

# BetFan

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

### [Footie Flutters](#)

Win Bet - FA Cup Final 90 minutes 17:15 - Man Utd to beat Chelsea @ 7/4

### [The Secret Handicapper](#)

Win Bet - Thirsk 18:10 - Tan @ 7/1

### [Racing Investment](#)

Win Bet - Newbury 16:50 - Crystal Hope @ 11/10

## **Track To Success!** - By The Champagne Kid

Do you use an online horse tracker? If not, then I would recommend that you consider doing so. There are many horse tracking systems available, and most of them are free to use, although most will require registration with the website operating it. Some examples are Timeform Tracker, Attheraces' ATR Tracker, Sportinglife's My Stable and Racing Post online's Horse Tracker. Doubtless, there are many others. Have a look around and register for the one that you feel serves your purposes best.

The horses you put into your tracker don't just need to be ones that you noted yourself in a race. Many of my own entries are the result of reading in-running notes or post-race comments by experienced race-readers or respected racing journalists. No need to restrict your entries to what you observe with your own eyes; make use of other experts' eyes and thinking too. Much of it is free if you look around.

Here below are some of the fairly recent entries into my own tracker, some of which are horses recently advised on The Champagne Kid Racing Service, and which I consider are worth keeping onside for future races.

Dommersen (T: John Gosden) - Ran in a class 2 handicap over 9f at Newmarket on the 5th May under Frankie Dettori. That race can be written off, as he was carried to the far side to race alone with the 100/1 front-running out-of-the-handicap outsider. Dommersen had a long break before resuming at Kempton in a Listed race at the end of March. He was quite well fancied for that Newmarket class 2 handicap where he lost all chance due to his isolation from the rest of the field and is worth keeping in mind for summer handicaps between 8 and 10 furlongs.

Dee Ex Bee (T: Mark Johnston) - Tipped by The Champagne Kid service a couple of days ago at the Chester May meeting, this Derby entry finished well to come second to the impressive William Haggas charge Young Rascal. I don't think Dee Ex Bee will be winning the Derby (if he takes up his entry), but he could well be interesting in The Queen's Vase at Royal Ascot over 1m 6f. His finishing efforts in that recent Chester 12.3f race, and earlier in a 10f Listed Race at Epsom on 25th April suggest he may yet be better over an even greater distance. Mark Johnston has a good record in The Queen's Vase having recorded seven wins overall and three wins in the last ten renewals. Watch out for a possible entry in The Queen's Vase at Royal Ascot this year for Dee Ex Bee.

Powerallied (T: Richard Fahey) - Another fast-finishing second at Chester tipped on The Champagne Kid service, Powerallied may never have looked like catching speedball A Momentofmadness over this 5.1f. However, had the race been over Chester's 5.5f course, that extra 0.4f (88 yards) may have made all the difference. Powerallied has already won twice at Chester over that 5.5f, so put him in whichever tracker you use, and watch for an entry at that slightly greater distance of 5.5f at Chester this summer or autumn.

Gilgamesh (T: George Scott) – Finished 7th beaten by about 2 lengths to Rip Orff in the 7 furlong Victoria Cup Class 2 Handicap at Ascot on the 12th May. He ran extremely well against a draw/pace bias on this occasion. Of the 27 runners, 19 went in a group on the far-side and Gilgamesh contested his own 'race' against 7 others on the near-side. He finished extremely strongly to win the 'race' on his side, in the process beating the majority of those who had run on the favoured far-side. He is definitely one to watch out for in one of these big field straight course cavalry charges throughout the year, particularly at Ascot, and may well win one of them if he doesn't land another disadvantageous draw.

Hopefully one (or more) of these four horses with potential will bring us some rewards later in the season. If circumstances and conditions are right, I am sure you will see some of them tipped on The Champagne Kid racing service at some time during the summer.

Keep on tracking!

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## **Rick's Sports Betting: World Cup Goals Statistics To Help Identify Good Bets** - By Rick Elliott

The 2018 World Cup has the same number of teams and format as the 2014 competition in Brazil. The 32 team format is perfect for a tournament and expanding the number of qualifiers will change the dynamic. There could be 48 finalists in 2026 which would be made up of 16 groups of three teams. That would mean a finalist may only play two matches but under the existing format each side will be guaranteed three group matches. The finalists and semi-finalists will face a maximum of seven fixtures. That means the range of matches played by any team is from 3 to 7.

As in 2014 and at the 2018 World Cup the 32 teams are split into eight groups of four teams who play each other on a round robin basis. There are six matches in each group so 48 in total. In each of the three phases of the first stage there are 16 matches. The top two teams in each group progress to the knockout stages which involve 16, 8, 4 and 2 teams and 8, 4, 2 and 2 matches, the latter made up of the final and match that decides 3rd and 4th place. There are 16 matches in the second stage which in addition to the 48 group matches means 64 fixtures in the 2018 World Cup. This distribution of matches is identical to the format of the World Cup in Brazil four years ago. The same format should produce about the same number of goals.

Scoring records in international football have not changed to any extent over the last four years. Numbers from 2014 can be used to make some projections for this year's tournament. Across tournaments and international matches the average number of goals is between 2.00 and 2.50 and this scoring should be similar in the World Cup this year. There is an argument that VAR could increase the number of goals but as many goals could be wiped out due to the technology as given when there is a marginal decision to be made. It's safe to assume that VAR won't affect scoring.

Germany were the leading scorers and won the tournament but the totals and averages are distorted by the freak result in the semi-final against Brazil. Germany scored seven goals in that match to boost their average above 2.5 goals per match. In the other six fixtures Germany scored at an average rate of less than two goals per match. Germany conceded four goals in seven matches so the winners of the tournament had the joint second best defensive record. Argentina were the losing finalists but they only scored eight goals but conceded the same number as Germany. Croatia averaged two goals per game but did not qualify for the knockout stages.

It's logical that the teams that were eliminated at the group stage conceded most goals and scored fewest. The four teams that were involved in the highest scoring matches did not progress from the groups. As the tournament went on preventing goals became more important than scoring goals, except for the match in the semi-finals in which Germany scored seven goals against Brazil. So not only was that match a total shock in terms of the outcome and margin of victory it was a statistical blip. Teams score fewer goals but conceded fewer as they progress and in fact in 2014 the number of goals scored dropped at each successive stage. Matches in the knockout rounds are more even and even contests lend themselves to fewer goals.

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

### **It's A Nice Day For A White Wedding And Cup Final**

It's a celebration and national and global event. You are either red or blue, bride or groom. North or south stand at Wembley, left or right aisle at Windsor Castle. Everybody will drink too much and there could be a big fight at the end. Meghan Markle is 10/1 with [Ladbrokes](#) to wear WHITE. MANCHESTER UNITED are 7/4 with [William Hill](#) to win the FA Cup.

Prince William has been invited to both occasions but he'll be giving his little brother Harry the ring rather than giving the FA Cup trophy to the United captain. But who really is the Special One? Jose Mourinho or Her Majesty the Queen. It could be

EDEN HAZARD who is 6/1 with [bet365](#) to be the man of the match in today's FA Cup Final. PAUL POGBA is 5/1 with [William Hill](#).

Manchester United and Chelsea are not in the best form. United have done very little since beating Tottenham in the semi-final. They have conceded at least one goal in the last nine fixtures against top six opposition. Chelsea's season ended little a damp squib with a draw at home to Huddersfield and defeat at Newcastle in the last league match of the season. Mourinho can motivate his players in the matches that matter most and Chelsea could be playing for the last time with Antonio Conte in charge. The standout bet is BTTS at Evens with [Betfair](#).

The Group 1 Lockinge Stakes at Newbury (3.40) is the biggest race of the day and the winner picks up almost 200 grand. It's a close contest on ratings and form with the added element of improving horses who have excelled in handicaps. LIMATO has the ground to suit and the distance of one mile is not an issue so the horse is the one to back at 9/2 with [Ladbrokes](#).

## **Irelands Exciting Test Debut – A Good News Story for Crickets Minnows** - By Dave Owens

Irelands historic first test match against Pakistan failed to see them pull off the fairy tale victory in the end but proved a fine Test match for their first ever 5-day game. The game saw some excellent periods of play for the hosts. The first ever Test match century in an Ireland shirt, a sterling come back and Pakistan momentarily on the ropes on day 5 chasing down Irelands 160. All in all, a very good advert for Test cricket in the Emerald Isle.

The sight of the emotion for the first ever Irish players to receive their Test match caps on the eve of the game and the excellent atmosphere of all present to watch the start of Irelands test journey was a much-needed boost for cricket's minnow nations. It comes on the back of a bitter sweet 2018 world cup qualifying competition for two spots in next years world cup in England.

The tournament was held in Zimbabwe and quite often matches allowed a free entry creating full houses and amazing atmospheres for the games to be played, which added massively to drama of the games. The inclusion of full test nations of the West Indies and Afghanistan added a real barometer of where the associate nations were in terms of quality and showed that the next tier down from the Test playing sides were in very good health and playing very competitive cricket and of a potentially exciting future where at least a couple of countries could make real strides to competing against the established teams.

With all the positives taken from this tournament it was therefore an utter disaster from a development point of view that only two spots were available for admission to the world cup, taken by both Test playing sides West Indies and Afghanistan and the first time a world cup will be taking place without an associate member side in it,

at a time when the developing cricketing nations has never been stronger. It was an opinion shared by all captains at the qualifying tournament as well as the cricket media in general who watched the tournament and were left shaking their heads at the loss of such an opportunity missed to blood these teams and players at next years competition.

Irelands successful and hard fought first test against Pakistan was a welcome reminder of the need to build, encourage and develop the non-test playing nations and to expand and develop the game as far and wide as possible.

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

CITY ISLAND (Martin Brassil) Won a Punchestown bumper on Wednesday going away, so clearly would prefer a longer trip. Already going well in schooling hurdles, likes good ground and is one to follow on the summer jumping circuit. No surprise if he turns up at the Galway Festival.

DELANO ROOSEVELT (Aidan O'Brien) Will go to the Epsom Derby somewhat under the radar but there was a lot to like about his Derrinstown second to another Derby hopeful Hazapour where he finished with a flourish. Must not be underrated. Remember Wings Of Eagles and Pdraig Beggy at 40/1 last year!

SPRING WATCH (Mouse Morris) Won a handicap hurdle with a bit in hand so sure to get a rise in the ratings but is still progressing and clearly likes decent ground.

WHO'S STEPH (Ger Lyons) The prize money for winning the 1,000 Guineas Trial at Leopardstown will pay the supplementary fee needed to enter the Curragh classic at this late stage. She has every right to go there and is ground versatile, which is always a big plus in Ireland.

YUKON LIL (Willie Mullins) A tidy and efficient Killarney bumper winner, building on a promising first effort when third at Fairyhouse. The quality of what she beat at the scenic lakeside track is open to question, but she certainly did the job with the minimum of fuss.

ZIHBA (Fossy Stack) Dual Dundalk polytrack winner really impressed on his belated turf debut at Leopardstown when taking the Amethyst Stakes. Due to

take another big step in grade now in the Irish 2,000 Guineas and should give a good account if he gets fast ground.

ZORIAN (Jim Bolger) The Carlow trainer has made a relatively quiet start to the season but that could be about to change dramatically as the ground dries out.

**\* Yet another great week for Declan's Irish Racing Service - Alan's Pride 12/1 (won 11/2 fav.); Neverushacon 8/1 (w 4/1 fav.); Wisdom Mind 5/1 (won 3/1 fav.); City Island 9/2; Voix Du Rene 11/10 (w 8/11). Each way - Alhabrah 18/1 (pl. 9/1); Larchmount Lad 12/1 (pl. 8/1); Rickrack 8/1 (pl. 10/3). One that got away - The Princetonian 20/1 each way, sent off 10/3 fav. but finished fourth! Remember it's the Irish Guineas Festival next weekend.**

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