



Risk test determines expert gamblers odds

By **Ross McDonagh**

THERE is a such thing as an expert gambler, and **University College Cork** is setting out to find out what makes one.

Dr Dylan Evans, a behavioural scientist at **UCC** has devised a test which measures 'Risk Intelligence'.

His hypothesis is that expert gamblers – those rare people who manage consistently to profit by making informed bets – judge risk in a different way to ordinary members of the public.

And he is keen to establish whether it is possible to teach better risk intelligence, so that people can learn to take better decisions.

During his research, Dr Evans interviewed 25 expert gamblers in an attempt to identify behaviour patterns that might contribute to their success.

He found that they shared a number of traits, such as a great facility with numbers – though not necessarily any formal training in mathematics – and an ability to put aside emotion when making decisions.

Unlike leisure gamblers and problem gamblers, the expert gamblers did not get a great kick out of winning – one expert said it was 'more like the pleasure of a slow burning cigar', whereas less successful gamblers got a real buzz. However, the expert gamblers found losing much more painful.

Now Dr Evans wants to compare this Risk Intelligence to that of the general public, who can go to www.projectionpoint.com to take his specifically designed test.