



MEDIA RELEASE

11th March 2018

Two Victorians win the Richmond Classics

By Kathrine Ernst Australian Racing Greyhound

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BLUE Sky Riot (Barcia Bale x Ready To Riot Feb '16) stamped herself as one of the best bitches in the country with a dominant win in Friday's Group 2 Richmond Oaks (535m).

Trained in Victoria by Anthony Azzopardi, Blue Sky Riot started as the second favourite off box eight and when the lids flew open she made the race her own, carving across to take the lead around the first turn.

Group 1 Topgun winner Up Hill Jill (\$2.20) (Premier Fantasy x Where's Demonica Feb '15) and Bathurst Cup winner Miss Splendamiro (\$4.60) (Barcia Bale x Splendourous Sep '15) quickly slipped into second and third and set off in pursuit of the leader, but Blue Sky Riot was far too strong, winning by two and one quarter lengths in 30.44.

Blue Sky Riot (\$4.30) has now won five in a row including the Group 1 National Futurity at Wentworth Park last month. Azzopardi said his bonny bitch has taken a massive step forward in recent weeks.

"She is a different dog since winning the Futurity. After that trip to Sydney she came home and beat Striker Light at The Meadows and ran best of the night at Sandown Park," Azzopardi told Australian Racing Greyhound.

"She seemed to mature a lot with that trip away and she has surprised me a little bit by just how much she has come on since then.

"It was a massive run in her [Richmond Oaks] heat and she backed it up again in the final – to do what she has done is the sign of a good dog."

Owned and bred by Sandra Camden-Bermingham, Blue Sky Riot has now won nine races from 16 starts with a further four placings and just over \$140,000 in prize money.

She will be on the road again from next week, with her next goal being the \$250,000-to-the-winner Group 1 Golden Easter Egg (520m) at Wentworth Park.

"She has taken the next step, so it's onto the Easter Egg for her now," Azzopardi said.

"She took a bit of time to get used to Wentworth Park, but she has won a group 1 there now so you'd have to give her a chance going back there.

"She'll be going there full of confidence – as long as she keeps beginning well she will be a big threat."

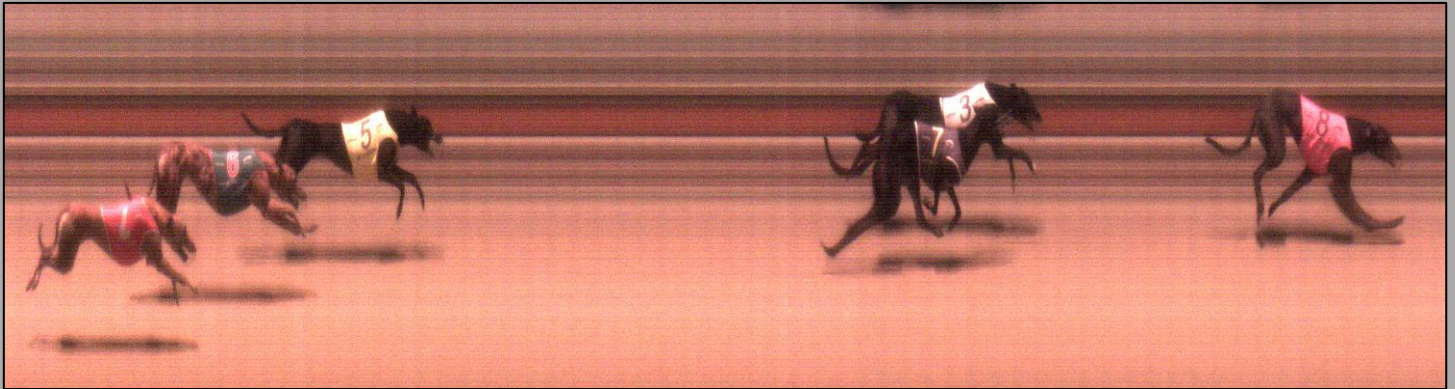
Azzopardi will be taking a team of greyhounds to Wentworth Park for the Golden Easter Egg including Group 1 Vic Peters Classic winner Crash Bandicoot (Collision x J's Robin Jul '15) and city winner Pants On Fire (Bralyn County x Erin Norris Jun '15).

Also making the trip to the Harbour City will be Azzopardi's dual group 1 winner Raw Ability (Barcia Bale x Bugatti Flyer Mar '15) which will be having his first start since finishing down the track in the Group 1 Australian Cup final.

"He had no luck in the Australian Cup and he pulled up a bit sore," Azzopardi explained.

“We are on top of that now and he will have a gallop [on Sunday]. All going to plan he should be ready to go for the Egg heats.”

The heats of the Group 1 Golden Easter Egg will be held at Wentworth Park on March 17



Blue Sky Riot holds off Up Hill Jill to win the Oaks (Official Photo Finish)

HONE IN WINS HIS FIRST GROUP RACE IN THE RICHMOND DERBY ***By Neil Brown***

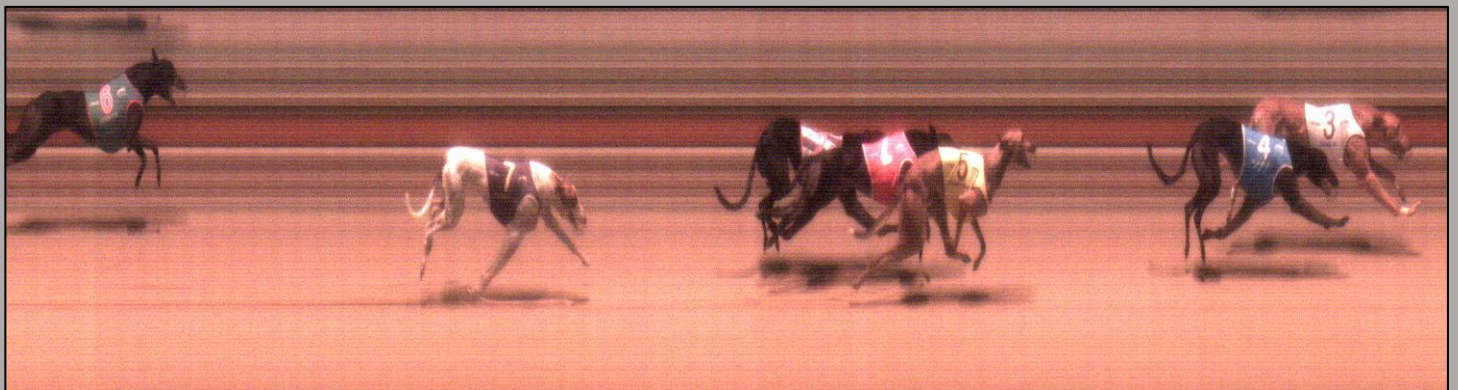
VICTORIAN chaser Hone In scored an upset win when he found the front at the first turn and held off all the challenges to win the Group 2 Richmond Derby on Friday night.

Trainer Brett Bravo was very confident he's greyhound could secure the Richmond Classic.

“He's a very serious greyhound if he's let run his own race, he's not always the best beginner which has probably let him down a bit in the past, but if he gets a nice lead and a fair crack at them he can run time.” Bravo said after the final.

“He had some serious injuries two broken metacarpals and recently a damaged hock which kept him out for a 10-week break, but he has come back better than ever. He ran a solid third at Bendigo with no luck first run back from the spell then broke 25 at Ballarat. He'd only had the one 500 run and he had never seen Richmond so we expected him to improve quite a bit.”

“I liked his win in the heat he found a bit of trouble last week and still won. I knew he'd be hard to run down once he got a clear run to the first turn which I expected might happen with a little bit of luck.” Bravo said.



Hone In runs home the stronger to win the Richmond Derby (Official Photo Finish)

“We backed to him with the fixed odds and had a nice little collect got as much as 12 to 1 about him. I'm pretty happy with the result not sure if I'll take him to the Easter Egg, he is entered but because of the recent injuries I may not take the risk with him on a tough track like Wentworth Park. We'll see how he is early in the week and make a decision then.”

“It's not an easy track at any time and considering what he's been through injury wise I need to look after him a bit.” Bravo said.

Bravo has only had Hone In for the last 15 starts when he ended his kennel around October last year. He has always shown above average ability with fast wins at Horsham 27.04, the Meadows 29.95, 28.41 over 500 at Bendigo and that fast-recent Ballarat 450 win in 24.97.

“On his night he's a real smart type just one of those dogs that hasn't had a lot of luck during his career, if we don't go to the Egg I'll just take him along nicely and see what comes he's got a few more wins in him yet.” Bravo said.

Hone In (\$7.70) beat bolter Wild Walter (\$31) and Queenslander Maurice Monor (\$13.40). The margins were half a length by two and a quarter in the time of 30.51 with sections of 5.24 and 15.31.

Both Richmond races are steeped in history having first been run in the 50's the early classics were run up the Richmond straight of 320 yards with some Fields numbering 10 runners.

Some of the great champions to have won the Richmond Oaks including Zoom Top & Winifred Bale. While in the Derby past winners include Peter Glider, Rapid Supreme, Buka Sunset, Cyrus The Virus and Mandagery man.

After the placings in the Derby the field finished in the following order 4th Aston Duke (\$2), 5th Aston Frankel (\$8.30), 6th Two Times Twice (\$4.80) 7th Aston It Is (\$11) and Big Black (\$25.80).

Hone In is raced by the Stephen Lambert and trained by Brett Bravo at Lovely Banks in Victoria, he is a Red Fawn dog whelped October 2014 by Spring Gun from Benalla Doll (Where's Pedro x Redburst). Hone In has won 17 and been placed 16 times from his 53 starts and with the \$40,000 first prize for the Richmond Derby it took his current stake earnings to \$93,870.

After the placings in the Oaks the field finished in the following order 4th My Country (\$36.20), 5th Chase The Cash (\$45.50), 6th Poco Dorado (\$6.10) 7th Little Nangar (\$24.90) and Sheez My Chicki (\$35).

Blue Sky Riot is raced by Sandra Camden-Birmingham and is trained by Anthony Azzopardi, she is a Blue bitch whelped February 2016 by Barcia Bale from Ready To Riot (Collision x Punk Angel). Blue Sky Riot has won nine of her 16 starts and has been placed on four occasions and with the \$40,000 first prize for the Richmond Oaks it took her current stake earnings to \$140,735.

Listed below is the Richmond Derby honour roll first run up the straight 320 yards in 1957 it then changed to a grass circle over 537 metres in 1974. In a major revamp the club put down a new loam surface and track re-shape in 1999 and the Derby is now run over the new distance of 535 metres.

1957 Lilac's Luck, 1958 Some Clue, 1959 Sudden Glory, 1960 Little Budgie, 1961 Dodger's Luck, 1962 Gold Packet, 1963 Flying Myobb, 1964 King Ming, 1965 Top Mitch, 1966 African Ballet, 1967 Fleetfoot Joe, 1968 Red Park, 1969 -1973 "Not Held" 1974 Roomatic, 1975 Ainslie Boy 1976 Wade Park, 1977 Woodburn Wonder, 1978 Leon Kuley, 1979 Major Willa, 1980 Papuana, 1981 Timeaclog, 1982 Peter Glider 1983 Opal Columbus, 1984 Bindall's Hope / Ceamy Koco (DH) 1985 Rapid Supreme, 1986 Tiger Country, 1987 Buka Sunset, 1988 Maggiore, 1989 Rumpus Brandi, 1990 Whisky Bale, 1991 Kedo's Image, 1992 Tallest Peer, 1993 National Leader, 1994 Wiljarra, 1995 Fabian, 1996 Antique Vision, 1997 Spanish Master, 1998 Murphy's Benji, 1999 Royal Pilgrim, 2000 Stately Bird, 2001 Zingalong Red, 2002 Tourist Dan, 2003 Cyrus The Virus, 2004 Spring Secret, 2005 Gozo Master, 2006 Cool Matt, 2007 Laurie's Tigers, 2008 Mandagery Man, 2009 Cool Flight, 2010 Bogie Brave 2011 Decembrist, 2012 Path To Vegas, 2013 Jagger Swagger, 2014 Red Road, 2015 Quasi Bale, 2016 Knight Sprite and 2017 Nangar Flame.

Listed below is the known past winners of the Richmond Oaks it is somewhat incomplete and is still being researched to bring it up to date. Like the Derby the Oaks was first run in 1957 up the straight 320 yards and it then changed to a grass circle over 537 metres in 1974. In a major revamp the club put down a new loam surface and track re-shape in 1999 and the Derby is now run over the new distance of 535 metres.

1957 **Winter Sweet**,1958 **Queen Rhombo**,1959 **Eve's Joy**, 1960 **Crofton Light**, 1961 **Evandale Babe**, 1962 **Sandalla**, 1963 **Top Nell**, 1964 **Social Rose**, 1965 **Tina Capri**, 1966 **Star Stripper** 1967 **Brenda Rene**, 1968 **Zoom Top**, **1969 – 1978 Not Held**, 1979 **Matana Gee**, 1980 **Eat Your Words**, 1981 **Busy's Bullet**, 1982 **Gwendalyn Bale**, 1983 **Winifred Bale**, 1984 **Werosie Again**, 1985 **Brave Gambler**, 1986 **Current Design**, 1987 **Letrac's Choice**, 1988 **Expensive Lee**, 1989 **Little Apex**, 1990 **Butterfly Blue**, 1991 **Gracious**, 1992 **Amy's Doll**, 1993 **Silver Cassie** 1994 **Mystery Idle** 1995 **Summer Blitz** 1996 **Dashing Mittens** 1997 **Silent Tribute** 1998 **Sailing**, 1999 **Lyntanga** , 2000 **Arenia Miss**, 2001 **Creative Whisky**, 2003 **Mariska**, 2005 **Frosty Fruits**, 2007 **Sweet Fancy**, 2009 **Kelmatt's Melody**, 2010 **Little Sparkle**, 2011 **Premier Journey**, 2012 **Ziping Catra**, 2013 **Calm Model**, 2014 **Smashing Sally**, 2015 **Rue De Khan**, 2016 **Mitcharlie Mia** and 2017 **Mumma Josie**.

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