

PLAYER FORM GUIDE

and betting market for the championship events conducted over the full week in

THE TOUR OF THE SAPPHIRE COAST 2000

Bob Blomfield : Former 12 marker at Ryde-Parramatta a few years ago and now a 19 marker at Riverside Oaks. Doesn't play as much as he used to but capable of good showing. Not a long hitter but good striker and usually straight from the tee. Has not undertaken a long tour before and might find this distance a bit hard first up. Could need the run. Loves a drink. Roughie. 33/1

Phil Cavanough : Has been in good form and qualified for the Club match play in handicap and scratch and pushed through to the semi's at time of writing. A keen 19 marker and first time Hacker, was unlucky to miss last year's tour when unable to get leave at the last minute. Expected to give good showing but form and preparation for this distance is unknown. Chance. 10/1

Ron Childs : Backing up for third tour in a row and is one of only two players who have averaged precisely the same score for both of his first two trips. Has not played to potential so far but will have benefited from first two starts and a relaxing tour overseas earlier in the year. Very fit and now knows what to expect on the coast and could threaten. Each way prospects. 15/1

Ron Dewar : Long time member of Camden who is another first time tourist and trained by the Angry Ant. Form has been kept secret and believed to be untried at this distance. Known to only a couple of Hackers the rumour around the circuit suggests this colt may have been set for this and a late plunge is expected. Will need to be focussed to win first up. Keep safe. 12/1

Stuart Downing : Now a veteran after four successive tours but has not been able to produce the form shown on the training paddock leading up to each trip. Has been a favoured runner every year and has the ability and the game to lead from day one. Will again be firm in the market as the punters wait for him to put it together when it counts. Big chance if he pulls it on. 10/1

Barry Dunn : Another one of the left handed brigade and a veteran of five previous tours. Has not managed to produce best form on tour and will be keen to avoid adding a third NAGA Award to his trophy cabinet. Has vowed to relax more this year and play less golf. Was heard to suggest a pub crawl or two to break the monotony but seems unable to resist the call to the tee. Each way chance. 33/1

Col Dunn : Runner-up in '95, Tour Champion in '98, third in '99 and touring for the seventh time. Has all of the experience, skill and tenacity required to win this again. Known as "Deadly" because of his focus, control and accuracy. Will keep the ball in play more often than most and is putting well. Is not easily distracted at night and will be very hard to beat. Has the form and is selected. 4/1.

Michael Dunn : Very consistent and always near the top of the field. Champion in '96 on this tour and was only five points behind eventual winner Trent Wilson before being forced out last year when his wheels failed to make it to Gold Creek. Strikes the ball very well and trains regularly. A non-drinker, he will need to overcome poor sleeping habits to permit full focus on the game. Big threat 6/1

Graham Harrison : Little is known about the golfing skills of this mature age performer having his maiden start. Plays off 13 at Muirfield so can be assumed to have good skills but this will need to be balanced against lack of experience in this type of event. A proven stayer and a very dangerous influence in his youth. May have mellowed a bit over the past few years. Watch market. 12/1

Jim Hokin : The "Old Grey Fox" has a fine record on tour (but not for golf) and is backing up for tour number five. Usually manages to put together a win somewhere during the week and will be competitive when it gets down to skins. Will push the stayers right out after dark but may lack the consistency needed to threaten the favourites in the big one. Will enjoy and could be dangerous. 20/1

John Killin : Tour veteran who is one of only three to have been on all seven tours. Switched to right handed a couple of years ago and has not threatened since. Seems to be getting it back now and has some recent good form and scores on the board. A win somewhere in the week wouldn't surprise and will put his hand out during the skins, but a win in the big one is less likely. Snores. 20/1

Keith McLaren : Another veteran who hasn't missed a tour and probably never will. Always full of running this inveterate night owl plays hard but will be without his regular, smokin' room-mate this year for the first time in five years. Could be interesting if he gets any sleep – as if! Best finish was runner-up in '95. Long hitter who will threaten if the putter works. Has the ability. Big chance. 10/1

Peter McLoughlin : Has no excuses this year. Has toured twice before, played in torrential rain and gale force winds. Has acquired “the right gear”, complained because it hasn't rained since, done the hard yards, stayed off the piss, gone to bed early, watched the diet, practiced like buggery and made the zone final in the Holden Scramble. Must be favoured and will be very hard to beat. 6/1

John Medland : First tour last year and finished runner up just four stableford points behind Trent after having hit the wrong ball twice during the week. A good sportsman, “Meds” is a good striker whose home track is the difficult Oatlands layout. Proved he can run the distance and will have learnt from last year's tour. Quietly confident and has the skill to go one better this year. Trust me! 7/1

Noel Neary : Maiden performer (or was that non-performer) last year when he easily picked up the NAGA Award. Circumstances were against him then, when the composite course at Camden set him a hard mark to measure against. Better prepared this year and determined to hand the NAGA on to someone. Will not be driving and that could spell danger for everyone. Chance 12/1.

Jeff Pearson : One of the stand-outs in this star studded field. Hard worker who trains regularly and will give a very good account of himself. Can be expected to run the field a merry race, lead by example and will apply huge pressure on anybody showing signs of weakness. Fitness is suspect but has great staying power and is a superb judge of pace. Not much chance in the golf though. 16/1.

Kevin Ross : Embarking on his fifth consecutive tour this veteran has so far failed to realise his potential. This could be the year the Angry Ant strikes back. Has put in a lot of work, is well conditioned and very fit. A very good striker, he will be hard to catch if he gets away to a good start but in the past has usually managed to throw in a bad one to ruin the good work. Definite chance. 8/1

Ray Rutledge : Second player to have averaged precisely the same golf score on his first two tours and now on his third trip. Averaged 14 schooners of black per day last year but traveled in the Volvo and was not called on to drive. Will be relief driver this year and might have to be more focussed. Has tended to fade towards the end of the week on previous tours. Chance. 14/1

Des Thompson : Late entry trained by Barry Dunn and said to be a very good prospect. Plays at the Cumberland Club and has a mark of eleven and must be respected for that reason alone. Not much is known except that he drinks black and it has been suggested he will fit in. May lack experience at this distance and has had little opportunity to prepare for the rigors of tour. Might need the run. 12/1.

John Vallins : One of the two intrepid “left handed jayvee's” and by far the most dangerous in every respect. Has established a reputation as an “old” stayer of considerable ability. Well handicapped and has good all round game. Close second to Col Dunn two years ago and fourth time tourist who is suited by these courses. Consistent and will go well. Big chance. 8/1.

John Vincent : The other “left handed jayvee” whose form in the past twelve months has been ordinary at best. Has ballooned in the weights and handicap has slipped from 7 to 10. Claims to not be far away from a return to former glory, but most likely is living in the past lane. Fitness is suspect and has lost distance, but has experience and knows the courses. Rough chance and could surprise. 16/1

Bill Williams : One of the real chances. Has the game and the consistency necessary to take this event out. Keeps the ball in play and is deadly around the greens. Only previous tour was on the Coast two years ago when he battled through a dose of food poisoning to finish fourth to Col Dunn. Will be undamaged by the dark and sure to be in contention at the business end of the week. 6/1

Des Williams : Bold, aggressive and attacking player who gets it out there and is a complete contrast to his unrelated namesake. If he gets it working he will be a real threat and had best finish from four tours last year. Has had some good results this year and might be running into form at the right time. Won't lead the pack at night but will tag along quietly until the fat lady sings. Each way. 12/1

Trent Wilson : Champion of last year's tour and sure to be up there again this year. Can hit the ball huge distances and is technically sound but can be suspect around the greens. May not be quite as well suited by the Coast courses as The Murray, but has managed to beat the handicapper if he's still on eleven. Sleeps like the dead and could be at risk of penalties for missing tee-off time. Favoured 5/1

The management of MiddleBet Australia has published this guide to the chances of the Sapphire Coast tourists in the year 2000 for the sole aim of assisting, hindering, helping or confusing in selecting the eventual winner of the title of “Tour Champion.”

Before tee-off in Moruya, every tourist is invited to nominate themselves or someone else to be the winner of the Best

Average over the full week as well as the less sought after NAGA Award. A mystery prize is offered to the successful tipsters and, in the event of more than one successful tipster, the winner will be decided by a draw from a hat. Good Luck and I hope everybody enjoys a wonderful week of golf and fine weather.

Wobbie Rorterhouse

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR