

# BetFan

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## Inside Today...

**FREE Tips From Shrewd Tipster, The Pro Punter and Value Wins**

**Top Tipsters For July 2018**

**The Unique Demands Of Links Golf And The Open - By Rick Elliott**

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

**England Can Win Euro 2020 At Wembley**

**Your Betting Experience Better**  
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## TODAY'S FREE SPORTS BETTING TIPS...

### [Shrewd Tipster](#)

Win Bet - Newbury 21:05 - Nicklaus @ 3/1

### [The Pro Punter](#)

Win Bet - Leopardstown 17:40 - Goddess @ 4/6

### [Value Wins](#)

Win Bet - Newmarket (July) 15:35 - Best Solution @ 10/1

# **The Unique Demands Of Links Golf And The Open** - By

Rick Elliott

Rick Elliott reports that there are four major championships during the golf season but the most prestigious is the British Open or the Open. Every golf playing country has its national championship but the oldest and most sought after is the British version. It has been called the Olympics of golf. The winner is announced as the champion golfer of the year and the field is the most international of the season. The top players from all the global tours qualify and it's the unofficial world championship of golf.

The US Masters is a unique major because the tournament is always played at Augusta National. The US Open is usually played on a course with a par of 70. The fairways are generally narrow and the rough is penal. The US Open is the most physically and mentally demanding of the four majors and level par over 72 holes is often a competitive score. The US PGA Championship is generally staged at a traditional US course and comes down to target golf and a putting contest.

Each major has its own identity and that is created by the nature of the course. The Open Championship is always played on a links course and that should never change. Courses on the coast are called links because the 18 holes link the sea and the inland. The elements create the layout of the courses and wind is often a factor. Golf was never meant to be fair and undulating and fast fairways create bounces that can make a good shot result in a poor lie but it's the same for everyone.

The Open is the only major played outside America and the host courses are on a rota. A course might get an Open every eight years and there are many suitable tracks. However, the location must have the infrastructure to deal with everything that comes with an Open and the transport links and accommodation to cope with the influx of golf fans. There are many challenging links courses in England and Scotland that don't have the space to stage an Open.

Links courses are subject to the elements more than any other type of course. If it's hot and dry in the weeks leading up to the championship the course can play fast. Even in good weather an Open course provides a serious test of a range of skills. Even in the absence of any serious wind links courses are a tough test when the ball runs on the dry ground. Finding greens in the correct number of shots is a key skill as the ball will tend not to stop on the greens. Patience is a massive quality for contenders.

Tom Watson has won five Opens and very nearly won a sixth in 2009. He didn't take to links golf at first but grew to love its challenge. All the very best players in the history of golf won the Open at least once. They realised the all-round range of skills required for success and adapted their game for the demands of links golf. In 2018 the Open is played at Carnoustie and fast fairways and the rough should provide the ultimate test for the best golfers in the world.

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

### England Can Win Euro 2020 At Wembley

Cheer up everybody because racing takes place at the home of Flat racing for the next three days and England are going to come third in the World Cup. Croatia were 6/1 to qualify for the final at half-time last night and England were 1/9 to progress. The crucial second goal did not arrive and Croatia got better while England got worse. At the end of the day England were beaten by a better team and there is no disgrace in that. Despite going through two penalty shootouts and having an older average age CROATIA ultimately deserved their place in the final and this relatively new nation are now 7/4 with **William Hill** to win the World Cup. ENGLAND are 8/1 with **bet365** to win Euro 2020. The finals and final take place at Wembley.

Its hardly the same and unlikely to make anybody feel much better but the England cricket team can beat India in the 1st One day International at Trent Bridge. According to the official rankings England are the best team in the world at the 50 overs format of the game and India are one place behind them in the standings. The sides play three ODI's with the first match today. England beat Australia 5-0 in an ODI series earlier this summer and scored 481 in one match at Trent Bridge. ENGLAND can do their bit to lift the country by beating India today and that outcome is 4/5 with **Ladbrokes**.

It's the first of three days of the July Festival today at Newmarket, the HQ of Flat racing. Bookies dodged a huge payout because England failed to win the World Cup and the majority of bets on last night's match were on England to beat Croatia in 90 minutes. The bookies came out on top on the biggest betting match of this year and any year. The first race at Newmarket is actually the riches race on the card. The Group 3 stakes race over one mile and five furlongs can go to WELLS FARHH GP who can be backed at 7/1 with **Betfair** to win this race.