



MEDIA RELEASE

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AGRA GREYHOUND OF THE MONTH DECEMBER 2014

“LAMIA BALE”

AGRA's Greyhound of the Month for December 2014 is the versatile Steve Collins trained Lamia Bale.

In the month of December Lamia Bale beat some top company for the Award after she won two Group events over different distances at the same track Sandown Park.

Competing in both the Sir John Dillon Memorial over 595 and the time honoured Laurels Classic 515 she contested five races for four wins and a second.

The feat to my knowledge has not been done before and displayed her above average ability and the hard chasing characteristics of the Wheeler bred we have come to know so well.



Lamia Bale winning the Laurels at Sandown Park (Pic Clint Anderson)

The ambitious task set by trainer Steven Collins started on December 4th with a win in her heat of the Sir John Dillon Memorial she was an impressive winner in 34.11 over the 595 metre distance. Three days later she won again in a fast 29.37 in her heat of the Laurels. On Thursday the 11th she returned to Sandown and was too good in the final of the Group 3 Dillon racing away for an outstanding win in 34.08.

Continued on Page 2...

AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

On Sunday the 14th of December she qualified for the final of the Laurels with a determined second placing behind Weblec Rose in 29.66.

In the final on December 21 she was sent to the boxes an easing \$7 chance, Lamia Bale began well and mustered speed brilliantly going into the first turn before Lady Ronray scooted around the outside and assumed the lead. Lamia Bale checked off Lady Ronray's heels and took off after the Sydneysider, and despite spotting her several lengths down the back straight, finished too strong to get up in the last stride and claim the \$50,000 first prize in 29.45 seconds.

After the remarkable effort Lamia Bale earned a well-deserved rest and will return in the New Year to compete at the highest level for more group success.

Lamia Bale is raced Paul Wheeler and trained by Steve Collins at Lara in Victoria, she is a Brindle bitch whelped July 2012 by High Earner from Maple Bale (Spiral Nikita x Vista Bale). Lamia Bale has won 11 and been placed 11 times from her 35 starts and her current stake earnings stand at \$135,645.

The month of December saw 10 group races decided. Lamia Bale got the nod for the monthly award due to the unique circumstances of her efforts in the same month. Lamia Bale defeating some brilliant chasers and Group 1 winners to claim the award.

AGRA congratulates owner the Paul Wheeler, trainer Steve Collins and Lamia Bale on being awarded the AGRA Greyhound of the Month for December. She joins the January winner Iona Seven, February winner Keybow, March & October winner Buckle Up Wes, April winner Tonk, May winner Awesome Project, June winner Xylia Allen, July winner Mepunga Hayley, August winner Chica Destacada, September winner Tommy Brislane and November winner Dyna Villa as the Greyhounds of the Month for 2014.

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