

THE PRICE WATCHER BLOG

Welcome to The Price Watcher Blog, where we take a value-led approach to the weekend's televised racing on ITV and aim to identify bets that the market may have overlooked.

It's the Lockinge Stakes meeting we head to Newbury next for the first open Group 1 of the season. ITV Racing coverage features five competitive contests from the Berkshire track, alongside three supporting races from Newmarket.

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13:25 NEWBURY

Kalpana is the right favourite in tomorrow's opener, with her profile is rock solid for a race of this nature. Andrew Balding's mare ended last season with a deserved Group 1 success on Champions Day after repeatedly knocking on the door in top company, and the mares' allowance only strengthens her claims on ratings.



However, the value may just lie with West Wind Blows at 5/1. His recent Meydan form reads extremely well in the context of this race, especially through the Sheema Classic form line involving Calandagan, who is considered by many the best middle-distance performer on the globe.

West Wind Blows has been holding his own in stronger races than this and, although he has developed a frustrating run of second-place finishes, this represents a drop in grade compared to the company he's been keeping abroad. If reproducing that Dubai level back at Newbury, he looks overpriced and could be the one to give the favourite most to worry about.

Selection: [WEST WIND BLOWS - 5/1](#)

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13:42 NEWMARKET

The opener at Newmarket looks an open contest with plenty of closely matched runners, making it a difficult race to confidently split the field. Sterling Knight may be the one to side with each-way. Ed Dunlop's son of Camelot has been something of a stalwart over the years, building an impressive record with eleven career wins and proving himself a tough and reliable handicapper.

He was last seen finishing third, beating a few rivals who reoppose here, and that run should have left him fit and ready to go again. Now 1lb below his last winning mark, he looks well treated enough to get competitive once more, and for a race-hardened type he has shown he can still run to solid figures at this level.

Selection: [STERLING KNIGHT E/W - 17/2](#)

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14:00 NEWBURY

The 14:00 at Newbury looks a fascinating fillies' contest and the market understandably revolves around the favourite, whose proven Listed form sets the standard. There are a few unexposed types in opposition, though, and this could turn tactical if the pace isn't overly strong. With several runners still open to improvement, it may pay to look beyond the head of the market for a bit of value.

Sacred Ground makes plenty of appeal at the prices. She created a good impression when winning her novice at Yarmouth before going on to finish second in two Listed contests, the latest coming at Newmarket earlier this month.

What makes those efforts particularly interesting is that she compromised her chance at the start on both occasions, most notably at Newmarket where she was unsettled even while mounting in the chute before missing the break again.

Despite that, she still finished strongly against smart opposition, suggesting there's plenty of ability there. If she can get away on terms and settle better beforehand, she looks capable of taking a sizeable step forward and could put it right up to the favourite at the prices.

Selection: [SACRED GROUND - 5/2](#)

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14:50 NEWMARKET

Emma Lavelle's Silver Ghost makes plenty of appeal in the 14:50. She won over this same C&D at Newmarket this time last year, which is always a notable positive on the Rowley Mile. On her reappearance here this season, she shaped well and travelled strongly before finishing a creditable third, suggesting she retained plenty of ability after her break.

That run should have put her spot on fitness-wise, and it's also worth noting she has historically improved for her second start of the campaign, including when winning second time up last year. With Grosvenor Sport's Each Way Plus offering four places, she looks a sensible each-way option with conditions likely to suit once again.

Selection: [SILVER GHOST E/W - 6/1](#)

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14:35 NEWBURY

The Lockinge Stakes is the kind of race where you need a horse arriving on an upward curve, and Zeus Olympios ticks plenty of those boxes on profile and potential.

Karl Burke's colt has shaped like a high-class miler from early on, starting with a debut win over 7f at Kempton before taking a big leap forward when winning by five and a half lengths at Thirsk over a mile. He then confirmed his class with a dominant Group 3 win at Haydock, before stepping up again to land the Group 2 Joel Stakes at Newmarket, beating subsequent Group 1 winner Opera Ballo in convincing style.



Even his reappearance third to Opera Ballo at Sandown last month reads strongly in context, as he raced a touch keenly and should strip much fitter for that effort.

With that run under his belt and fitness on his side, he looks ready to take another step forward and can make a serious impact in a strong Lockinge renewal.

Selection: [ZEUS OLYMPIOS - 10/3](#)

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15:10 NEWBURY

In the Carnavon Stakes, it may be worth taking a swing at one at a bigger price.

Ghost Mode returned this season with an impressive win on the all-weather at Southwell in March and was subsequently stepped up into Group 3 company at Ascot. He finished seventh on that occasion, with Wise Approach just ahead of him, but he raced far too keenly and never looked entirely comfortable on the track.



A switch to Newbury could suit him much better, and if settling more effectively he can get involved in a race of this nature. Andrew Balding's team continue to operate at a high level, and it would be no surprise to see him take a step forward and challenge for a place in the top three.

Selection: [GHOST MODE E/W - 14/1](#)

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15:27 NEWMARKET

It's easy to make a case for Stuart Williams' Rebel Path in the 15:27, and he could represent value at a big price in a competitive field. He won this race last year in taking style and looked like a horse on the up at the time. While he hasn't been able to get his head in front since, he has been kept busy on the all-weather, so should arrive race-fit for this return to a more suitable scenario.

His mark has also gradually eased back to below his winning rating from last season, which brings him right back into the mix. Olivia Haines is back in the saddle with a handy seven-pound claim, having partnered him to that victory last year. On paper, everything apart from the market suggests he is capable of running a strong race, and at the prices he looks overlooked value.

Selection: [REBEL PATH E/W - 12/1](#)

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15:45 NEWBURY

Finally, in the London Gold Cup, which looks a deep and competitive renewal full of strength in depth, Sahara King stands out as a leading contender at a backable price.

Richard Hannon's runner made a winning debut at Kempton before following up with a highly creditable effort in a strong Newbury novice in April, finishing behind Derby hope Maltese Cross and the well-fancied My Love Is King. On that occasion, inexperience may have played its part, but he stayed on strongly once the penny dropped and shaped like a colt with plenty of promise.



His most recent run at Newmarket was disappointing on the face of it, but he never looked entirely comfortable on the undulating track. A return to a flatter surface should suit much better, and he is another who looks capable of bouncing back and running a big race if things fall more favourably.

Selection: [SAHARA KING - 6/1](#)

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Best of luck if you're playing and remember always gamble responsibly!

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