



MEDIA RELEASE

10th May 2013



Punch One Out lands Decisive Blow

Boom Sydney chaser Punch One Out set Sandown Park alight on Thursday night, sensationally winning her heat of the Macro Meats Sapphire Crown.

Beginning fairly from box 8, the series favourite enjoyed a trouble free run around the first turn, settling behind early leader Desalle Bale before unleashing a devastating burst down the back. The dual track record holder made amends for her defeat at her Sandown Park debut the week prior by powering away to win by 4.5 lengths in the best of night time of 29.32 seconds.

And in an ominous sign for rivals in next Thursday night's final, trainer Jason Mackay believes she can go faster.

"She still hasn't worked out the different boxes here in Victoria, but I think she's starting to work it out," said Mackay.

"She was too good once she circled Desalle Bale, but she's better than what the times said."

After drawing the cherished red box for the final, Punch One Out is likely to start a short favourite for next Thursday's final.

Sometimes Speedy and Tricky Jade made the night extra special for Mackay, both chasers overcoming adversity to join their kennel mate in the \$145,000 feature by running second in their respective heats.

"Sometime Speedy came out well and chased her heart out. She basically didn't have a run last week after she got knocked around and getting injured. She responded well during the week and will be better for the run.

"Tricky Jade has so much ability but you can't buy experience. The box didn't really suit, it was only her eighth start and her first start against that quality of opposition. She'll also get a lot from that run."

The run of the night belonged to Graeme Bate's exciting youngster Xylia Allen. The Launceston Cup winner unleashing a breath taking finishing burst to win her heat by an ever widening 5.25 lengths in 29.51.

"We've always known how strong she is at the end of her races," said kennel representative Joe Briffa.

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AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

“She started OK before pushing off the rail and causing a bit of trouble, but once she opened up down the back it was just fantastic to watch.”

Joining Xylia Allen in the final is kennel mates Desalle Bale, runner up to Punch One Out, and Orthia Bale which finished second to Evie’s Entity.

Trained by Lyn Smith and part owned by James Van de Maat, Evie’s Entity won her fourth consecutive start to give the young race caller and the greyhound’s large ownership and supporter’s group their biggest thrill in greyhound racing.

“It’s the best feeling you could possibly have,” said Van de Maat.

“She’s been trialling really well but to handle herself the way she did from box 4 was really impressive. We have a team of 30 or 40 here tonight and that number might grow next week!”

Aiming to claim yet another feature event is Jason Thompson, whose veteran El Brooklyn reached her second consecutive Macro Meats Sapphire Crown final by leading all the way to win in 29.53.

The well-travelled white and blue chaser will line up in her 10th Group final on Thursday, and Thompson believes she is racing as well as she was when she made the final of this race a year ago.

“She came into last year’s final on the back of her Warrnambool Classic win and had a similar preparation this time in.

“She actually has a great record at both city tracks, she just hasn’t raced a whole lot in town. I’m just wrapped for her that she’s in the final.”

The \$145,000 Group 1 Macro Meats Sapphire Crown is the richest bitches only race in the country, and is run in conjunction with the \$145,000 Group 2 Harrison-Dawson for male greyhounds.

The final of both races will be run on Thursday 16 May and will coincide with the heats of Australia’s richest race for stayers, the Group 1 RSN Sandown Cup.

By Michael Floyd Sandown Media Manager

GROUP ONE – MACRO MEATS SAPPHIRE CROWN CLASSIC

\$100,000 to the winner



Punch One Out

37 starts 18-8-3 (\$67,474)

Knocka Norris – Little Egyptian

Black Bitch February '11

Owner: **Grant Fennelly**

Trainer: **Jason Mackay**

Sandown Park best: 29.32 (8) (2 Starts 1-0-0)

Flying machine from the Harbour city where she has set two track records. She found box eight to her liking last week recording the fastest heat win of 29.32. Started favourite in the Easter Egg but a slow start found her finish unplaced. Red box is always a help in Group 1 finals but I’m not sure if it suits her. If she comes out and gets a clear run she is certainly the dog to beat. Will start short in this classy field, but there might be a hint of risk. No denying her ability.



Desalle Bale

53 starts 23-10-4 (\$218,380)

Go Wild Teddy – Princess Bale

Black Bitch March '10

Owner: **Paul Wheeler**

Trainer: **Graeme Bate**

Sandown Park best: 29.46 (1) (5 Starts 2-1-0)

Finished second last week behind Punch One Out in a good effort. Star performer she has made a few Group 1’s and won over \$200,000. Well draw here and has early pace as shown last week hard to see her turn the tables on the favourite but she could lead and is always a chance, suited by the conditions. Don’t discard top class performer.

3

Tricky Jade

8 starts 5-2-1 (\$16,375)

Bit Chilli – Navigator Miss

Black Bitch January '11

Owner: **M J Hallinan Syndicate**Trainer: **Jason Mackay****Sandown Park best:** 29.56 (1) (2 Starts 1-1-0)

Young inexperienced bitch from the Mackay kennel, she has impressed in her only two starts here with a grade five win in 29.56 and a solid second to Xylia Allen in last week's heat. May lack the experience in this company but her best is in front of her. Place chance.

4

El Brooklyn

42 starts 24-7-1 (\$270,865)

El Galo – Dark Marne

White & Blue Bitch February '10

Owner: **Seona Hood**Trainer: **Jason Thompson****Sandown Park best:** 29.35 (5) (9 Starts 4-2-0)

Outstanding group performer she has won in this company and made this final last year. Flew the boxes last week and won well in 29.53. Has career earnings of over \$270,000 and she is a classy type. Came from the four box last week and if she can begin again in the final she'll be right in it. Top bitch she is always competitive.

5

Evie's Entity

20 starts 10-4-1 (\$27,000)

Mogambo – Girl Aloud

Black Bitch December '10

Owners Yolo Syndicate

Trainer: **Lyn Smith****Sandown Park best:** 29.48 (4) (4 Starts 2-0-0)

Surprise winner last week in some quarters but she is a bitch in good form. She found the front and raced strongly in the lead to record a personal best of 29.48. She has again drawn poorly in five and would need everything to go right, in saying that she beat a two time Group 1 winner in her heat. She'll need an ounce of early luck to give her a chance to feature, given the company is high class.

6

Xylia Allen

27 starts 11-6-3 (\$84,010)

Turanza Bale – Tayah Bale

Black Bitch April '11

Owner: **Janice Wheeler**Trainer: **Graeme Bate****Sandown Park best:** 29.32 (4) (8 Starts 3-3-0)

An exceptional performance to not only win last week but race away in the finish. I don't think there is anyone that doesn't rate her an extraordinary talent. We have seen in her career so far of what she is capable of, that Launceston track record for example. However it's consistency week in week out I'm sure trainer G Bate is looking for. With a Group 2 to her name already she certainly has a Group 1 on her radar and it just might be this race. Has to overcome box six but is sure to be a big chance.

7

Orthia Bale

43 starts 6-15-7 (\$27,395)

Dyna Lachlan – Amity Bale

Black Bitch February '11

Owners: **Paul Wheeler**Trainer: **Graeme Bate****Sandown best:** 29.86 (5) (13 Starts 2-5-2)

Solid effort last week to make the final. She has won here twice but looks a little outclassed given the quality of this field. Will need a lot of luck early to feature in what is an outstanding final. Hall of Fame trainer Graeme Bate's third finalist. Place chance best.

8

Sometimes Speedy

50 starts 25-6-9 (\$151,685)

Collision – Gemstone Supreme

Black Bitch September '10

Owner: **Jason Caddy**Trainer: **Jason Mackay****Sandown Park best:** NBT (2 Starts 0-1-0)

Like G Bate this bitch is Jason Mackay's third finalist and is a very talented type. Already a Group 1 winner she finished second behind El Brooklyn last week in a solid effort. Unusual to have three New South Wales visitors in a Victorian final. She has been well prepared for this assignment but needs a clean getaway. She will certainly give the final a shake. Big chance for this classy type.



Hot Irish

74 starts 40-15-8 (\$321,460)

Premier Fantasy – Lovey Craves It

Consistent top class West Aussie sprinter she has won 40 races and has a fantastic race record. Capable of running a place if she gets a start.



Got A Moment

34 starts 15-6-4 (\$477,526)

Collision – Splitting Hairs

Melbourne and Brisbane Cup winner with lots of ability. Always runs an honest race certainly a winning chance if she gains a start.

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

Mick Floyd

1st Punch One Out

2nd Desalle Bale

3^d Xylia Allen

Ron Hawkswell

1st Punch One Out

2nd Xylia Allen

3^d El Brooklyn

Rob Testa

1st Sometimes Speedy

2nd El Brooklyn

3^d Desalle Bale

Local Market for the Macro Meats Sapphire Crown Classic:

\$145,000 Group 1 Metro Meats Sapphire Crown (515m)			
Box	Greyhound	Trainer	Price
	Punch One Out	Jason Mackay	\$2
	Desalle Bale	Graeme Bate	\$7
	Tricky Jade	Jason Mackay	\$11
	El Brooklyn	Jason Thompson	\$5.50
	Evie’s Entity	Lyn Smith	\$8.50
	Xylia Allen	Graeme Bate	\$7
	Orthia Bale	Graeme Bate	\$31
	Sometimes Speedy	Jason Mackay	\$8.50
	Hot Irish	Steven Clarke	\$10
	Got A Moment	Jason Thompson	\$8

What’s happening on race night?

Thursday Night Race Night Buffet

Adults: \$40.00

Children 6-12years: \$12.00

Children 13-17years: \$25.00

All dining packages include Sandown’s famous sumptuous four-course buffet prepared by our chef Brad Lee, race-course admission, form guide and tipping sheet.

Sandown caters for groups of all sizes, so get the work crew together or take the night off training and get to Sandown Park for a night out with a difference. The Tiers and Terrace restaurant overlooks the winning post and is fully enclosed, making it the perfect spot to enjoy an action-packed program.

Sandown also offers the following drink packages:

\$65 Package: As above + beer, house wine and soft drink

\$85 Package: As above + beer, house wine and soft drink + basic spirits

The dining room is open from 6.30pm and is open until the last race at around 10.50pm.

Then, after the last greyhound has sizzled down the straight you can kick on at the award winning Sandown Greyhounds Tabaret right here on track.

History and Event Timeline

- 1974 Race first run as the Sir Arthur Rylah Sapphire Classic on 7 February 1974 over 513m. Race is worth \$1,450 to the winner, Bristol Sue
- 1976 Prizemoney increases to \$3,600 to the winner
- 1986 1985 Melbourne Cup winner Sydney Dingaon becomes the only dog to take the Melbourne Cup – Sapphire Classic double
- 1987 Race distance decreased to 511m
- 1989 Race is run twice, in January as the Sandown Sapphire Classic, and in July as the Sandown Auction Classic
- 1990 Race is renamed the Sandown Sapphire Classic and moved to April. Prizemoney increases to \$8,000 to the winner
- 1995 Prizemoney increases to \$14,000 to the winner
- 1996 Race elevated to Group 3 status. Prizemoney increases to \$15,000. Race distance increases to 515m following Sandown Park track reconstruction
- 1997 Race elevated to Group 2 status. Prizemoney increases to \$30,000 to the winner. Legendary sire Token Prince takes out the race
- 1999 Ashlee Jeannine wins the race in 29.74 seconds – a race record
- 2000 Race elevated to Group 1 status. Prizemoney increases to \$40,000 to the winner. Dutchy's Angel equals Ashlee Jeannine's race record 29.74
- 2002 Race is renamed the Sapphire Crown Classic and conditions changed to bitches only. The race is also moved to November and is included in Sandown's Superdog series. Prizemoney increases to \$50,000 to the winner
- 2003 AGRA Hall of Famer Bogie Leigh claims her third Group race win for the year in taking out the event by a race record 7.5 lengths
- 2004 Sandown introduces a \$10,000 bonus to any bitch who can win the G1 Laurels Classic - G1 Sapphire Crown Classic double. After taking out the Laurels Classic by 7.25 lengths in 29.58, Paua To Burn completes the double after starting the Sapphire Crown Classic a \$1.60 favourite
- 2005 After beginning well from the awkward box 5, Paua To Burn blitzes her rivals and defends her Sapphire Crown Classic title by a race record 10.25 lengths. The win was Paua To Burn's fourth Group 1 victory
- 2006 Betty's Angel wins her first Group 1, with litter sister Leprechaun Pace running third. Betty's Angel would go on to win the Group 1 Schweppes Melbourne Cup, defeating another litter sister, Miss Mini Mouse.
- 2007 The final becomes a family affair with Que Sera Sera winning for Angela Langton and brother-in-law Robert Britton training both One Tree Hill and Tasman Queen into the placings
- 2008 Queen Lauryn overcomes a number of off-track issues to win her first Group 1 in dominant display from box 2.
- 2009 2009 Victorian and Australian Greyhound of the Year Cindeen Shelby added another Group 1 trophy to the mantel piece with a convincing win in a fast 29.72 a race record.
- 2010 Race not run due to a change in the AGRA calendar and was held over to its new time slot in June 2011 replacing the Laurels which was moved to December.
- 2011 Evergreen sprinter Amakler Girl (\$7.40) upstaged her younger rivals when as the oldest runner in the field, she jumped straight to the lead from box one and was never headed, she defeated fast-finishing favourite Tonneli Bale (\$3.60) by 1¼ lengths in 29.70.
- 2012 Jason Thompson's golden 2012 continued when Peggy May led all the way to claim the 2012 Group 1 Macro Meats Sapphire Crown. Showing her customary early speed she led into the first turn and raced away down the back to win in race record time of 29.42.



Fastest Heat Winner Punch One Out 29.32 (Pic Paul Munt)

Honour Roll

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 bitches only feature. Listed below is the impressive list of past winners.

Year	Winner	Trainer	Time
1974	Bristol Sue	Alec Reid	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	Alan Roberts	31.17
1983	Rocky Pyramid	Fred Ladd	30.65
1984	Currency Lass	Ned Bryant	31.10
1985	Rembrandt	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	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	Tony Brett	30.07
2004	Paua To Burn	Steven White	29.85
2005	Paua To Burn	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 Run
2011 Amakler Girl Robert Stack 29.70
2012 Peggy May Jason Thompson 29.42

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

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