

THE TRIAL FILES

15/1/2025 GEELONG

Race 3 – 4:15PM DMB CONTRACTING 4YO+ MAIDEN (1112 METRES)

A scratching this morning leaves a field of 7 to contest this. Rail out 3m on a Good 4 should mean we get a relatively fair day.

The short priced favourite #7 POP AWARD looks hard to beat. The form from her two Maiden 2nd placings in her first prep is strong and she has returned with two lovely trials. Hasn't gone backwards in the break and B. Shinn/gate 4 is a good recipe for success. Clear horse to beat however the \$1.75 looks very short.

We loved the recent trial from #2 SPIRITED DEFENCE. He was slow away and green as grass at his first jump out, but we liked the last 100m there when he switched on and he showed significant improvement to win his 2nd heat at Burrumbeet by a space. We like seeing horses with the scope to improve as much as he did, and he was impressive with the way he moved and the style of his win. From gate 6 we are hoping Allen presses forward and at \$5 currently we think he looks the right price to have a bet.

#5 GROUSE MOUNTAIN debuts for the Bedggood stable which has been a solid trend to follow recently. The two trials leading in were good enough and D. Lane/gate 1 increases his chances. He's clear next pick and would be surprised to see the winner come from anywhere else.

SELECTION:

#2 SPIRITED DEFENCE (win)

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