



To The Nation's Trainers and
Interested Stakeholders,

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I wrote an open letter in November 2014 covering points including: bookmakers make annual profits of £237 million yet trainers are losing a net £3 million and the consequences of this; not needing a rocket scientist to tell you that things need to change and that the hands-on people in the industry have to get a much fairer deal; how reports and reviews get put on a shelf and all gets forgotten about and that this needed to be put right if the industry is to survive; that we can continue to fight amongst ourselves until there is nothing left to fight over or we can back the GTA's demands for a fairer deal for all.

I've looked at the EFRA oral evidence given last month and continue to shake my head.

The BAGS representative said just for picture rights track owners were paid £14m in 2005 but in 2014 received £27m. I wonder if prize money has also gone up by 93% in last 9 years? I'm guessing most trainers will think their costs have risen more than 93% in that time, and if anything I'd think their kennel bills rates would be static but total received would be less given so many owners have left the industry and are spending less, given the state of the industry.

To be honest I couldn't make out what's going on with injury statistics. And same with kennels, all I know is if it's going to see additional cost then this should be footed by the bookmakers for all trainers in my view, given the excessive profits they're making at expense of owners and trainers.

Talking of bookmakers funding I was extremely disappointed not to see the GBGB jump at the EFRA Chairman's asking twice the question "do you want a statutory levy?" Talk of building relationship with bookmakers to improve funding surely beggars belief given the Deloitte and countless other reports and reviews stating how badly trainers are doing financially that cost a fortune to commission get put on a shelf and forgotten about never to see the light of day again, and nothing is ever done.

Regardless of your views on the GTA not being allowed on GBGB Committees or being kicked off the GBGB Board or put up on inquiry charges for god knows what I tell you this: The GTA wants improved welfare for dogs, it wants improved conditions and a fair deal for trainers and their staff (which means fair prize money for owners) and it wants a viable and sustainable industry to pass down to the next generation. Write to me and tell me if I'm wrong with any of this. I need convincing the current custodians have similar objectives.

I finished my November 2014 letter "we can continue to fight amongst ourselves until there is nothing left to fight for or we can stand together with the GTA and back GTA demands for a fairer deal for all of us" and I repeat this now. I can only see that by joining together to fight to correct the massive financial imbalance in the industry that the important things in the industry will begin to recover. This fight must be taken to those outside the industry because those of influence inside the industry have neither listened, nor helped and appear NOT to want to.

Is there a strategic plan or blueprint for our sport? Or is the idea to have bookmaker only tracks so they can take 100% profit?

Yours faithfully,

Charles Lister O.B.E
Deputy Chairman
For & on behalf of Greyhound Trainers Association