

MEDIA ALERT



THOROUGHBRED RACING SA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Steven Pateman leads Aussies as they take on Irish luck

A team of Australian jumps jockeys are hoping to steal some Irish luck next week at the annual **Australia v Ireland Jockey Challenge**.

South Australia's Jumps Jockey of the Year **Steven Pateman** will once again lead the Australian contingent as they take on the Irish jockeys on home soil for the 29th consecutive year.

With a 24 – 14 lead in the annual challenge, which has included one tie, the visitors have a hold on the series. But organisers say a strong Australian team could push the Challenge the home team's way. The Australian team consists of Pateman, Paul Hamblin, Richard Cully and Paul Gallagher, who were all leading riders in the 2015 Star Cruises Over The Rainbow Series. They are going for back-to-back series wins, having won 59 – 30 in 2014.

"The Challenge is always highly anticipated by both the jockeys and spectators and we're optimistic of the Aussie team continuing on from last year's comprehensive victory," **Thoroughbred Racing SA Chief Executive Officer Jim Watters** said.

The Australia v Ireland Jockey Challenge is played out during four races held over three race days. It kicks off with a high-weight flat race at Murray Bridge on Wednesday (August 26), before moving across the border with a maiden hurdle at Ballarat the following day (Thursday, August 27), the first time a leg of the series has been held in Victoria since 2008. The competition finishes with a hurdle and a steeplechase event on **Irish Race Day** at Morphettville on Saturday, August 29.

"The competition is always fierce but, with a strong Australian team which includes Australia's premier jumps rider Steven Pateman and 2015 South Australian Grand National Hurdle winning jockey Richard Cully, we're looking forward to seeing what the Aussies can do to beat the luck of the Irish and keep the trophy in Australia," Mr Watters said.

The 2015 Irish team consists of Jody McGarvey, Jonathan (Johnny) Burke, Tom Ryan and Niki O'Shea. This will be the 40th clash between Australian and Irish teams overall and the 29th consecutive year that an Irish team has been invited to Australia to participate.

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