



# 16th Winter Trophy

August 11-14, 2024



## Form Guide – AGM WINTER CUP

AGM Winter Cup 2024 32,000m (approx) SP

- 1 The Old Hawk Ronnie Allardice - 6/1
- 2 The Entourage Robbie Dalby - 7/2
- 3 Retirement Pending Tommie Joseph - 3/1
- 4 Kracked Knacker Macca McLennan - 10/1
- 5 Flagmantle Dennie Scoble - Scratched
- 6 The Phantom Gaga Walker - Scratched
- 7 Western Power Garsie Squance - 4/1
- 8 Just Jacko Chrissie Jackson - 5/2
- 9 Reigning Champ Briano Pink - Scratched
- 10 Forever Dainty Graygray Little - 6/1

### 1. The Old Hawk by Pretty Much out of The Picture

All participants will be stabled at the Allardice property for the 3 days of the AGM Winter Cup. While in the past this arrangement has been of significant benefit to the chances of The Old Hawke, this advantage is now illusory. A good word illusory, as it describes rather succinctly the chances of the old fella of taking out this year's Cup. He has not been seen on the course for several months and most recent form was moderate. Some also point to his recent drop off in output when it comes to the organisational side of the event. It's always good to give the young blokes some responsibility but completely throwing away the reins is not what one would have expected from this stalwart. Of further concern has been the complete absence of a fat brown (or any colour) envelope in the editor's in-tray. These are the types of things that really make a difference once the keyboard gets warmed up. It's hard to see longevity and Solomon like wisdom being enough. You have to actually be able to dominate on the course and that seems to be less likely this time. Maybe a sentimental dollar investment for old times sake.

### 2. The Entourage by Appearing o.o. The Range Rover

A string of recent good performances has the pundits in serious conversation about the chances of the entrant from the Gwelup stables. There is some concern however, that an outbreak of unforeseen appointments could cruel his chances. The entourage's short game will not be mentioned this time as all possible comments on that topic have been exhausted in all previous editions of the Guide. There is an expectation that his muscular driving and unflinching self confidence will carry him at least to the steps of the podium. Whether he can scale those steps is

the burning question. If I could find a bank or an ATM I would have a bit on The Entourage. Unfortunately these facilities are no longer easily located so a bit of cheering from the sidelines (somewhere near Meekatharra) will have to suffice.

### 3. Retirement Pending by Baling o.o. The Workforce

In an unprecedented move the Joseph stable, based at the recently renovated Floreat headquarters, have gone all in with Retirement Pending's career. Graduated transition from work to golf has been initiated with the expectation that an initial one day per week of golf will quickly expand to daily appearances on the tee. With this in mind and taking into account the groundswell of rumour relating to clandestine practice it all points to an expectation of heavy support for Bhagwan (stable name) to take out the Cup. Has definitely shaken off the dark horse tag and will be coming home with giant strides (have you seen the length of his legs!). No difficult decisions required here. Just get as much cash together as you can and plonk it on. I have a large bag which will be available to store said plonkage.

### 4. Cracked Knacker by Must Be Running o.o. Removeable Bits

At time of publication, the editorial staff of The Guide believe that The Knacker is a starter in the Cup. As a result, considerable time and effort has been put into assessing his form and likely chances in the big event. Should he be a late scratching then we will be totally pissed off that we have been forced to waste our bloody time scratching around for information on an entrant who has no bloody hope of winning anyway! On a more conciliatory note, you have to take your hat off to a contender (see previous comment) who spends more time at the vet's than he does on the training track, but still turns up and gives it his best (again, see previous comment). If enthusiasm, optimism, poker smarts and self belief could get you across the line then KK would nearly be favourite. But it can't and he's not. Every event has to have its share of also-rans. They are required commodity if only to interfere with more fancied contenders and to provide excuse material for those who fail to live up to expectations (eg "he wouldn't shut up when I was putting"; that sort of thing). That said it will be a sad day if this veteran is a late scratching. The level of fun and frivolity would be sorely affected.

### 5. Flagmantle by Well and Truly o.o. The Vicinity

SCRATCHED

### 6. Phantom by Just About o.o. Knees

SCRATCHED

### 7. Western Power by Never Runs o.o. Employment Opportunitites

Clandestine phone calls mid-round. Urgent exits straight after play finishes and sneaky Zoom sessions in clubhouse bedrooms. What's really going on? Rumour has it that The Power (as he likes to be known) is part in a top secret program being developed by his employer which involves the conversion of the Collie Power Station into a Nuclear facility. It makes a lot of sense if you think about. Exceptional technical skill combined with the ability to put most sailors to shame with his colourful use of the English language. Oh, and if you look closely at night, when all the lights are off, he does glow in the dark a bit – a dead giveaway of what he's been up to. But we digress. Despite all this other stuff, TP seems to be on the verge of a much anticipated return to form and is rumoured to be looking very much forward to revisiting his role as chief catering assistant to Just Jacko during Winter Cup week. Looks to be good value in the early market, but don't delay your investment as he is almost certain to shorten right up. Which would make him very short indeed.

## 8. Just Jacko by Cantkeephim o.o. The Kitchen

It's all been said really. Smooth swinger, master tactician, technical genius, cordon bleu cook; the list goes on. That's the thing about lists. They can be used to chronical a player's achievements and strengths but they can also serve to present a set of hurdles and high water marks which can be destructive to the psychological wellbeing of the individual. JJ, as we like to refer to him, has probably never viewed these accolades as anything other than richly deserved recognition his many talents. I was encouraged to raise this matter (brown paper bag much appreciated) as it was apparently hoped that doing so might lead JJ to ponder the possible pitfalls associated with this public adulation, eg "Am I really that good"; "Who is behind all this"; "Can I maintain my high golf standards under this kind of pressure?" We think he can overcome this challenge and produce the kind of efficient golf which has seen him forge a successful career over the journey. He just needs to eliminate that severe hook which has been plaguing his game in recent times. Just saying.

The punters are convinced that all this psychological stuff is just a load of horseshit. They are lining up in droves (assuming droves actually know how to line up) to get on. Consequently, JJ is the early favourite and as the money comes in so the size of the pile of horseshit increases. That's a win win situation for those punters who are also keen gardeners. We encourage all other starters to give of their best, but be warned that your efforts are likely to be in vain.

## 9. Reigning Champ by Unfortunately o.o. The Picture

SCRATCHED

## 10. Forever Dainty by Hasn't Run o.o. Presidential Authority

Where has he been and what has he been up to? Well may that question be asked though the chance of getting a straight answer is negligible. So let's move on. FD (as he hates to be referred to) has really jumped into the fray with the organisation of the Winter Cup. In true presidential fashion he has allocated functions, determined programs and generally got the whole team working towards the final outcome while observing his handiwork from on high, as presidents do. It's hard to believe that he has had time to be on the driving range and putting surface honing his technique for the big event. Consequently, expectations are not high. If he was running for the US Presidency he would be marginally in front of Sleepy Joe in the market. FD has not featured in any discussions about the relative chances of Winter Cup contenders. Some are on the lookout for a late hint that there may be some value in having a sneaky flutter here. I can only say that you should prepare plenty of food and water to sustain you while you wait.

