



MEDIA RELEASE



21st October 2006

2006 Sky Channel Topgun

Nation's top sprinters line up to decide Topgun

A star-studded field for the 2006 Group 1 Sky Channel Topgun was announced at Sandown Park on Thursday night.

Boasting five Group 1 winners and 10 Group-race titles, the final field of eight has won a combined total of 136 races, and prizemoney in excess of \$875,000.

Drawing the all-important red box was track specialist Fenceline. A winner of 12 races at the Lightwood Road circuit, he has been freshened up since finishing fifth in his semi final of the Group 1 Paws Of Thunder, and is sure to be in peak condition come next Thursday's final.

The only Sky Channel Topgun finalist to race at Sandown Park on Thursday night was Jaimandy Coops, who impressed all with a scintillating 8.75 length win in a slick best of night run of 29.72 in his Schweppes Melbourne Cup Prelude.

Despite drawing the awkward box five for the final, Paul Donohue's exciting sprinter is sure to be in the reckoning in the final

The only interstate greyhound to make the field was Group 1 National Derby winner Brother Knows. The black speedster has won both of his starts at Sandown Park, and sounded an ominous warning to his rivals when an impressive third in the G1 Paws Of Thunder at his last start.

Since its inception in 1993, the Sky Channel Topgun has become one of the most sought after events in Australian greyhound racing. With champions including Rapid Journey (1998), Bombastic Shiraz (2003), Whisky Assassin (2004) and Black Enforcer (2005) among its past winners, it's little wonder the Sky Channel Topgun is regarded as the Cox Plate of greyhound racing.

The \$179,000 G1 Sky Channel Topgun will be run at Sandown Park on Thursday 26 October 2006.

Listed on page two in box draw order is the field their group form and a short summary of each individual dog's chance in the feature.

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AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

GROUP ONE – SKY CHANNEL TOP GUN

\$125,000 to the winner

Fenceline

68 starts 32-7-12 (\$171,650)



Light Of Fire – Emerald Shoes

Brindle Dog January '03

Owner: **Peter Bryan**

Trainer: **Engin**

Gemci

Group record: WON G1 Brisbane Winter Cup

WON National Sprint Championship State Final

2nd G2 Wangaratta Cup

2nd Bert Bryant Memorial

3rd G1 National Sprint Championship

4th G1 Schweppes Melbourne Cup

Sandown Park best: 29.66 (3) (27 Starts 12-4-3)

Great record at Sandown and has drawn to win in box one very honest chaser on his home ground should be right in the finish.



Train A Journey

18 starts 12-0-1 (\$75,200)

Primo Uno – Currency Tears

Black & White Dog April '04

Owners: **Steve Karlusic & Andrew Marth**

Trainer: **John Galea**

Group record: WON G1 Maturity Classic

Sandown Park best: 29.93 (1) (3 Starts 2-0-0)

Very smart sprinter that hasn't raced much of late, hand-slipped an exceptional 23.30 at Sandown Park last Saturday morning, it was the third fastest in history (record 23.28). Well drawn, will be fresh and ready to race.

Suave Fella

28 starts 10-7-3 (\$127,050)

Modern Assassin – Jessie Shiraz

Black Dog

March '04



Owner: **Stephen Connor** Trainer: **Jason Thompson**
Group record: WON G1 Paws Of Thunder
Sandown Park best: 30.08 (3) (5 Starts 2-0-2)
 Lightly raced group one winner in Sydney with two wins at Sandown certainly a greyhound on the up, not without a chance.



Vapour Whirl

47 starts 27-11-4 (\$104,720)

Ashigga – Broad Band

Black Dog

May '03

Owner: **Barry Lockett**

Trainer: **Darren Murray**

Group record: WON G3 Warragul Cup

WON G3 Gold Coast Cup

2nd Dave Hodgson Memorial

2nd National Distance State Final

3rd G2 Cranbourne Cup

Sandown Park best: 29.88 (6) (9 Starts 3-4-1)

Runner-up in Geelong Cup Friday night and has a lot of ability not the best of draws and will need luck in running to win.

Continued on Page 3 ...

AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION



Jaimandy Coops

28 starts 16-2-4 (\$51,010)

Awesome Assassin – Speedy Chaos

Black Dog

November '03

Owners: **PP & BF Donohue**

Trainer: **Paul Donohue**

Group record: WON G3 Canberra Cup

Sandown Park best: 29.65 (8) (11 Starts 6-0-2)

Track specialist with six wins in fast times outstanding performance last Thursday in BON 29.72 the five is a tough draw he will need to find the front early to beat this field.



Path To Power

25 starts 12-3-4 (\$66,005)

Awesome Assassin – Star Witch

Black Dog

November '03

Owner: **Paul Westerveld**

Trainer: **Darren McDonald**

Group record: WON G3 DDC Launching Pad

4th G1 Paws Of Thunder

Sandown Park best: 29.59 (7) (9 Starts 6-1-2)

Another sprinter with a brilliant record at Sandown Park has run 29.59 and a repeat would see him win, would have to find the lead from box six no easy task but a smart chaser.



Brother Knows

44 starts 19-8-6 (\$108,605)

Solve the Puzzle-Georgia Belle

Black Dog

October'03

Owner: **Raymond McGrath**

Trainer: **Michael Fairbairn**

Group record: WON G1 National Derby

3rd G1 Paws Of Thunder

Sandown Park best: 29.88 (2) (2 Starts 2-0-0)

Only interstater in the class field raced well at Sandown in grade five company and has a heap of ability has to cross the inside pace to win will need luck in running, a place chance looks best.



Superman

29 starts 9-12-4 (\$170,250)

Brett Lee – I'm Puzzles

Black Dog

November '03

Owner: **Matthew Tabb**

Trainer: **Emin Aydemir**

Group record: WON G1 Perth Cup

WON G2 Queensland Derby

2nd Bill Collins Memorial

Sandown Park best: 29.83 (3) (6 Starts 3-2-1)

Winner of the Perth Cup and ran a record at Cannington very talented sprinter with some nice wins at Sandown. Draw won't help and will need to begin fast and cross the inside speed but can win.



Big Time Max 14 starts 6-3-2 (\$41,000)

Big Daddy Cool – Lil Bit Loony

Andy Palmer

39 starts 23-6-1 (\$61,215)

Trendy Leigh – Speed Dancer



Continued on Page 4

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AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

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

Ron Hawkswell

1st Fenceline

2nd Vapour Whirl

3rd Superman

Matt Corby

1st Superman

2nd Brother Knows

3rd Train A Journey

John Pearson

1st Train A Journey

2nd Vapour Whirl

3rd Fenceline

Market for the Top Gun:

\$179,000 G1 Sky Channel Topgun (515m)			
Box	Greyhound	Trainer	Price
	Fenceline	Engin Gemci	\$3.25
	Train A Journey	John Galea	\$6
	Suave Fella	Jason Thompson	\$26
	Vapour Whirl	Darren Murray	\$8
	Jaimandy Coops	Paul Donohue	\$9
	Path To Power	Darren McDonald	\$8
	Brother Knows	Michael Fairbairn	\$8
	Superman	Emin Aydemir	\$3.50
	Big Time Max (1 st RES)	Engin Gemci	\$21
	Andy Palmer (2 nd RES)	Jason Thompson	\$26

What's happening on race night?

Facilities include Dining room, snack bar, full tote and bookmaker facilities. Ample parking and disabled access.

On course activities and entertainment will include Face Painting for the Kids, the Itchy Feet Pep Band, Happy Cooks (visual act) and Hoops Of Fun (visual act).

Top Gun Timeline

1993 First Top Gun 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.
- 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.

Continued on Page 5 ...

AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

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

1993 **Golden Currency / Worth Backing (DH)**, 1994 **New Fox**, 1995 **Rapid Hiker**, 1996 **Wylie Boy**, 1997 **Chicago Blue**, 1998 **Rapid Journey**, 1999 **Mint Magic**, 2000 **Placard**, 2001 **No Intent**, 2002 **Lindale Blue**, 2003 **Bombastic Shiraz**, 2004 **Whiskey Assassin** and 2005 **Black Enforcer**.



The first Top Gun in 1993 was almost a triple dead heat Golden Currency & Worth Backing with Revealing (5) third.

Thanks for information supplied by Michael Floyd Sandown Administration.

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