



MEDIA RELEASE

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“Group One Paws of Thunder a wide open affair”

The Howard Pacific Finance Group 1 Paws of Thunder is a wide open affair with upsets the order of the series. After two weeks of heats and semi finals the final has produced a race that holds the hopes of a number of runners with some of the bigger names falling by the wayside after expectations of a slice of the big prizemoney disappeared. However a quality field has made their way into the field and the race is on in earnest, the box draw has been of little help and punters will need to analyze long and hard when accessing what the outcome of the rich final might be. On a hugh night of racing a crack Howard Pacific Finance Group 2 Sydney Cup field over the long journey promises to present another outstanding battle between the best stayers in the country.

We certainly have a couple of keenly contested features and listed below in box draw order are the finalists and a short summary of their chances in the big ones.

GROUP ONE – HOWARD PACIFIC FINANCE PAWS OF THUNDER

\$100,000 to the winner

Box 1 SUAVE FELLA (VICTORIA)

Black Dog March '04 Modern Assassin – Jessie Shiraz
Owner: **Stephen Connor** Trainer: **Jason Thompson**

Lightly raced youngster from the powerful Jason Thompson kennel in Victoria used box one to full advantage in his semi final win. Ran 30.32 in recording the slowest of the semi finals after finishing second to Ja Ja in his heat in 30.27. Has drawn the red again the same ally as last week but would have to go quicker to win not without a chance but will need luck. 27 starts for nine wins and 10 placings. Prizemoney total \$27,050.

Box 2 I LOVE LUCY (NEW SOUTH WALES)

Red Brindle Bitch May '04 Token Prince – Smokey Melody
Owner/ Trainer: **Vincent Bennett**

Another very lightly raced youngster with only 27 starts under her belt but a good record at Wentworth Park with four wins and a couple of placings from 10 starts there. Fought on like a bulldog to beat the classy Genista Gemini in the semi, recording 30.25. She came from the difficult draw of eight last week and is better served this week in two would need some luck to go her way but a win wouldn't surprize at big odds. 28 starts for six wins and 11 placings. Prizemoney total \$17,770.

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Box 3

JAYELL (NEW SOUTH WALES)

Black Dog January '04
Owner: **Shane Gordon**

Brett Lee – Miss Fancy
Trainer: **Stuart Dickinson**

Experienced top grade chaser in Sydney and has an impressive overall record with a fastest winning time at Wentworth Park of 30.24. Finished his race off well when second to Suave Fella in his semi after a second to Mean Marilyn in his heat, would need to improve to win the final but knows his way around Wenty and with a bit of luck in running who knows, another that will start nice odds. 53 starts for 17 wins and 21 placings. Prizemoney total \$41,830.

Box 4

ANDY PALMER (VICTORIA)

Black Dog February '04
Owner: **Theo Dahl**

Trendy Leigh – Speed Dancer
Trainer: **Jason Thompson**

Second finalist for trainer Jason Thompson a very strong sprinter who has excelled over the middle distance and is capable of recording fast times. Not that quick away so box makes not that much difference. Will be looking for some luck in running and will power home if he can get himself into a good position. Finished second in his heat to Just Osti in 30.32 and runner-up to Brother Knows in the fast semi time of 30.05. Has won at Group level and can win with a clear run. 38 start's for 23 wins and seven placings. Prizemoney total \$60,215.

Box 5

GENISTA GEMINI (NEW SOUTH WALES)

Blue Bitch June '03
Owner: **Narelle Mitchell**

Placard – Wongawillimilly
Trainer: **Neil Falls**

Recent winner of the Group 2 Lismore Cup and a greyhound in good form, narrowly beaten in his semi by I Love Lucy in 30.25 after she won her heat in 30.37. Has a smart Wenty record of three and seven from 13 with a best winning time of 30.02. Draw won't help and she will need to up on the speed at the first turn to win but not without a chance in current form. 41 starts for 13 wins and 15 placings. Prizemoney total \$50,140.

Box 6

BROTHER KNOWS (NEW SOUTH WALES)

Black Dog October'03
Owner: **Raymond McGrath**

Solve The Puzzle – Georgia Belle
Trainer: **Michael Fairbairn**

The Derby winner from earlier in the year has recorded 29.85 from a wide draw and he has very good Wentworth Park form of 23 starts for eight wins and eight placings. Ran the best of the night last week a smart 30.06 after a heat win in 30.43. A big chance if he can find the front as he likes to lead or be close to it. Already tasted Group 1 success and great chance to do it again. 43 starts for 19 wins and 13 placings. Prizemoney total \$ 96,105.

BOX 7

WONGAWILLISUE (NEW SOUTH WALES)

Blue Bitch June '03
Owner: **Helen Moxey**

Placard – Wongawillimilly
Trainer: **Denise Robinson**

Honest sprinter with plenty of experience surprise winner of her semi at 15/1 and will start bigger odds in the final. Recorded a handy 30.16 to bring up her first Wentworth Park win after finishing third in her heat behind Ja Ja. Connections will be over the moon to have made a Group 1 final. She will need a lot luck to trouble this field but beat a star studded line up last week in what was the hardest semi to win, she could

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Box 8 PATH TO POWER (VICTORIA)

Black Dog November '03 Awesome Assassin – Star Witch
Owner: **Paul Westerveld** Trainer: **Darren McDonald**

Smart Victorian sprinter, who is well fancied from the tough draw, has the advantage of master trainer Darren McDonald to apply the polish. They said McDonald couldn't win last year from box eight but I doubt this fellow is in the same class as Pure Octane. He finished third in his heat behind Oxley Gazelle in 30.08 then was comfortable beaten last week in 30.16 but solid performance to make the final. Lightly raced with only 24 starts but has recorded fast time in several Melbourne wins certainly a big danger with luck in running, but must come out of the eight ally. 24 start's for 12 wins and seven placings. Prizemoney total \$65,005.

Reserves: 9 OXLEY GAZELLE (NSW) 10 IMMORTAL LOVE (NSW)

Local betting market on the Paws of Thunder final is:

\$2.80 Path To Power
\$3.90 Brother Knows
\$6.00 Andy Palmer
\$6.00 Suave Fella
\$11.00 Genista Gemini
\$13.00 Jayell
\$21.00 I Love Lucy
\$26.00 Wongawillisue

Local expert's selections for the final are as follows.

Gerard Guthrie

1st Path To Power
2nd Brother Knows
3rd Andy Palmer

Ron Arnold

1st Suave Fella
2nd Genista Gemini
3rd Jayell

Adam Dobbin

1st Path To Power
2nd Andy Palmer
3rd Brothers Knows

Listed below are the past winners of Paws Of Thunder which was formerly known as the St.Leger and first run in 1957. The NSW NCA restructured the prizemoney and the race name in 2001.

1957 **Idle Sign**, 1958 **Ebony Minda**, 1959 **Super Samson**, 1960 **Constant Raider**, 1961 **Elsie Moss**, 1962 **Black Top**, 1963 **Miss Warcroft**, 1964 **Revival King**, 1965 **Daily Tide**, 1966 **Sunset Fire**, 1967 **Another Glitter**, 1968 **Zoom Top**, 1969 **Beau Brin**, 1970 **Size Seven**, 1971 **Romantic Top**, 1972 **Likely Light**, 1973 **Trella Light**, 1974 **Busy's Chief**, 1975 **Mighty Aussie**, 1976 **Palaver**, 1977 **Fine Arama**, 1978 **Oberon Lily**, 1979 **Lord Raleigh**, 1980 **Glider's Son**, 1981 **Promises Free**, 1982 **Winifred Bale**, 1983 **Winston Lass**, 1984 **Beach Rhythm** 1985 **Another Flash**, 1986 **Memories Gate**, 1987 **See Yah**, 1988 **Grizzly Bear**, 1989 **Jessica Kate**, 1990 **Dixie Lass**, 1991 **Little Denver**, 1992 **Iago**, 1993 **Leon Mal**, 1994 **Zazziam**, 1995 **Nine Inch Nails**, 1996 **Tamborine Dancer**, 1997 **Elle's Commando**, 1998 **Waiwera Marika**, 1999 **Stately Bird**, 2000 **Some Secret**, 2001 **Suellen Bale**, 2002 **Modern assassin**, 2003 **Winsome Shot**, 2004 **Kobble Rock** and 2005 **Pure Octane**.

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GROUP TWO – HOWARD PACIFIC FINANCE SYDNEY CUP

\$25,000 to the winner

- Box 1 MISS GRUB (GLENDA DART)
- Box 2 QUIDAME (TONY BRETT)
- Box 3 ROYAL RIDDLE (BOB LITTLEFIELD)
- Box 4 MISS PORSCA (BEV CAFFYN)
- Box 5 ANGEL DOLL (SHARRON WEBSTER)
- Box 6 MISS BROOK (PAUL FELGATE)
- Box 7 ITZA BEE (DARREN MCDONALD)
- Box 8 MID CITY MANDY (LAUREN GORMAN)

Reserves: 9 WILD JUVANTE (JOHN WESTERLO) 10 ELEKTRA (GRAEME BATE)

Local early betting market on the Sydney Cup final is:

- \$2.00 Quidame
- \$2.50 Miss Brook
- \$4.00 Mid City Mandy
- \$4.00 Itza Bee
- \$4.50 Royal Riddle
- \$6.00 Miss Grub
- \$8.00 Miss Porsca
- \$12.00 Angel Doll

Local expert's selections for the final are as follows.

Adam Dobbin
1st Quidame
2nd Miss Brook
3rd Itza Bee

Gerard Guthrie
1st Quidame
2nd Itza Bee
3rd Royal Riddle

Ron Arnold
1st Miss Grub
2nd Royal Riddle
3rd Quidame

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Listed below are the previous winners of the Sydney Cup.

1963 **Wally's Best**, 1964 **Pinkstone**, 1965 **Barry's Pixie**, 1966 **Rose Moss**, 1967 **Only Ten**, 1968 **Zoom Top**, 1969 **Our Vent**, 1970 **Miss Limit**, 1971 **Top Saba**, 1972 **Jan's Issue**, 1973 **Miss High Lo**, 1974 **Miss High Lo**, 1975 **This Guy Moss**, 1976 **Glahda**, 1977 **Bozo Belmont**, 1978 **Brigante Babe**, 1979 **Debraja Flash**, 1980 **Henry's Girl**, 1981 **Supreme Hiwai**, 1982 **Pleasure O'Hope**, 1983 **Olympic Rose**, 1984 **Linen's Best**, 1985 **National Lass**, 1986 **Beautiful Dream**, 1987 **Sonic Wave**, 1988 **Kirsty's Charity**, 1989 **Rules**, 1990 **Rocket To Tubrid**, 1991 **Vindicate**, 1992 **Sailing Waverly**, 1993 **Trojan Tears**, 1994 **Raven Kelly**, 1995 **Fire Lad**, 1996 **Bonza Boy**, 1997 **Ringside Fire**, 1998 **Gallant Seagull**, 1999 **Kobble Creek**, 2000 **Valley Cowgirl**, 2001 **Pearl Larricki**, 2002 **Westend Prince**, 2003 **Distintive**, 2004 **Resigned** and 2005 **Royal Riddle**.

The NSW National Coursing Association will be conducting a Paws of Thunder Dinner on final night on the 2nd floor in the Ken Brown Function Room of the Wentworth Park Grandstand.

For patrons coming to witness the two big finals there will be plenty of activities on course as well as the usual attractions at the near city venue.

On the first floor of the Grandstand the club will have Music provided by a couple of DJ's.

For the children accompanying their parents there will be plenty to keep them happy including a Jumping Castle and Face Painting.

Also for the on course visitors to the track they stand the chance to win numerous prizes and give-aways as part of the big night of racing.

As always there will be numerous draws to win Tote betting vouchers.



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