



Disciplinary Committee Inquiries

The Disciplinary Committee of the GBGB were in attendance at a meeting held on 13 November 2012:

Dr E Houghton (in the chair)

Mr A Hunt

Mr R Woodworth CBE

Dr AJ Higgins*

(*denotes where Dr Higgins was present in an advisory capacity as Independent Doping & Medication Adviser)

1. **Wimbledon Stadium – LENNYS LUBO – Professional Trainer Mr R Rees – Continuation of Inquiry**

The Inquiry was adjourned to be held on 18 December 2012.

2. **Oxford Stadium – DREAMWALK – Professional Trainer Mr P Clarke**

Professional Trainer Paul Clarke was found in breach of rules 152 (i), 174 (xi), and 216 of the GBGB Rules of Racing into his failure to act in the best interests of the greyhound DREAMWALK following an injury sustained in a race at Oxford Stadium on 19 November 2011.

Mr Clarke was in attendance. Nigel Tanner, kennelhand, Colin Betteridge, area stipendiary steward and Jim Snowden, Investigating Officer, were also in attendance. Gary Baiden, racing manager of Oxford Stadium, apologised for his non-attendance.

Following the injury, DREAMWALK was examined by the Track Veterinarian and a Written Direction and Transport Certificate was issued. However, there was some uncertainty as to whether this Transport Certificate was issued directly to Mr Clarke or one of his kennel staff. In his defence, Mr Clarke was adamant that he had not been presented with the Certificate nor had he seen the Certificate until a copy was shown to him at a later date by Investigating Officer, Mr Jim Snowden.

The Disciplinary Committee considered that, as an experienced trainer, Mr Clarke should have realised that this was a potentially severe injury to the greyhound and expressly sought to examine the Certificate and follow the veterinary advice provided. He did not do so and this was considered a serious misjudgement. His action was such that it may have caused unnecessary suffering to the greyhound. Mr Clarke was advised that, in future, where any race injury to a greyhound in his care

resulted in treatment by the Track Veterinarian and the issue of a Written Direction and Transport Certificate, he must ensure he promptly receives such certificates and acts upon the advice provided by the Track Veterinarian

Having considered his explanation together with the circumstances of the case, the Disciplinary Committee ordered that Mr Clarke be severely reprimanded and fined £500. In reaching this penalty, the Disciplinary Committee took into account a number of character references.

3. Professional Trainer Mr G Vass

Professional Trainer Gary Vass was found in breach of rules 2, 152 (i) and (ii) and 174 (xi), of the GBGB Rules of Racing into the poor condition of greyhounds in his care.

Mr Vass apologised for his non-attendance as did Michael Hill, racing manager of Mildenhall Stadium. Adrian Smith, area stipendiary steward, was in attendance.

On the 13th April, Mr Vass and his wife were involved in a car accident resulting in their hospitalisation. Mr Vass requested that the hospital contact Professional Trainer, Miss S Saberton to step in and take care of his greyhounds. Miss Saberton contacted GBGB Area Stipendiary Steward, Adrian Smith on the 15th April, to inform him of this situation and that she had found a significant number of the greyhounds to be in poor condition. Miss Saberton had taken control of the situation and ensured that all the greyhounds had been cleaned out and fed. Mr Smith and fellow Stipendiary Steward, Mrs Irene Haselwood, visited the kennel on the 16th April. The Stipendiary Stewards confirmed the poor condition of the greyhounds, the main concerns being their nutritional status and dental care. Veterinary opinion was immediately sought and Mr Pengelly, Track Veterinarian for Peterborough promptly visited the kennel and examined all the greyhounds. Through the support of the GBGB and the RGT, the greyhounds received prompt veterinary treatment and with the help of Miss Saberton, RGT volunteers and some trainers at Mildenhall, a number of the greyhounds were temporarily rehoused. The Disciplinary Committee records thanks to all involved for taking prompt action to address this serious situation.

The Disciplinary Committee considered this a very severe case of neglect of the greyhounds in Mr Vass's care. The Committee noted the comments of the attending veterinarian that some of the dogs were the worst cases of dental neglect he had seen. Photographic evidence was considered by the Committee. Having considered his written explanation together with the circumstances of the case, the Disciplinary Committee ordered that Mr Vass be warned off indefinitely. This penalty will be effective as of 1 December 2012 to allow logistical arrangements to be made regarding the licenced greyhounds currently with Mr Vass.

4. *Swindon Stadium – CLASH MASTER – Professional Trainer Mr R R Evans

Professional Trainer Richard Evans was found in breach of rules 152 (i), 174 (i)(a) 214 and 217 of the GBGB Rules of Racing in that a urine sample taken from the greyhound CLASH MASTER at Swindon Stadium on 30 May 2012 was analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the presence of a metabolite of norethisterone, namely, 5 β -estran-17 α -ethynyl-3 α , 17 β -diol and; and that he allowed

a substance to be administered that could affect the performance and/or well being of the greyhound.

Mr Evans apologised for his non-attendance as did David Stow, racing manager of Swindon Stadium. Colin Betteridge, area stipendiary steward, was in attendance.

The Committee received evidence from Dr Higgins, Independent Doping and Medication Adviser, that norethisterone is a human hormonal contraceptive permitted for oestrus suppression in greyhound bitches only. This use has been secured through agreement with the Veterinary Medicines Directorate on the grounds that it is under veterinary prescription and with rigorous record keeping. GBGB guidance notes have been issued to this effect.

Dr Higgins also provided written advice that norethisterone is a progestogen derived from nortestosterone and has weak oestrogenic and androgenic properties. He added that no side effects have been reported to indicate the drug has any performance enhancing effects.

The Committee received written evidence that Clash Master (a male dog) had inadvertently received the food bowl, containing a norethisterone tablet, intended for a greyhound bitch. This error had occurred as a result of damage to the kennel roof necessitating changes to the feeding routine. Mr Evans has taken appropriate steps to ensure there will be no recurrence of such an error.

Having considered his written explanation together with the circumstances of the case, the Disciplinary Committee ordered that Mr Evans be cautioned and fined £250. In reaching this decision, the Disciplinary Committee considered that Mr Evans had accepted full responsibility for the feeding error, that he now administers the norethisterone tablets individually to each bitch and that he has no previous, serious breaches of the rules.

5. *Sittingbourne Stadium – GOLD DOLLY – Professional Trainer Mr D Brabon

Professional Trainer Daniel Brabon 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 GOLD DOLLY at Sittingbourne Stadium on 28 June 2012 was analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the presence of minoxidil; and that he allowed a substance to be administered that could affect the performance and/or well being of the greyhound.

Mr Brabon was in attendance. Miss L Sams, area stipendiary steward was also in attendance. Mr J Packer, racing manager of Sittingbourne Stadium, apologised for his non-attendance.

Mr Brabon accepted full responsibility for the positive sample explaining that it most probably arose from contamination of the Greyhound, Gold Dolly, as a result of his personal use of minoxidil through topical administration of a commercial preparation containing this substance

The Disciplinary Committee accepted Mr Brabon's explanation, however, some of the GBGB Rules of Racing impose strict liability on the trainer or registered sales agent. Having considered his written explanation together with the circumstances of the case, the Disciplinary Committee ordered that Mr Brabon be cautioned and fined £250. In reaching this decision, the Disciplinary

Committee consider that Mr Brabon accepted full responsibility for the positive finding, had ceased to use the commercial preparation of minoxidil and had no previous, serious breaches of the rules. Mr Brabon was commended on the detailed recording of his treatment book.