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Media Release

Albert too zippy and Cartier blazes in exciting racing

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Occasionally sporting and racing events do not live up to the hype and build up but the greyhound racing action at Bendigo yesterday afternoon certainly delivered on it's promise of being exciting and of the highest quality, and not without a tale or two to go with it.

The Jarrod Larkin Gold Rush Maiden final was billed as a three dog contest however after local hope Lalina was only moderate away, it was left to the speedy Music Event, and the strong Zipping Albert to battle it out. Music Event was made to work hard by Weblec Whirl providing the opportunity for Zipping Albert to get within striking range approaching the turn.

The son of Over Limit and Zipping Midge checked over heels of the leaders before changing direction to take the gap between the leading pair and power to the line to score a neck victory over Music Event with Weblec Whirl less than a length away in third in 23.74.

Zipping Albert gave NSW breeders and owners Martin and Fiona Hallinan back to back victories in the Gold Rush Maiden and while trainer Karen Pitt was excited to win the rich final she was relieved just to have made it to the track.

"We nearly didn't make it. Coming into town I got a flat tyre and was worried about getting to the track in time to kennel" Karen said after the race. "I have to thank trainer Billy Stockdale as I gave him a call to see where he was and he turned back and came and got me and the dogs. I guess after winning the big final the tyre is not the concern it was a few hours ago but now we have to go back and get the car and see how we go getting it sorted".

Pitt added "we have known the Hallinan family for a long time and to win a feature race for them is wonderful and a great thrill. The race was rescheduled at just the right time as we were looking to get the young ones into racing as they mature. Zipping Albert is very strong and the concern was him keeping up with the speedy ones but he got the job done and now it will be 500m racing".

The Grays Bendigo Stayers Cup was arguably the best overall field of stayers drawn to contest a 660m event at Bendigo with the eight runners having earned just under \$1million in stakes and contested fifteen group events. Expectations were that the race would be extremely competitive with plenty of chances and that is exactly how it turned out.



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With Tauwitchere and Rajasthan checking each other at the first turn it was Easy Choice carting the more fancied runners through the middle stages with Blazing Cartier and Weblec Haze ready to pounce. With the benefit of more distance racing experience they did exactly that with in form stayer Blazing Cartier proving too strong over the concluding stages to hold off Weblec Haze by a half length in 37.89 and Jayville Slick making up late ground to fill third spot.

Blazing Cartier has a heart as big as herself, weighing in at under 25kg, the talented stayer has now won fifteen races and placed another 20 times in only 51 career starts with her earnings nearing \$130,000 in prize money and provided trainer Robert Britton with the Bendigo Stayers Cup - Bendigo Cup double after Landmark claimed the Cup for the kennel in 2017.

The 2020 Triple M Bendigo Cup series kicks off on Sunday June 28 and in recent weeks some of the leading contenders have taken to the Bendigo circuit in competitive lead ups and yesterday two of those greyhounds were pitted against each other in the battle of the record holders.

Jim Zarr Dashian, the Bendigo track holder was drawn in box five with Warragul track record holder Paua Of Oscar in box eight. The all important start was the key in this contest with Jim Zarr Dashian only moderately away and never looking likely to match the speed of Paua Of Oscar as the lightly raced speed machine raced away for a four and a half length win in a flying 23.49.

The Bendigo winter racing carnival continues Wednesday afternoon with ten heats of the inaugural Battlers Cup highlighting the card.