

## 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.**

This week, all eyes turn to Newmarket for the Guineas Festival, where the first Classics of the season take centre stage. It's a meeting that sets the tone for the months ahead, with elite three-year-olds stepping onto the Rowley Mile in pursuit of early-season glory.

In this blog, we'll look at the seven ITV races on Friday across three major UK courses – Newmarket, Ascot, and Goodwood – on what promises to be a special weekend.

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### **14:20 NEWMARKET**

In the ITV opener at Newmarket, Poseidon's Warrior heads the market as a strong odds-on favourite for Godolphin after showing plenty of promise when winning a Goodwood novice last autumn. He has since finished second on his subsequent start at this track but has looked a keen-going type at times, which could be a concern if he again fails to settle early. William Buick opts for Ascot on Friday, with Billy Loughnane stepping in, and while that's no negative in itself, this still looks like an odds-on favourite worth taking on.

Marco Botti's Archers Bay looks an interesting each-way player after making it two wins from two since leaving Aidan O'Brien for Newmarket. One of those victories came on the Rowley Mile, a track that always tests a colt's ability to handle the dip, and he showed real attitude there, recovering from a sluggish break when he was towards the rear before staying on strongly once asked for an effort.

This is a step up into Listed company, but connections clearly hold him in high regard with bigger targets later in the season. At 10/1 with Grosvenor Sport, he looks capable of running into the frame and could easily hit the top two if continuing his upward trajectory.

**Selection:** [ARCHERS BAY E/W – 10/1](#)

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## 14:35 ASCOT

Over at Ascot in the Group 3 Sagaro Stakes, all the money is for Sweet William, which is understandable on ratings, especially given he won't be taking on superior stablemate Trawlerman. However, at the prices you might just have to side with Caballo De Mar, a genuine globe-trotting star who landed the Group 1 Prix du Cadran last season and also won the German St. Leger, stamping his authority as one of Europe's premier stayers.



More recently, he was sent to Dubai where he finished second in a valuable Group 2, and that effort was under William Buick, who is back in the saddle here. The five-year-old looks the one most open to further improvement in this field, and at around 7/2 compared to Sweet William's 11/8, he makes plenty of appeal at the prices.

**Selection:** [CABALLO DE MAR – 7/2](#)

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## 14:55 NEWMARKET

Back at Newmarket, this handicap over a mile is another tight contest where little separates the main contenders, but the value may lie with Richard Hannon's St Anton. He has been consistent, finishing third twice and second twice, and looks like one who is simply waiting for things to fall into place. The key is his start, as he has been slowly away on a couple of occasions, but if he breaks on terms, he should be bang there.



Rated 82 and carrying a light weight on his back compared to rivals with winning form in the book, he looks well treated in the context of the race. It may be his turn to get his head in front, and at a very workable 5/1 he appeals as a solid each-way play.

**Selection:** [ST ANTON E/W – 5/1](#)

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## 15:10 ASCOT

In the Commonwealth Cup Trial Stakes (15:10) over at Ascot, three familiar names renew their rivalry after finishing 1-2-3 in last season's Group 1 Middle Park Stakes in September. The market mirrors that result, with Godolphin's Wise Approach heading betting at 6/4, ahead of Brussels at 10/3 and Coppull at 7/2.



With Charlie Appleby not having had the best of fortunes in this race in recent years, this will be a proper test for Wise Approach again. While the favourite sets the standard on form, Coppull looks the one most likely to capitalise if the leaders go too hard. He was the eye-catching closer in the finish and, if timing his challenge right, he can get his head in front here.

**Selection:** [COPPULL - 7/2](#)

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## 15:30 NEWMARKET

Then it's on to the Group 2 Jockey Club Stakes, where French Master could cause an upset. Having been purchased by Wathnan Racing before landing the Copper Horse Stakes at Royal Ascot, he enjoyed a good four-year-old campaign. We are hoping that Caballo De Mar can boost the form earlier on at Ascot, having been second to French Master in the Copper Horse, and you can expect French Master's price to tighten if he obliges.



French Master was disappointing when last seen in the Ebor, but he was carrying top weight from a wide draw and never really got involved, so a line can be drawn through that effort. He has since been gelded, and the John & Thady Gosden yard remain in excellent form, enjoying a standout start to the season with a strong run through April. With Grosvenor Sport offering Each-Way Plus with three places in this seven-runner field, the current 7/1 holds plenty of appeal.

**Selection:** [FRENCH MASTER E/W – 7/1](#)

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## **15:50 GOODWOOD**

Then it's down to Goodwood Racecourse for the Listed Fillies' Stakes over one-mile-four-furlongs. The 15:50 looks a competitive listed contest, with several fillies bringing solid placed form, but the value angle in the race appears to be Incensed.

A promising type when trained by Andrew Balding, she hinted at a return to form when finishing a close second last time out at Kempton, shaping as though she's coming back to herself. If she can build on that effort and transfer it back to turf, she looks well-treated enough to get involved late, and at the prices (18/1) she makes plenty of each-way appeal in an open contest.

**Selection:** [INCENSED E/W – 18/1](#)

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## **16:05 NEWMARKET**

The final ITV race on Friday is the seven-furlong handicap, where in a field largely made up of four-year-olds we'll side with the six-year-old Leadman. Karl Burke is always a trainer worth keeping onside, particularly at this time of year, and this looks good opportunity for one of his handicappers to go in.

Leadman has been edging down the weights and now looks to be on a workable mark of 83. The booking of Connor Planas is also a positive, taking off a valuable 3lb which only enhances his claims in a race of this nature. He's typically ridden patiently and is likely to be held up off the pace, and he does like passing horses, so if things fall into place with a steady enough run race, he can be expected to be finishing strongly in the latter stages.

With Grosvenor Sport offering Each-Way Plus terms, the current 15/2 looks a valuable price.

**Selection:** [LEADMAN E/W – 15/2](#)

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

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