



MEDIA RELEASE

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Super Fernando Joins the Greats

By Jeff Collerson GRANSW Website

Fernando Bale (\$2.10) is being hailed as the equal of previous winners Brett Lee, Paua To Burn and Tenthill Doll after his race record shattering performance in Saturday night's Golden Easter Egg at Wentworth Park.

Fernando Bale rocketed over the sloshy track in 29.48, taking .12sec off the race record set by Don't Knocka Him in 2012.

Tenthill Doll's "come from behind" win in the 1996 Egg was the most remarkable I've seen while Brett Lee (2001) and Paua To Burn (2005) are considered the two greatest speedsters to win the race.



Fernando Bale in action

(Pic GRV Website)

But while Wentworth Park is many lengths faster these days than it was a decade ago, who could argue with Fernando Bale's effort being among the finest.

The brilliant chaser became only the second dog in history to win the Derby-Easter Egg finals having previously been achieved by Slater in 2007 for Victorian trainer Darren Murray.

The Derby-Egg winner again timed the start to perfection, crouching down with his face against the front of box eight as the lure approached.

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AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

“His ability to nail the start is uncanny,” owner Paul Wheeler’s son Brendan said after Saturday’s race.

“Once he settles in the box he is like a statue, he doesn’t move a muscle as he anticipates the lids lifting.”

Fernando Bale gave the Wheeler family their third Golden Easter Egg but Brendan revealed that Saturday night’s result was the clan’s first trifecta.

There previous Egg winners were Radley Bale in 2011 and Grigorieva Bale in 2013 also trained by the Dailly’s

The Andrea Dailly-trained Fernando Bale defeated the Jenny Hunt-prepared Dawkins Bale (\$6.40) by nearly four lengths with Dyna Nico (\$14.20), from the Andrea Dailly kennel, snaring the minor prizemoney.

After the placed runners in the Egg the field finished in the following order 4th Zipping Midge (\$23.50), 5th Dyna Double One (\$7.90), 6th Ronray Spirit (\$16.90) 7th Over Limit (\$4.60) and Recruitment (\$26.80).



(MC Ron Arnold speaks with Brendan Wheeler post-race)

Fernando Road is raced by Paul Wheeler and trained by Andrea Dailly he is a White & Dark Brindle dog whelped March 2013 by Kelos Fusileer from Chloe Bale (Malawi’s Prince x Burgundy Bale). Fernando Bale has won 13 of his 18 starts and has been placed on two occasion after the first prize of \$250,000 for the Easter Egg his current stake earnings stand at \$397,870.

Listed below is the Golden Easter Egg honour roll it has been won by some superstar sprinters over the years including five Hall of Famers. First conducted in 1990 when won by the Jim Coleman trained Ultra Sense the race quickly took pride of place in the Harbour city. It is one of most sought after on the AGRA Group racing calendar and each year attracts the best sprinters racing in the country, all vying for not only the outstanding first prize but also the glory and their place in history as winners of the Egg.

1990 **Ultra Sense**, 1991 **Highly Blessed**, 1992 **Jessica Casey**, 1993 **Billy Binjang**, 1994 **Mancunian Girl**, 1995 **Malawi Law**, 1996 **Tenthill Doll**, 1997 **Bahama Image**, 1998 **Rapid Journey**, 1999 **Faithful Hawk**, 2000 **Stately Bird**, 2001 **Brett Lee**, 2002 **Carlisle Jack**, 2003 **Cyrus The Virus**, 2004 **Bogie Leigh**, 2005 **Paua To Burn**, 2006 **Edie Beuchamp**, 2007 **Slater**, 2008 **Blazing Token**, 2009 **Dana Beatrice**, 2010 **Cosmic Rumble**, 2011 **Radley Bale**, 2012 **Don’t Knocka Him**, 2013 **Grigorieva Bale** and 2014 **Tonk**.



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Space Star proves he's the Best in the land winning the Association Cup Final

Trainer Robert Britton labelled Space Star a "superstar" after the dog scored his third Group 1 success in Saturday night's AAA Radiator Specialists Association Cup.

"I don't hand out praise lightly but this dog is entitled to be called a superstar after giving a quality bitch like Lady Toy a start to win tonight," Britton said.

Michael Ivers, whose family owns Space Star and who bred the dog, said later: "This is unquestionably the best greyhound I have bred."

Space Star (\$2.10) won by three-quarters of a length from the gallant Lady Toy (\$3.00) and Zipping Felix (\$21.20) finished third in 42.09.



Space Star in action (Pic Clint Anderson)

After the placed runners the field finished in the following order 4th Sweet It Is (\$7.20), 5th Opec Bale (\$28.10), 6th Zipping Maggie (\$17.50), 7th Lillycette (\$20.40) and Unix Bale (\$45.80).

Space Star is a Black dog whelped June 2012 by Bekim Bale from Tonta Tears (Kiowa Sweet Trey x Tears) he is raced by Camilla Limon and trained by Robert Britton at Lara in Victoria. Space Star has raced 36 times for 23 wins and nine placings with prizemoney of \$414,900.

1965 **Blue Autumn**, 1966 **Rose Moss**, 1967 **Gloavon**, 1968 **Zoom Top**, 1969 **Zoom Top**, 1970 **Heather Rev**, 1971 **Travel Rev**, 1972 **Ragsie**, 1973 **Plunderola**, 1974 **Ascapella Miss**, 1975 **Dotie Wilson**, 1976 **Woolley Wong**, 1977 **Te Ropa Lee**, 1978 **Cyclone Corsica**, 1979 **Little Vogue**, 1980 **Gini's Choice**, 1981 **Black Aztec**, 1982 **Bay Road Queen**, 1983 **Quick Pulse**, 1984 **Lease Of Life**, 1985 **Queen's Cross**, 1986

Clover Park, 1987 Bold Trease, 1988 Whip Tip, 1989 Frosty Zulu, 1990 Valley Mail, 1991 Fast Appeal, 1992 Equability, 1993 Call Me Casey, 1994 Worthy Reward, 1995 Rob's Rebel, 1996 Groovy Dancer, 1997 Northern Legend, 1998 Thoma Di, 1999 Moe's Tavern, 2000 Many Tricks, 2001 Flash Joan, 2002 Nimuay, 2003 Big Sam Banner, 2004 Irinka Barbie, 2005 Classy Customer, 2006 Endless Pit, 2007 Excused, 2008 Miagi, 2009 Lilley Criminal, 2010 Manta Lad, 2011 Seek And Destroy, 2012 Miata, 2013 Fancy Liza and 2014 Sweet It Is.

Part-owner Jason Lymbery disclosed an offer equivalent of \$150,000 had been refused for Black Bear Lee in the lead-up to the dog's win in Saturday's group three Ladbrokes Magic Maiden final.

Black Bear Lee, trained by Ruth Matic, came out running and bullocked his way across wide running Aqua Phoenix to lead at the first turn before winning easily.

"We were offered \$120,000 cash plus prizemoney incentives which amounted to a total of \$150,000," Lymbery said on Saturday.

"It was tempting and we thought long and hard about it but this dog is so special so we decided to keep him."

It is believed the same buyer instead purchased Kihael Kaluna who was sent out a warm favourite in Black Bear Lee's race.

Kihael Kaluna was fastest heat and semi-final winner and lost no admirers with his first defeat because he missed the jump and then was skittled when going fast towards the leaders at the first turn.

Kihael Kaluna is tipped to join the kennels of Mark Gatt.

Chris Black took up breeding and owning greyhounds after losing a leg due to cancer in 1995.

And on Saturday night the Nabc-based breeder enjoyed his biggest win as an owner when the Christine Proctor-trained Lord Gee led throughout to win the group three New Sensation final.

After the race Black, who owned the dog's dam Oh Em Gee, revealed that Lord Gee was the slowest of four siblings when being educated.

"When he was being broken in Lord Gee was like a big immature kid and was the slowest among four in the litter, but he has kept improving.

The gala night of racing drew the curtain on a marvellous Group 1 Golden Easter Egg Carnival for 2015.

The three week series was compiled brilliantly by the NSW GBOTA and GRNSW.

Bring on 2016!



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