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TODAY'S FREE SPORTS BETTING TIPS...

Recovery Racing

Ascot 17:00 - Archetype @ 33/1 Each Way Bet

Racing Investment

Ascot 15:40 - Hydrangea @ 7/4 Win Bet

On The Nod

Hamilton 14:45 - Aleef @ 4/1 Win Bet

Moore And Pieters Can Beat The Better Players - By Ian Hudson

Brooks Koepka faced the toughest mental challenge in golf and won the day when winning the US Open for the second year in a row on Saturday. Mental letdown must be an issue so he is a shock favourite for this week's Traveller's Championship on the PGA Tour. Tommy Fleetwood was the runner-up in the US Open so seeing his name prominent in the betting for the BMW International Open in Europe was a surprise.

The week after a major is when you should oppose players who have just contended in one of the four biggest events of the year. Golf's four major championships bring together the best players in the world on tough courses and everybody is trying. Golf is as much a mental test as physical challenge and though most golfers are in good shape fatigue in mind rather than body can be more debilitating. Golf is a sport in which mental errors are costly and be compounded quickly by another mistake.

It is rare for a player to defend a title in a regular tournament but to do so in a major is exceptional. The last player to win the US Open twice in two years was Curtis Strange who was the champion in 1988 and 1989. Koepka has also achieved the rare feat of having two majors in the bag having only won one of them. Many players have won two majors in total but very few have won them in the same championship. Bernhard Langer and Jose-Maria Olazabal are exceptions with just two Masters in their winning record in major championships.

Fleetwood played the last round in the US Open in 63 shots to come well off the pace and get right in the mix. Koepka led by one with five holes to play and knew one mistake would be crucial. In fact he played the 14th to 18th holes in level par to beat Fleetwood by one shot on one over par. The 2018 US Open again showed that par over 72 holes is a fine achievement and it was good enough to win this time. No player matched par over four rounds but conditions were brutal at certain times.

The action over the weekend in the US Open was as demanding for the players as it can get. Winning a major is huge and the level of concentration is unprecedented. Koepka and Fleetwood must have been mentally exhausted on Sunday evening so competing again three days later may be a test too far. In that case there must be some value further down the betting and this could be a week for outsiders. There are a number of players suited to the respective courses at big prices.

Rory McIlroy and Jordan Spieth had poor US Opens so are not the answer in the Traveller's Championship. Sergio Garcia has not been the same golfer since becoming a parent for the first time earlier this year so looks a false second favourite to win the BMW International Open. The respective fields for both events look strong at the top end but once you eliminate players involved in the US Open with varying levels of success the outright winner market looks open.

Ryan Moore did not play in the US Open so he is fresh and rested which should give him an advantage over many leading contenders. He has recorded five top 20s in his last 10 starts. Moore has a great record in the tournament which includes five top 10s in 10 appearances. He combines solid current form and plenty of positive experiences of the course so is the player to back in opposition to the more fancied players. Thomas Pieters has a similar profile in the BMW International Open.

Today's Sports Betting Preview - By Rick Elliott

Can England And King Harry Do It?

One of the biggest market moves related to the World Cup is England to win the tournament and Harry Kane to be the top scorer. You could have backed this combination at 80/1 before the match with Tunisia and not much shorter as the match went into injury time. The winning goal meant Kane's tally was two and England had won their opening match in a tournament for the first time since the World Cup of 2006. The winner/top scorer combined odds now stand at 25/1 with **William Hill** for ENGLAND AND KANE. It could just happen!

The Portugal and Cristiano Ronaldo combo is a bigger price but that might not be the case after today's fixture against Morocco in Group B. Portugal were second best against Spain in the first match but Ronaldo inspired his country to a 3-3 draw. Morocco lost to Iran thanks to a very late own goal in a match of poor quality. Ronaldo makes his side tick but they are more than a one man outfit and PORTUGAL should beat Morocco and that outcome is 4/6 with **Ladbrokes**.

A Portugal win would boost a treble on today's favourites by 67% and it's a tempting wager. Portugal may have been flattered by the score against Spain but they have enough to beat Morocco. Surely Spain will be too strong for Iran and Uruguay are in a different league to Saudi Arabia. It's the seventh day of the World Cup and all the favourites have won on only one day. However, the three underdogs look vulnerable which means the Portugal, Uruguay and Spain TREBLE is the bet at with 13/10 with **Coral**.

It's the second day of Royal Ascot and the banker of the day is Cracksman in the Prince of Wales's Stakes (4.20pm). The horse just scrapped home in the Coronation Cup at Epsom despite not acting on the track and having a bang on the head leaving the stalls. Cracksman won over the course and distance in the Champions Stakes at Ascot in October and that is the best form in the race. CRACKSMAN must be backed at 8/13 with **Betfair**.