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Inside Today...

FREE Tips From Racing Goldmine, Two Per Cent Club and Early Odds

What Type of Bettor Are You? - By Michael Wilding

Today's Sports Betting Preview - By Rick Elliott

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Ever stop to think, and forget to start again?

Today's free tips are courtesy of Racing Goldmine, Two Per Cent Club and Early Odds.

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TODAY'S SPORTS BETTING TIPS...

1 - Racing Goldmine

Win Bet - 18:15 Wolverhampton (A.W) - Unit Of Assessment @ 5/1

2 - Two Per Cent Club

Win Bet - 14:45 Fontwell - De Rasher Counter @ 15/8

3 - Early Odds

Win Bet - 17:15 Wolverhampton (A.W) - Cliffs Of Capri @ 11/10

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What Type of Bettor Are You? - By Michael Wilding

Something that most people don't do, in regards to their betting, is to classify what type of bettor they are and what type of bettor they want to become. Doing this will enable you to not only make more profits, but to also enjoy the sport of horse racing a lot more.

We can group bettors in to main categories:

- 1. Full Time Bettors
- 2. Part Time Bettors
- 3. Weekend Bettors
- 4. Casual Bettors

Whether you're new to betting or a seasoned professional, you'll fall into one of these categories. There's no right or wrong category to be in, but there are different strategies for different categories as the goals are different.

For bettor types 1 and 2 you're looking to make a serious profit from your betting. You're taking it seriously enough to be betting every day or most days and the primary goal is likely to be long-term profits. This means you need to focus on a single set of race conditions and become an expert in to them before looking at more races.

Doing this has the added benefit of spreading out your bets so they're part time to begin with and, as you get more skilled, you can look at new race conditions so your time commitment increases side-by-side with the profit generated.

If this is you then I'd suggest you always want to start by learning how to read form. Whether you move on to use ratings or some other style of analysis later, reading form will be a solid grounding that you can always fall back on.

Bettors who fall into the next category, number 3, are usually searching for both profit and entertainment. They're betting regularly enough that they want to show a profit, but entertainment is also playing a part in the bets.

These bettors will usually get more enjoyment by focusing on having a high strike rate first and finding the profit second. This produces a lower ROI than would be achieved by bettors in categories 1 and 2, but it's an easier learning curve and because of the higher percentage of winners it can be psychologically easier.

Focusing on finding the strongest horses in a race and dutching them can be a very strong method for these bettors to follow in their early stages.

The final betting category, number 4, is primarily for punters who are out for entertainment rather than long term profits. This means that they're always going to be looking in the short-term and a basic "anti-form" reading approach can be applied.

By this I mean rather than look for the horse with a strong chance of winning where the odds are in our favour to produce long-term returns, you simply look for the horses most likely to win the race.

As long as we're breaking even then this free betting for enjoyment. Generally most punters in this category don't keep any records and simply want to get as many winners going across the line as possible, even though this may not generate much (or any) profit.

These are, of course, just the main categories and it's certainly possible for there to be overlaps between them.

Think about which one you are and then see if the strategy you are using is based on what your ultimate goal is.

Be honest with yourself, it doesn't matter if your ultimate goal is enjoyment and not profit. If you acknowledge this then you will enjoy the sport much more.

Today's Sports Betting Preview - By Rick Elliott

The referee in tonight's FA Cup third round tie between Brighton and Crystal Palace will not only be helped by two assistants, a fourth official whose main role appears to be holding up the added time and subs board but a video assistant referee. The facility is being used for the first time in a competitive match in England but this is a recipe for disaster. A goal has huge scarcity value in football and that climactic moment could be spoilt if the natural flow is stopped because the VAR is being consulted. The top refs get 96% of decisions correct so the whole dynamic of the sport is being destroyed for 1 in 25 calls that are wrong. It's <u>6/4 with Ladbrokes</u> that VAR technology will be used in the Premier League next season.

Palace made the worst start in the history of the Premier League this season but ex-England manager Roy Hodgson has made a huge difference. The away side reached the final of the FA Cup two years ago while they were facing relegation issues and they have a stronger squad this time. For a team that couldn't score a league goal in August and September it's a huge turnaround to lose just one of their last 11 matches. Brighton have not reached the fourth round in three seasons under the current manager and the second string played in the EFL Cup. Both teams are fighting for Premier League survival but PALACE have a squad more capable of competing on both fronts so they should be backed at 15/8 with Betfair to beat Brighton tonight. Hereford has been abandoned today which means the only definite turf meeting is at Fontwell and they are racing on the All Weather at Wolverhampton. The 14 races in total at these two tracks offer £107,000 in prize money which is derisory. That means most of the owners represented today will be losing money running their horses but a multi-billion industry feeds of those horses providing betting action. The richest race at Fontwell is a tricky handicap hurdle at 2.45pm. HIT THE HIGHWAY is top rated and is proven in the mud. The horse should relish the heavy condition and looks a big price at 7/1 with William Hill to win today.