



**Australian Greyhound
Racing Association**

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Box draws makes for even Group 1 Sky Racing TOPGUN

Superstar sprinter Zambora Brockie will start from the awkward draw of box six in the year's \$215,000 Group 1 Sky Racing Topgun over 525 metres at The Meadows on October 22.

The Anthony Azzopardi-trained star will be chasing his third win at Group 1 level on Saturday week, already taking out the Group 1 Vic Peters in 2015 and the Group 1 Winter Cup at Albion Park in July. If victorious, the son of Nitro Burst and Flying Liddy will become the 21st greyhound in Australia to push his prizemoney past the half a million dollar mark. On August 6, Zambora Brockie became the fifth fastest greyhound ever around The Meadows 525-metre circuit, stopping the clock at an amazing 29.47 after a super split of 5.01sec to the post the first time.

In an example of the quality Zambora Brockie will face in the world's richest invitation-only race, the eight finalists in this year's Group 1 Topgun have won a combined total of \$1.75 million in prizemoney.

Trainer Jason Thompson will go into this year's decider with two live chances, including recent Group 1 Adelaide Cup winner Aqua Cheetah (box four) and the flying Aston Bolero, who will exit box two. Aqua Cheetah stormed into Topgun contention after a brilliant win in Adelaide, stopping the clock at 29.41 in his two-length win over local hero Worm Burner. Aston Bolero tuned up for Saturday week's Topgun with a near-record 24.43 gallop at Sale.

The interstate brigade will consist of Group 1 National Sprint Champion Worm Burner (SA) and recent Group 1 Megastars champ Let It Develop (NSW). Worm Burner – a winner of 13 straight races between June and September this year – finished second in his last look at The Meadows back in January, and will start from box three. This time he crosses the border as a Group winner capable of matching it with the best greyhounds in the country.

Rising four-year-old Let It Develop (box five) lined up for his 100th start at Nowra last Tuesday and will be the sole NSW-trained chaser in this year's event. In the last month, the son of Collision and Neat Irish has won the Group 3 Canberra Cup and the Group 1 Megastars, where he narrowly defeated fellow Topgun finalist Pantera Nera to claim his first Group 1 win at his 98th race start.

Pantera Nera is one of the likely leaders in next week's Topgun and has drawn favourably in box one. The son of Irish star Milldean Panther has built up a very impressive record of late, winning 17 of his last 22 starts, including victory in the Group 2 Traralgon Cup, the Group 2 Black Top and his runner's up finish in the Group 1 Megastars. He is armed with a devastating turn of foot, breaking the magical five-second mark to the first corner in his last two wins at the Broadmeadows circuit.

Husband and wife training duo Kelly and Brett Bravo will be looking to go one better in this year's Topgun with Sandown track record holder Unlawful Entry, who will exit box seven. The son of Knocka Norris and She Ain't Late last raced in early August in a heat of the State Sprint Championship, and will be returning from a hock injury to take his place in the \$150,000-to-the-winner final. The brindle chaser is already a Group winner at The Meadows, taking out last year's Group 2 Great Chase in 29.83. In last year's Topgun, the Bravos watched their former star Kayda Shae get within a neck of champion Fernando Bale in a flying 29.59.

Group 1 Harrison Dawson winner Dundee Osprey (box eight) will go into Saturday week's Topgun final in superb form, fresh off a sizzling 29.22 win in a Melbourne Cup Prelude last Thursday night. His 29.75PB at The Meadows is the third best among his Topgun rivals.

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GROUP ONE – SKY RACING TOP GUN \$150,000 to the Winner

TAB Fixed Odds Market for the Top Gun:

| \$150,000 to the winner Group 1 Sky Racing Top Gun 525m | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Box | Greyhound | Trainer | Price | B/T |
|  1 | Pantera Nera (VIC) | Gavin Burke | \$4.50 | 29.86 |
|  2 | Aston Bolero (VIC) | Jason Thompson | \$5.50 | 29.88 |
|  3 | Worm Burner (SA) | Cameron Butcher | \$5.50 | NBT |
|  4 | Aqua Cheetah (VIC) | Jason Thompson | \$13 | NBT |
|  5 | Let It Develop (NSW) | Jodie Lord | \$51 | NBT |
|  6 | Zambora Brockie (VIC) | Anthony Azzopardi | \$3.40 | 29.47 |
|  7 | Unlawful Entry (VIC) | Brett Bravo | \$6.50 | 29.64 |
|  8 | Dundee Osprey (VIC) | Geoff Scott Smith | \$5.50 | 29.75 |
|  9 | Ritza Lenny (NSW) (RES) | Mark Gatt | \$9.50 | 30.18 |
|  10 | Buck Forty (VIC) (RES) | Jason Thompson | \$13 | 29.92 |

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

Ron Hawkswell

1st Zambora Brockie

2nd Pantera Nera

3rd Aston Bolero

Eddie Caruana

1st Aston Bolero

2nd Pantera Nera

3rd Dundee Osprey

Rob Testa

1st Dundee Osprey

2nd Aston Bolero

3rd Zambora Brockie

George Farrugia

1st Zambora Brockie

2nd Pantera Nera

3rd Unlawful Entry

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 Senior 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.
- 2015** Superstar Fernando Bale's scorching all-the-way winning time of 29.57 a race record at the Meadows was enough to win the \$150,000 first prize and stretch his unbeaten run in Group 1 finals to eight, a record that was unprecedented and will likely stand forever, particularly on the sprint circuit.

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 Senior | (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 |
| 2015 | Fernando Bale | (VIC) | Andrea Dailly | 29.57 | Meadows |

What's happening on race night?

FREE ENTRY

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Last Year's Top Gun winner Fernando Bale

Thanks for information supplied by George Farrugia M.G.R.A. Publicity Officer

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