

Townsville is on the right track



GRA boss Phil Bennett and club president Des Twible on Townsville Cup final night.

BY nature Des Twible is a pretty calm person. And for the past three years, it's that calming influence as president of the Townsville greyhound club that has seen the industry in the city "going fine".

"We have no bitching, no real complaints and there is a lot of interest in greyhound racing in the area," Des told The Journal.

Des was on the club committee for four months before he got the top job.

"There was a lot of animosity among the ranks when I first took over the job," he said. "Today there are a lot of people in the area with dogs." Des and his committee are happy with the fact 78 percent of their distribution is channeled into prizemoney.

"Not many clubs can say that," he said.

"We have regular meetings with the owners and trainers and take the time to tell them how the club is going. "It stops the bickering and we listen to their complaints. We get a great

attendance at any working bees we have."

Twible has been a greyhound man for many years, 40 years in fact.

He has five dogs in work at the moment and a few pups coming along.

His superstar was Whatta Jester (Leader's Jester-Tiara Sparkle) who won the Townsville Cup, Ayr Cup and just about every feature race Townsville ran in the one year.

"He won 25 races in one year," said Des. The dog stood at stud for Twible and was a success from the limited number of matings he had.

Des has been thinking for years about shifting to the Brisbane area to continue his love of greyhound training. His wife Heather has been south looking for properties recently.

"I had a break from dogs for a couple of years, but have been back in the industry for the past eight years," said Des.

The industry in Townsville is glad he did.