



NSW News

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TWEED Heads has been the leading NSW country club for two decades, so when the new scheme of distribution was released by GRNSW in May, one club in particular was penalized heavily.

The border track offers the highest prizemoney based on maximum meetings per year, but is now being forced to reduce that level by the new structure due to be implemented on July 1.

The move by GRNSW is to level out prizemoney, similar to Victoria, by bringing all country tracks under the same structure awarding them \$3550 per meeting.

Racing dates vary from 18 to 50 weeks per year for the 28 country clubs, with every cent of the \$3550 to be distributed in prizemoney by the end of the 12 months or returned.

Prior to 2004, money allocated to clubs was to be broken up and utilized at their discretion without any detailed clauses from the GRA.

Clubs would use this money to pay prizemoney, administration, and maintenance.

In this new structure, it has been stated \$380 per meeting will be given to clubs for "A&M" help which now means clubs will have to rely heavily on gate takings, bar sales, bookmakers fees etc, to continue to trade in the black.

GRNSW will be closely monitoring the running of each club and those that fail to hold a minimum of 10 races, draw a minimum of 60 dogs per meeting, along with a number of other business requirements may have their license cancelled.

At Tweed there is no way the club will be able to continue its current level of prizemoney.

The club would now have to pay around \$200 a win for maidens and \$250 for graded races, maybe \$300 for top grade.

Currently they are paying total stakes of \$360 for maidens, \$800 for top grade and \$650 for low grades with heats and finals on a regular basis which would now have to be sponsored.

Tweed stands to lose more than \$130,000 if GRNSW goes ahead with this structure.

One positive for the club is that its Galaxy is protected as its falls into the "Special Category" for Group races.

Secretary Hugh Clarke, who only recently took on the job after Bruce Knight resigned, quickly organized an urgent meeting with GRNSW CEO, George Bawtree.



Tweed secretary Hugh Clark

"They (GRNSW) knew the situation and had done their figures before we arrived," said Clark.

"There were three or four other clubs who also had meetings with GRNSW, with the same concerns.

Prof Percy Allen said he had to take our concerns to the board and would not commit himself at the time," Clark said.

"We were reasonably pleased with the meeting and they appear likely to give us (Tweed Heads)

back funds that will keep us close to our current level.”

Wagga also had a special meeting at headquarters with little success and Wyong is expected to reduce prizemoney for the next term by \$90,000. It is the same for TAB clubs with the new scheme.

Dapto is expected to lose about \$40,000, while Lismore, a neighboring track to Tweed, is gaining nearly \$200,000.

Dapto secretary Wayne Billet said it is not the next term but the 12-24 months after that will have the biggest impact.

We now have The Gardens project in its 24th month, and only the restaurant has been constructed.

The NCA has met every request from GRNSW but they refuse to sign off and release funding, yet Maitland has received close to \$1 million to upgrade, while Dapto loses and Lismore gains.

At the time the new scheme of distribution was released Bawtree, in an interview on the Late Night Greyhound Show on 2KY, said his board was understanding of the Tweed issue and aware they would be affected more than anyone else and were prepared to readdress that area.

So the question presents itself.

If they (GRNSW) knew this new distribution would have such an affect on clubs like Tweed, why not find a balance structure for the 28 country clubs, assuring the successful and strong clubs would continue to operate at their current level and bring the low to middle clubs together?

Too simple?

Maybe the scheme will change and the implementation date will be later than July 1.

Tweed must continue its current growth.

It assures greyhound racing remains healthy in an area where participants in two states support the industry not their own backyard only.