



MEDIA RELEASE

10th October 2013

GREYHOUND GIVES GRAND FINAL WINNERS A SPORTING CHANCE

Blind Sports Victoria emerged biggest winners out of the 2013 Group 2 TAB Great Chase following a stunning come-from-behind win by Living Proof (\$6.60) in today's Grand Final at The Meadows.

The win secured a further \$5,000 for Blind Sports Victoria, after the Glenn Round-trained Living Proof had already won the organisation \$500 and \$1,000 for winning a heat and semi-final of the Great Chase in recent weeks.

And there is a promise of plenty more to come as Blind Sports Victoria will now receive the equivalent of 10 per cent of Living Proof's prize money earnings for the next 12 months as a spin off from the series.

Maurice Gleeson, President of Blind Sports Victoria, said the money would make a huge difference to the organisation.

"This additional income will help us fulfil our mission to help people who are visually impaired to take up sport," said Gleeson, an Order of Australia medallist who himself is visually impaired.

"We have a lot of volunteers who specialise in whole range of sporting programmes such as walking, swimming, gymnastics and even tennis, however we require funding to train these volunteers, which is what this money will go towards."



Living Proof impressively wins the Great Chase (Pics Clint Anderson)

"Getting people involved in sport, whether they are blind or otherwise, is really important as it can give them real purpose."

Continued on Page 2....

AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

"I'm not just talking about competitive sport, either. For some, it's simply the fact that they are participating in sport that builds their self esteem."

Gleeson was full of praise for the TAB Great Chase - a month long state-wide annual event which partners competing greyhounds with 140 organisations that care for the disabled.

"I can't speak highly enough of the TAB Great Chase and the sport of greyhound racing," Gleeson said.

"Blind Sport Victoria has been involved in the series for three years and we are always made to feel so welcome when we come to the races."

"People I've spoken to about the Great Chase who don't know a lot about it are sceptical, thinking it's about promoting betting, but that couldn't be further from the truth."

"We've never been encouraged to bet in all our visits to the greyhound races, and gambling is such a small part of the Great Chase. It is all about social interaction."

Other groups to win from the day were Shannon Park Industries and the Rett Syndrome Association, who won \$2,000 and \$1,000 respectively for being matched to Grand Final placegetters Mepunga Armagh (2nd) and Mepunga Fearon (3rd).

The TAB Great Chase series is run over three weeks each November across Victoria's 13 racetracks, with greyhounds randomly paired with 150 groups that care for the intellectually and physically disabled.



Members of Blind Sports Victoria join Great Chase winner Living Proof following the final at the Meadows

After the placed runners the field finished in the following order 4th Zanders Express (\$11.20), 5th Bill Baillie (\$29.40), 6th Nelirian (\$14.70) 7th Giddy's Star (\$5.60) and Rave (\$11.90).

Living Proof is raced and trained by Glenn Rounds at Devon Meadows he is a Black dog whelped January 2012 by Collide from Casey's Angel (Spiral Nikita x Leprechaun Yap). Living Proof has won four of his six starts and with the \$43,750 first prize for the Great Chase it took his current stake earnings to \$54,390.

The GRV decided on a complete change to the Provincial Cup series in February 2003. Called the Great Chase, heats were held at every provincial and country track with qualifiers competing in semi-finals and a rich final at Bendigo.

Designed to take greyhound racing to the 'man in the street' finalists were aligned with community groups who signed up to be part of the series and become involved with a dog that made the final. The Great Chase is a

fantastic regional event providing the integration of involvement with local communities (ie. community groups supporting people with physical and intellectual disabilities), a partnership with Vic Health and top quality greyhound racing.

Brumby Lad won the inaugural \$40,000 to winner event and in doing so provided excited members of the Pennyweight Park Centre Ballarat funds to the tune of \$3250 plus a GRV-funded 10% of Brumby Lad's earnings from June 1, 2003 to April 30, 2004. The final has been staged at different Country tracks since and raised thousands of needed dollars for many worthy groups that have participated over the nine years the event has been staged. Five years ago the event underwent some changes with the final being staged at a city venue for the first time. That format has continued in 2013 with the event again staged at the Meadows.

Listed below are the talented previous winners and the tracks they won the event on.

2003 **Brumby Lad** (Bendigo 24.38), 2004 **Our Barney** (Warragul 23.84), 2005 **Semaphore** (Warrnambool 25.44) 2006 **Slater** (Shepparton 24.82) 2007 **Wot Price Harold** (Meadows 30.32) 2008 **Pharoah King** (Meadows 30.31), 2009 **Sheoak Ian** (Meadows 30.05), 2010 **Up And Away** (Meadows 30.17), 2011 **Fully Advanced** (Meadows 30.77) and 2012 **Boris Fields** (Meadows 29.59).

**Thanks for information used in the above article Rick Durham Media Officer
Greyhound Racing Victoria.**

For more information please contact:

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

Howard Ashton
AGRA Executive Officer
Tel: 08 8243 7100
Mob: 0438 042 838