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TODAY'S SPORTS BETTING TIPS...

Neo Investments

Win Bet - 14:00 Ludlow - Actinpieces @ 5/2

PFP Racing

Win Bet - 12:20 Southwell (A.W) - St Patrick's Day @ 7/2

The Gentleman's List

Win Bet - 14:20 Southwell (A.W) - Aleef @ 4/1

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Non-Runner No Bet For Cheltenham Appears Early - By

Ian Hudson

The format of the Cheltenham Festival changed in 2005 with the addition of a fourth day and the development has had implications for ante post betting on the major races at the meeting that matters most. There are now more options for the best horses and the ones with scope are leading contenders over a range of distances and even in hurdle races and chases.

Consequently running plans are not known and that makes ante post betting even more fraught with danger. However, this year several bookmakers have offered non-runner no bet on all 28 races about a month earlier than usual. If you want to back a horse at fancy prices you now have the insurance of a full refund if the backed horse does not run in the specified race at the Festival.

With that in mind here are some outsiders to back ante post in the five championship races at the 2018 Cheltenham Festival:

Gold Cup

Young horses and others over the age of 10 do not win the Cheltenham Gold Cup these days. In fact nine of the last 10 winners were aged 7, 8 or 9. The Gold Cup is a test of jumping and stamina and the best horse does not always win the race. Since 2006 7 winners have started at 7/2 or lower and there has only been one double figure odds winner. DJAKADAM has been in the shake-up for the last three years and can finally win the Gold Cup as a nine-year-old. The horse did not run up to form on his latest start but can get his head in front at the end of the 2018 Gold Cup.

Champion Hurdle

There are now familiar age trends in the Champion Hurdle and only two of the last eight winners were not aged between six and eight while five-year-olds have a poor record. A typical winner has already won a Grade 1 hurdle race and has not had a huge amount of races over the smaller obstacles. Four favourites have won over the last decade when three winners have been returned at double figure odds. WICKLOW BRAVE won the Irish St Leger on the Flat and ran well in the Champion Hurdle last season. The horse is trained by Willie Mullins and he knows how to win the Champion Hurdle.

Champion Chase

YORKHILL is one of those horses with several options at the Festival but connections have now announced that he will be entered for the Champion Chase. The horse has figured in the ante post betting for the Gold Cup and Champion Hurdle but backing

Yorkhill in those races would have been a wasted bet. That scenario illustrates the value of backing horse ante post with bookmakers who will return your stake if the horse is withdrawn. Yorkhill was disappointing in a big conditions chase in Ireland over Christmas so he is now being aimed at the two mile championship.

Stayer's Hurdle

The championship race for long distance hurdlers is the most open of the four championship races. All but two winners in the last 10 years had run at the Festival and the age group was six to nine. Potential winners will not have had a busy schedule but there are only a few appropriate trials over the distance. The Cleeve Hurdle is an informative trial but a horse aged five has not won the stayers' hurdle since 1972. LIL ROCKERFELLA was only beaten by the sadly departed Nichols Canyon in the race last year and can go one better this time.

Today's Sports Betting Preview - By Rick Elliott

So Far So VAR Bad!

There aren't many things that me and Alan Shearer have in common. He scored 30 goals for England and is the record scorer in the Premier League while I have not scored any goals for my country or even played a match in the Premier League. He is follically challenged (bald) while I have a full head of hair. However, we both believe VAR is a shambles and should only be used for matters of fact and not opinion.

In its current format the system allows the referee to pass the buck to a person in a studio who must then make a decision based on the perception of an incident. Chelsea were on the wrong end of the Video Assistant Referee debacle last night but still beat Norwich on penalties in their FA Cup third round replay. CHELSEA are now at home to Newcastle in the fourth round and are [11/2 with Ladbrokes](#) to win the Cup.

Cricket players are allowed "to go upstairs" in One Day Internationals but the sport is more suited to input from a third umpire. There are natural breaks in proceedings and the flow of a match is not disrupted when players challenge a decision. It is now part of the game and a tactic to ask key events to be reviewed and the facility has enhanced the sport but it's debatable whether VAR will make football a better game.

There will be some input from off the pitch when Australia and England meet in an ODI starting early tomorrow morning in Brisbane. ENGLAND have won four of the last five meetings in this version of the game and the visitors can prevail again. The heart and the head says they should be backed to win this match at [5/4 with Coral](#).

At the time of writing there are no problems with today's race meetings and all are scheduled to go ahead. Wincanton offers £81,000 in prize money which is decent for

a six race card on a week day in January. Every region seems to have a Grand National and today it is the Somerset version at the track. The 2.10pm race is a handicap chase over three miles two furlongs and a bit and on heavy ground it will be a slog. On Racing Post Ratings Cyclop has a great chance. The horse fell in the race four out when going well last year. CYCLOP is a regular in these regional Nationals and can win Wincanton's variation today at [4/1 with William Hill](#).

Value In Over 2.5 Goals II - By Eddie Lloyd

Today I'm going to repeat last week's article and I have put together some simple ways of finding some value in the Over 2.5 goals market for those football bettors out there. We're basically going to look at the last 10 seasons of each team in the Premiership and use a simple calculation to see if we can find some value in the current market for this Saturday's games.

First up then, head over to the link below and see what games we have for the Premiership, this Saturday -

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/football/scores-fixtures/2018-01-20>

We can see that there are 8 fixtures and we're going to quickly analyse these games using the head to head feature over at Soccerbase -

http://www.soccerbase.com/teams/head_to_head.sd

The first game is Brighton v Chelsea and we need to enter this into the team boxes. This will show a page with all of the games the two teams have ever played.

← Back to Head-to-Head selector page

Head to head Brighton vs. Chelsea




	BRIGHTON WINS	DRAWS	CHELSEA WINS
League	0	0	5
FA Cup	1	1	2
Total	1	1	7

2017/2018			
PREMIER LEAGUE	Tu 26Dec 2017		Chelsea 2 - 0 Brighton

1988/1989			
ENGLISH DIV 2 (OLD)	We 15Mar 1989		Brighton 0 - 1 Chelsea
ENGLISH DIV 2 (OLD)	Sa 29Oct 1988		Chelsea 2 - 0 Brighton

1983/1984			
ENGLISH DIV 2 (OLD)	Sa 31Dec 1983		Chelsea 1 - 0 Brighton
ENGLISH DIV 2 (OLD)	Sa 03Sep 1983		Brighton 1 - 2 Chelsea

By scrolling down, we need to count how many games they've played over the last 10 years. We can see that these two teams don't have enough data for us to analyse, so we move onto the next game -

← Back to Head-to-Head selector page

Head to head Arsenal vs. C Palace




	ARSENAL WINS	DRAWS	C PALACE WINS
League	23	9	3
FA Cup	2	1	0
League Cup	2	1	1
Total	27	11	4

2017/2018					
PREMIER LEAGUE	Th 28Dec 2017		C Palace 2 - 3 Arsenal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2016/2017					
PREMIER LEAGUE	Mo 10Apr 2017		C Palace 3 - 0 Arsenal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
PREMIER LEAGUE	Su 01Jan 2017		Arsenal 2 - 0 C Palace	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2015/2016					
PREMIER LEAGUE	Su 17Apr 2016		Arsenal 1 - 1 C Palace	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
PREMIER LEAGUE	Su 16Aug 2015		C Palace 1 - 2 Arsenal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2014/2015					
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We have enough data for this game so we input the data into the top part of the calculator -

GAMES	OVER	PERCENTAGE	ODDS	
9	5	55.55555555555555	1.8	

HOME	AWAY	PRICE	BET TYPE	BET?
Arsenal	Crystal Palace	1.8	OVER	NO
Everton	West Bromwich Albion	2.58	OVER	2.67
Leicester City	Watford	1.27	OVER	1.8
Manchester City	Newcastle United	1.54	OVER	NO

You'll see the odds are displaying as 1.8 in the top line, on the right-hand side. Now, if history is to repeat itself then these two teams should score 3 or more goals in 56% of their games.

We head over to the market and see what the bookies are offering -

+ Over 2.5	1.57	1.57	1.57	1.5	1.56	1.62	1.57	1.62	1.58	1.57	1.57	1.6	1.57	1.6	1.57	1.53	1.53	1.59	1.53	1.58	1.57	1.6	1.57	1.57	1.57	1.49
+ Under 2.5 ★	2.35	2.25	2.35	2.5	2.43	2.25	2.38	2.25	2.43	2.35	2.38	2.3	2.38	2.35	2.25	2.38	2.4	2.35	2.4	2.43	2.4	2.45	2.35	2.35	2.39	2.24

We can see that we're able to get best priced 1.62 for over 2.5 goals. I make this a no bet as the bookies price is too short. We now work through the rest of the games. If two teams don't have 10 years worth of data, then we leave them out of our analysis and move onto the next game. If a game doesn't offer value, then we leave them alone.

This is what I will be betting on, this weekend -

All over 2.5 Goals to be scored in 90 minutes -

Everton v West Brom

Leicester v Watford

1 point double = total outlay = 1 point

If they both result in over 2.5 goals then the payout is 4.81 points

[OVER 2.5 GOALS CALCULATOR](#)

There are three qualifiers for the Turbo Winner System -

14:20 Southwell - Letmestopyouthere

14:35 Ludlow - Lygon Rock

15:10 Ludlow - Now Ben