



MEDIA RELEASE

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AGRA GREYHOUND OF THE MONTH – NOVEMBER 2013 “BLACK MAGIC OPAL”

AGRA's Greyhound of the Month for November 2013 is outstanding former New South Wales sprinter Black Magic Opal. In November the talented speedster won his first Group 1 event when he beat an outstanding field assembled for the Melbourne Cup on November 21.



Black Magic Opal has no match in Melbourne Cup win (All Pics Clint Anderson)

Black Magic Opal (\$2.00) cemented his place amongst the nation's great sprinters with an emphatic all-of-the-way victory in the TAB Melbourne Cup at Sandown Park.

Sent to the boxes an easing even money favourite, the son of Magic Sprite began well to lead clearly through the first turn and from there was never challenged, charging to a 2.5 length victory in 29.37 seconds.

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AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

'Max,' as he's known at home in the kennels returned from an injury lay off in late September and is undefeated in seven runs since, including a Group 2 Geelong Cup, three track records and a new first split record in his heat of the Melbourne Cup on November 14.

Despite his impressive record, Thompson believed his charge was under the odds for the Cup final.

"He opened at \$1.65 to win the final which I thought was a bit short, and with an odds on favourite you're expected to win so it's a different sort of pressure.

"But I've never had any doubt in his ability, and when he began the way he did he as always going to be hard to run down."

The son of boom sire Magic Sprite is already the subject of considerable interest at stud, however the 30 month old sprinter's immediate future remains on the track with the Group 1 Hobart Thousand on the agenda.

Black Magic Opal is a Black dog whelped May 2011 by Magic Sprite from Awesome Opal (Most Awesome x Opal Glow). Black Magic Opal is raced Black Opal Syndicate and trained by Jason Thompson. He has raced 34 times for 27 wins and four placings. After adding the \$350,000 first prize for the Melbourne Cup his stake earnings stand at \$496,835 11th on the all-time list.

The month of November has seen a 10 group races decided. Black Magic Opal beat other Group 1 winners Cheetah Zorro, Belfast Johnny and Alpe D'Huez for the monthly award.

AGRA congratulates owners Black Opal Syndicate, trainer Jason Thompson and Black Magic Opal on being awarded the AGRA Greyhound of the Month for November 2013 his second this year after winning it in April. He Joins January winner Sheikha, February winner Destini Fireball, March winner Spud Regis, May winner Irma Bale, June winner Paw Licking, July winner Proven Impala, August winner Smart Valentino, September winner Ernie Bung Arrow and October winner Dyna Nalin.

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