



John from *Coventry Against Greyhound Exploitation (CAGE)* spoke of how he had campaigned for decades against various forms of animal abuse, but only became aware of the terrible plight of greyhounds after plans were announced, a few years ago, for the construction of a dog track in the centre of Coventry. He helped form CAGE, who mounted a successful campaign to prevent this, mainly by exposing the criminal and unsavoury past of the man who wanted to build the track. CAGE was now campaigning for the closure of the greyhound track at Brandon, a few miles outside the city.

Next up was **Davie** from *Greyhound Action Scotland (GAS)*,

who spoke of the campaign to end greyhound racing north of the border, which had already attracted the support of several members of the Scottish Parliament. There were only a handful of tracks left in Scotland, with the GAS campaign focusing on the only major one of these, in Glasgow. To the east of Edinburgh, a new track, which had been given the initial go-ahead about 10 years ago, had still not been constructed, with building work being halted for long periods of time, obviously due to financial problems.

Danny from the *Sighthound Welfare Trust (SWT)* spoke about the work of the charity and how it played an active role in helping to find homes for sighthounds, raising awareness of welfare issues and providing funding for other sighthound rescue and welfare groups. The SWT wished "to see an end of the greyhound racing industry that involves so much abuse, neglect and exploitation".



Helen Etheridge, author of *Greyhound Survivors*, an excellent anthology of stories about rescued greyhounds, then said a few words about the book and how it was helping to spread awareness and raise funds for Greyhound Action at the same time.

The next speaker was **Anna** from *Greyhound Action Northern Ireland (GANI)*, who told the Gathering about the situation for greyhounds there and what was being done to try to protect them. There was now only one "official" track in Northern Ireland and a few flapping tracks. Since the Seaham Slaughterer exposé, racing people there had been less willing to have their dogs put to death and many more greyhounds were ending up in local authority dog pounds, which at least gave them some chance of being adopted. GANI had helped find homes for quite a few and had obtained good media coverage for their campaign.

The speeches were interspersed with the reading by **John Ratcliffe** of some very moving poems from his *Greyhound Muses* website.



Tony Peters then read out the letter that Greyhound Action had written to Lord David Lipsey, in which GA accused Lipsey of being "a monster" with the blood of thousands of executed greyhounds on his hands. We did tell him though, that it was not too late for him to be a saviour of greyhounds, rather than their slaughterer, and if he chose to join us, we would be quite happy to work alongside him to put an end to commercial greyhound racing (at the time of writing, over 3 months later, we have yet to receive a reply).

This was followed by the laying of wreaths and flowers, in memory of all the slaughtered greyhounds, against the fence of Lipsey's house, and the delivery of the letter to his door.

A big thank-you from Greyhound Action to all those who attended. Because of the success of the London Gathering, we are planning on holding similar events in other parts of the country, so if you missed-out on this one, you'll certainly get another chance in the not-too-distant future.

Marvellous March for the Greyhounds

Thank you to all our supporters who took part



The March for the Greyhounds, held in Central London on Saturday, November 18th, was far more successful and uplifting than we could ever have imagined. We were concerned that the March might not give a clear anti-racing message, but, in the end, our worries evaporated on what turned out to be a very positive day.

The various greyhound rescue groups and individuals who

planned the march are to be congratulated for the hard work and diligence they obviously put into making it such a well-organised event. However, it was the presence of a large number of Greyhound Action supporters, with their banners, leaflets and chants, that brought the occasion to life and made it abundantly clear that the March slogan *Stop the Slaughter* should mean nothing less than a public boycott of the dog racing industry and the total abolition of commercial greyhound racing.

Estimates of the number of people on the march have varied from 200 to 500, but whatever the true figure, the procession certainly looked impressive, with anti greyhound racing banners and placards held high in the autumn sun and chants of "Say no to greyhound racing" filling the air all the way from Whitehall Place to Hyde Park.



The positive nature of the event was continued at the Hyde Park rally, where some inspiring speeches were made.

First speaker was actress **Annette Crosbie**, who called on those involved in greyhound rescue to provide information about ill-treatment of dogs by the racing industry, which could be presented to the government in an effort to persuade them to take measures to prevent the killing and abandonment of ex-racing greyhounds.

Greyhound Action has been critical of Annette in the past, for not calling for the abolition of commercial greyhound racing and for the public to boycott it, but we agree wholeheartedly with her that more information from rescues needs to be forthcoming. We have little faith in the government where measures to protect greyhounds are concerned, but such info could form an important part of our campaign against individual greyhound tracks and in persuading the public not to attend or bet on dog racing.



It was wonderful to see several members of *Lévriers en Détresse* (Greyhounds in Need) who had travelled from France to take part in the march and to hear their speaker calling for greater greyhound protection.

Amanda Wells from *Greyhound Action Scotland* and her daughter **Finleigh** both gave speeches in which they called for the

greyhound racing industry to be abolished and those sentiments were echoed by **John Curtin** from *Coventry Against Greyhound Exploitation*, who spoke of his horror on learning of the slaughter and suffering caused by commercial dog racing, despite being a hardened animal protection campaigner of many years standing.

Finally, *Greyhound Action's* UK coordinator, **Tony Peters**, urged the crowd to take the campaign to their local areas as part of a national effort to persuade the public to boycott greyhound racing and he called on organisations such as the RSPCA, Dogs Trust and the League Against Cruel Sports to join with Greyhound Action in calling for a total end to the dog racing industry.

Such was the success of the March that many of those who took part, and many others who were unable to make it, have called for similar events to be staged in different parts of the country. We hope very much that this will be the case. Greyhound Action also has plans to hold more of our Save the Greyhounds Gatherings in various towns and cities next year. Possibly the two events could be combined, with a rally, with speeches, in a park, ending with a march to the local greyhound stadium, where flowers and wreaths would be laid in memory of all the dogs that have lost their lives because of the racing industry.



Vigil at the Sanctuary of Death

More mass slaughter of greyhounds exposed

Just two months after the Seaham Slaughterer exposé, the Sunday Times carried a story about the mass-slaughter of greyhounds at the so-called Leigh Animal Sanctuary, near Manchester, where trainers from at least three tracks were taking dogs to be put to death at £35 a time.

A week later, on Saturday, September 23rd, over 150 local animal protection campaigners and Greyhound Action supporters held a vigil outside the "sanctuary" in memory of all the dogs and other animals put to death there and to call for an end to the greyhound racing industry.

A great deal of publicity was obtained, including television coverage, which will have further discouraged the public from supporting greyhound racing.



Hull hell-hole closes

And other good news for greyhounds



In October William Hill's TV dog racing Channel 854 bit the dust and the company has ended its sponsorship of the Greyhound Derby.

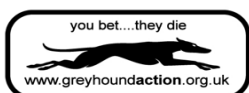
There had already been good news for greyhounds in August with the closure of the dog track at Hull, followed shortly after by an announcement from the British Greyhound Racing Board (BGRB) that attendances at greyhound races nationally had fallen by 4.4% in 2005, with indications "that 2006 has been even more of a struggle".

BGRB Chairman, Lord David Lipsey, has recently been removed from his post as Patron by Greyhounds in Need and his position as Honorary Friend by Greyhound Rescue West of England. In the USA, Cloverleaf Greyhound Park in Colorado has announced that it is permanently closing, making it the fifth US dog track to shut in less than two years.

GA gives evidence to APGAW

Measuring the Massacre of greyhounds

Greyhound Action has submitted evidence to the Associate Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare (APGAW) enquiry into welfare of racing greyhounds in England in which we expose the massive slaughter of dogs that the British greyhound racing industry is responsible for and call for a total end to commercial dog racing. Our report, entitled *Measuring the Massacre*, is available free on request.



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