

Issue 253

Saturday 11th August 2018

# BetFan

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

### [The Football King](#)

Bournemouth v Cardiff 15:00 - Draw or Away @ 21/20

### [Two Percent Club](#)

Win Bet - Redcar 13:10 - Red Flower @ 6/1

### [Betting Development](#)

Win Bet - Haydock 13:55 - Birds Of Prey @ 5/2

## **Shergar Cup Shenanigans** - By The Champagne Kid

**This piece is titled so, due to the perception of many that the Shergar Cup is not real racing on account of the team aspect of the meeting, and the feeling that as the day progresses, shenanigans may occur in the form of tactical riding as the team scores mount up and the 'shape' of the final couple of races may alter due to riding tactics which would otherwise not come into play.**

Personally, I am somewhat ambivalent about the meeting, but recognise that it does attract interest from outside of the racing world to the sport, which has to be a good thing. Any bets I have will be to small stakes for an interest in the races I watch.

So, let's see if we can apply trends and history to find a winner or two. Jockeys riding today with a good record in previous Shergar Cups are Hayley Turner with 4 wins from 45 rides, Fran Berry 4 from 15, Gerald Mosse 3 from 14, and Yutaka Take 3 from 19. (Interestingly, Frankie Dettori, probably the most famous of all Ascot jockeys has a 0 from 20 Shergar Cup record, but he misses the meeting this year). One other indicator of winners is where the horse last ran. The top three tracks where winners came from last time out are Sandown with 6 wins from 19 runs, Haydock with 4 from 14, and Newbury which has a 3 from 17 record.

First up at 1.05 is The Dash. This is a 3yo+ sprint over 5f in which in the last 10 years only six 3yo's have turned up and none even left with some place money. In terms of winner SP position there have been 3 x favs, 3 x second favs, 3 x third favs and 1 x fifth fav. This indicates we should probably not look too far outside the top of the market. Robert Cowell has trained 3 winners and has 3 representatives entered today – Sir Robert Cheval, Encore D'Or and Evergate. No other trainer with an entrant today has won the race before. 5yo's have won 6 from 24 attempts, followed by 4yo's with 3 from 30 and there has been one 6yo winner. My selection for a small bet in the race will be the Robert Cowell trained 4yo EVERGATE who will be in the first three in the betting and ran a good second over course and distance a couple of weeks ago.

At 1.40 is the Stayers Handicap for 4yo+ over 2 miles. In terms of market position, winners have come from favourite (twice) to rank outsider (once at 25/1) but 9 of the winners were all priced at 8/1 or lower. Half of the last 10 winners came from stalls 7 to 10. Trainer Ian Williams has won the race twice and has 2 entrants today – Byron Flyer and Stars Over The Sea. Other previous winning trainers with entries are Ed Dunlop – runs Manjaam, and Andrew Balding who runs Cleonte. In terms of age, 4yo and 5yo's have won 9 times from 63 entries, and 6yo's and older just 1 from 37. The interest bet for me will be likely favourite CLEONTE, a 5yo whose last race was at Newbury (see first paragraph), is trained by previous race winning trainer Andrew Balding, and is nicely drawn in stall 8.

There then follows the Shergar Cup Challenge at 2.15, a Class 3 handicap for 4yo+ over a mile and a half. None of today's entries are trained by a trainer with a previous winner in the race. Winning SP's have ranged from 5/1 to 16/1, and with half the last 10 winners starting at 9/1 or higher, this is a tricky race to assess. 4yo or 5yo horses have won 8 of the 10 renewals. A low draw at the 1m 4f distance at Ascot is usually a hindrance (just 1 winner from stalls 1 or 2 over 10 years), but otherwise there are few other trends with any meaningful impact. I'll take a chance on EDDYSTONE ROCK at a decent price. He appears to be well-drawn in stall 5, has slipped down to 2lbs below his last winning mark and ran a race hinting at a possible return to form over course and distance at the Royal Ascot meeting.

The next race at 2.50 is the Mile Handicap. The 10 runnings have yielded wins for 10 different trainers and 10 different jockeys. All 10 winners have been priced 10/1 or lower, and to further whittle down our possibles, 7 of the last 10 winners were a 4yo or 5yo within the top 3 in the market. An unexpected negative is that of the 27 previous horses to run who finished in the first three in their previous run, none won. All the last 10 winners finished 4th or worse. On an admittedly low sample, a high draw (stalls 7 to 10) with 5 winners seems preferable to a low draw (stalls 1 to 3) with 2 winners, or a middle draw (stalls 4 to 6) with 3 winners. It seems to me that there are few jockeys who relish a Shergar Cup win as much as Hayley Turner, so it is her mount VIA SERENDIPITY who will be my selection on the basis of being a 4yo with a high draw, likely to be in the first three in the betting market, who is being ridden by an enthusiastic jockey with a good Shergar Cup record.

The penultimate race, where those aforementioned shenanigans may start to make an appearance, is the Shergar Cup Classic at 3.25, a 1m 4f Class 3 handicap for 3yo's. Richard Hannon has won the race twice in the last 3 years, and today he has Sergio Leone in the race. Winners have been spread throughout the market, ranging from 2/1f to 16/1. Geldings have a fairly poor 1 from 31 record in a race which has been won by colts 6 times from 43 runs (14%) and fillies 2 times from 14 runs (14.3%). Excluding geldings reduces today's field by three. This race has only 9 previous renewals to look at, and with all 9 winners having run in the last 4 weeks, and all having a top 4 finish last time out, I'll go for that Richard Hannon trained SERGIO LEONE with my two bob bet.

The closing race, by which time it will possibly be very important to look at the prevailing team standings with a view to who needs what points, and who might race tactically to assist a team member, is the Class 2 Sprint over 6f for 3yo's at 4.00 pm. This race has been won 9 times out of 10 by one of the first four in the betting, and the highest SP has been 8/1. 8 of those winners ran at the same 6f distance last time out. Without the benefit of knowing jockey team standings going into the race, I would nominate the Fran Berry ridden SHAHEEN and Hayley Turner's mount ROUNDHAY PARK for a split-stakes bet.

Due to the nature of this one-off meeting, it is not one in which you want to wade in with hefty bets. But if you look past the issues connected with the event that various racing curmudgeons will bang on about all day today, it can be quite an enjoyable

afternoon's entertainment. I hope I have been able to pinpoint a winner or two, but whatever you back, best of luck, and enjoy the event.

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### **Rick's Sports Betting: Lies, Damned Lies and Premier League Statistics** - By Rick Elliott

I was a VAR-sceptic before the World Cup but it worked well in Russia and led to more penalties and more goals. The technology is not being used during the 2018/19 Premier League season. With no significant changes to the rules and VAR not in operation we can assume there will not be much variance from the average number of goals per match in the previous season. The 380 matches in the Premier League 2017/18 season produced 1018 goals at an average of 2.68 per match.

Generally there are more goals in the second half of matches than before the break. Fatigue makes matches more open and teams struggle to keep their shape. With fewer minutes remaining the need for goals increases so teams are more likely to push forward so there is more space for the opposition. Average goals tallies are about 50% higher in the second half than in the first 45 minutes.

Match goals tallies are very consistent across the major European Leagues. Here are the averages from the main leagues in Europe in 2017/18:

England	2.68
Spain	2.70
Italy	2.68
Germany	2.80
France	2.72

Based on these figures we can safely assume that the goals average during the 2018/19 Premier League season will be between 2.6 and 2.8. The most popular team total across all the matches in the EPL is one and the next popular tally is zero. The number of occurrences of goals for a team decreases as the number of goals goes up. Hence teams scored two goals in a match more often than they scored three. The most frequent score line was one-nil and both teams scored in about 50% of the fixtures during the campaign from August to May.

The full schedule of 380 fixtures produced 173 home wins, 108 away wins and 99 draws. If you convert those numbers into probabilities here are the fractional and decimal odds:

Home Win	6/5	2.20
Away Win	5/2	3.52
Draw	19/5	3.84

On average the home teams scored 1.53 goals and the away team found the net 1.15 times each fixture. There were 582 home goals and 436 goals scored by the visitors. Home advantage is a proven trend in the Premier League and over the course of a season its worth 0.38 goals per match. On average home teams won 1.63 points while away teams picked up 1.11 points on the road equating to a difference of 0.52 points.

So home teams scored at a rate 50% higher than their guests. Playing at your own stadium has obvious advantages such as familiarity with the surroundings, reduced travelling and the support of most of the crowd. Wins on the road against close rivals are significant and home defeats are damaging. They say you should never back a team at odds-on to win away from home but 28% of Premier League fixtures in 2017/18 were won by the away team.

The number of corners in a Premier League fixture depends on several factors including the following:

- Nature of a team's attack.
- Tactics adopted at the back.
- Tendency to clear lines.
- Size of pitch.
- Weather.

There were 3908 corners during the 2017/18 Premier League season at an average of 10.28 corners per match. The averages were 5.74 corners for the home team and 4.54 corners for the away team. On average home advantage was worth 1.20 corners over the full season. Similar stats can be expected over upcoming seasons while the rules remain unchanged. VAR does affect events in a match so rules changes will impact on goals and corners in the future but the status quo means statistics from previous seasons can be useful in making projections and bets in the immediate future.

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

### **Tottenham Can Lead The Premier League**

Apologies for being parochial but Manchester United are top of the Premier League but that won't last long. They were second best for much of the 2-1 win over Leicester City at Old Trafford on Friday night. It took a questionable penalty and goal from Luke Shaw to win the points despite a late consolation goal from the visitors. Jose Mourinho's fears look justified and United could struggle to finish in the top four. The bet to take out of the fixture is LEICESTER CITY at 6/1 to finish highest in the league without the top six.

United could lose top spot to Tottenham who have a winnable match at Newcastle in the early televised fixture. The away side would lead the table with a win by two goals or more and that is feasible. Tottenham have scored in 24 of their last 25 matches against Newcastle and that run can continue today. Newcastle and Tottenham have not splashed the cash this summer so form from last season is pertinent. TOTTENHAM earned 33 more points and can win today at 21/20 with **Ladbrokes**.

Great things are being expected of Wolves this season and a return to the Championship is not expected. The key for a club promoted to the top division is spending money to make the side fit for purpose. Wolves have the financial backing of wealthy owners and links with a well-connected agent. However, today's opponents Everton do not have the wolves at the door and have spent a few quid during the close season so the bet is the DRAW at 23/10 with **Betfair**.

It's the Shergar Cup at Ascot today, the team event that doesn't quite work as racing does not lend itself to a Ryder Cup style format. The best jockey in the world can't win on a donkey and it's the quality of the allocated horses that will determine who wins the Cup. Meanwhile the Rose of Lancaster Stakes at Haydock (3.05pm) is a Group 3 contest over one mile, two furlongs and a bit. Horses aged three get an eight pounds allowance and that can help ZAAKI win the race at 9/4 with **bet365**.

### **Calypso Cricket – The Caribbean Premier League** - By Dave Owens

This week saw the return of the latest 20/20 league season with the Caribbean Premier league kicking off in the early hours of Thursday evening. It is now in its sixth season and like with many of the new leagues around the world has grown in stature and status throughout the last few years. With many 20 over specialists making themselves available for the tournament. The tournament is well supported by the West Indian public with filled stadiums and the unique atmosphere and vibe provided by cricket in the Caribbean.

As usual with the packed schedule in the cricket calendar the tournament will be missing a vast array of talent from India and England who are currently locked in a test series and will be for the coming months. There is the fascinating return to the fold, in front of a big audience of Steve Smith and David Warner – the two Australian stars banned from the test arena for their part in the ball tampering scandal in South Africa.

Along with the vast array of international talent on show, 20 over leagues such as the CPL have also been a breeding ground for exciting young talent and a real chance for young West Indian cricketers to announce themselves on the international stage.

Before a bowl is bowled it's always a bit uncertain how sides will line up with a limit on overseas players in an XI and what combination of batting line ups and bowling attacks sides will go with for their match's. With all sides having a mixture of world class stars and promising but relatively unknown local talent its quite interesting to see how the bookies view certain sides and individual's prices which can sometimes provide some good value with bookmakers not having much history to make judgements.

Another factor is the surfaces to be played on with everyone from batsman, bowlers and teams having to judge conditions quickly and work out what a good score is and again with regards to betting a case of judging the individual's grounds and which sides and player are likely to be best suited to the different surfaces. All of which should make the opening salvos of the CPL worth watching and how the tournament progresses.

**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

The roads around Leopardstown on Thursday evening resembled one big car park with nothing moving.

Quite apart from the usual suburban rush hour evening traffic at the south Dublin venue we had breakdowns, road closures, diversions - all the fun of the fair.

Traffic coming off the M50 - which as usual was no picnic itself - were crawling to a standstill at both the Brewery Road and Ballyogan ends of the track, with extensive roadworks at Cornelscourt adding to the fun and games.



While those coming to hear Smokie in concert after racing weren't too bothered, many off the regular racegoers didn't make the second race, let alone the first.

And those who missed the opener certainly had the better of things as the Ger Lyons trained Inverleigh 25/1 beat stablemate and 5/4 favourite Burmese Waltz.

The winner ran very green but clearly has gears. Lyons said: "We knew if anything could beat Burmese Waltz it was him. He did his best work late and will certainly get seven furlongs."

"He's a work in progress so whether he runs again this season I don't know" he added.

Whatever about the traffic problems outside, Woody Creek had to quickly apply the brakes when the winner veered right across her and she should be winning a fillies maiden in the near future. The many lost on Burmese Waltz should be recovered next time.

Punters were reeling but Dermot Weld supporters were quickly back on good terms with the world as both Betsey Trotter 5/2 and heavily backed first timer Centroid 4/5 (7/4 in the morning) both obliged for Declan McDonogh.

It was well watered good to firm ground but Weld felt that the Khalid Abdullah owned Centroid would prefer some ease.

"He'd like some cut, certainly softer than that but it was time to start him off" Weld explained.

"I'll speak to Lord Grimthorpe but I imagine we'll look at a stakes race next."

"Betsey Trotter is a teak tough mare, all ground comes alike to her really, and she could run in a Premier Handicap" he added.

Ken Condon won the Irish 2,000 Guineas with Romanised this year, and a rising tide clearly lifts all boats as Ice Cold In Alex is becoming a consistent moneyspinner for the Curragh yard.

The Middleham Park Racing owned gelding took the Grant Thornton Rated Race, the 100/30 fancy finishing fast on the stand side to beat 11/8 jolly Sirjack Thomas by three lengths with long time leader Geological third.

"He's running well and goes really well for Niall McCullagh. That's two from three and Niall said he was just worried out of it a bit at Naas by a typically tough Jim Bolger filly (Scoil Naisiunta)."

But the spotlight swung back on Weld and McDonogh as they completed a superb treble when 9/4 chance Eziyra simply cruised home when coming from last to first for an emphatic success in the main event, the Group 3 Ballyroan Stakes.

"She ran a great race last year when placed behind Enable in the Irish Oaks. That was a great run this evening in what was her first race in eleven months." "She's entered in plenty of Group Ones and she might run in the Yorkshire Oaks next. The Breeders Cup Fillies And Mares is a possibility but that's quite a while away."

McDonogh said: "I had a good chat on the phone this morning with Pat Smullen and he told me exactly what to do."

"She's a very good mare and did it well. I'm having a great run but I'm just keeping the seat warm for Pat."

**TOP OF THE RA 14/1 (won 9/2) was a real diamond for Declan's Irish Racing Service this week with Echo Park 9/2 (w 3/1), Astronomer 7/2 (w 5/2), Eziyra 9/4, Broome 13/8 (w 4/5), Lure Of The Sea evens (w 8/11) and Mutaabeg evens (w 1/3) other gems.**

**Join up today to get the inside line from our man who is right at the heart of the action in Ireland.**

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