

BetFan

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Pos	Service Name	Points
1st	 World Soccer Pro	164.76
2nd	 Winners 15	151.57
3rd	 Betfairway	113.00
4th	 Northside Racing	101.21
5th	 On The Nod	100.81
6th	 USA Racing Club	97.68
7th	 Lucky 7 Naps	95.90
8th	 Fantastic Eights	59.90
9th	 The Secret Handicapper	48.15
10th	 Andy Bell Racing	41.50

TODAY'S FREE SPORTS BETTING TIPS...

[Neo Investments](#)

Win Bet - 15:35 Ascot - Top Notch @ 9/4

[Factor Seven Racing](#)

Win Bet - 15:00 Ascot - Le Patriote @ 11/2

[Trend Betting](#)

Each Way Bet - 15:15 Haydock - Silsol @ 12/1

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Rick's Sports Betting: Gambling Commission Helps Punters - By Rick Elliott

In the first column of Rick Elliott's Sports Betting World I highlighted some of the positive and negative aspects of bookmaker free bets and bonuses. There are some genuine offers that are transparent and easily achievable but there are also some bad apples. Punters will now get more protection due to an initiative from the Gambling Commission. Unclear and ambiguous terms and conditions should be a thing of a past and gamblers will be in a better position to take advantage of the concessions.

However, one of the strange comments from the Gambling Commission was that betting should not be presented in financial terms. Like it or not betting is about money and winning something for nothing. Some gamblers might say they enjoy the intellectual challenge but fundamentally we place bets to win money. The main issue with the Commission is glamorous advertising and misleading free bets and bonuses. However, trying to prevent "undue emphasis on money-motives for gambling" will fail because for most people the motive for betting is to make money.

We all know that there are problem gamblers, just like there are alcoholics and over-eaters. Bookmakers are accused of exploiting problem gamblers with claims of risk free bets and bonuses. The TV adverts can be quite appealing and seductive but now there will be tougher rules. Adverts that encourage bettors to place bets as a matter of urgency may be a thing of the past. The face of live betting at bet365, Ray Winstone, may disappear from the operators' adverts.

The advice from the column two weeks ago was to use some discretion when opening an account to take advantage of a welcome offer. Hidden in the small print could be unrealistic staking and odds requirements and vigilance was advised. However, the whole landscape for free bets has changed for the benefit of the customer and the Gambling Commission should be applauded for making that happen. In association with the Committee of Advertising Practice the body has cleared some of the muddy waters with regards the requirements associated with free bets.

Unfair terms and conditions were examined by the Competition and Markets Authority and some heavy fines have been issued for bookmakers who abuse the rules. One of the main problems with offers is the distinction between cash refunds and money in the form of free bets. Those eye catching adverts that say "Back Manchester United at 33/1 to beat Stoke" are good examples of things not being what they seem. There is a maximum bet of £1 and extra winnings are paid as free bets.

I'm sure there are few gamblers who believe they can have unlimited stakes on such enhanced prices. However, most people would be expected to be paid in betting funds and not free bets. The initial bet is not risk free because ultimately the stake can

be lost. The various bodies are serving their consumers well by making the rules more stringent and hence offers more transparent. Bookmakers can be fined and ultimately the Gambling Commission can revoke licences.

The advice from the earlier column still applies. Make sure you are fully conversant with the terms of a welcome offer before opening an account, making a deposit and placing a bet. The days of misleading promotions will soon be a relic from the past. The Gambling Commission and their associates have acted on behalf of you the customer and that can only make for a more level playing field and more opportunities to beat the bookie.

Today's Sports Betting Preview - By Rick Elliott

Cue Card On Cue Maybe One Last Time

No team from outside the top division has won the FA Cup during the Premier League era. In fact just two of the finalists since the 1992-93 season played outside the Premier League so the cream rises to the top. The Cup is almost always won by one of the big guns despite some shocks and giant killing in the early rounds.

After Chelsea and Leicester knocked out teams from the Championship last night 10 of the 14 teams left in the competition are Premier League outfits. Seven of the eight quarter-finalists could come from the highest tier of the game. There are few potential upsets in the four ties today. Our tips, LEICESTER CITY, are now [10/1 with Ladbrokes](#) to win the Cup.

Swansea look vulnerable away to Sheffield Wednesday but should progress, possibly after a replay. Brighton are too strong for Coventry. The tie between West Brom and Southampton could go either way. Things could go from bad to worse for Manchester United as the head is telling the heart that HUDDERSFIELD are a massive price at [8/1 with bet365](#) to win at home today. It's true that Huddersfield have conceded 23 goals against the top six sides over eight matches but that price is way too big to beat a team in a bit of a mess.

The match is live on television so the players may refer to a cue card as kick-off approaches. Not only is that a prompt in broadcasting it's also the name of one of the most popular horses in training. After winning the Champion Bumper at the Cheltenham Festival in 2010 and a string of Grade 1 races the horse is now heading towards the end of a great career. Today there could be one last hurrah and in this case it is the heart saying CUE CARD should be backed at [10/1 with William Hill](#) to win the Grade 1 Ascot Chase at 3.35pm.

Home Is Where The Heart (And Profit) Is - By Dave Owens

The two much vaunted and anticipated Test series have followed a very familiar trend for quiet some time in Test cricket. Namely the home side being totally dominant and if not outright winning the series but going a massive way towards it after a couple of tests in the series.

England's 4-0 loss in Australia has now made it a 17-year period with only one away win between the two sides in a series in this time (England's success in 2010/11). Whilst India's 2-1 loss in South Africa carried on the trend of them being almost invincible at home, but not really competing with the non-Asian team's away from India.

It's a worrying trend for Test cricket which is always under increasing pressure from the popularity and not to mention increasing profitability of 20/20 leagues played to packed houses around the world. Such one-sided series in favour of the home team are not really helping its appeal, though interestingly still offer a certain value with the bookmakers.

There are lots of reasons that touring has become increasingly difficult in cricket and home sides hold such a dominance in their own conditions. The most obvious is a team used to their own conditions and having a country full of players who have played on their own wickets, but also excelled in domestic cricket and home internationals and as such enjoy - and are ideal for the wickets about to be played on. As opposed to visiting teams who undoubtedly have fine players but are playing on wickets and in heat (or lack of it in England) they just never experience for large periods of time with packed international schedules - and for England as an example playing every summer at home and the winter, visiting a different team in different conditions each year and as such an away trip to Australia would only come about every 3 to 4 years - a significant period of time for an international cricketer not to play in the same conditions.

A less obvious, but equally pertinent factor is the lack of preparation or build up that international sides take on overseas tours for some years now. In India's case, a quirk of the international calendar has seen them playing predominately at home for a few years and then having to take on a tough South Africa side in very alien conditions where they didn't play a warm up match and go into the first test at an extreme disadvantage. Despite this information South Africa were just a shade under even money and went on to win the game convincingly with India's own aftermath analysis unsurprisingly being that their batters were ill prepared for the pace and bounce and their bowlers not used to bowling a "South African" length.

The same was applicable in Australia. Such has been touring team's troubles playing on the hard and fast wickets of Australia that at the GABBA (the traditional first test for Australia) they are unbeaten in 19 years! With 22 wins and 7 draws at the venue.

Making England's decision not to play a recognised first-class fixture before the game surprising but also that Australia were available at touching even money equally so. Unsurprisingly Australia kept with history and won the test by a resounding 10 wickets.

This first test is usually the opportunity for big value with the unquestionable trend for home wins before the 2nd match see's odds slashed, and normal order resumed.

My Cricket Council service has been proofed daily to BetFan since the 10th November 2017 and it has in that time made +273 Points Profit.

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

AUVERGNAT (Enda Bolger) Won a very exciting cross country buckle at Fairyhouse with stablemate Josies Orders and both are clearly on course for Cheltenham. Cantlow will join the Bolger team though he had to miss this prep race due to coughing. Gordon Elliott is bringing a formidable team also and they schooled at Cheltenham last weekend.

CARTWRIGHT (Gordon Elliott) Won a Naas maiden hurdle with considerable authority. The High Chaparral gelding would probably be even better on decent ground. He could pick up some nice pots on the flat too, with the Chester Cup a possible target.

CHAMPAGNE LADY (Alan Fleming) Has featured in these notes before and was a decisive winner at Fairyhouse on Wednesday. She'll compete in the Mares Novice at Cheltenham and is entitled to do so. The better the ground, the better she will run.

FLEMENSTAR (Edward Cawley) A bit keen and ridden with considerable restraint when a staying on second in a Fairyhouse handicap chase. He is better over hurdles and crying out for three miles.

HARDLINE (Gordon Elliott) Possibly fortunate to score last weekend when Riders Onthe Storm blundered badly two out. Was travelling well for Davy Russell at the time anyway, and is clearly useful. His future is over the bigger obstacles but he looks well up to a Grade 2 or 3 success over hurdles later this season.

GILGAMBOA (Enda Bolger) Seems back to near his best and battled back well to beat highly regarded younger rival the Cheltenham Foxhunters bound Burning Ambition. Bolger's horse will not be going to the Cotswolds, instead it's Gowran Park next and then the Foxhunters at Aintree.

KEROSIN (James McAuley) Though a 9/1 to 14's drifter on track, plenty of fancy prices were hoovered up each way both overnight and in the morning markets. Impressive winner Cartwright steamrolled everything else, but he did take third having been prominent throughout and was possibly unlucky not to finish second. Looks a winner in waiting.

* NO ONE COMES NEAR... Yet again only one tipster in these islands knew about what trade publications are calling the "BIGGEST GAMBLE OF THE SEASON" as the Charles Byrnes' trained Balliniska Band won doing handstands on his debut at Naas last Saturday.

Hammered in from 11/4 to 11/8 jolly on track, Declan's Irish Racing Service tipped him up at 8/1 that morning!

Other gems last weekend were Reckless Lad 11/2 (won 10/3) and Wishmoor 11/4.

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