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## Gawler Greyhounds Awesome Ryles Sting Nets \$50,000 Plus

Written By [Kevin Pitstock](#), Editor & [Australian Greyhound Racing Expert Contributor](#) On Wednesday 11th March 2009



According to the Daily Telgraph, two Sydney punters were yesterday denied a full payout – and threatened with legal action – after they allegedly obtained money deceptively manipulating the tote pools at Gawler Greyhounds races yesterday in scenes reminiscent of the 2005 Lucy's Light sting.

The Lucy's Light sting, orchestrated by brothel owner Eddie Hayson and Steve Fletcher; made headline news at the time and reportedly made connections over \$700,000, although unofficial estimates put that figure over \$1,000,000. The sting works by manipulating tote prices in small [Greyhound Racing](#) pools to create an exaggerated payout price from corporate [bookmakers](#), who all base their prices around final tote starting prices.

The Lucy's Light sting occurred in a 6 dog field at the now closed Gold Coast greyhound track again over a staying journey, and saw the winning punters drawn in to a contracted legal battle to receive their payouts from [bookmakers](#) including South Australia's Curly Seal.

Yesterdays plunge occurred in Race 1 at Gawler greyhound races in South Australia. The lowly 4/5th grade 643m event saw tote pools on the race at [UniTab](#) (Qld, SA) and NSW TAB explode to almost 10 times the normal hold, while [STAB](#) tote pools were left untouched. [STAB](#) held \$9,540 on the race which is around the normal hold, while [Unitab](#) and the NSW TAB held \$47,006 and \$46,897 respectively; between 5 to 10 times the normal hold for a Gawler greyhound race.

[Betfair](#) pools remained untouched only holding \$2,340 on the race.

The target of yesterdays sting, [Awesome Ryles](#) played his part in the sting to perfection, leading throughout to win comfortably by 12.25 lengths in the good time of 37.63 and starting \$1.25 on track. It was [Awesome Ryles'](#) third win in a row over the track and distance.

[Awesome Ryles](#) is owned by Nurioopta based trainer [Geoff Ryles](#), in partnership with his wife and brother.

Geoff spoke to [Australian Racing Greyhound](#) this morning and said "we were definitely not behind the betting".

"My wife usually has \$5 on the him every time he runs, but as he was only \$1.25 with the bookie, she didn't even have her normal bet".

Geoff and family won \$560 first place money yesterday, a far cry from the reported \$50,000 won by the sting perpetrators.

South Australian Chief Steward Paul Marks was officiating at the Gawler meeting and called [Geoff Ryles](#) in after Race 2 to question him regarding the race and the betting.

"Mr Marks wanted to know if we'd spoke to anyone this week about the dog or if anything unusual had occurred. Obviously we weren't able to help and other than a few offers to buy the dog in the past few months, noone had really called about [Awesome Ryles](#) at all" said Geoff.

Geoff also told [Australian Racing Greyhound](#) that Mr Marks directed [Awesome Ryles](#) be swabbed but that wasn't until well after the race, breaking with all security protocols regarding [swabbing](#).

"Anyone could have had access to my dog after the race, and until he was swabbed after Race 4, as they didn't order the swab be taken until after Race 2 and [Awesome Ryles](#) had been placed away in his normal race kennel all that time without security or supervision, and people coming and going from the kennel block all the time".

"Even after the said they wanted to swab him, they still didn't place him in a secure "swab kennel" were noone could get to him" Geoff said.

"I told them I was unhappy with the procedure and made note of it on the [swabbing](#) paperwork".

"I don't imagine anything will come from it, but the break from protocol does worry me as it is my licence on the line" Geoff said.

In the final wash-up [Awesome Ryles](#) paid \$1.25 on track and \$1.30 on [STAB](#), but \$3.20 on [UniTab](#) and a whopping \$9.50 on the NSW TAB. The sting operators acheived this by placing approximately \$40,000 each on [UniTab](#) and the NSW TAB, spread across the other 5 greyhounds, excluding [Awesome Ryles](#); effectively pushing out [Awesome Ryles'](#) price.

Looking at the tote pools it becomes obvious that in an attempt to try and "cover their tracks" the sting perpetrators have varied the amounts they placed on each greyhound, placing approximately \$6,000 on some, while others were the subject of \$8,000 bets. This differed from the Lucy's Light Sting where even amounts were placed on each runner.

Despite the attempt, and perceived success of the sting, it does seem the sting has missed it's target by quite some way while still netting the perpetrators a good sum. Although they acheived a \$9.50 payout on NSW TAB, the sting perpetrators would've liked the [UniTab](#) dividend to be much higher than the \$3.20, as most corporate [bookmakers](#) payout based around the second highest tote price.

The majority of corporate [bookmakers](#) in Australia payout a starting price tote based on their own algorithm, but basically it is either slightly better than the second highest tote price, or slightly better than the tote price of the largest tote pool. And of course no matter how much money is invested with a corporate bookmaker, that money does not affect the "real" tote prices unless the bookmaker "lays-off" in to the tote pools.

To give an indication of the effect the sting had on corporate prices, here's the prices the most popular corporate [bookmakers](#) paid out on [Awesome Ryles](#) yesterday :

- [Centrebet](#) – \$3.20
- [Iasbet](#) – \$3.22

- [Sportsbet](#) – \$2.40 (place dividend)
- [Sportingbet](#) – \$3.20

Colin Tidy's Betchoice was one of the worst affected, paying out at \$9.50 on [Awesome Ryles](#).

Betezy, who were one of the hardest hit from the Lucy's Light sting, paid out at only \$1.30.

Also in contrast to the Lucy's Light Sting, those behind the [Awesome Ryles Sting](#) seem to have operated under the "taken a little from a lot" theory. By placing smaller bets in the \$5,000 range across alot of [bookmakers](#), rather than hitting one or two [bookmakers](#) selectively for large amounts. Consequently only bookmakers like Betchoice, who paid out at \$9.50 are suffering any real "pain" from the sting, but most corporate [bookmakers](#) are remaining tight-lipped about their exposure to this [Awesome Ryles Sting](#).

It has been reported by the Daily Telegraph that because of the blatant manipulation, some betting agencies like Betchoice have refused to settle on the full amount and have threatened legal action, similar to what occurred with Bookmaker Curly Seal and the Lucy's Light sting.

Meanwhile Geoff Ryles is still waiting for his sting... "lol – no... we haven't received anything from those behind the sting.....yet".

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## Bookies survive betting sing

Article from: **Courier Mail**

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By Chris Bassani

January 09, 2008 08:31am

**TWO bookmaking firms narrowly escaped a Lucy Light-type sting after a Queensland punter manipulated the UNITAB and NSW totes on Tuesday.**

The punter bet \$3000 a place on odds-on favourite Saigon Lord in the third race at Addington dogs in Christchurch, New Zealand, with Vanuatu bookmakers Dial A Bet.

Dial A Bet's policy is to pay out on the middle tote from the dividends declared in Victoria, NSW and Queensland.

Therefore the punter needed to manipulate at least two of the state totes for Saigon Lord to pay high.

He backed the other seven dogs on both the NSW and Queensland tote when the race was just about to run.

He placed about \$100 on each in Queensland and \$200 in NSW.

Meanwhile, Dial A Bet laid off with Betezy in Darwin, who agreed to take \$600 of the wager, and bet \$300 on both the NSW and Queensland totes for a place.

The Queensland tote was in malfunction and the bet could not place.

The small pools enabled the second-placed Saigon Lord to pay \$14.70 on UNITAB.

The same dividend in NSW would have netted the Queenslander over \$44,000 on an odds-on favourite.

The \$300 Betezy placed on the NSW tote destroyed a similar dividend.

Saigon Lord paid \$2 in NSW compared to \$1 money back on both the non-manipulated totes in New Zealand and Victoria.

In late December 2005, a team headed by NSW punter Eddie Hayson took \$1 million from bookmakers in a similar sting at Gold Coast dogs on top stayer Lucy's Light.



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# Another dog sting

## Punters manipulate totes to rip \$50,000 from bagmen

Christian Nicolussi

TWO Sydney punters were yesterday denied a full payout — and threatened with legal action — after they allegedly obtained money deceptively by copying a bets tort made famous by brothel owner Eddie Hayson. Corporate bookmaker Mark Morrissey refused to pay in full amid suggestions the punters had manipulated the tote pools of the opening greyhound event in Adelaide.

The plunge brought back memories of Hayson's infamous \$700,000 sting, which featured the colourful racing identity putting huge money on rival dogs in a bid to inflate the price of the red-hot favourite.

Yesterday, Awesome Ryles started \$1.30 on the track at Gawler and with the Victorian TAB, but minutes before the race drifted out to \$3.20 with UniTAB and a whopping \$9.50 on the NSW TAB.

The punters reportedly won over \$50,000 from the tote and Morrissey — a far cry from Hayson's bonanza,

but a good return for a genuine odds-on chance.

Under the country's betting rules, corporate bookies must pay out on the middle tote — in this case \$3.20.

Exactly \$46,896.50 was in the NSW win pool, an amount not seen by South Australia's chief steward Paul Marks in his 13 years in the top job. The win pool for the second race at Gawler was \$12,138 while the third race held a paltry \$5746.30.

Awsome Ryles jumped from box eight and won by 10 lengths.

His rivals were crunched and started between \$4.40 and \$4.70, despite one dog, Star Demon, paying \$27.40 on the Victorian TAB.

Because of the blatant manipulation, Morrissey refused to settle on the full amount and threatened the Sydney pair with court action.

One punter is believed to be well known in racing circles.

In a betting first, Morrissey said:

"We were prepared to pursue this matter in court under the Crimes Act of obtaining money by deception. We thought they were cheating us so they didn't take the matter any further."

The matter was so serious that Tabcorp wrote to the NSW Office of Gaming, Liquor and Racing to investigate the manipulation of money.

Marks said he had never seen so much money invested on the opening event at a midweek Gawler dog meeting.

"The dog deserved to be odds-on. We took a swab of the dog but there seemed to be nothing out of the ordinary," Marks said. "When we realised the size of the win pool we delayed putting up the 'all clear' until we could check with UniTAB that all bets were paid, which they were."

"It reminded me of a similar incident involving [Lucy's Light] on the Gold Coast a few years ago."





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## **Greyhound sting punter queries delay in \$700,000 payout**

By John Schell

January 7, 2006

### **IT'S A BET**

SYDNEY punter Eddie Hayson yesterday went on

the attack against Adelaide-based bookmaker Curly Seal and the South Australian liquor and gaming office over the non-payment of almost \$700,000 in the betting sting Hayson and a colleague pulled off at the Gold Coast greyhounds almost three weeks ago.

Hayson said there seemed to be "a lack of professionalism" by authorities in South Australia and was at a loss to know why it may take another three weeks before Seal pays up.

Hayson skinned Seal with a plan to manipulate the Unitab tote pool on a dog race Seal was betting on. Seal, like corporate bookmakers around the country, pay punters Unitab dividends on selected races.

More than \$52,000 was wagered on Lucy's Light with Seal to win the race when it was paying as little as \$1.10 on Unitab.

Just before the dogs jumped, Hayson's offsider, Steve Fletcher, placed \$16,000 with Unitab on Lucy's Light's five rivals, forcing what should have been a \$1.30 payout for Lucy's Light to \$13.

Hayson said other corporate bookies who were targeted by the plunge had "the decency to pay us at \$13", but Seal had referred the matter to the liquor and gaming office for the commissioner to investigate.

"What could possibly have to be investigated further," Hayson said.

"This should have been fixed up already. You'd think there was monkey business going on with Curly and the liquor and gaming office the way it is dragging on."

Hayson said not only was he out of pocket at the moment but charities were missing out, too.

"We will be giving \$5000 to the cause that looks after greyhounds and finds them homes when they have finished their racing careers," he said. "And another \$30,000 will be donated to the Cremorne Community Mental Health Centre."

Seal said he had been in constant contact with the liquor and gaming authorities and there had been "progression every day".

"They are getting all my information that is relevant. Phone records, betting sheets, things like that," he said.

"It is in the hands of the commissioner and I am bound by their rules."

Hayson said he had spoken to the liquor and gaming office, "but no one there can tell me where they are at with the investigation."

"They have, in fact, been very elusive and unhelpful. There was no fraud involved, all we did was bet with a bookmaker and also bet into a tote pool. The dog still had to win.

"What about the times that Curly has backed something on Unita that we were on to bring its price in from \$14 to \$3? We can't and don't complain then."

A spokesperson for liquor and gaming said: "It is very difficult to put a timeframe on it. It may be another two or three weeks but that is not unusual ... "

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**GREYHOUNDS**  
**PETER DAVIS**

## Bookies in firing line

Corporate bookmakers were the likely target of a betting sting on a race at Forbury Park at Otago in New Zealand on Thursday in which the well-

performed Albie's Lad scored over 310 metres.

On UnitAB, Albie's Lad paid \$1.40 for the win and \$60.90 for the place. Mystery punters on that tote employed a strategy in which they put large place bets on four of the eight runners, excluding the hot favourite, and it worked out perfectly.

In fact, the placegetters behind Albie's Lad were included in the wagering, so the "bait" was not just "Berley" in that the punters recouped some of their tote investments. Presumably, they backed Albie's Lad heavily for the place with a corporate bookie, requesting they receive UnitAB dividends.

The UnitAB win pool totalled just \$516 but a staggering \$13,648 was in the place pool. By comparison, NSW TAB dividends were \$1.80 and \$1.10 (place) while SuperTAB was \$1.90 and \$1.10. Their win and place pools when combined were only \$11,067.

Finding out who was stung in the corporate bookmaking world will not be easy and this might just be the last time it happens.

Punters are known for their howls of protest when things go awry, but they are not in the same league as the corporate satchel-swingers.





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# Dog day betting

## Odds-on but \$60 place

### Bart Sinclair

A CLIENT of a corporate bookmaking outlet yesterday was either gleeful or frustrated.

Another betting scam, centred on the second greyhound race at Forbury Park, a small dog track in Dunedin in New Zealand's South Island, was carried out just seconds before the 9.23am start time.

The winner of the race, the hot favourite Albie's Lad, paid a TAB win dividend of \$1.40 and a staggering \$60.90 for the place.

The scam worked like this:

The second race was selected because the early start time ensured a small place pool as TAB retail outlets had not opened and betting was restricted to TAB account holders only.

Moment before the race the place pool was around \$600 and in a flash was \$13,648 just as the field of eight greyhounds jumped.

The punter(s) backed four

other dogs for the place to inflate the place price of well-fancied Albie's Lad.

The target for the sting in this case clearly is the corporate bookmaking operators who offer valued clients the best tote odds.

But no corporate bookie outlet yesterday was admitting to being the target of the sting.

The punter either had a big result – or failed to get his sting bet set with a corporate.

The TAB was laughing.

They take a normal commission on the bets placed.

The racing industry and the State Government also get their slice of the commission.

"If a punter legitimately places legal bets with us we are obliged to take the bet," TAB spokesman Brad Tamer said.

"There is no risk to our shareholders, to our industry stakeholders or our punters. If this is a by-product of the corporate bookies trying to become tote operators then so be it."





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# Mystery over betting sting

IN A betting sting that has similarities to the infamous **Eddie Hayson**-inspired Gold Coast greyhounds plunge, some smart punters secured "massive overs" for the place on favourite **Albie's Lad** at the New Zealand dogs yesterday.

**Albie's Lad** duly won the race and on **Queensland's** **Unitab** paid \$1.40 for the win.

However, his place dividend was a massive \$60.90.

An examination of the **Unitab** pools for that race showed that \$516 had been invested on the win pool while \$13,648 had been bet on the place pools.

By way of comparison, on the **NSW TAB** **Albie's Lad** paid \$1.80 for the win and \$1.10 the place. There was \$1700 invested on the win pool and \$900 the place pool.

The astute punter or punters have manipulated the **Unitab** pools by having about \$3000 each on four runners in the race to purposely inflate all the place

dividends on the other four greyhounds, which included **Albie's Lad**.

It is usually the corporate bookmakers who offer best totalisator prices that get stung in these betting anomalies.

However, the bookies **Racing Confidential** spoke to yesterday all claimed they were not hit by the betting plunge, deepening the mysterious circumstances around the New Zealand greyhounds race.

A **Unitab** spokesman said last night the betting plunge did not contravene any of its rules.

"An account holder has placed the bets," the spokesman said. "If a punter comes along and wants to place these bets and there is no problem with the account, we accept the bets."

"If this is a by-product of corporate bookmakers trying to become a tote then so be it."

The betting coup reminded us of the day when **Hayson** and colleague **Steve Fletcher** backed

**Lucy's Light** to win at the Gold Coast four years ago. The pair secured **Unitab** odds with leading South Australian bookie **Curly Seal**.

**Hayson** and **Fletcher** then manipulated the return by placing large bets on the dog's five rivals to inflate the price.

**Lucy's Light** went from being a \$110 favourite to a \$13 prospect, won the race and left **Seal** \$700,000 out of pocket.

After the Gold Coast sting, some corporate bookies now take measures to protect themselves from being exposed by tote pool manipulation.

■ **BRIAN Mayfield-Smith**, the trainer who ended **Tommy Smith's** world record run of 33 consecutive Sydney

premierships in 1985-86, saddles up his final runner tomorrow.

**Mayfield-Smith**, 62, will retire after **Encroacher's** run in the **Hollylodge Thoroughbreds Hcp** at **Moonee Valley**.

## Stars' hitout before Hong Kong

**SYDNEY'S** outstanding gallopers **All Silent** and **Racing To Win** will clash in a special jump-out on **Randwick's** **Kensington** track this morning.

Trainers **Grahame Begg** (**All Silent**) and **John O'Shea** (**Racing To Win**) are using the six-horse trial to fine-tune preparations for the **Hong Kong** international race day at **Sha Tin** on December 13.

**All Silent** is entered for the **International Sprint** (1200m) and **Racing To Win** will contest the **International Cup** (2000m).

**Melbourne's** outstanding young jockey **Nick Hall** is making the trip to **Sydney** to partner **All Silent** today.

**Hall** rode **Begg's** superstar sprinter to brilliant wins in the **Gilgai Stakes** and **Patinack Farm Classic** and has been retained as rider in **Hong Kong**. **All Silent** and **Racing To Win** are due to be flown to **Hong Kong** on Monday.



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## Quotes of the week

Compared to what I did, it's nothing. It's like taking a Panadol. I've been done three times for cocaine. I've got a really bad record, what 'Ollie' has done is so minor. He doesn't deserve this **said former jockey Andrew Findlay when asked to comment on Damien Oliver's one-month ban for using a weight-control supplement**



### The news

THE AIC-STC merger benefits team is getting close to finalising its report and is expected to hand its findings to Racing Minister Kevin Greene within two weeks. The State Government will then consider the report before deciding whether to go ahead with the merger.

### The best bet

Court, from the in-form Clarry Connors stable, is resuming in the Macau Jockey Club Trophy at Kensington tomorrow. This classy mare always sprints well fresh and has looked good winning two barrier trials this month. She should get the money tomorrow. **Last week's result** Adnoccon missed a place behind Baci Amore at Rosehill Gardens but may be worth another try.