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"The 2018 FIFA World Cup will not shield betting shops from the full impact of an imminent gaming machine stake cut, but it can help shore up the sporting side of the business."

- David Walmsley, Senior Leisure Analyst

# This report looks at the following areas:

- How can betting shops spread World Cup fever?
- Can self-service betting terminals help plug the gaming machines gap?

Consumer expenditure in betting shops is expected to rise to approximately £3.2 billion in 2017/18, but this is likely to be a high water-mark for the industry as it prepares for a large cut in gaming machine stake limits to have a significant negative impact on market value.

Sports betting will inevitably gain renewed importance as the power of the machines segment is cut, but the potential of the 2018 FIFA World Cup to grow the customer base looks set to be limited by preferences for online staking and the rise of domestic football as the most significant engine of growth.

Where the tournament could be more successful, though, is in strengthening the commitment and expanding the repertoires of the existing football player pool, and cross-selling the event to a horse racing audience showing interest in taking part.

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This report is part of a series of reports, produced to provide you with a more holistic view of this market



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