



Australian Greyhound
Racing Association



MEDIA RELEASE

3rd January 2016



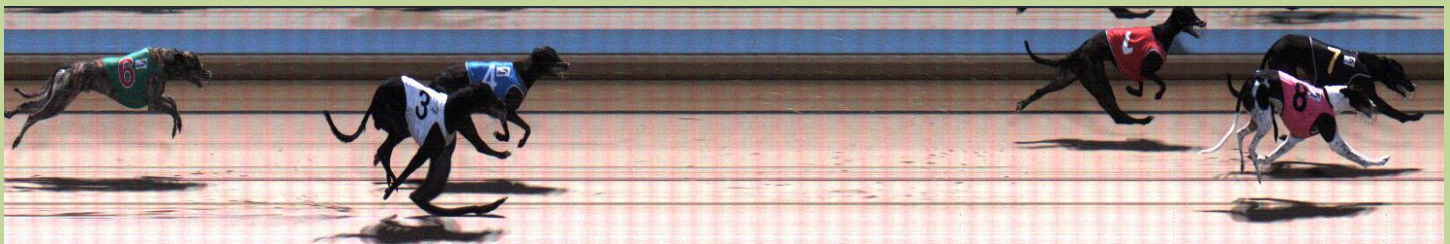
Knight Sprit all the way in Gosford Cup

By Neil Brown

Knight Sprit provided a training triumph for Hexham mentor Gayle Masterson after he led all the way in the Group 2 Gosford Cup on Friday night.

The nicely bred black dog showed his liking for the Gosford circuit when he jumped perfectly from his preferred box seven and kept all the challengers at bay in an exciting performance scoring by a neck in a fast 29.66 for the 515 metres.

“He loves Gosford. First start there he was second, and his second start he ran 29.46 and his next two he ran 29.51, so when he run 29.40 in his heat no surprise, he just well at Gosford” Masterson said after his the heat win.



Knight Sprit holds off Eva Diva to the win the Gosford Cup (official Photo Finish)

Masterson, 64, has enjoying a dream run with Knight Sprit. A three-year-old in February, Knight Sprit he has had 21 wins and 14 placings in 45 starts for Masterson, who knew nothing of the sport before meeting Wayne Masterson and marrying into a greyhound racing family 35 years ago. Now a trainer for 20 years, Gayle had success with Shotgun Kid locally a decade ago but nothing like the ride she is on with Knight Sprit. You now add group winning status to his impressive record.

Masterson always had a great feeling about the future of her talented chaser.

“I was telling everyone from the time we brought him home, when he was about three months old, I said he was really special,” Masterson said. “Everyone said, ‘you can’t tell yet’, but I said, ‘you wait and see’.

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“I had bred a couple of litters and I was going country with them, which I enjoy very much, but it certainly makes you appreciate when you get a good dog like him.”

Knight Sprite’s success has included an impressive record at Gosford, where he won his five from six starts.



She was very happy when Knight Sprite drew the seven in the final he had won four of six starts from the box.

“He comes out good from any box, but I think in that field I was delighted to have him drawn out wide because he can do his own thing out there.”

Knight Sprite was coming back from a toe injury and was underdone when fourth in the Group 3 Christmas Gift at Wentworth Park last month but “it was his turn” at the elite level on Friday night.

Knight Sprite beat the fast finishing Eva Diva (\$19.90) and Cash In Motion (\$3.00) with finishing third. Unfortunately \$2.70 favourite Smart Missile got in a tangle with Mitchcharlie Mia and both fell as they approached the first turn, to be fair at that stage of the race the winner Knight Sprite was off and gone recording sections of 4.35, 16.74 and a run home time of 12.90.

After the placings the field finished in the following order 4th Black Frenzy (\$16.60), 5th Head Shy (\$37.70), 6th Irish Gangsta (\$31.60) Smart Missile (\$2.70) and Mitchcharlie Mia (\$13.20) both fell.

Knight Sprite is raced and trained by Gayle Masterson at Hexham in New South Wales, he is a Black dog whelped February 2013 by Magic Sprite from Jaydo’s Neglect (Watch The Web x Fair Hazard). Knight Sprite has won 21 and been placed 14 times from his 45 starts and with the \$40,000 first prize for the Gosford Cup it took his current stake earnings to \$95,986.

The greyhound industry is fortunate to have such a generous sponsor as greyhound lover, owner and trainer Laurie Refalo, the owner of Woy Woy Poultry Supplies. Not only does his company Woy Woy Poultry Supplies sponsor The Gosford Cup (\$40,000 to the winner) but also the Gardens Young Guns (\$10,000 to the winner).

The Gosford Cup became the clubs feature race for the year when they changed their surface to loam in 2003. At the same time a circuit of NSW Country Cups was started. It was a Group three race worth \$10,000 to the winner to start with and has risen in status and profile to Group 2 in 2006 and in 2007 prizemoney increased to \$40,000 to the winner. Loyal sponsors Woy Woy Poultry Supplies has being with the race in all of its 14 years.

Listed are the past winners. 2003 **Thai Flame**, 2004 **Addis Boy**, 2005 **Cheeky Sprite**, 2006 **Cool Matt**, 2007 **Prey For Mercy**, 2008 **Suave Fella**, 2009 **Miss Elly Mint**, 2010 **Elite Blue Size**, 2011 **Tuiaki** 2012, **Prince Diablo**, 2013 **Free Will**, 2014 **Awesome Project** and 2015 **Ritza Hattie**

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