

Alrow sweeps away with Mackay Cup



Alrow (box 3) looks to have them beaten from box rise in the Mackay Cup.

By **DAVID BRASCH**

OWEN Sweeney reckons his father-in-law has a lot to answer for.

Not the fact that he married Clive Lawrance's daughter Kym, but for Clive firstly getting him hooked on greyhound racing, and then for his fear of flying. Because Owen was desperate to fly to Mackay recently when the COW Confederacy had a runner in the Mackay Cup final, a bitch they bred called Alrow.



The Major Fox-Taylah's Tip bitch won and even though Owen says it's the biggest thrill he has had in a couple of decades of greyhound racing, he would have liked to have been on track for the win. "Clive doesn't fly, and I couldn't talk him into flying up for the race," said Owen. It was Clive who first dragged Owen into greyhound

racing. "I was going out with Kym 18 years ago and was always at their home," he said.

"Clive had a dog called Kerry Jim at the time and he would always make me help gallop the dog.

"I didn't know the front of a greyhound from the back and Kerry Jim was a real handful to deal with. But every weekend Clive would drag me out to help with this dog, and I was really scared of it."

That fear didn't last long.

It wasn't long before the pair were racing and breeding dogs of their own, all stemming from the bitch Tender Blondie.

	Star Title	Rapid Supreme
	Major Fox	Dandy Charm
	Cover Story	Pretty Short
ALROW		Diamond Status
	Acacia Ablaze	Acacia Park
	Taylah's Tip	Watusi Rose
	Tender Blondie	Woodland Citizen*
		Tender Miss

"Alan Rees had a bitch called Tender Miss and we bought a Woodland Citizen* bitch out of Tender Miss which was called Tender Blondie," said Owen. Tender Blondie won five races and from her first litter came Taylah's Tip who showed huge potential but broke a hock at her fifth start.

From her first mating, to New Fox, came the Ipswich Auction winner Stylish Bandit and the top class sprinter Rebekalo the latter owned by former GRA Board chairman Rod Lowe.

The mating to Major Fox has been exceptional with

such smart gallopers as Paper Tape, Bravo Fox and Adios Ayr, and of course Alrow.

Alrow was actually sold by Owen and Clive at the Ipswich Auction, and eventually raced by Alex Green, Rod Lowe and Owen talking a share.

Alrow showed potential but not enough for Lowe who sold his share or \$100 to Clive just before the bitch won a heat and final of the Auction series last year.

That Auction final was not a happy one for Alrow or her litter brother Adios Ayr. They were two of the three dogs to fall heavily at the first turn.

While Alrow did come back to win races, the fall stuck in her mind.

“She never jumped as good down here after that fall,” said Owen.

Enter Nathan and Rhonda Goodwin, friends of Green.

Alrow went north to Townsville to be trained by the pair and hasn't looked back.

She has been a prolific winner in the north and hinted at her Mackay Cup chances with victory in the Australia Day Cup at Mackay earlier in the year.

“And she was also the last dog in Queensland to win wearing the brown rug,” said Owen.

Alrow will be four in December and Owen is keen

for the Goodwins to bring her back to Albion Park for a couple of runs before she eventually retires to stud.

“She would be ideal to go to Just The Best,” said Owen. “But Clive and I will lease her to someone else to breed with.”

Mackay Cup (456m)

1 **ALROW** 6-1

(Major Fox-Taylah's Tip)

Owner: COW Conf.

Trainer: Rhonda Goodwin.

2 **PARTY STARTER** 12-1

(Ginger McGee-One Love)

3 **TRUSCOTT** 8-1

(Big Ginger Boy-Winsor Regal)

Others

4 Mr Caramalo 7-1

5 Cissy's Daughter 7-2

6 Farmor Faithful 5-1

7 Izy Fast 7-4

8 Ultimate Risk 6-4

Time: 26.63.