



SMART BETTING CLUB

MAKING PUNTING PAY: A SPECIAL 2019 PROFIT REPORT

INTRODUCTION FROM SBC EDITOR PETER LING

Welcome to this special Smart Betting Club Profit Report featuring guest author – the punter behind the Making Punting Pay (MPP) blog on his betting performance during 2019.

He has been writing the MPP blog since June 2019, during which time he has been detailing weekly the ups and downs of following a series of tipsters – his portfolio.

To get a better sense of the journey he has been on, I commissioned this special report, which in his own words outlines the progress of his portfolio on a month-by-month basis during 2019.

In total he follows 6 different tipsters, 4 of whom are named and familiar to SBC readers, whilst the remaining 2 tipster identities are kept private as both wish to keep out of the limelight.

As you will read throughout this fascinating report, 2019 was at times a real rollercoaster due to the nature of the tipsters followed and the staking approach utilized. Patience was severely tested at times with 4 losing runs of more than £5000, yet ultimately, he ended up with a profit of £7,346.57 after subscription fees over the course of the 12 months.

If you enjoy this report, you can read more every week at <https://makingpuntingpay.blogspot.com/>

Pete Ling



Smart Betting Club Editor

<http://www.smartbettingclub.com>

Email: info@smartbettingclub.com

Twitter: @sbcinfo

KEY TERMS EXPLAINED

Throughout this report, we reference a number of key terms such as ROI, ROC and Points Profit. Below you can find explanations as to what they mean.

ROI (Return On Investment): This is a key figure which outlines just how much you would have staked to make a profit. The ROI calculation is a simple figure of profit divided by total amount staked. E.g. If you staked £100 and made a £10 profit, your ROI would be 10%.

Betting Bank: The amount of money set aside for each individual service. For example – with Northern Monkey Punter, MPP uses a 120 pt bank at £40 a point, which would require £4,800 to follow (120 X £40).

ROC (Return on Capital): This calculates just how profitable a service is in relation to the betting bank we would advise (also known as **Betting Bank Growth**). The ROC is useful in that you can apply your specific bank size to the percentage growth and work out how much you might make. E.g. if you made a 43% ROC, then a bank of £1000 would have made you £430 profit.

Points Profit: Most tipsters will advise staking in terms of 'points'. This can be anything from 0.25 point up to 100 points. Based on the size betting bank you use, each point will have a monetary value. E.g. If you staked £5 for every point advised, a 5 point bet would be £25 (5 X £5).

MAKE PUNTING PAY

MY 2019 IN WORDS

Moving into a new year provides the perfect opportunity to take stock of your tipster portfolio to understand what's been going well while also identifying where improvement can be made. I'm the type of punter who enjoys analysing performance so I'm usually reviewing things on an ongoing basis anyway. Prior to signing up with a new service I interrogate historical results to determine if I can tailor the service in any way to either generate higher Return on Investment (ROI) / Return on Capital (ROC) or to simplify the bet placement process providing it doesn't impact profitability too much.

With this analysis in mind I've included the services within my portfolio together with a brief overview of how I follow each. If you're looking for a more detailed description of each then there are a few posts on my blog (<http://makingpuntingpay.blogspot.com>) that explain it all.

I use the Smart Betting Club (SBC) as my first port of call for identifying tipsters so it'll come as no surprise to learn that five out of my six services are monitored by them, with the other one operating independently via their own website. There are a couple of services who prefer to fly under the radar and so to respect their wishes I refer to them as Racing Service 3 and Golf Service 2.

1. Northern Monkey Punter (NMP)

- 120pt bank at £40/point (pt)
- Bet win only staking the full advised stake on the win e.g. 0.5pt each way bet translates to a 1pt win only stake

2. The Value Bettor (TVB)

- 60pt bank at £100/pt. increasing to £200/pt. from July 2019
- Bets Jan - Jun were followed exactly as advised
- Bets Jul-Dec win only with full advised stake on the win

3. Racing Service 3 (RS3)

- 100pt bank at £100/pt. between Jan – Oct
- 200pt bank at £50/pt. from November 2019
- Various staking plans used within the year that I'll get into in more detail later

4. Scottish Football Bets (SFB)

- 40pt bank at £100/pt.
- Bets followed exactly as advised

5. Golf Betting Expert (GBE)

- 500pt bank at £10/pt.
- Bets followed exactly as advised

6. Golf Service 2 (GS2)

- 500pt bank at £10/pt.
- Bets followed exactly as advised

7. My Own Bets

- No specific bank allocated however stakes are kept low relative to the other services
- Fun bets e.g. Football coupons, racing lucky 15s etc.

JANUARY

Heading into January 2019 I was riding the crest of a wave. Performance for the first part of my 2018/19 season stood at £7,786.59 profit at 13.3% ROI which represented the most profitable six month period of my entire betting life. The profit and loss chart was also remarkably smooth which does wonders for your mental wellbeing with the biggest drawdown experienced sitting just over £2k. I know £2000 is a lot of money to lose, but relative to the bank size and profit accumulated to that point it didn't represent any cause for concern. With my bank increasing as it did, I decided to re-invest the profit accumulated to join Racing Service 3, which unbeknown to me at the time would signal the end of the smooth ride I'd become accustomed to.

Following on from my most profitable six month period, **New Year's Day 2019 would turn out to break my record for the most profitable single day's betting.** Star of the show was TVB who advised three winners from five bets at Cheltenham with Beware the Bear, Lostintranslation and Aux Ptits Soins managing to get their heads home in front. I was also lucky enough to place all five selections in a Super Yankee as I regularly do as part of my own multiples strategy and SFB also weighed in with two winners from two meaning the day finished £2801.85 to the good.

The month continued in similar fashion as GBE managed to find an outright winner in two events over the course of the first three weeks of the year. First up was Xander Schauffele winning the Sentry Tournament of Champions courtesy of an -11 final round score of 62 including a great back nine with an eagle 2 on the par 4 12th and birdies on 14, 15, 17 and 18 to win by one shot over Gary Woodland. Two weeks later it was the turn of Jazz Janewattanand who delivered at the Singapore Open finishing two shots clear of Paul Casey. It can be a long time between drinks for golf bettors so it's always nice to get a winner or two on the table.

By the middle of the month profits had risen to a new all-time high with all services (exc. RS3) showing a good profit. Top of the tree was The Value Bettor who followed up his New Year's Day exploits by landing a further three winners from his next six bets. It really was scintillating stuff from TVB who was operating with a 55% strike rate at a remarkable 157.3% ROI over the first 16 days of the month. Northern Monkey and Scottish Football bets also played their part as the total monthly profit by close of play on the 16th Jan stood at £4,466.91 (55.9% ROI). **It's funny how invincible you feel when things are going well.** You're placing bets while already counting your winnings such is the confidence that a purple patch brings. However, little did I know, but this would be as good as things would get for some considerable time. The 16th was gone, and the 17th would signal the start of the deepest losing run I'd ever endured.

In the second half of the month all services reversed the form to record a loss over the remaining 15 days to undo much of the good work achieved in the first half. **January was certainly a month of two halves** and despite finishing the month £2,873.09 into a drawdown, I was fortunate enough to end with a healthy four figure profit.

January P&L Summary				
Tipster	£ P&L	Pts P&L	ROI	ROC
Northern Monkey Punter	-£214.00	-5.35	-28.2%	-4.5%
The Value Bettor	£2,378.33	23.78	76.7%	39.6%
Racing Service 3	-£1,781.95	-17.82	-32.9%	-17.8%
Scottish Football Bets	-£210.66	-2.11	-7.2%	-5.3%
Golf Betting Expert	£807.67	80.77	89.7%	16.2%
Golf Service 2	£0.00	0.00		0.0%
My Own Bets	£614.43		27.6%	
Total	£1,593.82		10.4%	

FEBRUARY

Just like the previous month, February got off to a flyer with Northern Monkey and Racing Service 3 finding three winners from four bets between them. Unfortunately, this time round I wouldn't have the luxury of enjoying a further 15 days of profit before things would turn sour.

Racing Service 3 is system based with a variable staking plan depending on available odds and calculated value. Prior to joining at the end of December I conducted my usual analysis and found that betting to level stakes improved the profitability of the service dramatically. Furthermore, it also identified that the stronger bets provided a higher ROI as you'd expect therefore, I settled on assigning two points to the stronger bets, and one point to the weaker bets. **This was a mistake and was the first of a few I'd make throughout the year when it comes to RS3.**

The stronger bets are stronger in the sense that they contain more value rather than being a more likely winner. Over the long term these bets will be the most profitable, but they tend to be at longer odds which mean they are also the most volatile with longer losing runs to be expected. Sod's law would have it that I joined just in time for the stronger bets to go on a sustained losing spell which would last the best part of three months. Assigning 2pt's (£200) to these bets was a killer. A lot of research goes into a service before I join them so despite being confident that things would turn, throwing away £200 on bet after bet really had me wondering what I was doing!

The figures at the end of February don't paint a pretty picture. I've included both my monthly profit figures and then my accumulated 2019 figure until this point. **It's astonishing how quickly things can turn doing this.** One minute all services are performing out of their skin, and the next they can't buy a winner.

Losing spells are inevitable and you have to accept them if you have any aspirations to become a profitable bettor, but the theory behind having a portfolio of tipsters is that some will be able to prop up the others when the bad times arrive. Every now and then though, all services will endure a difficult spell concurrently which hammers home the importance of assigning adequate betting banks to each service to ensure you stay in the game long enough to benefit from the eventual recovery.

February P&L Summary				
Tipster	£ P&L	Pts P&L	ROI	ROC
Northern Monkey Punter	£364.38	3.64	47.0%	3.0%
The Value Bettor	-£123.25	-1.23	-4.5%	-2.1%
Racing Service 3	-£2,163.22	-21.63	-55.6%	-21.6%
Scottish Football Bets	-£410.91	-41.09	-14.6%	-102.7%
Golf Betting Expert	-£380.00	-38.00	-33.6%	-7.6%
Golf Service 2	-£82.42	-8.24	-24.6%	-1.6%
My Own Bets	-£1,066.51		-40.6%	
Total	-£3,861.93		-27.0%	-22.2%

2019 P&L Summary				
Tipster	£ P&L	Pts P&L	ROI	ROC
Northern Monkey Punter	£150.38	1.50	9.8%	1.3%
The Value Bettor	£2,255.08	22.55	38.6%	37.6%
Racing Service 3	-£3,945.17	-39.45	-42.4%	-39.5%
Scottish Football Bets	-£621.57	-62.16	-10.8%	-155.4%
Golf Betting Expert	£427.67	42.77	21.1%	8.6%
Golf Service 2	-£82.42	-8.24	-24.6%	-1.6%
My Own Bets	-£452.08		-9.3%	
Total	-£2,268.11		-7.6%	-13.0%

MARCH

By the time March arrived I realised I was on a slippery slope as far as my Racing Service 3 staking plan was concerned. In the back of my mind I knew an upturn in fortunes would arrive eventually, but I obviously had no idea when the correction would occur. I therefore took the decision to move all RS3 bets to 1pt level stakes to limit any further potential losses while conceding it would result in a longer recovery time when things changed for the better. Chopping and changing strategy is something I'd advise against, and with hindsight I should have held out a little longer, but I knew my plan was flawed from the outset, so it was the correct thing to do at the time.

The poor run continued and one week into March I was staring at a drawdown that had now reached £7697.91 since things started to go wrong on 17th January. **This was now by far the largest drawdown I'd ever experienced.** By this point it was commonplace for me to lie awake at night running over everything in my head. What was I doing? Was it time to call it a day? Am I going to lose everything? When will it stop? For every one of these thoughts I also reminded myself that I was following the best services in the game. This isn't a get rich quick scheme, losing spells are expected and patience is a necessity if you're going to make it work. It really was a devil in one ear, angel in the other scenario.

Fortunately, the 8th March was to signal the end of the drawdown with the turning point being at a lowly class 6 on the all-weather at Lingfield for runners rated 0-60 when Racing Service 3 advised two runners against the field, Maazel at 28/1 and Tavener at 7/1. Maazel was classed as one of the 'stronger' bets while Tavener was in the weaker category so one week earlier I'd have been having £200 on a 28/1 shot. Now that I was on 1pt level stakes it was £100 on both

selections; however, I could only get £50 on the 28/1 shot before the odds started to disappear. They did eventually drift back out to 27.77 at BSP but in my wisdom I decided not to place the other half of my stake. It was probably a combination of the losing run I was on; coupled with the fact I already had another horse in the same race with a greater win expectancy that stopped me from putting my full stake down. The race was won as you've probably guessed by the 28/1 shot with Tavener chasing him home in second place. It really was a strange feeling having just won £1400 after losing nearly £8k you'd expect overwhelming relief, but the annoyance and stupidity I felt at refusing to place the second half of the stake was all I could concentrate on. And to add insult to injury I knew if I kept my previous strategy going for one week longer, I'd have turned £200 into £5,600.

Two days later Francesco Molinari won the Arnold Palmer Invitational by two shots with an -8 final round score for Golf Betting Expert with both golf services complementing Molinari with a placed finish a piece. Scottish Football Bets and The Value Bettor also provided a couple of winners and with a click of the fingers everyone seemed to be moving in the right direction again. It was a welcome change in fortune with Cheltenham just around the corner. Cheltenham week is the most intense of the betting calendar with the competitive racing bringing an inevitable increase in turnover. I'm not sure how I'd have coped with that intensity if it wasn't for enjoying the respite provided in the previous week.

The festival got off to a good start with RS3 advising Duc Des Genievres in the Arkle, NMP finding Roksana in the Mares Hurdle and TVB making it one winner a piece with A Plus Tard in the Close Brothers Novices Handicap Chase. SFB rounded off the day with four from five winners in the football later that night. The second day was disappointing with the only winner being short priced Tiger Roll winning the Cross Country to land the second leg of an NMP ante post double.

The meeting really took off though on St Patrick's Thursday. NMP advised Defi Du Seuil (SP 3/1) for the JLT at 11/1 in the weeks leading up to the festival and also added to the ante post portfolio with Sire Du Berlais (SP 4/1) back in January at 12/1 for the Pertemps. Sire was also advised in a 25/1 ante post double with an all-weather winner and the ante post hat-trick was completed by Siruh Du Lac (SP 9/2) at 8/1 in the Brown Advisory Plate. By race morning NMP still strongly fancied Defi Du Seuil and Sire Du Berlais so put them in a double that also paid 25/1. It really was ante post betting at its best. Being able to find three winners' weeks in advance who all manage to land on the same day is something that should be applauded. The icing on the cake was complete when I also placed the three winners in a £2 lucky 15 for a £641 pay out.

Gold Cup Day was to belong to Racing Service 3. He advised a couple of bets across the various cards but only one at Cheltenham. Al Boum Photo at 16/1 for the big one! I remember placing the bet and thinking it had little chance. It was a competitive Gold Cup with Presenting Percy, Clan Des Obeaux, Native River and Kemboy all well fancied and I must admit I thought Al Boum would struggle. I was delighted to be proved wrong and it probably highlights the reason I pay for tipsters! **The festival was a definite success with over £2k profit made.** The only disappointment was The Value Bettor who struggled to get going and mentioned afterwards that he may need to re-assess how he approaches the festival in 2020.

As is usually the case after Cheltenham, the subsequent weeks were pretty low key which is something I quite enjoy if I'm being honest. The workload over the four days really takes its toll so I usually welcome the quiet spell with open arms. It took until the 30th of the month for it all to kick back into action as Racing Service 3 continued to capitalise on his resurgence with three winners from four and then followed it up the following day with a superb 33/1 winner. As was the case earlier in the month with Maazel, I could only get half my stake down at the advised price, therefore decided to hold off and wait for the drift close to the off. Unfortunately, that drift didn't materialise as it went off with a BSP of 11.88, and again I was left reeling at another big priced winner without my full stake down.

An utterly superb month was rounded off by Golf Betting Expert finding his fourth outright winner of the year when Kevin Kisner won the World Match Play by beating Matt Kuchar in the final. I managed to beat the advised price by securing odds of 85.0 on the exchange for a nice added bonus.

A month like this was well needed after what went before it, and the figures for Racing Service 3 especially make for nice reading; however the overriding feeling was that it could have been a lot better due to letting two big priced wins land with only 50% stake on. Curiosity also got the better of me and if I stuck to the original 2pt / 1pt staking plan for the RS3 bets my monthly profit would have increased from £4,650.69 to £17,250.69! What if eh?

March P&L Summary				
Tipster	£ P&L	Pts P&L	ROI	ROC
Northern Monkey Punter	£479.07	11.98	24.8%	10.0%
The Value Bettor	£106.13	1.06	3.3%	1.8%
Racing Service 3	£4,650.69	46.51	95.4%	46.5%
Scottish Football Bets	-£140.45	-1.40	-3.7%	-3.5%
Golf Betting Expert	£742.00	74.20	60.6%	14.8%
Golf Service 2	-£295.01	-29.50	-59.0%	-5.9%
My Own Bets	£143.48		5.1%	
Total	£5,685.91		30.9%	

2019 P&L Summary				
Tipster	£ P&L	Pts P&L	ROI	ROC
Northern Monkey Punter	£629.45	15.74	18.2%	13.1%
The Value Bettor	£2,361.21	23.61	26.0%	39.4%
Racing Service 3	£705.52	7.06	5.0%	7.1%
Scottish Football Bets	-£762.02	-7.62	-7.9%	-19.1%
Golf Betting Expert	£1,169.67	116.97	35.9%	23.4%
Golf Service 2	-£377.43	-37.74	-45.2%	-7.5%
My Own Bets	-£308.60		-4.0%	
Total	£3,417.80		7.1%	

APRIL

For me April is all about two events, the Grand National and the Masters. Unfortunately, I wouldn't have any success in either with Walk In The Mill advised by NMP and Anibale Fly for RS3 being my closest in the National finishing 4th and 5th respectively with my money down on both win only.

Over at Augusta my main hopes lay with Xander Schauffele for GBE and Tony Finau for GS2, but neither were quite good enough to overcome the outstanding Tiger Woods who won his fifth Masters ending an 11 year wait to claim his 15th major. After the problems he suffered in the previous years where many doubted whether he'd even compete again, going from that to winning another green jacket has to be up there with one of the greatest comebacks of all time. With Tiger Roll winning the National for the second year in a row I'm sure a few fun punters would have had some dough down on the Tiger double.

Despite reducing stakes on the 'stronger' RS3 bets I continued to struggle to get the full £100 down on the bigger priced selections. I was limited to splitting stakes between Bet365 and the handful of firms who offer Minimum Bet Guarantees (MBG), but it was difficult to get the full stake down before the odds had gone. One option I was exploring was to look at the pace angle in longer distance races and consider getting on in-play if the horse was usually dropped in. My thinking was that hold up horses would likely drift in-play despite that being part of the game

plan, so provided they travelled nicely it could make a lot of sense to take advantage of the bigger prices on the exchange. It probably isn't a sound strategy to use when following tipsters, but **you need to get creative when trying to get around account restrictions**. It would bear fruit towards the end of April when RS3 advised a horse at 33/1 of which I only managed to get £25 down before the price collapsed. BSP was 23.0 so I watched the race live and it was held up but travelling well so I put in an order for the other £75 at 34.0. The horse then picked off each of its rivals in front to get up on the line for a £3300 pay day. I not sure if it's a strategy that'd work long term but it's nice when something like that comes off.

Northern Monkey again continued his good form making a steady and impressive profit throughout the month but despite that and RS3's 33/1 winner April still managed to finish in the red.

April P&L Summary				
Tipster	£ P&L	Pts P&L	ROI	ROC
Northern Monkey Punter	£913.66	9.14	44.0%	7.6%
The Value Bettor	-£576.21	-5.76	-39.8%	-9.6%
Racing Service 3	£1,138.36	11.38	13.6%	11.4%
Scottish Football Bets	-£113.68	-11.37	-2.7%	-28.4%
Golf Betting Expert	-£312.40	-31.24	-13.5%	-6.2%
Golf Service 2	-£181.38	-18.14	-8.2%	-3.6%
My Own Bets	-£1,461.79		-57.7%	
Total	-£593.44		-2.6%	-3.4%

2019 P&L Summary				
Tipster	£ P&L	Pts P&L	ROI	ROC
Northern Monkey Punter	£1,543.11	15.43	27.8%	12.9%
The Value Bettor	£1,785.00	17.85	16.9%	29.8%
Racing Service 3	£1,843.88	18.44	8.2%	18.4%
Scottish Football Bets	-£875.70	-87.57	-6.3%	-218.9%
Golf Betting Expert	£857.27	85.73	15.4%	17.1%
Golf Service 2	-£558.81	-55.88	-18.3%	-11.2%
My Own Bets	-£1,770.39		-17.4%	
Total	£2,824.36		4.0%	16.2%

MAY

With the previous month signaling the end of a highly successful season for The Value Bettor where 45pts profit and 75% bank growth was accumulated over course of the National Hunt Season, it was perhaps no surprise to see May being a little quiet. Northern Monkey usually fills the hole left by TVB as he increases turnover over the summer months during the flat season and NMP was warming up nicely for the main action with another profitable month which included winning 25/1 and 33/1 doubles.

May also brings the main European football season to a close but this year Scottish Football Bets decided to increase turnover and keep things progressing over the summer months by introducing bets from more obscure leagues which is something the service hasn't done before.

I discussed the approach with Greg who runs SFB as I wanted to gain a level of confidence that these new bets hold an edge before jumping in feet first to an unproven method. SFB has an unbelievable level of knowledge and experience of the Scottish game and utilises an impressive set of contacts to find value domestically which is his core skill set. Surely the edge held in domestic leagues where you specialise and are able to attend matches must be greater than in obscure leagues where you know little about each team involved? Greg provided a good

argument for why these bets would be profitable, but I decided to take a watching brief until the domestic action started again.

May P&L Summary				
Tipster	£ P&L	Pts P&L	ROI	ROC
Northern Monkey Punter	£431.35	10.78	18.9%	9.0%
The Value Bettor	£0.00	0.00		0.0%
Racing Service 3	-£133.40	-1.33	-2.1%	-1.3%
Scottish Football Bets	-£261.00	-2.61	-8.7%	-6.5%
Golf Betting Expert	-£242.00	-24.20	-24.6%	-4.8%
Golf Service 2	£66.53	6.65	11.9%	1.3%
My Own Bets	-£882.98		-67.4%	
Total	-£1,021.50		-7.1%	

2019 P&L Summary				
Tipster	£ P&L	Pts P&L	ROI	ROC
Northern Monkey Punter	£1,974.46	49.36	25.2%	41.1%
The Value Bettor	£1,785.00	17.85	16.9%	29.8%
Racing Service 3	£1,710.48	17.10	6.0%	17.1%
Scottish Football Bets	-£1,136.70	-11.37	-6.8%	-28.4%
Golf Betting Expert	£615.27	61.53	9.4%	12.3%
Golf Service 2	-£492.28	-49.23	-13.6%	-9.8%
My Own Bets	-£2,653.37		-23.1%	
Total	£1,802.86		2.1%	

JUNE

Racing Service 3 was to ensure June got off to an eventful start with seven winners in the first eight days at odds of 5/2, 4/1, 6/1, 13/2, 11/1, 16/1 and 20/1 resulting in a profit of just over £5k by the 8th June. After six months of following the service the thing that strikes me most is just how quickly you can change from one extreme to the other. Thousands of pounds can be won or lost in the space of one week and I'm not sure whether I find that scary or exciting!

I missed a Golf Betting Expert winner when Patrick Cantlay was tipped at 22/1 at the Memorial. From memory the advice was to back at 22/1 the first 8 places with Betfair or Paddy Power, two firms I'm restricted with so I decided to show some patience to see if he drifted with any other firms, or failing that look to back on the Exchange if he got off to a slow start. Safe to say none of those situations materialised so **I missed out on a £700+ payday**. This is an issue that had been causing concern for a while and continues to as we go into 2020. It's common for some golf guys to tip each-way using enhanced places with firms I can't get a penny on with, so I've been looking at different options between using a mixture of win only and top 10/20, while also exploring backing and laying on the Exchange but all it takes is for a runaway leader or one of the elite players to be in contention to scupper that plan so it's certainly still a work in progress.

Perhaps Northern Monkey was due a bad month after four profitable months on the spin and the figures definitely show it that way. Much of the previous good work was undone but what the figures don't show is the number of near misses we had. The one that sticks in the mind most was Clon Coulis in the Royal Hunt Cup, advised antepost at 33/1 and then backed again at 25/1 after the jockey bookings were finalised and she ran an absolute screamer! Held up out the back she was delivered late on and unfortunately was beaten by only a nose at the finish. **That would have been an £1800 pay out which would have turned a heavy losing month into a profitable one....it certainly is thin lines.**

At this point in the year the biggest cause for concern was my own betting. It was part of the reason for starting up the blog in an attempt to instill some discipline into my betting and reduce the amount of money I was squandering on fun bets with no proven edge. But that's a story for another day.

June P&L Summary				
Tipster	£ P&L	Pts P&L	ROI	ROC
Northern Monkey Punter	-£1,516.69	-37.92	-62.2%	-31.6%
The Value Bettor	£0.00	0.00		0.0%
Racing Service 3	£4,516.82	45.17	107.5%	45.2%
Scottish Football Bets	-£150.00	-1.50	-100.0%	-3.8%
Golf Betting Expert	-£220.00	-22.00	-48.9%	-4.4%
Golf Service 2	£48.25	4.83	17.4%	1.0%
My Own Bets	-£654.10		-58.0%	
Total	£2,024.28		23.4%	

P&L Summary				
Tipster	£ P&L	Pts P&L	ROI	ROC
Northern Monkey Punter	£457.77	11.44	4.5%	9.5%
The Value Bettor	£1,785.00	17.85	16.9%	29.8%
Racing Service 3	£6,227.30	62.27	18.9%	62.3%
Scottish Football Bets	-£1,286.70	-12.87	-7.6%	-32.2%
Golf Betting Expert	£395.27	39.53	5.6%	7.9%
Golf Service 2	-£444.03	-44.40	-11.4%	-8.9%
My Own Bets	-£3,307.47		-26.2%	
Total	£3,827.14		4.1%	

JULY

It's an old cliché but if you had to describe any month as a rollercoaster then this would be it. The month got off to a dismal start and ten days in I was two grand down with all services in the red. Racing Service 3 contributed to 78% of these losses racking up a full house of losers over the first ten days. It was at this point I started to worry about the portfolio being so dependent on RS3 due to the stakes attributed to it relative to the other services. **In the main, success or failure was down to one service which isn't a good position to be in.**

An upturn in fortunes saw the monthly P&L flip on his head with over four grand won over the next ten days with NMP, GS2 and RS3 having a good time of it. NMP delivered seven winners including a Tis Marvellous and Copper Knight double, with GS2 bringing home the bacon by tipping Shane Lowry (70/1) at the Open who was head and shoulders above the rest all weekend to get his hands on the Claret Jug and his first major championship. Star of the show though was RS3 who managed to find eight winners to add nearly £3k to the kitty, again showing the impact the service has on the overall portfolio.

The final third of the month was practically a carbon copy of the first with two grand handed back resulting in the month finishing a grand total of £45.12 to the good. The unpredictable July weather scuppered a few best laid plans with NMP getting us into a great position with an antepost bet advised on Ripp Orf in the International Stakes at Ascot at 14/1 coupled with a 26/1 double with the first leg being successful. NMP gave it a favourite's chance on good to firm and by midweek it had been backed into 8/1 favourite, however the gambling gods weren't on our side as the heavens opened to turn the track soft resulting in a pre-race drift with Ripp Orf eventually finishing 4th in unsuitable conditions.

Elsewhere Golf Betting Expert was finding winners to be elusive but was ticking along nicely with a fair few place returns. I also recommenced placing SFB bets as the Scottish domestic action got back up and running although much of pre-season was spent standing still.

July P&L Summary				
Tipster	£ P&L	Pts P&L	ROI	ROC
Northern Monkey Punter	£1,103.60	27.59	41.4%	23.0%
The Value Bettor	£0.00	0.00		0.0%
Racing Service 3	-£1,057.20	-21.14	-15.1%	-10.6%
Scottish Football Bets	-£326.59	-3.27	-8.9%	-8.2%
Golf Betting Expert	-£89.50	-8.95	-10.2%	-2.2%
Golf Service 2	£141.48	14.15	25.8%	3.5%
My Own Bets	£273.33		44.9%	
Total	£45.12		0.3%	0.3%

2019 P&L Summary				
Tipster	£ P&L	Pts P&L	ROI	ROC
Northern Monkey Punter	£1,561.37	39.03	12.1%	32.5%
The Value Bettor	£1,785.00	8.93	16.9%	14.9%
Racing Service 3	£5,170.10	103.40	12.9%	51.7%
Scottish Football Bets	-£1,613.29	-16.13	-7.8%	-40.3%
Golf Betting Expert	£305.77	30.58	3.9%	7.6%
Golf Service 2	-£302.55	-30.26	-6.8%	-7.6%
My Own Bets	-£3,034.14		-22.9%	
Total	£3,872.26		3.5%	22.3%

AUGUST

SFB got the football season off to a bang with nine out of 11 winners when he successfully backed against the SPL u21 sides against senior SFL opposition. I was amused by one of SFB's emails which provided some insight into the lengths he goes to, to ensure no stone is left unturned. Prior to advising a double which included Dumbarton v Raith under 3.5 goals he justified the bet by saying Dumbarton parked the bus in a recent friendly v Motherwell with the 'Well' gaffer "comparing the surface to the rough at the Open at Royal Portrush." Just to corroborate this view, Greg found himself down at Dumbarton's stadium the evening before the game to take a picture of the pitch through a fence to ascertain the length of the grass! Unbelievable dedication that.

Golf Service 2 added another winner when Patrick Reed (50/1) won the Northern Trust with GBE's John Rahm supplementing the winner with a pace finish. GS2 also played in the Ladies Scottish Open and enjoyed further success when Anne Van Dam finished in a 3 way tie for the lead on day one to collect on a cracking 100/1 first round leader bet and also secure a top 10 finish.

August was a superb month with the two active racing services generating £4.5k profit between them and GS2 running at an impressive 81.2% ROI. Despite this I also suffered from some bad luck which is part and parcel of betting. I missed a RS3 winner due to work commitments when I was in a meeting at bet release time and when the horse didn't drift in the afternoon, I let it win unbacked.

Also, after previously reaping the rewards of my in-play strategy months earlier, I would be on the wrong side of it this time. Master Matt was tipped at a top price of 14/1 by RS3 and I was only able to get £35 on at the top price. Instead of placing the other £65 at the widely available and acceptable 12/1, I decided to wait for the price to rebound on the exchange, although this

never materialised and I was left to watch it romp home with 65% of my stake unmatched. You win some you lose some I suppose!

August P&L Summary				
Tipster	£ P&L	Pts P&L	ROI	ROC
Northern Monkey Punter	£1,946.16	48.65	76.3%	40.5%
The Value Bettor	£0.00	0.00		0.0%
Racing Service 3	£2,510.84	50.22	36.4%	25.1%
Scottish Football Bets	-£42.17	-0.42	-1.2%	-1.1%
Golf Betting Expert	-£311.71	-31.17	-40.0%	-7.8%
Golf Service 2	£456.75	45.68	81.2%	11.4%
My Own Bets	£192.38		18.6%	
Total	£4,752.25		31.1%	27.3%

2019 P&L Summary				
Tipster	£ P&L	Pts P&L	ROI	ROC
Northern Monkey Punter	£3,507.53	87.69	22.7%	73.1%
The Value Bettor	£1,785.00	8.93	16.9%	14.9%
Racing Service 3	£7,680.94	153.62	16.4%	76.8%
Scottish Football Bets	-£1,655.46	-16.55	-6.9%	-41.4%
Golf Betting Expert	-£5.94	-0.59	-0.1%	-0.1%
Golf Service 2	£154.20	15.42	3.1%	3.9%
My Own Bets	-£2,841.76		-19.9%	
Total	£8,624.51		6.9%	49.6%

SEPTEMBER

After the solid performance of August, the first part of September continued in similar fashion accruing profit at a rate of knots, only to give it all back in the second half of the month. It was a similar story back in July and **there really is nothing worse than making money only to immediately hand it back**. The first half of the month generated over £2000 to take the 2019 profit over the £10k mark for the first time. However, the 16th signaled the start of a drawdown that seen £2800 handed back. For the month to end in a loss when such progress had been made midway through was disappointing.

The only performance of note was SFB who managed to post a 4 figure profit accumulating 25.4% bank growth in the process. It followed a period of a few weeks when SFB took a step back from things due to some erratic form which he attributed in part to the early cup competitions in Scotland, so it was great to see that decision having a positive impact.

NMP ensured a 3rd straight month of profit but acknowledged he staked more than normal on multiples in an attempt to cash in on his good form, but unfortunately things didn't work out as planned with a number of near misses.

After being forced to settle for 12 placed finishes in the previous 11 weeks, Golf Betting Expert was rewarded with a long awaited winner when Joaquin Niemann (28/1) won the Greenbrier by 6 clear strokes. It was a long overdue winner; however, in spite of this little progress was made from a P&L perspective.

September P&L Summary				
Tipster	£ P&L	Pts P&L	ROI	ROC
Northern Monkey Punter	£164.25	4.11	7.4%	3.4%
The Value Bettor	£0.00	0.00		0.0%
Racing Service 3	-£635.78	-12.72	-12.2%	-6.4%

Scottish Football Bets	£1,015.99	10.16	21.4%	25.4%
Golf Betting Expert	£87.00	8.70	9.3%	2.2%
Golf Service 2	-£373.28	-37.33	-63.2%	-9.3%
My Own Bets	-£594.73		-75.8%	
Total	-£336.55		-2.3%	-1.9%

2019 P&L Summary				
Tipster	£ P&L	Pts P&L	ROI	ROC
Northern Monkey Punter	£3,671.78	91.79	20.7%	76.5%
The Value Bettor	£1,785.00	8.93	16.9%	14.9%
Racing Service 3	£7,045.16	140.90	13.5%	70.5%
Scottish Football Bets	-£639.47	-6.39	-2.2%	-16.0%
Golf Betting Expert	£81.06	8.11	0.8%	2.0%
Golf Service 2	-£219.08	-21.91	-3.9%	-5.5%
My Own Bets	-£3,436.49		-22.8%	
Total	£8,287.96		5.9%	47.6%

OCTOBER

As we moved into the final quarter of 2019, we saw a shift in terms of the racing services with the flat season winding down and the National Hunt season ramping up. NMP started to reduce stakes and turnover as he usually does over the winter months with The Value Bettor returning to action. The main TVB season doesn't get started officially until November but October serves as TVB's pre-season to get himself back into the swing of things.

Before TVB got back into action the drawdown that commenced in the middle of September had grown and by 21st October £5368.26 had been lost over a 5 week period.

In an attempt to make myself feel better I looked back through my records over the last few years and this run turned out to be the 4th largest drawdown since I started keeping records in 2015. The other 3 were:

- **£5431.38 between 2nd April 2019 and 20th April 2019**
- **£6559.05 between 24th July 2016 and 13th January 2017**
- **£7697.91 between 17th January 2019 and 7th March 2019**

It was interesting that three of my four largest drawdowns of all time had been this year, although it's not entirely surprising since I was using bigger stakes than I'd done previously. Looking back at these things during the dark days when it seems like nothing will go right serves as optimism to remind you that you've been here before and have managed to recover each time. It goes to show the patience you require as despite three huge losing runs the P&L still sat at over £5k profit for the 2019 calendar year.

During the drawdown things were made more difficult due to missing another couple of winners due to work commitments and I also passed on the opportunity to back Waldgiest in the Arc when he got the better of Enable. The Waldgiest one in particular was hard to swallow and the end result was £3k of missed profit which would have come in handy during the run I was on.

Things started to move in the right direction in the last week of the month as the racing services started to find a bit of form. It was especially pleasing to generate profit from a few TVB positive mentions despite no official tips being issued.

October was tough at times and I often wondered if there was any light at the end of the tunnel so to finish only £230 down was a welcome bonus. The last week of the month generated over £2.5k profit which reiterates how quickly things can change as long as you stick to the plan.

October P&L Summary				
Tipster	£ P&L	Pts P&L	ROI	ROC
Northern Monkey Punter	-£83.41	-2.09	-3.1%	-1.7%
The Value Bettor	£762.31	3.81	66.3%	6.4%
Racing Service 3	£1,222.57	24.45	15.9%	12.2%
Scottish Football Bets	-£1,181.80	-11.82	-26.2%	-29.5%
Golf Betting Expert	-£164.00	-16.40	-19.1%	-4.1%
Golf Service 2	-£104.99	-10.50	-22.3%	-2.6%
My Own Bets	-£680.36		-35.2%	
Total	-£229.68		-1.2%	-1.3%

2019 P&L Summary				
Tipster	£ P&L	Pts P&L	ROI	ROC
Northern Monkey Punter	£3,588.37	89.71	17.6%	74.8%
The Value Bettor	£2,547.31	12.74	21.8%	21.2%
Racing Service 3	£8,267.73	165.35	13.8%	82.7%
Scottish Football Bets	-£1,821.27	-18.21	-5.5%	-45.5%
Golf Betting Expert	-£82.94	-8.29	-0.8%	-2.1%
Golf Service 2	-£324.07	-32.41	-5.3%	-8.1%
My Own Bets	-£4,116.85		-24.3%	
Total	£8,058.28		5.1%	46.3%

NOVEMBER

The recovery continued into November and six days into the month the profit had peaked for the year at £13,946.01. The amount of highs and lows experienced through 2019 was unbelievable and it served as a reminder not to get too carried away.

The first weekend of the month delivered what was probably the most memorable winner of the year when Diego Du Charmil crashed through the side of the final fence when having the race at his mercy losing all momentum in the process before somehow managing to revitalise himself from a standing start to keep his onrushing rivals at bay. I really couldn't believe my eyes but what a relief it was when Diego kept the race in the steward's room after what was the longest steward's enquiry I can remember. What a way to start the main TVB season.

November was also the month where I decided to give up on my Racing Service 3 level stakes strategy and reverted back to the advised staking system due to the difficulty of placing £100 on the bigger priced selections which was leaving me at risk of missing a big priced winner. It also no longer made sense to me to be throwing £100 at 33/1 shots when the strike rate was so low which undoubtedly was contributing to the massive swings and skewing of results. Since changing strategy there was an immediate upturn in performance with over £5k profit generated at a ROI of 107.3% but I'm sure this was just coincidence and had little to do with the change in approach.

It didn't take long for the tide to change and as we've seen before the 7th November was the start of a drawdown that would reach £7,727.77 decreasing the annual profit to £6,218.24 recording a new record high drawdown in the process. **Four huge drawdowns in the space of a year.** The number of times sheer elation turned to dejection and an intense feeling of vulnerability in such a short space of time was astounding. Prior to this year I've always held the opinion that I'd always chose a more volatile ride if it meant that my ROC at the end of the year was higher but after enduring a year like 2019, I'm not sure I still hold the same opinion. During the drawdown I went on a crazy run that seen nine heavy losing days out of ten including one

where £2.5k was lost on one day. How I quite managed to get through November I'll never know!

November P&L Summary				
Tipster	£ P&L	Pts P&L	ROI	ROC
Northern Monkey Punter	-£603.60	-15.09	-32.6%	-12.6%
The Value Bettor	£2,514.78	12.57	35.2%	21.0%
Racing Service 3	-£2,568.92	-51.38	-14.7%	-25.7%
Scottish Football Bets	-£307.20	-3.07	-7.7%	-7.7%
Golf Betting Expert	-£181.72	-18.17	-35.3%	-4.5%
Golf Service 2	-£289.25	-28.93	-59.6%	-7.2%
My Own Bets	-£266.80		-14.8%	
Total	-£1,702.71		-5.1%	-9.8%

2019 P&L Summary				
Tipster	£ P&L	Pts P&L	ROI	ROC
Northern Monkey Punter	£2,984.77	74.62	13.4%	62.2%
The Value Bettor	£5,062.09	25.31	26.9%	42.2%
Racing Service 3	£5,698.81	113.98	7.4%	57.0%
Scottish Football Bets	-£2,128.47	-21.28	-5.7%	-53.2%
Golf Betting Expert	-£264.66	-26.47	-2.4%	-6.6%
Golf Service 2	-£613.32	-61.33	-9.4%	-15.3%
My Own Bets	-£4,383.65		-23.3%	
Total	£6,355.57		3.3%	36.5%

DECEMBER

In true 2019 fashion just when there seems like no light at the end of the tunnel, Golf Betting Expert delivered a well-deserved winner after many near misses when Ryo Ishikawa was tipped at 22/1 to win in Japan which was to prove as the catalyst for the umpteenth recovery of the year.

RS3 steadied the ship with seven winners from 18 in a four day period at a 147% ROI with TVB providing two from two on the second weekend. December's entire profit was accumulated by the middle of the month with the second part spent trading water. The upturn in results made a welcome change after 3 consecutive losing months to end the year on a high.

December P&L Summary				
Tipster	£ P&L	Pts P&L	ROI	ROC
Northern Monkey Punter	£154.77	3.87	10.1%	3.2%
The Value Bettor	£611.98	3.06	10.0%	5.1%
Racing Service 3	£3,517.96	70.36	24.9%	35.2%
Scottish Football Bets	-£202.34	-2.02	-4.7%	-5.1%
Golf Betting Expert	£301.56	30.16	53.9%	7.5%
Golf Service 2	-£50.63	-5.06	-22.0%	-1.3%
My Own Bets	£197.70		9.8%	
Total	£4,531.00		15.7%	26.0%

2019 P&L Summary				
Tipster	£ P&L	Pts P&L	ROI	ROC
Northern Monkey Punter	£3,139.54	78.49	13.2%	65.4%
The Value Bettor	£5,674.07	28.37	22.7%	47.3%
Racing Service 3	£9,216.77	184.34	10.1%	92.2%

Scottish Football Bets	-£2,330.81	-23.31	-5.6%	-58.3%
Golf Betting Expert	£36.90	3.69	0.3%	0.9%
Golf Service 2	-£663.95	-66.40	-9.8%	-16.6%
My Own Bets	-£4,185.95		-20.1%	
Total	£10,886.57		4.9%	62.6%

SUMMARY

2019 was without doubt the most turbulent and mentally challenging year of my betting life.

At the end of all the ups and downs the year ended £10,886.57 in profit although after you deduct the annual tipster subscriptions of £3,540 the total figure sat at £7,346.57.

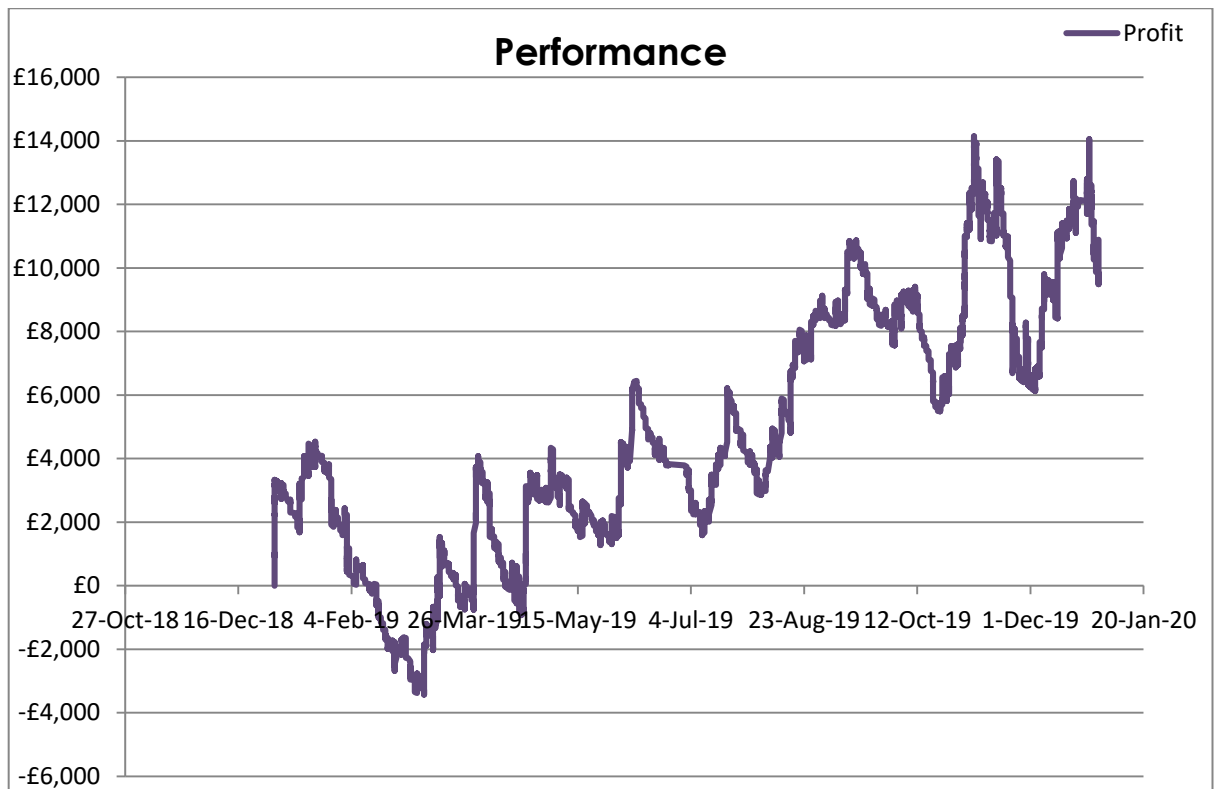
Although it wasn't my most profitable year punting, I'm more than happy to make over £7k from what is essentially a hobby.

Despite the profit there is undoubtedly scope for improvement. The most galling thing I've taken away from 2019 is the fact I lost over £4k on 'my own bets' which is a combination of trying to land a big payday with a lucky 15 or fun bets on the football at the weekend. I accept these are likely to lose long term, but they do give the opportunity to land a big one for a modest outlay. My problem was that I consistently over staked these bets and showed little discipline which was one of the reasons I started the blog. The only good news to take from it is that 72% of those losses were incurred in the first six months of the year, so the blog has helped me stem the flow to some degree, but there's a lot more work to go.

There was a lot of inconsistency throughout the year especially with regards to how I followed Racing Service 3. From starting with the £200/£100 staking plan and changing to £100 level stakes just in time for the £200 bets to go on a good run and then changing from £100 level stakes to the advised plan at the end of the year. I also suffered by changing strategy, previously deciding to let bets run that went on to win, then changing to place all bets regardless of price just in time for a losing spell. If I stayed with either strategy throughout the year then luck would have evened out rather than exacerbating the situation by missing winners, then backing losers.

The other aspect to take away from 2019 was the levels of volatility witnessed. The year was a constant succession of big highs followed by big lows with very little periods of smooth progress. I've included my P&L chart for the year to illustrate how up and down things were. I think a big factor in this was down to the staking imbalance between all services and the dependence on RS3, but I've got some ideas on how to reduce this as we move into 2020. **It does serve as a reminder though not to get carried away during the good times, and similarly not to get too dejected during the bad times.**

The last thing you want to do is increase stakes when results are going well or reduce them when suffering a drawdown.



The main thing I'll take from 2019 is that I need to adopt a more consistent and disciplined approach during 2020. If I can achieve this then I'm sure the rest will fall into place. If you're interested in following how I fare in 2020 then visit the blog at <http://makingpuntingpay.blogspot.com> where you can subscribe to each post via email or follow me on twitter @MakePuntingPay.

If anyone has any questions feel free to get on touch via twitter or by email makingpuntingpay@gmail.com.