

Staying in control of money when gambling

Miguel's story



The first time I had a bet for money was with my parents on the horses. I loved the buzz I got from the anticipation of winning. Even though I didn't win that first time, the next horse I picked won us £50. We were so excited; we all went out together after to celebrate. We like betting in my family - which team will win a match, or which player will score first, it's just pennies, just for fun really. Even my Gran buys a lottery ticket, and she loves placing a bet on her birthday, as it's a special occasion.

Now I like betting on any sport or game really. Perhaps it's more than a bit of fun for me now though. I always feel like the next bet is going to be the big one. Everyone wins eventually, don't they? I get a few wins here and there, but nothing big yet. I'm sure the big one is coming. If I can win enough to get me through university then that would be amazing and ease a lot of pressure on my parents too. I'm sure I can get that win.

College and work are so busy, so I relax by popping a couple of bets on. If I win, the feeling is amazing. I just want to feel like that again and again. I bought Mum flowers last month when I won, she was so happy with them. It made me happy to see her smile. It was worth the bets I lost. Sadly, I lost again this week, that was a shame.

I'm trying to save up for driving lessons but somehow the money seems to go on just one more bet. I don't know how much I've lost since I started but it's probably quite a lot. It stresses me out sometimes. Keeping on top of it all and checking whether a good tip is coming up. If I don't gamble for a couple of days, I do miss it and worry about it - What if I'm missing the big one?

I can't wait to get paid. An advert just popped up with extra free bets tomorrow. Maybe it's going to be my lucky day? I'm going to want to lay down a lot of money. I can't really afford to do it this week, but just think what I'd win if I take a chance? Sometimes, I think I might need some help but I'm sure it's fine. Everyone does it don't they? I heard about someone who won just last week. The odds are I've got to win sometime. I can't wait to see the look on my mates faces when I show them the big win.