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NEWS – NOVEMBER 2008

CHARMER LODGE FEATURE NEWS - NOVEMBER 2008

Thunder needs an 'early sit'

Courtesy GRAQ website

17 Nov, 2008.

A START in the up-coming Group 1 Brisbane Cup series at Albion Park for Genista Thunder rest on his performance in Thursday night's Young Guns Final (520m).

Genista Thunder (**Hallucinate-Smokey Whisky**) is drawn perfectly in the two for Thursday night's \$10,000-to-the-winner final.

And youthful Northern Rivers trainer Neil Falls is hoping Young Guns rivals Surfin' Silence and Midnight Rumble make the race for Genista Thunder.

"They have the early pace and I'm hoping they go out early and give him a good sit behind them," said Falls.

"He's very strong but he will need luck to get out from behind them."

Surfin' Silence (Surf Lorian-Suna Silence) and Midnight Rumble (Spiral Nikita-Spiritual Rumble) both ran 5.75 first sections in their heat wins last week.

They were easily quicker than their six rivals in the final.

Genista Thunder went 5.83 to the first mark, but was very strong home powering to a 29.97 victory his fastest at Albion Park in six starts there.

Falls said he had discussed the immediate future for Genista Thunder with owner Dennis Mitchell.

"It all depends on how he runs on Thursday night in the Young Guns final," said Falls.

"If he races well, he will go on to the Brisbane Cup. But he needs a spell, only a few weeks off, but it's long overdue."

Falls had planned to test Genista Thunder over 600m before the spell but said this would now not happen until his next campaign.

"Eventually we think he might get 700 metres," said Falls. "But those plans can wait now."

Genista Thunder has won 12 of his 25 starts and has the great Albion Park record of three wins and a third in six starts.

"He drew close to the fence at his first few starts at Albion Park and went really well," said Falls.

"He will be hard to beat."

Draks is another Falls is worried about.

"I've seen a lot of him racing around the Northern Rivers and he is really well boxed," he said.

"The young fella who trains him is really happy with the draw."

While Draks appeared to show great early pace at his debut at Albion Park in last week's heat win, he ran only a 5.87 first section.

That would put him ahead of only Phantom Ben and Betrayed of Thursday night's finalists.

DARREN Russell has been happy to wait for Draks.

13 Nov, 2008

The son of **Hallucinate-Shazoni** made his Albion Park debut on Thursday night in a heat of the Young Guns (520m) and was an impressive all the way winner.

He scored by five lengths in 30.39 beating Day Seas Penny with aneck to Nikita Beriman in third.

It was his 17th race start but his first appearance at headquarters.

"He has been a brilliant dog all his life," said Russell.

"But he has been a bit weak at the finish of his races. We have wanted him to strengthen up before coming to Albion Park."

Russell took Draks, who is raced in partnership by a group of his former footy mates from his younger days, to Maitland for a series in September.

"The final was at Wentworth Park and he finished a great second to Glen Oak Boy who won in 30.01," said Russell.

"He had no luck in two races after the final including a heat of the Lismore Cup."

Borat won that heat in brilliant style but Draks was never in contention after being in early trouble.

Thursday night's winning time of 30.39 surprised Russell.

"He had trialled in the high 30.40s leading up to this race," he said.

"I thought he would lead off the wide draw but I was worried he would get tired."
That was never the case as Draks raced away to win by five lengths.
"He's into the final and anything can happen in a final," he said of his dog's chances next week.
It was the seventh win from 17 starts for Draks.

NEIL Falls has been trying for some time to give Genista Thunder a spell.

13 Nov, 2008.

He's had to revise that thought after the son of **Hallucinate-Smokey Whisky** swept to a brilliant 29.97 victory in a heat of the Young Guns (520m) at Albion Park on Thursday night.
He raced right away from the back straight to win by nine and three-quarters of a length over Berella Rihanna with a length and a half to Express Delivery in third.

Hot favourite, last week's Silver Dollars winner Matching Outcome, was galloped on during running and finished a long last.

He was lame in a hind leg when he pulled up.

Falls said he had been keen to spell Genista Thunder for some weeks.

"But every time I try to send him home for a spell, another good race comes up," he said.

First it was the Vic Peters series in Sydney and after winning his heat he had no luck in the semi-final. He was then in trouble in a heat of the Lismore Cup behind eventual winner Whirly Storm.

"I've always said this dog could at least go close to 30 seconds around Albion Park," said Falls after his dog had won in 29.97.

"We'll be back for the final next week and I'll talk to the owners about the possibility of a spell after that."

Genista Thunder has won 12 races from just 25 starts.

Falls says his dog is desperate for an inside draw and when he draws wide, he will always need luck. Boxer to go up a division

GREG Brennan keeps running into quality races over sprints with Shadow Boxer ... but not for much longer.

10 Nov, 2008.

The son of **Hallucinate-In My Dreams** is one of the highlight runners in the heats of the Young Guns (520m) at Albion Park on Thursday night.

He has drawn perfectly in box seven in his heat.

But Brennan is marking time with the dog who appears a natural stayer in the making.

His own dam In My Dreams was a top flight stayer for Brennan several years ago.

"I've been meaning to step him up at least to 600 metres," said Greg.

"But good races keep coming up and I've decided to take advantage of them while I can."

Brennan did that a few weeks back when he took Shadow Boxer to Sydney's Wentworth Park for the Vic Peters.

Shadow Boxer trialled 29.70 at his first look at the track reeling off a record 12.61 final section.

He showed that was no fluke with a 29.88 qualifying win and a final section then of 12.66.

"He then had no luck in his semi-final when he got run off early and then was pushed back in the field," said Brennan.

Shadow Boxer has won in 30.14 at Albion Park last Tuesday coming from well back to win stylishly.

"You are never sure they will run 700 metres until they actually do," said Greg.

"But he certainly looks like he will.

"We will put him up to 600m after the Young Guns series at Albion Park and make our future plans when we see how he handles it."

Brennan's small team has been whittled down slightly.

"Millennium had a bit of ligament strain in a hock after she came home from Sydney so I've rested her, and Grampian had a low blood count after the Ipswich Cup heats and she too is resting," he said.

He has a number of young dogs on the way up and high hopes for a Slater-In My Dreams litter now six months old.

Marg's holiday is closer

MARG Quarrell is already in holiday mode and she won't fly out until April next year.

6 Nov, 2008.

Margaret bred and part-owns Cobbell Lass (**Hallucinate-Kathie's Memory**) who wore down the early leaders to win a 520m 5th Grade at Albion Park on Thursday night.

She ran 30.64 to score by two and a quarter lengths overt early leader Pilgrim's Legacy with three-quarters of a length to Elise Odette in third.

Margaret and fellow part-owner Michael Cobb (Cobbell is a partnership of their names) are planning a holiday next year to Thailand.

"The winning prizemoney will help pay for the trip," said Marg.

Cobbell Lass took her record to five wins and 20 placings in 39 starts.

"She's been finding first turn trouble for a while now, but tonight she got clear and that was the difference," said Marg.

"We'll look to win one more over 520m with her and then step her up to 600m. I think she is getting stronger and stronger and the extra distance will suit her."

Margaret raced the dam Kathie's Memory who was a length outside the Albion Park track record over 395m and ran 30.50 when winning over 520m there.

Cobbell Lass and recent 30.07 Albion Park winner Kathy's Recall are from her first litter and five of those have won.

The bitch's win was her first Thursday night victory and her fourth at headquarters.

Margaret had trained Mundown for Michael and a group of friends to win a number of races at Albion Park and the Consolation of the Vince Curry the same year she won the final with Mundown's litter brother Mr Reliable.

Princess Bale Heading South To Take on Zorro *Written by: Ben Damon*

Courtesy GRNSW website

19/11

Connections of stayer PRINCESS BALE (**Hallucinate x Gold Rush Bale**) are hoping for one more successful campaign before the Hallucinate bitch is retired to breed.

The Oaks trainer Christopher Nutt has entered PRINCESS BALE in Thursday night's heats of the \$25,000 Bold Trease Carnival Cup over 715 metres at Sandown in Victoria where she's rated second favourite behind FALLEN ZORRO. She'll then head towards a farewell Group assault on December's Sale Cup.

"We've been picking and choosing her races lately, and her form has been good but she struggles to string too many good ones together nowadays. The boss (owner Paul Wheeler) wants to take her to the Sale Cup then retire her to breed," Nutt said.

"She's very temperamental, and her confidence has to be up to get a good performance.

"Right now her confidence is high and heading into those big races like this one (Bold Trease Carnival Cup) in Melbourne you would take the one box any time".

PRINCESS BALE will jump from the inside box in Thursday night's heat that also includes GUNNADOO MAGIC, and while Nutt admits his bitch has lost some early speed, he's hopeful she'll be finishing strongly.

"She's turned a bit dour but has turned into a real stayer lately. She can win a race like this and hopefully she'll win a few more after that too".

Thursday night's third heat at Sandown jumps at 9.54pm

Lilley Blooms in Summer *Written by: Johnny Aitken*

16/11

Australia has a new challenger for the number one staying ranking after Lilley Criminal (**Hallucinate x Que Dee Tee**) landed her second group victory in a month by taking out the Group Two Pages Event Hire Summer Cup at Wentworth Park last night.

Crossing straight to the lead, trainer Anthony Azzopardi who recorded the biggest win in his training career was never in doubt as to the result from there.

"It was over, she was home," Azzopardi said.

In front of a bumper crowd who packed the steps of Wentworth Park, Lilley Criminal (\$1.90) bounded along out in front, setting up a big gap from classy Others Quoted (\$11.40) who simply couldn't rein back the margin.

Stopping the clock at 42.29 seconds, "Lilley" had three and a quarter lengths to spare on the line from Others Quoted and Princess Bale (\$3.10), the second favourite who couldn't replicate her stunning heat win.

While some in the racing media thought the outside box might find "Lilley" out, Azzopardi was of a different opinion.

"She has a good record from the outside, so we were quite happy with the draw".

It was a popular win for her owners, the Bigger Than Life syndicate who invest of a significant amount of money into greyhound racing.

Azzopardi now plans to travel Lilley Criminal to Melbourne where she spent the majority of 2008.

"We'll head down to Melbourne now, down to Sandown Park next Thursday night for the heats of the Bold Trease".

For the beaten brigade, there are some promising signs that this bunch of hot staying talents will provide us with many enthralling contests to come. Princess Bale especially may have turned the corner in this series and she is capable of winning any race, on her night.