



Victorian News

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THE Peter Giles trained Our Barney has gone one better in the Group 3 The Great Chase grand final (424m) at Warragul after running second to Brumby Lad last year.

With the provincial series clashing with Group 1 Perth Cup and the Group 1 Golden Easter Egg, the Great Chase wasn't Giles preferred option.

But owner Ann Lawson wanted her September 2000 Jack Junior-Miss Gypsy dog to have a second tilt at the unique Great Chase.

Lawson, partner of Giles' son Michael, was keen for Our Barney to go one better than runner-up the previous year.

The decision resulted in Our Barney picking up the \$40,000 first prize plus a \$5000 GOBIS bonus.

Giles said he was a bit worried by the semi-finals and grand final being over 424 metres at Warragul, when Our Barney has probably done his best racing over 500m in the past 12 months.

Our Barney was undefeated during series, winning his Traralgon heat in 29.92 and semi-final in 24.12 at Warragul before claiming the grand final in a slashing 23.85.

In the final Our Barney was only moderately away from box one but pushed through and proved too strong for up-and-coming youngster Two Tone Shiraz. It was Our Barney's 37th win. He has only had 22 seconds and 13 thirds from 94 starts and his Victorian stake money has reached \$165,500.

It is the second time Our Barney has gone one better after fronting up 12 months later.

He won last year's Traralgon Cup after finishing third to Elgrando in 2002.

Our Barney has now contested seven Group finals for two wins, two seconds and two thirds.

Giles said Our Barney was one of the most honest sprinters he's trained, but wasn't in the same class as



Bombastic Shiraz
Paul Munt pic

elite performers Ashlee Jeannine, City Blitz, Floodfawn, Jack Junior, Jeanie's Queen, Pete's Boss and Puzzle Prize.

The Great Chase helps out community groups.

Each of the 12 Victorian provincial greyhound clubs invited groups in their area that support people with physical and intellectual disabilities, to become involved in the event.

More than 70 groups are matched with a greyhound racing in the series.

Our Barney's community group, Traralgon's Coinda Hill has already picked up \$3350 during the series and will receive 10% of Our Barney's earnings from April 1 to the start of the 2005 The Great Chase through Greyhound Racing Victoria courtesy of Our Barney. Coinda Hill provides adult learning facilities for about 50 people who have intellectual disabilities. High-profile trainer Darren Cairns was not disappointed with Two Tone Shiraz's run.

"He's improving all the time. He had a few injuries when he was younger and has taken a while to mature," he said.

“He’s learning how to race. He’ll be in the Bendigo Cup heats. He’s not that strong but I think he will get 500m.”

Cairns said he had six dogs in work and Two Tone Shiraz’s litter sister Hecuba had won a couple of city races.

He said kennel star Bombastic Shiraz was being kept busy off the racetrack.

“He’s served 25 bitches although he hasn’t got any pups on the ground yet.

Peter Giles’ good bitch Floodfawn is the first one due, so we’re looking forward to her whelping,” Cairns said.

The trainer said Bombastic Shiraz would hopefully return to training mid May.

“When he was six months old he damaged a shoulder joint.

The more he runs the worse it gets.

“The fluid drains from the joint and it becomes bone

on bone. It’s not so much how he runs, but how he pulls up, but it was starting to impact on the way he was racing,” he said.

After winning the Shootout, TopGun and Melbourne Cup, Cairns had targeted the Australian Cup with Bombastic Shiraz.

“It was disappointing to miss out on the cup,” he said.

“He had a couple of trials and was going super, but we just have to look after him and hope he comes back.

He’s being kept busy off the track anyway,” he said.

Big Daddy Cool’s trainer Nick Janjic has unearthed another handy sprinter in Royal Sal. The Lansley Bale-Sobbing Sal youngster clocked 24.10 in winning a maiden final at Warragul.

Meadows track record holder Big Daddy Cool (Just The Best-Sobbing Sal) is recovering from a fractured hock. The early signs are looking promising for a return to the track.