MEDIA RELEASE

MACRO MEATS

17th May 2013

Xceptional Xylia

Xylia Allen confirmed her status as one of the most exciting greyhounds in the country when she sensationally won the Macro Meats Sapphire Crown in one of the runs of the year at Sandown Park last night.

The youngest runner in the race, Xylia Allen ($5.20) entered her seventh Group final on the back of an eye catching win in her heat a week prior. Boom Sydney sprinter Punch One Out was sent to the boxes a $2.90 favourite, but it was El Brooklyn ($5.50) who upstaged the pair to lead through the first turn.

Punch One Out took off in pursuit of the lamp lighter ahead of kennel mate Sometimes Speedy ($7.90), while Xylia Allen overcame a tardy start to position itself in midfield down the back straight.

Xylia Allen after the Sapphire Final (All Pics Paul Munt)

Punch One Out displayed her trade mark turn of foot to claim the lead approaching the home turn, however Xylia Allen, who had taken a split between runners, unleashed one of the most exciting finishing bursts seen on a greyhound track this year to sweep past the leaders and claim the $100,000 winner's cheque.

AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

Xylia Allen's time of 29.48 was all the more remarkable given the heavy conditions.

"Her run home is sensation, probably the best in Australia," said handler Joe Briffa.

"When she was about three or four lengths off Punch One Out I thought she'd come right into it, but one of the other dogs clipped her heels and put off stride. I thought 'uh oh' but she's got one of the best finishes in the business."

It was trainer Graeme Bate's first win in the Macro Meats Sapphire Crown, further enhancing the Hall Of Fame trainer's reputation as one of Australia's best big race conditioners.

"He's one of the best trainers in the business, no doubt. He's just unbelievable."

The win was Xylia Allen's second at Group level and her 12th win from 28 career starts overall, taking her career prize money to $184,010.

The Macro Meats Sapphire Crown – Australia's richest race for bitches – boasts one of the finest honour rolls in Australian greyhound racing, with Bogie Leigh, Paua To Burn, Betty's Angel, Queen Lauryn and Cindeen Shelby among recent winners.

After the placings the field finished in the following order 4th Evie's Entity ($11.20), 5th Orthia Bale ($37.60), 6th Sometimes Speedy ($7.90) 7th Tricky Jade ($19.20) and Desalle Bale ($5.90).

Xylia Allen is raced by Janice Wheeler and is trained by Graeme Bate at Lara in Victoria. By Turanza Bale form Wheeler's brood bitch Tayah Bale (Droopy's Vieri x Francesca Bale). She is a Black Bitch whelped April 2011 she has won 12 of her 28 starts and has been placed on nine occasions and with the $100,000 first prize for the Sapphire Crown it took her current stake earnings to $184,010.

The Sapphire Classic was first run in 1974 as an age restricted race for dogs and bitches. The event was relaunched in 2002 as the Sapphire Crown Classic a bitches only feature. Listed below is the impressive list of past winners.

Group 1 Sapphire Crown Classic
Honour Roll

Year	Winner	Trainer	Time
1974	**Bristol Sue (SA)**	Doug Payne	31.11
1975	**Dynamic Dean**	Paul Hogan	30.67
1976	**Tawny Brad**	Greg Durham	30.82
1977	**Overflow Love**	Pat Haas	31.09
1978	**Rubin Caine**	Ted Sallows	30.77
1979	**Monica's Mist**	John Hellingman	30.74
1980	**Worthy Weston**	Brian Jacobson	30.93
1981	**Shamrock Flight**	Kevin McCabe	31.06
1982	**Wynlee Spirit (TAS)**	Alan Roberts	31.17
1983	**Rocky Pyramid**	Fred Ladd	30.65
1984	**Currency Lass**	Ned Bryant	31.10
1985	**Rembrant**	John Hose	31.06
1986	**Sydney Dingaan**	Ned Bryant	30.83
1987	**Rothwell**	Keith Anderson	30.63
1988	**Hogan**	Len Ketelaar	31.02
1989	**Super Gun**	Eddie Baumgartner	30.81
*1989	**Dapto Brandi**	Darren Murray	30.77
1990	**Ravello**	Robert Britton	30.82
1991	**Heza Mullrook**	Keith Kent	30.42

1992	**Dashing Eagle**	Bob Douglas	30.31
1993	**Magnacarter**	Bill McNally	30.60
1994	**Stylish Raider**	Kevin Byng	30.33
1995	**Ben's Surprise**	Len Ketelaar	30.34
1996	**Sarah's Deano**	Marion Siakew	30.30
1997	**Token Prince(NSW)**	Michael Abbott	30.31
1998	**Time Framer**	Philip Newman	30.12
1999	**Ashlee Jeannine**	Peter Giles	29.74
2000	**Dutchy's Angel**	Tom Dailly	29.74
2001	**Let It Be**	Neil Dicks	29.75
2002	**Bye For Now**	Ian Dann	30.00
2003	**Bogie Leigh (QLD)**	Tony Brett	30.07
2004	**Paua To Burn(NSW)**	Steven White	29.85
2005	**Paua To Burn(NSW)**	Steven White	29.82
2006	**Betty's Angel**	Paul Bartolo	29.85
2007	**Que Sera Sera**	Angela Langton	29.91
2008	**Queen Lauryn**	Tony Brett	29.79
2009	**Cindeen Shelby**	Kelvyn Greenough	29.72
2010	**Not Held**		
2011	**Amakler Girl**	Robert Stack	29.70
2012	**Peggy May**	Jason Thompson	29.42

*** Run as the Sandown Auction Classic, July 1989**

Clone Your Own Upstages the Locals

A holiday tour of Rob Britton's Lara kennels and pre-prepared DVD paid dividends for New Zealander Alison Lee after her chaser Clone Your Own took out the $145,000 Harrison-Dawson at Sandown Park last night.

Clone Your Own ($5.10) overcame a tardy start from box 1 but enjoyed a saloon run through the first turn. He then charged between leaders Premier Event ($5.70) and Imry Bale ($4.50) to lead down the back straight, and in a thrilling run to the line, Clone Your Own held off a gallant Imry Bale by a head, with favourite Glen Gallon ($3.10) a further 1.75 lengths adrift in third.

An ecstatic Lee, who made the trip from her Christchurch home to be track side for the final, was near speechless after taking out one of the club's premier races.

"I can't believe it, it's just amazing," she said.

It had been a whirlwind ride for the connections of the 30 month old son of Irish sire Droopys Marco, who had his last start in New Zealand over 295m in March.

"We went on a holiday to Australia and wanted to see a few kennels," said Lee, who considers herself a hobby trainer.

"One of the young guys who used to work for Jeff Britton (Rob's brother) said they were really nice people so we went and had a look at Rob's property. We liked what we saw and left a DVD (of Clone Your Own's races) with him and said if you think he's good enough send us an email."

Clone Your Own had been racing over the 'shorts' in New Zealand, and despite some reservations, had shown Britton enough to book his flight to Australia.

"I knew he had blistering pace but he was last out, and if you're last out over here then what hope have you got?" said Britton.

"But he looked like he was getting stronger with each start, and you always know you're a chance with a dog when they can run one sectional that is out of the ordinary because at some stage they'll put themself in the race. And his second split is extraordinary."

His improvement once arriving in Australia was remarkable, winning three of his five Australian starts before heading into tonight's final. It's improvement that Britton did not expect.

"I never really expected a Group performer. That said, his last run before the heats was exceptional, and I was hoping he could draw a good box."

For Lee, the win was the thrill of a lifetime, and is hopeful of further wins on the 'mainland.'

"When we sent him over we thought he's got a chance, and Rob has done a great job. He'll be staying with Rob for as long as he wants him, then he'll be coming home to me."

Clone Your Own with owner Alison Lee and trainer Rob Britton   (Pic Paul Munt)

The Harrison-Dawson is named in honour of three of Sandown Park's finest servants, Henry Harrison who served as Sandown Chairman for 23 years, his daughter and life member Loretta, and son-in-law and current Sandown Chairman Geoff Dawson, who celebrated 25 years as Chairman in 2012.

After the placings the field finished in the following order 4th Schroder Bale ($13.10), 5th Premier Event ($5.70), 6th Hurricane Isaac ($21.50) 7th Garrick Bale ($9.70) and Kevin Bale ($26.20).

Clone Your Own is Black Dog whelped December '10 he is by Droopys Marco from Elie Saab (Fashion Thief x More Than This). He is raced by New Zealander Alison Lee and trained by Robert Britton the Group 2 Harrison-Dawson win took his record to 28 starts for 13 wins and nine placings and prizemoney earnings of $145,129.

Past winners the race after it was run for the first time in 2009 as the Dawson was won by Dyna Forte, 2010 Flash Of Light, 2011 Don Chendo and 2012 General Destini.

Thanks for information supplied by Michael Floyd Sandown Media Manager.

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