



Disciplinary Committee Inquiries

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

Mr K Salmon (in the chair)

Mr R Coughlan

Dr E Houghton

Dr AJ Higgins*

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

1. *POOLE & OXFORD STADIA – BUZZ DOC – Professional Trainer Mr J Mullins

Professional Trainer Mr John Mullins was found in breach of rules 174 (b) and 217 of the GBGB Rules of Racing in that urine samples taken from the greyhound BUZZ DOC at Poole Stadium on 30 April 2011 and at Oxford Stadium on 26 June 2011 were analysed by LGC Ltd. as containing the presence of amphetamine.

Mr Mullins was in attendance, accompanied by his wife Deborah Mullins and represented by solicitor Julian Lee. Ryan Morris, kennelhand, and his uncle, Graham Williams, were in attendance. Clive Carr, investigating officer, was also present. Ian Sillence and Gary Baiden, racing managers of Poole and Oxford Stadia, and Colin Betteridge, area stipendiary steward, apologised for their non-attendance.

The Disciplinary Committee took evidence from Dr Higgins, Independent Doping & Medication Adviser who stated that amphetamine is a central nervous system stimulant the effect of which in humans is to increase alertness, energy and excitement. Known as 'speed' amphetamines are Class B schedule 2 drugs. It is illegal to possess them without a prescription or to supply or produce them without a licence.

The Disciplinary Committee heard evidence from Mr Mullins and accepted that he did not administer amphetamine nor did he knowingly cause or permit the administration of amphetamine. However, the greyhound was in his charge and rule 174 (i)(b) imposes strict

liability on the trainer. In imposing the penalty the Committee took into account that, although there were previous breaches in 2001 and 2005, there was mitigation in relation to those breaches. The Committee also took into account the character references produced on Mr Mullins' behalf. However, the Committee could not ignore the fact that this case involved the administration of a class B drug with the intention of affecting this greyhound's performance.

The Committee made it plain that they did not consider the kennelhand, Ryan Morris, to be in any way responsible for these breaches of the GBGB Rules of Racing.

Having considered the explanation together with the circumstances of the case, the Disciplinary Committee ordered that Mr Mullins be severely reprimanded and fined £750 in respect of each incident, a total of £1,500.

2. *ROMFORD STADIUM – BUCKFAST KID / HALL GREEN STADIUM – BABETTE
Professional Trainer Mr M Peterson

Professional Trainer Mr Michael Peterson was found in breach of rules 49 (iv), 152 (i) and (ii), 174 (i)(a), 174 (xi) and 216 of the GBGB Rules of Racing in that urine samples taken from the greyhounds BUCKFAST KID at Romford Stadium on 24 February 2012, and BABETTE at Hall Green Stadium on 5 March 2012, were analysed by LGC Ltd. as containing the presence of timolol; and that he allowed a substance to be administered that could affect the performance and/or well being of the greyhounds; and failed to use his best endeavours to ensure that the performance of the greyhounds was to the satisfaction of the GRB.

Mr Peterson was not in attendance. Peter O'Dowd, racing manager, and David MacDonald, authorised representative of Romford Stadium, and Robert Coulthard, racing manager of Hall Green Stadium, apologised for their non-attendance. Adrian Smith and Jack Robinson, area stipendiary stewards, and Jim Snowden, investigating officer, were also present.

Mr Peterson had failed to provide any explanation for the positive samples and had failed to reply to a letter sent on 17th April 2012 by the Director of Regulation which contained a specific request for information.

The Disciplinary Committee took evidence from Dr Higgins Independent Doping & Medication Adviser who stated that timolol was a beta-adrenoceptor antagonist (beta-blocker) which is used in humans to treat amongst other things high blood pressure and glaucoma. Beta blockers are sometimes known as 'stoppers' as they lower heart rate and can reduce performance. Their effect on racing greyhounds would be to limit their intake of oxygen especially at the beginning and end of a race which could at the very least cause significant distress.

The Disciplinary Committee found that Mr Peterson deliberately administered timolol with the intention of impairing the performance of the greyhounds BUCKFAST KID and BABETTE, and that the effect of so doing was, in fact, to impair their performance and to cause them unnecessary suffering.

These were found to be deliberate breaches committed with profit as the motive which might seriously undermine public confidence in greyhound racing and compromise the welfare of these greyhounds.

Mr Peterson had wilfully failed to supply the Director of Regulation with information when requested to do so and had failed to provide any explanation or engage with these Inquiries properly or at all.

Having considered the circumstances of the case, the Disciplinary Committee ordered that Mr Peterson be made a warned off person indefinitely in respect of each matter and fined £2,500 in respect of each incident, a total of £5,000.

3. PROFESSIONAL TRAINER MR A LUCAS (adjourned from 15 May 2012)

Professional Trainer Mr Anthony Lucas was found in breach of rules 2, 6(i)(c), 152 (i) and (ii) and 174 (xi) of the GBGB Rules of Racing into the circumstances between July 2011 to August 2011 when he, as the GBGB licensed trainer, abandoned his kennels at Hillside Greyhound Kennels, Shere Road, West Clandon, Guildford, Surrey.

Mr Lucas was not in attendance. Jim Snowden, investigating officer, was in attendance. Colin Betteridge, area stipendiary steward, and Peter Miller, racing manager of Brighton Stadium, apologised for their non-attendance.

The Disciplinary Committee took into account the written statements of Colin Betteridge and Peter Miller and the oral evidence of Jim Snowden to the effect that on 13 July 2011 Mr Lucas failed to attend at Hove Stadium despite having four runners on the card. Upon investigation it became clear that Mr Lucas had taken clothes and money and gone missing from his home leaving his daughter Melanie, who was a licensed head kennelhand, to cope as best she could. When Mr Betteridge visited the kennels Melanie Lucas was struggling to cope having been left without money or support, although all of the 70 greyhounds in the kennel appeared to be in a satisfactory condition. GBGB provided funds from the welfare budget and with some considerable assistance from the Retired Greyhound Trust all the greyhounds were rehomed. The Committee took into account a letter from Peter Laurie, Chief Executive of the RGT, to the effect that the charity had incurred considerable expenditure as a result of Mr Lucas's actions. GBGB had reimbursed the RGT in part, but

there had been no contribution from Mr Lucas. Furthermore having to rehome greyhounds from Mr Lucas's kennel on an emergency basis had seriously affected the RGT's planned programme of rehoming.

The Disciplinary Committee found that Mr Lucas deliberately abandoned his kennels without any regard for the welfare of the greyhounds in his charge. Although this did not result in any greyhound suffering harm, this was only due to the prompt action of the GBGB who intervened to provide Melanie Lucas with financial assistance. The actions of Mr Lucas seriously undermined public confidence in greyhound racing and the Disciplinary Committee will not tolerate breaches of the GBGB Rules of Racing which compromise greyhounds' wellbeing, welfare and safety.

Having considered the circumstances of the case, the Disciplinary Committee ordered that Mr Lucas be made a warned off person indefinitely and be fined the sum of £5,000. The Committee said they would be pleased if some or all of the said fine could be donated to the RGT who were instrumental in rehoming many of these greyhounds.