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**Issue 433**

**Wednesday 24th April 2019**

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- Miss Xian \*20/1
- Smart Catch \*25/1
- Arrowzone \*18/1
- Wayward Prince \*33/1
- Dutiful Son \*33/1
- Artie Feeling \*22/1
- Bobby Jean \*33/1
- Bethelzi \*20/1

\*Odds at the time of advice

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## **Course Form Is Key In Golf This Week** - By Ian Hudson

The value of course form will be tested this week with tournaments in the United States and Europe taking place on courses that have now been used for a number of years. The Zurich Classic on the PGA Tour has been played at TPC Louisiana since 2005 and the Trophee Haasan is being played at Royal Golf Dar es Salam in Morocco for the fifth year in succession. Each course demands specific skills for good scoring and course form is an important element of a player's profile. Generally current form and course form identify leading contenders and there are some standout selections this week. The winners from last year are competing this week.

However, the waters are muddied in the Zurich Classic because it is now a team event having changed format in 2017. There are 80 teams of two players, chosen from the Tour rankings and from the Tour membership or a sponsor's invitation. The format is stroke play but better ball in the first and third rounds and alternate shots in the second and fourth rounds. The leading 35 teams and ties make the cut. The defending champions are Billy Horschel and Scott Piercy and the first winners were Jonas Blixt and Cameron Smith. Both former winning teams are playing together again this week.

The TPC at Louisiana was a new course when it first hosted the Zurich Classic 13 years ago. It presents a good all-round test and the big hitters do not dominate despite the course being 7,425 yards in length. The Bermuda greens are below average in size and there are numerous fairway bunkers and over 70 pot bunkers

which guard the lay-up areas. Wind can often be a factor but in benign conditions the course is vulnerable and pin positions are used to protect the scoring. The two winning scores have been 22 and 27 under and there has been one playoff and a winning margin of one stroke.

Playing ability and skills are important but the team dynamic has been added to the mix. A partnership must gel and players must accept their team mates mistakes. Blixt and Smith have won in the format and both are players in form. Horschel and Piercy have played well at different stages of the season but other teams are preferred. Louis Oosthuizen and Charl Schwartzel are major champions from South Africa who finished third last year. Oosthuizen is in the better form but his partner is suited to the course and the compatriots can prevail this year. They have played together as individuals and in the President's Cup so have the right chemistry.

The Trophee Hassan is a regular stroke play tournament over four rounds with a cut after the first 36 holes. The defending champion this week is Alex Levy who has not played on tour since the start of March. Levy won his fifth European Tour title last year but lack of a recent outing will count against him. It's difficult to defend a title and a break from competitive action is a further negative. Conversely Levy will be fresh and will relish the tough challenges of the host course. Course form may prevail over current form and Levy can contend again.

However, in terms of winning Levy might come up short and Joost Luiten is a viable alternative. The Dutch player was tied ninth last year with four rounds at or below par. Luiten was 10th for greens in regulation for which Levey was fifth and the runner-up was third. The par 72 track over 7,632 yards is relatively long but there is a premium on accuracy over distance but big hitting is still important. Luiten combines both skills and his course form makes him the selection in Morocco.

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## **City Can Beat United In Huge Manchester Derby**

Manchester United supporters will be on the horns of a dilemma when Manchester City play at Old Trafford tonight. A win would give them local bragging rights and be a massive positive step towards a top four finish and qualification for the Champions League. However, a City defeat makes Liverpool favourites to be the champions of England for the first time in 29 years. In a bizarre twist Liverpool fans will be cheering for United all the way. However, they could be disappointed because on current form the home team are not good enough to secure three points.

United are the biggest price they have ever been to win a home match in domestic football. They have lost six times in eight outings and were truly abysmal against Everton on Sunday. Being second best in all departments was bad enough but running fewer miles was testimony to the debacle. City have lost just once in seven matches at Old Trafford and should extend that run. In 23 of 34 Premier League matches they have led at half time and the end of the match. The MANCHESTER CITY/MANCHESTER CITY double result is 13/10 with Ladbrokes.

The snooker World Championship is now wide open after Ronnie O'Sullivan lost in the first round. His opponent was James Cahill who is the first amateur to compete

at the Crucible. The tournament really is a marathon and not a sprint and experience of going all the way counts for a lot. MARK SELBY was the champion in 2014, 2016 and 2017 and the Jester from Leicester can do it again at 9/2 with [bet365](#).

There is a decent card at Perth today and the highlight is the Listed novices' hurdle over three miles at 3.00. Go Another One is trained in Ireland and was a non-runner at Fairyhouse yesterday. The track in Scotland is easily accessible from across the Irish Sea. It's a journey in an eastwards direction which could be thwarted by a horse called EUR GONE WEST who can be backed at 7/2 with [Ladbrokes](#).

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