



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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# **Riding A Wave of Great Excitement**

**By GRV WEBSITE**

Oaklands Junction organisation Riding Develops Abilities are \$10,000 richer as a result of attending greyhound racing's Group 2 TAB Great Chase Grand Final at The Meadows in Melbourne on Wednesday afternoon.

Sixty groups that care for the disabled took part in a day of fun and festivities for the chance to share in \$17,500 in cash, with RDA emerging the biggest winner after being partnered with Great Chase winner, the Kelly Bravo-trained Unlawful Entry.

The Great Chase series was first conducted in 2003, and has resulted in hundreds of thousands of dollars being donated to Victoria's disability sector in that time. On Wednesday, for the first time in its 13 year history, the names of every group on course at the Grand Final were placed into a barrel, eight of which were randomly drawn out and partnered with a greyhound competing in the big race.

While the 610 clients and carers on course representing the 60 organisations enjoyed a complimentary day of dancing, dining and entertainment, representatives of the eight selected groups had the extra excitement of knowing they would win \$10,000 if their greyhound came first, \$3,000 if it ran second, \$2,500 for third or \$2,000 for running between 4th and 8th.

"RDA enables people with disabilities the chance to experience the enjoyment of participation in equestrian activities, and this money will go towards building an indoor riding area," RDA Oaklands President Fiona Orr said.

Hard Bargain, also from the Bravo kennel, filled second place, securing \$3,000 for Rangeview Private Nursing Home, while third place went the way of the Colin Dalton-trained Arby, earning \$2,500 for Wintringham Specialist Aged Care group, McLean Lodge.

Bravo said it was fitting that Unlawful Entry be matched to an equestrian group, stating "we ride horses ourselves so this is a good connection."

## AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

RDA will undoubtedly follow the fortunes of the Wendy Fasoli-bred Unlawful Entry very closely over the next 12 months, as they are entitled to the equivalent of 10 per cent of any prize money he wins during that period.

Reigning champions Connecting Skills Australia thought all their Christmases had come at once when they were drawn to have a grand finalist for the second year running, and the favourite Cutting Edge at that.

Unlawful Entry (\$9.10) found the lead early and raced away for a top win from kennel mate Hard Bargain (\$10.20) and Arby (\$43.80) third in a fast 29.83. Highly fancied Lee Brilliance and the unbeaten Cutting Edge both found trouble after poor starts and were never in contention.

While the Geoff Collins-trained greyhound endured the first defeat of his eight-start career, Connecting Skills Australia collected \$2,000 as well as a cheque for \$9,553.50, which was the equivalent of 10 per cent of the winnings accumulated by All Strung Out since his 2014 Great Chase win.



**Trainer Kelly Bravo with Great Chase Winner Unlawful Entry following the final at the Meadows**

After the placed runners the field finished in the following order 4<sup>th</sup> Charleston (\$24.40), 5<sup>th</sup> Cutting Edge (\$2.10), 6<sup>th</sup> Ring The Bell (\$20.60) 7<sup>th</sup> Lee Brilliance (\$2.60) and Dance Craze (\$53.40).

Unlawful Entry is raced Brett Bravo and trained by Kelly Bravo at Lara he is a Brindle & White dog whelped December 2013 by Knocka Norris from She Ain't Late (Late Late Show x Little Bit Shy). Unlawful Entry has won six and finished a place three times from his 13 starts and with the \$47,000 first prize for the Great Chase took his current stake earnings to \$60,900.

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), 2013 **Living Proof** (Meadows 30.040 and 2014 **All Strung Out** (Meadows 30.04).

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

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