



2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting of the
Ballarat Greyhound Racing Club**

Location: Ballarat Greyhound Racing Club
Corner of Rubicon and Sutton Streets, Ballarat

Date: Thursday 29th November 2019, 6.15PM

Present:

Administrator: Mr. Ross Haby
Members: Ms. Jeanette Murphy, Tom Murphy, Paul Armstrong, Trent Blacker, Tim Bunning, Michael Bowerman, George Buttas, Ms. Verity Cotton, Ms. Anita Godfrey, Ms. Mim Gilders, Wayne Grey, Sheldon Hamilton, Malcolm Hirtzel, Shane Molloy, Leslie Parslow, William Sheldon-Collins

General Manager: Mr. Rod Ward

Staff: Ms. Anthea Stanton, Ms. Jill Tunbridge

1 Opening and Attendance

A quorum was present, and the meeting opened at 6.35PM.

Administrator Ross Haby welcomed members and guests to the 2019 Annual General Meeting.

2 Apologies

Mark Pearson, Brett Jones, Ms. Brooke Berry

3 Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting

3.1 Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes from the 2018 Annual General Meeting held 29th November 2019 were presented. Motion to accept the Minutes as stated:

Moved: William Sheldon-Collins **Seconded:** Ms Jeanette Murphy **CARRIED**

3.2 Matters Arising

Nil

4 Reports

4.1 Administrators Report

Administrator Ross Haby drew the attention of the members to the BGRC 2019 Annual Report which was located on each chair with additional copies available. This Annual Report included Ross's Report which was as follows:

It is my role as the Administrator of the Ballarat Greyhound Racing Club to present the 2018/19 Committee Report.

The past 12 months has been a very challenging one for the Club from both a governance and administration perspective yet during this period the Club experienced some great racing highlights. The Club hosted 130 TAB race meetings (12 more than in 2017/18) and 1,326 races. It also provided trainers with a substantial increase in trial sessions, a service which will continue to be built on in 2019/20.

The Club's feature event winners for 2018/19 were:

- 2018 Ballarat Volkswagen Cup - Aston Kimetto trained by Seona Thompson
- The Lil Dickie Oaks - Crimson Vixen trained by Norm McCullagh
- The Western Districts Derby - Flynn trained by Harry Manolitsis
- The Summer Classic - Cash Point trained by Anthony Azzopardi

Whilst these were the signature racing events, the Club can be proud to have hosted many great races during 2018/19.

The Club also supported a number of community events during the year including Fathers Day, Great Chase supporting people with disability, and a Collingwood Football night...all of which were a resounding success. The Club also provided a regular meeting place for many local community clubs. It is important that the Club embraces the community and encourages regular engagement.

Importantly the Club's membership base more than doubled from last year, currently sitting at 167 active members. This is largely due to the implementation of a new Member Benefits Program which has been very well received.

Maintaining and improving the Club's infrastructure is a constant battle, with ageing assets and constrained finances. Yet during FY 2018/19, the Club undertook a major air conditioning upgrade with State Government grant support, installed a new Point of Sale system (VRIF funded) to better manage the functions area, constructed an alcohol storage room, dedicated staff amenities area, increased office space as well as installing new automated Pen Gates. New unisex toilets in the betting area have been designed and currently out to tender.

The Club also undertook preliminary planning and concept designs for a new dedicated carpark on State Government land adjacent to the Ballarat Trotting Club and a new Kennel Block to be constructed on the northern end of the recently renamed Ballarat Function Centre (formerly Strides Function Centre). These much needed important new infrastructure projects should become a reality in 2020/21.

The major challenges the Club faced were highlighted in last year's President's Report, namely the identification of significant governance, compliance and accountability issues; ongoing cultural issues at Committee, Staff and Membership level; the identification of missing ATM funds, and significant staff underpayments due to Award misinterpretation over past years.

The Committee engaged SED Regional Advisory in September 2018 to conduct a full review of Club governance, compliance, administration and general operations. This culminated in a Report detailing a series of high risk issues together with recommendations for urgent consideration and action. The Committee adopted the Report and its recommendations in full and subsequently engaged SED Regional Advisory in October 2018 to provide interim General Manager and Business and Financial Reporting services to implement the recommendations. The Interim General Manager, Brett Jones proceeded to progressively implement a new suite of governance, compliance and accountability processes; arranged a Forensic Audit of the ATM processes and procedures; began a 'cultural change' journey for the Committee, staff and Members; implemented the recommendations of the Martin Cotton Report and Risk Register; 'made good' on staff underpayments and reviewed payroll systems to ensure compliance, and appointed new Auditors. I would like to compliment and thank Brett for his critical foundational work.

From a purely financial viewpoint, the implementation of SED Regional Advisory recommendations has come at a large 'one-off' cost to the Club. But this cost was essential and necessary to ensure the Club will continue and grow well into the future. Fortunately the Club's strong balance sheet built up from previous years operations has underpinned the work.

The Committee subsequently resolved to disband in May 2019, and requested Greyhound Racing Victoria appoint an Administrator to take over the operations of the Club. I was appointed Administrator on 10th May 2019 and my role has been to ensure the SED Report recommendations were implemented in full and identify a new Skills-based Interim Committee to lead the Club into the future. I am very pleased to say at the time of presenting this report we are a long way to achieving these goals.

In June, I appointed a new Racing Advisory Committee (RAC) comprising Sheldon Hamilton, Mim Gilders, Trent Blacker, Michael Bowerman and Brooke Innes to assist the Club in matters relating to racing, animal welfare, facilities and race calendar and promotion. The RAC has been instrumental in implementing a number of new initiatives to benefit Members and provided strategic advice on the new carpark and kennel block projects. I would like to thank each one of the RAC members for their service.....they are certainly enthusiastic and positive in their outlook!

In July we conducted a recruitment campaign for a new General Manager which attracted a highly credentialed field. Mr Rod Ward, former Regional General Manager, AFL Goldfields was subsequently appointed as the new GM and commenced his new role on 7th October, 2019. Brett Jones completed his assignment on 11th October after providing Rod with a handover. Since my appointment in May 2019, I have progressively identified persons with the skill and business acumen to form the new Interim BGRC Committee. I formally appointed the new Interim Committee (with GRV endorsement) in September 2019:

- Mr Tim Bunning - Interim Chair
- Mr Paul Armstrong - Interim Deputy Chair
- Mr Lachlan McKenzie - Interim Treasurer
- M/s Anita Godfrey - Interim Committee Member
- Mr Shane Molloy - Interim Committee Member
- Mr Sheldon Hamilton - Interim Committee Member and RAC representative

The new Interim Committee came together for its first formal meeting in October. I am extremely confident that the new Interim Committee, ably assisted by our new GM, Rod Ward, will lead the Club to great things in the coming years. I will continue to work with the new Interim Committee to devise new Strategic, Business and Marketing plans and once the new Interim Committee has found its feet, GRV will remove the Club from Administration and my appointment will cease.

There are many people that make a Club like ours a success. I would like to firstly acknowledge and thank our past Committee, Members, owners and trainers all of which are the key to the ongoing success of the Club. I would like to thank our many sponsors, and in particular our major sponsor Ballarat Volkswagen for their wonderful support. Many of our sponsors have been regular financial supporters of the Club for many years. To our professional and dedicated team of staff, without you racing would not take place. Finally I would like to thank Greyhound Racing Victoria for their professional support, guidance and funding over the past twelve months.

Ladies and gentleman, 2018/19 was the turning point for the Ballarat Greyhound Racing Club.

It will set the Club up for a very bright and prosperous future.

4.2 General Manager's Report

General Manager Rod Ward provided the following Report to the BGRC members as part of the BGRC 2019 Annual Report -

It is with great pleasure that I write this General Managers Report to the members of the Ballarat Greyhound Racing Club as your new General Manager.

I have only been in the role for 6 weeks but I have really enjoyed meeting the staff, members, trainers, owners and supporters of the BGRC, and I have been very appreciative of the friendly welcome I have been given.

I previously worked for Telstra for 16 years in Finance & Administration, and for the final 2 years at Telstra I was Administration Manager for Victoria & Tasmania. I then moved into Football Administration, and for the past 17 years I managed the Ballarat FNL and then AFL Goldfields, which includes nearly 200 clubs across 14 Councils.

I want to commend Administrator Ross Haby and former General Manager Brett Jones on the fantastic work they have done over the past 12 months to bring stability, good governance and direction to the Club and its members. They implemented professional business operations and governance, and under the direction of the new skills-based Committee I aim to build upon their efforts for the benefit of the Club.

Over the next 12 months we aim to carry out some major capital works projects which include:

- New unisex toilets to be installed in the betting area*
- Bar extension into the betting area*
- new dedicated carpark on State Government land adjacent to the Ballarat Trotting Club*
- a new Kennel Block to be constructed at the northern end of the Function Centre*

The Club is also working with CardNo TGM to explore options to address the Grandstand "Apron" (slope) to provide better views to the track and presentation area for spectators and to address safety concerns.

Further the Club has identified that a strong focus for the next 12 months will be to build community engagement, and also to improve member and a number of means of doing both are being considered. I am also working diligently to grow the number of corporate partners the BGRC has, and over coming weeks our members should see some exciting announcements.

I am very approachable and I encourage any members of the Club to contact me with any suggestions, concerns or ideas you may have that can help take the BGRC forward.

I look forward to working for the members of the BGRC over the year ahead.

4.3 Racing Advisory Committee Report

Interim Committee Member Sheldon Hamilton provided the following RAC Report to the BGRC members as part of the BGRC 2019 Annual Report -

In June 2019 the Ballarat Greyhound Racing Club appointed a new Racing Advisory Committee (RAC) comprising Sheldon Hamilton, Mim Gilders, Trent Blacker, Michael Bowerman, Malcolm Hirtzel, Colin Brennan and Daryl Brennan to assist the Club in matters relating to racing, animal welfare, facilities and race calendar and promotion.

Specifically, the Ballarat Greyhound Racing Club's RAC was established to provide guidance to the Club Manager and Committee on defined racing issues

on behalf of the club member participants and provide appropriate recommendations for Committee consideration. Specific Responsibilities of the Racing Advisory Committee include:

- **Greyhound Welfare** - Monitor and provide input to club initiatives to improve greyhound welfare and reduce injuries/fatalities.
- **Facilities** - Undertake a structured and co-ordinated approach to identify and respond to any issues with the Club's Racing Facilities.
- **Promotion** - Provide advice to the Committee and Club Manager on the Club's racing promotional activity including advertised events and event top-ups and other fundraising activities as required. As part of the responsibility, the Advisory Group to contribute to, and recommend for signoff the annual racing calendar.
- **Participant Communication** - To act as a point of contact and visibility to racing participants to ensure they have a voice in club matters.

Since its inception the RAC has been instrumental in implementing a number of new initiatives to benefit Members and provided strategic advice on the new carpark and kennel block projects.

Members can be kept updated on any matters that the RAC are undertaking via the new Digital screens which are kept updated with lots of different content. The BGRC is the first club that has invested in a communication platform for members and participants for real time information engagement.

Since its establishment the membership of the RAC has undergone some change with the current committee comprising:
Mim Gliders, Trent Blacker, Michael Bowerman, Sheldon Hamilton and Brooke Berry.

The RAC is playing a key consultative role in the design of the new Kennel Block, and the new Car Park. The RAC has also put some exciting racing proposals to GRV, with a particular proposal to reinvigorate distance racing in the region receiving good support - stay tuned for more on this. The RAC is also keen to try extended trialling on Saturdays, and for the Club to have input and control of Race meetings.

The RAC is also seeking further information on syndication as we explore whether this may be something that interests members, supporters and hopefully attracts new groups to the sport.

The next meeting of the BRAC is 3rd of December with each member on the committee presenting two agenda items. If you have an item that is of concern approach one of us to discuss.

Motion to accept all Reports as presented:

Moved: M Bowerman **Seconded:** T Blacker **CARRIED**

5 FINANCE REPORT

Administrator Ross Haby reported the following financial results for the 2019 Financial Year -

- Revenue increased from \$1.233m to \$1.503m
- Expenses increased from \$1.394m to \$1.953m
- Trading deficit of \$449,823

It should be noted that the result included:

- Depreciation of \$323,000 (non-cash item)
- Payment to consultants of approx. \$323,000 - which will not continue in 2020

At end of Financial Year the Club had retained cash & current assets of \$671,000 and had total equity of \$3.484m.

Items of discussion:

- Members wish to see more detail on revenue and expenses in future Annual Reports
- Members wish for racing and non-racing (specifically functions) revenue and expenses split in 2020 to allow club to better assess profitability of function centre.

Motion to accept all Reports as presented:

Moved: R Haby **Seconded:** T Bunning **CARRIED**

6 Confirmation of Auditors for 2020

Administrator Ross Haby recommended that the confirmation of Auditors for 2020 be left to the discretion of the incoming Committee.

7 Annual Subscriptions and Joining Fee for 2020

Administrator Ross Haby recommended that this remain at \$20 per annum.

Moved: R Haby **Seconded:** S Hamilton **CARRIED**

8 General Business

8.1 Notice of Motion by Administrator to amend Clause (37) Proxies in GRCB Constitution:

From: A member is not entitled to appoint a proxy.

To: A member is entitled to appoint a proxy.

Rationale: It is common place for a member of an incorporated club who may be unable to attend an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting to appoint a proxy to vote in their absence. This also ensures a greater percentage of club members may be able to vote on matters of business thereby a vote will reflect the wishes of an increased number of club members.

General discussion took place as to the merits or otherwise of those proposed change to the Constitution.

Motion moved to amend Constitution as per Notice of Motion:

Moved: R Haby **Seconded:** S Hamilton

Motion CARRIED - by margin of 12 votes to 3.

9 Meeting Closure

The meeting closed at 7:30PM.

10 Next Meeting

Thursday 12th November 2020 @ 7PM (preferred starting time recommended by members)

These minutes were confirmed as a true record.

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Ross Haby Administrator / /