



Chief Steward

Danny Ryan

WHAT a night of racing at headquarters on July 15 with the feature being the heats of the Winter Carnival Cup.

Overall one of the best collection of sprinters at any Group race at any one time.

Unfortunately we go to print before the final is run. Any one of the finalists would be a worthy winner with some sensational heat performances.

Who could forget the runs of Tiger Strong trained by Sarah Pringle, a stayer! Out in front and flying to record 29.89 and Trewly Special from the Victorian kennel of Tina Womann coming from last after blowing the start to finish second and qualify for the final.

We only just caught our breath when Eric Castle produced Super Burst to run 29.93, breaking the magical 30 seconds at the Creek for the fourth time. What an effort as Eric will tell you he is not the soundest greyhound around, what a racer.

Would you believe Bogie Leigh at 30.03 and Oxley Fawn at 30.04 were the SLOWEST qualifiers!

As I said, we will be in print before the final is run, so I have to have an opinion. I will stick with the champ Bogie Leigh to once again rise to the occasion of a Group race.

On the subject of Oxley Fawn, the heats of the Cup called for the BEST 32 greyhounds nominated. This means the Best 32 greyhounds in the opinion of the Grader.

The Grading Department copped plenty from certain people when they included Oxley Fawn in the heats. Of course, those who handed out the blast will ring and agree the Grading Department were proven correct.

YEAH RIGHT!

What a future ahead for him and so many other young and upcoming flying machines.

The other highlight was the christening of a new set of starting boxes at the 600m start.

Designed and built by the boys at All Industrial Maintenance at Darra, Peter Mackenzie-Ross, Noel MacLeod and Bevan Williamson lead the team.

This has been a 12-month program, resulting in the most modern and safest starting boxes in Australia. Even my old sparring partner John Keep, who is part greyhound, agreed they are the best he has seen. Fancy Keepy agreeing with the stewards, age must be catching up with the old boy.

I enjoyed a visit to the Cairns Cup final night last week.

Once again Tom and Lynn Noble took home the winner's cheque for the second year in a row. The Noble gang spend a couple of weeks at the track, in their caravan, and spend just as much time helping the Cairns Club with the track and other projects as they do preparing their charges. Lynn told me Tommy was out on the track pulling weeds from in front of the 600m boxes. As that old saying goes "I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THAT"

It would only happen at greyhound racing. You realise most greyhound trainers are racing their pets not racing greyhounds.

An unfortunate incident saw the mighty Tropical One break down with a chip dislodging from a bone. He was competing in the race prior to the Cairns Cup Final. Club President Emma O'Connor and others had arranged for a group of very young

girls and boys to sing the National Anthem prior to the running of the Cup.

Unfortunately Tropical One was carried from the track with his injury.

Such is the following of the greyhound in Cairns that it upset the Choir so much they could not stop crying to sing the Anthem and it had to pass.

They say you see something every day that will restore your faith in human nature.

Congratulations to those at Cairns Club who contribute so much and ask for so little, probably nothing in return.

Your efforts keep the Cairns Club going and hopefully may inspire others to help the Club in the future. The Cup Carnival was a credit to you all.

In closing, it was an honour to be involved in the presentation to leading Cairns Trainer Stan Montague.

The Cairns Club and the GRA put together a fabulous framed photograph depicting the wins that led to Tropical One breaking the record for consecutive wins reaching 24 straight.

Congratulations to a great bloke with a champion greyhound.



Danny Ryan and Bevan Williamson with the new starting boxes.

