



MEDIA RELEASE

22nd April 2010

Rod, Jill Create Auction History

ROD and Jill Herr created history when they landed the quinella in the Group 2 Ipswich Auction final (520m) last Wednesday night.

The Herr's Iron Force, the only maiden in the rich final, downed his litter sister Freaky Force (Surf Lorian-Token's Spark) by a half head to win in 31.30.

Auriga Fox, recent winner of the Group 2 Vince Curry Maiden final at Ipswich, finished third a length away.

Rod and Jill scooped the pool, the winner's cheque of \$35,000, runners-up prize of \$10,000 and all the bonuses as breeders.

Jill owns both dogs and husband Rod trains them.

Iron Force started the \$33 outsider of the field, while Freaky Force started at \$27.

Rod and Jill bred the litter from Token's Spark a bitch they raced with success a few years ago from the Tony Zammit kennel.

Token's Spark, who was sold to the Herrs as a three-month-old pup by Mick Zammit, won 14 of her 38 race starts and has been difficult to get into pup.

She has been mated four times to Surf Lorian but been able to produce only one litter.

The Herrs kept all eight pups, bought them all back at the Auction when they were pups, and then got all eight to the heats.

"We had a runner in every one of the eight heats, runners in all four of the semi-finals, and got two into the final," said Rod.

Rod has thrown his all into greyhound training taking up the business professionally.

He was overcome with emotion on the walk back from the starting boxes to collect the winner and runner-up.

He broke into tears in the arms of his wife and had to stop and compose himself.

"I've only ever dreamed about things like this," he said.

"Jill and I have been waiting 12 months for this race to come around.

"He's amazed me this dog," he said of Iron Force. "He can't run 520 metres, you know."

On a wet track, Iron Force led around the first turn, was challenged in the back straight by Auriga Fox (\$3.40), and then held off the late charge by his sister.

Rod reckoned he knew his luck was in on the night.

"Just as we were parading the dogs before the final, the club put over an announcement. I'd won the meat tray raffle," said Rod.

That wasn't all he'd won on the night.

Tonight's Ipswich Auction final proves "nice people do win big races".

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AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

After the placed runners the field finished in the following order 4th Unlucky Ginga (\$10.60), 5th Fully Worked (\$4.20), 6th Doyen Star (\$28.90), 7th My Boy Monty (\$4.20) and Our Miss Maud (\$4.60).

Iron Force is a April 2008 Black dog by Surf Lorian from Token's Spark (Token Prince x Cardio Spark). He is raced, trained and was bred by Rod & Jill Herr at Buccan in the outer southern suburbs of Brisbane. Iron Force has now raced on eight occasions for one win and five placings and the \$35,000 first prize for the Auction Series took his overall stake earnings to \$36,260.

It was the 22nd staging of the Auction Series for the Ipswich Club and another successful one, the race has consistently uncovered talented pups that are given the opportunity to race for big prizemoney at the start of their race careers.

The Ipswich Auction Series has had a number of different sponsors since it commenced in 1989 it was called the Sci-Fleet Ford Auction series for three years, then from 1992 until 1994 it was the Celcast Auction Series. In 1995 for one year it was the Roofshield Auction Series and then the race was taken over by the Rob Lowe Car Company from 1997 until 2001 when the current sponsor Highland Smash Repairs became the sponsor. Listed below is the full honour roll of the past winners.

1989 **Milluna Miss**, 1990 **Our Gold Coin**, 1991 **Slick Myth**, 1992 **Impulsive Gamble**, 1993 **Marry Me Mary**, 1994 **Perro Star**, 1995 **Pride Of Stef**, 1996 **Nobody's Fool**, 1997 **Blazing Honour**, 1998 **Travel Train**, 1999 **Hypnotic Trans**, 2000 **Stylish Bandit** 2001 **Pacific Flash**, 2002 **Happy Chappy**, 2003 **Awesome Design**, 2004 **Fool's State**, 2005 **Don Paco**, 2006 **Rylee's Revenge**, 2007 **Go Makatam**, 2008 **Elise Odette** and 2009 **Rail Raider**.

Thanks to David Brasch Queensland GRA Website for story material.

For more information please contact:

Neil Brown
AGRA Publicity Officer
Tel: 03 97691234
Mob: 0423 129 950

Brenton Scott
AGRA Executive Officer
Tel: 02 96497166
Mob: 0438 402 198