



MEDIA RELEASE

11th December

Too easy for Slater in the Great Chase

We hear the term "better than bank interest" from time to time when referring to a starter that's looks better than a good thing on paper. Well the term wasn't out of place when summing up the chances of outstanding youngster Salter in the final of the Group 2 GRV Great Chase at Shepparton on Saturday night.

Sent to the start \$1.50 favourite it appeared overs for the hot favourite on a hot summer's night in central Victoria. With the entire state sweltering in 40 degree heat while in the grip of bush fires raging in Victoria's high country and beyond it was a most unpleasant day for all concerned. However the show must go on and on it went with Salter making a one act affair of the rich final.

Slightly dwelling at the start the speedy performer was quickly into stride and zoomed up on the outside of early leader Hello Tommy he quickly took the lead and raced away opening up a big break sizzling through the sections in 6.53 (record 6.47) and 11.11 (record 11.09). The free wheeling fawn sprinter was in no danger of defeat scoring by nine lengths and smashing the track record in the process. Formerly held by Willy's Buster at 24.94 Slater recorded 24.82. This came off the back of his 430 record on Tuesday night in the semi final at Bendigo when he ran 24.61 to lower the record held by Prang at 24.76. While in his heat at Ballarat he ran 24.90, no far from the 450 record held by Whiskey Assassin at 24.81.

Chasing Slater home was his litter sister Beachley (\$11.50) also trained by Darren Murray she affording the veteran mentor a unique quinella. Like her brilliant brother she also has displayed above average ability. Third home was the Gary Ennis trained San Marino (\$36.90) some eleven and half lengths from the winner.

Slater's run of track records came as no surprize to Murray. "Not at all he is an exceptional young dog that is improving all the time he broke the Bendigo record in a trial there before the semi final so he has lowered three in a fortnight." Murray said.

Because of the hard racing and Victoria's heat Murray chose not to contest the Hobart 1000 heats on Thursday. "I would have liked to have gone to Hobart and it would have been a nice lead up to the Silver Chief but with the hot weather conditions and two track record runs I don't want to take any chances with him he is too valuable it must have taken something out of him and there is plane trips involved so we'll stay home and give him a freshen up for the Silver Chief at the Meadows." Murray said

Trainer Darren Murray had targeted the Great Chase from as far back as before the Shepparton Cup win. "Yes we did set him for it as it was a perfect race for him and Beachley I thought \$1.50 was top odds considering what he's done, some mates of mine Darwin got \$1.70 so they did alright. I was confident of running the quinella as I thought the Ballarat form during the series was quite superior to the rest." Murray said.

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Slater after only 13 starts is probably the most exciting young dog in the country at the moment and has certainly improved with maturity he is a little tardy at the start but Murray is sure that will come with more experience, look out if he starts coming out in

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AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

a hurry. Heats of the Silver Chief take place on Saturday the 23rd of December with semi's the following week and the Group 1 final on the 6th of January 2007.

Slater is yet to win in the city but has only had the tree runs all at the Meadows making the final of the Victorian Breeders Series back in June finishing sixth in the final behind Melbourne Cup winner Betty's Angel. He finished second in the semi to Betty's sister Leprechaun Pace and third to their brother Fast Indian in his heat.

Trainer Darren Murray with Slater (8) and Beachley (2) and a happy support team after the win



Murray has trained for owner Robert Jackson for some time and was delighted to win another feature race for him last Saturday. "He hasn't been well for some time and he's over the moon with the success of Slater, I really hope the dog can win more big races I'm confident he can." Murray concluded.

After the placed runners the field finished in the following order 4th My Wild Courage (\$23.50), 5th Honky Tonk Daddy (\$5.80), 6th Hello Tommy (\$10.40) 7th Mepunga Phoenix (\$23.40) and Faros (\$16.90).

Slater is raced by Robert Jackson and trained by Darren Murray at Napoleons he is a Brindle dog whelped December 2004 by Surf Lorian from Wipe Out (Fortress x Miss Bouchard). Slater has won eight of his 13 starts and has been placed on three occasions and with the \$40,000 first prize for the Great Chase it took his current stake earnings to \$76,490.

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The GRV decided on a complete change to the Provincial Cup series in February 2003. Called the Great Chase, heats were held at every provincial and country track with qualifiers competing in semi-finals and a rich final at Bendigo. Designed to take greyhound racing to the 'man in the street' finalists were aligned with community groups who signed up to be part of the series and become involved with a dog that made the final. The Great Chase is a fantastic regional event providing the integration of involvement with local communities (ie. community groups supporting people with physical and intellectual disabilities), a partnership with Vic Health and top quality greyhound racing.

The in form Brumby Lad won the inaugural \$40,000 to winner event and in doing so provided excited members of the Pennyweight Park Centre Ballarat funds to the tune of \$3250 plus a GRV-funded 10% of Brumby Lad's earnings from June 1, 2003 to April 30, 2004. The final has been staged at different Country tracks since and raised thousands of needed dollars for many worthy groups that have participated over the four years the event has been staged. Listed below are the talented previous winners and the tracks they won the event on.

2003 **Brumby Lad** (Bendigo 24.38), 2004 **Our Barney** (Warragul 23.84) and 2005 **Semaphore** (Warrnambool 25.44).

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