



## MEDIA RELEASE



15th December 2013

### **“Black Magic Opal the one to beat in Hobart 1000”**

After a night of spectacular greyhound racing when six heats of the keenly contested Group 1 Hobart 1000 took centre stage over the 461 metres at Hobart’s Tattersall’s Park. We once again look forward to next Thursday night’s rich final sponsored by Tattsbet, when the most exciting greyhound in training Black Magic Opal fresh from an outstanding Group 1 win in the Melbourne Cup will attempt to go Group 1’s back to back, bringing the cheque for \$75,000 back to Victoria.



**Fastest heat winner Victorian Black Magic Opal**

The superstar could not have been more impressive in his heat on Thursday night, when on debut at the spacious Elwick circuit he added another track record to his resume.











So suited to the venue he was almost expected to post new figures and he delivered from box one untroubled to lead all the way in a scintillating 25.65. The record had stood since 2011 when set by Bergermeister at 25.71. Black Magic Opal now has set records at Geelong (twice), Warrnambool and holds the first sectional record at Sandown Park.

# AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

His heat also brought down the final curtain on home town Hobart star Rewind, after 101 starts and 61 wins Morris Strickland retired the local champ following a stunning career of consistency at the top level.

Others heat winners to impress were recent Ballarat Cup winner Ronan Izmir (25.87), Victorian dual country cup winner Paw Licking (25.77), Brisbane Cup finalist Farmor Las Vegas (25.78). While the locals won the other two heats by way of Hellyeah Bolt (25.81) and Sing The Song (25.97). The two fastest seconds to qualify for the final were Dawson-Harrison winner Clone Your Own and Yappin' Jack for Mick Stringer.

## Box Draw and local Market for the Tattsbet Hobart 1000:

<b>\$75,000 to the winner Group 1 Tattsbet Hobart 1000 520</b>				
Box	Greyhound	Trainer	Price	H/T
	<b>Sing The Song</b>	<b>Robert Grubb</b>	<b>\$26</b>	<b>25.97</b>
	<b>Yappin' Jack</b>	<b>Mick Stringer</b>	<b>\$15</b>	<b>R/U</b>
	<b>Farmor Las Vegas</b>	<b>Robert Britton (VIC)</b>	<b>\$17</b>	<b>26.78</b>
	<b>Clone Your Own</b>	<b>Robert Britton (VIC)</b>	<b>\$21</b>	<b>R/U</b>
	<b>Hellyeah Bolt</b>	<b>Anthony Bullock</b>	<b>\$11</b>	<b>25.81</b>
	<b>Ronan Izmir</b>	<b>Jason Thompson (VIC)</b>	<b>\$7</b>	<b>25.87</b>
	<b>Paw Licking</b>	<b>Kelvyn Greenough (VIC)</b>	<b>\$6.50</b>	<b>25.77</b>
	<b>Black Magic Opal</b>	<b>Jason Thompson (VIC)</b>	<b>\$1.50</b>	<b>25.65</b>
	<b>Varcoe (RES)</b>	<b>Debbie Cannan</b>	<b>RES</b>	
	<b>Teddy Tom Boy(RES)</b>	<b>Morris Strickland</b>	<b>RES</b>	



Local expert's selections for the final are as follows.

**Peter Hayes**

1<sup>st</sup> Black Magic Opal  
2<sup>nd</sup> Ronan Izmir  
3<sup>rd</sup> Paw Licking

**Greg Fahey**

1<sup>st</sup> Black Magic Opal  
2<sup>nd</sup> Hellyeah Bolt  
3<sup>rd</sup> Yappin' Jack

**Shane Yeats**

1<sup>st</sup> Black Magic Opal  
2<sup>nd</sup> Paw Licking  
3<sup>rd</sup> Ronan Izmir

## What's happening on race night?

The Hobart Greyhound Racing Club is giving away lucky gate prizes, Xmas Hamper raffle and kid's bikes giveaway.

Bookings have been brilliant and all goes well for a bumper crowd to match the terrific Final.

Santa will be on course and will be boxing a dog in the first race.

Afterwards he will entertain the kids with bags of lollies, balloons etc.

The Club have orchestrated a 45 minute window after the Thousand Final to allow for the presentation and Sky Channel have been great in assisting promotion with a live host (Peter Staples) and the traditional box cam will be on SKY1.

## The History of the Hobart 1000

The Hobart Thousand was the brainchild of M.A. (Arthur) Morgan, widely regarded both in Tasmania and on the mainland as one of the founding fathers of greyhound racing in Tasmania, and one of the greatest administrators the sport has seen. Morgan was inducted into the AGRA Hall of Fame in 2009. The Hobart 1000 remains the longest running Classic event on the Australian greyhound-racing calendar.

Greyhound racing commenced in Hobart at the T.C.A. ground on January 30<sup>th</sup> 1935, Morgan and his original committee established the Hobart Cup as the Classic race of the year and it was run on February 2<sup>nd</sup> that year. The winner Elwick Boy collected 20 pounds for his owner S. Burton.

Morgan in his great desire to establish Hobart as the leading greyhound track in Australia, saw the Hobart Cup as the way to achieve this. The race was advertised as the Hobart Thousand in 1939 with a first prize

of an Australian record 500 pounds. This started the mass influx of the top mainland chasers, searching for "Thousand Glory", an influx that continues to this day.

The race reverted back to the Hobart Cup for 1942/43, because of financial constraints, and the fact that the mainlanders struggled to get here during the war. Further war restrictions saw the race in recess during 1944 and 1945. When the race resumed in 1946, it was again the Hobart Thousand and was run for a first prize of what Morgan had always wanted it to be, 1000 pounds. It was won by popular Hobartian Dick Baker with his top chaser Ebon's Own, trained by Claude Best. The late 40s and 50s were indeed the halcyon days of the H.G.R.C. When Morgan started up the Maiden Thousand in 1949, (which was the richest Maiden series in Australia until the 1980s) it created a greyhound racing carnival of sorts with leading mainland trainers migrating to Tasmania with greyhounds to compete in the Maiden Thousand, Hobart Thousand double and sometimes Launceston Cup as well. Legendary NSW trainer Charlie "Chika" Morris would often bring up to 20 chasers and stay for 3 months. He did this for decades.

For 9 years straight ending in 1953, the Hobart Club distributed more stakemoney than any other club in Australia and the Hobart Thousand was always the lure for top quality racing and large public patronage. Until 1965 the race was run as a handicap, with Morgan having sole discretion, as was the case with most matters. Since 1965 all runners have been from the same mark.

Ill health forced Arthur Morgan from the helm of Hobart in 1967, but his dream race, known by all simply as "the Thousand", has continued through all the thick and thin that Hobart has encountered, right to the present day, where it is now a National Group 1 race with a first prize of \$50,000.



**GRAND OPENING**

# GREYHOUND

TOP CRICKET **RACING** Hobart Cup Night  
GROUND Jan. 30, 1935

Under Direction HOBART SPEED COURSING CLUB PTY. LTD.

**PROGRAMME**

<p><b>The MacRobertson Cup</b>   <b>The Von Alwyn Cup</b></p> <p><b>£50 HANDICAP</b>      <b>£10 HANDICAP HURDLE</b></p> <p><small>(Kindly donated by Sir MacPherson Robertson, K.C.M.G.)</small>      <small>(Kindly donated by J. Von Alwyn, Esq.)</small></p> <p><b>For 48 Dogs at a Guinea</b>      <b>For 8 Dogs at a Guinea</b></p>	
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Prize Money guaranteed irrespective of the number of entries received.      Last three performances, if any, to be given.

Entries close at 8 p.m. on FRIDAY, JANUARY 25th, 1935, with the Secretary,  
154 Collins Street, Hobart, and Mr. A. Morgan, 93 George Street, Launceston.

It is proposed to hold similar meetings on SATURDAY, 2nd; TUESDAY (Regatta Night), 5th; SATURDAY, 9th FEBRUARY,  
1935, when a considerable amount of money will be added to the stakes

LICENSED BOOKMAKERS WILL BE OPERATING      **ADMISSION: 2/- (Inc. Tax)**

Advertisement for initial meeting of the Hobart Speed Coursing Club.

### An Advertisement for the first Hobart 1000 then known as the Hobart Cup

The most notable effort in the history of the Hobart Thousand must be the training feat of Hilda Williamson of Beaconsfield. She won back-to-back Thousands in 1961/62 with her grand bitch Ophir Doll, and just for good measure made it a hat trick with Ophir Gold in 1963. Another notable feat was that of Beaut Dina. She won the event run in 1976 and was the dam of Scene Control, which won the last ever Hobart Thousand run at the T.C.A. in 1980. Both were owned and trained by Ted and Laurie Rigby of Evandale.

Arguments will always rage over the greatest dogs to win the Thousand. The best interstate chasers to gain victory would have to be Rookie Rebel (1958), Benjamin John (1969), (which ran down the immortal Zoom Top), Black Aztec (1981), and the freak Brother Fox (1985). Amongst the very best of the locals to salute would have to be Ophir Doll (1961/62), along with Royal Griffin (1978), True Vintage (1988), Bomber's a Flyer (1996), Top Shiraz (2000) (who held off the speedster Brett Lee) and Black Caleb (2002) who defeated Melbourne Cup winner Classic Capri. Race record over the 457m trip - 2005 winner Ralph The Mouth 25.60.

The Hobart 1000 is the oldest feature race final in Australia it was first run as the Hobart Cup at the old TCA circuit in 1935. The race first became known as the Hobart 1000 in 1939, it reverted back to the Hobart Cup for two years in 1942 then was not held during the war years of 1944-45 and when the race recommenced in 1946 it was again known as the Hobart 1000.

Victorian Champion Trainer Graeme Bate hold the record for most number of winners he has won the race on no less than four occasions. Victorian trained greyhounds have won three of the last five Hobart 1000's decided since the race moved to Tattersall's Park at the Elwick Racecourse. Superman, Train A Journey and the 2009 winner Prankster were split by local speedster Little Spaniard in 2008. While the 2011 winner was AGRA and Victorian Greyhound of the Year Dyna Tron, he beat local star Rewind by a nose.

Last Year the 1000 went to another Victorian trained horse shoe star Shepparton Cup winner Blackalls Boss for Michelle Mallia-Magri. He run down local superstar Rewind and for the second year in succession and again the local champ had to be content with finishing second.



Listed below are the names of many champions that have tasted victory in the time honored event. It is certainly an impressive list of past winners.

1935 **Elwick Boy**, 1936 **Miafort**, 1937 **Loch Maree**, 1938 **On Par**, 1939 **Mr Whackles**, 1940 **Silver Rover**, 1941 **Cavalry**, 1942 **My Kenya**, 1943 **Askalon**, 1944 **"Not Held"** , 1945 **"Not Held"**, 1946 **Ebon's Own**, 1947 **Young Sign**, 1948 **Hero Minda**, 1949 **Erin's Ace**, 1950 **Neat Brandy**, 1951 **Pleasant Foam**, 1952 **Baron Dhu**, 1953 **The Mudlark**, 1954 **Pasha Chief**, 1955 **Minda Go**, 1956 **Baron Woomera**, 1957 **Rising Ace**, 1958 **Rookie Rebel**, 1959 **Peter's Treasure**, 1960 **Bow Rock**, 1961 **Ophir Doll**, 1962 **Ophir Doll**, 1963 **Ophir Gold**, 1964 **Sandy Stone**, 1965 **Fairbairn Lady**, 1966 **Ipswich Low**, 1967 **Fiery Bob**, 1968 **Sue Narila**, 1969 **Benjamin John**, 1970 **Plunder Road**, 1971 **Trion Scout**, 1972 **Beau Palomino**, 1973 **Sue's A Credit**, 1974 **Jamin John**, 1975 **Snowsim**, 1976 **Beaut Dina**, 1977 **Check Vista**, 1978 **Royal Griffin**, 1979 **Astradome Lad**, 1980 **Scene Control**, 1981 **Black Aztec**, 1982 **Kudaleen**, 1983 **Stony Point**, 1984 **Double Time**, 1985 **Brother Fox**, 1986 **Solitary Simon**, 1987 **White Gigolo**, 1988 **True Vintage**, 1989 **Scott James**, 1990 **Bacchant**, 1990 **Shantytown**, 1991 **Jenny's Legacy**, 1992 **Bomber Gleeson**, 1993 **Extra's Boy**, 1994 **Storm Hero**, 1995 **Clint's Pirate**, 1996 **Bomber's A Flyer**, 1997 **Shantung Tiger**, 1998 **Mirren Bale**, 1999 **Latest Lad**, 2000 **Top Shiraz**, 2001 **Black Caleb**, 2002 **Star Witch**, 2003 **Nobody Knew**, 2004 **Regent Thunder**, 2005 **Ralph The Mouth**, 2006 **Superman**, 2007 **Train A Journey**, 2008 **Little Spaniard**, 2009 **Prankster**, 2010 **Octane Show**, 2011 **Dyna Tron** and 2012 **Blackalls Boss**.



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