



MEDIA RELEASE



18th October 2015

Fernando draws box one in Saturday's Group 1 Sky Racing TOPGUN

Champion sprinter Fernando Bale will start a short-priced favourite to win the eighth Group 1 race of his career after drawing box one in Saturday's \$210,000 Group 1 Sky Racing Topgun.

The son of Kelsos Fusileer and Chloe Allen prepared for Saturday's \$150,000-to-the-winner final with an outstanding 29.47 gallop around The Meadows on Saturday, after recording near record splits of 4.94 and 17.43. Victory on Saturday would improve his record to 32 wins from 39 starts and prizemoney totalling \$1,156,110.

Kennelmate Dyna Double One has drawn favourably in box eight, and will be looking to turn the tables on Fernando Bale after six previous defeats against the champion sprinter.

The son of Barcia Bale has an extraordinary record at the Broadmeadows circuit, winning nine races over the 525-metre journey, including the second fastest time ever recorded (29.43) and six runs under 29.60sec. He is one of three chasers aiming to give the Wheeler family their fourth Topgun in the last five years, with four-time Group winner Lamia Bale (box three) rounding out the fabulous trio.

Youngest finalist Kayda Shae has also been well served by the box draw, starting from box two next Saturday on the back of a scintillating 29.56 run at his first official look at The Meadows. The Kelly Bravo-trained chaser will line up in his sixth Group final after just 23 starts.

The chances of a New South Wales trained chaser winning the Topgun for the first time in 15 years took a hit after Fantastic Spiral (box four), Bessy Boo (box five) and Brad Hill Billy (box six) drew poorly in the invitation-only event.

The outstanding career of Keybow (box seven) looks set to come to an end on Saturday as he competes in his second Topgun final, capping off what has been an amazing 26-month racing career.

The night will also see the running of the inaugural Group 2 Sky Racing Stayers Topgun, where Sweet It Is will look to maintain her dominance over the staying trip. The daughter of Mogambo and Off Springer has drawn box three in the \$75,000 to the winner final, on the back of a current five-race winning streak in the twilight of her career. Sweet It Is is one of six female stayers who will compete in Saturday's final, including star chaser Lady Toy, who will be looking to end an eight-race losing streak.

NSW chaser Ada Mary (box four) is fresh off a great Group 3 Sydney Cup win, and her chances are buoyed after a solid 34.51 trial over 600 metres last week.

Who will be crowned Topgun champions? Next Saturday promises to be one of the year's most anticipated meetings on the calendar.

AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

GROUP ONE – SKY RACING TOP GUN

\$150,000 to the winner



Fernando Bale (VIC)

38 starts 31-2-2 (\$1,006,110)

Kelsos Fusileer – Chloe Bale

White & Brindle Dog March '13

Owner: **Paul Wheeler**

Trainer: **Andrea Dailly**

What is there left to say arguably the greatest sprinter of all-time? Faultless performer at the top level. Seven Group 1's since February. Hardly misses the start, blinding mid race pace and strong at the finish. The ultimate superstar goes well on any track, they all come the same to the champ. Hard to beat is an understatement he has flogged the likes of this lot time and time again.



Kayda Shae (VIC)

23 starts 10-7-1 (\$124,080)

Kilty Lad – Cosmic Aphrodite

Red Fawn Dog June '13

Owner: **Kim Edgar**

Trainer: **Kelly Bravo**

Smart local talent and a well performed sprinter with a heap of ability. Been thereabouts at group level without breaking through for a major win. Well fancied to run a big race, nicely drawn don't know if he is up to upsetting the champ, but he has to be a chance.



Lamia Bale (VIC)

72 Starts 21-15-13 (\$362,065)

High Earner – Maple Bale

Brindle Bitch July '12

Owner: **Paul Wheeler**

Trainer: **Steve Collins**

Honest as the day is long super talented group winner from sprints to middle distance. Has been in everything except the Melbourne to Warrnambool bike race. Iron bitch that performs well almost every time she goes around. She'll be around the money you can bet on that, just loves to race.



Fantastic Spiral (NSW)

30 starts 17-5-5 (\$130,281)

Spiral Nikita – Light Fantastic

Black Dog January '13

Owner / Trainer: **Jason Fletcher**

Smart sprinter from New South Wales were he upset his kennel mate to win the Dapto Megastar. Also won a group race at Nowra as a youngster. Goes okay but will be tested here from box four first up at the Meadows, no easy task. He appears to be a bit hit and miss at the start but can begin which he will have to here and find a position at the first turn. Place chance looks best.



Bessy Boo (NSW)

97 Starts 30-16-20 (\$260,559)

Bekim Bale – My Black Bess

Black Dog March '12

Owner: **Ashley Wilson**

Trainer: **Christine Proctor**

Grand campaigner from New South Wales races best at Wentworth Park where he has an outstanding record. Looks to have the job in front of him here from box five but great to see him racing so well after 97 starts has been a top dog. Place looks best.



Brad Hill Billy (NSW)

41 starts 15-11-7 (\$134,230)

Kinloch Brae – Break Even

Black Dog January '13

Owner: **Milgate Pringle Syndicate**

Trainer: **Raymond Smith**

Started racing in Tassie but really hit his straps when transferred to New South Wales. Nice type won the Group 2 Bob Payne in late September which got him a run in this. Will be tested here from box six very hot field but he's a solid chaser and with some luck in running could put himself in the race.



Keybow (QLD)

57 starts 27-9-7 (\$581,173)

Take The Kitty – Key Exit

Black Dog December '11

Owner: Kelvin Lean

Trainer: Tony Brett

Grand sprinter at the top level his best might just be behind him but always seems to have another big race left in him. This is his second Topgun after finishing sixth last year I'm not sure if the Meadows is his favourite track and this might be his last race he has been a great chaser for over two years. Place chance best.



Dyna Double One (VIC)

36 starts 20-8-4 (\$244,648)

Barcia Bale – Crystin Bale

Black Dog March '13

Owners: Brendan Wheeler

Trainer: Andrea Dailly

Super quick dog he has come around at the wrong time as he bumps into kennel mate Fernando all the time. He just seems unable to beat him. Six times at this level with box manners letting him down most times. Considering the above statement he has still won almost a quarter of a million dollars. Great dog, well drawn here one day he will have the upper hand maybe this the race for a slice of luck.



Secret Spell (VIC)

35 starts 18-2-2 (\$149,835)

Bartrim Bale – Wicked Witch

Well performed local not quite up to this lot but has won here in 29.77 has talent. Would start big odds if she gained a start.



Ronray Spirit (VIC)

42 starts 22-4-5 (\$168,245)

Cosmic Rumble – Ronray Disco

Multi group winner mainly on the horse shoe country cup circuit, hence why he didn't get a start. Is a very honest type with early speed. He would need some luck if he got a run.

Local expert's selections for the SKY RACING TOPGUN final are as follows.

Ron Hawkswell

1st Fernando Bale

2nd Kayda Shae

3rd Lamia Bale

Eddie Caruana

1st Fernando Bale

2nd Dyna Double One

3rd Lamia Bale

Rob Testa

1st Fernando Bale

2nd Kayda Shae

3rd Dyna Double One

George Farrugia

1st Fernando Bale

2nd Kayda Shae

3rd Dyna Double One

TAB Fixed Odds Market for the Top Gun:

\$215,000 Group 1 Sky Racing TOPGUN (525m) MEADOWS			
Box	Greyhound	Trainer	Price
1	Fernando Bale	Andrea Dailly	\$1.20
2	Kayda Shae	Kelly Bravo	\$6.50
3	Lamia Bale	Steve Collins	\$41
4	Fantastic Spiral	Jason Fletcher	\$31
5	Bessy Boo	Christine Proctor	\$21
6	Brad Hill Billy	Raymond Smith	\$31
7	Keybow	Tony Brett	\$41
8	Dyna Double One	Andrea Dailly	\$6.50
9	Secret Spell	Kelly Bravo	\$26
10	Ronray Spirit	Terry Reid	\$31

What's happening on race night?



8 DOGS 1 MISSION

TOPGUN 2015

TOPGUN SATURDAY 24 OCTOBER

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TOPGUN night is sure to be a fun night for all that attends with entertainment on and off the track for the whole family.

Great prizes to be won including a Sporting Travel Voucher valued at \$2000, The Meadows Big Buck helping you win big on the TOPGUN, Mini iPad for the kids and more. To keep the kids entertained there will be jumping castles, showbags and more.

Dining packages are available for the Temlee Room, so get a group together and come and enjoy a delicious dinner while watching the best group greyhound racing. Packages start from \$45 and will book out. Call 93555 222 to make a booking now

Topgun Timeline

- 1993** First Topgun run. Victorian champions Worth Backing and Golden Currency defy wet and cold conditions to finish in a dead heat. Revealing finished a further four inches away in third. Worth Backing and Golden Currency split the \$40,000 winner's purse.
- 1994** Topgun held at Olympic Park. Winner's purse increased to \$50,000.
- 1995** Rapid Hiker sets new track record on old Sandown Park track.
- 1996** First place prizemoney increased to \$70,000.
- 1997** Greyhounds from Ireland, the UK and United States compete against Australia's best.
- 1998** Race elevated to Group 2 status.
- 1999** Race elevated to Group 1 status.
- 2000** Prizemoney increased to \$100,000 to the winner.
- 2003** Bombastic Shiraz completes Triple Crown – claiming the Shootout, Melbourne Cup and Topgun.
- 2004** Whisky Assassin, drawn favourably in box 8, sets new Sandown Park track record – 29.40 seconds.

- 2005** Prizemoney increased to \$125,000 to the winner.
- 2008** Race finds a permanent home at the Meadows after both Metro clubs agree to a new feature race structure. Previously the Topgun had alternated between the MGRA and Sandown.
- 2009** Superstar winner El Galo is disqualified after returning a positive swab and the race is awarded to Regal Thyme the first reserve, he gained a start in box one following the scratching of the injured Queenslander Knocka Norris.
- 2009** Victorian and Australian Greyhound of the year Cindeen Shelby rounded out her outstanding year with an all the way win defeating a classy field in 2009 Topgun.
- 2010** Another Victorian and Australian Greyhound of the Year El Grand Senor proved what a great champion he was with an outstanding Top Gun win, he led all the way in 29.83.
- 2011** Legendary Victorian Hall of Fame trainer Graeme Bate won one of the few events he hadn't before secured. His extraordinary year continued when Allen Harper took out the Top Gun. He proved too good after finding the early lead. The Wheeler – Bate combination not only supplied the winner but runner-up as well with Radley Bale. It was a memorable night for the unstoppable team.
- 2012** Rank outsider David Bale (\$31.20) caused one of the biggest boiloovers in Group 1 history, running down kennelmate Desalle Bale in the shadows of the post to win the Sky Racing TOPGUN in 29.92.
- 2013** West Australian star Dyna Nalin (\$9.00) gave the Wheeler family a historic third consecutive Topgun victory with a brilliant come-from-behind 29.89 win in the Group 1 classic.
- 2014** Australian Cup winner Buckle Up Wes (\$6.30) staked his claim as Tasmania's greatest ever Greyhound after winning the Group 1 Topgun. He also became the first greyhound to win the Australian Cup – Topgun double.

Listed below are the past Top Gun winners since the race commenced in 1993.

Year	Winner	State	Trainer	Time	Track
1993	Worth Backing	(VIC)	Carl Haas	30.56	Sandown Park
	Golden Currency	(VIC)	Kevin Mugavin Jnr	DH	
1994	New Fox	(NSW)	Dennis Reid	29.98	Olympic Park
1995	Rapid Hiker	(VIC)	Philip Newman	29.80	Sandown Park
1996	Wylie Boy	(VIC)	George Rose	30.09	Sandown Park
1997	Chicago Blue	(VIC)	Brian Furness	30.00	Sandown Park
1998	Rapid Journey	(NSW)	Jane Carruthers	29.85	Sandown Park
1999	Mint Magic	(NSW)	Ray Watson	29.97	Meadows
2000	Placard	(NSW)	Ruth King	29.92	Sandown Park
2001	No Intent	(VIC)	Jason Thompson	30.17	Meadows
2002	Lindale Blue	(WA)	Colin Bainbridge	29.76	Sandown Park
2003	Bombastic Shiraz	(VIC)	Darren Cairns	30.06	Meadows
2004	Whisky Assassin	(VIC)	Jason Thompson	29.40	Sandown Park
2005	Black Enforcer	(QLD)	Tony Brett	30.02	Meadows
2006	Jaimandy Coops	(VIC)	Paul Donohue	29.60	Sandown Park
2007	Meticulous	(VIC)	Mario Briganti	29.88	Meadows
2008	Regal Thyme	(VIC)	Graeme Long	29.75	Meadows
2009	Cindeen Shelby	(VIC)	Kelvyn Greenough	29.75	Meadows
2010	El Grand Senor	(VIC)	Carolyn Jones	29.83	Meadows
2011	Allen Harper	(VIC)	Graeme Bate	29.82	Meadows
2012	David Bale	(VIC)	Graeme Bate	29.92	Meadows
2013	Dyna Nalin	(WA)	Paul Stuart	29.89	Meadows
2014	Buckle Up Wes	(TAS)	Ted Medhurst	30.02	Meadows



Last Year's Top Gun winner Buckle Up Wes

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