

May 4, 2010

More Faster takes out Australian Goat Racing Cup

Tom Lockie's big hairy "ranga" goat, More Faster, may not look the prettiest but he sure can run.

After a photo finish, More Faster was declared the winner of yesterday's prestigious John deGroot Australian Goat Racing Cup by the hair on his chin.

The blue ribbon event, which finished off Barcaldine's Tree of Knowledge Festival Goat Races and carries prize money \$2,000, is a qualifying race with only the best six goats on the day making the cut.

These six goats gave the crowd exactly what they had come to see, a hard fast race with three goats hitting the finishing line at the same time.

More Faster's owner Tom Lockie of the Artesian Country Racing Stable said he was "rapt" with the result.

"It was unreal!" said Mr Lockie "That race was as good as it gets. You couldn't have got a race or a better finish, all those goats raced straight and fast!.

"Morefaster has been up there with the best of them for years, but hasn't been able to take out the big one. Well this year he did by a nose."

"He's just one of those goats who loves to race and loves to win, once he gets up to that starting line you've got trouble holding him" said Mr Lockie.

Morefaster, driven by local Nat Currie crossed the line in 12.84 secs to win \$1,000 for first place, a fraction in front of Stephen "Parker" Dancey's "Strike" ridden by Katie Rafter with a time of 13 secs and John and Ann Maree Richardson's "Sapphire" who ran 13.19seconds and was driven by Robert Richardson.

Mr Lockie said the runs by the record number of 40 goats nominated for this year's races, were outstanding.

"The goats were a hell of a lot faster this year," said Mr Lockie. "Last year they were running 15 secs now they are down to 13."

In other highlights of the day, Longreach based ABC radio journalist, Amy Phillips took out the Celebrity Media Sprint just ahead of Mikaela Richardson riding for Imparja. This race also featured riders for other media sponsors: radio station 4LG, the Longreach Leader and Rural Weekly.

The Celebrity Sponsors Sprint was taken out by the Richardson family of Rockhampton who donated a number of sapphires to the event, while major event sponsor, John deGroot came in a close second, with Emma Donald, riding for George Bourne and Associates hitting the finishing line third.

“These sprints were a great new inclusion on our programme,” said Mr Lockie.

“We did it to highlight and say thank you to our major sponsors, because without them there wouldn’t be any goat races and this year we got tremendous support from both locals and organisations from further a field

“Its says we must be doing something right when new sponsors such as Greyhound Australia and IGA step up and want to support the event,” said Mr Lockie.

In fact according to Mr Lockie the whole day went to plan

“Everything went really well. The crowd was great. The new race book programme which put holders into a heap of draws for over \$3,000 worth of prizes was really well received and involved the crowd in another way on the day.

Tom Lockie’s Artesian Country Stables also put up two goats for “auction” to be raced by the purchaser on the day.

Both of these goats sold for record amounts, raising over \$1,000 for the Barcaldine Business Group which hosts the event.

In Tom Lockie’s own words as he hoisted the John deGroot Cup above his head, “This is going to just get bigger and better!”

Photos

1. As close as it gets! From front to back, Dancey’s Strike, Lockie’s More Faster and Richardson’s Sapphire head to the finishing line in the John deGroot Australian Goat Racing Cup at Barcaldine yesterday. Photo supplied by Skin Richardson.

2. John de Groot (pictured third from left) Australian Goat Racing finalists.

Pictured from right – John deGroot cup winners Tom Lockie and jockey Nat Currie, 2nd Stephen “Parker” Dancey and jockey Katie Rafter, third the Richardson family.



Photos supplied by Skin Richardson