



MEDIA RELEASE
31st December 2010



Mr Versatile

Helen Ivers has bred a lot of champion greyhounds, but when it comes to versatility Symmetry is right up there with the best of them.

On Boxing Day, the classy sprinter/stayer took out the Group 1 Sale Cup, a distance event over 650 metres, yet just four weeks early he ran second to the mighty El Grand Senor in Victoria's premier sprint race, the Group 1 Melbourne Cup over 515 metres.



Symmetry holds off fast finishing Stika to win the Sale Cup

"Symmetry is up there with Quidame in terms of the most versatile greyhound I have bred", said Ivers, who also owns Symmetry. "Quidame won Group 1 staying races in Melbourne and Sydney and she also won the Darwin Cup, which is a sprint race over 537 metres before retiring in 2007."

AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

“And while Symmetry is not a true stayer, he’s capable of winning big staying events when things go his way”, she added.

Symmetry (\$4.10) defeated a fast finishing Sitka (\$16.50) with youngster Bobby Boucheau (\$7.00) in the second fastest run ever since the race went to 650 metres, the time was 37.06.

A look at the top class greyhounds that Ivers has bred over the years is outstanding, with the list including Nellie Noodles, Tip Top Tears, Lucy’s Light, Texas Gold, Power Thriller, Kobble Creek, Trojan Tears and Symmetry.

“I attribute our success to 60%the damline, 20% the quality of feeding and the other 20% to the enormous paddocks we rear in.”

Most of these greyhounds were stayers, which she credits partly to the way in which she rears her greyhounds as pups.

“We rear my greyhounds like few others. The live in big paddocks from 2.5 acres and working up to seven acres until they are 10 months of age. I think this has been a real key to the fact we have bred so many stayers. They get so much galloping”, she said.

“We only started doing it because we thought that that was what everyone else was doing. The logic behind it is that you don’t see horses being reared in tiny paddocks. I believe you need to build up their cardio vascular systems. Commercial rearers just aren’t in a position to do what we do.”

Helen also believes that breeding in small numbers has been critical to her success.

“Our pups get plenty of attention because we usually only breed on average about one litter a year, or maybe two litters every 18 months or so

We feed our pups twice a day, and when they are younger we feed them even more often – up to four or five times a day.”



A happy Robert Briton with Symmetry post-race (All Pics Clint Anderson)

"I attribute our success to 60% the damline, 20% the quality of feeding and the other 20% to the enormous paddocks we rear in."

Helen believes that going to a proven sire is not the be all and end all to successful breeding.

"A top stud dog won't improve an ordinary damline. I think that people fall into the trap of breeding with ordinary damlines, but my advice is to look back into the damline and make sure that it contains plenty of winners on each line", she said.

After living on 40 acres in Queensland and now 56 in Victoria since moving to Gippsland two years ago, we can expect many more strong and classy greyhounds to emerge from the Ivers camp.

After the placed runners the field finished in the following order 4th Slick Lee (\$19.60), 5th Outa Credit (\$6.70), 6th Seek And Destroy (\$7.00) 7th Barney Stinson (\$15.80) and Dashing Corsair (\$3.00).

Symmetry is raced and was bred by Helen Ivers he is a Black dog whelped March 2007 by Flying Penske from Classy Creek (Rapid Journey x Sheza Swifty). Symmetry has won 16 of his 37 starts and has been placed on 10 occasions and with the \$50,000 first prize for the Sale Cup it took his current stake earnings to \$170,955.

The seemingly bold move in 2001 to run the Sale Cup over the 630m journey, with a first prize of \$20,000, produced an outstanding result with brilliant front running stayer, Bentley Babe, etching her name on the Cup Honour role.

Again in 2003 a major track restructure unveiled a brand new circuit on April 10th extensive work had been carried out after it closed in January. Under the guidance of track designer Brian Barrington Sale had an extreme makeover, with the new distances becoming 440, 520 and 650 metres. The track was also widened to 7 metres, with both straights being realigned.

The Cup this year became the richest country cup in Australia with a first prize of \$50,000 and the club is looking forward to next year when the race becomes the first to assume Group 1 status.

The Cup has been won by some great champions and listed below is the full honour roll as we currently know it.

1968 **Unknown**, 1969 **Unknown**, 1970 **Radiant Quan**, 1971 **Stripper Sam**, 1972 **Midnight Avon**, 1973 **Rerod**, 1974 **Rebel Rena**, 1975 **Shikar**, 1976 **Dargaville**, 1977 **Daalko Boy**, 1978 **Cascilla's Lad**, 1979 **Newmore's Heart**, 1980 **Bushy Prince**, 1981 **Forceful Lad**, 1982 **Charcia**, 1983 **Colinda Flyer**, 1984 **Chariot Supreme**, 1985 **Johnny Caprice**, 1986 **Top Shroud**, 1987 **Quick Royal**, 1988 **Blackman Ray**, 1989 **Mr Chatters**, 1990 **Chief Magundi**, 1991 **Malawi's Prince**, 1992 **Premier Pete**, 1993 **Linebacker**, 1994 **Jamb Kid**, 1995 **Wylie Boy**, 1996 **Wylie Boy**, 1997 **Shannen's Storm**, 1998 **Awesome Assassin**, 1999 **Brookside Red**, 2000 **Vino Veritas**, 2001 **Bentley Babe**, 2002 **Beljay Velvet**, 2003 **Draino**, 2004 **Arvo's Junior** 2005 **Hercules**, 2006 **Elektra**, 2007 **Miss Brook**, 2008 **Vintage Octane** and 2009 **Mantra Lad**.

For more information please contact:

Neil Brown
AGRA Publicity Officer
Tel: 03 97691234
Mob: 0423 129 950
nbrown@agra.com.au

Brenton Scott
AGRA Executive Officer
Tel: 02 96497166
Mob: 0438 402 198
bscott@agra.com.au