



**Australian Greyhound
Racing Association**



MEDIA RELEASE



18th December 2016

Medhurst Pair Storm into Luxbet Hobart 1000

ONE of Tasmania's best and most successful trainer's Ted Medhurst will be represented in the final of next week's Group 1 Luxbet Hobart Thousand by two of his most promising sprinters in Count Baroque and Chief Jetpilot who scored impressive heat wins at Luxbet Park Hobart last night.

Count Baroque began well from box seven in his heat but settled fourth behind the Susan Gittus-trained Suzy La Rue that showed blistering early speed to set up a first split of 4.98 with Medhurst's classy sprinter poised to pounce. Count Baroque burst clear turning for home and went on to score by over five lengths from Suzy La Rue with Zambora Brockie rattling home late to grab third with the winner covering the 461-metre trip in 25.93.

Chief Jetpilot, that is known as a poor beginner, stepped well from box five and stayed clear of trouble to the first turn and had the lead when the field turned for home.

The youngster extended his lead and went on to score from Hurunui Hamish and Lobster Falls.

Exciting Tasmanian pup El Grand Amigo powered his way into final with a brilliant all-the-way win in his heat.

The Patrick Ryan-trained dog began well from box two and had enough early speed to find the rail and once in front he extended his lead at the top turn and went on to score by over two lengths from star Victorian sprinter Blazin' Bomber with Penny's Roman a close-up third.

El Grand Amigo (El Grand Senor-Denne's Point) was backed in from \$5 to start the \$3.50 second elect and he stopped the clock at 26 seconds with splits of 5.01 and 10.98.

It was the dog's fifth win in succession and while he is one of the youngest in the series at 21 months he has an impeccable record of six wins from eight starts and will make his presence felt in the final because of his impeccable box manners.

Newnham-based trainer Dale Hammersley celebrated his first runner in a Hobart Thousand final courtesy of his in-form sprinter Fifteen Two scoring a brilliant win in his heat.

Fifteen Two settled fourth and with no room to move turning for home the dog shouldered his way through a needle-eye opening near the rail and went on to score impressively from the favourite Outside Pass from Queensland.

The local onslaught continued when popular Tasmanian trainer Shirley Sutcliffe, who has only a couple of dogs in her kennel, secured a Thousand finalist when Celtic Kid powered his way to an impressive heat win over Wynburn Archer and star WA sprinter Max Profit.

Celtic Kid was well backed to start at \$8.90 after as much as \$21 was offered with some fixed odds operators.

The first interstate invader to make the final was the Ashlee Terry-trained American Monster that shadowed smart Tasmanian bitch Katey Roman to the home turn before forging clear to defeat her by almost two lengths in a time of 26.00.

Last year's Thousand winner Unlawful Entry has the chance to become only the second in the race's history to win the race in successive years after scoring an impressive win in his heat in a time of 26.01.

Zippering Bruiser, prepared at Swan Hill in Victoria by Matthew Lanigan, produced a barnstorming finish to make his way into the final.

Continued Page 2....

Mahalo Man led from box eight but was hotly pressed by the favourite Chevsta (\$1.80) but when that dog seemed to lose concentration in the home straight Longview Belle burst to the lead but she was swamped by Zipping Bruiser with Chevsta hanging on for third.



Fastest Hobart 1000 heat winner Count Baroque

Box Draw and Tab Fixed Price Market for the Luxbet Hobart 1000 461m

\$75,000 to the winner Group 1 Luxbet Hobart 1000 Final 461m

<i>Box</i>	<i>Greyhound</i>	<i>Trainer</i>	<i>Price</i>	<i>B/T</i>
 1	<i>El Grand Amigo</i>	<i>Patrick Ryan</i>	<i>\$3.50</i>	<i>25.85</i>
 2	<i>Unlawful Entry (VIC)</i>	<i>Brett Bravo</i>	<i>\$2.50</i>	<i>25.78</i>
 3	<i>Count Baroque</i>	<i>Ted Medhurst</i>	<i>\$8</i>	<i>25.79</i>
 4	<i>Fifteen Two</i>	<i>Dale Hammersley</i>	<i>\$26</i>	<i>26.11</i>
 5	<i>American Monster (VIC)</i>	<i>Ashlee Terry</i>	<i>\$5.50</i>	<i>26.00</i>
 6	<i>Zipping Bruiser (VIC)</i>	<i>Matthew Lanigan</i>	<i>\$18</i>	<i>26.30</i>
 7	<i>Celtic Kid</i>	<i>Shirley Sutcliffe</i>	<i>\$12</i>	<i>26.09</i>
 8	<i>Chief Jetpilot</i>	<i>Ted Medhurst</i>	<i>\$8</i>	<i>25.87</i>
 9	<i>Katey Roman (RES)</i>	<i>Paul Hili</i>	<i>\$26</i>	<i>25.90</i>
 10	<i>Hurunui Hamish (RES)</i>	<i>Eric Haldane</i>	<i>\$7</i>	<i>NBT</i>

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

Peter Hayes

1st El Grand Amigo

2nd American Monster

3rd Unlawful Entry

Greg Fahey

1st El Grand Amigo

2nd Unlawful Entry

3rd Chief Jetpilot

Colin McNiff

1st El Grand Amigo

2nd Zipping Bruiser

3rd Chief Jetpilot

Shane Yeats

1st El Grand Amigo

2nd Count Baroque

3rd Chief Jetpilot

What's happening on race night?

The Hobart Greyhound Racing Club is giving away lucky gate prizes to the value of \$1000.

Bookings have been brilliant and all goes well for a bumper crowd. 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 Racing have been great in assisting promotion with a live host (Mark Duclos) 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 30th 1935, Morgan and his original committee established the Hobart Cup as the Classic race of the year and it was run on February 2nd 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 stake money 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 \$75,000.

GRAND OPENING

GREYHOUND

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

Under Direction HOBART SPEED COURSING CLUB PTY. LTD.

PROGRAMME

<p>The MacRobertson Cup The Von Alwyn Cup</p> <p>£50 HANDICAP</p> <p><small>(Kindly donated by Sir MacPherson Robertson, K.C.M.G.)</small></p> <p>For 48 Dogs at a Guinea</p>	<p>£10 HANDICAP HURDLE</p> <p><small>(Kindly donated by J. Von Alwyn, Esq.)</small></p> <p>For 8 Dogs at a Guinea</p>
---	---

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. Dyna Tron (2011) and Paw Licking (2013).

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 holds the record for most number of winners he has won the race on no less than four occasions. Victorian trained greyhounds have won eight of the last 10 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. In 2011 the winner was AGRA and Victorian Greyhound of the Year Dyna Tron he beat local star Rewind by a nose. In 2012 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 champion had to be content with finishing second.

In 2013 in a race that was expected to be a cakewalk for reigning Melbourne Cup winner Black Magic Opal, Paw Licking ruined the script and announced his arrival as a superstar.

Paw Licking began brilliantly from box seven and quickly cleared the field to lead while Black Magic Opal (\$1.40) also was well away from box eight and camped on the leader's heels turning for the run home.

When Black Magic Opal loomed to win it looked a foregone conclusion but Paw Licking refused to wilt and with fighter-like instincts he dug deep like never before and held on to score by under a length from Black Magic Opal with Tasmanian star Yappin' Jack a gallant third ahead of Ronan Izmir.

New Zealand - owned greyhound Above All (\$5.20) from the Robbie Britton's kennel dispensed with a top class field in the 2014 Tattsbet Hobart Thousand. Above All was having only his 11th start in Australia and 13th career outing but he delivered a performance that was more like that of a seasoned star. The Allison Lee-owned dog began well from box five and had the lead after travelling 50 metres and was never headed. He powered his way up the home straight to score by almost eight lengths from Ride The Rails with the favourite Dyna Villa (\$2.80) a head away third. Above All smashed Paw Licking's track record of 25.64 that he set in winning the 2013 1000 Britton's kennel star stopping the clock at a scintillating 25.52 which was two lengths quicker than the previous best. Last year the Brett Bravo-trained dog began fairly from box two but settled midfield while Tasmanian-owned star Bearville Azza (\$4.50), that produced the fastest time of last week's six heat winners, led clearly and turned for home with what looked to be a winning break. But when the son of Knocka Norris-She Ain't Late slipped into overdrive he quickly reduced the margin and eventually ran down the Tasmanian to win by a head.



Last year's winner Unlawful Entry

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**, 2012 **Blackalls Boss**, 2013 **Paw Licking**, 2014 **Above All** and 2015 **Unlawful Entry**.



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