



MEDIA RELEASE

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Beatrice Supreme In Egg Upset

On a track playing at 10 tenths and some of the most talented greyhounds on the roll call, last Saturday night's Golden Easter Egg program promised much and delivered in spades.

As expected local heroine Miss Elly Mint (\$2.70) began cleanly from box one and her arch rival El Galo (\$2.30) was there to apply the blowtorch at the first turn. The plan was to script but, in a fraction of a second, it went all wrong for both and the Cowra-based Dana Beatrice (\$17.80) did not hesitate to take a rails run and sail to the lead.

The baby of the field – a daughter of former Wentworth Park 520m record holder Collision - had won the Group 3 Bathurst Cup on March 18 in a gritty display of speed and strength. This time the winner's purse was increased by a factor of 10 and, clearly, represented a career high for owner/breeder Rod McDonald.



Dana Beatrice in full flight winning the "Egg"

The 520m was put behind Dana Beatrice in a sizzling 29.70secs and she had 5 1/2 lengths to spare over a courageous Miss Elly Mint at the wire. El Galo was three quarters of a length away in third place.

Continued on Page 2 ...

AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

"We won the Bob Payne Winter Stake with Dana Gretel here last July and then the Bathurst Cup but this is something else," a beaming McDonald said after placing his star back in the kennel block.

"The race looked to be there for the taking if she could find the rails at the first turn and be sitting behind Miss Elly Mint as she does tend to 'use' a bit of the track."

Rarely, if ever, can connections bank on good fortune to strike when needed most but Lady Luck had Dana Beatrice - and not WA raider Joanne Monelli (which had been poorly away from box three) - in the right place at the right time.

"When she got to the lead at the 720m boxes, I was really excited," McDonald continued.

"She never broke 18 seconds over 310m at Bathurst in her early runs but just needed a bit more ground and at her second 450m trial there she bettered 26 seconds.

"One local said she must be a top grade sprinter to run that sort of time [which was faster than the top graders posted earlier in the night] but she was still a maiden. We knew we really had something then and she's never let us down."

At 27 months of age, Dana Beatrice is eligible for the upcoming Group 1 Maturity at The Meadows and Rod McDonald is leaning towards an interstate jaunt.

"Had she not made this final we were toying with idea of heading to Perth for the WA Oaks but she'd have to leave virtually on Monday for that and I've got seven in at Temora," he added.

"The Ladies Bracelet is also an option but we would be racing our own age at The Meadows and I really think that track will suit her."



A Happy Team on the Victory Dias after the Egg (All Pics Craig Youll)

Dana Beatrice was bred by the McDonald family and her dam (Dana Betty) has an 11 month-old litter by Collide which will keep the Cowra team busy over the next few months.

“We bought Dana Betty’s dam Runaway Tiger from Ray and Maree Smith and she is a daughter of the great Osti’s Shadow ... Teddy Doss’ line has been just fantastic and it’s going just as strong today as it was 25 years ago,” McDonald said.

The four hour sojourn back through the Blue Mountains, down the Mid Western Highway to Cowra should pass easily this time but it will be 3.30am before the Cowra champ settles into her own kennel.

The planets certainly aligned for Rod McDonald, Dana Beatrice and a healthy swag of well-wishers on Easter Saturday yet it will be business as usual on Monday at Temora. There is no time to bask.

Easter Egg champions of the past now welcome Dana Beatrice into an exclusive club. She dominated a star studded Golden Easter Egg field and, with just 27 starts (17 wins) on her resume, her run of success at the elite level might just be beginning.

After the placed runners the field finished in the following order 4th Spiral Glory (\$40.10), 5th Radio Star (\$23.60), 6th Did I Entertain (\$15.50) 7th Joanne Monelli (\$8.40) and Cool Flight (\$13.40).

Dana Beatrice is raced by Wesley McDonald and is trained by Rod McDonald at Cowra in New South Wales. By Collision for the McDonald’s brood bitch Dana Betty (Royal Assassin x Runaway Tiger). She is a Black Bitch whelped January 2007 she has won 17 of her 27 starts and has been placed on seven occasions and with the \$150,000 first prize for the Golden Easter Egg it took her current stake earnings to \$187,970.

Listed below is the Golden Easter Egg honour roll it has been won by some superstar sprinters over the years including five Hall of Famers. First conducted in 1990 when won by the Jim Coleman trained Ultra Sense the race quickly took pride of place in the Harbour city. It is one of most sought after on the AGRA Group racing calendar and each year attracts the best sprinters racing in the country, all vying for not only the outstanding first prize but also the glory and their place in history as winners of the Egg.

1990 **Ultra Sense**, 1991 **Highly Blessed**, 1992 **Jessica Casey**, 1993 **Billy Binjang**, 1994 **Mancunian Girl**, 1995 **Malawi Law**, 1996 **Tenthill Doll**, 1997 **Bahama Image**, 1998 **Rapid Journey**, 1999 **Faithful Hawk**, 2000 **Stately Bird**, 2001 **Brett Lee**, 2002 **Carlisle Jack**, 2003 **Cyrus The Virus**, 2004 **Bogie Leigh**, 2005 **Paua To Burn**, 2006 **Edie Beuchamp**, 2007 **Slater**, and 2008 **Blazing Token**.

The three support features on Easter Egg final night consisted of three Group 3 events. Starting with the Multiquip Magic Maiden series. the final was taken out in fine style by Devine Road (Collision x Cut Fine). A \$3.00 chance he proved too good for Jedd Lion and Locatelli winning by five and a half lengths in a fast 29.97 after sections of 5.52 and 13.98. Using box one to full advantage the May 2007 whelp appears to have a big future in front of him.

First included as part of the Carnival in 2003 and the past winners are listed below.

2003 **Winsome Revenge** 30.31, 2004 **Infinite Beauty** 30.47, 2005 **Gilderoy** 30.68, 2006 **Modern Supreme** 29.93, 2007 **Breeze It In** 30.19 and 2008 **Albino Rossi** 30.43.



Next feature was the Group 3 De Bortoli Wines Ambrosoli formerly conducted as the Egg Consolation the race honours newly inducted AGRA Hall of Fame member Paul Ambrosoli. This year's event was won by True Kihael (Trewly Special x Tell Tall Tails) he found the front early and held off a determined effort from the reserve Navada Sunrise and third placing Brislane to record an outstanding win recording 29.82 after starting a \$2.60 favourite.

Previous Winners of the Easter Egg Consolation are as follows:

2003 **Sally's Lass** 30.57, 2004 **Sparge Banner** 30.21, 2005 **Miss Bekkie Lee** 30.29, 2006 **Oxley Hero** 29.84, 2007 **Catmando** 30.35 and 2008 **Mandagery Man** 29.94.

The last of the features was the Group 3 Globe Memorial Easter Chase, in another excellent staying performance Lilley Criminal lead almost all the way to bring up yet another group victory. She has been a model of consistency at the top level for a long period of time and is a credit to her trainer Anthony Azzopardi. The Easter Chase was her third Group win so far this year after she clocked 42.25 for the 720 metres, defeating Gold Slammer and Shadow Boxer. An unfortunate side line to the feature final was the serious hock injury suffered by multi group winning stayer Gunnadoo Magic. In a career of 70 starts she won 27 races and over \$278,000 in prizemoney, she will certainly be missed from the staying ranks.

The Globe Memorial Easter Chase was first conducted as part of the carnival, as a feature distance event in 2003, listed below are the past winners and their winning time.

2003 **Tipper's Comet** 42.71, 2004 **Irinka Barbie** 42.63, 2005 **Thai Again** 42.86, 2006 **Best Quoted** 42.27, 2007 **Flashing Floods** 43.25, and 2008 **Lyn's Daisy** 42.33.

Thanks for story content in the above release Peter Davis GRNSW Website



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