The West Australian

THE CUP 2026 OFFICE SWEEP

GROUP 1 : 3200m
Flemington, noon, Tuesday

PRIZE MONEY: $10 MILLION
1ST: $4.5M 2ND: $1.1M 3RD: $560,000 4TH: $360,000 5TH: $240,0000



EXPERT TIPS

*Pricing correct at time of printing

HAYDEN KING
1: Point Of Law
2: Juja Kibo
3: Hopewell Rock
Roughie: Goodie Two Shoes

ERNIE MANNING
1: Point Of Law
2: Trustyourinstinct
3: James J Braddock
Roughie: Zakouma

1 SONS AND LOVERS 57.5
Trainer: Joseph O'Brien
Jockey: Dylan Browne McMonagle
Barrier: 3
Wants to be covered up and relaxed, meaning this barrier should be suitable. Browne McMonagle is a late switch but has successfully been an eleventh-hour jock on this horse before.
$21
DRAWN BY

2 TRUSTYOURINSTINCT 57
Trainer: Joseph O'Brien
Jockey: James McDonald
Barrier: 18
Likes to be ridden with patience and has the world's best jockey on. Won the Curragh Cup over 2820m two starts ago.
$8.50
DRAWN BY

3 KNIGHT'S CHOICE 56.5
Trainer: John Symons & Sheila Laxon
Jockey: Robbie Dolan
Barrier: 2
Previous winner in 2024 but spent most of the next 18 months on the sidelines. 14th in the Caulfield Cup, the same as when he won.
$34
DRAWN BY

4 MIDDLE EARTH 56.5
Trainer: Ciaron Maher
Jockey: Mark Zahra
Barrier: 1
Has had a similar prep to last year when he finished third. His closing sectionals have been solid, and he will stay the distance.
$14
DRAWN BY

5 VAUBAN 56.5
Trainer: Gai Waterhouse & Adrian Bott
Jockey: Jordan Childs
Barrier: 22
Has been competitive in this race over the past few years, finishing 14th, 11th and sixth. Older and drawn wide but proven.
$51
DRAWN BY

6 ENFJAAR 56
Trainer: Roger Varian
Jockey: Ray Dawson
Barrier: 8
Qualified for this race with a Goodwood 2412m win two starts ago. Very competitive when third in the Caulfield Cup.
$23
DRAWN BY

7 ROYAL SUPREMACY 56
Trainer: Ciaron Maher
Jockey: Ben Allen
Barrier: 21
Ran it too hard last year when 15th. Disappointed in the Caulfield Cup but capable of improving.
$51
DRAWN BY

8 WINE DARK SEA 56
Trainer: Harry Charlton
Jockey: Damian Lane
Barrier: 23
Loomed in the Caulfield Cup but couldn't go on with it. Could be fitter for the outing.
$41
DRAWN BY

9 ASTERIX 55
Trainer: Chris Waller
Jockey: Jye McNeil
Barrier: 6
Has failed to flatter at his last couple and will need to lift despite a positive draw.
$51
DRAWN BY

10 GOODIE TWO SHOES 55
Trainer: Joseph O'Brien
Jockey: Wayne Lordan
Barrier: 19
Overcame a poor draw to finish second in the race last year and must do so again. Won over 2816m at the Goodwood Festival only two starts ago.
$26
DRAWN BY

11 JUJA KIBO 55
Trainer: Ciaron Maher
Jockey: Sam Clipperton
Barrier: 14
In career-best form at present. Decisive in The Metropolitan and then in the Moonee Valley Gold Cup.
$11
DRAWN BY

12 HOPEWELL ROCK 54.5
Trainer: George Boughey
Jockey: Zac Lloyd
Barrier: 15
Won a 2816m race at Goodwood two starts ago and then was narrowly beaten in the Ebor, a premium form reference.
$11
DRAWN BY

13 ONESMOOTHOPERATOR 54.5
Trainer: Tim Fitzsimmons
Jockey: Declan Bates
Barrier: 13
Big fancy two years ago but only 12th and then finished 16th last year. Form clearly down on those years this time.
$61
DRAWN BY

14 SOUL OF SPAIN 54.5
Trainer: Chris Waller
Jockey: Tommy Berry
Barrier: 5
Chinned in the Sydney Cup earlier this year, his only go over 3200m. Not disgraced lately.
$31
DRAWN BY

15 ZAHRANN 54.5
Trainer: Ciaron Maher
Jockey: Ben Melham
Barrier: 11
Could be the forgotten horse. Ran well in the Caulfield Cup and he could be even better suited here.
$26
DRAWN BY

16 SO YOU ARE 54
Trainer: Bjorn Baker
Jockey: Rachel King
Barrier: 7
Form is impeccable having won four in a row to get into this race. This is much harder but have to admire the way he goes about it.
$12
DRAWN BY

17 FUTURE HISTORY 53.5
Trainer: Gregory Hickman
Jockey: Jamie Melham
Barrier: 12
Fairly consistent this campaign and Jamie Melham pursues a reigning triumph in the race. More difficult here.
$51
DRAWN BY

18 JAMES J BRADDOCK 53.5
Trainer: Joseph O'Brien
Jockey: Craig Williams
Barrier: 24
The camp feel his European form is better than Point Of Law, who is the favourite. Draw is a real blow, though.
$19
DRAWN BY

19 KIZLYAR 53.5
Trainer: Joseph O'Brien
Jockey: Beau Mertens
Barrier: 20
Disappointed in the Moonee Valley Gold Cup when fancied but stays very well and can improve. Would have preferred a lower draw but can go forward.
$34
DRAWN BY

20 POINT OF LAW 53
Trainer: Ciaron Maher
Jockey: Ethan Brown
Barrier: 9
Barrier looks as good as could be hoped for the favourite. Could not have been more impressive in the Geelong Cup.
$6.50
DRAWN BY

21 STRICTLY BUSINESS 53
Trainer: Thomas Carberry
Jockey: Dean Yendall
Barrier: 4
Hard to follow her form. Can run on her day but she has not looked interested in three starts this preparation.
$61
DRAWN BY

22 MR MONACO 52.5
Trainer: Ciaron Maher
Jockey: Jabez Johnstone
Barrier: 16
Unsuited in the Moonee Valley Gold Cup. He's getting in with a low weight, which helps.
$23
DRAWN BY

23 ZAKOUMA 52
Trainer: Grahame Begg
Jockey: William Pike
Barrier: 10
Despite the low handicap, will carry the weight of WA with Pike on top. Peculiar campaign and needs to lift but definitely can.
$26
DRAWN BY

24 SHOCKLETZ 51
Trainer: Ciaron Maher
Jockey: Harry Coffey
Barrier: 17
She's certainly beating the handicapper with the bottom weight. Preparation has gone to plan.
$10
DRAWN BY

1 Sons And Lovers
2 Trustyourinstinct
3 Knight's Choice
4 Middle Earth
5 Vauban
6 Enfjaar
7 Royal Supremacy
8 Wine Dark Sea
9 Asterix
10 Goodie Two Shoes
11 Juja Kibo
12 Hopewell Rock
13 Onesmoothoperator
14 Soul Of Spain
15 Zahrann
16 So You Are
17 Future History
18 James J Braddock
19 Kizlyar
20 Point Of Law
21 Strictly Business
22 Mr Monaco
23 Zakouma
24 Shockletz

WINNERS & PRIZE MONEY

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Last

THOROUGHBRED
MELBOURNE CUP
MONEY BACK
2ND, 3RD OR 4TH
up to $25 with Superpick
Flemington, Race 7
TAB touch
Offer available on Flemington Race 7. SuperPick must be activated in betslip with Money Back offer selected. Applies to first eligible bet only. Online only. T&Cs apply.

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