

Disciplinary Committee Inquiries

The Disciplinary Committee of the GBGB were in attendance at a meeting held on 15 November 2011:

Mr R Woodworth (in the chair)

Dr E Houghton

Mr A Hunt

Dr A J Higgins

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

1. CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS

(a) Former Registered Owners Mr MP Carr & Ms D Campbell

Former Registered Owners Martin Paul Carr and Dawn Campbell appeared before Grantham Magistrates Court on 24 August 2011. Having been convicted of offences under Section 4 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006, Mr Carr was sentenced as follows:

- 90 day prison sentence suspended for 12 months
- Supervision Order
- 100 hours unpaid work
- Banned from keeping animals indefinitely
- £170.00 Costs

Miss Campbell was sentenced as follows:

- Supervision Order
- Banned from keeping animals indefinitely

The Disciplinary Committee, having heard the evidence, ordered that both Mr Carr and Ms Campbell be made 'warned off' persons.

(b) Former Paddock Steward Mr CD Watson

Former Paddock Steward Christopher David Watson appeared before Peterborough Magistrates Court on 26 September 2011 and having pleaded guilty to handling stolen goods at a previous hearing, he was sentenced as follows:

- Eight weeks imprisonment suspended for twelve months
- £150 Compensation Order
- £85 Costs

- 180 hours unpaid work

The Committee considered that as a stated heroin addict and therefore a contamination risk Mr Watson, who is also a convicted person, should not be employed as a Paddock Steward.

The Disciplinary Committee, having heard the evidence, ordered that Mr Watson be disqualified indefinitely.

2. *Poole Stadium – BROADACRES MAEVE – Greyhound Trainer Mr M Martin

Greyhound Trainer Mervyn Martin was found in breach of rules 152 (i), 174 (i)(b) and 217 in that a urine sample taken from the greyhound BROADACRES MAEVE at Poole Stadium on 9 August 2011 was analysed by LGC Ltd. as containing the presence of meloxicam.

Mr Martin and Mr Ian Sillence, racing manager of Poole Stadium, apologised for their non-attendance.

Mr Martin provided evidence that Metacam had been administered to the dog for a hock injury during March 2011 by the dog's Irish trainer but the Committee took evidence from Dr Higgins that after some 4-5 months this could not have been the source of the meloxicam found in the positive sample given in August 2011.

The Disciplinary Committee, having considered the circumstances of the case, and as this was Mr Martin's second breach of the Rules in respect of a positive sample within 19 months the Committee, ordered that he be severely reprimanded and fined £600.

3. *Peterborough Stadium – SLIM JIM PHANTOM – Professional Trainer Mrs C Farmer

Professional Trainer Christine Farmer was found in breach of rules 152 (i), 174 (i) (a), 214 and 217 in that a urine sample taken from the greyhound SLIM JIM PHANTOM at Peterborough Stadium on 6 August 2011 was analysed by LGC Ltd. as containing the presence of caffeine, theobromine, theophylline and paraxanthine; and the administration of any substance that could affect the performance and/or well being of the greyhound.

Mrs Farmer, Mr Paul Miller racing manager of Peterborough Stadium, and Mr Liam Gormley of LGC, were in attendance.

The Disciplinary Committee received evidence from Mrs Farmer that she believed that the positive sample had resulted from a contaminated batch of cereals supplied to Mrs Farmer when she had run out and had carelessly accepted a bag which was described by the supplier as "overdone" which she was led to understand accounted for its dark brown colour. A sample of the suspect cereal was supplied to the Committee and it was possible that the dark coloration could indicate the presence of chocolate. However, Mrs Farmer had made no request for the sample to be analysed. Both Mr Gormley and Dr Higgins concurred that the analytical data suggested that chocolate or a cocoa product could have been the source of the prohibited substances detected in the urine.

It was noted that Mrs Farmer had now changed cereal supplier.

The Disciplinary Committee considered the circumstances of the case and accepted Mrs Farmer's explanation and her previous unblemished record but pointed out that some of the GBGB Rules of Racing impose strict liability on the Trainer. They ordered that she be cautioned and fined £300.

The Disciplinary Committee explained to Mrs Farmer that under the new Penalty Guidelines the "caution" while at the lower end of the sanctions should be treated as being of equal importance to the fine and any further breaches would attract more serious sanctions.

4. *Doncaster Stadium – YANKEE BOY – Former Greyhound Trainer Mr R Hinchliffe

Former Greyhound Trainer Roger Hinchliffe was found in breach of rules 152 (i), 174 (i) (a) and 217 of the GBGB rules of racing in that a urine sample taken from the greyhound YANKEE BOY at Doncaster Stadium on 16 July 2011 was analysed by LGC Ltd. as containing the presence of caffeine, theobromine, theophylline and paraxanthine; and the administration of any substance that could affect the performance and/or well being of the greyhound.

Mr Hinchliffe and Mr Michael Smith, racing manager of Doncaster Stadium, apologised for their non-attendance.

The Disciplinary Committee received evidence from Mr Hinchliffe that he believed the positive sample could have resulted from the dog gaining access to slug traps in his garden which were said to be baited with strong tea and alcohol. The Committee were unconvinced by this explanation, which was not supported by photographic or other evidence, but in any event found the trainer culpable in not maintaining a secure kennel.

The Disciplinary Committee considered the circumstances of the case and pointed out that some of the GBGB Rules of Racing impose strict liability on the Trainer. In view of Mr Hinchliffe's 3 previous breaches of the Rules for "time finding" in 5 years, the Disciplinary Committee ordered that he be reprimanded and fined £500.