



Thursday 14 January, 2021

Racing update

Superstars to shine brightly on Warragul Cup night

All eyes will be on Shima Shine in Saturday night's \$67,000 Group 2 Warragul Cup Final after the champion greyhound smashed the 460m track record in his heat.

Entering the Warragul Cup heats as the \$4 favourite to win the series, Shima Shine didn't disappoint, taking full advantage of his box 8 draw to clock an electrifying 25.19sec, lowering the previous track record set by Aston Dee Bee in December 2016 by 2.5 lengths.

Six heats of the Warragul Cup were run on Friday night with the winners and two fastest 2nd placegetters making it into the final of this great race, which was first held in 1956 when won by Rocketeer.

Shima Shine, the 2020 Group 1 Topgun winner, is trained at Anakie by Andrea Dailly. He is now a red-hot \$1.75 favourite to win the Warragul Cup, however he will have to overcome box 6, a draw he has had five times in his illustrious career for three wins.

Incidentally, the Dailly team is chasing their second Warragul Cup victory after winning with Sun Hero in 2005.

Second favourite is Aeroplane Eric (\$5), one of two finalists for Devon Meadows trainer Glenn Rounds. Chasing his first group win, Aeroplane Eric ran an impressive 2nd to Shima Shine in his heat, and he has drawn the coveted 'red' box in the final, a draw which has produced easily the most winners over the track/distance in the past 12 months (almost 20 per cent).

On a local front, Catch The Thief (\$6) is aiming to become the first tried-and-true Gippsland greyhound to win the Warragul Cup since retired superstar El Grand Senor in 2011.

Trained by Matt Clark in Briagolong (near Sale), Catch The Thief is the most popular greyhound in Gippsland, and he is aiming to complete a St. Leger-Warragul Cup double - the two biggest races held at Warragul each year.

Remarkably, champion trainer Jason Thompson (Pearcedale) has never won a Warragul Cup, however he has one of the favourites in Equalizer (\$7), who produced a spectacular last-to-first heat win in 25.50sec, the second fastest winning time on the night. He exited box 8 in his heat, the same draw he has in the final.

Warragul Cup night will also incorporate two other feature races – the Distance Cup (680m) and the Cup Night Match Race (460m) – the latter being a two-dog event between Faithy Bale (Box 1) and Tiggerlong Tonk (Box 3) for a \$10,000 winner-take-all prize.

The Warragul Cup is the second of three group races tied into greyhound racing's *2020/21 Gippsland Festival of Racing*, along with the G1 Sale Cup (650m) – won in eye-catching fashion by Houdini Boy on Boxing Day - and the G2 Cranbourne Cup (520m) to be held on 6 February.

Racing fans can enjoy live and comprehensive coverage of Saturday's Warragul Cup night with Troy Harley, Molly Haines & James Van de Maat via GRV's Facebook Page and The Watchdog App from 8.15pm.

Group 2 Warragul Cup (460m)

Saturday 16 January, 9.07pm

Prize money: \$67,000 total; \$47,000 (1st); \$13,335 (2nd); \$6,665 (3rd)

- 1 AEROPLANE ERIC (Glenn Rounds, Devon Meadows VIC)
- 2 ASTON GWEN (Benjamin Magri, Avalon VIC)
- 3 CATCH THE THIEF (Matthew Clark, Briagolong VIC)
- 4 AMARILLO HIGHWAY (Glenn Rounds, Devon Meadows VIC)
- 5 ZIPPING ZARBO (Deborah Coleman VIC)
- 6 SHIMA SHINE (Andrea Dailly, Anakie VIC)
- 7 DREAM WIZARD (Sean Lithgow, Devon Meadows VIC)
- 8 EQUALIZER (Jason Thompson, Pearcedale VIC)

Reserves

- 9 JAX BALE (Andrea Dailly, Anakie VIC)
- 10 OUT OF SPRITE (Ashlee Terry, Nilma North VIC)

How to follow Saturday's Warragul Cup night:

- Facebook Live coverage at www.facebook.com/GRVictoria or via The Watchdog app from 8.15pm.
- Watch every race LIVE and FREE on The Watchdog app, watchdog.grv.org.au or on Sky Racing.
- RSN Racing and Sport (927 AM) & SEN Track (1593 AM).
- Live Twitter coverage with '@WatchDogRacing'.

Heat winners (fastest to slowest):

- 25.19sec Shima Shine
- 25.50sec Equalizer
- 25.57sec Zipping Zarbo
- 25.59sec Amarillo Highway
- 25.65sec Aston Gwen
- 25.67sec Dream Wizard

Warragul Cup night – key times

- 6.43pm First race
- 8.04pm Quaddie begins (Race 5)
- 8.15pm Facebook Live coverage begins
- 8.42pm Warragul Distance Cup – 680m – 1st Prize \$10,000 (Race 7)
- 9.07pm G2 Warragul Cup – 460m – 1st Prize \$47,000 (Race 8)
- 9.25pm Cup Night Match Race – 460m – 1st Prize \$10,000 (Race 9)
- 10.30pm Last race

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