

Disciplinary Committee Inquiries

The Disciplinary Committee of the GBGB were in attendance at a meeting held on Tuesday, 12 October 2010:-

Mr K Salmon (in the chair)

Mr R Coughlan

Dr A Higgins*

Mr A Hunt

(*denotes where a member did not sit due to possible conflict of interest)

1. *Brighton Stadium – ZAHEER – Professional Trainer Mr S Cahill

Professional Trainer Mr Seamus Cahill was found in breach of rule 174 (i)(b) in that a urine sample taken from the greyhound ZAHEER at Brighton Stadium on 22 April was analysed by HFL Sports Science Laboratory as containing the metabolites of stanozolol.

Mr Cahill was in attendance together with the racing manager of Brighton Stadium, Mr Peter Miller. Having considered Mr Cahill's explanation together with the circumstances of the case, the Disciplinary Committee ordered that Mr Cahill be cautioned and fined £400. In imposing this penalty, the Disciplinary Committee took into account the statement of the previous trainer, Mr Frank Harvey, in which he accepted responsibility for the administration of stanozolol.

2. Registered Greyhound Owner – Mr Charles Thomas Pickering

The Disciplinary Committee found registered greyhound owner Mr Charles Thomas Pickering in breach of rules 18(i), (ii) and (iii), 152 (i) and (ii), 174(vi) and 174(xiv) (a) and (b) in that;

- a) On divers dates between January 2007 and February 2010 Mr Pickering submitted GBGB retirement forms that stated different greyhounds had been retired into his care at the end of their GBGB racing careers, either for the purposes of schooling, breeding or to live with him as a pet. The information provided was incorrect or Mr Pickering refused, obstructed or hindered the investigation by not providing the information to a GBGB official,
- b) On divers dates between May 2008 and October 2009 Mr Pickering failed to report the retirement of greyhounds in his ownership and repeatedly failed to respond to official GBGB letters within the specified timeframe. By not providing this information Mr Pickering refused, obstructed or hindered the investigation.

The Disciplinary heard evidence from Investigating Officer, Mr Clive Carr, Manager of Welfare and Integrity Services, Mr Peter Laurie, Welfare Executive, Mr Richard Beenham and Area Stipendiary

Steward, Mr Jack Robinson. Mr Charles Thomas Pickering was not in attendance. The Disciplinary Committee heard evidence in relation to 41 cases where Mr Pickering failed to provide information in relation to the retirement of a greyhound within the stipulated period of 28 days; and failed to provide information as to the whereabouts of those greyhounds requested of him by the GBGB.

In reaching their decision the Disciplinary Committee had cognisance of the following;

- 1) The only issues considered by the Disciplinary Committee were those that appeared as item 6 on the agenda for the Disciplinary Hearing, articulated at (a) and (b) above.
- 2) The Disciplinary Committee had been assisted in their deliberations by the schedule produced at pages 13-15 of the documentary evidence.
- 3) The Disciplinary Committee had given careful consideration to the lengthy statement submitted by Mr Charles Thomas Pickering which had been read out. The Disciplinary Committee had carefully considered the oral responses given by those who were questioned regarding the matters raised by Mr Pickering in his statement.
- 4) For the purposes of the Disciplinary Hearing references in the documentary evidence to archival evidence produced by Mr Carr and referenced as exhibits CC/10 and CC/10A were disregarded by the Disciplinary Committee.
- 5) The Disciplinary Committee also disregarded the new evidence in respect of the greyhound "PICKERING MILL" which was introduced by Mr Carr during the hearing and which was not necessarily complete.

Having considered the written explanation of Mr Pickering and the circumstances of the case the Disciplinary Committee ordered that he be made a Warned Off person and fined the sum of £5,000.

ENDS