



Australian Greyhound  
Racing Association

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# Lightning Frank's Second Group 1 at the Meadows in the Temlee

By GRV Website

Lightning Frank (\$8.70) came out humming to score a commanding win in the \$145,000 Group 1 Temlee (525) on Saturday, the opening night of the 2017 Australian Cup Carnival.



Having claimed the Group 1 Silver Chief at The Meadows in January, Lightning Frank made it 15 wins from 25 starts when clocking a sizzling 29.67sec for hobby trainer Mathew Wright of Allansford and claiming his second Group 1 in the invitational sprint.

Lightning Frank was always going to take a power of beating after settling in front of the elite hand-picked field from box seven, and even gallant performances from placegetters Jesaulenko (\$9.40) and Zambora Brockie (\$4.30) weren't enough to seriously threaten the winner.

"It's a huge thrill just to receive an invitation to this race, let alone win it," elated trainer Mathew Wright said after Lightning Frank snared the \$100,000 first prize.

A small-time trainer and full-time fencing contractor, Wright is pinching himself at having a dual Group 1 winner in his kennel.

"He's a once in a lifetime dog for dad (Kevin) and I. In fact, I really need to acknowledge dad, because I work full-time so I rely on dad to do a lot of the work with our dogs."

"Lightning Frank is a greyhound we've had to show a lot of patience with because he showed a lot of ability early on but he was often pulling up with niggling little injuries," Wright said.

"But I've received plenty of good advice from different people such as (breeder) Barry Smith and (trainer) Steve Elsum, as well as vets like Des Fagan and Nicole Cheek."

"I also want to thank the owners (Hashtag Syndicate), who are really easy to train dogs for."

Lightning Frank will return to The Meadows next week for heats of the Group 1 Australian Cup.

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## BURN ONE DOWN'S ZOOM TOP



Hot favourite Burn One Down confirmed his status as Australia's number one stayer at The Meadows on Saturday with a runaway victory in the Group 1 Zoom Top (725m), the first of three invitation events that headlined the opening night of the Australian Cup Carnival.

It was Burn One Down's first victory at Group 1 level, with Jason Thompson's freakishly talented son of Buck Fever producing as dominant a performance as you would see in elite company.

Thompson's wife Seona said the victory was especially satisfying with the superstar's owner/breeders, the Pringle family, making the long but

rewarding journey from central NSW.

"The owners have come all the way down from Orange in NSW so that makes it all the more special," she said.

Burn One Down stifled betting on the \$75,000 to-the-winner Zoom Top, starting at \$1.30 from box two, and the prohibitive quote proved to be spot on as he treated the best distance gallopers in the land with contempt.

After beginning well, Burn One Down pushed through to be sitting ominously in second place behind It's A Bird with one lap to go.

Burn One Down pounced on the lead in the back straight and exploded clear, powering to the line as he defeated kennelmate Trip To Eden (\$11.30) by an ever-widening nine lengths in 42.23sec, giving champion mentor Thompson a memorable Group 1 quinella.

Outsider Jaimandy Hatty (\$30.40) ran third, completing a Victorian trifecta.

The Zoom Top was Burn One Down's 22nd win from 37 starts and enhanced his sensational record over 725m at The Meadows to eight wins from nine appearances, with the promise of more to come over the next fortnight in the Group 1 Super Stayers.

"He loves racing at The Meadows and was presented with the (2016) Greyhound of the Year award tonight so this is very fitting," Seona said.

"He bounces around every time we bring him here and we will bring him back next week for the heats of the Super Stayers and then take him to Traralgon after that for the last leg of the Gippsland Carnival."

## Fanta Bale leads all the way in Rookie Rebel

Fanta Bale enhanced her near-faultless middle distance record with a dominant all-the-way victory over one of the best 600m fields ever assembled in the Group 1 Rookie Rebel invitational at The Meadows on Saturday night.

Trained by Robert Britton, one of Australia's most successful middle distance and staying conditioners, for the country's leading breeder Paul Wheeler, Fanta Bale claimed her second 600m Group 1 trophy at The Meadows, having also led throughout in the Hume Cup last October.

Chasing back-to-back feature victories after winning the Group 3 Perth Cup Consolation at her previous start, the daughter of 2012 Topgun hero David Bale was the \$4.40 second elect from box three in the star-studded Rookie Rebel.

In a field of incredible depth, rails runner Reefton Treasure was the \$3.30 favourite, with three-time Group 1 winner Dundee Osprey (\$5.70), powerhouse Blazin' Bomber (\$5.80) and reserve Extreme Magic (\$6.70) all well-supported.



Fanta Bale looked the likely leader and after showcasing great early speed to lead Blazin' Bomber she refused to surrender her hard-won advantage, defeating Blazin' Bomber by one and a half lengths in 34.16sec, with Extreme Magic running third. "It was a super field and Blazin' Bomber was the dog I was most worried about because I knew he had the pace to go with Fanta Bale early," Robert Britton said.

"She (Fanta Bale) is an incredibly good beginner on the bends because she cuts straight to the fence leaving the others to get caught in the backwash."

**Fanta Bale is too good in the Rookie Rebel** (All Pics Clint Anderson)

Fanta Bale now boasts the imposing record of 18 from 27, with her only defeat in seven middle distance assignments being a third in a Sale Cup heat.

She will now revert to sprinting for the Australian Cup, with Britton resisting the temptation – for the time being – to test her as a stayer in the Group 1 Super Stayers.

"She'll contest a heat of the Australian Cup next week," Britton said.

"It was a tough decision whether to enter her in the Australian Cup or not because I'm very keen to try her over 700m.

"You never know with any greyhound if they will be able to stay or not until you try them, and she may not quite be strong enough to stay, but if she can it is much easier racing than in the sprints because the depth of quality is a lot less."

After the placed runners in the Temlee the field finished in the following order: Pantera Nera (\$5.70), Striker Light (\$3.90), Worm Burner (\$15.30), Aston Bolero (\$5.60) and Pepper Fire (\$21.50).

Lightning Frank is a Black dog whelped September 2014 by Black Magic Opal from Kirabilli Abbie (Vapour Whirl x Lilly La Plonk). He is raced by the Hashtag Syndicate and trained by Mathew Wright at Allansford in Victoria. He has now won 15 races and been placed on six occasions from his 25 starts. The Temlee first prize of \$100,000 brings Lightning Frank's overall prizemoney to \$277,920.

The Temlee became part of the Australian Cup Carnival in 2003 listed are the past winners.

**2003 Excite Ability, 2004 Hotline Hero, 2005 Paua To Burn, 2006 Closing Argument, 2007 Slater, 2008 Whippy's Image, 2009 El Galo, 2010 Fedex, 2011 High Earner, 2012 Radley Bale 2013 Cintiarna, 2014 Zelemar Fever, 2015 My Bro Fabio and 2016 Dalgetty.**

After the placings in the Zoom Top the runners finished in the following order: It's A Bird (\$20.90), Bogie Bekim (\$8.70), Allen Lottery (\$41.30) and Springvale Bryne (\$43.70).

Burn One Down is a Black dog whelped January 2014 by Buck Fever from Fancy Jaffa (Collision x Flash Fancy). Burn One Down is raced by David Pringle and trained by Jason Thompson. He has raced 37 times for 22 wins and nine placings. His stake earnings stand at \$300,764.

Listed below are the past winners of the Zoom Top.

2003 **Tears Of Jupiter**, 2004 **Irinka Barbie**, 2005 **Rocky**, 2006 **Slick Galore**, 2007 **Miss Grub**, 2008 **Miss Brook**, 2009 **Gunnadoo Magic**, 2010 **Drill 'Em**, 2011 **Blue Lorian**, 2012 **Miata**, 2013 **Destini Fireball**, 2014 **Cheetah Zorro**, 2015 **Space Star** and 2016 **No Donuts**.

After the placings in the Rookie Rebel the runners finished in the following order: Cyndie's Magic (\$22.60), Dundee Osprey (\$5.70), Buck Forty (\$23.20), Hit The Highway (\$14.40) and Reefton Treasure (\$3.30).

Fanta Bale is a Black bitch whelped August 2014 by David Bale from Ucmte Typhoon (Dodgem By Design x USS Mysterious). Fanta Bale is raced Paul Wheeler and trained by Robert Britton. She has raced 27 times for 18 wins and six placings. After adding the \$75,000 first prize for the Rookie Rebel her stake earnings stand at \$256,915.

Listed below are the past winners of the Rookie Rebel.

2003 **No Shame**, 2004 **Shamira Bale**, 2005 **Malfoy** 2006 **Paua To Burn**, 2007 **Train A Journey** 2008 **Jamazz**, 2009 **Bo Frazier**, 2010 **Flash Of Light**, 2011 **Symmetry**, 2012 **Lektra Jay**, 2013 **Proven Impala**, 2014 **Hawk Alone**, 2015 **Cosmic Wise** and 2016 **Dyna Double One**.

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