



## MEDIA RELEASE

5th July 2009

### *“Dentax Snares Winter Stake”*

El Galo's fifth attempt at usurping Rapid Journey's national stakes record failed at Wentworth Park on Saturday night when the Victorian could only finish third to Dentax Bale in the Over Flo at Stud Bob Payne Winter Stake.

The Group Two final was expected to be a celebration for the reigning Australian Greyhound of the Year but, after beginning as well as ever from box six, El Galo was closely pursued by Foxhill Bella as the field sped through the first turn.

Rails runner Lukekely Magic followed some four lengths in arrears while Dentax Bale (\$13.40) was fourth and six lengths from the lead at the 720m boxes.

At that point, Foxhill Bella (\$3.60) raced to El Galo (\$2.00) and the favourite's backers were in a world of pain – not that Foxhill Bella's followers would have been too pleased as she had failed to get past the Victorian before the end of the back straight and the chasing division had the pair in their sights.

Lukekely Magic worked up three wide but, in a twinkling, Dentax Bale surged past the trio and shot away. The son of in-form sire Collision saluted by a widening 6 3/4 lengths in a career best 30.05 seconds. Foxhill Bella held on to edge El Galo by a head to finish second.

The win was Dentax Bale's thirteenth at start 19 and the rising two year-old has made a mark on every track he has started at.

He was unbeaten in five starts before striking trouble in a semi final of the prestigious Launching Pad series at Sandown and has since won seven from 12 with three placings.

While his quality was clearly defined from the time he won his maiden at Bulli in mid-January, Dentax Bale always looked as though he had a big race win in him.

Whether it would be in open class at Wentworth Park just over a week before his second birthday is debatable but this Winter Stake win was no fluke.

And what of El Galo and Foxhill Bella?

El Galo – as mighty as he's been – is struggling to beat fields he dominated in the latter part of 2008. Foxhill Bella failed when under similar pressure in the Ladies Bracelet Final and connections would have been looking for her to dominate from the front but there was a fly in the ointment – El Galo.

# AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

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Tonight's early sectionals (5.34, 13.86) were top shelf but El Galo had Foxhill Bella 'on his hammer' at the first turn and both dogs needed a clear edge at that point to win.

Rapid Journey's stakes record is now \$3,125 closer but El Galo still trails the old champ's \$530,995 by \$12,125.

Connections have the option of taking on the top grade sprinters again in the Group One Winter Carnival Cup heats at Albion Park on July 16 but is El Galo past his best?

Only time will tell but let's not dwell on speculation ... this Winter Stake was snared by a high class youngster.

He reeled off a paralysing final 250m to win by an impressive space and there is every chance he will make a mark in Melbourne in the coming spring.

Breeder Paul Wheeler has had an amazing run of success in the past 10 to 12 months with Turanza Bale's South Australian Derby win at Angle Park in October proving to be just the tip of the iceberg.

And tonight's win by Dentax Bale would have been especially sweet given that Paul and Jan Wheeler's youngest son Brendan – who runs their training facility at The Oaks – has put the polish on Dentax Bale from day one.

His dedication and nous shines through.

Dentax Bale is a Brindle dog whelped July 2007 by Collision from Maple Bale (Spiral Nikita x Vista Bale) he has raced 19 times for 13 wins and three placings and with Saturday's night first prize of \$25,000, he took his stake earnings to \$54,965.

After the placed runners the field finished in the following order Reb Secert (\$12.00), Lukekely Magic (\$17.10), Kerosene (\$58.90), Cool Flight (\$17.90) and Radio Star (\$19.60).

First run in 1961 the Winter Stake is a time honoured GBOTA feature sprint event. It was sponsored for many years commencing in the early 80's by Bradshaw's Waste one of Greyhound racing's major contributors during that period. The company shared a long affiliation with former GBOTA Chairman of eight years (1978-1985) Bob Payne and following his retirement from that position Bradshaw's requested the Winter Stake be named after Payne to commemorate his massive contribution to Greyhound racing in New South Wales and in particular the GBOTA, he had first joined as a member in 1943. The feature race has remained named in his honour and is now held as a memorial following Bob Payne's passing four years ago. The race has been won by some of the sports finest sprinters and listed below is the honour roll.

## Harold Park 457m – Grass Track:

1964	CREAM RANGE	26.60
1965	KEWIN	26.90
1966	JET AGAIN	26.90
1967	MEGS DELTA	26.80
1968	GOLD HERO	26.50
1969	SILENT RETREAT	26.90
1970	LINDENS CHARM	26.90
1971	GEMINI TODD	26.50
1972	WOOLLEY WILSON	26.60
1973	SILENT WONDER	26.52

1974	BUFFATEER	26.76
1975	SMOOTH APPROACH	26.49
1976	LORD ZEPHYR	26.58
1977	TREACHEROUS GAL	26.45
1978	RIVIERA TIGER	26.53
1979	RUSTY BRAIN	26.71
1980	LOVELY KATHY	26.71
1981	FRANC METEOR	26.42
1982	BETTER FUTURE	26.52
1983	BOBBY RICH	26.38
1984	SWITCH BLADE	26.61
1985	SNOW REPORT	26.58
1986	CAMDEN 'S GHOST	26.43
1987	CROTTY KID	26.37

**Wentworth Park 520m – Grass Track:**

1988	RUMPUS BRANDI	30.43
1989	VALLEY MAIL	30.47
1990	NOBLE SPADES	30.51
1991	MOUNTAIN RED	30.39

**Wentworth Park 520m – Loam**

1992	HOWS THE FORT	30.85
1993	DYNAMITE LAD	30.70
1994	GALLANT RULER	30.39
1995	WARRIGAL ROAD	30.45
1996	MIDNIGHT FLIRT (VIC)	30.45
1997	HONCHO FLASH	30.99
1998	SOLVE THE PUZZLE	30.03
1999	FAITHFUL HAWK	30.21
2000	GO WILD TEDDY	30.14
2001	WINSOME DOLLARS	30.58
2002	PHANTOM DEVIL	30.59
2003	KUMTA CHASE	30.37
2004	JUNEY RELTUB	30.70
2005	OVER FLO	29.83
2006	STRYKER'S SHADOW	30.25
2007	TRAIN A JOURNEY	30.16
2008	DANA GRETEL	30.14

**Thanks for story content in above release Peter Davis GRANSW Website**

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