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AGRA RUN OF THE MONTH AWARD SEPTEMBER 2016

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The AGRA'S Run of the Month for September 2016 has been awarded to top New South Wales sprinter Ritza Lenny, for his outstanding performance to win the Group 2 Bob Payne at Wentworth Park. On September 10.



Ritza Lenny winning at Bulli

The Mark Gatt-trained Ritza Lenny had starred in heats and semi-finals of a succession of group races before being thwarted by poor draws in the finals but this time he overcame box five and luck went his way.

After being third early and trapped wide when fourth on the back straight, Ritza Lenny swept around his rivals to hit the front when scrimmaging occurred near the rails.

Buck Forty, who was unleashing a powerful rails run and was being hailed as the certain winner, clipped the heels of pacemaker Lagoon Jazzy and lost all chance.

When that happened Ritza Lenny pounced on the lead, while Buck Forty's kennelmate Aqua Cheetah was able to go from sixth on the back straight to be second turning for home.

Ritza Lenny, who had been fastest qualifier with a 29.60 heat win, raced away to win by four lengths in 29.74, with Aqua Cheetah second and rank outsider Too Many Daddys a distant third.

Before the race Mark Gatt had said: "While I would have preferred an inside box with Ritza Lenny his draw is not as bad as it looks on paper.

"Too Many Daddys, in box four, has pace and goes to the fence, Buck Forty in six is slow early and Maja Mahi Mahi and Aqua Cheetah in seven and eight tend to run straight to the first corner.

"So if Ritza Lenny begins reasonably well he might find a position at the first turn."

Ritza Lenny is a Blue dog whelped June 2014 by Barcia Bale from Lagoon Lowanna (Where's Pedro x Lagoon Smylee). He is raced by Frank Gatt and trained by Mark Gatt from Thirlmere in New South Wales. Ritza Lenny has raced 28 times for 14 wins and seven placings with his current stake earnings standing at \$118,022.

As usual there were some outstanding runs recorded in September on various tracks around Australia. However given the way Ritza Lenny went about the win he got the nod as the Run of the Month.

AGRA congratulates owner Frank Gatt, trainer Mark Gatt and Ritza Lenny after being judged the AGRA Run of the Month for September 2016. He joins the first winners of the new-year Cyndie's Magic and Diamond On Fire as contenders for this year's AGRA Run of the Year for 2016-17.

Checkout the AGRA Website for a replay of the run of the Month

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