

### **Disciplinary Committee Inquiries**

The Disciplinary Committee of the GBGB were in attendance at a meeting held on 13 December 2011:

Mr J Akerman (in the chair)  
Mr V Coughlan (not present for item 1)  
Mr K Salmon  
Dr A J Higgins

(\*denotes where Dr Higgins was present in an advisory capacity as Chair of DMAP)

#### **1. Poole Stadium – CHALKYPAYSLATER – Greyhound Trainer Mr A Ross**

Greyhound Trainer Andrew Ross was found in breach of rules 174 (i)(b) and 217 in that a post-trial urine sample taken from the greyhound CHALKYPAYSLATER at Poole Stadium on 9 September 2011 was analysed by LGC Ltd. as containing the presence of hyoscine.

The greyhound CHALKYPAYSLATER finished last in the trial, beaten 7¼ lengths, after being quickly away and running a middle course.

Mr Ross was in attendance. Mr Ian Sillence, racing manager of Poole Stadium, apologised for his non-attendance.

The Committee noted the 'Statement of Opinion' from the Drug and Medication Advisory Panel, in which hyoscine was described as a hypnotic agent that depresses the central nervous system causing drowsiness. It is used in humans for motion sickness. It was noted that the analyte detected was analytically distinct from hyoscine butylbromide as is found in Buscopan and which is licensed for veterinary use.

The Disciplinary Committee received evidence from Mr Ross in which the only explanation he could offer for the positive sample was that it could be due to environmental contamination, as his kennels are sited on farm land where livestock are kept. However, no evidence was produced to support the credibility of this explanation.

It was noted that no greyhound in Mr Ross's kennels were on any kind of medication at the time of the positive sample. When notified of the positive sample Mr Ross had changed some greyhound feed items and had stopped giving bones and pigs' ears. He had also taken extra precautions after his greyhounds were exercised.

The Committee pointed out that the GBGB Rules of Racing impose strict liability on the trainer. Having considered the circumstances of the case and the presence of a banned substance in the dog's urine, the Committee ordered that Mr Ross be cautioned and fined the sum of £250.

In fixing the penalty the Committee took into account the following mitigating factors:

- i. that Mr Ross has accepted responsibility for the breaches and has taken precautions to prevent a recurrence;
- ii. he expressed genuine regret; and
- iii. he had taken precautions to prevent a recurrence

Mr Ross was also reminded of the need to complete his greyhound Treatment Book with a record of all medication administered to greyhounds in his care.

## **2. \*Hall Green Stadium – BALLYMAC THORN – Professional Trainer Mr CN KYME**

Professional Trainer Christopher Kyme was found in breach of rules 152 (i), 174 (i)(a) and 217 of the GBGB rules of racing in that a pre-race urine sample taken from the greyhound BALLYMAC THORN at Hall Green Stadium on 5 September 2011 was analysed by LGC Ltd. as containing the presence of morphine; and the administration of any substance that could affect the performance and/or well being of the greyhound.

The greyhound BALLYMAC THORN finished last in the race, beaten 8¼ lengths after being slowly away and crowded.

Mr Kyme was in attendance. Mr Robert Coulthard, racing manager of Hall Green Stadium, apologised for his non-attendance.

The Committee noted the 'Statement of Opinion' from the Drug and Medication Advisory Panel, in which morphine was noted as being a Class A drug having effects in pain control and central nervous system action. It does not have a marketing authorisation for use in dogs but can be prescribed by veterinary surgeons under the prescribing cascade.

The Committee also noted that LGC Ltd analysed a 'Point of Registration' sample that had been provided by BALLYMAC THORN on 27 July 2011. Morphine was not detected in that sample.

The Disciplinary Committee heard that Mr Kyme was at a loss to explain how the positive sample had arisen. The dog was not on medication at the time of the positive sample and Mr Kyme does not feed bread to greyhounds in his care.

During the course of the enquiry, and in answer to a question from the Committee, Mr Kyme mentioned a staffing matter that had not been referred to in his written statement. There had been no opportunity to investigate the significance, if any, of the issue, and accordingly no weight was attached to it by the Committee.

The Disciplinary Committee pointed out that the GBGB Rules of Racing impose strict liability on the Trainer. Having considered the circumstances of the case and the presence of a banned Class A drug in the dog's urine for which no explanation could be produced, the Committee ordered that Mr Kyme be severely reprimanded and fined the sum of £750.

In fixing the penalty the Committee took into account the following mitigating factors:

- i. that Mr Kyme has accepted responsibility for the breaches; and
- ii. that there have been no previous breaches recorded against him.

The Disciplinary Committee explained to Mr Kyme that under the new Penalty Guidelines the severe reprimand should be treated as being of equal importance to the fine, and that any further breaches may result in a more severe penalty, which could include the loss of his licence.

**3. \*Yarmouth Stadium – RINNEN SAMMY JO – Professional Trainer Mrs E Samuels**

Professional Trainer Erica Samuels was found in breach of rules 174 (i)(b) and 217 in that a post-trial urine sample taken from the greyhound RINNEN SAMMY JO at Yarmouth Stadium following a two dog trial on 8 September 2011 was analysed by LGC Ltd. as containing the presence of hyoscine.

Mrs Samuels attended accompanied by her husband. Mr William Johnson, racing manager of Yarmouth Stadium was also in attendance.

The Committee noted the 'Statement of Opinion' from the Drug and Medication Advisory Panel, in which hyoscine was described as a hypnotic agent that depresses the central nervous system causing drowsiness. It is used in humans for motion sickness. It was noted that the analyte detected was analytically distinct from hyoscine butylbromide as is found in Buscopan and which is licensed for veterinary use.

The Disciplinary Committee received evidence from Mrs Samuels in which she stated that she was at a loss to explain how the substance had got into the greyhound's system. The only explanation she could offer was for the positive sample was that it could be due to environmental contamination by the ingestion by the greyhound of some of the plants that grow in and around the kennel paddocks. Some photographic context was provided but no other evidence or analytical data were reproduced to support the credibility of this explanation. In any event the trainer would be culpable in not maintaining a secure training environment.

The Committee pointed out that the GBGB Rules of Racing impose strict liability on the trainer. Having considered the circumstances of the case and the presence of a banned substance in the dog's urine, the Committee ordered that Mrs Samuels be cautioned and fined the sum of £250.

In fixing the penalty the Committee took into account that Mrs Samuels has accepted responsibility for these breaches and had taken precautions to prevent a recurrence.

**4. \*Yarmouth Stadium – CONFIDENT RAMONA – Professional Trainer Mr M Wallis**

Professional Trainer Mark Wallis was found in breach of rules 174 (i) (b) and 217 of the GBGB rules of racing in that a urine sample taken from the greyhound CONFIDENT RAMONA following a solo trial at Yarmouth Stadium on 1 September 2011 was analysed by LGC Ltd. as containing the presence of nandrolone.

Mr Wallis was in attendance. Mr William Johnson, racing manager of Yarmouth Stadium was also in attendance.

Mr Wallis stated that neither he nor any member of his staff had administered nandrolone (an anabolic steroid). He stated that he had contacted the owners of the greyhound when he was notified of the positive sample. They in turn contacted the vendor Mr Jeremiah Kerins of County Kerry, who had stated that he had administered Laurabolin to CONFIDENT RAMONA on 1 August 2011. This was confirmed by Mr Kerins in a written statement.

The Committee noted that the 'point of registration' sample, taken from CONFIDENT RAMONA, one day after her arrival at Mr Wallis' kennels on 24 August 2011, had subsequently been tested by LGC Ltd and had identified the presence of nandrolone.

The Committee noted the 'Statement of Opinion' from the Drug and Medication Advisory Panel, in which it was indicated that Laurabolin is an injectable, long-acting steroid containing nandrolone.

The Committee pointed out that the GBGB Rules of Racing impose strict liability on the trainer. Having considered the circumstances of the case and the presence of a banned anabolic steroid in the dog's urine, the Committee accepted that Mr Wallis did not administer nandrolone to CONFIDENT RAMONA and ordered that no further action be taken.

In reaching their decision the Committee took into account the admission by Mr Jeremiah Kerins of Co. Kerry, that he had administered Laurabolin prior to the 'point of registration' sample.

#### **5. \*Harlow Stadium – VICENZA – Professional Trainer Mr D Lee**

Professional Trainer David Lee was found in breach of rules 174 (i)(b) and 217 of the GBGB rules of racing in that a pre-race urine sample taken from the greyhound VICENZA at Harlow Stadium on 10 September 2011 was analysed by LGC Ltd. as containing the presence of morphine.

The Greyhound VICENZA finished last in the race, beaten 13¼ lengths after being slowly away and badly baulked at the first bend.

Mr Lee was in attendance. Mr Mark Schellenberg, racing manager of Harlow Stadium, apologised for his non-attendance.

The Committee noted the 'Statement of Opinion' from the Drug and Medication Advisory Panel, in which morphine was noted as being a Class A drug having effects in pain control and central nervous system action. It does not have a marketing authorisation for use in dogs but can be prescribed by veterinary surgeons under the prescribing cascade.

The Committee noted that VICENZA had recently been treated for a sprained hock, but was not on medication at the time of the positive sample. Mr Lee stated that he had not fed mixed cereal or bread to greyhounds in his care in the last two years, having followed recommended industry guidelines not to do so.

The Committee was referred to Mr Lee's greyhound kennel routine, in particular the use of a proprietary working dog food product. It was noted that, in the past, the supplier has not discounted the possibility that the feed is a potential source of contamination for morphine.

The Disciplinary Committee pointed out that the GBGB Rules of Racing impose strict liability on the Trainer. Having considered the circumstances of the case and the presence of a banned Class A drug in the dog's urine for which there was no definitive explanation, the Committee ordered that Mr Lee be reprimanded and fined the sum of £375.

In fixing the penalty the Committee took into account the following mitigating factors:

- i. that Mr Lee has accepted responsibility for these breaches and has heeded previous industry guidance not to feed mixed cereal or bread to the greyhounds in his care; and
- ii. the possibility that greyhound feed was the source of contamination, in which circumstances Mr Lee would not have had information from the supplier to warn him of the risk.