



***MEDIA RELEASE – 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2024***

**GCA RUN OF THE MONTH AWARD  
MAY 2024**

**- VALPOLICELLA -**

The Greyhound Clubs Australia Run of the Month for May 2024 has been awarded to the great Queensland stayer, Valpolicella.

Her impressive come-from-behind win in the qualifying round of the Group 1 Sportsbet Sandown Cup, spanning 715 metres at Sandown Park in Victoria on May 16th, secured her this distinguished honour.

The stayer prepared by Tony Zammit has risen in stature to become one of the most thrilling performers in recent times, demonstrating remarkable tenacity from box 4 in a heat of Australia's most esteemed half-mile feature event, surpassing Irish Millie to deliver an extraordinary performance.



***Owner Sandro Bechini with respected training couple Maree and Tony Zammit after Valpolicella taking out The Ladbrokes 715 at The Gardens on May 3rd***

In a twist that only racing could provide, Irish Millie, originally the runner-up, emerged as the victor in the Group 1 Sportsbet Sandown Cup Final due to a fall that took out half the competitors in the home stretch, leaving Valpolicella to finish third.

May is sure to be an unforgettable month for owner Sandro Bechini and trainer Tony Zammit, as Valpolicella became only the third winner of The Ladbrokes 715 staying event at The Gardens in New South Wales, securing the \$500,000 first prize.

Not only did she secure victory in the world's richest staying contest, but Valpolicella also set a new track record for the 715-metre trip. This record had been broken just minutes earlier in the previous race, the consolation event, by the South Australian stayer Zipping Neutron.

Valpolicella is just one race away from becoming the fifteenth greyhound in Australian racing history to win a million dollars in prize money. She is poised to start as the race favourite in the Group 3 Dashing Corsair Final at Albion Park, and it would be a fitting achievement to reach this milestone at her home track.

May featured some exceptional greyhounds competing across Australia's tracks. It was remarkable to witness a greyhound overcome various challenges in the race, still manage to finish, and secure a win to qualify for Australia's most prestigious staying race.

This impressive performance earned Valpolicella the GCA's Run Of The Month award for May 2024.

Valpolicella, a Black Bitch born in May 2021, sired by Shima Shine out of Saldana (Heston Bale x All Fired Up), races for owner Sandro Bechini and is trained by Tony Zammit in Yatala, Queensland.

Valpolicella boasts 29 victories and 17 minor placings from 52 starts, amassing \$989,525 in prize money.

GCA extends congratulations to owner Sandro Bechini, trainer Tony Zammit, and Valpolicella for securing the May 2024 Award.

They now stand alongside Palawa King (July), Saige Tenniele (August), Nangar Lucy (September), Shima Deb (October), King Tommy (November), Crackerjack Bull (December), Morton (January), Palawa King (February), Cabaos Lapis (March) and Hector Fawley (April) as recipients of the GCA Run Of The Month award.

**Photo supplied by GRNSW media**

**Checkout the GCA Website at [www.greyhoundclubsaustralia.com.au](http://www.greyhoundclubsaustralia.com.au)  
for a replay of the Run of the Month for May 2024**

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