



MEDIA RELEASE

5th September 2014

Back To Back Great Chase Wins for Rounds

By George Farrugia

All Strung Out has given Devon Meadows trainer Glenn Rounds back-to-back victories in the Group 2 TAB Great Chase Final at The Meadows with a dazzling 30.04 come-from-behind victory on Wednesday afternoon.

After a breakaway start for the speedy Top Secret (running splits of 5.09 and 17.82), the black chaser was reeled in by All Strung Out, who powered away to score in the same time as Living Proof, who won last year's version of the Great Chase.

In an extra bonus for Rounds, his star broodbitch Casey's Angel – a daughter of brilliant dam Leprechaun Yap – has now produced the last two Great Chase winners from different sires (Go Wild Teddy and Bekim Bale).

All Strung Out's victory also secured a further \$5000 for Connecting Skills Australia – the community group aligned with the chaser throughout the series. They will also earn the equivalent of 10 per cent of All Strung Out's total prizemoney for the next 12 months of his racing career.

The TAB Great Chase is as much about the greyhounds as it is about the community groups they race for, as if being paired with Grand Finalist wasn't enough excitement for the organisations cheering on their greyhound in the main event, a man named Craig Wilson, who has long been connected with greyhound racing, created another tremendous highlight on the day.

Craig, the son of former GRV Chairman, the late Jan Wilson, had a touch of Santa Claus about him when he announced that all 10 groups matched to the TAB Great Chase grand finalists would receive an extra \$2,000 each courtesy of his parents' estate.

That meant the first prize for Connecting Skills Australia increased to \$7,000 (up from \$5,000), while the Department of Human Services (Connemara Road) received \$4,000 (up from \$2,000) as they were matched to runner-up Top Secret. Riding for the Disabled in Maryborough, meanwhile, received \$3,000 for being paired with third placegetter Darcy's Entity.

The day, however, belonged mostly to Connecting Skills Australia, a not-for-profit charitable organisation focused on the integration of adults with a disability into the workforce and the community.

Continued on Page 2....

AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION



Members of Connecting Skills Australia join Great Chase winner All Strung Out following the final at the Meadows

On top of the \$7,000 for their Grand Final win and \$1,000 for winning a heat at Cranbourne earlier in the series, the group will also receive the equivalent of 10 per cent of All Strung Out's prize money for the next 12 months.

"It's a real honour to be a part of the TAB Great Chase every year," said Jeff Don, of Connecting Skills Australia.

"This is the first time we've had a greyhound in the Grand Final and it was so exciting. We were all positioned just before the finish line and when our beautiful dog hit the lead I don't think there was a bum on a seat. We were jumping and screaming and when he crossed the line in front we couldn't believe our luck."

"The \$7,000 will go a long way. It will allow us to support our individual clients and assist with all the transitional work we do in getting our clients into the community."

The 2014 TAB Great Chase was run across all of Victoria's 12 operational greyhound tracks in recent weeks, where thousands of clients and carers from 150 groups that care for the intellectually and physically disabled have received free VIP treatment at the races.

All groups were randomly matched to greyhounds competing in the series, who raced to win them in excess of \$50,000 in prize money.

The TAB Great Chase has distributed more than \$370,000 into Victoria's disability sector since it began in 2003.

Continued on Page 3...

After the placed runners the field finished in the following order 4th Rinash (\$10.60), 5th Hekate Belle (\$4.50), 6th Quicker Than AI (\$40.60) 7th Bremer Star (\$22.10) and Dewana Result (\$2.10).

All Strung Out is raced and trained by Glenn Rounds at Devon Meadows he is a Black dog whelped August 2012 by Bekim Bale from Casey's Angel (Spiral Nikita x Leprechaun Yap). All Strung Out has won six finished a place eight times from his 16 starts and with the \$45,000 first prize for the Great Chase took his current stake earnings to \$93,365.

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 2014 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), 2012 **Boris Fields** (Meadows 29.59) and 2013 **Living Proof** (Meadows 30.040).

Thanks for information used in the above article from Greyhound Racing Victoria Website.

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