



Race 8 - MEGA MERCH RURAL & PET BAL CUP

Watchdog Selections: 1 8 4 3

LUCA NEVEELK

\$2.20

Trainer: G Kleeven (Denison) -

Group Race Honours:

G1 Melbourne Cup - Finalist, G2 Geelong Cup - Winner, G2 Bendigo Cup - Finalist

Stats: 29 Starts. 23-0-3

Prizemoney: \$133865

Fast Times: BAL - 25.47, TRA - 16.61, HVL - 18.93

1

The Watchdog says: He came out the victor when renewing his battle with recent Melbourne Cup winner Dyna Villa in his heat. Things certainly didn't go his way early, with Call Me Hank heading the favourites early. He nearly got flattened at the turn but did an amazing job to rally and come away with the win. He's got sensational acceleration soon after boxrise. He is more than capable of improving in the final when having his 2nd look at the track and exiting from this draw.

ULTIMA BALE

\$10.00

Trainer: S Collins (Lara) -

Group Race Honours:

First Group Final

Stats: 11 Starts. 6-1-2

Prizemoney: \$16090

Fast Times: BAL - 25.22, GEL - 25.66, MEA - 30.08

2

The Watchdog says: He won by a narrow margin in his heat but he showed off his nice finishing speed saluting in 25.37 here last week. He's not blessed with great early speed but if given room early he's usually not far off the pace. The pressure goes up a few notches against these seasoned competitors. His race will be won or lost in the first few strides. A perfect start looks required for him to challenge in this company.

BLUE GIANT

\$14.00

Trainer: P Akathiotis (Reservoir) -

Group Race Honours:

Listed Middle Distance Championship (2013) - Finalist

Stats: 47 Starts. 13-3-9

Prizemoney: \$43975

Fast Times: BAL - 25.32, GEL - 29.93, HVL - 19.27

3

The Watchdog says: His spectacular heat victory highlights this sprinters greatest asset, his finishing power. He jumped fairly, met heavy trouble before the turn but still managed to find a way to rocket over the top of his rivals on the finish line. Injury sidelined him for a long period this year, but he doesn't look like he has missed a beat since resuming in July. A bold race could be seen by him here if he finds good track position by the turn.

ALLEN DEED

\$4.00

Trainer: A Dailly (Anakie) -

Group Race Honours:

G1 Adelaide Cup - Winner, G1 Topgun - Finalist, G2 Shootout - Finalist

Stats: 46 Starts. 19-10-1

Prizemoney: \$192860

Fast Times: BAL - 25.06, GEL - 25.24, WPK - 29.43

4

The Watchdog says: He would be one of the fastest runners in the country, and all his speed was on show when he let down mid-race and scorched away from his rivals. Although being drawn favorably out wide in recent races, he was meeting too much trouble on the city circuits. The long straights enabled him to hit top speed and rip away. Although awkwardly drawn, he should be a key factor in the finish of the race.

MUSQUIN BALE

\$41.00

Trainer: A Dailly (Anakie) -

Group Race Honours:

G1 Australian Cup - Finalist, G2 Harrison-Dawson - 2nd, G2 McKenna Memorial - Finalist

Stats: 68 Starts. 19-10-7

Prizemoney: \$166355

Fast Times: BAL - 25.24, SAN - 29.30, CRN - 30.15

5

The Watchdog says: Wins have come a bit sporadically lately for this sprinter but he got the job done well when saluting in 25.42 in his heat. He is usually amongst the front runners in his races, and his heat was no different. A classy sprinter, the majority of his recent racing has been around the city circuits. He looked to enjoy the long straights when dropping back in distance. The middle draw looks a big disadvantage here though.



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MARCUS JOE

\$9.00

Stats: 56 Starts. 17-13-6

Prizemoney: \$239530

Trainer: B Moloney (Marcus Hill) -

Group Race Honours:

G1 Maturity (2013) - Winner, G1 Australian Cup - Finalist, G3 Silver Bullet - 2nd

Fast Times: BAL - 25.34, GEL - 29.89, SAN - 29.24

The Watchdog says: A maturing sprinter who doesn't quite have the early speed he once had, but he used his top class track sense to nab victory right on the finish line in his heat. He began better than midfield and was 4th when entering the turn. Upon straightening, the race completely changed and the strong runners swamped the line. It will be a tough task ahead of him here if he is to give these opponents a head-start at boxrise.

AGENT JACK

\$7.50

Stats: 20 Starts. 11-1-1

Prizemoney: \$30475

Trainer: S Mckenna (Napoleons) -

Group Race Honours:

First Group Final

Fast Times: BAL - 25.14, BEN - 27.71, WGL - 25.69

The Watchdog says: A brilliant runner who has shown an immense amount of ability across his short 20 race career. Better known for his front running efforts over middle distances, the 450m and his rivals were no hurdle for him in his heat. He jumped mid-pack and got a lovely cart into the race with Kerrigan Bale pushing over to the rails. He loves to have plenty of room to hit his top speed stride. He is worth including in the exotics.

SECRET SPELL

\$5.00

Stats: 10 Starts. 8-1-0

Prizemoney: \$75900

Trainer: K Bravo (Lovely Banks) -

Group Race Honours:

G3 Cranbourne Puppy Classic - Winner

Fast Times: BAL - 25.35, CRN - 29.71, SAN - 29.26

The Watchdog says: Spearing the lids, a cruisy comfortable win looked achievable, but plenty of mid-race pressure was poured on by Darcy's Entity and Whodat Knockin'. She really dug deep to hold out Whodat Knockin' on the line to win by about 0.75 lengths. Armed with explosive speed, she's regularly out the front of her races. She appears to be a red hot chance to take a Group Two victory in just her 11th career race.

QUARREL BALE

\$9.50

Trainer: S Collins (Lara)

Stats: 12 Starts. 6-3-0

Prizemoney: \$15055

The Watchdog says: A progressive sprinter who looks to have a bright future. He's a little risky out of the boxes but he has nice mid-race speed. This would be the toughest race he's competed in if he starts here.

EL GRAND SEAL

\$16.00

Trainer: J Britton (Anakie)

Stats: 32 Starts. 15-7-2

Prizemoney: \$52710

The Watchdog says: Her greatest strength is her explosive early speed. It's rare that she's beaten out of the boxes in her races. The concluding stages are her main concern, as she's vulnerable to stronger finishers.

LUCA NEVEELK (1) is an explosive beginner who got held up several times mid-race before scoring a 25.47 win here last week. He's a great chance to lead throughout. Exciting youngster SECRET SPELL (8) will be pressuring for the early lead.

Suggested Bet: Trifecta 1/3,4,8/Field (\$10 for 55%)