



Australian Greyhound
Racing Association

MEDIA RELEASE

23rd July 2017

Brett's two-pronged attack on Maturity Classic Final

By George Farrugia MGRA Publicity Officer

Queensland trainer Tony Brett heads into the Group 1 Maturity Classic with two genuine chances after both star galloper Fast Times and the speedy Opal Nera qualified for Saturday's \$145,000 final.

Fast Times – one of five youngsters in the final by Australia's leading sire Barcia Bale – sat behind early leader Aston Dinnigan before powering home to win the third semi-final in 30.14. One race later, Brett bought up the double as Opal Nera won the speed battle in the run to the first corner, holding off a late challenge from Trixta Rox to get home in 30.20.

Brett is no stranger to winning Group 1 races at The Meadows, steering Bogie Leigh to victory in The Meadows' flagship race – the Australian Cup – in 2004 and Black Enforcer in a Topgun success in 2005. However, he's hoping his recent luck in Group 1 finals at The Meadows will change, after his star chaser Thirty Talks led in January's Group 1 Silver Chief final before going amiss down the back straight.

His main rival will be Mepunga Blazer, who set The Meadows alight with a commanding 29.63 semi-final win after amazing splits of 5.04 and 17.48 – the second fastest second split this year behind Lightning Frank's effort in a heat of the Australian Cup. The Jeff Britton-trained chaser was the only greyhound in the semi-final stage to break 30 seconds, but will have to contend with the awkward draw of six in the weekend's \$100,000-to-the-winner final.











The semis got off to a rocky start for punters after Dyna Jerry got up at the odds of \$50.30 on SuperTAB after a fast 4.99 set up his 30.23 victory over the fast finishing Shadale.

Next Saturday's bumper program will also see the running of the Group 3 Destini Fireball Stayers final, where champion stayer Burn One Down will start a short-priced favourite despite going down to the in-form Billy's Bake in the second of the weekend's heats. Mick's Angel gave trainer Allan Meyer his first Group finalist after a fantastic last-to-first win in the opening heat of the series. The daughter of Kilty Lad and Seabrook Lass will start from box eight in the \$25,000-to-the-winner final.

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GROUP ONE – MATURITY CLASSIC

Box Draw and TAB Fixed Prices for Maturity Classic:

\$100,000 to the winner Group 1 Maturity Classic Final 525m				
Box	Greyhound	Trainer	Price	B/T
 1	Lady Charlotte	Joe Borg	\$35	NBT
 2	Opal Nera (Qld)	Tony Brett	\$3.50	30.01
 3	Dyna Jerry	Dennis Trewin	\$71	30.08
 4	Shadale	Rob Redenbach	\$15	30.07
 5	Aston Dinnigan	Paul Abela	\$6	29.96
 6	Mepunga Blazer	Jeff Britton	\$2.50	29.63
 7	Trixta Rox	Deborah Mowat	\$15	29.83
 8	Fast Times (Qld)	Tony Brett	\$3.50	29.93
 9	Paradiso Lass (RES)	Jeff Britton	\$17	30.09
 10	Vander Worp (RES)	Jeff Britton	\$6	30.07

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

Ron Hawkswell

1st Mepunga Blazer
 2nd Opal Nera
 3rd Fast Times

Rob Testa

1st Trixta Rox
 2nd Mepunga Blazer
 3rd Opal Nera

Eddie Caruana

1st Mepunga Blazer
 2nd Opal Nera
 3rd Shadale

George Farrugia

1st Opal Nera
 2nd Aston Dinnigan
 3rd Mepunga Blazer

What is happening on race night?



Christmas In July
 Book your 'Christmas In July' celebrations in the Temlee Room to enjoy fantastic views of the race track as well as a delicious Christmas-themed buffet dinner!
 Buffet Dinner just \$45 per person
 Drink packages & group discounts available

With only 6 months until Christmas, Santa & his elves are taking a time-out from all of their busy preparations to stop in at The Meadows for some wintery fun!

Santa's Workshop

SATURDAY 29 JULY, 2017

A fantastic night of **FREE** entertainment for the whole family featuring the **Group 1 Maturity Classic**

Join Santa in his undercover Workshop on The Terrace & enjoy heaps of fun crafts & activities

- Christmas Crafts • Face Painting • Meet Santa • Free Hot Chocolates & Gifts for Kids •
- Kids Spinning Wheel • Jumping Castles •

DATE & TIME
 Saturday night 29 July from 6:00pm

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Some Maturity fact and figures

Twenty-one favourites have won the Maturity Classic since it was first staged in 1970. Of those ten have started odds on.

The race record at Olympic Park was 29.80 held by Storm Glade, since the race transferred to the Meadows the fastest winner is Fernando Bale in 29.50.

The longest priced winner is Poetic Magic at \$27.40 he won in 2005. The Shortest priced winner is Brett Lee at 1.20 when won in 2001.

Graeme Bate won the race on five occasions with Storm Glade (1985), Hay Dinney (88), Northern Legend (95), Shereen Bale (2011) and Barcia Bale (2012).

The only other trainers to produce more than one winner are Darren McDonald with Brett Lee (2001) and Hallucinate (2004) and Jason Thompson 2007 Run's House and 2009 Aston Trivett.

Some of the most famous winners and most noted start with Temlee (74), Satan's Legend (78), Pharaoh's Mask (86), New Tears (87), Hay Dinney (88), Best Of Blue (89), Eureka Man (90), Northern Legend (95), Coriole (99), Brett Lee (2001), Hallucinate (2004), El Grand Senor (2010) Shereen Bale (2012) Barcia Bale, (2013) Marcus Joe and 2015 winner Fernando Bale.

Winners that have produced winners. Temlee produced Satan's Legend & Murchison Champ, New Tears produced Northern Legend and Brett Lee produced Hallucinate.

Only five bitches have won the Maturity Warrenwood Girl (75), Overflow Love (77), Coriole (99) and Shereen Bale (2011) and 2013 winner Mepunga Hayley.

In the last decade six of the 10 winners started favourite.

The Maturity Classic was first held at Olympic Park in 1970 when won by talented sprinter Phantom's Heir first prize at that time was \$1250. The prizemoney increased marginally until 1975 when it went to \$3,500. In 77 it was \$5,600 and jumped to \$7000 in 79 before going to \$10,000 from 1980 until 1987 the year the mighty New Tears won the race. First prize went to \$15,000 for seven years then to \$20,000 for two years and reached \$30,000 in the year 2000. In 2001 it was worth \$40,000 and the Classic was won by AGRA Hall Of Famer Brett Lee. It was elevated the next year to the amount of \$50,000 and again in 2011 the race increased to \$75,000 to the winner. Then again in 2012 the prizemoney increased to \$100,000 to the winner. Listed below is the Maturity Classic Honour roll highlighted by some of the many stars that enjoyed outstanding careers after winning the feature. The full Honour Roll is listed below.

DATE	GREYHOUND	SIRE	DAM	ODDS	TIME	BOX	STAKE	TRAINER
1970	PHANTOM'S HEIR	Phantom's Return	Dasher's Flight	1/2F	30.31	1	\$1,250	J. Bushell
1971	LINDEN LAD	Clay Moss	Ophir Gold	3/1	30.75	7	\$1,250	E. Jacobs
1972	NULLA'S CALL	Nulla View	Bacall	15/1	30.63	8	\$2,200	R. Pyers
1973	SHAN'S TEMPEST	Blue Shan	Thunderella	5/2	30.33	1	\$2,000	R. Jeffrey
1974	TEMLEE	Tivoli Chief	Temora Lee	5/4F	30.45	1	\$2,000	F. Cray
1975	WARRANWOOD GIRL	Plunder Road	Caledonian Gem	4/5F	30.56	1	\$3,500	J. Hickson
1976	AARON KING	Newmore King	Here Comes Sue	1/2F	30.50	1	\$3,500	G.E. Bryant
1977	OVERFLOW LOVE	Overflow Eagle	Sudden Love	4/1	31.06	2	\$5,600	Mrs P Haas
1978	SATAN'S LEGEND	Temlee	Cyclone Liz	5/2	30.26	7	\$5,600	D. Gillard
1979	MARAJAX	Agry	Shane Maree	4/7F	30.29	1	\$7,000	A. Brearley
1980	WORTHY WESTON	Weston Pete	Furore	4/5F	30.39	6	\$10,000	B Jacobson
1981	MURCHISON CHAMP	Temlee	Top Kewin	4/1	30.46	5	\$10,000	K. Richards
1982	WYNLEE SPIRIT	Dashing Disco	Busy Sadie	6/1	30.28	5	\$10,000	A. Roberts
1982	ROCKY PYRAMID	Bowetzel	Flinders Tiv	9/4F	30.44	3	\$10,000	F Ladd
1984	BROKEN CUP	Go Club	Marungi Idol	9/2	30.03	1	\$10,000	L. Ketelaar
1985	STORM GLADE	Busy's Chief	Supreme Ocean	11/4	29.80	2	\$10,000	G. Bate
1986	PHARAOH'S MASK	Roy Trease	Forever Eaton	4/1	29.92	3	\$10,000	D. Connor
1987	NEW TEARS	Pretty Short	Starfire Lady	5/4	29.94	5	\$10,000	S. Davies

1988	HAY DINNEY	Chariot Supreme	Mary Baxter	7/4F	29.80	1	\$15,000	G. Bate
1989	BEST OF BLUE	Nation Parade	Blue Louise	5/2	29.96	4	\$15,000	A. Evans
1990	EUREKA MAN	Pretty Fearless	Pride Of Quanne	1/2F	29.82	4	\$15,000	K. Patterson
1991	ENFIELD	Pop Gun	That's Lika Flash	3/1	30.15	6	\$15,000	S. Johannesen
1992	EXECUTIVE CLASS	Fremantle Echo	All The Aces	5/2	29.82	1	\$15,000	M. Taylor
1993	KEYSTONE	Chariot Supreme	Clever Sue	6/4	29.98	2	\$15,000	T. Brown
1994	REFUR	Black Pirate	Corrossa Girl	11/2	30.03	3	\$15,000	R. Halliday
1995	NORTHERN LEGEND	New Tears	Swift Laser	2/1F	29.85	1	\$20,000	G. Bate
1996	ROYAL HONCHO	Head Honcho	Wee Sal	10/9F	30.10	8	\$20,000	G. Edwards
1997 (San)	RUNNING GOLD	Golden Mike	Twiglet	2/1	30.33	7	\$30,000	S. Sorbello
1998 (San)	ADRENALIN STORM	Adrenalize	Storm Vixen	6/1	29.94	1	\$30,000	N. Maurer
1999	CORIOLE	Black Shiraz	Idol Storm	5/1	29.97	3	\$30,000	D. Holmes
2000	ACACIA DEE	Acacia Ablaze	DeeBee	9/2	30.28	4	\$30,000	P. Giles
2001	BRETT LEE	Gun Law Osti	Sobbing Sal	1.20F	29.75	8	\$40,000	D. McDonald
2002	ROCKA COCKATOO	Just the Best	Cockatoo Cabin	3.40	30.63	8	\$50,000	P. Chaker
2003	HALL'S NORTHERN	Legs Ahoy	Karalinga	2.40F	29.98	2	\$50,000	K. Hunt
2004	HALLUCINATE	Brett Lee	Elusive Rebel	1.80F	30.15	1	\$50,000	D. McDonald
2005	POETIC MAGIC	Carlisle Jack	Poetic Girl	27.40	30.15	5	\$50,000	K. Mugavin
2006	TRAIN A JOURNEY	Primo Uno	Currency Tears	2.90F	30.11	4	\$50,000	J. Galea
2007	RUN'S HOUSE	Awesome Aassassin	Amy's Sonnet	1.50F	29.80	1	\$50,000	J. Thompson
2008	PADDY'S FLAME	Larkhill Jo	Miss Holly	2.60F	30.03	6	\$50,000	P. Giles
2009	ASTON TRIVETT	Bond	Miss Spicy	3.70	29.89	2	\$50,000	J. Thompson
2010	EL GRAND SENOR	Where's Pedro	Elgrando Gold	2.00F	29.99	1	\$50,000	C. Jones
2011	SHEREEN BALE	Over Flo	Horizon Bale	3.20	29.75	8	\$50,000	G. Bate
2012	BARCIA BALE	Go Wild Teddy	Princess Bale	2.00F	30.03	3	\$100,000	G. Bate
2013	MARCUS JOE	Velocette	Mojo Glory	15.10	29.66	3	\$100,000	B. Maloney
2014	MEPUNGA HAYLEY	Bekim Bale	Mepunga Harmony	4.10	29.79	8	\$100,000	J. Britton
2015	FERNANDO BALE	Kelos Fusileer	Chloe Allen	1.40F	29.50	2	\$100,000	A. Dailly
2016	KILTY EXPRESS	Kilty Lad	Bogie Jewel	3.50	30.17	6	\$100,000	R. Drew



Last year's Winner Kilty Express (6) races past the leaders to win the Maturity (Pic Clint Anderson)

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