

Pride of Qld racing



GRA Chair

Phil Bennett

I AM very proud to be a part of Queensland greyhound racing. The industry is going through a purple patch, on and off the track.

The feats of Bogie Leigh in Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide and Brisbane have been outstanding and demonstrate the high standards we have achieved in our breeding industry and the talent in our training ranks.

I congratulate and thank Les Bein and Tony Brett, not only for the feats of their wonderful dog, but for the way they have allowed all Queensland to experience the success.

The page one publicity she has been getting in the *Gatton Star* is the best kind of publicity the industry can achieve. The decision to keep her chasing further glory is welcomed.

Just when you thought it couldn't get any better, along comes Surf Lorian, breaking three track records and matching Flying Amy's 520m record at headquarters, which has stood since 1995.

This young dog has the potential to be a superstar.

I wish Tony Zammit and the Bellamy family all the best with Surf Lorian.

It was pleasing to see the standard of the races at Albion Park on the night of the final of the Clem Jones Cup. Not only did that race have a top grade field, but there were three other races on the program for dogs of grade three level or better.

It was not long ago that it was difficult to attract more than one high-grade race on Thursday nights.

It is clear the two class one meetings at Albion Park a week has resulted in dogs progressing quicker through the grades.

This has come at a cost.



It is apparent the Brisbane Club, which **has to a large extent, been heavily** subsidising the Monday class one meeting, will report a loss on operations this financial year.

I thank the club for continued support of this meeting which I believe has had, and

will continue to have, a great impact in raising the standard of racing in Queensland and ensure good dogs continue to race here.

To demonstrate the impact good racing has on turnover, UniTAB figures for March show turnover on greyhound racing in Queensland up 23.7% compared to March 2003, while the total increase in turnover on all greyhound racing for the same period was up 16%.

I can report the decision to de-licence owners and syndicates has seen a marked increase in the number of new participants seeking registration.

If this encourages new blood into the industry, it can only be good for the breeding industry and TAB turnover.

I am happy with the way the regional clubs are performing.

Townsville continues to distribute prizemoney from its allocation at levels that would shame some of the TAB clubs.

Bundaberg continues to trade its way out of financial difficulties.

I thank the committees and staff of all the clubs for their efforts. I think the above matters demonstrate some of the reasons for my feeling of pride.