

MINUTES OF THE TWELFTH MEETING

joint committees of the

FEDERATION OF BRITISH GREYHOUND OWNERS' ASSOCIATION GREYHOUND TRAINERS ASSOCIATION BRITISH GREYHOUND BREEDERS FORUM

Held on 8th September 2011 at the Reigate Manor Hotel

In attendance: J. Haynes, (*Chairman*), R. Gilling, A. Hammond, J. Simpson, N. McEllistrim
J. Waldron, (*Hon Secretary*).

- 1) Apologies: None.
- 2) Minutes of the previous meeting: were taken as read.
- 3) Matters arising: the trainers on the committee agreed to attend and support the Greyhound Breeders Festival on Sunday 11th September. John Simpson would present the FBGOA class trophy in the Chairman's absence.

A request for funding from Mr. M. Livesey who has been promoting a series of racing events on behalf of British bred greyhounds separately from the recognised body, the Greyhound Breeders Forum was received by, and will be discussed at a meeting of the GBGB Racing Committee. This joint committee was of the opinion that any such request must pass through, be approved and monitored by the recognised channel of the Greyhound Breeders Forum which forms part of the Practitioner's remit on the Board of GBGB.

- 4) GBGB Practitioner's Report: the Chairman reviewed developments in relation to committees and other meetings which he had attended in his role of Practitioner, together with dates of forthcoming meetings which involved members of this committee.

It was reported that new registrations are down approximately 600 on the year, making an estimated 8,000 new registrations for the year.

A previous complaint about delays in the return of registration forms had been investigated and it was found to be mainly that forms had not been completed properly and had had to be sent back for amendment at source. N.MacEllistrim stated that this would be a Racing Office failure. The Chairman had been told that if completed satisfactorily, registration forms could be processed within 24 hours.

It had been reported that there had been widespread apathy in the Sport in attending meetings to explain disciplinary penalty guidelines with such meetings being poorly attended.

Further research was to take place in respect of spaying bitches and returning them to racing as an alternative to suppressants.

The Chairman reported that an additional £1m contribution from BGRF to prize money had been secured for 2011/12. This additional funding would take the form of graded sweepstakes at all tracks with each final at the track valued at £500 to the winner and £100 to others plus £100 to the winning trainer making the final worth £1,100 in addition to which a trophy and presentation jacket will be presented. The normal track prize money for this final would be set aside and ring fenced for future distribution to graded racing. The aim is to stage 26 such competitions by 31st December 2012. There would be maximum emphasis on the BGRF aspect of these competitions. BGRF Christmas Bonus Prize Money of £5,000 per track had also been secured for 2011/2012.

In respect of Christmas bonus funding, the committee was of the opinion that double prize money would be the best use of funding as it was popular with owners and trainers and easy to administer. The Secretary, being a member of the Audit Committee said that clear and concise guidelines must be provided by those in authority to all racing offices and FBGOA with regard to the sweepstake prize money scheme to avoid the situations which arose previously regarding the accumulation of Open Race money "ring fenced" for distribution to graded racing.

5) Any Other Business: N. MacEllistrim commented upon the condition of a kennel, highlighted by the disappearance of a prominent licensed trainer and was concerned that early warning signs were not picked up by a visiting Stipendiary Steward.

The Secretary reported on the progress of the new combined website and detailed arrangements for payment and maintenance by parties. He went on to say that any website is only as good as its contents which means regular updating, and in that respect would be calling upon participants for regular input.

6) The Next Meeting: Thursday 20th October 2011.

The meeting closed at 12.30 p.m.

J.L.Waldron,
Hon. Secretary.