

BetFan

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Inside Today...

**FREE Tips From TWL Pro Tip, Lucky 7
Naps and Two Percent Club**

Top Tipsters For May 2018

**Class Versus Hunger Is The Issue - By
Ian Hudson**

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

Arsenal Can Draw In Madrid Tonight

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TODAY'S FREE SPORTS BETTING TIPS...

TWL Pro Tip

Win Bet - Lingfield (A.W) 15:30 - Captain Lars @ 5/6

Lucky 7 Naps

Win Bet - Southwell (A.W) 15:50 - Florenico @ 7/2

Two Percent Club

Win Bet - Redcar 17:10 - Mafdet @ 9/1

Class Versus Hunger Is The Issue - By Ian Hudson

Three of the four live televised matches at the weekend bring together teams in the relegation dog fight and opponents with nothing on the line. The fourth match is critical in the context of qualification for the Champions league because it involves Chelsea at home to Liverpool. The first three fixtures raise the issue of the value of class and ability over incentive and motivation but there is no definitive answer.

When a team desperate for points meet a team who have nothing to play for the outcome can work both ways and home advantage is not a factor. Teams in the relegation mire will be hungry but they are in that position because they are one of the poorest teams in the division and that doesn't change overnight. The better team may be more relaxed and that means class tells.

However, the team not fighting for the title or a European place could have downed tools in the league. Also they could have bigger fish to fry such as a major final. The inferior team playing for their lives have nothing to lose and the shackles could come off. The trick for betting purposes is identifying each scenario but there is no logic and outcomes are decided on the day and how respective players feel. The cost of relegation is huge and that pressure may be too much or inspiring.

Stoke are in 19th place and have not won in five matches. They also have the worst goal difference in the league which equates to another one point deficit. Only West Ham have conceded more goals and defeat at home to Crystal Palace could be a devastating blow. Palace are safe and have just come off their biggest score of the season, beating Leicester 5-0 at home. In this case desperation can overcome confidence and Stoke can secure three vital points.

If Stoke beat Palace the onus will be on Southampton to beat Everton away from home and that win could be beyond them. Southampton did win their last match but that result followed three defeats and a draw. Everton have clawed their way to eighth place after two draws and two wins and have nothing to play for except pride and prize money which is minimal compared to TV income. Its Everton's last home match and their fans will demand a performance and a home win is expected.

Huddersfield look in a solid position but their last three matches are against top six opposition. They could fail to pick up another point and get dragged into the bottom three and an immediate return to the Championship. It could not be harder on Sunday with a fixture at the home of the champions. Manchester City have only lost to Manchester United at home this season and Huddersfield won't beat them in this fixture. It doesn't look good for Huddersfield and they face the drop.

Liverpool are two places and six points ahead of Chelsea but have played one more match. If they win the match on Sunday Champions League football is assured but if Chelsea win the fourth place spot is again up for grabs. When the match is played Liverpool could have the Champions League final to look forward to and that could

influence their approach. Chelsea have a greater need for points and they are fancied to pick up the maximum from this crucial meeting with Liverpool.

In conclusion some of the matches could go for the better team and others for the weaker team but with the greater need for a result. Pinpointing the matches in each category is not easy but Stoke could be the main beneficiaries while Huddersfield and Southampton face a grim weekend.

Today's Sports Betting Preview - By Rick Elliott

Arsenal Can Draw In Madrid Tonight

In his pomp and during the halcyon days Arsene Wenger would have cocked his snook at the Europa League but these are strange days indeed for the long-standing manager of Arsenal. When Alex Ferguson presents him with a trinket at Old Trafford you know things have changed. Wenger is leaving Arsenal at the end of the season after 22 years in charge but over all those years Arsenal have never won a European trophy. With Champions League qualification out the window through their position in the Premier League Arsenal must win the Europa League to get in for next season. They have their backs against the wall in the tie with Atletico Madrid and ARSENAL are 5/1 with [Ladbrokes](#) to win the Europa League.

The first leg of the semi-final tie was a 1-1 draw at the Emirates. Arsenal opened the scoring in the second half and Atletico had a man sent off. However, the Spanish team scored a crucial away goal and are now in the box seat ahead of tonight's second match in Spain. However, Arsenal have scored in their last six matches away from home and one goal tonight could be enough to progress to the final against Marseilles or Salzburg. Atletico have not conceded a single goal in 11 fixtures at home but they face a dilemma. Playing for a goalless draw is fraught with danger so it could be an open match with plenty of goals. A scoring draw at any other score than one each will be good enough for Arsenal and no goals will suit Atletico. Therefore, the best match bet is the DRAW at 11/4 with [bet365](#).

The racing is more about quantity than quality today with six Flat meetings in Britain and Ireland with most prize money on offer at Clonmel. The first Classics of the season take place at Newmarket this weekend and in the next six weeks there is the Derby, Oaks and Royal Ascot. The racing today can only be described as ordinary and the most lucrative fixture in the UK is on the All-Weather at Chelmsford City. The one mile handicap at 7.50 is a good opportunity for PUDS who is an improving horse that can be backed at 6/4 with [William Hill](#) to win this race.