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TODAY'S FREE SPORTS BETTING TIPS...

Winning Way

Win Bet - Ayr 14:35 - Glittering Love @ 11/10

Racing Delights

Win Double - Ludlow 15:45/16:20 - Via Delle Volte/Road To Rome @ 5/4-11/10

Two Percent Club

Win Bet - Wolverhampton (A.W) 18:15 - Tommy Docc @ 11/2

Potentially Good Week For Favourite Backers On Both Tours

- By Ian Hudson

It is rare that neither tournament on the PGA and European tours are conventional men's 72 hole stroke play events. This week there is a pro-am tournament and a men's event sitting alongside a women's event on the same courses. The AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am and ISPS Handa Vic Open provide the action. The two main selections are Dustin Johnson and Jason Scrivener and the double on the favourite's pays over 90/1 in a week in which both tournaments could go to form.

The Pebble Beach event is a pro-am in which each professional is paired with an amateur to play three courses in rotation over the first three days. The pros making the cut and the leading amateurs then play Pebble Beach again on Sunday. The three courses are generally tougher than those usually used for pro-ams but each is less than 7,000 yards in length. Pebble Beach sits by the Pacific Ocean so it's exposed to the wind and becomes a very severe test in bad weather. The two other courses put a premium on accuracy over distance and are tough for resort courses.

You must bear in mind that scores at Pebble Beach are greatly influenced by the weather. If the weather forecast is not consistent over the first three days avoid players who are out in the worst of the conditions at Pebble Beach. The pro-am format is a test of concentration for the pros as rounds can take up to six hours. Proven pro-am form is a major asset and some players are better suited to the environment than others. Johnson has the type of relaxed personality that often does well but it's also worth noting that this is the biggest field of the year.

This is the 10th consecutive year in which the current rotation of course has been used so there is plenty of course form to assess. Despite being short my modern standards the three courses have not been set up to make things less demanding for the amateurs. Averages for driving accuracy change from year to year but finding fairways and then greens will be at a premium. Johnson combines long and straight driving so he could overpower these relatively short courses.

The selection won the event in 2009 and 2010 and has achieved seven top fives in total in 11 starts. Johnson is travelling from Saudi Arabia where he won the Saudi International on the European Tour on Sunday. Jet lag could be an issue but he has three full days to adjust. Jason Day is another player to consider based on course form. He's made nine cuts from nine starts and been in the top six five times in that spell. Day was tied 5th on his last start but Johnson is just preferred.

Phil Mickelson is now reaching the veteran stage of his career on the PGA Tour. If he is to win again before joining the Seniors' this week's courses give him his best chance. Mickelson has won the tournament four times and is the all-time earnings leader. He was also second in 2016 and last year so clearly has a game suited to the host course and the temperament to keep his form and composure in the pro-am environment. Despite Mickelson's claims Johnson is the better bet.

The Beach Course at Geelong is a par 72 track over 6796 yards. It's the shortest course used during the season and the Vic Open women's event is played over the same 18 holes and another course. The four rounds rotate with the Creek Course at the same venue which is also less than 7,000 yards in distance. There is an obvious premium on accuracy and over distance which gives Scrivener a great chance to win the tournament in the country of his birth. Both favourites are fancied to oblige this week in something different on both tours.

Today's Sports Betting Preview - By Rick Elliott

Liverpool Fans Will Be Rooting For Everton Tonight

If you were brought up supporting Liverpool there were two teams you were told to love to hate but using that word in the context of football takes rivalry too far. Everton and Manchester United were on your wish list of rivals to lose every match. We have a strange dynamic tonight in that Liverpool supporters will be hoping their neighbours beat Manchester City at Goodison Park.

However, the Premier League is no longer a two horse race and TOTTENHAM are right in the mix and are 18/1 with **Betfair** to be the champions of England for the first time since 1961. Pep Guardiola thinks even United are still in the running to be the top dogs again but that's taking diplomacy a little too far.

If Manchester City beat Everton tonight they will go back to the top of the table on goal difference but Liverpool will have a game in hand. City have matches in four competitions during the rest of February and are 8/1 to win NO TROPHIES. After such huge investment there is pressure on Guardiola to deliver the league title or Premier League and the Cups are just the cherry on the cake.

Everton have scored in 15 of their 16 home matches this season and City have conceded at least one goal in all but two of their last 12 league fixtures. Over two goals is running at 66% for matches involving these teams. The visitors have the form to win this match but the bet is BOTH TEAMS TO SCORE at 4/5 with **bet365**.

This fixture is not live on television but the FA Cup fourth round replay between the home team West Brom and Brighton will be broadcast as it happens on BBC1. In beating Middlesbrough last night Newport showed that a motivated team from lower down the hierarchy can beat superior opposition with the right attitude. However, West Brom are battling to get into the Premier League so on this occasion BRIGHTON can beat the Championship side in 90 minutes at 29/20 with **Betfair**.

Ludlow is the epitome of a rural course and is something from an earlier era but the racing is often decent for the grade of the track. The Class 3 handicap chase over two miles and four furlongs at 3.15 is a competitive race and offers a good prize. WESTERN MILLER is racing of a manageable mark and can reward his backers at 7/1 with **bet365** by winning for the first time in 10 starts in chases.