



MEDIA RELEASE
21st May 2012



Mighty Miata

Miata confirmed her status as the most exciting greyhound of her generation at Sandown Park tonight, slashing six lengths off the previous track record in her heat of the RSN Sandown Cup.

The pride of Western Australia began well from box 2, finding a clear lead through the first turn and opening a four length break over Wandy Neg (\$45.20) passing the finishing post the first time.

However down the back straight, the daughter of Bombastic Shiraz and Winsome Bluebird took off, carving out extraordinary sectional times on her way to a stunning 8.25 length win in a mind boggling 41.17 seconds. Reigning Victorian Distance Champion Lady Arko held the previous track record at 41.54 seconds.



The Mighty Miata smashes the track record in her heat of the RSN Sandown Cup

The win was 20 lengths faster than the time she recorded on the rain affected track two weeks earlier in claiming the Lizrene.

Undefeated in 14 starts beyond 530m, it was her 15th consecutive victory and 24th in 27 career starts. It was the eighth time in her career she has set a new time standard, and now \$297,895 in prize money.

Miata was the runt of her litter, and her 27 year old trainer Paul Stuart had to hand feed the super star when she was as a pup.

AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

The striking red fawn has now blossomed into arguably the best greyhound of the 21st century and has been dubbed 'the Black Caviar of greyhound racing.'

"She went super," said Stuart with a smile.

"The time was out of this world, but I'm just happy she's done everything right. She's pulled up well and I'm looking forward to next week.

"We'll be staying here (in Victoria) for the week and doing some work with her as we would back in Perth. That should keep her ticking over nicely and be ready for next week."

Sydney raider Vintage Blend, having her first race start in eight weeks, will join Miata in next week's \$145,000 final

In the night's other heats, Double Jeopardy (\$17.20) upstaged even money favourite Thrilling Brat by 1.5 lengths in 42.07 seconds.

Grandeur (\$2.80) came from what appeared an impossible position to claim the night's second heat, sweeping from the back of the field to catch He's My Future on the line in 42.20 seconds.

Irma Bale's rise through the staying ranks continued when she claimed the night's third heat in 41.84 seconds, 2.25 lengths the better of Lektra Jay.

The box draw for the RSN Sandown Cup – Australia's richest race for stayers – will be conducted at 8.00am on Monday 21 May and will be broadcast live on RSN and will be available on www.sandowngreyhounds.com.au soon after.

Thanks to Berwick Mazda and the Victorian State Government, one lucky race goer will be driving home a new Mazda after the final of the RSN Sandown Cup. If Miata claims Australia's greatest staying prize, one lucky patron will be driving home a brand new Mazda MX-5 valued at over \$55,000. If Miata is upstaged, someone will win a Mazda 2 valued at over \$17,000.

An action packed night of greyhound racing is planned for RSN Sandown Cup night, including a winter wonderland (including snow!), Hawthorn star Jarryd Roughead trackside, a Punter's Club with a \$1000 starting pool, Mystery Envelopes and a host of free activities and giveaways.

The RSN Sandown Cup will be on Thursday 24th May. Entry is free and gates open at 6.00pm.

Michael Floyd Sandown Racing and Media Manager.

GROUP ONE – RSN SANDOWN CUP \$100,000 to the winner



Grandeur

50 starts 18-11-8 (\$114,235)

Mogambo – Off Springer

Black Dog April '09

Owner: **Charles Bates**

Trainer: **Len Ketelaar**

Sandown best: 41.84 (1) 10/11/11 (11 Starts 2-4-2)

Has made a few finals and does have a heap of ability. Gets well back and storms home with a big finish. His heat win was impressive in 42.20 but he might give the champ to big a start. Place chance best.



Miata (WA)

27 starts 24-1-1 (\$297,895)

Bombastic Shiraz – Winsome Bluebird

Red Fawn Bitch October '09

Owner: **P Stuart & N Wheeler - Whye**

Trainer: **Paul Stuart**

Sandown best: 41.17 Rec (2) 17/05/12 (2 Starts 2-0-0)

What does one say about the superstar, astounded all on course last week with a stunning track record performance. She has been a sensation since her early days and a revelation since stepping up in distance. She will start Black Caviar odds and should again prove how good she is.

3

Vintage Blend (NSW)

17 starts 7-5-1 (\$24,605)

Bombastic Shiraz – Frosty Fruits

Black Bitch November '09

Owners: **K N & G J Chappelow**Trainer: **John Finn****Sandown best:** NBT (1 Starts 0-1-0)

Very talented young bitch with a bright future. Good solid performance in her heat last week behind the champion Miata. Ran 41.69 on corrected times, which was outstanding, first up. Might just chase the champion home again this week.

4

Lektra Jay

75 starts 23-13-12 (\$208,585)

Where's Pedro – Elektra

White & Black Dog December '08

Owner: **Phillip Lenehan**Trainer: **Andrea Dailly****Sandown best:** NBT (2 Starts 0-1-0)

Has been a star performer at the top for a long time. Finished second last week behind Irma Bale in 41.84 beaten only two and a quarter lengths. Not the best of draws and place chance looks best.

5

He's My Future (NSW)

38 starts 15-6-2 (\$82,155)

Hallucinate – Just Dazzle Em

Fawn Dog July '09

Owner: **J Mittiga & V Lorusso**Trainer: **Harry Sarkis****Sandown best:** 42.26 (4) 19/04/12 (3 Starts 1-1-0)

Nice type from New South Wales chased Miata home in the Association Cup final to record a handy second place. Has won here in 42.26 and finished a close second to Granduer last week. Is a handy stayer at this level and place chance with some luck in running.

6

Irma Bale

36 starts 17-7-2 (\$72,320)

Bartrim Bale – Amelia Bale

Black Bitch October '09

Owner: **Paul Wheeler**Trainer: **Graeme Bate****Sandown best:** 41.84 (4) 17/05/12 (2 Starts 1-0-0)

Perhaps the testing material for Miata only a young bitch, she was impressive winning her heat last week in 41.84. Graeme Bate will be hoping for a forward showing as the Sandown Cup is one feature he hasn't won. Place chance for sure.

7

Thrilling Brat (NZ)

37 starts 20-7-2 (\$159,908)

Hallucinate – Thrilling Faith

Brindle Dog December '08

Owner: **Gary Harding**Trainer: **Karen Walsh****Sandown best:** NBT (2 Starts 0-2-0)

Top class stayer from over the ditch he has already won a Group 1 here at the Meadows. Races wide and can get back in the field but has a fast finishing burst. Highly ranked to run a good race certainly a place chance.

8

Double Jeopardy

50 starts 12-4-4 (\$38,445)

Bombastic Shiraz – Sionara Baby

Fawn Dog August '09

Owner: **Joanne Maschmedt**Trainer: **Jeff Britton****Sandown best:** 41.84 (2) 8/03/12 (6 Starts 3-1-0)

Handy type who is always thereabouts he has won here in good time but would have to do a lot right to trouble this field. Place chance best.

9

Wandy Neg

31 starts 9-4-7 (\$25,100)

El Galo – Sophia's Destiny

Ran a solid third last week behind Miata. Will start big odds if he get a start

10

Cousin Callum (NSW)

56 starts 15-13-9 (\$83,480)

Hallucinate – Gondola Serenade

Handy stayer from NSW finished third behind Irma Bale last week. Big price if he gets a start.

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

Mick Floyd

1st Miata
2nd Thrilling Brat
3rd Vintage Blend

Ron Hawkswell

1st Miata
2nd Vintage Blend
3rd Irma Bale

Rob Testa

1st Miata
2nd Irma Bale
3rd Thrilling Brat

Tab Sportsbet Fixed Odds market for the RSN Sandown Cup

\$140,000 Group 1 RSN Sandown Cup (715m)			
Box	Greyhound	Trainer	Price
	Granduer	Len Ketelaar	\$9
	Miata	Paul Stuart	\$1.22
	Vintage Blend	John Finn	\$16
	Lektra Jay	Andrea Dailly	\$101
	He's My Future	Harry Sarkis	\$41
	Irma Bale	Graeme Bate	\$6.50
	Thrilling Brat	Karen Walsh	\$9
	Double Jeopardy	Jeff Britton	\$51
	Wandy Neg 1st Res	Robert Britton	Res
	Cousin Callum 2nd Res	Ray Webster	Res

What's happening on race night?

FREE ENTRY

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The club has an action packed night of greyhound racing planned for RSN Sandown Cup night, including a winter wonderland (including snow!), Hawthorn star Jarryd Roughead trackside, a Punter's Club with a \$1000 starting pool, Mystery Envelopes and a host of free activities and giveaways.

Dining packages are still available for the RSN Sandown Cup final.

Sandown also offers the following drink packages:

\$65 Package: Sandown's famous four course buffet + beer, house wine and soft drink

\$85 Package: Sandown's famous four course buffet + beer, house wine and soft drink + basic spirits.

Please contact Andrew on **(03) 9546 9511** or email afennell@grv.org.au to book your seat.

Facilities at the track include Dining room, snack bar, full tote and bookmaker facilities. Ample parking, and disabled access.

RSN Sandown Cup Timeline

- 1963 -** The race first run on the grass track over 785 yards. The race was then known as the Woolamai Cup and had been first conducted in 1957 when won by Orialta.
- 1964 -** A sand track is installed at Sandown Park
- 1971 -** Prizemoney increases to \$3,000 to the winner. Paul's Thunder becomes the first greyhound to win two Cups
- 1973 -** Distance reduced to 718 metres. Lizrene claims her second Cup
- 1979 -** Temlee sires the first off his three consecutive Cup winners
- 1981 -** Prizemoney increases to \$12,000 to the winner
- 1984 -** Prizemoney increases to \$20,000 to the winner. New Zealander Raurimu wins the Cup

- 1986 -** Bold Trease claims the first of his four Cups
- 1987 -** Distance reduced to 716 metres
- 1989 -** At five years of age, Bold Trease claims his fourth Cup in emphatic fashion, winning by eight lengths
- 1990 -** Bold Trease narrowly misses the Cup final after emerging from retirement
- 1993 -** Cup given Group 3 status
- 1995 -** Cup upgraded to Group 2 status
- 1996 -** Cup upgraded to Group 1 status. Prizemoney increases to \$40,000 to the winner. Distance reduced to 715 metres following reconstruction of Sandown track
- 1999 -** Radio Sport 927 becomes naming rights sponsor. Prizemoney increases to \$50,000 to the winner. Smart Attitude wins the race by 9.5 lengths, equalling Lizrene's race record
- 2003 -** Group 3 Lizrene Classic moved to April as a logical lead in to the Sandown Cup carnival
- 2004 -** Proven Lethal wins in race record time of 42.12 seconds
- 2005 -** Best Quoted holds off the fast finishing Texas Gold to claim her second group race victory inside a month
- 2006 -** Sargent Major leads all the way to win his first Group 1, he holds off a stout Turbo Uno this followed the shock scratching Texas Gold.
- 2007 -** Sandown Cup controversially declared a 'No Race' by stewards after Don Hazzard, the trainer of Sky Hazzard, accidentally released the manual start lever.
- 2009 -** Sandown Cup becomes the richest staying event ever offering a series worth \$175,000 and first time winners purse of \$100,000.
- 2012-** The SGRC announces an increase to the 2013 Cup series with the race worth a record \$177,500 with the winner to receive \$125,000 making it the richest staying race in the world.

RSN Sandown Cup Fact Sheet

Name: RSN Sandown Cup

Status: Group 1

Distance: 715m

Prizemoney: \$140,000 (1st: \$100,000 + trophy and rug; 2nd: \$17,500, 3rd: \$8500)

Date: Final – Thursday 17 May 2012

Heats – Thursday 24 May 2012

First run: 1963 (known as the Woolamai Cup, won by Briar View)

Race record: 41.57 – Bobby Boucheau, 2011

Entry: FREE entry for the 2012 final

Biggest winning margin: 9.5 lengths – (Lizrene 1973, Smart Attitude 1989)

Smallest winning margin: Half head (Top Sovereign 1994, Boronia Blossom 1996)

Multiple Winners: 4 – Bold Trease (1986-89) 2 – Paul's Thunder (1970-71)

2 – Lizrene (1972-73)

Going the distance: 1963 – 785 yards (grass)

1964 – 785 yards (sand)

1973 – 718 metres

1987 – 716 metres

1996 – 715 metres

Battle of the sexes: Males have won 9 of the last 13 Cups.

When in doubt: Box 1 has provided 6 of the last 23 winners, though none since 2000.

RSN Sandown Cup Honour Roll

1957 **Orialta**, 1959 **Woodford Chief**, 1961 **Plunkett's Present**, 1963 **Briar View**, 1964 **Haleka Jewel**, 1965 **Venetian Court**, 1966 **Fawn Scout**, 1967 **Charlie Lee**, 1968 **Sprite of Egypt**, 1969 **Local Blend**, 1970 **Paul's Thunder**, 1971 **Paul's Thunder**, 1972 **Lizrene**, 1973 **Lizrene**, 1974 **Corcoran**, 1975 **Tammy Shanta**, 1976 **Brindle Norma**, 1977 **Rani's Copy**, 1978 **Kawati Boy**, 1979 **Miss Tema**, 1980 **Wynlee Wonder**, 1981 **Bianca Lee**, 1982 **Status Supreme**, 1983 **Lead Role**, 1984 **Raurimu**, 1985 **Tashla**, 1986 **Bold Trease**, 1987 **Bold Trease**, 1988 **Bold Trease**, 1989 **Bold Trease**, 1990 **Western Creole**, 1991 **Pixie Eyes**, 1992 **Village Stomper**, 1993 **Eliza Dylan**, 1994 **Top Sovereign**, 1995 **Keon Star**, 1996 **Boronia Blossom**, 1997 **Tonight's Wish**.

1998 Red Mystique, 1999 Smart Attitude, 2000 Osti's Joker, 2001 Bentley Babe, 2002 Jennev, 2003 Arvo's Junior, 2004 Proven Lethal, 2005 Best Quoted, 2006 Sargent Major, 2007 "No Race" 2008 Chinatown Lad, 2009 Mantra Lad, 2010 Next Top Model and 2011 Bobby Boucheau.



The immortal AGRA Hall Of Fame Superstar Bold Trease with his four Sandown Cups.

Thanks for information supplied by Michael Floyd Sandown Administration.

For more information on the 2012 RSN Sandown Cup, contact Michael Floyd on (03) 9546 9511, or email mfloyd@sandowngreyhounds.com.au.



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