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TODAY'S FREE SPORTS BETTING TIPS...

TWL Pro Tip

Win Bet - Uttoxeter 17:05 - Full Bore @ 15/8

The Pro Punter

Win Bet - Down Royal 17:30 - Bailly @ 10/11

Value Wins

Win Bet - Chepstow 19:50 - Quantum Dot @ 4/1

Crystal Ocean Is Marginally Preferred In The King George

- By Ian Hudson

The King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes is the mid-season championship for horses aged three and older. The race at Ascot is over one mile and four furlongs and aims to bring together the best of the Classic generation and older horses. As a Group 1 contest there are weight-for-age allowances and fillies carry less weight than colts. There is an argument for each horse carrying the same weight because the race would identify the best horse but the age and gender allowances have passed the test of time.

Enable won the race by four and a half lengths last year. The outcome was never in doubt and the horse had plenty in hand. However, as a three-year-old filly Enable carried a full stone less than the runner-up, Ulysses, who was a colt aged five. Enable beat some good horses impressively but was thrown in at the weights. In fact off level weights the horse would have been in the mix. Connections have to take advantage of race conditions but 14 pounds in hand seems excessive.

Female horses receive weight in the Grade 1 National Hunt races. Annie Power won the Champion Hurdle in 2016. She carried seven pounds less than My Tent Or Yours and that horse was less than five lengths adrift in second place. Clearly Annie Power and Enable were top class and the best amongst their sex and female horses don't have the same physicality as male horses. However, championship races should identify the best horses and weight concessions muddy the waters.

Treve won the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe in 2013 and 2014 as a three-year-old and four-year-old. The race conditions were in her favour and receiving weight on reflection the horse could not be beat. Saturday's race is missing some of the best Classic horses and an older horse should win the race. Kew Gardens has the best chance of the horses aged three and carries 11 pounds less than the older colts. Rostropovich is a much bigger price than the Aidan O'Brien stablemate and is the each-way alternative to the market leaders.

Cracksman would have a great chance on his best form. However, the horse has not been at his best this season and trainer, John Gosden, says his horse will show his true ability in the autumn. However, Cracksman does not owe his connections a penny and another underperforming run could see the horse retired. It would take a great effort to come back and be competitive in the Arc if Cracksman failed to deliver again. It's tempting to give Cracksman another chance and the latest odds look appealing.

Coronet would have a better chance with the regular jockey on board but Frankie Dettori will be serving a ban on Saturday. The three outsiders have too much to find on all known form so the race looks like a match between Crystal Ocean and Poet's Word. At the time of writing the bookmakers could not split them and they could

start the race as joint favourites which tallies with their current ratings. At the best odds it's a combined price of 4/6 for the pair providing the winner.

The two favourites carry 9 stones and 7lbs so give weight to the female runners and the horses aged three. The leading three-year-old colts are not running so the older horses can concede the weight to their younger rivals. Crystal Ocean was second in the St Leger last season and Classic form is the best on offer. The horse is more proven at this level than Poet's Word and that can be the deciding factor so Crystal Ocean is the tip to win the King George V1 and Queen Elizabeth Stakes.

Today's Sports Betting Preview - By Rick Elliott

Hull KR Can Win On The Handicap Against Hull

After the World Cup, Wimbledon tennis, Open golf and Royal Ascot one of the biggest sporting events of the day takes place in Hull. In the pantheon of local derbies across the world the Super League fixture between the city's rugby league teams would not be top of the list. Tonight's local dust up has nothing at stake because Hull have made the Super 8's and Hull KR cannot finish in the top eight. Rovers have lost the last seven derbies and are big outsiders in this fixture. Hull lost 72-10 to Wakefield last week and they cannot finish in the top four. Winning the match looks beyond them but HULL KR + 14 is the bet at Evens with **Betfair**.

Bernhard Langer (5 under) won the first round three ball in the Senior Open beating Miguel Angel Jimenez (4 under) and Tom Watson (3 under). The German is the best player in older generation golf and made the cut in the Open Championship at Carnoustie last week. Watson won five Opens but never won a title at St. Andrews which is one of his regrets. He has made a good start on the course in the Senior version. However, LANGER is the defending champion and has course form so can outscore Jimenez and Watson again today and that outcome is 21/20 with **bet365**.

Chris Froome seems to have given up the ghost in the pursuit of Geraint Thomas in the Tour de France. The four times winner has suggested he will now try to help his Sky colleague win the greatest bike race in the world for the first time. Thomas has ridden for himself this year and been free of the role in assisting Froome. Today is a brutal mountain stage and Froome may try to break from the rest of the field to help his mate. Winning the Tour again looks beyond him but FROOME can be backed at 25/1 with **Ladbrokes** to win Stage 19.

Ascot offers over £200,000 in prize money on the first day of the King George V1 and Queen Elizabeth Stakes meeting today. Cracksman needs some rain to take part in tomorrow's Group 1 contest but I don't like his chances. The richest race at the track today is the Listed race for fillies and mares at 3.35pm. Three-year-olds get an 8 pounds allowance of the older horse. That should give PREENING a great chance and the horse can be backed at 7/2 with **William Hill** with to win the one mile race.