THE DAY
FIND YOUR VOICE

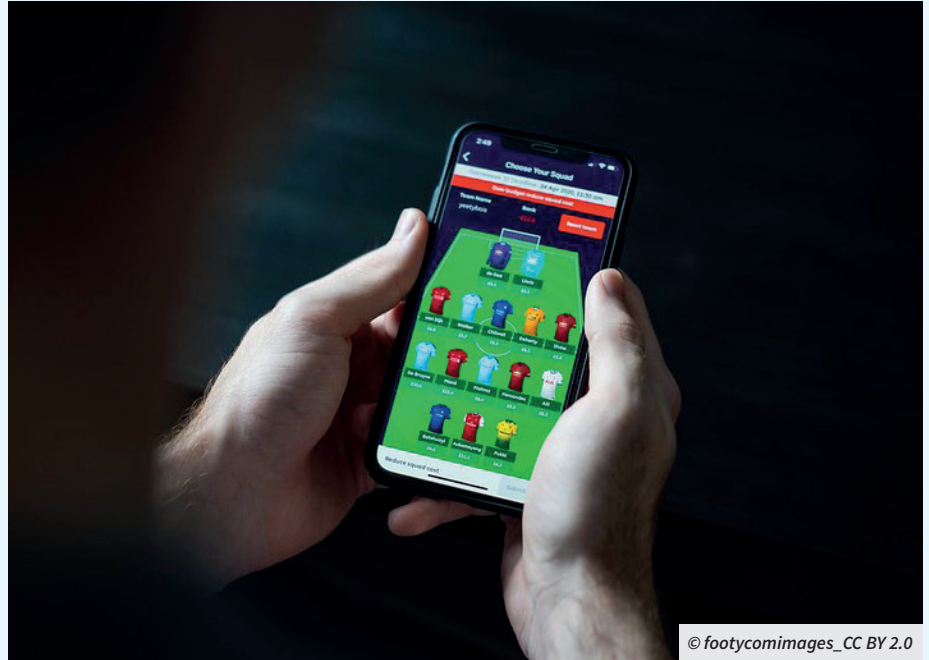# NEWS DETECTIVES

TODAY'S NEWS STORY

Woman, 67, beats millions at fantasy football

KEYWORDS

☐ **Sports psychology:** Using emotions to improve performance

☐ **Data:** Facts, numbers and statistics

☐ **Probability:** Likelihood of something

☐ **League:** A group of competing teams

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WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The Fantasy Premier League is an online game that allows users to buy Premier League players for their team each week. Users get a score based on how their players perform. The users with the highest scores at the end of the football season in May win big prizes!

Eleven million players around the world are competing to win this year's Fantasy Premier League (FPL). So who is currently in the lead? A data analyst? A football expert? Nope — it's 67-year-old Susan Clarke and her trusty pen and paper!

Fierce competitors

FPL is a truly global game, with the largest number of managers in England, Egypt, Nigeria, Malaysia and the US.

Users include chess champion Magnus Carlsen and rapper Stormzy. Stormzy listens to a **sports psychology** podcast to help choose his team!

Old ways are best

Some users pick their teams by analysing player **data**. Others strategise with their football-loving friends. Some even use artificial intelligence to help choose the best players.

Susan's approach is somewhat more old-fashioned, saying that "My weekly lists with pen and paper seem to be the secret to my success!"

Against the odds

No wonder, then, that FPL expert Mitch Murphy compares her success to the **probability** of winning the lottery.

Not that Susan is letting her newfound stardom go to her head. Asked how it felt to top a **league** of 11 million people, she said simply that she was "shocked but enjoying the reaction of my family and friends".

INVESTIGATION OF THE DAY

IS MATHS THE KEY TO SPORT?

WHAT countries have the most FPL players?

WHO uses a podcast to pick their team?

WHERE is the FPL played?

WHEN does the competition end?

WHY does Susan say her approach is old-fashioned?

HOW do other users pick their teams?

1 CHECK YOUR FACTS

Make sure you have all the facts before you start your investigation. Can you answer these questions?

2 KNOW YOUR KEYWORDS

Can you remember what these keywords mean? Match the word to the correct meaning.

1=C	2=	3=	4=

1. **Sports psychology**
2. **Data**
3. **Probability**
4. **League**

A. Likelihood of something

B. A group of competing teams

C. Using emotions to improve performance

D. Facts, numbers and statistics

3 LOOK AT ALL SIDES

There's always more than one side to every story. How might the people involved feel about the story?

○ **Susan Clarke**

○ **Susan's competitors**

○ **People using 'modern' strategies**

○ **Traditionalists**

😊 Happy   🙁 Sad

😌 Calm   😃 Excited

😲 Surprised   😠 Angry

😨 Scared   😫 Bored

😖 Disgusted   😕 Confused

4 DISCUSS THE QUESTION

Is maths the key to sport?

What do you think? Use the speaking prompts here to help you get started.

I disagree with...

I agree with...

I'm not sure about...

I'd like to know more about...

I think that...

I don't think that...

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5 REPORT BACK

Write, present or record a report that communicates your view. Share this with your class, family and friends. What's their opinion?