



Disciplinary Committee Inquiries

The Disciplinary Committee of the GBGB were in attendance at a meeting held on 12 June 2012:-

Mr J Akerman (in the chair)

Mr R Coughlan

Mr A Hunt

1. RE-OPENED INQUIRIES

YARMOUTH STADIUM - RINEEN SAMMY JO - Professional Trainer Mrs E Samuels

POOLE STADIUM - CHALKYPAYSLATER – Greyhound Trainer Mr A Ross

Background

At its meeting on 13 December 2011, the Disciplinary Committee considered the reports of local inquiries into the positive analyses of urine samples taken from the greyhounds RINEEN SAMMY JO at Yarmouth Stadium on 8 September 2011 and CHALKYPAYSLATER at Poole Stadium on 9 September 2011, both of which were reported as showing the presence of hyoscine.

Based on the evidence presented to those enquiries, the Committee found Professional Trainer Mrs E Samuel and Greyhound Trainer Mr A Ross in breach of rules 174(i)(b) and 217, and ordered that they both be cautioned and fined the sum of £250.

At its meeting on 15 May 2012 the Disciplinary Committee received reports of five positive samples for hyoscine and atropine taken between 11 December 2011 and 2 February 2012. At that meeting the Committee received advice from the GBGB's Independent Doping and Medication Adviser, Dr Andrew Higgins, that the positive samples were consistent with feed contamination with specific plant material, possibly *Datura* species. Dr Higgins had stated that in his opinion it would be very unlikely for the two detected substances, atropine and hyoscine, to be given in combination with the intent to influence a greyhound's performance.

After considering the evidence on 15 May 2012, the Committee concluded on the balance of probabilities, that feed contamination was the most likely explanation for the five positive samples. The five trainers were found in breach of rule 174(i)(b) under the principle of strict liability. However, the Committee was satisfied that the substances were not administered intentionally and ordered that no further action be taken.

In view of the findings of those cases, the Committee ordered that, under Rule 163, the Director of Regulation should review all previous cases involving combined positive samples for hyoscine and atropine, to establish whether the circumstances of those cases warranted a review in ensuring a just outcome.

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Following the direction of the Disciplinary Committee on 15 May 2012, the Director of Regulation requested LGC Ltd to review the screening data for the original samples for the two cases under review, originally reported as containing the presence of hyoscine.

LGC Ltd subsequently reported that a trace presence of atropine was present in both samples at the time of the original reports, but below the validated reporting level of the screening method, and insufficient was present to proceed to confirmation. The Committee considered this to be important new evidence, particularly in the context of the advice received at the meeting on 15 May 2012. In written evidence dated 7 June 2012, Dr Higgins had stated that the additional analytical data on these two cases indicated that the source of the hyoscine and atropine was likely to be due to contaminated feed.

The Disciplinary Committee was satisfied that the presence of a trace sample of atropine in the two cases under review was consistent with the analytical findings reported in the five cases considered on 15 May 2012. The Committee therefore concluded on the balance of probabilities, and consistent with its decision on 15 May 2012, that feed contamination was a possible explanation for the presence of hyoscine and atropine in the samples for RINEEN SAMMY JO and CHALKYPAYSLATER .

The Committee ordered a revision to the previous determination of rule breaches for Professional Trainer Mrs E Samuel and Greyhound Trainer Mr A Ross imposed on 13 December 2011. The two trainers remained in breach of rule 174(i)(b), as strict liability applies where the trainer has in his/her charge a greyhound which shows the presence of a prohibited substance in a sample. However, the Committee ordered that the cautions for each trainer be rescinded, the references to the breach of rule 217 deleted, and the fines reimbursed.

2. HENLOW STADIUM – MIDWAY ROUBLE – Professional Trainer Mr H Chalkley

Professional Trainer Henry Chalkley 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 MIDWAY ROUBLE at Henlow Stadium on 17 February 2012 was analysed by HFL Sports Science as containing the presence of quinine.

Lorraine Sams, area stipendiary steward was in attendance. Paul Mellor, racing manager at Henlow Stadium, apologised for his non-attendance. The Committee accepted the reason given for Mr Chalkley's non-attendance and were able to speak to him by telephone during the inquiry.

MIDWAY ROUBLE had run in a B1 race at Henlow Stadium on 17 February 2012. The greyhound opened and closed at 11/10fav and won the race in a time of 33.90sec, having led at the fourth bend and finished strongly. The race was run to the satisfaction of the local stewards.

The Committee noted the 'Statement of Opinion' from the former Drug and Medication Advisory Panel, in which it was indicated that quinine is a prescription only medicine not licensed for use in dogs. It is a muscle relaxant indicated to treat nocturnal leg cramps in humans. The GBGB's Independent Doping and Medication Adviser, Dr Higgins, in a written communication dated 7 June 2012, stated that it was possible that quinine may be used in greyhounds as a muscle relaxant to prevent muscle-induced cramping.

The Committee received a written statement from Mr Chalkley in which he indicated that he is on prescribed medication, including quinine. He described the possible circumstances in which MIDWAY ROUBLE could have accidentally consumed a quinine tablet.

In answer to a question Mr Chalkley confirmed his written statement that MIDWAY ROUBLE had never suffered from cramp. The Committee examined MIDWAY ROUBLE'S racing record, and in answer to a question, Ms Sams expressed the view that the greyhound's style of running was not consistent with that of a greyhound that suffered from cramp.

The Committee heard that MIDWAY ROUBLE had been sample tested twice in the past, and had returned a negative result on both occasions.

The Committee considered the circumstances of the case and noted Mr Chalkley's explanation. The Committee accepted the possibility of an inadvertent ingestion of a tablet by MIDWAY ROUBLE, but expressed the view that if this was the case, it indicated a careless approach to the control of his medication by Mr Chalkley who, as an experienced trainer, should have been more alert to the risk.

The Committee, having considered the circumstances of the case and the presence of a banned substance in the dog's urine, ordered that Mr Chalkley be reprimanded and fined the sum of £500.

The Committee also disqualified MIDWAY ROUBLE from the race on 17 February, in accordance with Rule 175, and determined that Rule 94 should be applied in respect of the repayment of prize money for that race.

In fixing the penalty the Committee took into account that Mr Chalkley had accepted responsibility for the breach and there were no previous breaches recorded against him.

3. PERRY BARR STADIUM – SIZZLING CHAMP - Registered Sales Agent Mr J Kennedy

Sales Agent John Kennedy was found in breach of rules 152(i) and (ii), 174 (i)(a) and 217 of the GBGB rules of racing in that a urine sample taken from the greyhound SIZZLING CHAMP at Perry Barr Stadium on 13 February 2012 was analysed by HFL Sports Science as containing the presence of procaine.

Mr Kennedy gave apologies for his non-attendance, as did Martin Seal, racing manager at Perry Barr Stadium and Jack Robinson, area stipendiary steward.

The Committee noted the 'Statement of Opinion' from the former Drug and Medication Advisory Panel, in which procaine was noted as a local anaesthetic injection for use in minor surgical procedures or to block pain. It is a prescription only medicine. There was evidence in the screening data to indicate that procaine-penicillin (a long-acting intramuscular antibiotic) may have been administered to the greyhound.

The Committee noted the first written statement from John Kennedy, in which he admitted to giving SIZZLING CHAMP a course of penicillin due to a minor injury, prior to it coming to England for the sales trial. In his statement Mr Kennedy had admitted a breach of rule 217 and provided an apology.

The Committee received a second statement from Mr Kennedy, in which he said that three days before the sales trials at Perry Barr stadium the greyhound SIZZLING CHAMP showed signs of being off colour and had sickness. Mr Kennedy stated that he took the greyhound to a veterinary surgeon where he was given a penicillin-based medication for SIZZLING CHAMP, although he did not remember the name of the medication.

The Committee noted that SIZZLING CHAMP had trialled at Clonmel on the day that Mr Kennedy indicated in his second statement that the greyhound was off colour.

The Committee expressed its disappointment that Mr Kennedy had not attended the inquiry to answer the questions that the Committee wished to put to him, particularly as there appeared to be conflicting evidence in his two statements.

The Committee, having considered the circumstances of the case and the presence of a banned substance in the dog's urine, ordered that Mr Kennedy be severely reprimanded and fined the sum of £600.

The Committee pointed out that Mr Kennedy's behaviour amounted to the deliberate administration of a substance capable of affecting the performance of this greyhound. In fixing the penalty the Committee took into account Mr Kennedy's admissions and the fact that he had no previous breaches recorded against him.

4. YARMOUTH STADIUM – MADAM JOSIE – Professional Trainer Mr I Brown

Professional Trainer Ian Brown 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 MADAM JOSIE at Yarmouth Stadium on 13 February 2012 was analysed by HFL Sport Science as containing 19-norepiandrosterone and 19-noretiocholanolone, which are metabolites of nandrolone.

Mr Brown was in attendance. Bill Johnson, racing manager at Yarmouth Stadium and Adrian Smith, area stipendiary steward apologised for their non- attendance.

The Committee noted that the 'point of registration' sample, taken from MADAM JOSIE, on the day of its arrival at Mr Brown's kennels on 26 January 2012, had subsequently been tested by HFL and had also identified the presence of 19-noretiocholanolone and although in this sample there was evidence for the presence of 19-norepiandrosterone the data did not reach international criteria for unequivocal identification.

The Committee noted the 'Statement of Opinion' from the former Drug and Medication Advisory Panel, in which it was indicated that nandrolone is available as an injectable, long-acting anabolic steroid that will give anabolic activity for several weeks following a single injection.

The Committee received evidence that a further random sample taken from MADAM JOSIE at Yarmouth Stadium on 12 March 2012 had returned a negative result.

The Disciplinary Committee concluded that the positive sample arose from circumstances which were outside Mr Brown's control, and took into account the admission by Mr Peter Brady from Ireland, a former owner of MADAM JOSIE, implying that he had administered an oestrus suppressant in Ireland prior to the greyhound being transported to England and producing the 'point of registration' sample.

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 found Mr Brown in breach of rules. However, they accepted that Mr Brown did not administer nandrolone to MADAM JOSIE and ordered that no further action be taken.