



### **Disciplinary Committee Inquiries**

The Disciplinary Committee of the GBGB were in attendance at a meeting held on 7 March 2013:

Mr R Woodworth CBE (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. \*Wimbledon Stadium – ALL SENSATION – Professional Trainer Mr J Foster**

Professional Trainer Jason Foster 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 ALL SENSATION at Wimbledon Stadium on 22 November 2012 was analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the presence of amphetamine.

Mr Foster was in attendance as were Gary Matthews, racing manager of Wimbledon Stadium, Colin Betteridge, area stipendiary steward and Mike Tasker, sampling officer. Ricky Holloway (Chair of the GTA) and former trainer Stuart Mason attended as witnesses

The Disciplinary Committee received evidence from Dr Higgins, Independent Doping and 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. There is no veterinary preparation of amphetamine with a marketing authorisation for dogs.

The Disciplinary Committee considered written evidence from Mr Foster and former trainer Mr Mason and from their respective kennelhands together with oral evidence from Mr Foster, Mr Mason and Mr Holloway, regarding the possibility that the amphetamine might have resulted from accidental cross contamination. They also viewed photographic and video evidence of the Wimbledon paddock but the evidence was conflicting. However the Committee considered that not all of Mr Foster's evidence was credible.

The Committee could not be satisfied on the balance of probability that Mr Foster or his staff administered amphetamine or had any knowledge of how amphetamine came to be administered or ingested. However, this greyhound was in Mr Foster's charge and the ultimate responsibility therefore was with him.

As some of the GBGB Rules impose strict liability and having considered the circumstances of the case and the presence of a banned Class B drug in the dog's urine, the Disciplinary Committee ordered that Mr Foster be severely reprimanded and fined £1000. In fixing the penalty the Committee took into account previous breaches of the rules of racing recorded against Mr Foster.

The Disciplinary Committee made clear that they did not wish to make any adverse comment regarding the security or housekeeping of the Wimbledon paddock.

## **2. \*Poole Stadium – SAUCY SIZZLER – Professional Trainer Mr S Pilgrim**

Professional Trainer Stephen Pilgrim 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 SAUCY SIZZLER at Poole Stadium on 17 November 2012 was analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the presence of codeine; and that he allowed a substance to be administered that could affect the performance and/or well being of the greyhound.

Mr Pilgrim and Ian Sillence, racing manager of Poole Stadium, apologised for their non-attendance. Colin Betteridge, area stipendiary steward, was in attendance.

The Disciplinary Committee received evidence from Dr Higgins, Independent Doping and Medication Adviser, who stated that codeine is a narcotic analgesic which is classified by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate as a Schedule 5 Controlled Drug. Its legal category is a NFA-VPS, which means that it may only be supplied by a veterinary surgeon, a pharmacist or a Suitably Qualified Person for non-food animals under conditions specified in the Veterinary Medicines Directorate. VMD had confirmed that there is one authorised veterinary medicine containing codeine authorised for use in dogs in the UK (Pardale V tablets). In the case of human medicines containing codeine being administered to animals, as these medicines are not authorised for veterinary purposes these products may only administered under the prescribing cascade on the instruction of a veterinary surgeon after a clinical assessment of the animal concerned.

The Committee heard that it was Mr Pilgrim's practice to keep his personal medication in the feed unit of his greyhound kennels to avoid his young children being able to "get hold of them". Further, his statement asserted that he had accidentally dropped a bottle of his tablets (unspecified) and that some of them might have become mixed with the greyhound's feed. One of his listed medications was Zapain, which Mr Pilgrim took for a back condition. An example of the Zapain pack had been provided. Zapain contains codeine phosphate and paracetamol. Dr Higgins stated that if Zapain had been the source of the positive sample for codeine he would, in view of the excretion profiles of the two drugs in dogs, have generally expected to find traces of paracetamol in the analysis as well as codeine but this was not conclusive.

Although on the balance of probabilities the Disciplinary Committee could not be certain that there had been a deliberate administration of codeine to SAUCY SIZZLER they were critical of Mr Pilgrim for failing to keep medication away from his greyhound feed and thus eliminating any possibility of contamination of the feed.

Having considered Mr Pilgrim's written explanation together with the circumstances of the case, the Disciplinary Committee ordered that he be reprimanded and fined £500.

## **3. \*Poole Stadium – NEWTON SQUARE – Professional Trainer Mr S Pilgrim**

Professional Trainer Stephen Pilgrim 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 NEWTON SQUARE at Poole Stadium on 4 December 2012 was analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the presence of codeine; and that he allowed a substance to be administered that could affect the performance and/or well being of the greyhound.

Mr Pilgrim and Ian Sillence, racing manager of Poole Stadium, apologised for their non-attendance. Colin Betteridge, area stipendiary steward, was in attendance.

The Disciplinary Committee received evidence from Dr Higgins, Independent Doping and Medication Adviser, who stated that codeine is a narcotic analgesic which is classified by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate as a Schedule 5 Controlled Drug. Its legal category is a NFA-VPS, which means that it may only be supplied by a veterinary surgeon, a pharmacist or a Suitably Qualified Person for non-food animals under conditions specified in the Veterinary Medicines Directorate. VMD had confirmed that there is one authorised veterinary medicine containing codeine authorised for use in dogs in the UK (Pardale V tablets). In the case of human medicines containing codeine being administered to animals, as these medicines are not authorised for veterinary purposes these products may only administered under the prescribing cascade on the instruction of a veterinary surgeon after a clinical assessment of the animal concerned.

The Committee heard that it was Mr Pilgrim's practice to keep his personal medication in the feed unit of his greyhound kennels to avoid his young children being able to "get hold of them". Further, his statement asserted that he had accidentally dropped a bottle of his tablets (unspecified) and that some of them might have become mixed with the greyhound's feed. One of his listed medications was Zapain, which Mr Pilgrim took for a back condition. An example of the Zapain pack had been provided. Zapain contains codeine phosphate and paracetamol. Dr Higgins stated that if Zapain had been the source of the positive sample for codeine he would, in view of the excretion profiles of the two drugs in dogs, have generally expected to find traces of paracetamol in the analysis as well as codeine but this was not conclusive.

Although on the balance of probabilities the Disciplinary Committee could not be certain that there had been a deliberate administration of codeine to NEWTON SQUARE they were critical of Mr Pilgrim for failing to throw away food which he could have suspected might have been the source of the codeine positive in Item 2 above. Disposing of such food, if contaminated, would have avoided this second positive find.

Having considered Mr Pilgrim's written explanation together with the circumstances of the case, the Disciplinary Committee ordered that he be reprimanded and fined £500

#### **4. \*Wimbledon Stadium – JAYTEE DANCER – International Trainer Mr P Buckley**

International Trainer Pat Buckley was found in breach of rules 152 (i) & (ii), 174 (i) (a) and 217 of the GBGB Rules of Racing in that a urine sample taken from the greyhound JAYTEE DANCER at Wimbledon Stadium on 8 December 2012 was analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the presence of meloxicam; and that he allowed a substance to be administered that could affect the performance and/or well being of the greyhound.

Mr Buckley was not in attendance. Gary Matthews, racing manager of Wimbledon Stadium, and Colin Betteridge, area stipendiary steward, were in attendance.

The Disciplinary Committee received evidence from Dr Higgins, Independent Doping and Medication Adviser, who stated that meloxicam is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug for the alleviation of

inflammation and pain. It is a Prescription Only Medicine which can have adverse side effects if used unadvisedly.

The Disciplinary Committee heard that in Ireland Mr Buckley routinely treated his dogs post-race with meloxicam (although it seemed that this was not done in conjunction with a veterinary surgeon) and thought that the drug would no longer be in the dog's system after 5 days. However in accordance with GBGB Rules of Racing Mr Buckley should in any case have discontinued all medication at least 7 days before his charge competed in a race in the UK ( in this case a Heat of the Greyhound Oaks) and in any event the Committee were very concerned at a practice that was likely to compromise the animal's welfare.

Having considered Mr Buckley's written explanation although he admitted the offence, the Disciplinary Committee ordered that he be severely reprimanded and fined £600.

#### **5. \*Shawfield Stadium – BANNSIDE WREN – Greyhound Trainer Mr J Dignall**

Greyhound Trainer James Dignall 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 BANNSIDE WREN at Shawfield Stadium on 14 December 2012 was analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the presence of 19-noretiocholanolone & 19-norepiandrosterone, which are metabolites of nandrolone.

Mr Dignall was in attendance. Alex McTaggart, area stipendiary steward, was also present. Daniel Rankin, racing manager of Shawfield Stadium, apologised for his non-attendance.

The Disciplinary Committee received evidence from Dr Higgins, Independent Doping and Medication Adviser, who stated that the Irish Medicines Board had confirmed that products containing nandrolone (such as Laurabolin) are not licenced for oestrus suppression in Ireland (as in UK) and could not be used under the cascade for that purpose. He also advised that nandrolone was a potent and widely abused anabolic steroid and that the excretion of the parent drug and its metabolites varies considerably between individual dogs and can last for several months. The drug is POM-V and in the UK is only licensed for use in the dog in cases of chronic renal failure.

The Disciplinary Committee heard that Mr Dignall had purchased BANNSIDE WREN from a Mr Francis Murphy in N. Ireland with whom Mr Dignall had had no previous dealings. He had interrogated Mr Murphy at length regarding the bitch and been assured that the bitch was not on any form of suppressant. On arrival at his kennels Mr Dignall had started the bitch on norethisterone as a suppressant and upon hearing of the positive for nandrolone Mr Dignall had paid for an elective test for another recent Irish purchase to establish that it was negative and had also made BANNSIDE WREN inactive until the nandrolone was out of the bitch's system.

The Disciplinary Committee then considered a letter of apology from Mr Murphy in which he stated that Laurabolin had been administered accidentally to BANNSIDE WREN in his absence and without his knowledge and although the Committee did not find Mr Murphy's explanation entirely plausible they considered that Mr Dignall had taken every possible precaution to satisfy himself that his purchase had not been improperly suppressed and had then taken every measure to correct the situation. They were impressed both by his sincerity and his willingness to travel to London to present his case.

Some of the GBGB Rules of Racing impose strict liability on the trainer and having considered Mr Dignall's explanation together with the circumstances of the case, the Disciplinary Committee ordered that no further action be taken.

## **6. Professional Trainer Mr I Brown**

Professional Trainer Ian Brown was found in breach of rules 2, 6, 152 (i) & (ii), 174 (iv) & (v), 212 and 213 of the GBGB Rules of Racing in relation to his failure to notify the GBGB of a change of address and therefore subsequent running of his greyhounds from unlicensed premises.

Mr Brown was in attendance with owner Mr Cockell. Marcus Westgate, racing manager of Yarmouth Stadium, and Adrian Smith, area stipendiary steward, were also present.

The Disciplinary committee heard that Mr Brown trained his dogs in kennels on tenanted land and had been subject to notice from his landlord who had then proceeded to aggressively demolish Mr Brown's kennels piecemeal even as he took the dogs out for exercise. Instead of bringing the matter to the notice of Mr Adrian Smith or the management of Yarmouth Stadium Mr Brown had started to relocate his dogs to new kennels (made with 20ft containers) some ½ mile away which he had intended to seek GBGB approval of when he had completed fitting them out. In the meanwhile he continued during January 2013 to run 18 different dogs at Yarmouth which Mr Brown was adamant were accommodated (all but 1) in the remnants of his approved GBGB kennels, suggesting that his "resters" were kennelled in the unapproved block. The Committee doubted that only a single dog had been run from an unlicensed kennel and noted that Mr Brown's "container" kennels were never going to be to an appropriate standard for GBGB approval. Accordingly the Director of Regulation had suspended Mr Brown's licence with effect from 30 January 2013.

While the Disciplinary Committee took a serious view of trainers running dogs from unlicensed kennels they were cognisant of Mr Brown's personal problems at the time which had caused him to make a significant error of judgement. They also took particular note of the continuing support that Mr Brown was receiving from the management of Yarmouth Stadium to enable him to construct alternative kennels which would be acceptable to the GBGB. Without these mitigating factors the Disciplinary Committee would have considered disqualifying Mr Brown.

Having considered Mr Brown's explanation together with the circumstances of the case, the Disciplinary Committee ordered that:-

- 1) Suspension of his licence continue until new kennels are approved by the GBGB
- 2) A further condition is that all Mr Brown's retired greyhounds, resters and bitches in season are removed from their present location into kennels to be approved by the GBGB by 30<sup>th</sup> April 2013
- 3) He be fined £750
- 4) He be severely reprimanded