

MELBOURNE CUP

Flemington is the mecca of Melbourne's millions. The classic event of Australia's racing calendar another monster crowd through the turnstiles. Here's my Australian colleague to give you an eye witness account on the 81st Melbourne Cup. From a splendid start, pace is slow and Son of Horace is actually in front with the others jockeying for position. True Flight alters the order quickly and is on the rails ahead of Keeley, Trigger Man and Velocity in a bunch. Just behind is Bo Peep galloping easy with Munro the favourite apparently looking for a berth on the fence. Back marker at this stage is Son of Horace, Saul and Phil King. Hearing the judges' box Galliard is showing the way by about half a length. Here they are coming to the turn into the straight with Tranquil Star in charge, Son of Horace, El Golly with Bo Peep close up, Skipton putting in a long run. Now here comes Skipton unheard of until coming into the straight and now riding the dazzling finish of a real champion. He comes up on the outside and cuts down horse after horse until he's got Son of Horace, Bo Peep can't give any more. The Derby winner's in front and nothing can stop him from walking away with the 81st Melbourne Cup. Son of Horace and Bo Peep struggle gamely but Skipton skips home to land the £7,500 Handicap race for his lady owner. Son of Horace second, Bo Peep three quarters of a length away third. Unlucky thirteen won both the Caulfield and the Melbourne Cup. Didn't pay to insult the heat earlier in the afternoon, but two minutes after the finish the heavens open and cascaded a deluge, it poured on the poor, poor, punters. Most of them were all wet before it started.