



Australian Greyhound
Racing Association

MEDIA RELEASE

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Fairytale Completed in Sapphire

A fairytale was completed tonight when Narralee staved off her rivals to take out the group 1 Sapphire Crown.

Narralee (\$11.80) exploded out of box 2 to lead clearly from the wide running Shared Equity and favourite Folio Bale. As the trio battled for position down the back straight Narralee held her head. Folio Bale (\$2.40) threatened danger turning for home but Narralee held on to win by a head in 29.47.

Trainer Steve Creighton was ecstatic post-race in what was his first group 1 win.

“I don’t know what to say – I’m still in shock.”



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

Narralee was struck down by injury in July of last year and has recovered with the help of one of greyhound racing’s most respected trainers.

“When she hurt her achilles and calf muscle I took her to Kel Greenough. He said the options are stem cell treatment, retire her to breed or let her recover naturally. Our first move was to breed with Glen Gallon, unfortunately she missed so we thought we’d let her recover naturally then bring her back to racing.”

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On her return to racing she battled to show her customary early speed, but it was a slight change of plan by Creighton that brought her back to her best.

“We thought we’d give her a couple of races at Bendigo – she wasn’t able to keep up with the younger dogs early so I thought we’re going to have to step her up in distance.”

“We took her back to our home track (Sale) where she won in best of day time. We then took her to Traralgon and she won in what was her first look at the track. I was impressed by that run so I thought right, we’ll nominate her for the Sapphire Crown. It wasn’t a series we targeted but she was going so well we decided to put her in.”

“I said to the owner (Linda Gray), win lose or draw we’re going to have a go at it.”

Linda Gray and her sons Liam and Jordan were on hand to celebrate the win.

“It hasn’t sunk in yet – when I wake up in the morning I’ll probably think I’m dreaming,” said Gray.

“It’s just not something you think is going to happen – we’re just ordinary people and you never think something like this could happen to people like us.”

The \$100,000 first prize has given Gray the opportunity to fulfill a dream.

“I can now buy myself a brand new car – it’s always been a dream of mine.”

Gray, a single mum and part-time cleaner, plans to continue celebrations tomorrow night at her local RSL.

“When I walk into the RSL with the trophy there’ll be a cheer, there’s a big fan club down there.”

Gray got involved in greyhound racing as a youngster courtesy of her uncle who tragically passed away in a car accident 15 years ago, though hopes he is witnessing the triumph unfold.

“It’s a shame he’s no longer around – I sometimes think he’s up there saying ‘you bloody beauty’.”

After the first two placings the field finished in the following order 3rd Cash In Motion (\$8.30) 4th Mepunga Flame (\$13.90), 5th Star Torana (\$25.20), 6th Skate Thin Ice (\$37.70) 7th Shared Equity (\$4.00) and Nymeria (\$6.00).

Narralee is raced Linda Gray and her sons Liam & Jordan she is trained by Steve Creighton at Giffard West in Victoria, she is a Black bitch whelped January 2013 by Aston Galilee from Prince’s Faye (Shanlyn Prince x Another Nobody). Narralee has won 17 and been placed seven times from her 34 starts and with the \$100,000 first prize for the Sapphire Crown it took her current stake earnings to \$145,080.



Narralee with trainer Steve Creighton and owners Linda, Liam and Jordan Gray

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	Year	Winner	Trainer	Time
1974	Bristol Sue	Alec Reid	31.11	1995	Ben's Surprise	Len Ketelaar	30.34
1975	Dynamic Dean	Paul Hogan	30.67	1996	Sarah's Deano	Marion Siakew	30.30
1976	Tawny Brad	Greg Durham	30.82	1997	Token Prince	Michael Abbott	30.31
1977	Overflow Love	Pat Haas	31.09	1998	Time Framer	Philip Newman	30.12
1978	Rubin Caine	Ted Sallows	30.77	1999	Ashlee Jeannine	Peter Giles	29.74
1979	Monica's Mist	John Hellingman	30.74	2000	Dutchy's Angel	Tom Dailly	29.74
1980	Worthy Weston	Brian Jacobson	30.93	2001	Let It Be	Neil Dicks	29.75
1981	Shamrock Flight	Kevin McCabe	31.06	2002	Bye For Now	Ian Dann	30.00
1982	Wynlee Spirit	Alan Roberts	31.17	2003	Bogie Leigh	Tony Brett	30.07
1983	Rocky Pyramid	Fred Ladd	30.65	2004	Paua To Burn	Steven White	29.85
1984	Currency Lass	Ned Bryant	31.10	2005	Paua To Burn	Steven White	29.82
1985	Rembrandt	John Hose	31.06	2006	Betty's Angel	Paul Bartolo	29.85
1986	Sydney Dingaen	Ned Bryant	30.83	2007	Que Sera Sera	Angela Langton	29.91
1987	Rothwell	Keith Anderson	30.63	2008	Queen Lauryn	Tony Brett	29.79
1988	Hogan	Len Ketelaar	31.02	2009	Cindeen Shelby	Kelvyn Greenough	29.72
1989	Super Gun	Eddie Baumgartner	30.81	2010	Not Run		
1989*	Dapto Brandi	Darren Murray	30.77	2011	Amakler Girl	Robert Stack	29.70
1990	Ravello	Robert Britton	30.82	2012	Peggy May	Jason Thompson	29.42
1991	Heza Mullrook	Keith Kent	30.42	2013	Xylia Allen	Graeme Bate	29.48
1992	Dashing Eagle	Bob Douglas	30.31	2014	Oakvale Destiny	Jeff Britton	29.92
1993	Magnacarter	Bill McNally	30.60	2015	Lamia Bale	Steven Collins	29.23
1994	Stylish Raider	Kevin Byng	30.33	2016	Narralee	Steve Creighton	29.47

* Run as the Sandown Auction Classic, July 1989

Dundee Osprey Scores Stunning Harrison-Dawson Win

Dundee Osprey (\$24.70) and his trainer Geoff Scott-Smith upstaged some of the biggest names in greyhound racing with a stunning victory in the \$145,000 group 1 Harrison-Dawson at Sandown Park tonight.

"Absolutely incredible, just absolutely incredible," said the spritely 69 year old of his first win at group level.

"Years ago we won the Roy Maidment, that was before group races but it was still a big thrill. To win this race tonight is super, super special."

Dundee Osprey qualified for the \$145,000 final on the back of an outstanding heat win in 29.31, and despite lining up in his fourth group final in his past seven starts and boasting the fourth fastest time at the track in 2016, was sent to the boxes as the 25/1 outsider. Beginning well from box 2, Dundee Osprey sat behind early leaders Aston Bolero and One For Me through the first turn before switching three wide off the back straight and powering to the line to win by 3½ lengths in 29.25. Once For Me (\$6.80) hung on for second ahead of the fast finishing favourite, Blazin' Bomber (\$2.80).

"He was pretty switched on tonight," Scott-Smith continued.

“A couple of weeks ago he was a little bit down, he lost a little bit of weight when we took him to Brisbane for the Queensland Derby and he’s taken a while to come back. He can be a difficult do to train sometimes – he’d make a good poker player because you’re just never sure where he’s at.

“When he arrived tonight I thought he was a little bit better than he was last week, and he had to be because you can’t afford to be off even a fraction in these sorts of races.



Dundee Osprey is one of just six greyhounds Scott-Smith has in his kennel – all of which carry the ‘Dundee’ prefix – and all are from the first litter he bred since returning to the sport after a 30 year absence.

Despite winning one of the biggest races on the calendar and with friends and family trackside – as well as a large number of well wishers – Scott-Smith remained characteristically humble and resisted the temptation of a large celebration, saying “I’ve got things to do with the dogs at home so can’t get too carried away. Those days are gone!”

The win was Dundee Osprey’s 9th from 23 career starts, and the \$100,000 first prize boosted his prize

money to \$134,800. Scott-Smith was non-committal about Dundee Osprey’s next target, but suggested the group 1 Peter Mosman Classic at Wentworth Park as a possibility.

The Harrison-Dawson commemorates the contribution of three stalwarts of the Sandown Greyhound Racing Club – former chairman Henry Harrison, his daughter Loretta, and current chairman Geoff Dawson – and since adopting its current format (best 32 male greyhounds) has quickly established itself as one of the country’s premier races.

After the first three placings the field finished in the following order, 4th Dalgetty (\$3.20), 5th Soda Man (\$29.40), 6th Tiggerlong Await (\$22.20) 7th Invictus Rapid (\$12.30) and Aston Bolero (\$6.10).

Dundee Osprey is raced and trained by Geoff Scott-Smith he is a Black dog whelped December 2013 by Fabregas from Dundee Rose (Where’s Pedro x Cora Bale). Dundee Osprey has won nine of his 23 starts and has been placed on four occasions after the first prize of \$100,000 for the Harrison-Dawson took his current stake earnings stand at \$134,800.

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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