



PRESS RELEASE

WALTHAMSTOW STADIUM CLOSURE: NO GREYHOUNDS AT RISK

22nd MAY 2008

BGRB Welfare Committee Chairman John Haynes and Welfare Officer Peter Laurie met yesterday with Walthamstow Stadium Directors Charles Chandler and Annie Aslett, together with Racing Manager Chris Page, Press Officer Paul Wynn and Barrie and Debbie Clegg, representing the Walthamstow Owners and Welfare Association.

Laurie said:

“It was a positive and constructive meeting, from which the clear message is that no greyhound is at risk as a result of the impending closure of Walthamstow Stadium.

“The BGRB will work closely with Walthamstow to ensure that whatever resources are needed will be made available to safeguard the welfare of all greyhounds connected with the Stadium.”

“Walthamstow is fortunate to be affiliated with two outstanding rehoming schemes who are keen to continue their excellent work, placing retired greyhounds in loving homes. The schemes will receive financial support.

“So too will trainers, on a case-by-case basis, as they are likely to be affected by the closure in different ways. We are hopeful that a number will be offered positions at other tracks and their greyhounds will be able to continue their racing careers. Others may retire and we will assist as appropriate in helping to rehome any greyhounds that cannot carry on racing with other trainers.”

For Walthamstow, Annie Aslett said:

"I feel very confident that the people who attended the welfare meeting yesterday have the greyhounds and the trainers' best interests in mind and that between us all, any problems will be dealt with sensitively and efficiently"

Barrie Clegg, speaking on behalf of the Walthamstow Owners and Welfare Association that held an emergency meeting on Tuesday evening added:

“I would like to reassure everybody that both the association and I are deeply committed to remaining ‘open for business’ until the last Walthamstow greyhound has been successfully re-homed. I have reassured the trainers that we are here to help them and we will remain here to help them for as long as it takes.

“I am in regular contact with the RGT, the track, the BGRB and other interested parties and I am extremely confident that, provided we all pull together for the good of our beloved greyhounds, no greyhound is at risk.

“Now is not the time for sensationalism. It is the time to secure funding and to plan how that funding will be best spent to guarantee the futures of each and every greyhound.

“We are currently trying to establish numbers so that we can plan for every eventuality. This is a forever changing picture as trainers’ futures become clearer.

“The critical matter as I see it is now one of finance and I will be seeking confirmation from all stakeholders exactly how much money will be made available and when it will be made available to enable us to do the job as professionally as we have done in the past. I will be asking that the figure is made known to me at the earliest possible opportunity and well before the track closes.”

- ENDS -

More information

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If you are interested in rehoming a retired Walthamstow greyhound, call Joy on 01992 890540 or visit www.wsretiredgreyhounds.co.uk