

FEDERATION OF BRITISH GREYHOUND OWNERS' ASSOCIATION  
(FBGOA)

Minutes of the annual general meeting held at Oxford Stadium  
on Sunday 22nd May 2011.

-----

1. Apologies were received from Poole and John Simpson (committee).
2. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.
3. Matters Arising: The previous meeting recorded disappointment that one representative for owners, trainers and British breeders was deemed sufficient on the GBGB Board. It was understood that a review of the composition of the Board was underway of which the publication of such findings the Federation looked forward to. On the matter of the deputy to the Chairman on the Board of the BGRF in the event of his absence, the matter had been resolved and Dr. Terry Veasey had been accepted as deputy.

At a meeting of the management committee held in October 2009 and confirmed at the annual general meeting held in April 2010, it was agreed to form a small sub-committee to be known as the Chairman's committee which could be quickly convened to discuss the Federation's response to urgent issues. In response to external pressures, this committee had subsequently been expanded to include representatives from the trainers and breeders who, *ipso facto* must also be members of FBGOA. At present this committee had held ten meetings and usually convenes a week after a Board and/or relevant committee meetings which had been attended by our members. Operating under the title of Joint Committee, members of this sub-committee also sit on numerous working and policy guiding committees at GBGB.

4. Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer presented his statement of income and expenditure and balance sheet. The cost of our support for *Greyhound Star* was discussed. The general consensus of opinion being that it was the only dedicated mainstream publication devoted exclusively to the greyhound scene, without which the Sport would be the poorer and members present felt that the monthly FBGOA information in the *Star* was quite an important method of communication. In those circumstances, it was agreed to continue funding.

Subscriptions reached an all time high in 2010 with 20 of the 25 licensed tracks subscribing. The Treasurer stated that renewals were slightly down for 2011 and that the Chairman would speak to those responsible for renewing at non-members when visiting tracks in the course of his business. The accounts were approved.

5. (a) The Chairman gave a verbal account covering the period under review, being on the Boards of both GBGB and BGRF as it affected his role as Practitioner for the stakeholders and in particular, his input on behalf of owners and trainers in respect of keeping costs to a minimum and prize money at a maximum, consistent with reduced funding available. During the period there had been some important concessions in respect of registrations; license fees; drug abuse testing times; suppressants; the approval of a first-aid kit for trainers consisting of approved remedial substances which were recommended for application to greyhounds which hitherto had been the subject of investigation if found to have been used; rule changes regarding trials between U.K. tracks and other technical rule changes were also discussed.

(b) Members were brought up to date with new appointments recently made at GBGB which had been previously published in greyhound press coverage and press releases.

(c) On prize money matters the Chairman stated that although the BGRF contribution was reduced to £5.00 per run in May 2010, the Fund anticipates an unexpected boost in the latter part of this year due to better figures coming through on greyhound betting and that in this connection he is actively seeking a substantial restoration to prize money from such input.

6. Election of Officers and Committee: There being no resignations or nominations, the Officers and Committee existing, being willing to stand for another term, were re-elected en bloc, (the Chairman having been elected in 2010 for a 3 year term under the rules of the Federation's constitution) the committee consists as follows:

Chairman:	John Haynes
Vice-Chairman:	Terry Veasey
Secretary:	John Waldron
Treasurer:	John Alcock
Committee:	Bob Gilling, Paul Koller, John Simpson
President:	Arthur Hammond.

7. A.O.B. Although having resigned from the committee at the last a.g.m. through ill health, but still able to provide statistics to the Federation on prize money trends, it came as a shock to hear of the untimely death of our former Vice-President Ray Brand in 2010. His contribution will be sorely missed.

Paul Koller outlined the current situation at Belle Vue in respect of the Owners' Association and the Retired Greyhound section. The Chairman offered his services in any way if required. Paul was urged to keep in touch with the situation and perhaps by doing so, be able to help to reconstitute at least the Owners section.

The parties making up the Joint Committee had agreed to set up a combined website, their individual websites being sparse and under-used. Negotiations are ongoing at present to bring this about with a website creator and preliminary styles and layout will shortly be available for comment.

The members present congratulated Arthur Hammond for his award at the National Annual Presentations for his services to greyhound racing and his elevation to a Vice President of the RGT.

An audit of BGRF prize money from race cards would shortly take place to which the Secretary had been invited to attend. This audit would take place under new rules placing it within the remit of the Racing Committee of GBGB wherein only one outside representative of the Federation would be entitled to attend. Previously the audit was conducted by Federation committee members.

Thanks were also made to John Alcock for organising the arrangements, the memorial race and presentation in respect of the former Chairman of FBGOA, Stuart Locke-Hart which took place the previous evening at Oxford to which Stuart's family attended. The Secretary would also write to the General Manager of Oxford Stadium thanking her for their hospitality in hosting both the event and this meeting, the Treasurer would enclose a donation towards the retired greyhound fund there.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 12.20 p.m.

J.L.W.