

Australian Greyhound Racing Association

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By Katherine Ernst Australian Racing Greyhound Website

PAUL Braddon will be aiming to win back-to-back editions of the Group 2 Maitland Cup (450m) next month when he makes the long drive from Cowra to the Hunter Valley with his consistent speedster Falcon's Fury.

Braddon won the showpiece last year with his boom youngster Marbo's Magic and will be contesting the 2017 series with Falcon's Fury following the black dog's sensational win in the Group 2 Cyril Rowe Cup (472m) at Bulli on Saturday night.



Beginning well from box two, the son of Fabregas and Janderra's Fury went stride for stride with Pedro Cerrano in the early stages before gaining momentum in the run around the turn, surging clear to score by three lengths in a fast 26.12.

Group 2 Gosford Cup winner Barking Bad (\$5.90) ran on well to finish second, with Pedro Cerrano (\$26.30) filling the trifecta back in third spot.

Despite the event being contested by some terrific greyhounds such as Victorian Bear's Gold and track record holder El Magnifico, Braddon said he went into the race optimistic that his charge could make an impact and improve off his 26.28 heat win the week prior.

"We were hoping he would improve heading into the final, because most of the other dogs had been there

quite a few times, but he was only having his third start at the track on Saturday," Braddon told Australian Racing Greyhound.

"There wasn't much between the lot of them leading into the race, but I was happy with the two box and I was just hoping he could jump because I knew he would have to be in front.

"Luckily he did and the rest is history. We are all very excited...it was a great thing to win the race so we are all very happy."

Falcon's Fury (\$3.80) took his career record to 14 wins and four minor placings with the slashing victory with \$91,940 in career earnings, a remarkable feat given that he is not quite two-years-old.

"We are very happy with him. He is two next month, so everything going to plan he could even be in this race again next year if he stays sound.

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"I think we will have a good 12 months ahead – the plan is to now head to Maitland in a couple of weeks' time for the Cup up there.

"After that if he pulls up well we will probably have a crack at the Golden Easter Egg – even though he is young we may as well because it's not very often you get a dog like him and the chance to go in a race like the Easter Egg."

Braddon, who owns and also bred Falcon's Fury with his wife Pam, said it was a superb feeling having now trained two group winners, Falcon's Fury and Marbo's Magic, since getting involved in the sport more than 40 years ago.

"I have been in the dogs for a lot of years, travelling around with some good bush dogs, but not a lot of city class dogs," he said.

"It's a nice feeling to be able to drive to Bulli thinking you are a big chance of taking out a big final like the Bulli Cup.

"Winning it was a bonus and it definitely makes all the hard work and effort worth it.

"On top of that to have bred him makes it even more special - you are there when they are born, feed them every day and do everything with them along the way.

"To see them grow up and cross the line first in the big races is very satisfying."

After the placings, the rest of the field finished in the following order. 4th El Magnifico (\$3.80), 5th Nangar Rock (\$10.70), 6th Black Hole Sun (\$18.00), 7th Winsome Mission (\$44.90) and 8th Bear's Gold (\$3.60).

Falcon's Fury was whelped March 2015 by Fabregas from Janderra's Fury (Knocka Norris x Flying Janderra). He has raced and trained by Paul Braddon of Cowra. Falcon's Fury has raced 20 times for 14 wins and four placings. With the Cup's first prize of \$40,000 it took his overall prizemoney to \$91,940.

The Cyril Rowe Cup is a combination of two Bulli feature events which have been conducted since 1996 as the Bulli Gold Plate at Group 3 level and the Cyril Rowe Memorial Cup. Last year in 2015 the GBOTA decided to make the event the Cyril Rowe Cup and elevate the it to Group 2 status and prizemoney.

Listed below are the previous winners of the Bulli Gold Plate and Cyril Rowe Memorial Cup, the Plate was first run in 1996. The race was sponsored for many years by the famous Rooty Hill RSL Club. Rooty Hill was in the coursing days a famous site where feature Coursing events in New South Wales were held.

1996 Ultimate Wish, 1997 Awesome Assassin, 1998 Tommie Streaker, 1999 Bob's One, 2000 Kirsty's Crown, 2001 "Not held" 2002 Casino Roller, 2003 Flash Peter, 2004 Spring Secret, 2005 Whisky Assassin, 2006 Winsome Force, 2007 Commandant, 2008 Bartrim Bale, 2009 Proven Diego, 2010 Goodsey, 2011 Greta Bale, 2012 Prince Diablo, 2013 Hoover Boy, 2014 Gradence, 2015 Kayda Shae and 2016 Black Bear Lee.

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