

4/5/2011

### Rafters Reign Supreme in Goat Races

The father and son team of Geoff and Brendan Rafter reigned supreme on the track at the 2011 Tree of Knowledge Festival goat races in Barcaldine on Monday May 2.

Between the two of them they took out, or were part owners in the winners of every single major race on the day and captured the first three places in Australia's richest goat race, the John deGroot Australian Goat Racing Cup.

Bright Eyes, owned by Geoff Rafter, trained by his son Brendan and ridden by Jack Moody was the stand out goat on the day going over the line lengths ahead of the other goats in the John de Groot Cup.

Bright Eyes was followed by Michael Dickson's and Geoff Rafter's, Up the Mighty Worker ridden by Lachlan Rooney with Lightning, owned and trained by Brendan Rafter, and ridden by Brendan's sister Katie coming in third place.

It was all action at this year's event with thirty-six goats, from as far afield as Sarina and Rockhampton taking to the track in front of a capacity crowd.

Brendan Rafter's Lightning secured a spot in the John deGroot Cup by taking out the first race of the day, the Lyn and John Davies Mobil Café and Starlin Units Derby with Kim Hazel's Buddo coming in a close second.

Geoff Rafter's Bright Eyes posted the fastest time on the day with 12.99secs when he went over the line in The Barcaldine Regional Council Tree of Knowledge Cup followed by Parker Dancey's Strike, also trained by Brendan Rafter.

In the final major race of the day, the George Bourne and Associates and Cornett's IGA Inaugural Cup, Michael Dickson's and Geoff Rafter's Up the Mighty Worker took out the honours followed by Ross Miller's Patches O'Hoolihan.

It was fast and furious action in the Sinclair Knight and Merz (SKM) Billy Goat Rumble.

The SKM Billy Goat rumble heats were taken out by Kevin Alexander's and Geoff Rafter's Bronco, Kim Hazel's Which Way and Morrie McQuillan's Lucky.

The Celebrity Sponsors Sprint was also hotly contested on the day with Allan Lutz taking out the honours for George Bourne and Associates followed by Shane Pastor representing IGA then John deGroot on his own goat, Thunder's Ghost.

Barcaldine Goat Racing Committee President, Mr Tom Lockie spoke highly of the success of the day.

"You couldn't have gotten a better race meeting - it was as good as it gets," said Tom.

“The goats ran well and there were some very fast times. We had a huge crowd which thoroughly enjoyed an extremely well run event. This is what true goat racing is all about.”

“Congratulations to the Rafter stable who certainly dominated the day. Good on them, they have some fast and very well trained goats.”

“I’d like to thank every one who assisted with the running of the day, it ran like clockwork thanks to the hard work of a number of people and also our sponsors who make a day like this possible and ensure the future continuation of goat racing in the west.”

## **RACE RESULTS**

### **FINALS**

#### **1. Lyn and John Davies Mobil Café and Stalin Units Derby**

1<sup>st</sup> Lightning – owned and trained by Brendan Rafter

2<sup>nd</sup> Buddo – owned and trained by Kim Hazel

3<sup>rd</sup> Ballyneety – owned Michael Dickson, trained Brendan Rafter

4<sup>th</sup> Bronco owned by Kevin Alexander and Geoff Rafter, trained by Brendan Rafter

5<sup>th</sup> Dirty Harry – owned and trained by Emily Cameron

6<sup>th</sup> – 1080 – owned and trained by Tom Lockie

#### **2. Barcaldine Regional Council Tree of Knowledge Cup**

1<sup>st</sup> Bright Eyes – owned Geoff Rafter, trained by Brendan Rafter \*\* Fastest time on the day 12.99 secs

2<sup>nd</sup> Strike – owned Parker Dancey, trained by Brendan Rafter

3<sup>rd</sup> Bell – Auction Goat bought by Terri-Lee Anderson , trained by Tom Lockie

4<sup>th</sup> Magnum – owned Barcaldine State School, trained by Brandon Hite

5<sup>th</sup> Morris – owned Sid O’Dell, trained by Georgia O’Dell

6<sup>th</sup> – Dan Kerro – owned by Dave Kerrigan and Oscar Dancey, trained by Dave Kerrigan

#### **3. Cornetts IGA and George Bourne and Assoc Inaugural Cup**

1<sup>st</sup> Up the Mighty Worker – owned Michael Dickson and Geoff Rafter, trained by Brendan Rafter

2<sup>nd</sup> Patches O’Hoolihan – owned Ross Miller, trained by Jo Martin

3<sup>rd</sup> Buddy – Auction goat bought by IGA syndicate, trained by Tom Lockie

4<sup>th</sup> Turbo - owned and trained by Tom Lockie

5<sup>th</sup> Mango – owned Anthony Edwards and Gerry Fogarty, trained by Brendan Rafter

6<sup>th</sup> – Red – owned Cheryl Moody, trained by Brendan Rafter

**4. Sinclair Knight and Merz (SKM) Billy Goat Rumble**

Heat 1: Bronco – owned Kevin Alexander and Gerry Fogarty, trained by Brendan Rafter

Heat 2: Which Way – owned and trained by Kim Hazel

Heat 3: Lucky – owned Morrie McQuillan, trained by Lucy McQuillan

**5. Celebrity Sponsor Sprint**

1<sup>st</sup> George Bourne and Associates (GBA)

2<sup>nd</sup> Cornetts IGA

3<sup>rd</sup> John deGroot

4<sup>th</sup> Sinclair Knight and Merz (SKM)

5<sup>th</sup> Lyn and John Davies Mobil Café and Starlin Units

6<sup>th</sup> – Barcaldine Regional Council

**6. John de Groot Australian Goat Racing Cup**

1<sup>st</sup> Bright Eyes – owned Geoff Rafter, trained by Brendan Rafter

2<sup>nd</sup> Up the Mighty Worker – owned Michael Dickson and Geoff Rafter, trained by Brendan Rafter

3<sup>rd</sup> Lightning – owned and trained by Brendan Rafter

4<sup>th</sup> Buddo – owned and trained by Kim Hazel

5<sup>th</sup> Patches O’Hoolihan – owned Ross Miller, trained by Jo Martin

6<sup>th</sup> Strike – owned Parker Dancey, trained by Brendan Rafter

**Race Track Record 100m** – 12.89 secs, More Faster owned and trained by Tom Lockie, 2010

