

Something Special



**By
DAVID BRASCH**

BY his own admission, former farmer Dennis Trewin has spent much of his life knocking around greyhound racing, in search of a good dog, often living off the punt.

When he linked up with Tina Womann, a young woman who had loved greyhounds all her life, it might not necessarily have been a match made in heaven, but certainly one devised in the winner's circle.

Because that's just what it has been ... a trewly special match.

Womann and Trewin have become household names in greyhound racing in Australia and recently landed the group 1 Winter Carnival Cup final with the dog they consider the fastest they have trained.

That dog has the apt name of Trewly Special (Brett Lee-Chloe Jones) and he downed one of the best fields assembled at Albion Park in recent memory, coming from last to do it.

Dennis comes from a farming family. "I lived and worked on my parents farm just north of Shepparton

where he produced fruit some of the big companies in Australia," he said.

Britain's move into the European Common Market was a death blow for the Trewins farm and fruit producing business.

"It was also about the time in the mid 70s that I first got involved in greyhound racing," he said.

Tom and Judith Reed at Wangaratta had been family friends for years. "Tom and Judith talked me into going greyhound racing with them and on that day Tom won five races," said Dennis. "One of his owners Frank Irvine had a bitch in pup and he gave me one of them."

The pup won at its second start at Shepparton, won first up at Olympic Park and the following week it fought. But by this time Dennis Trewin was greyhound man for good.

"We were out of the farm by 1981, but before that we bought a Newmore King litter of 10 pups and they all won in NSW and Victoria and we made big money from them," he admits.

By the mid-80s Dennis had decided he could make a living out of greyhound racing and had headed to

South Australia where he “bummed around with dogs”. He was involved at the time with the great galloper Ginger, a dog he fondly remembers as “a freak galloper”.



ALL AGLOW... owner Dennis Trewin and trainer Tina Womann with their Group 1 winner Trewly Special.

“I always had two or three dogs at the time,” he said. But by 1992 he had moved back to Victoria. “I worked with John Westerlo for six months, for 14 months with Len Poole and then two and a half years with Graham Bate.

“I had a dog called Rusty Lee during my time with Graham and did really well financially out of him,” he said. “I was working with Graham Bate, not for him.”

It wasn’t long after he crossed paths with Tina, who he had known since she was a young girl. The pair became great friends, then partners and have been together for the past 10 years.

Tina had been nagging her parents to get a greyhound since she was nine years old.

Living in Geelong at the time, her parents gave in to Tina and her older brother Bernie.

Group 1 Winter Carnival Cup (520m) Albion Park

1 TREWLY SPECIAL \$9

(Brett Lee-Chloe Jones)

Owner: Dennis Trewin

Trainer: Tina Womann

2 BOGIE LEIGH \$2.50

(Just The Best-Hypo Havoc)

3 OXLEY FAWN \$8

(Faithful Hawk-Magical Omen)

Others: 4 Surf Lorian \$3.50, 5 Tiger Strong

\$6, 6 Makia \$21, 7 Dancing Habit \$17, 8

Super Burst \$7. **Time: 30.16.**

But that first pup got out of the yard and was hit by a car.

“We were distraught,” she said.

It took the family seven years before their first winner. Named Bold Bravado, the family had bred him. Bernie trained him to win at Warragul.

And when shift work forced Bernie to give the dog to Tina to train, he became her first winner. Tina was 18 and the victory was at Sandown Park. It was the start of something big.

“After that I always had two or three dogs in training,” she said. “I worked in a pet shop and then in a factory for 10 years because the hours allowed me to have and race dogs.

“Dogs came before anything.”

Bernie Womann, who with father Heinz helps out at the kennels today, made an impact on greyhound racing during this time.

He produced Bold Ranger to finished second to Chariot Supreme in a Silver Chief and third to National Star in a hot Cranbourne Cup.

In the 10 years since Tina and Dennis have been together, their kennels have churned out some outstanding gallopers.

Miss Tantine won 20 races and made 11 Group races “without winning one”. Ammo, Smack Wallop and runaway Jury were all outstanding gallopers, and Arvo’s Express won the 2000 Australian Cup with Miss Tantine fifth.

“We have 50 dogs in work at all times, 25 racing each week, and about 50 pups, all our own, on the way up,” said Dennis.

Trewly Special, who both Tina and Dennis rate as easily the best dog they have trained, was bought from Paul Bartolo, who sold the couple Smack Wallop.

“I’m always on the lookout for dogs. We pay,” said Dennis. He saw Trewly Special and his litter brother Go Forever trial and had to have them.”

Dennis has a couple of mottos in greyhound racing.

“Involve yourself with successful people, negative people will bring you down,” he said.

Involving himself with Tina Womann, and dogs like Trewly Special, have certainly paid dividends for them all.

	Gun Law Osti	Brother Fox
Brett Lee		Miss Dusty Lee
	Sobbing Sal	New Tears
TREWLY SPECIAL		Wee Sal
	Jones Junior	Head Honcho
Chloe Jones		Leprechaun Miss
	Our Legend	Bomber Gleeson
		My Lady Leanne