

# Layers making the Reds Euro outsiders

## Sports betting

BY PETER McNAMARA

### RUGBY

**W**ILLIAM HILL are the firm most impressed by what they have seen from Munster in the Heineken Cup of the leading lights in the bookmaking industry.

Hill rate Munster as a 9-1 shot in the outright betting market to lift the trophy.

However, BetVictor and Stan James the two least perturbed – Penney's outfit are 12-1 with both firms. Munster's semi-final opponents, Clermont Auvergne, are the favourites in the market at 8-11 to win outright. Toulon are second favourites at 7-2 with Boyles, BetVictor, Paddy Power and Ladbrokes.

Yet, Toulon are merely 11-4 with totesport.com, BETFRED, Hill and bwin.com.

Boyles, BetVictor, Stan James and 188BET.com have pitched Saracens as the 9-2 third favourites however sportingbet.com are more hopeful for their chances laying 7-2.

Munster, according to bet365, are an 11-2 chance for their semi-final tussle with Clermont.

The French team are no greater than Boyles' and Power's 1-7 to win the match while the draw is 33-1.

Munster receive an 11-point start in the handicap betting market at 10-11 while Clermont are the same odds to defy the imposed deficit.

Power's 20-1 is the lengthiest price on offer on the prospect of the handicap betting draw in regulation time.

Ladbrokes have posted their double result market and Clermont are 4-11 to be in front at the end of both halves. The Munster/Munster double result is 7-1, Clermont/Munster is 16s, Munster/Clermont 6-1, draw/Clermont 16s, draw/Munster 33s, Clermont/draw 50s, Munster/draw 50s and draw/draw 66s.

### Last week

● There was no weekend recommendation made last Friday as odds for the main matches in the various codes were quite accurate. However, there have been eight winners from 20 selections made thus far which are margins that will hopefully improve this month, in May, June and July, too.

## Place faith in Rebels

### GAA

**WILLIAM HILL** are extremely confident of Cork retaining their place in the Allianz NHL Division 1A for 2014 as the Rebels prepare to meet Clare in the relegation play-off at the Gaelic Grounds on Sunday.

Hill have Cork at 4-7 to win the match which is a far cry from the 10-11 Boyles are offering on the same outcome.

Clare are 13-8 to win with Hill while the draw is 12-1 with the same firm.

However, bet365's 6-5 Cork -1 is enticing.

**Recommendation**  
Cork -1: 2pts 6-5 bet365.

Clare's Colm Galvin and Cork's Conor Lehane in action their NHL clash. Pic-ture: Diarmuid Greene / SPORTSFILE

## Away win for City is a long shot

### SOCCER

THE RTÉ cameras will be present at The Showgrounds on Saturday afternoon as Cork City attempt to extend their Airtricity League Premier Division unbeaten run to four games, but the layers cannot envisage anything other than a Sligo Rovers victory.

The defending champions are just 4-7 with bet365,

Paddy Power and William Hill to retain their title following an opening six-match sequence to the season that has seen the westerners earn maximum points, score 15 times and concede twice.

Sligo are generally 4-9 to post a seventh straight win in the section and those

quotes are understandable.

In fact, with City's central defensive injury and suspension issues in mind – captain Kevin Murray, Darren Dennehy and Dan Murray are either definitely unavailable or unlikely to be available – 4-9 might be a lenient stance on Sligo's percentage chances of winning.

However, Hill's 7-1 about

an away triumph may still appeal as value to some of the City diehards.

Furthermore, Tommy Dunne's unit have, after all, lost only one of their six games though that was to Derry City, a side one place below Sligo in the standings.

Still, Sligo will be seen by many as 'banker' material in the circumstances.

## Malaga will find it hard to rally after a cruel Euro exit

THE most skilful player I ever shared a football pitch with was a lad from Malaga named Alberto.

This was well over a decade ago in that well-known footballing Mecca of Luton. We used to play twice a week and while we were mostly glad he was on our team, the single drawback was he didn't pass the ball to you often, in case you did something stupid like take a second touch.

Not only had he the mazy runs and close control, it was also incredibly difficult to knock him off the ball, as unlike some stereotyped southern Europeans, he could take a bit of a kicking, something our regular Dubliner-packed opposition weren't slow to administer.

It was an Irish assault on his ears rather than his legs however that he is best remembered for.

After almost silently enduring an eight-hour round trip to Devon, during which the only thing to blare out of the speakers was rebel songs, he said on getting out of the car back in Bedfordshire: "I wish I was dead." His English wasn't impeccable but we got the gist of what he was trying to convey. If it wouldn't have seemed unpatriotic, I'd have echoed his view rather than humming along to the tunes I knew.

Anyway, I couldn't help but think of Alberto as I watched the team he supports surrender two late, late goals to Borussia Dortmund on Tuesday night.



Robert O'Shea  
THE LONGSHOT

It must have been the equivalent of paying to go to the opera *Carmen* and the bullfighter walking on stage and belting out *Me Brother Sylvester*.

We had suggested Dortmund would win (as well as Galatasaray beating Madrid at 4/1) but Malaga looked to have pulled off the perfect Champions League away performance before it was

unravelling in a manic two-minute spell. To rub salt in the wound, replays showed that Felipe Santana's winning goal should have been flagged offside.

Add to all this, their manager Manuel Pellegrini had just flown back from Chile, where he had buried his father.

Having won only one of their six previous La Liga games to, Malaga must now somehow pick themselves up for a date with the Basque side Osasuna this weekend. They've also lost their last three ties following European dates, so the 3/1 William Hill offer on their opponents shouldn't be ignored.

Chelsea (2/1) v Manchester City (6/4) is the big FA Cup semi-final this weekend but don't ignore Millwall (15/4)

against Wigan (5/6).

In the fourth round Millwall beat Villa but that was with home advantage and it is the absence of any such edge that probably explains the lack of upsets when the cup gets to neutral territory.

One strong stat from the FA Cup semi-finals of the past decade is that at least one team has failed to score more often than not — 12 times out of 20 (60%). It is interesting that 'No' in the Both Teams to Score market is evens or better in both games.

**Recommendation:** One team not to score in Wigan v Millwall, Osasuna to beat Malaga and Man City to advance to the final will net you 14/1 with Stan James.

## ANTE-POST PORTFOLIO

LISTED below are the bets still running in the ante-post portfolio.

Tellingly, it is shaping up well with six of the seven long-term investments made presently still running out of the nine listed including the bet made in the Allianz NFL Division 1 outlined elsewhere on this page all shorter odds than when first backed.

In the bracket at the end of each individual recommendation the current best odds available are shown inside the brackets on the left and the shortest price around on the right side.

As regards bets made on Barca and Manchester United winning their leagues a virtually unsailable position is assumed – a host of firms have already paid out on both sides lifting the trophies.

Given that both were advised on the same day – Friday, August 17, 2012 – it is likely a number of bettors may have doubled the selections and those that have are on the verge of a 6.15-1 winner as well.

Pleasingly, too, we are guaranteed a finalist of the Allianz NHL Division 1 competition as Tippi, put forward strongly at 4-1, will play Dublin, punted on at 16s, in one semi-final as predicted.

Previously advised (on Friday, August 17, 2012)

Barcelona to win the La Liga Primera Division

5pts 6-5 BetVictor, bodog (currently 1-200 Paddy Power; 1-500 general);

Manchester United to win the 2012/13 Premier League

5pts 9-4 general (currently 1-100 bwin.com; 1-500 general).

Previously advised (on Friday, January 4, 2013)

Aston Villa to be relegated from the Barclays Premier League

2pts 2-1 BetVictor (currently 15-4 bet365, Coral; 11-4 Paddy Power, Stan James);

Manchester City to win the FA Cup

3pts 11-2 BetVictor (currently 13-10 Coral; 11-10 general);

Liverpool to win the FA Cup

1pt each-way 11-1 1/2 1, 2 general (LOSER).

Previously advised (on Friday, February 22, 2013)

Tippi to win Allianz NHL Division 1

3pts 4-1 bet365, William Hill (currently 6-4 bet365; 5-4 Paddy Power);

Dublin to win Allianz NHL Division 1

0.5pt 16-1 BetVictor, Stan James, Ladbrokes (currently 11-1 Boyles; 7-1 Ladbrokes);

Limerick to win Allianz NHL Division 1

0.5pt 16-1 Paddy Power, Stan James, Ladbrokes (LOSER).