



MEDIA RELEASE



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Group 1 Double Header Set To Ignite

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All eyes will be on Betchoice Gardens next Friday night with the time-honoured Group 1 Newcastle Herald National Derby and Group 1 Forsythes National Futurity set down for decision.

Two quality semi-finals of both events were run and won at Betchoice Gardens on Friday afternoon, with the first four in each run-off cementing a place in their respective finals next week.

Carrying a cool \$75,000 to the winner, both races are steeped in tradition, with the Derby commencing at Wentworth Park back in 1963 with the Futurity kicking off two years later in 1965.

Many past greats lay claim to winning these prestigious Group 1 events and given the quality set to converge on Betchoice Gardens next Friday, this year will be no different.

The box draws for Friday night's finals of the Group 1 Newcastle Herald National Derby and Group 1 Forsythes National Futurity at Betchoice Gardens were conducted Friday night.

The current Derby favourite Mcelle drew favourably in box three. The Jason Mackay greyhound drew the same box in his semi-final last Friday, in which he scored a commanding five length win.

Flavours, the race favourite before the semi-finals, has drawn right alongside Mcelle in box four.

Meanwhile, Midnight Capers chances were done no harm in the Futurity when she drew the coveted red rug for the final.

AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

Another greyhound that has come into calculations is Zara Zulu who was a very impressive winner semi-final winner. Zara Zulu has drawn box five.

It is sure to be a massive night at Betchoice Gardens this Friday, with two cracking, highly contested Group 1 finals programmed to be contested.

The meeting will be run in the night timeslot with plenty of entertainment on offer for patrons attending the meeting.

GROUP ONE – Newcastle Herald National Derby Classic \$75,000 to the winner



Direct Bullet

14 starts 2-5-3 (\$4,580)

Velocette – Direct Lass

Brindle Dog February '10

Owners: **Darrell Smith**

Trainer: **Mark Arncliffe**

The Gardens best: NBT (2 Starts 0-1-0)

Yet to win on the track but handy second last week behind McElle in 29.78. Only a youngster with 14 starts under his belt his best looks in front him. Always a great draw in a final however place chance looks best.



Sure As

28 Starts 12-5-1 (29,020)

Bombastic Shiraz – Winsome Bluebird

Black Dog October '09

Owner: **A & R Wrightson**

Trainer: **Sid Swain**

The Gardens best: 29.63 (6) (5 Starts 3-1-0)

Has plenty of ability and solid record 12 and six from 28. Three wins here and a best of 29.63 puts him in with a big chance got home really well to win the semi, plus a smart run of 29.65 in his heat a nice draw so it all adds up to him having a big chance.



Mcelle

20 starts 13-5-1 (\$18,453)

Collision – Elle Mcstate

Blue October '09

Owner: **Reg Kay**

Trainer: **Jason MacKay**

The Gardens best: 29.78 (3) (3 Starts 2-1-0)

Another with solid claims won his semi with authority last week recording 29.78. His second in the heat behind Flavours in the best of the night 29.28 was also a very good effort. Well-bred pup he has some nice wins in his short career will need some luck but certainly a winning chance.



Flavours

24 starts 10-2-2 (\$45,890)

Bombastic Shiraz – Frosty Fruits

Black Dog November '09

Owners: **Recliner Syndicate**

Trainer: **John Finn**

The Gardens best: 29.28 (2) (7 Starts 4-0-0)

Won his heat in just outside the record then had no luck in the Bulli Gold Plate. Made it through to the final when fourth last week behind Sure As. Has to overcome box four and can't afford any mistakes at box rise but he is a very fast young dog. Has got to be a chance off his heat win and the polish of Johnny Finn.



General Trigga

25 starts 9-3-3 (\$26,375)

Big Daddy Cool – Gemini Jessie

Red Brindle Dog November '09

Owner / Trainer: **Radomir Manojlovic**

The Gardens best: 29.77 (7) (4 Starts 1-0-1)

Big job from box five won his heat in 29.77 and has a nice record so far in his short career. Good type but place chance might be best from the horror draw.



Complicit

29 starts 9-2-8 (\$17,550)

Surf Lorian – Trendy Habit

Black Dog September '09

Owner / Trainer: **Christopher Carl**

The Gardens best: 29.57 (3) (5 starts 1-0-2)

Very smart youngster with a fast best of the meeting win here of 29.57. Ran third in both his heat and semi and would need to improve on that effort to win this, however with a bit of luck in running is a solid place chance.



Pure Instinct

30 starts 10-8-4 (\$32,000)

Bombastic Shiraz – Weetbix

Light Fawn Dog July '09

Owner: **T Whittington & G Sprod**

Trainer: **Mark Azzopardi**

The Gardens best: NBT (2 Starts 0-2-0)

Former Victorian with wins at Sandown and Angle Park. Hasn't won on the track but has plenty of ability finished second in both his heat and semi. Nice type and is not without a chance if he has a bit go his way. Place chance best.



Free Will

10 starts 5-2-2 (\$8,155)

Elite State – Formulate

Black Dog March '10

Owner: **Derya Mustafa**

Trainer: **Anthony Azzopardi**

The Gardens best: 29.90 (4) (5 Starts 2-1-2)

Another smart youngster he finished third last week but has won a couple here in reasonable time. Only a young dog with 10 starts to his name for five wins, his best is in front of him and he has the A Azzopardi polish always worth something in a final.



Ate To Much

10 starts 4-2-1 (\$10,545)

Collision – Ate Bucks

Local that finished fifth last week to Sure As. Well beaten but has won twice here with a best of 29.77 might run a drum if he gains a start.



Usah Shiraz

12 starts 5-2-1 (\$12,865)

Bombastic Shiraz – Joop Mush

Will start sizable odds if he gains a start hasn't won here and finished fifth last week behind McElla.

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

Gerard Guthrie

1st Mcelle
2nd Sure As
3rd Flavours

Adam Dobbin

1st Mcelle
2nd Flavours
3rd Sure As

Ron Arnold

1st Mcelle
2nd Pure Instinct
3rd Direct Bullet

Tab Sportsbet Fixed Market for the Newcastle Herald Derby Final:

\$75,000 to the winner Group 1 Newcastle Herald Derby Final (515m)			
Box	Greyhound	Trainer	Price
 1	Direct Bullet	Mark Ancliffe	\$41.00
 2	Sure As	Sid Swain	\$10.00
 3	Mcelle	Jason Mackay	\$2.90
 4	Flavours	John Finn	\$3.40
 5	General Trigga	Radomir Manojlovic	\$5.00
 6	Complicit	Christopher Carl	\$6.00
 7	Pure Instinct	Mark Azzopardi	\$21.00
 8	Free Will	Anthony Azzopardi	\$21.00
 9	Ate To Much	Bradley Canty	\$16.00
 10	Usah Shiraz	Jason Mackay	\$12.00

GROUP ONE – Forsythes National Futurity Classic \$75,000 to the winner



Midnight Capers

19 starts 7-7-3 (\$16,980)

Collision – Midnight Movie

Black Bitch December '09

Owner / Trainer: **Roseleen Pringle**

The Gardens best: NBT (2 Starts 0-2-0)

Has the good draw after going okay last week finishing second behind Zara Zulu in the best of the night. Handy record of 7 and 10 from 19. Hasn't yet won here but gets a chance to run a forward race from the red. Don't underestimate from the red.



Witch's Potion (VIC)

17 starts 6-3-5 (\$38,325)

Meticulous – Magical Potion

Black Bitch August '10

Owner: **Paul Westerveld**

Trainer: **Jason MacKay**

The Gardens best: NBT (2 Starts 0-1-1)

One of three Victorians to make the final yet to win on the track but drawn well here, good performance in the semi behind Olive Millie in 29.81. Certainly expect a forward showing from two and not without a chance. A young bitch with a fair bit of talent.



By Starlight (VIC)

18 starts 5-5-3 (\$12,405)

Mogambo – Zulu Zepha

Red Fawn Bitch September '09

Owner: **Geoff Collins**

Trainer: **Michael Fernley**

The Gardens best: 29.79 (5) (2 Starts 1-0-1)

A litter sister to Zara Zulu she finished third to Olive Millie last week. Impressive in winning her heat in 29.75 and she is drawn to finished around the placings. Not without a chance but will need a bit of luck in the run to the first turn. Place chance best.



Desalle Bale

11 starts 6-2-1 (\$10,790)

Go Wild Teddy – Princess Bale

Black Bitch March '10

Owner: **Paul Wheeler**

Trainer: **Brendan Wheeler**

The Gardens best: NBT (2 Starts 0-1-0)

The only Wheeler runner in both finals something unusual these days, however Brendan trained last year's winner Crystin Bale in a bit of an upset and not without a chance to do it again. Hasn't won here but only had a handful of starts and has already shown ability. Not the best of draws in four and she will need some luck in running, place chance best.



Zara Zulu (VIC)

11 starts 6-2-1 (\$14,730)

Mogambo – Zulu Zepha

Black Bitch

September '09

Owner: **Geoff Collins**

Trainer: **Roslyn Hume**

The Gardens best: 29.61 (8) (2 Starts 1-0-0)

Impressive best of the night semi winner in a fast 29.61 on the heavy track. Only a youngster with six and three from 11 starts. Never the best of draws trying to win from five but she certainly has some ability. A solid winning chance with some luck in running.



Olive Millie

9 starts 4-2-1 (\$8,790)

El Galo – Gogo Sutro

White & Black Bitch

February '10

Owner: **Carole Jones**

Trainer: **Ken Lewis**

The Gardens best: 29.81 (1) (2 Starts 1-0-1)

Young inexperienced bitch with only nine starts used the red well to win last week's semi. Another El Galo pup showing ability, not the best of draws in six but she has some talent and her best is yet to come. Place chance for sure.



Go Jessie's Girl

34 starts 13-6-9 (\$34,940)

Collision – Go Mighty Mouse

Black Bitch

July '09

Owner / Trainer: **Norm Beecroft**

The Gardens best: 29.96 (7) (3 Starts 1-1-1)

Finished third in last week's semi behind Zara Zulu but has a bit of race experience on the field and a fine record of 13 and 15 from 34. Has won here in solid time she is sure to make her presence felt expect forward showing again, in an open race.



Here's Hayley

12 starts 5-2-1 (\$6,660)

Mogambo – Minty Bean

Black Bitch

February '10

Owner: **Jason Bolwell**

Trainer: **David Sundstrom**

The Gardens best: NBT (3 Starts 0-2-1)

Has made the final with a third and a fourth and would have to improve to win another that is lightly raced with a nice record of five and three from 12. Would need to begin well and take up a forward position. Not without chance but she will start big odds



Deb's Nightmare

12 starts 1-2-5 (\$1,950)

Miagi – Closing Conquest

Lightly raced Local that finished fifth last week to Olive Millie hasn't won here in seven attempts, will start big odds if she gains a start.



Avondale Queen

7 starts 5-0-1 (\$5,560)

Trewly Special – Golorinda

Finished fifth last week behind Zara Zulu, she won her heat in an impressive 29.51 and would not be without a winning chance if she gains a start.

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

Gerard Guthrie

1st Zara Zulu

2nd Midnight Capers

3rd Witch's Potion

Adam Dobbin

1st Midnight Capers

2nd Zara Zulu

3rd Witch's Potion

Ron Arnold

1st By Starlight

2nd Go Jessie's Girl

3rd Midnight Capers

Tab Sportsbet Fixed Market for the Forsythes Futurity Final:

\$75,000 to the winner Group 1 Forsythes Futurity Final (515m)			
Box	Greyhound	Trainer	Price
 1	Midnight Capers	Roseleen Pringle	\$2.90
 2	Witch's Potion	Jason MacKay	\$4.20
 3	By Starlight	Michael Fernley	\$4.00
 4	Desalle Bale	Brendan Wheeler	\$8.00
 5	Zara Zulu	Roslyn Hume	\$3.50
 6	Olive Mille	Ken Lewis	\$26.00
 7	Go Jessie's Girl	Norm Beecroft	\$14.00
 8	Here's Hayley	David Sundstrom	\$26.00
 9	Deb's Nightmare	Barry Evens	\$51.00
 10	Avondale Queen	Beau Hedley	\$2.60

What's happening on race night?

Entertainment on the night includes roving bands, Jugglers, a jumping castle and face painting for the kids along with other on course entertainment.

Full Bar and Tote facilities are on course with the first event kicking off at around 7pm. Corporate facilities are also available for final night.

For any information please call The Gardens on 02 4951 5842.

The National Derby was first run in 1963 and has long been the NCA's Group 1 flagship, at one time was worth \$100,000 to the winner. The club changed its direction a few years ago making the St Ledger better known as the Paws Of Thunder the richer of the two events settling on \$50,000 to the winner for the Derby. Listed below is the full honour roll.

1963 **Keen Linen**, 1964 **Flying Myobb**, 1965 **Chariot Charm**, 1966 **Roman Earl**, 1967 **Mister Moss**, 1968 **Second Stage**, 1969 **Abbey Road**, 1970 **Arthur's Desire**, 1971 **Bomber's Gift**, 1972 **Young Moss**, 1973 **Rushin' Moss**, 1974 **Steelflex**, 1975 **Steelflex**, 1976 **Baguio**, 1977 **Chief Holly**, 1978 **True Leader**, 1979 **Tegimi**, 1980 **General Jeff**, 1981 **Handicap**, 1982 **Lord Tegimi**, 1983 **World Park Ned**, 1984 **Inch Time**, 1985 **Rapid Supreme**, 1986 **Holstein Boy**, 1987 **Shy Sultan**, 1988 **Clover Chief**, 1989 **Worth Doing**, 1990 **Master Hilo**, 1991 **Pretty Tardy**, 1992 **Little Denver**, 1993 **Major Gossip**, 1994 **Indian Dance**, 1995 **Dallas Man**, 1996 **Cattle Drive**, 1997 **Comrade In Arms**, 1998 **Mepunga Blaze**, 1999 **Hahn Bale**, 2000 **Fond Regards**, 2001 **Mean Bean**, 2002 **Medinah**, 2003 **Greasy Grizzly**, 2004 **Pacific Sky**, 2005 **Eiffella**, 2006 **Brother Knows**, 2007 **Slater**, 2008 **Borat**, 2009 **Fedex**, 2010 **Elite Blue Size** and 2011 **Bogie King**.

The National Futurity is another time honoured flagship event for the NCA first run in 1964 it has been won by some wonderful sprinting bitches' over the years most of which continued to carve out outstanding race careers. Listed below is the full honour roll.

1964 **Cultured Girl**, 1965 **West Opal**, 1966 **Miss Lane**, 1967 **Pearl Moss**, 1968 **Rocket Bridge**, 1969 **Anne Lewis**, 1970 **Tidal Mist**, 1971 **Top Saba**, 1972 **Spanish Dancer**, 1973 **Likely Light**, 1974 **Tintawin**, 1975 **Night Aim**, 1976 **Woolley Wong**, 1977 **Little Fresh**, 1978 **Tearaway Owl**, 1979 **Baretop Girl**, 1980 **Beaumaris Sue**, 1981 **Zany Zen**, 1982 **Promises Free**, 1983 **Winifred Bale**, 1984 **Turbo Top**, 1985 **Sophistication**, 1986 **Flash Jass**, 1987 **Expensive Lee**, 1988 **Tiger's Sunset**, 1989 **Mary Casey**, 1990 **Gozo Nicoloa**, 1991 **Just Jedda**, 1992 **November Sunset**, 1993 **National Night**, 1994 **Mystery Idle**, 1995 **Tar Dinn**, 1996 **Holiday Belle**, 1997 **Rare Missile**, 1998 **Fine Devil**, 1999 **Crystal Light**, 2000

Junoesque, 2001 Queen Muffin, 2002 Hotshow Lil, 2003 Lissiloo, 2004 Nulkaba, 2005 Lukeamy 2006 Jinderra Flame and 2007 Bralyn Maisie, 2008 Elite Oriental, 2009 Digital Magic, 2010 Daydream and 2011 Crystin Bale.

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