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Media Release

Queen Lauryn wins Gold

AUSTRALIA'S Queen of greyhound racing Queen Lauryn proved her status as a champion stayer last night winning the Group One Cartwright Property Group Gold Cup at Albion Park.

The Tony Brett-trained bitch showed her class from box eight in an all-star field taking the lead on the first turn and stretching out as far as three lengths in front on the first straight.

She kept a two-length lead for the rest of the race before Mantra Lad made a last dash at her, but it was too late.

Graham Jose's Group One Sandown Cup winner, Mantra Lad, ran second with outside chance, and another Queensland stayer, Lady Moscato running third.

It is the second time Queen Lauryn and Mantra Lad have met with the result now one-all after last year's Group One Shootout at Sandown Park, which saw Mantra Lad run down the Queen to win.

The Cartwright Property Group Gold Cup is a Group One 710m race and has been won by the likes of Chinatown Lad, Miss Grub, Miss Brook and Last Quoted.

Queen Lauryn is owned by Sky race-caller and Gold Coast Turf Club director Steve Hawkins and his family.

In what is usually a family outing for Queen Lauryn's performances, Mr Hawkins was unfortunately only accompanied by two of his three daughters as wife Kate and his third daughter, Lauryn, who the champion greyhound was named after, were ill and could not make it.

Mr Hawkins said while he was disappointed that his whole family couldn't be there, the win was literally a dream come true.

"I had a dream three weeks ago the Queen Lauryn won her heat out of box eight and then her final out of box eight," he said.

"And that's what happened."

Trainer Tony Brett said he couldn't ask for a better night.

"Everything just fell into place tonight, I'm just ecstatic. We couldn't have asked for a better heat, and then to draw eight in the final and win was just fantastic."

Plans for Queen Lauryn are still undecided but would be one of the frontrunner for an invite for Hawkins-sponsored SuperStayers invitational on July 2. She is then expected to campaign for the Sydney Cup.

Mr Hawkins said while the plans were up to Mr Brett he had a few races that he would love to win.

"I would like to win the Darwin Cup, it has always been one that I have had an eye on."

Queen Lauryn has had a rough step up to the distance after finding Group One success over 520m in the Sapphire Crown at Sandown Park late last year.



Her 710m campaign was stalled last month when she was being prepared for the Sandown Cup, but was struck with illness. Last night's Group win was only her third start over the distance, winning in a quick time of 42.08 and making it three starts for three wins over 710m.

BACKGROUND

The Brisbane Greyhound Racing Club is one of the most raced at tracks in Australia, racing Monday to Thursday every week, with Thursday its flagship meeting.

The Sky Channel Winter Chasing Carnival features the following key dates:

June 4 - \$74,000 Group 1 Cartwright Property Group Gold Cup

June 18 - \$38,000 Group 2 Brandons Electrical Qld Derby

June 25 - \$22,000 Group 3 Big Dog Cup

July 2 - \$22,000 Hawkins Media Solutions Superstayers

July 9 - \$38,000 Group 2 Imagetec Gold Coast Cup

July 23 - \$74,000 Group 1 Garrards Winter Carnival Cup

For all media enquiries contact Anthony Millican on 0402 805 188 or email anthony@brisgreys.com