



Media Release
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GCA GREYHOUND OF THE MONTH AWARD JUNE 2019

“BAGO BYE BYE”

The GCA Greyhound of the Month for June 2019 has been awarded to star Queensland stayer Bago Bye Bye for his outstanding win in the Group 1 Gold Cup final at Albion Park on June 20.



Bago Bye Bye winning his heat of the Gold Cup at Albion Park

Bago Bye Bye landed the Group 1 TAB Gold Cup Final at Albion Park with a bold front running performance for trainer Darren Russell.

Queensland trainer Darren Russell was greeted by a raucous home crowd on his return to the podium.

The three-year-old is now a dual group one winner.

A superb training effort from Russell has seen him develop from a Group One winning sprinter to a Group One winning stayer in a matter of months after he returned from a stint in New Zealand.

“It’s fantastic, exciting and unbelievable all in one, to bring him back from New Zealand and achieve a goal we laid out for him it doesn’t get much better,” Russell said.

“It was always the plan to step him up, but it was a big ask he’d only had a couple of fifth grade wins in Australia and suddenly we had him up against the best stayers we had to offer Australia.

“Normal training sense says you should go through your grades before you tackle some of the Group Ones we have, but he’s an exception to the rule this dog he’s proved he belongs.”

The dog came through a tough campaign interstate competing in both the Association Cup at Wentworth Park and the Sandown Cup without success, but the dog was ripe for the Queensland swing.

“He’s been pretty spot on since I got him back to Brisbane, he was a bit unlucky in the State of Origin, but the way he bounced back in his heat told me he was ready,” Russell said.

“His run home was almost as quick as last week, so I was pretty confident when he got to the top he’d go on with it and he did.”

Russell was faced with a problem most trainers would dream of; push on as a stayer or have a crack at the \$350,000 Brisbane Cup?

After the two impressive wins he chose the Superstayers and rounded off the month with another solid effort a third placing behind Tornado Tears, a star hard to beat in the four-dog invitational.

Bago Bye Bye is a Fawn dog whelped February 2016 by Barcia Bale from Keira’s Charm (Surgeon x Tranquil Heidi). He is raced by Greg Watts and trained by Darren Russell at Innisplain in Queensland. He has now won 20 races and been placed on four occasions from his 33 starts. Bago Bye Bye’s overall prizemoney stands at \$233,717.

GCA congratulates owner, Greg Watts, trainer Darren Russell and Bago Bye Bye on being awarded the GCA Greyhound of the Month for June. He joins the May & March winner Orson Allen, April winner Zipping Bailey, Pindari Express and Buck’s Future as the GCA Greyhound of the Month winners for 2019.

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