

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.

In this blog, we'll take a look at the six ITV races on Friday, coming from both Chester and Ascot.

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13:30 CHESTER

George Boughey's El Burhan looks a value selection in the opening ITV contest. Proven course-and-distance form around Chester is always a major positive, and he showed that when winning nicely here from stall one previously. He also landed a semi-valuable handicap at Ayr last September, showing the level of ability he possesses on his day.



After a break, he returned at Kempton in March where he finished fifth, but the run may have been better than it looks on paper. Likely favourite Respond was also in that contest, finishing only two or three lengths ahead in third. Crucially, El Burhan was challenging for third himself before meeting trouble in running and being hampered inside the final furlong.

With a clearer passage, he would almost certainly have finished much closer. Given the prices, he looks the more appealing option and could be well worth siding with each-way.

Selection: EL BURHAN – 7/2

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13:50 ASCOT

We head over to Ascot for a competitive 0-105 handicap for three-year-olds, and it looks a tricky race to unravel at first glance.

The value may lie with Harry Charlton's filly Queen Tamara, who showed some smart form as a two-year-old. She won her maiden nicely at Chepstow before producing another solid effort when beaten just a neck in a nursery at Newmarket.

That form has worked out particularly well, with the winner going on to score twice since, including in Listed company at Saint-Cloud.

We haven't seen Queen Tamara since that Newmarket run, so it will be interesting to see how much she has strengthened and developed over the winter. If she returns improved as a three-year-old, she could be very competitively treated and looks one to consider at the prices.

Selection: QUEEN TAMARA – 5/1

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14:05 CHESTER

This could be one of those races where, afterwards, people are left saying that 6/5 turned out to be value. Ralph Beckett's Sea The Stars colt Joulany sets a strong standard on form and experience, and he looks the class horse in the field. The fact he still holds a Derby entry tells its own story about the regard he's held in.

His latest run came in a deep-looking novice at Newbury that featured several promising types, and the form already has the look of a strong contest. This assignment appears more straightforward by comparison.

He finished that race looking as though the effort just told late on, but with that experience behind him, he should take a significant step forward here. If progressing as expected, he looks to hold a very strong chance of getting off the mark.

Selection: JOULANY – 6/5

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14:35 CHESTER

The Huxley Stakes is a race with a strong history of quality winners, and Andrew Balding landed last year's renewal with The Foxes. This time around, his runner High Stock could be flying under the radar in the betting. He has already shown he handles Chester, having finished a close second in last season's Dee Stakes, beaten only a neck by Aidan O'Brien's Mount Kilimanjaro. Since then, he has contested a pair of strong Listed races at Goodwood and Kempton, finishing fourth on both occasions in contests that looked deeper than this.



At around 22/1, he appeals as the type who could easily outrun his odds and sneak into the minor places. That said, Lambourn could prove difficult to reel in if he breaks sharply from stall two and gets into a good rhythm around this tight Chester circuit.

Selection: HIGH STOCK E/W – 22/1

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15:05 CHESTER

The Chester Cup is always something of a punting minefield, so with Grosvenor's Each Way Plus offering five places, it could pay to look a little further down the betting. Jennie Candlish saddles Chemistry, the former Aidan O'Brien-trained runner, who makes plenty of appeal at the prices.

Since leaving Ivan Furtado's yard, Chemistry has already shown ability over hurdles, winning a maiden at Sedgefield where he travelled strongly throughout. Last year's Chester Cup winner East India Dock showed just how effective a switch in discipline can be, and there could still be untapped potential in this one.



He looks the type who may prove very well handicapped back on the Flat, and with stall three giving him an ideal position around Chester, conditions appear set up for a big run. In such an open contest, he looks a solid each-way contender to hit the frame.

Selection: CHEMISTRY E/W – 14/1

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15:40 CHESTER

In the final ITV race, a competitive large-field handicap, Hoodie Hoo makes plenty of appeal at 6/1 and could still have a win in him from a workable mark of 78.

Charlie Hills' sprinter returned with a strong effort at Lingfield when finishing a close second under Jason Watson, who knows the horse well having partnered him to success previously.



He doesn't need to improve much on that reappearance effort to go very close here, and a favourable draw in stall four should give him every chance to secure a good early position.

With Grosvenor Sports' Each Way Plus again offering extra value in the places market, Hoodie Hoo looks a solid contender to be right in the mix and can make the frame at the very least.

Selection: HOODIE HOO E/W – 6/1

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

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