



MEDIA RELEASE

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GRV Media Release – Top dogs in line for Maturity Classic

Mepunga Blazer and Opal Nera head a star-studded field for Saturday's \$145,000 Group 1 Maturity Classic at The Meadows.

Mepunga Blazer stole the show in the Maturity heats with a 29.63 semi-final win and exceptional splits of 5.04 and 17.48.

The Jeff Britton-trained chaser was the only greyhound in the semi-final stage to break 30 seconds, but will have to contend with the awkward draw of six in the weekend's \$100,000-to-the-winner final.

Queensland trainer Tony Brett has two genuine chances in the Classic with Opal Nera and Fast Times.

Brett knows what it takes to claim Group 1 races at The Meadows, steering Bogie Leigh to victory in The Meadows' flagship race – the Australian Cup – in 2004 and Black Enforcer in a Topgun success in 2005.

Fast Times – one of five youngsters in the final by Australia's leading sire Barcia Bale – sat behind early leader Aston Dinnigan before powering home to win the third semi-final in 30.14. One race later, Brett bought up the double as Opal Nera won the speed battle in the run to the first corner, holding off a late challenge from Trixta Rox to get home in 30.20.

Saturday's program at The Meadows will also see the running of the Group 3 Destini Fireball Stayers final, where champion stayer Burn One Down will start a short-priced favourite despite going down to the in-form Billy's Bake in the second of the weekend's heats.

Mick's Angel gave trainer Allan Meyer his first Group finalist after a fantastic last-to-first win in the opening heat of the series. The daughter of Kilty Lad and Seabrook Lass will start from box eight in the \$25,000-to-the-winner final.

All the action kicks off at 7.12pm this Saturday with the Maturity Classic to be run at 8.55pm.

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