



THE PUNT

Grand Slam goes to Finch

THE Punt always suggests investors look coldly at a proposition and remove any emotion before getting into a deal.

It's usually a good rule. And it looks like rugby fans involved in property firm HWBC's "Armchair Pundit" followed similar advice.

AIB's Jason Finch took the top prize in the light-hearted prediction game, with John Middleton head of property at wealth managers Harvest, and Kennedy Wilson's Jason Buyers, among those tied for second place. There were respectable performances from the likes of stock picker Ray Tilson of Tilman Brewin Dolphin in 26th place while Irish Life property fund manager David Eggers came 30th out of a 150-strong field.

The real rugby tournament was a pretty lacklustre one overall but we wonder if we'd be saying that if Ireland had won it all for a third year in a row.

As it turned out it was *Les Rosbifs* - England to the rest of us - who brought home the silverware.

HWBC director and English native Jonathan Hillyer had the office bragging rights after his country's clean sweep of the tournament.

He told The Punt: "Ireland's victory over Scotland was a nice starter before the main course of England putting some manners on Les Bleus to win the Grand Slam".