

# BetFan



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## Inside Today...

**FREE Tips From BetTwo, The Secret Handicapper and The Pro Punter**

**Top Tipsters For September 2018**

**Rick's Sports Betting: United States Can Retain The Ryder Cup In France - By Rick Elliott**

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

**Kane To Score Against Brighton Today**

**Trackside In Ireland - By Declan O'Donoghue**

**Your Betting Experience Better**

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## TODAY'S FREE SPORTS BETTING TIPS...

### [BetTwo](#)

Wolverhampton (A.W) 20:45 - Brockey Rise @ 12/1 Each Way Bet

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Ayr 17:30 - Fools And Kings @ 9/2 Win Bet

### [The Pro Punter](#)

Chelmsford (A.W) 17:05 - Swordbill @ 7/4 Win Bet

## **Rick's Sports Betting: United States Can Retain The Ryder Cup In France** - By Rick Elliott

Golf is mainly an individual sport contested in a stroke-play format. The vast majority of tournaments consist of four rounds of 18 holes. There is a cut after 36 holes and any player who does not qualify for the final two rounds does not receive a cheque. There have been attempts to introduce some variety but professionals seem quite content with the current arrangements. They know where they stand and it's a simple scenario: make the cut and win money, miss the cut and miss out. Professional golf is the extreme version of zero hours contracts.

Very few golf tournaments thrive as a team event played as matchplay. The biggest and best is the Ryder Cup and the few imitations are not as good. The match is played every two years between 12 golfers from the United States and Europe. The host courses alternate between the two continents. The best courses in America and Europe host the biennial event. Home advantage should be key to the outcome but that is not always the case. However, it takes a special team to win the Ryder Cup overseas. The 2018 match is being played at Le Golf National just outside Paris.

The forerunner to the current Ryder Cup was a team event of the same name between the United States and Great Britain and Ireland. The match was not competitive towards the end of its life and the inclusion of players from continental Europe in 1979 changed the dynamic. Suddenly the Ryder Cup was worth winning and that added to the level of competitiveness and interest. The Ryder Cup is now the premier sports event that brings together professionals from the two continents. The President's Cup is a US v Rest of the World event but it's not really caught on.

Severiano Ballesteros from Spain was passionate about the Ryder Cup. He held a long-standing grudge against the PGA Tour and beating the best players from the United States on behalf of Europe became a crusade. His partnership with compatriot Jose-Maria Olazabal contributed many points to the team cause. There are 28 points to play for in the current format. Sixteen matches involve pairings in foursomes and four balls and all 12 team members play a singles match on the third and final day. Despite the high-profile nature of the Ryder Cup there is no prize money.

In 2018 (September 28 to 30) matches are played over 18 holes. There are four four balls and foursomes on the first two days (Friday and Saturday) and 12 singles on the Sunday. The format is matchplay which means the player or pairing that completes a hole in the fewest shots wins the hole. If scores are

tied the outcome is a half and no player or team goes a hole up. If the holes score is level after 18 holes the match is a draw and both teams receive half a point.

As defending champions the US need 14 points to retain the trophy but Europe need a half point more to win it. The Americans last won the Ryder Cup in Europe in 1993. On world rankings and experience the United States can beat the home side this time and keep the trophy for another two years.

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

### **Kane To Score Against Brighton Today**

Tottenham had more players representing their countries in the semi-finals and onwards at the World Cup than any other team in the Premier League. They have now lost three matches in succession for the first time during the Mauricio Pochettino era. If Spurs lose at Brighton today the manager feels his job is under threat but he must have plenty of goodwill in the bank. However, sooner or later Tottenham must start winning and Harry Kane must start scoring. An away victory could be beyond them but KANE can find the net and he is 8/9 to score at any time.

Watford are fifth in the Premier League but their fine start to the new season is distorted because four of their first five matches were home fixtures. They have won two away matches this season, against Burnley on the opening day and Reading in the EFL Cup which doesn't really count. More indicative of Watford's ability is that they have won one match on the road in the Premier League in 2018. Fulham spent heavily in the summer but one win from five matches is a disappointing return. However, they can beat Watford today and three points for FULHAM is 31/20 with **bet365**.

Joint leaders Tiger Woods and Justin Rose go head-to-head over 18 holes in the third round of the Tour Championship. The weekend could develop into a showdown between the former and current world number one with the FedEx Cup and \$10 million bonus on the line. Woods' return to form has been a revelation and he looks just about back to his best. Even so ROSE is in complete control of his game so he can outscore Woods today and he is Evens with **Ladbrokes** to win this two-ball.

The little brother of the Ayr Gold Cup is the silver version and it's also a 25 runner handicap over the straight six furlongs at Scotland's premier track. The high numbers dominated the Bronze Gold Cup yesterday so jockeys may take their horses to the far side of the track to seek out better ground. DAKOTA GOLD is drawn 22 and has the form to win today's Silver Cup and that outcome is 10/1 with **William Hill**.

## **Trackside In Ireland** - By Declan O'Donoghue

Shock news awaited racegoers at The Curragh on the second day of the Irish Champions Weekend, with word that Saxon Warrior and Alpha Centauri, both gallant seconds at Leopardstown just the day before, would race no more.

It's a cruel sport at times and no mistake, but life goes on and it was first blood to the bookies in the opener when the Bold Lad Sprint proved just as tricky as it looked beforehand.

No question though that the Eddie Lynam trained 20/1 shot Soffia was a worthy winner.

Always in the firing line on the far side she quickened up well up the middle of the track to beat a staying on Smash Williams by three quarters of a length.

Lynam said "When Gary O'Brien of Atheraces didn't tip her this morning I got worried as he's her biggest fan."

"You could never be confident coming into a race like this but she was in fair order at home. Lady O'Reilly has been with us a long time so it's nice to win a race like that for her."

"We'll probably seek some valuable black type now, but she's won the price of a few drinks today!" Lynam added.

Punters got very much back on track in the next when Yorkshire Oaks third Eziyra justified 11/8 favouritism in the Blandford Stakes.

The four year old has been a wonderfully consistent operator. This is almost certainly her last season in training and Dermot Weld has typically ambitious plans.

First the EP Taylor at Woodbine track in Canada and then the Breeders Cup Fillies And Mares at Churchill Downs.

Karl Burke, on target in the Matron Stakes the day before with Laurens, struck Group One gold again when 15/8 jolly Havana Grey made all in the Flying Five.

The tide had turned big time for the punters now.

Incidentally runner up Son Of Rest has been backed into a crazy price in the Ayr Gold Cup today.

That market plunge should carry a serious Government Health Warning as that Scottish race has proved a real graveyard both for favourites and Irish trained runners.

As a Pivotal colt he will love the heavy ground and the Fozzy Stack yard have finally struck form after a very quiet spell. He will carry 10 lbs. more in future, but, with great respect to all concerned, the Flying Five looked a pretty weak Group 1 to say the least of it.

Best of luck to all aboard the Son Of Rest bandwagon, but it's a big ask at skinny odds.

As we said the punters, the Billy Bunters, were now cleaning up at The Curragh and local hope Skitter Scatter proved highly popular with all but the layers when justifying 9/4 favouritism in the Moyglare. A small horse but classy and game she found a real finishing kick to reel in Lady Kaya who ran a cracker also.

And no respite for the bookies in the National Stakes as 11/8 jolly Quarto deservedly survived a Stewards Enquiry when beating Anthony Van Dyck.

Then Flag Of Honour made it five winning market leaders in a row when the 2/1 fancy dominated the Irish St Leger from the front.

It was one way traffic for Ryan Moore and this horse could in time prove a worthy successor to Order Of St. George. Indeed in my opinion he would have given stablemate Kew Gardens plenty to think about at Doncaster the day before.

**\* Another good week for Declan's exclusive and highly selective Irish Racing Service with I Can Fly 4/1 (won 7/2); Kew Gardens 3/1; Flag Of Honour 9/4 (w 2/1); Sovereign 15/8 (w 8/15); Best Of Dubai 15/8 (w 13/8); Cascadel 6/4; Old Glory 6/4 and Madhmoon 11/8 with each way snip Christmas 10/1 (pl. 9/1).**

**Sign straight away for his IRISH CHAMPIONS WEEKEND tips today and tomorrow!**

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