



MEDIA RELEASE
30th August 2010

**All Honors to New South Wales in
National Sprint & Distance Finals**

For the first time since 2004, NSW greyhounds secured both the National Sprint and Distance Championships at Angle Park on Saturday night.

Against the odds and facing genuine stars in both events, Blue Lorian (Distance) and Smooth Fancy produced stellar performances to break into the Group One club in particularly fast times.

First to go was Blue Lorian.



Blue Lorian wins the National Distance Championship

Before the gruelling 731m contest, Blue Lorian's owner-trainer Peter Whye was adrenalin-charged. Minutes before the race, he was standing with Joanne Monelli's owner Mike Quinsee, Reign Over Me's owner Mike Cope and the three knew there would be no room for error.

And it was Blue Lorian (\$5.50) which did not 'blink'. Tasmanian Sitka (\$17.00) went straight to the lead while local star Satantic Cash (\$2.50) and 2009 National Sprint Champion Dashing Corsair were slow to begin from boxes four and one respectively.

AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

Mid-race, Blue Lorian, which has begun smartly from box five, drew to the Tasmanian's outside and swept clear. He went away to score by 3 3/4 lengths from a late-closing Satanic Cash while Sitka battled into third, a little more than five lengths from the winner in a fast 43.01 seconds.

Dashing Corsair – after the slow start – made ground to be fourth mid-race but never looked capable of making an impression on the dominant winner.

Saying that, Satanic Cash's effort was fantastic. He was badly checked after 150m and was at the tail of the field with 350m to run.

An emotional Whye thanked all and sundry: "This is just fantastic, he's my first dog."

"I've got to thank my family, [son-in-law] Brendan [Wheeler], Chris [Nutt] and Paul [Stuart] for all their help ... this is a great thrill."



The happy scene on the presentation dais post the National Distance Championship

Blue Lorian is a Blue dog whelped December 2007 by Surf Lorian from Winsome Bluebird (Lansley Bale x Winsome Duchess). He raced and trained by Peter Whye at Narellan in New South Wales. He has now won 23 races and been placed on 16 occasions from his 45 starts. The National Distance Title first prize of \$50,000 brings his overall prizemoney to \$191,390.

The field in finishing order after the placings with starting price, Dashing Corsair \$2.60, Joanne Monelli \$17.00, Mickie Keato \$8.50, Reign Over Me \$10.00 and Sophina Bale \$91.00.

Just over 40 minutes later, the race of the year went the way of Anthony Azzopardi's Smooth Fancy.

The powerhouse finisher was shunned by punters and, when race favourite Cosmic Chief drew past leader Pedrosa in the middle stages, this sprint title looked to be Victoria's.

But just as Cosmic Chief (\$3.10) looked all over a winner, he moved a little away from the rails and Smooth Fancy (\$10.00) took full toll.

Only a head separated the pair at the finish in a slashing 29.49 seconds. A stirring finish to say the least and the effort of minor placegetter Tombstone Jack (\$18.00) was remarkable.



Smooth Fancy just gets the better of Cosmic Chief in the National Sprint Championship

The former Queenslander who represented Tasmania came from the tail to be beaten just over a length and at no stage did Smooth Fancy get away from him. Pedrosa, while only fourth, was just on two lengths from the winner.

This was a race to savour, one which will live long in the mind's eye.



Plenty of happy faces after the National Sprint Championship final

Smooth Fancy is a Black dog whelped November 2007 by Collision from Flash Fancy (Brett Lee x Miss Fancy). He is raced by Terry Kingcott and trained by Anthony Azzopardi. He has now raced on 26 occasions for 13 wins and seven placings and the \$50,000 first prize for the National Final of the Sprint Championship took his overall stake earnings to \$96,040.

The field in finishing order after the placings with starting price, Pedrosa \$3.50, Arsonist \$8.00, Blazing Chaos \$14.00, Tomic \$4.80 and Where's Pancho \$8.50.

In 12 months time, the National Championships will head north, to Albion Park and the pride of NSW will be on the line again.

At Angle Park this was a night of celebration. Trainers with hounds peaked to perfection and in the end it was the perfect result for NSW.

Thanks for story content in above release Peter Davis GRANSW Website

***** Pictures Courtesy GreyhoundRacingSA & Walter Bulyga**

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