



MEDIA RELEASE

1st November 2006

“Ellie’s Diamond leads all the way in Ipswich Gold Cup”

Big John Edwards has been waiting 50 years to win a feature race. He did just that on Tuesday night when Ellie's Diamond led throughout to win the 23rd running of the Group 2 City of Ipswich Gold Cup in race record time. And John and wife Lillian were overcome with pride and the emotion of the feat.

"Yes, I shed a tear," said Edwards. "In fact, I shed three."

Ellie's Diamond (\$15.60) ran 30.44 to eclipse Fool's State's race record of 30.52 to grab the winner's purse of \$20,000.

She scored by three and a half lengths over the luckless Gunnadoo Saint (\$14.10) with a neck to Token Jet (\$4.80) in third. Ellie's Diamond had the race won when she began brilliantly and led at the first turn.

"It's our biggest thrill in greyhound racing," said Edwards.

And the victory was a hugely popular one among the Ipswich locals.

"She's the best dog I've trained," said John.

The bitch was only the third Ipswich Cup finalist for Edwards.

"I've been training since I was 16 and I'm 66 now, and this is the first really big race we've won," he said.

"We are emotional. It's a race we've always wanted to win.

The Ipswich Club announced a winner's purse rise to \$25,000 for the 2007 running of the Gold Cup to keep its status as a Group 2 event.

Edwards said he would take his bitch to Victoria for the Melbourne Cup.

"She deserves her chance now," he said.



After the placings the field finished in the following order 4th Pinch Bar (\$2.50fav), 5th Leica Paper Boy (\$6.80), 6th Back In Ten (\$13.40) 7th Super Size (\$9.20) and Angel Flight (\$9.20).

Ellie's Diamond is a Red Brindle Bitch whelped February '04 she is by Bearability from the Edwards good producer Girl Diamond (Handsome Diamond x Markaboy's Girl). The Group 2 Ipswich Gold Cup win took her record to a 67 starts for 21 wins and 28 placings and prizemoney earnings of \$67,170.



(Photos by Corey Pearce)

First run in 1983 the City of Ipswich Gold Cup has a star studded honour board listed below are the previous winners

1983 **New Generation**, 1984 **Desurlee**, 1985 **Just Jane**, 1986 **Mystic Ghost**, 1987 **New Tears**, 1988 **Whip Tip**, 1989 **Acacia Ablaze**, 1990 **Strebor Ruby**, 1991 **Haylewie Miss**, 1992 **Haylewie Miss**, 1993 **Casual Encounter**, 1994 **Toban Leah**, 1995 **Super Crystal**, 1996 **Roanokee**, 1997 **Barrio Babe**, 1998 **Great Raider**, 1999 **Bob's One**, 2000 **Serious Girl** 2001 **Golden Danny**, 2002 **Scottish Express**, 2003 **Freedom Bale**, 2004 **Fools State** and 2005 **Ravenhill**.

Thanks for content used in above release David Brasch Queensland GRA Website

For more information please contact:

Neil Brown
AGRA Publicity Officer
Tel: 03 97691234
Mob: 0423 129 950

Donna Summers
AGRA Executive Officer
Tel: 02 96465711
Mob: 0414 524 907