



MEDIA RELEASE

18th June 2010



Arsonist Burns

Connections of Arsonist received a big scare during the heats of the Group 1 Hawkins Media Laurels last Sunday when she just managed to hold down a third placing to secure a berth in tonight's Laurels semis. Four days later, Arsonist brought her A-game and scorched the track in 29.60 to progress to next Thursday's \$76,000 final as the runner to beat.

The rising champion fawn bitch (Elite State x Flickering Lady) quickly assumed the lead from the six box with a 5.13 early split and left her rivals standing, displaying the kind of form that won her the Group 2 DDC Launching Pad earlier this year for trainer Heather Collins. Arnalda Bale stuck on well in the run to secure her spot in the final for master trainer Graeme Bate.

The Andrea Dailly trained Cara Bale is sure to provide the testing material in the final after taking out her semi in 29.85, proving too strong for Robert Britton's lightly raced Soul Calibur and early race leader Leprechaun Chloe.

The Britton camp will launch a duel-pronged attack on the final courtesy of Soul Calibur and first semi winner C'est La Vie who continued on from her impressive heat win with an untroubled victory over Geisha Bale for trainer Graeme Bate in a time of 30.12.

Graeme Bate qualified Coco Bale as his third representative in the coveted final when she produced a barnstorming finish to nab one of the series favourites, Galaxy High, right on the line in a solid 29.95 win in the last semi of the evening.

Arsonist and Cara Bale look set to head the betting on the final which will be held in its June timeslot for the last time. Under the recent changes to the AGRA national calendar, the restricted age Laurels Classic for female greyhounds will henceforth be scheduled for late December to coincide with the running of the Silver Chief series at The Meadows.

The final of the \$72,500 Group 1 Hawkins Media Laurels will be run at Sandown Park on Thursday 24 June.

AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

GROUP ONE – HAWKINS MEDIA LAURELS CLASSIC \$50,000 to the winner



Geisha Bale

23 starts 8-1-2 (\$16,355)

Where's Pedro – Dyna Celeste

Dark Brindle Bitch April '08

Owners: Paul Wheeler

Trainer: Graeme Bate

Sandown best: NBT (7 Starts 0-1-1)

Runner up last week to C'est La Vie in 30.12 beaten three and half lengths. Would have to improve on that run. Hasn't won here in seven starts but she does have the red box, place chance best.



Coco Bale

21 starts 6-3-4 (\$24,150)

Where's Pedro – Dyna Celeste

Black Bitch April '08

Owner: Paul Wheeler

Trainer: Graeme Bate

Sandown best: 29.91 (8) (10 Starts 4-0-3)

Won her semi in fine style last week a solid performance in 29.95, certainly one of the chances if she begins like she normally does. Has four wins here with most featuring a fast finishing burst of speed in the last section, not without a chance. A bit of luck required.



C'est La Vie

18 starts 7-2-2 (\$16,995)

Cool Performance – Flipper

Red Fawn Bitch April '08

Owner: Two Syndicate

Trainer: Robert Britton

Sandown best: 29.91 (2) (5 Starts 3-1-1)

Is racing well at the moment with two solid wins in series so far. One of two trained by Rob Britton in the final. Will appreciate the inside draw and with an ounce of luck could figure in the finish. One to take in the multi betting.



Cara Bale

14 starts 7-1-1 (\$18,260)

Larking About – Denise Bale

Black Bitch June '08

Owner: Paul Wheeler

Trainer: Andrea Dailly

Sandown best: 29.62 (2) (3 Starts 3-0-0)

Went super in her heat last Sunday recording the best 29.62 and again won well in her semi in 29.85. Hasn't drawn well but has the ability to overcome this middle box. However it hasn't helped her cause and she will need a bit of luck in the run to the first turn. Top chance.



Arsonist

19 starts 10-2-2 (\$65,560)

Elite State – Flickering Lady

Fawn Bitch April '08

Owner: Nathan Rooney

Trainer: Heather Collins

Sandown best: 29.60 (6) (6 Starts 3-0-1)

Extremely smart bitch, she won the recent Launching Pad series in March then was runner up to Nova Surf in the Warrnambool Cup as well as winning a Grade 5 heat and final at the Meadows all in her 19 starts. Won her semi in the best of the night 29.60 leading all the way with splits of 5.13 and 19.09. Will be hard to beat but box draw a major worry. Should start favourite.



Galaxy High

13 starts 10-2-1 (\$20,035)

Path To Power – Misty Lee

Fawn Bitch August '08

Owner: Go Syndicate

Trainer: David Curtain

Sandown best: 29.79 (8) (3 Starts 1-2-0)

Has a great record winning 10 from only 13 starts. A fast 29.79 winner here in her heat but was a little disappointing in her semi from box one when she was run down by Coco Bale in 29.95. Will have her work cut out from the tough draw, place chance best.



Arnalda Bale

23 starts 4-6-1 (\$13,465)

Ahane Lad – Serene Bale

Black Bitch March '08

Owners: Paul Wheeler

Trainer: Graeme Bate

Sandown best: NBT (4 Starts 0-3-0)

Paul Wheeler's fourth finalist and Graeme Bate third starter in the rich final. Hasn't won on the track and was beaten eight and a half lengths in her semi behind Arsonist. Will need some luck in running to trouble these. Place chance best.



Soul Calibur

9 starts 2-3-2 (\$5,056)

Surf Lorian – Lucy's Light

Black Bitch May '08

Owner: Helen Ivers

Trainer: Robert Britton

Sandown best: NBT (2 Starts 0-1-1)

Chased home Cara Bale in her semi and hasn't won here yet, very lightly raced with only nine starts to her name. Her best in perhaps in front of her. Will start the rank outsider of the field with big odds available.



Supreme Vision

25 starts 4-3-3 (\$9,900)

Premier Fantasy – Kikiku

Quite an experienced young bitch from the Dailly kennel flew home in the semi to only just miss the final, outside chance if she gains a start.



Leprechaun Chloe

14 starts 5-4-3 (\$10,625)

Brett Lee – Glamorous

Finished third to Cara Bale in her semi beaten three lengths. Has plenty of ability but would need some luck if she gains a start.

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

Matt Corby

1st Arsonist

2nd Cara Bale

3rd Galaxy High

Ron Hawkswell

1st Arsonist

2nd Cara Bale

3rd Galaxy High

Rob Testa

1st Arsonist

2nd Cara Bale

3rd Geisha Bale

Local Market for the Group 1 Laurels Classic

\$72,500 Group 1 Hawkins Media Laurels (515m) \$50,000 to the Winner			
Box	Greyhound	Trainer	Price
	Geisha Bale	Graeme Bate	\$26
	Coco Bale	Graeme Bate	\$7
	C'est La Vie	Robert Britton	\$8
	Cara Bale	Andrea Dailly	\$3.50
	Arsonist	Heather Collins	\$2.50
	Galaxy High	David Curtain	\$5.50
	Arnalda Bale	Graeme Bate	\$16
	Soul Calibur	Robert Britton	\$31
	Supreme Vision	Andrea Dailly	Res
	Leprechaun Chloe	Ray Bartolo	Res

What's happening on race night?

Laurels Final night for the past few years has also become Members Night, however this year with extensive renovations currently taking place Members night has been transferred to July. The club directorate decided it was better to delay the night a month before inviting all of the clubs members to join them for dinner and drinks. It is a fantastic gesture as considering membership is only \$33.00 a year any member attending the Members night virtually redeems their membership. No doubt it will return to this night next year.

Please note that due to the refurbishment of the Henry Harrison Grandstand, dining room capacity has been reduced until late June. Patrons are advised to book early to avoid disappointment

\$35 Race night buffet - every Thursday night!

Children 14-17 \$25, children 6-14 \$12

Sandown is famous for its sumptuous four-course buffet prepared by our chef Brad Lee. Our famous gourmet buffet includes admission to the track, form guide and tipping sheet. The Tiers and Terrace restaurant overlooks the winning post and is the perfect spot to enjoy an action-packed program. Be sure to book in advance to reserve your table.

Their famous Gourmet Buffet includes admission to the track, form guide and tipping sheet. The Tiers and Terrace restaurants overlooking the winning post are the perfect spots to enjoy an action-packed program. Contact the Sandown office on 03 9546 9511 to make your booking.

Be sure to book in advance to reserve your table.

Sandown also offers the following drink packages:

\$60 Package: As above + beer, house wine and soft drink

\$80 Package: As above + beer, house wine and soft drink + basic spirits

Then, after the last greyhound has sizzled down the straight you can kick on at the award winning Sandown Greyhounds Tabaret right on track.

Facilities at the track include Dining room, snack bar, full tote and bookmaker facilities. Ample parking, and disabled access.

Laurels Trivia

Inaugural Winner

1964 Tara Princess

Leading Owner

Jean Scurrah (3) 1965 Cheltenham Lass

1971 Lady of Rome, 1979 Jewel Of All

Leading Trainer

Graeme Bate (3) 1997 Moonabel Gem

2001 Hail A Harley, 2002 Katella Bale

Leading Sire

Head Honcho (3) 1996 Hanson Kelly

1998 Chersam Honcho, 1999 Labyrinth

Father/Son (owners)

Allen Wheeler – 1982 Winifred Bale, Paul Wheeler

2002 Katella Bale

Father/Daughter (trainers)

Paul Hogan – 1965 Cheltenham Lass, 1971 Lady Of Rome

Sandra Reed – 1979 Jewel Of All

Allan Britton – Barb's Tune; Linda Britton – 2003 Dance Portrait

Sire Trifectas

New Tears – 1994 Victorious Road, Rhythmic Tears, Please Annie

Awesome Assassin 2004 – Paua To Burn, Truly Blessed, Awesome Beth

Group Status

Group 2 – 1994; Group 2 – 1995; Group 1 -2000

NB. *Trivia listed below is based on compilation of full details since 1970. Unfortunately, records (1964-69) are incomplete.*

Winner's Purse

1970- \$3000; 1971 - \$3300; 19974- \$4000; 1976- \$7000; 1977- \$10,000;

1980 - \$5000; 1984 - \$6000; 1987 - \$7000; 1990 - \$10,000; 1992 - \$12,000;

1995 - \$20,000; 1997 - \$ 30,000; 2000 - \$40,000; 2005 - \$50,000

Winning Boxes (1970- 2008)

Box 1 – (6); Box 2 – (6); Box 3- (3); Box 4- (7); Box 5- (2); Box 6- (2); Box 7- (8)

Box 8 – (7)

Winning Favourites

19972 – Blackliner (10/9); 1975 – Odious (2/5); 1976 – Carrington Jade (6/4)

1978 – Debbie's Wood (6/4); 1979 Jewel Of All (6/4); 1981 – Sarah Kuda (2/1)

1982 – Winifred Bale (5/4); 1984 - Select Girl (8/11); 1986 - Autumn Leaf (9/4);

1988 - Dancing Vixen (9/10); 1989 – Sandi's Me Mum (8/11); 1990 – Witchery (5/2);

1996 – Hanson Kelly (2/1); 1997 – Moonambel Gem (2/1); 1999 – Labyrinth (10/9);

2001 – Hail A Harley (\$2.00); 2003 – Dance Portrait (\$2.90); 2004 – Paua To Burn (\$2.00);

2005 – Maureen Shirley (\$1.80); 2006 – Pure Burst (\$2.90); 2007 - Miss Hot Gossip (\$1.70)

Shortest-priced winner

1975 – Odious (2/5)

Longest-priced winner

1992 – To Perfection (20/1)

History

Recognized Australia wide as the pinnacle age restricted bitches classic the Laurels was first conducted by the Sandown Club in 1964 when won by Tara Princess. It is a very much sought after Group 1 event with the winner usually acknowledged as a very valuable brood bitch as well as most carve out a successful race career. It has also being proven over the years that most of the finalists are bitches that produce when they go to stud and some have become house hold names after producing some of the superstars of the sport.

The Classic has found some outstanding winners over the years none the least 1965 champ Cheltenham Lass who later in her career was runner up and won a Melbourne Cup as well as runner up in an Australian Cup. Odious who went on to win an Australian Cup in 1976, Carrington Jade won a Melbourne Cup in 1976. Cavalier Queen won the Adelaide Cup in 1977. Paua To Burn won the 2005 Easter Egg and 2004/ 2005 Group 1 Sapphire Crown. Plus two other winners are Hall of Fame superstars Winifred Bale and Sandi's Me Mum. Listed below is the Laurels Classic Honour roll highlighted by so many stars that enjoyed outstanding careers.

1964 Tara Princess, 1965 Cheltenham Lass, 1966 Ever Present, 1967 Magic Fuel, 1968 Enapetic, 1969 Watch A Flash, 1970 La Rate, 1971 Lady Of Rome, 1972 Blackliner, 1973 Crete, 1974 Vibrant Lass, 1975 Odious, 1976 Carrington Jade, 1977 Cavalier Queen, 1978 Debbie's Wood, 1979 Jewel Of All, 1980 Sharonlee Girl, 1981 Sarah Kuda, 1982 Winifred Bale, 1983 Wee Rua, 1984 Select Girl, 1985 Little Nola, 1986 Autumn Leaf, 1987 Playgirl Bonnie, 1988 Dancing Vixen, 1989 Sandi's Me Mum, 1990 Witchery, 1991 Barb's Tune, 1992 To Perfection, 1993 Suzy Also, 1994 Victorious Road, 1995 Little Promise, 1996 Hanson Kelly, 1997 Moonambel Gem, 1998 Chersam Honcho, 1999 Labyrinth, 2000 Creative Whisky, 2001 Hail A Harley, 2002 Katella Bale, 2003 Dance Portrait, 2004 Paua To Burn, 2005 Maureen Shirly, 2006 Pure Burst, 2007 Miss Hot Gossip, 2008 Hybrid Theory, and 2009 Boozeroo.



Last Year's Laurels winner Boozeroo

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