



***MEDIA RELEASE***

***3rd November 2017***

## **Up Hill Jill sheds bridesmaids tag in Top Gun**

By GRV Website

Victorian star Up Hill Jill claimed a thoroughly deserved and overdue Group 1 breakthrough on one of Australian greyhound racing's greatest stages, with a brilliant all-the-way victory in the Group 1 Sky Racing Topgun at The Meadows.

After winning the Group 2 Sandown Laurels last December, the ultra-consistent speedster has been a regular in feature events throughout 2017, but frustratingly for trainer Dave Geall and owner/breeder wife Rose a second Group title has proven elusive.



***Up Hill Jill storms home to win the Top Gun (All Pics Clint Anderson)***

Prior to exiting box seven in the star-studded Topgun, the Gealls' home-bred daughter of Premier Fantasy and Where's Demonica had contested seven Group events this year, agonisingly finishing runner-up on six occasions.

She ran second in three Group 1 events, (in order), the National Futurity, Sapphire Crown and Peter Mosman Classic, while she also found one better in the Richmond Oaks, Warrnambool Classic and Bob Payne Spring Sprint, all at Group 2 level.

*Continued on Page 2 ...*

Up Hill Jill's other Group appearance came when sixth in the Golden Easter Egg.

But all that disappointment was forgotten on Saturday when she overcame a testing outside draw to produce a flawless front-running exhibition against the best sprinters in the land.

"It has been a frustrating run and I was starting to think she'd never win a Group 1," said a jubilant Geall, celebrating Group 1 glory for the first time.

"I certainly didn't think she could win tonight. Not from box 7 against the best dogs in Australia, but she has and it is a huge thrill."

Up Hill Jill was a \$13 outsider in the Topgun, with Seona Thompson's Aston Dee Bee the \$3.70 favourite from box two, shading Anthony Azzopardi's duo, Melbourne Cup hero Ando's Mac and Adelaide Cup victor Raw Ability, both at \$3.90.

Up Hill Jill flew out, crossing rails runner Ando's Mac with a 4.97sec first split, before skipping clear in the back straight.

After turning for home with a commanding lead, Up Hill Jill defeated Aston Dee Bee by 3.43 lengths in 29.89sec, with Temlee and Silver Chief winner Lightning Frank in third place, once again producing in elite company at The Meadows.

Up Hill Jill has now won 27 of her 50 starts, with the \$150,000 winner's purse taking her earnings past \$400,000.

"We will most likely race her in the Silver Bullet next and then aim for the Melbourne Cup," Rose Geall offered.

"Because she's a front-runner she doesn't get knocked around much so her confidence is always up. We've got no plans to retire her any time soon because she loves racing so much."

It was the second year running the Thompson kennel and prominent owner/breeder Ray Borda have finished second in the Topgun, with Aston Bolero beaten by Dundee Osprey last year.

## Bogie Bekim crashes Fanta Bale's party

The Group 2 Sky Racing Topgun Stayers was supposed to be all about champion Fanta Bale's bid to become only the third Australian greyhound to break the million-dollar prizemoney barrier.

But young South Australian trainer Ben Rawlings and his \$21.90 outsider Bogie Bekim were reading from a different script as they gate-crashed Fanta Bale's Saturday night party.

The \$75,000 to-the-winner 725m invitational appeared to be going to plan when the Robert Britton-trained Fanta Bale, the \$2.60 favourite, began brilliantly from box five, but while the nine-time Group winner opened up a big lead, roughie Bogie Bekim loomed ominously approaching the home turn.

While mighty mare Winx staved off Humidor to create Cox Plate history earlier in the day, Fanta Bale wasn't able to repel Bogie Bekim's storming finish, going under by one length in 42.62sec, denying her entry to the exclusive millionaires' club, alongside fellow Wheeler-bred superstars Fernando Bale and Dyna Double One, for the time being at least.

"He's normally tardy early but is a bit of a front-running stayer once he gets going. When he got to third tonight I thought he'd at least run a place," said a delighted Ben Rawlings.

"I've had an involvement in greyhounds since I was a kid, as my grandparents trained greyhounds, although they lived four hours away from me. I'm 26 years old and took up training greyhounds on a serious scale about four years ago.

"I train full time and it has meant a lot of sacrifices. I don't get out with my mates too often!"

The Topgun Stayers was Bogie Bekim's second feature victory in 2017, with the former Queenslander having handed Rawlings his first Group 1 victory when winning the Galaxy at Cannington in February.

It was the well-travelled son of Bekim Bale and Bogie Skye's second appearance in an invitation-only event at The Meadows, having run fifth to Burn One Down in the Group 1 Zoom Top in February.

He was also runner-up in the Group 1 Association Cup and represented South Australia in the National Distance Championship.

Owner/breeder Les Bein is no stranger to Group 1 glory at The Meadows, with his champion sprinter Bogie Leigh winning the Australian Cup in 2004.

"Bogie Bekim won the Galaxy and I brought him down here during the Australian Cup Carnival where he raced twice but was unplaced both times," Rawlings said.

"But I think that stood him in good stead tonight as he had at least seen the track before.

"The owner Les Bein lives in Queensland and I met him while on holiday in Brisbane a few years ago."



**Bogie Bekim storms home over the top of champ Fanta Bale in the Stayers Top Gun**

The placed runners the field finished in the following order: 4<sup>th</sup> Aqua Cheetah (\$23.30), 5<sup>th</sup> Mister Twister (\$20.80), 6<sup>th</sup> Ando's Mac (\$3.90), 7<sup>th</sup> Raw Ability (\$3.90) and 8<sup>th</sup> Striker Light (\$14.80).

Up Hill Jill is raced and trained by David & Rose Geall he is a Black bitch whelped February 2015 by Premier Fantasy from Where's Demonica (Where's Pedro x Demonica). Up Hill Jill has won 27 of her 50 starts and has been placed on 18 occasions after the first prize of \$150,000 for the Top Gun it took her current stake earnings to \$436,906.

The placed runners after Bogie Bekim finished in the following order: 2<sup>nd</sup> Fanta Bale (\$2.60), 3<sup>rd</sup> Ring The Bell (\$7.60), 4<sup>th</sup> Ebby Ripper (\$18.10), 5<sup>th</sup> Burn One Down (\$18.10), 6<sup>th</sup> Teddy Monelli (\$11.70), 7<sup>th</sup> Cadalora (16.80) and 8<sup>th</sup> Billy's Bake (\$22.10).

Bogie Bekim is a Black dog whelped April 2014 by Bekim Bale from Bogie Skye (Surf Lorian x Bogie Benz) he is raced by Les Bein and is trained by Ben Rawlings from Lewiston in South Australia. Bogie Bekim has raced 59 times for 22 wins and 17 placings with prizemoney of \$273,120.

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

<b>Year</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Track</b>
1993	<b>Worth Backing</b>	(VIC)	Carl Haas	30.56	Sandown Park
	<b>Golden Currency</b>	(VIC)	Kevin Mugavin Jnr	DH	
1994	<b>New Fox</b>	(NSW)	Dennis Reid	29.98	Olympic Park
1995	<b>Rapid Hiker</b>	(VIC)	Philip Newman	29.80	Sandown Park
1996	<b>Wylie Boy</b>	(VIC)	George Rose	30.09	Sandown Park
1997	<b>Chicago Blue</b>	(VIC)	Brian Furness	30.00	Sandown Park
1998	<b>Rapid Journey</b>	(NSW)	Jane Carruthers	29.85	Sandown Park
1999	<b>Mint Magic</b>	(NSW)	Ray Watson	29.97	Meadows
2000	<b>Placard</b>	(NSW)	Ruth King	29.92	Sandown Park
2001	<b>No Intent</b>	(VIC)	Jason Thompson	30.17	Meadows
2002	<b>Lindale Blue</b>	(WA)	Colin Bainbridge	29.76	Sandown Park
2003	<b>Bombastic Shiraz</b>	(VIC)	Darren Cairns	30.06	Meadows
2004	<b>Whisky Assassin</b>	(VIC)	Jason Thompson	29.40	Sandown Park
2005	<b>Black Enforcer</b>	(QLD)	Tony Brett	30.02	Meadows
2006	<b>Jaimandy Coops</b>	(VIC)	Paul Donohue	29.60	Sandown Park
2007	<b>Meticulous</b>	(VIC)	Mario Briganti	29.88	Meadows
2008	<b>Regal Thyme</b>	(VIC)	Graeme Long	29.75	Meadows
2009	<b>Cindeen Shelby</b>	(VIC)	Kelvyn Greenough	29.75	Meadows
2010	<b>El Grand Senor</b>	(VIC)	Carolyn Jones	29.83	Meadows
2011	<b>Allen Harper</b>	(VIC)	Graeme Bate	29.82	Meadows
2012	<b>David Bale</b>	(VIC)	Graeme Bate	29.92	Meadows
2013	<b>Dyna Nalin</b>	(WA)	Paul Stuart	29.89	Meadows
2014	<b>Buckle Up Wes</b>	(TAS)	Ted Medhurst	30.02	Meadows
2015	<b>Fernando Bale</b>	(VIC)	Andrea Dailly	29.57	Meadows
2016	<b>Dundee Osprey</b>	(VIC)	Geoff Scott-Smith	29.98	Meadows
2017	<b>Up Hill Jill</b>	(VIC)	David Geall	29.88	Meadows

For more information please contact:

**Neil Brown**  
**GCA Publicity Officer**  
**Tel: 03 97691234**  
**Mob: 0423 129 950**

**David Simonette**  
**GCA Executive Officer**  
**simonette7862@gmail.com**