

# HALF-TIME TEAM TALK



YOUR MID-SEASON FOOTBALL BETTING GUIDE

The smart money's on

**CORAL**

**SUPER SMART BOOST**

**HARRY KANE**  
TOP PREMIER LEAGUE GOALSCORER

Available online & mobile from 8am today for a limited time.

NOW  
**3/1**  
WAS 9/4

WHEN  
THE  
FUN  
STOPS  
**STOP**

BeGambleAware.org

18+

## CONTENTS

**Divisional verdicts**  
 Premier League ..... 2-6  
*by Mark Langdon*  
 Sky Bet Championship .8-10  
*by Dan Childs*  
 Sky Bet League One ... 12-14  
*by Steve Davies*  
 Sky Bet League Two ... 16-17  
*by Aaron Ashley*  
 Scotland..... 18-19  
*by Mark Walker*  
 Non-league .....20  
*by Andrew Wilsher*  
 Europe ..... 21  
*by Joe Champion*  
**Expert analysis**  
 Didi Hamann ..... 7  
 Kevin Pullein ..... 15  
 Spreadwise .....22  
 Mike Holden.....24

*Designed & edited by:*  
 Matthew Ireland  
*Production team:* Phil Agius,  
 Aaron Ashley, Joe Champion,  
 Henry Hardwicke, Adam  
 Scriven, Ian Wilkerson,  
 Dan Williams  
*Stats:* Chris Mann, Dave Clark,  
 Glenn Jeffreys  
*Front cover:* Sam Creedon,  
 Liam Hill

### ADVISED ANTE-POST By Mark Langdon

- Man City-Liverpool dual forecast** 1pt 2-1 Sky Bet
- Man Utd to not finish in the top four** 2pts 11-4 bet365
- Huddersfield to be relegated** 2pts 5-4 BoyleSports, Sky Bet
- Bournemouth to be relegated** 1pt 9-2 general
- Fulham +45 on handicap** 1pt e-w 16-1 Betway, Sky Bet
- Leicester without big six** 1pt 5-1 Coral
- R Firmino top goalscorer** 1pt each-way 35-1 Paddy Power
- J Vardy top goalscorer** 0.5pt each-way 40-1 general
- W Zaha top goalscorer** 0.5pt e-w 200-1 Betfred, Lads
- S Aguero to outscore R Lukaku** 2pts 8-11 bet365
- E Hazard PFA Player of the Year** 1pt 14-1 Sky Bet
- P-E Aubameyang PFA Player of the Year** 0.5pt 22-1 Betfair, Paddy Power
- M Ozil PFA Player of the Year** 0.5pt 50-1 general
- Sell Newcastle points** at 41.5 Sporting Index

## PREMIER LEAGUE

# Citizens to deny Reds in an epic title showdown

### Mark Langdon

is expecting the reigning champions to keep hold of their title



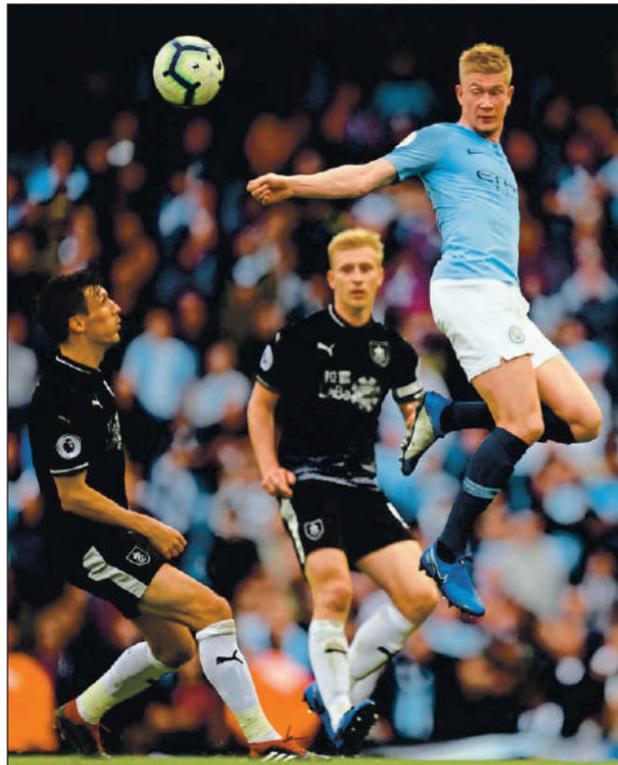
LIVERPOOL are on top of the Premier League season but, as the odds suggest, Manchester City are likely to gobble up the leaders to retain the title.

City, one point behind but odds-on favourites to be crowned champions again, have almost kept up with Liverpool's relentless pace despite having already visited Anfield and played most of the season without influential midfielder Kevin De Bruyne.

With De Bruyne now raring to go there is potential for City to improve – a frightening prospect given their goal difference of plus 38 is easily the best – and on expected goals Pep Guardiola's team are comfortably seen as the superior side.

Unbeaten Liverpool deserve enormous respect after serving it up to the champions in the opening 17 matches.

Their defensive stats, with only seven goals conceded, are outstanding and the forwards are just beginning to hit their straps with Mohamed Salah, Roberto Firmino and Sadio Mane capable of more as



Manchester City's Kevin De Bruyne (right) is raring to go after injury

Liverpool aim to win their first championship since 1990.

Fabinho is finally looking good, Naby Keita has only shown flashes of the talent which created such a fuss when he arrived in the summer and the bench is much better than last season thanks to the likes of Xherdan Shaqiri.

However, Liverpool are likely to need a points tally in the high 90s, and maybe even three figures, which may prove just beyond them.

IN TERMS of a bet it could be worth focusing on the best of the rest which has become a battle for London supremacy and Tottenham can come out on top against Chelsea and Arsenal. Spurs are third despite a desperately difficult pre-season that started late because nine of their squad were involved in the World Cup semi-finals.

There have been a stack of injuries for Mauricio Pochettino

### PREMIER LEAGUE

	Bet365	BetBright	Betfair	Betfred	Betway	Boyles	Coral	Hills	Ladbrokes	Power	Sky Bet	188Bet
Man City	2-5	4-11	4-11	4-11	2-5	2-5	4-11	4-11	4-11	4-11	4-11	1-3
Liverpool	9-4	9-4	12-5	5-2	5-2	9-4	9-4	5-2	9-4	12-5	9-4	9-4
Tottenham	33	33	30	28	25	28	33	25	33	30	50	35
Chelsea	66	66	50	50	66	50	66	40	66	50	66	80
Arsenal	200	200	325	200	200	200	200	66	200	325	200	250
Man Utd	750	750	500	750	500	750	750	1000	750	500	1000	1000

Win only Others on request

### TOP-FOUR FINISH

	Bet365	BetBright	Betfair	Betfred	Betway	Boyles	Coral	Hills	Ladbrokes	Power	Sky Bet	188Bet
Tottenham	2-9	2-9	2-9	1-4	2-9	2-9	2-9	1-5	2-9	2-9	1-4	2-9
Chelsea	2-9	2-9	2-9	1-4	2-9	1-4	2-9	2-7	2-9	2-9	1-5	2-9
Arsenal	13-8	6-4	7-5	13-8	6-4	6-4	7-5	6-4	7-5	7-5	11-8	13-8
Man Utd	14	11	11	12	12	11	10	8	10	11	9	9
Everton	150	100	225	150	125	100	100	100	100	225	66	150
Wolves	125	150	300	200	150	200	125	100	125	300	250	120
West Ham	200	150	500	250	200	300	200	-	200	500	500	200
Watford	200	250	500	500	200	300	250	-	250	500	500	200

### TOP-SIX FINISH

	Bet365	BetBright	Betfair	Betfred	Betway	Boyles	Coral	Ladbrokes	Power	Sky Bet	188Bet
Man Utd	1-4	1-4	1-3	2-7	2-7	2-7	2-9	2-9	1-3	2-7	1-6
Everton	9	5	7	5	5	15-2	7	7	7	4	83-10
Wolves	9	9	15-2	9	9	9	9	9	15-2	9	9
West Ham	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	14	16
Watford	33	25	20	20	20	25	20	20	20	18	25
Bournemouth	40	33	25	25	25	33	25	25	25	18	40
Leicester	50	50	35	33	33	40	28	28	35	28	50

### BEST PRE-SEASON PRICES

8-11 Manchester City, 9-2 Liverpool, 8 Manchester United, 14 Chelsea, 18 Tottenham, 25 Arsenal, 250 Everton, Wolves, 450 Leicester, 500 West Ham, 750 Crystal Palace, Newcastle, Southampton, 1000 Burnley, Bournemouth, Brighton, Fulham, Watford, 1500 Huddersfield, 2500 Cardiff.

to deal with and an unbalanced fixture list – Tottenham have played only seven home matches compared to Arsenal and Chelsea's nine.

With Jan Vertonghen, Danny Rose, Christian Eriksen, Harry Kane, Dele Alli and Heung-Min Son just some of those to have started slowly there is every reason to expect a better second half of the season even if Wembley remains their home.

Chelsea, firmly put in their place when soundly beaten 3-1 away to

Spurs, are possibly ahead of schedule given Maurizio Sarri was always going to need time to stamp his style on the club.

The Blues, however, have made just three visits to the current top ten and face a tricky schedule down the stretch, while Sarri is presumably desperate for a new striker in January.

He is having to use Eden Hazard through the middle and how he would love someone of Pierre Emerick-Aubameyang or Alexandre Lacazette's quality.

Those two sharpshooters showed their class in Arsenal's north London derby delight against Tottenham but on expected goals the Gunners have a bit to find on Wolves, never mind the top four.

Unai Emery has brought a fresh energy to the Emirates but they have conceded 23 goals, which is significantly worse than their top-four rivals.

It looks likely to finish as Man City-Liverpool-Spurs-Chelsea-Arsenal, with Manchester United so far behind they need binoculars.

**Recommendation**  
 Tottenham top London club  
 1pt 11-10 188Bet



Tottenham ace Heung-Min Son

### PREMIER LEAGUE STANDINGS

	P/L	Home					Away					GD	Pts	
		P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F			A
1 LIVERPOOL	+2.94	17	7	1	0	18	2	7	2	0	19	5	+30	45
2 MAN CITY	+0.86	17	9	0	0	33	6	5	2	1	15	4	+38	44
3 TOTTENHAM	+7.55	17	5	0	2	12	6	8	0	2	19	10	+15	39
4 CHELSEA	+1.61	17	6	3	0	19	7	5	1	2	16	7	+21	37
5 ARSENAL	+0.07	17	6	2	1	17	8	4	2	2	20	15	+14	34
6 MAN UTD	-5.17	17	4	3	1	14	11	3	2	4	15	18	0	26
7 WOLVES	+1.90	17	4	2	3	12	11	3	2	3	7	8	0	25
8 EVERTON	-4.84	17	5	3	1	16	9	1	3	4	8	13	+2	24
9 WEST HAM	+2.84	17	4	1	4	14	14	3	2	3	11	11	0	24
10 WATFORD	+6.23	17	5	0	4	14	15	2	3	3	9	10	-2	24
11 BOURNEMOUTH	+1.15	17	4	2	3	14	14	3	0	5	11	14	-3	23
12 LEICESTER	-2.59	17	3	2	3	10	8	3	2	4	11	13	0	22
13 BRIGHTON	+4.75	17	4	2	2	13	10	2	1	6	7	14	-4	21
14 NEWCASTLE	-5.30	17	2	0	7	7	15	2	4	2	7	7	-8	16
15 CRYSTAL PALACE	-7.15	17	2	2	4	5	8	2	1	6	9	15	-9	15
16 CARDIFF	-5.03	17	4	1	4	12	15	0	1	7	5	18	-16	14
17 SOUTHAMPTON	-8.80	17	1	5	2	9	12	1	1	7	7	20	-16	12
18 BURNLEY	-8.00	17	2	1	5	9	15	1	2	6	6	18	-18	12
19 HUDDERSFIELD	-5.15	17	1	2	6	3	11	1	2	5	7	17	-18	10
20 FULHAM	-12.30	17	2	2	4	10	18	0	1	8	6	24	-26	9

	Corners			R	Cards		Shots		
	Av	F	Av		Av	Y	Av	F	Av
1	6.2	3.9	10.1	1	17	11.4	11.7	6.0	
2	7.9	2.7	10.6	0	16	9.4	12.9	5.3	
3	5.1	5.0	10.1	1	22	14.4	9.9	9.7	
4	4.9	4.0	8.9	0	26	15.2	11.0	7.4	
5	5.5	5.1	10.6	0	33	19.4	10.0	8.8	
6	5.7	4.8	10.5	2	36	24.1	9.2	10.2	
7	5.2	4.6	9.8	0	32	18.8	10.5	8.4	
8	6.1	4.4	10.5	2	22	15.8	9.8	8.5	
9	5.1	5.1	10.2	1	34	21.4	8.6	10.0	
10	5.7	6.0	11.7	2	31	21.1	8.8	8.2	
11	5.7	5.7	11.4	1	29	18.5	8.3	9.7	
12	5.4	5.4	10.8	4	30	23.5	9.1	8.9	
13	3.9	5.2	9.1	2	34	22.9	6.8	11.6	
14	4.9	6.8	11.7	2	26	18.2	8.1	10.8	
15	5.2	5.1	10.3	1	30	19.1	9.2	8.7	
16	4.1	6.5	10.6	1	25	16.1	8.8	10.2	
17	5.3	5.3	10.6	1	37	23.2	10.2	9.5	
18	3.0	7.7	10.7	0	32	18.8	6.0	13.8	
19	4.4	4.2	8.6	2	26	18.2	8.0	9.0	
20	4.4	6.1	10.5	2	29	20.0	9.7	11.9	

### FATE OF THE CHRISTMAS LEADERS

Season	Leaders	Best price	Clear by	Fin. Position	Won/Lost by
2017-18	Manchester City	1-33	11pts	1st	19pts
2016-17	Chelsea	4-5	6pts	1st	7pts
2015-16	Leicester	20-1	2pts	1st	10pts
2014-15	Chelsea	1-2	3pts	1st	8pts
2013-14	Arsenal	5-1	2pts	4th	7pts
2012-13	Manchester Utd	8-15	6pts	1st	11pts
2011-12	Manchester City	4-6	2pts	1st	GD
2010-11	Manchester Utd	11-8	2pts	1st	9pts
2009-10	Chelsea	4-6	4pts	1st	1pt
2008-09	Liverpool	5-1	1pt	2nd	4pts



**SMARTS SAY  
7 OF THE LAST 8  
NEW YEAR LEADERS  
HAVE BECOME  
CHAMPIONS**

**GUT SAYS  
THE SEASON'S  
WON & LOST IN THE  
FESTIVE PERIOD**

# BEST ODDS ON THE PREMIER LEAGUE



WHEN THE **FUN** STOPS **STOP**

BeGambleAware.org **18+**

Above statement based on Betfair Sportsbook offering the lowest average match overrounds since 1/1/18 on Premier league games. Betfair Sportsbook prices compared against leading UK bookmakers. Data provided by TX Odds & Betradar. Full terms at [promos.betfair.com](https://promos.betfair.com)

PREMIER LEAGUE RELEGATION

# Struggles on the road suggest Cardiff are set for the drop

By Mark Langdon

THE relegation market suggests it will be three teams from five plying their trade in the Sky Bet Championship next season and the ante-post relegation favourites **Cardiff** look set to be one of them.

Cardiff are making a decent effort given their limited resources but only one of their 14 points has come away from home. And as they have already faced six of the bottom nine in Wales it seems as though Neil Warnock's side have already had their best chances to pick up points.

Warnock's battlers are only two points clear of the drop and they have less financial clout than some of their rivals which could be important during the transfer window.

Huddersfield have played some decent football but they lack quality in the striking department which could be their undoing. The knee injury that rules out key man Aaron Mooy until February



Neil Warnock looks set for a difficult second half of the season

is also a bitter blow.

Fulham have flopped woefully after spending in excess of £100m in the summer. They have lost the identity and spirit which won them the Championship playoffs

and manager Slavisa Jokanovic lost his job.

However, if Jokanovic's replacement Claudio Ranieri sorts out the defence then Fulham will have a fighting chance. It tends

to be easier to rectify organisation issues than find new ways to create opportunities.

The rock-bottom Cottagers have already travelled to six of the top eight, so their second-half schedule will be less taxing, while Burnley have looked a little more like their old selves in the last few games, beating Brighton 1-0, nearly holding on for a point at Tottenham and taking the lead in a 3-1 loss to Liverpool.

Southampton are better than their league position suggests and should move up the standings now Ralph Hasenhuttl has arrived so that three from five is probably more like three from four.

Crystal Palace should soon get Christian Benteke back to fitness, Newcastle have Rafael Benitez and Brighton, who are potentially overachieving, have given themselves a terrific buffer with 21 points on the board already.

**Recommendation**  
Cardiff to be relegated  
2pts 8-11 Betfair, Paddy Power

LANGDON'S TEAM OF THE SEASON SO FAR



TOP-FOUR FINISH

	Bet365	BetBright	Betfair	Betfred	Betway	Boyles	Coral	Hills	Ladbrokes	Power	Sky Bet	188Bet
Tottenham	2-9	2-9	2-9	1-4	2-9	2-9	2-9	1-5	2-9	2-9	1-4	2-9
Chelsea	2-9	2-9	2-9	1-4	2-9	1-4	2-9	2-7	2-9	2-9	1-5	2-9
Arsenal	13-8	6-4	7-5	13-8	6-4	6-4	7-5	6-4	7-5	7-5	11-8	13-8
Man Utd	14	11	11	12	12	11	10	8	10	11	9	9
Everton	150	100	225	150	125	100	100	100	100	225	66	150
Wolves	125	150	300	200	150	200	125	100	125	300	250	120
West Ham	200	150	500	250	200	300	200	-	200	500	500	200
Watford	200	250	500	500	200	300	250	-	250	500	500	200

TOP-SIX FINISH

	Bet365	BetBright	Betfair	Betfred	Betway	Boyles	Coral	Hills	Ladbrokes	Power	Sky Bet	188Bet
Man Utd	1-4	1-4	1-3	2-7	2-7	2-7	2-9	2-9	1-3	2-7	1-6	
Everton	9	5	7	5	5	15-2	7	7	7	4	83-10	
Wolves	9	9	15-2	9	9	9	9	9	9	15-2	9	9
West Ham	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	14	16
Watford	33	25	20	20	20	25	20	20	20	18	25	
Bournemouth	40	33	25	25	25	33	25	25	25	18	40	
Leicester	50	50	35	33	33	40	28	28	35	28	50	

RELEGATION

	Bet365	BetBright	Betfair	Betfred	Betway	Boyles	Coral	Hills	Ladbrokes	Power	Sky Bet	188Bet
Huddersfield	4-11	4-11	4-11	2-5	4-11	4-11	4-11	2-5	4-11	4-11	4-11	6-17
Burnley	4-9	4-9	4-9	4-9	4-9	4-9	4-9	4-9	4-9	4-9	1-2	2-5
Fulham	1-2	8-15	4-9	8-13	1-2	8-15	1-2	4-6	1-2	4-9	8-15	5-11
Cardiff	8-13	4-6	8-11	8-13	8-13	4-6	4-7	4-6	4-7	8-11	2-3	3-5
Southampton	9-2	4	7-2	4	4	9-2	4	4	4	7-2	4	9-2
Newcastle	11-2	5	13-2	5	11-2	11-2	11-2	9-2	11-2	13-2	6	11-2
Crystal Palace	9	7	17-2	15-2	8	7	8	13-2	8	17-2	7	9
Brighton	14	18	16	16	14	14	16	14	16	16	18	14
Leicester	66	100	90	80	66	66	80	100	80	90	100	70
Bournemouth	125	125	125	100	125	125	125	100	125	125	200	120
Watford	200	150	250	100	200	200	200	66	200	250	200	200
West Ham	200	250	275	200	200	200	200	50	200	275	250	200

TO FINISH BOTTOM

	Bet365	BetBright	Betfair	Betfred	Betway	Boyles	Coral	Hills	Ladbrokes	Power	Sky Bet	188Bet
Huddersfield	9-4	2	21-10	2	9-4	9-4	7-4	7-4	7-4	21-10	15-8	2
Fulham	9-4	5-2	12-5	5-2	5-2	5-2	11-4	11-4	11-4	12-5	11-4	9-4
Burnley	9-4	11-4	11-4	5-2	9-4	5-2	3	3	3	11-4	3	9-4
Cardiff	9-2	9-2	9-2	9-2	9-2	9-2	9-2	5	9-2	9-2	9-2	9-2
Southampton	33	20	17	25	20	25	25	25	25	17	22	20
Newcastle	25	25	33	28	25	25	33	33	33	33	33	40
Crystal Palace	66	50	60	50	50	50	50	50	50	60	40	50
Brighton	150	125	125	-	150	150	150	125	150	125	200	-

TO STAY UP

	Bet365	BetBright	Betfair	Betfred	Boyles	Coral	Hills	Ladbrokes	Power	Sky Bet	188Bet
Brighton	1-33	1-40	1-40	1-80	1-66	1-80	1-50	1-80	1-40	1-100	1-41
Crystal Palace	1-14	1-14	1-16	1-25	1-16	1-20	1-14	1-20	1-16	1-14	1-20
Newcastle	1-8	1-10	1-12	1-9	1-10	1-10	1-8	1-10	1-12	1-10	1-10
Southampton	1-7	1-6	1-6	1-7	1-7	1-7	1-6	1-7	1-6	1-6	2-17
Cardiff	13-10	11-10	Evs	6-5	11-10	5-4	11-10	5-4	Evs	6-5	6-5
Fulham	13-8	6-5	6-4	6-5	11-8	6-4	11-10	6-4	6-4	3-2	6-4
Burnley	7-4	13-8	13-8	13-8	13-8	8-5	13-8	8-5	13-8	13-8	28-17
Huddersfield	11-5	7-4	21-10	7-4	2	11-5	7-4	11-5	21-10	2	11-5

TOP-HALF FINISH

	Bet365	BetBright	Betfair	Betfred	Betway	Boyles	Coral	Hills	Ladbrokes	Power	Sky Bet	188Bet
Everton	2-7	2-7	1-4	1-5	2-9	1-6	1-4	1-6	1-4	1-4	1-7	1-4
Wolves	2-7	1-4	2-9	3-10	2-7	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	2-9	1-3	5-18
West Ham	1-2	1-2	8-15	8-13	8-15	4-7	4-7	4-7	4-7	8-15	4-7	1-2
Watford	4-5	4-6	4-6	8-11	8-11	5-6	4-5	5-6	4-5	4-6	8-11	8-11
Bournemouth	4-5	5-6	10-11	10-11	4-5	5-6	4-5	5-6	4-5	10-11	8-11	4-5
Leicester	6-4	11-10	6-5	11-10	6-5	6-5	6-5	6-5	6-5	6-5	11-10	13-10
Brighton	4	9-2	9-2	9-2	9-2	5	9-2	5	9-2	9-2	5	4
Crystal Palace	11-2	7	7	7	7	10	8	8	8	7	10	11-2
Southampton	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	14
Newcastle	16	12	10	12	12	12	14	14	14	10	12	16
Cardiff	125	100	125	100	100	100	100	150	100	125	100	120
Fulham	200	200	150	150	200	150	150	150	150	150	200	200
Burnley	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200
Huddersfield	300	250	300	200	250	250	250	250	250	300	250	300

PFA PLAYER OF THE YEAR

	Bet365	Betfair	Betfred	Betway	Boyles	Power	Sky Bet	188Bet
D Silva	11-4	9-4	3	11-4	3	9-4	9-4	5-2
Hazard	3	10-3	7-2	3	3	10-3	10-3	11-4
Sterling	4	6	7-2	4	4	6	11-2	7-2
Salah	9	10	10	9	9	10	9	9
Van Dijk	16	14	16	16	16	14	16	16
Kane	16	20	12	14	18	20	18	16
Aguero	20	16	16	14	16	16	16	18
Aubameyang	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	35
B Silva	50	25	66	40	40	25	25	50
Eriksen	40	33	50	50	50	33	66	40
De Bruyne	66	25	50	50	66	25	33	60
Mane	66	40	40	40	66	40	33	60
Arnautovic	66	-	66	66	66	-	50	60
Sane	40	33	80	33	66	33	66	40
Alli	50	100	50	50	66	100	66	50
Jorginho	66	50	100	50	50	50	50	60
Fernandinho	66	40	100	-	66	40	66	-

# Managerless United looking vulnerable to the chasing pack

TOP-SIX FINISH

MANCHESTER UNITED are in a mess but they may not even have sunk to their lowest point despite sacking Jose Mourinho and the Red Devils may be more vulnerable than long odds-on quotes for a top-six finish suggest, writes Mark Langdon.

United are sixth after 17 matches. They have a zero goal difference which is the same as Leicester in 12th and their defensive record of 29 goals conceded is worse than 19th-placed Huddersfield's. Only Fulham have kept fewer clean sheets than United's tally of two.

The club issued a statement saying a caretaker manager will be appointed until the end of the season before conducting a "thorough recruitment process for a new full-time manager" which leaves the Red Devils in a state of flux until the permanent replacement is named.

Will funds be made available to this interim boss? It would seem unlikely given that he will be out of a job in May and all the talk around Manchester is of a change of direction at board level as CEO Ed Woodward looks to bring in a director of football.

That all sounds sensible apart from the fact the defence is awful and striker Romelu Lukaku has scored just twice in his last 17 matches.

The midfield would be helped should the new caretaker enjoy a more productive relationship with Paul Pogba than Mourinho did, although the World Cup winner's attitude throughout the



Romelu Lukaku: underdelivering

season only goes to highlight the complete lack of discipline running rife at a troubled club.

Since Sir Alex Ferguson retired United have finished seventh, fourth, fifth, sixth and second and that second to Manchester City was seen as a fluke last year with the club sixth on expected goals.

Some expected goal rankings rate them even lower this season and the likes of Wolves and Everton have a fair chance of finishing above United.

Wolves have got to go away to all of the top four, although they are coached excellently by Nuno, while Everton added quality in Richarlison, Bernard, Lucas Digne and Andre Gomes last summer which should see them improve as the campaign continues.

**Recommendations**  
Wolves top-six finish  
0.5pt 9-1 general  
Everton top-six finish  
0.5pt 9-1 bet365

UK: 08000322365



# bet365.com

## SEASON BETTING 2018/19

### TO WIN OUTRIGHT

#### PREMIER LEAGUE

MAN CITY	2/5
LIVERPOOL	9/4
TOTTENHAM	33/1
CHELSEA	66/1
ARSENAL	200/1
MAN UTD	750/1
EVERTON	1500/1
WOLVERHAMPTON	1500/1
WEST HAM	2000/1
BOURNEMOUTH	2500/1

OTHERS AVAILABLE  
WIN ONLY

#### CHAMPIONSHIP

LEEDS	15/8
NORWICH	3/1
WEST BROM	11/2
DERBY	11/1
SHEFF UTD	12/1
ASTON VILLA	14/1
MIDDLESBROUGH	16/1
NOTTM FOREST	33/1
STOKE	40/1
SWANSEA	150/1

OTHERS AVAILABLE  
EACH-WAY 1/4 1-2-3

#### LEAGUE 1

PORTSMOUTH	7/4
SUNDERLAND	15/8
LUTON	3/1
BARNLEY	10/1
CHARLTON	20/1
DONCASTER	50/1
PETERBOROUGH	50/1
BLACKPOOL	200/1
SOUTHEND	300/1
FLEETWOOD TOWN	400/1

OTHERS AVAILABLE  
EACH-WAY 1/3 1-2

#### LEAGUE 2

LINCOLN CITY	13/8
MILTON KEYNES DONS	13/8
MANSFIELD	7/1
BURY	9/1
COLCHESTER	20/1
TRANMERE	40/1
EXETER	50/1
FOREST GREEN	50/1
NEWPORT COUNTY	50/1
OLDHAM	100/1

OTHERS AVAILABLE  
EACH-WAY 1/5 1-2-3

### TO BE RELEGATED

#### PREMIER LEAGUE

HUDDERSFIELD	4/11
BURNLEY	4/9
FULHAM	1/2
CARDIFF	8/13
SOUTHAMPTON	9/2
NEWCASTLE	11/2
CRYSTAL PALACE	9/1
BRIGHTON	14/1
LEICESTER	66/1
BOURNEMOUTH	125/1

OTHERS AVAILABLE

#### CHAMPIONSHIP

IPSWICH	1/4
BOLTON	1/3
READING	4/6
ROTHERHAM	6/4
MILLWALL	4/1
SHEFF WED	4/1
HULL	7/1
WIGAN	14/1
BRENTFORD	25/1
PRESTON	40/1

OTHERS AVAILABLE

#### LEAGUE 1

BRADFORD	1/3
AFC WIMBLEDON	4/9
PLYMOUTH	4/9
BRISTOL ROVERS	10/11
SCUNTHORPE	10/11
GILLINGHAM	11/4
ROCHDALE	4/1
OXFORD UTD	6/1
SHREWSBURY	8/1
WALSALL	9/1

OTHERS AVAILABLE

#### LEAGUE 2

MACCLESFIELD	2/5
NOTTS COUNTY	2/1
MORECAMBE	23/10
GRIMSBY	4/1
CHELTENHAM	9/2
CAMBRIDGE UTD	8/1
CREWE	12/1
YEOVIL	12/1
CRAWLEY TOWN	18/1
PORT VALE	22/1

OTHERS AVAILABLE

### TOP GOALSCORER

#### PREMIER LEAGUE

KANE	11/4
SALAH	11/4
AGUERO	5/1
AUBAMEYANG	5/1
STERLING	12/1
HAZARD	20/1
MANE	28/1
LACAZETTE	33/1
MARTIAL	40/1
WILSON	40/1

OTHERS AVAILABLE  
EACH-WAY 1/4 1-2-3

#### CHAMPIONSHIP

ABRAHAM	3/1
GRABBAN	3/1
MAUPAY	7/1
PUKKI	7/1
GAYLE	10/1
RODRIGUEZ	12/1
ROOFE	16/1
SHARP	20/1
JUTKIEWICZ	25/1
ADAMS	33/1

OTHERS AVAILABLE  
EACH-WAY 1/4 1-2-3

#### LEAGUE 1

MAJA	5/1
MOORE	13/2
EAVES	7/1
MARQUIS	7/1
HENDERSON	15/2
GODDEN	14/1
LADAPO	14/1
LEE	14/1
TAYLOR	14/1
AHEARNE-GRANT	16/1

OTHERS AVAILABLE  
EACH-WAY 1/4 1-2-3-4

#### LEAGUE 2

NORWOOD	6/4
STOCKLEY	6/1
AGARD	10/1
AKINDE	14/1
ANEKE	16/1
MAYNARD	20/1
POPE	20/1
WALKER	20/1
MATT	25/1
SURRIDGE	25/1

OTHERS AVAILABLE  
EACH-WAY 1/4 1-2-3-4

## UP TO £100 IN BET CREDITS FOR NEW CUSTOMERS

Returns exclude Bet Credits stake. T&Cs, time limits & exclusions apply\*

Enjoy gambling responsibly. [BeGambleAware.org](http://BeGambleAware.org) 18+

Need Help? Call the National Helpline free on 0808 802 0133. View conditions of all our offers at [www.bet365.com](http://www.bet365.com). \*New customers only. Deposit £5 or more and claim within 30 days of registering to receive a 100% matched amount in Bet Credits up to £100. Bet Credits are released after settlement of qualifying bets (must settle within 30 days of claiming) and are non-withdrawable. Returns exclude Bet Credits stake. NETeller, Skrill and Skrill 1-Tap deposits don't count. Selections settled at odds of less than 1/5, Cashed Out bets and bets placed via our Telephone Betting service don't count towards release of Bet Credits. Other conditions, time limits & exclusions apply. All prices subject to fluctuation.

# Ladbrokes

**PREMIER LEAGUE  
SUPER PRICE BOOST**

**LIVERPOOL TO WIN  
THE LEAGUE & SALAH  
TO BE TOP PREMIER  
LEAGUE GOALSCORER**

**10/1  
WAS 8/1**

Available online & mobile for a limited time from 8am.

DOWNLOAD THE APP



WHEN THE **FUN** STOPS **STOP**

BeGambleAware.org

18+

SUPER PRICE BOOST: Offer available from 08.00am today for a limited time only. Stake limits apply. Singles only. Odds Boost excluded from this offer. The 'was' price advertised is a guide price only, prices are subject to fluctuation. 18+ PLEASE BET RESPONSIBLY begambleaware.org - Need Help? Call the National Gambling Helpline on 0808 802 0133

## PREMIER LEAGUE TOP SCORER



Manchester City's Sergio Aguero is only two goals off the pace despite having missed four weeks

# Aguero looks ready to make up for lost time

By Mark Langdon

SERGIO AGUERO has recently returned from injury and that is bad news for the rest of the Premier League.

Aguero, out of top-flight action since the 4-0 win at West Ham on November 24, was on the bench for Saturday's success over Everton and is no doubt aiming to fill his boots during this busy Christmas period.

It's a remarkable top goalscorer betting heat with nine players separated by two goals and the leading hitmen – ten-goal Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and Mohamed Salah – will take some catching, not to mention twice-winner Harry Kane, who is one behind on nine.

However, eight-goal Aguero has plenty going for him, particularly that City score an obscene amount of goals.

They have already notched 48 and the likes of Leroy Sane and David Silva put opportunities on a plate for Aguero, whose expected goals per 90 minutes figure of 0.80 is comfortably superior to his market rivals.

Aguero is averaging a goal every 121 minutes and Pep Guardiola won't be able to rest

### LEADING SCORERS

P = Possible penalty taker

<b>P-E Aubameyang</b> Arsenal <b>P</b>	10	<b>C Wilson</b> Bournemouth	8
<b>M Salah</b> Liverpool	10	<b>S Mane</b> Liverpool	7
<b>H Kane</b> Tottenham <b>P</b>	9	<b>A Martial</b> Manchester Utd <b>P</b>	7
<b>R Sterling</b> Manchester City	9	<b>A Mitrovic</b> Fulham	7
<b>S Aguero</b> Manchester City <b>P</b>	8	<b>F Anderson</b> West Ham	6
<b>E Hazard</b> Chelsea <b>P</b>	8	<b>D Ings</b> Southampton <b>P</b>	6
<b>G Murray</b> Brighton <b>P</b>	8	<b>A Lacazette</b> Arsenal <b>P</b>	6
<b>Richarlison</b> Everton	8	<b>R Lukaku</b> Manchester Utd	6

his star striker often if Liverpool lay down a proper title challenge.

He will also soon have the sublime passing of Kevin De Bruyne to help the Golden Boot charge, although that may be a hindrance to Raheem Sterling's chances of landing an upset.

De Bruyne's return means Bernardo Silva will have to be shifted wide, fighting with Sterling, Sane and Riyad Mahrez for two spots.

Salah is hugely respected along with Kane. Tottenham are not quite a one-man team but Kane definitely leads their charge.

Aubameyang, however, is jostling with Alexandre Lacazette for the starting berth as the central forward for Arsenal. Sometimes he is on the left and sometimes he's out of the team altogether.

For a second bet, head to Chelsea and **Eden Hazard**.

The brilliant Belgian is proving his worth once again and scored what proved to be the winner against Brighton last time out.

Hazard is on eight goals and he also takes Chelsea's penalties, but more importantly, he has just been moved to a more advanced position.

Blues boss Maurizio Sarri, who turned Dries Mertens into a centre forward at Napoli, seems to have lost faith in Olivier Giroud and Alvaro Morata, which can only be good news for Hazard backers as the season reaches a crescendo.

### Recommendations

**S Aguero top goalscorer**  
1.5pts each-way 5-1 general  
**E Hazard top goalscorer**  
0.5pt 25-1 Hills

### MOST ASSISTS 2018-19

9	<b>E Hazard</b>	Chelsea
7	<b>L Sane</b>	Man City
	<b>R Fraser</b>	Bournemouth
6	<b>C Eriksen</b>	Tottenham
	<b>R Sterling</b>	Man City
	<b>A Ramsey</b>	Arsenal
5	<b>B Mendy</b>	Man City
	<b>A Doucoure</b>	Watford
	<b>S March</b>	Brighton
	<b>C Wilson</b>	Bournemouth
4	<b>R Jimenez</b>	Wolves
	<b>J B Gudmundsson</b>	Burnley
	<b>H Bellerin</b>	Arsenal
	<b>L Vietto</b>	Fulham
	<b>M Rashford</b>	Man Utd
	<b>J Holebas</b>	Watford
	<b>K Iheanacho</b>	Leicester
	<b>R Firmino</b>	Liverpool
	<b>M Salah</b>	Liverpool
	<b>A Knockaert</b>	Brighton
	<b>O Giroud</b>	Chelsea
	<b>S Aguero</b>	Man City

### TOP SCORER

	Bet365	BetBright	Betfair	Betfred	Betway	Boyles	Coral	Hills	Ladbrokes	Power	Sky Bet	188Bet
<b>Kane</b>	11-4	11-4	11-4	5-2	13-5	11-4	12-5	5-2	12-5	11-4	5-2	11-4
<b>Salah</b>	11-4	11-4	11-4	11-4	11-4	11-4	11-4	11-4	11-4	11-4	3	11-4
<b>Aguero</b>	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	9-2	4	5	9-2	5
<b>Aubameyang</b>	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	5	5	6	5
<b>Sterling</b>	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	14	12	12	12	12
<b>Hazard</b>	20	18	18	16	18	16	18	25	18	18	14	20
<b>Lacazette</b>	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	25	33	33	33	35
<b>Mane</b>	28	28	33	28	33	20	28	40	28	33	28	30
<b>Wilson</b>	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	25	40	40	40	40
<b>Sane</b>	50	50	40	50	50	50	50	40	50	40	50	50
<b>Lukaku</b>	50	50	50	50	50	50	40	50	40	50	40	50
<b>Richarlison</b>	40	40	40	50	40	50	50	25	50	40	50	40
<b>Mitrovic</b>	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	33	50	50	50	50
<b>Martial</b>	40	66	66	50	50	50	40	50	40	66	50	50
<b>Vardy</b>	66	66	40	50	66	50	50	50	50	40	50	70

Each-way 1/4 1,2,3 (Sky Bet 1/4 1,2,3,4)

Others on request

# Didi Hamann



## Expect Liverpool to push City all the way

**I**T'S three from five for the drop and two prices jump off the page – **Burnley** at 7-4 to stay up and **Southampton** at 9-2 to go down.

Burnley find themselves in the bottom three alongside Huddersfield and Fulham after a really disappointing start to the season.

But I still think they've got the mentality and the belief to get out of this fix and their performances recently against Liverpool and Tottenham hint at that.

Burnley seem to have lost the defensive strength they once possessed, but the organisation was there against Spurs where they were cruelly undone by a late winner.

Burnley can fight their way out of danger but I'm not so sure about Southampton.

The Saints being eased to go down is a classic case of overreacting to one result.

Barely a week after they sank miserably at Cardiff in Ralph Hasenhuttl's first game in charge, are we really supposed to believe that Saints are now safe after beating Arsenal 3-2?

Arsenal were there for the taking with no central defenders and they have been leaking goals anyway. But they also cut Southampton apart far too easily and could have scored many more. Saints were poor at the back when Hasenhuttl arrived and they still are. One result doesn't mean that Saints are safe.

At the other end of the table we've got a proper title fight and one that probably isn't reflected in the prices.

The layers are still right behind Manchester City and I'm inclined to agree – but they aren't a 2-5 chance.

My sense with City is that they've got the greater depth in key areas – more options in central defence and a galaxy of permutations in the final third.

Liverpool need to keep their holy trinity fit and fully firing, though none of Mohamed Salah, Roberto Firmino or



Virgil van Dijk has proved to be a superb signing for Liverpool

Sadio Mane is as important as Virgil van Dijk is to Liverpool sustaining a challenge right to the end.

Van Dijk has been a colossal signing for Jurgen Klopp, giving them an authority in an area where it had been lacking. He stops goals and he even scores goals, but more importantly he leads the team.

As I say it's City for me – but Liverpool won't be far behind.

### DIDI'S DIAMONDS

**Southampton to be relegated**  
9-2 bet365, BoyleSports, 188Bet

**Burnley to stay up**  
7-4 bet365

**P-E Aubameyang top scorer**  
6-1 Sky Bet

**E Hazard top scorer**  
25-1 each-way Hills

**G Jesus top scorer**  
100-1 each-way bet365, 188Bet

## Hazard a danger in boot market

**AFTER** two months without a goal **EDEN HAZARD** was back on the scoresheet at Brighton at the weekend.

Perhaps more significantly the Belgian star played through the middle at the Amex Stadium.

If Maurizio Sarri has really lost faith in Alvaro Morata and Olivier Giroud (and I wouldn't be in the least bit surprised if he has) then we can expect to see Hazard in that role more

often between now and the end of the season.

And that means we should expect a fruitful few months for the Chelsea ace who has to be worth a golden boot punt at 25-1. He's only two off the pace and if we know one thing about Sarri's Chelsea it's that they won't be sitting back.

At an even bigger price, how about **GABRIEL JESUS**? Back in the goals and back in Pep Guardiola's planning,

he looks set to have a greater influence over the second half of the campaign, and there is no guarantee that Sergio Aguero can stay fit.

Of the market leaders I like **PIERRE-EMERICK AUBAMEYANG**. I said when he arrived he is a proven finisher, as good a goalscorer as you'll find in Europe, and he's playing in the right team to give him opportunities.

The smart money's on  
**CORAL**

**+BUILD YOUR BET**

**LEADERBOARD**

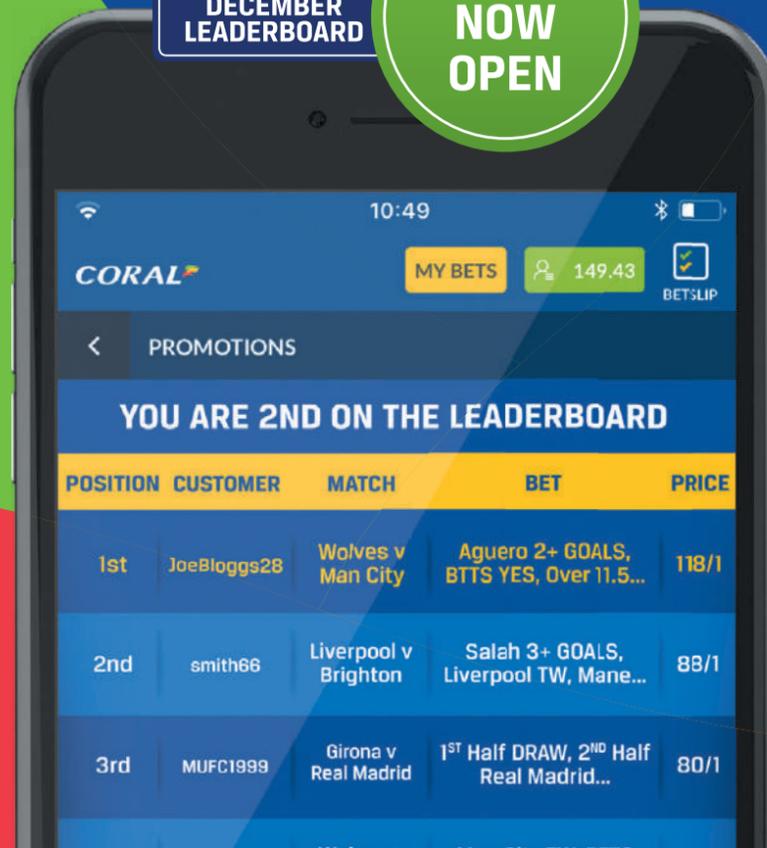
**£25,000  
UP FOR GRABS**

The bigger the price,  
the higher you place

Available online & mobile

**DECEMBER  
LEADERBOARD**

**ENTRIES  
NOW  
OPEN**



DOWNLOAD THE APP



WHEN THE **FUN** STOPS **STOP**

BeGambleAware.org

18+

BUILD YOUR BET LEADERBOARD: UK online & mobile customers. Leaderboard standings determined by descending order of winning Build Your Bets odds during promotional period 01/12/18 until 31/12/18. £1 min bet. First place £10,000. One prize per customer. Build Your Bet bets cannot be combined with other selections. Dead heat rules may apply. Full terms at coral.co.uk. 18+ PLEASE BET RESPONSIBLY begambleaware.org - Need Help? Call the National Gambling Helpline on 0808 802 0133

# SKY BET CHAMPIONSHIP

## ADVISED ANTE-POST

By Dan Childs

- Nottingham Forest to win title**  
4pts each-way 10-1 general
- Derby to be promoted**  
2pts 5-1 Paddy Power
- QPR to be relegated**  
2pts 5-1 Paddy Power
- Birmingham to be relegated**  
1pt 7-1 Betfred
- Sheffield United top-half finish** 5pts 11-10 Hills
- Birmingham bottom-half finish** 6pts 8-11 Betfred
- Nottingham Forest top-six finish** 5pts 6-4 Hills
- Preston +22 on handicap**  
1pt each-way 18-1 Betfred
- L Grabban top goalscorer**  
1.5pts each-way 14-1 Sky Bet
- O McBurnie top goalscorer**  
1pt each-way 25-1 general
- J Kodjia top goalscorer**  
1pt each-way 25-1 Sky Bet
- Hull to finish above QPR**  
6pts 10-11 Sky Bet
- Sheffield Wednesday to finish above Bristol City**  
5pts 4-5 Sky Bet
- Preston to finish above Birmingham**  
5pts 4-6 Sky Bet
- Derby to finish above Leeds**  
5pts 10-11 Sky Bet
- Nottingham Forest to finish above Swansea**  
6pts 4-5 Sky Bet



Aston Villa have flourished under new manager Dean Smith and could be Premier League-bound

# Free-scoring Villa should make bold promotion charge

**Dan Childs**  
Our EFL expert fancies the Villans to come on strong

**D**EAN SMITH was delighted to land the managerial position at **Aston Villa** – the club he supported as a boy – and he could have an even better feeling in May because there is a strong chance of the Midlands giants winning promotion to the Premier League.

Villa are eighth with just over half of the season remaining but they are four points and four places higher than Fulham were at the same stage of the 2017-18 campaign. Fulham took off after the turn of the year and went close to winning automatic promotion before dusting themselves down and defeating Villa 1-0 in the playoff final.

Their celebrations at Wembley were tough for Villa to take but in many ways the Cottagers are an example Villa should be looking to follow for the rest of the season.

Fulham improved dramatically after adding loan signing Aleksandar Mitrovic to an already strong attack.

The good news for Villa is that their attack is already up to the required standard. With 43 goals in 22 games, Villa are the second-highest scorers in

the division. But they have had issues at the back, shipping 34 goals in 22 games, and their flimsy defence will need addressing.

Smith could do with adding two centre-backs to offer some assistance to Axel Tuanzebe and James Chester, who are the only senior central defenders on the books.

But Smith has an ambitious board behind him and if he makes the right signings it may not be beyond Villa to mount a charge towards the top two.

Finishing in the playoffs will be seen as the minimum requirement and Villa look a solid odds-on bet to nail down a top-six berth.

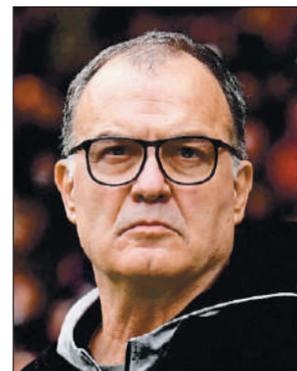
**L**EEDS are one point above Norwich at the top and are 2-1 favourites to win the division.

They deserve to be market leaders but their odds look about right for a side who may need a few January acquisitions to beef up some areas of the squad.

Marcelo Bielsa's high-energy style demands a lot of his players and several have missed periods of the season with niggling injuries.

Bielsa has dipped into the Under-23s, handing debuts to Will Huffer, Jamie Shackleton, Aapo Halmel, Jack Clarke and Ryan Edmondson, and has been rewarded with some excellent performances from his fledglings.

But a few more senior players wouldn't go amiss if Leeds are to finish the season as well as



Leeds boss Marcelo Bielsa

they have started it.

A new striker is likely to be top of the shopping list and, if the right player is brought in, Leeds should get over the line.

Norwich also rely a lot on youngsters – academy products Max Aarons, Jamal Lewis and Todd Cantwell have soon become influential players – and they approach Christmas on a massive high having won 12 of their last 16 league games.

They should finish in the top six at worst, although their shaky defence (26 goals conceded) may deny them a top-two finish.

Challenges to Leeds could also come from West Brom, Sheffield United, Derby, Middlesbrough and Nottingham Forest.

Of those teams Derby, who are steadily improving after a slow start, have the most scope to improve and threaten the automatic promotion places.

**Recommendation**  
**Aston Villa top-six finish**  
5pts 10-11 Betfair, P Power, Sky Bet

## STANDINGS

HOME	SKY BET CHAMPIONSHIP	AWAY
Pt	W D L F A	Pt
22	7 3 1 18 6	Leeds.....6 3 2 18 12 45
22	8 0 3 20 15	Norwich.....5 5 1 20 11 44
22	6 3 2 29 16	West Brom.....5 3 17 15 39
22	6 3 2 16 12	Derby.....5 2 4 15 12 38
22	5 3 3 17 12	Sheff Utd.....6 1 4 18 14 37
22	5 4 2 11 7	Middlesbro.....4 5 2 13 9 36
22	5 4 2 13 9	Nottm Forest.....3 7 1 19 13 35
22	5 5 1 26 19	Aston Villa.....3 4 4 17 15 33
22	5 2 4 17 14	Swansea.....4 3 4 10 10 32
22	4 6 1 19 12	Birmingham.....3 4 4 13 15 31
22	5 3 3 14 11	Stoke.....2 7 2 15 16 31
22	4 6 1 16 13	Blackburn.....3 4 4 13 20 31
22	6 1 4 16 13	QPR.....3 5 11 19 31
22	3 4 4 12 12	Bristol C.....5 2 4 15 14 30
22	5 4 2 26 18	Preston.....2 3 6 9 19 28
22	6 3 2 14 9	Wigan.....1 9 9 21 25
22	3 3 5 9 11	Hull.....3 3 5 14 19 24
22	3 5 3 15 18	Sheff Wed.....3 7 13 22 24
22	5 2 4 21 14	Brentford.....0 5 6 12 20 22
22	4 6 1 15 12	Rotherham.....0 4 7 7 21 22
22	3 2 6 16 17	Reading.....1 5 5 11 18 19
22	4 4 3 18 16	Millwall.....0 3 8 10 22 19
22	2 7 6 15 10	Bolton.....2 4 5 9 15 18
22	1 6 4 10 15	Ipswich.....2 1 8 8 22 14

HOME	LAST EIGHT	AWAY
Pt	W D L F A	Pt
8	4 0 0 11 6	Norwich.....2 2 0 10 3 20
8	3 1 0 6 2	Leeds.....3 0 1 5 5 19
8	2 2 0 13 9	Aston Villa.....2 1 1 8 3 15
8	1 3 0 8 5	West Brom.....3 0 1 6 4 15
8	2 1 1 3 2	Hull.....2 2 0 9 7 15
8	2 2 0 9 5	Preston.....2 1 1 3 4 15
8	2 2 0 6 3	Stoke.....1 3 0 5 4 14
8	2 1 1 5 5	Derby.....2 1 1 5 4 14
8	2 1 1 3 3	Nottm Forest.....1 3 0 8 6 13
8	2 0 2 6 7	Swansea.....0 2 6 6 12
8	2 1 1 9 5	Birmingham.....1 1 7 9 11
8	1 1 2 5 5	Sheff Utd.....2 1 1 7 5 11
8	3 0 1 8 6	QPR.....0 2 2 5 7 11
8	2 2 1 4 5	Middlesbro.....1 2 4 4 10
8	2 2 0 8 5	Blackburn.....0 2 4 9 10
8	1 3 0 7 6	Rotherham.....0 3 1 5 9
8	0 2 2 3 5	Bristol C.....2 0 2 6 7 8
8	1 2 1 7 8	Reading.....0 2 2 1 4 7
8	1 2 1 6 5	Millwall.....0 1 3 6 10 6
8	1 1 2 4 4	Wigan.....0 1 3 3 8 5
8	1 1 2 5 6	Ipswich.....0 1 3 2 9 5
8	1 1 2 4 8	Sheff Wed.....0 1 3 4 9 5
8	1 0 3 7 8	Brentford.....0 1 3 7 4
8	0 1 3 1 4	Bolton.....0 1 3 7 2

HOME	2018	AWAY
Pt	W D L F A	Pt
44	12 9 1 40 22	Blackburn.....9 7 6 27 29 79
43	13 7 2 51 28	Aston Villa.....8 5 8 31 24 75
42	15 4 2 29 14	Middlesbro.....8 9 5 30 23 74
43	13 3 6 33 27	Norwich.....7 10 4 32 29 73
44	11 7 3 30 16	Wigan.....9 3 11 33 31 70
43	10 3 8 26 25	Derby.....7 7 25 24 65
43	9 7 5 27 19	Sheff Utd.....9 4 9 31 32 65
43	11 6 5 33 24	Leeds.....6 6 9 25 30 63
43	12 8 2 33 19	Rotherham.....4 6 11 19 33 62
43	9 7 6 40 31	Preston.....7 6 8 24 29 61
43	9 8 4 29 23	Millwall.....7 5 10 28 33 61
43	12 7 7 37 29	QPR.....5 4 12 22 38 60
43	8 7 6 21 19	Nottm Forest.....5 11 6 29 26 57
43	9 7 5 32 23	Birmingham.....6 5 11 25 37 57
39	8 5 6 40 30	West Brom.....7 4 9 22 29 54
43	9 6 6 36 23	Brentford.....5 6 11 20 31 54
43	7 7 8 34 34	Sheff Wed.....5 5 10 23 35 51
43	7 7 7 33 27	Bristol C.....5 7 10 21 31 50
43	6 7 8 20 20	Hull.....6 6 10 34 37 49
39	9 3 8 28 23	Swansea.....4 7 8 14 25 49
39	6 8 8 21 22	Stoke.....3 11 5 20 27 44
43	7 4 11 16 29	Bolton.....2 8 11 14 32 39
43	3 10 8 16 28	Ipswich.....5 4 13 21 34 38
43	5 6 11 27 37	Reading.....2 8 11 18 35 35

## BEST PRE-SEASON PRICES

11-2 Stoke, 8 West Brom, 9 Middlesbrough, 10 Nottingham Forest, 11 Leeds, 12 Aston Villa, Swansea, 14 Derby, 16 Brentford, 25 Norwich, 28 Sheffield United, 33 Sheffield Wednesday, Preston, 40 Bristol City, Wigan, 50 Blackburn, Millwall, Birmingham, 66 Hull, Reading, QPR, 100 Ipswich, 250 Bolton, 500 Rotherham.

## SKY BET CHAMPIONSHIP

	Bet365	BetBright	Betfair	Betfred	Betway	Boyles	Coral	Hills	Ladbrokes	Power	Sky Bet	188Bet
Leeds	7-4	7-4	7-4	7-4	7-4	6-4	13-8	7-4	13-8	7-4	6-4	7-5
Norwich	3	10-3	10-3	3	3	3	10-3	7-2	10-3	10-3	3	3
West Brom	11-2	5	5	9-2	11-2	5	5	5	5	5	11-2	11-2
Sheffield Utd	12	12	9	10	12	10	12	10	12	9	11	12
Derby	12	10	12	8	10	10	10	12	10	12	14	10
Middlesbrough	14	14	14	14	14	14	12	12	12	14	14	14
Aston Villa	14	14	14	12	11	12	14	14	14	14	18	16
Nottingham Forest	33	33	25	18	25	33	33	20	33	25	33	40
Stoke	40	50	50	33	33	40	40	20	40	50	66	40
Swansea	100	100	100	66	100	100	100	50	100	100	80	100
Birmingham	100	100	150	100	150	100	125	150	125	150	150	100

Each-way 1/4 1,2,3 (Coral, Hills, Ladbrokes, Sky Bet 1/5 1,2,3) Others on request

## PROMOTION

	Bet365	BetBright	Betfair	Betfred	Betway	Boyles	Coral	Hills	Ladbrokes	Power	Sky Bet	188Bet
Leeds	8-15	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2	1-2	4-9	1-2	4-9	1-2	1-2	4-9
Norwich	Evs	Evs	10-11	Evs	8-11	10-11	10-11	Evs	10-11	10-11	10-11	5-6
West Brom	5-4	5-4	5-4	5-4	5-4	5-4	5-4	5-4	5-4	5-4	5-4	5-4
Sheffield Utd	9-4	5-2	9-4	5-2	2	9-4	23-10	5-2	23-10	9-4	9-4	9-4
Derby	9-4	5-2	9-4	5-2	5-2	9-4	9-4	9-4	9-4	9-4	5-2	9-4
Middlesbrough	3	3	11-4	3	11-4	11-4	11-4	11-4	11-4	11-4	11-4	11-4
Aston Villa	11-4	3	11-4	5-2	3	11-4	11-4	3	11-4	11-4	3	11-4
Nottingham Forest	7	8	7	5	8	7	7	7	7	7	13-2	7
Stoke	8	8	17-2	8	9	8	7	7	7	17-2	9	8
Swansea	20	16	16	16	16	16	14	16	14	16	14	16
Birmingham	20	20	20	16	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
Bristol City	25	25	25	25	25	25	18	16	18	25	28	25
QPR	33	25	25	20	33	25	25	25	25	25	33	30
Blackburn	25	40	40	33	33	33	28	25	28	40	50	30
Preston	33	33	33	25	40	33	25	25	25	33	50	30
Brentford	40	40	50	66	40	40	40	33	40	50	50	50
Wigan	66	150	150	100	66	66	66	40	66	150	250	80
Hull	200	200	250	150	200	200	200	-	200	250	250	200

## TOP-TWO FINISH

	Bet365	BetBright	Betfair	Betfred	Boyles	Hills	Power	Sky Bet	188Bet
Leeds	4-6	4-6	4-6	4-6	4-6	4-6	4-6	4-6	6-10
Norwich	11-8	11-8	13-10	11-8	11-8	11-8	13-10	5-4	13-10
West Brom	9-4	9-4	9-4	9-4	9-4	9-4	9-4	9-4	9-4
Sheffield Utd	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	9-2
Derby	4	9-2	9-2	9-2	9-2	9-2	9-2	9-2	4
Middlesbrough	6	6	6	6	5	11-2	6	11-2	6
Aston Villa	13-2	13-2	13-2	13-2	13-2	6	13-2	13-2	13-2
Nottingham Forest	16	16	16	14	16	16	16	14	16
Stoke	20	20	25	25	20	20	25	25	20
Swansea	33	33	40	40	33	40	40	40	35

## TOP-SIX FINISH

	Bet365	BetBright	Betfair	Betfred	Betway	Boyles	Hills	Power	Sky Bet	188Bet
Leeds	1-12	1-10	1-12	1-12	1-10	1-12	1-12	1-12	1-12	1-16
Norwich	1-6	1-6	1-6	1-7	1-7	1-6	1-8	1-6	1-7	1-7
West Brom	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4
Derby	1-2	4-7	8-15	8-15	4-7	1-2	4-7	8-15	4-7	1-2
Sheffield Utd	4-7	4-7	4-7	8-15	1-2	4-7	1-2	4-7	8-15	8-15
Middlesbrough	8-11	8-11	8-11	8-11	8-13	8-11	4-7	8-11	8-13	11-17
Aston Villa	10-11	5-6	10-11	10-11	4-5	10-11	4-5	10-11	10-11	9-10
Nottingham Forest	2	15-8	15-8	15-8	9-4	2	2	15-8	7-4	7-4
Stoke	5-2	5-2	11-4	5-2	11-4	11-4	5-2	11-4	11-4	5-2
Swansea	6	6	6	6	7-2	6	5	6	4	6
Birmingham	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	6	8
Blackburn	10	12	10	11	12	11	10	10	12	10
Bristol City	12	10	10	10	8	12	10	10	8	12
QPR	12	12	11	11	12	12	9	11	9	1

**188BET**



## PREMIER LEAGUE SPECIALS...

### ROCK BOTTOM

Huddersfield	2/1
Burnley	9/4
Fulham	9/4
Cardiff	9/2

### TOP 10 FINISH

West Ham	1/2
Watford	8/11
Bournemouth	4/5
Leicester	13/10
Brighton	4/1
C Palace	11/2

### TOP LONDON CLUB

Tottenham	11/10
Chelsea	5/4
Arsenal	4/1

Anything take your festive fancy?

[188BET.CO.UK](https://188bet.co.uk)

## SKY BET CHAMPIONSHIP

RELEGATION												
	Bet365	BetBright	Betfair	Betfred	Betway	Boyles	Coral	Hills	Ladbrokes	Power	Sky Bet	188Bet
Ipswich	2-9	1-4	2-9	1-4	1-6	1-5	1-5	1-6	1-5	2-9	1-5	1-7
Bolton	3-10	1-3	1-3	2-7	3-10	1-4	1-4	3-10	1-4	1-3	4-11	1-4
Reading	4-6	4-6	4-6	8-11	4-6	4-6	8-13	8-11	8-13	4-6	2-3	11-17
Rotherham	6-4	6-4	11-8	5-4	6-4	11-8	5-4	5-4	5-4	11-8	7-4	5-4
Millwall	7-2	4	4	4	4	4	7-2	9-2	7-2	4	9-2	7-2
Sheffield Wed	4	11-2	11-2	5	5	4	7-2	11-2	7-2	11-2	4	11-2
Hull	7	7	7	8	6	7	7	6	7	7	15-2	7
Wigan	14	13	13	11	14	12	12	14	12	13	11	14
Brentford	25	25	25	20	33	25	22	25	22	25	25	25
Preston North End	40	40	40	33	33	40	33	33	33	40	40	40
Blackburn	80	66	66	50	66	80	66	50	66	66	50	80
Birmingham	66	80	80	80	80	66	66	80	66	80	100	80
Bristol City	66	80	80	100	80	80	66	66	66	80	80	70
QPR	100	100	80	100	66	80	66	40	66	80	80	80
Swansea	150	150	150	150	100	150	150	80	150	150	200	150
Stoke	250	250	250	250	250	250	-	125	-	250	250	250

TOP-TWO FINISH												
	Bet365	BetBright	Betfair	Betfred	Boyles	Hills	Power	Sky Bet	188Bet			
Leeds	4-6	4-6	4-6	4-6	4-6	4-6	4-6	4-6	6-10			
Norwich	11-8	11-8	13-10	11-8	11-8	11-8	13-10	5-4	13-10			
West Brom	9-4	9-4	9-4	9-4	9-4	9-4	9-4	9-4	9-4			
Sheffield Utd	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	9-2	4			
Derby	4	9-2	9-2	9-2	9-2	9-2	9-2	9-2	4			
Middlesbrough	6	6	6	6	5	11-2	6	11-2	6			
Aston Villa	13-2	13-2	13-2	13-2	13-2	6	13-2	13-2	13-2			
Nottingham Forest	16	16	16	14	16	16	16	14	16			
Stoke	20	20	25	25	20	20	25	25	20			
Swansea	33	33	40	40	33	40	40	40	35			

TOP SCORER												
Goals so far	Bet365	BetBright	Betfair	Betfred	Betway	Boyles	Hills	Power	Sky Bet	188Bet		
Grabban 14	11-4	11-4	13-5	5-2	11-4	11-4	5-2	13-5	11-4	5-2		
Abraham 12	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	7-2		
Pukki 12	7	7	7	8	7	7	7	7	7	13-2		
Maupay 13	7	7	7	8	7	7	7	7	7	13-2		
Gayle 10	10	9	11	10	9	10	9	11	10	10		
Rodriguez 10	12	11	12	12	11	12	11	12	12	12		
Roofe 10	16	16	17	16	16	16	14	17	16	16		
Sharp 11	20	20	20	16	20	20	16	20	20	20		
Jutkiewicz 10	28	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	18	25		
Adams 10	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	35		
McBurnie 8	40	40	40	40	33	40	33	40	40	40		
Dack 9	50	50	50	66	50	50	50	50	50	50		
Kodjia 6	66	66	66	80	50	66	40	66	50	70		
Afofe 7	66	66	66	100	66	66	50	66	50	70		

Each-way 1/4 1,2,3,4 (bet365, BetBright, Betfred, Hills 1/5 1,2,3) Others on request



Matt Palmer (left) and his Rotherham side face a real battle to preserve their Sky Bet Championship status

# Millers may fall short in battle to beat the drop

**Relegation**  
**Rotherham** have improved considerably since finishing bottom of the Sky Bet Championship in 2016-17 but they still face a tough battle to avoid the drop in 2019 and may fall just short.

Paul Warne stayed on as Millers boss despite the club's relegation in 2017 and led them back to the second tier at the first attempt.

Despite the restrictions of a tight budget Rotherham have been competitive, losing only eight of their 22 matches.

But they have chalked up just four wins – all of them at the New York Stadium – and are only three points above the drop zone.

Last Saturday they drew 1-1 at home to fellow strugglers Reading, equalising in the 90th minute, but the result masked a very poor first-half performance which should have seen their opponents out of sight.

Fourth-bottom Reading are currently under the caretaker-stewardship of Scott Marshall but they have a bigger budget and are likely to improve. However, they are odds-on for the drop while Rotherham are 7-4 shots.

Millwall are a much bigger price despite being third from bottom but have a recent history of doing much better in the second half of the season and should continue to pick up points at the Den, where they have beaten promotion chasing Derby and Aston Villa.

**Recommendation**  
**Rotherham to be relegated**  
 2pts 7-4 Sky Bet

**Top goalscorer**  
 The race to be the Sky Bet Championship's leading scorer looks as wide open as the battle for promotion but West Brom striker **Dwight Gayle** looks each-way value to come out the pack and finish top of the scoring charts.

Gayle is just one part of a potent three-pronged Baggies' attack featuring Jay Rodriguez and Harvey Barnes but he looks more likely than his teammates to score more than 20 goals.

The 28-year-old had injury problems in the autumn and his total minutes on the pitch (1,217) is significantly lower than Rodriguez (1,926) and Barnes (1,854) at the moment.

Despite this he is Albion's joint-top scorer with ten, the same as Rodriguez, and should score plenty more if staying fit for the rest of the campaign.

Lewis Grabban, advised pre-season at 14-1, leads the way on 14 goals and his odds have shortened to 11-4.

The Nottingham Forest man should continue to flourish and Aston Villa's on-loan Chelsea forward Tammy Abraham could also go close, having netted eight of his 12 goals in the last six appearances for Dean Smith's resurgent Villans.

**Recommendation**  
**D Gayle top goalscorer**  
 1pt e-w 11-1 Betfair, P Power

**To finish outside top six**  
 Sheffield United have the same points tally at this stage of the season (37 from 22 games) as last year and they may continue to follow a similar path to the 2017-18 campaign by missing out on the playoffs.

Chris Wilder's side play high-intensity football which is great

to watch and often difficult for their opponents to cope with.

However, their style demands a lot from the players and standards are starting to slip.

Since topping the table in early October, the Blades have won just three of their ten games.

They are starting games in the ascendancy but opponents are getting better at weathering the storm and making their mark late on.

Fellow promotion hopefuls Leeds and West Brom posted December victories at Bramall Lane by scoring winning goals in the second half and other teams are likely to follow their example.

As a result United's slide may continue, making it difficult for them to reach the top six.

**Recommendation**  
**Sheffield United to finish outside the top six**  
 3pts 6-4 Paddy Power, Sky Bet

**To finish in bottom half**  
 Steve McClaren has done a great job to get QPR into mid-table after a slow start but life may be about to get tougher again for the Londoners, who could slide in 2019.

With a transfer embargo in place for January there is no scope for the Hoops to improve their squad.

They should stay up, but they are far more likely to finish in the bottom half than the top half.

**Recommendation**  
**QPR bottom-half finish**  
 3pts 10-11 Sky Bet

DAN CHILDS



Dwight Gayle

### CHILD'S'S TEAM OF THE SEASON SO FAR



**£100**  
TO GET YOU  
STARTED\*

# JINGLE BELLS JURGEN YELLS 'WE'RE GOING ALL THE WAY' PEP & POCH ARE CLOSE BEHIND MAN U IN DISARRAY



PREMIER LEAGUE POINTS 2018-19 (17 games played)			
Man City	96.5-98	44 so far	Bournemouth 47-48.5 23 so far
Liverpool	91-92.5	45 so far	Leicester 46.5-48 22 so far
Tottenham	78.5-80	39 so far	Brighton 41-42.5 21 so far
Chelsea	78.5-80	37 so far	Crystal Palace 38-39.5 15 so far
Arsenal	72.5-74	34 so far	Newcastle 37-38.5 16 so far
Man Utd	64.5-66	26 so far	Southampton 35.5-37 12 so far
Everton	53-54.5	24 so far	Cardiff 30.5-32 14 so far
Wolves	51.5-53	25 so far	Burnley 29-30.5 12 so far
West Ham	49.5-51	24 so far	Fulham 28.5-30 9 so far
Watford	47-48.5	24 so far	Huddersfield 27.5-29 10 so far

The season's in full flow but while Klopp's in party mood, Jose's already been escorted from the premises. With 21 games left, it's never too late to get involved with a buy or sell of Points (see left). Or how about Stop At A Premier League Loss – not something for Utd to worry about of course – but Liverpool are 235-245 (170 so far) with 10pts awarded per match until they're beaten.

**\*New clients get £100 (non-withdrawable) to bet with.**  
**Keep what you win, but any losses over £100 are your liability.**  
**Market restrictions and 7 day time limit apply. Full T&Cs online.**  
**Spread betting involves risk. Losses can exceed deposit.**



# SKY BET LEAGUE ONE

SKY BET LEAGUE ONE													
	Bet365	BetBright	Betfair	Betfred	Betway	Boyles	Coral	Hills	Ladbrokes	Power	Sky Bet	188Bet	
Portsmouth	7-4	7-4	7-4	6-4	7-4	7-4	6-4	13-8	6-4	7-4	3-2	6-4	
Sunderland	15-8	15-8	21-10	6-4	15-8	7-4	13-8	13-8	13-8	21-10	9-4	13-8	
Luton	3	3	11-4	3	10-3	11-4	3	11-4	3	11-4	5-2	11-4	
Barnsley	10	10	10	8	10	9	9	10	9	10	10	11	
Charlton	20	22	22	20	20	20	16	16	16	22	25	20	
Doncaster	50	40	40	33	50	40	33	50	33	40	33	50	
Peterborough	50	50	50	40	50	40	40	50	40	50	50	50	
Blackpool	200	200	200	100	200	150	200	250	200	200	200	200	

Each-way 1/3 1,2 Others on request

PROMOTION													
	Bet365	BetBright	Betfair	Betfred	Betway	Boyles	Coral	Hills	Ladbrokes	Power	Sky Bet	188Bet	
Portsmouth	4-11	2-5	2-5	2-5	2-5	2-5	4-11	4-11	4-11	2-5	2-5	4-11	
Luton	8-15	8-15	4-9	8-15	8-15	8-15	1-2	8-15	1-2	4-9	1-2	1-2	
Sunderland	4-9	1-2	1-2	2-5	8-13	4-9	4-9	4-11	4-9	1-2	8-13	4-9	
Barnsley	11-8	5-4	11-8	11-8	5-4	5-4	5-4	5-4	5-4	11-8	11-8	23-17	
Charlton	7-2	7-2	7-2	10-3	7-2	7-2	10-3	7-2	10-3	7-2	7-2	33-10	
Doncaster	7	6	6	6	9-2	6	5	6	5	6	4	6	
Peterborough	7	6	13-2	6	13-2	6	6	6	6	13-2	13-2	13-2	
Blackpool	20	20	20	20	16	20	20	16	20	20	18	20	
Southend	22	33	33	20	33	33	18	33	18	33	33	25	
Burton	40	40	40	40	33	40	33	40	33	40	33	40	
Coventry	40	40	40	40	33	40	33	40	33	40	28	40	
Accrington	40	40	40	40	33	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	
Wycombe	33	40	40	40	50	40	33	40	33	40	50	35	
Fleetwood	33	33	33	40	66	33	33	40	33	33	66	30	
Shrewsbury	66	66	66	66	66	66	66	80	66	66	66	70	
Oxford	66	80	66	80	66	66	80	80	80	66	80	70	
Walsall	80	80	100	100	125	80	66	125	66	100	100	80	
Rochdale	125	100	125	100	150	100	100	150	100	125	100	120	

TOP-SIX FINISH													
	Bet365	BetBright	Betfair	Betfred	Betway	Boyles	Coral	Hills	Ladbrokes	Power	Sky Bet	188Bet	
Portsmouth	1-50	1-50	1-50	1-50	1-50	1-50	1-50	1-50	1-50	1-50	1-100		
Luton	1-33	1-33	1-33	1-33	1-33	1-33	1-33	1-33	1-33	1-33	1-41		
Sunderland	1-40	1-40	1-25	1-40	1-20	1-25	1-33	1-25	1-25	1-16	1-100		
Barnsley	1-5	1-5	1-5	1-5	1-5	1-5	1-5	1-5	1-5	1-5	1-6		
Charlton	4-7	8-15	8-15	1-2	8-15	8-15	1-2	8-15	1-2	1-2			
Peterborough	4-5	4-5	4-5	4-5	10-11	4-5	4-5	4-5	4-5	Evs	4-5		
Doncaster	6-5	Evs	Evs	8-11	8-11	Evs	8-11	Evs	8-13	7-10			
Blackpool	9-2	9-2	9-2	4	4	4	4	9-2	4	4			
Southend	7	8	8	7	9	8	7	8	7	8	9	15-2	
Wycombe	12	12	12	12	12	12	11	12	11	12	11	11	
Accrington	10	10	10	12	9	10	12	10	9	10	10	10	
Coventry	12	13	13	12	9	12	10	13	7	11	11	11	
Fleetwood	12	13	13	12	14	12	10	13	14	12	12	12	
Burton	14	16	16	12	9	12	12	16	8	14	14	14	
Oxford	25	25	25	22	20	25	20	25	22	20	20	20	
Walsall	28	25	25	25	20	25	22	25	22	25	22	25	
Shrewsbury	33	33	33	20	20	33	20	33	18	35	35	35	
Rochdale	40	40	40	33	33	33	25	40	28	40	40	40	

BEST PRE-SEASON PRICES					
3 Sunderland, 17-2 Barnsley, 12 Charlton, 14 Portsmouth, 16 Peterborough, 17 Luton, 20 Scunthorpe, 22 Coventry, 25 Plymouth, Oxford, Bristol Rovers, 28 Bradford, Southend, Burton, 33 Fleetwood, Doncaster, Shrewsbury, 40 Rochdale, Blackpool, 50 AFC Wimbledon, 100 Walsall, Wycombe, Gillingham, 150 Accrington.					

FATE OF THE CHRISTMAS LEADERS					
Season	Leaders	Best price	Clear by	Fin. Position	Won/Lost by
2017-18	Wigan	4-9	4pts	1st	2pts
2016-17	Scunthorpe	10-3	3pts	3rd	18pts
2015-16	Burton	3-1	5pts	2nd	2pts
2014-15	Bristol City	6-4	1pt	1st	8pts
2013-14	Leyton Orient	4-1	1pt	3rd	17pts
2012-13	Tranmere	14-1	GD	11th	17pts
2011-12	Charlton	5-4	5pts	1st	8pts
2010-11	Brighton	5-2	3pts	1st	3pts
2009-10	Leeds	1-3	4pts	2nd	9pts
2008-09	Leicester	6-5	4pts	1st	7pts
2007-08	Nottingham Forest	3-1	GD	2nd	10pts
2006-07	Nottingham Forest	10-11	4pts	4th	9pts
2005-06	Swansea	40-1	2pts	6th	11pts
2004-05	Luton	15-8	4pts	1st	12pts
2003-04	Plymouth	15-8	2pts	1st	7pts
2002-03	Wigan	5-4	4pts	1st	14pts
2001-02	Brentford	7-1	1pt	3rd	7pts



Charlton will look to deadly striker Lyle Taylor (left) to spearhead their promotion challenge

# Bowyer's Addicks are a juicy price to gatecrash top two

**Steve Davies** is predicting a happy ending at the Valley after years of discontent



**T**HE cream has very definitely risen to the top early in Sky Bet League One with the top six in the pre-season betting filling the first seven places as we head towards Christmas. Punters looking for a yuletide plunge into the icy waters of the third-tier title race probably need look no further than the current top seven. Indeed, if the last two seasons are anything to go by then the current top three will still be the top three (though not necessarily in the same order) in May, and bookmakers certainly aren't looking past Portsmouth, Sunderland and Luton. It's 11-1 bar that trio in places. One side who do look an eye-catching price are fifth-placed **Charlton** at 25-1 with Sky Bet. Each-way terms are now one-third the first two, but Lee Bowyer's side have the scope to get into the automatic promotion berths, a position they trail by just four points. The Addicks made the playoffs under Lee Bowyer last season which was an

achievement in itself given the under-investment of their unpopular owner Roland Duchatelet and the off-field worries that continue to dog the club. There was a real sense of despair going into the season – striker Josh Magennis had been sold, bottled water was banned in yet another desperate cost-cutting gesture and Bowyer could name only five subs at Sunderland in their opener as injuries bit. They almost defied the odds at the Stadium of Light, where Bowyer's depleted resources excelled in a 2-1 loss but perhaps unsurprisingly they had just one win to show from their first five games. Since then, however, they have got stronger and stronger. Keeper Jed Steer and star man Tariqe Fosu led back the injured masses, new signing

Darren Pratley has been the outstanding leader Athletic fans hoped he would be and Arsenal loanee Krystian Bielik is blossoming in front of Patrick Bauer and Jason Pearce at the back. Throw in the potency up front of Lyle Taylor and Karlan Grant – they have 21 goals between them – and this small but talented group looks as good as anything and better than most in this section. They have already been to the division's three fortresses – Sunderland, Luton and Portsmouth – and are on a run of six wins in their last seven, the most telling of which was a 2-1 triumph at Fratton Park. The other contenders have all improved on last season and look like taking points off each other, but they look better than most of the division and it's hard to know who will blink first. That could be Barnsley, who have gone four games without a win, but they are in a tough run of fixtures. Luton have simply carried on from last season's promotion while Portsmouth and Peterborough were threats last year and have trained on. The enigma is Sunderland, who don't lose matches but don't always convince. They have power to spend in the transfer window, though they also have a top scorer in Josh Maja who is on the radar of many Championship clubs.



Josh Maja is hot property

**Recommendation**  
**Charlton**  
1pt each-way 25-1 Sky Bet

ADVISED ANTE-POST	
By Steve Davies	
<b>Southend to win title</b>	1pt each-way 28-1 Sky Bet
<b>Fleetwood to win title</b>	1pt each-way 33-1 Sky Bet
<b>Doncaster to be relegated</b>	1pt 9-2 general
<b>Bristol Rovers to be relegated</b>	1pt 7-1 Betfred, Betway, Hills
<b>Luton top promoted side</b>	4pts 10-11 Sky Bet
<b>AFC Wimbledon to score fewest goals</b>	1pt 12-1 Sky Bet
<b>Fleetwood top-half finish</b>	3pts 6-5 Betfair, Hills, P Power
<b>Sunderland off scratch</b>	1pt each-way 18-1 general
<b>Southend +22 on handicap</b>	1pt each-way 18-1 Hills, 188Bet
<b>B Kee top goalscorer</b>	1pt each-way 35-1 188Bet
<b>D Hylton top goalscorer</b>	1pt each-way 16-1 bet365
<b>I Henderson top goalscorer</b>	1pt each-way 50-1 Sky Bet
<b>Rochdale to finish above Bristol Rovers</b>	1pt 6-5 Sky Bet
<b>Shrewsbury to finish above Burton</b>	1pt Evs Sky Bet

## STANDINGS

HOME SKY BET LEAGUE ONE AWAY													
PI	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		
22	6	3	2	19	10	Portsmouth	8	3	0	17	8	48	
20	9	2	0	29	9	Luton	4	3	4	14	13	44	
20	6	4	0	23	10	Sunderland	6	3	1	18	9	43	
22	4	3	14	15	Peterborough	7	3	1	26	13	40		
22	7	2	2	18	9	Charlton	5	2	4	18	16	40	
22	6	3	2	17	11	Doncaster	5	2	4	20	15	38	
21	5	5	0	15	7	Barnsley	5	2	4	20	14	36	
21	6	3	2	17	11	Blackpool	5	4	3	10	34	34	
22	6	3	2	17	11	Wycombe	5	4	3	15	19	32	
22	5	4	2	16	12	Fleetwood	3	2	6	13	11	30	
22	4	3	4	13	17	Walsall	4	3	4	10	16	30	
22	5	1	5	18	12	Southend	4	1	6	10	16	29	
22	4	3	4	10	10	Coventry	4	2	5	13	17	29	
21	3	4	3	11	12	Accrington	2	3	4	11	15	28	
21	6	1	4	14	10	Burton	2	6	12	19	27	27	
22	3	2	6	17	19	Gillingham	4	2	5	16	17	25	
22	5	4	2	16	11	Shrewsbury	1	3	7	10	18	25	
22	6	0	5	20	14	Oxford	0	7	4	9	19	25	
22	3	2	6	11	18	Rochdale	3	4	4	18	23	24	
22	2	4	5	17	27	Scunthorpe	2	6	12	20	21	20	
22	3	3	5	16	21	Plymouth	2	7	10	20	20	20	
22	3	1	7	11	15	Bradford	2	3	7	11	24	18	
22	2	2	7	9	15	Bristol R.	2	3	6	9	12	17	
22	2	2	7	11	18	AFC W'bleton	2	1	8	4	15	15	

HOME LAST EIGHT AWAY													
PI	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		
8	4	0	0	15	2	Luton	3						

# BETBRIGHT

## IN-PLAY SPECIAL

# 25% BACK

ON ALL NET DAILY LOSSES AS A FREE BET

\*App Only Offer

Download BetBright today.



Download it from  
**APP STORE**

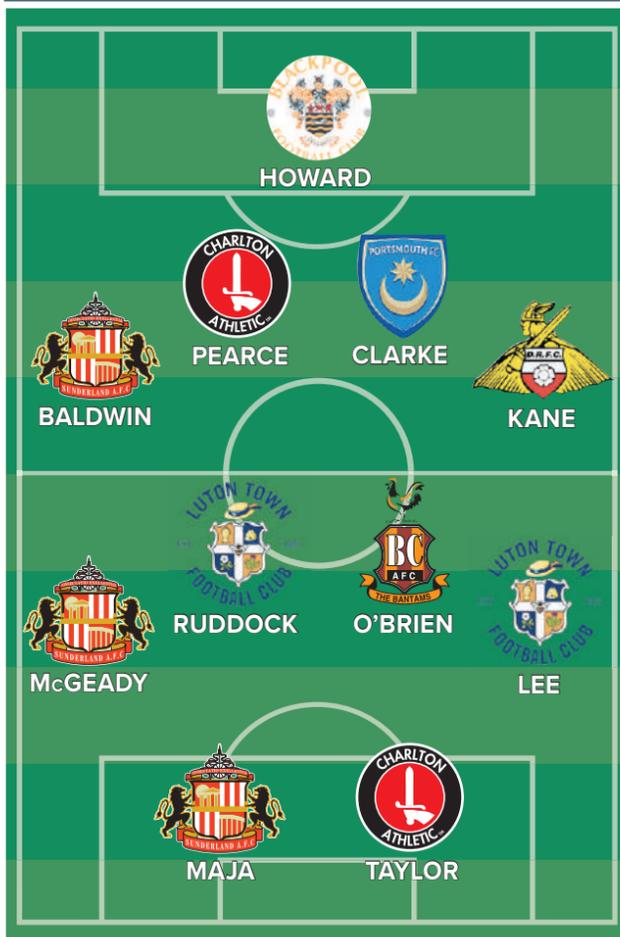


Download it from  
**GOOGLE PLAY**



SKY BET LEAGUE ONE

DAVIES'S TEAM OF THE SEASON SO FAR



LEAGUE ONE TITLE ADVICE PAGE 12

# Bantams could bounce back from tough start

**Relegation**

Dramatic changes of fortune are nothing new in Sky Bet League One, so don't go dismissing the chance of a spectacular rise or fall in the second half of the campaign.

Plymouth's astonishing surge from bottom four to top six in the space of a few months last season was truly memorable, while Notts County fans will do well to forget the 2014-15 season when they were in the playoffs at this stage of the campaign. They finished up being relegated.

Fast-starting **Accrington Stanley** are enduring a minor freefall and it looks worth backing it to continue.

Two months ago they were fourth in the table following a 1-0 win at Peterborough and revelling in life up a level after conquering League Two in May.

Since then the wheels have come off. Two points out of a possible 21 since then have sent Stanley plummeting from fourth to 14th. Where they were 15 points clear of danger after that win at Posh, John Coleman's men now have just an eight-point cushion.

Stanley have yet to visit five of

the current top seven – indeed they have still got to play Sunderland twice – and a long, hard spring is on the cards for one of the section's smaller squads.

**Recommendation**  
**Accrington to be relegated**  
2pts 25-1 Bet365, BetBright

**Top-half finish**  
Plymouth did it last term – now back **Bradford** to repeat the feat.

One of the mysteries of this year's League One campaign is how the Bantams, who were a massive 7-1 for the drop in August, have got into such a mess.

But now they have had the shock of falling into the bottom four there are genuine signs of something more positive unfolding in part two of the campaign.

Former chairman Edin Rahic, blamed for many of their woes, has been ousted from the Valley Parade boardroom and sole owner Stefan Rupp has promised funds to enhance

the team in the January window.

So there's a rosy outlook off the pitch and things have also picked up on it. The brief Michael Collins reign was a disaster and his successor David Hopkin's future looked perilous after he too got off to a sticky start.

But things have picked up appreciably with just one defeat in

five games, and that was at highflying Luton.

Hopkin needs to hang on to his loan stars including seven-goal top scorer Jack Payne, but the feelgood factor is definitely returning to a ground which used to be a real fortress.

**Recommendation**  
**Bradford top-half finish**  
2pts 18-1 Sky Bet

**Top scorer**

Seven years after Ched Evans lit up League One with a 29-goal campaign with Sheffield United he is heading for double figures again.

Revived under Joey Barton at Fleetwood, Evans has bagged eight in 17 games and looks worthy of each-way consideration.

This market will almost certainly have a different feel about it by the end of January with Tom Eaves and Josh Maja coveted by clubs higher up the food chain. If some of the fast-starters leave the division it would bring someone of the calibre of Evans right into the mix.

**Recommendation**  
**C Evans**  
1pt each-way 33-1 general  
**STEVE DAVIES**



Bradford's Nat Knight-Percival



	Bet365	BetBright	Betfair	Betfred	Betway	Boyles	Coral	Hills	Ladbrokes	Power	Sky Bet	188Bet
<b>Bradford</b>	1-3	1-3	1-3	4-11	3-10	1-3	1-3	2-5	1-3	1-3	<b>4-9</b>	1-3
<b>Wimbledon</b>	4-9	4-7	4-7	4-9	4-7	4-9	4-9	4-9	4-9	4-7	<b>8-13</b>	4-9
<b>Plymouth</b>	4-9	1-2	1-2	1-2	4-7	4-9	4-9	1-2	4-9	1-2	<b>8-13</b>	4-9
<b>Bristol Rovers</b>	<b>10-11</b>	5-6	5-6	5-6	<b>10-11</b>	<b>10-11</b>	5-6	4-5	5-6	5-6	5-6	5-6
<b>Scunthorpe</b>	<b>10-11</b>	<b>10-11</b>	<b>10-11</b>	5-6	<b>10-11</b>	13-15						
<b>Gillingham</b>	<b>11-4</b>	9-4	13-5	5-2	9-4	5-2	12-5	2	12-5	13-5	2	45-17
<b>Rochdale</b>	4	4	4	7-2	4	4	4	6	4	4	9-2	4
<b>Oxford</b>	6	6	6	6	11-2	5	5	6	5	6	11-2	6
<b>Shrewsbury</b>	8	7	15-2	7	7	7	7	8	7	15-2	13-2	15-2
<b>Walsall</b>	9	6	15-2	7	7	15-2	7	7	7	15-2	6	9
<b>Burton</b>	12	12	12	12	14	12	12	14	12	12	<b>16</b>	12
<b>Wycombe</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	16	<b>20</b>	14	<b>20</b>	18	<b>20</b>	18	16	14	<b>20</b>
<b>Fleetwood</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	10	<b>20</b>	16	<b>20</b>	16	<b>20</b>	11	<b>20</b>
<b>Accrington</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	20	20	16	20	20	14	20	20	12	16
<b>Southend</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	20	<b>25</b>	16	20	20	16	20	20	16	<b>25</b>
<b>Coventry</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>	25	20	20	25	18	25	18	25	18	<b>25</b>
<b>Blackpool</b>	50	40	33	50	50	50	33	<b>66</b>	33	33	33	50

	Bet365	BetBright	Betfair	Betfred	Boyles	Power	Sky Bet
<b>Portsmouth</b>	<b>4-7</b>	<b>4-7</b>	<b>4-7</b>	<b>4-7</b>	<b>4-7</b>	<b>4-7</b>	<b>4-7</b>
<b>Sunderland</b>	4-6	4-6	4-5	4-6	4-6	4-5	<b>10-11</b>
<b>Luton</b>	<b>10-11</b>	<b>10-11</b>	5-6	5-6	<b>10-11</b>	5-6	5-6
<b>Barnsley</b>	<b>7-2</b>	<b>7-2</b>	<b>7-2</b>	<b>7-2</b>	<b>7-2</b>	<b>7-2</b>	<b>7-2</b>
<b>Charlton</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	9	<b>10</b>	9
<b>Doncaster</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	14	14	14	14	12
<b>Peterborough</b>	16	16	17	16	16	17	<b>18</b>

	Bet365	BetBright	Betfair	Betfred	Betway	Boyles	Hills	Power	Sky Bet	188Bet
<b>Maja 12</b>	5	5	5	5	5	5	11-2	5	6	5
<b>Moore 11</b>	<b>13-2</b>	<b>13-2</b>	<b>13-2</b>	6	<b>13-2</b>	<b>13-2</b>	5	<b>13-2</b>	<b>13-2</b>	<b>13-2</b>
<b>Marquis 12</b>	7	13-2	13-2	7	13-2	13-2	13-2	13-2	7	13-2
<b>Henderson 12</b>	<b>15-2</b>	6	6	7	7	7	7	6	7	7
<b>Eaves 14</b>	7	7	7	<b>8</b>	7	7	7	7	7	6
<b>Godden 10</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	13	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	13	<b>14</b>	12
<b>Ladapo 11</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	-	8	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	-	10	<b>14</b>
<b>Lee 10</b>	14	14	14	<b>16</b>	14	14	-	14	12	14
<b>Grant 11</b>	16	16	<b>17</b>	14	16	16	16	<b>17</b>	16	-
<b>Taylor 10</b>	14	14	14	<b>20</b>	14	14	16	14	14	14
<b>Evans 8</b>	<b>33</b>	25	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>33</b>	25	28	<b>33</b>	28	30
<b>Collins 8</b>	33	33	33	<b>40</b>	33	33	-	33	28	35

Each-way 1/4 1,2,3,4

Others on request

**POST CAST**  
**WEEKEND ACTION**  
EXPERT VIEWS, TIPS & ANALYSIS



WHEN THE FUN STOPS STOP BeGambleAware.org 18+

T&Cs Apply. 18+ only. Begambleaware.org

# Kevin Pullein



Wise words  
from the  
Soccer Boffin

## Important to look at the wider picture for answers

**L**AST season in this space I said Manchester City would finish with 100 points. They did. Okay I got lucky. I did not think City were certain to accumulate 100 points. I thought 100 was their most likely total but that several other totals were almost as likely and many more were possible.

Last year I also made predictions about Burnley and Swansea. At the halfway stage Burnley were seventh in the Premier League with 32 points while Swansea were 20th and bottom with 13 points. Burnley had beaten Swansea by 19 points.

Over the second half of the season, I said, Burnley were unlikely to beat Swansea by more than six points. In the event they beat them by just two points.

Over the second half of the season Burnley gained 22

points and Swansea 20.

I made those predictions about City, Burnley and Swansea not by looking at what they had done in the first half of the season, as such, but by looking at the relationship between the first and second 19 games in other seasons for other teams.

What matters when you are trying to anticipate the future is not what a team have done so far but what such things tend to signify about what will happen next. Today I will quickly sift through the auguries for something other than points and make some general observations.

Goals records have what

*'In goals markets you will now and again be able to find opportunities to make money by betting against a repeat of a team's recent past'*

investor and author Michael Mauboussin calls low persistence. What happens in one period tells you little about what will happen in the next. That might sound discouraging but it should not. What is important is not whether the past record of a thing reveals a lot or a little about what will happen in the future, but that you know whether it does.

Many football bettors seem to believe there is a strong connection between past and future goals make-ups.

Bookmakers know there is not, but they have to allow for the views of their customers – at least some times and to some extent.

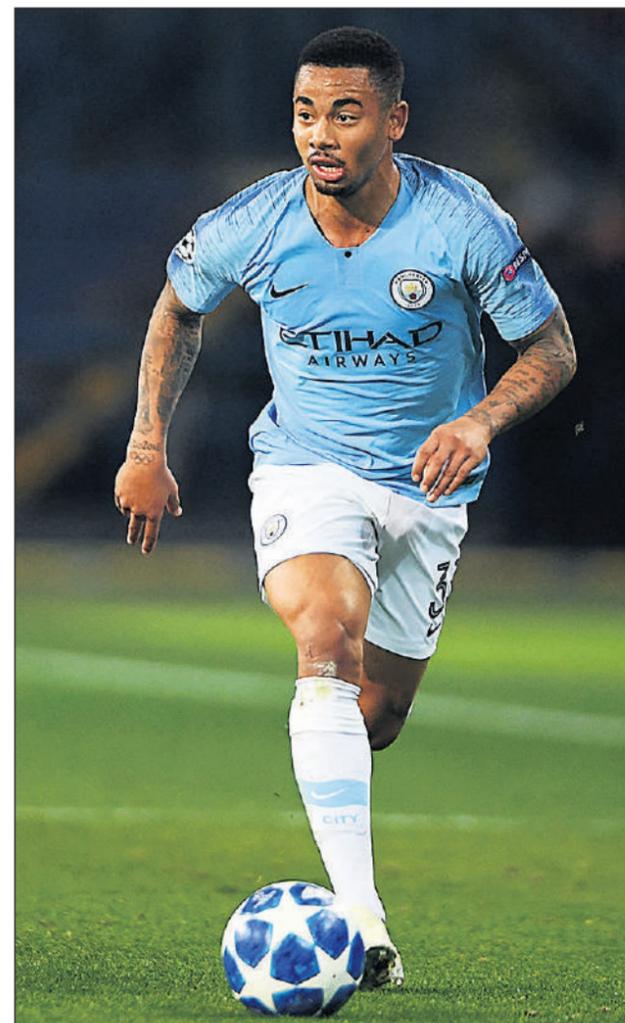
In goals markets you will now and again be able to find opportunities to make money by betting against a repeat of a team's recent past.

I looked at what happened in the first and last 19 games of every Premier League team in each of the last 23 seasons, all those in which teams played 38 games.

However many goals there were in a team's games in the first half of a season made little difference to how many there were in the second half of a season.

Consider just two sets of teams – those whose games in the first half of a season averaged 1.5 goals and those whose games in the first half of a season averaged 3.5 goals.

Over the second half of the season games involving the first set of teams averaged 2.4 goals and games involving the second set of teams averaged 2.8 goals.



Gabriel Jesus's last-gasp strike helped Man City hit 100 points



# BETDAQ

NEW CUSTOMERS

# BET 10, GET 10

BET £/\$/€10 AS YOUR FIRST BET ON THE EXCHANGE AT ODDS OF 2.0 OR GREATER AND GET A £/\$/€10 FREE BET

PROMO CODE: **BDQ10** <sup>^</sup>

#CHANGINGFORTHEBETTOR



18+

\*NOT AVAILABLE TO API CUSTOMERS. DOES NOT APPLY TO MULTIPLE BETS. T&CS APPLY.  
^CERTAIN COUNTRIES ONLY, API/RDT CUSTOMERS EXCLUDED. MIN £10 EXCHANGE BET AT ODDS 2.0 OR GREATER WITHIN 14 DAYS OF ACC REG. FREE BET VALID ON EXCHANGE FOR 7 DAYS, STAKE NOT RETURNED. NO CASHOUT. T&CS APPLY.

# SKY BET LEAGUE TWO

SKY BET LEAGUE TWO												
	Bet365	BetBright	Betfair	Betfred	Betway	Boyles	Coral	Hills	Ladbrokes	Power	Sky Bet	188Bet
MK Dons	13-8	11-8	13-10	11-8	6-4	11-8	6-4	11-8	6-4	13-10	11-8	13-10
Lincoln	13-8	6-4	8-5	13-8	13-8	6-4	6-4	13-8	6-4	8-5	13-8	11-8
Mansfield	7	7	13-2	7	8	7	7	7	7	13-2	6	7
Bury	9	9	9	9	8	8	8	7	8	9	7	9
Colchester	20	20	20	20	20	16	20	14	20	20	33	20
Forest Green	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
Newport	50	66	66	66	50	66	50	66	50	66	66	60
Exeter	50	66	66	50	50	40	50	50	50	66	66	40
Tranmere	40	50	50	40	33	40	40	40	40	50	80	50
Oldham	100	100	100	80	100	100	100	-	100	100	100	100
Carlisle	200	250	250	200	200	200	250	-	250	250	500	200
Stevenage	150	200	200	200	200	200	200	-	200	200	750	200
Swindon	200	200	250	80	200	150	100	-	100	250	1000	250
Crawley	350	500	500	500	-	350	500	-	500	500	1000	500
Northampton	250	250	250	200	250	250	150	-	150	250	1500	250

Each-way 1/5 1,2,3 (Hills 1/3 1,2) Others on request

PROMOTION												
	Bet365	BetBright	Betfair	Betfred	Betway	Boyles	Coral	Hills	Ladbrokes	Power	Sky Bet	188Bet
Lincoln	1-5	1-6	1-6	1-6	2-11	1-6	1-6	1-6	1-6	1-6	1-5	2-17
MK Dons	1-5	1-6	1-7	1-6	1-6	1-6	1-6	1-7	1-6	1-7	1-6	2-17
Bury	4-5	8-13	8-13	4-7	8-11	8-11	8-11	4-7	8-11	8-13	4-7	8-11
Mansfield	4-5	8-11	8-11	4-6	8-11	4-5	4-5	4-6	4-5	8-11	8-13	8-13
Colchester	2	15-8	21-10	9-4	9-4	2	7-4	9-4	7-4	21-10	11-4	9-4
Forest Green	9-2	4	9-2	4	4	4	4	4	4	9-2	7-2	4
Exeter	5	11-2	11-2	6	5	5	5	11-2	5	11-2	6	9-2
Newport C	6	6	13-2	11-2	6	6	5	6	5	13-2	6	6
Tranmere	7	6	13-2	7	7	7	7	6	7	13-2	7	7
Oldham	8	6	6	7	7	6	6	6	6	6	11-2	6
Northampton	18	18	20	16	16	18	16	14	16	20	18	16
Carlisle	20	16	16	20	20	16	14	14	14	16	16	16
Stevenage	16	20	17	20	16	16	16	20	16	17	22	16
Swindon	16	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	22	20
Port Vale	40	40	50	40	50	40	40	40	40	50	40	50
Yeovil	50	66	80	66	66	50	50	66	50	80	66	60
Crewe	40	80	80	80	40	50	80	80	80	80	100	60
Cambridge	50	80	100	100	66	66	80	80	80	100	100	80
Crawley	40	40	80	80	66	40	40	80	40	80	150	60
Notts County	150	150	150	150	150	150	125	-	125	150	-	150

RELEGATION												
	Bet365	BetBright	Betfair	Betfred	Betway	Boyles	Coral	Hills	Ladbrokes	Power	Sky Bet	188Bet
Macclesfield	2-5	2-5	8-15	1-2	4-11	2-5	2-5	1-2	2-5	8-15	4-7	2-5
Notts County	2	2	9-4	9-4	2	2	2	2	2	9-4	9-4	2
Morecambe	23-10	7-4	13-8	7-4	2	2	7-4	7-4	7-4	13-8	13-8	7-4
Cheltenham	9-2	4	4	7-2	9-2	4	4	7-2	4	4	4	4
Grimsby	4	6	6	6	9-2	4	4	11-2	4	6	6	11-2
Cambridge	8	8	8	7	8	8	7	8	7	8	8	7
Yeovil	12	8	17-2	9	12	10	10	10	10	17-2	9	12
Crewe	12	10	10	10	12	10	9	12	9	10	10	12
Crawley	18	16	7	12	16	12	12	8	12	7	7	12
Port Vale	22	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	22	20
Swindon	66	50	50	66	66	66	66	66	66	50	66	60
Northampton	50	50	50	66	66	66	-	66	-	50	50	60
Oldham	80	80	80	80	66	80	-	-	-	80	-	-
Carlisle	50	50	66	66	50	66	40	66	40	66	80	60
Stevenage	100	100	100	100	100	100	-	-	-	100	80	100

TOP SCORER												
Goals so far	Bet365	BetBright	Betfair	Betfred	Betway	Boyles	Hills	Power	Sky Bet	188Bet		
Norwood 15	6-4	6-4	6-4	11-8	6-4	6-4	5-4	6-4	6-4	6-4	17-10	
Stockley 11	6	6	6	11-2	6	6	6	6	6	6	11-2	6
Agard 9	10	10	10	8	10	10	10	10	10	8	10	
Aneke 8	16	16	16	16	14	16	14	16	14	16	16	16
Akande 7	14	12	11	12	14	16	16	11	14	14	14	
Maynard 8	20	20	-	20	20	20	16	-	20	20	20	
Pope 8	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
Walker 8	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
Van Veen 7	28	25	25	33	25	25	25	25	25	33	30	
Surridge 7	25	25	25	33	25	25	-	25	25	25	25	
Amond 7	33	33	33	25	33	33	33	33	33	40	35	
Reid 6	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	33	40
Palmer 9	50	33	33	33	50	33	25	33	33	50	50	
Fisher 6	40	40	33	50	50	40	40	35	33	40		

Each-way 1/4 1,2,3,4 (Betfred, Hills 1/4 1,2,3) Others on request

BEST PRE-SEASON PRICES												
13-2 Notts County, MK Dons, 9 Lincoln, 10 Mansfield, 12 Northampton, 14 Swindon, 16 Bury, 22 Colchester, Oldham, 25 Exeter, Cambridge, Tranmere, 28 Carlisle, 33 Port Vale, 40 Grimsby, Stevenage, Crewe, Cheltenham, 50 Forest Green, Newport, Crawley, 100 Yeovil, Macclesfield, Morecambe.												

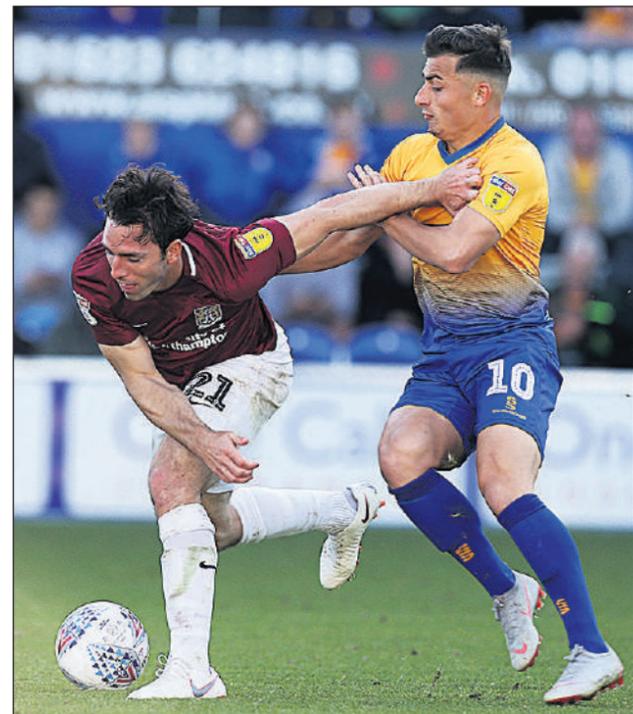
# Stags set to play their part in the promotion picture

**Aaron Ashley** expects his ante-post pick MK Dons to pip Lincoln to the title

**A**CCRINGTON came from 11 points off the pace at Christmas to complete one of the greatest achievements in League Two history last season, but the strength of the current top two makes another dramatic turnaround in the basement unlikely. Just one point separates pacesetters Lincoln and MK Dons, who are five clear of Colchester in third, and the gulf between that devastating duo and the chasing pack looks too big to bridge.

Dons, advised each-way at 13-2 pre-season in The Big Kick-Off, are slightly favoured by most bookmakers having dropped just five points in their last 11 league encounters. Dominant displays at Stadium MK, where they have racked up six straight successes, polished off with five clean sheets, have played a pivotal part in their promotion push and derailing the determined Dons is going to take some doing. Shot-stopper Lee Nicholls, who has shipped just 13 goals this season, is a key ingredient in the Football League's meanest defensive unit. The acquisition of Jordan Moore-Taylor, who followed manager Paul Tisdale from Exeter in pursuit of a new challenge, has proved shrewd business, while Jordan Houghton is doing an excellent job as the defensive protector.

Chuks Aneke's return from injury in September was what ultimately triggered a change in the Dons' fortunes and he has chipped in with ten goals from just 16 appearances. A fully-fit Aneke could operate at a much higher level and his individual brilliance, supplied by the calming presence of Alex



Mansfield have lost only one of their 20 league games

Gilbey in midfield, gives them the upper hand. The Imps deserve the utmost respect. They overhauled the Dons 2-1 at Sincil Bank, but their title tilt has been down to some clinical finishing and their expected goals rating is much inferior to the one recorded by Tisdale's troops. A recent lapse in concentration on their travels should be another concern for Lincoln backers. Their latest five away efforts have included 1-0 defeats at Tranmere and Colchester and a 1-1 draw at Oldham, where they had an extra man for the entire second half.

**T**HOSE looking for a fresh investment should stay clear of the outright market and instead back Mansfield to secure an automatic promotion place. The stubborn Stags are the division's draw specialists having shared the spoils on 11 occasions, but if they can start to pick up three points instead of one more often they are surely going to figure in the promotion race.

David Flitcroft's men have lost only one of their 20 league games and picking up points at Bury, Lincoln and Tranmere, who boast the third, fourth and fifth-best home form in the division, highlights their quality. Mansfield have also held MK Dons to a 1-1 draw at home, where they won the shot stats 21-14, and they enjoyed 61 per cent possession when splitting the points with third-placed Colchester, who required an injury-time equaliser, at their Nottinghamshire base. Only Dons boast better defensive stats than the Stags, who have kept clean sheets in half of their league games, while they have some of the best striking options on offer with Tyler Walker, Craig Davies, Danny Rose and Otis Khan competing for places. Bury, well represented on the shots data and on expected goals, look Mansfield's chief rivals for third spot but they have played two extra games and have just one more point to show for it.

The Shakers also have a negative goal difference on the road after defeats at Crawley (3-2), Port Vale (1-0) and Oldham (4-2) and draws at Crewe (1-1) and Cambridge (2-2), which is a worrying picture. Flitcroft's side, however, look like they have another gear to find and three wins from their last four games suggests they may finally have found the winning formula.

**Recommendation**  
Mansfield top-three finish  
2pts 6-4 bet365

**ADVISED ANTE-POST**  
By Aaron Ashley

- MK Dons to win title**  
2pts each-way 13-2 Sky Bet
- Swindon to win title**  
1pt each-way 14-1 Sky Bet
- Cheltenham to be relegated**  
2pts 9-1 general
- Forest Green to be relegated**  
1pt 8-1 bet365
- Lincoln top-seven finish**  
4pts Evs Sky Bet
- Crawley top-half finish**  
2pts 5-2 Hills
- Crawley +26 on handicap**  
1pt each-way 18-1 188Bet
- Tranmere +18 on handicap**  
1pt each-way 18-1 general
- T Pope top goalscorer**  
1pt each-way 20-1 general
- J Norwood top goalscorer**  
1pt each-way 40-1 Sky Bet
- Northampton to finish above Bury**  
2pts 4-5 Sky Bet
- Carlisle to finish above Cambridge United**  
2pts 10-11 Sky Bet
- Crawley to finish above Cheltenham**  
3pts 11-10 Sky Bet

## STANDINGS

HOME													SKY BET LEAGUE TWO													AWAY												
PI	W	D	L	F	A	PI	W	D	L	F	A	PI	W	D	L	F	A																					
21	7	3	1	21	11	Lincoln	.....	6	2	17	7	44	21	8	3	0	17	4	MK Dons	.....	4	4	2	15	9	43												
22	8	1	2	23	7	Colchester	.....	3	4	4	11	16	38																									
22	7	3	1	26	8	Bury	.....	3	3	5	16	17	36																									
20	6	3	1	16	5	Mansfield	.....	2	8	0	13	9	35																									
21	7	2	1	20	16	Newport Co.	.....	3	5	12	18	35																										
22	6	2	3	19	12	Exeter	.....	5	3	11	11	34																										
22	7	3	1	14	4	Tranmere	.....	2	4	5	19	24	34																									
21	2	6	2	9	8	Forest Green	.....	3	2	21	13	33																										
22	5	2	4	20	16	Oldham	.....	3	6	12	17	32																										
22	6	2	3	14	10	Stevenage	.....	3	5	13	17	32																										
22	4	1	6	13	14	Carlisle	.....	2	4	16	13	30																										
22	4	3	14	17	Swindon	.....	4	2	5	12	14	30																										
22	3	6	2	13	12	Northampton	.....	3	5	14	17	27																										
22	4	3	4	15	16	Port Vale	.....	3	5	9	11	27																										
21	6	2	3	21	15	Crawley	.....	2	8	6	18	26																										
22	6	2	3	18	9	Crewe	.....	1	2	8	18	25																										
22	5	2	4	14	14	Grimsby	.....	2	7	8	16	25																										
20	1	6	3	9	14	Yeovil	.....	4	1	15	10	22																										
22	3	2	6	11	16	Morecambe	.....	3	2	6	11	21	2																									

# Prolific Agard could pick up the pieces if Norwood departs

## Relegation

Macclesfield's slim survival hopes have been given a much-needed lift with three wins in their last four games and their recent resurgence has made the relegation market more appealing.

The National League champions were 1-6 to be heading back to non-league ranks at the first time of asking three weeks ago with just seven points to show from their opening 18 games.

However recent performances have improved and the appointment of Sol Campbell as manager has had an immediate impact.

The Cheshire club have moved to within four points of safety and, in a weak division where at least eight sides can be considered in danger, they may prove better than their relegation quotes of 4-7 imply.

Cheltenham, advised at 9-1 for the drop before a ball was kicked, are half that price now but they have stepped up markedly since reverting to a 3-5-2 formation, allowing them to get the best from experienced strikers Luke Varney and Tyrone Barnett.

Morecambe manager Jim



MK Dons striker Kieran Agard is in a rich vein of goalscoring form

Bentley has become a specialist at securing survival on limited resources, while Notts County, ante-post title favourites, have some serious squad depth and could spark into life under new manager Neal Ardley following last Saturday's 3-2 win over Tranmere.

Yeovil, however, are almost four times the price they were for relegation in pre-season yet they are just three points above the drop zone.

The Glovers went off with a bang, claiming 14 points from their opening seven games, but their form has tailed off and they

have collected only eight points from their last 13 matches.

A nervy goalless draw at Cambridge last weekend stopped a rot of four straight defeats, which saw them beaten at fellow strugglers Morecambe and Macclesfield and thumped 3-0 at home to Port Vale.

Darren Way's men host Northampton and face trips to top-eight duo Exeter and Tranmere before the turn of the year and that could soon see the pressure intensified.

**Recommendation**  
Yeovil 1pt 12-1 bet365

## Top goalscorer

With James Norwood's contract set to expire in the summer, Tranmere may be tempted to cash in on their most-prized asset in January and that could leave the top goalscorer market wide-open.

Big Kick-Off followers who took 40-1 about Norwood topping the scoring charts will be hoping he stays put at Prenton Park but that is not guaranteed and taking advantage of the four places on offer could be a shrewd move.

MK Dons have two strong candidates in Chuks Aneke and Kieran Agard, but it may be the former Bristol City man who poses the biggest threat.

The 29-year-old has found his range in League Two and has benefited from Aneke's return to the squad, netting in six of his last seven games.

Agard's nine-goal haul, which has been recorded from just 19 shots on target, is six off pace-setting Norwood and the creativity in Dons' ranks should help him to make the frame.

**Recommendation**  
K Agard  
1pt e-w 10-1 bet365, Betfair, P Power  
AARON ASHLEY

**ASHLEY'S TEAM OF THE SEASON SO FAR**

**SOCCKERBASE.COM**  
SMARTERBETTING

# 3 PAPERS FOR LESS THAN THE PRICE OF 1



Read our popular newspapers including the Racing Post newspaper, The Weekender and the Racing & Football Outlook. Available to download on any device, from 9pm every evening exclusively with Members' Club Ultimate – only £29.95 per month.

Visit [racingpost.com/membersclub](http://racingpost.com/membersclub)

**RACING POST**

**WHEN YOU BET ON RACING, YOU CAN BET ON RACING POST.**



SCOTLAND LADBROKES PREMIERSHIP

# Extra financial clout should see Hoops home

## Mark Walker

Our Scottish expert surveys the scene in the Scottish top flight



SCOTTISH football's top flight has not served up a title race as genuinely exciting as this year's Ladbrokes Premiership battle for decades.

Instead of the usual one-horse procession north of the border, it has been an exciting season with Celtic, Rangers, Hearts and Kilmarnock all having topped the table.

In addition, four-in-a-row runners-up Aberdeen are up there too despite an underwhelming season, St Johnstone have overachieved as usual and Livingston, who have been promoted two seasons in a row, have been fantastic, particularly at home.

But of course, you wouldn't know what an unpredictable season it has been by looking at the prices because they still have Celtic as massive odds-on favourites, Rangers as outsiders and silly prices for the rest.

Those prices will take account of the likelihood of Celtic making big moves in the transfer window and that's understandable.

Brendan Rodgers has faced his first real challenge as Hoops boss and he has not been helped by a dismal transfer window in August, while Leigh Griffiths' problems came at the wrong time too.

Rangers boss Steven Gerrard desperately needs to get some assistance from Alfredo Morelos in his side's striking department.

An unexpectedly decent European run has given him plenty of credit in the bank, but

### WALKER'S TEAM OF THE SEASON SO FAR



he really needs to get some wins over Celtic to placate Ibrox punters who are increasingly panicking as Celtic close in on ten titles in a row.

Celtic have huge financial reserves in Scottish terms and the signs are that Rodgers will be heavily backed. That could just tip the balance in the Parkhead side's direction because it's hard to see Rangers splashing out to the same extent.

Hibs and Hearts could be

heading in opposite directions and Aberdeen should challenge towards the top if they recapture their trademark consistency against the lower teams which has served them well recently.

Killie have been the great success story of this season and while it would be wonderful to think of Steve Clarke's side emulating Leicester's amazing Premier League win, football fairytales tend not to travel north of Hadrian's Wall.

# Volatile Morelos ready to erupt



**Top goalscorer**  
Alfredo Morelos looks a solid value bet to be top scorer in the Ladbrokes Premiership this season – if he can keep his volatile temperament under control.

The Colombian looks set to head into Scotland's winter break as top marksman and Rangers are extremely reliant on him.

Unfortunately for them, Morelos has a major problem keeping his temper in check. He can easily be got at by opponents and he reacts far too often.

He has missed the odd sitter and has yet to net in an Old Firm game. But Rangers are a team who ping cross after cross into the box and he's the most likely to get on the end of them.

With Leigh Griffiths out and Odsonne Edouard failing to live up to his £9 million price tag for Celtic, Morelos can top the charts.

**Recommendation**  
A Morelos  
1pt 5-2 Sky Bet

**Top-three finish**  
Aberdeen have shrugged off a sluggish start to the season and should make it into the top three.

The Dons have disappointed for large chunks of the campaign, but they have somehow sneaked up on the blindside.

They are sure to strengthen in January and certainly have course-and-distance form. They have also beaten Rangers in the league and Betfred Cup.

**Recommendation**  
Aberdeen  
1pt 15-8 Sky Bet

**Top-half finish**  
Hearts have imploded after a fast start and they may even face a fight to finish in the top six.

The Jambos have been wrecked by injuries and although they will return, they might struggle to recapture their early-season form.

**Recommendation**  
Hearts  
1pt 7-2 Sky Bet



Celtic haven't had things all their own way this season but they should still retain their crown

### ADVISED ANTE-POST

By Mark Walker

**Rangers without Celtic**

5pts 1-2 general

**Hamilton to finish bottom**

2pts 9-2 bet365

**Hibs top-three finish**

2pts 3-1 Sky Bet

**St Johnstone top-six finish**

1pt 7-1 Betfred

**O Edouard top goalscorer**

1pt 9-2 general

**F Kamber top goalscorer**

1pt each-way 12-1 bet365

### STANDINGS

HOME LADBROKES PREMIERSHIP AWAY													
PL	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	PL	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
17	7	1	1	26	5	Rangers	3	3	2	13	9	34	
18	6	1	2	17	7	Kilmarnock	4	3	2	11	11	34	
16	7	0	2	20	4	Celtic	3	3	3	16	6	33	
17	5	1	2	13	8	Aberdeen	4	2	3	9	10	30	
18	5	2	2	11	6	Hearts	4	1	4	12	18	30	
18	7	2	1	18	3	Livingston	1	2	5	6	13	28	
17	3	4	2	12	12	St Johnstone	5	0	3	9	10	28	
17	4	3	1	19	8	Hibernian	3	2	4	9	11	26	
17	2	3	3	9	8	Motherwell	3	0	6	9	18	18	
18	2	0	6	7	16	Hamilton	2	1	7	5	23	13	
17	1	2	6	8	19	Dundee	1	1	6	6	17	9	
18	2	1	7	7	15	St Mirren	0	2	6	6	21	9	

HOME LAST EIGHT AWAY													
PL	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	PL	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
8	3	0	1	7	4	Aberdeen	3	0	1	5	5	18	
8	3	0	0	14	3	Celtic	2	2	1	9	3	17	
8	3	1	1	12	3	Rangers	2	1	0	5	2	17	
8	2	2	1	9	4	St Johnstone	3	0	0	4	0	17	
8	3	0	1	9	3	Kilmarnock	1	2	1	3	6	14	
8	2	1	0	5	1	Motherwell	2	0	3	5	11	13	
8	3	1	0	10	1	Livingston	0	0	4	2	9	10	
8	1	2	1	6	5	Hibernian	1	1	2	1	4	9	
8	1	2	2	6	10	Dundee	0	1	2	3	6	6	
8	1	0	2	1	4	Hamilton	1	0	4	3	14	6	
8	1	0	4	9	2	St Mirren	0	2	1	4	6	5	
8	1	1	2	3	3	Hearts	0	0	2	1	4	5	

HOME 2018 AWAY													
PL	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	PL	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
35	12	2	3	31	15	Kilmarnock	8	5	2	21	22	67	
32	11	3	1	32	6	Celtic	8	4	5	29	14	64	
33	12	1	4	40	12	Rangers	7	6	3	34	27	64	
37	12	5	3	33	10	Livingston	5	5	7	19	21	61	
33	10	3	3	27	13	Aberdeen	8	3	6	18	18	60	
33	11	4	1	42	19	Hibernian	5	6	6	17	19	58	
34	9	4	3	22	12	Hearts	5	3	10	19	32	49	
34	5	8	4	20	22	St Johnstone	8	1	8	22	23	48	
34	6	6	6	22	20	Motherwell	5	3	8	13	24	42	
35	8	2	8	21	18	St Mirren	4	4	9	18	32	42	
33	3	1	11	13	32	Dundee	4	2	10	14	29	26	
35	5	0	12	20	33	Hamilton	2	14	9	40	23		

### PROFIT & LOSS

Kilmarnock	+12.48	Hamilton	-2.80
Livingston	+9.56	Rangers	-3.00
St Johnstone	+8.68	Celtic	-3.01
Hearts	+4.92	Motherwell	-3.13
Aberdeen	+4.39	St Mirren	-9.38
Hibernian	-0.25	Dundee	-11.60

### BEST PRE-SEASON PRICES

1-10 Celtic, 8 Rangers, 22 Aberdeen, 80 Hibernian, 200 Hearts, 500 bar.

### LADBROKES PREMIERSHIP

	Bet365	BetBright	Betfair	Betfred	Betway	Boyles	Coral	Hills	Ladbrokes	Power	Sky Bet	188Bet
Celtic	1-6	1-8	1-8	1-7	1-6	1-7	1-8	1-8	1-8	1-8	1-8	2-17
Rangers	9-2	5	5	5	9-2	9-2	9-2	5	9-2	5	5	9-2
Kilmarnock	50	80	80	80	80	80	80	66	80	80	80	80
Aberdeen	100	100	150	150	100	150	100	100	100	150	150	120
Hearts	200	150	200	125	100	200	200	-	200	200	200	200
Hibernian	150	200	500	200	500	200	250	-	250	500	250	200

### BETTING WITHOUT CELTIC

	Bet365	BetBright	Betfair	Betfred	Betway	Boyles	Coral	Ladbrokes	Power	188Bet
Rangers	1-5	1-6	1-6	1-7	1-6	1-6	1-6	1-6	1-6	3-19
Kilmarnock	12	12	11	10	11	11	11	11	11	9
Aberdeen	14	14	12	14	12	12	11	11	11	12
Hearts	20	18	17	12	16	14	10	10	10	17
Hibernian	16	20	20	20	25	20	20	20	20	25

### TO FINISH BOTTOM

	Bet365	BetBright	Betway	Boyles	Sky Bet	188Bet
St Mirren	6-5	Evs	10-11	Evs	5-6	Evs
Dundee	11-8	11-8	6-4	6-4	6-4	6-4
Hamilton	4	4	4	4	3	7-2
Motherwell	40	50	66	50	80	-

### TOP SCORER

	Bet365	BetBright	Betway	Boyles	Sky Bet	188Bet
Morelos	5-2	5-2	9-4	5-2	9-4	9-4
Edouard	5-2	5-2	5-2	5-2	5-2	9-4
Forrest	6	6	5	6	8	11-2
Kamberi	12	12	12	12	12	12
Lafferty	14	14	14	16	12	14
Stewart	16	16	14	20	14	16
Brophy	20	20	20	16	25	20
Christie	33	33	33	33	-	35
Sinclair	33	33	33	33	20	35

### FATE OF THE CHRISTMAS LEADERS

Season	Leaders	Best price	Clear by	Fin. Position	Won/Lost by
2017-18	Celtic	1-33	2pts	1st	9pts
2016-17	Celtic	1-200	11pts	1st	30pts
2015-16	Celtic	1-100	4pts	1st	15pts
2014-15	Celtic	1-50	6pts	1st	17pts
2013-14	Celtic	n/a	7pts	1st	29pts
2012-13	Celtic	1-100	4pts	1st	16pts
2011-12	Rangers	4-5	4pts	2nd	20pts
2010-11	Rangers	4-7	3pts	1st	1pt

## LADBROKES CHAMPIONSHIP

# Ayr hopes hinge on Shankland

By Mark Walker

AYR UNITED'S hopes of a remarkable 66-1 title success depend almost entirely on whether they can keep star striker Lawrence Shankland next month.

Ian McCall's side were gifted promotion last year by Raith's collapse, but they have been a revelation this season and 28-goal scoring sensation Shankland has been a huge part of it.

United were last in Scottish football's top flight in season 1977-78, with Ally MacLeod winning them promotion.

### BEST PRE-SEASON PRICES

5-2 Ross County, 7-2 Dundee Utd, Partick, 7 Inverness, 10 Dunfermline, Falkirk, 20 Morton, 25 Queen of the South, 66 Ayr, 100 Alloa.

### FATE OF THE CHRISTMAS LEADERS

Season	Leaders	Best price	Clear by	Fin. Position	Won/Lost by
2017-18	St Mirren	13-8	2pts	1st	12pts
2016-17	Hibernian	4-7	GD	1st	11pts
2015-16	Rangers	1-6	3pts	1st	11pts
2014-15	Hearts	1-5	9pts	1st	21pts
2013-14	Hamilton	7-4	1pt	2nd	2pts

### LADBROKES CHAMPIONSHIP

	Bet365	BetBright	Betfair	Betfred	Betway	Boyles	Coral	Hills	Ladbrokes	Power	Sky Bet	188Bet
Ross County	Evs	Evs	Evs	10-11	Evs	Evs	10-11	10-11	10-11	Evs	5-6	9-10
Ayr	7-4	7-4	6-4	7-4	7-4	13-8	13-8	13-8	13-8	6-4	7-4	7-4
Dundee Utd	9-2	5	11-2	9-2	9-2	9-2	9-2	9-2	9-2	11-2	11-2	9-2
Inverness	25	25	25	25	25	25	22	25	22	25	20	25
Dunfermline	66	66	66	66	80	66	66	-	66	66	66	80
Queen of the Sth	66	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80

Each-way 1/3 1,2 (bet365, 188Bet 1/4 1,2; Betfred, Hills win only) Others on request

Chairman Lachlan Cameron has labelled Shankland 'priceless' and insists he won't sell him in January, but it's hard to see Ayr refusing silly money from desperate English Championship clubs. And that would be a real game-changer.

Ross County and Dundee United should be doing better. In United's case, they at least ditched Csaba Laszlo and replaced him with Robbie Neilson. County have deep pockets at this level and could significantly freshen themselves up next month.

If Shankland departs, snap up the prices on County winning it. Inverness would have challenging too if they hadn't drawn a ridiculous 11 of their 16 games, having lost just once.

Those four should reach the playoffs and significant improvement should surely be expected from Partick Thistle and Falkirk who have been nothing short of woeful for the size of their clubs this season.

Alloa have been excellent in keeping themselves afloat, but their part-time status may begin to stretch them as the season goes on.

Dunfermline, Morton and Queen of the South should all tread water, while maintaining their Championship status.

### Advised ante-post

Inverness 2pts 7-1 general  
Ayr Utd 1pt e-w 66-1 Betway, Hills

### STANDINGS

HOME LADBROKES CHAMPIONSHIP AWAY												
Pl	W	D	L	F	A	Pl	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
16	5	3	0	18	7	Ayr	5	1	2	15	8	34
17	5	2	1	13	4	Ross County	4	4	1	18	10	33
17	3	2	3	14	18	Dundee Utd	5	3	1	12	7	29
17	3	4	2	16	10	Queen of Sth	2	4	2	10	9	23
16	1	7	1	13	13	Inverness CT	3	4	0	9	4	23
17	3	3	2	13	13	Morton	2	4	3	6	12	22
17	2	1	5	5	10	Dunfermline	3	3	3	11	13	19
17	4	1	4	11	11	Partick	0	1	7	5	17	14
17	1	2	5	2	9	Alloa	1	5	3	13	17	13
17	0	4	5	4	13	Falkirk	3	0	5	9	12	13

### PROFIT & LOSS

Ayr	+9.02	Queen of Sth	-4.55
Dundee Utd	+3.21	Dunfermline	-5.93
Ross County	+1.18	Inverness CT	-5.93
Falkirk	-0.30	Partick	-7.23
Morton	-3.65	Alloa	-8.50

## LADBROKES LEAGUE ONE

### STANDINGS

HOME LADBROKES LEAGUE ONE AWAY												
Pl	W	D	L	F	A	Pl	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
17	7	1	0	22	8	Arbroath	7	2	0	21	6	45
17	6	3	0	20	8	Raith	3	2	3	19	15	32
17	4	1	3	12	13	East Fife	4	1	4	14	12	26
17	4	2	3	14	14	Forfar	3	1	4	9	16	24
17	3	2	3	9	15	Montrose	3	1	5	11	13	21
17	2	1	6	11	14	Airdrieonians	4	1	3	13	11	20
16	4	1	3	11	9	Stranraer	1	4	3	9	12	20
17	4	2	2	15	12	Dumbarton	1	1	7	11	20	18
16	3	2	3	13	14	Brechin	1	2	5	10	16	16
17	3	0	6	10	16	Stenhousemuir	2	0	6	6	16	15

### PROFIT & LOSS

Arbroath	+7.57	Stenhousemuir	-1.65
Montrose	+5.03	Airdrieonians	-2.14
East Fife	+3.87	Stranraer	-2.65
Forfar	+3.47	Brechin	-4.30
Raith	+0.05	Dumbarton	-5.85

## STAT PACK PAGE 22

### FATE OF THE CHRISTMAS LEADERS

Season	Leaders	Best price	Clear by	Fin. Position	Won/Lost by
2017-18	Ayr	4-7	8pts	1st	1pt
2016-17	Livingston	1-4	10pts	1st	19pts
2015-16	Dunfermline	1-5	3pts	1st	18pts
2014-15	Forfar	6-1	2pts	3rd	3pts
2013-14	Rangers	n/a	13pts	1st	39pts

### LADBROKES LEAGUE ONE

	Bet365	BetBright	Betfair	Betfred	Betway	Boyles	Coral	Hills	Ladbrokes	Power	Sky Bet	188Bet
Arbroath	1-14	1-12	1-12	1-14	1-14	1-14	1-16	1-12	1-16	1-12	1-10	1-20
Raith Rovers	7	7	7	7	7	7	6	6	6	7	7	7
East Fife	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	-	33	33	40	35
Forfar	50	50	50	66	50	50	50	-	50	50	66	50

Each-way 1/3 1,2 (bet365, 188Bet 1/4 1,2; Betfred, Hills win only) Others on request

# Title is at the mercy of relentless Arbroath

ARBROATH have turned the league into a procession with a brilliant first half of the season, writes Mark Walker.

And with the Gayfield side no bigger than 1-10 to win the league and no one pricing up each-way or betting without the leaders, it's impossible to find any value in the market.

Veteran boss Dick Campbell has done a stunning job with his side, who remain unbeaten in the league. A revitalised Bobby Linn has been excellent and his goal have been a major part of the Red Lichties' stunning start.

They have been ultra consistent and blown away any challengers, including Raith Rovers and pre-season title favourites Dumbarton, who have had a

### BEST PRE-SEASON PRICES

2 Raith Rovers, Dumbarton, 8 Airdrie, 12 Arbroath, Brechin, 16 Stranraer, 20 East Fife, 33 Forfar, 35 Montrose, 50 Stenhousemuir.

disastrous campaign after last season's relegation.

Sides to look out for in the new year include Rovers, who should improve under John McGlynn, and Airdrie, who should also get better with Ian Murray in charge.

East Fife went through a brilliant spell where they won eight matches in a row in all competitions and they are worth keeping an eye out for if they can replicate that.

Promoted Montrose have done very well to not just keep out of trouble, but even give themselves a chance of reaching the playoffs.

Stenhousemuir saved themselves last season in the playoffs, but they could be doomed this year and Brechin will be desperate to avoid back-to-back relegations after last season's winless campaign.

Stranraer and Forfar Athletic will hope to grab a playoff place, but in a division with four clubs from Angus in it, the story has all been about one of them - Arbroath.

### Advised ante-post

Dumbarton 2pts 2-1 bet365  
Airdrie 1pt each-way 8-1 bet365

## LADBROKES LEAGUE TWO

# Peterhead can hunt down City

PETERHEAD should be able to chase down Edinburgh City in a two-horse race in Scottish football's fourth tier, writes Mark Walker.

The capital club have surprised everyone this season with a fantastic campaign, greatly assisted by the scoring power of Blair Henderson, who has netted over half of his side's goals.

Peterhead have got form for choking in title races and they are prone to throwing up the old shocker of a result.

But their squad of grizzled pros who have played at a much higher level, should have enough about them to overtake Edinburgh with Rory McAllister proving crucial.

Clyde look best placed to give the front two a run for their money, but they have left themselves too much to do and dropped too many silly points.

Danny Lennon is a decent manager though and they may get up through the playoffs.

Stirling Albion are in a false

### LADBROKES LEAGUE TWO

	Bet365	BetBright	Betfair	Betfred	Betway	Boyles	Coral	Hills	Ladbrokes	Power	Sky Bet	188Bet
Peterhead	8-11	8-11	8-11	4-5	4-6	8-11	8-11	8-11	8-11	8-11	8-11	11-17
Edinburgh City	13-8	13-8	7-5	13-8	13-8	6-4	6-4	6-4	6-4	7-5	13-8	8-5
Clyde	7	7	8	7	15-2	8	6	6	6	8	13-2	15-2
Elgin	100	100	100	100	100	100	80	-	80	100	100	100
Queens Park	150	150	100	80	125	150	80	-	80	100	66	150
Annan	150	150	175	50	150	150	100	-	100	175	80	150

Each-way 1/4 1,2 (Betfair, Power, Sky 1/3 1,2; bet365, Betway, Hills win only) Others on request

position and can rise up through the table after the appointment of Kevin Rutkiewicz and the return of Darren Smith.

Queen's Park have been largely disappointing after their relegation last season, but they will battle it out for a playoff spot with Annan Athletic and Elgin.

Berwick Rangers should comfortably survive and that leaves doomed Albion Rovers looking certain to finish bottom.

After a summer recruiting players who were painfully not at the required standard, new boss Kevin Harper has the rest of the season to prepare his team for the playoffs against the winners of the Highland League and Lowland League.

### Recommendation

Peterhead  
2pts 4-5 Betfred

### Advised ante-post

Clyde 2pts 11-4 Hills, 188Bet  
Annan 1pt e-w 16-1 general

### FATE OF THE CHRISTMAS LEADERS

Season	Leaders	Best price	Clear by	Fin. Position	Won/Lost by
2017-18	Montrose	5-1	6pts	1st	1pt
2016-17	Forfar	4-9	7pts	2nd	2pts
2015-16	Annan	13-5	3pts	5th	6pts
2014-15	Arbroath	8-11	3pts	3rd	15pts
2013-14	Clyde	6-1	2pts	4th	19pts

### STANDINGS

HOME LADBROKES LEAGUE TWO AWAY												
Pl	W	D	L	F	A	Pl	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
16	7	1	1	20	5	Edinburgh C	6	0	1	10	3	40
15	5	1	1	10	4	Peterhead	6	1	1	22	7	35
16	4	2	2	13	10	Clyde	5	1	2	13	7	30
16	4	0	4	13	15	Elgin City	3	1	4	11	18	22
16	2	2	4	12	14	Annan	4	1	3	10	7	21
15	3	2	3	13	10	Cowdenbeath	2	3	7	7	19	19
15	4	3	1	7	3	Queen's Park	1	1	5	6	11	19
15	3	0	4	10	10	Stirling	1	3	4	8	12	15
15	2	0	5	17	17	Berwick	2	1	5	12	20	13
15	1	1	5	8	16	Albion	0	1	7	5	19	5

### PROFIT & LOSS

Edinburgh C	+14.08	Annan	-1.23
Peterhead	+3.28	Elgin City	-1.41
Clyde	+2.51	Queen's Park	-2.31
Cowdenbeath	+0.47	Stirling	-4.42
Berwick	+0.40	Albion	-10.67

### BEST PRE-SEASON PRICES

15-8 Peterhead, 11-4 Clyde, 10 Stirling, 11 Edinburgh City, 12 Queen's Park, 14 Elgin, 16 Annan, 33 Cowdenbeath, 40 Berwick, 50 Albion Rovers.

## KEVIN PULLEIN PAGE 15

**IN FRIDAY'S RACING POST**

**WEEKLY BETTING GUIDE**

**RACING POST sport**

# THE ASSIST

**12 PAGES OF TOP FOOTBALL CONTENT FOR THE WEEKEND'S MATCHES**

# NON-LEAGUE

## STANDINGS

NATIONAL LEAGUE												
HOME				AWAY				PTS				
Pt	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
24	7	4	1	22	6	Leyton Orient	7	4	1	22	8	50
24	9	3	0	29	11	Salford	5	4	3	18	10	49
24	7	4	1	28	15	Harrogate T	6	3	3	21	15	46
23	8	3	1	19	6	Wrexham	5	4	2	11	8	46
23	7	4	1	16	4	Solihull M	6	1	4	17	16	44
24	8	2	2	23	10	AFC Fylde	3	7	2	15	8	42
23	6	2	3	15	8	Gateshead	5	1	5	14	12	39
23	4	5	2	13	12	Sutton Utd	5	5	2	18	15	37
24	3	5	4	11	13	Eastleigh	7	1	4	15	14	36
24	4	2	6	13	13	Ebbsfleet	5	5	2	16	11	34
23	6	4	2	15	11	Boreham W	2	3	6	9	14	31
24	6	1	5	14	13	Barrow	3	6	13	16	31	31
24	3	4	5	14	16	Hartlepool	5	3	4	11	15	31
24	4	4	4	16	16	Dag & Red	4	0	8	10	14	28
21	3	3	5	12	17	Barnet	5	1	4	10	9	28
22	5	3	2	12	6	Halifax	1	5	6	9	20	26
24	6	2	4	14	12	Aldershot	1	2	9	6	27	25
23	4	3	4	18	15	Bromley	2	3	7	13	24	24
24	5	3	4	22	13	Havant & W	1	3	8	13	31	24
23	3	5	4	9	10	Chesterfield	1	6	4	11	14	23
24	4	1	7	14	21	Dover	1	5	6	11	22	21
23	3	2	7	13	24	Maidenhead	3	1	7	10	21	21
23	1	3	7	8	17	Maldstone	4	1	7	11	18	19
24	1	2	9	10	26	Braintree	2	3	7	11	18	14

LAST EIGHT												
HOME				AWAY				PTS				
Pt	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
8	3	1	0	8	4	Dag & Red	3	0	1	6	2	19
8	3	1	0	9	1	Leyton Orient	2	1	1	6	3	17
8	2	3	0	4	1	Solihull M	2	1	0	8	3	16
8	3	1	0	7	1	Ebbsfleet	1	3	0	4	2	16
8	3	1	0	11	3	Salford	1	2	1	4	4	15
8	3	0	1	6	3	Wrexham	1	3	0	4	3	15
8	2	1	1	6	6	AFC Fylde	2	0	2	10	5	13
8	3	1	0	12	5	Harrogate T	1	0	3	5	8	13
8	0	4	0	5	5	Eastleigh	3	0	1	7	3	13
8	4	0	0	16	4	Havant & W	0	1	3	1	10	13
8	2	1	0	5	0	Gateshead	2	0	3	4	7	13
8	3	0	1	6	4	Dover	1	1	2	4	5	13
8	3	1	1	6	3	Boreham W	0	2	1	2	3	12
8	1	2	1	4	4	Sutton Utd	1	3	0	7	6	11
8	1	3	0	4	2	Chesterfield	0	4	0	4	4	10
8	1	1	2	1	5	Barrow	2	0	2	6	5	10
8	1	0	3	4	7	Barnet	2	0	2	5	3	9
8	2	0	2	8	7	Bromley	0	1	3	3	8	7
8	1	1	2	4	8	Braintree	1	0	3	6	8	7
8	1	1	1	2	2	Halifax	0	2	3	2	10	6
8	0	1	2	3	7	Maldstone	1	1	3	5	9	5
8	1	1	2	2	5	Aldershot	0	1	3	1	11	5
8	0	1	3	2	10	Maidenhead	1	0	3	2	12	4
8	0	0	4	5	10	Hartlepool	1	0	3	2	7	3

2018												
HOME				AWAY				PTS				
Pt	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
44	16	5	1	51	23	Salford	10	7	5	38	23	90
44	16	4	2	62	23	Harrogate T	10	5	7	33	27	87
46	16	6	3	60	24	AFC Fylde	7	8	6	24	16	83
43	10	7	4	34	14	Leyton Orient	12	7	3	33	14	80
42	13	7	2	33	13	Solihull M	9	5	6	26	23	78
42	11	8	3	35	17	Wrexham	7	10	4	20	17	72
42	10	8	3	30	22	Sutton Utd	9	6	29	25	71	71
44	13	5	4	43	20	Havant & W	7	5	10	25	35	70
44	8	4	9	24	23	Ebbsfleet	11	8	4	32	24	69
43	11	6	4	30	22	Boreham W	6	7	9	22	24	64
45	9	6	7	33	25	Gateshead	8	5	10	28	29	62
43	6	8	7	22	25	Eastleigh	11	2	9	33	34	61
44	9	6	8	32	34	Dag & Red	7	1	13	23	28	55
44	6	7	9	23	27	Hartlepool	8	6	8	28	35	55
44	5	6	7	23	19	Aldershot	5	5	12	19	44	55
42	8	6	8	26	28	Barnet	7	3	10	17	26	54
42	9	7	5	36	25	Bromley	5	4	12	28	38	53
43	7	5	9	23	26	Barrow	6	7	9	23	30	51
43	10	1	10	25	28	Dover	4	7	11	27	40	50
41	9	5	6	25	21	Halifax	2	10	9	14	29	48
42	9	3	9	32	34	Maidenhead	5	3	13	20	48	48
43	6	4	11	27	36	Braintree	5	7	10	22	31	44
44	7	5	10	22	24	Chesterfield	2	8	12	19	37	40
44	4	6	12	21	32	Maldstone	5	4	13	22	35	37

## PROFIT & LOSS

Gateshead	+12.01	AFC Fylde	-1.39
Solihull M	+9.05	Hartlepool	-1.49
Leyton Orient	+7.20	Ebbsfleet	-1.90
Eastleigh	+6.92	Boreham W	-2.41
Harrogate T	+5.97	Maldstone	-4.35
Wrexham	+5.75	Bromley	-6.92
Dag & Red	+4.97	Aldershot	-7.35
Salford	+3.78	Halifax	-8.29
Barrow	+0.24	Braintree	-9.10
Sutton Utd	+0.17	Dover	-9.13
Barnet	-0.51	Havant & W	-10.76
Maidenhead	-0.85	Chesterfield	-12.60

## BEST PRE-SEASON PRICES

21-10 Salford, 8 Chesterfield, 14 Leyton Orient, Barnet, 16 AFC Fylde, 20 Aldershot, Wrexham, 25 Ebbsfleet, Boreham Wood, Hartlepool, Sutton, 28 Dover, 35 Bromley, 40 Halifax, Harrogate, Havant & Waterlooville, 50 Dagenham & Redbridge, Eastleigh, Maidenhead, 66 Braintree, Maldstone, 75 Barrow, 80 Gateshead, 100 Solihull Moors.

# Beesley can spur on Avenue

## NATIONAL LEAGUE NORTH

AFTER starting the season with nine wins in their opening ten matches, Chorley looked to be heading for promotion from the National League North.

However, the Magpies have since dropped off in a big way, winning just two of their next nine games, and their days at the top of the pile could be numbered.

The Lancashire side are now level with **Bradford Park Avenue**, who beat them 1-0



Justin Edinburg's table-topping Leyton Orient have lost just twice in the National League this term

# Expect Dragons to be fired-up

## NATIONAL LEAGUE

WITH only one automatic promotion spot up for grabs, the National League is always a division filled with tension and intrigue, and this season has been no different.

Leyton Orient are top of the pile on 50 points with ante-post favourites Salford just one point behind, as Harrogate, Wrexham and Solihull Moors attempt to keep pace.

Orient have lost just twice and boast the best goal difference in the league. While striker Macauley Bonne has received plenty of plaudits, the introduction of centre-back Marvin Ekpiteta has been the driving force behind their challenge.

Ekpiteta became a regular in the side early in the season and has been a revelation, showing composure, leadership, and even the ability to score goals.

Justin Edinburg's side are unlikely to drop off the pace, but neither are Salford. The Ammies slipped up against Chesterfield

but that was their first league defeat in nearly four months, and striker Adam Rooney has shown his class with 17 goals.

However, it might be worth having a punt on **Wrexham**, who have been in the mix all season and look a big price as they continue to go under the radar. The Welsh side have rarely blown away their opponents, but they are difficult to break down and have turned the Racecourse Ground into a real fortress, conceding just six goals there.

If they continue to show their defensive strength, the Dragons can stake a claim for top spot.

In addition, the scramble for a top-seven finish and a place in the playoffs is heating up, and despite Dagenham & Redbridge being 11 points adrift few teams are in better form.

The future looked bleak for the Daggers when they fell into financial trouble and they started the season winless in their first eight matches. But since being purchased by an American group that includes goalkeeper Tim Howard they have won six of their last eight games.

That has seen them climb up

## SPECIALS

**Relegation - 188Bet:** 1-100 Braintree, 1-4 Maidstone, 6-10 Maidenhead, 4-5 Dover, 13-10 Havant & W, 7-2 Dagenham, 4 Aldershot, Halifax, 5 Bromley, 10 Chesterfield, 12 Barrow, 16 Ebbsfleet, 25 Boreham Wood.

**Top goalscorer - bet365:** 6-5 A Rooney, 6-4 M Bonne, 9-2 D Rowe, 16 P McCallum, 25 B Turgott, 33 R Gaffney, 66 J Muldoon, T Smith, 100 J Hindle, S Boden, 125 bar

to 14th, and if Peter Taylor's side can continue to pick up points over a tricky Christmas period, they could be in with chance of reaching the playoffs.

## Recommendations

**Wrexham**  
1pt 14-1 Sky Bet

**Dagenham & Redbridge**  
top-seven finish  
0.5pt 66-1 Sky Bet

**Advised ante-post**  
**AFC Fylde**  
1pt each-way 16-1 Paddy Power

**Halifax to be relegated**  
1pt 7-2 general

**Sutton +18 on handicap**  
1pt each-way 18-1 bet365

**N Muir top goalscorer**  
1pt each-way 40-1 Sky Bet

**G Ugwu top goalscorer**  
1pt each-way 18-1 Sky Bet

**Sutton to win promotion**  
1pt 12-1 Betway

## NATIONAL LEAGUE

	Bet365	BetBright	Betfair	Betfred	Betway	Boyles	Coral	Hills	Ladbrokes	Power	Sky Bet	188Bet
Salford	6-5	6-5	6-5	5-4	5-4	11-10	5-4	6-5	5-4	6-5	11-8	11-10
Leyton Orient	11-8	11-8	11-8	11-8	11-8	11-8	11-8	11-8	11-8	11-8	11-10	13-10
Wrexham	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	14	12
Harrogate	16	16	14	10	16	14	12	12	12	14	10	12
Fylde	22	22	20	20	20	20	16	20	16	20	14	20
Solihull	25											

# EUROPE

## Title may already be in bag for champions

### FRANCE

PARIS ST-GERMAIN are ten points clear in Ligue 1 and a stellar cast headlined by Neymar, Kylian Mbappe and Edinson Cavani should propel them further in front as the season nears a conclusion.

Thomas Tuchel's tremendous trio have notched 33 of PSG's 49 goals this season. To put that in perspective, no other team in France's top-flight have scored more than 29 goals and they all look to be playing for places behind the Parisians.

Lyon head the betting without PSG and have the quality to nab second spot, probably at the expense of faltering Marseille, although Lille are putting a poor 2017-18 campaign behind them in a bid to seal a Champions League place.

Guingamp have just eight

### LIGUE 1

	Bet365	BetBright	Betfair	Betway	Boyles	Hills	Power	Sky Bet
Paris St-Germain	1-250	1-200	1-200	1-200	1-250	1-200	1-200	1-250
Lyon	125	100	100	100	100	50	100	100
Marseille	150	150	150	150	150	50	150	150
Lille	250	200	200	250	250	80	200	250

Win only

Others on request

points and are 1-3 for the drop but bookmakers expect Thierry Henry to keep struggling Monaco in the top flight.

Despite winning the title in 2017, the atmosphere turned sour at the Stade Louis II and Leonardo Jardim was sacked in October following the sale of most of Monaco's brightest talents.

Henry had to wait more than a month for his first victory but they have won two of their last four league games and are 11-2 to go down despite occupying a relegation place. Caen, Amiens, Dijon, Toulouse and Angers all remain at risk.

The French fixture list could become messy following a raft of postponements related to the gilets jaunes protests and that could lead to congestion later in the campaign.

### Advised ante-post by Joe Champion

Monaco without PSG

2pts 9-4 bet365

Nimes to be relegated

1pt 7-4 bet365

### STANDINGS

HOME		LIGUE 1		AWAY		
PI	W D L F A	W D L F A	W D L F A	PI	Pts	
16	8 0 0 27 3	Paris St-G.	6	2 0 22	7	44
18	6 3 0 18 6	Lille	4	1 4 10	11	34
17	6 2 2 16 7	Lyon	3	2 2 13	13	31
16	4 3 2 13 6	Montpellier	4	2 1 11	6	29
17	6 2 0 16 6	St-Etienne	1	4 4 9	16	27
16	5 2 1 17 6	Marseille	3	0 5 2	19	26
17	3 2 4 6 11	Nice	4	3 1 7	4	26
18	4 3 2 7 5	Reims	2	4 3 6	11	25
18	3 4 2 15 11	Strasbourg	2	4 3 13	12	23
17	2 3 3 11 10	Nimes	2	3 15	14	23
17	3 2 3 9 11	Rennes	3	3 14	14	23
16	4 3 2 14 11	Bordeaux	1	3 3 5	8	21
16	3 3 2 16 9	Nantes	2	2 4 8	15	20
16	2 3 3 9 10	Angers	2	3 10	11	18
16	2 3 3 9 12	Toulouse	2	3 3 5	12	18
17	2 1 5 6 15	Dijon	2	3 4 10	13	16
17	3 0 5 12 14	Amiens	2	1 6 4	16	16
17	1 4 3 8 10	Caen	1	4 7 12	14	14
17	0 3 5 7 15	Monaco	3	1 5 9	12	13
17	0 3 5 8 16	Guingamp	1	2 6 4	18	8

HOME		LAST EIGHT MATCHES		AWAY		
PI	W D L F A	W D L F A	W D L F A	PI	Pts	
8	4 0 0 13 1	Paris St-G.	2	2 0 9	3	20
8	3 1 1 7 3	Lyon	2	1 0 8	5	17
8	2 2 1 4 2	Nice	2	1 0 2	0	15
8	2 1 1 7 3	Montpellier	2	1 1 6	3	14
8	3 1 0 13 3	Nantes	1	1 2 3	8	14
8	3 0 1 5 3	Reims	1	2 1 3	14	14
8	1 1 2 6 5	Nimes	3	0 1 7	3	13
8	2 1 1 4 2	Marseille	2	0 2 6	7	13
8	3 1 0 10 4	St-Etienne	0	2 2 4	6	12
8	1 1 2 4 7	Rennes	2	0 7 4	12	12
8	1 3 0 4 3	Lille	2	0 2 5	6	12
8	2 2 1 8 5	Bordeaux	0	2 1 1	3	10
8	0 3 1 4 5	Strasbourg	1	1 2 6	4	8
8	1 2 1 5 5	Angers	0	3 1 5	6	8
8	0 1 2 3 8	Monaco	2	0 3 4	6	7
8	1 1 2 3 7	Dijon	0	2 2 4	6	6
8	0 2 2 3 7	Toulouse	1	1 2 2	6	6
8	0 0 3 2 7	Amiens	2	0 3 3	10	6
8	0 1 3 2 5	Caen	0	3 1 3	4	4
8	0 2 2 4 7	Guingamp	0	1 3 2	9	3

### PROFIT & LOSS

Lille	+5.90	St-Etienne	-2.17
Nice	+5.10	Dijon	-2.20
Reims	+4.62	Marseille	-2.51
Montpellier	+4.40	Angers	-2.57
Nimes	+3.41	Lyon	-2.72
Rennes	+1.08	Nantes	-2.90
Paris St-G.	+0.17	Toulouse	-2.90
Amiens	-0.55	Monaco	-9.70
Strasbourg	-1.50	Caen	-10.35
Bordeaux	-2.11	Guingamp	-13.16

### FATE OF THE CHRISTMAS LEADERS

Season	Leaders	Best price	Clear by	Fin. Position	Won/Lost by
2017-18	Paris St-Germain	1-100	9pts	1st	13pts
2016-17	Nice	4-1	4pts	3rd	17pts
2015-16	Paris St-Germain	1-500	17pts	1st	31pts
2014-15	Marseille	8-1	1pt	4th	14pts
2013-14	Paris St-Germain	1-6	2pts	1st	9pts

# No end in sight for Old Lady's dominance

### ITALY

JUVENTUS had to battle to the line to win their seventh consecutive Serie A crown last season but the Old Lady could be out of sight before long as they hunt an eighth straight Scudetto.

Eyebrows were raised when they splashed out on Cristiano Ronaldo in the summer but the 33-year-old has contributed 11 goals to help the buzzing Bianconeri to 15 wins from 16 matches – they are no bigger than 1-12 to take the title.

Napoli are enjoying another fine season under Carlo Ancelotti but they are eight points off the pace and, with Inter a further six away, appear to be the only team with even a remote chance of

### SERIE A

	Bet365	BetBright	Betfair	Betfred	Betway	Boyles	Coral	Hills	Ladbrokes	Power	Sky Bet	188Bet
Juventus	1-12	1-16	1-18	1-14	1-14	1-14	1-16	1-12	1-16	1-18	1-16	1-20
Napoli	7	7	7	8	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	8
Inter	50	40	50	50	50	40	40	50	40	50	50	50
Milan	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	100	150	150	150	200

Win only

Others on request

catching Juve. Ronaldo briefly touched evens to be top goalscorer in October but is back in to 4-11. The Portuguese is one behind Genoa's surprise leading 12-goal marksman Krzysztof Piatek while Lazio's Ciro Immobile has notched ten times.

Arguably the most interesting betting heat is the battle for fourth place. Milan are in pole position but Lazio, high-scoring Atalanta and Roma are all in with a shout of sealing the final Champions League place.

Chievo look doomed following a three-point deduction and 16 winless games which has left them nine points shy of safety while Frosinone have both the worst attacking and defensive records in the league.

Bologna, Udinese, Genoa, Spal, Empoli and Cagliari are among the teams who are at risk of losing their top-flight status.

### Advised ante-post by Mark Langdon

Inter without Juventus

2pts 7-2 Hills

### STANDINGS

HOME		SERIE A		AWAY	
PI	W D L F A	W D L F A	W D L F A	PI	Pts
16	7 1 0 16 4	Juventus	8	0 17 4	46
16	6 2 0 19 4	Napoli	6	0 14 10	38
16	6 1 1 16 4	Inter	4	1 13 2	32
15	5 3 1 14 10	Milan	3	2 10 8	26
16	4 2 2 14 10	Lazio	3	2 8 9	25
16	4 1 3 13 5	Atalanta	3	2 3 17	24
16	4 3 1 13 5	Roma	2	3 3 8	24
16	3 4 1 16 14	Sassuolo	3	2 3 10	24
16	4 2 2 13 8	Sampdoria	2	3 12 11	23
16	5 2 1 17 7	Fiorentina	0	5 3 7	10
16	3 1 4 9 11	Torino	2	6 10 6	22
16	3 2 2 9 8	Parma	3	0 5 7	13
16	3 5 1 9 7	Cagliari	1	3 4 6	13
16	4 1 3 11 10	Empoli	0	3 5 9	16
16	2 3 3 8 11	Spal	2	1 5 6	13
16	3 3 2 11 10	Genoa	1	6 11 23	16
16	2 1 5 5 12	Udinese	1	3 4 8	10
15	2 3 7 7 7	Bologna	0	3 4 8	15
16	0 4 4 6 16	Frosinone	1	1 6 5	19
16	0 3 5 6 16	Chievo	0	4 4 6	16

HOME		LAST EIGHT MATCHES		AWAY	
PI	W D L F A	W D L F A	W D L F A	PI	Pts
8	3 1 0 7 2	Juventus	4	0 8 1	22
8	2 2 0 10 2	Napoli	4	0 8 2	20
8	3 0 1 9 3	Atalanta	3	0 12 6	18
8	4 0 0 10 0	Inter	1	2 6 7	16
8	3 1 1 7 6	Milan	1	1 2 2	14
8	0 4 0 6 6	Sassuolo	2	1 1 5	21
8	3 0 1 8 6	Empoli	0	2 2 7	13
8	1 1 2 4 5	Torino	1	3 0 6	10
8	2 1 1 9 7	Roma	0	3 1 4	5
8	1 2 1 7 7	Lazio	1	2 1 4	10
8	1 2 1 5 6	Fiorentina	0	4 0 5	9
8	2 1 1 7 5	Sampdoria	0	2 2 6	10
8	1 2 1 4 4	Cagliari	0	3 1 5	7
8	1 2 1 3 4	Parma	1	0 3 3	8
8	0 3 1 4 7	Frosinone	1	1 2 3	7
8	0 3 1 4 7	Spal	1	1 2 4	7
8	0 2 2 4 10	Chievo	0	3 1 2	3
8	1 0 3 2 7	Udinese	0	2 2 3	5
8	0 2 1 3 4	Bologna	0	2 3 6	4
8	0 2 1 5 6	Genoa	0	0 4 12	3

### PROFIT & LOSS

Parma	+18.20	Lazio	-4.77
Juventus	+4.86	Roma	-5.60
Sampdoria	+4.36	Cagliari	-5.73
Spal	+3.98	Torino	-6.29
Napoli	+3.30	Bologna	-6.30
Inter	+1.77	Udinese	-7.10
Sassuolo	+1.44	Fiorentina	-7.81
Milan	-2.44	Frosinone	-10.75
Atalanta	-3.00	Chievo	-16.00
Empoli	-4.25		

### FATE OF THE CHRISTMAS LEADERS

Season	Leaders	Best price	Clear by	Fin. Position	Won/Lost by
2017-18	Napoli	11-8	1pt	2nd	4pts
2016-17	Juventus	1-8	7pts	1st	4pts
2015-16	Inter	9-2	4pts	4th	24pts
2014-15	Juventus	4-9	1pt	1st	17pts
2013-14	Juventus	1-4	5pts	1st	17pts

# Bayern face a real struggle

### GERMANY

THE scenario in Germany is all too familiar. One of the biggest clubs in the country leads the Bundesliga by a significant margin as the winter break looms but, for once, Bayern Munich do not top the charts.

Lucien Favre's exciting Dortmund side, spearheaded by Marco Reus and 18-year-old Jadon Sancho, are setting the pace and odds-on to end Bayern's six years of dominance.

Bookmakers see it as a two-horse race with the assumption that Bayern's class will see them bridge the gap after Christmas, but manager Niko Kovac has had a difficult start in the Bavarian hotseat and even an improved second half of the campaign may not save his job.

Dortmund had dropped only

six points heading into Tuesday's meeting with struggling Fortuna Dusseldorf, so Bayern will have to be near-perfect if they are to reel them in.

The battle for Champions League spots look hard to call, with Leipzig and Hoffenheim likely to improve now they are rid of European commitments.

Promoted pair Nuremberg and Fortuna Dusseldorf head the relegation betting – both are odds-on to go straight back to the second division – but leaky Hannover deserve their place at the bottom of the Bundesliga table based on a series of poor performances and Andre Breitenreiter may find it tough to right the ship at the HDI-Arena.

### Advised ante-post by Mark Langdon

B Dortmund to win Bundesliga

1pt 8-1 Hills, Sky Bet

### BUNDESLIGA

	Bet365	BetBright	Betfair	Betfred	Betway	Boyles	Hills	Power	Sky Bet	188Bet
Dortmund	8-13	4-6	8-13	4-6	8-13	4-6	8-13	8-13	8-13	4-7
Bayern Munich	13-10	5-4	11-10	6-5	5-4	5-4	6-5	11-10	5-4	7-5
M'gladbach	66	33	40	33	50	33	28	40	40	70</

# SPREADWISE

## STAT PACK

PREMIER LEAGUE										
	OV	GG	CN	BK	L8	TH	BH	CS		
Liverpool.....	53	41	6.2	11	22	2.3	3.0	59		
Man City.....	65	47	7.9	9	21	2.2	3.0	47		
Tottenham.....	59	53	5.1	14	18	1.5	3.0	41		
Chelsea.....	65	53	4.9	15	16	1.3	3.0	47		
Arsenal.....	65	76	5.5	19	13	1.7	2.4	18		
Man Utd.....	82	82	5.7	24	12	1.0	2.1	12		
Wolves.....	29	47	5.3	18	10	1.3	1.7	29		
Everton.....	59	65	6.1	15	9	0.4	2.3	24		
West Ham.....	59	53	5.2	21	17	0.9	1.9	18		
Watford.....	59	53	5.7	21	8	1.0	1.7	18		
Bournemouth.....	76	53	5.7	18	6	0.8	2.0	24		
Leicester.....	41	59	5.4	23	10	0.9	1.7	29		
Brighton.....	53	59	3.9	22	10	1.0	1.5	18		
Newcastle.....	53	53	4.9	18	14	0.4	1.5	29		
C Palace.....	35	35	5.3	19	8	0.2	1.6	35		
Cardiff.....	59	53	4.2	16	9	0.3	1.4	18		
Southampton.....	59	53	5.4	23	6	0.6	0.9	24		
Burnley.....	53	41	3.0	18	4	0.0	1.3	24		
Huddersfield.....	35	41	4.4	18	7	0.6	0.6	18		
Fulham.....	59	53	4.4	20	4	0.1	1.0	0		

SKY BET CHAMPIONSHIP										
	OV	GG	CN	BK	L8	TH	BH	CS		
Leeds.....	45	55	6.0	18	19	1.5	2.5	45		
Norwich.....	59	59	5.8	15	20	1.4	2.5	32		
West Brom.....	64	82	4.5	17	15	1.7	1.8	5		
Derby.....	55	64	5.6	21	14	1.5	2.0	23		
Sheff Utd.....	59	55	7.9	16	11	1.0	2.4	27		
Middlesbro.....	27	36	6.0	18	10	1.3	2.0	50		
Nottm Forest.....	41	50	4.9	26	13	1.3	1.9	45		
Aston Villa.....	64	73	5.1	15	15	1.6	1.4	23		
Swansea.....	55	50	5.0	9	12	0.9	2.0	36		
Birmingham.....	55	59	5.9	18	11	1.1	1.7	27		
Stoke.....	50	55	5.7	15	14	1.2	1.6	36		
Blackburn.....	50	68	4.7	15	10	1.2	1.6	27		
QPR.....	55	45	4.2	17	11	0.8	2.0	32		
Bristol C.....	36	45	5.3	16	8	1.4	1.4	32		
Preston.....	55	59	4.7	18	15	0.8	1.9	18		
Wigan.....	45	41	4.6	24	5	1.0	1.3	27		
Hull.....	36	45	4.5	15	15	0.5	1.6	23		
Sheff Wed.....	77	77	5.0	18	5	0.6	1.7	9		
Brentford.....	45	68	7.0	20	4	0.7	1.4	14		
Rotherham.....	41	59	4.8	13	9	0.9	1.1	23		
Reading.....	59	64	4.9	18	7	0.3	1.5	9		
Millwall.....	59	68	6.0	18	6	0.9	0.8	9		
Bolton.....	32	36	4.4	23	2	0.8	0.9	18		
Ipswich.....	36	50	5.0	19	5	0.6	0.6	9		

SKY BET LEAGUE ONE										
	OV	GG	CN	BK	L8	TH	BH	CS		
Portsmouth.....	50	59	5.5	18	15	2.1	2.3	36		
Luton.....	55	59	6.4	14	22	1.2	2.8	36		
Sunderland.....	60	75	5.5	24	20	1.9	2.4	25		
Peterborough.....	59	68	4.4	18	13	1.5	2.1	18		
Charlton.....	55	64	6.0	25	18	1.8	1.8	27		
Doncaster.....	59	50	5.6	26	13	1.6	1.8	27		
Barnsley.....	43	48	7.0	18	11	1.5	1.9	38		
Blackpool.....	43	38	4.8	15	12	1.1	2.0	48		
Wycombe.....	59	68	5.3	19	17	1.0	1.9	23		
Fleetwood.....	45	41	5.4	27	10	0.9	1.8	32		
Walsall.....	55	55	6.3	16	8	0.7	1.9	18		
Southend.....	50	41	4.7	16	9	0.8	1.8	36		
Coventry.....	45	59	4.2	11	8	1.4	1.2	18		
Accrington.....	33	62	5.4	19	5	2.2	1.5	14		
Burton.....	67	62	5.6	12	10	1.0	1.5	24		
Gillingham.....	64	55	5.2	18	13	0.7	1.5	23		
Shrewsbury.....	50	55	5.0	10	13	0.9	1.4	27		
Oxford.....	55	55	5.3	24	15	0.7	1.5	32		
Rochdale.....	68	59	5.3	18	8	0.5	1.6	32		
Scunthorpe.....	64	59	4.2	21	4	0.4	1.6	9		
Plymouth.....	55	64	5.4	17	13	0.5	1.4	9		
Bradford.....	50	41	4.8	25	8	0.3	1.4	27		
Bristol R.....	50	45	5.2	16	6	0.5	1.0	27		
AFC W'bleton.....	45	45	4.7	12	4	0.6	0.7	18		

SKY BET LEAGUE TWO										
	OV	GG	CN	BK	L8	TH	BH	CS		
Lincoln.....	48	62	5.9	15	13	1.8	2.4	24		
MK Dons.....	29	48	6.3	15	19	1.7	2.3	52		
Colchester.....	45	45	5.2	15	13	1.0	2.3	41		
Bury.....	59	59	6.1	13	14	1.2	2.0	27		
Mansfield.....	40	50	5.8	22	18	1.3	2.1	50		
Newport Co.....	57	67	5.3	14	8	1.7	1.7	24		
Exeter.....	36	50	4.4	20	6	1.1	1.9	27		
Tranmere.....	36	55	4.4	17	10	1.4	1.7	41		
Forest Green.....	43	81	5.0	22	13	1.4	1.7	10		
Oldham.....	45	55	5.5	17	12	0.8	2.0	36		
Stevenage.....	41	41	4.8	23	11	1.4	1.5	32		
Carlisle.....	50	45	5.4	11	11	1.2	1.5	23		
Swindon.....	50	55	5.2	22	12	1.1	1.7	23		
Northampton.....	50	55	4.9	20	15	1.2	1.3	23		
Port Vale.....	36	36	3.6	22	10	0.8	1.8	36		
Crawley.....	52	48	5.1	26	7	1.0	1.5	24		
Crewe.....	32	18	5.5	12	9	0.7	1.5	36		
Grimby.....	41	41	4.6	15	10	1.0	1.3	27		
Yeovil.....	50	40	4.5	18	6	1.3	0.9	40		
Morecambe.....	41	45	4.5	14	9	0.6	1.5	14		
Cheltenham.....	52	52	4.8	16	11	0.4	1.8	14		
Cambridge U.....	41	41	5.6	19	11	0.5	1.4	23		
Notts Co.....	68	64	4.6	22	7	0.6	1.2	18		
Macclesfield.....	41	45	3.7	13	9	0.7	0.8	14		

LADBROKES PREMIERSHIP										
	OV	GG	CN	BK	L8	TH	BH	CS		
Rangers.....	47	53	8.2	25	17	1.4	2.6	29		
Kilmarnock.....	50	56	4.4	16	14	1.6	2.2	39		
Celtic.....	50	31	7.4	11	17	2.0	2.1	56		
Aberdeen.....	41	47	5.1	22	18	1.4	2.0	29		
Hearts.....	56	39	4.4	23	5	1.1	2.2	39		
Livingston.....	39	28	3.7	17	10	1.0	2.1	50		
St Johnstone.....	41	41	4.8	16	17	1.0	2.4	47		
Hibernian.....	53	41	4.5	20	9	1.0	2.0	41		
Motherwell.....	41	41	4.8	26	13	0.6	1.7	18		
Hamilton.....	56	28	2.3	29	6	0.4	1.0	17		
Dundee.....	65	41	4.7	19	6	0.1	0.9	12		
St Mirren.....	50	50	3.4	28	5	0.4	0.6	11		

LADBROKES CHAMPIONSHIP										
	OV	GG	CN	BK	L8	TH	BH	CS		
Ayr.....	50	38	4.3	22	15	1.3	2.8	56		
Ross County.....	47	53	6.0	16	13	1.4	2.4	41		
Dundee Utd.....	41	65	4.5	20	15	1.4	2.0	24		
Queen of Sth.....	47	47	4.6	15	10	1.0	1.7	47		
Inverness CT.....	44	56	5.8	22	9	1.0	1.8	44		
Morton.....	41	53	4.1	17	9	1.2	1.4	24		
Dumfermline.....	41	35	5.8	17	8	0.6	1.8	35		
Partick.....	41	47	6.1	18	5	0.3	1.4	12		
Alloa.....	35	35	4.8	22	6	0.4	1.1	24		
Falkirk.....	29	35	3.1	19	10	0.4	1.1	18		

LADBROKES LEAGUE ONE										
	OV	GG	CN	BK	L8	TH	BH	CS		
Arbroath.....	65	65	5.6	18	24	2.7	2.6	35		
Raith.....	65	82	4.4	19	15	0.9	2.6	18		
East Fife.....	53	35	5.0	16	10	1.4	1.6	29		
Forfar.....	71	53	4.1	17	15	1.0	1.7	29		
Montrose.....	53	53	5.4	23	13	1.0	1.4	18		
Airdrieonians.....	53	59	4.9	13	10	0.9	1.6	12		
Stranraer.....	38	56	4.8	25	11	1.0	1.7	25		
Dumbarton.....	65	71	5.0	17	10	1.0	1.1	12		
Brechin.....	69	81	3.8	21	6	0.9	1.2	12		
Stenhousemuir.....	53	53	4.7	20	6	0.3	1.5	12		

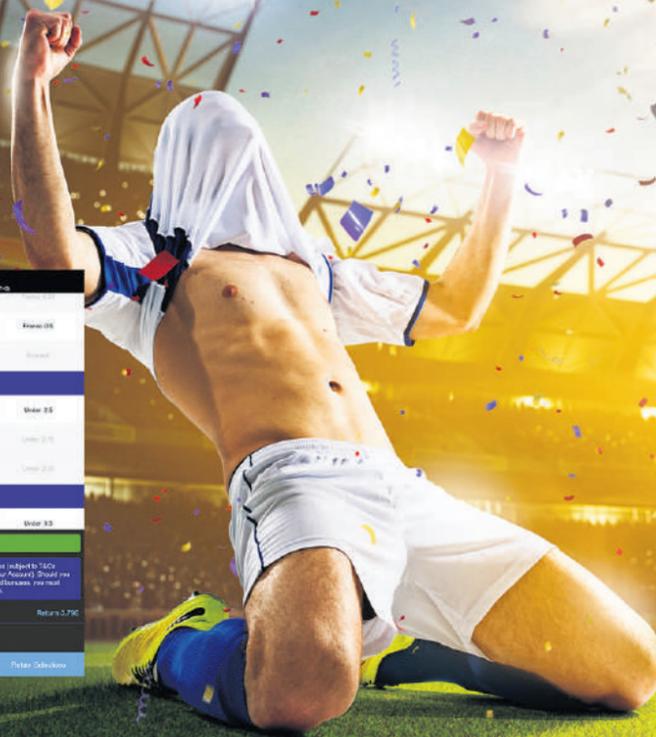
LADBROKES LEAGUE TWO										
	OV	GG	CN	BK	L8	TH	BH	CS		
Edinburgh C.....	44	38	5.0	20	19	2.0	3.0	50		
Peterhead.....	53	47	4.1	19	19	2.3	2.4	40		
Clyde.....	44	50	6.0	14	12	1.9	1.9	31		
Elgin City.....	75	63	4.6	18	9	1.0	2.0	19		
Annan.....	69	69	4.2	16	8	0.5	2.1	19		
Cowdenbeath.....	40	47	3.4	31	14	0.5	2.1	40		
Queen's Park.....	20	27	4.0	24	11	1.0	1.6	47		
Stirling.....	53	40	5.3	15	9	0.9	1.2	20		
Berwick.....	73	27	2.8	17	7	0.5	1.3	13		
Albion.....	60	47	4.7	18	4	0.0	0.7	7		

OV.....% games with over 2.5 goals  
 GG.....% games in which both teams scored  
 CN.....Team's average corners per game  
 BK.....Team's ave bookings pts per game (10 yellow/25 red)  
 L8.....Points from last eight league games  
 TH..... Ave. pts per game v top-half teams  
 BH..... Ave. pts per game v bottom-half teams  
 CS.....% games when team keep clean sheet



# SportPesa

# BUILD YOUR BET



Try our NEW Bet Builder to:

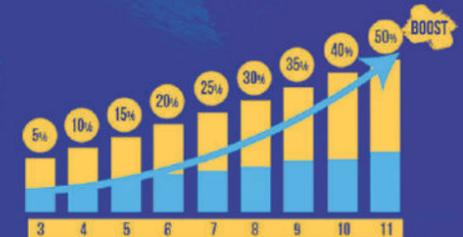
- Create your own custom football bets
- Include anything from two to six selections (including same game)
- Get an instant price - no need for requests

**MORE INFO AT  
SPORTPESA.UK**

# SportPesa

# ACCA BOOSTS

GET UP TO A  
50% BOOST  
ON YOUR MULTIS



**MORE INFO AT SPORTPESA.UK**

# Mike Holden



The football analyst looks at who is overachieving based on the expected-goals stats

## Wolves could force way into top six

### Premier League

The big players cost big money, which means the elite leagues operate by their own rules of what's normal. There's nothing unusual about the biggest teams outperforming their xG stats, it simply reflects their quality and depth of resources at both ends of the pitch.

So what you see is what you get at far as the top six goes. There's not much to argue with, unless you think **Manchester United** have been unlucky.

A more confident assertion is that **Wolves** now stand a better chance of breaking into the top six than United have of breaking into the top four.

There are a handful of teams who should expect a notable improvement on their points return in the second half of the campaign but for **Fulham** and **Huddersfield** that's not saying much. They could both improve markedly and still find themselves relegated.

**Southampton** and **Crystal Palace** have both struggled results-wise but should expect to finish in the lower mid-table positions based on their performances, while Cardiff have given themselves a fighting chance of survival. They deserve their two-point cushion on the drop zone.

### Sky Bet Championship

**Bolton** and **Millwall** are the two standout teams who should expect an

upturn in the second half of the campaign. For both, that would replicate the general pattern of last season.

The Whites are second-bottom again, two points better off than they were 12 months ago, when a flurry of results from this weekend forward – 14 points in the next eight matches – set them on the road to a dramatic final-day escape with that last-gasp 3-2 come-from-behind victory over Nottingham Forest.

The Lions are seven points worse off this time around but anything close to the 46-point haul they managed when playing every team for the second time last term would surely propel them from third-bottom into mid-table at the very least.

With a 51 per cent xG ratio, that's probably where they belong.

**Leeds** and **Norwich** have opened up a nice cushion in the race for automatic promotion and neither team can be accused of over-shooting their numbers to any significant degree.

Of greater concern is the ability of East Midlands duo **Derby** and **Nottingham Forest** to keep pace with the top six.

### Sky Bet League One

League One has been the setting for most of the craziest variance, which accounts for the dismissal of two of the country's longest-serving managers.

**AFC Wimbledon** are the most extraordinary case, sitting bottom of the table on 15 points despite an xG ratio that marks them out as comfortable top-half material. They waved farewell to Neal Ardley last month following a dreadful run of 12 defeats in 14 matches.

They could feasibly get worse in xG terms over the remaining 24 games and still avoid the drop. New boss Wally Downes obviously has a big task on his hands to bridge a six-point gap to safety but the numbers would imply that his job requires little else other than conveying a sense of calm.

**Bristol Rovers** are second-bottom having also got themselves into a rut, which led to the dismissal of Darrell Clarke last week.

Clarke started the season determined to drive the Gas into the top six despite limited resources but his demanding nature might have taken a toll on players once it became apparent that survival was the best Rovers could hope for. It will be interesting to see how they fare in the coming weeks if they are more relaxed. **Shrewsbury** have also been an unusual phenomenon. They reside in 17th position, although their mightily impressive 59 per cent xG ratio has never really passed the eye test and is considered to be a strange anomaly by most observers, including their own fans.

**Sunderland** are the big overachievers, although it's probably



There is scope for Wolves to make further progress in the Premier League

dangerous to run too far with that assessment. They possess a huge squad and bundles of quality, so never really find themselves over-stretched in any game and their performance is more likely to improve rather than their results nosedive.

Doing enough is the name of the game for Black Cats boss Jack Ross.

### Sky Bet League Two

Sol Campbell's first foray into management has been the big story in recent weeks and the numbers would indicate he has the platform on which to make solid impression.

**Macclesfield** are no great shakes, a bottom-eight side without doubt, but they have been competitive of late and there's ample reason to believe that Campbell's only target – survival – is

achievable.

The big problem for Macc is the two teams immediately above them.

**Cambridge** and **Notts County** have both significantly underachieved too, and should expect to climb the table under new management in the coming months, while the two teams above that, **Morecambe** and **Cheltenham**, can also get better.

If those four clubs match the Silkmen between now and the end of the season, then Campbell must bridge a six-point gap on **Yeovil** and nine points on **Crewe**, both of whom could be value at double-figure prices to go down.

At the top, a two-horse race is developing and the data makes **Lincoln** a bit more convincing than **MK Dons**.

### EXPECTED GOALS STATISTICS

Premier League				
	Lge pos	xG%	G%	DD
Liverpool	1st	74.02	84.09	-0.12
Man City	2nd	72.01	82.76	-0.13
Chelsea	4th	66.34	71.43	-0.07
Wolves	7th	63.70	50.00	0.27
Tottenham	3rd	55.81	65.96	-0.15
Man Utd	6th	55.09	50.00	0.10
Arsenal	5th	52.72	61.67	-0.15
Leicester	12th	52.09	50.00	0.04
Bournemouth	11th	49.91	47.17	0.06
Watford	10th	49.14	47.92	0.03
Crystal Palace	15th	48.07	37.84	0.27
Everton	8th	47.91	52.17	-0.08
West Ham	9th	46.19	50.00	-0.08
Southampton	17th	45.33	33.33	0.36
Cardiff	16th	40.21	34.00	0.18
Brighton	13th	39.34	45.45	-0.13
Fulham	20th	38.13	27.59	0.38
Newcastle	14th	37.80	38.89	-0.03
Huddersfield	19th	36.18	26.32	0.37
Burnley	18th	29.69	31.25	-0.05

Key xG% – expected goals ratio (percentage of chances in favour) G% – actual goals ratio (percentage of goals in favour) DD – divided difference between xG% and actual G% (positive implies a team has underachieved so far, negative implies overachieved)

Sky Bet Championship				
	Lge pos	xG%	G%	DD
Sheff Utd	5th	62.16	57.38	0.08
Leeds	1st	61.46	66.67	-0.08
West Brom	3rd	59.98	59.74	0.00
Norwich	2nd	58.22	60.61	-0.04
Bristol City	14th	57.21	50.94	0.12
Birmingham	10th	55.61	54.24	0.03
Middlesbrough	6th	55.30	60.00	-0.08
Preston	15th	52.87	48.61	0.09
Aston Villa	8th	52.02	55.84	-0.07
Brentford	19th	51.79	49.25	0.05
Millwall	22nd	51.32	42.42	0.21
Swansea	9th	51.03	52.94	-0.04
Nottm Forest	7th	50.96	59.26	-0.14
Blackburn	12th	49.66	46.77	0.06
QPR	13th	49.65	45.76	0.08
Derby	4th	49.53	56.36	-0.12
Wigan	16th	47.07	43.40	0.08
Stoke	11th	46.69	51.79	-0.10
Hull	17th	45.43	43.40	0.05
Bolton	23rd	40.54	33.33	0.22
Reading	21st	40.15	43.55	-0.08
Rotherham	20th	38.65	40.00	-0.03
Sheff Wed	18th	38.63	41.18	-0.06
Ipswich	24th	34.03	32.73	0.04

Sky Bet League One				
	Lge pos	xG%	G%	DD
Barnsley	7th	63.05	62.50	0.01
Portsmouth	1st	60.78	66.67	-0.09
Shrewsbury	17th	59.09	47.27	0.25
Luton	2nd	58.98	66.15	-0.11
Coventry	13th	57.46	46.00	0.25
Blackpool	8th	56.13	54.35	0.03
Charlton	5th	54.44	59.02	-0.08
Doncaster	6th	53.45	58.73	-0.09
AFC Wimbledon	24th	52.55	31.25	0.68
Southend	12th	52.12	50.00	0.04
Accrington	14th	51.91	44.90	0.16
Burton	15th	50.82	47.27	0.08
Bristol Rovers	23rd	49.98	40.00	0.25
Sunderland	3rd	48.77	68.33	-0.29
Oxford	18th	48.50	46.77	0.04
Peterborough	4th	47.74	58.82	-0.19
Rochdale	19th	47.01	41.43	0.13
Fleetwood	10th	45.34	55.77	-0.19
Gillingham	16th	44.23	47.83	-0.08
Walsall	11th	43.40	41.07	0.06
Wycombe	9th	43.24	51.61	-0.16
Plymouth	21st	42.37	38.81	0.09
Scunthorpe	20th	39.96	38.16	0.05
Bradford	22nd	36.42	36.07	0.01

Sky Bet League Two				
	Lge pos	xG%	G%	DD
Bury	4th	63.97	62.69	0.02
Lincoln	1st	63.92	67.86	-0.06
MK Dons	2nd	61.86	71.11	-0.13
Mansfield	5th	61.22	67.44	-0.09
Colchester	3rd	54.44	59.65	-0.09
Exeter	7th	52.56	56.60	-0.07
Northampton	14th	52.41	48.21	0.09
Forest Green	9th	51.27	58.82	-0.13
Newport	6th	50.92	48.48	0.05
Cambridge	22nd	50.02	35.19	0.42
Oldham	10th	49.98	58.18	-0.14
Yeovil	19th	49.75	50.00	-0.01
Carlisle	12th	48.12	51.79	-0.07
Swindon	13th	47.47	45.61	0.04
Crawley	16th	47.28	45.00	0.05
Tranmere	8th	46.71	54.10	-0.14
Crewe	17th	44.51	43.75	0.02
Notts County	23rd	43.81	35.71	0.23
Macclesfield	24th	43.75	32.14	0.36
Cheltenham	21st	43.73	40.00	0.09
Port Vale	15th	43.73	47.06	-0.07
Stevenage	11th	43.24	50.00	-0.14
Grimsby	18th	42.94	42.31	0.01
Morecambe	20th	42.47	37.29	0.14