

Life To The Full crowned

Horse of year title to classy sprinter

TASMANIAN RACING AWARDS
BY TERRY MORRIS

WINS in the Tasmanian Newmarket and the George Adams Plate at Mowbray helped Life To The Full secure the Tasmanian Racehorse of the Year title last night.

Life To The Full proved himself Tasmania's best sprinter-miler, and apart from his two wins at Mowbray he was also successful at Caulfield in April.

He was crowned at a special racing awards dinner held at the Elwick function centre.

The presentation evening was attended by over 300 people and also included the latest inductions into the Tasmanian Hall Of Fame.

Life To The Full is trained by the training partnership of David and Scott Brunton who, last night, were acknowledged with the premier trainer award.

Two years ago Life To The Full was judged Tasmania's leading three-year-old and he has now added the racehorse of the year award to his list of achievements.



Racehorse of the year Life To The Full, ridden by Garry Murphy, in full flight winning the George Adams Plate, over 1600 metres, at Mowbray in February.

Life To The Full is almost ready to start his Victorian spring campaign which will be aimed at the \$350,000 Toorak Handicap during the Caulfield Cup carnival.

Unless the Brunton training partnership decides to open a satellite stable at Caulfield, Life to The Full will return to Robert Smerdon, who pre-

pared the horse for his last preparation.

Broadmarsh-owned Geeges Blackflash took out the leading three-year-old award after a consistent season highlighted by a win in the Tasmanian Derby over the Hobart Cup carnival.

Geeges Blackflash held off a determined interstate challenge to provide Tasmania with a local win

in the derby giving Brighton trainer John Luttrell his biggest racing thrill.

Geeges Blackflash is owned by Paul and Elizabeth Gear who were clear winners of the leading owner award.

Devonport-owned Strike The Tiger was judged the Tasmanian two-year-old of the year after winning three of his four starts

including the \$150,000 Gold Sovereign Stakes.

Strike The Tiger was trained by Michael Trinder but has now been switched to Victorian trainer John Sadler for the spring carnival.

Tasbreeders introduced a new award this year for the outstanding filly or mare and it was won the Brunton-trained Lady Lynette.

Previous winners

HORSE OF YEAR
2009: Conquering (C Goggin)
2008: Stuyvesant (G White)
2007: Stuyvesant (G White)
2006: Kats Clause (R Carr)
2005: Nuclear Free (J Blacker)
2004: Riley Redwing (R Carr)
2003: Dream Quest (B Campbell)
2002: St Andrews (G Blacker)
2001: Royal Rambo (G Blacker)
2000: O'Donnell (A Stubbs)

TWO-YEAR-OLD
2009: Capone (B Campbell)
2008: Testamariage (D Brunton)
2007: Ehor (G McCulloch)
2006: Rustia (C Goggin)
2005: Darcenell (D Miller)
2004: Shining Storm (P Luttrell)
2003: Gehenna (J Blacker)
2002: Fracas (J Blacker)
2001: Dragila (I Hay)
2000: The Flea (R Carr)

THREE-YEAR-OLD
2009: Lyell (B Baker)
2008: Life To The Full (D Brunton)
2007: Zest Amour (J Blacker)
2006: Darcenell (D Miller)
2005: Petite Oiseau (M Ganderton) tied
2004: Galvanized (I Hay)
2003: Dream Quest (B Campbell)
2002: Abbadena (T Blacker)
2001: Us And Maka (K Dixon)
2000: Private Nip (C Goggin)

West Quest again won the awards for the leading juvenile sire and best overall sire for Whitemore's Grenville Stud and Queen's Own won the leading broodmare title for Armidale Stud.

Jockey Brendon McCoull was recognised for winning his 11th riding premiership and former Irishman Ronan Keogh took out the leading apprentice title.

Hall of Fame lifts former trainer Dixon to legend

RACING HALL OF FAME
By TERRY MORRIS

RETIRED Hall of Fame trainer Len Dixon has been elevated to legend status.

Dixon, 85, joins Max Baker, who became the first legend of Tasmanian racing 12 months ago.

He received a standing ovation from a crowd of 300 people who attended Elwick racecourse last night for racing's annual awards and Hall of Fame inductions.

Dixon retired in July four years ago, ending a 70-year involvement in racing which started out as an apprentice jockey at Caulfield.

It was as a trainer that he made his name and he had no peer in Tasmania in preparing horses for the major races.

He won all of Tasmania's big cup races and in interstate raids was successful with horses such as Live Print, Mendeara Etoile, Pyrene King and Andrias.

He was also the early trainer of Sydeston, winning the Tasmanian St Leger before the gelding was sent to Victoria.

Dixon was among the original

inductees into the Hall of Fame in 2005 and has also been recognised by the Tasmanian Turf Club.

Five new inductees into the Hall of Fame were announced last night.

They were Walter McShane, Max Harris, Jim Osborne, Brendon McCoull and racehorse Sunny Lane.

WALTER MCSHANE (Trainer)
McShane has been based at his Broadmarsh property for many years.

He has combined training with running a stud and takes an active interest in the Tasmanian Trainers Association.

Some of the best horses he has prepared include Bastille Beggar, Ticking Away, Ghengis and Somerset Lass.

MAX HARRIS (Associate)
A popular face at Elwick where he officiates as a track steward and a former member of the stipendiary panel.

In his earlier days Harris was a jockey before turning to training.

JIM OSBORNE (Associate)
The man who almost singlehandedly ensured that racing would continue at the Longford racehorse.

A former committeeman and life member of the Tasmanian Turf Club



Trainer Len Dixon at the Hall of Fame induction in 2005.

and has the Longford grandstand named in his honour.

Received one of his greatest thrills this year when he part-owned Devonport Cup winner With Decorum.

BRENDON MCCOULL (Jockey)

Recognised for his continued dominance of the Tasmanian riding ranks.

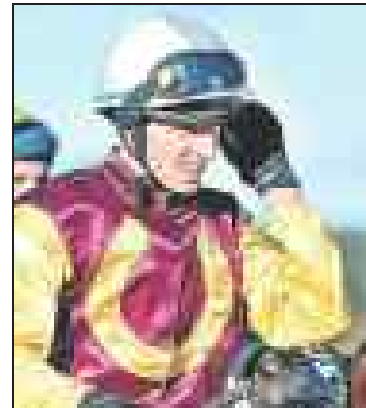
Despite a battle with weight has won the riding premiership 11 times and his big wins include the Hobart Cup, the Tasmanian Derby, Tasmanian Guineas, Devonport Cup, Tattersall's Plate, Thomas Lyons and the Vamos Stakes.

SUNNY LANE (Horse)

Her owner Melinda Beattie made a



Longford racing identity Jim Osborne.



Multiple premiership winner Brendon McCoull.

special trip from Queensland last night to accept the certificate of induction.

Sunny Lane won 10 races and \$528,000 during her career.

She was one of the state's best staying mares and on interstate campaigns won the Werribee Cup and was placed in the Geelong Cup.

She was also placed in Hong Kong and was trained by Charlie Goggin.