

Issue 290

Weds 3rd October 2018

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TODAY'S FREE SPORTS BETTING TIPS...

Each Way Hits

Newcastle (A.W) 17:30 - Mambo Dancer @ 16/1 Each Way Bet

Early Odds

Salisbury 14:45 - Monsieur Noir @ 4/1 Win Bet

The Pro Punter

Bangor 14:20 - Skin Deep @ 7/12 Win Bet

Wood And Lowry Can Profit From A Ryder Cup

Hangover - By Ian Hudson

For 51 weeks of the year golf is an individual sport and a dog-eat-dog world in which one man's feast is another man's famine. The better a golfer plays the more prize money he wins and the law of the jungle applies. Anybody that misses the cut earns nothing and the higher the finishing position the better the financial rewards. This week's Dunhill Links Championship is slightly different to a regular tournament but its still about performing and earning money. The Ryder Cup is the one genuine event in which money is not the object. The Americans couldn't buy the trophy last week.

The Dunhill event combines a stroke play tournament for professionals with a Pro-Am. The best score on each hole from a pair counts and the amateurs receive strokes based on their handicap. After three rounds 60 professionals qualify for the final round and the leading 20 Pro-Am teams also compete on the Sunday. It's appropriate that the defending champion is Tyrell Hatton who played for Europe in the Ryder Cup last week and contributed a point. In fact Hatton also won the tournament in 2016 so is going for a three-peat but must beat a friend and some foes.

The 2017 winner is fourth in the betting behind Brooks Koepka, Tony Finau and Tommy Fleetwood. It's debateable if these three players will be totally focused and prepared for the job in hand. Koepka and Finau probably had a quite Sunday night in France. But if I was a betting man I'd bet a few quid that Fleetwood had a late night. He was the joint leading rookie with Justin Thomas of the United States and won four matches with Francesco Molinari. The Open champion went five-for-five in the Ryder Cup and showed more animation than when he won his first major.

We can probably dismiss the four players who competed in the Ryder Cup and focus on links specialists further down the betting. This week's event is being played at the Old Course at St Andrews, the Championship Course at Carnoustie and Kingsbarns Golf Links. The courses are played in rotation on the first three days and the qualifiers from the pro event and Pro-Am play the Old Course again on Sunday. Chris Wood and Shane Lowry did not play in the Ryder Cup and excel at links golf.

The Old Course has wide-open fairways and despite its fame as the "Home of Golf" is relatively easy when there is no wind. The four short par 4s means the true par is 70 and not 72 but the degree of difficulty goes up when its not still. Carnoustie staged the Open this summer so it's a demanding test. Kingsbarns is exposed to the wind so the better links exponents will have an advantage. Wood and Lowry are great wind players and excellent golfers by the sea. At least one should make the payout places.

However, you must bear in mind that luck can play a major part in this event because a player can play a course in the worst of the weather one day and then

find his competitors face the same challenge in benign conditions the following day. Although it's not necessary for success it's advantageous to play St Andrews on Saturday in round three so that a player can carry forward the feel for the course from the Saturday to Sunday. At the time of writing the tee times were not available. My guess is that the headline acts will be playing their third rounds at St Andrews.

In any normal week you'd fancy one of the Ryder Cup players to prevail. However, mental letdown, physical and mental fatigue and recovery from the party muddy the waters so Wood and Lowry can benefit. Hatton would be a worthy winner again but it's asking too much after the Ryder Cup and the links specialists are preferred.

Today's Sports Betting Preview - By Rick Elliott

Tottenham Could Come Up Short Against Barcelona

Tottenham's credentials as potential winners of the Champions League will be put to the test when Barcelona visit Wembley in the competition tonight and the tenants at the national stadium could come up short. The excuse that many Tottenham players were involved in the latter stages of the World Cup is no longer valid and they are now embarking on the meat of the season. A solid start was undermined by defeat to Inter Milan in Italy due to conceding two late goals from a winning position. Some key absentees tonight means BARCELONA should be backed at 19/20 with **Betfair**.

Liverpool had another barnstorming win at Anfield on match day 1. PSG tied the scores at 2-2 late on but there was still time for Roberto Firmino to score the winning goal for the home team. Liverpool are unbeaten in the Premier League but that record was under threat before Daniel Sturridge scored a stunning equaliser at Chelsea in the latter stages of that game. Tonight's opponents, Napoli, are a tough nut to crack at home. They are unbeaten in eight fixtures on their own patch and have lost 3 of 15 home matches in the Champions League. The DRAW is the bet at 13/5 with **Coral**.

There are some home bankers in the other matches in the competition tonight. Manchester City spoilt many accas when they lost at home to Lyon in their first match. However, the group stages of the Champions League often run to form and the two qualifiers for the knockout rounds are just about set in stone. A TREBLE on Atletico Madrid, Borussia Dortmund and Porto pays 13/8 with **bet365**.

There is decent prize money on offer at Nottingham today including four races worth more than £15,000 which is excellent for midweek away from the major tracks. The track has attracted some local sponsors and the most lucrative race is the Class 3 nursery over six furlongs at 3.05. It's a handicap for horses aged two and 66% of races for this age group are won by horses that finished in the first three in their previous race. WOLF HUNTER qualifies and is on offer at 10/1 with **William Hill**.