

# THE CUP 2023



PRIZE MONEY: \$8 million  
1st: \$4,400,000 2nd: \$1,100,000 3rd: \$550,000 4th: \$350,000

# OFFICE SWEEP

## JAY ROONEY'S TIPS



1. VAUBAN
2. Without A Fight
3. Gold Trip Roughie. Ashrun

\* PRICING CORRECT AT TIME OF PRINTING

1. GOLD TRIP
2. ALENQUER
3. WITHOUT A FIGHT
4. BREAKUP
5. VAUBAN
6. SOULCOMBE
7. ABSURDE
8. RIGHT YOU ARE
9. VOW AND DECLARE
10. CLEVELAND
11. ASHRUN
12. DAQIANSWEET JUNIOR
13. OKITA SOUSHI
14. SHERAZ
15. LASTOTCHKA
16. MAGICAL LAGOON
17. MILITARY MISSION
18. SERPENTINE
19. VIRTUOUS CIRCLE
20. MORE FELONS
21. FUTURE HISTORY
22. INTERPRETATION
23. KALAPOUR
24. TRUE MARVEL

**1. GOLD TRIP (FR) 58.5kg**  
**Trainer:** Claron Maher & David Eustace  
**Jockey:** James McDonald  
**Barrier:** 2  
 Last season's Melbourne Cup Champion returns to defend his crown. Arguably going better than he was this time last season.  
**\$7.50**  
 DRAWN BY

**2. ALENQUER (FR) 56.5kg**  
**Trainer:** Michael Moroney  
**Jockey:** Damien Oliver  
**Barrier:** 9  
 French bred galloper who is looking to give Damien Oliver the fairytale ending to his Melbourne Cup career.  
**\$31**  
 DRAWN BY

**3. WITHOUT A FIGHT (IRE) 56.5kg**  
**Trainer:** Anthony & Sam Freedman  
**Jockey:** Mark Zahra  
**Barrier:** 16  
 Showed an exciting turn-of-hoof feeling leaders in from the corner for a gutsy Caulfield Cup win. Failed in this race last year but he is bigger and stronger this season.  
**\$7**  
 DRAWN BY

**4. BREAKUP (JPN) 55kg**  
**Trainer:** Tatsuya Yoshioka  
**Jockey:** Kohei Matsuyama  
**Barrier:** 18  
 The hope of Japan who was there to be right in the finish in the Caulfield Cup but just lacked late dash over the last 200m. Sure to be fitter from his Caulfield Cup run and would not leave him out of exotics.  
**\$19**  
 DRAWN BY

**5. VAUBAN (FR) 55kg**  
**Trainer:** Willie Mullins  
**Jockey:** Ryan Moore  
**Barrier:** 3  
 French bred gelding who has been mixing his career with a combination of flat races and jumping races, both with great success. Drops to 55kg and expect they will ride him forward and make this a true test. He is the one to beat.  
**\$4.80**  
 DRAWN BY

**6. SOULCOMBE (GB) 53.5kg**  
**Trainer:** Chris Waller  
**Jockey:** Joao Moreira  
**Barrier:** 4  
 Stable have had him aimed for this since an exciting Queen Elizabeth Cup win this time last year. The "Magic Man" Joao Moreira takes the ride and expect him to be in the finish.  
**\$9.50**  
 DRAWN BY

**7. ABSURDE (FR) 53kg**  
**Trainer:** Willie Mullins  
**Jockey:** Zac Purton  
**Barrier:** 8  
 Brings the right form line to Australia having won the Ebor Handicap at York (GB). Vauban beat him a long way three starts back but this gelding is tough and will be fighting right to the line.  
**\$11**  
 DRAWN BY

**8. RIGHT YOU ARE 53kg**  
**Trainer:** Claron Maher & David Eustace  
**Jockey:** John Allen  
**Barrier:** 15  
 He has no weight on his back but although he is a Mornington Cup winner over 2400m the two miles is still a query for him. Place looks like the best chance for him.  
**\$51**  
 DRAWN BY

**9. VOW AND DECLARE 53kg**  
**Trainer:** Danny O'Brien  
**Jockey:** Billy Egan  
**Barrier:** 19  
 2019 Melbourne Cup winner. Veteran of the Melbourne Cup lining up for his fourth start in the race. Ready for this and he will relish the two miles.  
**\$31**  
 DRAWN BY

**10. CLEVELAND (IRE) 52kg**  
**Trainer:** Kris Lees  
**Jockey:** Michael Dee  
**Barrier:** 23  
 Irish bred galloper who comes off a grinding Moonee Valley Cup win. Team Williams look to have timed his preparation to perfection and they know how to win a Cup. Cannot leave him out.  
**\$41**  
 DRAWN BY

**11. ASHRUN (FR) 51.5kg**  
**Trainer:** Claron Maher & David Eustace  
**Jockey:** Kerrin McEvoy  
**Barrier:** 11  
 This gelding is the comeback story of this year's Cup. He took on the 2020 Melbourne Cup but went amiss soon after and did not see the racetrack again until September 2023. Would be a triumphant training performance if this guy could finish in the placings.  
**\$51**  
 DRAWN BY

**12. DAQIANSWEET JUNIOR (NZ) 51.5kg**  
**Trainer:** Phillip Stokes  
**Jockey:** Daniel Stackhouse  
**Barrier:** 12  
 He ran a slashing race in this race last year when finished sixth. 2022 Adelaide Cup winner over the 3200m. Still needs to lift to get close to any of these.  
**\$71**  
 DRAWN BY

**13. OKITA SOUSHI (IRE) 51.5kg**  
**Trainer:** Joseph O'Brien  
**Jockey:** Dylan Gibbons  
**Barrier:** 20  
 Irish trained horse who finished third in the Irish St Leger before making the trip to Australia. Stable knows how to win a Cup and he will keep coming but needs improvement.  
**\$91**  
 DRAWN BY

**14. SHERAZ (FR) 51.5kg**  
**Trainer:** Chris Waller  
**Jockey:** Beau Mertens  
**Barrier:** 22  
 French bred gelding who has not really hit his straps this time in. Best Australian effort was when second in the 2022 Sydney Cup on. He may need some rain to enhance his chances.  
**\$151**  
 DRAWN BY

**15. LASTOTCHKA (FR) 51kg**  
**Trainer:** Mick Price & Michael Kent (Jnr)  
**Jockey:** Craig Williams  
**Barrier:** 21  
 Small French bred mare who comes to Australia off the back of a dominant Group 3 win at Longchamp (France) over 3100m last start. She showed an exciting change of gears with no weight and the expertise of Craig Williams to she looks one of the better chances.  
**\$19**  
 DRAWN BY

**16. MAGICAL LAGOON (IRE) 51kg**  
**Trainer:** Chris Waller  
**Jockey:** Mark Du Plessis  
**Barrier:** 7  
 She was so brave in the Geelong Cup doing all the work up front and although she was claimed last 100m she was still there in a blanket finish. Expect they will ride her with similar intent here and she may lead these for a long way.  
**\$151**  
 DRAWN BY

**17. MILITARY MISSION (IRE) 51kg**  
**Trainer:** Gai Waterhouse & Adrian Bott  
**Jockey:** Ms Rachel King  
**Barrier:** 5  
 He is sure to be popular with the public looking to become only the seventh grey horse to win the Cup. Typical tough Waterhouse/Bott stayer who can never be left out of any distance races.  
**\$23**  
 DRAWN BY

**18. SERPENTINE (IRE) 51kg**  
**Trainer:** Gai Waterhouse & Adrian Bott  
**Jockey:** Jye McNeil  
**Barrier:** 1  
 He did not have all that much luck late in the Cup last year but since then has had a change of stable. Classic winner in England and if Team Williams have him right he may surprise these.  
**\$41**  
 DRAWN BY

**19. VIRTUOUS CIRCLE (NZ) 51kg**  
**Trainer:** Liam Howley  
**Jockey:** Craig Newitt  
**Barrier:** 6  
 He did not have all that much luck late in the Cup last year but since then has had a change of stable. Classic winner in England and if Team Williams have him right he may surprise these.  
**\$151**  
 DRAWN BY

**20. MORE FELONS (IRE) 50.5kg**  
**Trainer:** Chris Waller  
**Jockey:** Ms Jamie Kah  
**Barrier:** 24  
 Irish import who was not disgraced behind Absurde before coming to Australia. He was the eye-catching run in the Geelong Cup he also has no weight on his back and will be nice each-way odds. Must include.  
**\$26**  
 DRAWN BY

**21. FUTURE HISTORY (GB) 50kg**  
**Trainer:** Claron Maher & David Eustace  
**Jockey:** Hollie Doyle  
**Barrier:** 13  
 Versatile gelding who led all the way to secure his spot in the Bart Cummings two starts back. Expect they will let him roll along up front with no weight and he has proven he is tough to reel in. Place claims.  
**\$19**  
 DRAWN BY

**22. INTERPRETATION (IRE) 50kg**  
**Trainer:** Claron Maher & David Eustace  
**Jockey:** Teo Nugent  
**Barrier:** 17  
 Gained a start in the Cup last year but failed to finish. Gets his chance for redemption after driving late to win the Bendigo Cup last start. Would include in first four chances.  
**\$101**  
 DRAWN BY

**23. KALAPOUR (IRE) 50kg**  
**Trainer:** Kris Lees  
**Jockey:** Zac Lloyd  
**Barrier:** 14  
 Tough stayer who finished the race off strongly when placed in The Metropolitan then again four when placed in the ATC St Leger two back. He will need to step up another level for this.  
**\$51**  
 DRAWN BY

**24. TRUE MARVEL (FR) 50kg**  
**Trainer:** Matthew Smith  
**Jockey:** Ben Thompson  
**Barrier:** 10  
 He was placed the Sydney Cup back in April then followed with a Brisbane Cup minor spot in the winter. Only been battling of late and hard to him improving enough to worry any these.  
**\$126**  
 DRAWN BY