



MEDIA RELEASE

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Up Hill Jill wins Golden Easter Egg Thriller

By Jeff Collerson GRANSW Website

Up Hill Jill, making her 15th visit to Wentworth Park, finally broke through for her first Group 1 win in Sydney when she ran down her arch rival Striker Light in Saturday night's \$250,000 to the winner Ladbrokes Golden Easter Egg final.



The mighty Victorian bitches staged a thrilling battle from start to finish, with Striker Light (\$4.80) setting a scorching pace from box one with Up Hill Jill (\$6), who nailed the start from her box six draw, in hot pursuit.

Striker Light, winner of the 2017 Golden Easter Egg in which Up Hill Jill was relegated to sixth position, still led for home and seemed set to create history by becoming the first greyhound to win NSW's biggest race for a second time.

But Up Hill Jill finished determinedly along the rails to snatch victory by a neck with another Victorian, Fernando Express, making up ground finish a distant third.

Favourite Miss Splendamiro jumped well from box two but was outpaced and after being checked at the first turn was never a threat and finished fifth.

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Up Hill Jill covered the 520m in a slick 29.77, .22 faster than Striker Light's 2017 figures but well outside the great Fernando Bale's race record of 29.48 set in 2015.

After the race Up Hill Jill's trainer David Geall said: "The three races on the national calendar we all want to win are Sandown's Melbourne Cup, the Australian Cup at The Meadows, and Wenty's Golden Easter Egg.

"It has been a dream of my wife Rose, who owns Up Hill Jill, and myself, to win this race, and to do it with a greyhound we have bred ourselves is just wonderful."

Up Hill Jill won last year's Group 1 Topgun at The Meadows and the group 2 Sandown Laurels but Saturday's win ended a frustrating run of defeats in group 1 finals in Sydney.

Despite her win there are no immediate plans to retire Up Hill Jill.

"She won't let us retire her, she just loves to race," owner Rose Geall said.

"Up Hill Jill is a real professional and she will tell us when she wants to finish up, by coming in season."

After the first and second the runners in the Egg the field finished in the following order 3rd Fernando Express (\$13), 4th Dual Keroma (\$4.20), 5th Miss Splendamiro (\$2.90), 6th Two Times Twice (\$26) 7th Crash Bandicoot (\$13) and Bombshell Bandit (\$31).

Up Hill Jill is raced and trained by David & Rose Geall he is a Black bitch whelped February 2015 by Premier Fantasy from Where's Demonica (Where's Pedro x Demonica). Up Hill Jill has won 35 of her 67 starts and has been placed on 24 occasions after the first prize of \$250,000 for the Golden Easter Egg it took her current stake earnings to \$774,736.

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**, 2014 **Tonk**, 2015 **Fernando Bale**, 2016 **Moreira** and 2017 **Striker Light**.

Simon Keeping's Group 1 Association Cup

Saturday night's other Group 1 event at Wentworth Park, saw bush greyhound Simon Keeping (\$7) stage a last-to-first performance to win the \$75,000 to the winner Association Cup.

Raced by his breeder Shayne Stiff from Dubbo and trained by Marty Hallinan at Clergate, near Orange, Simon Keeping whizzed past hot favourite Rippin' Sam (\$2) entering the back and raced away to win by just on six lengths.

Simon Keeping covered the 720m in a fast 42.10, which compared well with the race record of 41.78 set by Victoria's Sweet It Is in 2014.

Stiff disclosed after the race that he had been about to "sack" Simon Keeping from his team after the dog performed ingloriously at Grafton last year.

"I had a huge bet on Simon Keeping and he went terrible in an ordinary race so I phoned Marty Hallinan, a close friend, and told him I wanted to sell the dog," Stiff said.

"Marty persuaded me to let him have a crack at training Simon Keeping and he put him in a paddock with a litter of little puppies for six weeks.

"Simon Keeping had the time of his life and when Marty put him back into work he was a different dog, a lot happier in himself and anxious to race."

In other action at Wentworth Park on Saturday night the Dennis Barnes-trained Nangar Jill led throughout to defeat her kennelmate Nangar Ace in the Group 3 Ladbrokes Magic Maiden, while Big Black, trained by Donna Campbell, stormed home to take out the Group 3 The Ambrosoli, the consolation final of the Easter Egg.

Hot favourite Winsome Money began brilliantly to lead throughout for owner-trainer John Finn in the Group 3 New Sensation and Real Simple, trained at Yass by Neil Staines, showed dazzling early pace for an all-the-way win in the \$15,000 to the winner Ultra Sense final.

After the first and second in Association Cup, the field finished in the following order 3rd Ebby Ripper (\$6.50) 4th Billy's Bake (\$17), 5th Zipping Katelyn (\$4.80), 6th Tahiti Pearl (\$101), 7th Big Daddy Bee (\$21) and Techno (\$26).

Simon Keeping is a Black dog whelped May 2015 by Bekim Bale from Kim Keeping (Bit Chili x Sweet Keeping). Simon Keeping is raced by Shayne Stiff and trained by Martin Hallinan he has raced 29 times for nine wins and eight placings. His stake earnings stand at \$110,510.

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 **Bell Haven**, 2014 **Sweet It Is**, 2015 **Space Star**, 2016 **Lioness Lulu** and 2017 **Trip To Eden**.

The gala night of racing drew the curtain on a marvelous Group 1 Golden Easter Egg Carnival for 2017.

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

Bring on 2019!



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