



Australian Greyhound
Racing Association

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Promise Delivered

By GRV WEBSITE

IT was a fairy tale finish in more ways than one on Wednesday afternoon when Joe Borg trained dog Promises Kept (\$8.90) took out the 2016 Group Two Great Chase Final at the Meadows.

There were plenty of smiling faces, and even some tears as Faith Martin and her family were part of a \$10,000 cheque presentation to McCallum Disability Services from Ballarat, who drew box six for the final. Trainer Joe described it as 'very emotional' when the greyhound co-owned by Faith and her mother, won the race which its trainer has been preparing it for, for the last six weeks.

Promises Kept was owned by Faith's husband, the late Darren Haffenden who bred and reared the talented greyhound.



Promise Kept races away with the Great Chase

(All Pics Clint Anderson)

Sadly, Darren passed away from pancreatic cancer at just 52 in May this year, but prior to this Faith made a promise to give this greyhound every opportunity to reach its full potential at the track.

"The story behind this dog is just incredible, and I am absolutely wrapped for the dog, and the family," Joe said.

"He is a really hard chaser and the dog wants it, and that's the difference."

Promises Kept took out the final in 30.09sec after a strong finish down the straight at The Meadows.

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Still in shock from the impressive win, a spokesperson from McCallum Disability Services said they will have to think about what to put the \$10,000 towards. The group have been participating in the event since it began 10 years ago.

All seven groups which drew a dog in the final will also walk away with \$2,000.



A happy team from McCallum Disability Services

After the winner the runner's the field finished in the following order 2nd Lightning Frank (\$3.90), 3rd Electromagnetic (\$7.10) 4th Sarah Swift (\$18.60), 5th Rockin' Rico (\$17.70), 6th Vancouver Star (\$2.00) 7th Surf In Vane (\$29.00) and Argyle Lucifer (\$53.40).

Promise Kept is raced by the Martin family and trained by Joe Borg at Maryborough he is a Black dog whelped November 2014 by Barcia Bale from Little Miss Mary (Big Daddy Cool x Surf Lightning). Promise Kept has won seven and finished a place three times from his 10 starts and with the \$47,000 first prize for the Great Chase took his current stake earnings to \$68,445.

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 14 years the event has been staged. Ten 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 2016 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), 2014 **All Strung Out** (Meadows 30.04) and 2015 **Unlawful Entry** (Meadows 29.83).

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