

Media Release

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Stayers step out at Bendigo Sunday

While the Topcat Video Productions Stayers Cup has only been conducted three times over the 660m trip since the new Bendigo track was opened in 2012 the honour roll suggests the event is one to be watched for the purpose of finding the next star of the staying ranks.

The 2012 edition, the first on the new track, was taken out by Irma Bale on her way to becoming one of the best stayers in country in a career that included two group one victories in the 2012 and 2013 Sandown Cups and more than half a million dollars in stake money.

2013's winner was another who would go onto big time success in the staying ranks in Proven Impala and while 2014's winner Jeff The Tipster did not have many starts after the Stayers Cup at Bendigo he did defeat black type performers Maddison Dee and Alpe D'huez in a quality line up.

The 2015 Bendigo Stayers Cup will be run this Sunday evening and with \$12,000 on offer to the winner it has attracted an outstanding field of runners who have already contested no less than seven group 1 events and four other group races.

Two runners have tasted black type success already and look to use Sunday's event as a stepping stone to more group glory.

Group 3 Albion Park Big Dog Cup winner Ralphy Cinel has drawn box one while exciting prospect Quasi Bale, winner of the recent Richmond Derby, has drawn box eight.

Quasi Bale will step out for his first attempt beyond 600m but the way in which he has won thirteen of his 26 career starts suggest the 660m trip will pose no threat. With a flying 33.89 Sandown victory to his credit and a last start strong 34.20 Meadows victory Quasi Bale is likely to start the punters elect.

Ralphy Cinel has been competing below his best since returning from a successful Queensland trip but the inside draw will suit him and enable him to find a forward position early on and should he finish in the placings he will break the \$100,000 prize money barrier.

Two other strong chances in the race have both registered smart wins over the 660m Bendigo trip, being Berry Blitz and Blinker's On. Berry Blitz comes into the race off the back of three placings at The Meadows and Sandown and has won at Bendigo in 37.83 while Blinker's On, runner up to Space Star in the Group 1 Zoom Top in mid February has clocked a fast 37.66 at the track and will make his presence felt.

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Local stayer Hession Boots has a terrific record at the track and is racing in great form as is consistent performer Coultia Rock who rarely runs a back race.

The Topcat Video Productions Stayers Cup is now Bendigo's richest race outside the Bendigo Cup and shares the headlines during the Gold Rush Carnival with the Gold Rush Maiden series.

Easter Sunday evenings meeting includes not only the Stayers Cup and Gold Rush finals but also finals of the Spud Regis At Stud Belle of Bendigo, Mclvor Rd Vet Clinic Beau of Bendigo and Chasers Function Centre Grade 5 series as well as the Railway Station Hotel Easter Cup.



RAILWAY STATION HOTEL, Eaglehawk

SPUD REGIS AT STUD