

QUEEN VICTORIA MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

CHS 86

LAUNCESTON GREYHOUND RACING CLUB INC COLLECTION

Greyhound Racing, Launceston

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INTRODUCTION

Greyhound racing at White City, 124-126 Invermay Road, Launceston, was pioneered by J G (Jack) Nelson and M A (Arthur) Morgan, both great coursing enthusiasts.

In 1932 Mr Nelson, who owned and lived at “Malunna”, which became the site of the White City complex, laid down a straight track at his own expense. Due to the efforts of Mr Nelson and Mr Morgan, the White City Speed Coursing Track Pty Ltd was formed. Other men associated with its inception were A A E Nelson, O J (Ollie) Illingworth, J C Stuart, J Robinson and H W Heathcote.

The first meeting, a seven-event program, was held on the night of 8 February 1933. In 1934 an amendment to the 1932 Bookmakers Act allowed bookmakers to operate at coursing meetings and in 1935 the Totaliser Act was amended, permitting the use of a totaliser at speed coursing meetings. However the company was not financially successful and at a public meeting on 26 September 1935 the Launceston Greyhound Racing Club was formed. The club leased the track from Mr Nelson and in April 1936 agreed to pay him £200 to construct a circular track, an improvement which proved popular with patrons.

The Launceston Cup, the club’s feature event, was first run in 1936. The club made a profit for some years, enabling the White City complex to be developed. During the Second World War money was donated to the war effort. The 1941-42 season saw the club’s first deficit, mainly due to the Commonwealth Government War Precautions Act which prohibited night racing. The club held day meets and despite having to compete with racing and trotting meetings, managed to make a small profit the following year. After the traditional night meetings resumed in December 1945, the club made a substantial profit for some years and stakes were increased.

During the 1947-48 season the club purchased White City. In the 1948-49 season a photo finish camera was installed. Improvements in the 1950s included a new kennel complex and the size of the track was increased from 430 to 548 yards. At the club’s annual meeting on 15 August 1955 it was reported that the installation of the electric hare was a milestone for the club. In 1960 a new cafeteria was constructed.

Improvements in the 1970s included re-roofing a portion of the betting area, better lighting, the running rail was replaced, the car park concreted and the Bramich lure installed. TAB betting was introduced in the 1973-74 season, but the following six years were financially difficult, although at the same time stakes more than doubled.

In the early 1980s the grandstand was upgraded, a new amenities stand completed, track lighting replaced and electric timing and computerised totalisator betting on course introduced. The club was incorporated on 21 August 1986. Monday 7 August 1989 saw the club linked to Sky Channel.

The last race meeting at White City was held on Monday 13 December 2004 prior to greyhound racing being relocated to the Mowbray Racing Centre. Over 1000 people attended the meeting. The three racing codes, gallops, harness and greyhound, were brought together at the one venue and the White City complex was subsequently sold.

The collection was donated to the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery in February 2005.

1. Legal Records

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| 1/1 | Abstract of the Title to the property which became the White City complex : abstracts 1921, 1925, 1930, six supplemental abstracts 1938, supplemental abstract 1948, supplemental abstract 1950, abstract 1965, two supplemental abstracts 1965, two supplemental abstracts 1966, supplemental abstract 1979 | 1921-1979 |
| 1/2 | Miscellaneous mortgages, indentures, agreements, leases, licences, conveyances, certificates, etc. | 1926-1989 |

2. Minutes of Meetings

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|------|--|-----------|
| 2/1 | White City Speed Coursing Track Pty Ltd, minutes of meetings, 19 January 1933-14 February 1934; Launceston Greyhound Racing Club, minutes of meetings, 26 September 1935-21 July 1936, minutes of annual general meetings, 1936-1980 | 1933-1980 |
| 2/2 | Launceston Greyhound Racing Club, minutes of Committee meetings, 31 August 1936-9 August 1939 | 1936-1939 |
| 2/3 | Minutes of Committee meetings, 14 April 1948-12 July 1956 | 1948-1956 |
| 2/4 | Minutes of Committee meetings, 9 August 1956-12 September 1975 | 1956-1975 |
| 2/5 | Minutes of Committee meetings, [R L Foley's] manuscript notebook, 5 March 1975-16 August 1980 | 1975-1980 |
| 2/6 | Minutes of Committee meetings, R L Foley's manuscript notebook, 13 September 1980-6 February 1984 | 1980-1984 |
| 2/7 | Minutes of Committee meetings, R L Foley's manuscript notebook, 12 March 1984-1 April 1985 | 1984-1985 |
| 2/8 | Minutes of Committee meetings, 21 July 1983-26 July 1989 | 1983-1989 |
| 2/9 | Minutes of Committee meetings, 1 September 1989-11 December 1990 | 1989-1990 |
| 2/10 | Minutes of Committee meetings, 8 February 1991-8 December 1992 | 1991-1992 |

2/11	Minutes of Committee meetings, 13 January 1993-14 December 1994	1993-1994
2/12	Minutes of Committee meetings, 11 January 1995-17 December 1996	1995-1996
2/13	Minutes of Committee meetings, 21 January 1997-15 December 1998	1997-1998
2/14	Minutes of Committee meetings, 19 January 1999-21 November 2000	1999-2000

3. Annual Reports

3/1	Launceston Greyhound Racing Club, annual reports and balance sheets	1935/36-1986/87
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4. Correspondence

4/1	Reports by veterinary surgeons	1973-1978
4/2	Launceston Greyhound Racing Club, correspondence	1974-1978
4/3	Correspondence	1982-1983
4/4	Correspondence	1984
4/5	Correspondence	1985
4/6	Correspondence	1986
4/7	Correspondence	1987
4/8	Correspondence (letter of 14 August 1988 from Bill Oliver has his history of the club attached)	1988
4/9	Correspondence	1989
4/10	Correspondence	1990
4/11	Correspondence	1991
4/12	Correspondence	1992
4/13	Applications for secretary/manager, arranged alphabetically	1985
4/14	Applications for secretary/manager, arranged alphabetically	1989

5. Financial Records

5/1	Launceston Greyhound Racing Club, accounts passed for payment, pasted in book	1956-1958
5/2	Approximate financial statements, pasted in book	1973-1975
5/3	The Racing Trust, payment of on-course totalisator profits paid to Launceston Greyhound Racing Club	1981-1985, 1991-1992
5/4	Tasmanian Racing and Gaming Commission, statement of bookmakers' commission paid to Launceston Greyhound Racing Club	1981-1985, 1991-1992
5/5	Launceston Greyhound Racing Club, wages sheets/book, also wages book for T Gleeson, 1978-1984	1983-1985
5/6	Wages sheets/book	1985-1986
5/7	Wages book, full time staff	1985-1988
5/8	Wages sheets/book	1986-1987
5/9	Wages sheets/book	1987-1988
5/10	Wages sheets/book	1988-1989
5/11	Wages sheets	1989-1990
5/12	Wages book for H Bennett	1989-1992
5/13	Wages book for H Fleming, R Stamford, J Triffitt	1989-1992
5/14	Wages book for D Whayman, I Thomas	1989-1992
5/15	Wages sheets/book	1990-1991
5/16	Wages sheets/ book	1990-1991, 1991-1992
5/17	Wages sheets	1992-1993
5/18	List of breeder bonuses	1984-1985
5/19	Stakes account, 2 August 1985-27 July 1992	1985-1992

6. Programs

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|-----|---|-----------|
| 6/1 | Speed Coursing Track Club, White City, program, 23 February 1935, 9 March 1935 | 1935 |
| 6/2 | Launceston Greyhound Racing Club, programs, 26/10/1935, 29/1/1936, 1/2/1936, 29/2/1936, 7/3/1936, 21/3/1936, 4/4/1936, 12/12/1936, 12/6/1937, 3/9/1938, 29/7/1939, 30/11/1940, 26/12/1940, 27/1/1941, 8/2/1941, 12/2/1941, 15/2/1941, 22/2/1941, 23/8/1941, 1/1/1942, 4/12/1943, 21/7/1945, 3, 10, 17/11/1945, almost a complete set from 26/12/1945 to 13/7/1946, 1/1/1947, 12/7/1947, almost a complete set from 25/11/1956 to 26/12/1961 | 1935-1961 |
| 6/3 | Programs, almost a complete set from 1/1/1962 to 27/12/1971 | 1962-1971 |
| 6/4 | Programs, almost a complete set from 3/1/1972 to 28/7/1979 | 1972-1979 |
| 6/5 | Programs, almost a complete set from 4/8/1979 to 26/7/1985 | 1979-1985 |

7. Form Guides

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|-----|--|-----------------|
| 7/1 | <i>The Greyhound Guide</i> , Launceston, 27/7, 3/8, 17/8/1974, 29/11/1984, an almost complete set from 3/5/1985 to 23/3/1989 | 1974, 1984-1989 |
| 7/2 | <i>The Gold Greyhound Form Guide: official program</i> , Essendon, Vic., 3/4/1989-8/1/1990 | 1989-1990 |
| 7/3 | <i>Launceston Greyhound Racing Club Inc Form Guide</i> , Launceston, [January] 1990-1/10/1990; <i>Greater Northern Form Guide</i> , Launceston, 8/10/1990-30/12/1991 | 1990-1991 |
| 7/4 | <i>Greater Northern Form Guide</i> , Launceston, 6/1/1992-5/4/1993 | 1992-1993 |
| 7/5 | <i>Statewide Form Guide</i> , Tasmania, 8/4/1993-19/5/1994 | 1993-1994 |
| 7/6 | <i>Statewide Form Guide</i> , Tasmania, 30/5/1994-8/12/1994; <i>Statewide Formguide</i> , Tasmania, 7/1/1999-17/5/1999 | 1994, 1999 |

8. Dog Description Cards

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| 8/1 | Dog Description Cards, for dogs with names beginning with C, E, F, J, K, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, Y, Z | 1971-1976 |
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9. Dog Performance Cards

9/1.1	Dog performance cards by dogs' name, A-B	1972-1983
9/1.2	Dog performance cards by dogs' name, C-D	1972-1983
9/1.3	Dog performance cards by dogs' name, E-I	1972-1983
9/1.4	Dog performance cards by dogs' name, J-M	1972-1983
9/1.5	Dog performance cards by dogs' name, N-R	1972-1983
9/1.6	Dog performance cards by dogs' name, S	1972-1983
9/1.7	Dog performance cards by dogs' name, T-Z	1972-1983

10. Miscellaneous Records

10/1	Launceston Greyhound Racing Club Visitors' Book	c1946-c1970
10/2	K Ringrose, plan of proposed alterations to toilets for Launceston Greyhound Racing Club	1976
10/3	K Ringrose, plan of proposed new liquor bar for Launceston Greyhound Racing Club	1976
10/4	K Ringrose, n plan of proposed vehicle shelter & equipment store for Launceston Greyhound Racing Club	1979
10/5	Philp Lighton Floyd & Beattie, new bars for the Greyhound Racing Club at White City, Launceston	1980
10/6	Philp, Lighton, Floyd & Beattie, extensions to grandstand and betting area White City Stadium, Launceston, for The Racing Trust	1979
10/7	Architect's Report, proposed alterations to Launceston Dog Racing Association's premises, George Town Road, Launceston, Tasmania	nd
10/8	National Coursing Club of Tasmania, notice of withdrawal/incapacitation of greyhounds at Launceston Greyhound Racing Club meetings, 6 carbon copy books	1976-1987
10/9	Launceston Greyhound Racing Club, membership lists, 1976/77, 1983/84	1976-1984

10/10	National Coursing Club of Tasmania, stewards' reports, 6 March 1976, 15 October 1977, 5 November 1977	1976-1977
10/11	Launceston Greyhound Racing Club, reports on greyhounds at meetings, handwritten reports in book	1979-1984
10/12	Six tapes of hearings	1979-1981
10/13	Stewards' report book	1980-1981
10/14	Stewards' report book	1984
10/15	National Coursing Club of Tasmania, greyhound nomination forms sent to Launceston Greyhound Racing Club	1982-1985
10/16	Launceston Greyhound Racing Club, greyhound nomination book	1984-1985
10/17	Arnott-Harper National Distance Championship Launceston 15 March 1985, information folder (includes history of the club)	1985
10/18	Greg Fahey, Preview of 1988 Launceston Cup, typed sheet	1988
10/19	Launceston Greyhound Racing Club, members' newsletter, March 1993, May 1994	1993-1994
10/20	Launceston Greyhound Racing Club, 1990 \$23,000 Launceston Cup, poster	1990
10/21	Launceston Greyhound Racing Club, 2002 Launceston Cup, poster	2002

11. Ephemera

11/1	Miscellaneous ephemera: stationary, sheets, forms, , passes, cards, stickers, menu and brochures	1985-1990,
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12. Photographs

12/1	Miscellaneous photographs <i>Oversized item</i>	1935-1999
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OTHER SOURCES

QVMAG, Community History, Documentation series, 2003.P.0102

John Stoward, *2001-2002 sporting almanac and book of Tassie facts*, Hobart, 2001, chapter on greyhound racing, pp.332-335

David Young, *Sporting island: a history of sport and recreation in Tasmania*, Hobart, 2005

Examiner 8/12/2004, pp.6-7, 14/12/2004, p.36