

Can we not settle the World's problems with a game of football?



During the recent 2020's, the oil market has survived many strange events that impacted oil prices, some of which had never appeared on the oil market radar, but the last 7 days has witnessed one of the strangest ever week's during that time. We began the 5 trading days in fear mode, oil prices remained caught in a trap of geopolitical chaos all cloaked by repeated warnings of crude oil oversupply ready to swamp declining demand.

Bearish prophecies of crude oil prices slipping into the 50's had become commonplace; the IEA led the charge again publishing numerous statistics forecasting this inevitable outcome; their opinion and statistical analysis often backed up by major banks and pundits alike. However, one thing they didn't bank on was America's continuing erratic behaviour, led by the need for change and a desire to restore American dominance in the World.

If the capture of the President of a country. In this case Venezuela... challenged the norm, the gathering of the pride of the US Navy battle fleet in the Middle East waters to threaten the Iranian hierarchy took "acting decisively" to a new level forcing crude oil prices to their highest since July 2023.

This week instead of falling into the 50's (ICE Brent has been predicted to do this for more than 2 years!) crude oil prices roared into the 70's. As the pride of America's Navy assembled global tensions soared, oil prices and commodities behaved in a way we've rarely seen, Gold....that safe haven for the economic world in times of crisissoared to a new record high price on a daily basis reaching an astonishing \$5600 an ounce by Thursday...as news of America's "imminent" war with Iran hit the wires investors rushed to buy gold...but inevitably, President Trump spoke again on Friday evening this time, he announced on his "Truth Social" chat box, that America was in talks with Iran over "doing a deal", two seconds after that statement gold prices tumbled in a way we could not have forecast as prices fell rapidly by almost \$1000 an ounce from Thursday's high to close at \$4745.

So, crisis averted? It's anyone's guess as to what comes next!

As the announcement came, oil prices too faltered into Friday night's close.. just a touch.., oil traders remain fully aware that despite gold's incredible price drop, the pride of the American navy remained with twitchy trigger fingers staring at Iran via flickering screens. As the weekend arrived oil markets stayed solid and on edge, with traders focused on Iran, one wrong move and oil prices would become subject to much wilder swings should any U.S attack hit Iran's 3.3 million barrels a day of crude oil production.

More serious concerns hung in the air, any attack by the US fleet would heavily impact Iran's relationships with it's Middle East neighbours should they retaliate by force after a US strike or even try to block the vital shipping lanes of the Straits of Hormuz waterway through which 30% of the world's crude oil must travel after loading in the Middle East.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the world, things became even more strange as the British Prime Minister began a three-day visit to meet President Xi in China...much to Donald Trump's annoy-

ance. This visit hardly had a bearing on oil prices but certainly gave us some thoughts for the World's warmongers to mull over on how to lighten up some of the current tensions in the World. When Sir Kier Starmer visited Donald Trump in the White House, he publicly produced a crisp white envelope from his inside jacket pocket which contained an invitation to Donald to join King Charles for tea at Buckingham Palace. A similar strategy was employed with President Xi (a fanatic Manchester United fan by all accounts!!) as during their first meeting this week in Beijing Starmer presented Xi with the match football from the game played last weekend between Manchester United and Arsenal A game which Manchester United won by 3 goals to 2. As a fanatic Arsenal fan this must have been agony for Starmer!!

The Chinese President's response was to glow in a smiling grateful manner happily accepting the ball (note: how did Starmer get hold of this ball?!!) thus setting the tone for a good and convivial set of meetings.

What seemed a strange and weird idea initially started to look more significant and cleverer as time went by.

Maybe Starmer has dropped on a new strategy....to resolve wars, disputes, and other global disagreements ...instead of firing drones and missiles at each other maybe we should resolve disputes with a good game of football with the winners allowed to keep the match ball as a sign of power.... we could even have leagues?!!

Enough rambling, I'm starting to behave like them but somehow Starmer's odd gift to one of the most powerful men in the world turned his legs to jelly! Maybe next time a ticket produced in a crisp white envelope to a game at Old Trafford might go a long way to improve relations with just about anyone in power in the world today especially one for a certain country hosting the football World Cup this year !! Just another strange thought in a very bizarre week!!

This week's closing guide prices:

Name	Price	Last Week
Ice Brent	\$70.70	+4.65
WTI	\$65.74	+4.41
Ice Gas Oil	\$733.00	+50.00
Euro Mogas Swaps	\$648.00	+17.00
Euro Naphtha Swaps	\$565.25	+27.25
Nymex Gasoline	\$1.9477	+v8.2¢/gal
LPG Swaps	\$521.25	+33.50
OPEC Basket	\$67.00	
Gold	\$4745	