

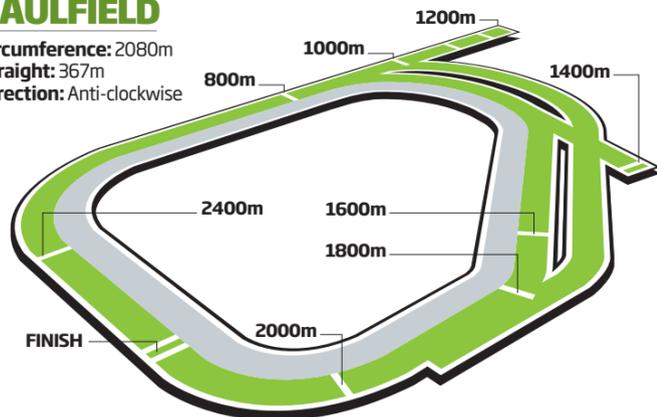
# Nathan's Racebook

Racing writer Nathan Exelby looks for winners in Caulfield's big races today



## CAULFIELD

Circumference: 2080m  
Straight: 367m  
Direction: Anti-clockwise



The track was rated a dead 4, but almost certain to be upgraded to Good. 32mm of irrigation for the week so far but 37C day predicted.

### WEATHER FORECAST

Hot 37°

### TRACK FORECAST

DEAD

## Race 5 Futurity Stakes

1400m, 2.10pm



Pinker Pinker

**In the run:** King Mufhasa can get a soft run, unless Danzylum reverts to old habits and runs them along, as opposed to his Orr Stakes jog.

**Take note:** In the past 10 runnings of this race at 1400m (it was 1600m from 2006-10), only one winner has come from further back than fourth on the turn. Five leaders have won. King Mufhasa led last year, but ran fourth.

**Did you know:** Pinker Pinker, who has won her past two 1400m races, attempts to emulate So You Think (twice), Maldivian, Sunline (twice) and Sainly as a first-up winner after taking the Cox Plate the previous spring.

**Nathan's tip:** Pinker Pinker **\$3.60**

**Nathan's danger:** King Mufhasa **\$2.65**

## Race 6 Oakleigh Plate

1100m, 2.50pm



Peter Snowden

**In the run:** Should be huge pressure up front with Sepoy, African Pulse, Satin Shoes and First Command. Bel Sprinter gets gun run behind.

**Take note:** Sepoy has 1kg more than Fastnet Rock carried to win this in 2005. Last three 3YOs to win are Snitzel (51.5kg), Weekend Hussler (53kg) and Starspangledbanner (52kg).

**Did you know:** Eagle Falls won this with 57kg last year. Ran seventh in same lead-up race, but won this year.

**Early money:** Bel Sprinter is \$4.40 to \$3.10. Peter Snowden's Sepoy is \$2 out to \$3. Curtana is \$31 to \$15. Woorim \$26 to \$21.

**Nathan's tip:** Bel Sprinter **\$3.10**

**Nathan's roughie:** Eagle Falls **\$21.00**

## Race 7 Blue Diamond Stakes

1200m, 3.30pm



Ben Melham

**In the run:** Ben Melham's ride The Travelling Man and Armed For Action the likely pacemakers. Samaready can sit just behind the speed.

**Take note:** Lady Jakeo and Alinghi are the only two filly Prelude winners to win this since 1989. Samaready has that hoodoo this year.

**Did you know:** Favourites have won only five of the past 20 runnings, including Sepoy last year. Five of six previous winners were at double-figure odds.

**Early money:** Samaready \$2.30 to \$2.10 since the draw. No Looking Back \$13 into \$11.

**Nathan's tip:** Samaready **\$2.10**

**Nathan's danger:** No Looking Back **\$11.00**

# Sama ready to end curse

## NATHAN EXELBY

IN A race where so often there's a knockout and the favourites winning are few and far between, is it possible for the public-elects to win two Blue Diamonds in a row?

Mick Price hopes Samaready will finally end his Blue Diamond curse as Sepoy's successor and he has a willing ally in sectional times expert Vince Accardi, who doesn't see any rivals "having the numbers" to beat her.

Price trained Roedean to win the 2003 Diamond only to lose the race because of a positive swab. He has trained placegetters Halibery, World Peace and Perfectly Ready, but a win has proved elusive.

"We're looking pretty good



this year," Price said. "We've got the right horse and the right gate, the right jockey."

Accardi said Samaready had a clear edge on all indicators.

"Everywhere I look, I can't see where she's going to be challenged because the field doesn't have the capacity to take her out of her comfort zone," he said.

Accardi illustrates this by pointing to the early average speed of the field being 16.19m per second compared with Samaready's 16.27mps, the middle section being 18.26 compared with 18.47 and the late splits being 16.85 com-

pared with the favourite's 17.4.

"Samaready does have a weakness late, because in its last three splits it wasn't able to break the average, but because the whole field has a problem late, it's probably not going to count against her," he said.

"If the speed was tremendously strong it could bring a horse like that unstuck, but I can't see that in this race.

"It doesn't matter where you throw the dice, it's clearly dominant."

"(Second emergency) Mrs Gray is the only horse on early and late ratios that looks competitive."



ALL INDICATORS POSITIVE: Samaready wins at Caulfield. Picture: Wayne Ludbey

Gamble responsibly.

# Jackpot Saturday

# \$500,000\*

Make your Saturday more exciting with a Caulfield (MR) R6 Trifecta. Carryover jackpot pool is \$150,000 and is estimated to reach \$500,000!

\*Based on historical trends



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