

CHRISTCHURCH CASINO NEW ZEALAND TROTTING CUP

Your guide to Cup Day



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Runner by Runner Preview

1.		SEEL N PRINT 7-year-old gelding: Falcon Seelster-Fine Print Owners: R B Gartrell, G F Bond, J S Gartrell, K B Gartrell, A H Foster, C R Hampson Statistics: Starts: 115 Wins: 25 Seconds: 16 Thirds: 13 Stakes: \$728,840 Comment: Brilliant Australian pacer who was good enough to run second to Beautide in an Inter Dominion Grand Final. Will be running on strongly at the end of the race, but the only question is how much luck will he receive from the inside barrier draw. A major chance to be trapped back on the markers. A solid place bet at good odds.	Trainer: Todd McCarthy Driver: Todd McCarthy
2.		FOR A REASON 8-year-old horse: Art Major-Left For Me Owners: D L Jones, Est of K L McDonald, Ms T A Burton Statistics: Starts: 43 Wins: 26 Seconds: 8 Thirds: 3 Stakes: \$1,089,775 Comment: The second Australian runner. Trained by a master and driven by a freak who knows how to win big races. Major concern is his lack of experience from the stand start and in drawing 2 he will have to stand longer than most of his rivals. Safely away though and look out. He's a really serious race horse with plenty of upside to him. Can break the Australian drought if things go his way.	Trainer: Belinda McCarthy Driver: Luke McCarthy
3.		FOUR STARZZZ FLASH 8-year-old horse: Four Starzzz Shark-Compulsive Franco Owners: J R Chapman, K K Chapman, T F Ashby, R W Bell Statistics: Starts: 68 Wins: 14 Seconds: 12 Thirds: 4 Stakes: \$253,412 Comment: Other than a great second in the Hannon Memorial and a tidy performance behind the big guns in the Canterbury Classic it's been a little below par for the big pacer this time in. On his day he is capable of footing it with them. But on his current form it's hard to make a case for him unless he managed to step quick and snare a great trip.	Trainer: Kevin Chapman Driver: Matthew Williamson
4.		HANDS CHRISTIAN 7-year-old gelding: Christian Cullen-Splendid Dreams Owners: D M Dunford, M D Dunford Statistics: Starts: 33 Firsts: 13 Seconds: 4 Thirds: 3 Stakes: \$316,824 Comment: For a horse who has been troubled by injuries throughout his career – just getting to the Cup is some kind of achievement in itself. But he comes as a serious contender. Both race day appearances have been fantastic – especially the runner-up effort in the Ashburton Flying Stakes. The best value on an each-way basis in the race.	Trainer: Mark Purdon and Natalie Rasmussen Driver: Natalie Rasmussen
5.		JIMMY JOHNSTONE Six-year-old gelding: P Forty Seven-Sammi Franco Owners: J C Hay, J B Gartrell, G F Bond, J C Crossbie, R J Crossen, Mrs D J G McRae, A J O'Donnell. Statistics: 27 First: 9 Seconds: 7 Thirds: 3 Stakes: \$127,499 Comment: An under-rated pacer who might just sneak under the guard here. His runs back in have been full of merit including a massive effort for third in the Kaikoura Cup. Generally makes his own luck when given the opportunity to ping away quickly and find the lead. That should see him getting a great trip in transit and he will run on strongly.	Trainer: John Hay Driver: John Hay
6.		TIGER TARA Four-year-old horse: Bettor's Delight-Tara Gold Owners: R L Sandford, Mrs J A Sandford, J S Gould, G R Dunn Statistics: Starts: 25 Wins: 10 Seconds: 6 Thirds: 4 Stakes: \$351,060 Comment: The baby of this year's Cup – but don't be fooled by his apparent lack of experience. This tough little pacer packs a pretty hefty punch and has the great trait of not wanting any horse to get past him when it comes to the business end of the race. Some might say he's still a year away from being a genuine Cup horse. But the Tiger will be there this year and he will fight to the bitter end.	Trainer: Geoff Dunn Driver: Gerard O'Reilly
7.		CHRISTEN ME Six-year-old gelding: Christian Cullen-Splendid Dreams Owners: C J Roberts, V L Purdon Statistics: Starts: 36 Wins: 21 Seconds: 6 Thirds: 4 Stakes: \$1,104,654 Comment: Armed with their learnings from last year's debut run in the Cup, Dalgety and Dunn vowed to return better and stronger in 2014. Everything we have seen of the brilliant son of Christian Cullen so far this season has pointed towards a special performance. He's been trained to the minute and will step onto Addington in fine fettle. The biggest threat to Terror To Love.	Trainer: Cran Dalgety Driver: Dexter Dunn
8.		PEMBROOK BENNY 10-year-old gelding: Courage Under Fire-Northern Franco Owners: B Purdon, T F Henderson, J C Higgins, K G Parry, D H Sixton, J B Hart Statistics: Starts: 94 Wins: 22 Seconds: 14 Thirds: 16 Stakes: \$884,168 Comment: The grand old man of harness racing, Pembrook Benny - A champion in every aspect of the word. What you see is what you get with Benny. He'll give you a great sight and you can back him confidently knowing he will give his all when he steps out onto the track. Outside of the winner last year, his run was the best performance of the race. He rises to the occasion. A sneaky wee place chance.	Trainer: Barry Purdon Driver: Zac Butcher

Race by Race Preview

MATT MARKHAM highlights the main chances in each of the 12 races at Tuesday's Christchurch Casino New Zealand Trotting Cup meeting at Addington and provides his selections.

RACE 1:

12 - EYRE I COME: Stunning resumption at Ashburton two weeks ago and then backed that up with an even more impressive victory at the Cup Trials last week. He's a trotter with immense potential and any amount of ability. Best behaviour will see him go very close to winning.

15 - JAYCEEKAY: Another smart trotter who looks destined to work her way towards the top of the trotting ranks. Has unbelievably high speed when saved up for one run at them late in the piece. A slight query over the 3200 metre distance, but if she gets it...Look out!

Selections: 12-15-2-9 Longshot: 5

RACE 2:

3 - BUNGALOW BILL: Looked every bit the good horse when winning his heat of this Graduation Series last week. He won in a manner in which only a good horse could too. Not the full racehorse yet, but raw talent can take you a long way in this game and he's got oodles of it.

10 - PROVOCATIVE PRINCE: Just doesn't know how to run a bad race. One of those horses who you can back each-way with a fair degree of confidence because you know you are going to get a run for your money. A little bit hand-tied by the barrier draw but is capable of making his own luck.

Selections: 3-10-5-16 Longshot: 13

RACE 3:

12 - KING OF STRATHFIELD: Jumps into this race very well considering he will more than likely take a spot in the Dominion Handicap on Friday. Looked good and strong at the Cup Trials last week and will give you a great sight for your money.

9 - RARE OPPORTUNITY: Pretty talented pony this one. Very impressive winning at Ashburton against a good field, but this is also a step up so don't get too excited if the odds get a little light. Will make his own luck in the race so you can back him each-way with some confidence.

Selections: 12-9-5-1 Longshot: 4

RACE 4:

9 - DALTON BROMAC: Have a chat to Brendon Hill about this guy and you'll get a pretty quick understanding of just how much he rates the promising pacer. Destined for some pretty hefty challenges later in the season. This looks to be just a step on the way toward them – one of the bets of the day.

4 - STARSKYS DREAM: Big, tough going pacer from Otago who

won't shy away from any challenges. He loves a bit of a cat fight and will keep giving his all until the very end, you can be sure of that. With Dexter Dunn in the bike too he's going to get every chance to finish in the best possible position.

Selections: 9-4-8-10 Longshot: 6

RACE 5:

7 - VENUS SERENA: She's currently the second best mare in the country behind the brilliant Adore Me – just how big the gap between them is remains to be seen, but I'm picking it's not much. Taking that into account, this tough but also speedy mare looks a cracking chance. Her trials have been perfect and you just know she will be trained to the minute.

9 - GOLD ACE: As a former winner of the New Zealand Free-For-All there should be no challenges for this guy against this line up. But that's not quite the case. Not only does he have to contest a very talented Junior-Free-For-All field but he has to do it on the fresh up run after returning from Australia. He's good enough to win though.

Selections: 7-9-8-11 Longshot: 4

RACE 6:

6 - STENT: In the past 12 months this guy had developed into one of Australasia's greatest trotters – especially from behind the mobile. Expect him to work forward from the draw and simply be too good for his opposition. Should be able to bully them into submission.

4 - SHEEMON: Clearly the main danger to the fave. This guy just doesn't know how to run a bad race. He will ping out from behind the mobile and look to get as close to Stent as he can – which will give him his best chance of beating him. Needs a little luck in that department, but good enough to capitalise should it fall his way.

Selections: 6-4-9-8 Longshot: 2

RACE 7:

4 - HUGHIE GREEN: One of the most hyped horses to come out of the North Island in years. And the excitement is well justified. This guy is the real deal. Not only can he do work, but he's got gears to burn underneath the bonnet and is quite exciting when allowed to really open up. Should be winning.

3 - ART UNION: The barrier draw makes him the main danger to the favourite should he be able to get across and find the markers. Has come back a very strong three-year-old and you just know he will be primed for the big occasion.

Selections: 4-3-9-15 Longshot: 1

RACE 8:

14 - CYCLONE KIWI: Very under-rated horse this guy. He absolutely flew home late in proceedings in his fresh up assignment and has since turned in a very strong performance at the Cup Trials to ready himself for this. Can do a bit of work in his races, but is dangerous when saved up for the one shot at them.

1 - DANA DUKE: Considering his limited experience and lack of action against the very good ones, his run for second at Kaikoura was massive. Held in very high regard by his connections expect big things from this guy in his career. Should be able to jump and get handy again which makes him a major player.

Selections: 14-1-4-11 Longshot: 15

RACE 9:

3 - TE KAWAU: Central Districts visitor with plenty of ability. Was very good first up in the South Island when close up behind a pretty talented one at Ashburton. From a good draw expect him to get handy to the speed and be very tough to hold out.

10 - WILLOW: Not aided by her second line draw but this young lass has more ability than just about anything else in this field. Expect her to show it too. Will need that luck on her side but if she gets it and the speed is true she will boom home late in proceedings.

Selections: 3-10-12-1 Longshot: 6

RACE 10:

9 - TERROR TO LOVE: Champion who is chasing history. Has the perfect lead up behind him. The perfect driver for the occasion and will be cheered on by the 20,000 plus fans watching on. A parochial favourite and a deserving tote favourite. We could see something special.

7 - CHRISTEN ME: Undoubtedly one of the best in the business and will be given every opportunity to win by his master trainer and freakish driver. A good beginning will be key. Get handy and he's a big chance. Lose some ground though and the mission becomes that little bit more difficult.

Selections: 9-7-4-2 Longshot: 13

RACE 11:

18 - PRINCE FEARLESS: The best horse in this by a country mile. But his task could be tough, especially if they trot along up front. No doubting he's the horse to beat, but he's one of few favourites through the day who you probably can not back with a great deal of confidence.

7 - SUNNY RUBY: Only a young gun, but boy can she trot. She's at her lethal best when allowed to dictate terms in front which she showed when winning her maiden. That was backed up by a breath-taking win at the Cup Trials last week. Very dangerous wee horse when caught in the right mood.

Selections: 18-7-16-17 Longshot: 4

RACE 12:

4 - NO DOCTOR NEEDED: The opposition certainly weren't saying that fresh up when he ran them into the dirt and still won with some authority. Has pretty big wraps on him from the stable this guy and gets his chance to really show it in the final race of the day.

2 - ITZ BETTOR TO WIN: This girl is a seriously talented filly who has come up with a great draw fresh up which should see her right in on the action. Probably lacks the ring craft of some of her opposition but more than makes up for it in raw ability. A very good each-way bet to the end the day.

Selections: 4-2-3-6 Longshot: 7



Quaddie & Tripple Trio Preview

MATT MARKHAM offers up his thoughts on the two Quaddies available during Cup Day 2014 and also gives a suggested bet for a \$30 spend on both. He then takes a look at the Triple Trio which will run on the last three races of the day.

EARLY QUADDIE – RACES 2-5

LEG ONE: Plenty will be keen to nail their flag to the mast of 3 Bungalow Bill here and why wouldn't you after his brilliant win at Rangiora last week? He looks a horse with a heap of ability. Still not the full package yet, but should be winning. Take cover, if you wish to do so, in the form of stablemates; 5 Backup and 16 Tokahoka and 10 Provocative Prince is the other you will need should something happen to the hot pot.

LEG TWO: Wide open trotting affair with a few chances. 12 King Of Strathfield looks a really good bet though dropping back in grade. This looks to be a race tailor made for him. No certainty though. 9 Rare Opportunity has been given a big wrap by Mark Purdon and that should be enough to ensure he's on all your tickets. 7 Experiment is in good form and 5 Oh Nova has the game to threaten. Might need them all.

LEG THREE: The extremely talented 9 Dalton Bromac returns off the back of a short let up. He's held in very high regard by both his trainer and his driver. Should be good enough to win even from a wide draw. In fact it's really hard to see him beaten. If you want to cover on him 4 Starsky's Dream is the horse you might need.

LEG FOUR: A champion mare, 7 Venus Serena, resumes here and everything she has shown in her workouts and trials points towards a brilliant race track return from the freakish pacer. She's looked just as tough and just as quick as ever in her two public hit outs. 9 Gold Ace looked very good, running home strongly at last week's Cup Trials. Well worth including. The Purdon/Rasmussen pair of 8 Fly Like An Eagle and 11 Messini.

Suggested Bet:

L1: 3-5

L2: 5-7-9-12

L3: 9

L4: 7-8-9-11

A \$30 % spend will give you 24 combinations and 125% of the dividend.

LATE QUADDIE – RACES 9-12

LEG ONE: Tidy wee field of pacers to contest this with plenty of winning chances. 3 Te Kawau comes down from the Central Districts and will be chasing some heavy spoils. Talented enough to win and can make his own luck. 10 Willow looked right on song with a strong trial performance last week and will take some beating, even from her inside of the back row barrier draw. 4 Onedin Mach, 6 Bio Marinus and 12 Explosive Art are all winning chances too.

LEG TWO: The reason we are all here – the New Zealand Trotting Cup. First horse you need to put a tick next to his 9 Terror To Love. Shooting for an unprecedented fourth victory in the race and right on song to do it as well. His main danger is 7 Christen Me who looks the heir apparent to the crown of King. Others with chances include 2 For A Reason, 4 Hands Christian and 13 Adore Me.

LEG THREE: This is probably the toughest race of the day to sort out with plenty of chances. 18 Prince Fearless is the best of them without doubt. He will need to bring his best manners and be right on the ball though – especially from his barrier draw. 7 Sunny Ruby may give them something to chase. She looked awesome winning at the Cup trials last week when allowed to roll along. Others to include are 12 Wanna Play, 16 I've Got This and 17 Splash Cola.

LEG FOUR: After the headache that was the last leg, the final race of Cup Day 2014 looks a little easier to sort out. 4 No Doctor Needed should be winning on his fresh up performance. A really talented horse this guy who can make his own luck and will take a power of beating. If there is a danger, it's 2 It's Bettor To Win. You might not need it though.

Suggested Quaddie:

L1: 3,4,6,10,12

L2: 4,7,9

L3: 7,12,16,17,18

L4: 4

A \$30 spend gives you 90 combinations and 33% of the dividend.

TRIPLE TRIO – RACES 10-11-12

On paper it might look simple. But don't be fooled. Getting a slice of this Triple Trio with the big field of trotters in the middle leg won't be for the faint hearted. Here's what we came up with though.

LEG ONE: Banker: 9 Terror To Love.

With: 2 For A Reason, 4 Hands Christian, 7 Christen Me, 13 Adore Me.

LEG TWO: Banker: 18 Prince Fearless

With: 7 Sunny Ruby, 12 Wanna Play, 15 Commander Paris, 16 I've Got This, 17 Splash Cola

LEG THREE: Bankers: 2 It's Bettor To Win and 4 No Doctor Needed.

With: 3 Pantheon, 6 Phoenix Warrior, 13 Someardensomewhere
A \$50 spend will give you 180 combinations and 27% of the dividend.

NEW ZEALAND TROTTING CUP

The last 20 years

YEAR	WINNER	SADDLE-CLOTH	WIN PRICE	PLACE PRICE	MARGIN	RACE FAVOURITE	RICKY MAY'S DRIVE
1994	Bee Bee Cee	7	\$14.65	\$3.85	1 1/4 lengths	Chokin (Pulled Up)	October Atom (9th)
1995	Il Vicolo	6	\$4.00	\$1.75	Neck	Il Vicolo (1st)	Did Not Drive
1996	Il Vicolo	3	\$3.95	\$1.90	3/4 length	Il Vicolo (1st)	Whale Of A Tale (6th)
1997	Iraklis	7	\$1.95	\$1.45	1/2 head	Iraklis (1st)	Iraklis (1st)
1998	Christian Cullen	8	\$1.90	\$1.40	1 1/4 lengths	Christian Cullen (1st)	Iraklis (2nd)
1999	Homin Hosed	5	\$9.45	\$2.35	Nose	Holmes DG (2nd)	Did Not Drive
2000	Yulestar	3	\$4.40	\$1.90	3/4 length	Yulestar (1st)	The Tough Nut (13th)
2001	Kym's Girl	7	\$7.15	\$2.30	1/2 neck	Holmes DG (4th)	Did Not Drive
2002	Gracious Knight	14	\$11.40	\$2.85	Neck	Young Rufus (6th)	Panky's Pacer (Pulled Up)
2003	Just An Excuse	12	\$3.05	\$1.55	Neck	Just An Excuse (1st)	Panky's Pacer (15th)
2004	Just An Excuse	17	\$7.30	\$2.20	Neck	Elsu (2nd)	Blue Chip Rock (9th)
2005	Mainland Banner	5	\$5.75	\$2.50	1 1/4 lengths	Mi Muchacho (11th)	Mainland Banner (1st)
2006	Flashing Red	8	\$4.00	\$1.80	1 1/4 lengths	Mainland Banner (9th)	Mainland Banner (9th)
2007	Flashing Red	18	\$23.40	\$6.10	Neck	Changeover (4th)	Bailey's Dream (7th)
2008	Changeover	3	\$3.10	\$1.50	1 3/4 lengths	Changeover (1st)	Monkey King (15th)
2009	Monkey King	18	\$4.30	\$1.80	Neck	Monkey King (1st)	Monkey King (1st)
2010	Monkey King	17	\$5.90	\$2.10	1 1/2 lengths	Stunin Cullen (7th)	Monkey King (1st)
2011	Terror To Love	10	\$5.00	\$2.00	3/4 length	Smoken Up (2nd)	Monkey King (7th)
2012	Terror To Love	3	\$2.30	\$1.40	3/4 length	Terror To Love (1st)	Terror To Love (1st)
2013	Terror To Love	7	\$2.70	\$1.30	Neck	Christen Me (3rd)	Terror To Love (1st)

From the Bookmakers

THE 10 BIGGEST BETS LEADING UP TO CUP DAY 2014

RACE 6: Master Lavros \$1,200 @ \$5.00 Futures Win Stent \$1,000 @ \$6.50 Futures Win

RACE 7: Hughie Green \$3,000 @ \$2.00 Final Field Win Alta Orlando \$2,000 @ \$8.00 Final Field Win Alta Orlando \$1,000 @ \$8.00 Final Field Win Have Faith In Me \$1,000 @ \$17.00 Futures Win

RACE 10: Terror To Love \$10,000 @ \$2.40 Final Field Win Christen Me \$5,000 @ \$3.80 Futures Win Christen Me \$5,000 @ \$1.70 Futures Place

RACE 12: No Doctor Needed \$3,000 @ \$1.80 Final Field Win