

GRG MEETING SUMMARY
Wednesday 15 September 2021

The meeting commenced at 10.00am.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2021 were confirmed.

Tasracing advised that the amendments to the Annual Awards policy have been approved by the Racing Rules & Policy Sub Committee.

Tasracing advised that the requested race rugs for each club have been ordered and we are expecting delivery soon.

Tasracing advised that the Greyhound Australasia rules rework has been approved by the GA board and the implementation date will now be 31 January 2022. Prior to implementation, the Local Rules are to be reviewed and Tasracing will then be organising a round of familiarisation sessions with participants on the new rules.

Tasracing advised that the Safechase Lure has been ordered for Launceston and is expected to arrive in early November.

Tasracing reported it is looking to amend and improve the current Injury Rebate Scheme. Discussion ensued around responsibilities in cases where the result can be catastrophic. Tasracing to work on a draft policy over who should have authority in the case of a catastrophic injury.

HGRC informed the group that OTV Don Pattullo has already given notice of his intent to retire in May 2022.

Tasracing advised there is a National Data Definition project about to kick off which aims to standardise definitions across Australia.

Tasracing spoke to the Injury Rebate Scheme amendments. The amendments to the policy were recommended by the group.

Tasracing spoke to the Desexing Program amendments and the question around eligibility of greyhounds. It was recommended that the Desexing Program include any greyhound that has been in the State for longer than six months.

Tasracing confirmed that Peter Hayes had agreed to take over as co-ordinator of the Greyhound of the Year panel.

Nominations were sought for an additional member for the panel and Duncan Dornauf was nominated to be invited.

Tasracing provided a verbal precis on the Code Funding allocation for FY21-22 including Tasracing's recommendation.

A discussion followed around the Code Funding model. Tasracing encouraged all members from the group to attend one of the Strategic Plan Consultation meetings around the state which will provide a good forum to raise ideas around the Code Funding Model.

Tasracing advised that the plan prepared for the Shareholder Ministers on the ways Tasracing proposes to spend the Point Of Consumption Tax can be made available once it has been provided to the Ministers.

The code funding allocation as suggested by Tasracing was recommended.

Tasracing spoke about the Heats of the Shane Yates Memorial Series which were abandoned and provided a verbal precis of the suggested amendments to the policy.

Tasracing will discuss extended nomination times with ORI before finalising the policy.

Tasracing introduced discussion around the exit of DAPS and the plans for what happens to the Devonport meetings.

GOTBAT suggested that the Tuesday meeting had to be a separate grade compared to the normal Launceston and Hobart grades.

HGRC are keen to hold an extra meeting on a fortnightly basis.

Tasracing will convene a working group with representatives from each club to draft a plan of attack for leaving Devonport.

The turnover report for the year ended 30 June 2021 was tabled together with the July 2021 figures.

Tasracing took on notice the complaint on the air time afforded greyhounds with marketing to discuss with SEN.

ORI informed the group that there are currently 49 licensed breeding females registered in Tasmania. The number of pups born from January 2021 to July 2021 is 205.

A copy of the Minutes of the Programming Sub Committee meeting held on 27 May 2021 were tabled and noted.

Tasracing advised the group that they were a lot closer to a finalised master plan for the new tracks at Latrobe. The intention is to develop the greyhound track before the harness track.

Members of the project committee advised the engineers and project manager are doing lots of work in the background to keep the project moving along.

Tasracing explained the track designs provided would deliver the best outcome from a welfare perspective. Tasracing also advised that the Launceston track will be redesigned to provide a safer racing track for the greyhounds.

The Asset & Facilities update report was tabled and noted.

GOTBAT sought an upgrade to the area to the side of the kennel block. Tasracing agreed to include the project in the infrastructure budget.

The Sales and Marketing update report was tabled and noted.

Tasracing advised the marketing team will be out talking to clubs regarding the upcoming summer carnival. Clubs confirmed that they have received email correspondence from the marketing team.

Michael Gordon advised that the GA Veterinary group are looking at alternatives to ear branding and the perceived animal cruelty and pain associated.

Export into China is becoming an issue with greyhounds retired as pets making their way, predominately through Ireland to China. The rules are being tightened with strict penalties for offenders.

Tasracing advised that South Australia and Western Australia will follow the National Rules around not allowing any animal product as a lure with greyhound racing.

GCA representatives informed the group that executive officer David Simonette will be leaving GCA. It was suggested that an appreciation letter is sent to David Simonette.

The National Greyhound Awards were held on the Catching Pen due to COVID restrictions. GCA Representatives to debate the possibility of a different criteria, possibly a panel selection for the Denise Fysh award with GCA.

Tasracing informed the group that the National Group and Listed Calendar has been finalised.

It was confirmed that The Phoenix at the Meadows in December is still going ahead.

The next meeting is to be held on Wednesday 1 December 2021.

Tasracing advised that the question about GAP holding open days in the North and on the North-West Coast. Had been raised with the GAP team to review.

ORI advised that they have a plan to move forward with all outstanding enquiries as soon as possible.

There was a discussion on GAP are participating in the Great Greyhound Global Walk.

Tasracing suggested that advertising of GAP can be looked at. and that over the next 12 months there is a lot of work happening at GAP including a new car park, office block, 40 new kennels and a roadside sign.

There was a discussion on whether there should be a time limit on greyhounds that are not suitable for rehoming due to behavioural issues in GAP. Tasracing explained that each greyhound is evaluated by a behavioural specialist and at this stage there has not been a greyhound that is not retrainable. It was reported that with the new GAP management structure, it is intended to have a behaviorist on staff.

It was noted that in the GAP report it mentioned two greyhounds in poor condition entered the program and recognised that as an industry we need to be very serious about the presentation of greyhounds.

ORI advised the commencement of drug and alcohol testing on race days was under consideration.

Tasracing informed the group that Racing Victoria will require all staff and all licensed and registered participants to be fully vaccinated against COVID as a condition of entry to its workplaces and sought comment on the possibility of it happening in Tasmania.

The meeting closed at 1:03pm.