In 2009 the Greyhound Board of Great Britain (GBGB) assumed control of the functions of predecessor organisations that combined to govern, regulate and develop licensed greyhound racing.

The GBGB was created to serve the industry by providing clear leadership and direction to the sport. The organisation is charged to improve the quality of all its functions; to listen to constructive feedback, internally and externally, and to challenge its processes against the changing needs of a sport operating in a competitive environment.

It is committed to improving the quality, management and planning of all its functions to the highest standards achievable and being efficient, effective and accountable to those that it licenses, and the public. Maintaining high standards in greyhound welfare is central to GBGB’s responsibilities.
Chairman’s Introduction

By Tom Kelly

MUCH of my time since being appointed Chairman in May of last year has been spent in discussions with representatives of the betting industry concerning greyhound racing’s funding problems. The preparation and presentation of our evidence to the EFRA (Environment Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee) inquiry into the Welfare of the Racing Greyhound, whose helpful report was published earlier this year, also made significant demands on our time and resources.

Then there was the need to improve understanding of greyhound racing’s problems within the relevant Government departments and in Westminster in general. This is an on-going process, but I believe we are making progress.

All this, of course, requires good communication, and nothing is more important than the contact and relationship between a governing body and the practitioners it regulates.

I hope our stakeholders have seen some improvement in this area recently. If nothing else, I have had more meetings with individuals and interest groups than I have been able to keep count of and I intend to step up on this in the year ahead, particularly when the funding dialogue is concluded.

When I accepted this job, I was aware that there was a need to improve relations with, in particular, the office-holders of the GTA. I knew from previous experience of trying to mediate between those individuals and the previous GBGB leadership that this would not be easy, but I did not anticipate it being quite the challenge it became.

My misjudgement was based on a mistaken belief that although there were differences of approach, all of the parties concerned had the best interests of greyhound racing at heart.

I eventually realised that this was not the case and that the aim of this small group of militants was to bring the GBGB down, regardless of the collateral damage that might be inflicted on our sport.

Encouragingly, the climate seems to be changing and I sincerely hope that, before long, we will have representatives of trainers on both our main Board and on those committees that would benefit from their input.

I began by identifying funding as the main item on my agenda, both last year and in the first half of this, and I had hoped to be in a position to use this space to reveal the outcome of the important on-going discussions concerning the voluntary contributions betting companies make to the BGRF. Partly because this message has to be prepared and sent to the printers some time in advance of publication, this has not been possible. But there is a strong sense that these discussions are nearing completion and the conclusion, whatever it may be, will be known soon. In fact, it is not impossible that the media will carry the story before this report appears.

There has, however, been a welcome financial development already in that BAGS has honoured its commitment to pass on to the sport the revenue it receives from streaming of greyhound racing. In line with advice from the GBGR, BAGS, which has already begun paying significant sums to the tracks on its service, has emphasised that it expects this new cash to be expended on greyhound welfare and prize money.

As I have made clear on a number of occasions, it is very much my position that the streaming money, which is expected to total around £3million this year, should be used for the benefit of the sport in general, i.e. to bolster welfare and to boost prize money.

This is a point of principle for me and I am gratified that some promoters have already given a lead by stating that this is exactly where their share will go. I fully expect the others to follow suit.

Returning to in-house matters, in addition to acquiring a new chairman the main Board was joined during the year by the eminent lawyer Robert Griffiths QC, a former Chairman of cricket’s regulatory body, and the distinguished vet Peter Webbon, one-time CEO of both the Animal Health Trust and the Horseracing Regulatory Authority.

Other notable newcomers are Jenny Williams, previously Chief Executive of the Gambling Commission, who joined our Regulatory Board, and Mark Bird, formerly a Metropolitan Police Chief Superintendent and now Director of regulation.

I am delighted that greyhound racing has been able to attract people of this calibre and their presence makes a nonsense of much of the criticism that has been levelled at GBGR since their appointments.

“There has, however, been a welcome financial development already in that BAGS has honoured its commitment to pass on to the sport the revenue it receives from streaming of greyhound racing.”
Chief Executive’s Report

“…I believe that this wonderful sport of ours has a lot that should be applauded and to be proud of.”

Greyhound racing again had to prove its resilience during another tough year financially. Funding from the BGRF remained at an unsustainably low level, with the budget GBGB had to work with in 2015 being half of that available for its first year in operation in 2009. It is clear that this cannot continue and I am fully committed to the efforts being made by my Chairman to improve the funding situation.

Racing

On the racing front the sport’s premier event, the William Hill Greyhound Derby again produced a roller coaster of a ride, culminating in a victory for Danny Morden’s Rio Quatta. It was the first success in the competition for the popular veteran and dovetailed one of the most heart-warming cameos of recent years. Indeed throughout the year the sport was blessed by a number of memorable performances and stories to go with them, as chronicled later in this report by the Racing Post’s Jonathan Hobbs.

Greyhound racing’s own event team, the BAGS Track Championship, which has rapidly established itself as the highlight in the second half of the year was won in a romp by Taunton. The Northamptonshire track’s triumph may not have produced the nail-biting finish of the 2014 finale, memorably sealed by Peterborough in a photo finish in the very last heat, but was remarkable in its comprehensiveness.

In addition to the Track Championship, BAGS continued to support the broadcasting of the sport’s flagship events on Sky Sports and they were rewarded with many first class evenings of thrilling action.

The GBGB’s Owners’ Bonus Series continued to bring pleasure and a sense of achievement to grass roots participants in our sport, with all GBGB licensed tracks taking part and the Christmas Bonus funding being well received at the end of the year. I really enjoy the GBGB awards but take particular pleasure in the gong given to the Grade 1 Greyhound of the Year.

Total prize money distributed at GBGB licensed tracks in 2015 increased by 6.1% over 2014 with the average per race increasing by 5.3% in the same period. That was a laudable effort by racecourses in trying economic times.

Total prize money distributed at GBGB licensed tracks in 2015 increased by 6.1% over 2014 with the average per race increasing by 5.3% in the same period.

The most significant project undertaken in 2015 was the roll-out of the track injury database. All GBGB licensed racecourse are now linked directly to a central database which will improve timeliness and accuracy of injury reporting and will enable detailed analysis to be undertaken.

UKAS

Following a transition audit in 2014 GBGB underwent its first racecourse and head office inspections in 2015 under a new standard - ISO/IEC 17065. UKAS representatives audited GBGB procedures, documentation and personnel to ensure that our inspection and licensing of racecourses remained independent, consistent and impartial. At the end of the process UKAS confirmed our reaccreditation.

People

Maurice Watkins CBE

Maurice Watkins stepped down as Chairman of the Board of Directors at the end of 2014. Maurice was the founding chairman of the GBGB and played a key role in combining the functions of the National Greyhound Racing Club and the British Greyhound Racing Board, the fundamental recommendation of the Independent Review of the Greyhound Industry in Great Britain chaired by Lord Donoughue. During Maurice’s tenure, GBGB established itself as a modern governing body with significant advances in welfare and integrity through enhancements to its regulatory processes and procedures.

Sir Gordon Duff

Sir Gordon Duff also left the Board at the end of 2014 due to pressure of other commitments, including his appointment in 2014 as Principal of St Hilda’s College, Oxford. Gordon joined the Board in 2009 and chaired the GBGB’s Welfare Standing Committee.

Bob Stott

Bob Stott stepped down as a director in January. Bob chaired the GBGB Business Committee during a particularly trying period for the industry exacerbated by a difficult and persistent recession. I was particularly grateful for his wise counsel, practical advice and moral compass that always pointed true north.

Tom Shields

Tom Shields also left the Board in January having been Chairman of the Greyhound Regulatory Board. Tom’s experience and expertise proved invaluable to GBGB in both regulatory matters and in the wider context of the sport.

Declan Donnelly

Declan retired from GBGB in the middle of 2015 after overseeing the regulatory and integrity functions as the first Director of Regulation following the formation of GBGB in 2009. Declan brought a wealth of experience with him from his time as a detective with the Met and I was fortunate to see the opportunity of working with him.

And finally...

During the last couple of years GBGB, its Directors and Executive have been subject to unfair criticism from a number of individuals whose activities have been damaging to both the sport and its governing body to the extent, that they pose an even bigger threat to stability than more obvious external forces. In such circumstances, truth is often the first casualty but I believe that this wonderful sport of ours has a lot that should be applauded and to be proud of.

Greyhound Board of Great Britain

Welfare

During 2015 Defra undertook its scheduled review of the Welfare of Racing Greyhound Regulations 2010 and GBGB staff have worked closely with the Department’s team carrying out the review. In September, the House of Commons Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee announced it would hold a ‘short inquiry into the welfare of greyhounds used for racing’. GBGB made a submission to the inquiry panel and appeared at one of the two hearings the Committee held. The Committee’s report appeared in February this year and was welcomed by GBGB as being generally helpful and positive. As we noted in our press statement released at the time, we are appreciative of the manner in which the Select Committee conducted its inquiry and we are pleased that many of the findings indicate that GBGB is, generally, moving in the right direction. Where more still needs to be done, this can largely be attributed to a severe lack of funding, something that EFAA has both recognised and made recommendations on. In other areas, we have already made commitments to DEFRA that closely align with the EFAA proposals.

Those commitments include:

• The development with the British Standards Institute (BSI) of a Publicly Available Specification (PAS) to cover trainers’ kennels. Once the PAS has been agreed, GBGB will obtain and extension to its current scope of UKAS accreditation to include trainers’ kennels.
• To annually publish summary figures for greyhounds injured or euthanised at GBGB licensed racecourses and for these figures to be presented as a percentage of total greyhound runs each year. GBGB intend to commence publishing 2017 figures in the first part of 2018 and will make available anonymised track injury and euthanasia data for bona fide research purposes, beginning with figures from 2017.
• To annually publish summary statistics for the number of GBGB registered greyhounds that leave the sport each year (and by what method). GBGB intend to commence publishing 2017 figures in the first half of 2018.

Within its significant funding constraints, GBGB continues to make welfare its paramount concern and that budget header continues to receive the major proportion of the funding available to GBGB.

Regulation / Integrity

Regulation and integrity underpin the sport and GBGB’s responsibilities. As Tom has noted, Mark Bird was appointed to the role of Director of Regulation and leads an experienced team headed by Paul Illingworth, Senior Stipendiary Steward and Duncan Gibson, Manager of Welfare and Integrity Services.

Mark’s full report can be found later in this report and includes key data from 2014 and 2015.

Greyhound Board of Great Britain

The awards gala evening was held at Lancaster London for the second year running and was attended by over 440 people. Not only were the achievements of our canine athletes celebrated but also those of the people who look after them; trainers, kennel-hands, owners and homers.

The evening was generously sponsored by a record number of sponsors.

**Greyhound of the Year - Awards**

Lancaster London
Sunday 24th January 2016

The awards gala evening was held at Lancaster London for the second year running and was attended by over 440 people. Not only were the achievements of our canine athletes celebrated but also those of the people who look after them; trainers, kennel-hands, owners and homers.

The evening was generously sponsored by a record number of sponsors.

**GBGB Greyhound of the Year and William Hill Standard distance Performer of the Year**

**Swift Hoffman**
- **Trainer:** Pat Rosney
- **Owners:** Paul Scott
- **2015 achievements:** Winner RGPTV Scottish Derby, Shawfield, Winner Ladbrokes Gold Cup, Monmore, Winner Betfred Select Stakes, Nottingham
- **7 Open race wins**

**Press Association Newcomer of the Year**

**Droopys Buick**
- **Trainer:** Jimmy Wright
- **Owners:** The Conlon Family
- **2015 achievements:** Winner William Hill Northern Puppy Derby, Newcastle, Winner William Hill Puppy Plate, Sunderland, Finalist, Caffreys Puppy Classic, Nottingham
- **12 Open race wins**

**Konica Minolta British Bred Greyhound of the Year**

**Eden The Kid**
- **Trainer:** Liz McNair
- **Owners:** KSS Syndicate
- **2015 achievements:** Winner British Breeders Stakes, Nottingham, Finalist, William Hill Derby, Wimbledon, Track Records Wimbledon 480m
- **9 Open race wins**

**GBGB Bitch of the Year**

**Domino Storm**
- **Trainer:** Mark Wallis
- **Owner:** Kieron King
- **2015 achievements:** Winner William Hill Oaks, Belle Vue, Winner William Hill Derby Plate, Wimbledon
- **17 Open race wins**

**Supported by:**

- William Hill
- Coral
- Ladbrokes
- Racing Post
- SIS
- CRS
- Konica Minolta
- Betfred
- Pinnacle
- BASS
- Press Association Sport
SIS Marathon Performer of the Year

**Ballymac Bonnie**

**Head Bound - Zulu Nkito**

**Trainer:** Liam Dowling  
**Owners:** Run To The Front Syndicate  
**2015 achievements:** Winner Colossus Bets TV Trophy, Towcester  
**Track Records Towcester 906m**  
2 Open race wins

Pinpoint Recruitment Hurdler of the Year

**Jetstream Reason**

**Head Bound - Zulu Nkito**  
**Trainer:** Steve Gammon  
**Owner:** Mick Freshwater  
**2015 achievements:** Winner William Hill Champion Hurdle, Wimbledon  
4 Open race wins

Betfred Sprinter of the Year

**Scolari Sound**

**Droopys Scolari - Turn It Up**

**Trainer:** David Pruhs  
**Owners:** Paul Taylor, Adam Taylor, Vincent Woodward, Richard Martin  
**2015 achievements:** Winner Stadium Bookmakers National Sprint, Nottingham  
11 Open race wins

Charles Russel Graded Greyhound of the Year

**Ardera Victor**

**Archaton Pine - Shades Of Lola**

**Trainer:** Patricia Cadrill  
**Owner:** David Mansell  
**2015 achievements:** Won 10 from 33, progressing from A5 to A1

GBGB Best Dam of British Bred Litter

**Cabra Jade**

Dam of British Bred Stakes and Wimbledon track record holder winner Eden The Kid and top stayer Calzaghe Lisa.

George Ford Award for Services to Retired Greyhounds

**Diane Gibbinson of Northumberland RGT & Alison Waggot of Hollin Hall RGT**

Diane and Alison’s branches have a great working relationship, having homed 149 greyhounds between them in 2015, but their success goes well beyond their excellent joint working. Diane and Alison greatly support other RGT branches across the Northern region and further assist in matching the right greyhound to the best home. This synergy helps act not only as inspiration to their fellow volunteers but showcases them as amazing representatives of the Trust.

GWA Harry Lloyd Award Services to Greyhound Racing

**Steve Nash**

Steve Nash has been photographing greyhounds and their owners for over thirty years, since he was an owner at Wembley. His first published photograph was of Scurlogue Champ for the Sporting Life and he has been supplying the Racing Post since it was launched in 1986. He also supplies the cover photograph for the GBGB Calendar and the pictures in this Annual Report.

Coral Owners of the Year

**KSS Syndicate**

The KSS Syndicate own 2015 William Hill Derby finalist and track record holder Eden The Kid, who also landed the British Breeders Stakes at Nottingham. They also owned Towcester’s British Bred Derby winner King Alley and William Hill St Leger finalist Diego Flight. With dogs such as King Alley, Wee Tiger Tots and Skate On, all trained by Liz McNair, they were able to see off strong challenges from Mitch Millward, the Champagne Club and Kevin Boon.
Awards Special Report

**BAGS Kennelhand of the Year**

**Gemma Byford**

Gemma first received a kennelhand’s licence in 2003 and has been working for Norah McEllistrim ever since. McEllistrim said: “She is really exceptional and cares for the dogs but also works tremendously hard. She’s happy to put in the extra hours and often stays behind to let the dogs out. She treats every dog as an individual and is careful and contentious and she is very good at spotting injuries. I’m very glad Gemma has won the award as you don’t get many like her and I’m very lucky to have her on the staff.”

**GBGB Chairman’s award**

**Dr Richard Payne DProf MRCVS**

Assistant Professor of Veterinary Anatomy University of Nottingham

In late 2015 Richard Payne was awarded a Doctorate of Professional Studies by Public Works at Middlesex University.

Richard achieved this degree in recognition of a thesis reflecting on the comprehensive body of his research across several disciplines within the world of greyhound racing in Great Britain, with a special emphasis on greyhound welfare both on and off the racetrack.

**Ladbrokes Trainer of the Year**

**Mark Wallis**

Mark Wallis won his eighth Trainer of the Year Championship, his fourth in a row. His final tally was 1,142 points from 249 open race victories, amassing £154,865 of prize money and beating runner-up Paul Young by 419 points.
### Regulatory Report

**2015 Regulatory Review - Introduction**

2015 saw a large number of personnel changes within the Regulatory side of the GBGB, with the Director of Regulation, Declan Donnelly retiring in July with Mark Bird taking over the role. Stipendiary Stewards Jack Robinson and Colin Betteridge also retired and were replaced by Paula Clare and Jim Snowden respectively. Peter Rosney took over the vacant Stipendiary post previously held by the late Eric Vose.

3 new Sampling Stewards were also appointed during the year, these being Chris Hutton, Hayley Hurdey and Robbie Steward, replacing Mick Harvey and Mike Tucker.

#### Complaints

A total of 46 complaints were received in 2015 ranging from alleged rule breaches at racecourses to inappropriate Facebook postings by a licensed greyhound trainer. The fall in complaints compared with 2014 (69) is (probably) attributable to anti-racing groups using the DEFRA Review and, later EFRA Select Committee Review, as a vehicle to highlight what they see as the industry’s failings.

70% of all complaints were investigated within the accepted 40 days.

2015 saw an increase of complaints against racecourses but these mainly focused upon minor rule breaches such qualification rules, grading inconsistencies and photo-finish results. Conversely, there was a decrease in complaints regarding trainers, which historically focus on poor standards at kennels.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Racecourse</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crayford</td>
<td>Ladbrokes Golden Jacket</td>
<td>Wiki Woki Woo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monmore Green</td>
<td>Ladbrokes Puppy Derby</td>
<td>Glenpadden Rock</td>
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<td>Romford</td>
<td>Coral Golden Sprint</td>
<td>You Never Listen</td>
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<td>Sheffield</td>
<td>Pinpoint Recruitment Three Steps to Victory</td>
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<td>Kinsley</td>
<td>Betfred Gymnastics</td>
<td>Stay Loose</td>
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<td>Shawfield</td>
<td>Racing Past Greyhound TV Scottish Derby</td>
<td>Swift Hoffman</td>
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<td>Calne Racing Acc</td>
<td>Kippers Usain</td>
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<td>Brighton and Hove</td>
<td>Coral Regency</td>
<td>Touch Tackle</td>
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<td>Monmore Green</td>
<td>Ladbrokes Summer Stayers Classic</td>
<td>Millwads Teddy</td>
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<td>Wimbledon</td>
<td>William Hill Greyhound Derby</td>
<td>Rio Quatra</td>
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<td>Sunderland</td>
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<td>Swindon</td>
<td>The 69th British Bred Produce Stakes</td>
<td>Fabulous Expert</td>
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### Actions Taken 2015

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UKAS Update

GBGB achieved accreditation from the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) in March 2010 ahead of the introduction of the Secondary Legislation for the Welfare of Racing Greyhounds regulations in April of the same year.

The legislation included a requirement for all greyhound tracks to be licensed by their local council, or by a UKAS accredited body. In order for GBGB to secure accreditation as a track licensing or ‘Certification’ Body, all of GBGB’s processes, procedures, personnel and records involved in the licensing and inspection of tracks were examined by UKAS inspectors to assess compliance with the ISO standard EN45001 (the international standard used by UKAS to assess organisations operating a licensing (certification) body). All aspects of this standard were met in 2010, in surveillance audits in 2011 and 2012, and again as part of a full reassessment in 2015.

In 2014, after a period of consultation the international standards organisation (ISO) replaced EN45001 with ISO standard 17065, which had been updated in both content and format, and contained expanded sections with additional requirements or more detail in a number of areas.

GBGB undertook a UKAS witnessed track inspection, and a one and half day Head Office inspection of its processes in 2014 to ensure compliance with the new standard and its entirety. This also involved GBGB demonstrating that it had carried out a full ‘gap analysis’, to assess all areas of the new standard against the old, and updated or augmented procedures where necessary. Following these audits and GBGB’s submission of a small number of corrective actions to meet specific clauses of the new standard (which were then approved by the UKAS inspectors), the inspectors and GBGB’s corrective actions were sent to a third party for review.

GBGB’s compliance with ISO17065 was confirmed in March 2015. The standard four year audit cycle then resumed with GBGB being subject to a surveillance audit in 2015, with a further surveillance audit scheduled for 2016 and a full reassessment audit to ISO17065 due to take place in 2017.

Ahead of the 2015 audit, GBGB worked to make further progress in the areas introduced with the new standard. This included enhancements and additions to processes in place to monitor the impartiality of the certification activities by both the GBGB itself and an independent Impartiality Committee, which has been in place since GBGB’s accreditation as a requirement of both EN45001 and ISO 17065.

This work was highlighted by UKAS in their inspection reports. UKAS also commented that GBGB’s quality management system was ‘well maintained and well implemented’, and stated that ‘personnel currently in the key roles of inspection and review, particularly, are all highly experienced and knowledgeable with regards to greyhound management and racing with a rigorous and well managed selection, induction and approval system in place’.

GBGB continue to develop the systems utilised for the inspection and licensing of tracks, striving to improve efficiency, whilst maintaining a robust and effective system for monitoring the compliance of GBGB licensed tracks with the relevant Rules of Racing.

Defra Review of 2010 Legislation

The majority of 2015 welfare focus has been taken up with the Review of the 2010 Welfare of Racing Greyhounds Regulations. This included evidence gathering by the independent research company GfK NOP into the compliance with and the effectiveness of the 2010 Regulations.

Prior to the consultation process, GBGB, following a meeting with the DEFRA Minister, put forward a commitment to three new initiatives:
- The publication of aggregated track injury data.
- The publication of retirement movements.
- Setting a standard for residential kennels through the BSI and an extension of its accreditation to residential kennels.

GBGB’s proposal was included in the consultation document with the purpose of seeking views on the initial findings of the review, while setting out practical solutions to issues raised during the review process (including BSI’s ministerial discussions).

The consultation was for a period of eight weeks and closed on 31 December. GBGB made its submission on 23rd December. DEFRA received over 1,200 responses.

The findings of the consultation are due to be published by September and the final Post Implementation Review document shortly.

Kennel Improvement Programme

More than 50 out of the 540 professional trainers licensed in 2015 received assistance funding towards kennel improvements. The average assistance given was in excess of £4,000. Applications were down on the year due to field staff changes. Since 2012, 225 professional trainers have received improvement funding with a total of £1 million being allocated to development or remedial projects.

Track Injury Database

The Track Injury Database was tested at 5 racecourses during 2015 – Kinsley, Nottingham, Sheffield, Swindon and York. Results and GBGB’s corrective actions were sent to a third party for review.

The database was developed to capture other types of data if required e.g. weather, point of incident, open / graded race, type of incident etc.

The display dashboard shows:
- Aggregate injury % against total runs.
- Aggregate injuries by type of injury.
- Month by month injury time-line for a 12 month period.

Registrations and Registry

Registrations in 2015 increased by 362 on 2014 to 3691 and this is against a backdrop of increased costs due to compliance with EU travel regulations for Irish bred greyhounds.

Irish Sales meetings at GBGB racecourses can be seen as a contributory factor to the increase in registrations. 16 sales were held and approximately 600 greyhounds were registered with GBGB from Sales meetings. This represents 83% of all greyhound registrations.

Irish breeding figures for 2015 appear consistent with previous years and should ensure the supply of greyhounds to GBGB racecourses of at least the same amount for 2016 and 2017.

As of April 2016 all canines must be microchipped and registered with a national database. GBGB are currently working with the Irish Counselling Club in getting their Microchip ID database compliant with UK regulations. GBGB will have access rights for its registrations.

At the beginning of 2016 there were 418 Greyhound Trainers licenced and 345 Professional Trainers licensed.

The database will provide each racecourse with an email alert notifying them of any outstanding reports.

The database can be developed to capture other types of data if required e.g. weather, point of incident, open / graded race, type of incident etc.

Welfare Report

Greyhound Board of Great Britain


The coveted high point of greyhound racing in 2015 was the record £250,000 first prize for the William Hill Derby at Wimbledon, making the final the most valuable race ever run in Great Britain.

A year after the one-man-and-his-dog fairytale of outsider Salad Dodger, attitudes had clearly changed. Everyone now felt they could win the Derby and the Plough Lane racing office was inundated with entries for the Classic - 275 to be precise. On one hand that was fantastic, on the other problematic. Twin-to-qualify heats were frowned upon, but necessary.

The Liz McNair-trained Eden The Kid set the standard for the competition in the first round with a track-record 27.95sec and the puppy made the final, a final many believed would see the famous trophy head back to Ireland for the first time since 2008. Owen McKenna’s Farloe Blitz aimed at the Plough Lane track on Saturday, June 27, as the only unbeaten runner after a series of terrific front-running performances.

Paul Young’s Millwards Day had been the original outsider of the 270-plus entry at 1,160-1 but managed to qualify much to the delight of, in particular, his partner Mitch Millward who was battling serious illness. The traditional Derby lunch that year was a real tonic for the Essex owner, who was to sadly die just a few months after.

The Romford managament subsequently named their end-of-season showpiece, the Essex Vase, in his honour. Back to the Derby final, and Diane Henry’s Making Paper had roared home in the semi-finals to give the Yorkshire handler every chance, along with McNair, of become the first female trainer to win the Derby since Dolores Ruth with Shanless in 1991.

Slippy in 1996, while Nottingham owner Terry Corden had Tynwald Bish running to establish himself a leading six-bend performer, a point he would underline with future success in the Ballyregan Bob Memorial at Hove, winning the Hove feature by no less than nine lengths.

Billy Bullet, trained by Wallis for Billy Boyle and Scott Murray, had locked a possible Greyhound of the Year contender when winning the Prestige at Hall Green. Injury would curtail his 2015 campaign but thankfully not his career, although not so fortunate was his litter-brother Touch Tackle. He had held off Millwards Teddy to win the Coral Regency for Jim Daly and theLots Of Fun syndicate before winning the Queen Mother Cup at Sheffield, before a forced retirement.

The stayers’ Classic, the William Hill St Leger, had seen, Deep Flight start favourite for the McNair and Roxholme Dream eye a famous back-to-back Leger double, but it was the June Haven-trained, Paddy Madden-owned Ryzpoppo Buddy who was to establish himself a leading six-bend performer, a point he would underline with future success in the Ballyregan Bob Memorial at Hove, winning the Hove feature by no less than nine lengths.

Just as Riordan had realised an ambition, so too had Pat Rosney as the Leyland-based handler scored the Derby success he had long courted when Swift Hoffman grabbed gold in the NTGPS Scottish Derby on a great night at Shawfield and, while Wimbledon might not have played to his strengths, the Paul Scullion-owned racer became the dominant force on the open-course scene in 2015. He scored victories in the Bethford Select Stakes and Ladbrokes Gold Cup, was able to stack up some fast times wherever he went, and formed part of an Ian Greaves-trained litter which racked up the wins - and more Classic success - which made the make-shift Swift Era, September 12, batch one of the best in recent seasons. Greyhound of the Year success for Swift Hoffman duly followed on a memorable night at the GRGB Awards the following January.

Not to be outdone, however, his sister Domino Storm snatched the bitch of the Year prize in London after she landed a brilliant win in the ECC Timber Oaks at Belle Vue towards the end of the year for trainer Mark Wallis and owner Karen King, which followed her success at Wimbledon in the Derby Plate. She had also chased home Swift Hoffman and Eden The Kid to finish third in the Select Stakes.

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The Dean Childs-trained Millwards Teddy also headed for the sofa after wins at Monmore’s Ladbrokes Gold Cup Festival and the Bethford Select Stakes at Nottingham, not to mention a track record at Wimbledon on Derby final night which raised the roof. For owners Mitch Millward and John White it was another special moment in an emotional rollercoaster of a year. Millwards Whitey’s ECC Laurel’s success at Belle Vue came after Millwards’ passing and many a tear was shed on that presentation podium.

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Understandably there were similar scenes for the Mitch Millward Essex Vase final at Romford, with added emotion as Adageo Bob scooped the big-boat Romford victory his talents so richly deserved for his owners Dick and Ann Barthold and trainer Mark Walls. The shots of the trainer at the pick-up, captured by the Sky Sports cameras, encapsulated the whole story on a special night for greyhound racing - from an industry perspective given the Romford management’s decision to honour the late owner - and at the sharp-end with victory for a hugely popular greyhound.

Walls, once again Trainer of the Year to land a seventh title for Imperial Kennels under his tenure and a fourth in a row, was also very much part of the Towcester team which lifted the Bags/£555 Track Championship trophy on a brilliant end-of-season afternoon at Penny Barr. Great scenes occurred as Towcester boss Lord Heeslith, together with MD Kevin Ackerman and RM Chris Page, lifted the trophy which won with greyhounds trained by Walls, Kevin Hutton, Patrick Janssens and Stephen Rayner.

The major individual races were again well contested with Patchys Kenny emerging as a real star in the making with victory in the Coral Champion Stakes at Romford for the Mark Walls and Frank Taylor owners/trainer combination. Hoover Drosays Buck doubled up in the William Hill-backed Puppy Plate at Sunderland and Newcastles Northern Puppy Derby finals for the Conlon Family to claim the Newcomer of the Year title at the GRGB Awards.

The UK Festival of Racing at the aforementioned Sunderland saw Paul Young’s Bubble Gold prove a popular winner for The Champagne Club syndicate in the William Hill Grand Prix and Jake Calverts No But in the William Hill Classic, while, still in the north-east, Fohare Nutter scored a great win for George Power and Kenny Clun in the William Hill All England Final at Newcastles.

The British-bred titles went to the KG5 Syndicate-owned, Liz McNair-trained Eden The Kid in the British Breeders Stakes, the winner producing an amazing off-the-pace recovery to claim the title at Nottingham, and Fabulous Expert, who stuck for breeder, owner and trainer Dave Firmager in the 69th British Breed Produce Stakes, while Mo’s Bullet scooped a Chelsea Class Grand National success at Sittingbourne for Rick Holloway on another big night for the Kent track.

As for what would be the class of 2016, Wimbledon unleashed a raw talent on us in the form of another leading Irish light in the Pat Buckley-trained, John Proctor and Darryl Bear-owned Drosays Roddick. They had staged the Trainers’ Championship meeting earlier in the year, which was won in pulsating style by Kevin Hutton, who battered in the last four winners to deny Towcester colleague Mark Walls, while at the GRGB’s next big night in the summer there was victory for Ireland and the Liam Dowling-bred and trained Ballymac Bonnie as she ran amok in the Collossa Bet’s TV Trophy.
Profit & Loss Account

For the year ended 31 December 2015

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<tr>
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<th>2015</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TURNOVER</strong></td>
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<td>Administrative expenses</td>
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<td>(4,262,710) (4,316,521)</td>
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<td><strong>OPERATING (LOSS)/PROFIT</strong></td>
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<td>Interest receivable and similar income</td>
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<td><strong>(LOSS) ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAXATION</strong></td>
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<td>(51,811) -</td>
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<td>Tax on profit on ordinary activities</td>
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<td><strong>(LOSS) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR</strong></td>
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<td>(49,077)</td>
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</tbody>
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COMPANY INFORMATION

The Greyhound Board of Great Britain Limited (By Guarantee)

**DIRECTORS**

T F Kelly   (appointed 14 May 2015)
R Corden
J Cuman
B Faulkner
C Feltham
W Glass
Dr S Gower
R Griffiths QC   (appointed 16 July 2015)
J Haynes
Dr P Webbon   (appointed 16 July 2015)
T Shields QC   (resigned 31 January 2015)
R Stott   (resigned 31 January 2015)
R Holloway   (appointed 16 July 2015 - resigned 28 January 2016)

**COMPANY SECRETARY**

A Yilmaz

REGISTERED NUMBER

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These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015).

Approved by the Board for issue on 19 May 2016.