

Melbourne Champs **Form Guide**

IN THE POKER WORLD YOU ALWAYS HEAR ABOUT THE BIG NAMES – AND IN AUSTRALIA IT'S NO EXCEPTION. JOE HACHEM, GRANT LEVY, TINO LECHICH, JONATHAN KARAMALIKIS AND MICHAEL GUZZARDI ARE ALL EXCEPTIONAL PLAYERS WITH RESULTS WE WOULD ALL LIKE TO CALL OUR OWN. HOWEVER THERE ARE MANY OTHERS THAT SIT BENEATH THEIR LIMELIGHT WITH GREAT PERSONALITIES AND A BEVY OF RESULTS TO MATCH.

Some of the following you may have encountered on the felt for years, while others may jerk a 'who the?' response - but either way they cannot be ignored with most of them in great form or within an arm's reach of a huge result. Don't be surprised if this collection of poker talent and expertise capture a few trophies along the way to taking out the Main Event during the upcoming Melbourne Poker Championships from the 17th May to the 1st June in the Crown Poker Room.



Dean 'Dinhjo' Nyberg

The most in-form Australian poker player on both the virtual and live felt, Dean Nyberg has slowly grinded his way into the top ten Australian online rankings and was PokerNetwork's Young Gun of The Month for February. However it was the inaugural ANZPT Adelaide where Nyberg made a name for himself collecting victory in a preliminary event before final tabling the Main Event, collecting over \$40,000 for his 5th place. Nyberg didn't stop there, following up with a 19th showing in the Joe Hachem Deep Stack Series Main Event to unquestionably establish himself as the most in-form player in the country.

Ali Khalil

Loved for his energised approach and always exciting brand of poker, Khalil is a master at accumulating chips in major tournaments. With two final tables on the local scene, and many more online, Khalil will be looking to dominate another Championship series with aspirations to take another trophy out of Victoria.



Steve Topakas

Interstate boundaries don't exist for Steve Topakas with results in Adelaide and Sydney as well as many in his local town of Melbourne. Two 2008 Aussie Millions cashes including a second placing for over \$110,000 and two Joe Hachem Deep Stack Series victories in as many years sees Topakas as a player to fear. With hopes of moving back into the top 50 on Australia's All Time Money List, Topakas will be using the Melbourne Poker Championships as a ladder to achieve that goal.

Jarred 'FlopNutsOnYou' Graham

Jarred Graham has surged up the online rankings to sit just outside the Australian top five. With plenty of online scores he has been working hard to back them up on the live front travelling the circuit extensively. Late last year Graham reached a final table in Sydney before he captured the APPT Sydney High Rollers event for \$222,000. He then followed up with victory in the Joe Hachem Deep Stack Series Six-Handed event and then a 30th placing in the Main Event.



Having to wait another year before tackling the WSOP, online scores will continue to flow as Graham will be using the upcoming Melbourne Poker Championships as another chance to display the dominance that we have come so accustomed to over the past four months.



Andrew 'Adgee' Jeffreys

Since his WSOP final table last year Jeffreys has been very busy collecting results online including an FTOPS final table, while also starting a business venture with fellow poker players including Michael Guzzardi. Through his avid involvement as a featured ChipMeUp player, he has allowed many to take a part of his action as he travels the live circuit. With aims of another successful WSOP campaign in mind, Jeffreys will be looking to use the Melbourne Poker Championships as a springboard for bigger success.

Ben 'CNT_CRUSHER' Delaney



Frustrated after his second placing in the recent Aussie Millions Feature Event for over \$110,000, Ben Delaney remained positive and was rewarded with a surge up the online rankings into fifth position, following three victories from thirteen final tables. After unsuccessful ANZPT Adelaide and Joe Hachem Deep Stack Series campaigns, Delaney will be looking upon his online experience and short-lived live experience to take the Melbourne Poker Championships by storm. He will be looking to establish his live tournament CV like the previous PokerNetwork Young Gun's of the Month before him.

Joel 'Strong Play' Dodds

The Sydney-sider has been logging plenty of volume online recently running deep in the Sunday Millions on numerous occasions as well as final tabling many of the big buy-in events. Following his 59th placing in this years Aussie Millions Main Event as well as consecutive APPT Macau cashes, Dodds will be looking to cement his place on the live tournament front at the Melbourne Poker Championships before venturing to the WSOP with ambitions of being the next Aussie bracelet holder.



Koun Chhoy

Koun Chhoy made his name at the 2007 Melbourne Poker Championships capturing third in the Main Event for over \$44,000, and since then Chhoy has been collecting results in all the local championships including three cashes in the recent Joe Hachem Deep Stack Series. With Chhoy in a rich vein of form, he will definitely be one to watch out for at the Melbourne Champs.



Michael Pedley

With his travelling Western Australian entourage of Kent Hunter and Nik Lackovic, Pedley can never be far from a cold beer or a poker table – but don't let his 'nice-guy family-man' demeanour fool you! Made for Main Events, following APPT, APT and WSOP Main Event cashes along with his triumph in the 2008 Aussie Millions \$1,100 rebuys event for a collect of over \$165,000, Pedley will be one to watch out for come the Melbourne Poker Championships.

Trung Tran

Falling under the curse of multiple two-outers to see him exit shy of the money in almost every Joe Hachem Deep Stack Series event that he played, Tran will be looking to add to his long list of results that feature many final tables including a recent Aussie Millions fifth placing in the Mixed Hold'em event. With plenty of fight left and good fortune online, Tran will be looking to make the upcoming Melbourne Poker Championships his own!



Peter Aristidou

Bred on the Crown Casino felt, Aristidou was unstoppable during 2007 and 2008 logging result after result both at home and interstate. However, following a few lean months since his last two titles at the PokerNews Cup, Aristidou can never be ignored as he will be looking to recapture the form that made him one of the most feared tournament players on the local circuit.



Emad Tahtouh

Wearing his heart on his sleeve, and after a few lean years in comparison to when he burst on the scene, Tahtouh will be looking to replicate the results that saw him launch into Australia's Top 10 All Time Money List. With plenty of results on the home front, he will be looking to add to his two Aussie Millions and Joe Hachem Deep Stack Series cashes before heading on another WSOP campaign.

James 'Jabba' Broom

It's hard to discuss the Melbourne Poker Championships without discussing the previous Champion after Broom bested 668 players to capture his first title. Devoting time to high-stakes cash games, Broom is still in great touch final tabling the recent PokerNews Cup and inaugural ANZPT Adelaide Main Events and will looking to carry that form into an event he is eager to defend.



Which of these players will etch themselves into the record books come the Melbourne Poker Championships? There is only one way to find out – head down to the Crown Poker Room and see if you can have a say in their story! The PokerNetwork Live Reporting Team will also be there to bring exclusive coverage on every flop, turn and river along the way.