

## **GRG MEETING SUMMARY Wednesday 16 March 2022**

The meeting opened at 10.05am.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2021 were confirmed.

Tasracing provided an overview of the GAP staffing levels with the advice that the recruitment of an Assessment and Behavioural Trainer had been completed with recruitment of more animal care attendants currently being finalised.

Tasracing advised that the GAP Wait list is being updated regularly.

Tasracing confirmed that all positions at GAP are selected on merit based on the selection criteria.

LGRC suggested GAP was a fundamental failure. Tasracing advised that the matters raised had been discussed with the Board recently and a written response would be forthcoming.

Tasracing advised that initially it had been planned to have two greyhounds per kennel at GAP and the expected capacity was 55, not that there were 55 kennels at the facility.

Tasracing advised of recent discussions with a veterinary surgeon in New Norfolk to establish their interest in carrying out some work for GAP and the development of a new website for GAP was being completed.

Tasracing advised that a general tidy up of the GAP facility and signage which addressed visibility issues is already underway.

Tasracing advised that the commencement of the behaviouralist in early April should see the number of greyhounds currently in the program with problems diminish.

NWGRC suggested GAP should be rehoming the biggest majority of greyhounds to avoid participants having to send their greyhounds to other rehoming organisations.

Tasracing advised that GAP is subject to the same rules as the rest of the industry and if euthanasia is sought, approval from The Director is required.

There was a discussion on utilising one vet facility for all industry work, i.e. GAP and On Track Veterinarian.

Tasracing advised that there was a concerted effort to attract Foster Carers for GAP.

A revised draft of the Postponed and Abandoned Meetings policy and there a discussion on a time frame being set for the making of a decision for a meeting or part of a meeting to be abandoned. There was a discussion on the postponement of heats, the method of selection for abandoned heats and the postponement or abandonment of heats if some heats were conducted. It was resolved the policy be reviewed and redrafted to incorporate the following points:

- A decision to abandon a meeting or part of a meeting shall be made after two races for night meetings and four races for day meetings
- When one or more heats have been conducted, the remaining heats be abandoned and the greyhounds to compete further in the series be ranked on a Best 8 selection process for each heat not run.

- When no heats have been conducted, the heats be postponed if practical or abandoned if not practical and if abandoned the greyhounds to compete further in the series be ranked on a Best 8 selection process for each heat.

Following a discussion it was recommended that the 2021 GOTY panel members be invited to fill the positions on the 2022 panel.

A summary of the Code Funding compared to budget was tabled. Following a discussion it was recommended that the unexpended funds as at 31 January 2022 be redirected to stakes with a \$110 increase per race from 1 April to 30 June 2022.

The draft of the Licence Requirements for 2022/23 were tabled. ORI advised that a new clause had been added regarding the disclosure of information to other organisations under the Act. The amended wording in respect to meeting the Local Council regulations referenced in the various licence categories was noted.

It was recommended that the wording include provision that ORI must notify the applicant if their information is shared with another organisation. ORI undertook to have the request reviewed by the Crown Solicitor.

The draft of the GAR and Local Rules and the proposed Policy amendments due to the changes in the rules were tabled for recommendation.

Following a discussion it was resolved Tasracing review the following Local Rules:

- L22.16 – A longer period for the lodgment of the documents is necessary.
- L34.3 – The inclusion of this rule was questioned.
- L46.8 and L46.10 – It was suggested that these rules were duplicated.
- L30 – It was recommended that the use and possession of barking muzzles should not be prohibited.
- L73E.17 – It was suggested that persons should not have to disclose their illness nor submit to an examination by a medical practitioner.

Following a discussion it was resolved that subject to a review of the identified rules and policies, that the rules and policy amendments be submitted to the Racing Rules and Policy Sub Committee for adoption.

It was resolved that while the Leading Sire award will still be announced it no longer form part of the presentation at the annual awards with a suitable certificate being forwarded to the studmaster following the event.

Michael Gordon asked whether there was an option for a new award to be introduced.

It was recommended to review the scenario of a disqualification after the announcement of an award and include clarification within the policy.

Tasracing advised that details of the vehicles used by interstate bodies as a dog ambulance on track had been obtained. There was a discussion on the best method of transporting an injured greyhound and the members advised that the best option is to have the trainer seated and strapped in with a seat belt and the dog over their lap in an upright position. It was suggested that stretchers are not suitable. It was suggested that the vehicle and procedures implemented at Albion Park should be the benchmark for the development.

The turnover reports for the three codes as at 31 January 2022 were tabled

Tasracing advised that the Sky contract expire in 2025 and negotiations for a new contract had commenced.

ORI advised that the breeding statistics would be distributed to the members.

The Minutes of the Programming Sub Committee meeting held on 29 November 2021 were tabled and noted.

It was formally noted that no feedback to the draft Racing In Hot Weather policy had been received. It was noted that Tasracing was currently reviewing the draft and if there were significant amendments the policy would again be referred to the GRG.

Tasracing provided a verbal report on the development of the new track at Latrobe and confirmed that Tasracing would be exiting the Devonport Showground on 25 March 2022.

LGRC suggested that without a track there would be no participants on the North West Coast still engaged in the industry in 12 to 18 months' time. Tasracing that a Safechase lure was being installed on the Ulverstone Straight Track to assist participants.

It was noted that the clubs manage the trial sessions, however Tasracing would convene a meeting between the clubs to discuss and agree on their options at each track.

The Asset and Projects Update report and the Project, Assets and Operations Update report were tabled.

Tasracing is awaiting designs for the GAP projects at which time the Development Application can be made to Council.

The Marketing Report was tabled and Tasracing provided a verbal summary of the Summer Carnival acknowledging the turnover results, especially on greyhounds and a substantial increase in customer database.

Tasracing advised that the "It's Why We Race" campaign would be expanded with an unplanned additional spend with plans for a new television commercial and the greyhound code would be represented more in the forthcoming campaign.

Tasracing confirmed that more of the sponsors promotions with Sportsbet and Ladbrokes etc were planned before the end of the financial year.

There was a discussion on the social licence statistics and Tasracing outlined the strategy for countering mistruths reported in the media.

Tasracing spoke about positively supporting participants and supporters of the industry who are actively engaged in promoting the industry to the public who don't have any engagement with racing or punting.

Tasracing advised that GA had not held a meeting since the last GRG meeting and the agenda for the next meeting had not yet been distributed.

HGRC advised that GCA had not had a meeting and he had nothing to report.

Tasracing advised that a Track Maintenance Project was being commenced by the GA Racing Operations Sub Committee.

LGRC suggested that the stake levels for Group Races was likely to be raised at the next GCA meeting.

A proposed amendment to the Dead Heat Policy was tabled and it was recommended that the stakes in the policy be amended to \$5,000 or less.

The next meeting is to be held at The Grange on Wednesday 15 June 2022.

Tasracing reported that the Programming Sub Committee had met on 11 March to draft the race dates and Feature Events for the 2022/23 season. It was noted that at that meeting it had been agreed to discuss with Sky the option of a later start time on the Tuesday meetings at Launceston to allow more time for track preparation.

Tasracing advised that a discussion paper on the Code Funding Model was expected to be presented to the next meeting.

Following a discussion on the lures it was agreed that dropping the height of the lure be the first priority and investigations into the use of the double lure and shapes of lures be reviewed by Tasracing going forward.

It was resolved that all clubs and Associations ensure that the contact details of after-hours veterinarians in their area are detailed and displayed in a place where the participants attending the trials have easy visibility over.

Tasracing advised that the initial report from Professor David Eager on the redevelopment of the Launceston track had been received.

The meeting closed at 3:28pm.