



Australian Greyhound
Racing Association



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Barking Bad's Gosford Cup Glory

By Adam Dobbin Greyhound Recorder

Powerhouse galloper Barking Bad (\$23.90) delivered trainer Michael Eberand his first taste of group race success with an emphatic victory in Tuesday night's Group 2 Woy Woy Poultry Supplies Gosford Gold Cup Final (515m).

Heading into the \$40,000 to-the-winner finale at monster odds – with betting stifled by race favourite Ando's Mac – Barking Bad set out after runaway leader Knight Sprite (\$9.80) down the back straight in front of a bumper Central Coast crowd, powering away late for a 1 ¾ length victory in a sizzling 29.35.



A happy team after the Gosford Cup win, their first Group winner with their first greyhound, Barking Bad

Runner-up Knight Sprite was his usual gallant self in defeat, coming up ever so short in his quest for back-to-back Gosford Cups, while race favourite Ando's Mac (\$1.30) finished third, another 1 ½ lengths away to the despair of favourite punters.

Continued on page 2...

But all the honours were with Barking Bad, a son of top American sire Bella Infrared and Eberand's former classy stayer Ebby Miss, who has proven hugely successful in the breeding barn since her retirement in 2013. "It was a great thrill," offered Eberand the morning after Barking Bad's Gosford Cup success.

"Ebby Miss has been fantastic for us – she just keeps producing. Between Ebby Miss and her pups we've been in I think 12 or 13 group race finals and the best we'd done was a second, I was beginning to wonder if it was ever going to happen!"

Hugely talented but sometimes enigmatic, Barking Bad sported his customary blinkers in Tuesday night's victory.

"He's always been a very quick dog. He races a lot better fresh – 3-4 months ago Gosford had the hoop arm trials which I took him to and the cup series was the first time he'd been back since – he's a pretty smart dog he knew where he was."

Barking Bad is owned by a syndicate of four friends from the banking sector, incredibly their first dabble into greyhound racing.

"Brad, Phillip, Scott and Ben own Barking Bad – he's their first and only dog would you believe – they were there trackside and had a great night out – they backed him too which always helps," added Eberand.

"The race panned out how I'd hoped and thought it could on paper but you can never be too sure in these races – he put the time up on the board and deserved the win."

Winner at 14 of his 40 career starts, Barking Bad has been incredibly durable throughout his career, winning from the 400m at Maitland and Bulli in electrifying times right through to the 590m at Bulli, a distance he handles with aplomb also.

And the continued success of his dam Ebby Miss has been remarkable.

Her first litter to Bekim Bale produced the hugely talented but injury plagued Lord Golec as well as multiple city winning galloper Reichenbach. Her second mating to Bella Infrared produced crack Victorian sprinter Aussie Infrared along with Gosford Gold Cup hero Barking Bad.

Keeping the American trend going, her next litter to top US sire Sh Avatar has recently started to hit the tracks, unearthing a smart crop of chasers including promising stayer Ebby Ripper, Utah Miss and Suffragette, the latter winner at five of her nine starts in Victoria for Steve and Kerrie White.

Just a week ago, Ebby Miss whelped a litter of six to Group 1 Melbourne Cup hero Dyna Double One – prized possessions to say the least!

"The long-term plan is to breed with some of the better American bred bitches Ebby Miss has thrown so I'm keen to see how the Dyna Double One cross works."

After the placed runners, the field finished in the following order 4th Black Hole Sun (\$8.90), 5th Lochinvar Dash (\$11.70), 6th Srixon (\$40.40) 7th Aston Ebert (\$70.30) and Camden Gossip (\$14.90) fell.

Barking Bad is raced by Bradley Crawford & friends and trained by Michael Eberand at Oakville in New South Wales, he is a Black dog whelped May 2014 by Bella Infrared from Ebby Miss (Head Bound x Senza Nome). Barking Bad has won 14 and been placed 16 times from his 40 starts and with the \$40,000 first prize for the Gosford Cup it took his current stake earnings to \$77,919.

The greyhound industry is fortunate to have such a generous sponsor as greyhound lover, owner and trainer Laurie Refalo, the owner of Woy Woy Poultry Supplies. Not only does his company Woy Woy Poultry Supplies sponsor The Gosford Cup (\$40,000 to the winner) but also the Gardens Young Guns (\$10,000 to the winner).

The Gosford Cup became the clubs feature race for the year when they changed their surface to loam in 2003. At the same time a circuit of NSW Country Cups was started. It was a Group three race worth \$10,000 to the winner to start with and has risen in status and profile to Group 2 in 2006 and in 2007 prizemoney increased to \$40,000 to the winner. Loyal sponsors Woy Woy Poultry Supplies has being with the race in all of its 15 years.

Listed are the past winners. 2003 **Thai Flame**, 2004 **Addis Boy**, 2005 **Cheeky Sprite**, 2006 **Cool Matt**, 2007 **Prey For Mercy**, 2008 **Suave Fella**, 2009 **Miss Elly Mint**, 2010 **Elite Blue Size**, 2011 **Tuiaki** 2012, **Prince Diablo**, 2013 **Free Will**, 2014 **Awesome Project**, 2015 **Ritza Hattie** and 2016 **Knight Sprite**

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