



MEDIA RELEASE – 2nd June 2024

GCA GREYHOUND OF THE MONTH AWARD MAY 2024

- MATT LOCH -

The GCA Greyhound of the Month for May 2024 has been awarded to the exceptional racer Matt Loch for his outstanding achievements in winning the Group 2 Warrnambool Cup Final and the Western Districts Derby Final at Group Listed level in Victoria, under the guidance of Avalon trainer Michelle Mallia.



Matt Loch is the GCA Greyhound of the Month for May 2024

The success in the past month is largely attributed to trainer Michelle Mallia's remarkable efforts, as the greyhound achieved a victorious comeback from an injury that involved tearing the stopper tendon from the bone, an injury often considered career-ending.

"Five months ago, we doubted he would ever race again," Michelle Mallia disclosed to GRV's Jason Adams following the triumph in the Warrnambool Cup.

"I found myself in a predicament; we were at a loss on how to treat such injuries. I was aware of the calibre of the pup, Matt Loch, and was determined not to let his career end prematurely, so I sought every resource to aid his return to the track.

“Anthony Azzopardi provided excellent advice and support; I honestly couldn't have managed without him to get this dog back on the track—it was a tremendous effort.”



Matt Loch wins the Group 2 Sportsbet Warrnambool Cup Final

In his debut at group level, Matt Loch clinched a two-length victory in the 2024 Warrnambool Cup, outpacing Morton and Trooper Tears to claim the \$55,000 first prize.

The son of Aussie Infrared and Stepping triumphed in both the heat and the final of the Western Districts Derby, running 450 metres at Ballarat, outpacing a formidable array of outstanding competitors. Additionally, he secured fourth place in the Group 2 Ballarat Cup Final.

Michelle shares ownership with Matt Field and Lachlan Barsby, both of whom are young men with disabilities who have found great success in racing with Matt Loch.

May was an active month for greyhound racing at various Australian tracks, culminating in fifteen Group races. A particular greyhound stood out, winning four out of five starts and securing two group wins, which garnered him the award.

Matt Loch, a black dog whelped in December 2021, is sired by Aussie Infrared out of Stepping (Barcia Bale x Hope's Thunder). Owned by Michelle Mallia, which includes Matt Field and Lachlan Barsby, the outstanding chaser was also prepared and bred by Michelle.

He has achieved 15 victories and 6 minor positions from 29 starts, amassing \$125,975 in prize money.

GCA extends congratulations to Michelle Mallia and Matt Loch for receiving the GCA Greyhound of the Month award for May 2024. Matt Loch is now among the esteemed winners of this accolade for 2024, alongside Fast Minardi, Valpolicella, Nangar Jim and Mackenna.

Thanks to the team at GRNSW media for supplying the story content

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