



MEDIA RELEASE

4th January 2015



Above All reigns supreme in Silver Chief for the Ages

Second in Group One in a month

New Zealander Above All (\$4.40) took out his second Group 1 in under a month in a dazzling \$145,000 AJS Corporation Silver Chief victory at The Meadows on Saturday night.



Above All too good in Silver Chief Final (Pic Clint Anderson)

Starting from box five, the son of Magic Sprite and Kara Janx pushed hard into the first corner, working his way into second position behind early tearaway leader Dyna Villa. Slowly but surely, the Rob Britton-trained star reeled in Dyna Villa, eventually striding to a one and a quarter-length victory in 29.78.

Continued on Page 2...

AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

Early leader Dyna Villa (\$2.80) held on for second, while Dyna Double One (\$2.30) lost no admirers with a third-placed finish after finding trouble early in running.

The victory was Above All's 10th from just 16 starts, pushing his prizemoney to \$218,000 in the process.

The win was a fantastic result for owners Merv O'Brien and Alison Lee, sending Above All to the Britton kennel after just two starts in New Zealand. In that time, the black chaser has made the Melbourne Cup final, won the Hobart Thousand and now adds the first Group 1 event of 2015 to his already bulging resume.

Britton, who is one of Australia's most successful trainers over the past 20 years, said Above All had special qualities.

"I don't know if he's the quickest greyhound I've ever trained but he's certainly among the most tenacious," Britton said of Above All.

"He reminds me of a dog I trained in the late eighties called Barbariot, who was so good that whenever he raced I felt that only bad luck could beat him."

"That's how I feel with Above All, except it was hard to be confident tonight because there were some really good dogs in the race."

"But he's now won two Group 1s from Box 5, which is pretty special."

Britton said he would resist the temptation to race Above All in next week's Group 1 Paws of Thunder series in Sydney, instead deciding to ease up on his workload for a couple of weeks before heading west for the Group 1 Perth Cup.

The night also saw a new time standard set over the 525 metres, with Allen Deed shaving .08 off Heston Bale's former track record, running an amazing 29.37. The son of Jarvis Bale and Greta Bale run home in an amazing 11.73 to become the third consecutive Paul Wheeler-owned chaser to break the sprint record at the track.



Happy team with Above All post-race (All Pics Clint Anderson)

AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

It was one of seven winners for Andrea Dailly on the night, including the first five past the post in the night's Free For All and a third in the Group 1 final.

In the Silver Chief after the placed runners the field finished in the following order 4th Midnight Flynn (\$19.30), 5th Emrys (\$34.90), 6th Amaro Bale (\$49.70) 7th Gorham Bale (\$28.80) and Dyna Quirk (\$39.20).

Above All is a Black dog whelped July 2012 by Magic Sprite from Kara Janx (Fashion Thief x More Than This). He is raced by Alison Lee and trained by Robert Britton at Lara in Victoria. He has now won ten races and been placed on three occasions from his 16 starts. The Silver Chief first prize of \$100,000 brings Above All's overall prizemoney to \$218,165.

The Classic is one steeped in tradition, first being run in 1964. Directors of the Melbourne Greyhound Racing association saw fit to name The Classic after the greyhound "Silver Chief" who was whelped in 1936 and owned by Ray Herbert. Silver Chief was a "Waterloo Cup" winner in 1939 and performed admirably on the speed coursing circuit as well. He raced in both Melbourne and Sydney and was keenly sought after for stud duties once his racing career was finished.

The cream of racing have won this event referred to as the Derby of Greyhound Racing.

Champions such as Plunder Road, Black Diro, Satan's Legend, Tempix, Chariot Supreme, Ginger, Light of Fire and Awesome Assassin to name a few. Many have gone on to produce sons who have also won the Classic.

The mighty Tempix won in 1978 then produced sons who won in (81) Tempix Image and Bold Assail in 1982.

Australian super sire Chariot Supreme won the race in record time in 1983. His progeny took out the honours in 1986 (Hopeful Supreme), 1989 (Autumn Chariot) and 1991 (Bomber Gleeson).

In recent years Light of Fire won in 1994 then produced greats such as Awesome Assassin and Kantarn Bale. Awesome Assassin went on to sire 2005 winner Ben's Fury. Jason Thompson has a unique record training five winners of the great race.

Listed below is the star studded Silver Chief honour roll.

1964 **Barunah**, 1965 **Spartan Prince**, 1966 **Phantom's Return**, 1967 **Lord Baden**, 1968 **Dupondy Two**, 1969 **Plunder Road**, 1970 **Black Diro**, 1971 **Michael Takiri**, 1972 **Getaway**, 1973 **Flash Gordon**, 1974 **Petillant**, 1975 **Nigger Chimes**, 1976 **Fritz Mactavish**, 1977 **Satan's Legend**, 1978 **Tempix**, 1979 **San Remo**, 1980 **Mork The Stork**, 1981 **Tempix Image**, 1982 **Bold Assail**, 1983 **Chariot Supreme**, 1984 **Rumpus Pappa**, 1985 **Supreme Spot**, 1986 **Hopeful Supreme**, 1987 **Calamity Kid**, 1988 **Ginger**, 1989 **Autumn Chariot**, 1990 **Enfield**, 1991 **Bomber Gleeson**, 1992 **Nevik**, 1993 **Pluggger Fever**, 1994 **Light Of Fire**, 1995 **Zealous Guy**, 1996 **Awesome Assassin**, 1997 **Hotshot**, 1998 **"Not Held"**, 1999 **Jamella Prince**, 1999 **Kantarn Bale**, 2000 **Dave's Mentor**, 2001 **Burali Bale**, 2002 **"Not Held"**, 2003 **Jimmy Neutron**, 2004 **Big Daddy Cool**, 2005 **Ben's Fury**, 2006 **Closing Argument**, 2007 **Meticulous**, 2008 **Regal Thyme**, 2009 **Fedex**, 2010 **Enry Walt** and 2011 **Kilty Lad**, 2012 **Godsend**, 2013 **Renegade Chief**, and 2014 **Ollie Bale**.

Thanks for information supplied by George Furrugia M.G.R.A Publicity.

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