

Evening SPORT

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Hat-trick bet can make us some S.H.O.D.



Robert O'Shea

THE LONGSHOT

ALL the acronyms are at home tonight in the Champions League and if you fancy APOEL, BATE, CSKA and PSG to win tonight you'll get odds of just under 400/1 from Bet365.

Acronyms are ugly. They aren't so bad when they rest on their own like PSG or QPR, but when they precede another word like APOEL Nicosia does, it's just, blugh.

I'd a few hours to spare yesterday and because cryptic crosswords have crept into my life recently, I decided to rearrange the letters in the acronyms of the four teams and eventually arrived at 'a topless back page'.

A topless back page is certainly something I'd support if anyone in here ever asked me how we might sell more newspapers, but we'd probably be quickly shouted down by the prudish public, who'd think we were doing it for titillation, rather than producing something classy, like at the start of a James Bond movie.

Those acronyms also lead us to 'postable packages', and what good are packages unless they are postable? Even if some packages are shoved in things far smaller than a letterbox.

And finally we come to 'placebo stake gaps', the most intriguing anagram of all. What could these be?

Every so often I mention certain bets in the main body of this chunk of text, but when it comes to recommending a winner, I choose a different diagnosis.

Although nothing has been staked on the result, I do often feel better having at least referred to it, even if we are in exactly the same position as we were before.

Sometimes, I can nearly convince myself I did tell you guys to back that winner. Completely delusional as all this is, 'placebo stake gaps' certainly sums it up quite well.

Back to tonight's football and Lionel Messi (The Lone Missile suits him better than Senile Limos) is one of the reasons APOEL are 14/1 at home tonight.

His hat-trick against Sevilla last weekend made him La Liga's all-time top goalscorer, but he's still 10 goals behind Cristiano Ronaldo at the top of the Spanish scoring charts and 8/1 to win the golden boot. That's a placebo stake gap we'd advise you to fill.

Recommendation: Messi is 14/1 to get another hat-trick tonight, twice the price some bookies offer.



Lord Mayor of Cork Cllr. Mary Shields presents King of the Roads champion James Buckley with the North City and District Sports Star Award in association with Gurranebraher Credit Union at a function in the Gresham Metropole Hotel. Included are Bishop John Buckley, Kieran Weldon, Onoir O'Brien Boyd, Red FM, Catherine O'Connell, Michael O'Connell, Gurranebraher Credit Union; Susan Greene, Chairperson Bol Chumann, Mary Buckley, Patrick Buckley, James Buckley Jnr and Mrs Ellen Buckley.

Picture: John Tarrant

AWARDS

By John Tarrant

GREAT Cork roadbowler James Buckley rolled back the years to smash a barren 19-year span to regain a hold of the International King of the Roads title recently.

Very much a virtuoso showing from the Blackstone Bridge man, Buckley bounced into the limelight over the Ballincurrag route much to the delight of his supporters to land his fourth outright title.

Making amends for some previous disappointments, this victory was borne out of sheer determination and skill, rightly acknowledged on securing the monthly North City and District Sports Star Award hosted at the Gresham Metropole Hotel.

Buckley comes from a family steeped in sport, his honours include seven All Ireland Championship titles from u16, right up to senior level. The winner of three previous King of the Roads, he is also the holder of an European silver medal.

"I learned the skills of road bowling from my father Tedna along with my sisters and brothers, great friend Bishop Buckley also gave me guidance on the key aspects of the game," he said.

From an early age, Buckley made significant progress, winning seven All-Ireland titles, both U16/18 accolades claimed in 1983 culminating in senior titles won in 1995 and 2002.

"Since I last won the King of the

King Buckley proves regal credentials

Road in 1995, I lost in five finals, it looked as if my time had passed on after losing the 2010 Final against David Murphy".

For the 2014 King of the Roads Final, All-Ireland champion Aidan Murphy provided the opposition. Murphy took the early lead before Buckley defied injury to face the ultimate test of character and his response was magnificent to scorch home in impressive fashion.

"Aidan is an exceptionally fast player yet I was determined to succeed. I had picked up an injury the previous week, getting a stumble that incurred a few bruises and scratches and I wasn't too sure if I would have the capabilities to last two days of intense action".

"Hopefully the Kings of the Roads victory can be the spur for a run in

the 2015 Senior Championship and return to Ballincurrag to retain my title next autumn", he said.

Lord Mayor, Cllr Mary Shields extended congratulations to James, acknowledged with the North City and District Sports Star selection in association with Gurranebraher Credit Union and Red FM.

Bol Chumann Chairperson Susan Greene spoke of Buckley's terrific service to the sport that reaped All-Ireland and European honours in an outstanding career.

Correspondent Seamus O Tuama, associated with the King of the Roads, added the Festival was initiated in 1984 and from humble beginnings, it had grown into an international event featuring the best of competitors from Ireland, Germany and the Netherlands conven-

ing on the East Cork venue.

Roger Russell, general manager, Gresham Metropole Hotel applauded the efforts of James Buckley on his dedication to road bowling and his instrumental work towards the King of the Roads title returning to a great home of the sport.

In attendance at the function were Bishop John Buckley, Catherine and Michael O'Connell, Gurranebraher Credit Union; Onoir O'Brien Boyd, Kieran Weldon, Red FM along with family and friends.

To mark Seamus O Tuama's input into the rise and prominence of King of the Roads at Ballincurrag over the past 30 years, he was the recipient of a special presentation from great promoters of the sport Noel Magner and Christy Santry.

Glenryan will host semi-finals of Quinlan Cup

RINGS

By Derry Desmond

THE semi-finals of the Donal Quinlan Rings Trophy takes place in the Glenryan Bar tomorrow night where the Local play the Deanrock and the Friars Walk play the Fox and Hounds.

With one week left to play in the other leagues, there is only

one semi-final place to fill and that's in the C1 division.

In the A league in the Delaney cup its Mas3 versus Quirkies and Ma's 1 versus Glenryan in

the Local Tavern on Wednesday, December 3.

In the B League in the George O'Mahony Cup, it's Abbie's versus Fair field and Quirkies versus Glenryan in Ma Dulea's on Wednesday, December 3.

In the C1 League in the Mick Condon Shield, it's River Lane

versus Ma's 2 and St Vincent's versus fourth placed team (to be decided) in the Fox and Hounds on Wednesday, December 3

For the semi-finals, teams must be present at venue at 9pm for a 9.30pm start. The next delegate meeting is Thursday December 4 in the Chimes.