



MEDIA RELEASE



7th January 2007

“A Meticulous win in Silver Chief Classic”

The Group 1 AJS Corporation Silver Chief final turned out to be a race of surprises with all honours going to the winner the lightly raced Meticulous (\$5.10). Showing an abundance of early speed to record a 5.06 first section the black Brett Lee chaser lead thought out to prove too good in the Derby of greyhound racing at the Meadows on Saturday night.

On a balmy, but very windy night after a hot week in Melbourne sprint sensation Salter started the \$1.70 popular elect in the time honoured classic over 525 metres. The Darren Murray trained Slater, fresh from winning the Shepparton Cup and the Great Chase had recorded records at both Shepparton and Bendigo. The brindle speedster had next set the Meadows a light with fast times of 29.74 and a near track record run of 29.63 in last weeks semi final win.



Mighty Meticulous makes every post a winner in the Silver Chief final (Paul Munt Pic)

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AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

Murray unable to attend the big race night due to the important family commitment of his daughters wedding meant a different handler looked after Slater pre-race. In a personal observation the speedster looked a little un-settled on his way to the boxes and perhaps not his normal self remember we are talking about a dog that has had 15 starts. Always a tough assignment from box eight at the Meadows he missed the start badly and his poor box manners was certainly the cause of most of his trouble. Working hard to get to fourth on the first turn he pushed in at the wrong time and was checked side ways, stumbled and tacked onto the field back last he remained there for the rest of the race.

Meticulous for the third week in a row lead all the way to make a clean sweep of the Silver Chief series chasing him home for second was outsider Salegrey's Verto (\$25.80) who was cheered home by a hugh group of his owning syndicate up from Sale in Gippsland. While third in the final was the even longer priced rank outsider Bentley Bale (\$48.50) for Paul Wheeler and Andrea Dailly. Time for the final was a best of the night 30.11 following a second split 17.82 with margins of 2-1/2 by 4-3/4 lengths.

Jubilant owner-breeder Paul Westerveld told me how delighted he was for trainer Mario Briganti to have put the polish on his first Group 1 success. "Mario is a great bloke and a very hard worker he has worked next door for Darren McDonald for over a year and was looking for a dog to train in his own right so I decided to give him this pup. I had bred, reared and broken him in and knew he had plenty of ability but sometimes you have to evaluate how the dogs are going and during pre-training I just had the feeling he needed a change of kennel. It they do everything in the one place some dogs need a change it has worked well for this dog." Westerveld said.

Westerveld is fast becoming one of the most astute breeders in the state with exceptional dam lines at his disposal. "Dance Portrait was the ideal bitch to go to Brett Lee she won the 2003 Laurels and I liked that Bobniak line she was probably his best dog. Meticulous has kept on improving over recent weeks and it was a big thrill to win a race like the Siler Chief, we thought if he could lead clearly, he could win and that box eight was no help to Slater." Westerveld said.

I asked Westerveld what was next for Meticulous. "He pulled up sore in the wrist and is has blown up this morning so we will have to wait and see we think he knuckled over at one point in the race we'll just have it checked out and take from there. Our aim was to head to Wentworth Park for the National Derby then hopefully back to the Meadows for the Carnival we will stick to that if he is okay." Westerveld concluded.

After the placed runners the field finished in the following order 4th Big Time Max (\$11.10), 5th Run's House (\$5.60), 6th King's Conquest (\$68.50) 7th Cromlah Bale (\$14.40) and Slater (\$1.70 fav).

Meticulous is raced by Paul Westerveld and trained by Mario Briganti at Chelsea Heights he is a Black Dog whelped August 2004 by Brett Lee from Dance Portrait (Bobniak x Lovely Portrait). Meticulous has won eight of his 14 starts and has been placed on three occasions and with the \$50,000 first prize for the Silver Chief it took his current stake earnings to \$76,915.

The Classic is one steeped in tradition, first being run in 1964. Directors of the Melbourne Greyhound Racing association saw fit to name The Classic after the greyhound "Silver Chief" who was whelped in 1936 and owned by Ray Herbert. Silver Chief was a "Waterloo Cup" winner in 1939 and performed admirably on the speed coursing circuit as well. He raced in both Melbourne and Sydney and was keenly sought after for stud duties once his racing career was finished.

The cream of racing have won this event referred to as the Derby of Greyhound Racing.

Champions such as Plunder Road, Black Diro, Satan's Legend, Tempix, Chariot Supreme, Ginger, Light of Fire and Awesome Assassin to name a few. Many have gone on to produce sons who have also won the Classic.

The mighty Tempix won in 1978 then produced sons who won in (81) Tempix Image and Bold Assail in 1982.

Australian super sire Chariot Supreme won the race in record time in 1983. His progeny took out the honours in 1986 (Hopeful Supreme), 1989 (Autumn Chariot) and 1991 (Bomber Gleeson).

In recent years Light of Fire won in 1994 then produced greats such as Awesome Assassin and Kantarn Bale. Awesome Assassin went on to sire 2005 winner Ben's Fury.

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Listed below is the star studded Silver Chief honour roll.

1964 **Barunah**, 1965 **Spartan Prince**, 1966 **Phantom's Return**, 1967 **Lord Baden**, 1968 **Dupondy Two**, 1969 **Plunder Road**, 1970 **Black Diro**, 1971 **Michael Takiri**, 1972 **Getaway**, 1973 **Flash Gordon**, 1974 **Petillant**, 1975 **Nigger Chimes**, 1976 **Fritz Mactavish**, 1977 **Satan's Legend**, 1978 **Tempix**, 1979 **San Remo**, 1980 **Mork The Stork**, 1981 **Tempix Image**, 1982 **Bold Assail**, 1983 **Chariot Supreme**, 1984 **Rumpus Pappa**, 1985 **Supreme Spot**, 1986 **Hopeful Supreme**, 1987 **Calamity Kid**, 1988 **Ginger**, 1989 **Autumn Chariot**, 1990 **Enfield**, 1991 **Bomber Gleeson**, 1992 **Nevik**, 1993 **Pluggger Fever**, 1994 **Light Of Fire**, 1995 **Zealous Guy**, 1996 **Awesome Assassin**, 1997 **Hotshot**, 1998 **"Not Held"**, 1999 **Jamella Prince**, 1999 **Kantarn Bale**, 2000 **Dave's Mentor**, 2001 **Burali Bale**, 2002 **"Not Held"**, 2003 **Jimmy Neutron**, 2004 **Big Daddy Cool**, 2005 **Ben's Fury**, 2006 **Closing Argument**.



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