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Aston Dee Bee Dazzles in the Melbourne Cup the World's Richest Greyhound race

By Michael Floyd



Aston Dee Bee (\$2.40) secured his place in greyhound racing folklore after a brilliant victory in the \$600,000 group 1 TAB Melbourne Cup last night.

The hulking 36kg speedster took full advantage of his inside draw, railing powerfully through the first turn to take a lead he wouldn't relinquish, charging to the line 3½ lengths clear of the fast finishing Chasin' Crackers (\$16.40) in 29.36 and claim the world's richest greyhound race.

Continued Page 2...

The win was an emotional one for trainer Seona Thompson, who struggled to hold back her tears after the race.

“I can’t believe it, I’m just really proud, proud of the dog, proud of the whole family who worked so hard just to get him to the track,” she said.

“I’m so happy for Ray (Borda, owner), he was in dogs before I was born and this is his first Cup. My dad and step mother are here tonight, as I said it’s a big family effort, everyone helps. My sisters and everybody, I’m sure they’ll be bawling their eyes out wherever they are tonight.

“It’s not something I thought would ever happen to me, I never thought I’d win a Melbourne Cup and thanks to this boy I have. We’ve had him since he was broken in, we pre-trained him and he’s just a delight at home, he’ll be with us forever now.

“Having won 10 of his previous 14 starts with those four placings being at group level, Aston Dee Bee’s win came as no surprise to many punters. He was sent to the boxes the \$2.40 favourite after qualifying fastest with a brilliant heat win in 29.12, and was unbeaten in four starts from box 1 at Sandown Park.

“I don’t think you can be too confident in a Melbourne Cup, but what he did is what I hoped he would do. I knew he could begin and that he could hold his spot. He’s racing so well, he’s a big strong dog he’s jumping out of his skin.

“When I get home tonight and watch the replay I’m sure it will start to sink in.”

His breakthrough victory at group level – he had been placed in six of his previous eight attempts in group company – improved his record to 27 wins from 48 career starts and elevated his career prizemoney to \$631,025.

Thompson’s second finalist, Bewildering, powered home for fourth after overcoming trouble at the first turn. Thompson also trained Out Of Range and Poke The Bear to victory later in the evening to complete a winning treble.



A happy Team after the win. (All Pics Clint Anderson)

After the first two placings, the field finished in the following order, 3rd Kouta Mayhem (\$14.40) 4th Bewildering (\$4.40) 5th Raw Ability (\$5), 6th Striker Light (\$13.70) 7th Aston Miley (\$27.50) and Up Hill Jill (\$9.30).

Aston Dee Bee is raced by Ray Borda and trained by Seona Thompson of Pearcedale in Victoria. Aston Dee Bee is a Black dog whelped April 2015 by Barcia Bale from Aston Elle (Bombastic Shiraz x Elite Oriental). He has won 27 of his 48 starts and has been placed on ten occasions and with the \$420,000 first prize for the Melbourne Cup it took his current stake earnings to \$631,025.

Listed below is the honour roll of winners of the Melbourne Cup.

1956 **Rocketeer**, 1957 **Rookie Rebel**, 1958 **Marine Jet**, 1959 **Capital King**, 1960 **Chief Ranee**, 1961 **Bybrae**, 1962 **Saskagay**, 1963 **Saskaview**, 1964 **Rocket Streak**, 1965 **Kinta's Son**, 1966 **Cheltenham Lass**, 1967 **Swan Opal**, 1968 **Mr.Spot**, 1969 **Milimsimbi**, 1970 **Chris' Dandy**, 1971 **Gerard The Gent**, 1972 **Gold Grotto**, 1973 **New Mariner**, 1974 **Kwik Metal**, 1975 **Dynamic Dean**, 1976 **Carrington Jade**, 1977 **Milepost**, 1978 **Tangaloa**, 1979 **Acclaim Star**, 1980 **Black Aztec**, 1981 **Satan's Shroud**, 1982 **Kid Scandal**, 1983 **Lady Lilly**, 1984 **Rustic Venture**, 1985 **Sydney Dingaon**, 1986 **Legendary Kid**, 1987 **Speedy Mick**, 1988 **Hua**, 1989 **Fair Sentence**, 1990 **Highly Blessed**, 1991 **Fox Hunt**, 1992 **Master Giant**, 1993 **Silver Chisel**, 1994 **Light Of Fire**, 1995 **City Blitz**, 1996 **Henry Hand**, 1997 **Roanokee**, 1998 **Rapid Journey**, 1999 **Kantarn Bale** 2000 **Go Wild Teddy**, 2001 **Classic Capri**, 2002 **Excite Ability**, 2003 **Bombastic Shiraz**, 2004 **Hallucinate**, 2005 **Closing Argument**, 2006 **Betty's Angel**, 2007 **Shanlyn Prince**, 2008 **Surgeon**, 2009 **Lord Ducal**, 2010 **El Grand Senor**, 2011 **Dyna Tron**, 2012 **Got A Moment**, 2013 **Black Magic Opal**, 2014 **Dyna Villa**, 2015 **Dyna Double One** and 2016 **Ando's Mac**.

Fanta Cracks A Million with Group 1 Bold Trease



In the night's support feature, Fanta Bale (\$2) became the third greyhound in history to reach the \$1m prize money mark with a brilliant win in the group 1 Bold Trease.

The darling of Australian greyhound racing began cleanly but was put under pressure for the first lap by Petunia Monelli and Champagne Sally. However, she soon stamped her authority on the race passing the stating boxes for the final time, powering away to claim her seventh group 1 title and take her career prize money to \$1,094,170.

Fernando Bale holds the record for the most prize money earned by an Australian greyhound at \$1,293,110.

Fanta Bale is now likely to head to Wentworth Park for the heats of the group 3 Summer Cup on Saturday 2 December.

A huge crowd piled into Sandown Park for greyhound racing's showcase event with patrons treated to an unexpected light show when a major electrical storm struck the area causing the second half of the card to be delayed.

Fanta Bale is a Black bitch whelped August 2014 by David Bale from Ucmé Typhoon (Dodgem By Design x USS Mysterious). Fanta Bale is raced Paul Wheeler and trained by Robert Britton. She has raced 52 times for 35 wins and 11 placings. After adding the \$100,000 first prize for the Bold Trease her stake earnings stand at \$1,094,170. Third on the all-time stakes winning list.

After the winner the field finished in the following order, 2nd Packey Keeping (\$69.50), 3rd Ebby Ripper (\$6.30) 4th Zipping Lady (\$37.30) 5th Rockoon (\$3.70), 6th Moment To Jive (\$35.30) 7th Petunia Monelli (\$10.90) and Champagne Sally (\$9.10).

Bold Trease Carnival Cup Honour Roll.

1999 **Chain Of Lagoons**, 2000 **Mr Boswell**, 2001 **Sara Magee**, 2002 **Naughty Nita**, 2003 **Proven Adonis**, 2004 **Arvo's Athena**, 2005 **Texas Gold**, 2006 **Sargent Major** and 2007 **Cash Express**, 2008 **Fallen Zorro**, 2009 **Drill' Em**, 2010 **So Seductive**, 2011 **Zipping Malfoy**, 2012 **Miata**, 2013 **Cheetah Zorro**, 2014 **Sweet It Is**, 2015 **Bourski Fever** and 2016 **It's A Bird**.

Completing a big night of racing, last year's Melbourne Cup runner-up Jesaulenko led all the way from box two and took out the Listed Cup Night Sprint in 29.56 for Terri-Maree Morris, while Shadale claimed the Group 3 Middle Distance feature the Sir John Dillon Memorial for Jim Redenbach in 34.07.

TAB Melbourne Cup night was another tremendous success for the club, with a large crowd in attendance witnessing a memorable night of greyhound racing. A bold move by the club to shift the Cup from the traditional Thursday night to a Friday in 2014 and along with heats night also on a Friday as it was last year and this year it has proved the bonus it promised. The big crowd helped the Club continue to top records for TAB turnover at greyhound meetings. All forms of betting were again massive for greyhound racing and the Melbourne Cup continues to go from strength to strength as the premier event for the sport in not only the state and Australia but now worldwide.

The large crowd was a fitting reward for the hard-working administration, catering, and track staff at Sandown.

The Sandown team led by CEO Greg Miller introduced several changes to how Cup night is run and promoted over the last few years and the results have been stunning. The big crowd enjoyed a wonderful night of excitement and atmosphere plus a host of entertainment and action. They got what was promised, to be entertained.

Thanks for information above provided by Michael Floyd, Racing and Media Manager

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