



**Newsletter of Greyhound Action No. 16 December 2007**

## Great year for Greyhound Action action!



Yarmouth Stadium demo - June

### More demos than ever before

2007, the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of Greyhound Action, has been our most active year so far, with more demonstrations and other events taking place against the greyhound racing industry than ever before.

Demos and leafletting sessions have been held outside 17 of the 30 major greyhound tracks in the country, often on a regular basis.

Many of these protests have attracted media attention, and there have been yet more national newspaper exposés of the slaughter and suffering of greyhounds, which has all helped to persuade an increasing number of people to boycott greyhound racing.



Totnes stall - May



Luton leafletting May



Swindon dog track demo - July



"In memory of all the greyhounds killed, maimed and who have died since racing began in 1926" York RSPCA - July



Sittingbourne dog track demo - September



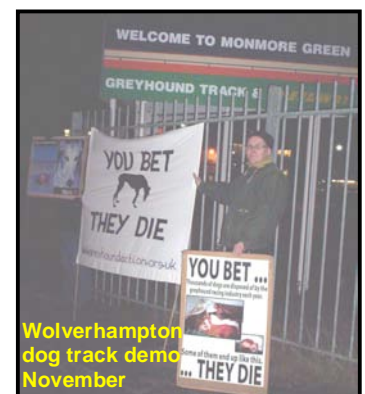
Montgomery town hall stall - September



Bath stall & street collection November



Reading Stadium demo - October



Wolverhampton dog track demo November

# Virtually victorious?

## Computerised racing on the up

The October 2007 issue of *International Gaming and Wagering Business* reported that virtual (computerised) races (both horse and greyhound) are now generating £700 million per year in revenue.

Bookies are very happy with this, because with virtual racing, they don't have to share money with the tracks nor worry about punters being able to gain an edge or that races might be cancelled due to bad weather etc.

This is great news for greyhounds, as the increased popularity of virtual racing means that bookmakers can be more easily persuaded to cease their involvement in live greyhound racing and switch totally to the virtual version instead.

With no more revenue coming from the major bookmakers, many dog tracks would be forced to close. This is the reason why Greyhound Action started our *Virtual Virtues* campaign in 2005, to persuade the major bookies (starting with William Hill) to go over to virtual racing - and this latest news means that we are much more likely to succeed.



Demo in May outside Sunderland Stadium, one of two dog tracks in the North East owned by William Hill



## Winning Words still winning

### Walthamstow Stadium nightclub forced to close

#### “Many tracks are struggling to stay in business”

Falling attendances at greyhound races have forced the famous Charlie Chan's nightclub at Walthamstow Stadium to close, sparking even more rumours that the stadium itself may soon be sold for house building.

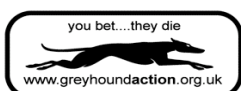
The nightclub, which first opened 23 years ago, was once a hugely popular venue, with many celebrations moving from the track bars to continue there. With its closure, there is now even less reason for members of the public to go to greyhound racing at Walthamstow.

More good news comes from the October editorial of the pro-racing *Greyhound Star*, which states:-  
“Anyone with a depth of greyhound knowledge.....will know that many tracks are struggling to stay in business. Extra financial burdens would see many close. Probably an even greater concern.....is the rapid breakdown of the industry's grass roots. Owners have left the industry in their droves and the majority of tracks in southern England are short of greyhounds. Top London tracks are being forced to increase the number of trainers. Within the last month, Portsmouth has had to resort to five-runner racing.”

Yet more success for our *Winning Words* campaign, launched earlier this year to educate racegoers about the slaughter and suffering caused by the greyhound racing industry.

Congratulations are in order for the small but intrepid groups of local greyhound action supporters who have been holding regular demos/leafletting sessions outside the major London tracks at Walthamstow and Wimbledon, and at Portsmouth, to persuade punters not to go to the dogs again.

You too can support the campaign by helping to distribute leaflets outside your nearest dog track or sending us a donation to help pay for the many thousands we are producing to fuel the campaign. Contact Greyhound Action for more information.



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