



MEDIA RELEASE
6th June 2013



Starliner Quickest Heat Winner

NORTHERN Rivers stayer Starliner ran 42.30 the quickest of the three heats of the Group 1 Albion Park Gold Cup on Thursday night and breeder, owner and trainer Gary Pattersen admits he wasn't making the same mistake again.

"He was up in weight more than half a kilo for the final of the Winter Chase here last week," said Gary. "I wasn't going to make the same mistake this week."

Starliner (Pure Octane-Borgata) swept to the front on the home turn and raced away to win by two and three-quarter lengths over the fast finishing Ba Bling with a length to Proven Impala in third.

Starliner has the remarkably consistent record of 21 wins and 13 placings in 40 starts. He recently gave Gary his first Group starter and first Group win when he landed the Group 3 Big Dog Cup.

Sydney visitor Where's Keroma opened up a huge break early but Starliner took off after him in the back straight and was always going to win as he approached the home turn.

The time of 42.30, according to Pettersen, was a great effort considering the poor state of the track. "It is really, really heavy going through the catching pen," he said.

Trainers complained about the state of the track all night.

Gary admits that veteran dog man John Keep is his inspiration in greyhound training and his guiding light. "I've got a bet going with Johnny that Starliner will win more than \$100,000 in 12 months of racing," said Gary.

"Johnny says he will. I doubted that when he first went into training. I'll be happy to pay Johnny the \$100 I've bet him if he does get to \$100,000."

Johnny Keep jokes Gary will retire the dog when his prizemoney gets to \$99,990.

Part-owner Debbie Cannan admits she doesn't watch much of Bell Haven's first lap of any of her races.

Which is advisable because Bell Haven (Head Bound-It's A She) doesn't get into her races until the final stages. She did that again on Thursday night when she rattled home to win a heat of the Group 1 Albion Park Gold Cup.

She ran 42.47 to win by three-quarters over early leader Honey Bouquet with three lengths to Mimicking in third.

Bell Haven took her record to 53 starts for 24 wins and 14 placings with the victory at her debut on Albion Park.

Ted Medhurst trains the bitch in Tasmania. She had been beaten a couple of inches when second in the recent Sandown Cup final to Irma Bale.

"Every week she puts in some massive runs," said Debbie who always travels with Bell Haven when she races on the mainland.

Debbie will head back to Tasmania on Friday and is likely to be back in Brisbane next Wednesday depending on the availability of flights.

AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

The bitch had trialled 42.25 at Albion Park last week and her winning time of 42.49 showed the state of the track tonight.

Honey Bouquet, stepping up to the 710m for the first time after a recent 520m campaign, gave owners Pat and Glen Carrington and trainer Jim Conlon a great sight.

She led easily early and then battled on gamely in the straight. Only a powerful stayer like Bell Haven was going to be able to run her down.

"She loves the eight box," said Debbie.

Six years ago John Dart gave a huge cheer when Miss Grub dashed to the front and went on to win the Group 1 Albion Park Gold Cup.

On Thursday night, the Dart-trained Mrs Thursday (Bombastic Shiraz-Nikita Grove) dashed to the front on the home turn and charged into this year's final when she won her heat in 42.42.

She scored by a length and three-quarters over hot favourite Irma Bale with a half length to Destini Fireball in third.

Mrs Thursday is a baby, having just her 12th race start tonight which brought her record to five wins and six thirds.

"I gave her a cooee when she raced to the front at the top of the straight," said John whose wife Glenda trains the bitch for long-time kennel client Les Daley.

John refuses to compare Mrs Thursday with Miss Grub.

"I'll let everyone else make the judgment," said John. "She is very good, very very good. But Grub has done it already. And besides if I rated her above Miss Grub the Northfields would never talk to me again."

But John has never for a moment lost confidence in the bitch even when she struggled to win a Maiden.

"She always had to get up in distance to show her best, and here it is," he said.

Dart admitted only a few weeks ago he felt the bitch needed a few more months to reach her peak over a staying distance. He's happy to be wrong. "The one," he said. "That's what we need in the final."

Thanks to David Brasch Queensland Greyhound Magazine for story material.

GROUP ONE – MACRO MEATS GOLD CUP \$75,000 to the winner



Mrs. Thursday

12 starts 5-0-6 (\$14,535)

Bombastic Shiraz – Nikita Grove

Black Bitch April '11

Owners: **Les Daley**

Trainer: **Glenda Dart**

Albion Park best: 42.40(4) (3 Starts 2-0-1)

Nicely boxed here. Impressive youngster beat some classy opposition in her heat here last week winning in 42.42. Sure to be a big improver and she rates among the chances.



Destini Fireball (VIC)

39 starts 21-5-2 (\$369,925)

Where's Pedro – Grey's Destini

White & Black Dog March '10

Owner / Trainer: **Norm Rinaldi**

Albion Park best: NBT (1 Starts 0-0-1)

Seems to be racing just off his best but still good enough to make important finals. Improvement needed if he is to be a winning chance. Big time performer with three Group 1 to his name. Hard to see him beating this field but he could battle his way into the placings.



Bell Haven (TAS)

53 starts 24-12-2 (\$189,475)

Head Bound – It's A She

Black Bitch April '10

Owners: **Cannan Syndicate**

Trainer: **Ted Medhurst**

Albion Park best: 42.47 (8) (1 Starts 1-0-0)

Fantastic little chaser she is well at home in this company. Super run in the Sandown Cup final and very impressive last week to storm home and win in 42.47. Seemingly never runs a bad race, looks hard to beat in her current form.



Honey Bouquet

29 starts 8-6-6 (\$22,084)

Bit Chili – Honey Mist

Black Bitch June '10

Owner: **Patricia Carrington**

Trainer: **John Conlon**

Albion Park best: NBT (1 Starts 0-1-0)

Great effort last week to make this classy final first up over the distance. In excellent company in this field but has the early speed to lead. Might need a bit more experience over the journey to match it here but is certainly a place chance.



Irma Bale (VIC)

84 starts 35-25-6 (\$543,001)

Bartrim Bale – Amelia Bale

Black Bitch October '09

Owner: **Paul Wheeler**

Trainer: **Graeme Bate**

Albion Park best: NBT (3 Starts 0-1-1)

Superstar all distance performer she comes into the final after a below par performance for her. Dual Sandown Cup winner and fifth on the all-time list for stake money won. Not many G Bate trained runners don't come up for a big final. Expect a forward showing she's a class act.



Starliner

40 starts 21-8-5 (\$79,194)

Pure Octane – Borgata

White & Black Dog October '10

Owner/Trainer: **Gary Pettersen**

Albion Park best: 42.25 (4) (4 Starts 2-2-0)

Drawn OK here. Had the seven last week when he got back early but then swept into the race on home turn going on to win the heat in 42.30, beating the fast finishing Ba Bling by 2 1/2 lengths. He will be charging home again and he must rate highly.



Ba Bling

62 starts 17-5-10 (\$42,053)

Where's Pedro – Sirocco Pearl

Red Fawn Bitch February '10

Owner: **Le Gass Partnership**

Trainer: **Gary Keep**

Albion Park best: 42.07 (5) (15 Starts 3-2-1)

Has plenty of experience on the track and a fast win of 42.07. Flew home in the final stages last week and knows her way around here. Drawn to get a good run early here but hard to see her upsetting the more fancied. Rates highly among the place chances.



Proven Impala (VIC)

67 starts 25-8-10 (\$219,200)

Velocette – Thanks Blue

Black Bitch October '09

Owner: **Larissa Darragh**

Trainer: **Joe Borg**

Albion Park best: NBT (1 Starts 0-0-1)

Sandown Cup finalist and not beaten by much. Outstanding all distance performer she raced a little flat last week and would need to improve to make an impact on that run. However she is very smart bitch on her night and has won over \$200,000. Sure to be thereabouts.



Mimicking (VIC)

63 starts 11-13-6 (\$85,953)

Flying Penske – Classy Creek

Never looked a winning chance in last week's heat, he makes a few finals without winning often. Place chances are best if gets a start.



Czar (VIC)

65 starts 14-15-9 (\$102,105)

Flying Penske – Classy Creek

Got to the front for a period in his heat but like his litter brother the other reserve he has a heap of ability and hasn't show it all that much. Both great money earners would be a big surprise if he got a start and troubled this lot.

David Brasch's Market on the final:

\$75,000 to the winner Group 1 Macro Meats Gold Cup (710m)			
Box	Greyhound	Trainer	Price
	Mrs. Thursday	Glenda Dart	5/1
	Destini Fireball	Norm Rinaldi	6/1
	Bell Haven	Ted Medhurst	3/1
	Honey Bouquet	John Condon	10/1
	Irma Bale	Graeme Bate	5/1
	Starliner	Gary Pettersen	8/1
	Ba Bling	Gary Keep	20/1
	Proven Impala	Joe Borg	10/1
	Mimicking	Robert Britton	20/1
	Czar	Robert Britton	20/1

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

David Brasch

1st Mrs. Thursday
2nd Destini Fireball
3rd Bell Haven

Paul Dolan

1st Bell Haven
2nd Irma Bale
3rd Mrs. Thursday

John Brasch

1st Bell Haven
2nd Mrs. Thursday
3rd Irma Bale

What's happening on race night?

Macro Meats Group 1 Gold Cup

The Brisbane club has a big night of entertainment planned for their first Group 1 Final night for 2013.

Next week's Macro Meats Gold Cup Final will be the opening night of the 2013 Winter Chasing Carnival. There is a full bar and Bistro facilities, Bookmaker and Tote betting it should be a great night for all attending.

The History of the Gold Cup

The Gold Cup was first run at Gabba in 1974 and was known as the Gabba Gold Cup until 1980 when sponsored by SGIO for a year and by Woolworths of another year. It went back to the Gabba Gold Cup until 1988 when the race became the FAI Gold Cup for four years. It changed to the Albion Park Gold Cup when racing transferred there in 1993 and has been sponsored by current sponsor VIP Petfoods since 2002. It has been won by some champion stayers over the year's Dotie Wilson the only dog to win it twice in 75 and 76. Mandarin Girl 77, Picture This 82, National Star 85, Trojan Tears 94, Miss Cruise 95, Boronia Blossom 96, Totally Ablaze 98, Questions 99, Total Denial 2002, 2006 Miss Brook, 2007 Miss Grub, 2008 Chinatown Lad, 2009 Queen Lauryn, 2010 Nellie Noodles, 2011 Bobby Boucheau and last year's winner He Knows Uno.

GABBA GOLD CUP

YEAR	WINNER	TIME
1974	Captain Winter	42.12
1975	Dotie Wilson	41.83
1976	Dotie Wilson	42.08
1977	Mandarin Girl	41.70
1978	Dusty Ginny	41.75

1979	Mockacindy	41.46
1980	Gini's Choice	41.90
1981	Final Dream	41.83
1982	Picture This	41.88
1983	High Monakii	41.75
1984	Shy Deena	41.62
1985	National Star	41.61
1986	Clover Park	41.40
1987	Shy Nimbus	41.74
1988	Gary's Hope	41.49
1989	Mary Casey	41.51
1990	Rocket To Tubrid	41.68
1991	Cobbalena	41.71
1992	Elusive Odie	41.37

GOLD CUP AT ALBION PARK

YEAR	WINNER	TIME
1993	Pilgrim's Star	41.88
1994	Trojan Tears	42.53
1995	Miss Cruise (NSW)	42.57
1996	Boronia Blossom	42.25
1997	Red Mystique	42.06
1998	Totally Ablaze	41.96
1999	Questions	42.10
2000	Amazing Dancer	42.11
2001	Hotshow Vintage	42.15
2002	Total Denial	42.41
2003	Dooley's Mist	42.28
2004	Toss O'Reilly	41.76
2005	Last Quoted	41.74
2006	Miss Brook	41.86
2007	Miss Grub	41.77
2008	Chinatown Lad	41.91
2009	Queen Lauryn	42.08
2010	Nellie Noodles	41.84
2011	Bobby Boucheau	42.03
2012	He Knows Uno	41.78

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
hashton@agra.com.au

