



MEDIA RELEASE

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“OUTSTANDING FIELD ENGAGED FOR THE WINTER CARNIVAL CUP”

GARRARD'S HORSE & HOUND

The Garrard's Horse & Hound Group 1 Winter Carnival Cup final has brought together a magnificent field of top sprinters, vying for Group 1 glory next Thursday night at Brisbane's metropolitan venue Albion Park.

[Here is the Queensland GRA'S David Brasch's review of the heats.](#)

Immediate plans for Miss Hot Gossip are up in the air after she runs in next week's Group 1 Winter Carnival Cup final (520m) at Albion Park.

The daughter of Surf Lorian-Roxy Reason was brilliant in her heat win on Thursday night scoring by six and a quarter lengths over Leica Ruby with five and a quarter lengths to Thatz Classic in third.

The winner reeled off brilliant sections of 5.76, 11.61 and came home in 12.56 for an overall time of 29.93 her career best at Albion Park.

But breeder, owner and trainer Dave Robartson said he would have to look at his bitch's eligibility for the National Sprint series.

"I'm not certain which state she is required to run in, either Victoria or Queensland," said Robartson.

Miss Hot Gossip, the Group 1 Sandown Laurels winner prior to Thursday night's heat win, took her record to 23 wins from 35 starts.

"She's got to be the best dog I've had," said Robartson who raced the bitch early in her career before sending her to premier Victorian trainer Jason Thompson in Victoria.

"All credit to Jason, she came home in absolutely perfect condition, as you would expect."

Robartson said he would give his bitch a couple of gallops during the week in lead-up to next week's \$50,000 final.

"At this stage I think she deserves to be considered for the Topgun later in the year and that would be a great honour," said Robartson of Miss Hot Gossip.

"She will go back to Jason for sure. But when is the critical time."

Miss Hot Gossip began well from her eight box and then quickly crossed the field to lead easily.

She opened up in the back straight and was never in doubt.

Leica Ruby, aided by her rails draw, chased hard and has made her second Group 1 final. She finished second to Pure Burst in the Brisbane Cup at Albion Park late last year.

Les Bein reckons it's about time he got another good greyhound.

Bein is best know as the owner of Hall of Famer and four-time Group 1 winner Bogie Leigh.

But Les is also owner and breeder of Bogie Blaze (Surf Lorian-Bogie Benz) who brilliantly won his heat of the Group 1 Winter Carnival Cup (520m) at Albion Park on Thursday night.

He was flattened in the back straight but still got up to win in a brilliant 29.90 by a length over Buckingham Chuck with four and three-quarter lengths to Super Hornet a great third for a fifth grader against Group dogs. Bogie Blaze was one of four pups from the litter that Bein kept and he has always regarded him as the fastest dog he has ever owned.

"But Bogie Leigh's early pace made her the better dog because Bogie Blaze can be slow away," said Bein. Bogie Blaze took his record to nine wins and four placings from 14 starts.

"Everyone told me I was stupid when I said this dog was the best I'd ever owned even before he raced in the Vince Curry Maiden series at Ipswich early in the year," said Bein.

"But we knew how good he was even before he started racing."

Bein's champion Bogie Leigh was runner-up in the Winter Carnival Cup during her career when run down on the line by Victorian superstar Trewly Special.

Ironically, Surf Lorian (sire of Bogie Blaze) was regarded a certainty beaten when fourth in that final.

Bogie Blaze has now won seven of nine starts at Albion Park.

Victorian owner Dennis Trewin was the least person surprised when Big Swell led throughout in 29.95 to win his heat of the Group 1 Winter Carnival Cup at Albion Park on Thursday night.

Big Swell became the third winner in three heats of the Cup for supersire Surf Lorian when he scored by a length and a quarter over Meticulous with a length and a quarter to Made To Size in third.

Trewin was confident his dog would break 30 seconds in his heat.

"It was no surprise," said Trewin who owns the Surf Lorian-Wipe Out dog who is trained by his partner Tina Womann.

Big Swell, according to Trewin, has made rapid improvement in the past three months.

"He has always had this sort of ability, but he is now putting it all together," said Trewin.

"He is only doing what we knew he could."

That also includes Big Swell's win in the Group 2 Qld Derby at Albion Park on June 21.

Big Swell began brilliantly from his rails draw to lead through a 5.76 first section and then held off Meticulous' finish to win in 29.95.

It was his 10th win in 31 starts.

Trewin said he would head home on Friday with Big Swell and fly him back next Wednesday for the final.

"It doesn't matter what box he draws in the final, because his confidence is sky high at the moment and he will race well anyway," he said.

"He's just a great race dog."

Rumours of a \$100,000 offer for Made To Size before the Cup series were confirmed during the night by trainer Reg Kay.

"The offer came from a local identity but Julie (owner Julie Edmondson) declined the offer," said Kay.

Champion Slater might have run the slowest of the four Group 1 Winter Carnival Cup heats (520m) at Albion Park on Thursday night but he loomed large on next week's final.

He also continued the domination of the race by progeny of supersire Surf Lorian when winning by 10 and three-quarter lengths in 30.00 from Technoman with a half head to Masai Magic in third.

Surf Lorian sired all four heats winners.

Slater took his record to 20 wins from 29 starts and was awesome through a near record middle section of 11.45 (11.36 is the record to Zaability).

And trainer Darren Murray predicted he would improve "four or five lengths" in next week's final.

"But it is a Group 1 and he will have to improve that much to be able to win," Murray said.

Murray admitted Slater had not done enough work to be ready to run in a Group 1 race.

"But he will improve and I'll give him another hard hitout at the weekend and he will be right for the final.

"But it won't be an easy race to win.

"Murray said he would bring Slater back to Albion Park on Friday at lunchtime when he would be special star in a Channel 9 Extra program.

"The show is taping an interview with us," said Murray.

"I don't know when they will be showing the program."

Slater began fairly and was up on the outside of the leaders at the first turn in a slow 5.81 first section, but he "gapped" his rivals with that blistering 11.45 middle section.

He came home in 12.74 which was to be expected considering his lack of racing.

He had raced just once in two months since being injured in a heat of the Perth Cup at Cannington in April.

Technoman, the runner-up, is also by Surf Lorian and will become the fifth of the eight finalists sired by that dog in next week's Group 1 race.

GROUP ONE – GARRARDS HORSE & HOUND WINTER CARNIVAL CUP

\$50,000 to the winner



Miss Hot Gossip

36 starts 24-3-3 (\$142,335)

Surf Lorian – Roxy Reason

Blue Brindle Bitch

March '05

Owners / Trainer: David Robartson

Albion Park: 29.93 (8) (19 Starts 11-2-2)

Brilliant winner of the Group 1 Laurels after winning the W A Oaks and finishing third in the Peter Mosman. In outstanding form and nicely drawn in the one local bookmaker thinks it won't suit but box one certainly won her the Laurels. Will take some catching if she can lead again. Plenty of Albion Park experience with 11 wins on the track, hard to beat.



Bogie Blaze

15 starts 9-1-3 (\$21,470)

Surf Lorian – Bogie Benz

Black Dog

July '05

Owner: Les Bein

Trainer: Tony Brett

Albion Park best: 29.90 (9 Starts 7-0-1)

Fastest heat winner in a scintillating 29.90 brilliant youngster with big future might lack a bit experience to match it with the more seasoned campaigners, however lacks nothing in ability, can win with a bit of luck in running. Place chance for sure, seven wins on the track.



Slater (VIC)

29 starts 20-2-1 (\$348,740)

Surf Lorian – Wipe Out

Brindle Dog

December '04

Owners: Robert Jackson

Trainer: Darren Murray

Albion Park best: 30.00 (8) (1 Starts 1-0-0)

Australia's superstar champion sprinter back from injury with only two runs under his belt, looked not far off his best and is the obvious improver, box manners could cost him but if is close to the lead mid race will be very hard to beat. Is always the one to beat in anything he starts in, welcome back champ.



Leica Ruby

63 starts 17-7-11 (\$50,135)

Brett Lee – Rose Of Shiraz

Black Bitch

March '04

Owner: Ruth Turner

Trainer: Tony Brett

Albion Park best: 30.14 (6) (43 Starts 9-7-8)

Might struggle from box four to keep up in this company honest type with more than 40 starts at Albion Park for nine wins. Place chance best.



Big Swell (VIC)

36 starts 8-9-5 (\$16,630)

Surf Lorian – Wipe Out

Red Brindle Dog

December '04

Owners: Dennis Trewin

Trainer: Tina Womann

Albion Park best: 29.95 (1) (3 Starts 3-0-0)

Smart Victorian who again won well in his heat, recording a personal best of 29.95. Won the Group 2 Queensland Derby from the red last month and is in outstanding form will need some luck from five to beat his brother and co, place chance best.



Technoman

44 starts 19-8-7 (\$53,340)

Surf Lorian – Up And Down

Black Dog

January '05

Owner: Mary Burman

Trainer: Raymond Burman

Albion Park best: 30.27 (7) (21 Starts 7-7-4)

Versatile performer who recently won the Group 3 Brisbane – Beenleigh Cup over 600 here at Albion Park where he has won seven races. Chased Slater home last week and was beaten more than 10 lengths hard to have him troubling this lot will start big odds.



Meticulous (VIC)

25 starts 9-7-1 (\$85,420)

Brett Lee – Dance Portrait

Black Dog August '04

Owner: **Paul Westerveld**

Trainer: **Mario Briganti**

Albion Park best: NBT (1 Starts 0-1-0)

Lightly raced classy Victorian sprinter and winner of the Group 1 Silver Chief. Came to Brisbane in good form and not without a chance will benefit from the run on the track. Will need some luck and place chance best.



Buckingham Chuck

36 starts 19-9-3 (\$53,605)

Token Prince – Stargari Heiress

White Fawn Dog September '04

Owners: **Buckingham Synd** Trainer: **Greg Cannon**

Albion Park best: 29.96 (1) (17 Starts 8-4-0)

Brilliant Queenslander sprinter who has had his fair share of injuries probably better suit from an inside draw, but looked good last week when run down in the fastest heat. Place chance best as he will have to cross the classy field early. However with eight wins on the track he knows his way around.



Made To Size

21 starts 8-7-5 (\$14,925)

Surf Lorian – Queen Size

Finished third behind Big Swell last week has recorded a sub 30 win on the track and will start long odds if he gets a start.



Super Hornet

16 starts 7-1-6 (\$4,775)

Bombastic Shiraz – Up And Down

Youngster with a bit of ability finished third last week behind Bogie Blaze, would have to find plenty if he gains a start to match this hot field.

Albion Park bookmaker Haydn Flynn's early betting market on the final is:

\$50,000 to the winner Group 1 Winter Carnival Cup (520m)			
Box	Greyhound	Trainer	Price
	Miss Hot Gossip	Dave Robartson	5/4
	Bogie Blaze	Tony Brett	11/2
	Slater	Darren Murray	6/4
	Leica Ruby	Tony Brett	33/1
	Big Swell	Tina Womann	12/1
	Technoman	Ray Burman	66/1
	Meticulous	Mario Briganti	12/1
	Buckingham Chuck	Greg Cannon	12/1
	Made To Size (1 st RES)	Reg Kay	50/1
	Super Hornet (2 nd RES)	Ray Burman	100/1

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

David Brasch

1st Miss Hot Gossip

2nd Slater

3rd Meticulous

Paul Dolan

1st Slater

2nd Miss Hot Gossip

3rd Bogie Blaze

John Brasch

1st Slater

2nd Miss Hot Gossip

3rd Bogie Blaze

Entry to the Course will be **FREE** on Final night.

Albion Park will be transformed into a Winter Wonderland as Australia's best sprinters battle it out in the Final of the Group 1 Garrards Horse and Hound Winter Carnival Cup. Snow is predicted at Albion Park on the night.

A live band will entertain patrons with plenty of "wintry" music.

The Kids will be able to enjoy the night in the Snowy Jumping Castle.
There will also be Roving Entertainers, Face Painting and Balloon Sculptors.

HISTORY

The Winter Carnival Cup has taken on many different forms over the years and has been conducted also at different times during those years. It was first staged at the Gabba in 1978 and sponsored by famous Queensland brewing company Castlemaine XXXX and known as their Trophy, it was run over the testing 558 metre sprint course. It remained the Castlemaine XXXX Trophy right up until 1992 apart from one year in 1987 when it was called the Christmas Trophy. When racing moved to Albion Park in 1993 the race was called the Christmas Stocking for one year and it continued its Group 1 status that the race had gained in 1991 and maintains currently. The feature dropped back to Group 2 in 1997 and 1998, but returned to Group 1 in 1999. Like many other feature races around Australia in the 90's it was sponsored by the Pet food company Eukanuba from 1994 to 1997 and its subsequent company Nutrience in 1998 and 1999. In the year 2000 the club developed the now successful Winter Carnival at the suggestion of race caller John Brasch and the race became that Carnival's major Group 1 feature the Winter Carnival Cup. It has been won by some champion sprinters over the years and the following is but a few of those stars. Call Me Roscoe 81, Glanzend 82, Acacia Park 84, Dancing Gamble 87, Golden Fox 88, Highly Blessed 90, Icen Princess 92, Toban Leah 94, Flying Amy 95, Roanokee 96, Wine Glass 97, Winged Runner 99, Mint Mojo 2001, Elite State 2003 and Trewly Special in 2004. Listed below is the full honour roll.

At the Gabba 1978 - 1992

YEAR	WINNER	TIME
1978	Brigadier North	33.00
1979	Katie's Disco	32.74
1980	Wings Of Steel	32.92
1981	Call Me Roscoe	32.84
1982	Glanzend	32.60
1983	Duration	32.91
1984	Acacia Park	32.90
1985	Amber Flash	32.89
1986	(Jan) Sharyn's Vogue	33.08
1986	(Dec) Fifi She's Not	32.61
1987	Dancing Gamble	32.75
1988	Fifi She's Not	32.61
1989	Son of Ella	32.63
1990	Highly Blessed	32.47
1991	Soldier On	32.60
1992	Iceni Princess	32.93

At Albion Park 1993- Present

YEAR	WINNER	TIME
1993	National Leader	30.39
1994	Toban Leah	30.35
1995	Flying Amy	29.99
1996	Roanokee	30.06
1997	Wine Glass	30.34
1998	Shady Macbeth	30.28
1999	Winged Runner	30.19
2000	Short Model	30.00
2001	Mint Mojo	30.59
2002	Awesome Machine	30.11
2003	Elite State	29.97
2004	Trewly Special	30.16
2005	Hades Rocket	29.90
2006	Fenceline	29.92



Last Winter Carnival Cup winner Fenceline



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