



Turf club revamp a long shot

DANIEL MEERS

meersd@goldcoast.com.au

twitter.com/danielmeers

THE Gold Coast Turf Club's chance for a multimillion-dollar upgrade has gone, says Queensland Racing boss Bob Bentley.

As the deadline for Magic Millions to give an answer to the turf club's proposed five-year race deal passed without answer, Mr Bentley declared the event would remain on the Gold Coast next year – but long term it remains doubtful.

Privately, board members last night conceded Victoria might prove a better option for the sales company.

QRL was fed up with the club's refusal to meet and discuss an upgrade of the club, which would controversially see QRL become the major equity holder.

"I think the chance of the Gold Coast Turf Club getting a major upgrade has passed now because of the fact of the mat-

ter we haven't been able to arrange a meeting," he said.

"That's not to say we won't go ahead and do part of it if we can get some sort of arrangement from the Gold Coast Turf Club."

Publicly, Mr Bentley yesterday maintained the event would be on the Coast next year but privately he has expressed doubts.

"All parties are frustrated by the lack of commerciality being displayed by your board and the longer the impasse continues the less likely the Magic Millions will be a fixture on the Gold Coast," he wrote to club chairman Andrew Eggleston.

The board is today expected to as much as double training fees for a horse, to \$100, to help cover costs at the ageing Bundall complex.

QRL has refused to step in and provide assistance.