



**Greyhound Board**  
of Great Britain

**2018**

Annual Report  
& Accounts





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## ***Mission Statement***

**The role of the GBGB is to regulate and promote British Greyhound Racing, with greyhound welfare as our highest priority.**

## ***Values***

### **WELFARE**

We will always put the welfare of greyhounds at the heart of all we do.

### **INTEGRITY**

We always act with honesty, impartiality and consistency to earn the trust of our stakeholders.

### **PROFESSIONALISM**

We pride ourselves on our commitment to quality and effective service delivery and the successful development of those working within the sport.

### **GOOD GOVERNANCE**

We will always act in the best interests of the sport as a whole and be accountable for our actions.

### **RESPECT**

We value all those involved in the sport highly – no matter their role – and will always give consideration and due regard to every stakeholder.

## ***Vision***

That British Greyhound Racing is a successful and sustainable sport, commercially-viable and adequately funded to ensure its future prosperity. We are world-leading in welfare and integrity standards and support everyone involved in the sport to increase its popularity with our British and global audiences.



“From day one in the role, I have been inspired by the work everyone within the GBGB does to ensure the welfare of the greyhounds is at the heart of this sport.”

*Jeremy Cooper*



# CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

*By Jeremy Cooper*

**Coming from my previous role as the CEO of the RSPCA, taking on the Chairman's role at the Greyhound Board is not the most obvious career progression. That being said, from day one in the role I have been inspired by the work everyone within the GBGB does to ensure the welfare of the greyhounds is at the heart of this sport.**

I took up the post in July 2018, following the first publication of GBGB annual released and independently verified injury and retirement data. This data was well-received by Defra Ministers and allowed GBGB to set ambitious but achievable targets to reduce injuries and fatalities further still.

To reiterate our position on this first data release we published our Greyhound Commitment. The Commitment is an eight-point plan which clearly outlines our intentions and ambitions for the sport over the next five years, not only for our greyhounds but also for our people that are involved, invested and participate in the sport.

With our Commitment, comes the necessity to fund the sport to a sustainable level, given that over a prolonged period of time, the monies coming into the British Greyhound Racing Fund (BGRF) have decreased substantially. Unlike horse racing, the vast majority of the funding to support and drive the sport came from existing voluntary contributions from bookmakers on their retail operations related to their greyhound betting product. Protracted negotiations had taken place with bookmakers as to them additionally paying on their on-line greyhound products, which had failed to progress over several years. Following an intervention by the then Sports Minister Tracey Crouch MP to appoint Lord David Lipsey as a mediator, and as a result of a series of meetings, in January 2019, the majority of bookmakers agreed to extend their voluntary contributions to their on-line turnover.

The payment of on-line contributions will greatly assist with helping to offset the drop-off in retail payments, exacerbated by the advent of a significant stake reduction of Fixed-Odds-Betting-Terminals in Licensed Betting Offices.

I therefore see my role as Chairman over the next year or two to really focus stakeholders on attracting the right level of investment into licensed greyhound racing in the UK. This

funding has to be set at a sustainable level to ensure that we can plan accordingly over the longer term and not to have our ambitions thwarted by inconsistent annual budgets and the uncertainty as to continued funding.

**Jeremy Cooper,**  
GBGB Chairman, July 2019





# MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Mark Bird



**In 2018 we had both superb headlines and dire news, both seemingly in equal measure. The publication of the second set of track injury and retirement data for 2018 continued to dispel many of the myths as to what happens to racing and retired greyhounds and in general the data showed reductions in the right areas. It also allowed the Greyhound Board to update stakeholders as to its Greyhound Commitment and set out our strategic intentions and targets over the next 5 years.**

The loss of Towcester, shortly after it delivered its second successful Derby was a massive blow to the sport and this followed on from the closure of Mildenhall at the beginning of 2018.

## Racing

As always, UK Greyhounds racing pundit and sportswriter, Jonathan Hobbs provides his comprehensive racing review of 2018 further within this report.

Prior to its closure, Towcester hosted their second Derby competition, with the final being on 2nd June 2018. An impressive final run saw Dorotas Wildcat scoop the honours, as well as £175,000 for his trainer, Kevin Hutton. The Wildcat set a blistering pace and led comfortably, holding off the favourite Droopys Verve.

In September, one of the greyhound worlds greats, Champion Trainer Charlie Lister OBE, announced his retirement from the sport. Himself a Derby winner an incredible seven times, and four times Greyhound Trainer of the Year, Charlie was a truly grassroots to champion trainer and he will be very much missed at our tracks.

With the closure of Towcester, a new home needed to be found for the Derby in 2019 and it was left to Nottingham Stadium to submit the only formal submission to a convened GBGB-Industry panel, which met in November 2018. The panel chaired by the Regulatory Chairman, Peter Cadman and with trainer and owner representatives, after due diligence of the submission, were delighted to announce that Nottingham would be hosting the Derby for 2019.

## Political

The publication of the second set of yearly data for track injuries and retirements was well received by Defra Ministers and despite there being an increase in racing between 2017 and 2018, the track injury rates only fractionally increased. The numbers of dogs being euthanised, many of which are considered unnecessary and avoidable were also reduced, however the GBGB has now outlined that the number of economic or because no home could be found euthanasia's will

have a target to decrease by 50% over the next 3 years (from 2019). Similarly, the amount of greyhounds being euthanised on humane grounds to also decrease by 50% by the next 3 years (from 2019) and to also decrease by 50% by 2021.

In January, Mildenhall Stadium ceased greyhound racing after operating for 27 years, with the closure being based on financial grounds. Mildenhall was always regarded as a 'grass-roots' track and very much a feeder route for some greyhound trainers to subsequently develop onto bigger stadiums.

Towcester Stadium delivered a second successful 2018 Derby and then in August, without any prior notice to the GBGB, went into administration both for its greyhound and horse racing operations. The GBGB attended the High Court and had Towcester's escrow bond of £50,000 released in order to help meet the welfare needs of the greyhounds that had been racing at the track. The vast majority of trainers and their greyhounds were able to find racing at other tracks. Towcester had only been racing greyhounds at their track since 2014.

## Welfare and Integrity

The publication of the GBGB's Greyhound Commitment launched in March, represented the first tangible method of the GBGB declaring our welfare ambitions and accordingly, also being accountable for them. The 8-point strategy gives detail as to how we will meet these welfare and care ambitions and how, in some cases, we are working closely with stakeholders, especially animal welfare charities to develop new initiatives and progressive schemes targeted at continuing to improve greyhound welfare.

## The Greyhound Board

### Jeremy Cooper

Jeremy joined the GBGB as Chairman in July. Having worked for the RAF and then had managerial experience at Waitrose and Tesco's, more latterly, he became CEO for the RSPCA Assured/ Freedom Food and then CEO for the RSPCA, the worlds largest and most recognised Animal Welfare Charity. I have no doubt that Jeremy will provide the necessary leadership at board level to help the sport and industry meet some of the obvious challenges ahead but also to help develop the opportunities that will also arise in the next few years under his chairmanship.

### John Gilburn

In October, John passed away suddenly. This was both an unexpected and tragic loss for the sport. John having been the Managing Director at Owlerton for 11 years and had turned around the stadium in terms of it hosting big competitions and also for attracting customers to its excellent restaurant facilities.

Part of John's legacy was to be invited to write a showcase article for The Parliamentary Review, regarding how he had transformed Owlerton Stadium in terms of its infrastructure and finances but sadly died the day before he was due to attend the 2017/2018 DCMS presentation at Westminster in October as a personal guest of Lord Pickles.

John balanced both being very clever and extremely astute. He was never one to sit back if challenge was required, but was also able to listen, reflect and change his position if it was reasonable to do so. Whilst very much a family man, the GBGB and BGRF have lost a dear colleague and friend and his overall legacy for the sport should never be underestimated.

### John Coleman

John was elected onto the GBGB main board in September, as the Owner Practitioner Director. An extremely seasoned and experienced ex-trainer, John came to Britain from Cork in 1959, working for John Bassett at Clapton Stadium before becoming a trainer in 1966. Twice winning the British Champion Trainer award, he was also the chairman of the Professional Trainers' Association for over 25 years.

### Jeff McKenna

Jeff became a GBGB board director, as part of the Race Course Promoter's Association representation in October. Jeff is the Managing Director at Pelaw Grange Stadium, which has been in his family's hands since 1965, with Jeff taking over the management of the stadium in 2005.

**Mark Bird**, Managing Director

**“We are working closely with stakeholders, especially animal welfare charities, to develop new schemes targeted at continuing to improve greyhound welfare.”**



# THE GREYHOUND COMMITMENT

On behalf of our sport and industry, the Greyhound Board of Great Britain, working with our trusted stakeholders and relying on voluntary funding from bookmakers, is proud to make and uphold the following commitments:

- 1** *Greyhound welfare and safety is at the heart of everything we do.*
- 2** *Every racing greyhound is treated with care and respect throughout its career.*
- 3** *Our independently verified injury rates remain the lowest in the world and will improve further still.*
- 4** *Wherever possible, every dog leaving racing enjoys a long and happy retirement.*
- 5** *Every race is run fairly, safely and that attending a race meeting is an enjoyable and fun experience for all involved.*
- 6** *Those working within the sport have access to training at the beginning of their careers, and ongoing, accredited professional development.*
- 7** *Funding received from the betting industry significantly contributes to greyhound welfare.*
- 8** *Together, we continue to promote our sport and nurture the public's love of greyhounds.*

To find out how we are meeting these Commitments, please visit:  
**[www.gbgb.org.uk](http://www.gbgb.org.uk)**

## Held at:

On Sunday 27th January 2019, the greyhound racing industry came together at the Park Plaza Westminster Bridge, London to recognise and celebrate the sports' outstanding canine athletes and the dedication of those working within the sport.

The GBGB Greyhound of the Year Awards, which was attended by some 400 people, was a chance to look back at the racing highlights of 2018 and to thank all those working in the sport for their commitment and hard work.

Awards categories highlighted the talent and expertise of trainers and kennel staff as well as the most impressive and consistent performances on the track.



## The evening was generously sponsored by:





# THE WINNERS

## GBGB Greyhound of the Year and Betfair Standard Distance Performer of the Year

### DOROTAS WILDCAT

Ballymac Vic – Droopys Danneel

**Trainer:** Kevin Hutton

**Owner(s):** Dave Usher and Kevin Hutton

#### 2018 Achievements:

Winner: Star Sports Greyhound Derby,  
Towcester

Winner: MSCM Ltd Eclipse Stakes,  
Nottingham

Finalist: Astute Electronics Gold Cup,  
Towcester

**11 Open Race Wins**



## Northridge Law LLP Newcomer of the Year

### RISING BRANDY

Taylors Sky – Badminton Girl

**Trainer:** Matt Dartnall

**Owner(s):** Paul Bennett, Alexander  
Antoniou

#### 2018 Achievements:

Winner: Ladbrokes Puppy Derby,  
Monmore Green

Finalist: Coral Greyhound Olympic, Hove  
Semi-Finalist: Star Sports Greyhound  
Derby, Towcester

**7 Open Race Wins**



## PA Bitch of the Year

### DONATION

Droopys Cain – Delightful Flyer

**Trainer:** Heather Dimmock

**Owner(s):** The Jabber Crew

#### 2018 Achievements:

Winner: MSCM Ltd Lowther Stakes,  
Nottingham

Runner Up: William Hill Angel of the

North Oaks, Newcastle  
Runner Up: Coral Brighton Belle, Hove  
Finalist: MSCM Ltd Eclipse Stakes,  
Nottingham

Finalist: William Hill Grand Prix,  
Sunderland

**14 Open Race Wins**



## SIS Marathon Performer of the Year

### SLIPPY MAGGIE

Godsend – Mays Bodyguard

**Trainer:** Hazel Kemp

**Owner(s):** Hazel Kemp,  
David Redmile,

#### 2018 Achievements:

Winner: Carlsberg Boxing Day  
Marathon, Crayford

Winner: Jay & Kay Coach Tours  
Kent St Leger, Crayford

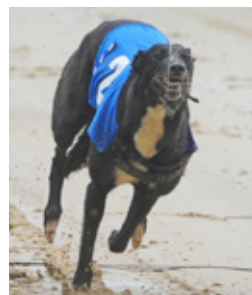
Winner: Bunny Bookmakers  
Gold Cup, Henlow

Runner Up: St Leger, Perry Barr

Runner Up: William Hill Great  
North Run,

Newcastle  
Runner Up: SIS Yorkshire St  
Leger, Doncaster  
Finalist: Ladbrokes TV Trophy,  
Crayford

**15 Open Race Wins**



## GBGB Hurdler of the Year

### LENSON WILSON

Scolari Me Daddy – Killduff Kerry

**Trainer:** Ricky Holloway

**Owner(s):** Stella Wilson, Richard  
Holloway, David Jensen

#### 2018 Achievements:

Winner: Star Sports Champion Hurdle,  
Towcester

Winner: Cearnsparts Springbok, Central  
Park

**15 Open Race Wins**



## Charles Russell Speechlys Sprinter of the Year

### CALZAGHE FLASH

Tyrur Big Mike – Headford Maura

**Trainer:** Ted Soppitt

**Owner(s):** Carl Roberts

#### 2018 Achievements:

Winner: Local Parking Security National  
Sprint, Nottingham

Runner Up: Coral Puppy Cup, Romford

**6 Open Race Wins**



## Racing Post Greyhound TV Stayer of the Year

### BOMBERS BULLET

Droopys Cain – Headford Hoe

**Trainer:** Mark Wallis

**Owner(s):** The Bruiser Boyz

#### 2018 Achievements:

Winner: Coral Champion Stakes,  
Romford

Winner: William Hill Grand Prix,

Sunderland  
Runner Up: Ladbrokes Summer Stayers  
Classic, Monmore Green

Finalist: Star Sports Greyhound Derby,  
Towcester

**12 Open Race Wins**



## GBGB Graded Greyhound of the Year

### SWIFT KEEPER

Makeshift – Swift Krul

**Trainer:** Mel Baker

**Owner(s):** Abie Knowles

Starting out in A8 in January, Swift  
Keeper ended the year in A1 class after a  
series of wins – 15 in total – holding his  
own in top-grade. He was competitive  
throughout the year.



## GBGB Best Dam of British Bred

### SKATE ON

Cashen Legend – Grannys Image

**Trainer:** Liz McNair

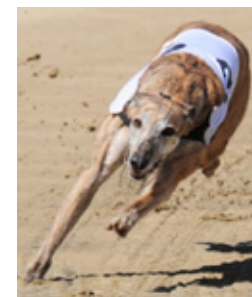
**Owner(s):** K.S.S. Syndicate

For the second year running,  
Skate On is the GBGB Best Dam  
of British Bred 2018.

The 2012 William Hill Oaks

runner-up and star sprinter  
for Liz and Rab McNair on  
the track has proved one of  
the outstanding dams of the  
modern era and a real boost for  
her owners the K.S.S. Syndicate.  
Her offspring amassed 328

points last year.  
King Elvis, last year's Greyhound  
of the Year, was again Skate  
On's best points-scoring  
offspring in 2018 after another  
successful year.



## GBGB British Bred Greyhound of the Year

### KING TURBO

Leamaneigh Turbo – Wee Tiger Tots

**Trainer:** Liz McNair

**Owner(s):** Liz McNair

#### 2018 Achievements:

Winner: Coral Greyhound Olympic, Hove

Winner: Ladbrokes Kent Derby, Central  
Park

Winner: Ladbrokes Gold Cup, Monmore  
Green

Winner: Astute Electronics Gold Cup,  
Towcester

Finalist: William Hill Classic, Sunderland

**16 Open Race Wins**





# THE WINNERS

Greyhound Board  
of Great Britain  
Greyhound of  
the Year Awards  
**2018**

## Founders Award for Services to Retired Greyhounds

### Lynn & Geoff Pearce

Lynn and Geoff's commitment to the greyhound stems back some 36 years, when their daughter fell in love with a greyhound in a homing kennel. Needless to say, said greyhound was adopted and in time, Lynn and Geoff began fundraising and fostering for Ann Shannon, one the Founding Branch Members of Greyhound Trust. Lynn and Geoff founded Greyhound Trust Cornwall in 2010 and have homed thousands of greyhounds since. Despite both now being in their 70's, Lynn and Geoff are still doing amazing things for greyhounds in and around Cornwall.



## GWA Services to Greyhound Racing Award

### Peter O'Dowd

Peter O'Dowd is the 2018 recipient of the GWA Services to Greyhound Racing award. The long-serving former Romford racing manager, who retired from the post last year, joins Bob Rowe as the only Racing Managers to have won the coveted award - which is testament to the respect he holds in the sport.



## Coral Owner of the Year

### K.S.S. Syndicate

It is the fourth time the syndicate, headed by Brendan Keogh, has won the title having scooped the award in 2014, 2015 and 2017. Their team of greyhounds amassed a huge 659 points, finishing ahead of the Conlon Family (349) and the Bruiser Boyz (298). King Turbo was their highest points scorer given his four Category One titles in the Gold Cups at Towcester and Monmore, the Olympic at Hove and the Kent Derby at Central Park.



## Betfred Kennelhand of the Year

### Nathan Hunt

The 2018 Betfred Kennelhand of the Year was Nathan Hunt Assistant Trainer to Romford Trainer Phil Simmonds.

Nathan's unwavering commitment was highlighted through nominations which praised his tireless work ethic and described his work as being clearly 'more than just a job to him'. Nominations also praised Nathan's outstanding communication with owners, who he regularly updates with photos and videos, and the strong bonds he forms with the greyhounds in his care.



## Ladbrokes Trainer of the Year

### Mark Wallis

The 2018 Ladbrokes Trainer of the Year was Mark Wallis. The Imperial Kennels boss wrapped up another title, his seventh in a row and tenth in total, in customary style with a host of winners and big-race titles contributing to a winning total of 983 points from 182 open race wins.

Mark paid tribute to his family and staff, and singled out victory in the Trainers Championship, and a Derby campaign which saw him qualify both Bombers Bullet and Bruisers Bullet through to the final as highlights of another outstanding year, confirming that winning the premier Classic would again be his main target in 2019.



# 2018 ROLL OF HONOUR

Racecourse	Event	Winner
Romford	Coronation Cup	Shotgun Bullet
Crayford	Golden Jacket	Shotgun Bullet
Sheffield	Juvenile	Bull Run Button
Central Park	Springbok	Lenson Wilson
Romford	Essex Vase (2017)	Murrys Act
Romford	Golden Sprint	Forest Chunk
Monmore Green	Puppy Derby	Rising Brandy
Towcester	Gold Cup	King Turbo
Shawfield	Scottish Derby	The Other Reg
Sheffield	Northern Sprint	Cotton Pants
Kinsley	Gymcrack	Brinkleys Poet
Central Park	Grand National	Parkers Dynamite
Brighton & Hove	Regency	Clares Kyletaun
Towcester	The Derby	Dorotas Wildcat
Towcester	Champion Hurdle	Lenson Wilson
Crayford	Gold Collar	Droopys Dresden
Nottingham	Select Stakes	Brinkleys Poet
Sunderland	The Classic	Allowdale Bruno
Sunderland	Grand Prix	Bombers Bullet
Swindon	72nd Produce Stakes	Zenas Zeus
Brighton & Hove	Sussex Cup	Sporting Dave
Monmore Green	Summer Stayers	Ela Juliet
Newcastle	Northern Puppy Derby	Droopys Trawler
Crayford	Guy and Dolls	Kilmore Lemon
Monmore Green	Gold Cup	King Turbo
Nottingham	Puppy Classic	Blue Trooper
Romford	Champion Stakes	Bombers Bullet
Sheffield	Three Steps to Victory	Swift Hansel
Nottingham	Lowther Stakes	Donation
Crayford	Kent St Leger	Slippy Maggie
Belle Vue	Scurry	Troy Bella
Yarmouth	72nd East Anglian Derby	Affane Party
Sheffield	Steel City Cup	Roxholme Nidge
Central Park	Kent Derby	King Turbo
Doncaster	Yorkshire St Leger	Roxholme Poppy
Newcastle	All England Cup	Droopys Verve
Henlow	Henlow Derby	Bubbly Turbo
Nottingham	British Breeders Stakes	Let Me Tell You
Brighton & Hove	Brighton Belle	Ballymac Miscula
Perry Barr	St Leger	Calico Ranger
Romford	Puppy Cup	Grays Cup Winner
Nottingham	Eclipse Stakes	Dorotas Wildcat
Romford	Essex Vase (2018)	Prime Time
Crayford	TV Trophy	Savana Winner
Sheffield	British Bred Derby	Geelo Monty
Newcastle	Laurels	Nadurra Ross
Henlow	English Puppy Derby	Argentina
Nottingham	National Sprint	Calzaghe Flash
Swindon	The English Oaks	Ravenswood Flo
Brighton & Hove	Greyhound Olympic	King Turbo



# 2018 REGULATORY REVIEW

## Complaints

A total of 56 complaints were received in 2018 (3 fewer than in 2017) and each complaint was investigated. The result of these investigations resulted in 3 training licenses being suspended, 7 local inquiries and 6 improvement or advisory notices being issued.

The complaints data for 2017/18 is as follows:

	Tracks	Trainers	Welfare	Drugs	Licensing	Other
2018	10	17	4	0	2	23
2017	21	23	9	1	1	4

50% of complaints were investigated within 30 days.

## Sampling

A total of 8,436 samples were taken for analysis during the contract year 1st October 2017 and 30th September 2018, with the breakdown as follows:

### Race / Trial Samples

Type	Analysed	Not Analysed
Blood	109	6
Other	12	0
Hair	8	0
Urine	8255	42
<b>Total</b>	<b>8388</b>	<b>48</b>

Of these samples, 0.6% were confirmed by LGC as positive for prohibited substances. The breakdown of the 61 positive samples is assessed as:

	Number	% of total samples	% of total positive samples
Doping	12	0.15%	20%
Medication	14	0.17%	23%
Feed Contaminant	20	0.24%	33%
Contaminants (other)	15	0.18%	24%

### Point of Registration Sampling

The breakdown of the POR samples for the contract year 1st October 2017 to 30th September 2018 is as follows:

Type	Analysed	Not Analysed
Blood	177	1
Urine	7355	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>7532</b>	<b>8</b>

40 screening positives were reported from POR samples, with the main screen finding being for nandrolone metabolites.

# WELFARE REPORT

## Welfare

In 2018 GBGB launched its Greyhound Commitment, an eight-point manifesto setting out our expectations of how our sport and industry should be run with greyhound welfare at its heart. The launch of the Greyhound Commitment was the first time we had articulated the various ways in which everyone working across the sport is whole-heartedly committed to safeguarding the welfare of the greyhound; while providing us with a framework to introduce new initiatives and increasing our transparency to a wider audience. In addition to the Greyhound Commitment, a Greyhound Ambassador Scheme was launched to actively support and promote both racing and the successful retirement of greyhounds through a body of people that are passionate about greyhound racing and greyhound welfare. September 2018 saw the launch of a new Animal Care and Welfare Assistant Apprenticeship Scheme to provide training for people entering the industry, as well as upskilling those already working in the sport.

Furthermore, 2018 saw the appointment of Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI), the world's leading sports surfaces consultants. STRI work alongside the Track-Sub Committee in supporting all GBGB licensed racecourses in their track preparation and maintenance.

## Kennel Improvement Programme

In 2018, the Trainers Assistance Fund awarded £251,000 of development and improvement grants to 61 professional trainers, while a further 49 trainers were granted awards towards the cost of improving transport arrangements.

## Injury and Retirement Data

July 2019 saw the publication of the second set of aggregated injury and retirement data. Both sets of data are consistent, and each has identified areas where significant improvements can be made. As part of our Greyhound Commitment, GBGB launched an Injury Recovery Scheme in September 2018 to provide financial assistance to all owners and trainers whose greyhounds have endured a career ending injury whilst racing. A summary of the 2018 data is as follows:

## Injury Data 2018

Total Greyhound Runs 426,139

Type of injury injuries	Recorded against total runs	% of injuries
Hock Injuries	823	0.19
Wrist Injuries	795	0.19
Foot Injuries	888	0.21
Hind Long Bone	36	0.01
Fore Long Bone	112	0.03
Fore Limb Muscle	567	0.13
Hind Limb Muscle	1,058	0.25
Other	684	0.16
<b>Total Injuries</b>	<b>4,963</b>	<b>1.16</b>
<b>Track Fatalities</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>0.06</b>

## Retirement Data 2018

Retained by owner/ trainer	878	11%
Greyhound Trust / Charity	4588	60%
Rehomed by owner/ trainer /	936	12%
Breeding / Independent Racing	365	5%
Other (including private homing non-charity)	6	-
<b>Homed/retained</b>	<b>6,773</b>	<b>87.9%</b>

### Euthanasia

Treatment costs	175	2.3%
No Home found	5	0.1%
No Viable Option Away from Racecourse	144	1.9%
Designated Unsuitable for Homing	190	2.5%
Sudden Death	72	0.9%
Humane Grounds at Racecourse	242	3.1%
Terminal Illness / Natural Causes / Other	104	1.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>932</b>	<b>12.1%</b>



# RACING REVIEW

By Jonathon Hobbs

**Greyhound racing has enjoyed a rollercoaster history and 2018 was a good example of the sport mirroring the highs and lows of a fairground attraction - and some!**

From the delight of Dorotas Wildcat's brilliant English Derby success at Towcester to the devastation of the same track's sudden closure just a few weeks later, greyhound racing went through the mill. Trainers were left high and dry and the sport's calendar was hastily rearranged to keep the show on the road. Tough times.

However, as has been the case through the last 90 years-plus, the breed itself shone through. The love and care bestowed on the greyhounds themselves by owners, trainers and kennelhands was evident throughout the ebb and flow of the sport's fortunes - and there was no better example than the experience of Kevin Hutton's kennel through 2018.

In the midst of the 2018 Star Sports Greyhound Derby, the Hutton kennel in Burford, Oxfordshire, was broken into and five greyhounds stolen. They did not include ultimate champion Dorotas Wildcat, but from that moment on preparations for the £175,000 Classic had to be done knowing five of his kennelmates were missing. Worrying times.

All were recovered but the whole spectrum of emotions felt by Hutton and his assistant and partner Donna Witchells was there for all to see - and Dorotas Wildcat was a hugely popular winner in such circumstances. He thoroughly deserved it, too, given he saved his best exit for when it mattered most to lead home Droopys Verve (Angela Harrison) in 28.85sec for the 500m trip.

Connections of all the finalists had enjoyed a magnificent week, however. Mark Wallis had two finalists in the shape of Bruisers Bullet and Bombers Bullet, Ireland was represented by Peter Cronin's Whoops Jack, while the legendary Charlie Lister fielded his last Derby finalist before retirement courtesy of Dorotas Vic, a brother of the Derby champion.

Appropriately, the traditional Derby lunch was held at White City House, a members' club owned by the Soho House group, on the site of not just the old BBC Television Centre but, of course, the White City Stadium, home of the Greyhound Derby from 1927 to 1984. Greyhound racing had come home - but it

would be soon hit by a thunderbolt. Another one.

On August 15, Towcester's trainers - which included Derby-winning handler Hutton as well as multiple champion trainer Wallis - were informed the track, a dual purpose venue, was in administration and was closed with immediate effect. Its creditors were contacted, over 130 staff were made redundant, and its horse racing fixtures moved elsewhere.

Trainers and their greyhounds were now forced to move, with Hutton heading to Monmore, and Wallis, along with several of his colleagues, switching to Henlow. Kennel strengths which had been under pressure due to an increase in fixtures brought about by a media rights standoff between Arc and SIS now had the numbers to boost their own greyhound numbers. The irony.

Events due to be staged at Towcester were switched by the GBGB's Open Race Planning Committee - and thoughts soon turned to a suitable venue for the 2019 Greyhound Derby. Nottingham would later commendably fill that void - and a fifth venue to stage the world's greatest race was confirmed towards the end of the year after a meeting of the Derby panel.

Nottingham also effectively decided the Greyhound of the Year outcome between Dorotas Wildcat and Droopys Verve, with the latter winning the All England Cup at home track Newcastle but then once again finding the Derby champion too good in the MSCM Limited Eclipse at Colwick Park in late November - the older Dorotas Wildcat making all to win by a length in a superb contest.

King Turbo was also a huge player in the Greyhound of the Year reckoning and deservedly walked off with the British Bred Greyhound of the Year as Liz McNair's dog landed four Category One events in the calendar year with victories in Gold Cups at Towcester and Monmore, the Kent Derby at Central Park and Hove's Olympic. Disqualification as a pup at Swindon precluded a Derby entry, although this condition was removed in 2019.

The RPGTV Scottish Derby had kicked off the Classic year and The Other Reg landed Pat Rosney a second victory in the event following Swift Hoffman's 2015 success. He posted the fastest time in the competition in recording 28.87sec (-20) for the competition which had been beset by bad weather until

conditions improved for final night at Shawfield.

Shotgun Bullet, trained by Hove's Derek Knight, had been an early contender for Greyhound of the Year recognition after storming to victory in the first two stayers' events of 2018 - the Coral Coronation Cup at Romford and Ladbrokes Golden Jacket at Crayford - while Romford staged the '2017' Essex Vase in March given its temporary closure for redevelopment.

Kevin Boon's Murrys Act, fourth in the previous year's Derby, struck gold then and another Kevin - Hutton - sent out Forest Chunk to win the Coral Golden Sprint as the Essex venue staged these two major events concurrently. A tale of two Kevins, two outstanding racers and one track undergoing huge investment much to the delight of the local community - and the sport itself.

Matt Dartnall's Rising Brandy impressed all and sundry during the Derby at Towcester as the young star reached the semi-finals - almost matching the feat of another precocious sort in Droopys Verve - and the pair had earlier featured in a red-hot Ladbrokes Puppy Derby at Monmore. Rising Brandy memorably came out on top then.

Other four-bend stars included Seamus Cahill's Sporting Dave (Sussex Cup), Hayley Keightley's Roxholme Nidge (Steel City Cup), the Harry Williams-trained Allowdale Bruno (Sunderland Classic) and Heather Dimmock's Donation (Lowther Stakes) - the latter sealing the Bitch of the Year title ahead of the Oaks heroine Ravenswood Flo.

Swindon had staged the bitches' Classic after leading owner John Turner of the successful 'Jaytee' prefix generously stepped into sponsor the event, which had been homeless following the closure of Towcester. Victory for Ravenswood Flo had, of course, sealed a memorable and historic Derby/Oaks double for Kevin Hutton, a former Swindon handler himself. Happy times.

Top sprinter was Calzaghe Flash after the young star blitzed his rivals to win the season-ending National Sprint at Nottingham to seal the Sprinter of the Year title, while the BresMed Northern Sprint at Sheffield and BAPP Group of Companies Scurry Cup at Belle Vue went to Mark Wallis's Cotton Pants and David Mullins' Troy Bella respectively. Honorable mention here to the exceptional Kilmore Lemon given Patrick Janssens' supremely fast tracker annexed the Crayford Guys & Dolls among 16

open-race wins in 2018 - he also reached the Yarmouth Derby final after breaking the sprint track record there.

Ironically, winner of the RPGTV East Anglian Derby was another sprinter-turned-four-bend star in John Lambe's awesome Affane Party, who had won the Star Sports Sprint on Derby Final night, while Yvonne Gaskin's prolific-scoring Chopchop Hope was another who successfully mixed two and four bends, mainly at Romford. Her 2018 tally of 20 open-race wins topped that particular table.

Among the champion puppies - or newcomers - of the year were Nigel Saunders' Blue Trooper (Nottingham Puppy Classic) and Kevin Hutton's Argentina, who won the Puppy Derby at Henlow after the Bedfordshire track took on the competition post-Towcester, while Grays Cup Winner struck on home soil for Philip Simmonds in the Romford Puppy Cup. He was paraded by Nathan Hunt who would be later named Kennelhand of the Year.

The Hazel Kemp-trained Slippy Maggie edged out TV Trophy champion Savana Winner (Diane Henry) in the Marathon Performer of the Year category as the trainer readied herself to hand over the licence to daughter Michelle Brown, while Bombers Bullet (Mark Wallis) was Stayer of the Year after his mid-season double strike in the Sunderland Grand Prix and Champion Stakes. He had earlier made the Derby final too, of course. He edged out Perry Barr St Leger champion Calico Ranger (Carol Weatherall).

The Ricky Holloway-trained Lenson Wilson was the year's leading hurdler, his wins in the Springbok and Champion Hurdle enough to see off the challenge of Mark Wallis's Grand National champion Parkers Dynamite - the latter denying Razldazl Raidio a second victory in the event in his third Grand National decider.

Finally, for a seventh year in a row - and an incredible tenth in total - Mark Wallis was Trainer of the Year for 2018 after the Imperial Kennels boss amassed 182 open-race wins during the year for a points tally of 983, finishing ahead of Kevin Hutton (779), with the top six completed by Liz McNair (631), Patrick Janssens (583), Angela Harrison (490) and Philip Simmonds (481).





# UKAS REPORT



of tracks must meet all aspects of international standard ISO17065. GBGB work to continue to ensure this is the case, and to build on and refine our processes further to ensure they are as efficient and effective as possible for GBGB staff and for licensed tracks.

In August 2018, UKAS carried out a further surveillance audit

Following a successful full reaccreditation audit in 2017, in early 2018 UKAS confirmed the maintenance of GBGB's accreditation for the inspection and licensing of tracks against relevant trackside GBGB Rules of Racing. GBGB continues to be the only sports Governing Body accredited by UKAS. The GBGB processes involved in the licensing or 'certification'

as per the standard four year inspection cycle, again confirming that GBGB continued to meet the required standard. UKAS highlighted the considerable experience and knowledge of staff as well as commenting positively on the thorough systems in place for a number of areas of the scheme. During the audit, GBGB detailed the introduction of the Greyhound Commitment where our pledge to continue to inspect stadia to UKAS accredited standards, as well as progress towards accreditation for the licensing of trainers' kennels, feature as a key part of our commitment to monitor the welfare of racing greyhounds both on and off the track.

## Impartiality Committee

A crucial aspect of GBGB's UKAS accreditation is the requirement for an independent mechanism or committee to provide oversight and assurance of the impartiality of GBGB's accredited activities. The Impartiality Committee is comprised of a maximum of five individuals with relevant

expertise but with no current direct connections with tracks or licensed personnel. The committee, which meets quarterly, receive updates from staff on track licensing activities and any other relevant aspects of GBGB's work which might impact its impartiality, noting actions taken by GBGB to mitigate against any risks highlighted. The Committee also engages with a variety of stakeholders to inform on its role and answer any queries on GBGB's UKAS-accredited regulatory processes, as well as seeking ongoing feedback.

In 2018, committee members Peter Cadman and Dr Ed Houghton stepped down both having provided several years of valuable input. Current members Jenny Williams (Chair) and Dr Andrew Higgins welcomed new members Michael Elks (ex solicitor and GBGB Independent Disciplinary Committee member), Bill Lambert (Health and Breeder Services Manager at fellow UKAS accredited organisation, the Kennel Club) and Peter Laurie (Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Operations, Battersea). Whilst it was necessary for Bill to step down from

the committee in late 2018 due to conflicting work pressures, the committee are grateful that he continues to make his accreditation experience available to GBGB.

**“GBGB continues to be the only sports Governing Body accredited by UKAS.”**



# PROFIT & LOSS ACCOUNT

For the year ended 31 December 2018

	2018 £	2017 £
Turnover	5,241,548	4,426,636
Administrative expenses	(4,783,633)	(4,423,723)
Operating Profit	457,915	2,913
Interest receivable and similar income	1,191	305
Profit before tax	459,106	3,218

# Company Information

The Greyhound Board of Great Britain limited (By Guarantee)

**DIRECTORS**  
The Directors who served during the year were:  
R Corden  
W Glass  
P Cadman (appointed 1 August 2018)  
J McKenna (appointed 18 October 2018)  
Dr S Gower  
J Coleman (appointed 24 July 2018)  
R Griffiths QC (resigned 29 June 2018)  
Dr P Webbon  
J Cooper (appointed 2 July 2018)  
P Harnden  
M Bird  
P Ephremsen (resigned 25 January 2018)  
S Franklin (appointed 25 January 2018)  
J Gilburn (appointed 25 January 2018, resigned 10 October 2018)

**COMPANY SECRETARY**  
A Yilmaz

**REGISTERED NUMBER**  
06740544

**REGISTERED OFFICE**  
Greyhound Board of Great Britain  
Genesis House,  
17 Godliman Street,  
London , EC4V 5BD

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR**  
Barnes Roffe LLP  
Chartered Accountants  
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London, E11 1GA

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Steve Nash  
www.steve-nash.co.uk

**DESIGN & PRINT**  
J E Burns Graphics Ltd  
Derby, DE22 1GF

# BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 December 2018

	2018 £	2018 £	2017 £	2017 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>				
Intangible assets		54,160		-
Tangible assets		73,858		134,792
		128,018		134,792
<b>Current assets</b>				
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	7 71,485		846,743	
Cash at bank and in hand	1,333,693		1,141,143	
	2,105,178		1,987,886	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(1,740,783)		(2,057,068)	
<b>Net current assets (liabilities)</b>		364,395		(69,182)
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		492,413		65,610
<b>Net assets</b>		492,413		65,610
<b>Capital and reserves</b>				
Profit and loss account		492,413		65,610
		492,413		65,610

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime, in accordance with the Provisions of FRS 102 Section 1A – small entities.

Approved by the Board for issue on 16 May 2019.





# **Greyhound Board** **of Great Britain**

**GREYHOUND BOARD OF GREAT BRITAIN**

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