

# **FORM GUIDE - MORNINGTON MASTERS #6**

**MARCH 2017**



*“I think it’s over there in the lateral hazard. Good luck with that.”*

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-  **The Form**
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# ALL THE FORM

## Mornington Masters 2017

32,000m (approx)			SP	Hcp
1	The Old Hawk	GG Allardice	5/1	32
2	The Young Hawk	GG Allardice (Jnr)	5/1	25
3	The Scribbler	GG Dalby	7/2	27
4	The Nomad	GG Joseph	7/1	27
5	Man of Steel	GG McLennan	10/1	36
6	Mr Forgetful	GG Scoble	7/1	25
7	The Phantom	GG Walker	5/2	23
8	Mr Enigma	GG Squance		LScr
9	Just Jacko	GG Jackson	5/1	23
10	Ankle Tapper	GG Carlton	9/1	36
11	The Sailor	GG Pink	11/2	32
12	Neigh	GG McCarthy		Scr
13	Cojak	GG Jack	5/1	18



### 1. The Old Hawk by Never Runs out of Old Ideas

#### *Poos and wees*

The Allardice stable is an integral part of this great event (many form guide correspondents have seen their careers sputter and die by failing to make this point). While the old bloke has excelled on the organisational side, he has never set the world on fire on the actual course. This year promises to be a totally different story if the thickness of the brown envelope in my in-tray is anything to go by. Public support is well and truly with The Old Hawk, as most see the other more successful stable entrant as lacking charisma and due for a taste of reality. A Strong equal third favourite in early betting and unlikely to shorten as the big week gets closer. Rumours that this contestant has “Diamonds on the Soles of His Shoes” are being investigated by event officials (ie those in the back seat of the bus).

**Doesn't matter when you get on as is likely (like his shorts) to lengthen in the betting. Hardened veterans understand that there is no place for sentiment when it comes to picking a winner. Unlikely that tears will be shed on The Old Hawk's account on the final day.**



## 2. The Young(ish) Hawk by Doesn't Intend To Stay o.o. The Picture

*Wees and poos*

Who knew that the Young'un would be upstaged by his best mate at MM5. Brought along as a stable pony to keep the "real" contender calm and happy, "Neigh" failed to fully understand his role by not only having a great time, but by winning the whole damned thing! He's not here this time and there are rumours of a dispute involving 'loyalty' and 'good manners' amongst other things.

Despite all that The Young Hawk is always keen to perform well in the big ones and is expected to show the usual competitive (some say, must win) attitude evident at past MMs. Unlike previous years, there is absolutely **NO PRESSURE** on the Youngster to perform this time!

**Always well up in the market owing to previous history in this event. Some good judges (none present this week) have taken a set against The Young Hawk and he is expected to start at career best odds. Students of history are likely to jump into this one late.**



## 3. The Scribbler by Nearly o.o. Note Paper

*Pale Green, pencil motif, dark green sleeves, quartered cap*

This signs are very good! The ball is coming off the club as never before (at least in recent never before history)! That old confidence is back! It all points to this being the very best chance yet for The Scribbler to cause a boilover and take out the big trophy (Note: it used to be a small trophy, but The Young Hawk doesn't do small trophies – hence the size upgrade). The Scribbler's chipping still leaves something to be desired from time to time, but his report writing skills have never been better and we all know how important they are when it comes to the crunch in a big tournament. Those who report history, make history!

**Does he have the stamina? I think so, he's been married for a long time. Can he pull this off? I think so, based on a general feeling of calm and confidence surrounding him. Have I been wrong before? Almost always. Up to you if you want a taste of this.**



## 4. The Nomad by Spendsmostofhistime o.o. Circulation

*White with idyllic scene, pink sleeves and suspect cap*

Following a less than auspicious performance in the August Census, connections have taken the extraordinary step of ditching the corporate colours for something a bit less controversial, while still reflecting the post Census work arrangements. Little information has come to light concerning any clandestine training activities over the off season though it can be assumed that such an astute stable (we all know that Reggie is brains behind this operation) will not have sent their man out underdone. There is a school of thought that fears for The Nomad's form because he has been mixing his distances in recent times (Wembley to Perth, Perth to Sydney, Sydney to Canberra, Perth to Canberra, Perth to India and so on, isn't it) and may not be settled enough to jump and run when the field is dispatched on day 1.

**Will dispense with the dark horse reference this time - only because a proper dark horse usually pops up from time to time. Not this one. There is always someone with a complex theory prepared to back performers of all types and standards. If you have a theory in this case, don't tell me about it.**



**5. Man of Steel by Must Be Running o.o. Spare Parts**

*Steel grey, titanium sleeves, assorted bolts, MOS logo and rusty cap*

How does he do it? Probably very noisily with all that metal in his joints. Seriously though, this bloke is an absolute legend of the Mornington Masters. He has overcome injury after operation, after injury and still fronts up year after year to stake his claim. His record in that regard is second to none, but it's not all about the cards, there is golf to be played. The fans love this type of contender – ever present, always upbeat, never in the hunt, but rarely discouraged. There has been absolutely no interest from the punters or the handicapper (has a bottom weight ever been that low?) and is likely to start one of the biggest outsiders in the history of the MM.

**A love a despised outsider – I used to be one until no one bothered with the despising any more. You could do worse than having a bit of the hard earned on Man of Steel. A bit like you could do worse than cutting off just one of your legs off.**



**6. Mr Forgetful by Operating o.o. His Comfort Zone**

*White, purple 'Vs', quartered cap*

Apparently carrying a number of injuries and may just in the field to make up the numbers. Has played an important role in the success of this event over the journey. No glory involved, just good old fashioned partying, ridiculous behaviour on the bus and general lowering of standards to a level envied by those not lucky enough to be invited. Recent form has been quite curious. One win only for the season but a vicious reaction by the Handicapper to some steady performances over the summer. Seems to be handicapped out of it but is likely to be still smiling on day 6.

**Inquires show that not one wager has been laid on Mr Forgetful which leads me to think that the average punter has lifted his game since last time. Would be a big surprise if he is a contender on the final day but they said that about another bloke recently (what was his name again?)**



**7. Phantom by Just Occasionally o.o. Carnarvon**

*Purple, black and purple diagonal striped jacket and jocks, black goggles and cap*

*“These remain the only colours never to have changed in the history of the MM (would you pluck with the Phantom's underwear?)”*. That's a direct quote from the MM5 Form Guide, but we liked it so much we left it in (and the plane is leaving in less than 2 hours). Here we have the most improved contender in the field. Lots of work on the track (much of it beyond the view of GBWGC officials) seems to have set The Phantom up to be cherry ripe for a full frontal assault on the MM6 trophy. The only reservation being

expressed in knowledgeable circles is that the Handicapper has jumped into the Phantom with a series of harsh penalties after recent successes (thought he was cute winning the Club Champs!).

**Despite the rise up the handicap scale, I believe that The Phantom is one of the most outstanding chances in a number of years to take the trophy. Current form is always the best indicator and on that basis he is just about past the post. I can't bring myself to lay it on any thicker!**



**8. Mr Enigma** by Not Happy To Be o.o. The Picture  
*Red, white and blue*

- **LATE SCRATCHING** -



**9. Just Jacko** by Financing the Trip o.o. Larissa's Paypacket  
*All Orange*

They used to call him the smooth swinger. Something has happened in recent times which has changed that fabled gentle draw into a sometimes vicious hook. Here is another one that refuses to let adversity stand in the way of the search for glory. These days the thickest part of his legs are his knees and they are totally shot. Truly no visible means of support! Seriously though, Jacko has the basic underlying technical skills to prevail on any given day; the big question is whether he can string 3 or 4 given days together to accumulate a winning total.

**Price Waterhouse Coopers has undertaken a clinical assessment of all aspects of Just Jacko's technique, form, psychological characteristics and general golf course demeanour. I couldn't make any sense of their report as it contained mathematical formulae and words with more than six letters. I'll go on instinct – expect a dogged display with something to say on the last day.**



**10. Ankle Tapper** by Must Love to Get o.o. Canberra  
*Silver, grey hoops, pink cap*

“Could be the *Dustin Johnson* of the Mornington Masters” - that was last time. Turned out be more of a Dustin Martin (with less hair). After one punter pinched some money from someone else's wallet to have a bet on The Tapper at MM5 the police were notified. The Tapper was arrested for spot fixing – who knew he would hit his first shot into the first available bunker? The felon was let off with a warning to be a bit more creative in the use of the dough he pinches from wallets. Never one to shirk the issue The Ankle Tapper is expected to put in his usual well rounded performance at MM6, even going to the extent of contending for something at some stage on the golf course.

**Wallets are mysteriously emptying as we speak. Luckily mine started that way because I wasted a lot of someone else's hard earned on this one last time.**



**11. The Sailor** by Finally o.o. The Workforce

*Old easts hoops with sailing motif*

Rarely has a contestant fronted the MM with less preparation. Obstacles to success abound. Recently settling in the heart of East Freo territory must be a heavy psychological burden for any player (oh my God, the embarrassment). Then there's the constant overseas and interstate travel which must be a drain on concentration. Imagine trying to keep you mind on the golf when you are shortly to jump onto your yacht and head off to sunny Queensland. Oh, and there is the matter of recent form on the course – in a word – shithouse. Notwithstanding all of the above, The Sailor could cause a boilover (they always say that to maintain interest in the event).

**I found the tone of the above comments to be somewhat disrespectful so have continued in that vein for consistency purposes. Can't see The Sailor winning or even finishing on the podium, but I suppose he won't care because he has the best sleeping arrangements of anyone.**



**12. Neigh** (NZ) by Another One o.o. The Shaky Isles

*Black and Gold Halves*

**Scratched** by order of the Young Hawk



**13. Cojak** by Mostly o.o. Sight

*The Big V*

Little know about the form, if any, of this local. Has performed at the very highest level in some of the best company in the business, but that sheds little light on his likely proficiency on the golf course. Anecdotally he is a star, but we all know that the word “anecdote” is often used as a substitute for the word “joke”. Anyway, enough of the abuse. In the interests of balance we tried to find something positive to say, but came up empty.

**I find the above commentary a bit distasteful and hope Cojak sticks it right up them at the 18<sup>th</sup> on the final day. If he also has the lowest score at that point then all the better.**

## The Phantom Call

The ceremonial first drive is dispensed with and they are away in MM6 at Moonah Legends. First to show out is **Just Jacko** with a string of bogies interspersed with a number of pars. Pars are few and far between today which leaves old knobbly knees in the lead. Several contenders, including **Mr Forgetful** who appears to be hampered by an injury (wounded pride) and the somewhat confused **The Nomad** (where the f...am I?) are slow to get settled and have the job in front of them from an early rearward position.

Unfamiliarity with the Mornington course on Day 2 has the majority of the field nervous and not a little worried that the "locals" may be able to establish an unfair advantage. It has been traditional on this course to take off three deep at the 600m to avoid being too far back entering the very short straight – Oh, not that Mornington?. Well anyway, the two **Hawks** are both playing well, taking the unfair advantage predicted, based on prior knowledge, and challenge the steady **Just Jacko**. There are a few, including **The Scribbler** who will need to lift at the scenic Eagle Ridge tomorrow.

Most had almost forgotten that he was even in the field after quiet opening rounds, but **The Phantom** appears out of the ruck to establish a forward position, just as the three previous leaders begin to struggle. It's now anybody's event, with the possible exception of a group of three (**Ankle Tapper**, **Mr Forgetful** and **Man of Steel**) who are still buggerising around at the rear.

St Andrews on Day 4 is where the true stayers are expected to make their moves. However everyone appears to be starting to feel the effects of the Club House hospitality and there is a general sense of struggle in the air. The one exception is **The Scribbler** whose very sober habits in the evenings has helped him to advance into a challenging position.

It's on for youngish an old at the National. Will the wind blow? **The Phantom** and **The Scribbler** are keeping it on the fairway and the **Hawks** are still within range. **The Nomad** is desperately hanging on to the main bunch in company with **Just Jacko**. Course veteran **Cojak** is making good progress and still has a sniff. Inspired by the nautical scenes all around, **The Sailor** swaps tacking (which he's been doing all week), for surging spinnaker runs and is coming into contention. The rest are enjoying the sea air and chatting about former glory (real or imagined).

It's the final day and we are back at The Legends (how appropriate) with a leaderboard that reads like a Who's Who of unknowns. The lead pack stays tight well into the back nine, before **The Scribbler** gets a couple of lucky breaks to forge ahead. However, **The Phantom** stays strong and strikes a couple of mighty blows to bring him right back into contention. He misses a crucial putt and it's all square going to the last. By this time the **Hawks** have had enough, **Just Jacko** is still hopeful but an albatross on the last seems unlikely, **Cojak** has gone back as fast as he came forward and **The Sailor** has lost his compass. **The Scribbler** plays a big slice off the 18<sup>th</sup> tee and the ever sporting **The Phantom** follows suit. It's now all about the scramble! A double and a triple are enough to keep the duo narrowly on top of the leader board. Another podium for **The Scribbler**, but a famous victory for *The Phantom*.

Ed. Notice how this segment was titled 'The Phantom Call' – surely you saw it coming?



**Two eagles in one round. Robin, you are such a good golfer!**



**Sulk as much as you like Graeme. I'm not going to ask them to give you a participation award.**





**It wasn't us, honest!**



**We really, really hope the boys are having a great time at Mornington.**



**Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.....**

# Fake News

(Pick the one which is not fake)

- **Dainty G unilaterally relinquishes GBWGC Presidency. Becomes the first man in history to relinquish a Presidency that he didn't have.**
- **The Old Hawk cuts his leg at work. We all know what really happened but we are not the kind of publication to go into such matters.**
- **The Nomad exonerated of any responsibility for Census 2016 debacle. Oh come on!**
- **Mr Forgetful remembers three things on the same day. "Bullshit", says D Trump.**
- **The Scribbler overpowers 120kg burglar in recent home invasion attempt in Gwelup. Yeah, honest!**
- **Man of Steel sold at auction to a scrap metal dealer as part of a fund raiser for the "We Need More Graemes Society". Quite believable actually.**
- **Ankle Tapper insists on taking responsibility for breaking Mrs Mr Forgetful's ankle. He has a photo of the flowers to prove it.**

