



AMATWINA SPORT
greyhound racing

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Questions for Gambling Review Committee

- Greetings to all present - The Following inputs are made by Amatwina Sport which for all means and purposes is an entity which is the elected mouthpiece for the greyhound racing fraternity in South Africa (and all pertinent allied entities) and, which enjoys the backing of most formalised racing industries worldwide and the World Greyhound Racing Federation which oversees greyhound racing in approximately 23 developing and developed countries globally.
- Although we have made a written submission to the review committee in response to this committee's discriminatory findings in respect of their research into the possible legalisation of local greyhound racing as a legal sport-cum-industry in South Africa, we would like to pose some pertinent questions here today, answers to which we would like to place on record and then use as basis for further investigation:
 1. Considering that the foundation of arguments by and opinions of committee members in relation to greyhound racing and its possible legalisation were based to a large degree on animal welfare concerns

– as are extensive throughout the report – why was no written opinion whatsoever offered in relation to the animal welfare dimension of the presently legal local horse racing industry? **Await answer.**

Seemingly, this review process was meant to be a thorough investigation into all forms of local betting and gambling.

2. Was any research undertaken into the welfare of race horses and retired race horses in South Africa and, if so, what was discovered? If not, why was this case? **Await answer**
3. We have in our possession documentation that the NSPCA or representatives thereof are vehemently opposed to horse racing (show quote from **Celeste Houseman** as can be found in our written submission); why was this opposition not considered in your report under the relevant section which quite evidently gives the horse racing industry your blessing? **Await answer**
4. Do you agree with this opinion of the NSPCA and if not why not when in one instance – being ours – you accepted their opinions as being factual when making your final recommendations? **Await answer**
5. Plainly, in terms of democratic processes in a democratic dispensation does it not stand to reason that if animal welfare “concerns” were used to uphold the status quo in terms of greyhound racing, that such grave concerns should be also used to ban not only horseracing in this country but all other sports or pastimes involving animals? **Await answer**
6. Could this present situation of discrimination not be viewed as unconstitutional when considering the human rights which are enshrined in our constitution? **Answer**

7. In terms of animal welfare concerns, and going by your report, are there separate criteria when judging us as a fraternity verse judging the horse racing industry? **Answer** .Seemingly, there are anti-competitive undertones at play in this debate.
8. Considering that their findings are central to many of your eventual opinions and recommendations, it would be appreciated if a representative of the NSPCA – that are perhaps present today – would firstly offer their opinions on whether horse racing should remain legal in our country, whether it contains any cruelty and “exploitation” and whether they are au fait with the statistics involving horses making the grade so to speak and, the chances of abuse in relation to retired race horses. A brief general opinion of the industry would be appreciated? After all, horse racing is also part of this review and, opinions need to be placed on record in terms of ascertaining objectivity in this review. **Answer**
9. Considering that at a greyhound racing public hearing in Bloemfontein a representative of the Kennel union of South Africa or KUSA painted a dire picture in relation to the over breeding of show dogs in South Africa (this is on record) and that the RSPCA in Britain (a source of much of the local opposition to greyhound racing) deems show breeding as “extremely cruel” and often only for financial gain to breeders, will the local SPCA distance itself from local show breeding and allied organisations? Considering the above, does the NSPCA think that local show breeding should be allowed to continue? **Answer**
10. Considering that the review committee seemingly went out of its way to rubbish our job creation estimates by deeply investigating foreign scenarios,

why did it not do the same to corroborate estimates made by the local horse racing industry? **Await answer.** Seemingly, what that industry placed before the committee was instantly viewed as fact while evidently; you needed to prove us wrong so to speak throughout the greyhound racing section. Please read our written submission in order to learn something about job creation in both the local and foreign horse racing industries. What explanation do you offer in respect of such research methods?

Answer

11. Has your committee established the veracity of antagonist accusations in the local scenario?

Answer. In our opinion, the use of worst-case scenarios from foreign scenarios in former epochs when animal welfare meant little or nothing to judge our local fraternity is unscientific and should not be considered.

Peculiarly, while your committee questions whether there would be appetite for betting on local greyhound racing, this breed of dog plays an integral traditional and historical role in many indigenous sectors in our country, it is the 3rd most popular spectator sport in Britain, it is a labour intensive sport practised widely on earth etc and strangely, this being the factual case, even the most mundane horse racing events from around the globe attract betting support in South Africa! Why should the explosive and crowd-pulling betting product that is greyhound racing not be very well supported?

Having said all of the above, we can not accept the bias and evidently discriminatory report as was compiled by your committee and we hereby request that you make our response to your report widely available to the

press and the public in order for them to better acquaint themselves with what we view as being the true bigger picture in this debate. If any party seeks such document which addresses many of the emotive opinions which may be offered here today, please feel free to ask me for a copy – I however only have a limited number with me but we can disseminate it electronically.

We thank you for the opportunity to be heard.

For Amatiwina Sport on behalf of the local greyhound racing fraternity.