

Minutes of GRICG Meeting held Tuesday March 18th 2014

at GRNSW Offices Rhodes

Meeting commenced at 12.01 pm

Present : Ron Arnold, Robert Green, Mark Merlino, George Hayes

Apologies : Mark Alamango, Wayne Billett

Minutes of January 28th Meeting read, received and accepted

Moved: R. Green Seconded : G.Hayes Carried

Business Arising :

at the January meeting with the GRNSW Board, GRICG advised about concerns regarding animal welfare issues post-race in catching pens. GRICG suggested that it would be relatively easy for race-day stewards to inspect the pens for adequate padding on gates, flaps and fencing. In the 49-day period from the January meeting GRICG has not been advised regarding any effort to initiate any action in this matter.

Correspondence

From Mr Joe Baldacchino concerning the availability of hormones used to control seasonal cycles in racing greyhounds. He advised regarding the expense involved, which can be prohibitive. He cited the Victorian practice as being superior to NSW.

Mr Baldacchino wants GRNSW to lobby the State Government to adopt changes similar to those in Victoria, with the concern that if nothing is done, then there will be a decline in the numbers of bitches racing.

Ron Arnold will contact Adam Wallish in Victoria regarding the Victorian hormone administration procedure.

GRICG believes that this issue is a major animal welfare concern, that if regulations are more realistic then the lives of greyhounds are extended.

From Mr Warwick Brown expressing his concerns regarding the integrity of Box Draws – citing instances of his greyhounds consistently being drawn in unfavourable boxes. Mr Brown requested Live Streaming of box draws but was put off because there is ‘nothing to see’.

Mr Brown to be advised that GRNSW box draws are open to the public. GRICG is aware that following complaints in the past, there have been comprehensive investigations of the box draw process, and the results were that the procedure is random with no particular greyhounds being favoured or disadvantaged.

General Business

Regarding the matter of 26 Friday night TAB dates being removed from Wentworth Park and spread amongst provincial TAB tracks.

A suggestion that the views of trainers should be sought, in relation to the desirability of continuity of Friday night racing at Wentworth Park, given that the venue should be held in the highest regard, being the premier racetrack in NSW. Other points made :

Removing 26 Metropolitan racing dates will result in a loss of \$570,000 in prize money in the Metro/Richmond region
Such a loss in Metro/Richmond prize money is not logical or acceptable

The GRNSW proposal to reduce Metro racing by 26 meetings will see the loss of 260 Metro races annually, thus there will be only 780 Metro races – down from 1040 races – it does not make business sense to reduce Metro races down from 1040 to 780, participants will be robbed of prize money by the loss of 260 winning opportunities

Note : at present in Victoria there are 1,248 Metro races per annum
GRNSW wants only 780 Metro races per annum – that is a difference of 468 winning opportunities

At present all major NSW TAB tracks enjoy the continuity of racing on regular race days known to all. As the major NSW track it is illogical that Wentworth Park should be obliged to race spasmodically on Friday nights. Patrons and participants will also become confused and disorientated when their track moves away from its regular time slot and suddenly races on Friday nights, then the following week back to its normal race night/day. Nomination deadlines will become an issue.

Performance Trials

Trainers are critical of the fact that they are having difficulty securing runs for their greyhounds in PTs

It has been suggested that GRNSW give consideration to conducting Performance Trial days at TAB tracks north, south and west, possibly one day every three months, to expand the opportunities for trainers to nominate their greyhounds for PTs

Prize Money

Participants have expressed concern about the disappointing disparity in prize money levels, the disparity is particularly noticeable in some feature races when second, third and unplaced prize money is unacceptably low, when compared to the stake collected by the winners.

GRICG recommends that GRNSW bring this matter to the attention of race clubs, with the view to encouraging clubs to move to splitting prize money in feature race to : Winner 65%, 2nd 25%, 3rd 10%

Grading Forum

GRICG believes that it is now timely to schedule such a meeting to provide the opportunity for GRNSW and participants to share facts and points of view in relation to understanding the grading policy.

Track Conditions

There is general concern regarding the upkeep and condition of racing surface at all tracks.

Whilst accepting that stewards do walk around tracks prior to race meetings, participants are not sure of the stewards' qualifications to assess the quality and condition of tracks, e.g. assessing whether a transition turn is still as it should be. It has been proposed that a qualified person be retained to inspect tracks regularly to ensure that they are of the highest standard.

Bookmakers Licences

GRICG recommends that GRNSW consider supporting the concept that the licences of bookmakers be included under the single 'umbrella', inasmuch as bookmakers to have to hold a single license covering greyhound racing ,harness and thoroughbred racing. Thoroughbred bookmakers may wish to field at Greyhound/Harness meetings if they do not need to hold additional licences.

Bookmakers add a measure of colour and stimulation to race meetings, so it seems reasonable that one single license may encourage, rather than discourage, bookmakers to ply their trade at the races.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 1.25pm