

# BetFan

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## TOP TIPSTERS March 2018

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Pos	Service Name	Points
1st	 Lucky 7 Naps	186.65
2nd	 The Judge	131.09
3rd	 Winners 15	110.87
4th	 Two Percent Club	101.24
5th	 World Soccer Pro	99.86
6th	 Trend Betting	64.74
7th	 Shrewd Tipster	57.23
8th	 Footie Flutters	49.97
9th	 WinKing	47.74
10th	 Dog Race Wagers	37.35

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

[AW Special 2018](#)

Each Way Bet - Meydan 17:50 - Forever Unbridled @ 10/1

[Trend Betting](#)

Each Way Bet - Haydock 15:50 - Castafiore @ 16/1

[The Pro Punter](#)

Each Way Bet - Carlisle 16:00 - Volcanic @ 5/1

# **Rick's Sports Betting: What Does It Take To Win The US Masters?** - By Rick Elliott

The US Masters is the first major championship of the season and the only one that is played on the same course. The key to good scoring at Augusta National is staying out of trouble and putting well on the treacherous greens. Big hitters have an advantage especially at the 13th and 15th holes which are both par 5s. They are risk and reward tests and the further a player hits the ball down the fairway off the tee the more options are open and a big drive brings eagle into play.

In theory the Masters Tournament is an invitational event played at a private club. However, the top 50 players in the world rankings are always invited and certain qualifying criteria apply. There is a limited field of about 100 players but some of those are ceremonial and have been invited as former champions. In fact you could say the field is 80 players and some of them are not good enough to win a major.

Augusta National has not changed intrinsically since the first Masters was played on the course in 1934. Some of the holes have been lengthened and the rough is more severe than in the past. The changes were made to 'Tiger-proof' the course. At one stage at the start of the century it looked like Tiger Woods could win 10 Masters as his game was ideally suited to the course. The modifications made for a more level playing field but Woods is still the winning most champion since 2000.

The former world number one missed the best part of two years due to injury and several operations. He won the Masters by 12 shots in 1997 for his first major victory. However, Woods was fixed on 14 major titles from 2008 for the next ten years. If he is to overhaul Jack Nicklaus's tally of 18 majors he will have to win the Masters more than five times. At the end of 2017 Woods was 80/1 for the Masters in the following April but some decent form meant he was backed into 14/1 fifth favourite.

Despite the changes to the fairways and rough Augusta's biggest defence is the greens. They are fast and undulating so hitting the correct parts of the greens is a key skill. There are treacherous slopes on the surfaces and sometimes two puttings is virtually impossible. When the pressure is intense on the back nine on Sunday players who hold their nerves on the greens have an advantage. Winning the Masters and the Green Jacket is one of the biggest achievements in the sport.

Course experience is a huge factor and rarely does a debutant do well or win. The Masters more than any other major has a history of producing multiple winners and Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson and Bubba Watson have won more than one in the last 15 years. Multiple champions from the previous era include Nick, Faldo, Bernard Langer, Jose-Maria Olazabal and Severiano Ballesteros. Jordan Spieth has the game and potential to win the Masters more than once.

The identikit profile of a potential Masters champion is a player who is better than average off the tee, has good GIR stats and is a competent putter. Most importantly he has to have the temperament to keep playing shots when the enormity of the occasion hits home over the last nine holes of the fourth round when in contention.

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

### **AJ To Win In The First Six Rounds**

The theme of the main sports betting action today and tonight is the best in the world. The Dubai World Cup at Meydan is one the most lucrative races in the horse racing world and Anthony Joshua is taking another step to be the undisputed heavyweight champion of the world. There are also eight Premier League fixtures in the mix as the most lucrative league in the football world reconvenes after the meaningless international break. EVERTON have a decent record at home against Manchester City and look a massive price to win this early evening live TV fixture at 8/1 with Ladbrokes.

The Dubai World Cup is run at 5.50 so by that time Everton and City will have been playing for 20 minutes. In the Premier League this season the two teams have scored and conceded a total of 18 goals in the first 15 minutes which statistically suggests there will have been a goal at Goodison Park before the feature race in the UAE. It's Evens with William Hill for BOTH TEAMS TO SCORE.

You can get the same price on WEST COAST to win the Dubai World Cup. The horse has improved on speed figures in the last six races and looks the standout bet on form. However, on Racing Post Ratings the each way value is FOREVER UNBRIDLED at 8/1 with bet365 who go one quarter the odds for three places while everyone else offer a fifth.

The Joshua fight tonight from Cardiff is pay-per-view and the boxers are due to enter the arena no later than 10.30. The price to subscribe by phone goes up on the day of the fight so hopefully the bookies will pay for it if Everton or our two



against the field in the big race do the business. If Joshua (1/5 with Betfair) beats Parker he will just need to beat the WBC title holder to be the best heavyweight fighter in the world. Defeat is out of the question and the smart money is Joshua in ROUNDS 1 TO 6 at 7/4 with Paddy Power. He then has the world at his feet.

## **Australia Fury And Outrage - Proves Still Love For The Longest Format** - By Dave Owens

In what has been one of the most talked about dramas in cricket for some time and probably will be for some years. Perhaps one of the most surprising and certainly for some people encouraging things to come out of the whole circus of the Australian ball tampering scandal was the utter fury and outrage to come from the Australian public and cricket in general. It's a time when test cricket is predicted to die a potentially slow death over the coming years with the increasing upsurge in 20/20 cricket, the money and audience it attracts and the feeling that the five day format has not much relevance in the fast paced and time constrained modern world, the reaction to the Bancroft incident could oddly be a wake up call to Test cricket, its rich history, its uniqueness in the length the game is played and the need to try and protect it at its most vulnerable.

For too long there has been a complacency and slight arrogance from teams and players around the world in terms of behaviours on and off the pitch and upholding the way the game is played. Australia have been the worst offenders, but that is not to say England and India have not had cringe worthy episodes of harassing umpires, giving players send offs and all sorts of embarrassing posturing on the pitch.

In a perverse way, it all might have needed to come to head in a series and this has certainly been the series that has provided it! Before a ball was bowled in the series, there was the usual pre-series nonsense – started by Australia that - with the current best bowler in the world Rabada close to a possible suspension, it could be advantageous to provoke and “get at” him to bring a response that would see him suspended. This was followed by a full match of nonstop abuse to South African wicket keeper Quinton De Kock who retorted by making what was reported as unseemly comments about David Warners wife that nearly came to blows in a tea interval. The drama was continued with Australia getting their pre-series wish and a ban for Rabada with him being judged to have barged into Steve Smith after taking his wicket before dramatically having the ban overturned and the ill feeling reaching fever pitch for

the third test and the now infamous ball tampering incident with Australia behind the game and in their own words “desperate” to claw things back.

The dust is starting to settle after the storm and Warner and Smith (two of the best batsman) in the world are banned for a year from the game and Bancroft loses 9 months of his career to a ban. It's an incredibly strong statement of intent by Cricket Australia on their lack of tolerance and drawing a line under what has been slowing getting out of control and as the South African batsman Hashim Amla has stated “a reality check for every team in the world”.

If you look away from the controversy (which has been nearly impossible). The cricket has been amazing. A fine topsy turvey contest between two fine sides that has swung one way and then the other and has had action, drama and no clear winner going into the last test of four. In summary everything that makes Test cricket the spectacle that people love and have been so furious about in wake of the scandals. Test cricket has a lot to do make it relevant and worthy of people's time and interest. Its far from just the behaviour side of it, the list is a long one from having Test cricket have context (in the form of league table and structure) to determine who is the best side and how its judged, encouraging and promoting emerging nations to play, making the game more accessible (weather that be day/night cricket or whatever).

What would help is Test playing teams and players promoting and endorsing the product as opposed to trashing it and each other. Potentially an optimistic hope, but maybe the aftermath of this series maybe the starting point for that to happen.

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**Declan's Eye-Catchers** - By Declan O'Donoghue

DIANTHUS (Richard O'Brien) We had already marked the new Limerick based trainer - no relation to the Ballydoyle crew - as one to follow and this filly delivered in style for him on Sunday when taking a Premier Handicap. She could quickly step up in grade, possibly even a 1,000 Guineas Trial.

ESCAPABILITY (Jessica Harrington) Sixth for Mick Halford on his sole juvenile outing, he has changed yards and really should have finished closer than third in a mile maiden. Should make amends next time.

HENCE (Aidan O'Brien) A close second over six furlongs at Naas last Sunday, that trip was too short for this full sister of Alice Springs. Should take her maiden with ease when stepping back up in trip, on the way perhaps to much better things.

KOSHARI (Willie Mullins) Will need to polish up on his jumping - and is with the right team for that to happen - but had a bit in hand just the same when scoring over two and a half miles at Clonmel on Thursday. A longer trip and better ground could seem him quickly climb the ratings.

PANSTARR (Jim Bolger) Made a very solid start to the new flat season when finishing second, the meat in the sandwich between two highly rated market hotpots Making Light and Elegant Pose. Plenty to build on there.

PINCHECK (Jessica Harrington) Fourth in the Irish Lincoln was a pleasing seasonal debut for this gelding who has thrived since joining Harrington in mid season last year. Ground and trip versatile he has already won three times for the yard and on this showing there should be plenty more in the pipeline.

**MEDICINE HAT 10/1 (won 5/1) was the perfect tonic for Declan's followers to kick off the new Irish flat season last weekend. Why not join his Irish Racing Service now to get the inside line on all that's happening on the Irish scene.**

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