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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**5th July 2015**

***Flying Fernando Flawless Again In Bendigo Cup***

*By GRV's Website*

Fernando Bale (box 3) was faultless from first stride to finish line in the 2015 Southern Cross Ten Bendigo Cup (425m) on Friday night recording his fifteenth straight victory.

It was the twenty-third victory of the of the 28 month-old greyhound's career and the \$47,000 winner's purse propelled his prize money beyond \$680,000 sparking debate about his place among greyhound racing's all-time greats.



**Fernando Bale wins the Bendigo Cup (All Pics Clint Anderson)**

Starting as a \$1.15 favourite, the Andrea Dailly-trained Fernando Bale didn't put a paw wrong running to a strong victory in 24.401 secs – just outside the 23.386 secs record he set last week.

## AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

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Shared Equity (\$11.20) ran on gallantly for second, while Breathing Fire (\$65.10) finished third.

Social media channel, Twitter, went into to meltdown following the race with Fernando Bale trending at number six Australia wide.

The win prompted many big calls, with people tweeting that Fernando Bale is the best greyhound ever to grace the track.

Handler George Dailly was reluctant to get caught up in the hype, however.

"I find it very hard to compare greyhounds from different eras. We've had some champion dogs in our kennel over the years, but we've never had one that has won 15 in a row, so based on that fact he's the best we've had," Dailly said.

"He's so consistent that I reckon he is capable of winning group races from 300m up to 600m."

Dailly indicated that Fernando Bale will now be set for the Group 1 Maturity Classic (525m) at The Meadows later this month.

After the placings the field finished in the following order 4<sup>th</sup> Billo's Pick (\$15.20), 5<sup>th</sup> Mepunga Armagh (\$24.20), 6<sup>th</sup> Ronray Spirit (\$9.40), 7<sup>th</sup> Fearless John (\$43.50) and 8<sup>th</sup> Paua To Roar (\$35.80).



**Fernando Bale with George Dailly**

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 23 of his 28 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 \$681,840.

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Listed below is the Bendigo Cup honour roll. The club first raced at the Eaglehawk circuit just out of Bendigo in the 50's. The Cup was run over 400 yards, but for a few years in the 70's saw it go over the 528 metres. When the club moved to Lords Raceway in 1988 the race was conducted over the current sprint distance of 430 metres ever year except 2001 when it was run over the middle distance of 545 metres. A number of top horse-shoe dogs have won the cup over the many years it has been the club's flag ship event. This was the second Cup for 2014 to allow for the feature to move on the calendar to an early July date from this point on and remain at Lords Raceway over the popular distance of 425 metres.

1957 **Cantee**, 1958 **Taranyka**, 1959 **Slippermee**, 1960 **Eager Flight**, 1961 **Sweet Mandy**, 1962 **Unknown**, 1963 **Unknown**, 1964 **Unknown**, 1965 **Chief Anama**, 1966 **Unknown**, 1967 **Unknown**, 1968 **Rebelaire**, 1969 **Unknown**, 1970 **Andrew Takiri**, 1971 **Melbourne View**, 1972 **Leicester Edie**, 1973 **Borough Cheer**, 1974 **Proper Duke**, 1975 **Sidanna**, 1976 **Sue Silin**, 1977 **Worooa Jack**, 1978 **Fabey Forbes**, 1979 **"Not Held"**, 1980 **Slick O'Leary**, 1981 **Official**, 1982 **Welcome Jag**, 1983 **Meatworker**, 1984 **Bronze Wing**, 1985 **Newstone Flyer**, 1986 **Stamp Of Learod**, 1987 **Buka Sunset**, 1988 **Naphlio**, 1989 **Mets Man**, 1990 **Hard Rain**, 1991 **He's Jake**, 1992 **Belmont**, 1993 **Tivoli Man**, 1994 **Thorgil Tex**, 1995 **"Not Held"**, 1996 **True Type**, 1997 **Sarah's Deano**, 1998 **Lansley Bale**, 1999 **Tom's Legacy**, 2000 **Whitten's Legend**, 2001 **Renzo Bale**, 2002 **Hey Brother**, 2003 **Puzzle Prize**, 2004 **Brumby Lad**, 2005 **Smack Wallop**, 2006 **Dragway Flex**, 2007 **Airbourne Bale**, 2008 **El Galo**, 2009 **Taipan Bale**, 2010 **Latifi Jiam**, 2011 **Enry Walt** and 2012 **Peggy May**, 2013 **Ronan Izmir** 2014 **Paw Licking (1) Warrior King (2)**.

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