



MEDIA RELEASE



16th December 2018

Wide Open Sky Racing Hobart 1000 Three Equal Favourites

By Shane Yates

The Sky Racing Gr 1 Hobart Thousand box draw was conducted on Saturday night at the Tasmanian Greyhound Racing Hall Of Fame and Sky Racing Group 1 Hobart Thousand Dinner.

Fastest heat winner Despacito (pictured) drew box two for the final, the same box the Victorian chaser ran

a blistering 25.62 seconds from for trainer Mick Stringer on Thursday night.



Tasmanian star sprinter Poco Can kept her unbeaten Hobart record intact winning her tenth straight race for Robin Grubb from box one, her heat time of 25.91 seconds was well off the pace but she has again drawn the coveted red box in the Final.

The Jillian Stamford-trained powerhouse Stop Line will jump from box 4

after storming to victory from box 1 to make it five from five over the 461-metre sprint in his heat when he toppled one of the top four seeds for the series Not Available.

In an open market for the final local bookmaker Barry Heawood has three equal favourites for the final Stop Line, Despacito and Orson Allen

Continued Page 2....

Box Draw and Price Market Barry Heewood for the Sky Racing Hobart 1000 461m

\$75,000 to the winner Group 1 Sky Racing Hobart 1000 Final 461m

Box	Greyhound	Trainer	Price	B/T
1	Peco Can	Robin Grubb	\$5.50	25.55
2	Despacito (VIC)	Mick Stringer	\$4	25.62
3	Leeroy Rogue	Debbie Canan	\$9	25.62
4	Stop Line	Jillian Stamford	\$4	25.62
5	Gotta Be You	Anthony Bullock	\$33	25.84
6	Be Like Bill	Blake Pursell	\$13	25.74
7	Huxley (VIC)	Paul Abela	\$4.50	25.66
8	Orson Allen (VIC)	Corey Grenfell	\$4	25.79
9	Wynburn Cutie (RES)	Ben Englund	No-Price	25.83
10	Hello Rhonda (RES)	Robin Grubb	No-Price	25.99

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

Peter Hayes

1st Peco Can
2nd Orson Allen
3rd Stop Line

Colin McNiff

1st Peco Can
2nd Despacito
3rd Stop Line

Shane Yeats

1st Stop Line
2nd Despacito
3rd Orson Allen

What's happening on race night?



Lovers of racing grab your group and experience an exhilarating night out at the track for the richest greyhound meeting in Tasmania, the Sky Racing Hobart Thousand.

Official Dinner: \$60pp. Three course menu. Special guest MC and Punters Club.

Bookings: Phone 6214 4261 or email hobartgreyhounds@hotmail.com

General Admission: Adults \$6 | Concession \$3 | Children under 16 Free

Buffet dinner

Live racing

Lucky door prize

Free face painting for the kids

Special visit from Santa

The History of the Hobart 1000

The Hobart Thousand was the brainchild of M.A. (Arthur) Morgan, widely regarded both in Tasmania and on the mainland as one of the founding fathers of greyhound racing in Tasmania, and one of the greatest administrators the sport has seen. Morgan was inducted into the AGRA Hall of Fame in 2009. The Hobart 1000 remains the longest running Classic event on the Australian greyhound-racing calendar.

Greyhound racing commenced in Hobart at the T.C.A. ground on January 30th 1935, Morgan and his original committee established the Hobart Cup as the Classic race of the year and it was run on February 2nd that year. The winner Elwick Boy collected 20 pounds for his owner S. Burton.

Morgan in his great desire to establish Hobart as the leading greyhound track in Australia, saw the Hobart Cup as the way to achieve this. The race was advertised as the Hobart Thousand in 1939 with a first prize

of an Australian record 500 pounds. This started the mass influx of the top mainland chasers, searching for "Thousand Glory", an influx that continues to this day.

The race reverted back to the Hobart Cup for 1942/43, because of financial constraints, and the fact that the mainlanders struggled to get here during the war. Further war restrictions saw the race in recess during 1944 and 1945. When the race resumed in 1946, it was again the Hobart Thousand and was run for a first prize of what Morgan had always wanted it to be, 1000 pounds. It was won by popular Hobartian Dick Baker with his top chaser Ebon's Own, trained by Claude Best. The late 40s and 50s were indeed the halcyon days of the H.G.R.C. When Morgan started up the Maiden Thousand in 1949, (which was the richest Maiden series in Australia until the 1980s) it created a greyhound racing carnival of sorts with leading mainland trainers migrating to Tasmania with greyhounds to compete in the Maiden Thousand, Hobart Thousand double and sometimes Launceston Cup as well. Legendary NSW trainer Charlie "Chika" Morris would often bring up to 20 chasers and stay for 3 months. He did this for decades.

For 9 years straight ending in 1953, the Hobart Club distributed more stake money than any other club in Australia and the Hobart Thousand was always the lure for top quality racing and large public patronage. Until 1965 the race was run as a handicap, with Morgan having sole discretion, as was the case with most matters. Since 1965 all runners have been from the same mark.

Ill health forced Arthur Morgan from the helm of Hobart in 1967, but his dream race, known by all simply as "the Thousand", has continued through all the thick and thin that Hobart has encountered, right to the present day, where it is now a National Group 1 race with a first prize of \$75,000.



An Advertisement for the first Hobart 1000 then known as the Hobart Cup

The most notable effort in the history of the Hobart Thousand must be the training feat of Hilda Williamson of Beaconsfield. She won back-to-back Thousands in 1961/62 with her grand bitch Ophir Doll, and just for good measure made it a hat trick with Ophir Gold in 1963. Another notable feat was that of Beaut Dina. She won the event run in 1976 and was the dam of Scene Control, which won the last ever Hobart Thousand run at the T.C.A. in 1980. Both were owned and trained by Ted and Laurie Rigby of Evandale.

Arguments will always rage over the greatest dogs to win the Thousand. The best interstate chasers to gain victory would have to be Rookie Rebel (1958), Benjamin John (1969), (which ran down the immortal Zoom Top), Black Aztec (1981), and the freak Brother Fox (1985). Amongst the very best of the locals to salute would have to be Ophir Doll

(1961/62), along with Royal Griffin (1978), True Vintage (1988), Bomber's a Flyer (1996), Top Shiraz (2000) (who held off the speedster Brett Lee) and Black Caleb (2002) who defeated Melbourne Cup winner Classic Capri. Race record over the 457m trip - 2005 winner Ralph The Mouth 25.60. Dyna Tron (2011) and Paw Licking (2013).

The Hobart 1000 is the oldest feature race final in Australia it was first run as the Hobart Cup at the old TCA circuit in 1935. The race first became known as the Hobart 1000 in 1939, it reverted back to the Hobart Cup for two years in 1942 then was not held during the war years of 1944-45 and when the race recommended in 1946 it was again known as the Hobart 1000.

Victorian Champion Trainer Graeme Bate holds the record for most number of winners he has won the race on no less than four occasions. Victorian trained greyhounds have won eight of the last 10 Hobart 1000's decided since the race moved to Tattersall's Park at the Elwick Racecourse. Superman, Train A Journey and the 2009 winner Prankster were split by local speedster Little Spaniard in 2008. In 2011 the winner was AGRA and Victorian Greyhound of the Year Dyna Tron he beat local star Rewind by a nose. In 2012 the 1000 went to another Victorian trained horse shoe star Shepparton Cup winner Blackalls Boss for Michelle Mallia-Magri. He run down local superstar Rewind and for the second year in succession and again the local champion had to be content with finishing second.

In 2013 in a race that was expected to be a cakewalk for reigning Melbourne Cup winner Black Magic Opal, Paw Licking ruined the script and announced his arrival as a superstar.

Paw Licking began brilliantly from box seven and quickly cleared the field to lead while Black Magic Opal (\$1.40) also was well away from box eight and camped on the leader's heels turning for the run home.

When Black Magic Opal loomed to win it looked a foregone conclusion but Paw Licking refused to wilt and with fighter-like instincts he dug deep like never before and held on to score by under a length from Black Magic Opal with Tasmanian star Yappin' Jack a gallant third ahead of Ronan Izmir.

New Zealand - owned greyhound Above All (\$5.20) from the Robbie Britton's kennel dispensed with a top class field in the 2014 Tattsbet Hobart Thousand. Above All was having only his 11th start in Australia and 13th career outing but he delivered a performance that was more like that of a seasoned star. The Allison Lee-owned dog began well from box five and had the lead after travelling 50 metres and was never headed. He powered his way up the home straight to score by almost eight lengths from Ride The Rails with the favourite Dyna Villa (\$2.80) a head away third. Above All smashed Paw Licking's track record of 25.64 that he set in winning the 2013 1000 Britton's kennel star stopping the clock at a scintillating 25.52 which was two lengths quicker than the previous best.

2015 the Brett Bravo-trained dog began fairly from box two but settled midfield while Tasmanian-owned star Bearville Azza (\$4.50), that produced the fastest time of last week's six heat winners, led clearly and turned for home with what looked to be a winning break. But when the son of Knocka Norris-She Ain't Late slipped into overdrive he quickly reduced the margin and eventually ran down the Tasmanian to win by a head.

In 2016 Country Victorian greyhound trainer Mathew Lanigan burst into tears when his courageous sprinter Zipping Bruiser stormed home to win the Group 1 Hobart Thousand over 461 metres at Luxbet Park Hobart.

"I can't believe I've just trained a Group 1 winner," Lanigan said.

Zipping Bruiser (\$13.50) began well from box six to settle third behind the favourite, El Grand Amigo that began brilliantly from box one to share the lead with another interstate invader American Monster. The race changed complexion when their field wheeled for home when American Monster forged to the lead with the Ted Medhurst-trained Chief Jetpilot motoring home along the rails and looking the likely winner.

But he had no answer to Zipping Bruiser's powerful finishing burst that gave him a three-quarters-of-a-length margin on the line over Chief Jetpilot (\$10) with the same margin to American Monster (\$3.70).

In 2017 Rock Up Top (\$11.70) gave Rob Britton his third Group 1 Hobart Thousand victory in a thrilling final at the spacious Hobart circuit. The 2017 edition of Australia's longest running Classic was one for the ages with only a neck separating the first four chasers on the line, in the most exciting finish in the rich history of the time honoured Feature. The favourite Kouta Mayhem had been challenged strongly by the Ted Medhurst prepared High Treason to the turn into the stretch and was left a sitting duck halfway up the home straight. The challenges came left, right and centre with Rock Up Top hitting the front in the shadows of the post, only to have Print The Money (\$5.10) swoop late out wide on the track and its kennel-mate Blue Gum Hill (\$5.40) surge through late in the centre.

When the judge examined the print there was plenty to look at, the margins coming up as a head, by a short half-head, with Kouta Mayhem a short half-head away fourth.



Rock Up Top storms home to win the 2017 Hobart 1000 (All Pics Peter Hayes)

Listed below are the names of many champions that have tasted victory in the time honored event. It is certainly an impressive list of past winners.

1935 **Elwick Boy**, 1936 **Miafort**, 1937 **Loch Maree**, 1938 **On Par**, 1939 **Mr Whackles**, 1940 **Silver Rover**, 1941 **Cavalry**, 1942 **My Kenya**, 1943 **Askalon**, 1944 "Not Held", 1945 "Not Held", 1946 **Ebon's Own**, 1947 **Young Sign**, 1948 **Hero Minda**, 1949 **Erin's Ace**, 1950 **Neat Brandy**, 1951 **Pleasant Foam**, 1952 **Baron Dhu**, 1953 **The Mudlark**, 1954 **Pasha Chief**, 1955 **Minda Go**, 1956 **Baron Woomera**, 1957 **Rising Ace**, 1958 **Rookie Rebel**, 1959 **Peter's Treasure**, 1960 **Bow Rock**, 1961 **Ophir Doll**, 1962 **Ophir Doll**, 1963 **Ophir Gold**, 1964 **Sandy Stone**, 1965 **Fairbairn Lady**, 1966 **Ipswich Low**, 1967 **Fiery Bob**, 1968 **Sue Narila**, 1969 **Benjamin John**, 1970 **Plunder Road**, 1971 **Trion Scout**, 1972 **Beau Palomino**, 1973 **Sue's A Credit**, 1974 **Jamin John**, 1975 **Snowsim**, 1976 **Beaut Dina**, 1977 **Check Vista**, 1978 **Royal Griffin**, 1979 **Astradome Lad**, 1980 **Scene Control**, 1981 **Black Aztec**, 1982 **Kudaleen**, 1983 **Stony Point**, 1984 **Double Time**, 1985 **Brother Fox**, 1986 **Solitary Simon**, 1987 **White Gigolo**, 1988 **True Vintage**, 1989 **Scott James**, 1990 **Bacchant**, 1990 **Shantytown**, 1991 **Jenny's Legacy**, 1992 **Bomber Gleeson**, 1993 **Extra's Boy**, 1994 **Storm Hero**, 1995 **Clint's Pirate**, 1996 **Bomber's A Flyer**, 1997 **Shantung Tiger**, 1998 **Mirren Bale**, 1999 **Latest Lad**, 2000 **Top Shiraz**, 2001 **Black Caleb**, 2002 **Star Witch**, 2003 **Nobody Knew**, 2004 **Regent Thunder**, 2005 **Ralph The Mouth**, 2006 **Superman**, 2007 **Train A Journey**, 2008 **Little Spaniard**, 2009 **Prankster**, 2010 **Octane Show**, 2011 **Dyna Tron**, 2012 **Blackalls Boss**, 2013 **Paw Licking**, 2014 **Above All**, 2015 **Unlawful Entry**, 2016 **Zipping Bruiser** and 2017 **Rock Up Top**.



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