



MEDIA RELEASE

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“Havoc at every turn in Bracelet”

First run at Harold Park in 1971, the Group 2 Ladies Bracelet has always been a keenly contested affair and the 2009 decider, taken out by outsider Starfire Havoc (\$22.40), will endure as one of the roughest on record.

After her sizzling 29.86 seconds heat win, the Goulburn-based Foxhill Bella started a solid 2/1 favourite but having drawn box six, trouble was on the cards unless a fast start was negotiated. And trouble there was. These ‘ladies’ put on a display more akin to a post Christmas sale rush at David Jones. This was push and shove to the max.

Mike Abbott’s Certain Magic was quickly into stride from box five and narrowly led Foxhill Bella at the first turn. Just a few bounds later Foxhill Bella, in a desperate attempt to find the inside running, crashed into Certain Magic and, despite both dogs losing momentum, the pair retained the vanguard position as the field sped down the back straight.

Then it was on again. Foxhill Bella found new energy to find the lead but was unable to get clear. She was again badly checked and, this time, her race was run. In a chain reaction, just about every runner struck trouble from the 200m mark to the home turn with Compact Journey looking a threat - but she was four wide - and Starfire Havoc shot along the ‘paint’.

Brislane (\$8.00), which had been baulked when racing in fifth place at the point Foxhill Bella dropped away, angled to the outside and let loose a paralysing burst. Onlookers initial impressions would have been that Starfire Havoc had won but a replay of the finish gave rise to a far different result. In the end, Starfire Havoc prevailed by a nose and for the second successive week, connections of Brislane had a tale to tell. (Earlier in the day, her litter brother Magnifique won the Country Challenge Final at Appin by a similarly narrow margin).

Compact Journey (\$15.60) held on for third, a further three quarters of-a-length away.

The winner’s time of 30.76s told the story. A post-race examination found Foxhill Bella (fifth) to have badly sprung a toe on her offside hind leg. Trainer Denice Warren has been only able to have Foxhill Bella at the races on 13 occasions (six wins) and the 2 1/2 year-old is again set to be sidelined for some time.

AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

But the night belonged to an excited Vic Bartolo. Starfire Havoc defied the odds, negotiated a relatively clear run and prevailed when, at the half-way mark, her prospects of winning were miniscule.

Back in 1970, the brilliant Shapely Escort snared the Ladies Bracelet and, thereafter, the likes of Winifred Bale, Gold Spring (twice), Camden's Ghost, Better Flight and Jessica Casey etched their names on the Bracelet honour role. Starfire Havoc is certainly not in their class but, after jumping for joy at the winning post when number two was posted as the winner, Vic Bartolo could have cared less. The \$25,000 winner's prize was secure and stewards were just starting to pen their report.

War And Peace may well be a quick read by comparison.

After the placed runners the field finished in the following order 4th Flash Of Light (\$3.50), 5th McKew (\$6.60), 6th Foxhill Bella (\$2.90fav), 7th Certain Magic (\$19.10) and Steadfast Tammy (\$8.70).

Starfire Havoc is raced by Patricia and trained by Vic Bartolo she is a black bitch whelped May 2006 by Just The Best from Kika Havoc (Master Havoc x Waikikaweb). Starfire Havoc has raced 42 times for 14 wins and 10 placings and the \$25,000 first prize took her stake earnings to \$59,175.

The Ladies Bracelet was first conducted by the GBOTA at Harold Park over 500 yards in 1971 when won by that mighty little brindle sprinter Shapley Escort. The event is open to the best 32 bitches nominated and the Final of the event is always conducted on the Saturday eve of Mother's Day every year. The trophy is a beautiful ladies bracelet/watch and has been donated by the sponsor Alan Evans Jewellery for the past few years. The feature was held at the GBOTA's head quarters until 1987 when the track was closed for greyhound racing. It moved to Wentworth Park in 1988 and has been won by some famous bitches over the years. Gold Spring won the race in successive years 79/80 plus AGRA Hall of Famer Winifred Bale in 1983. Other brilliant greyhounds to win included Mandarin Girl, Camden's Ghost, Jessica Casey, Short County and Victorians Amy's Doll and Mutombo Miss. Listed below is the full honour roll.

Harold Park – 457m – Grass Track:

1971	SHAPELY ESCORT	26.50
1972	SHANE'S MONARO	26.50
1973	THUNDER SUE	26.51
1974	MAYBE NOW	26.73
1975	SWANKY MATIC	26.68
1976	MANDARIN GIRL (V)	26.62
1977	NIMITY STREAK	26.95
1978	SMOOTH SPECTRE	26.38
1979	GOLD SPRING	26.42
1980	GOLD SPRING	26.60
1981	JUDO ART	26.57
1982	FRIENDLY WORLD	26.38
1983	WINIFRED BALE	26.50
1984	BETTER FLIGHT	26.47
1985	SILVERTAIL MISS	26.61
1986	CAMDEN 'S GHOST	26.26
1987	PARIS IN SPRING	26.56

Wentworth Park – 520m – Grass Track:

1988	AUSSIE VALUE	30.23
1989	PEERLESS STAR	31.11
1990	SPIDER WEB	30.56
1991	JESSICA CASEY	30.17
1992	SHORT COUNTY	30.37

Wentworth Park – 520m – Loam Track:

1993	AMY'S DOLL	30.74
1994	STORMY OPERA	30.62
1995	MUTOMBO MISS	30.53
1996	FLASH DAVINA (VIC)	30.39
1997	ORIANA	30.22
1998	LUCY LAWLESS	30.16
1999	NELLA LUCY	30.52
2000	JUNOESQUE	30.21
2001	MINT MOJO	30.47
2002	HOTSHOW LIL	30.49
2003	ERISKAY	30.27
2004	FOOLS STATE	30.59
2005	TWISTED ANGEL	30.17
2006	MAGENTA ROSE	30.56
2007	BRALYN MAISIE	29.90
2008	MISS BEESLEE	30.05

Thanks for story content in above release Peter Davis GRANSW Website

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