



## MEDIA RELEASE

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# ***Queensland Greyhound Del Rey leads all the way in Launceston Cup***

*By Greg Mansfield Launceston Examiner*

Queensland trainer Tom Tzouvelis upstaged the locals in Saturday night's group 2 Curtains & Blinds Launceston Cup – but not with his No. 1 runner.



***Del Rey beats Zulu Knock's and Hemsworth in Saturday night's \$40,000 Launceston Cup final at Mowbray.***  
(Picture: Greg Mansfield)

Tzouvelis sent two greyhounds to Tasmania in search of the \$40,000 winner's cheque but, according to stand-in trainer Nicole Howard, Del Rey was only his second-stringer.

His main contender Soft Sand got run out from a wide draw in the semi-finals.

Del Rey (\$6.80) on the other hand drew perfectly in box 1 for the final and, after jumping in front, ran 5.08 and 17.61 sectionals to give nothing else a chance.

She scored by 1-½ lengths from the Anthony Bullock-trained Zulu Knock's (\$3.70) with Hemsworth (\$2.50), unbeaten in his previous nine starts, only a neck away third.

Tzouvelis also had runners in Brisbane and Melbourne on Saturday night and left Richmond-based Howard in charge of Del Rey.

*Continued Page 2...*

And, she admitted she was feeling the pressure.

"I'm glad it's over – it's a relief," Howard said.

"I was only worried that she wouldn't begin and get to the front.

"Tom will be rapt with the win and I expect he will take her back to Queensland now."

Del Rey was smashed in early betting.

She was as long as \$19 with Ubet when fixed-odds betting opened and closed at \$7.

Zulu Knock's eased from \$2.50 to \$3 and Hemsworth was backed into favouritism at \$2.60 after opening at \$2.90.

The meeting attracted an excellent crowd, even though it clashed with Carrick harness racing.

It justified the Launceston Greyhound Racing Club's decision to move to a Saturday night slot for the first time since the club moved from White City to Mowbray.

After the placed runners in the cup the field finished in the following order 4<sup>th</sup> Chief Jetpilot (\$7.60), 5<sup>th</sup> Long View Belle (\$55.90), 6<sup>th</sup> Bobby Bound (\$7.90), 7<sup>th</sup> Apollo Blue (\$20.10) and Fink Racer (\$24.70).

Del Rey is a Fawn Bitch whelped May 2015 by Milldean Panther from National Diamond (Surf Lorian x Diamond Deb). She is raced by the Temnick Syndicate and trained by Tom Tzouvelis at Ormeau in Queensland. She has now won 10 races and been placed on 23 occasions from her 48 starts. The Launceston Cup first prize of \$40,000 brings Del Ray's overall prizemoney to \$63,660.

The time-honoured event is one the oldest feature finals in Australia it was first run in 1936 and has no doubt seen its fair share of drama over that long period of time. They have had a dead heat in 1942 and dual winners with Mystery Bridge 75/76 and the mighty Fine Horizon in 1999 and 2000 plus, the 2006 winner a last to first performance by Victorian Wongawillicath, in 2007 the cup was won by Capriccio provided a trifecta for trainer Ted Medhurst. While in 2009 the cup saw a win to dual Tasmanian Greyhound of the Year Big Moose. In 2012 and 2013 the Cup was won by Graeme Bate trained chasers Radley Bale and Xylia Allen. The last three years in 15, 16 and 17 the race was won by New South Wales sprinters Brad Hill Billy, Fantastic Spiral and Victorian Pantera Nera.

The Launceston Club conducted the Cup from 1936 onwards at the old White City complex until the club moved to the new track at Tasman Park in 2005 and Saturday night's Cup was the 14th staged on the circuit located inside the Mowbray Racecourse and Harness track. Listed below is the full honour roll.

1936 **Win Sheen**, 1937 **Loch Neagh**, 1938 **Gambol**, 1939 **Polly Sheen**, 1939 **Aberdeen**, 1939 **Dan's Gift**, 1940 **Dancoma**, 1941 **Black Orchid**, 1942 **All Dixie / Shirarch (DH)**, 1943 **Some Carlton**, 1944 **Young Progress**, 1945 **"Not Held"**, 1946 **Losma Lady**, 1947 **King Goldsby**, 1948 **Chief Agricola**, 1949 **Erin's Ace**, 1950 **Sheehan Lass**, 1951 **Dawn's Duty**, 1952 **Some Ben**, 1953 **Rusty's Hope**, 1954 **Martin Bluff**, 1955 **My Cheetah**, 1956 **Royal Kara**, 1957 **Murmungee**, 1958 **Ebony Minda**, 1959 **Woodford Pride**, 1960 **Nippy Cola**, 1961 **Western Idol**, 1962 **Dottie Too**, 1963 **Ophir Gold**, 1964 **Pine Birch**, 1965 **Macdillon**, 1966 **Hoodwinker**, 1967 **Ophir Glitter**, 1968 **Persian Opera**, 1969 **Michael Craig**, 1970 **Society Dancer**, 1971 **Janker's Star**, 1972 **Dalmore Prince**, 1973 **Mountain Rock**, 1974 **Jamin John**, 1975 **Mystery Bridge**, 1976 **Mystery Bridge**, 1977 **Dynamic David**, 1978 **Fire Tasson**, 1979 **Spotted Toby**, 1980 **Highland Summer**, 1981 **Anymore Anne**, 1982 **Dinkum Castle**, 1983 **Glendale Irish**, 1984 **Sheila's Teresa**, 1985 **Blue Breeze**, 1986 **Falcon Prey**, 1987 **Glenavon Raider**, 1988 **True Vintage**, 1989 **Going National**, 1990 **Blazenka's Flyer**, 1991 **Painted Hilux**, 1992 **Talkaman**, 1993 **Wary's Desire**, 1994 **Flash Billy**, 1995 **Zoom Fox**, 1996 **Two Codes**, 1997 **Pezza's Tiger**, 1998 **Olympic Vision**, 1999 **Fine Horizon**, 2000 **Fine Horizon**, 2001 **Top Shiraz**, 2002 **Jeanie's Queen**, 2003 **My Boy Speedie**, 2004 **Final Image**, 2005 **Obie Trice**, 2006 **Wongawillicath**, 2007 **Capriccio**, 2008 **Akka Boy**, 2009 **Big Moose**, 2010 **Gardam Prince**, 2011 **Fisherman**, 2012 **Radley Bale**, 2013 **Xylia Allen**, 2014 **Varcoe**, 2015 **Brad Hill Billy**, 2016 **Fantastic Spiral** and 2017 **Pantera Nera**.

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