



**Media Release  
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## **GCA GREYHOUND OF THE MONTH AWARD FEBRUARY 2018**

# **“RITZA LENNY”**

The GCA Greyhound of the Month for February 2018 has been awarded to star New South Wales veteran sprinter Ritza Lenny for his outstanding win in the Group 2 Cyril Rowe Gold Plate at the Bulli on February 24th.



**Ritza Lenny winning at Richmond (Pic Greyhound Recorder)**

Rising four-year-old Ritza Lenny recorded his second group victory when saluting in Saturday's Group 2 Cyril Rowe Gold Plate (472m) at Bulli.

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

Once he found the front Ritza Lenny proved too sharp for his rivals, stretching out to defeat Victorian Jimmy Newob by three and three-quarter lengths in a new personal best 25.95. Ritza Lenny's younger half-brother Lagoon Pirate 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*.

"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, he has drawn box three in heat one. His ultimate goal is having another 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.

Ritza Lenny's win in the final made it three runs for three wins in the month of February, he also won his heat at Bulli and a Free For All at Wentworth Park on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. All three wins were won in the best time recorded on the night.

As usual there were some great greyhounds competing in February on various tracks around Australia. However, given the fact Ritza Lenny's returned to his very best after serious injury, he got the nod as the Greyhound of the Month.

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.

GCA congratulates owner Frank Gatt, trainer Mark Gatt and Ritza Lenny on being awarded the GCA Greyhound of the Month for February 2018. He joins Out Of Range as the GCA Greyhound of the Month winners for 2018.

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