



By Cameron O'Brien

2020 COX PLATE

Date	Saturday, 24 th October
Track	Moonee Valley (Race 9, 4:15pm local time)
Class	Group 1
Distance	2040m
Prizemoney	\$5,000,000
Age / Sex / Conditions	WFA

Past Winners & Performances

YEAR	WINNER	WEIGHT	RATING	SP	MARGIN
2019	LYS GRACIEUX	57	122	2.5	1.5
2018	WINX	57	123	1.25	2
2017	WINX	57	121	1.2	0.4
2016	WINX	57	131	1.8	8

The Cox Plate, the highest calibre race of the year, and generally won by the best horse around (with exceptions), and it usually rates very high. Winx clocked a new high with her 131 in 2016 winning by 8L to Hartnell, then didn't really handle the lightning fast track in 2017 but won anyway, beating HUMIDOR who "improved" for Darren Weir quite a lot that day. In 2018 her swansong and she went 123 beating BENBATL, who was very game in defeat, then high quality mare LYS GRACIEUX won it first up from Japan last year.

Speed Map

			1 - KOLDING (10)	2 - HUMIDOR (14)	15 - BUCKHURST (11)			
	11 - RUSSIAN CAMELOT - (15)	8 - MAGIC WAND - (4)	6 - ASPETAR - (3)		9 - ARCADIA QUEEN - (8)	3 - FIERCE IMPACT - (12)	10 - NETTOYER - (13)	
14 - GRANDSLAM (5)		4 - MASTER OF WINE - (1)	13 - PROBABEEL - (2)	12 - ARMORY (6)	7 - SIR DRAGONET - (7)	5 - MUGATOO - (9)		
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8

I think the 3yo GRANDSLAM will go to the front here, and from the bad draw I am speculating that RUSSIAN CAMELOT will press on. There's not much of a run to the first turn so he'll need to jump well to do that, but he can get a pretty good run if they do. I think it'll be moderately run to the 800m then the pressure will go on, especially if RUSSIAN CAMELOT is in the breeze as that would suit him best to make them all chase. The pattern will be really important by this time, impossible to know now how it will be playing then but I am anticipating the rail might well be chopping up and they're getting home wider.

Rated Market

NO.	HORSE	BARRIER	JOCKEY	WEIGHT	RATING	PRICE
1	KOLDING	10	JAMES MCDONALD	59	114	\$40.4
2	HUMIDOR	14	C WILLIAMS	59	113	\$83.4
3	FIERCE IMPACT	12	L CURRIE	59	115	\$29.3
4	MASTER OF WINE	1	M RODD	59	114	\$80.4
5	MUGATOO	9	JOHN ALLEN	59	116	\$17.2
6	ASPETAR	3	DAMIAN LANE	59	117	\$8.4
7	SIR DRAGONET	7	G BOSS	59	117	\$8.4
8	MAGIC WAND	4	M J ZAHRA	57		
9	ARCADIA QUEEN	8	W PIKE	57	116	\$8.2
10	NETTOYER	13	W J EGAN	57	109	\$508.6
11	RUSSIAN CAMELOT	15	D OLIVER	56.5	117	\$6.3
12	ARMORY	6	B J MELHAM	56.5	118	\$5.9
13	PROBABEEL	2	K MCEVOY	55.5	116	\$10.1
14	GRANDSLAM	5	JYE MCNEIL	49.5	108	\$158.4
15	BUCKHURST	11	JAMIE KAH	59	115	\$34.9

Even sort of race this year! No WINX or LYS GRACIEUX to dominate the market this time. ARMORY is a well performed northern hemisphere 3yo (4yo our age, same as RUSSIAN CAMELOT) who got to a high rating LST and if he can hold that first up in Aus he'll be hard to beat. He has a slight issue now that he has had to be vetted today, though, and though he has passed that check that's still some concern for him performing tomorrow, and as such I have penalised a little for that. RUSSIAN CAMELOT has an issue from the gate but if he can get over into the breeze he'll be very hard to beat. The other OS runners in ASPETAR and the much-maligned SIR DRAGONET can both win too, while ARCADIA QUEEN will get a good run and should get the drop on them, she's a solid chance. I think PROBABEEL can get the 2000m here and she's a chance too, that's about the race for me. I don't like KOLDING, who has been backed, I think he's a little bit off these.

Betting Angles

#12 ARMORY 0.8 units to win best price on the day – MIN PRICE \$7

#6 ASPETAR 0.5 units to win best price on the day

#7 SIR DRAGONET 0.5 units to win best price on the day

#5 MUGATOO 0.3 units to win best price on the day

Runner Comments

NO	NAME	COMMENT	PRICE
12	ARMORY	Up and coming European who produced a high figure in the Irish Champion stakes that, if he held it, would make him the one to beat here. The start before he won at G3 level and showed a turn of foot after being helplessly held up. He has an issue in that he has had to be vetted, he was showing signs of lameness, that's some concern.	\$5.9
11	RUSSIAN CAMELOT	He was a shade disappointing at Caul though at the same time that was very slowly run, and he's not really a sit/sprint horse. The prospect of better pace and pressure on down the side suits him far more here. Draw is some concern but he may be able to cross to the breeze, or by this time of the day racing wide might be out in better ground anyway.	\$6.3
9	ARCADIA QUEEN	She showed LST at Caul that the win back in the Kingston Town going 116 was not just a WA special, she looks like she might have arrived now and there's no bigger stage than this to try to prove that. The soft ground is SOME concern though.	\$8.2
6	ASPETAR	Strong win at York LST over this trip rating 118, he doesn't have a big turn of foot but he maintains a strong run, solid chance on the back of that win and he handles wet	\$8.4
7	SIR DRAGONET	Getting keener on this horse as it now looks like being a rain affected track, he's a strong type who will get the drop on the pace here and finish solidly, over the odds for me	\$8.4
13	PROBABEEL	Quality mare on the up and still just a 4yo, showing what she's made of and might be about to go to a new top here. Handles soft OK, I think the 2000m will be fine too.	\$10.1
5	MUGATOO	Not the worst here, he has shown good ability and a strong turn of foot when required and that's important for a race like this, he's in form and fit and should run well	\$17.2