



ICC

IRISH COURSING CLUB

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Gerry Leckey
Assistant Principal
Wildlife Licensing Unit
National Parks and Wildlife Service
Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs
7 Ely Place
Dublin 2

December 15, 2016

RE: Requested view of ICC on matters relating to Loughrea & Ballinagar C.C.

Dear *Mr Leckey*,

I refer to your email of December 9th requesting my view on the following:

1. ICC view on incidents raised by Deputy Clare Daly as per transcript.
2. ICC view on video footage circulated by ICAB.
3. ICC view on comments noted in Conservation Reports concerning Ballinagar.

I will address each coursing meeting separately for ease of reply.

LOUGHREA:

A purported video of this meeting is posted by ICAB and widely circulated. The ICC cannot comment on an unverified video from an organisation campaigning to ban coursing. However, I will deal with the facts relating to this meeting.

A total of **73** hares were netted by the club for this two-day meeting. At the conclusion of the meeting a total of **72** hares were released under Wildlife personnel supervision. This means that following the completion of **121** courses over a two-day period, one hare was certified as having died from injuries by the vet attending the meeting. In a situation,

Response to email of December 9 2016

whereby a hare is pinned by one/two muzzled greyhound(s) then the ICC have specific procedures in place.

A Hare Steward(s) is appointed by the host club to promptly retrieve the hare. The hare is placed in a holding box prior to veterinary examination. The vet will examine the hare and provide advice/ treatment depending on health status. In any event, regardless of outcome of veterinary examination a hare that is pinned is not coursed again.

Deputy Daly infers a pinned hare is merely "thrown into a wooden box" and basically neglected. As I have outlined above, that is not the case when such incidents arise.

During the current season (up to December 8), a total of 1.61% of coursed hares were pinned. The number of hares injured is 0.25% of all coursed hares.

While a hare been pinned is a factor of coursing it is not pervasive as suggested and the ICC have measures in place to react to such circumstances.

BALLINAGAR:

A total of 57 hares were netted by the club for this two-day meeting. At the conclusion of the meeting a total of 57 hares were released under Wildlife personnel supervision. This means that following the completion of 68 courses over a two-day period all hares were released back to the countryside and no hare was certified injured by the vet attached to the meeting.

The wildlife ranger "observed one hare run off that appeared to have an injured leg". The vet attending the meeting confirmed no hares injured as per veterinary report.

The wildlife ranger makes comment of some hares "appeared unable to find the escape" and this "caused some hares to be chased for extended periods". The Control Steward attending the meeting confirms that 3 hares approximately provided the greyhounds an extended hunt but in all cases the hares did return to the hare escape area. This may happen on occasion but it would be very much the exception rather than the norm.

I trust the above clarifies matters from the ICC's perspective.

If you require further detail, please let me know.

Yours sincerely,



D.J. Histon
Chief Executive/ Secretary