



Australian Greyhound
Racing Association

MEDIA RELEASE

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AGRA GREYHOUND OF THE MONTH APRIL 2016

“**IMA WAGTAIL**”

AGRA's Greyhound of the Month for April is Western Australian sprint star Ima Wagtail. The incredible rise to fame for a chaser who as late as March this year was a grade five dog in his home state. He capped off a brilliant month when he won the Group 1 Sky Racing Perth Cup at Cannington on April 23.

It was a case of third time lucky for John Iwanyk last Saturday night at Cannington when the leading WA mentor landed a last stride victory in the Group 1 Perth Cup final (520m) with Ima Wagtail.

The black dog was only fair to begin from the inside alley but was able to push up along the fence around the first turn to sit in third spot behind the leaders Shared Equity (box six) and Tiggerlong Await (box five), before switching to the outside in the home straight to hit the lead right on the line in 30.29.



Ima Wagtail red rug gets up to win the Group 1 Perth Cup in the last stride

Despite facing a big jump in class on his most recent starts, Iwanyk went into the race hopeful his charge would run well.

"I knew he was going well and he has just been getting better and better at every start since I have had him," Iwanyk said.

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"The final was a big rise in class but with that being said he did handle a rise in class the week before in his heat where he had to work very hard off box eight.

"I was keen on him but it was one of those things where you didn't know just how well he would handle the step up."

The winning margin was as close as they come, with just a nose separating Ima Wagtail and Tiggerlong Await, with Shared Equity a neck away behind the pair in third.

"I was standing in the grandstands and swinging for home I remember thinking that he couldn't win because not many dogs have been able to come from behind at the new Cannington track," Iwanyk recalled.

"When they went to the line I was pretty sure he had got beat, from where I was standing I thought he had run second.

"Someone turned to me and said I had won it and the next minute the one came up on the semaphore board and I nearly fell over.

The win gave Ima Wagtail four wins from as many starts under the care of Iwanyk, who has managed to take the son of Oaks Road and Aella from a fifth grade chaser to a bona fide group 1 star.

"I got the dog in December and I had him for three months before I actually started him as he had a few issues and injury problems - every time I got him close to racing he would go sore again," he said.

"I finally got him to the track and we started him at Cannington which he had never seen and he jumped straight to the front from box one and won by 11 lengths.

"The thing that makes it so magical was that going into the series he was just a 30 start dog which hadn't won a city race, but he has shown he can match it with the big boys so now I have nothing but praise for the dog.

"Everything he has done has bewildered me. I just don't know what the bottom line is and how good he could actually be."

Ima Wagtail is a Black dog whelped March 2013 by Oaks Road from Aella (Brett Lee x Elusive Ribbon). He is raced by Norm Burke and trained by John Iwanyk at Nambeelup in Western Australia. He has now won eight races and been placed on 11 occasions from his 36 starts. The Perth Cup first prize of \$150,000 brings his overall prizemoney to \$173,955.

AGRA congratulates owner Norm Burke, trainer John Iwanyk and Ima Wagtail on being awarded the AGRA Greyhound of the Month for April 2016. He joints last month's winner Moreira, Dyna Double One and Cash In Motion as the winners so far this year.

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