



## **2017 BENDIGO CUP – MOUTHWATERING CLASHES IN EACH HEAT!**

Some of Australia's best sprinting greyhounds converge on Bendigo weekend as the heats of the Group 2 Triple M Bendigo Cup are run on Sunday afternoon.

The BGRA will host a double header this weekend with Saturday evening racing as well featuring heats of the Hip Pocket Bendigo Winter Cup where group 1 performer Reefton Treasure heads the classy line of up and coming stayers.

Sunday afternoon sees eight heats staged of the time honoured Bendigo Cup and once again the move away from Easter to the Winter time slot has been justified with the quality of entries as good as there is on offer with depth in each heats.

The first heat sets the tone of the series with boom youngster Jimmy Newob and seasoned campaigner Aussie Infrared paired against each other. Jimmy Newob recently equalled the Bendigo track record held by superstar Fernando Bale before finishing a narrow 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Group 1 Harrison Dawson at Sandown. The Red Cliffs trained flyer has won nine of his sixteen career starts and four from six at the track.

Aussie Infrared is an electrifying sprinter who has won 20 of his 34 starts, holds the Warrnambool track record, won the Group 2 Maitland Cup in March and is unbeaten at Lord's Raceway.

Match ups like this are in most heats. The 2016 Bendigo Cup winner Aston Bolero is drawn along side Group 1 winner Unlawful Entry in the 3<sup>rd</sup> heat. The pair combined have won \$670,000 and contested 27 group race finals.

Dual group 1 winner Striker Light, who took out the rich Golden Easter Egg a couple of months ago and is approaching the half million dollar prize money barrier will take on several up and coming potential stars including the exciting Barton Bale who has won twelve of his seventeen career starts to date.

Another winner at the highest level is Black Mumbo, who took out the Harrison Dawson recently at Sandown has drawn box one in his heat where he lines up against fellow black type winners Weekend Binge and Matt Machine.

The second heat sees Fabregal, a group race winner in WA and Queensland that has an imposing record of 39 wins from 69 outings looks to match strides with South Australian speedster Crunchin Numbers and promising youngster Good Girl Sandy.

Brilliant sprinter Jesaulenko, the Traralgon Cup winner who was runner up in the Melbourne Cup and Temlee will look to make yet another feature race final but in his way is star Tasmania sprinter Cosmic Heir and explosive sprinter Zinzan Brooke.

Boom youngster Kouta Mayhem steps up to open company in heat seven where he takes on South Australian Oaks winner Pepper Fire while the final heat is similar to the opening one where two extremely talented chasers and varying points in t he careers will clash.

Aston Dee Bee, who recently set a new time standard at Bulli adding that mark to his Warragul track record is a rare talent whilst Pantera Nera has amassed nearly \$300,000 in career earnings with victories including the Traralgon Cup, Dapto Megastar, Black Top and Launceston Cup.

The eight heat winners will progress to the \$47,000 to the winner final to be run next Friday night July 7 on a card that includes finals of the Winter Cup, Vic Bred maiden series and the Ready 2 Race Auction mid year bonus.

Saturday evening racing starts at 5.09pm with racing action on Sunday to commence at 1.50pm and kids activities on the Superheroes race day raising money for Give Me 5 For Kids will be underway from 1.30pm.



***Aston Bolero winning the Cup in 2016 – back to defend his title in 2017***



***Pantera Nera and Unlawful Entry, finalists in 2016 will be looking for a 2<sup>nd</sup> chance in 2017***