The grand final of the inaugural WA Standardbred Off the Track Series was held at the picturesque Brookleigh Equestrian Estate on October 17. The series consisted of 12 qualifying events throughout the year, with the winner earning an invitation to the $1000 Grand Final. All 9 horses that qualified for the event were present, with horses travelling from as far as Geraldton and Augusta to take part. A large crowd was present to watch the best Standardbreds in WA compete in this prestigious event.

The event consisted of 3 sections. Section one involved the horses working together on the circle. Section 2 involved an individual free work out to music and the final section consisted of a conformation check and inhand workout. A quality judging panel, were given the difficult task of ranking the horses from 1-9. The judges consisted of two National Show Horse judges, Paul Austin from Queensland and Anna Duffy from WA. These judges were to pick the horse that they believed had made the best transition to a Show Hack. The other two judging places were filled by racing industry professionals, Jesse Moore from Northam (master trainer of juvenile pacers for more that 40 years and multiple group 1 winning trainer), and Warwick Harness Racing (Trevor Warwick was a multiple WA trainer and driver premiership winner and was inducted in to the Racing and Wagering Racing Hall of Fame. Kat Warwick is also a successful trainer in Western Australia and in the USA). The racing industry judges were asked to judge the horse based on its suitability as a racing proposition. The two different viewpoints were added together so the overall winner was awarded to the horse that best represented the versatility of the Standardbred on its journey from track to hack.

During the first two sections, all of the judges were looking for a horse that covered the ground, without looking rushed and those that processed a clean action and willing attitude. The addition of the conformation check in section 3 saw many judges rethink their initial assessments and the order changed considerably. Over all the scoring was incredibly close and as a result, the judges requested that the horses work on the circle again.

The final winner was decided by just 2 points, and it went to Tracey Cosham's flashy gelding Royal Pride. They received $1000, embroidered woollen rug, sash and garland. Colonial Salute, owned and ridden by Jess O'Meagher finished Runner Up, and took home $500 cash, an embroidered rug and sash. Ashlee Guagliardo's gelding Scoot On By placed consistently by all judges on the panel to obtain the Second Runner up title, receiving a sash and $250 cash. Sexy Beast, ridden by Kristie Morrone and in only his first season under saddle, was a clear favourite with the racing trainers and finished in 4th place. The pair received a sash and $150. The big gelding Caught On Camera gave a flawless display to take out 5th place, and took home $100 and a sash. The unplaced finalists also received $50 cash and a finalist sash.

All competitors on the night received a pack from the sponsors which included a finalist lapel pin, which they can wear throughout next season, a hat and vouchers. This event was made possible by the generous support of major sponsor Off the Track WA and supporting sponsors Gloucester Standardbreds, Standardbred's Australia Unharnessed, Budget Stockfeeds and Equine Health Education.

RESULTS

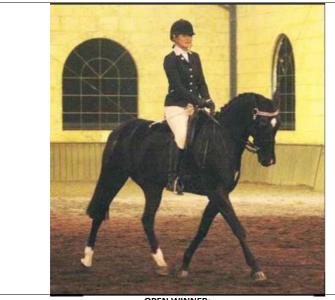### OFF THE TRACK SERIES GRAND FINAL

WINNER – Royal Pride (T Cosham)
RUNNER UP – Colonial Salute (J O'Meagher)
2ND RUNNER UP – Scoot On By (A Guagliardo)
4TH PLACE– Sexy Beast (K Morrone)
5TH PLACE – Caught On Camera (E Kettlewell)

2015 OFF THE TRACK CLASSIC – PHOTO GALLERY

OPEN WINNER:
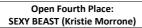**ROYAL PRIDE (Kellie Patterson)**

OPEN WINNER

Open Runner Up:
COLONIAL SALUTE (Jess O'Meagher)

Open 2nd Runner Up:
SCOOT ON BY (Bayley Thomas)

NO IMAGE SUPPLIED

Open Fourth Place:
SEXY BEAST (Kristie Morrone)

Open Fifth Place:
CAUGHT ON CAMERA (Elissa Kettlewell)