

B Faulkner Esq

CEO

GBGB

The Greyhound Trainers Association

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10th June 2014

Dear Barry

I hope you are well.

Clarissa Baldwin OBE (CEO DogsTrust) and I have spoken and she appears to share some of the concerns of the GTA re industry strategy. Clarissa has suggested I send you the GTA's information request asking for clarification and response.

Commercial & Strategy

1. Deloitte states trainers own approximately 37% of racing greyhounds and make a loss of c£3m on training operations. What is the GBGB's stance on trainers owning so many racing greyhounds?
2. Is this increase in trainer ownership to 37% of all racing greyhounds caused by the requirements to meet the BAGS contracts of trainers?
3. What is the GBGB doing to correct this figure or does it support this by encouraging trainers to own large numbers of racing greyhounds?
4. The GBGB undertook an Owners Survey in February 2013
<http://www.thedogs.co.uk/files/GBGB%202013%20Owners%20Survey%20-%20Research%20SummaryFINAL.pdf> What actions have the GBGB taken in response to the research summary?
5. The Deloitte Report did not carry Summary Recommendations or Actions. What time-lined actions does the GBGB intend to take following the Report's publication?

Industry structure

6. Lord Donoughue made 37 recommendations in total and warned against 'cherry picking' only those that suit. Why have these recommendations still not been fully implemented by the GBGB?
7. Lord Donoughue: 'The single main Board of the GBGB should be smaller than at present and contain an increased proportion of independent members but, importantly also three promoters and one practitioner (**e.g. a trainer**) in order to ensure the stakeholders are fully engaged and involved, but that any proposition would need independent support to succeed.' **How can the industry operate equitably and sustainably when trainers are not adequately represented on the Board as per Lord Donoughue's recommendation?**

Welfare

8. What are the welfare implications for this rise to 37% of dogs owned by trainers?
9. According to Deloitte the number of Owners are down 17% since 2009, what impact is this decrease in numbers having upon retired greyhounds and do fewer owners mean less available retirement homes?
10. Trainers, welfare organisations and owners have for some time been asking for track safety and injury statistics from the GBGB in relation to Lord Donoughue's recommendation number 26: 'More research to be commissioned into the breeding of sturdier greyhounds, into the quality of track surfaces, and into the relationship between greyhound nutrition and injuries.' When will GBGB publish industry statistics publicly, given they are collated and shared with track owners?

Personnel

11. Does GBGB share GTA's strong belief that greyhound trainers are entitled to a living wage, need to work reasonable hours and are expected (and able) to pay licensed kennel staff a Minimum Wage?
12. Deloitte informs "under the current level of funding it appears very challenging to return a profit from a greyhound training business, which in turn is leading to a lack of young trainers entering the sport. The average age of licensed trainers is 59 and this needs to be reduced through new, younger trainers entering the industry in order to ensure its long term health. The average age of a trainer in 2013 was 59, and 45% of all trainers were aged over 60 with only 9% aged 40 or younger." What is the GBGB doing to encourage new young people to enter the sport?
13. What do you see the current career progression path & opportunities for young people given the industry snapshot painted by Deloitte?

Governance

14. What is the independent mechanism for GBGB accountability that operates in current practice in the absence of a published GBGB Strategic Plan and Review Cycle?
15. The GTA published a Statement of Case on 13th May 2014 (attached). As CEO of GBGB what are your thoughts on the Conclusion on the final page?

I would be grateful if you would email me acknowledgement of receipt of this letter. Many thanks.

Yours sincerely

Rick Holloway

Chair of the Greyhound Trainers Association