

The Hornet stings the Rocket

....but Rod denies he is over the hill

For 16 months Rod Hill, General Manager of Broncos associate sponsor Sirromet Wines, has dreamed of getting in the ring with world welterweight boxing champion Jeff Horn. But those dreams were also spattered with nightmares. Now that he has done it - finally - the man known as Rocket says the recent three-round sparring session was 'up there' with the most satisfying experiences of his life.

"It was awesome, and a huge adrenalin rush," he said.

"Not that I will boasting about it, but very few ordinary guys like me will ever get the chance to spar with a world champion."

Rod was granted the experience when he was the successful bidder on a 'learn to box' program auctioned at the Broncos Champions for Charity dinner in July last year. The prize, which included a sparring session with Horne, was donated by Dundee Kim, of Dundee's Boxing and Fitness at West End.

At the time Rod confessed he bought the item for two reasons - he was 'fat and unfit' and cherished the chance to hop in the ring with a guy he believed would one day be a world champion.

"I need to get fit, so what better way to start than be trained by an expert like Dundee," he was quoted as saying in last year's *Broncos Annual*.

"Besides, I am a big fan of boxing and as well as learning to box in seven one-hour sessions, part of the prize is sparring with the highly-ranked Queenslander, Jeff Horn. That is appealing because I believe Jeff will one day be our next world champion."

While the 'unreal' experience will remain in his memory bank forever, Rod says the barrage of punches landed by the Hornet will always be just a blur.

"Honestly, he probably threw 100, and every one of them landed. I reckon I got him with one," he said of the three-two-minute rounds bout.

“He is so quick, both with his hands and on his feet. And although I’m sure he didn’t intentionally hurt me, I really did feel those punches.

“Jeff told me afterwards that he had to make it a real experience for me, otherwise there was no point in me getting in the ring with him.”

Since he was ‘fat and unfit’ back in July last year, Rod has shed 11 kilos thanks to the fitness regime at Dundee’s gym. And while the shedding of those kilos is in a way thanks to the Broncos, his earlier weight gain was also Broncos-related.

“I was involved in a Broncos corporate training day back in 2013, and snapped my Achilles,” he said.

“It seemingly took years to come good, and also gave me an excuse to become lazy, and fat. Buying this auction item helped get me motivated again and the experience has been absolutely amazing.”

- **Rod Hill (headgear) in the ring with Jeff Horne**
- **No longer ‘fat and unfit’, Rod Hill is ready to take on the corporate world**