

BetFan

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TODAY'S FREE SPORTS BETTING TIPS...

[Racing Delights](#)

Stratford 15:35/'17:45 - Atlantic Storm/Canford Thompson @ 11/10-11/8 double

[The Horse Man](#)

Win Bet - Ascot 14:40 - Coronet @ 13/2 with Boylesports

[The Pro Punter](#)

Win Bet - Ascot 13:25 - Stradivarius @ 1/1 with Black Type

Rick's Sports Betting: The Cash Out Conundrum - 0y

Rick Elliott

To cash out or not to cash out is the question! The concept of closing a bet before expiry to guarantee a win first came into the public domain towards the end of the 2015/16 Premier League season. Leicester could have been backed at 5,000/1 to win the title at the start of the season. Surely nobody had backed them at that price! In fact a number of loyal supporters had placed fivers and tenners on their team to be the champions of England against the odds. It became the biggest upset in the history of team sport and Hollywood made a movie about Jamie Vardy.

Bookmakers calculate the returns when a bet is cashed out. Any innovation will be in their interests so you can assume the cash out facility works in their favour. The offer to punters cashing out is calculated to be attractive but also make more money for the bookmaker. Not only does the action guarantee a win for the customers it guarantees that the bookmaker will not have to pay out the full amount. The trade-off between a guarantee and reducing the maximum potential win is good business for the bookmaker and that's why the concept was introduced.

The Leicester City case is a good illustration of this point. If a bookie had taken £100 in bets on Leicester at 5,000/1 the liability is half a million pounds. Depending on the odds at the time cash out may mean a guaranteed payout to the punters of £200,000. In effect the bookmakers have saved £300,000 and the cost is that they have to pay out punters who cash out even if Leicester had not won the league. The bettor and bookmaker are giving up one thing to guarantee another. If the option is mutually beneficial cash out is the best option but the punter loses more from the deal.

Backers of Leicester to win the Premier League were in a unique position because never has a team looked like winning a league at 5,000/1. As the odds tumbled the mainstream media latched on to the story and the bookies PR staff went into overdrive. As each week went by with Leicester not faltering the amount of the no-risk profit increased. Some Leicester backers bailed out early in the piece and most cashed out at some stage but others stayed with the bet and were paid out at 5,000/1.

Even though cashing out is a relatively new option bookmakers offer the facility on several main betting sports and the appropriate markets. The most common cash out opportunity is when a team backed to win a match scores the first goal. It depends on the stage of the match but the odds fluctuate to such an extent after a goal that cash out is a good option. If the backed team concede the second goal the match odds return to something like the original

if the match has some time to go. A late equaliser means the draw odds are slashed but draw backers are few and far between.

Cash out suits some bettors who believe in the saying 'A bird in the hand....' But others prefer to go all the way. If you are backing an outcome in the first place it seems strange to bail out on the bet at disadvantageous odds. Its all about the timing as several Leicester fans know to their cost or benefit.

Today's Sports Betting Preview - By Rick Elliott

The Champions Could be In Action Today

Its Flat racing's Champion's Day at Ascot and the Premier League champions this season may also be in action. There are five Group races and a lucrative handicap on the race track while Liverpool are at Huddersfield. Stradivarius and Cracksman look good things at Ascot while Liverpool have the look of being the champions of England for the first time since the 1989-90 season. Jose Mourinho returns to Stamford Bridge with Manchester United but it potentially won't be a happy occasion because CHELSEA look good things to win this fixture at 3/4 with **Paddy Power**.

Nothing is certain in sport and definitely not in racing but Stradivarius is the best stayer in the country and looks the banker at Ascot in the Long Distance Cup (1.25). The horse won a million pound bonus for winning four prestigious Cup races. On Racing Post Ratings he has five pounds in hand over the next best horse and that equates to several lengths. STRADIVARIUS can be slightly below par and still prevail so the Evens with Ladbrokes should be taken. Cracksman won the Champion Stakes last season and has four pounds in hand over the field in the Champion Stakes. If the horse is as good as on this day in 2017 he will be hard to beat. CRACKSMAN has run some average races this season but is the selection at 5/6 with **William Hill**. The double on the two tips pays almost 11/4.

Liverpool look the away bankers on the Premier League coupon against Huddersfield in a match that brings together managers who worked together at Dortmund. Jurgen Klopp got the better of David Wagner last season because Liverpool won both fixtures by three goals without conceding. Only Manchester City have allowed their opponents fewer shots on targets this season than Liverpool who are still unbeaten in the league. They were the highest spenders in the summer while Huddersfield get by on a much smaller budget. On form the visitors are more than a goal better so LIVERPOOL -1 on the handicap is the standout bet at 10/11 with **Coral**.

Trackside In Ireland - By Declan O'Donoghue

A late season Monday meeting at Gowran Park had all the feel of an "industry day" about it, and perhaps just as well, for the hardy punters who were present were on the ropes throughout.

The big players and the heavy hitters were only interested in the first race, where Ballydoyle's Il Paradiso was considered banker material. Just pipped by a John Gosden hotpot at Newmarket, this was seemingly a penalty kick.

Only Paddy Power and Betfair were brave enough to offer even money in the morning trading and that was devoured quicker than anyone's toast and marmalade.

At the track he was sent off at the highly restrictive odds of 4/11. Not for the first time lately however their former stable jockey Joseph O'Brien spoiled the party.

Of course as ever Aidan is delighted to see his son prosper, but Millswyn, a 10/1 shot under 7 lbs. claimer Shane Crosse beating Il Paradiso left the rest of the Ballydoyle contingent stunned.

Many of the serious punters headed for the car park after that early reverse and that proved an inspired decision.

Next local trainer Jim Bolger sent out Leagan Gaeilge to score at 14/1 while Noel Meade's Art Of America took the mile handicap at 20/1.

Ace jumps trainer Meade started out on the flat and his runners "on the level" have a fair strike rate.

To prove the point he followed up straight away in the nursery with Harvest Bow.

That certainly wasn't a great result for all bookmakers as she was clipped from 16/1 to "eights" in some lively ring trading.

"She ran a cracker at Galway" Meade said "but couldn't handle Dundalk at all."

"I knew if we got a small bit of soft ground today that she had a chance and she may go in another nursery though I'm more concerned about our jump horses at the moment" he added.

Littlevix at "tens" beat well fancied 11/2 jolly Stormy Air in the first division of the handicap, but punters got some relief in the second leg when well backed 6/1 chance Solomons Seal beat 25/1 "rag" Kodianne by a short head.

If Aidan O'Brien had let punters down in the opener they didn't avail of a chance to redress the balance as they allowed the Seamie Heffernan ridden Aircraft Carrier win at 11/1. Ouch.

They turned to local hero Willie Mullins for consolation in the last with Causey Arch a very well backed 4/1 chance.

Alas, he was beaten a neck by Jessica Harrington's versatile Neverrushacon. The bookmakers in attendance had a real spring in their step as they headed for home.

While there was an armada of Irish runners in the Cesarewitch last Saturday - including an Aidan O'Brien trained favourite and seven from Willie Mullins - Declan's Irish Racing Service only wanted to know about 10/1 winner Low Sun.

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Cricket Corruption – Problems On The Fringes - By Dave Owens

The last fortnight has saw three players from Hong Kong charged with breaching the ICC anti-corruption code for matches played some years ago in Hong Kong's world cup qualifying campaign for the 2015 world cup. It's a certainly a problem at the lower levels of the sport with a combination of poor players salaries at the Associate nations level (the level below test status), less spotlight on the lower level matches with regards to TV audience and media coverage and the popularity of in-play betting on the Betfair exchange on any live cricket.

Cricket's international players now are multi-millionaires due to the rise in TV money and the incredibly lucrative 20/20 competitions taking place around the world such as the IPL and the Big Bash where players earn colossal sums of money for a month or two's work and have no interest in the lure of a bookmaker or betting syndicate offering money to influence the outcome of a game. At the next tier down in relatively poor economic cricketing nations the risk/reward of the money that can be earned from underperforming, which far exceeds the sums earned from their respective cricket boards makes the proposition far more attractive to these players. It's a problem that has similarities with tennis, where there is a massive disparity between the players at the highest level on the ATP tour who earn excellent money from playing the game as well as sponsorship deals which enable them to earn an

excellent living and again makes the lure of match-fixing seem an unnecessary risk for them. As with cricket, it is the next level down on the Challenger tour (players aspiring to make ATP level) that the ingredients are there for match—fixing to become a problem.

In this instance the risk/reward is even more prevalent with Challenger players regularly out of pocket due to running costs of travel, hotel fees and tournament entry making the prospect of good money to throw a game more alluring as well as the fact that the matches are played in pretty much empty arenas and minimal to no media exposure on their matches.

Cricket is potentially one of the most attractive sports for match-fixing to occur. There is a common misconception that all match-fixing is based on the result of a match. Cricket has plenty of sub-markets such as the number of runs scored in the first 6, 10 or 15 overs of a match. Players could very easily influence this specific area of a match by not scoring heavily in this bracket of a match – but very easily go on to play a match defining innings that can still win a match for his side and as such make under-performing difficult to detect.

It adds another fine reason why the ICC should look to promote and financially back the less affluent countries in cricket to strengthen and build the game at the lower levels but also to keep the sport as clean as it can be.

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