

# *Puppy Classic goes to a rare young dog*



**Tony Zammit, Darryl and Maree Heck and Graham Phillips with Rare Roman.**

By **DAVID BRASCH**

**FOR** greyhound breeding fanatic Jason Phillips, victory in a Puppy Classic at Albion Park is a bit of a milestone.

But when Rare Roman upset his betterfancied litter and kennelmate Runaway Sally in the rich final at Albion Park, it was also the first city winner Jason has owned.

And to make it even better, Rare Roman and fellow finalists and littermates Runaway Sally and Prince Honcho were also bred by Jason.

While Jason admits to spending plenty of time pondering greyhound pedigrees and what makes some of them a success, he says there is no one secret to the success of Rare Roman.

	Malawi's Prince	Malawi
	Token Prince	Duchess Marina
	True Temptation	Amerigo Man
<b>RARE ROMAN</b>		Bay Road Queen
	Head Honcho	Walkabout Sid
	Sally Honcho	Fitzroy Lass
	Wee Sal	Chariot Supreme
		I'm Blessed

“He’s bred on a successful Token Prince over a Head Honcho bitch cross, but he’s more importantly out of a Wee Sal line broodbitch,” Jason told The Journal.

And therein lies a secret for Jason’s future in greyhound racing.

He is already planning his future with bitches from the Token Prince-Sally Honcho mating which has already proved so successful for he and his father Graham (owner of Runaway Sally, the Vince Curry

Maiden victor).

“I’m already looking at crosses for the bitches from this litter,” said Jason. “I have a bitch called Jukebox Jessie who has lots of ability but cannot get around corners. We will breed with her and obviously Runaway Sally is a broodbitch of the future.”

Sires like Brett Lee and Just The Best are obvious choices for the bitches, but potential stud dog Surf Lorian is another future option.



**Runaway Sally**

Surf Lorian’s choice is obvious when you consider top trainer Tony Zammit prepares that exciting galloper, as well as the Puppy Classic winner.

“I spend a lot of time pondering pedigrees, and it is a remarkable fact that so many of the Wee Sal bitches produce, and not only one from a litter,” said Jason.

“That’s why we have to think about using Jukebox Jessie as well as Runaway Sally.”

Jason admits the Puppy Classic has been his biggest thrill in greyhound racing even though he was not even at the track to see Rare Roman’s victory, a death in the family keeping him at home.

He also heaped praise on Tony Zammit’s training performance and Rare Roman’s courage to take out the Puppy Classic.

“It’s no secret that the dog burst a blood vessel as a youngster and had to be out for months to allow it to heal,” he said. “Tony could give him only a couple of trials before he started, and won, his first race start.”

Rare Roman was then thrown into the non-penalty Puppy Classic heats at his next start being trapped wide throughout and fighting on well for second. He led throughout to win the final.

“Tony has always had big wraps on the dog,” said Jason. “He’s done a great job.

Tony has put a lot of effort into this dog.”

Jason and his dad gave greyhounds a try themselves some years ago with success on TAB tracks, but

since linking with the Zammit kennel, and the Wee Sal damline, have shifted into another league. Jason's pedigree research had plenty to do with that as well.



*Roger Green with Puppy Classic hotpot Gozo Farmer.*

***Flying Amy Puppy Classic  
(520m) Albion Park***

**1 RARE ROMAN**

(Token Prince-Sally Honcho)

Owner: Jason Phillips

Trainer: Tony Zammit

**2 RUNAWAY SALLY**

(Token Prince-Sally Honcho)

**3 JOCK'S GIRL**

(Bright Ebony-Deo Volente)

***Others:*** 4 Gozo Farmer, 5 Justa Attitude, 6 Devine Gem, 7 Convincing Lee, 8 Prince Honcho. ***Time: 30.32.***