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NEWS – OCTOBER 2008

CHARMER LODGE FEATURE NEWS - OCTOBER 2008

Sobering thought for Mick

Courtesy GRAQ website

30 Oct, 2008.

BACK to work trainer Mick Menken was the least surprised when Stone Cold Sober turned around his form to win a 520m 4th Grade at Albion Park on Thursday night.

And in the process the son of **Hallucinate-Kalka Kate** ran 30.06 a career best for him.

Menken, who has given away full time greyhound training to get back into the workforce, was confident Stone Cold Sober would win.

"The first race," said Menken of the improvement in form by his dog. "He's a lunatic in the kennels and the fact he was in the opening race was perfect for him.

"And I thought if he jumped, he would be almost impossible to run down."

Stone Cold Sober scored by a half length over Manhattan with four and a quarter lengths to Cayman Bale in third.

At his previous start he had finished last of seven runners in a Time Trial over 366m at Capalaba, behind kennelmate Hi Ransom.

"The difference between those two dogs is that Stone Cold Sober is hopeless up Capalaba," said Mick. Menken had wanted to get a 600m race for Stone Cold Sober but there were not enough nominations in his grade.

"They've had a 600m on for the past five weeks, until I nominate this dog," he said.

"He's back in to top grade again after that win and he will struggle now."

Stone Cold Sober has now won 16 races and 10 of those have been at Albion Park

Blonde drawn better now.

SMART Blonde keeps living up to her name

27 Oct, 2008.

SMART Blonde keeps living up to her name, and she gets her chance to win a feature race when she contests the heats of the Molly Campbell Silver Dollars (520m) at Albion Park on Thursday night.

Raced and trained by Peter Dunne, the **Hallucinate-Runaway Rosie** bitch has won 10 of her 17 starts to date.

She made her Albion Park debut when winning last Thursday night in 30.59 after coming off an inside draw.

The bitch crashed to the outside of the track last week which didn't surprise Dunne.

"She always heads up the track out of the boxes," said Dunne.

But it hasn't impeded Smart Blonde's career to date.

The bitch takes on a hot field of young stars at Albion Park on Thursday night.

"The future looks good for her and I'm very excited about her," said Peter.

Dunne, who has been in greyhound for the past few decades, is now settled at Walloon.

He prepared former top class staying bitch Just A Cutie while living at Virginia in Brisbane.

In 2000 he moved to Willowbank and in June this year to Walloon.

He raced and trained the bitch's dam Runaway Rosie but gave her away as a broodbitch on a pup deal.

She has been an outstanding broodbitch.

Smart Blonde is one of those pups Dunne got as part of the deal.

"I had an offer of \$10,000 for her after she won her first race," said Peter.

"But I knocked it back because it's just not enough."

Offers have kept coming but Dunne is doubtful he will sell.

"I'm not saying she is not for sale, because everything has its price, but she's not for sale at around \$10,000," he said.

Dunne said Smart Blonde trialed a slow 30.90 with a poor final section when having her first 520m at the track some time ago.

"But she continues to improve and she will have a good future depending on how she continues to improve," he said.

"I don't need the money and I'm having so much fun with her that I'm not going to sell her." The bitch runs up against arguably the toughest of the Silver Dollars heats on Thursday night. Blonde surprise for Dunne

Prolific winner Smart Blonde

23 October 2008

By Chris Bassani

Prolific winner Smart Blonde surprised her trainer Peter Dunne when she won a Grade 5 at Albion Park tonight.

The daughter of **Hallucinate and Runaway Rosie** was stepping up to the 520m for the first time and despite her impressive strike rate Dunne was more hopeful not confident.

"I have been working her up to this distance but I was a bit worried she wouldn't run it right out at this stage," Dunne said.

"She is still pretty young being a January '07 bitch so I'm very happy with the win."

From box three, Smart Blonde jumped well but trailed Thunder Puzzle who flew out from box 8 and led by 1-1/2 lengths at the post the first time.

Smart Blonde and Runya Beach raced together behind it.

Short-priced favourite Matching Outcome was slow away, last going out of the straight and never a chance.

Smart Blonde, like her mother before her, tracks wide and did so in the back straight.

She moved to a clear second at the 710m boxes but gave Thunder Puzzle a 3-1/2 length start.

The red-fawn bitch stuck to her task and nabbed Thunder Puzzle in the last stride.

Smart Blonde ran 30.58 and won by a head with Runya Beach another 1-1/4 lengths away in third place.

"I gave her mother away but we got a pup out of each litter," said Dunne who has a small kennel of four greyhounds at Walloon.

"This bitch is the best in my yard as the others have virtually finished racing.

"Unfortunately she is the last we will get from Runaway Rosie as a snake bit her and she died after she had Smart Blonde's litter."

Smart Blonde's victory was her 10th from 17 starts and her prizemoney is up to \$9000.

"I have had some offers for her but she has nearly won about what they offered," Dunne said.

"She will make a good brood bitch and is the future of the yard

Vic Peters - semi-finals

Rising star Shadow Boxer

19 October 2008

By Chris Bassani

Rising star Shadow Boxer (by **Hallucinate-My Dreams**) will race litter sister Millennium this Saturday night in a semi final of the Group 1 \$50,000 Vic Peters (520m) at Wentworth Park.

Last Thursday, Shadow Boxer ran the fastest of the 15 qualifying heats when defeating his lone opponent Daisy Baxter by 16 lengths in 29.88.

The task of Millennium to qualify was a little tougher having had four opponents.

She did well from box one to take the scalp of both Jayden's Rocket and Amelia Bale in 30.43.

Millennium has the same box in the semi with Shadow Boxer in box six.

The duo can both make the final on November 1 if they quinella the semi.

Trainer Greg Brennan meticulously planned the Sydney assault by freshening up and trialling both greyhounds at Wentworth Park prior to the heats.

Border hopper Intelligence will renew his rivalry with Katakolo in another semi.

The pair dead-heated in the Lismore Classic on October 7 before Intelligence won a ballot to automatically qualify for the semi-final stage.

Trainer Denise Robinson's had to requalify Katakolo and did so when he scored by a half head from Spring Admiral in a heat in 30.23.

Intelligence will have a pipe opener for the series in an Albion Park best 8 (520m) on Monday night jumping from box one.

He will take on Ipswich Auction winner Iron Steed and third placegetter Mobile Phantom.

That pair will now skip the Ipswich Cup and aim for the Lismore Cup.

Katakolo's kennelmate Ticabond could only manage third in a qualifying heat beaten 5-1/2 lengths by northern rivers greyhound Genista Thunder who ran 29.96.

Ticabond is a reserve while the Neil Falls-trained Genista Thunder has draw box four in the second semi .

Dean not just dreaming

16 October 2008

By Chris Bassani

Trainer Dean Turley has 100 dogs, two at stud (Excitability, Watch The Web), many brood bitches and a property at Leeville, just outside of Casino, where he also rears pups.

The best of all these dogs is Fast Dream who jumped to the front in the best 8 over 710m at Albion Park tonight and won.

Not that Turley was confident of a win.

"Fast Dream usually jumps quickly but heads wide which can get her in trouble," he said.

"That's what happened here last week when she ran sixth to Black Ruler.

"And from box one tonight that was the worry."

Happily the daughter of **Hallucinate and Rapid Midnight** jump quickly and cleared rivals when she headed wide.

At the first turn she was three lengths clear of Maxie, Nicely Done and One Missing who were three abreast and collided.

One Missing got the worst of it.

"I thought Maxie would beat us going into the race and she looked a danger down the back straight," Turley said.

At that stage Maxie railed and hit the front.

Approaching the final bend Fast Dream rallied and went back into the lead.

Nicely Done tried to rail up on Maxie but was cut out costing it all chance.

Fast Dream won by 1-1/2 lengths from Maxie with Nicely Done a 1/2 length away third in 42.65.

It was Fast Dream's 14th victory from 45 starts and took her earnings to \$28,800.

"Early in her career she fell in a 520m race at this track and it took a while to get her back right," Turley said.

"The minute we put her over 600m and beyond she shone.

"We raced her at Wentworth Park a month ago but ran into Chinatown Lad.

"I will probably go to Lismore with her next as there is a \$5000 race to the winner on November 4."

Boxer primed for a knock out blow

13 October 2008

By Chris Bassani

A fortnight ago the smarties at Wentworth Park where running around in a frenzy wondering who was the grey haired fellow with the dog who had just solo trialled 29.70.

On Thursday night unless Greg Brennan dyes the "distinguish look" out they will see the man with that dog Shadow Boxer jumping from box eight in a heat of the Group 1 \$50,000 to the winner Vic Peters (520m).

Shadow Boxer, by **Hallucinate from In My Dreams**, hasn't raced since winning the Ipswich Derby on September 10. And those dog loving fans in Sydney are not the only ones who have since been impressed. Some three weeks ago Shadow Boxer ran 23.88 post to post at Albion Park, a super time and from that point Brennan sketched a plan to take in the Vic Peters.

"Potentially he is the best dog I've had," Brennan said.

"He is just flying, whatever he is doing lately he is just doing right.

"He had an easy week after the Derby, a post to post at Albion Park, a trial in Sydney and then a little flutter at Ipswich where he went post to post running 24.72.

"He has box eight in a heat on Thursday - that is perfect plus he is racing basically against maidens and fifth graders."

Brennan is confident but knows Shadow Boxer's kryptonite, his slow get away, can always bring him down.

"The Wentworth Park boxes are a flip top lid, they are a different type of starting mechanism and I was thinking maybe he could start a bit better from them but who knows," he said

"From box eight he will stay out there and hopefully avoid any trouble.

"A top class dog can run a first sectional at Wentworth Park in the 5.40s but he did it the other day in 5.62.

"He will get behind, that is just him.

Litter sister Millennium is on the same path after running a sizzling 30.37 in a Grade 5 final at Ipswich on September 17.

"That time was a bit flattering as the track is on fire," Brennan said.

"Ipswich is running about 3/10ths quick, but she trialled well at Wentworth Park as well and has drawn box one in a different heat.

"Both dogs are in fields with only five or six dogs in them.

"Millennium is up against Amelia Bale and Jayden's Rocket, both are city class and will give her a run.

"If either of the dogs get knocked out early in the series, I can always put them in the Ipswich Cup and then the Lismore Cup later on."

Last week's Albion Park winner Ticabond has drawn box eight in a different heat and will compete against Genista Thunder in box one.

Mantra Lad is entered in the Vic Peters but is likely to be scratched due to his inclusion in the Topgun.

No Illusions just a star

Courtesy GRAQ Website

6 October 2008

By Chris Bassani

Tully trained galloper Illusion Star is likely to get a chance of a serious campaign at Albion Park next month after a runaway win in the Cairns Futurity on Saturday.

Trainer Susan Godfrey was surprised by the 15-1/2 lengths trouncing Illusion Star gave rivals over 544m in 31.63.

That time bettered her previous by 100th of a second and was a touch over a tenth outside the track record still held by Toolibuk who ran 31.52 in July 2000.

"I was worried she hadn't returned back to her best after she had fractured a hock last year," Godfrey said.

"Her lead up runs weren't as good as we had hoped."

Starting from box five Illusion Star jumped straight to the lead and vindicated the Cairns Dog of the Year title she won last year.

Starting \$1.60 favourite, the win was her 17th at Cairns from 28 starts taking her prizemoney to over \$10,000 - All up she has won 24 races.

Illusion Star (**Hallucinate-Four Way Star**) raced once at Albion Park when Godfrey and husband Dennis went down for the Greyhound of the Year awards back in February 2007

She ran third over 395m from box 8 not having stepped foot on the track prior to the race - it was her third race start.

Six months later she strung seven wins in a row together at Cairns and Townsville convincing the Godfrey's they should send her south to have a serious crack at the big time and Albion Park.

Stationed with Byron Miller in Northern NSW in September 2007, she won another four in a row at Lismore and Casino.

Shortly after the black bitch broke down and came back to Tully without racing at Albion Park at that campaign.

She was off the scene for five months and returned in April this year.

"She deserves her chance in town," Godfrey said.

"She is back in top form now and we have a couple of dogs really going well including a young one called Gunnadoo Light.

"If he continues to improve his times over the next couple of weeks we will send a few dogs down in about a month."