

City were advised

SOCCER: PUNTERS are on the cusp of a whopping ante-post payout after this weekend as Manchester City are nearly home and hosed in the race for the Premier League title.

City were extremely strongly advised to win the title in the first-half of the season at a general price of 9-5. City's odds now range between Paddy Power's 1-40 and a general 1-66. Liverpool are 20-1 with BetVictor. Already advised Manchester City to win the Barclays Premier League 2013/14 5pts 9-5 general.

Battle of Madridistas

SOCCER: 888sport rate Real Madrid as the 8-13 outright favourites to win the Uefa Champions League following the competition's semi-finals this week. Originally, Real were no greater than 11-2 to lift the trophy however, the odds-compilers expect them to prevail in their derby decider against Atletico Madrid. Diego Simeone's side, before the tournament proper began, were available to back at 80-1 but only William Hill and Paddy Power offer 11-8 presently. Real are 23-20 (Power) to win in regulation time.

Hamilton favoured

MOTOR RACING: MERCEDES' Lewis Hamilton is put forward as the odds-on favourite to win the Spanish Grand Prix by the odds-compilers.

Hamilton is a best-available 8-13 with Ladbrokes and Coral to win the race while team-mate Nico Rosberg is 13-5 with BetVictor.

However, 888sport are laying Rosberg at 7-4. Fernando Alonso of Ferrari is next in the betting at 16-1 with Paddy Power and BETFRED while Daniel Ricciardo of Red Bull is on offer at bet365's and skyBET's 18-1.

Ireland's cup hopes

RUGBY: BETFRED are giving Ireland the least chance of all of the layers in the ante-post outright Rugby World Cup betting markets.

While winner, for example, offer Ireland at an industry low 12-1 BETFRED are pushing Ireland as a 20-1 shot. New Zealand, just 11-10 with Stan James, can be supported at 6-4 with Paddy Power and Ladbrokes. South Africa's odds zip from Ladbrokes' 7-2 to BetVictor's 5-1. England are 4-1 with Ladbrokes but 11-2 generally. Punters are sure to force Power's and Ladbrokes' 6-4 about the All Blacks to collapse.

Draw is on the cards tonight

SPORTS BETTING Peter McNamara

IT'S a case of the joint-highest scoring side against the team with the joint-best defensive record tonight in the SSE Airtricity League Premier Division as St Patrick's Athletic host Cork City.

And it's St Pat's that are expected, by the layers, to earn maximum points with the Dubliners no better than BetVictor's 3-4 to win for the seventh time in 12 attempts in their campaign.

Like City, St Pat's have lost just once and, alongside Dundalk, have the joint-best offensive return to date with 23 goals scored.

However, City venture to the capital having conceded just nine goals — only Sligo Rovers can boast to equalling that statistic — and so this is one contest quite difficult to gauge in terms of an outcome. City are generally touted at 4-1 to win the match and though those odds may seem a little excessive when taking in how well John

Last week

THERE was no weekend recommendation made last Friday.

However, people should be quids in yet again assuming Man City go on to land the Barclays Premier League title on Sunday.

Caulfield's men have done thus far it might be a safer option to back the game ending level at 5-2 generally.

This clash has all the hallmarks of two sides potentially cancelling each other out.

Of course, if City were to win tonight it would represent a major step forward for them in relation to their collective development. Still, asking for a victory away to the champions on the back of a heavy loss may be somewhat unrealistic.

Mark Quigley is the 7-2 favourite to open the scoring.

Chris Fagan is included as a 4-1 shot while Conan Byrne can be punted on at odds of 5-1.

Anthony Elding and Mark O'Sullivan may be backed at 7-1.



Cork City's Anthony Elding challenges Waterford United goalkeeper Matthew Connor during the EA Sports cup at Turners Cross. Picture: Eddie O'Hare

All of those first goalscorer odds are available with Paddy Power.

RECOMMENDATION

St Pat's v Cork City, Draw 1pt 5-2 general.

GAA

NEMO RANGERS will show their hand in the Cork County SFC for the first time this year tomorrow night and Steven O'Brien's side are 1-7 with Paddy Power to defeat Dohenys in Bandon.

Nemo should cruise past their rivals.

The draw is 14-1.

Clonakilty are also odds-on with the West Cork unit 2-7 to send St Nick's, 100-30, into round two.

The draw can be taken at 8-1. O'Donovan Rossa, meanwhile, should also progress to the fourth round if the odds are accurate as they are 4-11 to account for newly-promoted Clyda Rovers, themselves 5-2 for victory with the draw 8-1.

Finally, Carbery Rangers are 3-10 to topple Aghada, 3-1, and the draw is 8-1. All of those quotes are on offer with Paddy Power.

Clean up with a massive accumulator on league season's finale

THOSE days are nearly upon us. Days when the insane joy of a lobbed water balloon will be forgotten. When the rich will prey the streets with water pistols, spraying the working classes.

We'll be sharing murky bathwater again. And trying to gauge if a tiny turd is worth a flush.

We'll probably be taking showers with our vegetables.

And what of those poor souls who have to constantly refresh the water in their swimming pools?

On the most moist island this side of Tropic of Cancer, residents are entitled to wonder why we should have to pay for water?

"Because we're the only country in the OECD not to have water

charges," says some prat, who we'll hit with our umbrella if he doesn't shut up, because what really sticks in the craw is that we will be paying a private company for the privilege.

It cannot be too long until there is a standing charge for wet weather and saving for a rainy day will take on a whole new meaning.

What you are wondering now is if I have any tips on how to cut down on the wet stuff and give you some chance of staying under the surface of the 30,000-litre threshold.

Just as I plan to say on my soon to arrive wedding day, I do.

● Don't flush a piddle. I can't say this often enough. Just be more wary of splashback if you are on number two duty after someone has



Robert O'Shea

THE LONGSHOT

forgone that privilege. Don't be allowing too many consecutive wees to gather in the bowl however, because unexpected guests could pop by and judge you harshly.

● The washing machine is now one of your big, swirling enemies. Don't be feeding it just because you have been wearing something once or twice. Liberal spraying of clothing with deodorant (not anti-perspirant)

can elongate how long you can wear something in respectable company. Technically, you never have to wash jeans.

● Take two stopwatches into the shower. (On a serious note, ladies between 18 and 25 are reported to have the poorest showering technique and if any of them wish to send in videos of themselves under the nozzle, I would be happy to give some pointers on more efficient washing).

● If you do fall into that age and gender category and have a couple of good pointers of your own, it is entirely reasonable that you might wish to wash clothing (for example: T-shirts) while you are still wearing them. Again, send in footage.

Today's column, I now see, has taken on a somewhat steamy plunge, so it is time to get back to what we do best and give some badly considered betting advice.

As it is the final day of the Premier League this Sunday we will go for a walloping big accumulator. It's worth noting that despite there loss away on Wednesday night, Villa normally do OK on the road against teams that not challenging at the top. They have a better than 30 per cent win ratio away for the past six years, which means 13/2 against Spurs is worth a punt.

Recommendation: Villa, Chelsea, Liverpool, Southampton, Palace and Sunderland to win at 200/1 with BetVictor