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# **Inside Today...**

FREE Tips From TWL Pro Tip, Lucky 7 Naps and StatMan

**Top Tipsters For December 2018** 

Rick's Sports Betting: Who Is Your Sports Personality of the Year? - By Rick Elliott

Today's Sports Betting Preview - By Rick Elliott

**Three More Points For City At Chelsea** 

Trackside In Ireland - By Declan O'Donoghue

Your Betting Experience Better Published By <u>BetFan.com</u>

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

<u>TWL Pro Tip</u> Win Bet - Aintree 14:40 - Giving Glances @ 13/8

Lucky 7 Naps Win Bet - Chepstow 15:40 - Young Bull @ 5/2

StatMan Win Bet - Chepstow 13:55 - Steely Addition @ 10/3

## **Rick's Sports Betting: Who Is Your Sports Personality**

### of the Year? - By Rick Elliott

In the last 10 years cyclists and one tennis player have accounted for six winners of the BBC Sports Personality of the Year. This year's award appears to be a four way battle and the only contender from those sports is Geraint Thomas who won the Tour de France. However, his prospects won't be helped by the perception that the sport has a doping problem. That may or may not be true but Thomas is also at a disadvantage as the Tour was shown on ITV4 which is a minority channel compared to the ITV main channel and the BBC.

The last decade has also seen winners from Formula 1, athletics, football and horse racing. Ryan Giggs and Sir Anthony McCoy were subject to campaigns within their sport to get them the honour. Last year's winner, Mo Farah, was a big outsider and an interview on the night which was gate crashed by one of his young children could have been the decisive factor. A year ago Anthony Joshua was the sixth odds-on favourite in 12 years not to win SPOTY. The market is more open this time and there are four names with a genuine chance of picking up the award.

Thomas also suffers from the theory of recency. It takes a special performance in July that resonates with the voting public in December. The Welshman rode into Paris at the end of the seventh month wearing the Yellow Jersey. The scarcity value of a British rider winning the most famous bike race in the world has gone due to the wins for Sir Bradley Wiggins and Chris Froome. Until there is evidence to the contrary cycling has an image problem which makes Thomas the most unlikely winner of the four. The late announcement of the nominees makes campaigns from a sport difficult.

Lewis Hamilton won the award in 2014 which was a World Cup year. England were dismal in that tournament in Brazil and Rory McIlroy finished second behind Hamilton after winning two major championships, including the British Open. I'm sure it takes great skill and commitment to win the F1 Driver's Championship but the sport is predictable and Hamilton did not produce a SPOTY winning year. Five championships should not be sniffed at but the other contenders are preferred.

Harry Kane won the Golden Boot at the World Cup and England reached the last four for the first time since 1990. They look nailed on for the Team of the Year but I have a sneaking feeling that the honour will go to Leicester City for non-sporting reasons. Kane started the World Cup well but did not score in England's last three matches. His sporting achievement was in June and July and something happened last weekend that could trump anything else. Love him or hate him you can't deny that Tyson Fury has made a stunning return to boxing. Many judges thought he beat Detonay Wilder is Los Angeles but the fight was declared a draw. Tyson has come back from the brink and proved all his doubters wrong. Boxing has a history of winning the BBC award with Henry Cooper and Lennox Lewis. Fury actually showed some dignity in reacting to the perceived injustice of the Detonay fight and that could give him an edge when the public vote for the Sports Personality of the Year.

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

### Three More Points For City At Chelsea

Chelsea have not been able to beat Everton or Manchester United at home this season so avoiding defeat against Manchester City at Stamford Bridge today looks beyond them. If it's possible City are looking an even slicker outfit after their record breaking Premier League campaign in 2017/18. The champions are unbeaten in 14 matches on the road in the Premiere League and all but three of those road trips have resulted in winning three points. MANCHESTER CITY are the bet at Evens.

Liverpool could have overhauled City at the top of the league by kick-off time. Their match at Bournemouth is the early live TV fixture while Chelsea and City lock horns at 5.30. Liverpool were fortunate to beat Everton and the win at a struggling Burnley midweek was expected. They have kept winning without impressing and just like Arsenal most of the damage is done in the second half. However, Bournemouth are unlikely to fold so the DRAW at 7/2 with **bet365** is the prediction.

There is a third televised match in the Premier League this evening which is Tottenham's match at Leicester. The visitors are third in the Premier League despite not buying any players in the summer and still having to play home matches at Wembley. Crowd numbers are plummeting at the national stadium but the club's travels continue to bring rewards. In fact Tottenham have scored in all but one of 22 Premier League matches and Leicester are unbeaten in six matches. It's tricky to call the outcome but BOTH TEAMS TO SCORE at 4/6 with Ladbrokes is on.

Blaklion was unseated at the first fence in the Grand National this April after finishing fourth the previous year when looking like the most likely winner for most of the race. The plan to hold up the horse this year never materialised due to that very early mishap. BLAKLION is back at Aintree today for the Becher Chase over three miles and two furlongs of the National course and distance and is the tip at 4/1 with **Coral**.

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

It was a dull, grey and misty day at Fairyhouse on Sunday, but the fireworks crackled in the first, the BarOne Racing Juvenile Hurdle as two budding Gordon Elliott stars went head to head.

After more overnight rain it was still officially good ground, and Chief Justice winning this opener proved that rating was correct.

Davy Russell produced the 5/1 shot full of running on the stands side but 8/11 hotpot Coeur Sublime found plenty for Bryan Cooper on the far rail.

It was nip and tuck to the line but Chief Justice bobbed his head at just the right time to get the verdict by a short head.

Russell really earned his corn on the day, surviving a last fence blunder - and losing his irons - to get Delta Work 10/3 home for Elliott and Gigginstown in the Drinmore Novice Chase.

They couldn't help but drift in slightly on 11/4 jolly Le Richebourg and Barry Geraghty on the run in as they won by half a length.

No question the better horse won on the day and Eliott said: "He's a grand horse, he stays but he's not short of speed either. He handles any ground really except very fast."

Those writing off Ruby Walsh prematurely got their answer in the Royal Bond when he delivered a masterclass on Quick Grabim. If there is perhaps one frustrating thing about Ruby it is that he is so good when dictating the pace from the front that he doesn't do it more often!

Mind you, as Willie Mullins said: "It was a brilliant tactical ride by Ruby but he had the horse to do it for him too."

Quick Grabim had disappointed in the For Auction at Navan, having sparkled previously at Tipperary.

And the horse he beat at Tipp, Triplicate - who is crying out for a longer trip - followed him home this time too.

But really it was all warming up to the main act, which was Apple's Jade and simply blew everything else out of the water.

How connections are still chasing Mares Hurdle glory is hard to know - she looks tailor made for either the Champion Hurdle or the Stayers. One slight reservation mind - she is much better racing right handed.

Cheveley Park Stud paid 400,000 grand to get Envoi Allen after he won his point to point, and he was 4/9 on his debut in the concluding bumper.

He was green and very raw but still came through for Jamie Codd to beat nice prospect Port Stanley to complete a fantastic 61/1 four timer for Gordon Elliott on the day.

Recent winners for Declan's Irish Racing Service include Western Honour 11/4, Too Precious 11/4, Thebeastfortheeast 7/4 and Captain Dan evens with 16/1 each way snip Tudor City (pl. 12/1). His Fairyhouse Winter Festival pointers included Lone Wolf 10/3 (w 9/4); Apple's Jade 10/11 (w 4/7) and Envoi Allen 5/6 (w 4/9) and each way gems Tudor City 16/1 (pl. 12/1) and Triplicate 10/1 (pl. 5/1).

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