

BetFan

Issue 295

Weds 10th October 2018

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Published By BetFan.com

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


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TODAY'S FREE SPORTS BETTING TIPS...

Value Wins

Win Bet - Nottingham 16:00 - Harlequin Striker @ 16/1

TWL Pro Tip

Win Bet - Kempton (A.W) 20:10 - Cenotaph @ 6/5

Betting Development

Win Bet - Kempton (A.W) 20:40 - Babyfact @ 4/1

Westwood Can Win Rose's Tournament - By Ian Hudson

The British Masters is sponsored by Sky Sports and hosted by Justin Rose so it will be a great tournament at Walton Heath. Matt Wallace and Matthew Fitzpatrick might want to make a statement while three Ryder Cup colleagues have accepted Rose's invitation to appear this week. However, there could be life in one of the old dogs and Lee Westwood can bring back some memories by winning for the 24th time on the European tour and clinch his 43rd professional title.

Tommy Fleetwood and Francesco Molinari are in the field and it would really be something if they challenged against each other over the weekend. They combined to win four points from four matches in the Ryder Cup. They became the first European pairing to win all four of their matches in the four balls and foursomes. Molinari is now the only European to go 5-0 in the Ryder Cup and he is the current Open champion. The Italian leads the Race to Dubai but mental letdown could be an issue.

The British Masters returned to the European Tour schedule in 2015 with the backing of Sky Sports. One of the innovations was to designate a tournament host. Ian Poulter, Luke Donald and Westwood have performed the duty but Rose is the highest ranked player to host the week. He won the FedEx Cup and \$10 million dollar bonus on the PGA Tour and is currently only behind Dustin Johnson in the world rankings. Duties off the course will keep Rose busy so winning this event looks beyond him.

Paul Dunne is the defending champion but bookmakers are suggesting he won't win again. He has not had a great season and not looked like adding to his first win on the European Tour. However, he did win the Golf Sixes tournament in May but that wasn't a regular individual 72 hole stroke play tournament. Dunne has positive mental associations with the event and his nine under par round of 61 clinched the title last season when Rory McIlroy was in contention.

Rose has a say in the course and venue and the three previous hosts chose layouts close to their heart which one part of the benefits of hosting the British Masters. It will never have the prestige of the US equivalent but Sky make it a special week with a number of unique features. Walton Heath has two demanding heath land courses and it will take a good all round game for decent scoring this week. The Old Course is being used with a par of 72 over 7.394 yards which is about average in distance.

Thomas Bjorn made the right calls with his wildcard picks for the Ryder Cup. He had to take into account the five rookies who qualified by right so he went for experience. His four picks all contributed points (as did each member of the team) but also brought a wealth of Ryder Cup experience to the environment. Jim Furyk's picks gave very little so Bjorn made the right choices. Wallace and Fitzpatrick were in the running for a pick so may feel slightly aggrieved they didn't get the call.

Winning the British Masters would be compensation and both players are in good form.

Westwood is a former world number one and multiple winner in Europe and the rest of the world. It would be churlish to say he has underachieved because he has not won a major. Westwood has finished in the top three in all four majors and has won over €34 million in prize money in Europe and more than \$19 million on the PGA Tour. He won the English Open in 1998 so it would be appropriate if Westwood won a second British Masters 20 years after his first win on home soil.

Today's Sports Betting Preview - By Rick Elliott

England Can Confirm Number One ODI Status In Sri Lanka

There is now too much international cricket and the Test format could be radically changed or sacrificed for shorter versions of the game. England are now embarking on a tour of Sri Lanka just a month after completing a five match home Test series against India. There is now no close season for international cricketers for the detriment of the game in the five day format. Sri Lanka and England meet in five One Day Internationals but just three Tests and there is the obligatory Twenty20 international. ENGLAND are number one in the ODI rankings so should be backed to win the five 50 overs contests series in Sri Lanka at 4/9.

The home team have won just 14 of their last 56 ODI's and in this format there is rarely a draw or no definite result. Sri Lanka have suffered three 5-0 drubbings in the format over the last two years. The first match today is a day/night affair in Dambulla that begins at 10am. The match may have started by the time you read this preview but you can bet in-play. England have the superior batsmen and bowlers in white ball cricket so can win this match and the series. The pre-match odds are restrictive and you might do better if Sri Lanka start well. You should not avoid the obvious so back ENGLAND at 2/5 with **William Hill** to win the first ODI match against Sri Lanka.

The only football match of note in Europe tonight is Italy's home international friendly against Ukraine. There has been some soul searching after Italy failed to qualify for the World Cup. The match is being played in Genoa in memory of fatalities of the bridge tragedy. The best result is a DRAW at 12/5 with **Coral**.

Cork in Ireland stages a decent Flat meeting which features two competitive handicaps and a listed race over one mile and half a furlong (3.05). Fillies and mares and horses aged three get both allowances and that advantage could be crucial. SHIP OF DREAMS is a filly aged three so gets up to eleven pounds from the older colts. That edge cannot be ignored so the horse should be backed today at 9/4 with **bet365**.