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GARRARD'S HORSE & HOUND

Fast Times Makes It Five For Brett

By Racing Queensland website

Leading Queensland trainer Tony Brett produced yet another masterclass with his greyhound Fast Times digging deep to win a stirring renewal of the Group 1 Garrard's Winter Cup at Albion Park on Thursday night.



The win gave Brett five Winter Cup successes from the last seven editions with Fast Times (\$4.80) joining Iso Octane (2011), Glen Gallon (2012, 2013) and Flash Reality (2014) as winners of the rich feature.

A son of Barcia Bale and Group 3 winner Clockwise, Fast Times has long been held in high regard by his trainer and had built a stellar resume which included victory in the Lismore Maiden series last December to go with a Queensland Derby final berth and a runner-up effort in the Richmond Riches series in May.

Brett was full of praise for his chaser in what was a performance that belied a dog which had started only 16 times prior to Thursday night.

"True grit from a good chasing young dog to do that at his 17th start. I couldn't be happier with him." Brett said.

"The first thing I saw was that Ando's Mac also jumped ok from out wide but we had the pace to beat him to the first turn."

Brett admits Bubble Guppy surging through in the back straight caused a heart-in-mouth moment,

"He gave (Bubble Guppy) every chance because he sat off the track. If Bubble Guppy had have gotten through and held him off a bit he may not have come back."

"It was two good dogs and it was the longest 29.77 I've watched in a race."

A trip to Ipswich a few weeks ago appears to have worked the oracle with Fast Times' box manners according to his trainer.

"That's when he was last beginning, in those early runs (at Ipswich)."

"You just go back to what was working and where it was and you hope the change works and it did."

Fast Times is owned by former rugby league identity Terry Hill, who was on track to see his charge record his maiden Group 1 victory. Hill spoke glowingly about the relationship he and friend George Kairouz, owner of Split Image, have built with the Brett family over the past 12 months.

"It's funny actually how things pan out. The only reason that came about was through Lenny (Antonio). He bought Packer (Thirty Talks) off those boys (Hill and George Kairouz) and that gave them a contact up here" Brett said.

"We had them at home for half a day, it was good company and he's an old Manly boy so he can't be too bad"

"It's as though we've known them for ages."

"I couldn't be happier for those guys, you can see the joy on their faces. For me as a trainer that's what it's all about."

The winner takes his overall record to eleven wins from seventeen starts, having earned just over \$136,000 in prizemoney.

Fast Times' next assignment looks likely to be the Group 1 Maturity Classic series which kicks off at The Meadows in Melbourne on Saturday week, July 15.

"He pulled up pretty good this morning. He didn't leave anything in the tank. I've booked the flights and the crates today."

"He sneaks into that race by four days age wise, so it's hard to pass up."

"It's a tough three-week series, so if he can sneak through without a look at the track we'll keep going. We'll just try to keep him fresh and on his toes."

Brett also gave an update on a few of his injured stars, Thirty Talks, Zabdon Ferrari, My Awesome Magic and Jury in the lead up to the upcoming Nationals series to be held at Albion Park in August.

Zabdon Ferrari tweaked a back muscle at his last run but is on the comeback trail trialling at Rockhampton last week with the Rockhampton Cup the likely next assignment.

Thirty Talks has trialled twice over sprint journeys at Albion Park and remains on track for a tilt at the National series barring any setbacks.

My Awesome Magic has a recurring wrist injury and will remain on the sidelines for the foreseeable future.

Jury, another young dog that has shown plenty of promise, sustained a hip support injury in April and is unlikely to be ready for the Nationals series, but Brett remains confident that the dog will be ready to trial soon.

After Fast Times, the field finished in the following order 2nd Bubble Guppy (\$13.40), 3rd Ando's Mac (\$2.50), 4th Outside Pass (\$6.10), 5th Nangar Rock (\$8.20), 6th Cosmic Bonus (\$7.30), 7th Shoes To Fill (\$36.90) and Talia's Way (\$20).



Owner Terry Hill, Trainer Tony Brett with Fast Times after winning the Winter Cup (All Pics Box 1 Photography)

Fast Times is raced by Terry Hill and trained by Tony Brett of Grandchester in Queensland. Fast Times is a Black dog whelped April 2015 by Barcia Bale from Clockwise (Magic Sprite x Elizabeth Royal). He has won 11 of his 17 starts and has been placed on three occasions and with the \$75,250 first prize for the Winter Cup it took his current stake earnings to \$136,100.

The Winter Carnival Cup has taken on many different forms over the years and has been conducted also at different times during those years. It was first staged at the Gabba in 1978 and sponsored by famous Queensland brewing company Castlemaine XXXX and known as their Trophy, it was run over the testing 558 metre sprint course. It remained the Castlemaine XXXX Trophy right up until 1992 apart from one year in 1987 when it was called the Christmas Trophy. When racing moved to Albion Park in 1993 the race was called the Christmas Stocking for one year and it continued its Group 1 status that the race had gained in 1991 and maintains currently. The feature dropped back to Group 2 in 1997 and 1998, but returned to Group 1 in 1999. Like many other feature races around Australia in the 90's in was sponsored by the Pet food company Eukanuba from 1994 to 1997 and its subsequent company Nutrience in 1998 and 1999. It the year 2000 the club developed the now successful Winter Carnival at the suggestion of race caller John Brasch and the race became that Carnivals major Group 1 feature the Winter Carnival Cup. It has been won by some champion sprinters over the years and the following is but a few of those stars. Call Me Roscoe 81, Glanzend 82, Acacia Park 84, Dancing Gamble 87, Golden Fox 88, Highly Blessed 90, Iceni Princess 92, Toban Leah 94, Flying Amy 95, Roanokee 96, Wine Glass 97, Winged Runner 99, Mint Mojo 2001, Elite State 2003, 2004 Trewly Special, 2008 Made To Size and 2009 Trew Millions. Plus, Tony Brett's five winners Iso Octane 2011 his great champion Glen Gallon 20012-13, 2014 Flash Reality and Fast Times. Listed below is the full honour roll.

Year	Winner	Trainer	Time	Year	Winner	Trainer	Time
1978	Brigadier North	Harold Follett	33.00	1999	Winged Runner	John Reimer	30.19
1979	Katie's Disco	Steve Coleman	32.74	2000	Short Model	Lorraine Patterson	30.00
1980	Wings Of Steel	David Keep	32.92	2001	Mint Mojo	Ray Watson	30.59
1981	Call Me Roscoe	Ray Gatti	32.84	2002	Awesome Machine	Greg Stella	30.11
1982	Glanzend	Ernie Hill	32.60	2003	Elite State	Reg Kay	29.97
1983	Duration	Jim Roy	32.91	2004	Trewly Special	Tina Womann	30.16
1984	Acacia Park	Ron Brown	32.90	2005	Hades Rocket	Darren McDonald	29.90
1985	Amber Flash	Tony Zammit	32.89	2006	Fenceline	Engin Gemci	29.92
1986	Sharyn's Vogue	L Plunkett	33.08	2007	Big Swell	Tina Womann	30.06
1986	Fifi She's Not	Bill Moawad	32.61	2008	Made To Size	Reg Kay	30.39
1987	Dancing Gamble	Pauline Fruend	32.75	2009	Trew Millions	Tina Womann	30.17
1988	Golden Fox	Dennis Reid	32.99	2010	(Not Held)		
1989	Son of Ella	Pat Masters	32.63	2011	Iso Octane	Tony Brett	29.93
1990	Highly Blessed	Doug Ferremi	32.47	2012	Glen Gallon	Tony Brett	29.86
1991	Soldier On	R Drummond	32.60	2013	Glen Gallon	Tony Brett	29.80
1992	Iceni Princess	Peter Gilmore	32.93	2014	Flash Reality	Tony Brett	29.71
1993	National Leader	Pat Davis	30.39	2015	Fabulous Storm	Reg Hazelgrove	29.83
1994	Toban Leah	Dave Brett	30.35	2016	Zambora Brockie	Anthony Azzopardi	29.72
1995	Flying Amy	Ron Ball	29.99	2017	Fast Times	Tony Brett	29.77
1996	Roanokee	Roger Green	30.06	2018			
1997	Wine Glass	Pat Ryan	30.34	2019			
1998	Shady Macbeth	Dave Brett	30.28	2020			

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