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# BetFan

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	Service Name	Points
1	 Fold4Gold	+244.88
2	 The Gentlemans List	+126.62
3	 Winners 15	+104.36
4	 The Secret Handicapper	+99.31
5	 Racing Down Under	+94.35
6	 WinKing	+86.25
7	 L7N Longshots	+67.81
8	 The Pro Punter	+41.39
9	 Power Bet Pro	+36.67
10	 Trend Betting	+34.21

## TODAY'S FREE SPORTS BETTING TIPS...

### Equine Equity

Win Bet - Limerick 1610 - Song Of Namibia @ 7/2

### Neo Investments

Win Bet - Newbury 1730 - Pivoine @ 5/1

### Two Percent Club

Win Bet - Bangor-on-Dee 1735 - Burns Cross @ 8/1



## **Rick's Sports Betting: Guide To The Five British Classics** - By Rick Elliott

Once the Cheltenham Festival and Grand National are out of the way the focus in racing turns to the Flat and the five races that matter most. The Classics are the pinnacle of Flat racing and only a small proportion of the racing population are good enough to compete. There is ante post betting on the Classics at least six months ahead of the races and there are many fluctuations in the odds. Trends can be used to make life easier when you are trying to beat the bookies betting on the Classics.

There are five Classics during the Flat season in Britain and the races and structure have been copied all over the world. The races that carry most kudos are confined to three-year-olds carrying the same weight so they are true championship races. A horse that wins a Classic then becomes a breeding commodity and the stud value escalates. That explains why so few Classic winners race at four and older. The maximum level of prize money is dwarfed by the potential earnings at stud.

The five British Classics are as follows:

2,000 Guineas at Newmarket in May over one mile for colts and fillies.

1,000 Guineas at Newmarket in May over one mile for fillies.

Derby at Epsom in June over one mile four furlongs for colts and fillies,

Oaks at Epsom in June over one mile four furlongs for fillies.

St Leger in September in Doncaster over one mile six furlongs for colts and fillies.

The importance of the Classics to the breeding industry is illustrated by two race conditions. Only colts can run in the Classics and fillies can run in all five. Geldings are excluded because these horses cannot reproduce and the line would stop. Fillies are the key element in a coupling so in theory could run in the Derby and 2,000 Guineas. The St Leger is open to both sexes. Pedigree is an important part of identifying potential Classic winners. However, the best guide is following the leading trainers and jockeys who have the best horses.

There are some recognised trials for the Classics which year after year produce leading contenders for the five most important Flat races of the season. If a horse wins or runs well in one the trials the odds on that horse winning a subsequent Classic fall. Generally Derby and Oaks contenders will have had a run earlier in the season but winners of the two Guineas often are making their seasonal debut. When betting on the Classics you should pay particular attention to these trials:

2,000 Guineas National Stakes, Racing Post Trophy, Dewhurst Stakes, Craven Stakes, Greenham Stakes

1,000 Guineas Cheveley Park Stakes, Lowther Stakes, Moyglare Stakes, Nell Gwyn Stakes, Fred Darling Stakes

Derby 2,000 Guineas, Chester Vase, Dante Stakes, Dee Stakes, Sandown Classic Trial

Oaks 1,000 Guineas, Cheshire Oaks, Musidora Stakes, Pretty Polly Stakes, Height Of Fashion Stakes

St Leger, Derby, Oaks, Gordon Stakes, Great Voltigeur, Beresford Stakes.

Previous Classics are good form guides because they involve the best horses of the generation competing in championship races. A horse that runs well in the two Guineas will advertise the potential to be competitive in the Derby and

Oaks. These races can be good trials for the St Leger. The Triple Crown involves winning a Classic over one mile, one mile four furlongs and one mile six furlongs. A horse must be in prime condition from May to September to even run in three Classics and that's why the Triple Crown is so rare.

## **Today's Sports Betting Preview** - By Rick Elliott

### **There Could Be A Red Devil Star Today**

Manchester United won the FA Cup last season and Vicente won the Scottish Grand National a year ago. Whereas United are going for back-to-back wins Vicente is trying to win Scotland's biggest jumps race for a record-setting third time. United must overcome Tottenham in the semi-finals of the Cup and Vicente has to beat 30 rivals at Ayr. It's a relatively short message today because I'm going to the races at Bangor and hoping to have a lovely day. United are known as the Red Devils and need a star today so we should back RED DEVIL STAR at Bangor (2.45) at 11/4 with Ladbrokes.

The FA Cup semi-finals are played at Wembley which means in effect Tottenham have a home match against United today. In the past the last four ties have been played on a neutral ground so the equivalent scenario is United playing at Old Trafford. Tottenham have lost seven FA Cup finals in succession and that run can be extended despite home advantage because MANCHESTER UNITED are the team to back to win today's match in 90 minutes at 11/5 with William Hill.

Vicente has won the Scottish Grand National in the last two years. The race is a handicap chase over four miles and there are too many variables. An easier proposition from a betting perspective is the Greenham Stakes at Newbury (3.10). This is a trial for the 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket in two weeks. Despite a run that was too bad to be true in the Dewhurst Stakes last autumn EXPERT EYE is the horse to back at 5/4 with Paddy Power.

## **England's Unsolvable Equation - Climate and Scheduling** - By Dave Owens

England's test match woes over the winter has been the peak in a steady regression for the side in the longest format of the game. It's come at a time where England's one day side have been on a steady and consistent up curve for a few years, culminating in them being one of the most feared sides in the 50 and 20 over format – saw 12 English players picked up by the IPL and priced up as early favourites for the world cup.

England's problems (certainly overseas) has been the inability to produce fast bowlers, high quality spinners and batsman capable of batting long innings and produce scores of well over 100. It's a problem that is not easily remedied. The first round of County Championship matches has just finished and has been the familiar story of ball totalling dominating bat with wickets in April generally damp, green tinged and loaded totally in favour of the bowlers with accurate medium pacers able to hit a consistent line and length and picking up large hauls of wickets. A situation where a spinner would not be really required for a side. Pace bowling not really required with the pitches on the slow side and nagging accuracy a more potent weapon and batsman are batting in the knowledge they have a potentially unplayable ball just around the corner.

The most obvious solution would be to play the majority of the 4-day match's in the Hight of summer in the months of July and August. This would see pitches at their best with flatter wickets in warmer conditions with batsman able to bat with more confidence and the need for a quality spinner or bowler with pace to get something out of a wicket where just bowling line and length would ensue success. The problem being that with not much money in the county game and some clubs basically basing their survival of the success and full houses which generates the income from the 20/20 blast competition. The prime months of summer are full of 20/20 cricket with no 4-day game in sight.

There is no obvious solution to the predicament of trying to get too much cricket to fit into such a short time in the British summer. For now, though, the sun is shining, and the pitches could dry out quicker than usual to allow both formats to flourish in the coming months ahead. Here is hoping for the sun to shine and the early cricket to not be its usual damp and soggy affair.

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

AZUA EMERY (Gordon Elliott) Her trainer makes fewer mistakes than most of us, yet she disappointed in her initial handicap appearance but perhaps wasn't quite ready. However she is still only four, and the way she won a mares maiden at Fairyhouse on Thursday suggested that she is starting to get the hang of things. Will be a decent handicapper in time.

BANDUA (Dermot Weld) Won the same race at Cork that Harzand won two years ago. Now nobody is putting him in that league just yet, but for a horse bred for fast ground he skipped over the near unraceable surface at the Mallow circuit with ease. Could be special.

BURGUNDY BOY (Dermot Weld) Ex Sheila Lavery, not disgraced when last of four to Nelson in the Ballysax at Leopardstown. Finished almost alongside Derby prospect The Pentagon and like him, will be a totally different horse on fast ground.

CASTLE NORTH (Willie Mullins) Lost his position at a vital stage and was left with too much to do against impressive bumper winner and highly rated sort Dream Conti. He did reduce the leeway considerably but the winner had got first run. Both look well above average.

U S NAVY FLAG (Aidan O'Brien) Badly needed the outing on ground he hated in the 2,000 Guineas Trial at Leopardstown. Granted better underfoot conditions at Newmarket he looks a cracking each way bet at 20/1 but hold your fire until nearer the day as he may go for the French Guineas instead. Whichever he goes for he will still be value as it's likely he will have stablemates more fancied in the betting.

WHO'S STEPH (Ger Lyons) Surprisingly taken out of the Irish 1,000 Guineas at the second entry stage, she won a Guineas Trial over seven furlongs but, despite running up with the pace all the time, she will need a mile at least at the top level. Has only raced with juice in the ground so hard to know if she'd handle fast, but she's one smart filly and no mistake.

XENOBIA (Willie Farrell) Beat a strongly fancied Weld runner with ease at Leopardstown. Will always be value coming from a small stable and taking on the powerful yards. Totally ground versatile but perhaps best kept to the home circuit as she disappointed in a Listed Race at Ascot.

\* Despite a restricted programme, Declan's Irish Racing Service has been on the ball lately with So Long Marieanne 5/1 (won 5/2); Cuneo 10/3 (w 6/4); Balliniska Band 5/2 (w 7/4); Decision Time 7/4 (w 13/8); Kemboy 6/4 (w 5/4); Bloomfield 11/8 (w 4/5) and Lily's Gem 5/4 (w 5/6).

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