



MEDIA RELEASE



16th December 2006

“Wrest Point Hobart 1000 What A Race”

The Group 1 Wrest Point Hobart Thousand final looks a very even race and set to be one of the best on record with interstate invaders again dominating the heats that were held over 461 metres on the new track at Tattersall's Park in Hobart on Thursday night.

Five of the eight finalists made their way from interstate with four from Victoria and one from NSW but the three locals through to the \$70,000 final all have good enough form to suggest they will be very competitive.

The track record was set and broken three times during the round of eight heats with the Graeme Bate-trained Torque Bale clinching that honour by the end of the night.

Torque Bale showed blistering early speed to lead from box five in his heat and extended his margin at every turn to eventually go on and score by five lengths from fellow Victorian and race favourite Marungi Blaze in the very impressive time of 26.25.

Other heat winners to impress were the Jeff Britton-trained Go Go Ebo who hung on to defeat fellow Victorian and hot favourite Jaimandy Coops by a neck in 26.27.

Ruth Matic's smart New South Wales sprinter Faithful Love made full use of his inside box draw to take the lead at the halfway mark and go on to record another fast run of 26.31.

Victorian trainer John Galea won the Hobart Thousand with Nobody Knew in 2003 and was back with his brilliant chaser Train A Journey more noted as a two turn dog he surged to the front at the top of the straight to win his heat in a fast 26.30.

Another top line Victorian to make the final was Superman he clocked the slowest time of the eight heat winners (26.62) but did overcome some difficulties to win.

The locals had some joy with three heat winners and the talented Cool Stefani looking the best of those to get through.

The Ted Medhurst-trained bitch led all the way to record a brilliant win of 26.33 and she should be very competitive, the master trainer has tasted success in the 1000 winning in 2004 with Regent Thunder.

The final heat winners were Gary Johnson's Buckle Up Tina she did a good job to win in 26.56 and Major Bear who led all the way from box eight to record 26.52 for young Tasmanian trainer Nicole Howard.

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AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

GROUP ONE – WREST POINT HOBART 1000

\$50,000 to the winner



Superman

(VIC)

32 starts 10-13-5 (\$172,055)

Brett Lee – I'm Puzzles

Black Dog November '03

Owner: **Matthew Tabb**

Trainer: **Emin Aydemir**

Hobart best: 26.62 (6) (1 Starts 1-0-0)

Winner of the Perth Cup and ran a record at Cannington very talented sprinter recorded the slowest heat win but overcame some early difficulties to win. Red box always helps not without a chance.



Torque Bale

(NSW)

32 starts 11-10-1 (\$30,315)

Brett Lee – Ashton Bale

Black Dog September '04

Owner: **Paul Wheeler**

Trainer: **Graeme Bate**

Hobart best: 26.25 Track Record (5) (1 Starts 1-0-0)

Has the advantage of master mentor G Bate who has won the race four times. Recorded the track record time of 25.25 running splits of 5.17 & 11.31. Trainer confident of success and he should lead from nice draw will be very hard to beat entitled to be favourite. Great endorsement for the new track Bate commenting that it is sensational.



Go Go Ebo

(VIC)

35 starts 12-4-4 (\$55,430)

Zed Three – Marinka Bale

Fawn Dog March '04

Owner: **Dad Knows All Syndicate**

Trainer: **Jeff Britton**

Hobart best: 26.27 (3) (1 Starts 1-0-0)

Very smart Victorian sprinter that has recorded fast wins at Sandown and the Meadows held on to beat the outstanding Jaimandy Coops in the heat recording a fast 26.27. Ran quickest splits of 5.13 and 11.14 big chance if he can find the lead might have to get around Torque Bale to do so has genuine claims.



Major Bear

(TAS)

37 starts 16-4-5 (\$20,636)

Bombastic Shiraz – Posh Zoya

Black Dog July '04

Owner: **A J Clark**

Trainer: **Nicole Howard**

Hobart best: 26.52 (8) (3 Starts 2-0-1)

Is a 20/1 chance from a hard draw in four has won on the track twice and recorded splits of 5.23 & 11.54 last week but would need to improve on his overall time to trouble this outstanding company, place chance looks best.



Buckle Up Tina (TAS)

29 starts 15-4-4 (\$27,908)

Lilli Pilli Lad – Kay Gee Bee

Black & White Bitch October '04

Owner: **R Johnson**

Trainer: **Gary Johnson**

Hobart best: 26.37 (2) (3 Starts 2-0-1)

Like Major Bear will start 25/1 she is also badly drawn in five ran 5.19 early last week and would have to improve on that to lead giving her a chance to win, place looks best.



Cool Stefani (TAS)

33 starts 17-7-6 (\$35,238)

Waterview Star – Shirley's Angel

Brindle Dog April '04

Owner: **Clair Medhurst**

Trainer: **Ted Medhurst**

Hobart best: 26.28 (7) (4 Starts 3-1-0)

The best of the local hopes and a genuine chance master trainer Ted Medhurst has her flying with three from four on the track. She has to overcome box six but ran fast splits in the heat of 5.13 & 11.28. If she can find the lead she can win at nice odds of 8/1.



Faithful Love (NSW)

33 starts 18-6-4 (\$41,985)

History Lesson – Gorgeous Lee

White & Black Dog January '04

Owner: **H Markou**

Trainer: **Ruth Matic**

Hobart best: 26.31 (1) (1 Starts 1-0-0)

Very smart NSW sprinter that looked good when winning his heat in 26.31 didn't take the lead until the half way mark but raced away when he got there. Not without a chance but will need some luck early to be up on the pace in a position to win.



Train A Journey (VIC)

24 starts 14-1-1 (\$122,565)

Primo Uno – Currency Tears

Black & White Dog April '04

Owners: **Steve Karlusic & Andrew Marth**

Trainer: **John Galea**

Hobart best: 26.30 (4) (1 Starts 1-0-0)

Brilliant sprinter that must overcome lack of early speed to be somewhere in the firing line, had a bit luck in mid field last week and took full advantage this race is harder. May have to come around the leaders and run them down to win never an easy task over 461 metres.



Jaimandy Coops (VIC)

34 starts 19-3-5 (\$214,200)

Awesome Assassin – Speedy Chaos

Top Gun winner and runner-up in his heat to Go Go Ebo, talented sprinter that would be a chance if gains a start.



Big Tone Bale (NSW)

16 starts 5-2-3 (\$6,660)

Brett Lee – Suellen Bale

Youngster bred in the purple runner-up to Cool Stefani in his heat big ask in this company will be long odds if he gains a start.

AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

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

Peter Hayes

1st Go Go Ebo

2nd Torque Bale

3rd Train A Journey

Greg Fahey

1st Superman

2nd Torque Bale

3rd Go Go Ebo

Shane Yeats

1st Go Go Ebo

2nd Cool Stefani

3rd Torque Bale

Local Market for the Wrest Point Hobart 1000:

\$50,000 to the winner Group 1 Wrest Point Hobart 1000 (461m)			
Box	Greyhound	Trainer	Price
	Superman	Emin Aydemir	4-1
	Torque Bale	Graeme Bate	9/4
	Go Go Ebo	Jeffrey Britton	4-1
	Major Bear	Nicole Howard	20/1
	Buckle Up Tina	Gary Johnson	25-1
	Cool Stefani	Ted Medhurst	8-1
	Faithful Love	Ruth Matic	6-1
	Train A Journey	John Galea	3-1
	Jaimandy Coops (RES)	Paul Donohue	20-1
	Big Tone Bale (RES)	Graeme Bate	33-1

What's happening on race night?

The Hobart Greyhound Racing Club and the Tasmanian Racing Club have joined forces to run the first ever dual code (Thoroughbreds & Greyhounds) meeting held in the State.

While not a true dual code meeting as the Thoroughbreds start racing twilight at 3.00pm and our Hobart Thousand Final Meeting starts just after 7.00pm it has been a chance to market work Christmas parties etc.

Bookings have been brilliant and all goes well for a bumper crowd afternoon, evening and night. Sponsors Wrest Point has once again supported our Club with both cash and prize contributions, including a luxurious weekend accommodation package.

Santa will be in attendance as well as a kids jumping castle, face painting and a couple of kids bikes to give away and a plasma Television as a lucky gate prize.

The History of the Hobart 1000

The Hobart Thousand was the brainchild of M.A. (Arthur) Morgan, widely regarded both in Tasmania and on the mainland as one of the founding fathers of greyhound racing in Tasmania, and one of the greatest administrators the sport has seen. It remains the longest running Classic event on the Australian greyhound-racing calendar.

Greyhound racing commenced in Hobart at the T.C.A. ground on January 30th 1935, Morgan and his original committee established the Hobart Cup as the Classic race of the year and it was run on February 2nd that year. The winner Elwick Boy collected 20 pounds for his owner S. Burton.

Morgan in his great desire to establish Hobart as the leading greyhound track in Australia, saw the Hobart Cup as the way to achieve this. The race was advertised as the Hobart Thousand in 1939 with a first prize of an Australian record 500 pounds. This started the mass influx of the top mainland chasers, searching for "Thousand Glory", an influx that continues to this day.

The race reverted back to the Hobart Cup for 1942/43, because of financial constraints, and the fact that the mainlanders struggled to get here during the war. Further war restrictions saw the race in recess during 1944 and 1945. When the race resumed in 1946, it was again the Hobart Thousand and was run for a first prize of what Morgan had always wanted it to be, 1000 pounds. It was won by popular Hobartian Dick Baker with his top chaser Ebon's Own, trained by Claude Best. The late 40s and 50s were indeed the halcyon days of the H.G.R.C. When Morgan started up the Maiden Thousand in 1949, (which was the richest Maiden series in Australia until the 1980s) it created a greyhound racing carnival of sorts with leading mainland trainers migrating to Tasmania with greyhounds to compete in the Maiden Thousand, Hobart Thousand double and sometimes Launceston Cup as well. Legendary NSW trainer Charlie "Chika" Morris would often bring up to 20 chasers and stay for 3 months. He did this for decades.

For 9 years straight ending in 1953, the Hobart Club distributed more stakemoney than any other club in Australia and the Hobart Thousand was always the lure for top quality racing and large public patronage. Until 1965 the race was run as a handicap, with Morgan having sole discretion, as was the case with most matters. Since 1965 all runners have been from the same mark.

Ill health forced Arthur Morgan from the helm of Hobart in 1967, but his dream race, known by all simply as "the Thousand", has continued through all the thick and thin that Hobart has encountered, right to the present day, where it is now a National Group 1 race with a first prize of \$50,000.

The most notable effort in the history of the Hobart Thousand must be the training feat of Hilda Williamson of Beaconsfield. She won back-to-back Thousands in 1961/62 with her grand bitch Ophir Doll, and just for good measure made it a hat trick with Ophir Gold in 1963. Another notable feat was that of Beaut Dina. She won the event run in 1976 and was the dam of Scene Control, which won the last ever Hobart Thousand run at the T.C.A. in 1980. Both were owned and trained by Ted and Laurie Rigby of Evandale.

Arguments will always rage over the greatest dogs to win the Thousand. The best interstate chasers to gain victory would have to be Rookie Rebel (1958), Benjamin John (1969), (which ran down the immortal Zoom Top), Black Aztec (1981), and the freak Brother Fox (1985). Amongst the very best of the locals to salute would have to be Ophir Doll (1961/62), along with Royal Griffin (1978), True Vintage (1988), Bomber's a Flyer (1996), Top Shiraz (2000) (who held off the speedster Brett Lee) and Black Caleb (2002) who defeated Melbourne Cup winner Classic Capri. Race record over the 457m trip - 2005 winner Ralph The Mouth 25.60.



1953 Winner The Mudlark with Buck Buchanan

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AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

The Hobart 1000 is the oldest feature race final in Australia it was first run as the Hobart Cup at the old TCA circuit in 1935. The race first became known as the Hobart 1000 in 1939, it reverted back to the Hobart Cup for two years in 1942 then was not held during the war years of 1944-45 and when the race recommenced in 1946 it was again known as the Hobart 1000.

Victorian Trainer Graeme Bate who has a finalist this year with Torque Bale has won the race on no less than four occasions.

Listed below are the names of many champions that have tasted victory in the time honored event. It is certainly an impressive list of past winners.

1935 **Elwick Boy**, 1936 **Miafort**, 1937 **Loch Maree**, 1938 **On Par**, 1939 **Mr Whackles**, 1940 **Silver Rover**, 1941 **Cavalry**, 1942 **My Kenya**, 1943 **Askalon**, 1944 **"Not Held"**, 1945 **"Not Held"**, 1946 **Ebon's Own**, 1947 **Young Sign**, 1948 **Hero Minda**, 1949 **Erin's Ace**, 1950 **Neat Brandy**, 1951 **Pleasant Foam**, 1952 **Baron Dhu**, 1953 **The Mudlark**, 1954 **Pasha Chief**, 1955 **Minda Go**, 1956 **Baron Woomera**, 1957 **Rising Ace**, 1958 **Rookie Rebel**, 1959 **Peter's Treasure**, 1960 **Bow Rock**, 1961 **Ophir Doll**, 1962 **Ophir Doll**, 1963 **Ophir Gold**, 1964 **Sandy Stone**, 1965 **Fairbairn Lady**, 1966 **Ipswich Low**, 1967 **Fiery Bob**, 1968 **Sue Narila**, 1969 **Benjamin John**, 1970 **Plunder Road**, 1971 **Trion Scout**, 1972 **Beau Palomino**, 1973 **Sue's A Credit**, 1974 **Jamin John**, 1975 **Snowsim**, 1976 **Beaut Dina**, 1977 **Check Vista**, 1978 **Royal Griffin**, 1979 **Astradome Lad**, 1980 **Scene Control**, 1981 **Black Aztec**, 1982 **Kudaleen**, 1983 **Stony Point**, 1984 **Double Time**, 1985 **Brother Fox**, 1986 **Solitary Simon**, 1987 **White Gigolo**, 1988 **True Vintage**, 1989 **Scott James**, 1990 **Bacchant**, 1990 **Shantytown**, 1991 **Jenny's Legacy**, 1992 **Bomber Gleeson**, 1993 **Extra's Boy**, 1994 **Storm Hero**, 1995 **Clint's Pirate**, 1996 **Bomber's A Flyer**, 1997 **Shantung Tiger**, 1998 **Mirren Bale**, 1999 **Latest Lad**, 2000 **Top Shiraz**, 2001 **Black Caleb**, 2002 **Star Witch**, 2003 **Nobody Knew**, 2004 **Regent Thunder** and 2005 **Ralph The Mouth**.

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