

25 June 2021

The Committee
Greyhound Owners Trainers & Breeders Association of Victoria Inc

Via e-mail: gotbav@gmail.com

Dear Committee

RE: Meeting held 23 June 2021

Thank you for meeting with GRV Board and Executive representatives on 23 June 2021 and, as requested, provide further details in relation to the matters you have raised.

Racing Safety

GRV actions to promote safe racing, including improvements to track safety, are at the forefront of the Board and the organisation's attention. The positive trends in welfare outcomes for greyhounds at Victorian tracks have been made possible by, amongst other things, GRV's sustained focus on all areas of racing safety.

GRV is committed to a Racing Safety plan which includes implementation of recommendations from major independent track safety reports. GOTBA has been involved in consultation in relation to both the content, and priority, of initiatives in this plan, including regular updates through GOTBA's representative of GRV's Independent Consultative Group. This plan is a live document, with expert input into track upgrades and design changes, and is subject to ongoing change and development.

We confirm that GRV, in conjunction with Greyhound Clubs Victoria and individually with each Victorian Club, has made the consistency and quality of Club preparation of trialling facilities a key focus. GRV is working with all Victorian Clubs to monitor and ensure they consistently meet GRV's professional and proactive approach to all aspects of the preparation, maintenance and delivery of track and racing facilities, securing continuity of the racing program and lowering risk of on-track injury or death. Priority is given to those Clubs that need additional support.

We encourage GOTBA and its members to raise any track related matters direct with the relevant Club, Greyhounds Club Victoria, as well as GRV.

Participant Returns

GRV reiterates that there are fundamental flaws in a model whereby prizemoney is paid based on a percentage of revenue received. Fettering discretion in relation to the distribution of revenue is not considered to be in the best interests of the Victorian sport.

Notwithstanding this, GRV remains focused on increasing returns to all participants, as demonstrated through actions to regularly review and increase prizemoney, noting budgeted prizemoney of a record \$58m for FY22, and continues to innovate, identify and implement revenue and participant return opportunities as they arise. The level of prizemoney, as is normal GRV practice, will be regularly monitored and adjusted as

appropriate, including a six-month review to identify opportunities for further returns for participants across the board.

In addition, as well as prizemoney, GRV also returns value to participants in other direct and indirect ways, such as free trials, all of which should be included in any consideration regarding the value of participant returns.

Participant treatment

As regulator of the sport, the reforms GRV have put in place have been critical to the survival of the sport and we implement our rules and regulations each day. We make no apologies for doing so.

GRV is, however, not, and never has been, concerned with applying the racing rules unreasonably, for example so as to capture the provision of food and water (or the vitamins and electrolytes) that are present in normal foodstuffs as a breach of the racing rules. To do so is clearly not in the interests of the sport or the regulation of it.

In relation to prohibited substances it is noted that GRV, through Greyhounds Australasia, will continue to review potential substance thresholds and/or introduce them where appropriate.

In relation to concerns regarding unfair participant treatment we reiterate that GRV does not condone any such behaviour and, when made aware of any complaints, will take action to investigate. Complaints can be referred to GRV's Feedback Office for attention. Alternatively, complaints can also be referred direct to the Office of the Racing Integrity Commissioner.

GRV costs accountability

As a public sector agency, GRV is subject to a raft of accountability measures, including those related to expenditure of GRV funds. GRV's financial statements are independently audited and released in GRV's annual report.

GOTBA engagement

GRV is always willing to meet with GOTBA regularly, as has occurred in the past, and more recently has had an ongoing series of meetings with GOTBA covering topics such as prize money, track safety and participant treatment. GRV seeks to provide opportunities for consultation and feedback from stakeholders, particularly when the Board and GRV are contemplating changes to rules, policies, and other regulatory matters.

Industry matters such as racing safety and participant returns are regular agenda items for ICG meetings and we would encourage GOTBA to refer queries and discussions topics through its representatives on this consultation forum.

Outcomes from meeting

We confirm that GRV will arrange for GOTBA to be provided with information regarding:

- Update on activities under the Racing Safety Plan (including the Dexis report and supporting scientific analysis by the University of Technology Sydney)
Update on GRV's work with Greyhounds Australasia to clarify national injury reporting parameters;

- GRV's review of track utilisation regarding race meetings, trialling and maintenance; and
- GRV analysis of racing incidents

We also note our offer for your President to arrange a time with GRV's General Counsel to discuss GOTBA suggestions for streamlining prosecution matters.

GRV is disappointed that GOTBA has chosen to be publicly critical of track safety without acknowledging the significant improvements achieved during this year's racing program. However, we again thank you for your interest and input into these matters and encourage the continuation of productive dialogue between GOTBA and GRV representatives.

Yours sincerely,



Alan Clayton
Chief Executive Officer
Greyhound Racing Victoria

