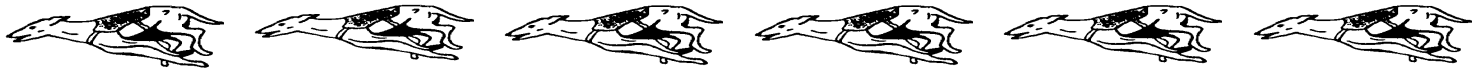


Running for their Lives!

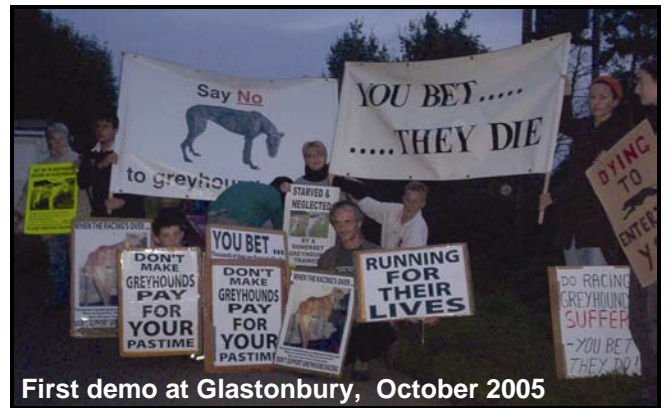


Newsletter of Greyhound Action No. 12 Summer 2006

Victory at Glastonbury! "No more greyhound racing at Abbey Moor Stadium"

Supporters of Avon & Somerset Greyhound Action (ASGA) who had gathered for a demonstration outside the Salisbury offices of Peter Toogood, owner of Glastonbury's Abbey Moor Stadium, on Monday, March 6th, were met by Mr Toogood, who told them "You've won. It's over. I'm giving up".

He then went into his offices and came out a few minutes later with the following written statement:-



First demo at Glastonbury, October 2005

This is to officially confirm that I have today telephoned the greyhound operators and advised them that due to more vandalism which is also putting the football club in jeopardy there will be no more greyhound racing at Abbey Moor Stadium Glastonbury.



Toogood was referring to a third attack on the stadium by the Animal Liberation Front, three days earlier, in which power cables for the floodlights were cut, red paint was thrown on the track, and messages were spray-painted around the stadium.

There is no doubt that the ALF actions contributed significantly to Toogood's decision to close the dog track

Memorial to Snowstorm erected by protesters



and we are quite sure such activists would be regarded as heroes by the spirits of Rusty, Snowstorm and the many thousands of other greyhounds that have suffered and died through the brutality of the dog racing industry. It was also obvious that Toogood was very perturbed at the prospect of a demonstration outside his offices and the fact that the ASGA campaign was now extending beyond protests outside the stadium and starting to target him on a personal level. He may also have heard that next in the pipeline was a march to his home address.

After Toogood brought greyhound racing back to Abbey Moor Stadium last October, there were many reports of injuries to dogs, culminating in the tragic death of Snowstorm during a race meeting on January 27th, and several incidents of illtreatment of greyhounds by trainers. The track also contributed to the overall demand of the dog racing industry for the mass breeding of greyhounds, with the majority being put to death when no longer required for racing.

Avon & Somerset Greyhound Action had run an intensive campaign against greyhound racing at Glastonbury, including frequent demonstrations outside the stadium, street stalls in the town centre and the production and distribution of leaflets, posters and protest postcards and car-stickers.

Greyhound killers forced to run the gauntlet

Angry demonstrations at racing board awards events

In London.....

On the evening of Sunday, January 22nd, representatives of the dog racing industry were forced to run the gauntlet of angry greyhound protection campaigners as they arrived at the Royal Lancaster Hotel in London's West End for an awards ceremony hosted by the British Greyhound Racing Board (BGRB). About fifty Greyhound Action supporters, protesting at the annual suffering and slaughter of many thousands of dogs caused by the greyhound racing industry, jostled and shouted at those attending the event as they entered the hotel and attempted to present our own



"Dog Killers of the Year" award to officials of the BGRB.

The protesters, holding banners and placards, used megaphones, whistles and airhorns to create a barrage of sound, as an expression of their disgust at the callous treatment of greyhounds by the racing industry.

Greyhound Action's UK coordinator, Tony Peters, later told the media:

"We weren't going to let the BGRB get away with their wining, dining and mutual back-slapping without vociferously bringing home to them exactly what we think about their disgusting so-called 'sport' that makes them all a nice living from the ruthless persecution of innocent creatures."



Many thanks to all our supporters who attended this protest and helped make it one of the most successful and uplifting demonstrations that Greyhound Action has ever held.

It was great to be able to take the war against greyhound persecution right into the enemy's heartland, so to speak, and to make the tuxedoed bigwigs of the dog racing industry suffer just a little in exchange for the massive suffering and death they impose upon greyhounds, as they line their pockets with the blood-stained profits of animal abuse.

.....and in the Irish Republic

On Sunday, May 7th, when more than 30 supporters of Greyhound Action Ireland made a noisy protest outside the Keadeen Hotel in Newbridge, Co. Kildare, where the Irish Greyhound Racing Board (Bord na gCon) were holding their awards ceremony.



The chants of the demonstrators and the noise from their sirens and megaphones could be heard from inside the hotel, despite the staff shutting all the doors, and the dicky-bowed representatives of the dog racing industry were visibly shaken as boards with pictures of greyhounds found mutilated were thrust in front of their faces.

The support from passers-by was excellent and the hotel got a large number of calls and e-mails saying they would be boycotted for staging the event.

Rusty remembered again

Weekend of events in memory of tortured greyhound

On Sunday, May 2nd 2004, a black male greyhound (later found to have been called Rusty) was discovered by a dog walker, who heard him whimpering in agony in a rubbish tip on Fochriw Mountain in the Rhymney Valley, South Wales, after he had been mutilated and left to die by local greyhound executioner Andrew Gough (eventually sentenced to six months imprisonment for this appalling crime).

The second anniversary of poor Rusty's torture, and subsequent death, was marked by yet another *Remembering Rusty Weekend*, with street stalls and demonstrations being held throughout Britain in his memory and that of all the other greyhounds who have suffered and died at the hands of the racing fraternity.

In a small but moving ceremony in South Wales, flowers were once again laid at the spot where Rusty was found.



Street stall and collection in Bath

Greyhound Awareness Week May 20th - 27th

Greyhound Awareness Week gives an opportunity for all those concerned about the plight of greyhounds to educate the public about the mass slaughter of dogs caused by the greyhound racing industry.

Street stalls, demos outside greyhound tracks, betting shop pickets and other activities took place throughout the country as part of this year's event, held, as always, during the last full week of May.

William Hill

Street stalls and pickets of William Hill betting offices as part of our ongoing campaign to persuade the UK's biggest bookmaker to cease their involvement in the greyhound racing industry and switch to virtual (computerised) racing instead.

Another Day of Action - Saturday, June 3rd



Bristol Vegan Fayre June 2006

Fayres, Fêtes and Festivals

GA stalls taking the message to the public

During this spring and summer, Greyhound Action supporters have been helping to educate people about the dark side of greyhound racing by holding stalls at various public events throughout the country.

If you hear of an event where you'd like to do a GA stall or if you'd be willing to set one up in your local town centre, please get in touch for advice, info and campaign materials.

Some of our supporters have been able to organise GA exhibitions in their local libraries. Contact us if you are interested in doing this.

The Seaham Slaughterer

Another mass-killing of greyhounds exposed

Most of you will be well-aware of the Sunday Times article of July 16th, which exposed the mass greyhound-killing activities of David Smith in the Co. Durham town of Seaham and revealed how he had slaughtered 10,000 dogs in 15 years, burying their bodies on his land, after shooting them with a captive-bolt pistol in his shed.

Inside information about Smith was given to us some while ago and we passed this on to investigators, who said they would do their best to get his activities exposed in the media. Whether or not this led to the article in the Sunday Times, we do not know, but we are nevertheless delighted that he has been exposed and for the crushing blow that this has dealt to the greyhound racing industry.

Although the story of Smith is an horrific one, it comes as no surprise and is an inevitable consequence of commercial greyhound racing, which treats dogs as mere commodities, to be disposed of as cheaply as possible when they can no longer be used for the purposes of money-making.

This was also not an isolated case, but the third of its kind that has come to light in recent years, and there are several others currently under investigation. In addition to Smith and the other back-yard butchers, it must also not be forgotten that many thousands of greyhounds, in the prime of their lives, are "put down" every year by vets attached to the dog racing industry.

The Smith exposé has created a tremendous upswell in support for the work of Greyhound Action and GA representatives made a large number of appearances in the media, in which they were able to encourage the public to put a permanent end to the slaughter by boycotting greyhound racing.

In memory of all the victims

Greyhound Remembrance Weekend - July 22nd & 23rd



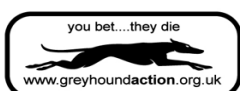
As always, remembrance events, both big and small, took place in various parts of Britain, with the most notable being a ceremony attended by members of the Scottish Parliament outside the greyhound track at Shawfield, Glasgow, a march to Yarmouth Stadium from a nearby park, demonstrations outside Brighton & Hove Stadium and Abbey Stadium, Swindon, and a "greyhound gathering" in a Bristol park opposite to where the city's dog track used to be.

EXPOSED



The greyhound racing industry's idea of a humane rehoming scheme . . . a bolt in the head and a quick burial

Coming just a week after the Seaham Slaughterer exposé, this annual event attracted more media attention than ever before and gave us yet another opportunity to take our message to the public. Greyhound racing in the UK began on July 24th, 1926 and, every year, on the nearest weekend to this date, we stage *Greyhound Remembrance Weekend* in memory of the hundreds of thousands of dogs that have been abused and killed by the greyhound racing industry since that day.



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