



Bendigo Greyhound Racing Association Inc.
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Media Release

Spotlight to Shine on Bendigo Cup

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All eyes of the greyhound racing world will be on Lord's Raceway on Friday night at 9.08pm when a superb field of star chasers will compete for a \$50,000 first prize in the 2020 Triple M Bendigo Cup.

Eight outstanding heats were conducted last Sunday afternoon and it was Shima Shine that stole the show in a breathtaking track record performance to cement his spot as the favourite for the rich final. Recognised as one of the fastest sprinters in Australia, Shima Shine was a runner up in last years Million Dollar Chase at Wentworth Park and is also the Ballarat track record holder.

As good as he is, he will need to be at his best on Friday night as he has drawn awkwardly in box five and has to contend with one of the best line ups seen in a country cup for some time including one of Australia's best sprinters over the past year, Tiggerlong Tonk and speed machine Hard Style Rico that only narrowly missed the track himself on Sunday.

Normally when a greyhound qualifies for a final by setting a track record they dominant the betting market however such is the quality of this years Cup final Shima Shine is the favourite but only just ahead of the next two fastest qualifiers. That trio look the stand out three however a case can be argued for the likes of the ever consistent Speed Star and the in form Slingshot Titan to be right in contention.

The Group 2 Triple M Bendigo Cup final highlights a big night of racing that sees no less that six feature races as well as a terrific support card.

Feature race action kicks off in race three with the \$5,000 to the winner Ready 2 Race Mid Year Bonus event for graduates of the BGRGA's 2019 Ready 2 Race auction from last November, followed by the inaugural Battler's Cup also worth \$5,000 to the winner. The fifth event is the Vic Bred Maiden final offering a first prize of \$7,500, the main staying event of the carnival is the Hip Pocket Bendigo Winter Cup with the winner to receive \$10,000 and the Mannings Greyhound Complex final has the finalists chasing a prize of \$3,050 over the 500m.

Racing action kicks off at 7.08pm with the main event at 9.08pm. Unfortunately under Covid19 restrictions only essential trainers and workers are allowed to attend but all the action will be live on Sky Racing and also The Watchdog app while the BGRGA will present on track coverage on their face book including presentations, interviews and selections from around 7.30pm.



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Race 1 – In a very even opener for Cup night the locally trained **Flying Farrokh (8)** is ideally drawn to take out the first race. With a slick 23.86 best time at the track he only has to run up to that effort to win the race. **Aston Ryker (3)** has been racing well without winning and finish just behind Flying Farrokh last start in a similar type of race. Kennel mates **Jodie's Boy (2)** and **Ray Keeping (7)** both scored recent impressive Shepparton wins and have claims. *Selections: 8-3-2-7*

Race 2 – After an unlucky 4th in a heat of the Bendigo Cup last week **Kipling (6)** steps up to the 500m trip and has the speed to cross the field and with a class edge will take some catching. Last start Meadows winner **Driftin' Away (4)** has the ability to pose a serious threat to Kipling. The Dailly duo of **Jagger's Joss (3)** and **Rockstar Lincoln (5)** must be considered. *Selections: 6-4-3-5*

Race 3 – The speedy **He's An Ace (4)** has a terrific record at the track and has the pace edge over his rivals which should see him find the front early and be hard to run down. **Razor Burn (2)** impressed with an all the way Sandown win recently and is drawn to get a perfect run. **Who Cry Now (3)** is better suited over more ground but is capable of figuring in the finish and **Roots Rock Riot (7)** was a smart winner here off the wide draw on June 19. *Selections: 4-2-3-7*

Race 4 – A very even field lines up in the inaugural Battler's Cup with a host of chances. **Silver Compass (4)** returned to form with a smart heat win and if he brings his best box manners he will be hard to beat. In form chaser **Double Tactic (5)** made it a hat trick of wins in posting the fastest heat time last start and will be finishing off strongly. **Quest Allen (6)** and **Spritley Too (1)** showed terrific pace in their heat wins and have solid chances. *Selections: 4-5-6-1*

Race 5 – Maiden finals are always even races and this one is no exception. **Max's Idol (7)** impressed on debut in his heat clocking the fastest time of 23.92 and being locally trained has had plenty of educating at the Bendigo track. **Aussie Secret (5)** recorded lightning sectionals on debut in his heat and clocked the equal fastest time with Max's Idol but has to contend with the move from box one to box five. **Dr. Phoenix (3)** hit the line hard in his heat at his first start and **Perfect Colour (6)** has the benefit of experience being placed four of five runs to date. *Selections: 7-5-3-6*

Race 6 – A wide opening staying event is the Winter Cup final. **Euro Bro (6)** will need plenty of luck getting across to the rail where he wants to be from the wide draw but if he does he will be charging home over the top of the leaders. **Mepunga Spectre (1)** is chasing a hat trick of wins after scoring at Warrnambool before impressing in her heat win last week. **Drumroll Please (3)** uncharacteristically missed the start in his heat but is sure to benefit from his first visit to Bendigo. **Angry Trip (2)** could provide some value for the multiples and fastest heat winner **Easy Choice (5)** cannot be ignored. *Selections: 6-1-3-2*



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Race 7 – A field of the highest quality will contest the Cup final. **Shima Shine (5)**, one of the fastest greyhounds in Australia, set a new track record in his scintillating heat win and he is the one to beat though will need to be at his best. **Tiggerlong Tonk (6)** is one of Australia's best sprinters having contested multiple group 1 finals and he was very impressive in his heat win at his first look at the track. **Hard Style Rico (2)** just missed the track record in his heat and is drawn to get a nice run. Ultra consistent sprinter **Speed Star (1)** is the likely leader and will make his presence felt. *Selections: 5-6-2-1*

Race 8 – **Origami Angel (6)** has done her recent racing in the best company is well placed here. A solid enough effort in her heat when resuming after a fall she should improve and be hard to beat. **Aston Valetta (7)** posted a smart 28.06 as the fastest heat winner after chasing down **Rothwell Gal (4)** that has a chance to play catch me if you can again. **Bubble (8)** is perfectly drawn in the eight. *Selections: 6-7-4-8*

Race 9 – Promising sprinter **Smart As Jack (8)** is dropping in class after finishing third in a Cup heat last week behind Hard Style Rico and Flossing. He has won seven of eleven to date and looks a serious racer. **Iylee Bale (4)** defeated Aston Valetta at Ballarat recently after having raced in much stronger company. **Gypsy Yankee (2)** is another exciting prospect that has won four of eight in impressive style. **Braith Bale (1)** has claims. *Selections: 8-4-2-1*

Race 10 – The speedy **Aston Ensley (2)** should find the front easy enough and gets her chance to hold on and win after being run down at her past two starts. **Aston Eureka (1)** will get the drop on Aston Ensley and be hard to hold out. **Meatball Soup (4)** is better suited wider on the track but impressed here last start and **Jack's Gone Wild (8)** has a chance at big odds. *Selection: 2-1-4-8*

Race 11 – **Aston Stealth (4)** looks the best bet of the night. At his visit to Bendigo he finished third to top line sprinters Paua Of Oscar and Jim Zarr Dashian. Drops in class here and should win. **Mystic Rose (3)** is a risky beginner but when she gets the start right she can take some catching. Kennel mates **Wonder Riri (6)** and **Don't Argue Love (8)** are place chance. *Selections: 4-3-6-8*

Race 12 – **Fireball Friday (8)**, a recent 29.67 Sandown winner is the one to beat in the final event. Has terrific mis race speed and from box eight will get the chance to use it. **Big Don't Argue (2)** has the speed to hold a forward position and make his presence felt. **Beguile (3)** and **Scraping Paint (5)** are worth some thought too. *Selections: 8-2-3-5*