



MEDIA RELEASE

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Bertacious Bee's stinging run in Dapto Classic

By Mitch Cohen Illawarra Mercury

Owner-trainer combination Chris Bertinato and George Micallef became the first dual winners of the \$75,000 Dapto Puppy Classic (520m) when Bertacious Bee saluted on Thursday night.

Wedged between the finals' two leading chances, the Farmborough Heights-trained pup rocketed out of box seven to scorch home and win the Group 2 Classic.

It completed a remarkable double for Bertinato and Micallef, who won the Puppy Classic with No Rules League in 2011.



Bertacious Bee wins the Dapto Classic (Pic: Chris Chan)

Owner-breeder Bertinato said it was an emotional victory.

"It is really good. The bigger bonus about it is that me and my mate owned the mother, It's happy hour, so it was an even bigger thrill.

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Continued on Page 2...

AUSTRALIAN GREYHOUND RACING ASSOCIATION

I had a tear in the eye in the catching pen," part-owner Bertinato said.

"I had my mum next to me as well, so it was massive."

Bertacious Bee (\$8), pinged the lids at box rise and sat second at the all-important first turn alongside Queensland raider Spring Bonanza (\$12).

He found the front around the back straight and staved off a late challenge from Magic Earner (\$6) to win in a slick 29.97 seconds.

Nowra trainer Steve White's red-hot favourite Rare Pearl (\$1.60) rattled home for an unlucky third.

"It was where we wanted him to be sitting because anything at Dapto, if you are not near the front, even if you are a big, strong dog [you aren't likely to win]," Bertinato said.

"Rare Pearl missed it and the three came out humming but we were worried about the six [Magic Earner] to be honest.

"We thought we would have given the race to the six but it missed the kick.

"Going through the first turn it was good to see him up there and we were riding him like jockeys."

While it was Bertinato and Micallef's second success, the duo were joined in ownership by good friend Don Wellington.

And the first-time Group winner just might have provided the lucky edge.

"I think it is the first \$400 he has ever spent. He has had a moustache for 40 years and shaved it off last night, so maybe it is an omen," Bertinato said.

The win takes Bertacious Bee's record to three wins, four seconds and a third from 11 starts.

"He didn't want to push him too early," Bertinato said. "He is a big dog and you don't want him to have sore wrists at an early age."

After the placed runners the field finished in the following order 4th Spring Bonanza (\$10.20), 5th Tonight Tonight (\$42.60), 6th Stilton Lucky (\$11.20) 7th Magic Rama (\$28.10) and Lunar Sky (\$15.50).

Bertacious Bee is raced by the Bertinato Micallef Syndicate. He is trained by George Micallef at Farmborough Heights in New South Wales. Bertacious Bee is a Black dog whelped December 2012 by Bekim Bale from It's Happy Hour (Bombastic Shiraz x Strapper). He has won four of his 11 starts and with the \$75,000 first prize for the Dapto Auction Series it took his current stake earnings to \$78,490.

The Dapto Auction Series was first conducted in 2000 when sponsored by All Fab Constructions they remained the race sponsor until 2003 when the Glendon Motor Holden Company took over in 2004/05 while current sponsor Country Motor Company came on board in 2006. Listed below are the previous winners.

2000 **Electric Grace**, 2001 **Toll Security**, 2002 **Most Awesome**, 2003 **Bazwill**, 2004 **Miss Megastar**, 2005 **Here I Come**, 2006 **Adris Echo**, 2007 **Merciless Lu**, 2008 **Never Quoted**, 2009 **Jedd Lion**, 2010 **Vancouver Kiss**, 2011 **No Rules League** 2012 **Magic Fancy** and 2013 **My Bella Rose**.

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