



Disciplinary Committee Inquiries

The Disciplinary Committee of the GBGB were in attendance at a meeting held on 12 February 2013:-

Mr K Salmon (in the chair)
Dr E Houghton
Mr A Hunt
Dr AJ Higgins*

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

1. APPLICATION – MR A PASFIELD (adjourned from 13/12/12)

Mr Pasfield attended for the hearing of his application to lift the disqualification imposed by the NGRC stewards on 21 January 1997. It became apparent during the hearing that several matters required further investigation. The application was adjourned to be heard at a later date.

2. *Wimbledon Stadium – BALLYARD BUDDY, Monmore Green Stadium – CANDY WHEEL / ALIEN PLANET – Professional Trainer Mr S Mason

Professional Trainer Stuart Mason was found in breach of rules 174 (i)(b) and 217 of the GBGB Rules of Racing in that urine samples taken from the greyhound BALLYARD BUDDY at Wimbledon Stadium on 22 November 2012 plus CANDY WHEEL and ALIEN PLANET at Monmore Green Stadium on 26 November 2012, were analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the presence of amphetamine.

Mr Mason was in attendance and accompanied by his wife. Colin Betteridge and Jack Robinson, area stipendiary stewards, Clive Carr, investigating officer and Gary Matthews, racing manager of Wimbledon Stadium, were in attendance. Jim Woods, racing manager of Monmore Green Stadium, apologised for his non-attendance.

The Disciplinary Committee noted that as a runner in the St Leger final it was inevitable that BALLYARD BUDDY would have been tested, and that there was no apparent advantage to Mr Mason in administering amphetamine to dogs involved in a trial. In those circumstances the Disciplinary Committee was not satisfied on the balance of probabilities that he had himself deliberately administered amphetamine to the dogs in question.

Having said that, these were three very serious breaches involving a class B drug which occurred within four days of each other. The Disciplinary Committee made no finding as to how these drugs were administered but they were satisfied that the withdrawal of Mr Mason's licence was necessary

for the protection of the welfare of any greyhound which might be in his charge and for the protection of the betting public.

Accordingly, the Disciplinary Committee ordered that his licence was withdrawn for a period of two years.

The Disciplinary Committee also felt that these offences were so serious that they must be marked by a financial penalty. They took into account the fact that Mr Mason closed his kennel immediately after the three positive tests but for that the fine would have been far greater. In the circumstances, the Disciplinary Committee fined Mr Mason £1,500.

3. *Kinsley Stadium – BUMPER PACKAGE – Professional Trainer Mr R Garth

Professional Trainer Richard Garth 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 BUMPER PACKAGE at Kinsley Stadium on 27 October 2012 was analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the presence of 19-noretiocholanolone and 19-norepiandrosterone, which are metabolites of nandrolone. These metabolites of nandrolone were also identified in the Point of Registration Sample taken from Bumper package on 6 October 2012.

Mr Garth apologised for his non-attendance as did Andrew Mascarenhas, racing manager of Kinsley Stadium.

The Disciplinary Committee noted that the owner, Mr Seville, had made enquiries of the vendor and was assured that the bitch had not been suppressed. However, the Disciplinary Committee was presented with other conflicting evidence that Laurabolin (a product containing nandrolone) had been administered to the dog in Ireland by the dog's previous trainer in Dundalk, Mr Patsy Mellon (or Mallen) to suppress her season.

Dr Higgins advised that the Irish Medicines Board had confirmed that products containing nandrolone (such as Laurabolin) are not licenced for oestrus suppression in Ireland 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 UK is only licensed for use in the dog in cases of chronic renal failure.

Some of the GBGB Rules of Racing impose strict liability on the trainer or registered sales agent. Having considered his written explanation together with the circumstances of the case, the Disciplinary Committee made no order.

4. *Sunderland Stadium – TULLYMURRY WEST – Professional Trainer Mrs AJ McNicholas

Professional Trainer Jeanette McNicholas 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 WEST at Sunderland Stadium on 13 November 2012 was analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the presence of 6 α -hydroxy stanozolol and dihydroxy stanozolol, which are metabolites of stanozolol. These metabolites of stanozolol were also identified in the Point of Registration sample taken from Tullymurry West on 29 September 2012.

Mrs McNicholas apologised for her non-attendance as did Michael Patterson racing manager of Sunderland Stadium.

Dr Higgins advised that stanozolol is an androgenic anabolic steroid that is widely abused as a performance enhancing drug. It was available in tablet form for daily administration or as an injection for longer acting effects. He said he was not aware that it was licensed anywhere for oestrus suppression. Dr Higgins added that the Irish Medicines Board had confirmed that stanozolol is not licenced for any use in humans or animals in Ireland (as in UK).

The Disciplinary Committee noted that Mrs McNicholas had bought a large number of dogs from Mr Damian Maginn, the vendor of TULLYMURRY WEST, and she had reposed trust in him. Mr Maginn had provided a letter to Mr Les Tones, the owner of the dog, to say he suppressed his bitches with stanozolol (including TULLYMURRY WEST).

The Committee further noted that Mrs McNicholas had no previous breaches of the rules of racing recorded against her and since this positive sample she had ensured the two dogs she had subsequently purchased from Mr Maginn were electively tested.

Some of the GBGB Rules of Racing impose strict liability on the trainer or registered sales agent. Having considered her written explanation together with the circumstances of the case, the Disciplinary Committee made no order.