



It is a three-way squabble over Magic Millions fate

QUEENSLAND Racing Limited (QRL) chairman Bob Bentley is adamant the gala Magic Millions sales and race day will stay at the Gold Coast next year despite a three-way stand-off between the state's governing body, the turf club and sales company.

The Gold Coast Turf Club (GCTC) has not been assigned a race date in QRL's draft list of race dates for the Magic Millions meeting next January, sparking fears Magic Millions could move to either Victoria or be switched to the Brisbane Racing Club at Eagle Farm.

Bentley and the GCTC board have been at loggerheads over a multi-million dollar redevelopment of the Gold Coast track while the club and Magic Millions have not yet agreed to a new deal to

continue to host one of the state's biggest race meetings at the venue.

The club has set Magic Millions a Friday deadline to agree to a new deal while it's believed Magic Millions bosses continue to meet with the Victorian government to stage the meeting at Flemington.

Bentley remains optimistic a resolution can be found quickly and is confident Magic Millions will be run at the Gold Coast in January.

"Magic Millions will be at the Gold Coast," Bentley told Radio TAB on Thursday.

He said the reason the club hadn't been allocated a race date for Magic Millions day was because no contract had been signed by Magic Millions and the club "At the moment

there is no contract between Magic Millions and the Gold Coast Turf Club," Bentley said.

"We have tried to discuss it with the Gold Coast club but their board has refused to meet with us but that's to do with another issue (track funding).

"We want to spend a significant amount of money to upgrade the Gold Coast track but they won't talk with us.

"Their board has got to be realistic and commercial but right now it's not happening that way. The chance of getting a major upgrade at the track has passed now."

QRL is demanding part-equity of the Gold Coast track if it installs a synthetic surface and tunnel but the club's board last month voted not to enter any agreement unless it was

the major equity holder.

"It's a big training area with 800 horses and the Gold Coast Turf Club board needs to sit down and talk with us," Bentley said.

GCTC chairman Andrew Eggleston said his club had laid out a five-year deal to Magic Millions which had catered for potential redevelopment.

"We have contacted them this week and we do want an answer before Friday - the ball is in their court," he told the Gold Coast Bulletin newspaper.

Meanwhile, Magic Millions boss David Chester is in no doubt Magic Millions will host its big race day next year on the Gold Coast.

Chester said the contract between Magic Millions and the club finished after 2011. - AAP