



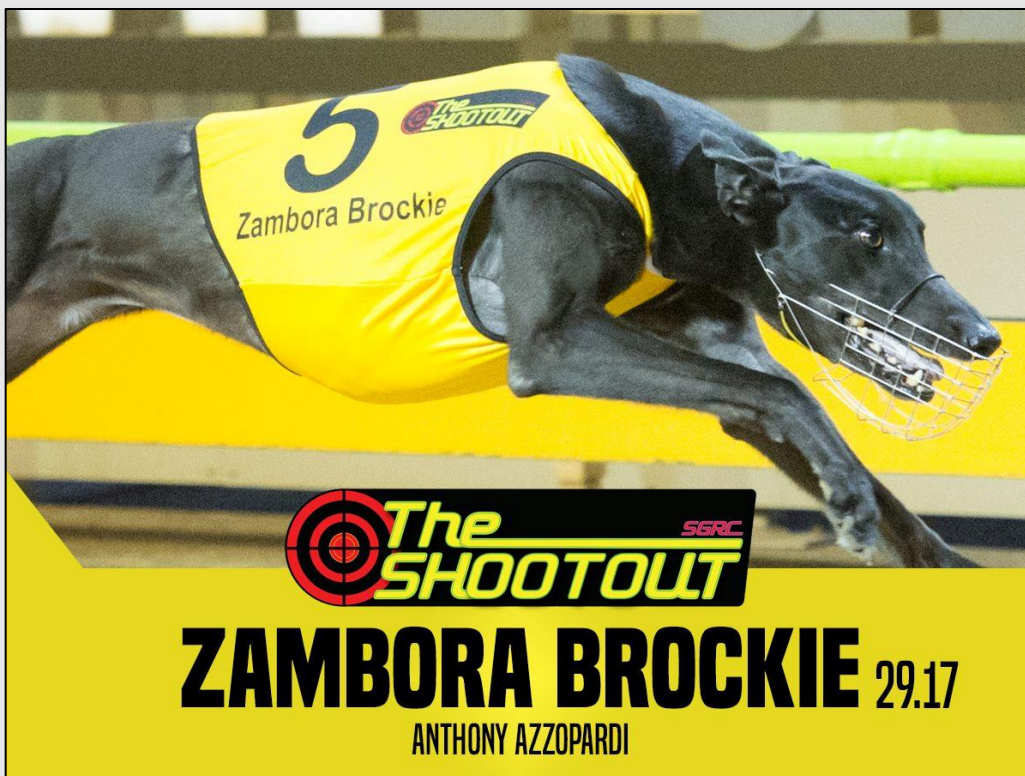
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Brockie is Sandown's Sharpest Shooter

By Mick Floyd Sandown Racing Manager

Zambora Brockie claimed Australia's Speed Championship with a dazzling all-of-the-way win in the group 2 Shootout at Sandown Park tonight.

In one of the most eagerly anticipated Shootouts in the 16-year history of the race, Zambora Brockie was backed into favouritism and didn't disappoint his legion of fans. He jumped brilliantly from box 5 to narrowly cross Outside Pass at the first turn and from there was never headed, securing the \$50,000 winner-takes-all prize in 29.167 seconds. Outside Pass ran a gallant second 3¼ lengths adrift, with Dundee Osprey and Worm Burner rounding out the four-dog event.



"It's a terrific feeling," said Zambora Brockie's elated trainer Anthony Azzopardi.

"There are races that I really want to win and the Shootout was one of those on the list. To have my first starter in the race win is just amazing."

The win also brought a sense of relief for the former New South Welshman. Zambora Brockie entered the Shootout with four group wins to his name and was dominant through winter with nine consecutive wins. However after a string of narrow defeats and a month off racing followed by a modest return in the group 1 Topgun, some had begun to question Zambora Brockie's standing as one of the country's elite chasers.

Such criticisms riled the affable Azzopardi, but he was confident his charge was close to his best after a strong win on a slow track last week.

"Things don't get to me at all really but I was getting a little bit upset with people bagging the dog.

"He had a little fibula injury, it's a tricky injury that just took a little bit time to get him right. I knew in my heart that when he came home in 10.59 on a slow track last week that he was getting back to his best. I was telling all the people at home, that they'd have to run pretty quick to get him."

So confident was Azzopardi that he had no hesitation in backing Zambora Brockie to win the group 2 feature.

"I got \$3.20 on him so I got a nice little bonus in the account," he said with a laugh. Zambora Brockie started the \$2.50 favourite for the race.

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“I always have confidence with him because he’s such a great dog. He is a champion no question and he goes onto a Shootout honour roll full of champions and great stud dogs. I’m really proud of him.”

The Shootout was the final hit out for Zambora Brockie ahead of Friday night’s TAB Melbourne Cup heats. It was the 27th win of his career and the \$50,000 first prize catapulted his career earnings to \$419,133 – figure he will double with a win in the TAB Melbourne Cup final on Friday 18 November.

“I know I’ve got him on target, but to win the Melbourne Cup – that’s a whole other story. You’ve got to win a heat to get in the final and they are hard to win. But win lose or draw I’m proud of the dog. He’s my champion and nothing will change that.”



In addition to the Shootout, the final series of Melbourne Cup Preludes were conducted. Leading Queensland trainer Tony Brett secured a winning double with Zabdon Ferrari (29.327) and Split Image (29.603), while fellow Queenslanders Darren Russell won with Tripum (29.331). Other Prelude winners included Margins (29.738), Igor Karkaroff (29.449), Allen Terminator (29.822), Weekend Binge (29.449), Jack Walker (29.60) and Mepunga Tyler (29.608)

The winner of each TAB Melbourne Cup Prelude automatically qualified for Friday’s TAB Melbourne Cup heats. Fields for the TAB Melbourne Cup heats will be confirmed on Tuesday 8 November with the heats to be run on Friday 11 November. The winner of each heat will progress to the \$600,000 group 1 TAB Melbourne Cup – the world’s richest greyhound race – on Friday 18 November.

A Happy Team after the win (All Pics Clint Anderson)

Zambora Brockie is raced by Charlie Azzopardi and trained by Anthony Azzopardi of Bacchus Marsh in Victoria. Zambora Brockie is a Black dog whelped September 2013 by Nitro Burst from Flying Liddy (Flying Stanley x Crazy Jo). He has won 27 of his 44 starts and has been placed on nine occasions and with the \$50,000 first prize for the Sandown Shoot-Out it took his current stake earnings to \$419,313.

The first Shoot-Out was contested in 1998 and it’s fair to say the concept wasn’t entirely embraced. Hall Of Fame superstar of the time Rapid Journey’s connections didn’t chose to participate openly declaring they didn’t support the concept. In fact the Sandown Club only received three nominations, Time Framer from Victoria who started long odds on favourite and finished last Golden Butter from New South Wales and Western Australian Reggemite, a brilliant sprinter of his time he led all the way to win easily by three and half lengths. Since 98 the race has become well accepted and years following the first running the club received between seven and 10 nominations hoping for a start in the winner take all feature. However in 2008 the club decided on a dramatic change to the race when they dropped the \$5000 entry fee and opened the Shoot-Out up to all comers. They were rewarded with a host of nominations and wonderful fields to choose from. The race also dropped back to a Group 3 event but lost no apparent impact at all and received similar if not more media coverage than it had in previous years. That format has remained since 2008 and the race was elevated to Group 2 status this year. Since the free entry became the norm and the field is chosen by the club and GRV Grader there has been many a controversy as to the inclusion of a number of runners. However in the main the fields have been accepted as correct, leaving many connections disappointed on not getting a run. The race is the only type of its kind on the Group calendar and it is quite unique with no perceived rules regarding who should be in or out of the final line-up.

Group 2/3 Shootout Honour Roll

Year	Winner	Trainer	Time
1998	Reggemite (WA)	Allan Britton	29.74
1999	Great Wish	George Kantzidis	29.83
2000	Go Wild Teddy (NSW)	Mark Bell	29.71
2001	Junior Whisky (NSW)	Judy Hayley	30.00

2002	Silver Saul (SA)	Angela Modra	29.90
2003	Bombastic Shiraz	Darren Cairns	30.17
2004	Whisky Assassin	Jason Thompson	29.69
2005	Bond (NSW)	Darren McDonald	29.38*
2006	Jaimandy Coops	Paul Donohue	29.63
2007	Cool Effort	Darren McDonald	29.71
2008	Mantra Lad	Graeme Jose	29.86
2009	Velocette	Graeme Bate	29.66
2010	Cosmic Chief	Darren Brown	29.33
2011	Bekim Bale	Andrea Dailly	29.13
2012	Proven Nitro	Jason Thompson	29.14
2013	Xylia Allen	Graeme Bate	29.07
2014	Iva Vision (Qld)	Peter Young	29.27
2015	Kayda Shae	Kelly Bravo	29.33
2016	Zambora Brockie	Anthony Azzopardi	29.16

* *Track record*

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