MEDIA RELEASE

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First Group 1 Win for Dave Hobby in the Perth Cup

By Neil Brown & Peter O'Neill

TROUPER MONELLI ($13.20) gave trainer David Hobby his first ever Group 1 winner in scoring an all the way victory in the Sky Racing Perth Cup final.

The WA bred and owned chaser jumped well from box 1 and slightly squeezed Striker Light who was expected to lead. He also held out Up Hill Jill in the run to the first corner before racing clear to win by 2 1/4 lengths in 29.86.

Trouper Monelli run sections of 5.49 and 13.80 with Superstar Victorian Up Hill Jill ($3.40) unable recapture the 29.60 she ran last week in the heat and she never looked likely of running the leader down. Getting home strong for third was Australian Cup winner Hecton Bale ($4.90).

Well fancied WA star and track record holder West On Augie ($3.70) was last early but railed well to get to fourth into the back straight, he then copped a slight check half down the back, drifting quickly along the rails he didn't beat a runner home.

Hobby combined to win the race with owners Mike and Michelle Quinsee who have supported each other for many years. He also won his first trainers premiership in 2017 after training some 320 winners for 1.3 million in stake money.

Trouper Monelli took his stake earnings past $238,000 plus will receive extra for being WA bred with its incentives.

Trainer Dave Hobby told on - track MC Dennis O'Brien after the race that he was pleased to win his first Group 1, although it was just another race.

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He said boxes win races and once Trouper Monelli had drawn the red he gave him a good chance.

"He can run a bit, he's no slouch that's for sure. I knew once he punched up and lead it was going to be hard to run him down. It was a hot field of good dogs.

When Hobby was asked what he might do with Trouper Monelli from this point on, he said.

"I'll try and win as much as I can." but he remarked that he was having a good run and that happens when you have got the good dogs, it always makes a difference with the ability of dogs that you have." Hobby said.

Benali ran down the leader Vanderworp to score a 3/4 length win in the Group 3 Consolation of the Sky Racing Perth Cup, the star Victorian ran 29.82. The Robert Britton trained dog had been placed second in his heat behind Up Hill Jill. The black dogs mother won the 2014 Sky Racing Galaxy when trained by Robert Britton.

The second of the Consolations for the Perth Cup saw Benny Monelli score an all the way win. He was the second of three winners on the night for David Hobby. He led from box 4 and was never threatened as he scored by 1 3/4 lengths over Yuup in 29.78, it was a best time of the night performance.

After the placed runners in the cup the field finished in the following order: 4th Striker Light ($4.40), 5th Come On Emmaline ($18.60), 6th Black Bombshell ($32.20), 7th Alpha Georgiou ($41.30) and West On Augie ($3.70).

Trouper Monelli is a Brindle dog whelped November 2015 by Fernando Bale from Bingle Monelli (Collision x Joanne Monelli). He is raced by Mike & Michelle Quinsee and trained by David Hobby at Nambeelup in Western Australia. He has now won 16 races and been placed on 12 occasions from his 40 starts. The Perth Cup first prize of $150,000 brings his overall prizemoney to $238,200.

Listed below is the Perth Cup honour roll it has been won by some outstanding sprinters over the years most coming from the eastern states. The race has had a number of sponsors over the years and was known as the Brownes Gold Cup from 1976 to 1986. In 1987 it was called the Australis Mining Gold Cup, in 88 it was the Fairplay Gold Cup then from 1989 until 1992 it was called the Winfield Gold Cup. In 1993 a long sponsorship begun with Be Active and it was known as the Be Active Gold Cup in 1993 and 94 before being called the Be Active Perth Cup until the last eight years when the club welcomed their new sponsor Sky Racing.

1976 **Marcus Rate,** 1977 **Canonero's Gift,** 1978 **Biafra's Son,** 1979 **Rare Discovery,** 1980 **White Panther,** 1981 **General Jeff,** 1982 **Wotta Wizard,** 1983 **Superstar,** 1984 **Legatee,** 1985 **Supreme Carmen,** 1986 **Farquhar,** 1987 **Pretty Fearless,** 1988 **Karinya Flash,** 1989 **Miss Crisp,** 1990 **Sand Pebble,** 1991 **Frantic Night,** 1992 **Wynlee Supreme,** 1993 **Amy's Doll,** 1994 **Just Like Whisky,** 1995 **Brisk Bill,** 1996 **Tenthill Doll,** 1997 **Star Tribute,** 1998 **Rapid Journey,** 1999 **Bliss Bale,** 2000 **Nifti Fire,** 2001 **Sammy Mint,** 2002 **Modern Assassin,** 2003 **Elgrando,** 2004 **Kilby Supreme,** 2005 **Sun Hero,** 2006 **Superman,** 2007 **Betty's Angel,** 2008 **Size Can Matter,** 2009 **Miss Slick,** 2010 **High Earner** and 2011 **High Earner,** 2012 **Oaks Road,** 2013 **Dyna Nalin,** 2014 **Keybow,** 2015 **My Bro Fabio,** 2016 **Ima Wagtail** and 2017 **Equanimity.**

GALAXY FINAL

The other Group 1 on Saturday night, the Sky Racing Galaxy (715m) was taken out by Star Victorian stayer Rippin' Sam ($1.80) he scored a brilliant come from behind win which was all class.

The Robert Britton trained and Loren Harborne owned dog had to check off heals mid race and gave the leader Moment To Jive ($7.50) many lengths start entering the back straight. With the WA star tiring, the Victorian Rippin' Sam claimed her in the home straight to win by 3/4 length in 41.70.

The $100,000 first prize money doubled his stake earnings and gave trainer Robert Britton his third win in the past 5 years with wins in 2014 with Born Ali and 2015 Space Star.

Owner Loren Harborne was delighted with the win stating after the event she had been trying for 34 years to win a Group 1 and Rippin' Sam had finally done it for her. She thanked Rob Britton and his team for the brilliant job they have performed with her kennel star.

He will be back Melbourne and get ready for the Group 3 Lizrene Speed Star at Sandown Park on May 10th. It would seem a perfect lead in to the Group 1 Sandown Cup with heats on May 17th and the final on May 24th.

Given the way he races a two-dog speed test would seem right down his alley with the Galaxy winning time of 41.70 just outside the Cannington track record. He has recorded fast times at Bendigo 660 - 37.71, Meadows 725 - 42.03, Wentworth Park 720 - 42.25 and Sandown 515 - 29.67, 595 - 35.06, 715 - 41.56.

After the first two placed runners, the field finished in the following order: 3rd Quick Jagger ($4) 4th Myrniong Corner ($18), 5th Beryllium ($20), 6th Simon Keeping ($16.90), 7th Jeebus Bird ($66.40) and 8th Zipping Katelyn ($13.30).

Rippin' Sam is a White & Brindle dog whelped February 2016 by Fernando Bale from Tears Siam (Bekim Bale x Tonto Tears) he is raced by Loren Harborne and trained by Robert Britton from Lara in Victoria. Rippin' Sam has raced 23 times for 10 wins and eight placings with prizemoney of $195,875.

The Galaxy first became a group race in 2002 as the major distance support race to the Perth Cup Carnival prior to then it was conducted as a minor feature and was first run in 1982.

1982 **Afro Freeway,** 1983 **Supreme Carmen,** 1984 **Aulfee,** 1985 **Lady Temlock,** 1986 **Abilene,** 1987 **Lassie's Girl,** 1988 **Red Rambo,** 1989 **Ghetto's Glider,** 1990 **Busy City,** 1991 **Galahad County,** 1992 **Petite Emma,** 1993 **Cousin Johnny,** 1994 **Floral Kwondo,** 1995 **Wits End,** 1996 **Rocket Racer,** 1997 **Gemarly Park,** 1998 **Paradise Street,** 1999 **Harvard Bale,** 2000 **Alencia Bale,** 2001 **"Not held"** 2002 **Jennev** 2003 **Why Complain** 2004 **Winter** 2005 **Best Quoted,** 2006 **Ronray Dancer,** 2007 **Flashing Floods,** 2008 **Elektra,** 2009 **Western Land,** 2010 **Drill' Em,** 2011 **Blue Lorian,** 2012 **Miata,** 2013 **Miata,** 2014 **Born Ali,** 2015 **Space Star,** 2016 **Seeking Justice** and 2017 **Bogie Bekim.**

Greyhounds WA delivered once again with a spectacular evening of greyhound racing at their two-year-old venue. A healthy cup crowd turned out to witness greyhound racings main night in the West.

The curtain fell on another very successful Chasing Carnival. The West has again showcased Australia's best chasers in the Sky Racing Group 1 Perth Cup ($150,000 to the winner) and Group 1 Galaxy ($100,000) and there is no doubt West Australia is a great place to race.

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