



MEDIA RELEASE

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29th August 2006



“Group One Glory and National Pride on the Line”

The Country Club Group 1 AGRA National Championships are set down for decision at Tasman Park Launceston next Monday night. A star studded field in both the sprint and distance are primed and ready for action. As usual State pride is on the line while the prestige and honour of becoming the National Champion is a most sought after title. Greyhounds reaching the two finals have qualified after competing in heats and a final in their residential racing state. The host State has two representatives and due to the non-participation of greyhounds from the Northern Territory, Victoria and New South Wales alternate year about to provide the finals with two representatives, this year being the turn of New South Wales. We have a couple of crack finals and listed below in box draw order are the finalists and a short summary of their chances in the big ones.

GROUP ONE – COUNTRY CLUB NATIONAL SPRINT CHAMPIONSHIP
\$50,000 to the winner

Box 1 IMMORTAL LOVE (NEW SOUTH WALES)

Black Dog January '04 History Lesson – Gorgeous Lee
Owner: David Balcombe Trainer: Jason Mackay

Very solid performer only had 32 starts for 11 wins including four at Wentworth Park. Chased home Big Wave Dave in New South Wales State final but never a threat. Would have to improve to trouble the more credentialed finalists but has the advantage of top Sydney mentor Jason Mackay for his preparation. Ironically Mackay has trained the winner of the last two National Distance Championships but this year fines himself in the Sprint final with Immortal Love. 32 starts for 11 wins and 13 placings. Prizemoney total \$24,015.

AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

- Box 2 BUCKINGHAM CHUCK (QUEENSLAND)**
 White & Fawn Dog September '04 Token Prince – Stargari Heiress
 Owner: **Buckingham (Ptn)** Trainer: **Greg Cannon**
 Another youngster with a stack of ability led all the way in Queensland State final from box one and was very impressive in breaking 30 second for the Albion Park 520m, recording a fast 29.96. Recently finished third behind Vapour Whirl in the Group 3 Gold Coast Cup. Named after Prince Charles he is raced by a group of converts from Harness Racing. Prepared by very accomplished trainer Greg Cannon who will have him right to go on the night and the white chaser is not without chance, a young dog on the up.19 starts for 12 wins and three placings. Prizemoney total \$23,200
- Box 3 COLLECTOR (TASMANIA)**
 Brindle Bitch June '04 No Intent – Pharaoh's Eyes
 Owner: **D Gibbs** Trainer: **Ted Medhurst**
 Fought out an exciting State National final to get up in the last stride and win. It was her sixth success at the track and her best winning time of 29.97 after the leader had recorded sections of 5.00 and 17.68. Collector is a youngster with a stack of ability having only raced 16 times for 11 wins and has the advantage of local track knowledge. Will start big odds and need luck but not without a chance and could sneak a place. The State's leading trainer Ted Medhurst puts the polish on this one that's always a help.16 starts for 11 wins and one placings. Prizemoney total \$19,975.
- Box 4 COOLANGATTA (TASMANIA)**
 Black Bitch September '03 Knockabout Wok – Lunawanna
 Owner: **The Island Syn** Trainer: **David Crosswell**
 Well bred bitch, trained by veteran Tasmanian mentor David Crosswell the only Apple Isle resident to taste success in the Nationals winning the 1984 Sprint final with Busy Vintage at Harold Park. She flew the boxes in the State final and just failed to lead all the way in a fast 29.97. Coolangatta has an outstanding recorded at Tasman Park from 13 starts she has won six and been placed three times and has recorded a fastest winning time of 29.94. She would have to lead again to win but has plenty of early pace. 32 start's for 12 wins and nine placings. Prizemoney total \$12,782.
- Box 5 FENCELINE (VICTORIA)**
 Brindle Dog January '03 Light Of Fire – Emerald Shoes
 Owner: **Peter Bryant** Trainer: **Engin Gemci**
 Likely to start favourite and is in extremely impressive form. Brilliant winner of the Group 1 Winter Carnival Cup at Albion Park in July and carried that form back to the Meadows for two outstanding wins in the State heat (29.76) and the final 30.05. Classy sprinter who has rarely put in a bad performance should have no problem with the circuit and is certainly the dog to beat. Can lead or come from behind very honest hard chaser. Has a lot of experience at the top level with a multitude of fast city wins at Sandown and the Meadows. Tried a record 29.41 last Wednesday. 64 starts for 32 wins and 17 placings. Prizemoney total \$164, 320.
- Box 6 IRONSTEIN (WEST AUSTRALIA)**
 Black Dog October'03 Solve The Puzzle – Georgia Belle
 Owner: **Matthew Matic** Trainer: **John Carmody**

Better than handy West Australian open class dog that did a good job to win State final. Overcame box four to surge to the lead off the back and hold out some more fancied finalists. A former NSW sprinter he has raced well in the West and since arriving from six wins at Cannington has recorded a best time of 30.57. Trained by a wily old veteran in John Carmody he has extracted the best out of Ironstein. Would cause a major upset if was to score and a place looks his best chance. 53 starts for 15 wins and 17 placings. Prizemoney total \$ 39,370.

Continued on Page 3 ...

3

AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

BOX 7 **BIG WAVE DAVE (NEW SOUTH WALES)**

Black Dog June '04 Bombastic Shiraz – Pure Formality
Owner: **Big Wave Dave** Trainer: **Don McMillan**

Brilliant young sprinter who is a lighting fast beginner, that has been trained to the minute by leading New South Wales mentor Don McMillan. Has tasted success ten times from only 12 starts and has recorded best of the night times in his last three Wentworth Parks wins. Raced in partnership by AFL legend Tony Lockett, the superstar forward is no stranger to big race success and this Bombastic Shiraz up and comer could quite easily add to his trophy cabinet. The black dog will be rated highly by most judges around Australia his biggest asset, he explores from a box, will take beating. Stumbled coming out in a trial between races last night and only went 30.99 after a first section of 5.46, but local clockers said his post to post time was exceptional. 12 starts for 10 wins and one placing. Prizemoney total \$25,550.

Box 8 **TEN TORNADOS (SOUTH AUSTRALIA)**

Black Dog January '04 Go Wild Teddy – Lucky Penna
Owner: **Sarah Pringle** Trainer: **Troy Murray**

Smart South Australian that comes into the final with outstanding form having won his last six at Angle Park, a track where he has won eight from 11. Quite inexperienced will only 20 starts under his belt but has recorded 29.71, 29.76 and a State final win in 29.68 at Adelaide's headquarters. Raced by Queenslander Sarah Pringle, Sarah has enjoyed a very successful partnership with leading South Australian trainer Troy Murray. They combined earlier this year to win both the Adelaide and Australian Cups with Miss Spicy. Ten Tornados has early toe and will need to use it to gain a forward position in this company, has claims. Tried over 278m on Saturday recording 5.05 and 15.99 the record is 16.05. 20 start's for 15 wins and four placings. Prizemoney total \$23,360.

Reserves: **9 COOL STEFANI (TAS) 10 SHADHA JACARI (TAS)**

Centrebet bookmaker Gerard Daffy's early betting market on the final is:

\$2.00 Fenceline
\$7.00 Big Wave Dave
\$7.00 Immortal Love
\$8.00 Buckingham Chuck
\$11.00 Ironstein
\$13.00 Ten Tornados
\$21.00 Coolangatta
\$26.00 Collector

National Tipsters selections for the final are as follows.

Neil Brown

1st Fenceline

2nd Big Wave Dave

Michael Radley

1st Fenceline

2nd Buckingham Chuck

Gerard Daffy

1st Fenceline

2nd Buckingham Chuck

Continued on Page 4 ...

4

4

AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

Listed below are the previous winners of the National Championships NATIONAL SPRINT CHAMPIONSHIP

1965	HAROLDPARK	BEST SUN (NSW)	500 yds.	26.6/10
1966	OLYMPIC PARK	KINTA'S SON (VIC)	560 yds.	30.9/16
1967	WENTWORTH PARK	METEOR PASO (NSW)	580 yds.	31.8/16
1968	SANDOWN PARK	PRINCESS KERRY (VIC)	555 yds.	31.2/16
1969	HAROLD PARK	RED ZERO (NSW)	500 yds.	26.7110
1970	OLYMPIC PARK	REGAL HERMES (VIC)	560 yds.	30.7/16
1971	WENTWORTH PARK	KING MILLER (NSW)	580 yds.	31.1/16
1972	SANDOWN PARK	LORD GALAXY (NSW)	555 yds.	30.9116
1973	HAROLD PARK	NEW MARINER (VIC)	457 mts.	26.28
1974	OLYMPIC PARK	TEMLEE (VIC)	511 mts.	29.71
1975	WENTWORTH PARK	COOPAROO FLYER (NSW)	530 mts.	31.36
1976	SANDOWN PARK	CLOVER DUKE (NSW)	513 mts.	30.65
1977	GABBA	BOWETZEL (VIC)	558 mts.	32.70
1978	ANGLEPARK	MR TOEWHYTE (WA)	512 mts.	30.69
1979	CANNINGTON	ACCLAIM STAR (NSW)	530 mts.	30.95
1980	HAROLD PARK	FAST SAPPHIRE (NSW)	457 mts.	26.72
1981	OLYMPIC PARK	KATE'S A SCANDAL (SA)	511 mts.	30.70
1982	GABBA	MADONNA LEE (QLD)	558 mts.	32.73
1983	IIAROLD PARK	WINIFRED BALE (NSW)	457 mts.	26.13
1984	HAROLD PARK	BUSY VINTAGE (TAS)	457 rnts.	26.38
1985	SANDOWN PARK	SCENIC SPA (SA)	513 mts.	30.70
1986	ANGLEPARK	STETSON (SA)	512 mts.	29.98
1987	HOBART	FREMANTLE ECHO (WA)	457 mts.	26.39
1988	GABBA	DANCING GAMBLE (QLD)	558 mts.	32.89
1989	CANNINGTON	SANDI'S ME MUM (WA)	530 mts.	31.78
1990	SANDOWN	SANDI'S ME MUM (WA)	511 mts.	30.70
1991	WENTWORTH PARK	JESSICA CASEY (NSW)	520 mts.	30.66
1992	OLYMPIC PARK	MR. SLICK (VIC)	511 mts.	30.02
1993	ANGLE PARK	CASINO TOM (SA)	512 mts.	29.98
1994	WENTWORTH PARK	GALLANT RULER (NSW)	520 mts.	30.38
1995	SANDOWN PARK	FLYING AMY (QLD)	511 mts.	30.08
1996	ALBION PARK	SHAYNE'S CHAMP (VIC)	520 mts.	30.23
1997	ANGLEPARK	PRINCE OF TIGERS (WA)	512 mts.	29.68
1998	CANNINGTON	RAPID JOURNEY (NSW)	530 mts	31.22
1999	WENTWORTH PARK	HARRY HAND (NSW)	520 mts	30.31
2000	LAUNCESTON	PLACARD (NSW)	522 mts	30.76
2001	MGRA (MEADOWS)	HENERIK BALE (VIC)	518 mts	29.82
2002	ALBION PARK	IN THE FRAME (VIC)	520 mts	30.26
2003	ANGLE PARK	ELITE STATE (QLD)	515 mts	29.33
2004	CANNINGTON	IN FOR LIFE (NSW)	530 mts	30.78
2005	WENTWORTH PARK	PURE OCTANE (VIC)	520 mts	29.91

GROUP ONE – COUNTRY CLUB NATIONAL DISTANCE CHAMPIONSHIP

\$50,000 to the winner

Box 1

RONRAY DANCER (WEST AUSTRALIA)

Dark Brindle Bitch

November '03

Cyrus The Virus – Ronray Lass

Owner: **L McDonald, P Hawks, I Johnson, J Royer** Trainer: **Barry McPherson**

Very versatile performer she can both sprint and stay. Won two group races earlier in the year both at Cannington and is the best in the West. Looked equal to her best form when she scored a smart win in the State final recording a fast time of 42.16. It was Ronray Dancer's fifth win over the 715m from nine starts. Hasn't ventured East

much but lacks nothing in the training area as she is under the guidance of leading West Aussie Barry McPherson. Not without a chance but would probably have to lead to win is a better than average chaser and is well in the final. 58 starts for 18 wins and 25 placings. Prizemoney total \$129,040.

Continued on Page 5 ...

5

AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

Box 2 **BOTHING (SOUTH AUSTRALIA)**

White Fawn Bitch September'03 Carlisle Jack – Which Wire
Owner: **A Lee, B Smith, A Calabria** Trainer: **Bosco Stemenkovic**

Brilliant winner of the State final by some 15 lengths in a fast 43.06 her fastest win of four at Angle Park where she is unbeaten over the 731m. Bothing has raced with success as a sprinter and stayer in three states. Has recorded a 43.32 win at Wentworth Park and qualified for the Group 2 McKenna Memorial at Sandown only to be a little disappointing in the final when opposed to the quality field. Is an improving stayer and will carry the hopes of the South Australians some chance as she has proved she can run time. Trialed under the 600m record running 34.33 last Wednesday, then broke the 720m record on Saturday, it stood at 42.63 and Bothing ran 42.45. 31 starts for 17 wins and eight placings. Prizemoney total \$ 32,790.

Box 3 **DUBBO DAN (TASMANIA)**

Black Dog February '04 Trendy Lee-Nova Miss
Owner: **P Bohan & R Watts** Trainer: **Russell Watts**

Won his State heat in 43.11 in his only win at the track and distance, is an honest enough stayer for the successful partnership of Peter Bohan and Russell Watts. Did make up a lot of ground on the leader in the State final and only went down by a half length in 43.06. Hard to see him winning the final in this company and will start the rank outsider of the field. A win would be a major upset and a place chance looks best. 38 starts for 8 wins and 19 placings. Prizemoney total \$13,772.

Box 4 **ITZA BEE (VICTORIA)**

White and Black Dog November '03 Solve The Puzzle – Lilac Time
Owner: **J Atchison, G Daffy, S Karacic** Trainer: **Darren McDonald**

Very versatile middle distance performer who can both sprint and stay. Prepared by the master Darren McDonald he finds himself in the Distance final this year after winning the Sprint last year with the all conquering Pure Octane. Itza Bee defeated a very handy field in the Victorian final when he ran down multi group winner Mid City Mandy in 42.30. Raced in partnership by Leviathan Sports Bookmaker Gerard Daffy a former greyhound trainer from Warrnambool he has had a long association with McDonald. Itza Bee is certainly a chance if he can sit off the speed and have a late crack at them. 48 starts for 18 wins and 22 placings. Prizemoney total \$62,892.

Box 5 **ANGEL DOLL (NEW SOUTH WALES)**

White & Brindle Bitch July '03 Stately Bird-Taber Doll
Owner: **R Webster & S Webster** Trainer: **Sharron Webster**

Honest enough stayer that has performed reasonable well at the top level in her home State. Battled on well to finish second in the State final to qualify but would have to be at her very best to trouble the quality of this field. A win would be a major upset and a place chance looks best. 47 starts for 10 wins and 16 placings. Prizemoney total \$29,195.

Box 6 **ROYAL RIDDLE (NEW SOUTH WALES)**

Black Dog March '03 Solve The Puzzle – Nicka Nicka
Owner/ Trainer: **Bob Littlefield**

Talented stayer that has done it all, a multi group winner that has performed well in all States but particularly well on his home track at Wentworth Park where he has won 11 races. Probably not at his best if you consider his State final winning time of

42.90 but can never be underestimated. Owner-trainer Bob Littlefield will not trial at the track prior to the final as he feels the "Riddler" races best first up on a track sight unseen. Grand campaigner who chases hard and gives his all an outside chance if somewhere near his best. 63 starts for 27 wins and 18 placings. Prizemoney total \$186,995.

Continued on Page 6 ...

6

AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

BOX 7 MISS BROOK (QUEENSLAND)

Fawn Bitch July '04 Ballistic Jet – Brandon Sky

Owner/ Trainer: **Paul Felgate**

Outstanding youngster with an unlimited future she will start favourite and deservingly so. Won the Group 1 Albion Park Gold Cup in June, and then followed up with a third in the Group 3 AWM Distance title at the Meadows after staging a brilliant win in the heat recording 42.41. Returned home for the Queensland National Distance heat with a win in a fast 42.01, then downed arch rival and track record holder Lucy's Light to score a stunning victory in 41.89. Without doubt the greyhound to beat and if she wins the celebration will bigger than Texas led by popular owner-trainer Paul Felgate. Tried a flying 35.18 over 600m at Albion Park last night the record is 34.79. 33 start's for 17 wins and 11 placings. Prizemoney total \$85,425.

Box 8 OH ZOYA (TASMANIA)

Black Bitch July '04 Bombastic Shiraz – Posh Zoya

Owner: **A Clark & N Howard** Trainer: **David Crosswell**

A young stayer that has been extremely impressive in her State heat and final win ran 42.88 and 43.06. She led all the way in the heat and railed up on the inside at the first turn to take over in the final, got a bit tired and to won by a half length. New to the staying ranks she is three for three over the 720m at Tasman Park and would have to lead clearly again to win. It's a huge step up in class and she will start big odds, sure to give the locals something to cheer about if she finds the front lacks nothing in the training stakes Crosswell is a master. 24 starts for 8 wins and 10 placings Prizemoney total \$14,204.

Reserves: 9 ATOMIC JET (TAS) 10 SANGUINE MISS (TAS)

Centrebet bookmaker Gerard Daffy's early betting market on the final is:

\$2.50 Miss Brook
\$6.00 Bothing
\$6.00 Ronray Dancer
\$6.00 Itza Bee
\$9.00 Royal Riddler
\$16.00 Oh Zoya
\$17.00 Angel Doll
\$21.00 Dubbo Dan

National Tipsters selections for the final are as follows.

Neil Brown

1st Miss Brook
2nd Itza Bee
3rd Ronray Dancer

Michael Radley

1st Miss Brook
2nd Itza Bee
3rd Bothing

Gerard Daffy

1st Ronray Dancer
2nd Itza Bee
3rd Miss Brook

AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL DISTANCE CHAMPIONSHIP

1969	WENTWORTH PARK	AMERIGO LADY (VIC)	790 yds.	43 7/16
1970	SANDOWN PARK	SARGOOD (VIC)	785 yds.	44.00
1971	HOBART	SAKI DASHER (VIC)	737 yds.	40.00
1972	HAROLDPARK	BUBBLE'S LUCK (VIC)	732 mts.	43.40
1973	GABBA	HE'S SOME BOY (VIC)	704 mts.	43.09
1974	ANGLEPARK	CORCORAN (VIC)	731 mts.	44.56
1975	GABBA	DOTIE WILSON (NSW)	704 mts.	41.66
1976	ANGLEPARK	BOLTA'S GIFT (VIC)	731 mts.	44.66
1977	HAROLDPARK	WOOLLEY WONG (NSW)	732 mts.	43.58
1978	HOBART	DUSTY JENNY (NSW)	730 mts.	43.30 Rec.
1979	OLYMPIC PARK	MARY MARELLA (VIC)	732 mts.	44.09
1980	SANDOWN PARK	ALL PROMISE (VIC)	718 mts.	43.92
1981	LAUNCESTON	SHAMROCK JEWEL (VIC)	722 mts.	44.87
1982	ADELAIDE	BAY ROAD QUEEN (SA)	731 mts.	44.03
1983	HOBART	TEN GUITARS (VIC)	725 mts.	43.91
1984	CANNINGTON	PRINCESS BADEN (SA)	740 mts.	44.32
1985	LAUNCESTON	MELMADE GAZZA (SA)	722 mts.	44.06
1986	GABBA	KIRSTY'S FIRST (QLD)	704 mts.	41.65
1987	OLYMPIC PARK	MYSTIC HOPE (VIC)	732 mts.	44.29
1988	WENTWORTH PARK	HIGH INTENSITY (VIC)	732 mts.	42.93
1989	ANGLEPARK	JULEP (SA)	731 mts.	43.79
1990	OLYMPIC PARK	CLEAN MACHINE (VIC)	732 mts.	44.00
1991	GABBA	JUST A CHARM (QLD)	704 mts.	41.45
1992	WENTWORTH PARK	PACE GALORE (VIC)	720 mts.	42.57
1993	CANNINGTON	BILLY'S BLONDIE (QLD)	740 mts.	44.89
1994	WENTWORTH PARK	MISS CRUISE (NSW)	720 mts.	43.59
1995	OLYMPIC PARK	BORONIA BLOSSOM (QLD)	732 mts.	43.72
1996	ALBION PARK	BORONIA BLOSSOM (QLD)	710 mts.	42.23
1997	ANGLEPARK	IBROX PARK (NSW)	731 mts.	43.17
1998	CANNINGTON	PARADISE STREET (WA)	700 mts.	41.75
1999	WENTWORTH PARK	KOBBLE CREEK (QLD)	720 mts.	42.55
2000	LAUNCESTON	OSTI'S JOKER (VIC)	743 mts.	45.05
2001	SANDOWN PARK	TIP TOP TEARS (VIC)	715 mts.	42.46
2002	ALBION PARK	BOOMEROO (VIC)	710 mts.	41.61 Rec.
2003	ANGLEPAK	ARVO'S JUNIOR (VIC)	731 mts.	42.66
2004	CANNINGTON	CLASSY CUSTOMER (NSW)	715 mts.	42.31
2005	WENTWORTH PARK	TEXAS GOLD (NSW)	720 mts.	42.07

The Launceston Club is planning a big night for patrons on course at Tasman Park besides the normal first class facilities provided at the multi-code venue the club has planned some special attractions to bring the locals along for a night of top quality greyhound action.

For the children accompanying their parents there will be plenty to keep them happy including Train Rides, Pony Rides and Face Painting.

While for the older visitors to the track they can enter the draw to win a 42" plasma TV valued at \$2999 or a draw to win a weekend for two holiday package at Country Club Tasmania valued at \$1030.

Plus numerous draws to win Tote betting vouchers.

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