

Disciplinary Committee Inquiries

The Disciplinary Committee of the GBGB were in attendance at a meeting held on 17 January 2012:-

Mr R Woodworth (in the chair)
Dr A J Higgins
Dr E Houghton
Mr A Hunt

1. **CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS**

TREVOR WALES and RICHARD WILLIAM WALES

The Disciplinary Committee received evidence that Mr Trevor Wales and Mr Richard William Wales had been convicted of money laundering and possession of criminal property on 12 October 2011 and both were currently in prison. Both had earlier been licensed by GBGB as respectively Licensed Trainer and Kennelhand and a newspaper report of their trial suggested that their Counsel had claimed that their criminal activities had been prompted by their “involvement ... in greyhound racing”.

The Disciplinary Committee ordered that Mr Trevor Wales and Mr Richard William Wales be disqualified for an indefinite period.

Mary Wales (the wife of Trevor Wales) had also been convicted in the same trial and had received a suspended sentence. Although she has not been licensed by GBGB, the Disciplinary Committee confirmed that the Director of Regulation should take account of these criminal activities should any member or associate of the Wales family apply to be a licensed person.

PATRICK PETER JAMES KENIRY (AKA SHAUN KEHOE)

The Disciplinary Committee received evidence that at Swindon Crown Court on 15 September 2011 Mr Keniry had pleaded guilty to fraud and practicing as a registered veterinary surgeon when he was not qualified. He had also pleaded guilty to offences relating to setting up a bank account and credit card in the name of Ian Brown. Mr Keniry who is currently in prison has a long history of fraudulently representing himself as a qualified veterinary surgeon both in the UK and South Africa.

The Committee considered a letter from Mr Keniry expressing regret for the offence but not undertaking not to repeat the pretence in the future.

Accordingly the Disciplinary Committee ordered that Mr Keniry be Warned Off with the recommendation that his photograph be circulated to the greyhound tracks.

2. **Peterborough Stadium – UMA EVE – Professional Trainer Mr R Devenish**

Professional Trainer Richard Devenish was found in breach of rules 152 (i), 174 (i)(b), 214, 217 and 218 of the GBGB rules of racing in that a urine sample taken from the greyhound UMA EVE at Peterborough Stadium on 19 October 2011 was analysed by LGC Ltd as containing the presence of procaine.

Mr Devenish and Mr Paul Miller, racing manager of Peterborough Stadium, were in attendance.

The Committee noted the “Statement of Opinion” from the 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.

Mr Devenish stated that he neither used nor knew of procaine until the positive test but internet research had suggested to him that a combination of penicillin and procaine was commonly used to treat horses and cattle. Mr Devenish used meat provided by a supplier which was not fit for human consumption but wrongly thought that cooking would remove contaminants. He had also been in the habit of using the meat in the 24 hour period prior to a dog racing, contrary to rule 218. After a brief adjournment Dr Higgins confirmed after consulting LGC that the amount of procaine in the sample had exceeded one microgram per millilitre.

Mr Devenish confirmed that he had now changed his feeding practices and expressed his regret for the incident after a long unblemished career which was confirmed by both Mr P Miller and racing manager Mr Con Baker.

The Disciplinary Committee pointed out that the GBGB Rules of Racing impose strict liability on the trainer and having considered the circumstances of the case and concluding that the likely source of the procaine was contaminated meat, the Committee ordered that Mr Devenish be cautioned and fined the sum of £250. They took into account that this was Mr Devenish’s first breach of rules.

3. **Perry Barr Stadium – CASHEN BECKY – Registered Sales Agent Mr S Sheehan**

Registered Sales Agent Steve Sheehan was found in breach of rules 152 (i), 174 (i) (b) and 217 of the GBGB rules of racing in that a urine sample taken from the greyhound CASHEN BECKY at Perry Barr Stadium on 24 October 2011 was analysed by LGC Ltd as containing the presence of Phenobarbital.

Mr Sheehan was in attendance accompanied by Brian Harrison. Martin Seal, racing manager of Perry Barr Stadium, apologised for his non-attendance.

The Committee noted the “Statement of Opinion” from the Drug and Medication Advisory Panel, in which phenobarbital was described as an anti-epileptic drug licensed for the management of epileptic seizures. Its adverse effects include sedation and ataxia. It is a prescription only medicine.

The Disciplinary Committee received evidence from Mr Sheehan that he had collected the bitch from Irish Trainer Mr C Houlihan on 22 October 2011 and had given the bitch no medicaments prior to its sales trial. The dog had run a very satisfactory sales trial and been sold for 2600 guineas to Professional Trainer C Kyme. Its subsequent raceform at Hall Green suggested that the bitch had run

up to its true form in its sales trial. The Committee reviewed the evidence presented and concluded that it was unlikely that phenobarbital had been given to the bitch to deliberately slow it down in the trial.

Mr Sheehan provided a plausible explanation for the presence of phenobarbital in the urine of the sample from CASHEN BECKY but in the absence of any primary evidence of the source the Disciplinary Committee again pointed out that some of the Rules of Racing impose strict liability. In view of Mr Sheehan's earlier breaches of the rules in 2008 (for positive samples of diuretics) and 2010 (for a positive sample of a metabolite of laurabolin) the Committee ordered that he be reprimanded and fined the sum of £600.

Mr Sheehan was advised that he must take extra measures to ensure that Irish sale dogs were presented "clean" to a sales as further offences were likely to lead to a severe reprimand or loss of licence as a Sales Agent.

4. **Belle Vue Stadium – HOME ROBBIE – Professional Trainer Mr JB Thompson**

Professional Trainer James Brian Thompson 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 HOME ROBBIE at Belle Vue Stadium on 24 August 2011 was analysed by LGC Ltd as containing the presence of Prednisolone; and the administration of any substance that could affect the performance and/or well being of the greyhound.

Mr Thompson and Bob Rowe, chief racing manager of Belle Vue Stadium, apologised for their non-attendance.

The Committee noted the "Statement of Opinion" from the Drug and Medication Advisory Panel, in which prednisolone was described as a corticosteroid used for the management of inflammatory and allergic disorders. It is a prescription only medicine.

The Disciplinary Committee received written evidence from Mr Thompson that he had discovered after the dog's purchase that it suffered from Track Leg which he treated solely with Vaseline. He was aware however that the Track Leg (which is a chronic condition) was treated in Ireland with prednisolone but he was at a loss to explain how the dog could have given a positive sample when the dog would have been last treated in Ireland some 5 months before the positive test. Dr Higgins confirmed that prednisolone was rapidly excreted from the dog's body and there was no possibility of residues remaining after 5 months.

The Disciplinary Committee having considered the circumstances of the case and in mitigation, as there were no previous breaches by Mr Thompson, ordered that he be cautioned and fined £400.

5. **Doncaster Stadium – CARNEYS BLACK – Greyhound Trainer Mr D Hammond**

Greyhound Trainer Darren Hammond was found in breach of rules 152 (i), 174 (i) (a) and 214 of the GBGB rules of racing in that a urine sample taken from the greyhound CARNEYS BLACK at Doncaster Stadium on 21 October 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.

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

The Committee noted the “Statement of Opinion” from the Drug and Medication Advisory Panel, in which morphine was described as a potent opiate analgesic used for pain control and central nervous system action. Morphine is a Class A drug.

Mr Hammond was at a loss to explain how the dog could have provided a positive sample for morphine and stated that the dog’s feed never contained bread with seeds. Although he had stated by a telephone call to the area stipendiary steward Mr Eric Vose on the day before the Hearing that he might have in fact given the dog bread when he ran out of “Gain” he had failed to confirm this in writing to GBGB.

Having considered the evidence the Disciplinary Committee, notwithstanding the lack of any previous breach by Mr Hammond, took a serious view of a sample containing a Class A drug and ordered that Mr Hammond be reprimanded and fined £750.