



MEDIA RELEASE

26th February 2018

Ladbrokes

Ritza Lenny's Bulli Cup

By Katherine Ernst Australian Racing Greyhound Website

www.australianracinggreyhound.com

RISING four-year-old Ritza Lenny (Barcia Bale x Lagoon Lowanna Jun '14) recorded his second group victory when saluting in Saturday's Group 2 Cyril Rowe Cup (472m) at Bulli.



Ritza Lenny in action winning at Bulli earlier in his career.

Prepared by Mark Gatt, the blue dog was drawn awkwardly in box six, but was able barge his way through the pack in the charge around the turn.

Once he found the front Ritza Lenny (\$6.30) proved too sharp for his rivals, stretching out to defeat Victorian Jimmy Newob (\$3.10) by three and three quarter lengths in a new personal best 25.95. Ritza Lenny's younger half-brother Lagoon Pirate (\$24.40) finished third for the duo's breeder Sharron Webster. Gatt was thrilled with his kennel star's performance, his sixth win from nine starts since resuming from an eight-month spell.

"It was helter skelter early on, but he just kept pushing – he really wanted it," Gatt told *Australian Racing Greyhound*.

Continued Page 2 ...

"I thought he might struggle to get across because there was a lot of pace on the inside, but he came out really well and showed what he can do."

"It's the best he's ever gone on the clock – he is going as good as ever."

Ritza Lenny, which also took out the 2016 Group 2 Bob Payne Spring Sprint, has now won 25 races with 13 placings from 52 starts, his prize money closing in on \$200,000.

Gatt said the win was particularly impressive given his 35.5-kilogram powerhouse is now racing without a toe – an injury which can take several lengths off a dog.

"It was only three or four months ago that I was watching him limp around the paddock after his surgery wondering if we'd ever get him back to the track let alone making group races – so I am very proud of him to come back and do what he has done."

"The good chasers put their bodies on the line, they want it more than the other dogs – he showed that again on Saturday night."

Ritza Lenny will now head towards the heats of the Group 2 Richmond Derby this Friday night, with the ultimate goal being a crack at the Group 1 Golden Easter Egg at Wentworth Park next month.

"He loves Richmond and he is going good – hopefully he can get a bit of luck and I am sure he will perform well."

"Realistically though I'm rapt with what he has done already so everything he does from here on in is a bonus."

It was a big week for Ritza Lenny in more ways than one, with the talented greyhound also becoming a dad for the first time last Wednesday.

He has six youngsters out of Group 2 Gosford Cup winner Ritza Hattie and also has two more litters on the way.

"They are going well – they were on top of their mum having a feed while he was winning the Bulli Cup which was pretty cool," Gatt said.

"I have confidence in him as a stud dog – he is by Barcia Bale, he has a massive motor, he has a good temperament and he has good chase – he ticks all the boxes so I am sure there are some breeders out there who will use him when that time comes."

Ritza Hattie (Bombastic Shiraz x Midnight Flare Nov '11) won 19 races and \$240,000 for Gatt, who also has high hopes for her daughter Ritza Millie.

The July 2016 whelp is by champion sire Collision and will be aimed at the heats of the Group 3 Magic Maiden next month after an impressive 30.09 performance trial at Wentworth Park last week.

"She looks like she has a bright future, but I am not getting too excited just yet," Gatt said.

"I have had them go well as pups and then not step up once they get into full fields, but she has definitely got the ability so fingers crossed she can live up to her mother."

After the placings, the rest of the field finished in the following order. 4th Sleek Master (\$42.30), 5th Precious Sal (\$5.90), 6th Lucky Chap (\$3.40), 7th Black Hole Sun (\$6.40) and 8th Elantris (\$49.30).

Ritza Lenny was 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 of Thirlmere in New South Wales. Ritza Lenny has raced 52 times for 25 wins and 13 placings. With the Cup's first prize of \$40,000 it took his overall prizemoney to \$197,962.

The Cyril Rowe Cup is a combination of two Bulli feature events which have been conducted since 1996 as the Bulli Gold Plate at Group 3 level and the Cyril Rowe Memorial Cup. Last year in 2015 the GBOTA decided to make the event the Cyril Rowe Cup and elevate it to Group 2 status and prizemoney.

Listed below are the previous winners of the Bulli Gold Plate and Cyril Rowe Memorial Cup, the Plate was first run in 1996. The race was sponsored for many years by the famous Rooty Hill RSL Club. Rooty Hill was in the coursing days a famous site where feature Coursing events in New South Wales were held.

1996 Ultimate Wish, 1997 Awesome Assassin, 1998 Tommie Streaker, 1999 Bob's One, 2000 Kirsty's Crown, 2001 "Not held" 2002 Casino Roller, 2003 Flash Peter, 2004 Spring Secret, 2005 Whisky Assassin, 2006 Winsome Force, 2007 Commandant, 2008 Bartrim Bale, 2009 Proven Diego, 2010 Goodsey, 2011 Greta Bale, 2012 Prince Diablo, 2013 Hoover Boy, 2014 Gradence, 2015 Kayda Shae, 2016 Black Bear Lee and 2017 Falcon's Fury.

For more information please contact:

**Neil Brown
GCA Publicity Officer
Tel: 03 97691234
Mob: 0423 129 950**

**David Simonette
GCA Executive Officer
simonette78622@gmail.com**