

### **Disciplinary Committee Inquiries**

The Disciplinary Committee of the GBGB were in attendance at a meeting held on 14 May 2013:-

Mr K Salmon (in the chair)  
Mr R Coughlan  
Mr A Hunt  
Dr AJ Higgins\*

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

#### **1. \*Brighton Stadium – DREAM WIN / GET ON CASSIE – Professional Trainer Mr S Cahill**

Professional Trainer Seamus Cahill was found in breach of rules 174 (i)(b) and 214 of the GBGB Rules of Racing in that urine samples taken from the greyhounds DREAM WIN on 18 January 2013 and GET ON CASSIE on 6 March 2013 at Brighton Stadium were analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the presence of hydroxyphenylbutazone, a metabolite of phenylbutazone.

Mr Cahill was in attendance. Peter Miller, racing manager of Brighton Stadium, Lorraine Sams, area stipendiary steward and Jim Snowden, investigating officer, were also in attendance.

The Disciplinary Committee noted the opinion of Dr Andrew Higgins (Independent Doping and Medication Adviser) that phenylbutazone is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug used for the alleviation of pain in acute and chronic musculoskeletal disorders. It is a prescription only medicine.

The Disciplinary Committee accepted that Mr Cahill had not deliberately administered phenylbutazone to either of these greyhounds. On a balance of probability, the Disciplinary Committee considered that the likeliest source of the metabolite of phenylbutazone detected in these greyhounds was Category 2 horsemeat. They noted that Mr Cahill boiled this meat and that he had now changed his meat supplier. However, the Calendar Notice of 30 November 2012 warned trainers about the dangers of contamination in Category 2 meat and the Disciplinary Committee felt that Mr Cahill was unwise to continue feeding such meat following that warning.

The GBGB Rules of Racing impose strict liability on the trainer or registered sales agent. Having considered his explanation together with the circumstances of the case, the Disciplinary Committee ordered that Mr Cahill be cautioned.

#### **2. \*Brighton Stadium – CENTURION LILLY – Professional Trainer Mrs W Short**

Professional Trainer Wendy Short was found in breach of rules 174 (i)(b) and 214 of the GBGB Rules of Racing in that a urine sample taken from the greyhound CENTURION LILLY at Brighton Stadium on 7 January 2013 was analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the presence of hydroxyphenylbutazone, a metabolite of phenylbutazone.

Mrs Short was in attendance and accompanied by her husband. Peter Miller, racing manager of Brighton Stadium, Lorraine Sams, area stipendiary steward and Jim Snowden, investigating officer, were also in attendance.

The Disciplinary Committee noted the opinion of Dr Andrew Higgins (Independent Doping and Medication Adviser) that phenylbutazone is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug used for the alleviation of pain in acute and chronic musculoskeletal disorders. It is a prescription only medicine.

The Disciplinary Committee accepted that Mrs Short did not deliberately administer phenylbutazone to this greyhound. On the evidence they had there were two possibilities of the metabolite phenylbutazone being detected in these greyhounds either Category 2 meat supplied as greyhound food or processed meat products which some owners gave to their greyhounds as treats. The Disciplinary Committee noted that Mrs Short had changed her feeding regime following this positive test and had limited the treats that owners gave their dogs to cheese and fish. The Disciplinary Committee was concerned that a Calendar Notice in November 2012 warned trainers of the risks in feeding Category 2 meat and they felt that Mrs Short was unwise to continue doing so.

The GBGB Rules of Racing impose strict liability on the trainer or registered sales agent. Having considered her explanation together with the circumstances of the case, the Disciplinary Committee ordered that Mrs Short be cautioned.

### **3. \*Sittingbourne Stadium – KNOWSLEY CAZ – Professional Trainer Ms B Connolly**

Professional Trainer Bernadette Connolly was found in breach of rules 174 (i) (b) and 214 of the GBGB Rules of Racing in that a urine sample taken from the greyhound KNOWSLEY CAZ at Sittingbourne Stadium on 29 December 2012 was analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the presence of hydroxyphenylbutazone, a metabolite of phenylbutazone.

Ms Connolly and Jess Packer, racing manager of Sittingbourne Stadium, apologised for their non-attendance. Denis (John) O'Connor, head kennelhand, attended as representative for Ms Connolly. Lorraine Sams, area stipendiary steward and Jim Snowden, investigating officer, were also in attendance.

The Disciplinary Committee noted the opinion of Dr Andrew Higgins (Independent Doping and Medication Adviser) that phenylbutazone is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug used for the alleviation of pain in acute and chronic musculoskeletal disorders. It is a prescription only medicine.

On the balance of probability the Disciplinary Committee was satisfied that the metabolite of phenylbutazone detected in this greyhound's system arose from the feeding of contaminated Category 2 meat. The Disciplinary Committee noted that the trainer had now changed her supplier and fed only Category 3 meat. However, in a Calendar Notice in November 2012, trainers were

warned of the risks of feeding Category 2 meat and the Disciplinary Committee considered this trainer was very unwise to take this risk.

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 ordered that Ms Connolly be cautioned.

**4. \*Romford Stadium – MANDEVILLE ROSE – Professional Trainer Mr C Mosdall**

Professional Trainer Christopher Mosdall was found in breach of rules 174 (i) (b) and 214 of the GBGB Rules of Racing in that a urine sample taken from the greyhound MANDEVILLE ROSE at Romford Stadium on 21 January 2013 was analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the presence of hydroxyphenylbutazone, a metabolite of phenylbutazone.

Mr Mosdall was in attendance and represented by Christopher Allnutt. Adrian Smith and Lorraine Sams, area stipendiary stewards, and Jim Snowden, investigating officer, were also in attendance. Peter O'Dowd, racing manager of Romford Stadium, apologised for his non-attendance.

The Disciplinary Committee noted the opinion of Dr Andrew Higgins (Independent Doping and Medication Adviser) that phenylbutazone is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug used for the alleviation of pain in acute and chronic musculoskeletal disorders. It is a prescription only medicine.

On the balance of probabilities the Disciplinary Committee considered that the source of the metabolite of phenylbutazone detected in this greyhound was contaminated Category 2 meat supplied as animal feed. The Disciplinary Committee noted that since this positive test Mr Mosdall had changed his feeding regime and now only fed Category 3 minced beef. However, in a Calendar Notice in November 2012 trainers were warned in the clearest terms of the risks in feeding Category 2 meat. The Disciplinary Committee considers it very unwise of Mr Mosdall to have taken this risk.

The GBGB Rules of Racing impose strict liability on the trainer or registered sales agent. Having considered his explanation together with the circumstances of the case, the Disciplinary Committee ordered that Mr Mosdall be cautioned.

**5. \*Newcastle Stadium – HIGHCLERE DANCER – Professional Trainer Mr H Burton and former Kennelhand Mr P Dixon**

Professional Trainer Harry Burton was found in breach of rules 174 (i)(b) and 214 and former Kennelhand Phillip Dixon was found in breach of rules 152 (i) and (ii), 174 (i) (a), 174 (xi), 214 and 217 of the GBGB Rules of Racing in that a urine sample taken from the greyhound HIGHCLERE DANCER at Newcastle Stadium on 12 December 2012 was analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the presence of atenolol.

Mr Burton was in attendance. Ian Walton, operations manager of Newcastle Stadium, Alex McTaggart, area stipendiary steward, and Clive Carr, investigating officer, were also in attendance. Mr Dixon did not attend.

The Disciplinary Committee noted the opinion of Dr Andrew Higgins (Independent Doping and Medication Adviser) that atenolol is a cardioselective beta-blocker primarily used to slow down heart rate. Atenolol was used in the management of hypertension (high blood pressure), angina pectoris, cardiac arrhythmias and myocardial infarction in human patients. Dr Higgins noted that beta blockers are known as 'stoppers' as they lower heart rate and can therefore reduce performance.

The Disciplinary Committee heard oral evidence from Mr Burton. They found him to be a convincing witness who was giving a true account of events and they accepted his account. In August 2012 Mr Burton engaged Mr Albert Morton as a kennelhand. The Disciplinary Committee heard evidence from Clive Carr regarding the extensive efforts he had made to contact Mr Morton over the six weeks prior to this inquiry. He had left many telephone messages and sent many texts and had visited Mr Morton's house on four occasions. Mr Morton failed to respond in any way. The Disciplinary Committee accepted Clive Carr's view that Mr Morton was deliberately avoiding any involvement with the investigation of this case.

Mr Burton had known Mr Morton for over thirty years. He said that Mr Morton had always liked a gamble, but for comparatively low stakes of £10 - £20. In November of last year, Mr Morton began staking much larger amounts of up to £150. At first he was successful, but then he began losing.

Mr Dixon, the second arraigned party, is Mr Morton's daughter's partner. Mr Dixon had been notified of the inquiry. He did not respond and failed to attend. He was engaged as a kennelhand by Mr Burton purely to drive dogs to the track when Mr Burton was unable to do so.

On 12 December 2012 a sample of urine was taken from HIGHCLERE DANCER and sent for analysis.

Towards the end of December, before the results of that analysis were known, Mr Morton approached one of Mr Burton's owners, a Mr Ogden, and said he could influence the performance of a dog in Mr Burton's kennel with a view to having a gamble.

Mr Ogden texted Mr Burton to that effect, although he now denies doing so. Shortly after that conversation Mr Morton left Mr Burton's kennel. He failed to return any of the numerous phone calls and texts that Mr Burton sent.

On 16 January 2013 Mr Burton was notified that HIGHCLERE DANCER had tested positive for the beta-blocker atenolol.

On 4 February 2013 Mr Morton and Mr Dixon went to Mr Burton's home and said that Mr Dixon had given HIGHCLERE DANCER atenolol by mistake. They explained that atenolol had been prescribed to Miss Zoe Morton, Mr Morton's daughter for high blood pressure. The family dog had destroyed the box in which she kept her atenolol so she had put the pills in an empty multivitamin pot. Mr Dixon thought HIGHCLERE DANCER was looking unwell so gave the greyhound, as he thought, 2 vitamin tablets which were, in fact, atenolol. The above account was put in witness statements by Mr Dixon and Zoe Morton, who did not attend the inquiry. Zoe Morton was specifically invited to attend the inquiry and was offered the opportunity to give evidence by telephone. She did not respond. The Disciplinary Committee rejected this account of events. It was inherently improbable and unsupported by any live evidence.

The Disciplinary Committee felt that either Mr Morton administered atenolol and Mr Dixon was lying on his behalf as part of a conspiracy or Mr Dixon himself administered atenolol. In the Disciplinary Committee's judgement for the purposes of this inquiry it did not matter which.

Having considered Mr Burton's explanation together with the circumstances of the case, the Disciplinary Committee took no further action.

The Disciplinary Committee found that Mr Dixon administered or conspired in the administration of atenolol with a view to affecting the performance of HIGHCLERE DANCER so that the integrity of greyhound racing was compromised and the greyhound subjected to unnecessary suffering. They ordered that Mr Dixon be warned off indefinitely.