

### **Disciplinary Committee Inquiries**

The Disciplinary Committee of the GBGB were in attendance at a meeting held on 19 July 2011:

Mr J Akerman (in the chair)

Mr R Coughlan

Mr A Hunt

Dr A J Higgins

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

#### **1. Professional Trainer Mrs J Houfton - Adjourned**

The Disciplinary Committee adjourned both cases involving Professional Trainer Mrs Jane Houfton relating to the greyhounds ARR VERSASE and CAMPBELLTOWN in the light of the late submissions of evidence, the nature of that evidence and the conflicting professional evidence provided to the Disciplinary Committee.

#### **2. \*Pelaw Grange Stadium – BIG CHIPS – Greyhound Trainer Mr M L Rae**

Greyhound Trainer Mr Matthew Leslie Rae was found in breach of rules 152 (i), 174 (i)(b), 214 and 217 in that a urine sample taken from the greyhound BIG CHIPS at Pelaw Grange Stadium on 27 February 2011 was analysed by LGC Ltd. as containing the presence of morphine.

Mr Rae was in attendance. Mr David Gray, racing manager of Pelaw Grange Stadium, apologised for his non-attendance.

The Disciplinary Committee noted that the greyhound BIG CHIPS had had part of its tail removed on 20 January 2011, and had been prescribed a 7 day course of antibiotics, approximately 5 weeks prior to the date of the positive sample. The Committee noted the advice of LGC Ltd. that the medicines prescribed would have had no bearing on the production of a positive sample containing the presence of morphine.

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 correspondence from both the sales agent and factory manager for Mr Rae's feedstuff supplier (Welham Estates Ltd), which indicated that occasionally some feed would contain poppy seeds, due to the fact that the base material for the feed comprises human grade bakery

waste. It was also stated that there are no warnings on the labels neither is it listed in the ingredients.

The Committee also noted the assurance given by Mr Rae that he had taken steps to change his greyhound feeding regime following notification of the positive sample.

The Committee reminded Mr Rae that he was responsible for ensuring that bread containing poppy seeds should not be fed to racing greyhounds. However, in this instance the Committee noted the lack of information available to Mr Rae from his food supplier to warn him of the risk. The GBGB Rules of Racing impose strict liability on the trainer, and having considered the circumstances of the case the Disciplinary Committee accepted his explanation for the cause of the breach, and noting his previous good record, cautioned him but imposed no fine.

### **3. Kinsley Stadium – PEQUOID – Professional Trainer Mr S Carrington - Adjourned**

The Disciplinary Committee, having received written notification from Professional Trainer Mr Steven Carrington agreed to his request for an adjournment.

### **4. \*Yarmouth Stadium – RUN JACK RUN –Greyhound Trainer Mr D Glayzer**

Greyhound Trainer Mr David Glayzer was found in breach of rules 152 (i), 174 (i)(b) and 217 in that a urine sample taken from the greyhound RUN JACK RUN at Yarmouth Stadium on 10 March 2011 was analysed by LGC Ltd. as containing the presence of ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, phenylpropanolamine and norpseudoephedrine.

Mr Glayzer was in attendance. Mr William Johnson, racing manager of Yarmouth Stadium, apologised for his non-attendance.

The Disciplinary Committee noted the 'Statement of Opinion' from the Drug and Medication Advisory Panel. Ephedra products can be found in cough and cold remedies in low quantities, the presence of all four substances suggested that the likely source would be a dietary supplement such as is regularly used in an attempt to enhance performance in human athletes.

The Committee noted that there is no veterinary licensed product in the UK containing ephedrine or norpseudoephedrine, other than Enurace tablets for the treatment of incontinence in bitches, which contains ephedrine only.

The Committee noted a statement by the owner of Run Jack Run, in which he described giving Mr Glayzer's kennelhand some cough mixture. The kennelhand stated that she also bought her own cough mixture but indicated that she did not take the medicines at Mr Glayzer's kennels.

The Committee noted Mr Glayzer's statement, in which he referred to being on holiday between 1<sup>st</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> March 2011. He put forward a possible sequence of events arising from the handling of the cough remedy by the owner of Run Jack Run, and its possible inadvertent transmission to the Greyhound.

Taking into account the scientific and veterinary evidence regarding the substances found in the positive sample, the Committee concluded that there was a lack of evidence to suggest that the handling of the cough mixture was a credible explanation for the inadvertent administration of prohibited substances.

The GBGB Rules of Racing impose strict liability on the trainer, and having considered the circumstances of the case the Disciplinary Committee ordered that Mr Glayzer be severely reprimanded and fined £500.

**5. \*Sittingbourne Stadium – STEER ME HOME – Professional Trainer Mr D Puddy**

Professional Trainer Mr David Puddy was found in breach of rules 152 (i), 174 (i)(b) and 217 in that a urine sample taken from the greyhound STEER ME HOME at Sittingbourne Stadium on 8 March 2011 was analysed by LGC Ltd. as containing the presence of methamphetamine and amphetamine.

Mr Puddy was in attendance. Mr Jess Packer, racing manager of Sittingbourne Stadium, apologised for his non-attendance.

The Disciplinary Committee noted the 'Statement of Opinion' from the Drug and Medication Advisory Panel, in which methamphetamine and amphetamine were both noted as central nervous system stimulants. The former is known colloquially as 'crystal meth' or 'ice', and is a Class A drug in the UK. The latter is a metabolite of methamphetamine and is known as 'speed'. It is a Class B drug in the UK. There is no veterinary preparation of an amphetamine with a marketing authorisation for dogs.

The Committee noted the conflicting evidence in the statement of Mr Puddy's kennelhand, regarding the circumstances of the trial, but were satisfied that the evidence of the GBGB Sampling Steward could be relied upon.

The Committee considered the statement of Mr Puddy, in which he referred to acquiring various tablets and supplements from third parties. There was no evidence to suggest that any of these were the source of the positive sample.

The GBGB Rules of Racing impose strict liability on the trainer, and having considered the written explanation and circumstances of the case the Disciplinary Committee ordered that Mr Puddy be severely reprimanded and fined £750.

Mr Puddy was strongly advised to review his practice of sourcing tablets and supplements from third parties, in circumstances where the properties of the substances are unknown, at potential risk to the greyhounds in his care.