



MEDIA RELEASE

10th May 2014



Britton Brilliance

Western Australian chaser Zelemar Fever stormed into the Macro Meats Sapphire Crown with an impressive all of the way victory in her heat of the \$145,000 Group 1 feature.

The former Victorian pounced out of box one to lead from go to whoa, stopping the clock at 29.34 seconds to record the fastest heat win.



Trainer Linda Britton with Temlee winner Zelemar Fever (Pic Clint Anderson)

Trainer Linda Britton was delighted with Zelemar Fever's performance, the run being her first at Sandown Park since early August last year.

"I didn't feel the need to trial her as she has already raced here a bit earlier in her career," said Britton.

Zelemar Fever is one of two finalists representing the Linda Britton kennel, with Te Amo making it a double for the West Australian trainer in the third heat of the night.

AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

"I trialled Te Amo here last week because she had never seen the track before. She actually showed more strength in her trial than she did tonight, so she will be better for the run."

The Britton family dominated the heats of the Sapphire Crown, with brothers Rob and Jeff combining with their sister Linda to win all four heats.

Amadeus Strikes advanced to the final for Rob after holding off Jeff's Oakvale Destiny who stormed home to claim her spot in the final.

Oakvale Flyer also qualified for Jeff after holding off Prue Bale.

The Macro Meats Sapphire Crown is the world's richest race restricted to female greyhounds, and is run in conjunction with the males' only \$145,000 Berwick Mazda Harrison-Dawson.

The final of both races will be run on Thursday 15 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

Box Draw and Tab Sportsbet Fixed Prices for the Sapphire Crown 515:

\$145,000 to the winner Group 1 Sapphire Crown final 515m				
Box	Greyhound	Trainer	Price	B/T
	Prue Bale	Andrea Dailly	\$3.90	29.42
	You Say Goodbye	Stephen McKenna	\$6	29.69
	Zelemar Fever	Linda Britton (WA)	\$2.90	29.35
	Hot Dream	Paul Galea	\$31	29.68
	Oakvale Destiny	Jeff Britton	\$8	30.03
	Te Amo	Linda Britton (WA)	\$6	29.71
	Amadeus Strikes	Rob Britton	\$21	29.52
	Oakvale Flyer	Jeff Britton	\$6	29.53
	Lady Toy (RES)	Norma Gost	\$13	29.82
	Mahogany Sapphire (RES)	Elise King	\$35	NBT

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

Mick Floyd

1st Zelemar Fever

2nd Prue Bale

3rd Amadeus Strikes

Ron Hawkswell

1st Zelemar Fever

2nd You Say Goodbye

3rd Te Amo

Rob Testa

1st Prue Bale

2nd Zelemar Fever

3rd Amadeus Strikes

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 package:

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

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 there 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.
- 2013 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 she recorded 29.48 and ran down favourite Punch One Out.



Brilliant Heat Winner Oakvale Flyer 29.57 (Pic Clint Anderson)

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	Rembrant	John Hose	31.06
1986	Sydney Dingaen	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
2013	Xylia Allen	Graeme Bate	29.48

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

Any further information contact:

Michael Floyd, Racing and Media Manager, on 0409 426 562 or 0395469511.
mfloyd@sandowngreyhounds.com.au or www.sandowngreyhounds.com.au

For more information please contact:

Neil Brown
AGRA Publicity Officer
Tel: 03 97691234
Mob: 0423 129 950
nbrown@agra.com.au

Howard Ashton
AGRA Executive Officer
Tel: 08 8243 7100
Mob: 0438 042 838

