



Australian Greyhound
Racing Association

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France Soir too good in Queensland Derby

By Michael Johnson Racing Queensland Website

The Robert Cooke-trained France Soir (\$10.90) caused somewhat of an upset when taking out the Group 2 Glen Gallon @ Stud Queensland Derby (520m) at Albion Park last Thursday night.



Official Photo finish with France Soir prevailing along the rails

Victorians My Silver Chisel and Dundee Osprey dominated betting leading up to the event, but it was the 2015 Group 2 Dapto Puppy Auction series winner who came out on top in a thrilling finish, getting the better of favourite My Silver Chisel by a half-length, with promising Queensland youngster Thirty Talks a fast finishing third a further neck away. This year's Group 2 Ipswich Auction winner Magical Yessam was fourth for local trainer Don Massey.

France Soir, a son of Magic Sprite and Magic Capers, positioned himself just behind David Burnett's My Silver Chisel (\$2.30) and Zabdon Ferrari (\$4.90) who jostled for the lead approaching the 600m boxes. Given the strength he had shown in his career to date, he looked set to be in the finish, and when the leader rolled off the fence around the home turn he used the rails run to full advantage, powering through to take out the \$47,250 winner's cheque.

It was a big night for Cooke, with his Group 1 National Futurity winner Cash In Motion a hard-luck second to Lady Abigail in the Anzac Trophy, and her brother Major Jackpot, second in last month's rich Launching Pad at Sandown, winning at Ballarat for France Soir's former trainer Anthony Azzopardi.

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For the winner, and his owners the Brave Gambler Syndicate it was a second Group 2 victory in a brief 14 start career with his prizemoney now at a little over \$126,000.

After the placed runners the field finished in the following order 4th Magical Yessam (\$35.40), 5th Dundee Osprey (\$3.90), 6th Zabdon Ferrari (\$23.60), 7th Gelantipy Gold (\$27.00), 8th Fabulous Bill (\$10.10).

France Soir is raced by Brave Gambler Syndicate. He is trained by Robert Cook at Woodview in Queensland. France Soir is a Black dog whelped November 2013 by Magic Sprite from Magic Capers (Spiral Nikita x Unmatched). He has won five of his 14 starts and with the \$47,750 first prize for the Queensland Derby it took his current stake earnings to \$126,138.

The Queensland Derby was first run at the Gabba in 1972 and it is one the state's time honoured events. The feature event was sponsored by Ardath in 83, 84 & 85 and by the ANZ Bank 86, 87 & 88. The race was then sponsored by Brandon Electrics from 1999 until 2014, Brandon Electrics is Queensland's largest electrical contractor and is operated by greyhound racing icon Paul Felgate. The popular former owner-trainer-breeder has supported the industry in numerous ways over a 40 year period and the name Brandon is synonymous with the sport in Queensland. This year race has a new sponsor Glen Gallon @ Stud.

The Derby has been won by some notable sprinters over the years with the best being Iron Hawk (78), Tangleshell (83), Your Attention (91), Jurassic Vapour (94), Dallas Man (95), Fear No Judge (96), Melbourne Cup winner Roanokee (97), Top Gun - National Sprint Champion Placard (2000), Winter Cup winner Awesome Machine (02), Top Gun Winner Black Enforcer in 2005 and star Victorian Superman in 2007. Two of Queensland's most brilliant sprinters Size Can Matter and High Earner the Australia stakes record holder for sprinters won the event in 2008 and 2009 and last year's winner was superstar Dyna Villa. Listed below is the full honour roll of past winners.

1972 **Dixie's First**, 1973 **Dan Meadow**, 1974 **Ben Hamilton**, 1975 **High Climax**, 1976 **Irish Outlaw**, 1977 **Rebel Attack**, 1978 **Iron Hawk**, 1979 **Smart Mission**, 1980 **Morayfield**, 1981 **Hatari Chief**, 1982 **Duration**, 1983 **Tangleshell**, 1984 **Magic Gull**, 1985 **Kismet Range**, 1986 **Raging Rajah**, 1987 **Track Trump**, 1988 **Markaboy**, 1989 **Nifty Business**, 1990 **Mr Alert**, 1991 **Your Attention**, 1992 **Tears Finito**, 1993 **Dagenham**, 1994 **Jurassic Vapour**, 1995 **Dallas Man**, 1996 **Fear No Judge**, 1997 **Roanokee**, 1998 **Mighty McClurg**, 1999 **Fiery Asset**, 2000 **Placard**, 2001 **Sorcerer**, 2002 **Awesome Machine**, 2003 **Road Closed**, 2004 **Art Mann**, 2005 **Black Enforcer**, 2006 **Superman**, 2007 **Big Swell**, 2008 **Size Can Matter**, 2009 **High Earner**, 2010 **Franklin Style**, 2011 **Bogie King** 2012 **Bellagio Lad**, 2013 **Hello Good Bye**, 2014 **Flash Reality** and 2015 **Dyna Villa**.

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