

## **CALENDAR NOTICE (to be published 26 September 2014)**

### **Disciplinary Committee Inquiries**

The Disciplinary Committee of the GBGB were in attendance at a meeting held on 16 September 2014:-

Dr AJ Higgins (in the chair)

Mr R Coughlan

Mr A Hunt

Mr H Starte (observing)

#### **1. REGISTERED OWNER MR DT MONKTON – ANIMAL WELFARE**

Registered Owner Derek Monkton was found in breach of rules 2, 152 (i) and (ii) and 174 (xi) of the GBGB Rules of Racing and the Disciplinary Committee also found that rule 176 applied in relation to Mr Monkton's conviction on 28 March 2014 at Redditch Magistrates' Court of two offences contrary to the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

Mr Monkton did not attend the inquiry and offered no explanation. Clive Carr, investigating officer, was in attendance.

The Disciplinary Committee found that Mr Monkton failed to have full regard to greyhound welfare or to accept the provisions of the Animal Welfare Act (2006) in that he had two convictions under the Act in 2005 and 2014, the latter for breaching a lifetime ban for keeping animals. The Committee did not accept Mr Monkton's contention that he was not banned by the courts from owning animals; indeed the order of 28 March 2014 stated clearly that he breached the disqualification in that he had custody of animals namely rabbits and greyhounds. The Disqualification specified, inter alia, any owning, keeping, or participating in the keeping of animals.

In terms of rules 152 (i) and (ii) the committee found that Mr Monkton had acted in a manner prejudicial to the integrity, proper conduct or good reputation of greyhound racing. In the light of the evidence of the condition of the teeth of the greyhound GYPSY and the reported comment from the RSPCA that this caused her pain and suffering the committee also found Mr Monkton in breach of rule 174 (xi).

The Disciplinary Committee considers any breach of the Animal Welfare Act to be a most serious matter. In all the circumstances of the case, they ordered that Mr Monkton be warned off indefinitely.

With regard to the GRB's submission on rule 176, the committee agreed that any greyhound registered in the name of Mr Monkton's partner, or associate at the time of his warning off should be disqualified and the GBGB should refuse registration of any greyhound in the name of such relative or associate.

#### **2. NEWCASTLE STADIUM – GEMSTONES ROVER**

Professional Trainer George Gibbinson 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 GEMSTONES ROVER at Newcastle

Stadium on 2 April 2014 was analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the presence of 6 $\alpha$ -hydroxystanozolol, a metabolite of stanozolol.

Mr Gibbinson apologised for his non-attendance. The committee noted the current serious health condition of Mrs Gibbinson. Apologies were also received from Paul Twinn, racing manager of Newcastle Stadium. Professor Tim Morris, independent scientific adviser, Alex McTaggart, area stipendiary steward and Clive Carr, investigating officer, were in attendance.

On the balance of probabilities, supported by the scientific evidence, the Disciplinary Committee found that Mr Gibbinson did not deliberately administer stanozolol to GEMSTONES ROVER but that the urine did contain a metabolite of the drug, presumably administered at some point before he purchased the greyhound.

In cautioning Mr Gibbinson, the Disciplinary Committee urged all trainers to exercise due diligence in assessing the drug status of greyhounds they purchase from Ireland. The committee warned Mr Gibbinson that they would not expect him to appear before them again with an anabolic steroid positive.