



MEDIA RELEASE

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Lamia Bale Lands Maiden Group 1

Lamia Bale secured her third Sandown Park group race title with a thrilling win in the \$145,000 group 1 Sapphire Crown tonight.

Lamia Bale qualified as the fastest heat winner, and despite drawing box 6, was sent to the boxes the \$2.40 favourite for the final. She began well from the awkward box and mustered pace brilliantly to cross the field and led clearly through the first turn. She extended her lead down the back straight and passed the second split with a commanding four length advantage over her rivals.



Lamia Bale holds on for first Group 1 (All Pics Clint Anderson)

However Angie Rocks (\$4.00) had started to make her move, railing strongly under Humming Birdhill and set off in pursuit of the lamp lighter to set up a thrilling finish. Angie Rocks loomed up on the outside of Lamia Bale approaching the finish line, however Lamia Bale proved too good, holding on to land the \$100,000 first prize by a head in 29.23.

It was the first group 1 victory for Steve Collins and the emotion of the occasion was clear among the large contingent of family and friends track side.

The win took her career record to 16 wins from 52 starts and elevated her prize money to \$315,020. Her record at Sandown Park over the 515m and 595m distances stands at 28 starts for 10 wins and nine minor placings. Among those wins are the three group titles – the group 1 Sapphire Crown, the group 2 Laurels and group 3 Sir John Dillon Memorial, and she became the first greyhound since Puaa To Burn in 2004 to claim the Laurels-Sapphire Crown double.

AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

The Sapphire Crown – the richest race in the country for female greyhounds – boasts one of the finest honour rolls in the country, featuring some of the greats of the sport including Paua To Burn, Betty's Angel, Bogie Leigh, Xylia Allen, Cindeen Shelby and Queen Lauryn.

After the first two placings the field finished in the following order 3rd One Dee (\$19.90) 4th Dyna Nico (\$8.70), 5th West On Delly (\$7.90), 6th Elfen Bale (\$7.20) 7th Humming Birdhill (\$24.40) and Cosmic Wise (\$23.80).

Lamia Bale is raced Paul Wheeler and trained by Steve Collins at Lara in Victoria, she is a Brindle bitch whelped July 2012 by High Earner from Maple Bale (Spiral Nikita x Vista Bale). Lamia Bale has won 16 and been placed 19 times from her 52 starts and with the \$100,000 first prize for the Sapphire Crown it took her current stake earnings to \$315,020.

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 feature for bitches only. 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
2013	Xylia Allen	Graeme Bate	29.51
2014	Oakvale Destiny	Jeff Britton	29.92

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

King Fernando Wins the Harrison-Dawson

Fernando Bale cemented his claim as Australia's finest sprinter with an emphatic win in tonight's \$145,000 group 1 Harrison-Dawson at Sandown Park.

After recording the second fastest time ever run at Sandown Park in last week's heat, Fernando Bale drew the coveted box 1 for the final and was immediately posted record \$1.15 favourite with tab.com Remarkably, he was backed into \$1.05 – also a record – and didn't disappoint those who took the short odds. Showing his trade mark exceptional speed at box rise, Fernando Bale had opened a two length break on the field within meters of the start and was three lengths clear leaving the straight.

That margin had opened to more than five lengths down the back straight and while the gallant Weston East (\$25.00) ran on bravely to reduce the margin to three lengths, Fernando Bale would not be denied his third group 1 victory.

His time of 29.14 was the fastest ever recorded from box 1 and took three lengths off the race record. Amazingly, it was just the fourth fastest time Fernando Bale had recorded at Sandown Park.

"It's amazing what good box manners and early toe can do," said his handler, George Dailly

"He just performs every week, you just can't say that about most other dogs."

The win was Fernando Bale's ninth consecutive victory – all in top grade and all in the best time of the night – and took his career prize money to \$517,390. As well as building a formidable race record – he holds sectional records at the country's three premier metropolitan tracks to go with his 17 race wins – Fernando Bale has won the admiration of the greyhound racing public, with a large crowd of eager onlookers gathered in the parade yard before and after the race to catch a glimpse of the striking white and brindle chaser. Indeed, 'Fernando Bale' was a trending topic on Twitter in the lead up to the race.

Fernando Bale remained completely unfazed by the extra attention.

"Nothing fazes him, he's a total professional.

"He has it all. Brilliant early speed, amazing mid race pace and is strong at the end. And such a great temperament, he's just a beautiful animal."

Fernando Bale's next assignment is the \$36,000 group 3 Bill Collins at Sandown Park next Thursday night.

The Harrison-Dawson was the highlight of a big card of greyhound racing at Sandown Park.

In the heats of the RSN Sandown Cup, Space Star recorded the second fastest time ever over the 715m distance with a stunning display of sustained speed. His 12 length win in 41.26 almost 10 lengths faster than the next fastest heat winner, Lady Toy. Defending champion Sweet It Is also won her heat, as did Unix Bale, setting up what promises to be an outstanding final next Thursday night.

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.



Superstar Fernando Bale races away with the Harrison-Dawson final (Pic Clint Anderson)

After the first two placings the field finished in the following order 3rd Caustic Bale (\$39.60), 4th Usain I'm Nutty (\$22.70), 5th Sisco Rage (\$18.00), 6th Gangnam Style (\$47.10) 7th Amaro Bale (\$50.00) and Knockabout Aussie (\$66.00).

Fernando Road is raced by Paul Wheeler and trained by Andrea Dailly he is a White & Dark Brindle dog whelped March 2013 by Kelos Fusileer from Chloe Bale (Malawi's Prince x Burgundy Bale). Fernando Bale has won 17 of his 22 starts and has been placed on two occasions after the first prize of \$100,000 for the Harrison-Dawson his current stake earnings stand at \$517,390.

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**, 2012 **General Destini**, 2013 **Clone Your Own** and 2014 **Awesome Project**.

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