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Media Release

Four finalists named for QLD GOTY

THE race for the Queensland Greyhound of the Year has heated up with the announcement of four finalists for the prestigious prize.

The selection panel, which consists of Greyhounds Queensland Limited, the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club and racing media, usually picks three finalists, but found it too hard to stand them out and has named four.

The finalists are Knocka Norris, Made to Size, Queen Lauryn and Size Can Matter.

Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club general manager Luke Gatehouse said the competition hadn't been this close in five years.

"In 2003 Elite State won out of four fantastic dogs, and we have not seen the competition so close since," said Mr Gatehouse.

"These four are some of the fastest greyhounds in Australia, which is a true testament to how well the industry in Queensland is going."

In a Queensland Greyhound racing first, three of the four finalists come from the Reg Kay kennels in Knocka Norris, Made To Size and Size Can Matter.

Knocka Norris has had 14 wins from 22 starts and has broken the blistering 30-second barrier three times this year at Albion Park and now holds three track records.

Unfortunately, Knocka Norris' racing career was cut short last October, after injuring himself preparing for the Top Gun in Victoria.

Made To Size was another of the top greyhounds retired this year with 12 wins from 25 starts, including four of them under 30-seconds at Albion Park. He currently holds the three track record for the 520m of 29.57 seconds.

Size Can Matter's dominance in Australia and New Zealand has seen the word of Queensland greyhound racing spread across the Tasman, winning \$250,000 Platinum Paws in Christchurch last year.

Size Can Matter has had a consistent year of racing and has had 17 wins from 34 starts.



Australia's best bitch Queen Lauryn, trained by Tony Brett, and owned by Queensland racing identity Steve Hawkins, is the only female greyhound of the four.

Queen Lauryn has scored 12 wins from 22 starts, including the prestigious Group One Sapphire Crown at Sandown Park, Victoria in October. She also holds the track record at Sydney's Wentworth Park track over 520m.

Eight dogs were considered, the four finalists, as well as Black Ruler, Elite Oriental, Miss Hot Gossip and Nicely Done.

The Queensland Greyhound of the Year Award will be presented at a gala event at the Sofitel Hotel Brisbane, Grand Ball Room on Saturday, 28th February 2009.

KNOCKA NORRIS

(Elite State-Oriental Angel)

Owner-trainer: Reg Kay.

Winner: Group 1 National Sprint (Wentworth Park)

Qld final National Sprint (Albion Park)

Track Records: Maitland, The Gardens, Warrnambool.

Finalist: Young Guns (Gardens), Publicans Cup (Albion Park), Group 2 Warrnambool Cup, Group 2 WA Derby.

MADE TO SIZE

(Surf Lorian-Queen Size)

Owners: Julie Edmondson, Richard Eaton-Wells

Trainer: Reg Kay

Winner: Group 1 Winter Carnival Cup (Albion Park)

Group 2 Perth Cup Consolation

Third: Group 3 Sandown Shootout

Track Records Albion Park (twice)

Finalist: Group 1 Melbourne Cup (Sandown), Group 1 Brisbane Cup (Albion Park).

QUEEN LAURYN

(Token Prince-Cheeky Sprite)

Owners: Hawkins Family Syndicate

Trainer: Tony Brett

Winner: Group 1 Sapphire Crown (Sandown)

Group 2 Qld Futurity (Albion Park)

Second: Group 2 Ladies Bracelet (Wentworth Park)

Group 3 Sandown Shootout

Third: Group 1 Winter Carnival Cup (Albion Park)

Track Records: at Wentworth Park and Ipswich.

Finalist: Group 1 Topgun (Meadows)



SIZE CAN MATTER

(Elite State-Queen Size)

Owner: Julie Edmondson

Trainers: Reg Kay, Jack Irwin

Winner: Group 1 Perth Cup

Group 1 Platinum Paws (Christchurch)

Group 2 Qld Derby (Albion Park)

Summer Cup (Albion Park)

Second: Group 1 New Zealand Cup

Publicans Cup (Albion Park)

Third: Group 1 National Derby (Wentworth Park)

Group 2 WA Derby

Finalist: Group 1 Winter Carnival Cup (Albion Park)

For all media enquiries please contact the Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club's public relations and sponsorship officer Melinda Berry on 0424 665 842 or email melinda@brisgreys.com