

Attractive odds for MSL treble

SOCCER: Ladbrokes are laying a special value treble price of 5-2 on College Corinthians, UCC and Avondale United all winning in the MSL Premier Division this weekend.

The Magic Sign are now pricing up all of the main games each weekend in the top-tier of the MSL in particular and odds are available with the firm from Wednesday afternoon onwards each week.

Paddy Power, too, lay odds on these matches and price comparisons can be made from Thursday.

Rockmount favourites

SOCCER: Rockmount have been installed by Ladbrokes as the odds-on favourites to defeat Bandon in the MSL Premier Division tonight.

Rockmount are laid at 2-5, Bandon 5-1 and the draw 11-4 with the firm.

Leeds, meanwhile, are 5-2 to overcome 4-5 shots College Corinthians and the draw is 12-5.

UCC can be punted on at 2-7 to topple 6-1 chances Middleton. The draw is 7-2.

Hall host Avondale

SOCCER: Douglas Hall host Avondale United in the MSL Premier Division on Sunday morning but the visitors are odds-on to post a victory on the board in the section.

Avondale are no better than 4-9 with Ladbrokes to account for Hall.

The hosts, meanwhile, are 9-2 to claim three points and the draw is 14-5 with The Magic Sign.

Elsewhere, Everton are evens and St Mary's 2-1 for their encounter with the draw 11-5.

FAI Intermediate Cup

SOCCER: Four teams from Leaside remain in the hunt for FAI Intermediate Cup honours and Avondale United have retained favouritism in the market following the matches contested last weekend.

Boyles rate Avondale as the 5-2 jolies from second-favourites Tolka Rovers, 4-1 with both the aforementioned firm and Paddy Power though Boyles also lay Crumlin United at those odds.

UCC are 14-1 (Boyles), Mayfield United 50-1 with both firms while Carrigaline Utd are 66s with Power.

Bookies see Cork topping division

THE outright prices for the Allianz NHL Division 1A and 1B have been released by the layers in light of the confirmation of fixtures and Cork are odds-on to top the second-tier of the primary division.

Paddy Power go as far as suggesting Cork are an 8-15 shot to progress to the quarter-finals of the competition against the fourth-placed outfit from Division 1A.

However, Boyles are laying bettors 4-6, the top industry price around.

According to the Division 1B outright betting, and this is understandable, Cork's campaign opener against Limerick at Páirc Uí Rinn on Saturday, February 15, will determine which side tops the group.

Limerick are pitched as the clear-cut second-favourites and are no better than 15-8 to finish ahead of the posse in Division 1B.

There is then a notable gap to both Offaly and Wexford.

Both are considered 12-1 chances with the former laid at those odds with Power and Ladbrokes while the latter are available at such a quote with Boyles and The Magic Sign.

Laois are 33s with Boyles but are a far more realistic 66s with Power.

Similarly, Antrim are at 40s at Boyles however, Power's 80s is again closer the mark.

SPORTS BETTING Peter McNamara

In the overall context of the secondary competition, Cork are viewed as the fourth most likely outright victors on offer at 6-1 (Boyles, Power).

Unsurprisingly, Kilkenny can be located at the head of such a market and the defending champions are 5-2 generally to retain the title.

All-Ireland champions Clare are the 100-30 joint-second-favourites alongside Tipp with Ladbrokes, incidentally the best odds being laid on the Premier County.

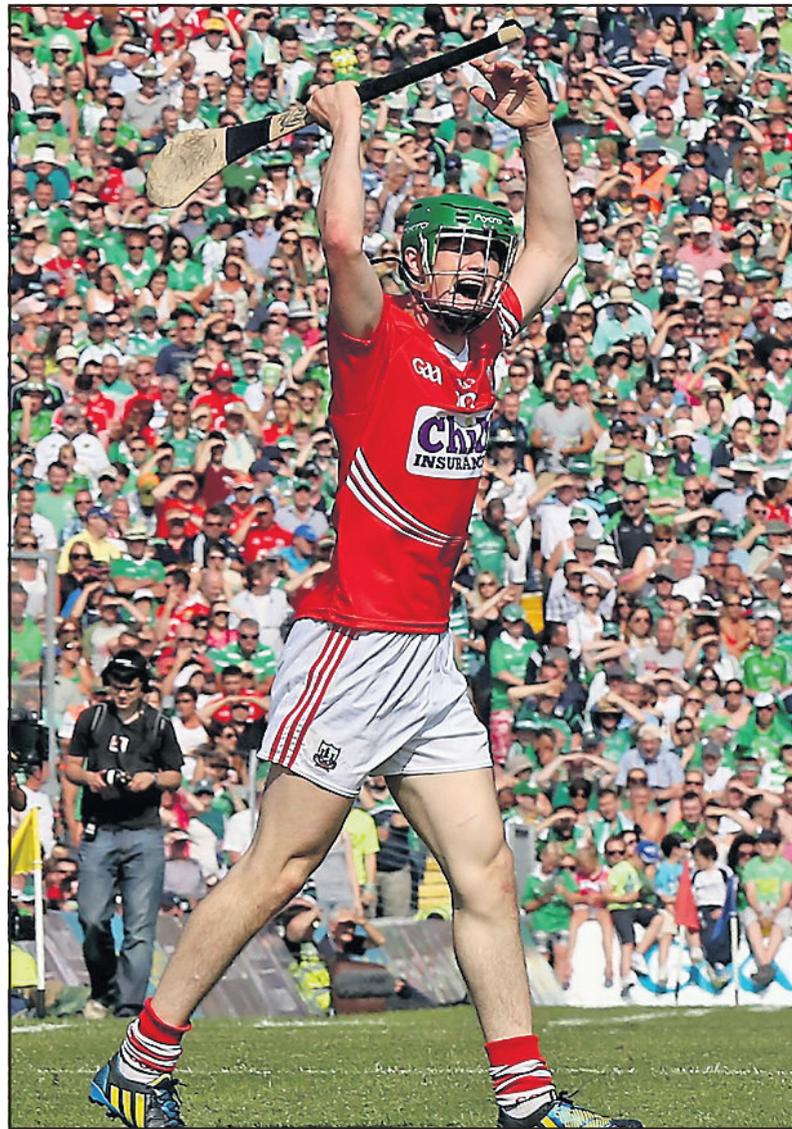
Yet, Davy Fitzgerald's unit are less favoured by Boyles at 5-1.

Boyles and Ladbrokes rate Galway as 10-1 pokes, Power have Dublin at 11s, Limerick are 12s with Ladbrokes, Waterford are up for grabs at 20s (Boyles, Ladbrokes) and it is 50-1 bar those.

It's also intriguing to note Power hold out little hope for the Rebels in the Munster SHC outright market.

Ireland's main bookmaking outlet pitch Jimmy Barry-Murphy's Leesiders as the 11-2 third-favourites for provincial success.

This is quite odd however as Cork



Seamus Harnedy and his Cork team-mates are odds-on to win Division 1B of the league.

are also 11-2 with the same firm to lift the Liam MacCarthy Cup.

Is it not potentially harder for a side to win the All-Ireland through the back-door, even in hurling?

Not in Power's odds-compilers' eyes obviously, certainly not in terms of Cork anyway. Additionally, in bet365's opinion Cork are a 5-1 shout for All-Ireland success but Boyles and Stan James lay 13-2.

SOCCER

THERE are two bets to be considered in the skyBET Championship on Saturday with QPR and Reading expected to overcome Blackburn Rovers and Bournemouth respectively.

Both sides are in the midst of productive home form.

Recommendations QPR: 2pts 8-11 BetVictor; Stan James, Coral; Reading: 1pt 5-6 BetVictor.

Last week

THANKFULLY, a purple patch has been hit recently with six winners, a returned stake and just two losers from the last nine recommendations made in the previous four weeks.

Winners at odds of 4-6, evens, 8-11, 4-5 as well as 4-7 and 2-1 from last weekend have been earned in that spell.

Leicester City were strongly advised (3pts 4-7 general) to beat Millwall in the skyBET Championship last Saturday.

Additionally, Wayne Rooney was entrusted to score at anytime against Tottenham in the Barclays Premier League and did so (1pt 2-1 bet365, BetVictor; 888sport).

Six-timer can keep us on right track this weekend

THEY say a problem shared is a problem halved, which is one reason I try to encourage readers to write in with any queries they might have, once it is not explicitly focused on the bedroom (they have another guy for that, on Wednesdays).

A recent correspondence from a Paul Thurgood (the first name is real; I made up the surname for his anonymity) asked me why a story appeared in a certain morning newspaper under the headline: "Cork's Kent rail station busiest in the country outside Dublin."

Why, he wanted to know, was this worthy of being considered "news"?

"Surely be to God that the second biggest city in the state has the busiest station outside the capital should be accepted wisdom."

He went on: "Now if Manulla Junction or somewhere like that was found to be the busiest outside Dublin, that would be news."

"And shouldn't it be railway or train station, not 'rail station'."

I sent off an email to Paul suggesting he could probably find better things to get worked up about, and used a few expletives to get my point across.

Within 10 minutes there was a reply. Now whereas I had used a few (maybe seven or eight) expletives in my answer, Paul's I would safely call expletive-ridden.

As I read his reply I found myself swearing at the computer screen, and I must have been doing so forcefully because when I'd finished there were tiny globules of saliva on the monitor.



Robert O'Shea

THE LONGSHOT

Was I going to leave this one lie? Was I hell! I began typing.

But just as I was typing the word "cruddy" I had an epiphany.

Was there really any reason to prolong this burgeoning feud?

When it was over nothing really?

Then I remembered what Paul had wrote and I kept typing, every second sentence a veiled threat. Every other one a real threat.

Paul's apology arrived via email the next morning.

My first thought was it was big of him to accept he was wrong to, as he put it, "stir the hornet's nets" (sic).

But then I thought about it and realised it was small of him to be so pathetic to have to write an insipid apology, that seemed on second reading, to be dripping with sarcasm.

And he seemed to be backtracking all of a sudden, claiming the original email had been sent to the "Letters to the Editor" address and he didn't know how I had got involved in any of this.

Maybe this was all just one big mistake after all!

But then my head almost exploded with rage. Who did this guy think he was?

My next email was curt and to the point, albeit peppered with curse words and a personal attack on his appearance (I had found him on facebook).

Paul has yet to get back to me so I assume this final reply is a satisfactory response to his original query.

Of course, not all of the correspondence I receive can be dealt with so comprehensively or promptly, but I do guarantee that if you do make contact I will make every effort to reply within the week.

Keep those emails coming in.

Recommendation: This weekend we are delighted to announce that Man United, Liverpool, Spurs, West Brom, Swansea and Aston Villa will all win their games at the excellent price of 33/1 with William Hill.