



MEDIA RELEASE

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Magic Pup the toast of Dapto

By Adam Pengilly Illawarra Mercury

Jubilant owner Con Hansimikali and trainer Wally Lutiger had their pre-race concerns quashed after Magic Fancy overpowered a stellar cast to win the Dapto Puppy Classic (520m) final on Thursday night.

Connections had feared a box three draw for Magic Fancy, who veers right after the lids lift, would cruel any chance he had in the \$75,000-to-the-winner final, the showpiece of the region's greyhound racing calendar.

But Magic Fancy trailed Dapto Maiden winner Dark Assassin (box seven) into the back straight, before collaring the \$2.60 favourite turning for home. "When we first bought him we didn't know that was what he was first doing," Hansimikali said of Magic Fancy's box manners. "Dennis Barnes, who we bought him off, didn't know he was doing that either.

"He still won, but he found a bit hard. He might change later on, who knows? A dog does what he does.

"I reckon he baulks the other dogs and maybe it helps him."

Magic Fancy, the fastest qualifier for the final, started a \$3.20 second elect behind Dark Assassin (\$2.40) for the climax of the stunted series. He held Dark Assassin at bay by one-and-three-quarter lengths with a moderate winning time of 29.97s.

The greyhound fetched \$10,000 at last year's Dapto Puppy Auction, almost double the price paid for any of the other seven finalists.

Winsome Charlee (\$5.50) (box six) thundered home for third after coping severe interference at the first turn.

AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

Winnebago king Allan Bryant has reaffirmed his support for the Dapto Puppy Classic series, outlining plans to offer a \$100,000 winner's cheque for the restricted final.

The climax to the stalled 2012 event is finally run Thursday night - three weeks after the semi-finals took place.

The series has been the biggest casualty of the trainer boycott of race meetings across the state which almost brought the industry to a standstill for two weeks.

Officials moved quickly to reschedule the \$75,000-to-the-winner final and Country Winnebago general manager Bryant, a trainer himself, said his future sponsorship would not be affected.

"As I made it clear at the calcutta, I'm sticking on board for quite a few years yet," Bryant said. "My goal, and I made it clear the week before, is I would like to see the race worth \$100,000 [to the winner]. We're prepared to go a little bit more if we can put it all together with the club and we're looking at that at the next meeting we have.

"I've been associated with it for that long now and I think it's a good concept."

An increase in the first prize purse to \$100,000 would mean the Dapto Puppy Classic would become the only provincial greyhound race to offer a six-figure winner's bounty.

After the placed runners the field finished in the following order 4th Jay bee Rock (\$21.00), 5th Go Oro (\$15.00), 6th Where's Wob (\$8.50) 7th Booze Hound (\$17.00) and Toots (\$21.00).

Magic Fancy is raced by Con Hansimikali. He is trained by Wally Lutiger at Bringelly in New South Wales. Magic Fancy is a Black dog whelped October 2010 by Brett Lee from Sweet Fancy (Collision x Miss Fancy). He has won five of his seven starts and with the \$75,000 first prize for the Dapto Auction Series it took his current stake earnings to \$79,475.

The Dapto Auction Series was first conducted in 2000 when sponsored by All Fab Constructions they remained the race sponsor until 2003 when the Glendon Motor Holden Company took over in 2004/05 while current sponsor Country Motor Company came on board in 2006. Listed below are the previous winners.

2000 **Electric Grace**, 2001 **Toll Security**, 2002 **Most Awesome**, 2003 **Bazwill**, 2004 **Miss Megastar**, 2005 **Here I Come**, 2006 **Adris Echo**, 2007 **Merciless Lu**, 2008 **Never Quoted**, 2009 **Jedd Lion**, 2010 **Vancouver Kiss** and 2011 **No Rules League**.

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