



MEDIA RELEASE

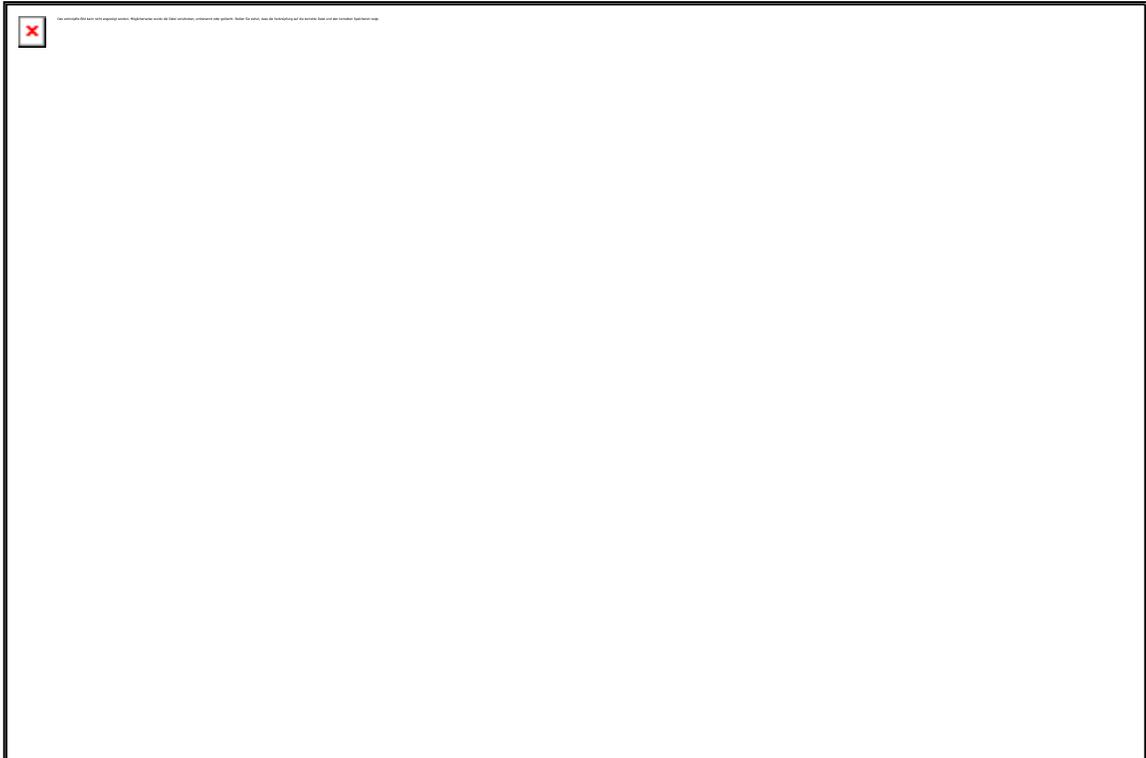
MEDIA RELEASE

13th December 2008



“El Galo’s Brisbane Cup”

Former Queensland galloper El Galo led throughout to blitz the Group 1 Brisbane Cup final (520m) at Albion Park on Thursday night, but the race was hit by tragedy when track record holder Made To Size smashed his hock in running. El Galo (\$1.80) (Where’s Pedro-Roxy Reason) led throughout to win by three and a half lengths over Trew Millions (\$7.00) with four and a quarter lengths to Intelligence (\$31.00) a huge run for third. The winner, owned by birthday girl Seona Hood and trained by her partner Jason Thompson, ran 29.84 after setting up victory with a 5.64 first section and a 11.50 middle section.



El Galo a brilliant winner of the Brisbane Cup (Pic Corey Pearce)

It continued his fantastic year of success and gave Seona her 32nd birthday wish when successful in his 32nd victory from 52 starts. “Birthdays don’t get much better than this,” said Seona as she led El Galo off the track. It was the second successive Brisbane Cup for Thompson who won last year with Uno Joel.

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AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

It took Seona just one hour to fall in love with El Galo. That was back in January when breeder and owner Dave Robartson had sent El Galo from Queensland to Thompson to be trained for the Australian Cup.

"I picked him up from the airport and by the time I got home I told Jason I was in love with the dog," she said.

Two weeks later Seona had bought El Galo and the rest is history. He was beaten a lip in that Australian Cup but has been a dominant force in sprints throughout the country since.

Seona knew her favourite dog would win. She was wearing her lucky charm, a brooch that belonged to her grandmother and one that had been lost for 20 years until two weeks ago.

"My mother found it and I wore it when El Galo won the Melbourne Cup Consolation two weeks ago," said Seona. "I had to wear it tonight for this final."

It proved just as lucky.

Jason had to stay in Victoria to look after the kennel but two of their three children, Luke (7) and Holly (5) were at Albion Park with their mum for the victory.

Oldest son Ben (11) stayed in Melbourne with his dad.

Immediate plans for El Galo now centre on the Group 1 Adelaide Cup and another tilt at the Group 1 Australian Cup.

"Then the girls can have him," said Seona of El Galo's much awaited stud career.

Victory in the Brisbane Cup came as an afterthought.

It had been planned the dog would run in the Ballarat Cup series which finished on Wednesday night but Jason made a last minute decision to head north.

Both placegetters Trew Millions and Intelligence were outstanding performances.

Trew Millions had also finished second to Made To Size in the Group 1 Winter Carnival Cup at Albion Park back in July.

Intelligence showed what a promising youngster he is with a great third. He has also been a recent finalist in the Group 1 Vic Peters at Wentworth Park and was third in the group 2 Lismore Cup.

The race was marred by the breakdown of both Made To Size and Gazza Shiraz.

Tragedy struck Made To Size at the turn out of the back straight when he smashed his hock. The son of Surf Lorian-Queen Size had only last week broken his own track record with a 29.57 clocking.

Trainer Reg Kay and part-owner Julie Edmondson rushed to the surgery of fellow part-owner, vet Richard Eaton Wells to have immediate surgery on the dog's leg in a bid to save him for a stud career.

Gazza Shiraz burst an artery during the race and pulled up bleeding. For the third successive year a Victorian has taken out the Sky Channel Brisbane Cup with the Jason Thompson trained Uno Joel crowned the 2007 Group 1 champion.

After the placed runners the field finished in the following order 4th Repeated (\$11.00), 5th Velocette (\$4.80), 6th Gazza Shiraz (\$51.00), 7th Whirly Storm (\$31.00) and Made To Size (\$3.00).

El Galo is a blue dog whelped November 2005 by Where's Pedro from Roxy Reason (Malawi's Prince x Playground) raced by Seona Hood and trained by Jason Thompson he has raced 52 times for 32 wins and 14 placings, adding the Brisbane Cup's first prize of \$55,000 his overall stake earnings went to \$374,630.



AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

The Brisbane Cup has had a few name changes when it was first run in 1972 and won by Victorian Garron Court the race was known as the Gabba Sprint Championship. It remain that name until 1976. It was then called the Brisbane Cup from 1977 until 1981 changed in 1982 to be known as the Coca-Cola Cup until 1999 when it changed back to the Brisbane Cup. The race was conducted at the Gabba until the track closed in 1992 and since has been staged at Albion Park. Listed below is the Honour Roll containing some of the champion greyhounds among the past winners.

1972 **Garron Court**, 1973 **Top Simbi**, 1974 **Mister Oollee**, 1975 **Alpha Brava**, 1976 **Clover Duke**, 1977 **Rebel Attack**, 1978 **Young Breeze**, 1979 **Acclaim Star**, 1980 **General Jeff**, 1981 **Picture This**, 1982 **Peter Glider**, 1983 **Acacia Park**, 1984 **National Lass**, 1985 **Super Max**, 1986 **Pretty Fearless**, 1987 **Whip Tip**, 1988 **Dancing Gamble**, 1989 **Golden Fox**, 1990 **Whisky Bale**, 1991 **No It's Not**, 1992 **White Coonowrin**, 1993 **Star Title**, 1994 **Toss The Teddy**, 1995 **Flying Amy**, 1996 **Silver Pageant**, 1997 **Barrio Babe**, 1998 **Questions**, 1999 **Bob's One**, 2000 **Kantarn Bale**, 2001 **Tricky Creek**, 2002 **Tricky Creek**, 2003 **Bogie Leigh**, 2004 **Malfoy** 2005 **Pororooca**, 2006 **Pure Burst**, and 2007 **Uno Joel**.



Thanks for content used in above release David Brasch Queensland GRA Website

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