

WINX STANDS OUT IN EXHILARATING THE CHAMPIONSHIPS

THE FIFTH RUNNING OF THE CHAMPIONSHIPS WAS HIGHLY-SUCCESSFUL WITH PERFECT AUTUMN WEATHER AND SOME THRILLING RACING OVER THE TWO DAYS

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Record-breaking mare Winx cemented her place in Australian racing history with a power-packed display to win the \$4 million Longines Queen Elizabeth Stakes (2000m) on Day 2 of The Championships.

Her effortless victory equalled Black Caviar's 25-straight winning sequence and capped a memorable afternoon on the final day of the hugely-successful The Championships.

"There can be no doubt Sydney's own Winx is the world's best racehorse with a huge crowd attending Royal Randwick to witness a piece of history," said Racing NSW's CEO, Peter V'landys AM.

"In just five years since its inception The Championships has given Sydney an autumn racing carnival that is vibrant and showcases Australia's best horses to the world."

There were highlights galore during the 2018 The Championships including the epic battle down the straight between three-year-olds Levendi and Ace High in the Australian Derby, and Happy Clapper's victory in the Doncaster Mile was one of the most popular wins in the history of the race.

And a huge roar resonated around the course when the number of popular stayer Who Shot Thebarman was announced as the narrow winner of the Sydney Cup.

Australian Turf Club's Chairman, Laurie Marci, said: "In more than 150 years history of the Longines Queen Elizabeth Stakes, there has never been a better renewal than the victory by Winx."

How the 2018 The Championships races panned out: -

NEWHAVEN PARK COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS FINAL:

Victorem charged along the fence to claim first prize for jockey Ben Looker and trainer Jenny Graham. Looker said: "This is my Melbourne Cup, obviously being in the bush you don't find many progressive horses, let alone any as good as Victorem. I've just got to thank Jenny (Graham) and the owners for sticking with me the whole way along."

POLYTRACK PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS FINAL:

Serene Miss was too classy making it six wins from seven starts when she overhauled Newsfan to score by a length. Jason Collett said: "She's got a great attitude, just mentally, 1400m first time, no worries, it was very easy in the end. I came off the back of the stablemate and I hit the side wind at the top of the straight and thought oh wow, but she powered over the top of rise and the rest was history."

INGLIS SIRES': Roughie El Dorado Dreaming finished fast out wide to again deny the luckless Oohood who had also finished second in the Golden Slipper. Winning jockey Damian Lane said: "I went back from the wide draw and was second last and as we turned for home. I thought I may have waited a bit too long on one earlier in the day so I just went for home and I thought I had done the opposite and thought I'd been beaten, what a thrill."

HARROLD'S AUSTRALIAN

DERBY: It was a classic two-horse

war down the straight with Levendi and Mark Zahra narrowly edging out Tye England and Ace High. Zahra said: "I just waited and waited and knew Ace High would kick strongly. I couldn't get in front of him but gee he has a big heart. I could feel when we both quickened there was no-one else around it was a battle royale."

360 DMG PERCY SYKES

STAKES: Grey galloper Pure Elation dashed away to an impressive win for Michael Walker who said: "I've always had a really good opinion of this filly, so have Peter and Paul (Snowden). Today she was beautiful in-running, she can tend to get her head up and be a bit strong, but she was a lot better this time. She's the real deal."

DARLEY TJ SMITH STAKES:

Dashing three-year-old Trapeze Artist came home too strongly for favourite Redzel who had no answer to the powerful finish of this now valuable stallion. Tye England said: "This boy has got a big future, he is only a three-year-old but beat probably our best sprinter in Australia and that was exciting. Coming up the rise, having Redzel in our sights and being able to pick him up and put him away, that feels so good."

THE STAR DONCASTER MILE:

One of the more popular wins of the autumn was Happy Clapper who landed the prize for popular local trainer Pat Webster. Rider Blake Shinn remarked: "That is amazing, I have just won a Doncaster. I have watched this race for so many years growing up and to finally win it and on the



Hugh Bowman acknowledges the crowd after Winx's devastating victory

people's champ 'The Clapper'. He is so brave this horse, he is honest he is tenacious and tough, well done to Pat Webster and the team."

ARROWFIELD 3YO SPRINT:

Catchy zoomed down the outside for 'Magic Man' Joao Moreira's first win during this year's The Championships. He said: "She settled nicely, where she likes to be in the race and finished off the race with all the power that's she got.

It's such a great feeling to be riding another Group winner in Australia."

JAMES BOAG'S PREMIUM AUSTRALIAN OAKS:

Hugh Bowman won his third straight Oaks on Unforgotten who finished strongly to haul in the leader Hiyaam. Bowman said: "She's a lovely filly and who knows what's in store for her in the future. I was always confident, I had such a lovely run in transit, she was superb the last 500m."

COOLMORE LEGACY STAKES:

Alizee bounced back to her best with an authoritative win after coming from well back. Winning jockey Glyn Schofield said: "She's a special girl. James (Cummings) had this race in mind for a long time and all credit to him and the Godolphin team, they



*ABOVE: Jason Collett and Serene Miss cruise home in the Polytrack Provincial Championships Final
BELOW: Pure Elation (Michael Walker) goes for home in the 360 DMG Percy Sykes Stakes*



presented her in great order.”

LONGINES QUEEN ELIZABETH

STAKES: Sydney’s darling of the turf, Winx, again made it a one-act affair as she cruised away from her opposition. Hugh Bowman said: “She’s just an exceptional athlete, she creates so much attention, I’m just so elated, I’m so proud of her and I’m just so proud to be a part of it. There’s so many cogs to the wheel and I know I get the dream ride. I know I’ve got the engine to round them up.”

SCHWEPPE'S SYDNEY CUP:

Another popular win when Who Shot Thebarman, having twice finished second in the race, gained the judge’s nod in a tight finish with roughie Zacada. Blake Shinn said: “What a thrilling finish. If there is ever a horse that deserves to win a Sydney Cup it’s him. He’s got a great group of owners that follow him around every year. It was a massive thrill to be able to get him over the line.” **RNSW**



Joao Moreira drives Catchy home in the Arrowfield 3yo Sprint

CARYL WILLIAMSON WINS TAB CHAMPION TIPSTER

Caryl Williamson of Australian Associated Press (AAP) held on to win the 2018 TAB Champion Tipster Challenge after a thrilling contest to complete Day 2 of The Championships.

The star of the day for Williamson was Who Shot Thebarman, a narrow and popular winner of the Schweppes Sydney Cup (paying \$13.70 and \$2.70 on the NSW TAB), which, combined with her remarkable effort to tip four winners on Day 1 of The Championships, helped her to a final tally of \$498.

Seven Network’s Ryan Phelan was the standout on Day 2 of The Championships, with four winners (Serene Miss, Catchy, Unforgotten and Alizee) plus a smart selection of Gailo Chop for a place strategy against Winx in the Longines Queen Elizabeth Stakes to see him finish runner-up on \$421.

Brad Davidson (Sky Racing) was third on \$376.40, Ray Thomas (Daily Telegraph) was fourth with \$364.40 and Andrew Webster (The Sydney Morning Herald) was fifth on \$307

to round out all those tipsters who finished with more than \$300 in the bank from a hypothetical \$10 each-way bet placed on the NSW TAB on each of the 25 tipsters’ runners across 12 races over the two weekends.

Williamson, a long-time astute judge and prolific writer for AAP, is now 2018 TAB Champion Tipster, with TAB kindly donating \$5000 to the winner’s charity of choice, which is BeyondBlue

“I’m very happy to win for such a good cause in Beyondblue and while I couldn’t match the four winners on Day 1 of The Championships, I was luckily able to rely on Who Shot Thebarman – he never lets me down,” Williamson said.

“Thanks to all those involved, the sponsors, the organisers and my

fellow tipsters – it was a lot of fun.”

Final 2018 TAB Champion Tipster tally: -

- Caryl WILLIAMSON (AAP) \$498
- Ryan PHELAN (Channel 7) \$421
- Brad DAVIDSON (Sky Racing) \$376
- Ray THOMAS (Daily Telegraph) \$364
- Andrew WEBSTER (Sydney Morning Herald) \$307
- Cameron WILLIAMS (Channel 9) \$293
- Tony BRASSEL (Sky Thoroughbred Central) \$245
- Ben WALKER (Fairfax Media) \$240
- Matt MALONE (Wagga Advertiser) \$229
- Glenn MUNSIE (TAB) \$198

‘REVOLUTION’ IN TAB EDITORS’ CHALLENGE

The cheering could be heard loud and clear from the Central Coast of NSW following the victory of Serene Miss in the \$500,000 Polytrack Provincial Championships Final (1400m).

Shoobox Revolution is the beneficiary of \$5000 courtesy of TAB after Central Coast Express Advocate

nominated it as its charity of choice in TAB's 2018 Provincial Editors' Challenge.

The Provincial Championships has generated huge interest right around the state and as such, newspaper editors were invited to 'support their local horse' leading up to the Final on The Championships Day 2 – Longines Queen Elizabeth Stakes Day.

TAB joined with The Championships to get behind each region's horse and editors were asked to nominate a charity with \$5000 heading to the winner's respective charity.

Central Coast Express Advocate was the lucky newspaper to draw Serene Miss with the paper's Editor, Tony Curran, saying: "We're thrilled to see Serene Miss win the Provincial Championships Final on behalf of the Central Coast Express Advocate.

"And we're even more delighted for our nominated charity Shoebox Revolution. The charity was set up by two Central Coast sisters with the simple aim of filling a shoebox with of essential items for the homeless.

"We must thank TAB and Racing NSW as the \$5000 prize will go a long way towards providing these care packages for those in need."

PORT MACQUARIE LANDS COUNTRY CHALLENGE

Mackillop College Women's Legal Fund will benefit from the dashing win of well-fancied galloper Victorem in the \$500,000 Newhaven Park Country Championships Final.

The charity will receive \$5000 courtesy of TAB after Port Macquarie News nominated it as its charity of choice in the 2018 TAB Country Editors' Challenge.

Port Macquarie News was the lucky newspaper to have Victorem as its representative with editor, Tracey Fairhurst, saying: "This is fantastic news and we are so pleased for our charity.

"A \$5000 contribution to the Mackillop College Legal Justice Fund in Port Macquarie will have a significant impact on the reach of this community project."

Further information is available at – www.thechampionships.com.au

SHINN CLAIMS NATHAN BERRY MEDAL



Blake Shinn charged into contention for the Nathan Berry Medal after winning the Schweppes Sydney Cup aboard Whot Shot Thebarman

Blake Shinn arrived late to capture the 2018 Nathan Berry Medal in a thrilling finish to the contest on Day 2 of The Championships.

Shinn burst onto the scene by winning the Schweppes Sydney Cup aboard crowd favourite Who Shot Thebarman (\$18) to reach six points before his second on Prompt Response (\$12) in the Coolmore Legacy Stakes put him on eight points.

Pre-post favourite Kerrin McEvoy led most of the way and also finished on eight points, but on a countback Shinn was awarded the Nathan Berry Medal.

In the event of a tie, the winner is he/she who has ridden the most winners during The Championships. Shinn finished with two winners and a second to McEvoy's five placings.

Shinn's other winner was on

Day 1 of The Championships when the popular Happy Clapper raced away with the \$3m The Star Doncaster Mile.

McEvoy led the Medal race having earlier partnered Fiesta (\$6.50) in the 360 DMG Percy Sykes Stakes (1200m) where he had to be content with finishing second to Michael Walker aboard the flying grey Pure Elation (\$4 favourite).

2017 NATHAN BERRY MEDAL COUNT

8	Blake Shinn, Kerrin McEvoy
6	Hugh Bowman, Tye Angland
5	Mark Zahra
4	Damian Lane, Michael Walker, Joao Moreira
3	Ben Looker, Glyn Schofield, Jason Collett, Andrew Adkins, Michael Dee