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Greyhound Monthly

VICTORIA

Ashlee Terry

The Next
Generation



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GRV
GREYHOUND RACING VICTORIA

Racing, Wagering & Business Development Monthly Report

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Business Development



Qualifying Trials

Over the past month qualifying trials which are conducted monthly at Ballarat and Cranbourne have been cancelled pending a review of their operations. This step was taken following a number of recent incidents which place into question the integrity of the conduct of these events, which are currently not run under the control of GRV stewards or officials.

Because greyhounds which compete in qualifying trials are in effect competing in heats for a full stakes final at a licensed race meeting, GRV is concerned that the processes currently adopted for identifying greyhounds and determining results of these heats may not have sufficient oversight. These events also contribute to a greyhound's official form line which subsequently is used to calculate rankings for entry into races.

GRV is of the view that qualifying trials have a useful role to play in the education and training of greyhounds for racing and should continue to be conducted. However, we believe a more structured approach is required. Commencing from 15 May 2016, all qualifying trial events will be conducted under the control of GRV Stewards and accredited club officials. This will mean the Rules of Race meetings will apply to these events. All trials will be filmed and made available for public viewing in the same way as they are published for race meetings and will include a race call commentary.

Earlier Scratching Times

We have received a number of requests proposing that the nominated scratching time for race meetings should be at least one hour earlier than the current 8.30am cut-off. The reasoning for the proposal is that an earlier cut-off time would provide additional time for trainers with reserves to know whether they have gained a start. This would avoid those trainers travelling long distances, particularly in hot weather, having to occasionally travel to a race meeting with a reserve that has not gained a start. We are giving this proposal consideration at the moment and would be happy to receive feedback or comments from members on the topic. We will provide advice to participants of any change shortly.



NEXT GENERATION: Ashlee Terry

By Molly Haines

24 year old Ashlee Terry is part of the next generation of greyhound trainers and breeders who hold a strong desire to find a home for each and every greyhound to set paw into their kennel.

"I just love the dogs, I couldn't imagine getting up in the morning and not seeing their faces," Ashlee explained.

Ashlee has never shied away from the task of rehoming her greyhounds – in fact, Ashlee has a clause when selling her pups, they must be rehomed.

"I keep in constant contact with the people who buy my dogs; it feels good knowing they are looked after. I can't stand the thought of dogs that I bred not being given the chance at life after racing,"

"I feel a massive sense of achievement after I rehome my dogs," Ashlee said.

Not all greyhounds are fit for rehoming straight from the racetrack; a transitional period is required for the retired athletes to make it to a couch.

"It's really important to take them away from the kennel environment to get them used to life as a pet. I have a foster carer who helps give my dogs every chance to be someone's pet."

Ashlee doesn't just have success off the track; she is currently

enjoying the life of an owner, breeder and trainer with her first litter beginning their journey on the track.

"It's so rewarding to watch greyhounds you bred yourself grow. They are part of your extended family so you care a lot for them."

Ashlee first set foot on a race track with her father, Keith, when she was just three weeks old. Keith passed away when Ashlee was 12, leaving a hole in her heart and a burning desire to follow her father's love of the breed.

"Sometimes it's hard to remember why I do what I do; we work early mornings, long days and late nights, but I love the dogs and they make me feel close to my Dad, I know he would be very proud of what I have done."

Like all breeds, Ashlee's greyhounds get to enjoy 'play time' in the yard with either a football or basketball.

"It's a great way for them to maintain plenty of handling as well as a chance to have a bit of fun."

Trainers Karen Leek and Andrew Paraskevas have always been around to share their wealth of greyhound knowledge as well as a helping hand, acting as mentors to Ashlee, so with the support of some of Victoria's most experienced trainers behind her, Ashlee hopes one day to taste group success.

"I would love to win The Group 2 Laurels at Sandown. Money is a minimal factor for me but to win a group race would be life changing.



Strategic Communication & Marketing Monthly Report

Louise Martin - General Manager,
Strategic Communication
& Marketing



The Strategic Communication and Marketing Department has been hard at work in recent times with several key events and campaigns.

The last of the Little Big Days Out were held to great success with big crowds turning out to Warrnambool, Traralgon, Ballarat, Cranbourne and Horsham to enjoy a great day's entertainment for the whole family.

The carnival atmosphere will continue shortly at Warrnambool with the Warrnambool Cup and Classic both fast approaching on May 4. This is the highlight of the year for the Warrnambool Greyhound Racing Club and the Strategic Communication and Marketing Department has worked particularly hard to ensure this is a big occasion.

Another key focus right across the board has been our Red Dog Run campaign which saw all 13 Victorian clubs partner with the Victorian RSL in the week leading up to Anzac Day. Under this partnership GRV donated \$250 to the Victorian RSL every time a dog won a race from the red box. The results were fabulous, with 48 winners wearing the Number 1 rug, raising \$12,000 for the Anzac Appeal.

To officially be associated with such an important day in Australia's history is a great honour for the greyhound racing industry and further highlights GRV's community engagement.

And while we take great pride in contributing to the community, our primary focus is and always will be the welfare of the dogs before, during and after a dog's racing career.

There has been reflected in the wide-spread coverage surrounding the 20th anniversary of the Greyhound Adoption Program right across the mainstream media. With some very public negative issues still looming over greyhound racing, it is reassuring that this side of the industry can be portrayed in such a positive light.

Finally, our new-look department has brought in some more key talent, with Stephen Gray (Marketing Manager), Tristan Maagma (Digital Producer) and Troy Iwanyk (Digital Co-ordinator) the latest additions to our dynamic team.