

RP GREYHOUNDS

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SOS team boosted by support at meeting

By Jonathan Hobbs

RICKY HOLLOWAY, the Save Our Stow's campaign leader, yesterday expressed himself "delighted with the huge turnout and fully committed to returning greyhound racing to Walthamstow" after Monday night's public planning meeting behind the stadium.

It was standing room only at Rush Croft School as greyhound racing figures joined over 200 local residents to hear from local councillors how the planning process to redevelop the iconic stadium which has remained closed since August 2008 will be undertaken.

Former Stow-based trainers John Coleman, Mark Wallis and Graham Sharp were joined by fellow handlers Jim Daly, Phillip Simmonds and Maurice Newman, plus former champion trainer Linda Jones and the GBGB's newest stipendiary steward Lorraine Sams at the meeting hosted by the local Waltham Forest Council.

After councillors detailed exactly what the owners of the site London & Quadrant plan for the area, subject to planning approval, local residents and the greyhound racing fraternity were allowed to ask questions. Several residents voiced their concern at the prospect of a housing development on their doorstep, with the flood risk from the local River Ching particularly highlighted – being a number of greyhound owners, trainers and bookmakers joined issue.

Holloway said: "The council was left in no doubt that L&Q are not wanted on this site by both the community and the greyhound industry, an industry which it has tried to destroy with its claims that the track was not viable when they purchased it from the Chandler family."

Following the meeting Holloway



Above: The scene at Rush Croft School on Monday night when local residents listened to local councillors (right) on the plans for the iconic stadium at Walthamstow

also confirmed that the SOS campaign have requested an Audit Commission investigation into what it claims is a waste of tax payers' money over the tug-of-war for the site and is to seek another meeting with the chair of the Greater London Authority Jeanette Arnold OBE and the planning department at City Hall. "The battle goes on," added Holloway. "We have the support of local residents, which is abundantly clear after Monday. We have alternative plans for the area as detailed by Bob Morton, which includes provision for leisure facilities, social housing and

a greyhound track, which is iconic to the Walthamstow name and area. And hopefully when it comes to the next stage of the planning process, which we believe will be in March, the councillors at Waltham Forest who were elected to serve the residents heed their wishes for the Stow to return." Holloway, who thanked David Hood and the 'Big Dog Limo' for helping with publicity for the campaign as it was driven through the streets of Walthamstow on Monday afternoon, again called on the greyhound industry to support SOS's efforts. "We will never give up until

justice has been done and the residents get what the borough wants, which is greyhound racing returned. We have the support of local residents and MPs, indeed Stella Creasy and Iain Duncan Smith both had statements read out before Monday's meeting calling on the council to support plans to return greyhound racing to the area.

"It is nearly three and a half years since L&Q closed the track and not one brick on that track has been destroyed. We call upon all greyhound fans to lodge objections to the council."

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Doncaster move for the Houfton team

By John Forbes

JANE HOUFTON is joining the training strength at Doncaster.

She, her husband Dave, and Mick Livesey, manager of their Dunham Greyhound Centre, had been in discussion about the future since being fined and reprimanded by the GBGB last week.

They held discussions with the management at the Meadow Court Stadium prior to the inquiry and continued those talks at the beginning of this week.

They had their final runners at Nottingham on Saturday night and will start the process of trialling in their greyhounds at Doncaster before racing on Friday.

Livesey said: "We were on a period of 30 days' notice at Nottingham, but have decided to go immediately as we think it's best for all concerned. Some people might look upon the move as a step sideways or even a step

backwards, but we genuinely see it as a step forward.

"We are really excited about the prospect of racing there and, with the track only racing two nights a week, we will also have more opportunities to go out and about racing with our open-race dogs and fly the flag for Doncaster.

"We now just want to leave the past behind us. What has happened has happened and we feel that the best way to show people what we are all about is to get out there and win races and we'll be going all over the country.

"There is no animosity at all in parting company with Nottingham and we hope to be back there with our open-racers in the future."

Doncaster boss Yvonne Freeman said: "I'm absolutely delighted that Jane has decided to come to Doncaster. It is a good strong kennel and they could have gone to a number of tracks, so I look upon it as something of a coup for us."

Derby hero goes on trial

SHEFFIELD'S trials session today is akin to a Who's Who of the sport with four of Sunday's GBGB awards winners down for workouts including Greyhound of the Year Taylors Sky, writes Jonathan Kay.

Trainer Charlie Lister withdrew the Derby champion from his first intended workout of 2012 at Henlow last week due to heavy underfoot conditions, but is keen to get the March 2009 whelp back on track ahead of a possible racing return next month.

He goes over 280m, while Lister also gives a sprint trial to Bitch of the Year Silverview Perky with the Oaks heroine being targeted at next month's Racing Post Juvenile at Wimbledon, while other big

names from the kennel booked for workouts include Boher Paddy, Bucks Blade and Jordansolutions.

The Barrie Draper kennel picked up two awards on Sunday and both of those winners are due to trial today with Best Newcomer Eden Star going over 280m and top Marathon dog Capoley Ash over 500m.

Lisa Stephenson gives her National Hurdle winner Olivers Twist a 500m spin over jumps, while Chris Lund's highly-regarded Mr Chow goes over that distance on the flat.

The February 2010 pup, a son of Lund's top-class marathon bitch Flying Winner and Droopys Scolari, won heat and final of a minor Shelbourne stake in November.

Monk, Eoin 8-1 favourites

SPONSORS Boylesports make Solid Monk and Offshore Eoin 8-1 joint-favourites to win the Boylesports.com Derby at the National Meeting at Clonmel next week.

Fives Treasure is 6-1 favourite with the same firm to win the Greyhound & Pet World Oaks.

A massive crowd is expected at Clonmel for the three-day festival with coursing commencing at 11.30 on each of the three days from Monday through to finals' day on Wednesday.

The Derby

Boylesports: 8 Solid Monk, Offshore Eoin, 10 Go Home Hare, Ashmore Master, Belated Birthday, 12 Cuddly Man, Uptown Abu, Hopes And Dreams, Blue Sam, 14 bar.

The Oaks

Boylesports: 5 Fives Treasure, 9 Bar-rack Bimbo, Ravel Glory, 10 Alainn, Kingsmill Eve, 11 Holy Lady, 12 Gaisce Mor, Glenvale Katie, 14 bar.

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Head gets nod for Swindon spoils

OPEN CHECK

Jonathan Kay



HEAD ITON HAYESY overcame trouble to land his heat a week ago and the sole railer in tonight's Swindon January Monkey final over 509m (8.52, live on SIS) at the Wiltshire track can now capitalise on a

likely far better run.

Steve Race's dog was predictably slowest of the heat winners, but it is also worth considering that conditions appeared to be against railers such as him so significant improvement can be expected.

Fastest heat winner Glenside Pearl may find it tougher to assume command on this occasion and HEAD ITON HAYESY is fancied to turn close to the action before asserting on the long back-straight.

There are four other opens on the card including a couple of trial stakes for the forthcoming Arc over 480m with SEEK THE CASH (8.04) and KINGSMILL SUPER (8.19) the suggestions, while COOLAVANNY JANE (7.01) and HEAD ITON GRANTY (7.32) can take one-off contests over 509m and 685m respectively.

Open Check nap

Head Iton Hayesy
8.52 Swindon

Buddy faces Farloe in Premier League

MAGNA BUDDY (Team North East) and Farloe Ironman (Team Desperate) renew rivalry when the Betdaq Premier League resumes at Yarmouth on Saturday.

The second of four legs of the event, live and free-to-air on Premier Sports [channel 433], is supported by the first leg of the GOBATA Championship which will feature Charlie Lister OBE second out runners for the 'Golden Oldies', with John Coleman and Nick Savva as teammates.

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