



Wednesday 21 April, 2021

Racing update

Locals Battle For Geelong Gold Cup

It's certain a local sprinter will reign supreme in Friday night's \$70,000 Group 2 Geelong Gold Cup Final (520m), to be run at 9.27pm.

The entire field, including reserves, is trained in the Geelong region, with Anakie-based Jeff Britton boasting strength in numbers in fastest heat winner **Weblec Jet** (29.77sec) and older half-brother **Weblec Ace**.

After winning the G1 Perth Cup last weekend with Tiggerlong Tonk, young Anakie trainer Correy Grenfell, 27, is hoping to celebrate his second feature race victory in a week with dual country cups victor **Yozo Bale**, which also qualified for the 2020 Geelong Cup Final.

Traditionally held in October, the Geelong Cup is now part of greyhound racing's new \$700,000 *Western Festival of Racing*, which runs throughout Autumn and also incorporates the Horsham Cup (won by Shima Shine), Ballarat Cup (won by Ferdinand Boy) and Warrnambool Cup (May 5).

Five heats of the Geelong Cup were run last Friday night, with the winners and three fastest second placegetters now in line for a \$50,000 first prize.

The inside boxes dominate TAB betting, with **Weblec Jet** (Box 4) and **Yozo Bale** (3) opening up joint favourites at \$3.30, ahead of **Weblec Ace** (1), at \$4.

Here's a rundown of the contenders:

1 WEBLEC ACE

Trainer: Jeff Britton (Anakie)

Comment: Won 22 of 65 starts. Multiple Group 1 finalist and winner of G3 Sir John Dillon Memorial and G3 Cranbourne Classic. Excellent record from box one, winning four from nine.

2 BAROOGA SMOKE - *SCRATCHED*

Trainer: Brett Nye (Little River)

3 YOZO BALE

Trainer: Correy Grenfell (Anakie)

Comment: Class runner, winner of 22 from 57, highlighted by 2020 G2 Bendigo and G2 Ballarat Cup Finals. Also qualified for last year's G2 Geelong Gold Cup Final when injured behind Simon Told Helen.

4 WEBLEC JET

Trainer: Jeff Britton (Anakie)

Comment: Won eight from 26. Finished unplaced in G1 National Derby in Sydney before narrow defeats in Ballarat Cup heat and then Consolation (beaten by Yozo Bale). Fastest heat winner at his Geelong debut.

5 WELL GROUNDED

Trainer: Matthew Lanigan (Anakie)

Comment: Won seven from 44. Stepped up to Group company for the first time in Cup heats after scorching 29.23sec Sandown Park victory.

6 JUNK FOOD JUNKIE

Trainer: Jessica Sharp (Avalon)

Comment: Won 16 from 61. Was first reserve for G2 Shepparton Cup and since won three of last four, with the defeat coming in G1 Golden Easter Egg heats.

7 TOM THE CHEAP

Trainer: Rebecca Gibbons (Avalon)

Comment: Only win in his 15 starts was maiden victory at Geelong. Surprise heat runner-up at \$21 and entitled to be even bigger odds at his first appearance at Group level.

8 CARRY ON ANGEL

Trainer: Tim Britton (Lara)

Comment: Won 12 from 39. Improved unbeaten record at Geelong to three from three with heat victory, turning the tables on Barooga Smoke from recent G3 Easter Gift at Sandown Park.

Reserves

9 SWEET AS EMM

Trainer: Brendan Pursell (Lara)

Comment: Won 19 from 59. G2 Geelong Gold Cup finalist last year and has the talent to figure.

10 MEPUNGA WARRIOR

Trainer: Jeff Britton (Anakie)

Comment: Won five from 19. G3 Launching Pad finalist who finished strongly in heat placing.

HEAT WINNERS (fastest to slowest)

29.77sec Weblec Ace

29.80sec Yozo Bale

29.99sec Carry On Angel

30.01sec Weblec Ace

30.13sec Junk Food Junkie

FEATURES ON GEELONG CUP NIGHT

- Geelong Cup Final (520m) – First prize: \$50,000
- Cup Night Match Race (520m) – First prize \$10,000
- GRV Vic Bred Distance Series Final (680m) – First prize \$12,300

KEY TIMES

- 7.08pm - First race
- 9.08pm – Vic Bred Distance Final (Race 7)
- 9.27pm - Geelong Cup Final (Race 8)
- 9.48pm - Cup Night Match Race (Race 9), featuring Mepunga Warrior and Utah Express
- 10.47pm - Last race (Race 12)

HOW TO FOLLOW THE ACTION

- Live coverage with Troy Harley & James Van de Maat at www.facebook.com/GRVictoria or via The Watchdog app from 9.00pm.
- 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).
- Twitter coverage with ‘[@WatchDogRacing](https://twitter.com/WatchDogRacing)’.

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