

5. Business Arising from Correspondence
6. Other business
7. Next meeting

Correspondence

1. Nomination Closing Times

- GRNSW are in the process of a “think tank” with the GBOTA and Mr Billett from GRICG
- Chairman asked Mr Billett how often the TAB Clubs would meet to discuss their calendars. Mr Billett confirmed that regions met with GRNSW staff.
- All members agreed that a simpler format be prepared for Associations so that all upcoming calendar tracks are shown to each other to allow better race fields

2. Track Maintenance

- Chairman suggested that GRICG members meet at the Gosford track with the new GRNSW Track Maintenance Manager, Mr Bill Wilson to discuss track issues
- Mr Whitelaw asked that a meeting take place with Mr Peter Yore to discuss the possibility of a collapsible arm. Mr Whitelaw has information showing a 90% reduction in injuries in USA
- Mr Hogan suggested that a paper be prepared and presented to GRNSW Board on how GRICG could work with Bill Wilson to change infrastructure with tracks to reduce injuries. This paper should show how this would progress
- Mr Hogan advised that Regionally based meetings with Mr Bill Wilson and track curators will commence in 2015 along with an annual curators conference
- It was noted that GRNSW Head Veterinary, Dr. John Newell is putting input into track conditions
- It was advised by Mr Hogan that sand will be standardized and so will suppliers
- It has found that if road base has moisture, or not compacted correctly when preparing a new track, then there will be ongoing problems
- Mr Hogan mentioned how America have advised “don’t do what we do, Australia does it better”

3. Race Books & Race Dates

- Mr Whitelaw discussed the need for the race dates to be reinstated back into the race books which has been approved by Mr Hogan
- Mr Whitelaw also asked could the race books show “engaged”. Mr Hogan will look into this request

4. GRNSW Board Members – 38% Increase

- Mr Hogan advised that the determination is set by the SOORT, The Statutory and Other Offices Remuneration Tribunal and is constituted under the Statutory and Other Offices Remuneration Act 1975 and publically available to view.

5. GRICG & GRNSW Board

- GRICG to prepare a paper to present to the GRNSW Board requesting bi-monthly meetings
- Regarding the new greyhound racing radio segment on Sky Racing Radio every Sunday, Mr Whitelaw asked that better coverage be discussed (as only received seven minutes last Sunday)
- GRICG members were pleased with the resources open to them from GRNSW for administration, reporting, writing of papers and minutes
- GRICG members were advised by Mr Hogan to have any papers they want presented to the GRNSW Board by the Friday prior to the GRNSW Board meeting, taking this into account, GRICG will meet two (2) weeks prior

6. Inquiries

- Mr Hogan explained that the Spratt & Ferguson inquiries were both being represented by the same legal defence.
- Mr Hogan reminded GRICG that OPEN INQUIRIES are shown on thedogs.com.au website
- Mr Hogan advised that GRNSW have changed protocols as from 1st December, 2014 which will announce irregularities as soon as they occur verse waiting for the “B” outcome as has happened in the past

7. Grading Reviews

- All GRICG members agree that Wentworth Park should be the number one priority for grading and that closing times need to work around Wentworth park
- Some changes already made around Bulli and 1 more track. Informal talks with Wentworth Park making Metro drawn on same day.
- Question asked as to the possibility of closing Thursday's "B" meeting before Wednesday's "C" meeting for Maitland.
- Mr Hogan asked Mr Bligh to provide data showing Saturday/Thursday change for Wentworth Park, rather than current Friday/Saturday.
- Grading query goes through Industry not just internal – questions will be sent to GRNSW for review at Industry meeting

General Business

Social Media Comment

- Mr Whitelaw thanked the members of GRICG for the well structured meeting he attended on October 29th, but was disappointed to read a social media comment regarding himself (which he feels could have only come from fellow GRICG members present at that meeting).
- Mr Arnold welcomed Mr Bligh to the meeting however requested that formal notification be forwarded in relation to the appointment of Mr Bligh as the representative for the NSW Greyhound Breeders Owners and Trainers Association. Mr Arnold also noted his disappointment in not being informed of the change.
- Mr Whitelaw brought to the table the "vibes" from the Country Clubs that the Chairman was not the right person to be taking GRICG forward. Mr Arnold advised that he had not received any feedback regarding these "vibes" (either verbally or written). Mr Arnold was informed by Mr Whitelaw prior to the meeting, that he, (Mr Whitelaw) would be happy to put his hand up for the Chairman role. Mr Arnold advised that he would be prepared to stand down as Chairman of GRICG if GRICG members decided this. Mr Arnold left the room for a vote to take place and was called back to the meeting to confirm if he (Mr Arnold) was wanting to vacate. During this discussion Mr Billett stressed that there has been no official correspondence to the Chairman from the Country Clubs Association detailing their dissatisfaction. A vote was taken in the presence of Mr Arnold with four votes for

Mr Arnold remaining as Chairman. One of the remaining two votees mentioned that he was not prepared to vote either way. Mr Arnold will remain as Chairman.

During the discussion Mr Arnold advised that he was unavailable to attend the Country Clubs Association AGM as he was only made aware of the AGM date on the Thursday prior to the meeting on that Sunday (and already had plans in place for Sunday).

The question was asked to Mr Whitelaw as to “how many County Clubs” had attended the AGM. Mr Whitelaw was unaware.

- Mr Whitelaw also made comment that he had heard comments like “no confidence in the GRNSW Board and are thankful for the Inquiry” and “please don’t let the Industry fall over”
- The question was raised to Mr Hogan on who designed the Casino track and had GRNSW had a formal role. Mr Hogan advised that GRNSW had only commented on the plans and that the contractors used would have been the recommendation of GRNSW also. It was discussed that the Casino track had limited space to work with.
- The closing of the Cowra track was discussed with Mr Hogan not aware of this. The members of GRICG did request that should a track close then 50% of meetings go to the nearest local track and the remaining 50% be divided between regional tracks
- The question was asked to Mr Hogan if GRNSW paid PPB for their tender at The Gardens Club, which was answered as “no”
- Mr Hogan advised that all tenderers involved in the roof replacement of the Gardens were aware that GRNSW was paying for the works
- The question was asked as to what happens to the prizemoney for “washed out meetings”. Mr Green asked Mr Hogan if for example 5 meetings were abandoned, can 1 meeting get double prizemoney. Mr Hogan pointed out that there is a policy in place and if the meeting can be rescheduled it will, but this is not always easy.

Registered Greyhound Participants Association

Discussions were held as to the viability of Mr Robert Whitelaw attending the GRICG meeting as per “IN DISPUTE” email presented to the Chairman by Mr Green. The email to Mr Alamango received on 5th December, 2014 from a Legal Officer at Fair Trading stating “the notation on the Register of Incorporated Associations that the Association is “IN DISPUTE” in relation to the public officer and committee of the Association will be continued pending advice confirming resolution of the dispute in due course.

All members of GRICG accepted that Mr Whitelaw would represent the RGPA at today's meeting. The Chairman, Mr Arnold advised that he will look further into a resolution on this matter.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- No of wins at Wentworth Park be looked at and whether Maidens (if short) – is this a possibility
- Ask GRNSW for a standard prizemoney for 2nd and 3rd placings for Group races. ie; recently at The Gardens \$10,000, \$450, \$210
- Race guarding – questions asked by Mr Merlino (but discussed in letter 11th November)
- Mr Bligh mentioned “beating the grader” - (all grading issues for review)
- Additional letter – Gary Smith, starters fees. GRICG happy with status quo
- Mr Bligh asked if further income could be outlined in detail other than annual report
- Formal grading review March (system related from IT perspective)
- Ongoing viability of Performance Trials – as above in grading review
- Wagga Story – Local newspaper had discussions on the possibility of Country clubs closing with Mr Whitelaw expressing concerns at comments allegedly made by the Wagga club. Mr Hogan said he had not seen the article and asked Mr Whitelaw to forward a copy. Mr Hogan did note a Prime News report where the prospect of track closures was raised by Mr Whitelaw and suggested perhaps the Wagga comments were in response to this.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2.30pm