

FOOTBALL INVESTOR

STRIKE ZONE SYSTEM

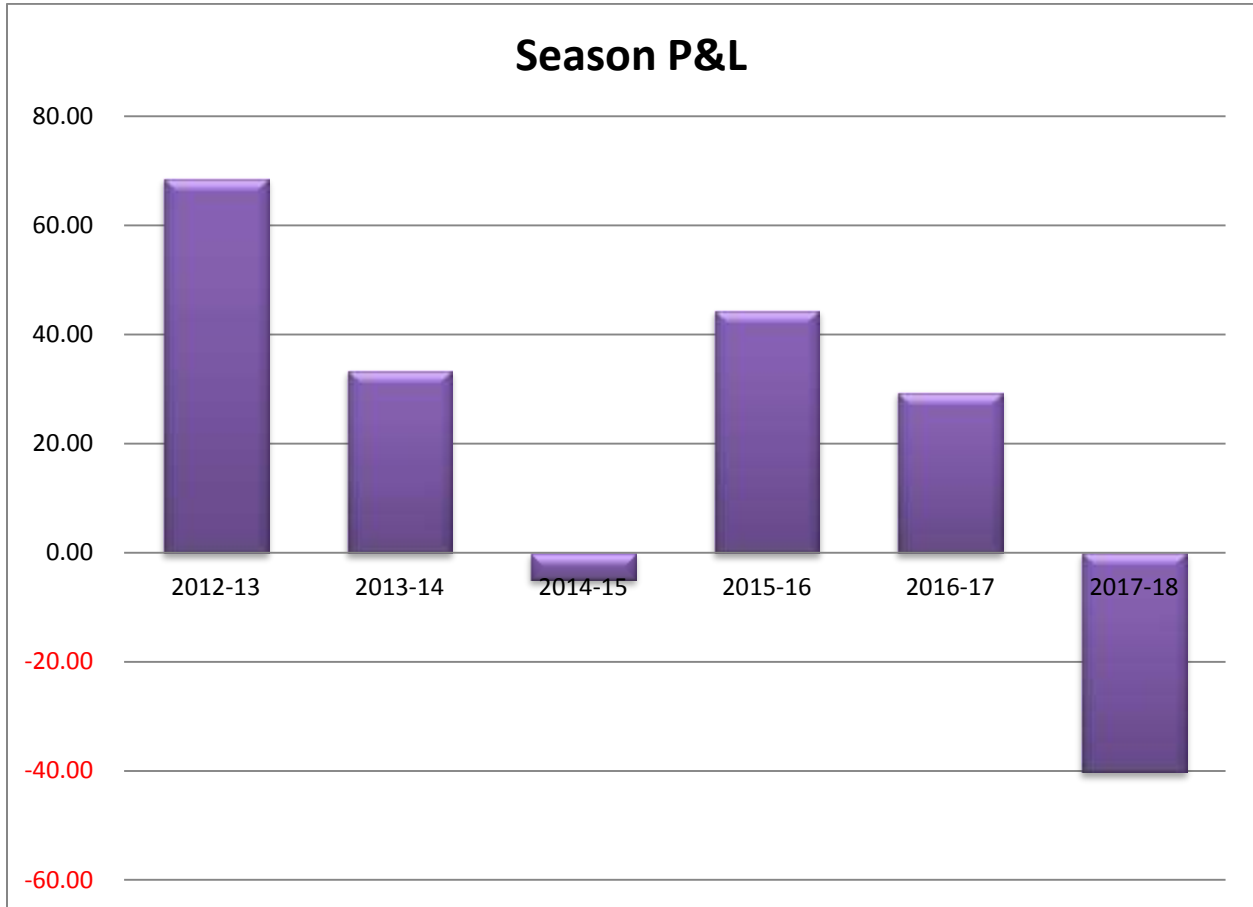
Season Review

2017-18

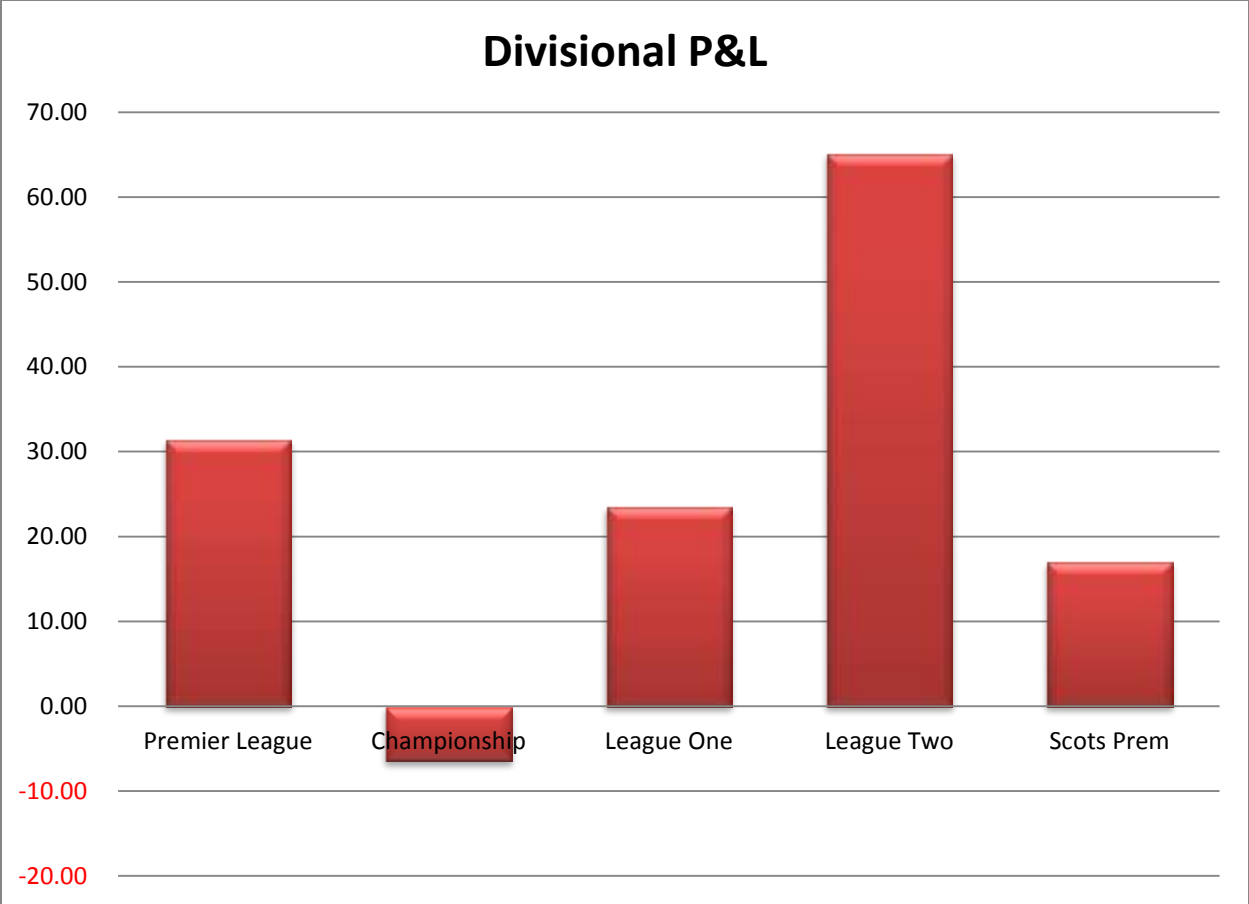
June 2018

Welcome to the end of 2017/18 season review for the Strike Zone System.

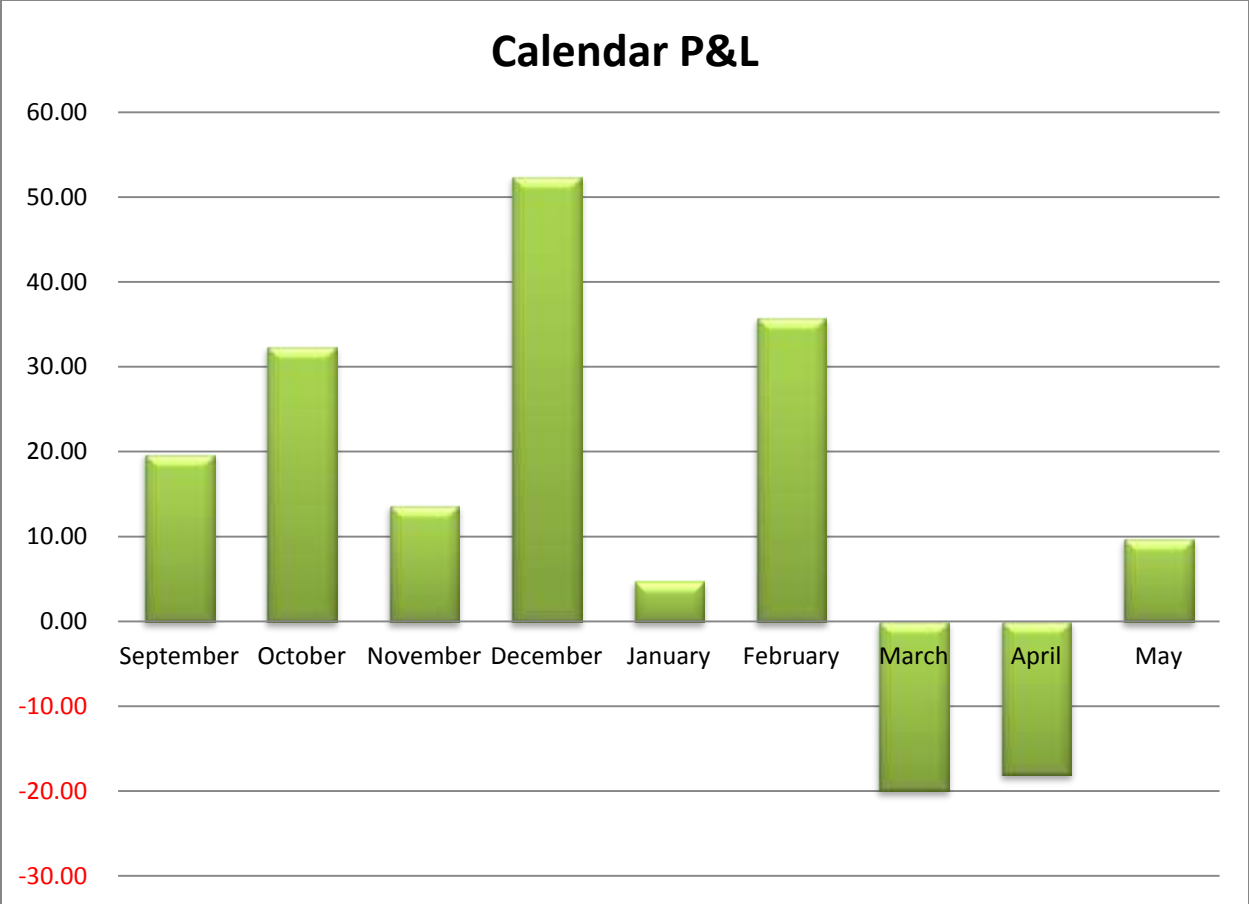
Before I look at the 2017/18 season in isolation, I'd like to begin by looking at the historic record since the system began in the 2012/13 season.



The season ended was the first major failing for the system although it did also return a small loss in the 2014/15 season.



The above table shows the performance of individual divisions since 2012/13. The only division not to return a profit has been the Championship with a small deficit returned.



As with the Combo system, I thought it would be useful to look at the record of individual calendar months. The record shows a similar story to the Combo in that once we reach the month of March, performance tails off with a slight recovery in May.

I did suggest some possible causes for this drop in performance in the Combo report published last month and although I have received several very useful theories and suggestions from members of the service, nothing has been proven to date. I do have one very interesting angle to explore over the summer but it's quite a complex piece of work so obviously won't be ready in time for this report.

The main focus of this report will be a comparison of the refreshed selection criteria I used for the 2017/18 season and the previous criteria that operated from 2012/13 to 2016/17. Essentially what I'm looking at is to establish whether or not the time and effort spent was worthwhile.

In order to achieve this, I've had to use a different data source for the match odds as I haven't kept all the scraped odds from during the season. When you compare the official results to the results from the other data source, they're not a million miles away from each other so I don't see it as much of an issue. Remember, all I want to do is to compare the performance of the two different selection criteria.

Division	Sum of Count	Sum of Won	Official Profit	ROI %
Premier League	106	45	-3.75	-3.5%
Championship	117	48	-17.28	-14.8%
League One	178	64	-29.59	-16.6%
League Two	175	74	3.34	1.9%
Scots Prem	81	38	7.03	8.7%
Grand Total	657	269	-40.25	-6.1%

The table above shows the official results for 2017/18. League One and the Championship performed very poorly and even the normally reliable source of good profits, League Two only returned a modest profit. This year it was the turn of the Scottish Premier to shine with a healthy 8.7% return on investment.

Division	Sum of Bet	Sum of Won	Sum of Profit	Sum of ROI
Premier League	109	44	-8.45	-7.8%
Championship	117	47	-19.28	-16.5%
League One	179	62	-34.70	-19.4%
League Two	181	80	11.73	6.5%
Scots Prem	81	37	5.85	7.2%
Grand Total	667	270	-44.85	-6.7%

The data that I will be using to compare the old system fared slightly worse than the official record although League Two did perform slightly better.

Now that we have established that the two data sources are reasonably consistent, we can begin to compare performance of the two different incarnations of the system.

Split	Sum of Bet	Sum of Won	Sum of Profit	Sum of ROI
Sept-Feb	469	191	-14.43	-3.1%
March-May	198	79	-30.42	-15.4%
Grand Total	667	270	-44.85	-6.7%

Split	Sum of Bet	Sum of Won	Sum of Profit	Sum of ROI
Sept-Feb	401	164	14.90	3.7%
March-May	165	59	-22.45	-13.6%
Grand Total	566	223	-7.55	-1.3%

The first table shows the official results split September to February and March to May and the second table shows the results from the old system. The headline figures show that unfortunately, the criteria refresh was a complete failure with the old system out-performing the current system. The old system even managed a 3.7% profit from September to February, whereas the current system returned losses both sides of the split.

Split	Sum of Bet	Sum of Won	Sum of Profit	Sum of ROI
Sept-Feb	203	96	-21.36	-10.5%
March-May	95	47	-13.19	-13.9%
Grand Total	298	143	-34.55	-11.6%

Split	Sum of Bet	Sum of Won	Sum of Profit	Sum of ROI
Sept-Feb	143	63	-11.76	-8.2%
March-May	70	27	-14.95	-21.4%
Grand Total	213	90	-26.71	-12.5%

The two tables above compare the results of the home bets. The current system has performed significantly worse selecting nearly half as many additional bets but these returned additional losses. The ROI is slightly better for the current system but I think I'd rather have had fewer bets and losses! Both systems returned losses from September to February but the old system had a better ROI.

Split	Sum of Bet	Sum of Won	Sum of Profit	Sum of ROI
Sept-Feb	266	95	6.93	2.6%
March-May	103	32	-17.23	-16.7%
Grand Total	369	127	-10.30	-2.8%

Split	Sum of Bet	Sum of Won	Sum of Profit	Sum of ROI
Sept-Feb	258	101	26.66	10.3%
March-May	95	32	-7.50	-7.9%
Grand Total	353	133	19.16	5.4%

For the away bets, the old system out-performed the new system by a significant margin both before and after the split which is disappointing and has given me much to think about. Without going into too much detail, the refresh was intended to identify more home bets at the lower end of the price spectrum which it has done but without returning any profits which is the name of the game at the end of the day.

The final piece of analysis is to explore how the refresh affected the performance of the Combo system.

Split	Sum of Bet	Sum of Won	Sum of Profit	ROI %
Sept-Feb	165	58	14.07	8.5%
March-May	49	10	-20.78	-42.4%
Grand Total	214	68	-6.71	-3.1%

Split	Sum of Bet	Sum of Won	Sum of Profit	ROI %
Sept-Feb	158	58	14.49	9.2%
March-May	24	7	-4.32	-18.0%
Grand Total	182	65	10.17	5.6%

It's worth noting that the results from this dataset are about 3 points worse than the official results but they still offer a useful comparison between systems. Before the split, the two systems had more or less an identical record but it's from March onwards where they begin to diverge. Indeed the 2017/18 season did see a dramatic drop off in performance from March that we haven't seen before with the Combo system. The new system produced 25 additional selections that lost over 16 points.

Split	Sum of Bet	Sum of Won	Sum of Profit	ROI %
Sept-Feb	41	15	-8.35	-20.4%
March-May	14	5	-3.55	-25.4%
Grand Total	55	20	-11.90	-21.6%

Split	Sum of Bet	Sum of Won	Sum of Profit	ROI %
Sept-Feb	45	19	-3.20	-7.1%
March-May	10	4	-1.70	-17.0%
Grand Total	55	23	-4.90	-8.9%

The above tables compare the performance of the home bets only. Both systems produced 55 selections with the old system performing better both before and after the split.

Split	Sum of Bet	Sum of Won	Sum of Profit	ROI %
Sept-Feb	124	43	22.42	18.1%
March-May	35	5	-17.23	-49.2%
Grand Total	159	48	5.19	3.3%

Split	Sum of Bet	Sum of Won	Sum of Profit	ROI %
Sept-Feb	113	39	17.69	15.7%
March-May	14	3	-2.62	-18.7%
Grand Total	127	42	15.07	11.9%

Both systems performed very well for the away bets with the old system having the edge overall but the new system did better before the split before crashing after!

I realise that we are dealing with small sample sizes here and that the Combo should be viewed as a long term project spanning several seasons but the evidence from both the Combo and this report points to a couple of things :-

- The original system is superior to the current system
- System performance from September to February is much stronger than March to May

With regards to the second point, as I alluded to earlier in this report, I have a piece of work planned for this summer that I'm hoping will shed further light on the reasons for the drop off in performance in the final couple of months of the season. Until then, enjoy the World Cup!

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