



Richmond Race Club Ltd.

ABN 80 000 225 623



RICHMOND RACEWAY,
LONDONDERRY ROAD,
LONDONDERRY, NSW 2753

P.O. BOX 245
RICHMOND, NSW 2753
TELEPHONE: (02) 4578 2136,
FAX: (02) 4578 3627
info@richmondgreyhounds.com.au

10 August 2015

Mr. Paul Newson
Chief Executive Officer
GRNSW
PO Box 170 Concord West NSW 2138
pnewson@grnsw.com.au

Dear Paul

I am writing this letter to you in regards to issues that were raised at GRICG's recent meeting held at the offices of GRNSW on Tuesday 4 August 2015.

The following matters were recommendations' GRICG would like to bring to your attention:

1. **Breeders Policy and Licensing Issues**

GRICG has received feedback by Greyhound Racing participants in regards to the new breeding rules introduced by Greyhound Racing New South Wales (GRNSW) on 1 July of this year. The following issues were raised:

- A. Under the New policy there has been no consideration given to what is deemed as 'passive' breeders. i.e. people who have a genuine interest in our industry and like to breed, however they utilize the services of professionals within our sport to do the breeding/rearing/training process on their behalf. Can GRNSW implement a tiered approach with different levels of breeders?
- B. Members of the Greyhound Industry have received advice that the new policy is actually a 'restriction of trade'. Has GRNSW received legal advice on the possible impacts of this policy and does it meet with legal requirements?
- C. Has consideration been given in the policy to the size of litters that bitch's have whelped previously in assessing the ongoing viability of the bitch being able to have subsequent litters? For example: a bitch may only have 1-2 pups in each litter.
- D. Information and discussion around the inhibiting of bitches have 4 or more litters. I refer to attached correspondence from industry participant Mr. Michael Eberand. We also note that in some cases a 'bitches' pups for her 3rd litter may not have yet reached the race track. GRICG is not convinced an evidence based approach has been taken in the adoption/acceptance of this policy.
- E. When application is made to GRNSW to breed either the 4th litter or is over the age of 8 years and is not passed by GRNSW is there an avenue to appeal this decision?

2. Wentworth Park 280m racing prizemoney levels

I refer to your correspondence dated 13 July 2015 advising GRICG that the GBOTA's Wentworth Park branch had asked that the prize money levels remain as currently presented. GRICG would like you to consider adopting a prizemoney structure for these events so that participants' understand the prizemoney that they are racing for. GRNSW already has this policy in place with minimum prizemoney levels in place for B & C racing. GRICG would also like to note that in no other classification of meeting (B or C) are 280m (short sprint) and 520m (sprint) prizemoney levels treated differently and also if a greyhound happens to a race over the 280m distance they are still penalized as a City win under the grading policy even though they have not won city prizemoney.

3. Performance Trials

Further to your reply with regards to the Performance Trials and their benefit to the industry. We note that this policy will be reviewed as part of the Grading Policy review, however GRICG still feels that the Performance trial policy is only an impost on the industry and its participants and that they should be removed from the industry altogether. GRNSW is the only jurisdiction which has the PT approach.

4. Swab results – Website

In recent times GRNSW has adopted the approach that when a greyhound has its "A" urine sample tested and has shown abnormalities, that the participant is advised and then it is posted on the GRNSW website. GRICG supports this approach, however would like GRNSW to consider a more transparent system, where the Notice is posted on the Website within a 24 hour period of the trainer being informed. Currently there have been incidents where this has taken up to seven days; therefore this has allowed industry speculation about favorable treatment.

5. Stewards Inquiries

GRICG has had representations from different industry groups amid concerns raised about the time frames of inquiries being conducted. Listed on the GRNSW website are inquiries which are almost three years old. Can a more transparent and rigid process be adopted to facilitate the running and finalizing of inquiries in a timely manner?

I have attached a copy for your information from participant and GRICG member Mr. Bligh of a recent case involving the chronological events of the reporting of a positive swab to the industry.

6. Hormones for bitches

Greyhound participants have approached GRICG in regards to the provision of use for hormones in bitches. GRICG is advised that previously bitches could be treated with 1 mil of a substance (testaprop) and then be able to race 6 days later, however since the introduction of the new hormone rules, this level of substance cannot be administered as it puts the bitches levels over the allowed rate and therefore a positive swab is returned. The industry is asking for consideration is given to allow the 1 Mil to be administered on a monthly basis, which would allow the bitch to be able to have a consistent racing career, and would also allow the opportunity for participants to race their bitches for longer. The administering of 1 mil in bitches is reported to only bring their hormone level up to that of its racing counterpart the dog.

GRICG also notes that it should be well circulated among the industry that hormone injections by participants in greyhounds are prohibited. There appears to be a mixed understanding among the wider greyhound community.

7. Stud Book

Annually Greyhound Australasia (GA) publishes an Industry Stud book which provides statistics on Services, mating's, pups etc. The Book is a great reference guide to the breeders and participants of our industry. We understand that GA has decided not to proceed with publishing the latest stud book. We ask that GRNSW make representations to GA to have this changed and that a book is published and that it be made publically available on the internet or alternatively the rights to it tendered commercially.

8. Race fields legislation

In recent days the Minister for Racing Mr. Grant has advised that the Government has considered changed to the percentage that racing codes can 'charge' Corporate Bookmakers for the use of race fields for wagering. GRICG understands that previously GRNSW provided a model which indicated that if GRNSW was allowed to charge what Racing NSW was charging there would be a 5.5 million dollar benefit to our industry. I note that I had already contacted you in regards to this issue and you provided feedback that GRNSW is considering its position on this and you would provide further information to GRICG when it became available.

9. TAB – maintain race meetings

With the impending review of the Strategic Direction of our industry has GRNSW initiated discussion with the TAB in regards to the future requirements of the amount of racing product that we need to supply. Currently GRNSW provides in excess of its requirements of the provision of racing product, and the other issue that is relevant to this are the current breeding statistics which show there has been a decline in the number of litters bred, which will impact our ability to provide product in two years' time.

10. Future Industry Direction – race venues and dates

We would like to thank you for organizing the opportunity for GRICG to meet with KPMG. Part of the brief from KPMG was the location/number of race clubs, how often are they utilized etc. GRICG would like to make the following comments for your consideration: That listed below are some of the Criteria that we feel should be accessed to make a complete and robust decision surrounding the blue print of racing clubs/dates for our industry:

- Is the site owned/leasehold
- If leasehold, how long is the agreement for?
- What external (other than greyhounds) income streams benefit the club?
- What demographic of trainer supports the racing?
- Can Country racing be condensed into other venues i.e. Current TAB venues
- What are the industry participant numbers in each area/region?
- Are two turn track and one turn track racing important? What balance do we need here?
- Industry to have Centre's of excellence. The facilities' could include swimming pools, straight track, controlled bull rings, socialization areas for pups/greyhounds and training facilities to name a few. Also we feel that there

could be economy of scales savings with extra race meetings conducted at the same venues.

- How financially viable is each club?
- Are current Board/Committee structures of clubs relevant to our industry? Recently with the successful tender with The Gardens complex GRNSW initiated a new Board/Committee policy. Has this been approach been successful for the transition of this club? And have the skill level sets of the people on the Board proven to be successful?

GRICG understand that previously the IER size and scope study provided information about the demographics of the industry.

11. Aborted Swabs

Does GRNSW keep records on the amount of aborted swabs from race meetings? Also is there any statistics which indicate that some individual trainers have more than others? Also what is the process after the Swab is aborted?

GRICG recommends that GRNSW introduce a policy which provides clear guidelines and transparency for the process once a swab is deemed to be aborted.

12. People suspended and not charged

GRICG has been approached by industry participants who are currently under suspension, but have not yet been charged and feel that they have been deliberately targeted as it stands they are in limbo. When will GRNSW address this situation and advise the participant of the outcome?

GRICG recommends that GRNSW introduce a policy which provides clear guidelines and transparency for the process once a participant is advised that they are under suspension. An inquiry should be conducted in a timely manner.

13. Corporate Bookmaker Betting Standards

I refer to your correspondence dated 13 July 2015 in reply to the issue we raised about the level of a maximum bet that the Corporate Bookmakers are 'setting' punters to win. Perhaps I didn't put the question in the right frame, what we ask is that currently Corporate Bookmakers not be allowed to 'ban' punters from setting up accounts and wagering with them because they win too much money. The Corporates are happy to take their money when they lose, however are excluding punters off when they win. We feel that this actually impacts the turnover and return to our industry, and further we note that you mention only one other controlling body of any code in any state has introduced this rule. Would it be fair that a comparison between our existing rule and the 'proposed rule' be conducted to gauge what if any impact it would have on our income?

14. Finish On Lure

Is GRNSW any closer to initiating a trial process for this? Recently GRV initiated this trial process. Our understanding is that the NSW GBOTA is ready to go with this at their Gosford venue.

Other issues that we wish to comment on are:

1. What if/any initiatives/proactive changes are under GRNSW Integrity department consideration to ensure proper policing of the industry, at and away from the track?

2. GRICG is receiving feedback from industry participants that the GRICG structure/relationship with GRNSW is a failure, due to the fact that any constructive feedback provide by the group has been dismissed by GRNSW.
3. GRICG was advised by former CEO Mr. Hogan that they would investigate the opportunity of displaying the greyhounds' accumulated pointscore in the race guide. Do we know if this process has been initiated?
4. There has been continual speculation that the Special Commission of Inquiry has requested an extension of the time frame to hand down the final recommendations from September to December. Has GRNSW received any advice that supports this?
5. Where is the Grading Policy review upto?
6. On Stewards reports can the report indicate the winner and rug number of the race at the start of the report? I.e. The race was won by Rapid Journey (2)...
7. We also had further questions on the Working Dog Alliance (WDA) report, however we note that it has just been released and will provide information at a further date.

I thank you for taking the time to consider this information and if you require any further clarification in relation to any of the above issues please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Wayne Billett
For and on behalf of GRICG
wayne@richmondgreyhounds.com.au
M 0408 420329