



Australian Greyhound
Racing Association

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McCarthy all smiles after winning the Queensland Derby

By Kathrine Earnst Australian Racing Greyhound

JOHN McCarthy remains on cloud nine after his talented greyhound Rather Dapper won Thursday night's Group 2 Queensland Derby (520m) at Albion Park.

The black and white dog was sent to the boxes as a \$20 shot off the cherry, but managed to slot into second spot early before finding the lead down the back and kicking clear to score by one-and-a-half lengths in 29.98.

Fire To Rain (\$44.30) (box eight) ran on well to grab second ahead of early leader Captain Til (\$48.60) (box six).

Despite being one of the outsiders in the sensational field, McCarthy said he went into the event giving his charge a genuine chance.

"Since the Vince Curry final where he hit the lids he hasn't really been jumping, but I thought if he could step with them then he would be a bit of a chance," McCarthy told Australian Racing Greyhound.



Rather Dapper winning the Queensland Derby

(All Pics Box 1 Photography)

"He didn't get out brilliant, but it was a lot better than he has been and the one box helped.

"Once the six crossed him he got right on its back in second – down the back he went past it and I remember looking back at the eight hoping we'd be able to hold it off."

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Once the son of Dyna Lachlan and Pearl Za Zinger crossed the line in front, McCarthy said it was hard to contain his excitement.

“I have still got the smile on my face,” he said.

“It was surreal – I was watching the race and Mick Zammit slapped me on the back and said ‘you’ve got it Johnny’ before they got to the line – but I still didn’t want to get too excited until he crossed the line.

“Once he won it there was pure elation – it’s lovely to win these races and of course there is big money on offer – but for me it is just about the thrill of winning the race – that’s what I’m in the industry for.”

It was an especially rewarding win for McCarthy, who bred and owns the consistent greyhound, now a winner of four from 10 with three minor placings.



McCarthy said the win was also a relief after his greyhound had been defeated in two previous group race finals.

“I think I am happy to settle for the Derby – it’s a pretty good substitute for the other two,” McCarthy quipped.

“He went into the Vince Curry and Ipswich Auction Series as favourite and the luck didn’t go our way.

“I would have hated for the dog to not to win a big race given how much ability he has and knowing he was a big chance in the other races.”

And while McCarthy is hoping the Derby win can be a stepping stone for bigger and better things, he says he isn’t getting too carried away.

“You go through the list of dogs that have won it and a lot of them have gone on to win other group races.

“I don’t want to look too far into the future, but who knows – I have my fingers crossed he can emulate a few of them.

“There are some nice races up here for him now – there is a Young Gun series and then the Flying Amy Classic so I think I will keep him to those age-restricted series’ for now and then we’ll go from there.”

After the placed runners, the field finished in the following order 4th Annabelle’s Boy (\$4.20), 5th Roll So Deep (\$35.70), 6th Cosmic Bonus (\$4.50), 7th Fast Times (\$2.10), 8th Alpha Georgiou (\$7.00).

Rather Dapper is raced, trained and bred by John McCarthy of Wivenhoe Pocket Queensland. Rather Dapper is a Black & White dog whelped April 2015 by Dyna Lachlan from Pearl Za Zinger (Surf Lorian x Kaycee Diva). He has won four of his 10 starts and with the \$47,250 first prize for the Queensland Derby it took his current stake earnings to \$52,566.

The Queensland Derby was first run at the Gabba in 1972 and it is one the state’s time honoured events. The feature event was sponsored by Ardath in 83, 84 & 85 and by the ANZ Bank 86, 87 & 88. The race was then sponsored by Brandon Electrics from 1999 until 2014, Brandon Electrics is Queensland’s largest electrical contractor and is operated by greyhound racing icon Paul Felgate. The popular former owner-trainer-breeder has supported the industry in numerous ways over a 40-year period and the name Brandon is synonymous with the sport in Queensland. Last year the race had a new sponsor in Glen Gallon @ Stud and this year again Tony Brett and Lenny Antonio sponsored with ThirtyTalks@Stud.

The Derby has been won by some notable sprinters over the years with the best being Iron Hawk (78), Tangleshell (83), Your Attention (91), Jurassic Vapour (94), Dallas Man (95), Fear No Judge (96), Melbourne Cup winner Roanokee (97), Top Gun - National Sprint Champion Placard (2000), Winter Cup winner Awesome Machine (02), Top Gun Winner Black Enforcer in 2005 and star Victorian Superman in 2007. Two of Queensland's most brilliant sprinters Size Can Matter and High Earner the Australia stakes record holder for sprinters won the event in 2008 and 2009 and last year's winner was superstar Dyna Villa. Listed below is the full honour roll of past winners.

1972 **Dixie's First**, 1973 **Dan Meadow**, 1974 **Ben Hamilton**, 1975 **High Climax**, 1976 **Irish Outlaw**, 1977 **Rebel Attack**, 1978 **Iron Hawk**, 1979 **Smart Mission**, 1980 **Morayfield**, 1981 **Hatari Chief**, 1982 **Duration**, 1983 **Tangleshell**, 1984 **Magic Gull**, 1985 **Kismet Range**, 1986 **Raging Rajah**, 1987 **Track Trump**, 1988 **Markaboy**, 1989 **Nifty Business**, 1990 **Mr Alert**, 1991 **Your Attention**, 1992 **Tears Finito**, 1993 **Dagenham**, 1994 **Jurassic Vapour**, 1995 **Dallas Man**, 1996 **Fear No Judge**, 1997 **Roanokee**, 1998 **Mighty McClurg**, 1999 **Fiery Asset**, 2000 **Placard**, 2001 **Sorcerer**, 2002 **Awesome Machine**, 2003 **Road Closed**, 2004 **Art Mann**, 2005 **Black Enforcer**, 2006 **Superman**, 2007 **Big Swell**, 2008 **Size Can Matter**, 2009 **High Earner**, 2010 **Franklin Style**, 2011 **Bogie King** 2012 **Bellagio Lad**, 2013 **Hello Good Bye**, 2014 **Flash Reality**, 2015 **Dyna Villa** and 2016 **France Sior**.

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