

# GOLDEN SLIPPER (1200m) PREVIEW

## April 2, 2011: Rosehill, Race 7, 4.05pm

### OVERVIEW

#### [Based on a track rated dead 4]

If the same **Sepoy** who won the Group 1 Blue Diamond Stakes (1200m, Caulfield) in February steps out in Saturday's Group 1 Golden Slipper (1200m, Rosehill), then the race is as good as over.

But winning the Blue Diamond and Golden Slipper – Australia's premier Group 1 races for juveniles – in the same year is no easy feat. History shows that since the Blue Diamond Stakes was first run in 1971 (won by Tolerance), only four 2YOs have taken out the double – John's Hope (1972), Manikato (1978), Bounding Away (1986) and Courtza (1989). In all, 29 Blue Diamond winners have run in the Slipper, so the strike rate is poor. In fact since Courtza, only three Blue Diamond winners have been placed in the Slipper – Canonise (2<sup>nd</sup> behind Tierce in 1991), Paint (2<sup>nd</sup> behind Merlene in 1996) and Alinghi (3<sup>rd</sup> behind Dance Hero in 2004).

So you can see that history is not in Sepoy's favour. It is very difficult for any 2YO to peak twice in a campaign – that is if you regard Sepoy's Blue Diamond effort as his peak (he did run the second fastest Blue Diamond in history, but did it easily).

Importantly, after Sepoy was beaten by **Smart Missile** in the G2 Todman Stakes (1200m, Rosehill) two weeks ago, trainer Peter Snowden was unfazed. He has remained super confident since. There is no doubt Sepoy didn't handle the slow/heavy track, but also Sepoy looked big in the yard before the race, suggesting Snowden had been easy on him.

Smart Missile confirmed trainer Anthony Cummings' big opinion of him by overcoming some niggling pre-race problems to beat Sepoy in the Todman Stakes. Strangely, the Todman is not a great guide to the Slipper – only three colts have gone on to win the Slipper – and it has been 20 years since the most recent, Tierce, did it in 1991.

Bart Cummings' **Salade** was very impressive winning last week's G2 Pago Pago Stakes (1200m, Rosehill) at his first appearance – no horse has done that and backed up to win the

TAB	HORSE	JOCKEY	TRAINER	BR	WGT	TAB Odds	DP* Ratings
1	Sepoy	Kerrin McEvoy	Peter Snowden	10	56.5	\$3.20	\$3.50
2	Smart Missile	Glen Boss	Anthony Cummings	5	56.5	\$4.60	\$5
3	Running Tall	Ben Melham	Danny O'Brien	8	56.5	\$35	\$51
4	Foxwedge	Nash Rawiller	John O'Shea	11	56.5	\$9	\$13
5	Masthead	Craig Williams	Lee Freedman	4	56.5	\$71	\$101
6	Salade	Luke Nolen	Bart Cummings	12	56.5	\$13	\$11
7	Hot Snitzel	Corey Brown	Gerald Ryan	7	56.5	\$51	\$71
8	Satin Shoes	Hugh Bowman	Clarry Conners	2	54.5	\$11	\$13
9	Elite Falls	Jim Cassidy	John O'Shea	16	54.5	\$13	\$16
10	Karuta Queen	Tommy Berry	Neville Layt	13	54.5	\$11	\$34
11	Altar	Josh Parr	Peter Snowden	14	54.5	\$51	\$51
12	Shared Reflections	Damien Oliver	Gai Waterhouse	6	54.5	\$17	\$26
13	Saramenha	Nathan Berry (a)	Gerald Ryan	15	54.5	\$71	\$101
14	Fast And Sexy	Glyn Schofield	Chris Waller	17	54.5	\$101	\$41
15	Mosheen	Danny Nikolic	Leon Corstens	1	54.5	\$101	\$101
16	Empress Rock	Michael Rodd	Bart Cummings	3	54.5	\$151	\$101
17E	Do You Think	Steven Arnold	Bart Cummings	9	56.5	\$35	\$51

Percentages: TAB (118.6%); DP (101.7%) – includes the emergency

\* Danny Power's ratings are a guide only. TAB Price as at 9.00am Friday.

Slipper seven days later ... but this is Bart Cummings. Blinkers go on.

In Slipper history, 24 colts have won and 23 fillies – the fillies get a healthy 2kg weight advantage. The only fillies with winning chances this year are the two who fought out the G2 Reising Stakes – **Elite Falls** and **Satin Shoes**. Elite Falls will be suited by a fast pace, and some rain, whereas Satin Shoes is very quick and might track the lead.

### THE TEMPO – GOOD/FAST

This race like most Golden Slippers will be run at a hectic tempo as horses and riders jostle for a position.

The pace will come from the very fast **Karuta Queen**, who will hum across from barrier 13. I also expect the speedy Satin Shoes to boot through from barrier two. Others with speed include **Hot Snitzel** and **Foxwedge**.

This good tempo should ensure that Sepoy will sit wide behind the speed, and this will give him first crack at the leaders. The horse who will come with the big late run is Salade.

### RECOMMENDED PLAY

I am sticking to my guns and backing Sepoy – as long as the track is no worse than dead 4. I will be playing at \$3.50 or longer, and I expect there will be layers on Betfair who will be more than happy to accommodate me. Might get \$4.

Definitely saving on Smart Missile. Trainer Anthony Cummings won't hear of him being beaten after his brilliant work on Tuesday. But I am going to want \$5 before I bet.

My top six selections, I believe, are the only serious winning chances, but Elite Falls may struggle if the track firms up.

Don't underrate Satin Shoes, as she will get a nice run behind the speed, and I hope to play on Salade if I can secure \$13 or longer.

The lay is Karuta Queen – will lead but doubt her under pressure. Rate her at 33/1. I may take on Foxwedge, as I have a feeling he might struggle to get in with cover. He might be "unders" at \$9.

**SPEED MAP – PREDICTED POSITIONS ON SETTLING**

				Foxwedge	
Saramenha	Fast And Sexy	Elite Falls	Sepoy	Running Tall	
Altar	Salade	Shared Reflections	Smart Missile	Hot Snitzel	
	Masthead	Empress Rock	Mosheen	Satin Shoes	Karuta Queen

INSIDE RAIL →

**THE TOP SIX**

1. Sepoy
2. Smart Missile
3. Salade
4. Satin Shoes
5. Elite Falls
6. Foxwedge

**ANALYSIS BY RUNNER**
**1. SEPOY**

**(ch c 2, Elusive Quality (USA)- Watchful, by Canny Lad)**

The benchmark 2YO, who dominated the Melbourne carnival by going through the Blue Diamond series undefeated – his win in the G1 Blue Diamond Stakes (1200m, Caulfield) was a brilliant performance, run in the second fastest time in the history of the race. Had 21 days off and looked a little “big” in the yard before the G2 Todman Stakes (1200m, Rosehill), in which he finished a game 2<sup>nd</sup>, beaten ¾ length, behind Smart Missile. He was never comfortable on the slow/heavy ground, but never gave up. Needs no worse than dead (the forecast is in his favour) and expect him to strip a lot fitter. Barrier 10 (he will come from 9 if the emergency misses a run) is ideal. Whatever beats him will win. Only four of 29 horses have completed the Blue Diamond-Slipper double, so it is no easy task.

**2. SMART MISSILE**

**(br c 2, Fastnet Rock-Comical Smile (USA), by Comic Strip (USA))**

Exceptionally talented colt. He showed his class by running down the star colt Sepoy to win the G2 Todman Stakes (1200m, Rosehill) on Mar. 19 on a track rated slow/heavy. It was his first run since winning the LR Breeders’ Plate (1000m, Randwick) in the spring, and trainer Anthony Cummings had a few

issues with him in between. Even, so he looked very wound up for the Todman, so there may not be the same improvement in this colt as in Sepoy. Reports are that he was the star worker at Randwick on Tuesday. Four 2YOs have won the Breeders’ Plate and Slipper (most recent Sebring in 2008) and only three have won the Todman-Slipper double (most recent Tierce in 1991).

**3. RUNNING TALL**

**(ch c 2, Stratum-Fleeting (USA), by Touch Gold (USA))**

Earned his Slipper run with a convincing win in the G2 VRC Sires’ Produce Stakes (1400m, Flemington) on Mar. 12. Had a lovely run behind the pace, and showed a good turn of foot to beat Decircles. Before that he was 7<sup>th</sup> behind Sepoy in the G1 Blue Diamond Stakes (1200m, Caulfield) when trainer Danny O’Brien said he was a run short. It has been 21 years (1990) since Canny Lad won the Sires-Slipper double. Nice colt, but maybe not up to Slipper standard.

**4. FOXWEDGE**

**(b c 2, Fastnet Rock-Forest Native (USA), by Forest Wildcat (USA))**

Highly rated colt, who was game in finishing third behind the two star youngsters, Smart Missile and Sepoy, in the G2 Todman Stakes (1200m, Rosehill) on Mar. 19 – tracked the speed and kept trying in the wet ground to be beaten ¾ length and a long neck. Before that he won the Lonhro Stakes (1100m, Warwick Farm) first-up, so he should be peaking for this. Trainer John O’Shea has added blinkers to this promising colt and Nash Rawiller retains the ride. Placegetters in the Todman have a better record in winning the Slipper than the Todman winners, so he commands respect, especially with the shades on. If you think that Sepoy and Smart Missile are the colts to beat, then this horse is the saving bet.

**5. MASTHEAD**

**(b c 2, Written Tycoon-Balsamico, by Redoute’s Choice)**

Masthead produced one of the best runs outside the winner Sepoy in the G1 Blue Diamond Stakes (1200m, Caulfield), flashing home late from last for third. The performance saw him as a \$3.80 second favourite to win the G2 Sires’ Produce Stakes (1400m, Flemington) on Mar. 12, but he got too far back again, before grinding home for fourth behind Running Tall, beaten 3.1 lengths. A get-back, run-on galloper has some advantages in an often hectically run Golden Slipper, but there are doubts on Masthead’s class. Barrier four means he might settle a bit closer than usual. Trainer Lee Freedman has won four Slippers – a win with Masthead will be a surprise. Jockey Craig Williams won on Miss Finland in 2006.

**6. SALADE**

**(ch c 2, Snitzel-Just As Beautiful, by Beautiful Crown (USA))**

Burst on the scene last week with an outstanding strong-finishing win in the G2 Pago Pago Stakes (1200m, Rosehill). He was very green, but looks every bit a class act, coming on hard with big strides for jockey Corey Brown, who declared Salade a horse he wanted to ride in the Slipper, but he has been held to Hot Snitzel. Trainer Bart Cummings must have some confidence of a possible win, as he has applied blinkers on the colt, but Salade will need to produce something no horse has done – win the Slipper at his second start in only seven days. Redoute’s Choice did something similar to win the Blue Diamond Stakes in 1999. Luke Nolen takes

the ride, so nothing lost in that department. Cummings has won this race four times, but not since Century Miss in 1979! Only three horses have won the Pago Pago and backed up to win the Slipper, the most recent was Stratum in 2005.

## 7. HOT SNITZEL

**(ch g 2, Snitzel-Flames Of Paris (USA), by Blushing Groom (FR))**

Hot Snitzel hasn't raced since finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> behind Uate in the G3 Skyline Stakes (1200m, Warwick Farm) on Mar. 12. Raced on the pace and fought the race out in a three-way finish. Trainer Gerald Ryan sent him to the trials for a soft 2<sup>nd</sup> behind stablemate Saramenha on Mar. 25, but as smart as this fellow is, his form line doesn't quite stack up to make him a threat to the favourites. Even jockey Corey Brown was keen to get off in favour of Salade, but a release was refused. Place looks his best hope.

## 8. SATIN SHOES

**(b f 2, Flying Spur-Star Satire (NZ), by Volksraad (GB))**

Satin Shoes is a one-time Slipper favourite, but she lost a bit of her gloss when she was well beaten by Elite Falls in the G2 Reising Stakes (1200m, Rosehill) on Mar. 12, despite the fact the track was wet which favoured the winner. Satin Shoes showed her usual high speed, but couldn't muster in the mud. It was her first run for 21 days and trainer Clarry Connors, who has won this race four times, remains very confident in the filly – I think there was a bit of improvement to come. She looked good winning the LR Widden Stakes (1100m, Randwick) – beating Elite Falls – and the G2 Silver Slipper Stakes (1100m, Rosehill) before that. Gets on to firmer ground and she will either lead or sit behind the speedy Karuta Queen from barrier 2. Don't leave her out of calculations.

## 9. ELITE FALLS

**(b f 2, More Than Ready (USA)-Niagara Falls, by Danehill (USA))**

This tough filly raced into Slipper calculations by winning the G2 Reising Stakes (1200m, Rosehill) two weeks ago on a wet track, which she appreciated greatly. Trainer John O'Shea said after the race that she can win the Slipper if she gets a slow/heavy track. Unfortunately, the weather forecast predicts a likely good/dead surface. Elite Falls has the strong form around Satin Shoes having

beaten her in the Reising and then finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> behind her in the G2 Silver Slipper Stakes (1100m, Rosehill) on Feb. 26. Her wide draw shouldn't worry, as she will be ridden back. Expect her to be running on strongly. Five fillies have won the Reising-Golden Slipper double, the most recent was Polar Success in 2003. Jockey Jim Cassidy's only win came in 2001 on Ha Ha.

## 10. KARUTA QUEEN

**(ch f 2, Not A Single Doubt-Card Queen, by Final Card)**

Very fast filly, who trounced her rivals to win the Magic Millions 2YO Classic (1200m) on the Gold Coast in January. Her only appearance since then was a disappointing 2<sup>nd</sup> behind You're Canny in the LR Black Opal Stakes (1200m, Canberra) on Mar. 13 when she led but tired. You're Canny has since failed in the Pago Pago (9<sup>th</sup> behind Salade). Karuta Queen has worked fast sectionals on the track this week, and she has the speed to cross to the front. Doubt she has the stamina to hold off the others when it counts. Dance Hero (2004) and Phelan Ready (2009) are the only Magic Millions winners to also win the Slipper. Fast but not strong enough.

## 11. ALTAR

**(b f 2, Commands-Hosannah, by Octagonal (NZ))**

Altar did what her mother, Hosannah, did in 2001 – win the G2 Magic Night Stakes (1200m, Rosehill) a week before running in the Golden Slipper, in which Hosannah finished 4<sup>th</sup> behind Ha Ha. This filly looks and races a lot like her dam. She powered home strongly to beat Pane In The Glass last week, although that filly and Aerobatics (3<sup>rd</sup>) and Disputes (4<sup>th</sup>) aren't in the Slipper field, so there is a big doubt on the form. Barrier 14 means she will go back. Maybe the Sires' Produce (1400m) is a better assignment for her. Stablemate to Sepoy. Five fillies have won the Magic Night-Slipper double, the most recent being Bint Marscay in 1993.

## 12. SHARED REFLECTIONS

**(b f 2, Umatilla (NZ)-Ulup, by Hurricane Sky)**

It wasn't that long ago that trainer Gai Waterhouse doubted she had a 2YO forward or good enough to run in this year's Golden Slipper – then Shared Reflections emerged with a commanding win in the G3 Sweet Embrace Stakes (1200m, Warwick Farm) on Mar. 12. The filly is not flashily bred, being by Umatilla from a Hurricane Sky mare, but Umatilla and Hurricane Sky (half-brothers) both

ran in the Slipper, so there is good history behind the pedigree. Owner/breeder Gooree Stud, who designed the pedigree, got its desired result as this filly looked good at Warwick Farm, although there are doubts on the quality of those behind her – runner-up Pane In The Glass finished 2<sup>nd</sup> behind Altar last week in the Magic Night and has been spelled. Jockey Nash Rawiller has preferred to ride Smart Missile (also owned and bred by Gooree), but Damien Oliver is a good replacement. He picked up a late ride to win the Slipper on Forensics in 2007. Nicely drawn. Waterhouse has won this race three times, the most recent with Sebring in 2008.

## 13. SARAMENHA

**(ch f 2, Snitzel-Speedy Topaz (USA), by Woodman (USA))**

Saramenha won two races at Rosehill (1100m) in October and November, but she does into this race off an average 7<sup>th</sup> behind Shared Reflections in the G3 Sweet Embrace Stakes (1200m, Warwick Farm) on Mar. 12, her first run for 112 days. Since then she has beaten stablemate, and fellow Slipper competitor Hot Snitzel in a soft trial at Randwick on Mar. 25. Wide draw. Not good enough to test these. Wears blinkers for the first time.

## 14. FAST AND SEXY

**(b f 2, Fastnet Rock-She's Alluring, by Lure (USA))**

Resumed from a short break with a good 3<sup>rd</sup> behind Elite Falls and Satin Shoes in the G2 Reising Stakes (1200m, Rosehill), on wet ground, two weeks ago. She settled last but made good ground to be beaten 3.5 lengths. It was her first run since her good 6<sup>th</sup> – hit the line hard from last – behind Karuta Queen in the Magic Millions 2YO Classic (1200m, Gold Coast) in January. Trainer Chris Waller has added blinkers to sharpen her up. She will go back from her wide draw (17) but she's not the worst in this race. Part-owner Bob Ingham has won this race five times – the most recent was Forensics in 2007.

## 15. MOSHEEN

**(b f 2, Fastnet Rock-Sumehra (NZ), by Stravinsky (USA))**

Comes into the Slipper with a record of one win from her only

outing, at Caulfield (1000m) on Mar. 19 when she parked three-wide outside the lead and won by a long head over Sharnee Rose. Surely there are easier assignments for this filly.

### **16. EMPRESS ROCK**

**(b f 2, Fastnet Rock-Empress Jade, by Encosta De Lago)**

Like Mosheen, Empress Rock has sneaked into the field after winning her only start – in this case beating Cloud Valley at Warwick Farm (1000m) on Mar. 27. It was a soft win against much weaker grade, so it is hard to get a line on her, apart from the fact she is trained by Bart Cummings. The great man has won this race four times, but not for 32 years, when Century Miss won in 1979.

### **17E. DO YOU THINK**

**(b c 2, Starcraft (NZ)-Chickens, by Danehill (USA))**

Exciting colt, who looked very good beating Manawanui at Canterbury (night) over 1100m on Mar. 16. The Bart Cummings camp rate him very highly – it is not insignificant that he has been named similarly to So You Think, who was raced in the same interests – but you expect that this colt will be better suited in the G1 Sires' Produce Stakes (1400m, Randwick). However, he's a raw talent who commands respect if he can make the field. Cummings has won this race four times, but not for 32 years when Century Miss won in 1979.