

### **Disciplinary Committee Inquiries**

The Disciplinary Committee of the GBGB were in attendance at a meeting held on 5 November 2013:-

Mr R Woodworth CBE (in the chair)  
Mr J Akerman  
Mr A Hunt  
Dr AJ Higgins\*

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

#### **1. \*Brighton Stadium – TULLYMURRY GRACE – Professional Trainer Mr D Knight**

Professional Trainer Derek Knight 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 TULLYMURRY GRACE at Brighton Stadium on 8 July 2013 was analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the presence of 6 $\alpha$ -hydroxystanozolol, a metabolite of stanozolol.

Mr Knight was in attendance with Peter Miller, racing manager of Brighton Stadium. Lorraine Sams, area stipendiary steward, was also present together with Simon Biddle, Principal Scientist at LGC Health Sciences.

The Disciplinary Committee noted the opinion of Dr Andrew Higgins (Independent Doping and Medication Adviser) that stanozolol is an androgenic anabolic steroid with a well-documented history of abuse in sport. It is a derivative of testosterone that, inter alia, promotes build-up of protein and increases erythropoietin production. Stanozolol has been widely abused as a performance enhancing drug and is banned from use in most human and animal sports competition. It is available as tablets for daily oral administration, or as a longer acting aqueous suspension for intramuscular injection in which case metabolites could be found in the dog's urine for an extended period. There is no licensed veterinary preparation of stanozolol available in the UK or Ireland.

The Disciplinary Committee noted that Mr Knight had been contacted by Mr Paul Sargeant in April 2013 who had asked him if he would train TULLYMURRY GRACE for him. Neither Mr Knight nor Mr Sargeant knew that the bitch had given a positive sample for 6 $\alpha$ -hydroxystanozolol when trialling at Sheffield Stadium on the 4 December 2012. The sample had intended to be a POR but the wrong sample kit had been used at Sheffield Stadium and the sample had accordingly been tested by LGC and proved to be positive. Despite GBGB informing Sheffield that the bitch should not race or trial until it was free of the substance, TULLYMURRY GRACE commenced trials on 23 January 2013 but did not race before its sale to Mr Sargeant towards the end of April 2013.

After a first trial for Mr Knight, TULLYMURRY GRACE had come in season and been rested for nine weeks. On its first trial back post-season the bitch had tested positive for 6 $\alpha$ -hydroxystanozolol on the 8 July 2013. It had then been made inactive before showing negative in an elective test conducted later. Mr Knight confirmed that he had not administered any substance to the bitch. The Committee told Mr Knight that since Mr Sargeant was a new owner to him he might have contacted the bitch's

previous trainer, George Oswald, for information. The Disciplinary Committee noted a statement from Mr Oswald that he had not administered any substance to TULLYMURRY GRACE whilst in his care.

Simon Biddle, Principal Scientist at LGC Health Sciences gave evidence that the current science regarding the excretion time for stanozolol suggested that it was possible that the positive sample for 6 $\alpha$ -hydroxystanozolol on the 8 July 2013 could have resulted from an administration before the bitch came into Mr Oswald's care in December 2012 ie in Ireland (on which there was no evidence before the Committee). That possibility was consistent with the oral statement of Mr Biddle that the original December 2012 sample was some 10 times stronger than the July 2013 sample although a subsequent administration was also possible.

The Committee found Mr Knight a very credible witness and in all the circumstances of the case considered him to be an innocent party. The rules of racing impose strict liability on the trainer but the Committee determined to take no further action.

## **2. \*Peterborough Stadium – BALLYMAC LUKE – Professional Trainer Mr R Clarke**

Professional Trainer Richard Clarke 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 BALLYMAC LUKE at Peterborough Stadium on 3 August 2013 was analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the presence of chlormethiazole; and that he allowed a substance to be administered that could affect the performance and/or well being of the greyhound.

Mr Clarke was in attendance as also was Mr Paul Miller, racing manager at Peterborough Stadium. Adrian Smith, area stipendiary steward, was also present.

The Disciplinary Committee noted the opinion of Dr Andrew Higgins (Independent Doping and Medication Adviser) that chlormethiazole is a sedative-hypnotic drug with anticonvulsant properties. It would be expected to cause drowsiness and impair concentration and alertness. It is used in humans to treat agitation and restlessness, severe insomnia and for clinical alcohol withdrawal problems such as delirium tremens. There is no preparation of chlormethiazole currently licensed for use in animals. It would only be permitted in animals at the specific direction of a veterinary surgeon and only under the prescribing cascade.

The Disciplinary Committee heard evidence from Mr Clarke that he was a successful, small trainer who took meticulous care with his greyhounds. The race when his charge had given a positive sample had been the final of the Peterborough Derby and he felt confident that BALLYMAC DUKE could at least run into a place for which the prize money was £1000 (2<sup>nd</sup>) or £500 (3<sup>rd</sup>). The Committee noted that as the betting exchanges did not cover this race it would not have been possible for an interested party to place a bet to lose.

The Committee questioned Mr Clarke in detail on the security both in his kennel and at the track on the day of the race and satisfied itself that it was most unlikely that a third party had been able to administer the drug to the greyhound with the intent of "stopping" it. However before her death 18 months earlier Mr Clarke's grandmother had been on a variety of medication which Mr Clarke had disposed of when he moved house. He had obtained a list of medication from the hospital at which his late grandmother had been treated and Simon Gower, Veterinary Director of GBGB, had confirmed that none of the medicines contained chlormethiazole. The Committee noted however, that the Hospital's medicine list was some 4 years old and considered the possibility that Mr Clarke's late grandmother could have been on other medication subsequently.

The Disciplinary Committee considered the possibility that BALLYMAC LUKE had ingested chlormethiazole as a consequence of carelessness by Mr Clarke or those around him in the disposal of his late grandmother's medicines. This, combined with an absence of any motive on Mr Clarke's part, caused the Committee to conclude on the balance of probability that, while this had been an accidental administration by Mr Clarke, he was responsible for the drug being present in the greyhound's system.

Dr Higgins said that in his opinion chlormethiazole was a surprising and unlikely candidate to be used as a "stopper" in greyhound racing.

The Disciplinary Committee, having considered Mr Clarke's unblemished record and the testimonial from the greyhound's owner, ordered that Mr Clarke be cautioned and fined the sum of £250.

### **3. Professional Trainer Mrs A McCarroll**

Professional Trainer Ann McCarroll was found in breach of rules 152 (i) & (ii) and 174 (vi) of the GBGB Rules of Racing into her failure to comply with conditions of licence directed by the Director of Regulation in his letter of the 23 April 2013, specifically for Mrs McCarroll to limit the number of all greyhounds in her kennel to 52.

This case resulted from a Local Inquiry held on the 24 September 2013 by Alex McTaggart, area stipendiary steward for GBGB at Newcastle Stadium.

Mr Stuart McCarroll (son of Mrs McCarroll) was present to represent his mother and Eric Vose, area stipendiary steward was also in attendance. Apologies were received from Alex McTaggart, area stipendiary steward, and Paul Twinn, racing manager at Newcastle Stadium.

The Disciplinary Committee first heard telephone evidence from Helen Ray, veterinary surgeon at Pelaw Grange Stadium, and then from Frances Allen, veterinary surgeon at Newcastle Stadium. Mrs Ray referred to her Kennel Inspection Report dated 24 September 2013 in which she described a number of unacceptable features at Mrs McCarroll's kennels together with the general poor condition of the greyhounds and an absence of staff other than Mr Stuart McCarroll. Mrs Ray nevertheless agreed that with better husbandry and more staff the kennels and the condition of the greyhounds could be improved to an acceptable level. Mrs McCarroll had provided her with numbers for the greyhounds which including racers, pups and retired dogs totalling 70.

On the 22 October 2013 veterinary surgeon Mrs Frances Allen had paid an unannounced visit to Mrs McCarroll's kennels accompanied by Mr Joe O'Donnell of William Hill and Mr Ian Walton, general manager at Newcastle Stadium. Mrs Allen told the Committee of a much improved - but not entirely satisfactory - situation both at the kennels and at the track where the trainer's greyhounds were now in better condition. Mr Stuart McCarroll told Mrs Allen that he had taken her advice to employ more staff (although none were present at the time) and while there were still some problems with poor teeth, fleas and some underweight greyhounds Mrs Allen thought the kennels were acceptable. However she recommended regular kennel inspections to ensure that the situation did not revert. At that time it appeared that there were 55 greyhounds in the kennel.

The Disciplinary Committee then took telephone evidence from Mr Peter Laurie, Chief Executive of the Retired Greyhound Trust, who referred to his letter to the GBGB dated 9 October 2013 in which he described the Trust's urgent response to rehome 20 of Mrs McCarroll's greyhounds in the 2 week period from 26 March 2013. The effect of this had been a concomitant delay to other trainers' greyhounds being rehomed by the Trust and Mr Laurie stated that the excess costs incurred by the RGT in treating the greyhounds had been at the "upper end" of the normal range. Mrs McCarroll had made no financial contribution to this exercise. The urgent rehoming exercise had been caused by Mrs McCarroll allowing herself to get into the situation of having more than 80 greyhounds in her

kennels during February 2013 of which only 18 were on the racing strength at Newcastle Stadium. Additionally during this period the trainer had suffered an ankle injury which had left her mobility seriously limited and restricted her activities in the kennels.

The Committee reviewed considerable evidence from the kennel returns submitted to Paul Twinn by Mrs McCarroll and attempted to reconcile these with the total numbers of greyhounds (racers, pups and retirees) evident to Eric Vose in his visits to the kennels during September and October 2013. It was obvious to the Committee both that Newcastle Stadium does not expect kennel returns to record the numbers of pups and retirees in a trainer's kennel, and that the total number of greyhounds in Mrs McCarroll's kennel at all times exceeded the 52 directed by the Director of Regulation. While in practice some of her kennel returns referred to retired greyhounds it seemed to the Committee that she deliberately described total numbers which did not exceed 52 irrespective of actual numbers. Furthermore, in Eric Vose's visit to the kennels in October 2013, Mr Stuart McCarroll had been unable to account for 19 greyhounds which had left the kennels since his earlier visit, without any accompanying documentation. The resulting investigation by Clive Carr, investigating officer for GBGB, undertaken at very short notice left the Committee very concerned about the welfare of some of these greyhounds.

The Committee noted that there had been considerable variation in the numbers of greyhounds at the trainer's kennels (some of which had not been the Trainer's fault eg the return of six rehomed dogs after a fire at Wheatley Hill Greyhound Rehoming centre). While they had little doubt that Mr Stuart McCarroll had been working extremely hard to maintain the kennels they did not accept as credible his assertion that he believed the Director of Regulation's instruction to relate only to those greyhounds in the kennels ie not the pups and retirees in the paddocks. Mr McCarroll gave details of additional staff licensed by GBGB and the hours they were now working at the kennels.

In all the circumstances of the case the Disciplinary Committee were very concerned about the competence of Mrs McCarroll to run professional kennels. Following her flagrant breach of the Director of Regulation's imposed licence condition the Committee ordered that Mrs McCarroll be fined £500. Additionally the Committee ordered that her licence be withdrawn indefinitely, but that such licence withdrawal would be suspended for a period of 2 years during which Mrs McCarroll would be required to comply with conditions established by the Director of Regulation. The conditions would relate to a) the maximum number of all greyhounds at the kennels b) an adequate level of staff support and c) the need for comprehensive and up to date documentation for all greyhounds arriving and departing the kennels. Adherence to these conditions would be monitored by monthly visits from the area stipendiary steward. Any breach of these conditions or any other serious breach of the rules of racing by Mrs McCarroll would result in the immediate withdrawal of her licence.