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# BetFan

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

### Winning Way

Win Bet - Goodwood 14:25 - Threading @ 5/2

### Early Odds

Win Bet - Bangor-on-Dee 16:50 - Nemean Lion @ 15/2

### Value Wins

Win Bet - Thirsk 16:30 - Sharp Style @ 9/2

## **Gifted Master Can Win The Stewards' Cup** - By Ian Hudson

A few years ago there was uproar when the Stewards' Cup was called the 32Red Cup. That sponsorship deal lasted just one year and now the race enjoys the best of both worlds. The Saturday highlight of Glorious Goodwood is now called the Qatar Stewards' Cup but regardless of its title the race is still one of the toughest handicaps of the Flat season to work out. Gifted Master was allocated top weight but the jockey's five pounds allowance gives the horse a chance at a decent price.

The Group action on the final day of the Qatar Goodwood Festival (the new name for Glorious Goodwood) comes in the form of the Gordon Stakes. This race for three-year-olds is run over almost one mile and four furlongs. Fillies receive three pounds but the runner-up in the Derby can concede the weight. Dee Ex Bee was only beaten by Masar at Epsom and can ratify the form by winning the Gordon Stakes.

The rebranding of Goodwood's heritage handicap and the reaction begs the question of a race's name giving it an identity. A few years ago I had a brief conversation with the trainer Paul Nicholls at Aintree. Tidal Bay had just fallen in the Grand National so I asked the trainer would the horse be retired. He replied: "We could run him in the Whitbread". That race had had another name for over 10 years. The Hennessy Gold Cup at Newbury has survived under the title of the Ladbrokes Trophy.

The Grand National, Cheltenham Gold Cup and the Derby will always be known by those names but these are the three biggest and most prestigious races of the season. 32Red paid the piper so were entitled to call the tune. However, sponsorship deals are about mutual benefits and the greatest good for greatest number. Clearly, what Goodwood gained financially did not offset the damage caused by the renaming of one of the track's most famous races. The Stewards' Cup was first run at Goodwood in 1840 and was named because the senior steward presented the prizes.

The race is run over six furlongs and horses aged three and older are eligible. Three-year-olds get a weight concession of four pounds from older horses and the maximum weight is not less than nine stone and ten pounds. Gifted Master was set to carry one pound more in the original handicap but the jockey, Jason Watson, claims five pounds. It is debatable whether a rider is worth the allowance and for inexperienced jockeys five pounds does not compensate. Watson is riding in one of the most competitive handicaps of the season in a maximum field of 28 runners.

Five horses have won the Stewards' Cup more than once and all these two-time winners date back to 1968 and earlier. The recently retired Richard Hughes is the leading jockey with four wins and two trainers hold the record with four wins dating back to the 19th century. Lancelot Du Lac and Dancing Star are attempting to win the race for the second time but other horses are preferred. Since 2000 nine winners have carried more than nine stone and Gifted Master could be the tenth. The horse's

adjusted weight is nine stone six pounds. Three horses have won with a bigger burden this century.

Shanghai Glory is rated to win the race but the horse might not get a run. There are 28 horses above him in the weights and if they are all declared Shanghai Glory will miss out. However, some horses should be withdrawn which means Shanghai Glory will be running of a relatively low weight. Dancing Star won off eight stone 12 pounds in 2016 and would carry three pounds less if declared for Saturday's race. However, in a tight handicap Gifted Master has the class to prevail.

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

### **Lampard Can Hit The Ground Running**

Is Reading the activity that involves taking in the words in a book or newspaper. Is Derby the famous Flat race in the world or the town in the East Midlands. Who will win the Championship match between Reading and Derby tonight? For the answers to these questions I think we should ask Frank. Lampard's heart and head will tell us that Derby County can pick up three points on the road at Reading. The appointment of Frank Lampard as manager seemed a strange decision but the early reports are good. The feel good factor can manifest itself tonight with DERBY winning this match and that outcome is 7/5 with **bet365**.

The feature race on the fourth day of the Qatar (Glorious) Goodwood Festival is the King George Stakes at 3.35pm. This is a Group 2 contest over five furlongs for colts, geldings and fillies aged three and older. The age range of the runners goes from the five horses aged three to the 11-year-old, Take Cover. Main Desire is the only female runner from the Classic generation but is not good enough even with the two weight allowances. At the other end of the weights Battaash is a four year-old colt with a Group 1 penalty. The winner could come from the runners in between these extremes. KACHY has won over the course and distance and can prevail at 11/1 with **Betfair**.

There are also two extremes in the televised cricket today. It's the 3rd day of the First Test between England and India and Surrey entertain Middlesex in the T20 Blast. England are 22 runs ahead but Alistair Cook has gone without scoring in the second innings but his side are the marginal favourites to win the match. The T20 meeting is a London derby because both counties play in the capital, at the Oval and Lord's. Surrey have won one and lost one of their last two matches in the shortest format of the game and that inconsistency could cost them tonight. MIDDLESEX can take advantage so should be backed at 13/8 with **Ladbrokes**