

**GRG – MEETING SUMMARY**  
**Wednesday 17 March 2021**  
**Teleconference**

The meeting opened at 10.30am.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 December 2020 were confirmed.

Tasracing advised that the suggestion of racing on the new track in the North West within two years was subject to caveats it cannot control, namely council rezoning issues and finding and engaging a firm to carry out the civil construction.

The Minutes of the GRG teleconference held on 13 January 2021 were confirmed.

Tasracing advised that the Local Welfare rules were still under review.

Tasracing advised that The Dogs Home are able to rehome greyhounds, however they had not been granted accreditation for muzzle free assessment at this time.

Tasracing recommended participants provide comment in their submission on the 5 year plan should they identify any areas they believe where the industry is underfunded.

It was recommended that the Desexing Policy for mainland bred greyhounds be relaxed to cater for greyhounds that have been in the care of Tasmanian residents for a period of time.

Tasracing advised that there were no Frozen Semen Inseminators active in the State and Tasracing were of the view that increases in stakes was a more equitable means of supporting breeders.

Tasracing advised that the process for the development of the Code Funding Allocation draft had been amended and is now detailed in the Strategic Consultation document. It was recommended that the greyhound participants should detail their thoughts on the allocation of funding and address any issues such as the distribution of any additional funding in the strategic consultation paper.

ORI advised that the procedure for the collection of samples had been amended with participants, provided they wear gloves, being able to collect the sample under supervision.

Tasracing undertook, to have a representative from the Sky Scheduling Team attend the next meeting to discuss race scheduling.

Tasracing advised that the Injury Protocol policy which incorporates the Injury Rebate Scheme is still under development.

ORI advised of the exemption introduced for the issue of the Pink Card which will now be issued once the DNA testing samples have been despatched to the laboratory. ORI confirmed that the exemption granted would allow breeding females to be transported and inseminated prior to the DNA analysis being completed.

ORI advised that the after hours phone message can be utilised to report instances of deceased greyhounds. It was suggested that if a person had a deceased greyhound they should collect as much detail as possible and take photographs and if they do not have the facilities to freeze the body, they can bury the body.

Tasracing provided a verbal report on the statistics of the Greyhound Desexing Program, the GAP statistics to 28 February 2021, the appointment of Lianne Salerno as GAP Manager and details of the number of behaviour assessments carried out by the ORI Regulatory Veterinarian.

It was noted that Tasracing had agreed to house seized greyhounds by ORI at GAP and there was a logic to that decision.

Tasracing advised it is looking to engage a behaviouralist and in the meantime was seeking to contract the services of a qualified behaviouralist.

GOTBAT suggested there should be a time frame as to how long greyhounds should be in GAP before being euthanased. Tasracing advised that once a greyhound has had the opportunity to modify its behaviour and fails it would then be considered for euthanasia, however at this time there is no-one to provide the appropriate behaviour modification plan to modify its behaviour.

It was recognised that GAP, as the industry program was held to a higher level of scrutiny and higher standard of care by the community and the return policy reinforced the caring image of the program and the industry.

GOTBAT suggested the need for a strategic focus to question whether the GAP program is the right program for the industry, the need for more infrastructure and the training of staff being undertaken with a view of succession planning.

A report on the YTD actual expenditure of the code funding allocation was tabled. Following a discussion regarding additional races, increases in Tasbred Starter Bonus to \$200 and hybrids of the suggestions, it was recommended that the unexpended funds be directed to a stakes increase from 1 April 2021 of \$200 per race.

The draft Licence Requirements for 2021/22 were tabled. There was a discussion on Local Kennel Licence/Registration and ORI advised that licensed persons need to meet certain standards and ORI has obligations to ensure the requirement of other agencies are being adhered to. ORI undertook to review the requirements.

It was recommended to appoint a sixth person to the GOTY panel with that person being a member of the Greyhound Reference Group. It was recommended the five persons from the panel for 2020 be invited to the panel for 2021. It was left with GOTBAT to establish the availability of a GRG member to the panel.

The results of the 2020 Breeder's Survey were tabled.

There was a discussion on the Annual Awards policy. GOTBAT suggested that GOTY eligible greyhounds should only be assessed on performances whilst the greyhound is owned or trained in Tasmania. It was recommended that Clause 4.1 be reviewed to clarify that the performances for those awards are determined on Tasmanian performances only. It was recommended that the policy be amended to require all the panel members to vote on which greyhounds should be short listed for the Greyhound of the Year Award.

Tasracing advised that the closure of facilities on the North West will be very challenging and discussions on how parts of the new facility might be available for training prior to completion were on the agenda to minimise the impact of any closure. Tasracing advised that the grading of race meetings during the closure was listed on the agenda of the Programming Sub Committee. NWGRC recommended the meetings be equally shared between Hobart and Launceston and the clubs at the venues host the meetings.

It was highlighted there were no guarantees of a Sky 1 slot at any time other than Tuesday afternoon and the staffing of meetings on a regular basis on a Tuesday afternoon at other venues would be very challenging.

NWGRC provided a precis of the OTV situation recently encountered by the club and Tasracing undertook to take the comments on notice for review.

The turnover report as at 28 February 2021 was tabled noting that corporates had now secured 80% of the market over all three codes.

Tasracing undertook to request Ladbrokes to consider the "Race of the Day" promotion incorporate Devonport meetings.

ORI provided a verbal report on breeding statistics for the financial year. NWGRC queried whether statistics were available on the number of pups that whelped in Tasmania which raced. ORI took the query on notice.

A copy of the Minutes of the Programming Sub Committee meeting held on 26 November 2020 were tabled and noted.

GOTBAT advised that clubs are experiencing issues with connections failing to attend trophy presentations which is impacting negatively on the sponsor's experience. It was suggested that clubs point out to the connections that without their support in attending presentations, sponsors may be lost.

The Asset and Facilities Update report was tabled and received.

The Sales and Marketing update paper was tabled.

Tasracing reported that the Summer Racing Carnival Campaign incorporating the three codes had been very successful and the major sponsors were pleased with the presentation of the campaign. The inclusion of all three codes in the campaign would continue and the campaign would include the Devonport Chase.

There was a discussion on the publication of promotional articles and the need for articles to reference varying points of interest (for example - charity sponsorship) was highlighted.

GOTBAT suggested that the digital promotions are successful generating interest online, but that interest is not transferring to an increase in attendance at meetings or memberships.

Tasracing provided a report on the time frame for the review of the National Rules rewrite project, with submissions required by 19 April 2021.

Tasracing advised that the GA meeting was not for another two weeks and the agenda hasn't been distributed at this time.

GOTBAT reported on the issue of major events coming in over the top of the Group Racing Calendar and that Greyhound Clubs Australia has been approached by the Sandown Racing Club as to any interest in taking over the syndication operation they now run.

The next meeting is to be held at The Grange on Wednesday 16 June 2021.

Tasracing advised that Daltons Consulting Engineers had been announced as the consulting engineers for the North West Tracks rebuild.

Tasracing undertook to have the televisions in the Owners and Trainers Bar at Launceston repaired.

Tasracing advised it would not fund the additional TAB staff on race night and this had been advised in writing.

Tasracing advised that if greyhounds wanted a Saturday night they would have to arrange for one of the mainland greyhound clubs to swap their time slot.

GOTBAT asked whether it is possible to restructure the injury reporting so that injuries incurring penalties of 0 to 5 days not be counted as injuries. NWGRC suggested that catastrophic injuries be published as a percentage to the number of greyhounds raced rather than the number of greyhounds suffering the injuries.

Tasracing advised that in general terms in respect to the Launceston track, the transitions are too harsh and the turns are too tight and in the strategy document one of the projects is to redesign the Launceston track.

ORI advised that negative language used by participants should be reported to the Stewards at the meetings.

It was recommended that when nominations close on days out of the norm that a text message be sent out to the industry.

ORI advised that an inquiry into the greyhound hitting the catching pen gate at Hobart had commenced and it is expected there will be some recommendations made to The Director at the conclusion of that inquiry.

GOTBAT suggested that there is an issue with the lure in the front straight of the track at Hobart and Tasracing undertook to investigate the reported issue and ensure the testing of the system was conducted in the correct manner.

GOTBAT provided a verbal report on the number of greyhounds stood down for failing the pursue and marring since October. Tasracing advised that the double lure used in Victoria is only metre out from the rail and the lure in Tasmania appears to get the greyhounds to spread across the track. Tasracing undertook to investigate the dual lure used in Victoria.

ORI advised that the hearing of appeals is determined by the Racing Appeals Board and requested GOTBAT to provide details of their concerns regarding appeal hearing times by way of email for The Director to discuss with the Chairman of the Appeals Board.

Tasracing advised that any inquiry regarding the Young People Planning Committee should be directed to the Minister.

Tasracing advised it will be writing back to Treasury privately in respect to their report and had commissioned IER to update their review of the industry which was done in 2012/13.

The meeting closed at 3:46pm.