



MEDIA RELEASE

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Tonk wins Golden Easter Egg

By Jeff Collerson GRANSW Website

Tonk bounced back from a confidence destroying fall in early November to win NSW's biggest race, the Macro Meats Golden Easter Egg, at Wentworth Park on Saturday night.

Owned in Victoria by Charlie Mercieca and his wife and parents, Tonk (\$7.40) took advantage of a first turn collision between pacemakers Buckle Up Wes and Magic Display to zoom away with the \$250,000 winner's cheque.

After the race Victorian trainer Jamie Ennis, whose father Gary was also a leading trainer, revealed that Tonk had lost form after a heavy tumble at The Meadows in November.

"It took a while for Tonk to regain his confidence in a field," Jamie said.



Tonk charges away with the Egg (Pic GRNSW Website)

Owner Charlie Mercieca is also a trainer but said: "I'm on a suburban block and while I have trained dogs for 15 years I can only manage two or three at a time.

"I trained Tonk originally after securing him on advice from Jamie Ennis that the Bartrim Bale progeny were going to be good.

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"I wanted to call the dog Tonic, and that was the name I applied for, but when I got the papers back it was Tonk.

"I didn't worry about it and now the name has grown on me, I think it is really catchy."

Tom Dailly, who trained last year's winner Grigorieva Bale, had three Golden Easter Egg finalists and landed the runner-up cheque with Hawk Alone (\$24,200).

"I'll be back again next year, at least I got something out of the wreck tonight," Tom quipped.

Not a bad wreck considering Hawk Alone earned \$62,500 for finishing second and Tom's Musquin Bale collected another \$4,350 for winning the race nine fifth grade.

Tonk's Easter Egg time of 29.62 was 0.02 outside the race record established in 2012 by Don't Knocka Him, but race records tumbled in Saturday's other main races.

Not surprisingly Hooksy chopped an astonishing 0.40 – equivalent to six lengths – off Charmed Assassin's race record when he led throughout in the Macro Meats New Sensation.

Hooksy's time of 29.36 was 0.26 faster than Tonk's Golden Easter Egg figures and makes the Jimmy Auld-trained star the dog to beat in the Queensland Derby at Albion Park, which gets under way with heats on April 24.

Glenn Rounds' Anything Less broke Tifia's 2012 race record when he won the Sportingbet Magic Maiden final in 29.62, which was 0.24 quicker than the previous best.

All Strung Out, a litter brother and kennelmate to Anything Less, was second reserve for the Magic Maiden after staging a sensational performance to finish third in his semi-final after leaving the starting boxes 15 lengths behind the field.

Many experts considered Anything Less would be hard pressed getting across from box eight on Saturday but his trainer said that had never been a concern.

"I knew he would run straight to the first corner," Glenn said later.

"I'll return to Melbourne and over the next week think about what I will do next with Anything Less and All Strung Out.

"They are only 20 months old so obviously have a big future.

"Now that they have been around Wentworth Park a few times I'll probably bring them back to Sydney for the group one Peter Mosman Classic heats on June 7."

Zippping Willow and Ritza Hattie are set to shine in this week's heats of the Group 2 Evans & Son Jewellers Ladies Bracelet following their impressive wins at Wentworth Park on Saturday.

Zippping Willow overcame a slow start from box eight to win a Free For All in 29.72.

"She can begin a lot better than that but needs to draw inside and if she can find a rails box is capable of running 29.50," trainer Jason Mackay said after Saturday's win.

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Ritza Hattie's trainer Mark Gatt has earmarked next month's Group 1 Macro Meats Sapphire Crown at Melbourne's Sandown for his bitch but is also considering starting her in Saturday's Ladies Bracelet heats at Wentworth Park.

Ritza Hattie finally "nailed" the start at Wentworth Park to lead throughout in a scorching 29.47 in Saturday night's The Ambrosoli, holding off a powerful finish from WA star Dyna Nalin to score by just over two lengths.

After the placed runners in the Egg the field finished in the following order 4th Buckle Up Wes (\$2.00), 5th Evil Punk (\$5.40), 6th Jordan Allen (\$41.00) 7th Magic Display (\$17.40) and Ollie Bale (\$6.90).

Tonk is raced by striptease Syndicate and is trained by Brooke Ennis at Lara in Victoria. By Bartrim Bale form Couлта Gold (Bombastic Shiraz x Couлта Tess). He is a Fawn Dog whelped October 2011 he has won 11 of his 26 starts and has been placed on 10 occasions and with the \$250,000 first prize for the Golden Easter Egg it took his current stake earnings to \$293,810.

Listed below is the Golden Easter Egg honour roll it has been won by some superstar sprinters over the years including five Hall of Famers. First conducted in 1990 when won by the Jim Coleman trained Ultra Sense the race quickly took pride of place in the Harbour city. It is one of most sought after on the AGRA Group racing calendar and each year attracts the best sprinters racing in the country, all vying for not only the outstanding first prize but also the glory and their place in history as winners of the Egg.

1990 **Ultra Sense**, 1991 **Highly Blessed**, 1992 **Jessica Casey**, 1993 **Billy Binjang**, 1994 **Mancunian Girl**, 1995 **Malawi Law**, 1996 **Tenthill Doll**, 1997 **Bahama Image**, 1998 **Rapid Journey**, 1999 **Faithful Hawk**, 2000 **Stately Bird**, 2001 **Brett Lee**, 2002 **Carlisle Jack**, 2003 **Cyrus The Virus**, 2004 **Bogie Leigh**, 2005 **Paua To Burn**, 2006 **Edie Beuchamp**, 2007 **Slater**, 2008 **Blazing Token**, 2009 **Dana Beatrice**, 2010 **Cosmic Rumble**, 2011 **Radley Bale**, 2012 **Don't Knocka Him** and 2013 **Grigorieva Bale**.

A Giant run to win Association Cup Final Sweet It Is arrives on time

Has there ever been a more impressive group one long distance win than the last-to-first performance of Darren McDonald's new \$95,000 acquisition Sweet It Is in the AAA Radiator Specialists Association Cup final?

Sweet It Is (\$8.50) was tailed off with just over a lap to go and still had only one rival behind her going through the catching pen.

Yet she gave tearaway leader Xylia Allen "wind burn" in the run home to set a new race record of 41.78 in the 720m Cup final, bettering the old mark by 0.16 set by Miata in 2012 and equalled last year by Fancy Liza. Rocky Bale (\$12.80) got home well for second and Xylia Allen (\$1.60) hung on for third.

After the placed runners the field finished in the following order 4th Dyna Willow (\$4.00), 5th Hala Belle (\$49.90), 6th Infinite Wish (\$45.90), 7th Hailstorm Billy (\$23.20) and Lethal Three (\$37.20).

Sweet It Is is a Black bitch whelped November 2011 by Mogambo from Off Springer (Flying Penske x Skullring). She raced by Two Bear's Syndicate and trained by Darren McDonald. She has now won eight races and been placed six times from her 31 starts. The Association Cup first prize of \$75,000 brings her overall prizemoney to \$132,710.

The gala night of racing drew the curtain on a marvellous Group 1 Macro Meats Golden Easter Egg Carnival for 2013.

Full credit must go to race sponsor Ray Borda for helping elevate the Golden Easter Egg to one of the world's richest greyhound events.

The three week series was compiled brilliantly by the NSW GBOTA and GRNSW.

Bring on 2015!



For more information please contact:

Neil Brown
AGRA Publicity Officer
Tel: 03 97691234
Mob: 0423 129 950
nbrown@agra.com.au

Howard Ashton
AGRA Executive Officer
Tel: 08 8243 7100
Mob: 0438 042 838