

FEDERATION OF BRITISH GREYHOUND OWNERS' ASSOCIATION  
(FBGOA)

Minutes of the annual general meeting held at the Kassam Hotel Oxford  
on Sunday 2nd June 2013.

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1. Apologies were received from Kinsley, Shawfield, Mr. J. Simpson.
2. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.
3. Matters Arising: There was no matters under this heading.
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. It was agreed to continue funding the cost of the FBGOA pages. A contribution towards the cost of setting up a "Save Wimbledon" campaign had been made

The Treasurer highlighted some of the exceptional items in his report, one being the replacement of the Secretary's computer which had irrevocably broken down due to having reached the end of its useful life.

Subscriptions from licensed tracks continued at a satisfactory level. There had been some changes to the personnel of owners' committees at tracks which had resulted in administration and continuity problems in places for the collection of subscriptions resulting in renewals being slightly down for 2013. The Chairman would speak to those responsible for renewing lapsed members and their managements when visiting tracks in the course of his business. The accounts were approved and signed off.

5. Chairman's Report: (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 funding available.

Following the Chairman's appointment to the Budget Committee his other committee commitments are as follows: Trainers Assistance Fund, Welfare, and Racing Committees in addition to his Board appointments GBGB, BGRF and a trustee of the RGT.

With reference to PM, the Owners Bonus Series had proved highly popular and would be continued throughout 2013. The £5 per graded runner remained in place together with the Christmas Bonus. Other initiatives such as the New Year Bonus, registration and transfer fee short term breaks in 2013 would be subject to funding available before the year end. The Practitioner would lobby for a percentage of any surplus to be allocated to PM which at present was in the region of £2.2m. The Chairman emphasised the importance of track associations having close co-operation with Racing Offices in terms of carry forward distributions of PM in relation to the Owners Bonus Series and other BGRF distributions.

A review of greyhound owners conducted by GBGB in order to understand more fully the decline in ownership had revealed some interesting though not unexpected information as to the fall-out. Prize money was not always the predominate factor from answers submitted from a high percentage return to the questionnaire sent.

(b) The CAGRO (Combined Associates Greyhound Racing Organisation) committee had now held its 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. Set up to receive information and changes to matters of racing, to discuss and advise the Practitioner on responses to such changes coming down from GBGB. In this connection, following the election for a new Chairman and Committee of GTA, it was disappointing to record that this new body had adopted a policy of non co-operation with CAGRO. However, the committee was still able to draw upon the experience of a cross section of professional trainers willing to give advice upon their aspect of policy.

A proposal was adopted to inform the CEO of GBGB that FBGOA would not support the GTA as sole representative of practitioners at GBGB. FBGOA would support a request for an additional seat on the GBGB Board representing greyhound trainers, with reservations.

(c) Members were brought up-to-date on the situation at Wimbledon, London's only remaining track with a London postcode. This track is the subject of a development scheme by the owners which does not include greyhound racing. The Secretary brought the meeting up to date, describing the activities of the "We Want Wimbledon" organisation which have taken place since last year, one in February being an in depth graphic presentation of an alternative proposal for an iconic greyhound and sporting complex to which local councillors of the two London boroughs involved were invited together with owners of local businesses, tenants on the site, NHS St.George's, local and sporting press and invited owners and trainers. This was followed up with a meeting with MP's on the All Parliamentary Party Greyhound Group which was held at their offices in Westminster, the outcome of which was most encouraging. The next significant step will be the formal submission of planning details by interested parties to Merton Council later this year..

6. Election of Officers and Committee: There being no resignations or new nominations for this meeting to consider, 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 agreed to stand for another term under the rules of the Federation's constitution) and was duly elected until the AGM in 2016, the committee consists as follows:

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

\*Tony Matthews (Romford) was co-opted onto the committee during the year and his election was confirmed.

7. A.O.B. Bob Gilling stated that the Breeders Festival 2013 was in doubt owing to the shortage and quality of suitable British bred greyhounds available.

John Alcock wished to place on record thanks for the help, his personal attendance at the track and advice the Chairman had given Oxford Trainers and financial assistance he had obtained from the Trainers' Assistance Fund during the unfortunate, premature closing of the track last December. He also reported that there was strong opposition to redevelopment plans and that other leisure activities are still being carried on there.

The meeting discussed with concern the impact of offshore betting associated with TV coverage which is not subject to the voluntary levy paid by bookmakers.

Thanks were made to John Alcock for organising the arrangements for the meeting. There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 12.15 p.m.

J.L.W.