



MEDIA RELEASE

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Just What the Doctor Ordered!

By Michael Floyd

Judy and Bill McMahon registered their first group race win in 30 years of greyhound training when Dr Mino scored a stunning last-to-first victory in the group 2 Laurels at Sandown Park on Thursday night.

Dr. Mino (\$5.20) bungled the start and was a clear last out of the boxes spotting the second last runner two lengths past the post the first time. As the field bunched through the first turn, Dr. Mino switched to the rails and dashed through a narrow gap along the rails to move into third and took off in pursuit of early leaders Slingshot Gypsy (\$4.30) and Zoom Out (\$6.20). She then switched to the outside coming off the back straight, sweeping past the lamp lighters on turning for home and powering to a one and half-length win in 29.83.

While a tardy start would typically put paid to a greyhound's winning chances – especially when running just 5.42 to the first split in a group race final – handler Bill McMahon couldn't have been happier to see his charge fall out of the boxes, believing it was her best chance to avoid trouble and capitalise on the greyhound's strength.

"I was happy as Larry when she missed the kick. She had to miss the kick," he told Sky Racing's Dave Carlson straight after the race.

"Once we got through the catching pen (the first time) I thought we were home, especially with those two dogs in front, I was pretty confident we could catch them."

Dr. Mino burst onto the racing scene in October when she went through the rich Vic Breeders series undefeated. Last night's win was her fifth from 10 career starts – all at Sandown Park – and took her career prize money beyond \$72,000. The result for the husband and wife team was particularly pleasing given that, with the assistance of their five kids, the family does all of the work to get their home bred pups to the track.

"She's been super from day 1 when we broke her in. The Vic Breeders was the target, then everything played out from there. It's a good start to her career."

Added Judy, "the kids get a lot out of it as well because they do so much of the work with them when they're pups, bringing them up through the ranks and handling them in the kennels. There's some excited people in the family right now."

Dr. Mino's next assignment sees her drop to a restricted win race event at Sandown Park this Sunday (race 4, box 3) at Sandown Park this Sunday before being set for the heats of the Damsels Dash at The Meadows on Saturday 30 December.

The Laurels, greyhound racing's equivalent to thoroughbred racing's Oaks, is one of the most highly regarded series in the country with many winners carving out impressive careers both on the race track and in the breeding barn. Notable past winners of the Laurels include Melbourne Cup winners Cheltenham Lass (1965) and Carrington Jade (1975), Australian Hall of Famers Sandi's Me Mum (1989) and Paua To Burn (2004), and Topgun winner Up Hill Jill (2016).

The Laurels Classic was restricted to female greyhounds only, born on or after 01/06/2015



Judy McMahon with Dr. Mino after Laurels final (Pic Paul Munt)

After the placed runners, the field finished in the following order, 4th Nymphadora Tonks (\$26.10), 5th Blue Sky Riot (\$4.90), 6th Miss Judge (\$34.50), 7th Wharfies Girl (\$26.50) and Rockstar Stratus (\$3.50).

Dr.Mino is raced, trained and was bred by Bill & Judy McMahon at Darriman in Victoria, she is a Brindle bitch whelped September 2015 by Bella Infrared from Dr. Mindy (Run's House x Dr.Tinamin). Dr. Mino has won five and been placed three times from her 10 starts and with the \$50,000 first prize for the Laurels it took her current stake earnings to \$77,375.

Recognized Australia wide as the pinnacle age restricted bitches' classic the Laurels was first conducted by the Sandown Club in 1964 when won by Tara Princess. It is a very much sought-after Group 1 event with the winner usually acknowledged as a very valuable brood bitch as well as most carve out a successful race career. It has also been proven over the years that most of the finalists are bitches that produce when they go to stud and some have become house hold names after producing some of the superstars of the sport.

The Classic has found some outstanding winners over the years none the least 1965 champ Cheltenham Lass who later in her career was runner up and won a Melbourne Cup as well as runner up in an Australian Cup. Odious who went on to win an Australian Cup in 1976, Carrington Jade won a Melbourne Cup in 1976. Cavalier Queen won the Adelaide Cup in 1977. Paua To Burn won the 2005 Easter Egg and 2004/ 2005 Group 1 Sapphire Crown. Plus, two other winners are Hall of Fame superstars Winifred Bale and Sandi's Me Mum. The race will now continue to be staged in December after a revamp of the AGRA Group Race calendar commenced in July 2010 it considered a better age time for the young bitches and it will also coincide with the running of the Silver Chief for the same aged dog pups. Listed below is the Laurels Classic Honour roll highlighted by so many stars that enjoyed outstanding careers.

1964 **Tara Princess**, 1965 **Cheltenham Lass**, 1966 **Ever Present**, 1967 **Magic Fuel**, 1968 **Enapetic**, 1969 **Watch A Flash**, 1970 **La Rate**, 1971 **Lady Of Rome**, 1972 **Blackliner**, 1973 **Crete**, 1974 **Vibrant Lass**, 1975 **Odious**, 1976 **Carrington Jade**, 1977 **Cavalier Queen**, 1978 **Debbie's Wood**, 1979 **Jewel Of All**, 1980 **Sharonlee Girl**, 1981 **Sarah Kuda**, 1982 **Winifred Bale**, 1983 **Wee Rua**, 1984 **Select Girl**, 1985 **Little Nola**, 1986 **Autumn Leaf**, 1987 **Playgirl Bonnie**, 1988 **Dancing Vixen**, 1989 **Sandi's Me Mum**, 1990 **Witchery**, 1991 **Barb's Tune**, 1992 **To Perfection**, 1993 **Suzy Also**, 1994 **Victorious Road**, 1995 **Little Promise**, 1996 **Hanson Kelly**, 1997 **Moonambel Gem**, 1998 **Chersam Honcho**, 1999 **Labyrinth**, 2000 **Creative Whisky**, 2001 **Hail A Harley**, 2002 **Katella Bale**, 2003 **Dance Portrait**, 2004 **Paua To Burn**, 2005 **Maureen Shirly**, 2006 **Pure Burst**, 2007 **Miss Hot Gossip**, 2008 **Hybrid Theory**, 2009 **Boozeroo** and 2010 **C'est La Vie (June)** and **Up And Away (December)** 2011 **Stetson Donna**, 2012 **Gunda Bale**, 2013 **Ritza Hattie**, 2014 **Lamia Bale**, 2015 **Fantastic Skye** and 2016 **Up Hill Jill**.

*****Replay of the final can be viewed on the club's and GCA website at:
www.sandowngreyhounds.com.au
www.agra.com.au

Thanks to Michael Floyd Sandown Racing & Communications Manager for story content.

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