



MEDIA RELEASE
30th March 2018

Beware The Beast-Rising Star Claims Launching Pad

By Michael Floyd

Beast Unleashed showed why he is regarded as one of the country's most exciting chasers with a brilliant all of the way victory in the \$210,000 group 2 Launching Pad at Sandown Park last night.

Taking full advantage of his rails draw, Beast Unleashed led narrowly through the first turn before unleashing his trademark mid-race pace to open a three-length margin down the back straight. The move would prove pivotal, Chief's Sidekick began to improve off the back straight and cut the margin to less than a length in the run to the line. However, the \$2.70 favourite prevailed, stopping the clock in a series best 29.34 and remain undefeated throughout the series.

"I'm lost for words," said Peter Lagogiane, who trains the greyhound in partnership with his wife, Jodie.

"A big thank you to the dog. He's the one that does it all, us trainers we just feed him, train him, and make sure they're sound and that's it. He's the one with the motor, we just fine-tuned it.

"I'm tickled pink for my family, and for the owner Dawn Garrett."

Lagogiane began preparations for the \$410,000 sweepstakes series after a number of impressive performances in his home state of New South Wales. A plan was put in place to ensure the dog was given every opportunity for success in the series, one of the richest greyhound racing in the country.

"I looked at this race many months ago. I had to make sure that he was going to get to the 500m, and after he put some brilliant trials back in New South Wales that was the end of it, I knew it was going to happen.

"We've been up and down for about seven weeks now, but we have stayed here the last three weeks. (Melbourne Cup winning trainer) Jason Mackay gave me some advice, he said if I want to win this, you've got to stay here you don't travel up and down. He said 'how do you feel after travelling that much, imagine how the dog feels,' so a big thank to Jason for giving me that advice.

"And a big thank you too to Anthony Azzopardi and his family for putting us up. When he saw the dog trial he said he can win this."

Lagogiane has spent a considerable amount of time away from his young family during the season and was delighted to celebrate the victory with them, as well as Beast Unleashed's owner Dawn Garrett, track side.

"It's the first time I've actually been away from my family for this long. They flew down for the occasion, my wife pre-booked last week before the semis. She said, 'don't worry, the dog will just win.' I said, 'that's a mock.'

Continued Page 2 ...

“It’s the first time I’ve actually been away from my family for this long. I hope I can learn from it, get a bit better and go on to bigger and better things.”

Beast Unleashed, who doesn’t turn two until April 3, has now won seven of his eight career starts and has already amassed over \$177,000 in prize money. It was the biggest win of Lagogiane’s career, and while his rising star has the greyhound racing world at his feet, his next assignment is unclear.

“We’ll sit down and work out what we’re going to do with him next. There’s the Warrnambool Cup, there’s the Speed Star, there’s a lot of races. He’s actually nominated for the Richmond Series too. We’ll give him a little rest now and work out what we’re going to do.”

Earlier in the night, Jimmy Newob continued his outstanding form with a determined victory in a thrilling edition of the \$36,000 group 3 Easter Gift, holding out Extreme Magic by the barest possible margin.

It was the popular blue dog’s second success at group level in as many starts following his recent group 2 Horsham Cup success.



Beast Unleashed post-race after winning the Launching Pad (Pics Clint Anderson)

After the winner the field finished in the following order 2nd Chief’s Sidekick (\$4.30) 3rd Dyna Patty (\$7.80), 4th Trixta Rox (\$26.70), 5th Tornado Tears (\$17.50), 6th She’s Gifted (\$9.70), 7th Navajo Bear (\$13.70) and Saint David (\$5.30).

Beast Unleashed is a Black dog whelped April 2016 by Barcia Bale from Little Miss Hap (Knocka Norris x Surf Queen) he is raced by Dawn Garrett and trained by Peter & Jodie Lagogiane from Llandilo in New South Wales. He has raced eight times for seven wins. The \$150,000 first prize for the Launching Pad took his stake earnings to \$177,235.

More than 2000 people were trackside for the Easter Kids Fun Night activities. In what is fast becoming one of the club's most beloved race nights, kids of all ages joined in the fun Easter egg hunts, games, giveaways and stacks of fun activities

The Sandown Club introduced the DDC Launching Pad in 2003 and until 2009 it was a Group 3 feature. The race was elevated to Group 2 status in 2010 and 2011 but dropped back to Group 3 again in 2012. However, the club decided the race was worthy of Group 2 status again and elevated it back in 2013, which is where it will stay. The feature has quickly become a most popular event with conditions suiting the young up and coming stars, it is now one of the most unique events on the national calendar providing excellent prizemoney of a \$213,500 final. With the success of the first year of the new concept in 2014 nominations numbers were extended in 2015 and 2016 to 96 entry tickets at \$2000 each. However, it was decided in 2017 that the best number of nominations was 64 and that appears the number it will remain. The extra money from nominations is put back into the heats, semi-finals and final in a three - week series. The concept also for the fourth time included a consolation series provided more distribution of prizemoney for the \$2000 entry. The changes when made were well received and although another review will be held the changes over the years have elevated the race to an excellent level and unique in its concept. The race is sure to continue to grow in stature as time unfolds and will become a much sought-after race for that level and class of lightly raced dogs. Listed below are the previous winners and their winning time.

2003 **Bounty Lass** 29.80, 2004 **Legends** 29.80, 2005 **Traction Control** 29.80, 2006 **Path To Power** 29.69, 2007, **Boris Reigns** 29.80, 2008 **Teaman Titch** 29.90, 2009 **Shiver Inside** 29.80, 2010 **Arsonist** 29.88, 2011 **Easy Peasy** 29.70, 2012 **Five Paws** 29.69, 2013 **Tomac Bale** 29.23, 2014 **Wynburn Wizard** 29.18, 2015 **Usain I'm Nutty** 29.41, 2016 **Buck Forty** 29.23 and 2017 **Suffragette** 29.43.

For more information please contact:

Neil Brown
GCA Publicity Officer
Tel: 03 97691234
Mob: 0423 129 950

David Simonette
GCA Executive Officer
simonette7862@gmail.com