

Seeking a revival



Trainer Grahame Begg believes the tempo and distance will be in Bennetta's favour tomorrow

Begg has Bennetta primed for a winning return

By SHAYNE O'CASS

TRAINER Grahame Begg is desperate for a change of luck with high class mare Bennetta when she goes around in tomorrow's Listed \$100,000 ATC Civic Stakes (1350m) at Rosehill Gardens.

The daughter of General Nediym has so far managed to win only three of her 16 starts but has frequently had excuses.

That was again the case at her most recent outing when she finished fourth, beaten less than 2-lens, in the Group 3 BRC W.J. Healey Stakes (1200m) at Eagle Farm.

"Obviously looking at the tempo last time they went out very quickly and she probably got a bit too far out of her ground but made up good ground to the line," Begg said.

Bennetta's fate is so often dictated by the pace of her races given that she is usually closer to last than first, something Begg is keen to address this weekend.

"She doesn't have to back where she was the other day," he says, "I think (Tommy Berry) sort of over did it a little bit in the early stages but I think the tempo (tomorrow) will probably suit her better."

Begg feels the 1350m is an

ideal distance for Bennetta who will carry just a half kilogram over the limit.

"She won the Group 2 Light Fingers and has run in some good grade races and with 54.5 kilos on her back, she's not too badly treated."

Bennetta has a serious rival for 'best weighted horse' in his weekend's Sydney feature with the Warwick Farm trained Taxmeifyoucan a half-kilo lighter still.

The Greg Hickman trained gelding has raced well at the venue in the past, notably his luckless fourth in the Group 2 ATC Theo Marks Stakes (1400m).

"This is a nice race for

him, it looks a winnable sort of race," Hickman told *Sportsman*. "He likes Rosehill, it suits him, it's an on pace sort of track."

A mere \$16,000 yearling purchase, Taxmeifyoucan has earned over half a million dollars for connections, some of which came courtesy of his last start second behind form gelding Scream Machine at Rosehill on June 14.

"Scream Machine has come and won again since — they weren't superstars, not you're A-graders, but there's always been pretty good form around Taxmeifyoucan," Hickman commented.

"He's coming along very,

very well and I am happy with him."

Both Bennetta and Taxmeifyoucan will need to overcome the numerical supremacy of the Chris Waller stable who dominate the Civic with six horses accepted.

Chief among them is the mare Hidden Kisses who handed in an eye-catching first-up fourth at Randwick last month.

The former Queenslander boasts a compelling second-up record and demonstrated her class with a win in the Group 3 ATC Toy Show Quality (1300m) where she accounted for her more accomplished stablemate Royal Descent.