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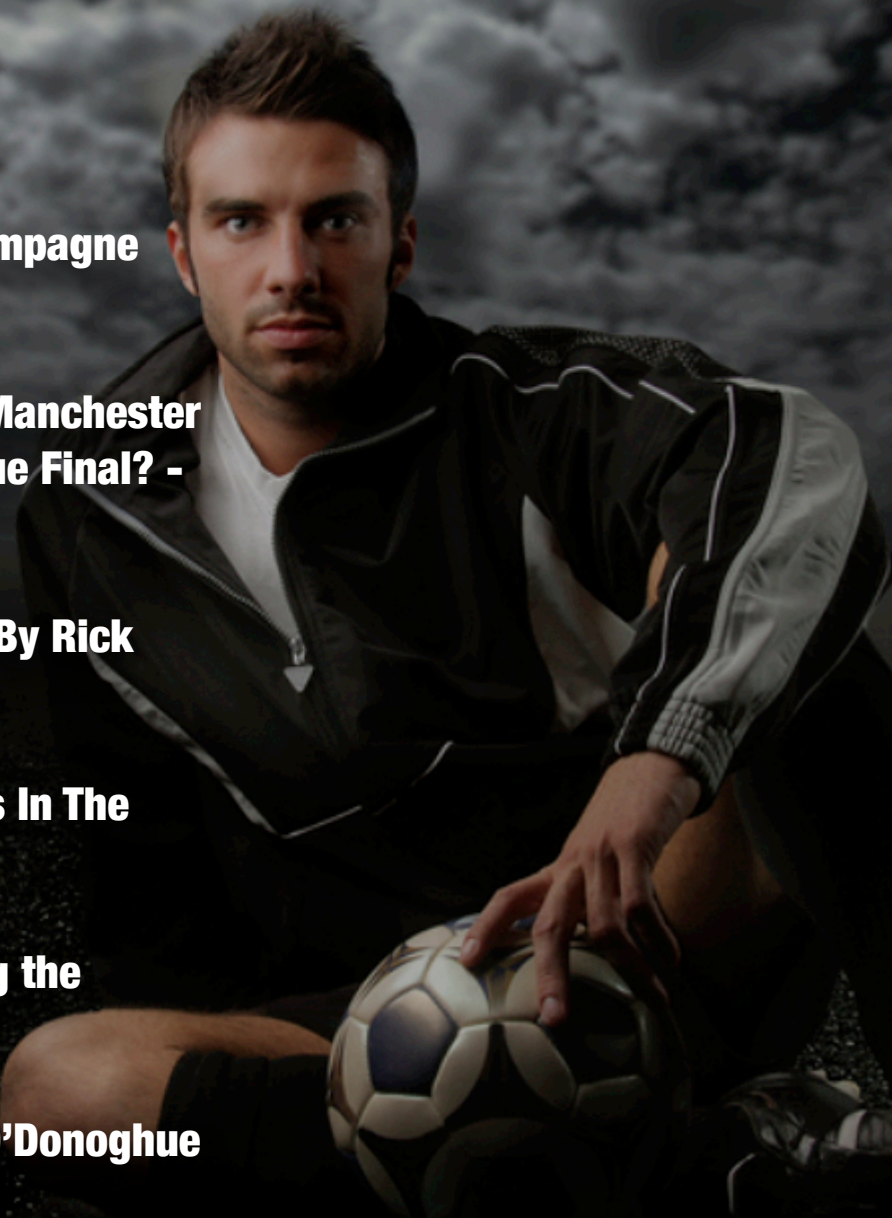
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## TODAY'S FREE SPORTS BETTING TIPS...

### TWL Pro Tip

Win Bet - Chester 15:15 - Duretto @ 10/11

### Bets Of The Day

Win Bet - Sandown 15:35 - Too Darn Hot @ 10/11

### Neo Investments

Win Bet - Beverley 17:05 - Macho Mover @ 11/8

## **September Systems** - By The Champagne Kid

One of the ways I locate possible bets is by the use of systems. There has been much written about system betting on horses; some of it valid and some a load of horsesh\*t. Pardon my French!

Although I have numerous 'alerts' for system qualifiers appearing every day by email or on various horse trackers I use, it is very rare that I would back all qualifiers in a system blindly. I will usually look for corroborating evidence to back up the horse's winning chance – e.g. trainer form, draw, going, pace profiles for the track / distance etc.

At this time of year as we enter September, we come to the time when the occasional 'strange' result starts to appear. Some cynics might say that a strange result for my Champagne Kid service would be a win of any kind! As I write, I have only just (in the 6.35 at Wolverhampton last night) come off a very lengthy losing run where absolutely nothing went right in the last week or so. This caused my monthly profit points count to drop from a high of 140 at the end of play on the 23rd August to a very disappointing 58 points for the whole of August. Losing runs happen though, and it is not the first long one I have suffered, nor will it be the last. I am more prone to them than many tipsters due to the average odds I tip at. Maintaining selection methods, confidence (sometimes not easy), staking plan, and belief in yourself if you have a proven profitable history will see these inevitable losing runs overcome.

Anyway, I digress. Back to those strange results. Many are actually not as strange as they might first appear to be. A large number are due to changes to the going caused by the rains arriving. It could well be that after the incredibly hot summer we have had this year, we may see more of these soft-ground horses finally getting their ground and winning at decent prices after being unconsidered in the market due to a string of 7's, 8's, 9's or 0's in their form-lines. Form which can turn around as soon as there is some juice in the ground.

The resource I use for systematic analysis for UK flat and AW racing is the excellent Flatstats website. Using their Racing System Builder, I looked at horses fitting the profile mentioned above. I looked at horses running on Good to Soft, Soft or Heavy ground in September having been unplaced on Good to Firm or Firm ground last time out. To ensure I was looking just at horses who were race-fit, I limited the process to those who had run in the last 4 weeks, and also to leave out those with little chance at all, looked at just the first 8 in the betting market. What I found was that in middle and long-distance races (i.e. anything of 1 mile or further), there was not much of interest. However, at sprint distances, there were winners to be found. The strike rate of 13.7% over the last 10 years was not the highest, but it was profitable every year bar one (2008 where a small loss was made). Trainers who did well under these circumstances were Mick Channon, Kevin Ryan and David

O'Meara. For those three, the strike rate was 27.5% and the profit at Betfair SP was £109.76.

A possibly simpler method is to look at trainers' handicap records in September. It is often said that trainers are creatures of habit, and I am sure there is much truth in that. Trainers usually try to replicate what has been successful for them in the past. That may be running at a particular course, running three times as a 2yo at 5f – 7f and then stepping up to 10f+ as a 3yo (Sir Mark Prescott) or having them ready for a certain festival, or, as we are looking at here, a certain time of year. So, let's look then at trainers who appear to target, or who are in any event successful in non-apprentice turf handicaps in September.

I started with a very long list of all runners in handicaps in September over the last five years. I did a lot of whittling down by removing those with less than 30 such runners, those with an A/E (Actual over Expected according to SP) of less than 1.60, those with a win rate of less than 15%, those with a Chi figure (measure of reliability of a statistic) of less than 3.0, and those with an IV (Impact Value) of under 1.60. That left a list of 7 trainers who have done exceptionally well with September turf handicappers over the last 5 years: Ismail Mohammed, John Berry, John Flint, George Baker, B J Llewellyn, Simon Dow, and Alan Bailey.

The combined strike rate for these 7 trainers over the last 5 years has been in chronological order 18%, 17%, 20%, 19% and 30%. Profits at BSP in those 5 years have been £56, £30, £53, £57 and £36 to a £1 level stake.

Here's what I intend to do with this. Unlike my normal MO with systems (see paragraph 2), I will be backing the non-apprentice handicappers of these 7 trainers blind to 1-point level stakes in September. The selections will be posted as official 1-point bets on my service and will all be noted as "September Handicap Trainers" system selections within the text of the message accompanying the tips. Based on the last 5 years, we should expect to see somewhere between approximately 40 and 60 bets for the month.

If there is a particularly good time to join a profitable racing advice system I would say it is at the end of a losing run. That is where we are at the moment. I truly hope I can make up to existing subscribers, particularly those who joined shortly before the York Ebor meeting at the start of my exceptionally bad run, and of course for any Betfan readers who'd like to try out the service. I remain confident going forward that profitability will continue. If you'd like to subscribe to my service to see how we go with these September Handicap Trainers selections, you'll find the link below.

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## **Rick's Sports Betting: Could The Manchester Clubs Contest A Champions League Final?** - By Rick Elliott

There is a direct correlation between the size of a club's wage bill and how they perform and this is definitely the case with the Champions League. On that basis Manchester City can finally win the competition and justify the massive investment in the club. For many years City were in the shadow of United in Manchester and Europe and until they win the Champions League as a club and global brand they will be the second biggest club in town. However, the balance of power can shift if City do win the Champions League and they are favourites to do just that in 2017/18.

The Champions League is the Holy Grail of European football because the earnings from playing in the group stages and beyond are huge. Teams from the minor leagues across Europe are involved in qualifying from July but come the final in May two of the superpowers are battling to win the trophy. The days of relatively small Midlands clubs with a modest income like Nottingham Forest winning the European Cup are long gone. The winners are now one of the richest clubs from Spain, Germany, Italy and England. The last English winners were Chelsea in 2011-12.

The last winners from outside the four biggest European leagues were Porto in 2003-04. They beat Monaco 3-0 in the final and they were the last team to reach the final outside teams from the four richest leagues. The last 14 finals have brought together teams from those major European football nations. The manager of Porto was Jose Mourinho who would love to lead Manchester United to Champions League glory. The only two United managers who won the European Cup or Champions League were knighted and that would appeal to Mourinho's sense of importance.

The final in two years from 2014 to 2016 was a meeting between two clubs from the same city. The matches between Real and Atletico from Madrid are the only occasions in which neighbours have contested the Champions League final. United and City have never met in European football and Manchester could emulate Madrid if the two clubs met in the final in Madrid in May 2019. It would arguably be the biggest game in the history of both clubs and the winners would have bragging rights for years. The Spanish giants will be hugely motivated to reach a final in Spain.

The draw for the group stages of the 2018/19 Champions League has been kinder to City than United. In fact there were tough draws for Liverpool, Tottenham and Manchester United and City's were made favourites to progress furthest of the Premier League teams. The Premier League

representatives were first or second favourites to win their groups and on form all four should progress to the last 16 but things then become more difficult.

Over the last eight years the four Premier League clubs have played in the groups 19 times between them. That involvement has produced just two finalists in Liverpool last season and Manchester United in 1010-11. There have been six appearances in the last eight onwards but none of the four Premier League clubs involved in 2018/19 have won the trophy over the last eight years. English clubs consistently qualify for the knockout rounds but don't deliver at the business end of the Champions League.

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

### **Follow The Form And Home Teams In The ELP Today**

Today's TV matches bring together teams that have won the Premier League and teams that have not but one of the have not's could do so this season. Manchester City have been the champions of England three times in the last seven years and Leicester caused the biggest upset in sports history by winning the Premier League in 2015/16. City should beat Newcastle at home by at least two goals but Leicester will struggle to avoid defeat at home to LIVERPOOL who are trying to break their Premier League duck and are 11/14 with **William Hill** to be top dogs in England.

Liverpool are the current league leaders and that does not bode well for Leicester. They have lost the last 10 matches against the team who started the day at the top of the table. In those fixtures they have scored just four goals and conceded 25. Liverpool have not conceded in 11 of their last 18 Premier League matches. Manchester City have found the net three times or more in the last six league meetings at home with Newcastle. The DOUBLE on Liverpool and Manchester City -2 on the handicap pays 13/8 with **Ladbrokes** and must be the bet of the day.

There are five other matches in the Premier League today and the home teams are the favourites in each fixture. Home teams generally win 30% of EPL fixtures but 14 of the 30 matches played so far this season have been won by the team playing on their own pitch (47%). The ACCA on Brighton, Chelsea, Crystal Palace, Everton and West Ham pays 23/1 with **bet365**.

There are two Group 3 races at Sandown and both have strong favourites. Veracious (3.00) and Too Darn Hot (3.35) are the market leaders and have the form to win their respective races. Unfortunately there are only six runners in each so each way bets are settled on the first two places. If you are looking for alternatives to the favourites a double on LAUGH ALOUD and DUNKERRON is 40/1 with **Coral**.

## **The Five Match Series – Following the Narrative** - By

Dave Owens

The five match test series is an all too rare occurrence in international cricket, for the last decade or so. With the massively increasing international schedules meaning no real time or space in the calendar to fit them in. The longest series is also only applicable for the biggest test nations playing each other in terms of competitiveness as well as being able to generate the required interest and revenue for such a long series and tour for the visiting side.

The Ashes is the only series that has been guaranteed the five-game treatment over the years but has also occasionally been granted when two of the games big nations come face to face as is currently happening between England and India at present. The five-day test match is the ultimate challenge for cricketers with testing a player's skill level against the highest-class opponent, but also a players and teams mental and physical strength to cope with the demands of the longest form and the different circumstances and conditions endured over a test match. This can be amplified and tested further in a long series where players form, and confidence can be exposed against the same opposition and certain player match ups from either side gaining an upper hand or a psychological hold over his opposite number.

There can be a real advantage and edge when betting in a long series of test cricket. A player's stock can rise and fall dramatically over 5 matches of 5 days each and the pressures and demands of the game can make certain individuals or circumstances more likely to back due to what has gone on only the previous few weeks as opposed to a player's career stats.

The pre-series talk, and expectations was of a high-class Indian batting line up, likely to be backed up by fine spinners in a combination of Ashwin, Jadeja and Kuldeep Yadav being the obvious threat to England based on history with the Indian pace attack not likely to be having the same impact. With England likely to be heavily reliant on their two opening bowlers of Broad and Anderson and with the bat Cook and Root as the players India had most to worry about with England really struggling to back up both pair in either department.

After three matches of the series the landscape looks very different with India's quick bowlers defying expectations and regularly knocking over England's top order including Cook and exposing England's batters' technical issues as well as seeming to destroy the confidence of the home sides batting line up. The exceptions to this have been Jos Buttler and Sam Curran, who were two players who were not even supposed to be in the England line up before a ball was bowled and have batted with a freedom and expression at odds with England's top order.

With this in mind, a real opportunity was presented by the bookmakers in the Top England batsman market with the odds still stacked heavily in the England top orders favour – due to long term records of these players – where the pressure of

regular failures against a rampant India bowling line up was ignored and offering fine prices on players such as Moeen Ali (a player who had not played in the first three match's) and Sam Curran (one of the few shining lights with the bat) due to batting lower in the order, which in itself could be argued as a better place to bat with avoiding the new ball and bowlers at their freshest.

As it transpired Moeen second top scored behind Curran who proved an excellent price at 33/1 despite his fine form in the only two games played and against the same opposition and bowlers, after England's top order followed the pattern and routine of the first three tests and crumbled in a not unpredictable fashion and proving that following the narrative of the series and its ups and down of individuals can groups of players can provide some market inefficiency's to exploit

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## **Trackside In Ireland** - By Declan O'Donoghue

ANTHONY VAN DYCK showed a determined streak when taking the Futurity at The Curragh on Sunday but we'll know more about him after the National Stakes back at Headquarters next month.

This was a business like performance but nothing spectacular, and Paddy Power cutting him from 16/1 to "tens" for the Derby looks a bit of an over reaction.

Possibly the slower ground took the edge off him and we at least now know that he will battle when required. As regards the Derby though I would very much hold fire for the moment.

Skitter Scatter defied the ground in the Debutante, and she's a cracking filly and no mistake.

One note of caution must be that possibly the Ballydoyle trio of Zagitova, Hermosa and Peach Tree were still slightly feeling the effects of the bug that has plagued the stable this summer.

For a daughter of Scat Daddy, 7/1 chance Skitter Scatter handled the yielding to soft ground fine, though clearly she'd much prefer better.

Verbal Dexterity made a satisfactory belated seasonal debut when a close up fourth to Beautiful Morning in the Royal Whip.



He'll come on a ton for it, Jim Bolger reports him in great form this week, and 25/1 each way looks a tempting price for the Irish Champion Stakes in two weeks time.

Remember last year Bolger described him as the best two year old he ever trained, fair praise indeed from the man who handled household names like St Jovite, New Approach and Teofilo.

Sheila Lavery, after a very quiet first half of the season, has been on a roll since Galway.

And she gave the bookies a dream start to the day when her home bred Breaking Story took the opener at 33/1.

Mind you he had been nibbled at in the overnight markets with 50/1 taken on the exchanges.

Lavery said: "He's been ready to run for a while but I thought he looked a bit shelly and gave him plenty of time."

"I wasn't brave enough to give him big entries, but I suppose I should have a look now."

"Robbie (Colgan) said when he hit the front he had loads more horse but he kind of pulled himself up but then when he heard the others coming he ran on again" she added.

Ballydoyle juvenile Circus Maximus was an uneasy favourite - 3/1 to "fives" - and was in the firing line until impeded about a furlong and a half out. Ryan Moore then had to switch him out and he finished fifth, and the Galileo colt will know a lot more next time.

Looking at York, Poets Word didn't get the clearest of runs in the Juddmonte but he does look very much a mile and a half horse.

In contrast Laurens clearly didn't get the trip in the Yorkshire Oaks. And while Frankie Dettori made excuses for him, Without Parole has become disappointing.

**Stratum, at a crazy 3/1, may have been the big Irish gamble in the Ebor, but Declan's Irish Racing Service looked elsewhere with Sea The Lion 18/1 each way (3rd 9/1) and Mustajeer 33/1 each way (4th 33/1).**

Other gems this week were Stella d'Oro 14/1; Power Down 8/1; Mount Everest 4/1 (won 6/4); Astronomer 3/1 (w 6/4); Present In Court 9/4; Nitro Boost 7/4 (w 4/5) and Caltex 4/5 (w 8/11).

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