

Disciplinary Committee Inquiries

The Disciplinary Committee of the GBGB were in attendance at a meeting held on 25 September 2012:-

Mr K Salmon (in the chair)

Mr R Coughlan

Mr R Woodworth

Dr AJ Higgins*

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

1. GREYHOUND TRAINER APPLICATION – Mr D Walsh

The Disciplinary Committee heard an application from former trainer Mr D Walsh who had his licence withdrawn indefinitely by the Stewards of the NGRC at a disciplinary hearing held on 13 February 1996. The Disciplinary Committee heard evidence from the Director of Regulation concerning the background to the case and also heard from Mr Walsh himself. Having heard the application the Disciplinary Committee decided in all the circumstances that they were content for a licence to be granted subject to the condition that Mr Walsh must sever all connection with independent greyhound racing. In particular he must not run any greyhound on an independent racecourse nor must he act as a spokesman for independent greyhound racing. The Director of Regulation, Mr D Donnelly, had no objection to a conditional licence being granted.

2. KENNELHAND APPLICATION – Miss J Potts

The Disciplinary Committee heard an application from former kennelhand Miss J Potts who was 'warned off' indefinitely by the Stewards of the NGRC at a disciplinary hearing held on 7 March 2006. The Disciplinary Committee heard evidence from the Director of Regulation concerning the background to the case and also from Miss Potts herself. Having heard the application the Disciplinary Committee decided in all the circumstances that they were content for a kennelhand licence to be granted subject to a condition that Miss Potts had no connection whatsoever in future with independent greyhound racing. Having heard from Miss Potts they advised her to thoroughly familiarise herself with the Rules of Racing and to ensure that she keeps the GBGB informed of any relevant changes in her circumstances. They were satisfied that Miss Potts was fully aware of the consequences of any breach of the conditions imposed on her licence. The Director of Regulation, Mr D Donnelly, had no objection to a conditional licence being granted.

3. ***Poole Stadium – BRICK PAVER – Professional Trainer Mr P Harris**

Professional Trainer Peter Harris 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 BRICK PAVER at Poole Stadium on 10 April 2012 was analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the presence of 19-noretiocholanolone, which is a metabolite of nandrolone.

Mr Harris apologised for his non-attendance. Ian Sillence, racing manager of Poole Stadium, and Colin Betteridge, area stipendiary steward, also apologised for their non-attendance.

The Committee noted the Statement of Opinion provided by Dr Andrew Higgins the GBGB Independent Doping and Medication Adviser to the effect that nandrolone is a potent and widely used anabolic steroid which may give anabolic activity for several weeks following a single injection.

The Disciplinary Committee accepted that the drug was administered in Ireland prior to the greyhound coming into the trainer's care. However, they were aware that this explanation was now very frequently given when a greyhound tests positive for nandrolone (or its metabolites). There was nothing to indicate that Mr Harris made any enquiry prior to acquiring this greyhound as to whether any form of oestrus suppressant had been administered. The Committee would expect any responsible trainer to do this and in addition to consider elective testing on any greyhound imported from Ireland. They noted that a Notice was published in the Calendar on July 27th 2012 dealing with this issue and in future the Committee would expect all trainers to make proper enquiries.

The Disciplinary Committee pointed out that the GBGB Rules of Racing impose strict liability on the trainer. Having considered the explanation together with the circumstances of the case, the Disciplinary Committee ordered that Mr Harris be cautioned and fined the sum of £500.

4. ***Wimbledon Stadium – DEANRIDGE VIKING – Professional Trainer Mr D Childs**

Professional Trainer Dean Childs was found in breach of rules 152 (i) and (ii), 174 (i) (a), 216 and 217 of the GBGB Rules of Racing in that a urine sample taken from the greyhound DEANRIDGE VIKING at Wimbledon Stadium on 5 May 2012 was analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the presence of heptaminol; and that he allowed a substance to be administered that could affect the performance and/or well being of the greyhound.

Mr Childs was in attendance. Gary Matthews, racing manager of Wimbledon Stadium, and Colin Betteridge, area stipendiary steward, apologised for their non-attendance.

The Committee noted the Statement of Opinion provided by Dr Andrew Higgins, the GBGB Independent Doping and Medication Adviser, to the effect that heptaminol is an anti-hypertensive amine derivative that is classified as a vasodilator and is a component of a number of products. Heptaminol has been detected in human athletes and racing animals and is presumably intended to enhance performance. Heptaminol is banned by many human, horse and dog racing organisations.

Mr Childs admitted that he had administered a product called "Gingko Forte" which he said had been sold to him as a herbal remedy. He agreed that he could not in fact have known what the product's active ingredients were especially as the labelling was in Russian. Dr Higgins confirmed that the product contained heptaminol.

The Committee considered that by administering a substance containing heptaminol Mr Childs had acted in such a way as to prejudice the integrity of greyhound racing. The Committee had to decide these cases on the balance of probability and whilst they were sceptical of Mr Child's explanation they could not say that it was likelier than not that he had knowingly administered heptaminol.

Even so, the Committee regarded this as a most serious breach caused by Mr Child's total failure to make any enquiries in spite of all the guidance that has been provided in the Calendar regarding proper feeding and the need for vigilance in avoiding this type of positive test, including guidance published in the Calendar aimed specifically at cautioning trainers about the administration of so-called herbal remedies.

In the circumstances, the Disciplinary Committee considered whether disqualification was appropriate, but on this occasion ordered that Mr Childs be severely reprimanded and fined £2,500.

5. ***Wimbledon Stadium – LENNYS LUBO – Professional Trainer Mr R Rees**

Professional Trainer Richard Rees was found in breach of rules 152 (i) and (ii) and 174 (i) (a) of the GBGB Rules of Racing in that a urine sample taken from the greyhound LENNYS LUBO at Wimbledon Stadium on 4 July 2012 was analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the presence of hydroxy stanozolol, which is a metabolite of stanozolol; and that he allowed a substance to be administered that could affect the performance and/or well being of the greyhound.

Mr Rees was in attendance. Gary Matthews, racing manager of Wimbledon Stadium, and Colin Betteridge, area stipendiary steward, apologised for their non-attendance.

The Committee noted the Statement of Opinion provided by Dr Andrew Higgins, the GBGB Independent Doping and Medication Adviser, to the effect that stanozolol is a potent and widely used anabolic steroid which promotes build up of protein. It has been commonly used as a performance enhancing drug and is banned from use in human and animal sports competition.

The Disciplinary Committee found in this case that there was compelling scientific evidence that stanozolol was administered to the greyhound between the point of registration sample taken on 21 January 2012 and the urine sample taken after the trial on 8 June 2012. At all material times this greyhound was in the charge of Mr Rees, who had provided no explanation for the positive test on 8 June 2012.

This was a serious breach involving the administration of an anabolic steroid which is commonly used as a performance enhancing drug. As such, this breach may affect public confidence in the wellbeing of the greyhound and in the integrity of greyhound racing.

Having considered the explanation together with the circumstances of the case, the Disciplinary Committee ordered that Mr Rees be severely reprimanded and fined £1,250.

6. ***Wimbledon Stadium – BURST OF MAGIC – International Trainer Ms S Hurley**

International Trainer Ms S Hurley 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 BURST OF MAGIC at Wimbledon Stadium on 27 April 2012 was analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the

presence of hydroxy stanozolol, which is a metabolite of stanozolol; and that she allowed a substance to be administered that could affect the performance and/or well being of the greyhound.

Ms Hurley was not in attendance. Gary Matthews, racing manager of Wimbledon Stadium, and Mike Tasker, GBGB sampling officer, were present. Colin Betteridge, area stipendiary steward, apologised for his non-attendance. The Director of Regulation, on behalf of the GRB, was represented by Counsel, Mr Louis Weston and his assistant Mr J Eighteen.

The Committee noted the Statement of Opinion provided by Dr Andrew Higgins the GBGB Independent Doping and Medication Adviser, to the effect that stanozolol is a potent and widely used anabolic steroid which promotes build up of protein. It has been commonly used as a performance enhancing drug and is banned from use in human and animal sports competition.

Ms Hurley had offered no explanation for the positive test simply stating that it was “impossible” that the greyhound had stanozolol in its system. She had chosen not to attend the hearing and had put forward no sufficient reason for an adjournment. The scientific evidence in this case was compelling and had not been challenged in any meaningful way by Ms Hurley.

There were serious breaches involving the administration of a potent anabolic steroid, which has been widely used as a performance enhancing drug such as might affect public confidence for the greyhound’s welfare and in the integrity of greyhound racing. The Disciplinary Committee were particularly mindful of the high profile nature of this race (a heat of the Greyhound Derby) and the wide publicity it receives. They reflected this in the level of the fine. They had considered the question of disqualification but for a first breach of the rules felt that it would be too severe, even in a race of this importance.

Having considered the circumstances of the case, the Disciplinary Committee ordered that Ms Hurley be severely reprimanded and fined £2,500 together with costs of £2,100.