



British Greyhound Racing Fund



May 2016

ABB and BGRF agree a default percentage to make it easier to pay the voluntary greyhound levy

Dear Member

You will have recently received a levy contribution request from the British Greyhound Racing Fund (BGRF). I am writing to add the BGRF's request by urging all ABB members who do not already contribute to the Fund to do so, and to notify you of an agreement between the BGRF and ABB to hopefully make it easier for you to contribute – through enabling operators who cannot calculate their greyhound turnover to simply pay a default percentage of 13.1% of horserace levy payment, instead.

Greyhound racing remains a popular product in betting shops, and I am sure you are fully aware of its important place in your business. The voluntary greyhound levy is collected by the BGRF to pay for services vital for the ongoing health and viability of the greyhound racing industry, including welfare. You can read more about the work of the Fund in their annual report available on their website (<http://www.bgrf.org.uk/>), where a full list of contributors to the Fund is also published.

The ABB stands fully behind the voluntary levy and is proud of the strength of commitment shown by the retail betting sector, with over 90 per cent of betting shops contributing to the Fund. The levy is an essential means for the transfer of the benefit betting shops receive from greyhound racing back into the sport.

The current levy is set at 0.6% of greyhound betting turnover. In recognition that it may not always be possible for operators to calculate this figure, particularly smaller operators, the ABB Council has agreed a default percentage for payment of the levy and this has been accepted by the BGRF.

Because all operators already pay an independently audited amount of horse race levy, with an audit certificate, we have agreed that smaller operators be able to pay a default percentage of horserace levy as greyhound levy. The ABB has calculated the percentage which best reflects what most operators pay in greyhound levy, based on independent analysis of the data provided to us by members in the annual economic survey.

The default percentage which we are recommending you pay in greyhound levy is 13.1% of your calculated Horserace Levy before the application of rebates. For example, if you paid £1,000 in horserace levy you would then pay £131 in greyhound levy. We also hope this will enable more operators to provide the BGRF with an audit certificate, at no extra cost, particularly as audit certificates for the Horserace Levy should have only just recently been submitted.

What to do next if you have not yet paid

The BGRF collects contributions on a six-monthly basis, the latest period being to 31st March 2016.

Cheques should be made payable to the British Greyhound Racing Fund Limited and sent to BGRF, 6 New Bridge Street, London, EC4V 6AB.

Or you can pay via bank transfer:

British Greyhound Racing Fund Limited
National Westminster Bank plc
Sort code: 56-00-33
Account number: 53667735

You may be aware that there is political interest in this issue with most recently the House of Commons Environment Food and Rural Affairs Committee recommending that the government introduce a statutory levy of 1% of gross turnover on greyhound racing.

The ABB believes that the voluntary levy is the right mechanism for the transfer of returns from betting back into the sport, but recognises that it is important this is strengthened. Your contribution to the levy is an important part of this, and the ABB Chairman will continue to speak to members regarding contributions from their online businesses.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this in more detail, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,



Malcolm George
Chief Executive