

Issue 101

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BetFan

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Pos	Service Name	Points
1st	 Winners 15	202.54
2nd	 Fold4Gold	192.18
3rd	 The Inside Edge	190.90
4th	 The Gentlemans List	149.48
5th	 Cricket Counsel	139.08
6th	 Declan ODonoghue - Irish Racing	90.24
7th	 Value Wins	89.67
8th	 15 Point Plan	86.17
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[Value Wins](#)

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[Early Odds](#)

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 Wigan	<input type="text" value="0"/>	15.00	<input type="text" value="0"/> West Ham
Game 2: Saturday 27 January			
 Southampton	<input type="text" value="0"/>	15.00	<input type="text" value="0"/> Watford
Game 3: Saturday 27 January			
 Middlesbrough	<input type="text" value="0"/>	15.00	<input type="text" value="0"/> Brighton
Game 4: Saturday 27 January			
 Villarreal	<input type="text" value="0"/>	19.45	<input type="text" value="0"/> Sociedad
Game 5: Sunday 28 January			
 AC Milan	<input type="text" value="0"/>	17.00	<input type="text" value="0"/> Lazio
Game 6: Sunday 28 January			
 Marseille	<input type="text" value="0"/>	20.00	<input type="text" value="0"/> Monaco

THE Sun SIX

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Bristol De Mai Has The Form To Win The Cotswold Chase

- By Ian Hudson

There are now only 45 more sleeps before the first day of the Cheltenham Festival and its Trials day at the track. All roads now lead to the jumps meeting that matter most and trainers with live chances will be having many sleepless nights. This time last year the Cotswold Chase was a sad occasion because it led to the demise of Many Clouds but Bristol De Mai can get back on track for a run in the Cheltenham Gold Cup. The horse can be a stone better when the going is soft or heavy.

Horse racing is still the second most popular spectating sport in Britain after football. However, despite the great success of the festivals attendances overall are in decline. The typical profile of a midweek race goer is a male over the age of 40. That is a generalisation but there is an issue with regards a new breed of younger racing fans. Total attendance is high due to the quantity of racing but away from Friday and Saturday crowds at grassroots meetings are falling.

Prize money away from the lucrative days is generally low and it costs too much to get into meetings in midweek. The whole industry is holding its breath for the announcement of the new maximum stake on Fixed Odds Betting Terminals. If is reduced to £2 there is talk of shop closures and less funding to racing. That means even lower levels of prize money and potentially smaller crowds. Racing fans will turn out in huge numbers at Cheltenham today and at the Festival in March. Good prize money attracts the best horses that get people coming through the turnstiles.

Cheltenham is not quite the be all and end all of the jumps season but the Festival stages the championship races over various distances in hurdling and chasing. Its dominance means there are few clashes between the best horses at any other time of the season. The Grade 1 races before the Festival are generally uncompetitive affairs with not enough runners to pay out on three places. There won't be huge fields in the two feature races at Cheltenham today.

The Cotswold Chase is a trial for the Gold Cup and it is run over just short of three miles and two furlongs. However, two of the last seven winners also won the Grand National. Since 2000 only Looks Like Trouble has won the race and Gold Cup in the same year. Only See More Business and Many Clouds are multiple winners. Paul Nicholls and Tony McCoy are the leading trainer and jockey over the last 25 years. Bristol De Mai is trying to become the first Betfair Chase winner to oblige.

The horse loved conditions at Haydock when winning the Betfair Chase. The attempt at winning a £1 million bonus was scuppered in the King George which Might Bite won in impressive style. Bristol De Mai has now drifted like a barge in ante post betting for the Gold Cup and will have to win the Cotswold Chase impressively to get

back in the mix. The going should suit the horse but the track At Cheltenham is not ideal. In fact the Cotswold Chase could provide more clues for the National.

The Last Samurai was second in that race in 2016 and finished 16th last year. Definitely Red was a leading contender in the race in 2017 but was pulled up in a race won by One For Arthur. Coneygree won the Gold Cup in 2015 and back to his best would win the Cotswold Chase but has been disappointing this season. Tea For two beat Cue Card at Aintree in April and on that form must have a chance. However, Bristol De Mai is the form choice to win the 2018 Cotswold Chase.

Today's Sports Betting Preview - By Rick Elliott

Home Hotpots Or Away Bankers?

It's the fourth round of the FA Cup today and nine of the 16 ties start at the traditional time of 3pm. In the olden days every league and Cup match kicked off at the same time but things have changed and the TV companies dictate when matches start. The 3pm kick-offs are not available for live viewing except in some pubs that invest in a dodgy box that gives customers access to every channel under the sun from all over the world. The home team are the favourites in four of the fixtures that begin at the regular time today. The trick is to find three away bankers that in a treble would give you a decent return. Three Premier League clubs are on the road against opponents from a lower division and class could tell. Our outright tip to win the Cup are LEICESTER at [20/1 with Ladbrokes](#).

The three team multiple on Brighton (at Middlesbrough), Swansea (at Notts County) and West Ham (at Wigan) pays [18/1 with bet365](#). However, those three travelling sides are in the bottom half of the Premier League. Staying in the top division is paramount but a Cup run is good for the fans. Wigan won the FA Cup in the 2012/13 season but were also relegated to the Championship. That was a slippery slope and the club are now in League One. The supporters had a great experience at Wembley on Cup Final day but its debatable whether that has made up for a fall from grace into the third tier. Motivation and team selection are key today in those three ties and going the other way you can back three home victories at [20/1 with William Hill](#).

The Cheltenham Festival begins seven weeks on Tuesday and its trials day at the track. Since 2008 21 runners at this fixture have won races at the meeting that matters most in the following March. In all but two Cleeve Hurdles over the last 10 years a runner has won a race at the festival less than two months later. Only the Crest Nicholson Handicap Chase on today's card has not provided a winning pointer for the festival. Five winners of the Cleeve Hurdle over the last decade won the World (Stayers' Hurdle) in March. FINIAN'S OSCAR can win the race today at [4/1 with Coral](#) and then become a leading contender for the horse's target at the big meeting.

Man of The Match - The Art of Deduction - By Dave Owens

The man of the match market can be a very lucrative market in cricket betting, with quite often games offering over double figure odds on practically every player and a very good pay out on whoever is selected as the man of the match.

Man of the match would fall into category of - not massive interest to punters and bookmakers alike with the match winner of a game by far and away the most scrutinised and bet on and where the focus of attention usually lies.

Very often the odds on the players in the field are based on a history of form and averages with runs and wickets over a period which is a reasonable indicator and never usually a million miles away on a general basis of who should be what price.

Cricket is a sport like no other where the pitch, weather and playing conditions can override the specific data amassed over time, with it not being relevant to a game in alien conditions to the previous 10 - 15 matches', where a player's runs and wickets have been measured/priced up.

One of the key elements to being successful in the Man of the match market is patience and match selection. The very nature of the market, where to select the one player from 22 runners who is going to be selected for the award and is going to involve plenty of fixtures where picking the correct player is like finding a needle and in a haystack and basically just guess work.

When selecting match's, I prefer the 5-day test match, although there is also value and opportunity in the 50 and 20 over format – although with a fair bit more variance and volatility due to the shortness and unpredictability of the games. As touched on earlier the slight lack of interest in the market probably derives from the perceived difficulty of selecting one winner from 22 as opposed to a 2/3 horse race with the home/away or draw as available bets. Its then a case of deduction to narrow the field down from 22 to the one player who you think will be awarded the man of the match.

For match selection for a game to pick a man of the match, it's often helpful to take a wicket or/and conditions that are going to be quite extreme - weather it be early season in England where the pitch's and overhead conditions offer plenty of help to swing and seam bowlers, a subcontinent pitch that has and will massively favour spin bowling from nearly bowl 1 of the test or a fast, bouncy wicket in Australia that is going to be conducive to out and out fast bowling. The reasoning for this is that it can help narrow down what type of player or bowler will be effective in the conditions that are to be played on and sometimes equally important who the captain will look to bowl the most overs and offer the most opportunity to.

Once a match that is being played in specifically helpful conditions has been established, it's then the important decision of which team is going to win the match?

This selection can instantly rule out half of the 22 players to 11 or blow your bet with the man of the match invariably coming from the winning team and as such the MOTM coming from the victors.

An example of this came in a test match between England and West Indies in England last year at Lords. The pretext to this match was in the tests prior, playing conditions were difficult to predict. The first Test was the very first day/night test played at Edgbaston and was an unknown quantity, but proved to be a match that helped both batsman and bowlers in varying degrees with the wicket being good to bat on in the daylight hours and help under lights for swing and seam bowlers. This would classify as a game with too many runners in the field and too difficult to narrow down where the winner would come from, as it was, Cook's double hundred gave him the honours.

The second test at Headingley was again difficult to decipher a ground with a history of helping the bowlers with cloud cover, but a fast scoring, easy paced pitch when the sun was out. This proved the case with the pitch and match lasting the entire 5 days, runs and wickets available and the MOTM taken By Shai Hopes excellent 100s in each innings in a game the West Indies just shaded. Again, another match where there was not enough evidence or help to take the market on.

With the score tied at 1-1 the decider was played at Lords. The timing of this match was the first ever test match played in September. Due to the wickets likely to contain moisture and help for the bowlers with an 11am start and far past the peak of summer to help dry the wicket out. The weather prediction was cloud and rain for a lot of the 5 days ahead and the feeling was that the wicket was going to be helpful for seam and swing bowling from the start and throughout the game. This felt like a game loaded in a specific type of bowler's favour.

The next decision was to pick a winning team and reduce 11 candidates. The score was locked at 1-1 in the series, but England were really the obvious choice and the MOTM selection to come from their ranks. Which left the task of selecting and removing candidates from the 11 players.

The components of the England side consisted of 5 specialist batsmen in Cook, Stoneman, Westley, Root and Malan. Of these, three players were new to the side and very much untried and untested at the highest level and were easy omissions. Leaving Root and Cook further consideration. Keeper/Batsman Bairstow a fine cricketer and one of the very first names on the sheet for his consistency but certainly not one of the main candidates as a No7 batsman and obvious non-bowler, making another omission.

The specialist bowlers in the side were Broad, Anderson and Roland-Jones. Like the three new and unproven batters, Roland-Jones was an easy rule out in terms of who was most likely to be player of the match. This now left two batsman in Root and

Cook, all-rounders Moeen Ali and Stokes and two specialist bowlers in Broad and Anderson.

From the players left, Cook was a rule out since he would be opening the batting and in tough batting conditions the toughest place to be batting was likely to be at the top of the order against a brand-new ball with the pitch at its liveliest and the bowlers their freshest. With regards to the all-rounders Moeen Ali had been having a golden summer and in the four tests against South Africa had scored more runs and taken more wickets in every test except for the third test where Stokes managed more runs although could not match Ali's wickets for the game. The conditions however dictated that Moeen as a spin bowler was unlikely to get much opportunity and as such was a rule out on not being able to influence match's as he had done all summer.

England's two best pace bowlers Anderson and Broad were reasonably easy to separate on current form with Anderson being by far the most successful throughout the summer and therefore more likely to do damage with the bowl.

With 22 down to 3 - Root was the next to be omitted, in such bowler friendly conditions the chances of one of the remaining candidates to provide a match winning contribution was just more probable than a specialist batsman. This left a straight shoot out between Anderson and Stokes. A tough choice with Anderson having the ability and history to totally run through a side in favourable conditions and then become hard to look past for MOTM or Stokes, who with his seam bowling and dynamic batting (in what would be a low scoring game) had the potential to influence all four innings of the test match compared to Anderson's two (when England were to bowl).

Fortunately, I went with Stokes and it proved to a close-run thing with Stokes taking a brilliant 6-22 with the bowl in the first innings followed by top scoring with a 60 in England's first innings which just edged Anderson's 9 wickets in the game including a 7-wicket haul in the West Indies second innings.

Obviously not all Man of the match selections go quite as smoothly as this one panned out, but hopefully a good example of the potential and opportunity that this market can present when the right conditions and criteria present themselves.

My Cricket Council service has been proofed daily to BetFan since the 10th November 2017 and it has in that time made +300 Points Profit. January is proving very fruitful with +139.08 points made in the first 3 weeks of the month.

Click the link below it would be a pleasure to have you on board and taking your share of the profits being made.

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Declan's Eye-Catchers - By Declan O'Donoghue

AMERICAN TOM (Willie Mullins) Has had a kind of Lord Lucan existence in recent years, but on the rare occasions when sighted he has hinted at some ability. His trainer will find a suitable race over two miles at a left handed track, possibly at a high enough level.

BORAGH STEPS (Joseph O'Brien) The Footstepsinthesand filly toughed it out well when winning over six furlongs at Dundalk. She should get seven, and might be one to watch when the turf season kicks off at Naas in March.

DINARIA DES OBEAUX (Gordon Elliott) While taking on geldings at Grade One level is perhaps beyond her, she is a very sharp operator against her own sex. Won't go to Cheltenham, but will be a force to be reckoned with in all the big mares races on the big days at Fairyhouse, Leopardstown and Punchestown.

EDENE D'ARC (Gordon Elliott) Not the main stable fancy but stunned her trainer when taking the bumper at Gowran Park on Thursday. "Remarkable, only her second piece of real work and her first time on grass" said a surprised but delighted Elliott.

MILES TO MEMPHIS (Denise Foster) Just failed to concede 8 lbs. to the equally brave Hareth at Navan in a Grade B Handicap Hurdle. Well proven on the flat and ground versatile - always a big plus in Ireland - so he should more than pay his way.

PETE SO HIGH (Gordon Elliott) Supporters of Elliott stable could hardly have believed the 7/1 price at Thurles last Sunday, but just how Jetez was a 5/4 jolly on ground he hated and over a trip too short is a total mystery. Not that this horse was in love with the truly awful ground either mind, but he just about coped and had the form in the book to win this.

WOODLAND OPERA (Jessica Harrington) Would probably find A Toi Phil hard to deal with under any circumstances, but a return to two miles and better ground next time should see him regain winning ways.

Recent Winners Include...

Clear Skies @ 15/8, Monbeg Notorious @ 7/1, Riders On The Storm @ 11/1, Raz De Maree @ 20/1 and Shattered Love @ 16/1!!

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