

# The greatest Cup NEVER RUN

The field of 24 Melbourne Cup legends has been chosen, the weights set and barriers drawn for a race 150 years in the making. **Andrew Garvey** reports.

**A**USTRALIA might have stopped 149 times to listen to or watch the Melbourne Cup, but as the closing date for entries in the 150th cup approaches next Tuesday, an expert panel has been given three months to come up with the winner of "the greatest cup never run".

Racing Victoria chief handicapper Greg Carpenter, given the task of selecting the best 24 horses from the 143 to have won the race, spent months before deciding on the final field and weighting them.

With the announcement of the field being made in the shadows of the great Phar Lap at Melbourne Museum yesterday, it was no surprise the horse dubbed Red Terror was allotted topweight of 60 kilograms, ahead of Carbine (59) and triple winner Makybe Diva (58).

Few would argue about the claims of those towards the top of the weights, but as in any race there were those who just snuck into the field or narrowly missed out.

Carpenter said it was "a challenging and agonising task in many respects".

"All the winners have a great story and were good horses in their own right," he said.

"It's not about decrying the form of wins of those who missed [out on making the field], but it was about picking, in my judgment, those who most warranted selection."

While those in the top half of the field picked themselves, there will no doubt be much debate about the remainder of the field.

Sneaking in at No. 24 is Think Big. While he won two Melbourne Cups he didn't win much else.

But the aim of the exercise was to choose the best 24 Cup winners and it is difficult to argue a horse capable of winning the race twice should not

be included in the field. Think Big defeated great mare Leilani in his first win and he carried 58.5 kilograms to his second victory, conceding 8.5 kilograms and 12.5 kilograms to the placegetters.

Carpenter said that when he started selecting the field he thought Even Stevens would be an inclusion but, having carefully assessed each potential runner, the 1962 Caulfield-Melbourne Cup winner had to miss out.

Others who came close but missed the cut were Let's Elope, Briseis, Spearfelt and Windbag.

For all we know, if equine influenza had not hit Australia

Delta Blues might have returned and added his name to the list of multiple winners.

Like the many debates that began as AFL clubs named their teams of the century, it was more about who could or should have been included rather than excluded.

Carpenter said the weightings reflected each horse's overall career performance and were not necessarily tied to their Melbourne Cup efforts.

While Carpenter decided on the field, the barrier draw was conducted by RVL chief steward Terry Bailey; how they finish will be determined by a panel of 22 experts including

Des Gleeson, Dale Monteith, Rod Johnson and Andrew Lemon.

Their finishing order will be used to produce a virtual Melbourne Cup, which will be telecast on Cup day.

So who will take out the greatest Cup ever run?

It's a handicap and as we haven't been provided with a Derby day of Cup trials, the form is a little tricky.

Phar Lap carries two kilograms less than he did in winning the 1930 Cup so looks attractively weighted, while Makybe Diva has to lump the same impost she carried in winning her third Cup.

In the end, the best way to go might be to follow the lead of innumerable punters every Cup day and "stick with Bart".

The master trainer has four runners and one of his favourites, Sainly, who broke down before we saw the best of him, has two kilograms less than he carried to victory in 1996 and has drawn to get a lovely run. So *The Age's* money will be on Sainly, from Phar Lap and Makybe Diva and, for those taking a first-four, throw in Galilee, another of Bart's winners.

The form guide for the race is *The Story Of The Melbourne Cup — Australia's Greatest Race*. Published by Slattery Media, it was released yesterday in conjunction with the virtual field.

As master of ceremonies at the launch, Bruce McAvaney said: "This book will become the definitive reference in what arguably will be the most significant year in the race's history."

It might not help you pick the winner but, sitting on the coffee table post-Cup, it will be the most attractive used form guide of all.

*The Story Of The Melbourne Cup — Australia's Greatest Race*, published by Slattery Media, RRP \$99.95

## BOSS PUNTS ON BART AND PERFUME FOR SPRING

TRIPLE Melbourne Cup-winning jockey Glen Boss sprung a surprise yesterday when he revealed he had committed to the Bart Cummings-trained Faint Perfume for the spring.

"It's a punt, a real punt, but I looked at her in the autumn and she hadn't furnished and she looked like she would have matured by the spring," Boss said.

Michael Rodd had the mount on Faint Perfume last spring when she won the VRC Oaks, and again in the autumn when runner-up in the AJC Oaks.

But Rodd, as No. 1 rider for the Mark Kavanagh stable, is likely to have first refusal on last year's Melbourne Cup winner Shocking, and Faint Perfume is likely to get a light weight that he cannot ride at.

While he has made an early call, Boss said he was placing his faith in Cummings, who has won 12 Melbourne Cups. "With Bart's guidance she'll be the finished product now," he said.

"You would imagine she is going to have a great preparation. I was so impressed with her run when beaten in the AJC



Cup tip: Glen Boss.

Oaks. She ticks all the boxes for me."

At Sandown yesterday, leading jumps jockey Steven Pateman took the honours, winning both jumping races on the card.

The first came on Juan Carlos in the steeplechase and he followed that up on emerging hurdler Titch in the hurdle, both over 3400 metres.

Pateman said he would stick with Juan Carlos, who is trained by Allison Bennett, in the Grand National Steeplechase on August 15 at Betfair Park, but had still not made up his mind on who he would ride in the Grand National Hurdle on the same day. **ANDREW GARVEY**

## FIELD OF DREAMS HANDICAPPER

### 1. PHAR LAP



Trainer: Harry Telford  
Jockey: Jim Pike  
Barrier: 21 Weight: 60kg  
Winning year: 1930 Betting: \$5  
The people's champion who carried the equivalent of 62.5kg to win and the only horse to start odds-on. Died in Mexico.

### 2. CARBINE



Trainer: Walter Hickenbotham  
Jockey: Bob Ramage  
Barrier: 16 Weight: 58kg  
Winning year: 1890 Betting: \$1  
Holds the weight-carrying record of 66kg to win and was only once unplaced before retiring to stud. He sired an English Derby winner.

### 7. RISING FAST



Trainer: Ivan Tucker  
Jockey: Jack Purtell  
Barrier: 11 Weight: 57kg  
Winning year: 1954 Betting: \$8.50  
Champion New Zealander who won the Cups double in 1954 as well as the Turnbull Stakes, Caulfield Stakes, Cox Plate and Fisher Plate.

### 8. RAIN LOVER



Trainer: Mick Robins  
Jockey: Jim Johnson  
Barrier: 7 Weight: 58kg  
Winning year: 1968, 1969 Betting: \$1  
Became the third horse to win two Cups. Won by eight lengths in the first and returned to win with 60.5kg following year.

### 13. VINTAGE CROP



Trainer: Dermot Weld  
Jockey: Michael Kinane  
Barrier: 10 Weight: 54kg  
Winning year: 1993 Betting: \$67  
Changed the way the northern hemisphere viewed the Cup becoming the first northern winner. World champion stayer that year.

### 14. DELTA



Trainer: Maurice McCarten  
Jockey: Neville Selwood  
Barrier: 9 Weight: 58kg  
Winning year: 1951 Betting: \$1  
An outstanding 3YO, winning the Plate, VRC Derby and Canterbury Guineas, he returned to his best 5YO to take out the Cup.

### 19. THE BARB



Trainer: John Tait  
Jockey: William Davis  
Barrier: 18 Weight: 53kg  
Winning year: 1866 Betting: \$41  
Won the Cup as a 3YO and has the honour of being allocated the highest Cup weight ever 73kg as a 6YO in 1869.

### 20. DALRAY



Trainer: Clarrie McCarthy  
Jockey: Bill Williamson  
Barrier: 19 Weight: 58kg  
Winning year: 1952 Betting: \$1  
Outstanding in NZ as a 3YO, won two Derbys and won the Metroplex Hcp in Sydney before winning the Cup with 61kg.

## FOOTBALL

# Etihad Stadium may make concerted effort Saints vote with their

By **MICHAEL GLEESON**

ETIHAD Stadium has softened its stance on staging concerts on the eve of AFL seasons after the disastrous impact it had on the turf this year.

The stadium is negotiating with promoters about staging a U2 concert later this year as part of the band's world tour. But any concert is likely to be held before Christmas and the venue is confident it would not ruin the turf.

AC/DC concerts in mid-February, followed by a George

Michael concert in early March, have been blamed for the stadium's shocking turf this year.

Last season, the turf at the stadium played more truly and only required 500 square metres to be replaced during the year. This season it has played abominably and 14,000 square metres of turf has been replaced. The critical difference in the seasons was the timing of the concerts on the turf of the season.

Stadium chief executive Ian Collins has finally acknowl-

edged that while the venue needed to make a significant return, it would also seriously weigh the timing of events with the AFL season in mind.

The AFL agreed to allow the AC/DC concerts despite a clash with pre-season cup matches. It was able to make a change to the user agreement at the venue, providing additional cash for the tenant clubs as compensation.

"If we could plan these things, we would host the concerts in October," Collins said.

"It doesn't always work that

way — the AC/DC concert was due to be in November and had to be delayed because one of the band was ill.

"Ideally we would not be hosting events right before the AFL season and we will carefully consider any event in the lead-up to the season. That question of hosting concerts before the season has been asked by the [AFL] players' association and by the AFL. We work with the AFL and we have flexibility in our user agreement with them about hosting events."

ST KILDA makes its run towards the 2010 finals series with the services of most of its best 22 players freshly secured after 14 players — include six of its best-and-fairest top 10 from 2009 — signed new deals to remain at the club.

As revealed in *The Age* this month, the Saints have re-signed stars Lenny Hayes, Nick Dal Santo, Jason Gram, Brendon Goddard and Leigh Montagna, as well as senior players Justin Koschitzke, Steven Baker, Jason Blake, Adam Schneider and James

Gwilt. Young players McEvoy, Rhys Stanley, Steven and Alistair Smith also been given new deals.

Chief executive Mick Nettlefold said the sign were significant "given contract pressures coming bear on all AFL clubs with entry of the two new inter teams in the Gold Coast Greater Western Sydney".

"This outcome gives club great confidence the playing group want to be of the Saints' future. With record 40,000 members an

**CARPENTER'S BEST 24 MELBOURNE CUP WINNERS**

Compiled by ANDREW GARVEY  
Betting: TAB SPORTSBET

**3. MAKYBE DIVA**



**Trainer:** Lee Freedman  
**Jockey:** Glen Boss  
**Barrier:** 14 **Weight:** 58kg  
**Winning years:** 2003-05 **Betting:** \$6.50  
Failed to sell as a weanling in the UK but once she got over some ground was just about unstoppable. Won an unprecedented three Cups.

**4. PETER PAN**



**Trainer:** Frank McGrath  
**Jockey:** Darby Munro  
**Barrier:** 13 **Weight:** 58kg  
**Winning years:** 1932, 1934 **Betting:** \$11  
Classic-winning 3YO who had a year off through injury after his first Cup win, before triumphing again the following year with 61.5kg.

**5. GALILEE**



**Trainer:** Bart Cummings  
**Jockey:** John Miller  
**Barrier:** 1 **Weight:** 57.5kg  
**Winning year:** 1966 **Betting:** \$13  
Outstanding stayer who beat stablemate Light Fingers to win the Cup. Career ended prematurely after winning the Sydney Cup the next year.

**6. POSEIDON**




**Trainer:** Ike Earnshaw  
**Jockey:** Tom Clayton  
**Barrier:** 3 **Weight:** 57.5kg  
**Winning year:** 1906 **Betting:** \$26  
Had an amazing spring in 1906, taking the AJC Derby, Victoria Derby and Caulfield-Melbourne Cups double.

**9. COMIC COURT**



**Trainer:** Jim Cummings  
**Jockey:** Pat Glennon  
**Barrier:** 24 **Weight:** 55.5kg  
**Winning year:** 1950 **Betting:** \$34  
Strapped by Bart Cummings, he is one of only two horses, Empire Rose being the other, to win the Cup after being beaten twice previously.

**10. GRAND FLANEUR**




**Trainer:** Tom Brown  
**Jockey:** Tom Hales  
**Barrier:** 4 **Weight:** 55.5kg  
**Winning year:** 1880 **Betting:** \$26  
AJC and Victoria Derby winner and the only horse in the history of the race to win the Cup and retire unbeaten.

**11. MIGHT AND POWER**



**Trainer:** Jack Denham  
**Jockey:** Jim Cassidy  
**Barrier:** 12 **Weight:** 55kg  
**Winning year:** 1997 **Betting:** \$17  
Led all the way to win the Caulfield Cup by seven lengths and followed with another all-the-way win at Flemington. Also won the Cox Plate.

**12. ARCHER**



**Trainer:** Etienne De Mestre  
**Jockey:** Johnny Cutts  
**Barrier:** 22 **Weight:** 54kg  
**Winning years:** 1861-62 **Betting:** \$101  
Took out the first Melbourne Cup and showed it was no fluke by coming back the next year to win carrying 64.5kg.

**15. MALUA**



**Trainer:** Isaac Foulsham  
**Jockey:** Allick Robertson  
**Barrier:** 17 **Weight:** 53.5kg  
**Winning year:** 1884 **Betting:** \$101  
Boasts a diverse record, winning the Oakleigh Plate and Newmarket Handicap before the Melbourne Cup. Also won a Grand National Hurdle.

**16. NIGHTMARCH**



**Trainer:** Alex McAulay  
**Jockey:** Roy Reed  
**Barrier:** 5 **Weight:** 53.5kg  
**Winning year:** 1929 **Betting:** \$34  
New Zealand Derby winner who won the Epsom Hcp and Cox Plate on his way to beating Phar Lap into third in the big race.

**17. POITREL**



**Trainer:** Harry Robinson  
**Jockey:** Ken Bracken  
**Barrier:** 20 **Weight:** 53.5kg  
**Winning year:** 1920 **Betting:** \$26  
Sydney galloper who only raced in Melbourne twice and that was as a 6YO, running third in the Mackinnon Stakes before his Cup win.

**18. SAINTLY**



**Trainer:** Bart Cummings  
**Jockey:** Darren Beadman  
**Barrier:** 2 **Weight:** 53kg  
**Winning year:** 1996 **Betting:** \$26  
Australian Cup-winning 3YO who was given an unconventional Cummings campaign by winning the Cox Plate prior to his Cup win.

**21. HALL MARK**



**Trainer:** Jack Holt  
**Jockey:** Jack O'Sullivan  
**Barrier:** 23 **Weight:** 52.5kg  
**Winning year:** 1933 **Betting:** \$51  
One of the best 2YOs of his generation, he won the AJC Derby and Victoria Derby as well as the Cup the following season.

**22. LIGHT FINGERS**



**Trainer:** Bart Cummings  
**Jockey:** Roy Higgins  
**Barrier:** 15 **Weight:** 52.5kg  
**Winning year:** 1965 **Betting:** \$21  
Bart Cummings' first Cup winner. Won the VRC and AJC Oaks at three. Won the Cup at four and returned to beat all but Galilee the next season.

**23. DORIEMUS**



**Trainer:** Lee Freedman  
**Jockey:** Damien Oliver  
**Barrier:** 6 **Weight:** 52kg  
**Winning year:** 1995 **Betting:** \$51  
Came to Australia as a promising stayer, but quickly established himself as one of the best in the land winning the Cups double in 1995.

**24. THINK BIG**



**Trainer:** Bart Cummings  
**Jockey:** Harry White  
**Barrier:** 8 **Weight:** 52kg  
**Winning years:** 1974-75 **Betting:** \$101  
Beat fancied stablemate Leilani to win his first Cup. After not winning a race for 12 months returned to win the following year with 58.5kg.

**OLYMPICS**

# Funds boosts frozen until after elections

By DAN SILKSTONE

AFTER an off-season hiatus of a few short months, the sport of political football and Olympic funding wrangling is back. Just in time for the federal election.

Olympic sports, only recently placated by the government's multimillion-dollar response to the Crawford report, are again affronted and warning of a threat to Australia's medal chances at the London Olympics after the Australian Sports Commission announced a decision yesterday to freeze the handing out of funding increases because of the election campaign.

In its response to the Crawford review, the then-Rudd government committed an additional \$30 million a year towards high-performance sports funding. That money was allocated to the Australian Sports Commission for distribution, and sporting organisations such as Swimming Australia and Athletics Australia were asked to submit a plan for how they would spend it.

Those plans — submitted three weeks ago — double as each sport's preparation plan for the London Olympics. An announcement of the financial carve-up was expected from the ASC today, after a board meeting held yesterday, telling each sport how much additional money it would receive.

Yesterday, in a move that shocked sporting administrators across the nation, the ASC declared instead that it would freeze the process because of the federal election, not wanting to implement the Labor government's funding plan during a caretaker period.

The decision means high-performance plans for Olympic sport have been again delayed and even opens an unlikely door for the generous allocations made in response to the Crawford report to be overturned by an unsympathetic incoming government.

"The decision by the ASC board on additional high-performance funding allocations to national sporting bodies has been postponed to allow the incoming government the appropriate opportunity to consider the ASC recommendations," a statement released on the ASC website announced yesterday.

Australian Olympic Committee chairman John Coates, the man who led the very public argument for a funding increase throughout the Crawford process, immediately blasted the decision.

"This is disappointing at a time when many of our major summer sports are either already overseas competing or preparing here for key world championships and other international events in the important lead-up to London," Coates said. "Without this much-needed funding kicking in now, our athletes will continue to do it tough."

Australian Paralympic Committee chief executive Jason Hellwig was also critical.

"That funding needed to be released," he said. "It is badly needed for the preparation for each sport for London 2012 and beyond. The plans are all ready to go, for the institutes of sport and for each sport themselves and those plans are designed to turn an increased investment into the maximum possible benefit. Those plans will be implemented immediately when the funding is released. Every day without that funding is a day when the daily training environment of an athlete is not as ideally supported and resourced as it should be."

Hellwig said the decision would be "psychologically damaging" as it was the latest in a string of delays. Funding for Olympic sport has been frozen for several years, initially in the lead-up to the Crawford review, then during the extended review process and the lag time of the government's response. During that time, sporting chiefs have been warning that rival nations are increasing Olympic funding and that Australia's medal hopes will suffer.

"This just continues an uncertain environment and that has an impact on coaches and athletes preparing and planning," Hellwig said.

Athletics Australia high-performance director Eric Hollingsworth, the man who devised his sport's plan, said he hoped the incoming government, regardless of party, would keep the existing commitment and get the money flowing quickly.

"When I get back from the Commonwealth Games, all thoughts turn to London," he said. "Hopefully we'll have a big bucket of money to come back to."

The decision injects sports funding policy — an issue only recently neutralised by Labor after months of attacks from sporting administrators — into the election campaign. Top sporting bodies are calling for a public debate between Sports Minister Kate Ellis and Opposition spokesman Steve Ciobo to be held next month and at which the future of the post-Crawford funding will be laid out. Ciobo has agreed to take part in the forum, to be held in Sydney on August 10 or 11. He and Ellis would be given 15 minutes to outline their vision for Australian sport and then face questions.

Top Olympic administrators from sports such as swimming, and cycling, as well as representatives from the institutes of sport would be expected to attend the debate, which is being proposed and organised by the Australian Paralympic Committee. But there has been no answer to the proposal from Ellis's office. Organisers say they will run the debate with an empty chair if she does not show up.

## Signatures

### Arocca's turn

NORTH Melbourne chief executive Eugene Arocca was today due to make his first official foray into exploring the Hobart frontier for his club.

Arocca, who has insisted no deal has been struck with Bellerive Oval, where North could play four games a year from 2012, was scheduled for talks with Cricket Tasmania, two days after Richmond's visit to Bellerive.

The Kangaroos are the only club to have indicated strong interest in a four-game deal, with the Tigers and Melbourne looking at a smaller package and having been told by the AFL that North is the frontrunner. **CAROLINE WILSON**

### Freo champions back Hasleby

By MARK DUFFIELD

FORMER Fremantle club champions Peter Bell and Troy Cook have urged the Dockers to play Paul Hasleby in Sunday's western derby and to keep him to the fore in selection in the run to the finals.

Hasleby, 29, has suddenly found himself a marginal player at the Dockers, selected as an emergency last weekend before coming into the team late to replace an ill David Mundy.

The Dockers have said he was left out because of general

soreness but he was the club's only travelling emergency for the match against the Bulldogs and was ruled fit to play in Mundy's place.

Bell, a three-time club champion and an All-Australian alongside Hasleby in 2003, said Hasleby's record against West Coast suggested he should play this weekend.

Cook, club champion in Hasleby's first season in 2000, urged Hasleby to stay positive.

"Once you get to that certain age, around 30 or so, they can pigeon hole you a bit," he said. **WEST AUSTRALIAN**