



## MEDIA RELEASE

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# CENTREBET

## Sheikha Wins the Paws

By The Greyhound Recorder

Master trainer John Finn landed his second Group 1 Centrebet Paws Of Thunder at Wentworth Park on Saturday night, guiding Sheikha (\$10.80) to victory in the \$100,000 to-the-winner showpiece.

Going into the race off a slashing 29.93 heat triumph – the first time she had really displayed exemplary box manners – the daughter of Collision and I'm Exceptional repeated the dose on Saturday night.



**Sheikha in action last week at Wentworth Park**

Carving out sections of 5.46 and 13.91, Sheikha – one of only two runners in the final not to have had 20 starts – went on to win in 29.84.

Owned in partnership by Sky Channel personality Peter Davis and Greyhound Recorder Chief Journalist Gerard Guthrie, along with Guthrie's good friend Anthony Lyons, the regally-bred Sheikha is a graduate of the 2011 Dapto Puppy Auction.

## AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

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Before last Saturday week's performance Sheikha had proven to be somewhat of an enigma for Finn, despite boasting a terrific record of five wins and six placings from the 15 starts.

In many ways Finn's training performance with Sheikha over the past fortnight confirmed what we already knew: that there is none better with a collar and lead than the Cranebrook-based mentor.

At the presentation, Davis described Finn as the "Bart Cummings of greyhound racing" – a most fitting accolade given his knack for coming up with the goods on the big occasions time and time again.

Making it a real night for the girls, Geoff Sattler's Cavendish Flyer (\$4.40) was terrific in defeat, finishing a length second with the Graeme Bate-trained Imry Bale (\$5.30) third another neck away.

On a night of great feature race action, Graeme Bate scooped the pool away from the big one, claiming both the \$40,000 to-the-winner Group 2 AAA Radiators Summer Plate and \$10,000 to-the-winner 'The Collerson'.

Showing her rivals a clean pair of heels, Irma Bale (\$3.70) snared the Summer Plate by 1 ½ lengths in 42.32, defeating race favourite Bell Haven (\$1.50) by 1 ½ lengths. Back Page Lead finished third at \$29.20. The favourite got into all sorts of trouble during the run and was considered a certainty beaten in matter not to the Wheeler- Bate camp proving once again the place to be in a group final is out in front.

Last year's Sandown Cup winner found the front early as usual and simple stayed there with the extraordinary consistent race record of 67 starts for 30 wins and 23 placings she took her prizemoney to over \$350,000.

The Collerson – staged each year to recognise journalist Jeff Collerson's outstanding contribution to greyhound racing – went to Joshua for Graeme Bate, leading all-the-way in 29.89.

Running sections of 5.36 and 13.68, Joshua had three quarters of a length to spare at the finish over local chaser Mythical Eagle.

Not content with taking home the Paws Of Thunder trophy, John and Minnie Finn landed the final event of the evening also when Search Party blew away her rivals in 29.94.

After the placed runners the field finished in the following order Fully Advanced (\$6.90), Streetbike Tommy (\$7.80), Ritza Ryder (\$9.00), Oomoo (\$21.70) and Veyron Bale (\$4.20).

Sheikha is Black Bitch whelped September '10 she is by Collision from I'm Exceptional (Exceptional x Double Guess). She is raced by the Gerard Guthrie, Anthony Lyons and Peter Davis. She is trained by John Finn at Cranebrook in New South Wales. The Group 1 Paws Of Thunder win took his record to 19 starts for eight wins and six placings and prizemoney earnings of \$117,920.

After the placings in the Summer Plate the field finished in the following order Hotwire (\$25.90), Erica Allen (\$29.20), Lektra Radiant (\$23.90), Ebby Miss (\$23.30) and Langi Bale (\$12.90).

Irma Bale is Black bitch whelped October'09 he is by Bartrim Bale from Amelia Bale (Sonic Flight x Evonne Bale). She is raced by Paul Wheeler and trained by veteran Victorian Hall of Fame trainer Graeme Bate, her race record stands at 67 starts for 30 wins and 22 placings and prizemoney earnings of \$357,681.

Listed below are the past winners of Paws Of Thunder which was formerly known as the St.Leger and first run in 1957. The NSW NCA restructured the prizemoney and the race name in 2001.

1957 **Idle Sign**, 1958 **Ebony Minda**, 1959 **Super Samson**, 1960 **Constant Raider**, 1961 **Elsie Moss**, 1962 **Black Top**, 1963 **Miss Warcroft**, 1964 **Revival King**, 1965 **Daily Tide**, 1966 **Sunset Fire**, 1967 **Another Glitter**, 1968 **Zoom Top**, 1969 **Beau Brin**, 1970 **Size Seven**, 1971 **Romantic Top**, 1972 **Likely Light**, 1973 **Trella Light**, 1974 **Busy's Chief**, 1975 **Mighty Aussie**, 1976 **Palaver**, 1977 **Fine Arama**, 1978 **Oberon Lily**, 1979 **Lord Raleigh**, 1980 **Glider's Son**, 1981 **Promises Free**, 1982 **Winifred Bale**, 1983 **Winston Lass**, 1984 **Beach Rhythm** 1985 **Another Flash**, 1986 **Memories Gate**, 1987 **See Yah**, 1988 **Grizzly Bear**, 1989 **Jessica Kate**, 1990 **Dixie Lass**, 1991 **Little Denver**, 1992 **Iago**, 1993 **Leon Mal**, 1994 **Zazziam**, 1995 **Nine Inch Nails**, 1996 **Tamborine Dancer**, 1997 **Elle's Commando**, 1998 **Waiwera Marika**, 1999 **Stately Bird**, 2000 **Some Secret**, 2001 **Suellen Bale**, 2002 **Modern Assassin**, 2003 **Winsome Shot**, 2004 **Kobble Rock** 2005 **Pure Octane**, 2006 **Suave Fella**, 2007 **Leprechaun Pace**, 2008 **One Tree Hill**, 2009 **Cindeen Shelby**, 2010 **Lochinvar Marlow** and 2011 **Fancy Will**.

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