

Issue 136

Friday 9th March 2018

# BetFan

Your No.1 FREE Magazine For A Quick Sport Fix!

## Inside Today...

**FREE Tips From Unity Racing Investments, Declan O'Donoghue - Irish Racing and On The Nod**

**Top Tipsters For March 2018**

**Ian's Racing Preview - By Ian Hudson**

**Malaya Could Be A Handicap Good Thing**

**Today's Sports Betting Preview - By Rick Elliott**

**Our Duke Can Win The Cheltenham Gold Cup**

**TEACHER'S PET Is A Big Player On Ratings**

Your Betting Experience Better

Published By [BetFan.com](http://BetFan.com)

# BetFan

## Links of Interest...

[Tipster Champions League](#)  
[Daily Blog Updates](#)  
[Racecards & Ratings](#)  
[App For iOS](#)  
[App For Android](#)  
[Become An Affiliate](#)  
[Help & Support](#)  
[Bet World Reviews](#)  
[ZapTips](#)

## Please Like Us On Social Media...

[Facebook](#)  
[Twitter](#)  
[Google Plus](#)  
[Youtube](#)

## TOP TIPSTERS MARCH 2018

[CLICK HERE FOR A LIVE INTERACTIVE LEAGUE TABLE](#)

Pos	Service Name	Points
1st	 Golf Bet Gold	73.07
2nd	 The Chief Tipster	70.35
3rd	 Two Percent Club	55.88
4th	 Factor Seven Racing	40.00
5th	 The Gentlemans List	31.50
6th	 World Soccer Pro	29.80
7th	 Shrewd Tipster	20.00
8th	 USA Racing Club	18.50
9th	 Each Way Hits	18.00
10th	 Race Profits South Africa	16.50

## TODAY'S FREE SPORTS BETTING TIPS...

[Unity Racing Investments](#)

Win Bet - 15:25 Ayr - Charmant @ 5/2

[Declan O'Donoghue - Irish Racing](#)

Win Bet - 13:55 Leopardstown - Tara Dylan @ 5/2

[On The Nod](#)

Win Bet - 18:15 Newcastle (A.W) - Furni Factors @ 7/2





## **Ian's Racing Preview** - By Ian Hudson

### **Malaya Could Be A Handicap Good Thing**

Of course the whole jumps industry is obsessed with the Cheltenham Festival and rightly so. It's the best race meeting in the world and provides four days of excessive gambling. It's by some distance the National Hunt meeting that matters most but the core season is much more about four days in March. The Imperial Cup at Sandown this Saturday is a competitive handicap hurdle in its own right and the outcome of the race can have implications for similar contests next week.

The winner of the Imperial Cup receives a bonus for winning any race at the Cheltenham Festival the following week. The current sponsors have raised that prize to £100,000 which is a great incentive. It was attractive when the bonus was half that amount and Martin and David Pipe have won it in the past. The Sandown race is a two mile handicap hurdle so the Coral Cup, Fred Winter Handicap Hurdle and the County Hurdle are the races in which the bonus can be won.

The race has been given listed status and the decent prize money has attracted a large field. There is a maximum field of 22 runners and that will be oversubscribed. As a handicap with more than 16 runners bookmakers will settle each way bets at one quarter the odds for four places. Often some bookies offer more places for a Saturday

feature and if you shop around you should get five payout places. At the time of writing bookmakers were going 6/1 the field so it's a wide open contest.

In the last four years the winner has been aged five or six. No horse over the age of nine has won the race since 1947 and only two four-year-olds have won the Imperial Cup in the last 20 years. London Prize won the race in 2017 carrying 11-2 but every other winner since 2004 carried less than 11 stone. Ten jockeys have ridden the winner over the last decade and David Pipe is the leading trainer this century with four wins. Favourites don't have a great record in the Imperial Cup.

Malaya is the only four-year-old in the declarations and will creep in at the bottom of the weights. As a young horse Malaya gets an eight pound weight allowance from horses aged five and older. On current ratings the horse has something to find but could be a blot on the handicap. Malaya has finished first or second on the last five starts. The horse is trained by Paul Nicholls and he has never won the Imperial Cup but Malaya looks a good prospect to break that duck.

The favourite is Whatswrongwithyou trained by Nicky Henderson. The trainer's only win in the race was in 2009 when the winning horse was ridden by Barry Geraghty. The horse has been allocated 10-13 which would represent the best weight-carrying effort since 2009, except for last year's winner. Whatswrongwithyou is a novice but inexperienced horses that are good enough can often win these handicap hurdles. The horse is not exposed and there could be more to come but that is reflected in the odds.

On Racing Post Ratings Fidux has five pounds or more in hand over the rest of the field. The horse has won just two races in 10 starts and the last win was in November 2016. Fidux is more exposed than Malaya in handicaps so that horse can win the Imperial Cup and then be targeted at the Triumph Hurdle or one of the handicaps at the Cheltenham Festival.

**You can be part of all the Cheltenham betting action by joining [BetFan's Cheltenham Special 2018](#) by [Clicking Here](#).**

## **Today's Sports Betting Preview** - By Rick Elliott

### **Our Duke Can Win The Cheltenham Gold Cup**

When Best Mate won three Cheltenham Gold Cups in a row from 2002 to 2004 the story was just as much about the trainer and her partner as the horse. Henrietta Knight and Terry Biddlecombe were an unlikely pairing but the truth is they managed to get Best Mate to Cheltenham on Gold Cup day in his prime for three successive years. Sizing John won't be winning another Gold Cup this year because the horse has been ruled out through injury. Jockey Robbie Power now rides Out Duke.

The jockey's new mount will be a massive factor at Cheltenham next Friday if jumping well. Our Duke made the Irish Grand National a procession last year and was clearly a Grade 1 horse running in a handicap. The horse drifted in the betting for the Gold Cup after a desperate seasonal reappearance but has since run at a high level and the Gold Cup is a genuine target. The horse is trained by Jessica Harrington who having ruled out Sizing John can win the race again and OUR DUKE is 9/1 with Betfair to prevail in the most prestigious steeplechase in the sport.

There are no major football matches in Britain tonight but plenty of betting action in other sports. England play New Zealand in the fifth match and decider of their One Day International series in Christchurch. England were embarrassing in the Tests against Australia but the limited over's side is one of the best in the world. The home side are no mugs in while ball cricket but ENGLAND have the better players in the format so are the bet in this match at 8/11 with William Hill.

### **TEACHER'S PET Is A Big Player On Ratings**

It's a long shot about getting any exciting racing on the Friday before the Cheltenham Festival. There are three moderate jumps meetings in Britain but £154,000 in prize money up for grabs at Leopardstown in Ireland and the same amount on offer at the All-Weather fixture at Dundalk. The handicap chase at Leopardstown at 3.30pm has almost 30 grand on the table for the winner. TEACHER'S PET is a big player on ratings and the horse is 10/1 with Paddy Power.