



BetFan

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TODAY'S FREE SPORTS BETTING TIPS...

Winning Way

Newcastle (A.W) 14:05 - On To Victory @ 25/1 Each Way Bet

The Pro Punter

Newmarket (July) 14:20 - Master Brewer @ 7/4 Win Bet

Two Percent Club

York 17:00 - Final @ 10/1 Win Bet

Punting Strategies - By The Champagne Kid

There has been a series of articles recently in the Racing Post, in which contributors to the daily racing paper give insights into their punting strategies. The Racing Post correspondents who I will quote, and to whose quotes I will add my own comments, are Graeme Rodway (GR), Brian Sheerin (BS) and Richard Birch (RB).

GR: There is no perfect strategy to make money, no such thing as a certainty in life, and I've simply given up trying to find winners. Instead I'm trying to find value. I play the percentages by backing horses that, in my opinion, are bigger prices than they should be. My first piece of advice is stop trying to pick winners and instead concentrate on finding horses who are the wrong price.

My Comments: I concur completely with trying to find value, but I still want to end up with a selection that I feel for one reason or another is a likely winner. That said, 'finding value' is still the most important part of the race analysis.

GR: I'm not a science type and definitely don't place too much emphasis on the data. The problem I have with that approach is it's there for all to see, including bookmakers, and doesn't get missed in the markets.

My Comments: I cannot agree with this. I use data to a great degree in my analysis. It most certainly is not "there for all to see." I come across so many angles on a daily basis that are just not generally known by the betting public or the bookmakers. Example – In the last 10 years on turf, trainer William Haggas has a 46% strike-rate (23 winners from 50) with 5lb claimers in non-apprentice only races. This has yielded a profit of £52.01 (104%) to £1 level stakes at Betfair SP. Just from 50 races. Are the bookies or the general public aware of this every time Haggas has a 5lb claimer up in a non-apprentice only race? I think not.

BS: Be disciplined. Whether it's in life or in work, discipline is key. It is crucial not to chase losses. In that respect it is important to keep a full account of your bets. They can make grim reading when you're going poorly, but it's important to learn from your mistakes and take the good with the bad.

My Comments: I am 100% on board with this. My Champagne Kid service has had an appalling month so far, the results do indeed make for grim reading, and I sincerely hope that my members are able to take the bad (this month to date) with the good (the previous 2 months showed 388 points profit).

BS: Don't be put off by the price. Well, maybe do if it's shorter than you'd anticipated, but if you fancy one and it opens up bigger than you expected, there's no reason not to get stuck in.

My Comments: Whilst I will occasionally get stuck into a short-priced horse (short-priced for me is around 7/4 to 9/4; any shorter is not of interest), my long-term

profits come from the bigger priced horses. The problem with this is that losing runs can be lengthy and dispiriting (this month is a good example of that), but over a decent period of time, profit is made.

BS: It's a cliché but there's never been as much information available to the punter than there is now and it would be foolish not to take advantage of all the great material and tools that are out there. I'm not a huge fan of horse trackers but I read as many opinions and views that I can get my hands on.

My Comments: The amount of information available to punters is indeed hugely increased from years gone by. There could still be more information made available, sectional timing being one area I would like to see more progress being made in. I don't see any negatives in the use of horse-trackers. Unless you have perfect memory and forensic eyesight, you're going to miss one that you have been waiting for without a tracker in place.

BS: Go racing. You have the opportunity to study the horses in the flesh, plus as a punter I find it good to be in contact with likeminded people; being able to bounce ideas off others has proved invaluable down the years.

My Comments: I love going racing, but unfortunately I just do not have an eye for spotting much in the paddock. I wish I did, but even after reading articles and books on the subject, I still don't have that eye. I don't see that changing, and I'll just have to live with it.

RB: There are no short cuts in punting if you're serious about winning. It's all about working hard, putting in a ridiculous amount of hours, and coping with the relentless grind during the peak summer months.

My Comments: I agree with this completely. The worse things have got for my service this month, the harder I have worked to correct it. So much so that my bets are put out at the very last minute most days. The results this month show scant reward for the effort put in, but I owe it to my members to put in the shifts and turn things around, and that hard work will continue.

RB: Steer clear of each-way betting. I used to be a big disciple of each-way betting, but mainly steer clear nowadays. The reason is that most of the horses I back are bang triers and ridden to win.

My Comments: "The horses I back are bang triers." Good for you Richard! I find this statement to be slightly arrogant, a fault which I feel is unfortunately often not hard to find in Richard's writing. For lesser mortals such as me, I will continue to use each-way betting where I deem it appropriate.

RB: Bet on a day-to-day basis. I can be buzzing after a great day or despondent after doing my brains. However, as soon as I wake up the following morning that all has to be forgotten and I must have moved on.

My Comments: OK Richard, I'm back on the same page with you again. As Kipling said – “If you can meet with triumph and disaster and treat those two impostors just the same... you'll be a man, my son.” It can sometimes be difficult to react to a series of poor results with a balanced viewpoint, but that is something I am much better able to do than in earlier years. I see no reason for my methods to suddenly stop working and feel sure that the recent poor run will shortly be overcome. My members can rest assured that I will continue to work hard on their behalf to make it so.

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Rick's Sports Betting: World Cup Last 16 - By Rick Elliott

Is a better scenario for England to be playing Colombia in the last 16 and then Sweden or Switzerland in the quarter-finals or Japan next and possibly Brazil before the final of the World Cup? The question is hypothetical because England lost to Belgium, finished second in the group and have to face a group winner in the next round. If England win the World Cup all will be forgotten but if Colombia knock them out Gareth Southgate will be in for a hard time but his job looks safe.

Colombia are not a bad team but nothing special. They are 16th in the FIFA rankings and strong at both ends of the field. Radamel Falcao and James Rodriguez are class acts in attack and the centre backs have youth and potential. Colombia conceded two goals against Japan after having a player sent off but have won both subsequent matches to nil against Poland and Senegal to win their group. Colombia reached the quarter-finals in Brazil in 2014 but lost to the hosts.

It is in midfield where Colombia come up short. Two of the current squad members in that area of the field are both in their thirties and have won more than 70 caps. There is a lack of competition which means the quality in each box is undermined by a lack of creativity in the middle of the field. Colombia will be a tougher nut to crack than Japan and the rewards for getting past the South Americans are potentially wonderful for England who should have nothing to fear in this tie.

Very little can be learnt from England's defeat to Belgium in the third group match. We do know that the Belgium reserves are better than the England reserves or less able to disguise not wanting to win the match. There were 17 changes from the previous starting line-ups so in the context of maintaining form and momentum the fixture was meaningless. A definite result at least meant the group was not decided by the number of yellow and red cards.

Surely there is a better way to split teams when they have identical records, such as corners or shots on target.

The bookmakers see England as the favourites to progress to the next round and as it stands the favourite in the round of elimination market is the semi-finals. England have a massive incentive to win the last 16 tie but equally so do Colombia. England have a better midfield and in Harry Kane one of the best strikers in the world but the defence and goalkeeper are worries. Jordan Pickford must lose the habit of punching shots back into the danger area rather than catching the ball. However, on balance England have enough to win this tie and then who knows what happens next!

There are clear favourites in four other ties but the meetings between France and Argentina and Portugal and Uruguay are difficult to call as is the tie that brings together Sweden and Switzerland and potentially England's next opponents. Argentina could have some momentum and Uruguay look strong but the team England play in the last 8, assuming the right result against Colombia, is a toss of a coin but the name will begin with Sw! After that your guess is good as mine but let's hope the opponents are England and not Colombia.

Today's Sports Betting Preview - By Rick Elliott

Two Derbies And Last 16 World Cup Ties

It's Derby Day at the Curragh and Newcastle and the first two ties in the round of the last 16 in the World Cup. Saxon Warrior and Withhold have winning chances in the Irish Derby and the Pitman's Derby otherwise known as the Northumberland Plate. The two favourites should oblige in the big races (the DOUBLE pays 8/1 with **Betfair**) but the outsiders in the World Cup matches represent the value at the start of the knockout stage. Saxon Warrior was a disappointment in the Derby and Withhold landed a major gambling coup in the Cesarewitch last year and Argentina and Portugal are the teams to back in the football today.

Argentina have met France in four internationals and have not failed to win. In the group stages Argentina left things late while France secured progress to the knockout rounds after two matches. The South Americans ended their third fixture against Nigeria on a huge high while France's match against Denmark was a damp squib and the only goalless draw in the World Cup so far. Argentina are moving in one direction and France are moving in the other. At this stage of the World Cup their worlds may coincide but ARGENTINA can qualify and that outcome is 5/4 with **William Hill**.

Portugal won the Euro 2016 on the back of a solid defence and despite Cristiano Ronaldo going off injured in the early stages of the final against France. He has

certainly won the GOAT (greatest of all time) argument with Lionel Messi and has scored four goals in this World Cup. He is just one of four players to have scored in four World Cups and could well make that five in Qatar in 2022. Ronaldo's immediate priority is to help his country beat Uruguay today. PORTUGAL have been beaten once in 15 fixtures and a win in 90 minutes today is 9/5 with Ladbrokes.

The Vitality Blast – 20/20 Season Hits England - By Dave Owens

The 20/20 season arrives in the English county calendar next week and whilst lacking the fanfare and prestige of its Indian and Australian counterparts in the IPL and the Big Bash, it will be played in the height of summer in front of full houses and having regular coverage on TV and offer plenty of betting opportunity in the coming weeks.

20/20 cricket acts as the great leveller for the counties who are split by not just two divisions in the four-day county championship but also finance and the ability to attract or hold on to the best players at their respective clubs. It is a fact highlighted by the tournament being won by 11 of the 18 counties in its 14-year existence and arguably one of the poorest teams in terms of financial capacity Leicestershire the county that has won the tournament the most times with them picking up the trophy on three occasions.

The short nature of the 20 over season and the financial rewards of a visit to finals day allow certain teams to target the 20/20 competition and bring in a couple of overseas imports and 20 over specialists to allow a more level playing field than the four-day competition would allow where the stronger squads and star players flock to the biggest and best sides in division 1 of the championship.

The result of this can make bookmaking this format quite tricky with sides setting up with different players than in previous campaigns and batting line ups and bowling combinations not really known until the tournament gets under way. Another factor to consider is the loss of England players to the specific counties as they are engaged in a series against India and the availability of overseas players with international commitments springing up with increasing regularity due to packed international schedule.

The opening match sees last years finalists Warwickshire and the holders Nottinghamshire go head to head next Wednesday and will be interesting to see how the champions line up and if they can set down an early marker for their defence in the campaign ahead.

Click the link below it would be a pleasure to have you on board.

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Trackside In Ireland - By Declan O'Donoghue

At Gowran Park last Sunday the best wine was kept 'til last where Ming scored for Joseph O'Brien.

With Jim Bolger's Strike For Freedom a non runner (off feed) only three faced the starter.

Chiana Luna, who had finished out the back in the Irish 1,000 Guineas a few weeks before, was a hot 1/2 jolly.

Yet the smart money all day had been for Ming who was hammered into 13/8 in the offices.

Despite that - and possibly because of liabilities running on to the odds on favourite - Ming opened up at 5/2 in the ring and was an easy to back 9/4 shot at the off.

The early birds in the offices knew their stuff however as Joseph's gelding took over entering the straight and won comfortably under Seamie Heffernan.

He had been an impressive debut winner over ten furlongs at Dundalk but flopped in a Group 3 at The Curragh.

Perhaps that was a reaction to the unkindest cut of all as it was his first run after been gelded.

Yet he left that Headquarters disappointment well behind now at this lovely south Kilkenny woodlands track.

Joseph said: "He ran too free the last day at The Curragh but settled well today and quickened up nicely."

"We think he's a nice horse. We will look for another conditions race, but he's well entitled to step up to Group or Listed company" he added.

Heffernan was completing a double as earlier he was on target for Ballydoyle on Curly, whose returned odds of 7/2 must have delighted off course supporters.

Quite how she was that price is a mystery, there was even some "fours" in the ring, but she won as she pleased and will most assuredly go on better things.

Runner up Park Bloom has been a work in progress for local handler Jim Bolger but she's getting there though she will need ten furlongs at least to really shine.

Jessica Harrington was basking in both the sunshine and the warm afterglow of Alpha Centauri's blistering Royal Ascot run two days before.

And to add to the celebrations St Brelades Bay - a bit of a character and clearly a great favourite around the stable - won on what was obviously one of his going days.

This six furlong specialist, a 5/1 chance here, won for the first time now over seven and Jessica said "I never really know when he's going to do it."

"He's in great order and it suited him the way the race was run, with horses coming back to him."

Declan's Irish Racing Service continues in red hot form, including FOUR OUT OF FOUR at Down Royal last Saturday - Change Of Velocity 11/2 (won 7/2); Kalaxana 7/2 (w 6/4); Soffia 3/1 and Kafu 11/4 (w 11/8).

And, after Settle For Bay at Royal Ascot the previous week, he had another 16/1 winner now in Draycott Place, and also tipped Curly 7/2; Secret Thoughts 5/2 (w 7/4); Ruler Of France 7/4; Mayaadeen 6/5; Ravenhill 6/5 (w evens) and Robin Des Foret 11/10 (w 4/7).

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