



Thursday 05 November, 2020

Racing update

Metro Festival moves into Topgun mode this Saturday night

One of the greyhound racing world's most prestigious feature races - the Group 1 TAB Topgun (525m) - will be run at The Meadows on Saturday night, 7 November at 8.45pm as part of Victoria's inaugural *Metropolitan Festival of Racing*.

Carrying prize money of \$214,500 including \$150,000 to the winner, the TAB Topgun is considered the W.S Cox Plate of greyhound racing with its rich history dating back to 1993, which saw famous a dead-heat between Golden Currency and Worth Backing.

The Topgun is unique in that the field is hand-selected by the Topgun Panel, and will be supported on the night by the \$108,000 Topgun Stayers (725m), which carries a first prize of \$75,000.

A sensational field has been assembled for the Topgun, with three superstars vying for favouritism - four-time Group 1 winner Simon Told Helen, dual track record holder Shima Shine and freakish WA sprinter Tommy Shelby, who is in the care of caretaker trainer Kelvyn Greenough.

Tommy Shelby, named after a lead character in popular Netflix series *Peaky Blinders*, has a huge fan base. His owners have donated a portion of his prize money to various charities throughout his career, and will donate 10 per cent of any owner's winnings (5 per cent overall) during the month of November to Movember, which raises awareness about men's health issues.

On the next line of betting is Gippsland cult hero Catch The Thief, whose trainer Matthew Clark worked as a catching pen attendant at the inaugural Topgun at Sandown Park when he was just 20 years of age.

Meanwhile, the Topgun Stayers also boasts a star-studded line-up including Tornado Tears and his younger full brother Here's Tears. The duo are both trained by Robert Britton, who also has Blazing Cartier engaged in the race, while Robert's brother Jeff Britton will rug reigning Victorian Stayer of the Year, True Detective.

The inaugural *Metropolitan Festival of Racing* kicked off on Monday at The Meadows with Last Hurrah snaring the Group 1 Hume Cup (600m) and Hard Style Rico winning the Group 3 RSN Silver Bullet (525m).

How to follow Saturday's Topgun night action:

- Live behind-the-scenes coverage on GRV's Facebook Page & via The Watchdog app from 8pm.
 - Live Twitter coverage with @TheMeadowsDogs & @WatchDogRacing from 6pm.
 - Sky Racing & RSN Racing and Sport (927 AM).
 - Watch every race LIVE and FREE on The Watchdog app or at watchdog.grv.org.au.
 - A full wrap of the Topgun will air on Sunday 15 November at 10am on 7two's *Thrill of the Chase*.
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GROUP 1 TAB TOPGUN (525M)

The Meadows – Saturday, 7 November – 8.45pm

Prize money: \$150,000 (1st); \$43,000 (2nd); \$21,500 (3rd)

- 1 TOMMY SHELBY (WA) (Kelvyn Greenough, Pearcedale VIC)
- 2 SHIMA SHINE (VIC) (Andrea Dailly, Anakie VIC)
- 3 OH MICKEY (QLD) (Selena Zammit, Willow Vale QLD)
- 4 CHRISTO BALE (VIC) (Mark Delbridge, Balliang VIC)
- 5 TIGGERLONG TONK (VIC) (Correy Grenfell, Mount Wallace VIC)
- 6 CATCH THE THIEF (VIC) (Matthew Clark, Briagolong VIC)
- 7 GOLDEN NIGHT (SA) (Troy Murray, Lewiston SA)
- 8 SIMON TOLD HELEN (VIC) (David Burnett, Little River VIC)

Reserves

- 9 HARD STYLE RICO (VIC) (Luckie Karabitsakos, Pearcedale VIC)
 - 10 WEBLEC ACE (VIC) (Jeff Britton, Anakie VIC)
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GROUP 1 TAB TOPGUN STAYERS (725M)

The Meadows – Saturday, 7 November – 8.10pm

Prize money: \$75,000 (1st); 22,000 (2nd); \$11,000 (3rd)

- 1 JUST TERMS (NSW) (Jodie Lord, Gunning NSW)
- 2 TRUE DETECTIVE (VIC) (Jeff Britton, Anakie VIC)
- 3 SUNSET BOURBSKI (VIC) (Andrea Dailly, Anakie VIC)
- 4 HERE'S TEARS (VIC) (Robert Britton, Lara VIC)
- 5 BLAZING CARTIER (VIC) (Robert Britton, Lara VIC)
- 6 TORNADO TEARS (VIC) (Robert Britton, Lara VIC)
- 7 CLASSY ETHICS (QLD) (Brooke Ennis, Lara VIC)
- 8 SIR TRUCULENT (SA) (Peter Gavin, Lethbridge VIC)

Reserves

- 9 ROCKSTAR BEAV (VIC) (Andrea Dailly, Anakie VIC)
- 10 KEEFE (VIC) (Terry Reid, Yuroke VIC)

2020 METROPOLITAN FESTIVAL OF RACING

Group 1, 2 & 3 Events

Event	Date	Timeslot	Venue	Distance	First prize
G1 Hume Cup Final	Monday 2 November	Night	The Meadows	600m	\$75,000
G3 Silver Bullet				525m	\$25,000
G1 Topgun	Saturday 7 November	Night	The Meadows	525m	\$150,000
G1 Topgun Stayers				725m	\$75,000
G3 Shootout	Thursday 12 November	Night	Sandown Park	515m	\$25,000
G1 Melbourne Cup Heats	Friday 20 November	Night	Sandown Park	515m	\$12,000
G1 Bold Trease Heats				715m	\$8,000
G1 Melbourne Cup Final	Friday 27 November	Night	Sandown Park	515m	\$435,000
G1 Bold Trease Final				715m	\$105,000
G3 Sir John Dillon Memorial				595m	\$25,000

The Meadows



Sandown Park

METRO
Festival of Racing
November 2020

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