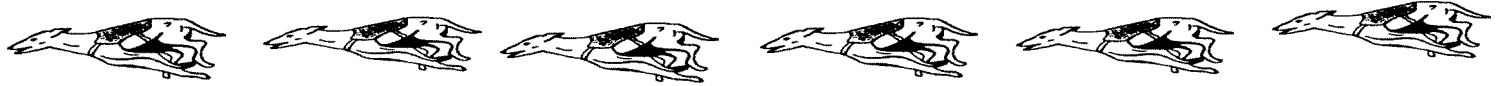




Running for their Lives!



Newsletter of Greyhound Action No. 27 Sept/Oct 2009

Winning Words in the Workplace!

GA to launch important new campaign

Get in touch if you want to be involved

About three years ago Greyhound Action launched our *Winning Words!* campaign, to educate ordinary people who are going for "a night at the dogs" and to persuade them not to do so or, at least, never to do so again. The main idea of the campaign was for our leaflets to be distributed as often as possible to people going into major greyhound tracks on race-nights. For most of the major tracks, profit margins are so narrow that a drop of just a few percent in attendances would see them go to the wall - and fewer tracks means fewer races, means fewer greyhounds bred, means fewer discarded and put to death.



Demo at Brighton & Hove Stadium – the latest track to scrap Tuesday night race meetings, owing to poor attendances



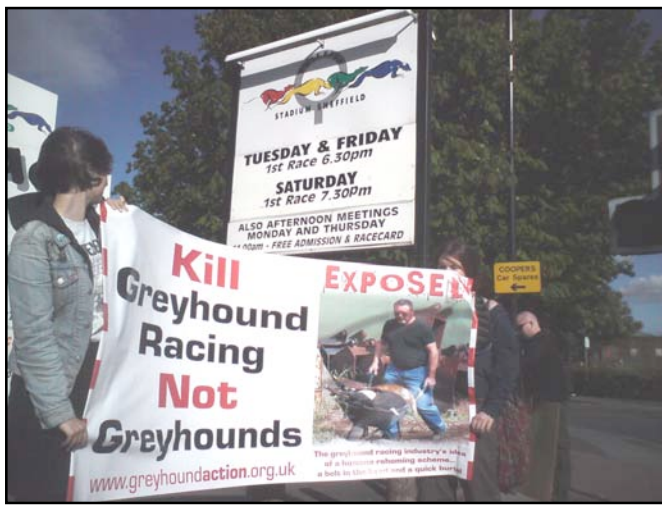
Due to a huge reduction in hardcore dog-racing enthusiasts in recent years, the racing industry is increasingly relying on the attendance of ordinary members of the public to keep the tracks open, but most people in this country are fond of dogs and would not support greyhound racing, if they were aware of the slaughter and suffering that it involves. *Winning Words!* has turned out to be a great success and, especially where leafleting/demos have taken place on a regular basis, huge problems have been caused to the racing industry. Since the campaign began, many tracks have suffered big economic difficulties, with a large number cutting race-nights due to financial losses. Reading, Hull and Walthamstow (Britain's most prestigious track) have closed and Portsmouth looks set to follow, with the stadium earmarked for demolition as part of a redevelopment plan. Figures published by the greyhound racing industry show a big decline in attendances, despite £millions being spent on advertising, aimed at persuading people to have "a night at the dogs".

"I would like to thank the lady who stood at the gate of Brandon (Coventry) Stadium on Saturday night. I went with a friend for the first time as I didn't realise at all what happened to the dogs. I was rushing so I didn't get to look at the leaflet until I came out an hour later. It was my first time and will be my last. I was horrified that I had paid money to get in and had contributed to this horrific sport. Since then I have shown the leaflet to all my children and my friends' children and their friends. I will continue to show the leaflet to everyone around me and hopefully one day the cruelty to greyhounds and the killing of them will stop thanks to the lady at that gate."

- E-mail recently received by Greyhound Action.

Greyhound Action supporters have noticed that a considerable number of people attending greyhound tracks do so as part of social nights out organized by their workplace or sports club.

For this reason, we will very soon be launching an extension to the *Winning Words!* campaign, called *Winning Words in the Workplace (WWW)*.



The idea of *WWW* is for info packs, consisting of some of our leaflets, together with a covering letter (addressed “to the Social Events Organiser”), to be delivered to all businesses and sports and social clubs within the catchment area of greyhound tracks, asking them to please not organise any nights at the dogs.

This is something that many of our supporters, up and down the country, could do and it is bound to have a devastating effect on the greyhound racing industry. In fact, we think it could be the most effective of all our campaigns so far.

Earlier this year campaigns began to close the greyhound tracks at Sheffield (left).....

If you would like to take part in the *WWW* campaign, by delivering the special info packs in your area, please contact Greyhound Action at info@greyhoundaction.org.uk or on 01562 700 043.

In order to launch *WWW*, we have had to raise several thousand pounds of additional revenue in order to pay the extra printing and postage costs. This has taken us quite some while, as Greyhound Action is a voluntary organization, operating on a shoestring budget, and our resources are already stretched to the limit with our current campaigns. Therefore, if you possibly can, please help to keep the *WWW* campaign going by sending us a donation. Your contribution, however small, could play a vital part in the destruction of the greyhound racing industry and the saving of thousands of dogs from suffering and slaughter.



.....and Nottingham

Dog racing going under Down Under Good news for greyhounds from Australia and the Philippines

◆ The Mackay greyhound track in northern Queensland was forced to close in June, due to a lack of greyhounds available for racing, poor attendances and low turnover.



◆ Elsewhere in the region, the number of race meetings has been halved at the Cairns track, whose president, Emma O'Connor, commented: "When I first started in greyhounds they had racing in Mt Isa. They stopped that. They also had it in the Burdekin, Beenleigh, Parklands, Toowoomba and they're all gone. All that seems to be happening is clubs shutting down. The industry is not moving forward in my eyes. All we're doing is going backwards. It's ridiculous."

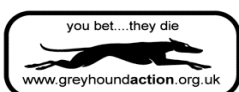
◆ Also in Queensland, the main stand at the Albion Park greyhound track had to be demolished, after engineers deemed it unsafe. The decision forced the closure of the stand's 700-seat restaurant, causing takings to drop by 50% and sponsorship dollars to be lost.

◆ These latest blows to the state's greyhound racing industry follow last year's closure of the Gold Coast track, to make way for a new hospital.

Left - Anti greyhound racing protest in the Philippines

◆ Greyhound Racing Victoria has shut down the track at Wangaratta, following estimates that it needed £3m in redevelopment work. Track manager Neville Tait said the closure would have a “devastating” effect on the region's greyhound racing community, who “would basically have to get out of the industry”.

◆ In the Philippines, the House of Representatives failed to approve the building of two dog tracks, after seven senators vowed to block the introduction of greyhound racing in the country because it was “immoral” and “cruel to animals”.



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