

**Submission  
No 386**

## **INQUIRY INTO GREYHOUND RACING IN NSW**

**Name:** Dr Edward Humphries

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**Legislative Council**  
**Select Committee on Greyhound Racing NSW**

**Submission by Dr. Edward James Humphries BVSc (Hon) BSc (Hon) MRCVS**

Thank you for requesting I forward a submission to you. I have been a veterinary surgeon for forty three (43) years with a large greyhound component of my practice. I have served on the Board of Greyhound Racing and was the veterinarian at Wentworth Park for some 10 years.

Greyhound racing is the worst administered racing activity in NSW and for that matter in the world. The establishment of GRNSW as a body not under direct governmental control allowed it to foster corruption and ineptitude on an unprecedented scale. It maintains a level of secrecy through confidentially agreements with employees and allows no public or participant scrutiny. It is not answerable to questioning of any kind. The ICAC has no authority to investigate and neither does the NSW Ombudsman.

The reasons for the worst administration in the world can be traced back to the Board appointments. In recent times, those appointments have been largely dominated by an ex-public servant and public administrator Professor Percy Allen. The latest Board was an example of “jobs for mates” and “jobs for the boys”, some appointees even being close business associates of Mr. Allen.

The appointments by the Board of full time management, has reflected their own limited competency, with disastrous effects. The most mediocre appointments have been made often without any formal qualifications. The organization is full of secrecy and confidentiality arrangements which for the main part foster inefficiencies at best and corruption at worst.

**Intercode Agreement.**

Was an agreement entered into for a period of ninety nine (99) years giving greyhound racing less share (13%) of TAB monies than the proportion wagered on (roughly 20%) greyhound racing. No proper manager would sign off on such an agreement, it is almost comical. Recently GRNSW has agreed to continue with the participants (GBOTA) and greyhound clubs to employ a Mr. Wilson at some extraordinary hourly rate to “look into” this agreement. These bodies have joined together because of a mutual fear of the findings at the committee. If they are competent administrators, why can they not carry out the task from their own management resources, fact is they are not.

The operation of the steward’s panel when investigating participants is steeped in questionable practices. Many participants have limited educational backgrounds which makes them easy targets and also incapable of defending themselves. A person is guilty until proven innocent and is interrogated by the accuser, judged by the accuser and sentenced by the accuser who also conducts any appeal. The educational qualities of steward’s is seriously wanting. Most are chosen from the ranks of race track urgers. The participant has no hope of justice. Small trainers are dealt with extremely harshly, big trainers receive favourable treatment. The appeal process is a complete joke.

**Analysis of Race Swabs.**

The present method of unwitnessed collection of race swabs which I have on occasion sealed and reopened and resealed with never the slightest suggestion of tampering being raised is amateurish. The collusion between the analyst and stewards is too close for proper integrity concerns. I have personally witnessed evidence presented at an enquiry by stewards by the analyst which was a

photograph of a sample which blatantly false. An analyst has stated in front of an audience including "You tell us the swabs you want reported out as negative and we are happy to do that".

The illegal substance EPO which is seen as illegal under racing rules has never been detected in a greyhound in spite of its widespread use over many years and in spite of assertions by GRNSW that they can detect same.

The method of collection, transportation and documentation of race swabs needs overhauling to ensure integrity and confidence. I could easily tamper with the system as it at present, if so wished.

#### **Economic Viability of Greyhound Racing.**

Under the present management of greyhound racing, fewer participants are prepared to put up with the injustice metered out to them are deserting the industry in droves. Prize moneys are diminishing and TAB money that is intended to fuel racing is being spent at the administrative levels. GRNSW has a staff of some 60 plus people. Properly administered, it is extremely viable. One example of their administrative incompetence was the decision to employ veterinarians directly on the tracks, rather than have the race club provide same. They were advised there were not enough competent veterinarians available for full time employment. Nevertheless they went ahead and I estimate the cost of this was near to \$1,000,000.00, the result was several doubtfully competent veterinarians were engaged with disastrous results of treatments at tracks for injuries. At times, these persons attended the track without any supplies to treat injuries in any way, least of all competently. One of GRNSW employed veterinarians was struck from the register for huge volume supply of anabolic steroids, in excess of a street value than \$1 million. Much of which would have fueled the black market supply.

The greyhound rescue organization of GRNSW (GAP) accepted some 300 greyhounds for rehoming. Some animals were tested for aggression in my presence by, GRNSW personnel by placing our cat in front of the greyhound and if the greyhound reacted it was deemed unsuitable and euthanized. In one recent year \$300,000.00 was spent on rehoming and only 20 greyhounds were accepted for rehoming out of hundreds. The rest were euthanized.

In all, there is sufficient money to fund participants interest, but it is being incompetently diverted to non productive endeavours.

#### **Financial Performance of Industry.**

Race clubs do not pay income tax and why i will never know. They conduct greyhound trials at times and this generates a respectable amount of money. None of it is receipted and it gets siphoned off at all levels until a small part of it subsequently finds its way into the legitimate accounts. A study of the performance of the Richmond greyhound club would be the perfect example. Under new management during the last 12 months, it went from a losing business to a considerably profitable one. The bar sales at race meetings went from a loss per night to a profit in just one week of honest management. The National Coursing Association (NCA) constantly had employees embezzling money, in the order of hundreds of thousands of dollars, so much so the organisation it contributed to the organisations insolvency.

Some persons appointed to management roles had previous "form" for touching the till at another race club. Why would they do this? I think the answer is the established management can continue their own dishonest ways knowing the new person is actually one of them.

#### **Government Initiatives and Assistance Measures.**

The best thing Government can do is to totally eliminated GRNSW or at least replace its key personnel. The Inter-code Agreement needs to altered to reflect gambling earnings being transferred to those who provide it. The next thing is to ensure that management training is a necessity for management of the industry and competent professional people need to be consulted. Integrity issues for industry management and participants to be reinforced and animal welfare needs to be seriously addressed, not treated like window dressing as it is at the moment. For example, a steward said during and interview with a trainer "You are not going to pull that animal welfare crap on me".

#### **Effectiveness of Current Industry Regulation Including level of Autonomy of Greyhound Racing NSW**

Current management of GRNSW are incompetent. Trainers guilty of serious offences are allowed to continue to race and earn prize money. Positive swabs continue to accumulate without any action. One individual, reportedly left the country after reported positive swabs to serious drug enhanced wins. He is not the only one, some prize money for the Easter Egg series of races has not yet been paid out due to positive swabs and we are in November. There is no excuse for such incompetence. When a greyhound is found to have a positive swab, there is no suspension. The greyhound can continue to race and accumulate more prize monies and then ownership and trainer can simply be transferred and racing continues, thus creating an incentive for doping.

Race course development to make tracks safer for greyhounds and participants is essential and racing issues need to be able to access funding to carry out this work. Professional skilled architects need to be engaged (not just handy people for installing tracks) and public facilities (dining, bar and viewing facilities) are generally dreadful.

#### **Selection Process for the Board of Greyhound Racing NSW.**

As the selection process is a secret, only the results can be seen. I don't believe one member of the present Board is appropriate to the position and there is not one I would employ in any capacity in my businesses and the same goes for management, best described as lazy, inept and more mindful of their own interests. A great number of management personnel have a problem gambling issue. In one steward's particular car trip of 40 minutes with two stewards on board, their punting efforts were all they discussed. Participants believe that GRNSW selects fields and box draws in certain races to allow them to bet heavily on a high odd outcome, that the public would not suspect.

#### **Effectiveness and Accountability of Greyhound Racing NSW.**

They are absolutely ineffective. I see no evidence of accountability whatsoever.

#### **Effectiveness of the Current Arrangements for and the Role of the Integrity Auditor of GRNSW.**

The resignation of Mr. David Landa in 2012 as Integrity Auditor due to the fact that he could not establish that Integrity actually existed and that his efforts to effect change to the current culture speaks for itself.

GRNSW would not understand what integrity was, let alone practice it.

### **The Capability and Performance of GRNSW and Governance of the Industry.**

1. They are totally incapable any coherent action.
2. Approximately 65 employees which is greatly in excess of needs and paid excessive salaries for their qualifications.
3. Very poor administrative abilities of personnel at all levels.
4. Treat participants like peasants from the middle ages.

### **The Incidence of Drug Administration in the Industry and Doping and the Efficiency of GRNSW Control and Testing Procedures.**

1. Drug usage and doping is a major issue in greyhound racing. The banned substance EPO through use in the activity has never been detected in a swab in spite of their assertion they can do so. Sample collection can be manipulated to make it harder to obtain positive results.
2. The laboratory analysis is not distant enough from stewards and there is too much interchange. Indeed, when the "B" sample is sent to another laboratory for confirmation, they are told beforehand what the first lab has detected.
3. Many substances are not detected.
4. The penalties for participants are sometimes quite senseless. In Victoria small detections of drug residues requires no action. In NSW one positive swab to thirty (30) nanogrammes of caffeine was such an insignificant finding that had no influence on the outcome of the race, but the trainer got a three (3) year suspension and a hefty fine. The trainers record was confused with another person's record with a similar name, but this false evidence made no difference to the outcome even at the appeal.

### **Sale and Breeding of Greyhounds including Market Conditions and Welfare of Animals.**

GRNSW has interfered too much in the breeding industry and unnecessarily. The owners themselves have a vested interest in producing good quality animals and in fact do. I see no welfare concerns here at all.

### **The Welfare of Animals in the Industry and the Role of GRNSW in Establishing and Enforcing Standards of Treatment of Animals.**

GRNSW has no interest in animal welfare, it's a window dressing exercise. For example the GAP program, It is a euthanasia program in reality.

The only requirement I know of imposed by GRNSW on the health of greyhounds is a minimal vaccination at 12 weeks of age and again at 12 months.

There is otherwise occasional kennel inspections and that is about it. I know of no occasion where a kennel has been closed due to unsuitability, though some would not satisfy me.

### **Financial Incentives for Reducing Euthanasia and Prosecutions for Animal Mistreatment.**

Humane euthanasia is unfortunate but sometimes the only alternative. Some animals are too savage for unskilled hands and a savage greyhound is a fearsome beast, much worse than any "Pit Bull".

Prosecutions should be effected by the RSPCA as GRNSW are totally incapable of consistent standards and their dispensation of "Justice" depends on who you are.

GRNSW cannot for example tell you how many greyhounds were euthanised because they simply don't care unless somebody begins to embarrass them.

Certainly some of the money wasted by GRNSW (eg: buying race tracks, helping out greyhound clubs, who because of embezzlement and poor management were insolvent). Some \$6million I understand was invested in the purchase (70%) of The Gardens race track. Now I understand the partner (NCA) 30% stakeholder is insolvent. What now, do they buy the total share? Race track ownership is not a legitimate function for GRNSW.

**The Adequacy and Integrity of Data Collection in the Industry, including the Number of Pups Born, the Number of Dogs Euthanased and Injury Rates.**

GRNSW would have completely unreliable figures on the above. Litters are reported at 12 weeks, death rates before this time are unknown by them, but up to 20% of pups do not make it to 12 weeks of age.

The rest of GRNSW data in regards to injuries etc is completely unreliable as they really have no interest in the matter. The prime track in NSW, Wentworth Park has a high injury rate mostly due to the first turn which is too sharp and sudden and animals approach it at full race pace and can't take the turn. There has never been any attempt to address the problem in thirty (30) years. Likewise with every other greyhound track in NSW. Disinterest at best from GRNSW or incompetence for which they are legend.

**Capability and Performance of GRNSW and Governance of the Industry.**

Participant confidence has never been lower in regard to GRNSW. They feel they get no justice, no response and treated discourteously at the office of GRNSW. Participants do not usually even get return phone calls when making enquiries with GRNSW.

Many greyhound race tracks now have difficulties in getting sufficient greyhounds to compete in the scheduled races and even at Wentworth Park this is a feature. This is directly due to Participants leaving the industry due to administration of GRNSW.

A recent change that GRNSW made to race day arrangements is to have only one steward at the track and others at their office in Rhodes reviewing and making decision on races via "Videolink". Via videolink you can only see part of the race. Further where issues arise at tracks only one steward is present and can't possibly attend to all issues. This is an expensive yet unproductive exercise.

**Other Matters.**

Facilities provided at race tracks for veterinarians to treat injured animals are positively medieval. Many rooms are used for a variety storage options and for taking swabs. At times veterinarians have been prohibited by a Chief Steward of having any drugs at all in use in the room. There is often no hot water, there is never any sterilizer, oxygen supply or cardiac apparatus to treat injured animals. GRNSW doesn't care and are too imbecilic to notice. Once at Wentworth Park the kennels were infected with "kennel cough". I was asked by GBOTA (race club) for suggestions to fix the problem and I recommended an air sterilizer which would of done the job. The cost of \$880 GST incl. This was never purchased due to cost and the problem simply continued until warmer weather prevailed, so much for animal welfare.

GRNSW veterinarians are in engaged by necessity. Often, they do not have any greyhound experience and I regret to say, I have often found their treatments not meeting today's standards of veterinary care.

Participants who dare comment adversely on activities at GRNSW are threatened with action against them. This means giving up the implied right of free speech. This shows the bankrupt morality of GRNSW. Please see attached (Attachment 1.) referring to Mr. Chris Arletos.

**Testosterone Usage in Greyhounds.**

The attachment (Attachment 2.) on this matter serves to demonstrate adroitly the incompetence of greyhound administrators and GRNSW in particular.

**Abuse of Power**

GRNSW is guilty of extreme abuse of power and control over participants. Participants may not criticize them in any way without possible penalty. This is totally wrong.

30 October 2013.

## **TESTOSTERONE USAGE IN GREYHOUNDS**

Testosterone steroids have been used for more than sixty (60) years to control oestrous cycles in female racing greyhounds. A variety of slightly different testosterone compounds have traditionally been used. These compounds are different in formulation and give varying durations of protection from oestrous cycling.

In 2010, Greyhounds Australasia deemed that Testosterones were no longer to be permitted for this traditional purpose. Instead, on the basis of very poor professional advice from the Australian Greyhound Veterinary Association, it was deemed that the Anabolic Steroid "Ethylestrenol" found in preparations such as "Nandoral", "Nitrotain" and "Oestrotain". Was the only acceptable means of oestrus season control in bitches. The active ingredient "Ethylestrenol" has an Anabolic index of nineteen (19), compared with Testosterone one (1), Stanazol three point eight (3.8), Methandriol seven (7) and Nandrolone four (4), an extremely high anabolic agent now being forced upon greyhounds. This Greyhounds Australasia recommended product being 18 times stronger than traditional testosterone. This was also in spite of the fact that the major supplier of the product "Nandoral" was known to be ceasing the production of this product. The next product "Nitrotain" was recommended for use in horses only, yet recommended by Greyhounds Australasia for use in greyhounds. A general product was developed "Oestrotain", however this was found to destroy greyhound performance as did all Ethylestrenol products.

Greyhounds Australasia refused to admit any errors and maintained their position, a completely stupid, pigheaded approach which was mirrored by every state body controlling greyhound racing. The situation then revert to allowing the use of "Testosterone" and informing participants that "No Action" would be taken if detection of Testosterone were found during swab testing procedures. This situation continued until January 2013.

As of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013, rules were introduced to set a level of ten (10) ng/ml of 5B-Andostane 3a, 17B-dial (BaB) which again demonstrated the manifold incompetence of the greyhound authorities. They determined without any advice from competent veterinary professionals to allow the use of 25mg of "Testoprop" each fortnight, but not administered within 6 days of racing. Better products are available for the purpose, but these were apparently not considered.

The level selected at 25mg each 2 weeks, has no sound basis or sound veterinary advice, just sheer guesswork. This amount is totally unable to keep bitches off oestrous and up to 100mg monthly should have been introduced as a minimum. Some bitches will oestrous even at this dose rate.

The authorities carried out some unscientific testing which due to the experiment of design, the results were less than valid. It is difficult to tell exactly how inaccurate the testing was, as the material has not been published for public examination.

In the first case, apparently in the United Kingdom 187 samples were taken from greyhound bitches. I suspect these were more likely to be "Raceday" urine samples, but it was a selected sample as they were taken from "Bitches not on any prescription medication". This



makes the selection of these urine samples a non random event and thus created a bias in the results because of this. Proper scientific experimental method requires random select of samples, thus there results are less valid than is needed.

In the second case, 6 bitches were used to “Validate the threshold level”. There were no controls whatsoever in this experiment, a scientifically “Invalid experiment”. What, for example would feeding the animals food contaminated with metabolites which would influence the detected levels have on the outcome? Were controls present, this could have been detected, but as there were none, the experiments are invalid.

Further, I cannot accept that an oil based product such as “Testoprop” was used as the oil significantly slows absorption of the drug and the results quoted seem unattainable. What I suspect was used was aqueous testosterone propionate which would give the result they have reported.

The decision therefore to make “Testoprop” the only acceptable form of prevention of oestrous cycling bitches is not supported by any evidence the authorities have produced to date. Further, this product is a crude formulation of testosterone and there are more refined products available.

The level permitted to be used ie: 25mgs not within 6 days of racing and given each fortnight means that a bitch can only legally race for eight (8) days per fortnight, unacceptable given the race date opportunities, further the 25mgs dose limit is simply insufficient to prevent bitches from oestrous cycling at all. This will result in female greyhounds being not economical to race and lead to increases in euthanasia.

You further ask if the inconsistencies of the A and B samples mentioned reading levels of “16” and “20” respectively are valid. Of course, they are not. The degree of difference is sufficient to produce doubt as to the true results. To be entirely valid both samples should be of exactly the same reading. A small difference may be valid, but statistically this would be at 5% variance only.

Yours Sincerely,

Edward J. Humphries



## News

## Arletos Fined

Written by: GRNSW



01/11/13

Greyhound Racing NSW stewards today continued investigations into comments made by trainer Christos Arletos during the ABC's 7.30 report, which was aired on the evening of 15 October 2013.

Mr Arletos was questioned regarding claims made on the program. He had been interviewed by the ABC at the Wentworth Park meeting of 4 October 2013 and again at his residence at a later date.



During the 7.30 program Mr Arletos made the claims:

- 80% of trainers are looking for something to dope their dogs with;
- Greyhound racing is not a level playing field and never will be; and
- He cannot compete with the high quality of drugs used by some trainers

At no point during questioning by stewards today could Mr Arletos substantiate the allegations he made during the program.

Mr Arletos was charged under GAR 86 (q) with two counts of having engaged in conduct prejudicial to the interests of greyhound racing.

Mr Arletos was found guilty on each charge and was subsequently fined a total of \$500.

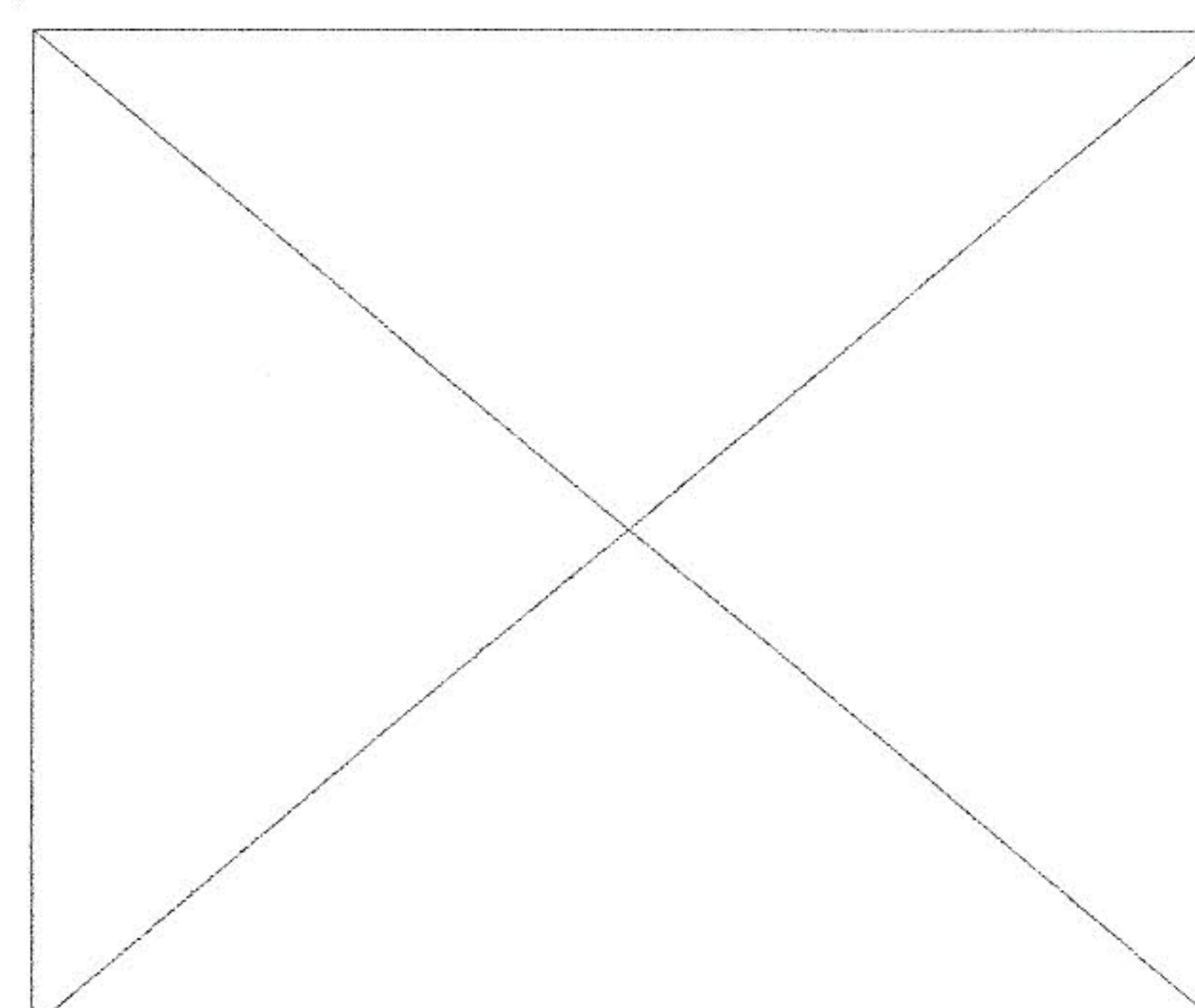
In assessing penalty consideration was given to Mr Arletos' previous record of having no conduct related breaches in 26 years of registration, the investment he has in the industry, and his not guilty plea on both counts. Consideration was also given to the fact that no personal vilification had occurred.

Stewards also considered submissions from Mr Arletos in respect of the context in which the footage had been taken, claiming the comments that were made on the 7.30 report formed only a minor part of more than two hours of interviews at the track and his kennels during which he had attempted to portray the industry in a far more positive aspect than that ultimately depicted on the program.

Mr Arletos was advised of his right of appeal.



## Video Of The Week



## Nominating Directly Into Races



As trainers are becoming more familiar with the OzChase system GRNSW is expanding the ability to nominate directly into races. These are known as 'Race Events' in the online nomination portal and instructions on how to nominate directly can be found in the link below.

[More Info »](#)

## Greyhounds As Pets



Greyhounds as Pets is a not for profit initiative coordinated by Greyhound Racing NSW. If you are interested in becoming a foster carer or adopter click here for more information.

[More Info »](#)

## Nomination and Grading Schedule



Following feedback from both clubs and participants GRNSW has announced an amended nomination closing and grading schedule for NSW Non-TAB meetings. Click here for more information

[More Info »](#)