



Australian Greyhound
Racing Association

MEDIA RELEASE

2nd February 2017

AGRA GREYHOUND OF THE MONTH JANUARY 2017

“LIGHTNING FRANK”

AGRA’s Greyhound of the Month for January is star Victorian sprinter Lightning Frank after his brilliant win in the time honoured Group 1 Silver Chief Classic at the Meadows on January 8.

Despite Lightning Frank posting a brilliant 29.66sec (best) in his semi-final win – his 12th victory from 21 starts – Trainer Mathew Wright entered the \$145,000 Silver Chief final with little confidence.



Lightning Frank winning the Silver Chief (Pic Clint Anderson)

“Being drawn in box five I wasn’t very confident because the six dog (Lorenzo Blue) tries to cut in (to the rail). I really expected (\$2.50 Fav) Thirty Talks to win from box one, and had he not got injured he would’ve won,” Wright said.

Wright is a fencing contractor who trains a small team of six greyhounds at Allansford, just five minutes from Warrnambool. He watched on in disbelief as Lightning Frank stormed home to snare the \$100,000 first prize, much to the delight of his region of owners, the Hashtag Syndicate, who celebrated long into the night.

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Mathew and father Kevin first got involved in greyhound racing 25 years ago when Mathew was just 14 years of age, with Lightning Frank lifting the pair to new heights. "The Hashtag Syndicate is made up of three lads and their dads, and they all just love going to the races to watch their dogs race. Lightning Frank is about the fourth or fifth greyhound they've owned after buying him as a young pup, and I'm really happy for them."

Wright knew Lightning Frank was something special when he was 16 months of age, although he did take some convincing.

"We put him out of the puppy boxes at Warrnambool at 16 months of age and he ran so fast that we just assumed the clock was wrong because race dogs don't even run that time. We didn't think any more of it until we put him around again two weeks later and he ran just as fast."

Lightning Frank's January form continued last Saturday night at Wentworth Park when the black speedster led all way in his heat of the National Derby recording 29.96 in his first look at Sydney's headquarters. He will exit box four in the time honoured Group 1 event a well fancied \$2.50 pre-post favourite to make it five wins in succession and back to back group 1's.

Lightning Frank is a Black dog whelped September 2014 by Black Magic Opal from Kirabilli Abbie (Vapour Whirl x Lilly La Plonk). He is raced by the Hashtag Syndicate and trained by Mathew Wright at Allansford in Victoria. He has now won 14 races and been placed on five occasions from his 23 starts. Lightning Frank's current overall prizemoney is \$167,785.

AGRA congratulates owners the Hashtag Syndicate, trainer Mathew Wright and Lightning Frank on being awarded the AGRA Greyhound of the Month for January 2017. He kicks off the year after a top month of racing.

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