



MEDIA RELEASE



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Sapphire Crown touched by an Angel **Betty's Angel claims Sapphire Crown Classic**

Glamour sprinter Betty's Angel survived an unexpected scare to take out the \$73,000 Group 1 Sapphire Crown Classic at Sandown Park on Thursday night.



Betty's Angel races away with the Sapphire Crown

Betty's Angel (\$3.20) began well from box seven but was beaten to the first turn by litter sister Leprechaun Pace (\$6.70). Ja Ja (\$9.90) joined the kennel-mates and the threesome opened up a five length break on entering the back straight.

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There was little change in the running order as Betty's Angel pulled to the outside approaching the home turn and swept past her rivals, powering to the line five lengths clear in a smart 29.85.

Ja Ja prevailed in a bumping dual to defeat Leprechaun Pace by a neck, denying trainer Paul Bartolo a Group 1 quinella.

Betty's Angel was nearly scratched prior to the meeting after Bartolo revealed his charge had been bitten by another greyhound during training. Following a thorough vet's examination, Betty's Angel was passed fit to run and took out Australia's richest race for bitches.

The win was Bartolo's first Group 1 success, but his second group race win in six weeks after litter-sister Miss Mini Mouse took out the Group 2 South Australian Oaks.

Race favourite Pure Burst (\$3) cost itself any chance of collecting the \$10,000 bonus on offer for completing the Laurels-Sapphire Crown Classic double by hitting her head on the starting boxes shortly before jumping.

I spoke with trainer Paul Bartolo after the win. "I'm surprised Betty's Angel ran down her sister Leprechaun Pace once she is in front she has always had the better of her sister. She did an excellent job and is racing very well here at Sandown that's the third week in a row she has run around the same time. It's a great race to win and share with the family as you can see it's a real family affair." Bartolo said.

He has decided to give his high class bitches a crack at the Melbourne Cup. "We were going to put them over the distance but they deserve to go into the Cup after the way they have raced recently. So it's on to the Melbourne Cup and see how we go." Bartolo concluded.

Both Betty's Angel and Miss Mini Mouse have qualified to go straight into the Cup heats on November 23rd and Leprechaun Pace will have to compete in a the final round of Preludes next



Thursday night.

AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

After the placings the field finished in the following order 4th Elgrando Gold (\$11.40), 5th Cash Up (\$9.00), 6th Dosses Angel (\$35.20) 7th Why Not Gail (\$16.20) and Pure Burst (\$3.00 fav).

Betty's Angel is a Black bitch whelped November 2004 she is raced and trained by the Bartolo family and is by Brett Lee from Leprechaun Yap (Hotshot x Leprechaun Miss) she has only raced 14 times for nine and two placings with the Sapphire Crown Classic first prize of \$50,000, taking her overall stake earnings to \$82,850.

The Sapphire Classic was first run in 1974 as an age restricted race for dogs and bitches. The event was relaunched in 2002 as the Sapphire Crown Classic bitches only feature. Listed below is the impressive list of past winners.

Group 1 Sapphire Crown Classic

Honour Roll

Year	Winner	Trainer	Time
1974	Bristol Sue (SA)	Doug Payne	31.11
1975	Dynamic Dean	Paul Hogan	30.67
1976	Tawny Brad	Greg Durham	30.82
1977	Overflow Love	Pat Haas	31.09
1978	Rubin Caine	Ted Sallows	30.77
1979	Monica's Mist	John Hellingman	30.74
1980	Worthy Weston	Brian Jacobson	30.93
1981	Shamrock Flight	Kevin McCabe	31.06
1982	Wynlee Spirit (TAS)	Alan Roberts	31.17
1983	Rocky Pyramid	Fred Ladd	30.65
1984	Currency Lass	Ned Bryant	31.10
1985	Rembrant	John Hose	31.06
1986	Sydney Dingaam	Ned Bryant	30.83
1987	Rothwell	Keith Anderson	30.63
1988	Hogan	Len Ketelaar	31.02
1989	Super Gun	Eddie Baumgartner	30.81
*1989	Dapto Brandi	Darren Murray	30.77
1990	Ravello	Robert Britton	30.82
1991	Heza Mullrook	Keith Kent	30.42
1992	Dashing Eagle	Bob Douglas	30.31
1993	Magnacarter	Bill McNally	30.60
1994	Stylish Raider	Kevin Byng	30.33
1995	Ben's Surprise	Len Ketelaar	30.34
1996	Sarah's Deano	Marion Siakew	30.30
1997	Token Prince(NSW)	Michael Abbott	30.31
1998	Time Framer	Philip Newman	30.12
1999	Ashlee Jeannine	Peter Giles	29.74
2000	Dutchy's Angel	Tom Dailly	29.74
2001	Let It Be	Neil Dicks	29.75
2002	Bye For Now	Ian Dann	30.00
2003	Bogie Leigh (QLD)	Tony Brett	30.07
2004	Paua To Burn(NSW)	Steven White	29.85
2005	Paua To Burn(NSW)	Steven White	29.82

* Run as the Sandown Auction Classic, July 1989

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