

Supertrack not in our plans now

I wish all in the Greyhound industry a happy and successful 2004.

2003 was a huge year for the Queensland greyhound industry with Queensland bred and trained greyhounds sweeping all before them. TAB turnover on greyhound racing is running at record levels and the lift in the other codes' performances has seen distribution under the Intercode Agreement exceed budgeted forecasts.

The issue of Albion Park has been brought into the limelight as the result of an article that appeared in The Courier-Mail on Saturday January 10, entitled "Racing's collision course".

It should be pointed out that the Board of the GRA has no information of a proposed Supertrack.

We have had no approach from any person regarding such a project.

The only mention of such a proposal was from a staff member of Queensland Racing who advised me they had engaged consultants and they have, as part of their investigation into a Greenfield site, prepared some preliminary plans that have included harness and greyhound facilities.

These have been prepared without any consultation with the two codes.

The QHRB and the GRA, as joint owners of the Albion



GRA Chair

Phil Bennett

Park Raceway, have no plans for the sale of the property. We have formed a steering committee with representatives of the two race clubs to examine the options regarding the future of Albion Park. This Committee has only recently been formed and it is anticipated a wide-ranging review of the facilities will be undertaken in the coming months to determine the future options for the Raceway.

It is premature to make the dire predictions, as set out in the article, that the Raceway has little life left in it, without this comprehensive review being undertaken and the options considered.

In the coming months a rich race series will be conducted for fifth grade greyhounds. Races will be held at Brisbane, Gold Coast, Ipswich and Townsville to determine the field.

The final will be at Albion Park.

Sponsorship is being pursued and at this stage, the

prizemoney levels have not been finalised.

It is proposed that there be domicile conditions applying so that dogs from Queensland and Far Northern NSW would be eligible for the South East Queensland races and that dogs domiciled north of Gympie be eligible to take part in the Townsville leg of the series.

The winner of the Townsville race will be brought to Brisbane for the final and the three placegetters from the south east Queensland heats will make up the field (the third placegetters from Gold C-oast and Ipswich being the reserves).

It is believed the restriction of the series to fifth grade dogs will allow for the maximum number of licensees to be involved in the series.