

At The

Secretary's Desk



Capalaba

Recently there were some complaints that the Capalaba Club did not cater for maiden greyhounds. One licensee complained to “The Catching Pen”. After 5 years as President of this Club it comes as no surprise that those complaining rarely ever check the facts nor understand the boundaries we have to work within when administering a greyhound club. These are the facts:

- (1) There was a maiden race conducted that day - it was a maiden final worth \$1,000.
- (2) The club is restricted to 10 or 11 races per meeting due to the fact that we only have 92 kennels
- (3) The club had conducted 8 maidens in the previous 2 weeks in programs totalling 21 races.
- (4) The previous Saturday 5 maidens were conducted with all maidens drawn to start. Only 4 fifth grades were conducted and a number of fifth grade nominations rejected in favour of the maidens.
- (5) The previous day was Good Friday and with no racing at Albion Park there was in excess of another 100 dogs looking for a start. Commonsense will tell you we could not have conducted 15 races.
- (6) In 53 meetings conducted by the Capalaba Greyhound Club over the last twelve months there have been 113 maiden races, which equates to 2.13 per meeting.

The other fact in relation to this is that there were 86 vacant boxes in these 113 races, which is a fair indication that on most occasions all maidens are usually drawn to start. Only on those occasions when excessive nominations are received are there a large number of rejections.

Therefore it is only when nominations are excessive and kennel space is at a premium that there are large numbers of rejections. Then the races conducted are alternated according to committed races and what the Club views fair.

It goes without saying, of course, that the person complaining did nominate a maiden.

The problem is it has bad form, one start for an eight. Therefore, to ensure that this dog got a run we

would have had to abandon five fifth grades in preference of five maidens.

The reality is that whilst patrons will come to Capalaba to watch competitive racing, experience has told us that not many will be enticed to leave their lounge chairs by maidens that have run 8th at their only start. While we have all been frustrated by being unable to get a run with dogs out of form it would appear unreasonable to blame everyone else for your misfortune.

Unfortunately, unlike criticism, good business decisions cannot be made on the very insular view of “what about me”. We have a responsibility to make decisions, which benefit the whole of the industry and upon balance treat everyone fairly including the patrons, bookmakers, sponsors, owners and trainers. The decisions also have to be made within the limitations placed upon us whether they are financial or physical. This is what we have always done at Capalaba and will continue to do in the future. It is what has saved us from bankruptcy and has ensured the club has a future. It is the long-term view that we take in order to create balance.

While we welcome feedback and input at our club it would be nice if people would firstly check the facts before letting loose a barge of unjustified criticism. One thing I have learnt as President at Capalaba is that you cannot please all of the people all of the time.

The fifth grade time trial race programed for May 30 has been given the go ahead by the GRA. They have stipulated there will be three conditions;

- (1) all dogs go from the same box (which I assume will be the four or five box right behind the bunny).
- (2) the box draw determines the order in which dogs trial against the clock.
- (3) Dogs must specifically indicate they are nominating for the 5th Grade Time Trial when submitting their nominations.

There has been no further updates on the joint approach of the club and the GBOTA to have preferred box draws at Capalaba on a trial basis for three months.