



MEDIA RELEASE

29th December

Last to first extraordinary run by Elektra to win the Sale Cup

Rank outsider Elektra (\$21.80) staged one of the biggest runs ever seen in a big race final to win the Group 2 3TR FM / 3GV Sale Cup on Boxing Day over the 650 metre trip. Trained by the maestro Graeme Bate the Sale Cup had been one race on the Australia Group Calendar that had eluded the great mentor, well Elektra made it his first and in no uncertain terms.

Beginning okay from box six Elektra found her self wide and last after a back wash of interference at the winning post the first time. Last year's Cup winner Hercules lead at that point but Andy Palmer took over with greyhounds going ever which way in the rough house final. As the field entered the back straight Elektra had got past a couple at the rear to be sixth but once again got checked by Kibble Kruncha and was back last at the half way mark. Andy Palmer led approaching the home turn with challengers everywhere, at that point Elektra was so far back she was not picked up on the T.V. camera, but was starting to weave her way through the field. Turbo Uno straightened in front as Elektra got past another couple then she storming down the outside picking up the leader quickly and raced away to win by an amazing two lengths in an extraordinary performance.

Last weeks track record breaker Turbo Uno (\$3.60) hung on for second with Andy Palmer (\$5.10) a further 2-3/4 lengths back third. Time was a moderate 37.55 after sections of 6.20 (Jordy O'Mac), 16.64 (Hercules) and 25.83 (Andy Palmer) recorded by three different leaders.



Elektra too good in the Sale Cup

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AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

I asked Graeme Bate if he thought she could win when she was last early?

“She always runs on but that was the run of the year I kept looking for her to put her head in it up the back and when she got the nice run through the field I knew she was a chance amazingly she went on and won it easily in the end. She is certainly racing better than early on in her career she is using her brain a lot more in a field. Six months ago she would have just run into the back of another dog and got badly checked, but I think she has turned the corner. A bit of maturity and more race experience has helped a lot.” Bate said.

The veteran trainer feels a turning point was winning the Navy Week trophy.

“After she broke through at Sandown and won the Navy Week trophy she has raced a lot better, she broke the long standing 700 metre record at Geelong in late October and has always shown she has a lot of ability, but sometimes I thought there was two of her.” Bate said.

“I gave her some sort of chance and the \$21 was nice she did a good job in the heat to run down Andy Palmer so with a bit of luck I thought she would be in it. I didn’t nominate her for the Adelaide distance race because I thought it was a bit close but she has pulled up a treat so I wish I had of now. We’ll head to Sandown for the Maidment Memorial in January then look towards the Gleeson and Tonta at the Meadows. It was a thrill to win the Sale Cup as it was a very good field and a race we hadn’t won.” Bate Concluded.

After the placed runners the field finished in the following order 4th Kip Irlight (\$53.30), 5th Kibble Kruncha (\$4.90), 6th Hercules (\$7.40) 7th Sargent Major (\$3.30 fav) and Jordy O’Mac (\$14.00).

Elektra is raced by Philip Lenehan and trained by Graeme Bate at Lara she is a Black Bitch whelped February 2004 by Primo Uno from Natural Class (Lansley Bale x Hoppy’s Star). Elektra has won nine of her 44 starts and has been placed on 17 occasions and with the \$25,000 first prize for the Sale Cup it took her current stake earnings to \$65,145.



Handler Amy Cole with Elektra and the Sale Cup (All Pics Peter Bryce)

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AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

The seemingly bold move in 2001 to run the Sale Cup over the 630m journey, with a first prize of \$20,000, produced an outstanding result with brilliant front running stayer, Bentley Babe, etching her name on the Cup Honour role.

Again in 2003 a major track restructure unveiled a brand new circuit on April 10th extensive work had been carried out after it closed in January. Under the guidance of track designer Brian Barrington Sale had an extreme makeover, with the new distances becoming 440, 520 and 650 metres. The track was also widened to 7 metres, with both straights being realigned.

The Cup has been won by some great champions and listed below is the full honour roll as we currently know it.

1968 **Unknown**, 1969 **Unknown**, 1970 **Unknown** , 1971 **Stripper Sam**, 1972 **Midnight Avon**, 1973 **Rerod**, 1974 **Rebel Rena**, 1975 **Shikar**, 1976 **Dargaville**, 1977 **Daalko Boy**, 1978 **Cascilla's Lad**, 1979 **Newmore's Heart**, 1980 **Bushy Prince**, 1981 **Forceful Lad**, 1982 **Charcia**, 1983 **Colinda Flyer**, 1984 **Chariot Supreme**, 1985 **Johnny Caprice**, 1986 **Top Shroud**, 1987 **Quick Royal**, 1988 **Blackman Ray**, 1989 **Mr Chatters**, 1990 **Chief Magundi**, 1991 **Malawi's Prince**, 1992 **Premier Pete**, 1993 **Linebacker**, 1994 **Jamb Kid**, 1995 **Wyllie Boy**, 1996 **Wyllie Boy**, 1997 **Shannen's Storm**, 1998 **Awesome Assassin**, 1999 **Brookside Red**, 2000 **Vino Veritas**, 2001 **Bentley Babe**, 2002 **Beljay Velvet**, 2003 **Draino**, 2004 **Arvo's Junior** and 2005 **Hercules**.

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