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TODAY'S FREE SPORTS BETTING TIPS...

[Epsom Derby Special 2018](#)

Epsom 16:30 - Hazapour @ 11/1 Each Way Bet

[Betting Development](#)

Doncaster 15:40 - Austrian School @ 5/2 Win Bet

[Value Wins](#)

Chepstow 19:30 - Hedging @ 11/1 Win Bet

It's Derby Day! - By The Champagne Kid

The Derby was first run in May 1780, the first winner being Diomed, a colt owned by Sir Charles Bunbury, who collected prize money of £1,065, which was a fairly decent sum in those days. Interestingly The Derby could well have been named The Bunbury, as it was a toss-up between Bunbury and the 12th Earl of Derby whose name would adorn the race. Sir Charles did not miss out completely on having his own race, as he was honoured by having the Bunbury Cup, a race over 7f at Newmarket every July, named after him.

The first four runnings of The Derby were over a mile, whereupon the distance was then increased to the mile and a half it still is today. It was not until 1787 that Lord Derby had the first winner of 'his own' race, a horse called Sir Peter Teazle.

The Derby has featured many a famous name, both equine and human. Amongst the great horses to win the race are names like Diomed (first winner), Voltigeur, Hyperion, Dante, Sea Bird, Sir Ivor, Nijinsky, Mill Reef, Shergar, Galileo, Sea The Stars and a host more.

Famous names connected to The Derby include the great Lester Piggott who is the jockey with the most wins, 9 in total. Other top jockeys to find fame in the race include Harry Wragg, Sir Gordon Richards, Willie Carson and one of my own favourites Walter Swinburn, also known as The Choirboy. Winning-most trainers are Robert Robson, John Porter and Fred Darling all with 7 winners each, although Aidan O'Brien is currently on 6 and holds every chance of joining those earlier three trainers on 7, given that he has the current evens favourite for this year's race in Saxon Warrior.

Whether Saxon Warrior represents any value at those odds is a matter of every punter's own opinion. It is certain that there can be value in an even-money shot, or even an odds-on shot, if the actual chances of winning are much higher than the odds would indicate. I do not hold a definite view one way or the other on this matter as far as Saxon Warrior is concerned, and if pressed, I would say that I think those odds are just about right. He had been trading at around 8/11 prior to Aidan O'Brien sounding a note of caution about the soft ground the race is likely to be run on.

It is often and rightly said that the punter does not need to have a bet in every race, and that is very true. Only the bookmaker has to bet in every race, but he has the numbers on his side in terms of over-round in each market. However, there are not many punters I know who can let a Derby or a Grand National pass by without a financial interest, no matter how small or large. For me personally The Derby is not always a great betting race, but I will certainly be having an interest of some kind. At the time of writing, I have not done much prep work on the race and will perhaps be looking for a nicely-priced each-way chance, or if I feel strongly enough about

uncertainty in the favourite's chance close to off-time, a lay bet on the favourite to have the other 13 running for me.

Whatever happens in terms of having a bet on the race, it will as usual turn out to be a great spectacle. The spine is already tingling at the thought of the commentator saying "and as they come round Tattenham Corner..." Bring it on!

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Rick's Sports Betting: What Are England's Prospects This Time? - By Rick Elliott

Expectations are low for Russia so don't expect England to go on a scoring spree in the World Cup despite playing the relatively weak Tunisia and Panama in their first two group matches. Opening matches are generally tight affairs but this time England should be able to improve on their scoring averages but the reality could be different based on recent trends. Teams play group matches in the existing World cup format. Since the tournament first involved 32 teams in 1998 England's record for scoring and conceding goals in the group stages and knockout rounds is as follows:

England have played in the last five World Cups so have contested 15 group matches. Against generally supposedly weak opponents England are averaging just over one goal per match. They have finished in the first two in the group in four tournaments because they have been solid at the back. In nine of those 15 fixtures the opponents have not scored a goal which means England have not been prolific at the other end of the field but done enough to progress to the round of the last 16.

England have not scored more than two goals in any group fixture from the 1998 World Cup onwards but conversely no opponents have found the net more than twice. Both teams have scored in six of those meetings and there have been more than two goals on four occasions. The highest scoring game has featured four goals and there have been three goalless draws. England have won six, drawn six and lost three matches in the first stage of the last five World Cups.

The opening matches against Tunisia and Panama provide England with two opportunities to score some goals and build confidence and momentum. Surely it's better to be positive in the first half, establish a winning lead and then manage the game rather than struggle in the opening exchanges which only creates more pressure later in the tournament. England are not playing

Brazil or Germany but two of the lowest ranked competing nations so a narrow win or draw is unsatisfactory.

From the France World Cup 20 years ago and onwards England have reached two quarter-finals and got no further. Scoring and conceding rates increase during the knockout rounds but the sample is very small. England have played six fixtures beyond the group stages and average 1.33 goals which is the same conceding rate. That figure is distorted by the four goals Germany scored in the last 16 tie in 2010. England scored in each of the last 16 ties they contested from 1998 to 2010.

Overall England have averaged slightly above one goal in 21 World Cup matches but conceded less than one goal per game in those fixtures. England's matches in the last five tournaments have produced 42 goals for an average of exactly two. The tournament average is 2.48 goals per game so England's world matches from 1998 have been below the average over the course of the tournaments. Despite relatively beatable opponents in the first two group matches these averages are unlikely to significantly change.

Today's Sports Betting Preview - By Rick Elliott

A Day Of Two Derbies

England play Nigeria in a friendly at Wembley at 5.15pm and by that time we will know which horse has won the Derby. Epsom stages the world's most famous Flat race and Towcester is the venue for the greyhounds version this evening. You could make a film called Two Derbies And A Friendly about today's sporting action and the leading man would have to be SAXON WARRIOR. Despite being drawn on the inside of the track the Aidan O'Brien trained horse must be backed at Evens with Coral to win the horse racing Derby.

Saxon Warrior was an impressive winner of the 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket and the horse could be something special. Connections are hinting that if their horse wins at Epsom today an attempt at the Triple Crown is on the cards. Nijinsky in 1970 was the last horse to win the Guineas, Derby and St Leger and Saxon Warrior has the scope to emulate that animal.

Potential negatives are the draw and ground but Saxon Warrior has the class to prevail and then all roads lead to Doncaster in September. For the England national team the destination is Russia and today's fixture with Nigeria is their last but one match before the real action begins.

Nigeria have only failed to score in only one of their last friendly eight internationals. Give or take the Liverpool contingent the England starting 11 should be the strongest available and a hint of who starts against Tunisia in their first group match

in the World Cup. Their final prep match is against Costa Rica at Elland Road in Leeds so there should be a send off at Wembley today. The result is not that important but ENGLAND -1 on the handicap is the bet at 13/10 with Betfair.

The richest prize in greyhounds offers £175,000 to the winner of their Derby. The money is in massive contrast to the bread and butter races of the sport in which the six dogs are competing for less than £100. The financial rewards and the prestige make the Derby the most famous and desired contest in the sport. Favourite backers should enjoy the occasion because DROOPS VERVE is the tip at 13/8 with Ladbrokes.

Pakistan Preparation Shows The Way To Win

Overseas - By Dave Owens

Pakistan's victory over England in the first test of the summer was a triumph for the 6.20 price pre match underdog, in a climate where Test Series have been totally dominated by the home sides in which relatively evenly matched sides have just been totally unable to cope in overseas conditions and everything from the pitch's, climate, different balls and generally under prepared to take on a country in alien conditions to where they have played and succeeded in the vast majority of their cricket.

The biggest factor in home dominance is away sides arriving for an overseas tour with little to no warm up games and totally ill prepared for playing conditions of 40-degree heat and pitch's that spin and break up in India from day one and the flip side being sub-continent team arriving to play in England on wickets that seam and swing and are about as different as they could ever face in Asia.

This had led to the home side being too short to back and the visitors too unlikely to pull off an upset with them being too handicapped by too many factors at the outset. This series saw Pakistan seriously attempt to buck this trend and as such offer very good value going into the first test with their unheard of preparation of having a two week camp for the Pakistan team in Pakistan on wickets that were left with extra grass on and tailored made to be as near to playing in English conditions as possible and to train with the Duke made ball as opposed to the Kookaburra used in home Pakistan games.

This was before Pakistan arrived in the UK well before the first test match. Managed to play three full first-class game against English county sides as well a full 5-day test match in Ireland against the Irish. This led to the bizarre situation of the visiting Pakistan side being far better prepared and having had far more time in English conditions than the home team who had the majority of the side not playing cricket after the tour of Australia and New Zealand and some players flying into England having played no red ball cricket at all for months after playing in the IPL and asked to pitch up go straight into a test match.

It did seem there was a big discrepancy in how both teams were going into the first test, even more so with the knowledge that England had just been battered 4-0 in Australia and lost the following series against New Zealand and quite a misjudgement from the bookmakers who were looking at England's previous results at home as opposed to sides build up and preparation for the fixture.

Pakistan went on to dominate the match from start to finish and certainly offered hope and potentially a template as to how to reverse the home dominance

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