



AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

MEDIA RELEASE



21st January 2007

“Classic Adelaide Cup final at the Angle Park”

The Group 1 Sky Channel Adelaide Cup final promises to be a classic contest after last Thursday's top class heats. Dominated by Victorian sprinters only one local survived the cut to make it through to next weeks final. Strathisla Lass trained by Matthew Payne at Middleton chased home the brilliant Betty's Angel in the fastest time of the night 29.24 to take her place against the elite. After wining the Interstate Challenge last week in a flying 24.12 Betty's Angel the reigning Melbourne Cup winner again overcome a bad draw to look super impressive going into another Group 1 major sprint race.



The brilliant Betty's Angel

Her litter sister Miss Mini Mouse runner-up in the Melbourne Cup and the winner of last years SA Oaks showed her liking for Angle Park with an outstanding heat win of 29.58. Big Time Max another Victorian with a liking for Angle Park after he won last year's SA Derby performed super recorded a very impressive heat win of 29.27. The remaining heat was won by the ever consistent Cash Up for Graeme Bate in 29.61. Throw in runners-up

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AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

GROUP ONE – SKY CHANNEL ADELAIDE CUP \$50,000 to the winner



Airbourne Bale (VIC)

47 starts 17-11-8 (\$38,850)

Brett Lee – Suellen Bale

Black Dog June '04

Owner: **Paul Wheeler**

Trainer: **Robert Britton**

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

Bred in the purple handy sprinter who led for a long way last week. Recorded nice splits of 4.49 and 16.70 has the red and could lead again maybe not up to this lot but an outside chance from the good draw.



Cromlah Bale (VIC)

41 starts 17-11-0 (\$108,755)

Brett Lee – Mirada Bale

Black Dog July '04

Owner: **Paul Wheeler**

Trainer: **Andrea Dailly**

Angle Park best: 29.41 (3) (4 Starts 2-1-0)

Outstanding young dog that hardly ever runs a bad race already a dual group winner and has made a number of finals in short career. Will need some luck here but is very capable a win wouldn't surprize. Chased home Big Time Max last week after being back last early has won here in 29.41 an honest top grade performer.



Cash Up (VIC)

77 starts 21-12-10 (\$93,518)

Primo Uno – Reeba Honcho

Black Bitch January '04

Owner: **Keith Dawson**

Trainer: **Graeme Bate**

Angle Park best: 29.61 (5) (1 Starts 1-0-0)

Another very smart sprinter that has made a number of big races finals in her short career. Was impressive last week after racing second and third then powering to the line running down Airbourne Bale in 29.61. Hard to see her upsetting the fancied finalists but not without a chance at odds.



Train A Journey (VIC)

29 starts 15-2-3 (\$134,795)

Primo Uno – Currency Tears

Black & White Dog April '04

Owners: **Steve Karlusic & Andrew Marth**

Trainer: **John Galea**

Angle Park best: NBT (2 Starts 0-1-1)

Outstanding sprinter going around in another group race final hasn't won on the track and a tough draw in four. Very classy dog but will need luck here in this high quality final. Has to jump in front of Betty's to be a winning chance, place best.



Betty's Angel (VIC)

19 starts 14-1-1 (\$265,150)

Brett Lee - Leprechaun Yap

Black Bitch

November '04

Owner: **Diane Bartolo**

Trainer: **Paul Bartolo**

Angle Park best: 29.12 (5) (5 Starts 4-0-0)

Superstar that appears to be only getting better with age and more experience deserves to be short priced favourite and certainly the one to beat. Again has to overcome a bad draw but has good box manners, lighting mid race pace and a powerful finish, the complete package. Recorded the fastest heat time of 29.24 after winning last week before in 29.12. Should win her third group one with any sort of luck early.



Big Time Max

24 starts 10-6-3 (\$66,945)

Big Daddy Cool - Lil Bit Loony

Black Dog

November '04

Owners / Trainer: **Engin Gemci**

Angle Park best: 29.27 (7) (5 Starts 3-2-0)

Very smart young dog who has performed extremely well at Angle Park. Won last year's SA Derby as a pup and was impressive last week leading almost all the way in a fast 29.27. Probably has to come out running again this week and lead the favourite he is well fancied to win and will start second favourite. Big chance if he comes out quick.



Strathisla Lass

73 starts 24-13-7 (\$21,790)

Silver Saul - Cherie's Lady

Black & White Bitch

November '03

Owner: **J Cunningham & A Peden**

Trainer: **Matthew Payne**

Angle Park best: 29.72 (4) (33 Starts 8-5-5)

The only local to make the final and will start big odds has plenty of experience at Angle Park with eight wins from 33 but would need to improve on her best winning time of 29.72. Place chance best.



Miss Mini Mouse

18 starts 8-4-2 (\$87,365)

Brett Lee - Leprechaun Yap

Black Bitch

November '04

Owner: **Diane Bartolo**

Trainer: **Paul Bartolo**

Angle Park best: 29.39 (5) (4 Starts 3-1-0)

Brilliant litter sister to Betty's Angel has performed well here at Angle Park with three wins including success in last year's SA Oaks. She will have to get across from the wide draw and find the lead which is a big ask in this company. However she is a very classy type and a win would not be an upset result.



Emerley Chant

28 starts 5-3-2 (\$2,325)

Solve The Puzzle - Go Colbs

Local that finished third last week to Betty's Angel hard to see her trouble this field if gains a start.



Emulator

32 starts 12-5-3 (\$9,480)

Primo Uno - Corrubene Lass

Another local that was well beaten into third place last week behind Cash Up a big ask in this company will be long odds if he gains a start.

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

Brenton Yeats

1st Big Time Max
2nd Betty's Angle
3rd Cromlah Bale


Peter Smith

1st Betty's Angle
2nd Big Time Max
3rd Cromlah Bale

Hilton Donaldson

1st Betty's Angle
2nd Cromlah Bale
3rd Train A Journey

Peter Damarell's Local Market for the Sky Channel Adelaide Cup:

\$50,000 to the winner Group 1 SKY CHANNEL Adelaide Cup (525m)			
Box	Greyhound	Trainer	Price
	Airbourne Bale	Robert Britton	\$11.00
	Cromlah Bale	Andrea Dailly	\$7.00
	Cash Up	Graeme Bate	\$16.00
	Train A Journey	John Galea	\$11.00
	Betty's Angel	Paul Bartolo	\$2.00
	Big Time Max	Engin Gemci	\$5.00
	Strathisla Lass	Matthew Payne	\$41.00
	Miss Mini Mouse	Paul Bartolo	\$5.00
	Emerley Chant (RES)	Peter Hurley	\$101.00
	Emulator (RES)	Kirin Corby	\$101.00

What's happening on race night?

The Adelaide Club has organized a host of activities for final night they include, performances by popular band Acoustic Juice. Rides for children, face painter, animal nursery, roving performers. Appearances and coaching by Adelaide 36ers basketball players. Demonstration by German Shepherd group, including puppies to pat.

Plus a chance to win \$10,000 cash just by placing a wager on AG (Adelaide) greyhounds.

The History of the Adelaide Cup

From its humble beginnings the Group 1 Sky Channel Adelaide Cup has now become the stepping-stone to stardom for some of Australia's household names in greyhound racing.

The first Adelaide Cup was held at Waterloo Corner in 1956 and won by the Fred Grimes-owned Oakland Chief. From Waterloo Corner the cup was moved to Bolivar, near the current Globe Derby trotting complex before taking pride of place at South Australia's headquarters for greyhound racing, Angle Park, in 1972.

And it didn't take long for the 'boy from Broken Hill', the late, great Doug Payne to etch his name into the archives of Adelaide Cup history.

Payne won the first three Adelaide Cups held at Angle Park - Bristol Miss (1972), Valjuka (1973) and Bristol Sue (1974) - a record that has never been equalled.

Revered in SA for his dominance of the SA training ranks, winning a record 14 training premierships, Payne always rated Bristol Sue as the best greyhound he ever trained.

When one considers some of the big names who passed through his kennel - Ascapella Miss, Red Pulse, Fullock's Fancy, Yodel High, Harada's Pick Bristol Chant and Bristol Miss - Bristol Sue certainly had something going for her.

Former Gawler Greyhound Racing Club chairman, Bernie Neal, was successful in the 1974 Adelaide Cup with Turn Pillage before a three-year dominance by Victorian trained greyhounds of SA's biggest race started.

Golden Spur (1976), Cavalier Queen (1977) and Riviera Tiger (1979), in controversial circumstances, broke the drought for interstate kennels. Riviera Tiger's win created headlines Australia-wide when the Adelaide Cup was declared a no-race and was re-run the following week after the lure had broken down.

The controversy arose as greyhounds who were engaged in that year's final were also engaged in heats of the Australian Cup at Olympic Park but, because of the no-race, were forced to miss that series to return to Adelaide for the cup re-run.

Following Riviera Tiger's win SA again dominated its premier sprint race for the next seven years.

The Clem Mitchell-trained Encanto, a natural front runner, was successful in 1979 before the Howard Gray-trained Youthful Prince, who was owned by a syndicate of 20 headed by former Adelaide Greyhound Racing Club committeeman, and since Greyhound Racing SA board member, Leon Chapman, won the race in 1980.

Colin Wachtel, now a household name in greyhound racing circles, won the 1981 Adelaide Cup with rank outsider Lady Tornquest who, in pre-post betting was a 100/1 chance to win the race.

Then based in the Riverland, Wachtel still rates Lady Tornquest, who went on to win the AGRC and Gawler Anniversary Cups as one of the best greyhounds he has trained.

The Cyril Boston-trained Smithy's Belle won the cup in 1982 before the ambitiously named Superstar won in 1983.

Trained by Darrell Johnstone, who later became a part owner of Australian 'superstar', Brett Lee, Superstar lived up to his name by not only winning the Adelaide Cup but also the 1983 AGRC Anniversary Cup and also representing SA in the 1983 National Sprint Championship at the now defunct Gabba circuit.

With greyhound racing thriving in SA during the mid 1980s, the win by the Blair Cross-trained Knocklaun Gold in 1984 set a new benchmark at Angle Park. Knocklaun Gold, in winning his heat of the cup, became the first greyhound to break the 30-second barrier in a race - clocking 29.99.

Knocklaun Gold also holds the distinction of being the shortest record holder in the history of SA, and probably Australian, greyhound racing when, just 20-minutes later that time went by the wayside with the record being lowered to 29.74.

The Gary Mellor-trained Thundering Two, one of SA's best young greyhounds to grace the Angle Park circuit took out the 1985 cup to cap off a memorable year for the Mellor kennel. A year earlier Thundering Two had won the Colin Viney Memorial Champion Puppy, the SA Derby, the WA Young Star Classic and also the Gawler Produce Stake.

The Alan Kelly-trained Farquhar took out the 1986 Adelaide Cup before the well-bred Joe Hili-trained Club Edition ran a race-record 29.94 in winning the cup in 1987.

Bev Hall, and her partner Charlie Merrett, were colourful characters in SA greyhound racing during the 1980s and they combined to win the Adelaide Cup in 1988 with High Wonder. The 1988 Adelaide Cup was the first time the race was held in January - a place it now firmly holds on the Australian greyhound racing calendar.

After winning the first three Adelaide Cups at Angle Park the 'Meadows Maestro', Doug Payne, broke a 14-year drought when rank outsider Kuriarkin, owned by the late Bill Hocking, was successful in 1989.

Payne often referred to Kuriarkin's win as one of his greatest training achievements. Drawn awkwardly in box four, Kuriarkin, who had only scraped into the field, flew the traps to snare the early lead before taking advantage of a first-turn scrimmage to score in 30.44 and, in doing so, landing some very nice wagers for loyal kennel supporters.

With the prizemoney for the Adelaide Cup on the spiral, SA's premier race was becoming a 'must' for the leading interstate kennels.

The Gerry O'Keefe-trained Sandi's Me Mum, winner of the 1989 National Sprint Championship, was the star attraction for the 1990 Adelaide Cup and she delivered the goods running out an easy three-length winner over the Payne-trained Packard in 30.23.

O'Keefe, one of the industry's gentlemen, was always receptive to the media and one of the best advertisements for greyhound racing was his promotional shot leading into that year's cup - a man and his dog - O'Keefe and Sandi's Me Mum stretched out in bed having an afternoon 'kip'.

Following her Adelaide Cup win, Sandi's Me Mum confirmed her status as one of Australia's all time great bitches by winning her second National Sprint Championship.

Another of Australia's highly-feted bitches, the Doug Ferrami-trained Highly Blessed and a slick 29.95 in winning the 1991 cup before the Ray Cunneen-trained South Road Sid ran a race record 29.83 in winning the 1992 cup.

With three victories on the trot in the Adelaide Cup it again was SA's turn when the Joe Perovic-trained Croatia Star became the youngest winner of an Adelaide Cup when scoring a 30.17 win in 1993. At just

over two years of age, Croation Star defeated a classy line up which included Gun Law Osti and 1993 National Sprint Champion, Casino Tom.

Don and Helen Foster, one of SA's most successful husband and wife teams, landed the 1994 cup with Perplexed in a new race-record time of 29.49. On occasions injury-prone, Perplexed flew the traps to lead throughout and beat Golden Currency, who deadheaded in the inaugural Topgun, and Golden Mike, who also was owned and trained by the Fosters. In the twilight of his career, Golden Mike, who had won the 1992 Gawler Gold Cup, was very gallant in defeat.

Perplexed also holds the distinction of being the last SA-trained greyhound to win the Adelaide Cup. Since 1994, interstate raiders have won the \$50,000 winners' cheque.

In 1995 New South Wales tasted its first success in the Adelaide Cup when Forest Fin, a son of arguably one of SA's finest sprinters, Ginger, ran a new race-record of 29.33 in beating Jurassic Vapour and Golden Currency. 1995 also heralded another amazing piece of history for SA's only Group 1 feature.

In finishing second the John Keep-trained Jurassic Vapour had just started to make his mark on the Adelaide Cup.

Based in Queensland, Keep vowed to return again in 1996 to try and avenge Jurassic Vapour's defeat. True to his word, Keep did come back and Jurassic Vapour was successful in beating the Both Barrels in 29.55.

Despite his rising years, and having competed at the highest level for almost two seasons, Jurassic Vapour returned to SA in 1997 to again tackle the cup.

A third placing behind the Merv Patching-trained Rare Deceit and Grand Illusion was enough for Jurassic Vapour to snare his piece of Adelaide Cup glory. He is the only greyhound to have won, and been placed in two Adelaide Cups, in three consecutive years - a feat which may never be equalled.

Rare Deceit's Cup win, like that of Riviera Tiger in 1978, was shrouded with controversy when a no-race was declared in one of the heats, necessitating a re-run the following Monday night to allow the final to be staged on the Thursday night.

Ironically, it was Rare Deceit's heat which was declared the no-race and, after winning the re-run and drawing box one for the final, she proved too classy in leading throughout.

However, it was the no-race, which destroyed the Adelaide Cup aspirations of two of SA greyhound racing's stalwarts - Brian Lee and Edlin Lienert. Lee and Lienert owned star SA sprinter Oak Raider who crashed into the outside running rail when the lure failed and was scratched from the re-run.

Twelve months later Oak Raider won through to the Adelaide Cup final but in his swansong, was no match for Australia's emerging superstar, Rapid Journey.

Trained by Jane Carruthers, Rapid Journey had little form leading into the cup series but, after a power-packed performance to land an effortless 9.5-length win over Plumb Bob and Brookside Cindy, he was the name on everyone's lips.

From Adelaide Cup glory, Rapid Journey went on to win the Australian Cup, Perth Cup, Golden Easter Egg and Melbourne Cup amassing almost \$500,000 in prizemoney for the year. Now standing at stud, Rapid Journey's progeny has really made its mark on the Australian racing scene.

The strong, wide-running Ken Welsh-trained Young Harrison took out the 1999 cup in one of the most open Adelaide Cup finals before history-making performances in 2000 and 2001.

Peter Giles, one of Australia's leading mentors, had never tasted success in an Adelaide Cup but that changed with the turn of the century when Jack Junior record a track and race-record 29.32 win.

From Knocklaun Gold becoming the first greyhound to break the 30-second barrier at Angle Park in 1984 to Jack Junior's track-record gallop in 2000, greyhound racing in SA had come a long way.

Late in 2000 greyhound racing circles were abuzz with the 'new kid on the block', Brett Lee. Greyhound Racing SA's prime objective was to lure connections of Brett Lee to Angle Park.

He was the hottest piece of property. Get Brett Lee to Angle Park and the crowd would be hanging from the rafters.

GRSA was successful in attracting Brett Lee to Adelaide. And, following a sizzling 28.96 solo trial around the Angle Park circuit, he was the cynosure of all eyes.

Trained by Darren McDonald, Brett Lee won the Group 3 Interstate Challenge Cup before streeting his opposition in his heat of the Adelaide Cup.

Despite meeting a classy field in the final, which included recent Group 1 winners Classic Capri and No Intent, an air of expectancy hovered over the track as Brett Lee was paraded towards the boxes for the final. Drawn awkwardly in box three Brett Lee exploded from the boxes to lead throughout for a six-length win over Classic Capri and Renzo Bale in a new race and track record 28.88 - yes, Brett Lee had become the first greyhound to officially break the 29-second barrier at Angle Park.

Like Rapid Journey, Brett Lee was destined for stardom with the Adelaide Cup providing the stepping-stone. His 28.88 track record run was his fifth individual track record.

Following his Adelaide Cup win Brett Lee went on to win the Australian Cup, Golden Easter Egg and Warrnambool Classic. The Adelaide Cup honour roll contains the names of no less than four AGRA Hall of Famers Sandi's Me Mum, Highly Blessed, Rapid Journey and Brett Lee.

Following Brett Lee local star Brookside Bear won the cup in 2002 recording 29.67 he was raced by Ray Borda and trained by Terry Cahalan Brookside Bear defeated Victorian's champions Carlisle Jack & Henerik Bale.

In 2003 the Peter Dapiran trained Waterview Star defeated Melbourne Cup winner Excite Ability and Arvo's Junior who later become a superstar of the staying ranks winning the National Distance Championship at Angle Park. Waterview Star ran a smart 29.34 but unfortunately had his career cut short due to serious injury.

Underrated Victorian sprinter Hotline Hero won the cup in 2004 and became the first group 1 success for outstanding trainer Kelvin Greenough. Raced by Greenough's good friend Corey Siekman, the black and white chaser upstaged the more fancied finalists' including long odds on (\$1.50) favourite Big Daddy Cool and Hall of Fame superstar Bogie Leigh in 29.56. from box 4.

Darren McDonald returned in 2005 to win the cup with the talented Collide raced by AFL superstar Tony Lockett. Collide defeated Go For Forever and Black Lee in 29.52.

After another drought of local trained winners classy sprinter Miss Spicy upset a team of Victorians with a brilliant win in last years cup. The former Queenslander raced by Sarah Pringle was trained by Troy Murray who with his father Ray had enjoyed a long association with Pringle. Miss Spicy recorded 29.46 and proving it was no fluke when she also took out the Australian Cup in March only to have her career cut short in the lead up to the Easter Egg.

That brings us to 2007 and, who knows? There might just be another Rapid Journey or Brett Lee in the final line up just begging for its moment of Group 1 glory.

Adelaide Cup Honour Roll

1972 **Bristol Miss**, 1973 **Valjuka**, 1974 **Bristol Sue**, 1975 **Turn Pillage**, 1976 **Golden Spur**, 1977 **Cavalier Queen**, 1978 **Riviera Tiger**, 1979 **Encanto**, 1980 **Youthful Prince**, 1981 **Lady Tornquest**, 1982 **Smithy's Belle**, 1983 **Superstar**, 1984 **Knocklaun Gold**, 1985 **Thundering Two**, 1986 **Farquhar**, 1987 **Club Edition**, 1988 **High Wonder**, 1989 **Kuriarkin**, 1990 **Sandi's Me Mum**, 1991 **Highly Blessed**, 1992 **South Road Sid**, 1993 **Croatian Star**, 1994 **Perplexed**, 1995 **Forest Fin**, 1996 **Jurassic Vapour**, 1997 **Rare Deceit**, 1998 **Rapid Journey**, 1999 **Young Harrison**, 2000 **Jack Junior**, 2001 **Brett Lee**, 2002 **Brookside Bear**, 2003 **Waterview Star**, 2004 **Hotline Hero**, 2005 **Collide**, 2006 **Miss Spicy**.



Last Year's Adelaide Cup winner Miss Spicy

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