

**PAST THE POST**  
**14 SEPTEMBER 2005**

The records continued to tumble at the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Racing Club on Sunday with punters throughout the State unleashing their respective investment banks to smash betting figures on the NRW Civil & Mining Boulder Cup.

Although on-course investment again remained relatively stable (and that's an achievement in itself with no major Perth or meetings from the East to bet on), off-course punters went to town investing \$939,392 on the meeting. This figure was up an amazing \$430,000 on the corresponding meeting last season.

Many will record the deeds of the mighty Corporate James. He was a true local champion who proved himself in elite company throughout Australia.

So it makes you think is this year's winner of the Boulder Cup in Hotel Casuarina one out of the box?

He now holds the track record for 1760m with 1.45.7 carving the mighty James' record by .7 of a second. That in itself is has to make you consider the possibilities awaiting Hotel Casuarina.

His trainer Neville Parnham and the horse's connections went into Sunday's race full of confidence.

Speaking with them, the disappointment of Hotel Casuarina's run in the Coolgardie Cup was very real. They genuinely felt the horse was capable of winning both prestigious races and the frustration surrounding the horse's bucking effort in the Coolgardie feature was a difficult pill to swallow.

As Neville put it on Sunday, things happen and you have to move on.

The same applies to several runners that went round on the weekend.

Master Vision and Noon went like the wind aiding in the new track benchmark. Considering Master Vision is just a restricted galloper, he will benefit from such exposure in the future.

Morocco Bound and Violent Wind connections should be delighted with their charges efforts on Sunday. Both can play a part in the finish of the \$125,000 XXXX Gold Kalgoorlie Cup on Saturday.

Likewise Local Product and the ever-consistent Priceless Matt should be thereabouts on the weekend.

The betting markets have suggested that's not much between the runners so far this carnival. The winner in the Cup could be another surprise packet just waiting to be revealed.

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Tomorrow's and Saturday's meetings are the final fixtures of the local season. Unlike previous seasons, there is no local racing a week after the Kalgoorlie Cup (although if you want to head to Leonora, they will be on there).

With this in mind, it's worth revisiting the KBRC award tables.

Cliff Smith who holds a margin of five wins going into the Hannan's meeting will collect the leading trainer award. Since 1996, Smith has missed the award just once. The man to pull the crown from his grasp once in the last decade was Peter Fernie. The capable horseman will once again have to settle for second place – although he has narrowed the gap.

Despite receiving an 18-day holiday on the weekend, jockey William Pike will be permitted to ride at the final two meetings of the year.

Pike has an unassailable lead in the leading rider award and will win easily.

The fight for leading apprentice appears set to go to the wire. Dion Luciani leads by one from Jess Valas. Luciani has saluted on 12 occasions at the local track.

Trainer Paul Smythe appears to have the horse of the year award under control with his consistent mare Wicked As a clear leader.

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Speaking of leads, jockey Peter Knuckey despite flying all over Australia on the weekend has opened-up a useful lead in the \$5,000 Goldfields Furniture – Goldfields Betta Electrical Jockeys' Bonus.

Knuckey rode a treble on Sunday and appears to have real prospects of adding to that tally tomorrow.

The award goes to the hoop that rides the most winners in races with eight or more starters. Another condition states – “To be eligible for the award a jockey must ride at all three meetings of Round.”

That's a bit of an issue for Knuckey.

“I’ll definitely be here on Thursday, but Saturday could be another story,” Knuckey offered after Sunday’s meeting. “I have a few loyal connections with horses set for Belmont Park that afternoon, but the \$5,000 does make you think.”

Could it be that Knuckey might be tempted to do both?

Ride at Belmont Park early, then takes a plane to Kalgoorlie-Boulder for a couple of rides later in the day.

Unlikely – but you have to say a possibility.

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Meanwhile, trainer Neville Parnham has put himself in a good position to win another brand new \$35,000 Commodore from Golden City Motors in the trainers’ bonus.

The award goes to the first trainer to prepare six winners including one of the major races.

Sunday saw the leading trainer collect two wins. The gutsy Irish Pride was his first ridden by Tim Stubberfield. His second success was Hotel Casuarina in the Boulder Cup.

The win in the Boulder Cup takes care of the “major” component of the challenge. So all that remains is for Neville to prepare four more winners from the sixteen races remaining at the carnival.

Perhaps the greatest challenge could be getting enough legitimate races. To qualify each event won must have at least eight starters in order to be considered in the award.

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Congratulations to Russell Stewart and John Wulff on an excellent day on Monday.

The pair organised the inaugural Harry Wulff Golf Day in memory of John’s brother Harry who died earlier this year.

A healthy crowd was in attendance and the crew at the Hannan’s Golf Club revealed a few surprises to those confronting the nine holes on offer. It was great to see a good cross-section of the industry in attendance and hopefully the day can grow legs in future years.

There were many good yarns – but as they say – what happens on the golf course must stay on the golf course.

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Those heading to track tomorrow or Saturday can avoid a lengthy wait by pre-purchasing their admission to the Kalgoorlie-Boulder Racing Club.

Tickets are available for various outlets throughout the City.

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Finally, tomorrow promises to be a day to remember.

In addition to the \$120,000 up for grabs in the WesTrac Hannan's Handicap, the action will be equally hot off the track.

The Echo Fashion's on the Field is always a favourite with racegoers. Heats will be conducted between the first few races, with the final set for decision later in the afternoon.

When the fury on the track concludes, attention will turn to the final of the Burswood World Two-Up Championship.

With \$10,000 cash going to the winner, the contest should be hotly contested.

Speaking of the Burswood, don't forget to look at their display as you make your way through the gates at the next two meetings. It could be worth your while with plenty of prizes up for grabs.

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