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## **Irish Millie's luck leads to Sandown Cup upset**

**By Brennan Ryan GCA Website**

Irish Millie's ascent to stardom in the Sportsbet Sandown Cup Final (715m) was overshadowed by an incident that eliminated half of the field in the final stretch of the Group 1 race at Sandown Park on Friday night.

Trainer Stephen Whyte from Bunyip celebrated his first Group 1 triumph with Irish Millie, who steered clear of the chaos by taking a wide berth at the home turn, clinching the esteemed stayers' event.

She narrowly defeated Matt Lanigan's Canya Amy by a head, while the crowd's favourite, Valpolicella, finished third.

Irish Millie posted a time of 41.97 seconds from box 6, claiming the \$175,000 top prize.

The bookmakers were stunned as Irish Millie clinched the Sandown Cup at odds of \$34.

"It's tremendous," Stephen Whyte expressed to Sky Racing's Kat Ernst following the victory at the Sandown Cup.



***Stephen Whyte with Irish Millie and syndicate members John Sharkie and Des Fegan***

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"We had luck on our side in the race; some didn't, but that's just how it is - that's racing."

Irish Millie's triumph in the 2024 Group 1 Sandown Cup marked her ninth win, complemented by 11 minor placings from 34 starts, accumulating prizemoney earnings of \$211,100.



***Irish Millie (6) holds off Canya Amy (4) to win the 2024 Sandown Cup Final***

The Undertone Syndicate, which owns the daughter of My Redeemer and Thurles Princess, counts among its members the esteemed veterinarian Des Fegan and Sandown Greyhound Club director John Sharkie.

"Working with the syndicate as a trainer is fantastic; they entrust me with every facet of Irish Millie's race preparation - we always give it our all," Stephen remarked.

"The performances leading up to this race have truly impressed me; she appears to be continuously improving."

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