



**Harbour Town GL, Hilton Head, SC 18<sup>h</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> April 2019**

### **The Course**

Harbour Town Golf Links was designed by Pete Dye in 1969 with the help of professional golfer Jack Nicklaus. Dye also designed another course in the Sea Pines Resort, Heron Point, which he redesigned in 2007.

Harbour Town Golf Links is a par 71 course that is 7,099 yards from the back tees, relatively short for a PGA Tour event. Harbour Town Golf Links has slick and firm Bermuda grass greens that are small in size. The average green at Harbour Town is 3,700 square feet, while the average square footage of greens played on tour is 6,600 square feet.

Several holes have a very small margin of error between greens and water hazards 4, 8, 14, 17 and 18. Tee shots and lay ups must be placed in the strategic part of fairway in order to have a direct shot into the green. Sometimes golfers get blocked out by overhanging trees, even if they are in the fairway. Holes in which players may be blocked out from the fairway include numbers 1, 2, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, and 16.

### **Players Suited**

So be looking at very high GIR this week. Small greens mean a good scrambling game is also needed as I am sure not everyone will hit 18 greens in regulation play this week that's for sure. Not a long course so it's all about positioning and hitting the right side of the fairways in order to get a good view of the smaller greens.

### **Past Results**

- 2018 Satoshi Kodaira 250/1
- 2017 Wesley Bryan 80/1
- 2016 Branden Grace 40/1
- 2015 Jim Furyk 25/1
- 2014 Matt Kuchar 18/1
- 2013 Graeme McDowell 40/1



## Webb Simpson (USA) 33/1

Coming off a brilliant show at the Masters last week he should follow up here with another great week.

**Previous RBC Results: MC-14-14-52-2—51-66-11-5**

The big plus for us from last week to his overall game had to be his greens in regulation up to 68% and his driving accuracy was over 83%. Not a big hitter's course here this week so accuracy is key, he should make the cut here quite easily. And if he is in contention then I like his round four putting figures which are close to 26, this is probably why his actual scoring average is as good as 69 on the PGA Tour.



## Ian Poulter (ENG) 35/1

Poults showed the rest of the English players how to do it last week. Another great Masters for Ian so coming into this week with much confidence not that he needs a boost.

He admitted to the team a while back he never really liked the set up here at Harbour Town but over the years has grown to love the course, and now really enjoys the challenge here and the fans seem to like him when he turns up to play.

**Previous RBC Results: 61-72-47-36-18-54-11-7**

His last two years here have shown a marked improvement, I just feel he has never come into this week playing better golf than he seems to be at this moment in time. I feel a top ten finish is defiantly on the cards and should improve on his seventh place from last year.



## **Si Woo Kim (KOR) 40/1**

A player who has shown some great results already this season. Can he carry on where he left off last week at the Masters I think so; he looks relaxed and looking good on the range.

And he shot a good 69 in round four to finish up just outside the top twenty.

### **Previous RBC Results: 14-2**

Winner of two PGA Tour titles with his first coming at the Wyndham in 2016 and then taking the Players in 2017 beating Ian Poulter by three shots. Over the past three years he has been around the top fifty in the world rankings and been as low as 42<sup>nd</sup> I feel he is due another win soon so watch this space.

One of the best putters on the PGA Tour with some impressive stats to match.

- Putts Per Round – 27.72 - 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Birdie or Better – 38.36% - 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Scoring Average – 69.42 - 11<sup>th</sup>
- Birdie Average – 4.74 - 6<sup>th</sup>

If he follows in the same suit as last year where he finished 24<sup>th</sup> at the Masters then runner up here then he should win. He had a 21<sup>st</sup> place at the Masters last week?



## Russell Knox (SCO) 60/1

Playing with a lot more freedom these days and seems to like certain tracks. This is one of them for sure, check out his previous below.

### Previous RBC Results: 9-18-2-11-40

Was very close to winning this title in 2016. The main factor he gets the job done around here is not his driving but his tee to green play. Had a top ten at the Phoenix Open back in March so parts of his game are there.

We caught up with him before he teed it up at the Valspar and he seemed like he had finally turned the corner. What a first round 67 then followed with a 76 and then a third round 67 again. I reckon this week he turns up and should have a great week.

He looked very good out on the practice yesterday.



## Emiliano Grillo (ARG) 80/1

### Previous RBC Results: 16

Good bet here this week at 80/1, He played this event last year and started slow, opening with a 72 but then followed that up with some impressive golf shooting 66/69/70. Just inside the top sixteen for greens in regulation playing 49 rounds, hitting 592 greens out of 828 is some impressive reading on the PGA Tour at 71.5%.

His putting is not always the best, but with much smaller greens this week, that should not really matter. He is very much a feel putter so if he feels and finds the greens and set up to his liking early watch this space.

If you look at his overall season so far, he could have already added a further two PGA Tour titles to his profile. Watch and take note of his putting stats after day one? If better than 29 he plays well and has a good week.



## **Corey Connors (CAN) 90/1**

Wow what a couple of weeks for Corey winning the week before the Masters to get in to play at one of the best shows on earth. And what a performance making the cut was impressive on debut and was near the top of the leaderboard after round one. But the experience and course knowledge around Augusta claimed another victim over the weekend.

What I did like after reading through his stats, was his proximity to hole ratio is an average of 31.4 inches lying in second place on the PGA Tour. This also shows him as a great green's in regulation player, ranking fourth on the PGA. This is a major factor around here and should allow him to continue this great run of form.

### **Previous RBC Results: MC-MC**

I know two missed cuts on his last two visits here probably explains the 90/1. I just feel he is in a much better place. In 2015 he went six straight missed cuts and in 2018 here he had a missed cut the week before. This year he comes in as the Winner at the Valero, also a second and third place finish already, as well as a top fifty at the Masters.