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Issue 69 - Wednesday 20th December 2017**

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Value Wins and Quality Racing  
Specialist***

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As I watched the dog chasing his tail I thought "Dogs are easily amused", then I realised I was watching the dog chasing his tail.

Today's free tips are courtesy of Racing Business, Value Wins and Quality Racing Specialist.

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

1 - Win Bet - 13:00 Newbury - Potterman @ 7/4

2 - Win Bet - 14:05 Newbury - Tacenda @ 9/2

3 - Each Way - 18:40 Kempton (A.W) - Pretty Bubbles @15/2

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# Leicester Could Contend For Champions League

## Qualification - By Rick Elliott

Manchester City are the shortest price to win the Premier League at this stage of the season than any other of the champions in the history of the division. They are head and shoulders above all the rest and are on track to break the record for points won and the point's gap to second place in the final table. They have won their last 16 league fixtures which is a record for a top flight team since the start of the Football League in 1888. City are that good!

As a competition the Premier League has been decided. In 18 fixtures City have dropped just two points. Tottenham were brushed aside last weekend and the pre-season potential champions are now 21 points off the pace. That's a massive gap this side of Christmas but City are destined to break all records this season. Not only do they create and score goals for fun players close down opponents who then can't develop any meaningful attacks. City have scored 56 goals and conceded just 12.

The champions-elect are beginning to look like Barcelona which is no surprise because the coach played for and managed that club. Some of the senior management at City were recruited from Barcelona and Pep Guardiola has the club in his DNA. However, the first 11 are no one trick ponies and they have developed a massive store of confidence. Some of the ways players react to innocuous challenges are questionable but the team have a ruthless winning mentality. The rest of the league are playing for second place and Arsenal can come into that situation.

Manchester United are on points the second best team in the league but Jose Mourinho targets trophies. Its probably occurred to him that United will not overhaul the league leaders so his focus could turn to the Champions League. He has won the competition with two teams and it would appeal to his sense of importance if he became just the third man to lead United when they were champions of Europe. The previous two managers were knighted so Mourinho would love to follow in the footsteps of Sir Matt Busby and Sir Alex Ferguson.

At some stage in the near future Mourinho will give up on the league and play his best 11 in the Champions League. That could see United slip down the table so second place would be up for grabs. Chelsea are currently in pole position but Arsenal are recovering from a dip in form can storm up the table during the second half of the season. The Europa League could be a distraction but then it comes down to priorities and team selection and Arsene Wenger appreciates league position is more important than doing well in the poor relation to the Champions League.

Tottenham have now dropped out of the top four and are even below Burnley. Liverpool score loads of goals but have dropped crucial points at home in recent fixtures. Leicester City will never be the surprise package of two seasons ago but they

could punch above their weight again by getting in the mix for Champions League qualification. The side is not much changed from the title winning outfit and they have appointed a manager who knows the time of day. The top four could be City, Arsenal, United and Leicester but that means Liverpool miss out.

The latest odds suggest Manchester City have a one in 33 chance of NOT winning the league and all bets are off for a top four finish. Over the second half of the season the race for second place and Champions League qualification will be intriguing and Arsenal and Leicester can upset those apple carts but City are unstoppable.

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

Jose Mourinho works on the sound principle that if his team scores a goal they will win a match if they don't concede. He is particularly fond of this adage in fixtures on the road and it could apply to Manchester United's EFL Cup quarter-final tie at Bristol City tonight. His mentality may not endear him to neutrals but it often ends with his teams running around a stadium with a trophy. Its all about the end result with Mourinho and his record justifies this approach. United won the Europa League and League Cup in his first season as manager at the club.

Mourinho targets trophies and knows the value of picking up silverware. Love or hate him he respects the so-called minor competitions and lower ranked clubs by picking a side for the occasion and not prioritising more important upcoming matches. The key to the outcome of tonight's tie in Bristol is the quality of United's starting 11. However, even the first string have won the last three matches by just one goal. Mourinho's sides are masters at winning matches without playing well. The logical conclusion is to back MANCHESTER UNITED and under 2.5 goals at [16/5 with Ladbrokes](#).

In the other tie there is evidence to suggest Bournemouth can eliminate Chelsea at Stamford Bridge. The home side are now well off the pace in the title race so the Champions League takes on greater importance. It's questionable if Antonio Conte sees the value of the League Cup even though the winners qualify for the Europa League. Bournemouth are facing a struggle against relegation and were pretty dire in losing 4-0 to Liverpool at home on Sunday. Motivation is key and BOUNEMOUTH can qualify for the semi-finals and that option is [13/2 with Betfair](#).

Ludlow stages a jumps fixture today which offers £100,000 in prize money which is a fine achievement for a small rural track staging a midweek meeting. Prize money at the two All Weather fixtures at Lingfield and Kempton today is just £76,000 in total which is derisory for 16 races. The richest race at Ludlow is a handicap chase at 1.20pm. COLIN'S BROTHER won this race last year so is proven over course and distance and is worth backing to win it again at [5/2 with William Hill](#).