



MEDIA RELEASE

16th February 2010

Gardam Prince Clinches Tassie Cup Double

AFTER another disappointment in last year's Hobart Thousand, Cranbourne trainer Darren McDonald was beginning to think he might never win a feature race in Tasmania

But his star sprinter Gardam Prince (\$2.80) turned that around when he won the Group 3 Devonport Cup last month and followed up last Monday night with an even more impressive win in the \$57,000 Group 2 Country Club Tasmania Launceston Cup over 515 metres.

In fact the win was Gardam Prince's third Group victory after he snared the Shepparton Cup in 2009 and was runner-up in the Warrnambool Cup also last year.



Gardam Prince impressively wins the Launceston Cup (All Pics Peter Hayes)

Gardam Prince showed his customary early brilliance and found the front at the deadly first turn on the Launceston circle track.

Once on the lure he was never headed and powered home to score by two lengths over Pedro Pronto (\$2.90) with the baby of the field Sultan's Swing (\$15.00) just under a length astern.

Time for the final was 29.90 after sections of 5.05 and 17.49.

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"This win certainly justifies my faith in this dog," McDonald said.

"He has a great first section if he gets a clear run and that's what happened tonight, I don't think he flew the boxes but he came out well enough."

"Once he found the front I thought he would be very hard to beat because he's only ever been beaten once when he led and that was by Turanza Bale and he's probably the strongest dog in the country," McDonald said.

"His record tells you how consistent he is, he always gives 100% he's a great dog and Russell (Watts) has done a great job." McDonald said.

McDonald confirmed the Horsham Cup on March 4th and 7th would be Gardam Prince's next assignment.

After the placed runners the field finished in the following order 4th Fisherman (\$6.40), 5th Uno Keysy (\$25.00), 6th Big Zues (\$22.00), 7th Trilogy Mission (\$45.00) and Where's Fly (\$6.20).

Gardam Prince is a Blue dog whelped March 2007 by Black Enforcer from She's Travelling (Travel Train x Angel's Princess). He is raced by the Michelle Minne and trained by Darren McDonald. Gardam Prince has won 32 of his 44 starts and has been placed on five occasions with the \$40,000 first prize for the Launceston Cup it took his current stake earnings to \$150,345.



Darren McDonald & Russell Watts with Gardam Prince at the Presentation

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The time-honoured event is one the oldest feature finals in Australia it was first run in 1936 and has no doubt seen its fair share of drama over that long period of time. They have had a dead heat in 1942 and dual winners with Mystery Bridge 75/76 and the mighty Fine Horizon in 1999 and 2000 plus, the 2006 winner a last to first performance by Victorian Wongawillicath, in 2007 the cup was won by Capriccio provided a trifecta for trainer Ted Medhurst. While last year the cup saw a win to dual Tasmanian Greyhound of the Year Big Moose.

The Launceston Club conducted the Cup from 1936 onwards at the old White City complex until the club moved to the new track at Tasman Park in 2005 and last night's Cup was the sixth staged on the circuit located inside the Mowbray Racecourse and Harness track. Listed below is the full honour roll.

1936 **Win Sheen**, 1937 **Loch Neagh**, 1938 **Gambol**, 1939 **Polly Sheen**, 1939 **Aberdeen**, 1939 **Dan's Gift**, 1940 **Dancoma**, 1941 **Black Orchid**, 1942 **All Dixie / Shirarch (DH)**, 1943 **Some Carlton**, 1944 **Young Progress**, 1945 **"Not Held"**, 1946 **Losma Lady**, 1947 **King Goldsby**, 1948 **Chief Agricola**, 1949 **Erin's Ace**, 1950 **Sheehan Lass**, 1951 **Dawn's Duty**, 1952 **Some Ben**, 1953 **Rusty's Hope**, 1954 **Martin Bluff**, 1955 **My Cheetah**, 1956 **Royal Kara**, 1957 **Murmungee**, 1958 **Ebony Minda**, 1959 **Woodford Pride**, 1960 **Nippy Cola**, 1961 **Western Idol**, 1962 **Dottie Too**, 1963 **Ophir Gold**, 1964 **Pine Birch**, 1965 **Macdillon**, 1966 **Hoodwinker**, 1967 **Ophir Glitter**, 1968 **Persian Opera**, 1969 **Michael Craig**, 1970 **Society Dancer**, 1971 **Janker's Star**, 1972 **Dalmore Prince**, 1973 **Mountain Rock**, 1974 **Jamin John**, 1975 **Mystery Bridge**, 1976 **Mystery Bridge**, 1977 **Dynamic David**, 1978 **Fire Tasson**, 1979 **Spotted Toby**, 1980 **Highland Summer**, 1981 **Anymore Anne**, 1982 **Dinkum Castle**, 1983 **Glendale Irish**, 1984 **Sheila's Teresa**, 1985 **Blue Breeze**, 1986 **Falcon Prey**, 1987 **Glenavon Raider**, 1988 **True Vintage**, 1989 **Going National**, 1990 **Blazenka's Flyer**, 1991 **Painted Hilux**, 1992 **Talkaman**, 1993 **Wary's Desire**, 1994 **Flash Billy**, 1995 **Zoom Fox**, 1996 **Two Codes**, 1997 **Pezza's Tiger**, 1998 **Olympic Vision**, 1999 **Fine Horizon**, 2000 **Fine Horizon**, 2001 **Top Shiraz**, 2002 **Jeanie's Queen**, 2003 **My Boy Speedie**, 2004 **Final Image**, 2005 **Obie Trice**, 2006 **Wongawillicath**, 2007 **Capriccio**, 2008 **Akka Boy** and 2009 **Big Moose**.

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