phil, or Mr Y as he is known on our forum, is an SBC member who wanted to take control of his betting and create his own model for predicting football matches. It's always interesting when SBC members launch their own ventures or trial their own systems. They don't always hit the mark, but we often find that they are refreshingly earnest in their approach.

XXXXXXXXXXXX is a football rating system along the lines of Winabobattoo. Phil provides a summary of the day's footballing action with a predicted probability of a home win, draw and away win. As with Winabobattoo, you are free to use the ratings as you choose, to enhance your own betting should you wish. However, the main reason that people will be attracted to the service (again as with Winabobattoo) is the shortlist of suggested value bets each day.

The exact calculations behind the ratings system are kept a secret as you'd expect, but we're told that it has something to do with the "Poisson Distribution Model". To be entirely honest, we do not fully understand the theory behind this, but thankfully Phil does! The theory appears to be linked to the expected probability of certain events occurring within a fixed period of time.

Using complex algorithms and his own software, Phil has developed the system by drawing data from 36 European leagues. Interestingly the ratings are updated daily to keep the ratings accurate.

There are a number of filters as follows:

The ratings:

Ratings are sent out seven days a week, with each email containing the ratings for that day, and any advanced fixtures for the next couple of days.

Depending on the time of year, there might be a full fixture list sent out, or just a couple of matches. As you can see below, Intelligent Betting provides ratings for a wide variety of leagues from the English Premier League, to the Turkish Super Ligi.

The most important columns are those on the far right which display the predicted probability of a home win, draw and away win. The Final three columns display the average odds available.

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League	Date	Time	Home Team		Away Team	Home	Draw	Away	H	D	A
Turkey Super Ligi	11/04	11:30	Bursaspor	v	Ankaragucu	58%	24%	18%	2.74	3.30	3.09
Turkey Super Ligi	11/04	11:30	Istanbul BB	v	Gaziantepsp	38%	28%	34%	2.42	3.25	3.45
Poland Division 1	11/04	12:15	Lech. Gdansk	v	GKS Belch.	34%	28%	38%	2.94	3.25	2.78

German Bundesliga 1	11/04	14:30	M Gladbach	v	Wolfsburg	16%	23%	60%	4.30	3.70	2.00
German Bundesliga 1	11/04	14:30	Hannover	v	Hertha Berlin	25%	27%	48%	2.60	3.50	3.03
German Bundesliga 1	11/04	14:30	Hoffenheim	v	Bochum	63%	23%	15%	1.75	3.85	6.00
German Bundesliga 1	11/04	14:30	Bayern Munich	v	Frankfurt	67%	21%	12%	1.37	6.00	11.40
German Bundesliga 1	11/04	14:30	Schalke	v	Karlsruhe	65%	22%	14%	1.37	5.30	11.50
Poland Division 1	11/04	14:30	Ruch Ch	v	Polonia	34%	28%	38%	3.50	3.10	2.55
English Conference	11/04	15:00	Altrincham	v	Kidderminster	20%	25%	56%	3.60	3.60	2.20
English Conference	11/04	15:00	Burton Albion	v	Histon	48%	27%	25%	2.26	3.55	3.50
English Conference	11/04	15:00	Cambridge Utd	v	Eastbourne	63%	23%	15%	1.58	4.20	7.00

Results

Official results are

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REVIEW: PRIZE LAYS

Service Name: Prize Lays

Website: <http://www.sportsworldpublishing.co.uk/prize-lay.htm>

Summary of findings

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- XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
- XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
- XXXXXXXXXXX

SERVICE IN DETAIL

Prize Lays is a racing system sold by Sportsworld Publishing that we have been monitoring over the past few months. Prize Lays was devised by Eddie McClung who won a competition designed to find the very best betting system. Eddie as the Sportsworld page tells us is a semi-retired IT specialist who has been gambling since the age of 12. He has also kindly supplied his Prize Lay selections to us each day, and a copy of the system to review.

The price of Prize Lays is £95, which also includes access to 3 months worth of the tips that the system generates. Upon purchase you receive a full explanation of the system, how it works, and how you can follow the logical instructions to generate the daily tips it produces.

The actual system explanation is quite brief at about 5 pages long, but the selection criteria does appear to be logical and easy to follow. Without giving the system away, it utilizes the racing post ratings and race favourites as well as various other statistics to arrive at your systems selections each day. Very often you can generate any selections the night before racing if you so please, as all you need is access to the Racing Post website. There is a word of warning here though as occasionally a Racing post favourite will change overnight if there are significant withdrawals in a certain race. It is for that reason that Eddie advocates checking again each morning. He himself supplies a 10pm update the night before racing and a 10am update the day of racing to cover this eventuality.

PERFORMANCE

Sportsworld themselves list a profit of £34,592 to £100 stakes from June 07 to March 2009 and these results are based upon the spreadsheet of performance that Eddie has supplied. We have a copy of this performance and if you're interested in this, I am sure Eddie or Sportsworld will also send a copy on to you.

The results in this spreadsheet are calculated to the odds that Eddie himself ascertained since 2006 in testing and following the system. Since July 2008 this was also proofed in full to Sportsworld.

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MEMBER REVIEW: SIMPLEX TRADING

This month SBC member Jok shares with us his views on the Simplex trading system. We hope to make the member review corner a regular feature each month so if you want to see your review printed, then do get in touch by emailing info@secretbettingclub.com

It could be something we've already reviewed to give a different perspective, or something completely new. All reviews will be uploaded to www.moneymakerreview.com so other members can benefit.

Over to Jok

Outline:

The Simplex Trading System takes a different approach to betting on the outcome of every English Premier League Football match.

Service Name: Simplex Trading (Premier League Football Betting System)

Website: Currently being upgraded

Claims:

Profits of £2,000.00 to £28,000.00 per season.

Actual Profit returns are based on the value of the stake the user chooses and the odds selected. Strict calculation of stakes to starting bank are very strongly advised. 7 years of proofed results available to confirm these claims.

Cost:

2009 - 2010 season shall be priced at around £60.00 (28 day money back guarantee, conditions apply).

The system comes with a manual, a spread sheet to track results and profits and additional spreadsheets containing previous results.

An additional e-mail service notifying the user of bets to place, costing around £24.00 per season is also available.

Simplex Trading System

After, reading through the manual for the first time, I was impressed with the initial explanation of the system and it's workings. Like anyone that has ever been stitched up before, I never completely accept any statements made without the ability to gather feedback from previous users. Unfortunately, there was not a great deal of information available and what was on the forums and such, was mostly based of forum users assumptions alone. No real facts.

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The Punter's Diary: JP's Blog

A number of SBC members will no doubt be familiar already with JP's Blog available at <http://spenner68.blogspot.com/> that has been detailing one man's quest to make money betting via tipsters. A fascinating read with daily updates, it has helped to document the ups and downs of many a gambler.

John the author of the blog is sharing his experiences of this quest in these regular monthly columns, and this month talks about his portfolio setup and his thoughts on each service.

Over to you John...

Things have taken a significant turn for the better in the month since my last article and as of today, 24 April, my profit for 2009 now stands at over £13,500.

The highlight was landing a 174/1 straight forecast on 7 April, but there have been plenty of other good days during the month - as well as the usual list of near misses, including second places at 50/1 and 25/1 in consecutive races at Aintree!

Another problem, which is cropping up with increasing regularity is getting my bets on with the bookies. William Hill are the latest firm to start messing me around - restricting me to buttons on the internet, and all the bets I phone in on my credit account with them are now referred, and usually restricted. More details on the blog, but it can only get worse as time goes on and I'm going to have to try and find a way round it.

This month I'm taking a detailed look at the services I use, my thoughts on my portfolio as it stands at the moment, and a few thoughts on the future.

Currently I use Tipping Legends, Steve Lewis Hamilton, The Form Analyst, Mathematician Betting and Optimum Racing.

I also now follow the advice from a couple of blogs - Making It Pay and Nose Ahead, as well as any other information - which tends to come from The Form Analyst's forum, but I visit other forums and websites as well.

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The undoubted star of my portfolio, and a service which has been building the profits steadily for the last year or so.

A classic example of patience bringing its rewards. I joined XXXXXXXX when I first started doing this back in September 2007. The first bet advised to me was a 16/1 winner. However, following on from that, results then became a bit disappointing and by the middle of February I was showing a small loss - nothing too drastic, but things weren't exactly flying along.

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The good, the bad and the ugly of the tipster world...revealed!!!

Golf Betting: On Course For Profits

We're always on the look out for profitable angles that our members could take away. In the last few months, SBC member and professional bettor, PCB has been sharing his strategies for betting in a variety of fields. This month our resident pro explains his golf betting strategy.

If you have any questions about this strategy, please do get in touch.

Over to PCB:

It may come as a surprise but before 1990, sports betting was merely a blip on the bookies long term profits radar. The Racing Post used to barely carry a couple of pages of sports betting, whereas today the newspaper carries a whole sports section and the betting opportunities are endless.

My golf betting fascination began shortly after the British Open in 1991. Derek McGovern began writing a pre tournament golf Pricewise column similar to the one used in the feature horse races of the day. I was working for a leading industry bookmaker and we were top price Ian Baker Finch at 50/1 for the British Open. The column made Baker Finch a confident win selection and we were hit hard. My curiosity was piqued. The reasoning for the bet was sound, based on course form and current form and simply due to the size of the field 50/1 was the price offered. Therein lies the appeal in golf tournament betting.

When taking 33/1 on a horse you will generally be backing an outsider. A 33/1 shot in golf may well be one of the tournament fancies with ticks in all the right boxes.

To vindicate my belief we used to run a weekly golf tournament tipping contest amongst the traders and often of the twelve of us who played weekly, the same selections would occur on many lists. Twelve professionals in the industry and the same player being selected by about 50% of us and often priced anywhere between sixteen and forty to one. Clearly there were outstanding value bets to be found.

Now to turn down the heat a little. Golf tournament betting is a low strike rate type of bet and patience is required. Backing winners at such big prices does not come easy but overall I continue to make my golf betting pay and my work is minimal. I accept there are better students of the game than myself and I allow them to turn a 150 player tournament into around 15 players.

By eliminating 90% of the field I find it much easier to make my tournament selections. The other benefit is prices tend to hold up unlike horse racing where a sudden interest in a 25/1 shot will see a price collapse.

So what sources consistently bring golf profits and importantly which are freely available?

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Sports Trading On Betfair: Trading Cricket

John Tuohy aka "The Gambler" a well known "Betting Blogger" on "The Blogosphere has been sports trading on the betting exchanges since their inception at the start of the century. You can read his blog here: http://john2e.typepad.com/my_weblog/

Over the coming months John will also talk about various other aspects of trading; from how he got into it, to pointers on how to find your own trading edge.

This month we have another exclusive article from John on how to trade a profit from live Cricket. Over to you John..

So what a subject, What a challenge and some people could write a book about it. Some people have probably done so already, and after you have read this article a lot more will probably try.

So where to start? There are various forms of cricket... Five day Test matches. One day internationals. "20-20. The Indian Premier League. In the UK the County Championship and various one day tournaments that seem to change their name from one season to another.

Let us start at the top, the Five day International Test Matches. This summer we have two touring sides in the UK, the West Indies in May and June and Australia for The Ashes in July, August and One day series in September.

So here is the first lesson. If you are going to get into sports trading on cricket, get yourself organised. Get those dates in you diary and organise you life, your holidays, pregnancies and unexpected illnesses around them. England play Windies in the first test on 6th May and the last ODI is against Australia on 20 September 2009, which is a Sunday. So book your week in Spain from 21st September onwards. Perhaps we could organise a trip! A week or two in La Manga for all us exhausted worn out Cricket traders, comparing notes, and seeing who has won the most money.

So here is the second lesson. Can you trade on test match cricket if you are a part-timer, or is it easy pickings for the full timers? A good old betfair forum chestnut of a question. I would favour the full-timers but part-timers, i.e. people who have jobs do have a chance if they can dedicate their weekends to it. This obviously depends on whether you are single, married, have kids, like doing normal things at the weekend, or are a confirmed sports preferably cricket nut. If you are the latter, you will be in seventh heaven.

There is probably a third lesson in there as well. Whether you are trading on cricket or any other sport, it is a full time job. I don't mean you have do it full-time. But when you are doing it, you need to be concentrating on it 100% full-time. Obviously taking a break to look away from the screens on occasion to avoid morphing into your TV and Computer screen, becoming a new form of life. A robotic "Betfair Bob", a new advanced form of your life, well in your opinion anyway. You may find it a bit awkward when you go down the pub, and all your mates start going "Exterminate...exterminate...", but heck what a small price to pay.

So back to the cricket and trading a Five day test match. Games normally begin on Thursday and you will have done some research before then. This may involve watching a bit of cricket between now and the start of the first test on 6 May against West

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Indies. The IPL which starts on 18 April looks like that will be shown on Setanta Sports which makes it a no-go as far as I am concerned.

You may like to keep up to date with who is fit and who is available, whether England have a new coach, whether the Windies boys have been behaving themselves. No late nights, etc... Whether Freddie gets off the plane from India without falling off it. Whether there are any complaints, discussions in the camps. Whether any of these factors will affect team morale.

The weather. Probably the most important factor in deciding the result of a test match. Your most important resource is the met office website and I will print the URL at the end of this article. Determining whether it is going to rain or not, whether bad light will affect play is crucial in making a profit or not. The met office website will tell you everything you need to know, occasionally looking at the BBC website weather page is a quick alternative. You also have your eyes and ears. Some of you may be familiar with David "Bumble" Lloyd ex-cricketer, commentator and a jovial man with a slightly "wicked" sense of humour. He has a phrase "It is raining in Reading" and I can claim to be the man that came up with that phrase as I live seven miles west of Reading. I noticed that when it started raining in my garden, about one hour and ten minutes later it would start raining in Lords. Similar with heavy cloud cover. I used to send Sky Sports or Bumble an occasional email "It is raining in Reading", which quite quickly became one of "Bumble's" catch phrases. He owes me a pint, but I doubt if I will ever get it.

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Mental Coaching: Mike Lindley

The latest guest article from Mike Lindley of the excellent Winabobattoo service, which this month is on the topic of adopting successful mental approaches when it comes to betting.

In most sporting fields, the difference between winners and losers can be small. The top sportsmen probably have more “gifted talent” than other players, but the difference is often in how that talent is applied.

There are many great golfers in the world, but how many of them are regular “winners?” There seems to be a mental dividing line between winning and losing - something that is over and above ability alone. Tap “mental coaches” into your search engine and you will see it is a big business.

How does this apply to our sphere of betting?

It applies in very much the same way. Your skill at picking winners will count for nothing if your judgement goes to pieces at the first hint of a losing run, or because you have a staking plan that exceeds the boundaries of sensible risk.

Keeping the right sense of balance and equilibrium applies just as much to us as bettors, as it does to the golfer who has just hit his approach shot on the 18th into the water. If we lose our heads, we are not going to make good decisions.

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