



## MEDIA RELEASE

9th December 2011



# No Rules League Takes Out Classic

By Adam Pengilly Illawarra Mercury

Bargain buy No Rules League upstaged her more expensive rivals to snare the richest purse on the region's greyhound racing calendar last night.

Bought for a paltry \$800, owner Chris Bertinato and his father Joe savoured a \$75,000 winner's kitty when their bitch took out the rich Dapto Puppy Classic.

The George Micallef-trained pup, who was the only Wollongong-trained greyhound to reach the final, delivered the veteran Farmborough Heights trainer a career highlight after more than four decades in the industry.

"All these years I've been training greyhounds and it is the best thing that has ever happened to me," a jubilant Micallef said.

No Rules League was swiftly away from her inside alley and shouldered past a plucky Frisky Melody heading into the first turn.

From that point on the race was never in doubt as the \$1.80 favourite saluted in a nippy 30.10s.

"It's a big thrill for all of us and George does so much for the dogs," Bertinato said.

"He has been around for 40 years and has been wanting something like this and now he's got it. "It goes to show you don't need to spend thousands of dollars coming to the dogs."

No Rules League was by far and away the most inexpensive pup to reach the final, her knockdown price well below the second cheapest lot of Frisky Melody [\$3000]. Frisky Melody started \$20.60 with Go Jessie Girl (\$6.60) third.

This year's Dapto Puppy Classic offered a 50 per cent prizemoney hike and was only open to greyhounds sold through the club's 2010 auction.

## AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

Major sponsor Country Winnebago are delighted to stay on board in the years to come company manager Allan Bryant a greyhound man himself is pleased with his association with the race and the Dapto Club. This year's series saw the first prizemoney increase to \$75,000 to the winner. The increase makes the Auction Classic equal with the Sale Cup as the richest provincial first prize Group races in the country.



Chris Bertinato (centre) and connections celebrate No Rules League's win in the Dapto Puppy Classic last night.  
Picture: SYLVIA LIBER

After the placed runners the field finished in the following order 4<sup>th</sup> One Banana (\$5.00), 5<sup>th</sup> Unfinished (\$6.90), 6<sup>th</sup> Chevy Dotcom (\$54.30) 7<sup>th</sup> Dancing Cookie (\$18.20) and Lagoon Niffy (\$44.70).

No Rules League is raced by Joe and Chris Bertinato. He is trained by George Micallef at Farmborough Heights in New South Wales. No Rules League is a Red Brindle dog whelped November 2009 by Bit Chilli from Carlz (Lindale Blue x Light Years). He has won eight of his 13 starts and has been placed on four occasions and with the \$75,000 first prize for the Dapto Auction Series it took his current stake earnings to \$87,515.

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** and 2009 **Jedd Lion** and 2010 **Vancouver Kiss**.

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