**Make millions playing poker**

*Tell your Royal Flush from your 2-7 and gamble like a Vegas champion*

Daniel Negreanu is a Team PokerStars pro and twice World Poker Tour Championship winner who’s made over $30,000,000 by convincing people his cards are better than theirs. Here’s how you can do the same.

**01 WIN THE CHIPS**

“Texas hold ‘em is the most common form of poker. The aim is to win your opponents’ chips by playing a better hand of cards than them. High number pairs and aces are ideal. The best position is sitting at the end of the table – as the last man you can get away with weaker hands.”

**02 TALK TO YOUR FRIENDS**

“I learned poker by playing with friends. Afterwards, you can discuss the game and your mistakes. This opens your mind to different possibilities and rhythms you might not have come up with on your own.”

**03 FORGET ABOUT THE MONEY**

“The ultimate goal is to play the game without thinking about the prize money. It shouldn’t matter if you’re playing for a million or no money at all. If you start thinking about what you could win, you’re dead in the water. Focus on the correct play, whatever the financial outcome.”

**04 GET YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME**

“Once you’ve learnt the fundamentals, it’s all about psychology. You have to profile your opponents: are they a habitual liar, or someone who’s actually going to have the goods? This is the fun part.”

*Power Hold’em Strategy* by Daniel Negreanu, £22.95, amazon.co.uk
WORDS: SAMANTHA REA. PHOTOGRAPHY: GIANANDREA TRAINA, REX FEATURES

POKER HALL OF FAME

01
ARNOLD ROTHSTEIN
The New York gangster – famous for fixing the 1919 baseball World Series – was shot and killed while owing $320,000 following a three-day poker game.

02
WILD BILL HICKOK
An Old West gunslinger and gambler, Wild Bill was shot in the head by ‘Crooked Nose’ Jack McColl while playing a game of poker in the town of Deadwood.

03
THE MARX BROTHERS
Four out of the five Marx Brothers – Harpo, Groucho, Chico and Gummo – were given their nicknames during a poker match in 1915.

04
RICHARD NIXON
The former US president financed his first political campaign with money earned playing poker in the navy during WWII.

05
CHRIS MONEYMAKER
Moneymaker had never previously played in a live poker tournament when he won the 2003 World Series, bagging $2.5 million from an initial investment of just $39. And yes, that is his real name.

TREAT IT LIKE A FULL-TIME JOB
“There are no short cuts. If you want to make big money, you have to play six to eight hours a day and study for another two, five days a week. Lots of tournaments are on Sundays so you can play for 10 hours at the weekend too.”

GET A HEAD FOR FIGURES
“The most important thing about playing for a living is looking at yourself like a business. Keep tallies of your budget and track your hourly rate. If you ever decide to go pro, you need to know how much you make an hour.”

THINK LIKE AN ATHLETE
“Poker tournaments can be 14 hours a day. The World Series of Poker is six weeks long, so it’s important to bring your A-game. I go to the gym, plan my meals in advance and get eight hours’ sleep a night. Poker players aren’t real athletes but you do have to be mentally and physically prepared.”

BE A TIGER
“To really succeed, you have to be a tiger and devote your whole life to becoming a great player. Start by finding games with weak players, then you don’t have to be good, just better than them. Try to find some happiness outside of poker, too. If you’re content in your regular life, that’ll translate to the poker table.”

TRE AT IT LIKE A FULL-TIME JOB

“Poker sets, £50, johnlewis.com

Naked Grouse Scotch Whisky, £26.95, 31dover.com

Poker set, £50, johnlewis.com