

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 Saturday across – Newmarket, Goodwood and Thirsk – on what promises to be a special weekend.

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13:30 GOODWOOD

A typically competitive fillies' stakes, and while this type of race is often run at Chelmsford on the all-weather, it's a different test entirely now switched to Goodwood. The move to turf on good ground places more emphasis on balance and stamina rather than pure AW speed, and that slight shift could catch a few out. Fitzella and Zooming bring the strongest recent ratings and look the obvious form angles, while Argentine Tango is another who has been shaping as if a return to form is close. There's enough depth here to make it competitive, but also enough unknowns on the switch to turf to open the door for something less exposed.

That's where Princess Petrol makes plenty of appeal. She arrives with a recent run under her belt, and she's previously suggested that stepping back to six furlongs brings out the best in her. This sharper test on good ground at Goodwood should suit her and she looks set up to take a step forward. Ed Walker's team are in reasonable form, and with conditions aligning, she looks a very solid each-way play and a strong contender to hit the frame at odds of 8/1.

Selection: [PRINCESS PETROL EACHWAY – 8/1](#)

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13:45 NEWMARKET

A strong-looking opening handicap at Newmarket is next and it revolves heavily around Double Rush, who is understandably a short-priced favourite. His return after a seven-month break was eye-catching, winning impressively over course and distance just over two weeks ago, and it was the sort of performance that suggested he could quickly progress into Group company. He may well be very hard to beat off what still looks a workable mark.



However, at the prices he is starting to look short enough in a competitive heat, and it may pay to look elsewhere for value. The most interesting alternative is Robert Cowell's Jakajaro, who also struck on his comeback at the Craven Meeting when making all and dictating from the front over five furlongs. He has solid placed form at Listed level in the past and has slipped to a mark that gives him plenty of leeway if returning to that level. The step up in trip should not inconvenience him, and if he is allowed an easy lead again, he could prove very difficult to peg back, especially on a track where front-runners can be dangerous when timing it right.

Selection: [JAKAJARO EACHWAY – 17/2](#)

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14:05 GOODWOOD

Back to the Fillies' Stakes at Goodwood Racecourse and the Chasemore Farm filly Arisaig makes plenty of appeal in an open contest. She is the only course-and-distance winner in the field, a notable edge at Goodwood where track knowledge and positioning are often key. Her reappearance at Newmarket was also encouraging, finishing behind Mister Winston in a race that has already started to look strong form, with that rival expected to head the market for the Suffolk Stakes later on over at Newmarket.



That line of form gives Arisaig a solid foundation, and she looks the type to come forward from that first run of the season. With proven ability at the track and trip, plus the likelihood of further improvement on just her second start back, she appeals as a well-treated contender who could easily step up here in a race lacking a standout.

Selection: [ARISAIG – 13/2](#)

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14:20 NEWMARKET

The Suffolk Stakes at Newmarket looks a competitive handicap on paper, but The Lost King is interesting granted a more patient ride this time around. He has shown enough ability to suggest a race of this nature is well within reach, and with tactics likely to be switched up, he looks set to be ridden with more restraint before being delivered late. In a race where a strong gallop would suit, that change of approach could unlock a bit more improvement and make him a major player at the business end.

The biggest danger may well come from Bullet Point, representing the William Haggas and Tom Marquand partnership. He tends to go well fresh, having won first time out over the mile at this venue last year, and he brings proven class to the table. His effort in the Royal Hunt Cup at Royal Ascot, where he was only narrowly denied in a strongly run race over the same trip, is excellent form in the context of this contest. However, with the likely tactical switch for The Lost King, potential for further progression, he gets the narrow vote to strike in a race that could be set up for a late finisher, with the added safety net of it being an Each-Way Plus race with Grosvenor Sport.

Selection: [THE LOST KING EACHWAY – 5/1](#)

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2:40 THIRSK

The Thirsk Hunt Cup Handicap at Thirsk Racecourse sees Flight Plan appeal strongly back at a venue he clearly enjoys, having landed this contest last year. He returns on a workable mark and, crucially, is now 8lb lower than when successful in the race previously, which puts him right back in the mix if repeating anything close to that level of form.

His recent effort at Newcastle can be marked up too, where he ran well after attempting to make all in testing conditions against a strong headwind, ultimately fading late but shaping better than the bare result suggests. With that run likely to have sharpened him up and his handicap mark easing further into his favour, Flight Plan looks well positioned to strike again in a race he has already proven he can win.

This is an Each-Way Plus race with Grosvenor and it's hard to picture him out of that.

Selection: [FLIGHT PLAN EACHWAY – 6/1](#)

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14:55 NEWMARKET

The Palace House Stakes at Newmarket Racecourse brings a typically sharp Group sprint, and Frost At Dawn looks a very interesting contender for William Knight. She brings strong sprinting form into the race, having finished a creditable third in last season's Group 1 Nunthorpe Stakes over 1000m on good-to-firm ground behind Asfoora, a performance that firmly establishes her class at this level.



She also bumped into the same rival again in the Group 1 Prix de l'Abbaye over 1000m on very soft ground, a surface that would not have played to her strengths. Back on much quicker ground here, conditions are set to be far more suitable for this speedster, and she looks well positioned to bounce back to his best. At 7/1 looks a solid each way play.

Selection: [FROST AT DAWN EACHWAY – 7/1](#)

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15:35 NEWMARKET

The 2000 Guineas at Newmarket Racecourse brings together a classic renewal, and King's Trial is a fascinating contender despite arriving without the traditional trial form. He comes here unbeaten after two decisive victories on the all-weather at Kempton, most recently winning a 1600m conditions event in convincing fashion when asserting himself over a well-regarded rival from Andrew Balding's yard.



That form may not look conventional for a Guineas runner, but the manner of those wins suggests real ability, and connections have successfully used a similar path before with Notable Speech en route to Group 1 success two years ago. The vibes from Newmarket have been positive, and with James Doyle booked, King's Trail could be set to give Godolphin another major Classic success, potentially their fourth win in the race in the last five years. He arrives under the radar but looks a live contender if transferring his all-weather dominance to the Rowley Mile.

Selection: [KING'S TRAIL – 7/1](#)

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

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