

SAWC and GBGB Meeting

Wednesday 4 January 2023 – 14:00 (held virtually)

Attendees

SAWC Members

Cathy Dwyer, Chair

Mike Flynn

Mike Radford

Ellie Wigham

GBGB

Mark Bird, CEO

Phillip Law, Director of Regulation

Peter Cadman, Regulatory Board Chairman

Tiffany Blackett, Executive Vet

Scottish Government



Introduction

This meeting follows on from a meeting between members of SAWC's Greyhounds Working Group and Professor Madeleine Campbell of the Greyhound Board of Great Britain (GBGB) on 12 December 2022.

Cathy welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for making the time to attend. Introductions were shared by all present.

Discussion

Cathy gave a brief overview of SAWC's role as an independent commission, and of the focus of the Greyhounds Working Group. The group is currently gathering evidence on the issue of greyhound racing in Scotland and aims to respond to a RAINE Committee enquiry with a full opinion by February 2023.

Some of the other issues discussed included:

- The regulatory role which GBGB plays
- The GBGB welfare strategy
- Referral of matters to external authorities where crime is considered
- The role of area stipendiary stewards:
 - their routine visits to racetracks
 - safety inspections and maintaining standards
 - serving improvement notices where standards are slipping
- Training of stewards and other stakeholders, i.e trainers and kennel hands; and the culture of learning (eg regularly updated code of practice; hot weather policy; firework policy; notices circulated and handed to trainers at tracks; workshops)
- Drug policy; screening levels and reporting limits
- Funding/budget of greyhound racing in the UK
- The flow of dogs coming over from Ireland (80%+ are bred there)
- International collaboration, and the encouragement of British owners to buy British bred dogs
- Injuries based on the oval design of tracks and potential to look at future alternative track designs (eg L-shaped tracks in New Zealand with long run-in)

End of Meeting