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TODAY'S FREE SPORTS BETTING TIPS...

[Tony McCormick Galway Special Galway](#)
Galway 17:10 - Getareason @ 4/1 Win Bet

[The Pro Punter](#)
Goodwood 15:00 - Soldiers's Call @ 5/2 Each Way Bet

[ARH Racing](#)
Galway 18:45 - National Wealth @ 2/1 Win Bet

Dustin Johnson Is The Man This Week - By Ian Hudson

The Bridgestone Invitational is a world golf championship by name and by the quality of the field playing in the tournament this week. The WGC events are only below the four major championships in terms of prestige and this week's event has attracted all the players in the top 20 in the world rankings. If you were basing your main bet on course form you would have to back Tiger Woods who is an eight-times winner of the championship at Firestone Country Club in Akron, Ohio.

Woods has not been fully fit for a good few years but kept coming back to the game too soon and the wheels quickly fell off and he left the Tour again. However, he was absent for the best part of two years most recently. He suffered a great deal of pain and his career looked over. Woods is looking fully covered and healthy and had a great chance to win the Open a week last Sunday.

The former world number one was four shots adrift of the leaders ahead of the fourth round. He played a solid front nine and was the leader of the tournament with nine holes to play. In his pomp Woods would have got the job done but a couple of errors cost him three shots in two holes and he could not recover the ground. Francesco Molinari played the best golf over the weekend and was a worthy Open champion but Woods got in the mix and showed he can still compete at the highest level.

If Tiger is to add to his tally of 18 WGC events this week's host course is the best venue. He has made Firestone his own and from 1999 to 2013 won this week's event eight times. Woods clearly has a game suited to the course where he won his last WGC event in 2013. The 14-times major champion combines course form, current form and key skills and that is usually a recipe for a good week. If Woods prevails he has to beat the best field of the year outside the majors.

There are 73 players in the field this week and there is no cut so everyone receives a cheque. One of the objectives of world championship golf was to create more events which brought together the best players. That objective has been met and it could be said there is a stronger field than at the Open. The oldest major championship has places for leading amateurs and players from the minor tours but this week is all about quality and the world rankings. Every qualifier is committed to playing at Firestone.

The course is a par 70 track over 7,400 yards. It is a long course for its par but it is forgiving off the tee. There is a premium on iron play and finding the greens in the correct number of shots. There was a field of 76 players last year and the average score was 70.50 shots. Hideki Matsuyama won by five shots and he closed with a course record equalling 61 to race away from the field. He hit the greens in regulation and putted well and that skills' profile will be required for good scoring this week.

The nature of the course and the level of competition has to bring Rory McIlroy into the equation. He broke par in his four rounds in the Open and finished tied second. McIlroy won on this week's course in 2014 and has finished in the top 10 five times in seven starts. The Irish player would be the tip in normal circumstances but we cannot ignore the current world number one. Dustin Johnson can confirm that status by winning at Firestone for the second time but he has a long way to go to win on the track as many times as Woods.

Today's Sports Betting Preview - By Rick Elliott

India Will Have Conditions That Suit At Edgbaston

India are statistically the best Test team in the world and England are fifth in the standings for the five day format of the game. After the phoney war of the One Day Internationals and T20 matches today sees the start of a Test series over five matches. The positive nature of limited overs cricket has permeated the longest version of the game so early finishes could be a feature of the series and matches may not extend to the fifth day. Conditions will favour INDIA for the rest of the summer and at Edgbaston for the First Test which the visitors can win at 9/4 with **William Hill**.

It seems incongruous that a race track near a small harbour city on the west coast of Ireland should stage one of the richest handicap chases of the season. The Galway Plate has a prize fund of €250,000 which dwarfs the money on offer for the biggest handicap chases of the season in Britain and only the Grand National is worth more. The leading trainers in Ireland are well represented and nine of the 22 runners are trained by Willie Mullins or Gordon Elliott. However, British raider Harry Fry may have the answer. On form and ratings DRUMCLIFF, the only UK runner, could claim the top prize and that outcome is 16/1 with **Paddy Power**.

The highlight of the second day of Glorious Goodwood is the Sussex Stakes. The race is a Group 1 contest for colts, geldings and fillies aged three and older over one mile. Horses from the Classic year carry seven pounds less than the older generation and that concession could be key in today's race. Four of the 8 declared runners are aged three and the two market leaders are from that age group. Without Parole and Expert Eye both impressed at Royal Ascot but one of the older horses could have been underestimated. LIGHTNING SPEAR has the experience at the highest level to cause an upset and the horse is 10/1 with **bet365** to win the Sussex Stakes.