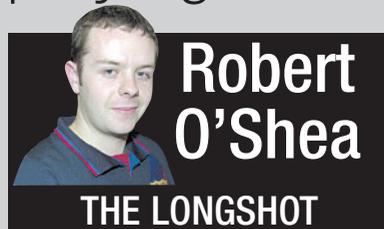


# Evening Echo SPORT

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## How to win Lotto without playing it



**Robert  
O'Shea**

**THE LONGSHOT**

THE biggest priced longshot to appear in these pages was a few years back when I unsuccessfully attempted to predict the winning lottery numbers.

I didn't actually manage to guess even one of them, but I was only a few out on a couple, e.g. I went for 26, and 29 came up.

The reason I don't regularly do the Lotto is because I genuinely think I am going to win it.

When I buy a ticket I choose numbers I believe could conceivably be random enough to appear in that night's draw.

The problem, as I see it, is that because the winner never imagines their numbers will come up, I have to act as if I don't expect them to either.

When I check them, I do so in an unassuming way as possible. I try to imagine exactly how your usual lottery winner checks his; treating the ritual as a twice weekly chore that will end in disappointment, I pretend to abandon all hope, blow out my cheeks and try to deceive destiny despite my fluttering stomach.

My ruse is revealed once the first three numbers fail to click and I crumple to my knees, sob and curse the sky with outstretched fists.

My best way to win the lotto, I have realised, is to not do it at all, because only then will I be able to attain the necessary surprise of a normal winner.

You can probably see the problem here: how do I match six numbers when I have picked no numbers?

This is what I do.

Every Saturday afternoon (not Wednesdays, I just can't imagine good things happening to me midweek) I enter my local convenience store to buy a copy of the *Echo*.

In a detailed and anguished letter to the shop owner I have explained a situation where I am forbidden by religious reasons from gambling but that I wish their counter assistants to slip a €4 ticket into my evening paper.

Then when they charge me €5.50 for the newspaper, I kick up a small fuss over the price (to maintain plausibility) and rush out the door.

The only conundrum that remains is checking the ticket while convincing myself that I am not.

"Get someone else to do it," I hear you cry. No dice. I've tried that before and any of my former syndicate colleagues will explain to you how paranoid I get when others are involved.

So what do I do? Find out tomorrow.

**Recommendation:** Benfica, Madrid, United PSG and Bayer Leverkusen will net you over 12/1 with Paddypower.

# Lateral thinking needs direction



**SEAN  
McCARTHY**

**RUGBY**

**MUNSTER'S** coaching team will have spent some of Sunday and most of Monday dissecting the game and highlighting the areas they did well in followed by areas they need to work on.

Reds captain Peter O'Mahony paid tribute in the build-up last week to the work Munster's cutting room team of Rob Penney, Ian Costelloe and Anthony Foley put in to dissecting the previous weekend's game as well as looking at areas of weakness in their next opponents.

It will be then put together for players to view and team discussions in the early part of the week will be around where the team need to improve.

By midweek the focus will begin to shift towards how they will play against Glasgow, in this week's case, and what they need to do if they are to topple the form team in the Rabo League.

The work from last weekend and the work towards this weekend will have two common threads.

The first will be learning from what they did (or didn't do) last weekend. "Taking the learnings" is a phrase that coach Penney uses often both for himself and his team and there was some learnings in last weekend's game not the way Munster seemed to shift from the direct approach to a more lateral approach.

The statistics show that last weekend Munster had the bones of 60% of possession but mixed the good with the not so good in what they did with that possession.

The first half of the game saw Munster, with Donncha O'Callaghan leading the charge, play direct rugby that had their visitors rocked as the home side went 9-0 ahead.

Thereafter Munster started playing the ball into wider channels, but at times it looked as if they were doing it just for the sake of doing it.

The idea of trying to stretch teams and then identify the mismatches or the space in front of a player can make for exciting rugby, but sometimes the direct route can be of far more benefit to Munster.

The have a big barreling centre in James Downey who, when he got the ball at speed, had the ability to create space for the man outside him Casey Laulala to work off.

Downey sometimes comes in for unjustified criticism for his style of play but he makes it over the gainline when he gets decent ball. That gives Munster go-forward ball and ties up opposition defences which leaves holes for Munster's back-row to exploit.

MUNSTER will ensure the programme that produced homegrown talent such as Simon Zebo, John Ryan, Stephen Archer, Dave O'Callaghan and Ronan O'Mahony will continue as up to 200 young players will meet at CIT today week and UL tomorrow wee to help assess their continuous Talent Development programme. Munster are using the opportunity of the October



**Munster's James Downey breaks the tackle of Gloucester's Lua Lokotui in their Heineken Cup Pool 6 game at Thomond Park, Limerick on Saturday.**

Picture: SPORTSFILM

## RaboDirect PRO12

	P	W	D	L	F	A	BP	Pts
Glasgow	5	5	0	0	88	62	0	20
Munster	5	4	0	1	138	97	2	18
Ospreys	5	3	1	1	152	102	3	17
Ulster	5	3	0	2	88	60	3	15
Leinster	5	2	1	2	126	99	4	14
Dragons	5	3	0	2	90	70	1	13
Scarlets	5	2	0	3	95	101	2	10
Treviso	5	2	0	3	94	104	1	9
Cardiff	4	1	0	3	81	96	2	6
Zebre	5	1	0	4	91	147	1	5
Connacht	5	1	0	4	71	121	0	4
Edinburgh	4	1	0	3	58	113	0	4

areas.

Lateral running is fine if one of the runners changes their angle of running otherwise it's going to just end up going from side to side with few or no tries being scored.

It will be interesting to see if all the work of the cutting room will be put to good use on Friday night as the come up against the only team ahead of them in the Rabo League table.

Glasgow will be happy to try to shepherd the out to their wings as well where Tommy Seymour and Canadian international DTH van der Merwe will be happy to take on what Munster throw.

You'd suspect that Munster will have taken the positives from last weekend's Heineken Cup win and the learnings from this week and put them to good use on Friday night.

## Hundreds of youngsters to be assessed by Reds

### FORMULA ONE

By John Tarrant

and Elite Player Development departments. The players in those squads will get time at training camp next summer in Rockwell with a view to continuing their development as well as giving them an insight into how professional set-ups work.

● ALL things rugby are put into perspective when you read news like Matt Rees having to take time out of rugby and have testicular surgery on suspected testicular cancer. The ex-British and Irish Lions hooker, who joined Cardiff Blues in the summer, will initially miss Friday's RaboDirect Pro12 trip to Ulster but will be out for longer. Cardiff have asked that the

player be given privacy. "Cardiff Blues would like to take this opportunity to wish Matthew a speedy recovery," a statement said. "And we look forward to seeing him back in action in the future. "The region will be making no further comment and would ask that the media respect Matthew's privacy at this time."