

CALENDAR NOTICE (to be published 7 November 2014)

Disciplinary Committee Inquiries

The Disciplinary Committee of the GBGB were in attendance at a meeting held on 28 October 2014:-

Dr AJ Higgins (in the chair)

Mr A Hunt

Mr K Salmon

1. Sittingbourne Stadium – MAKEIT SPARKLE– Professional Trainer Mr F Gray

A urine sample taken from the greyhound MAKEIT SPARKLE at Sittingbourne Stadium on 5 June 2014 was analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the presence of tetramisole.

Professional Trainer Frank Gray was found in breach of rules 152 (i) & (ii) of the GBGB Rules of Racing in that he failed to follow the rules (including the Trainer's Guide to Medication Control in Greyhounds) by administering to the greyhound MAKEIT SPARKLE a banned medicine which is not licensed in the UK for use in dogs, that Mr Gray sourced this from the internet without a veterinary prescription and therefore acted in a manner prejudicial to the proper conduct of greyhound racing as regulated by GBGB.

Mr Gray was in attendance and accompanied by his kennelhand Ms Linda Peddie. Ms Lorraine Sams, area stipendiary steward and Professor Tim Morris, independent scientific adviser, were also in attendance. Jess Packer, racing manager of Sittingbourne Stadium, apologised for his non-attendance.

The Disciplinary Committee gave credit to Mr Gray for openly admitting the breaches at the first possible opportunity. The expert evidence indicated that the substance was unlikely to affect the performance of the greyhound or prejudice its well-being, and the Committee accepted that view. They also noted Mr Gray's clean record.

The Committee advised GBGB to caution all trainers to follow carefully the Trainer's Guide to Medication Control in Greyhounds and not to source medication from the internet without prescription.

In all the circumstances of the case, the Disciplinary Committee ordered that Mr Gray be cautioned and fined £100.

2. Brighton Stadium – ASHINGTON ADAM – Professional Trainer Mr A (Claude) Gardiner

Professional Trainer Claude Gardiner was found in breach of rules 152 (i) & (ii), 174 (i)(b), 214 and 217 of the GBGB Rules of Racing in that a urine sample taken from the greyhound ASHINGTON ADAM at Brighton Stadium on 24 April 2014 was analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the presence of 19-norethisterone and 5 β -estran-17 α -ethynyl-3 α , 17 β -diol which has been detected in canine urine following the administration of 19-norethisterone.

Mr Gardiner was in attendance. Peter Miller, racing manager of Brighton Stadium, Ms Lorraine Sams, area stipendiary steward and Professor Tim Morris, independent scientific adviser, were also in attendance.

The Committee found a breach of rule 152 (i) & (ii) in that Mr Gardiner had failed to follow the Rules (including the GBGB Guide to the Use of Norethisterone as a Season Suppressant) by administering to ASHINGTON ADAM a banned medicine which is not licensed in the UK for use in male dogs and so acted in a manner prejudicial to the proper conduct of greyhound racing by GBGB.

He was also in breach of rule 174 (i)(b) in that he had in his charge a greyhound which showed in its urine evidence of norethisterone and metabolite, and that norethisterone by its nature could affect the performance of the greyhound or prejudice its well-being.

He was in breach of rule 214 in that the food given to ASHINGTON ADAM was not free of a substance that could affect the dog's performance or prejudice its welfare, and of rule 217 in that ASHINGTON ADAM was not free at the time of racing of a substance that had not been authorised for use in a male dog.

The Committee commended Mr Gardiner for admitting the breaches. He did however admit to carelessness and the Committee noted that he had now changed his feeding regime. Nevertheless, norethisterone is a Prescription Only Medicine with rigorous controls on its use in greyhound bitches. The Committee heard from the expert witness that norethisterone can affect performance and that giving female hormones to male dogs is not appropriate and gives rise to the potential for side effects. The Committee advised GBGB to caution all trainers to be very careful to avoid cross contamination with norethisterone and to ensure that norethisterone cannot inadvertently be administered to another greyhound for which it has not been prescribed.

The Committee recommended GBGB issue a revised Calendar Notice reminding trainers of this requirement.

Some of the GBGB Rules of Racing impose strict liability on the trainer or registered sales agent. In all the circumstances of the case, the Disciplinary Committee ordered that Mr Gardiner be reprimanded and fined £300.

3. Swindon Stadium – FAITHFUL LINETT – Professional Trainer Mr RP Smith

A urine sample taken from the greyhound FAITHFUL LINETT at Swindon Stadium on 23 April 2014 was analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the presence of tetramisole.

Professional trainer Mr Robert Paul Smith was in attendance. David Stow, racing manager of Swindon Stadium, apologised for his non-attendance. Colin Betteridge, area stipendiary steward, Simon Gower, Veterinary Surgeon and Professor Tim Morris, independent scientific adviser, were also in attendance.

Under point 8.7.5 of the GBGB Penalty Guidelines the Director of Regulation was required to bring this case before the Disciplinary Committee as a drug not licensed for use in dogs in the UK had been found in a urine sample taken from the greyhound FAITHFUL LINETT. On investigation, evidence was presented that the drug had been legitimately prescribed by a licensed veterinary surgeon under the procedure known as the cascade. The expert witness confirmed that the cascade had been appropriately used in this case, and the veterinary surgeon explained the justification for the use of the drug. The Committee found that there had been no breach of the Rules and the case was therefore dismissed.

The Committee recommended that GBGB should suggest to the Rules Review Committee that it may not always be necessary to bring such cases before the Disciplinary Committee as it may be possible to deal with them administratively by the Director of Regulation in consultation with the Independent Scientific Adviser.

4. Monmore Green Stadium – KILLAHARRY ALICE – Professional Trainer Mr P Sallis

Professional Trainer Paul Sallis was found in breach of rules 152 (i) & (ii), 174 (i)(b), 214 and 217 of the GBGB Rules of Racing in that a urine sample taken from the greyhound KILLAHARRY ALICE at Monmore Green Stadium on 26 April 2014 was analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the presence of quinalbarbitone,

Mr Sallis was in attendance. Tony Williamson, racing manager of Monmore Green Stadium, Richard Brankley, authorised representative, Jack Robinson, area stipendiary steward and Professor Tim Morris, independent scientific adviser, were also in attendance.

Mr Sallis was found in breach of rule 152 (i) & (ii) in that he had failed to take action that under the Rules he was required to take, and so acted in a manner prejudicial to the proper conduct of greyhound racing as regulated by GBGB.

He was also in breach of rule 174 (i)(b) in that he had in his charge a greyhound which showed the presence in urine of a metabolite of quinalbarbitone which by its nature could affect the performance of the greyhound or prejudice its well-being.

He was in breach of rule 214 in that he did not ensure that the food given to KILLAHARRY ALICE was free from any substance that might falsely affect performance or prejudice welfare and of rule 217 in that KILLAHARRY ALICE was not free of any substance that could affect its performance or well-being when taking part in a race.

The Committee accepted Mr Sallis's assertion that there was no wilful attempt to administer a prohibited substance to KILLAHARRY ALICE and, in the light of the expert advice, the Committee accepted that the most likely source of the substance was through the feeding of contaminated Category 2 meat. The Committee were disturbed by Mr Sallis's admission of ignorance of the GBGB Advice for Trainers on the Feeding of Red Meat which had led him to feed high risk material to racing greyhounds. The Committee noted with concern his previous breaches that may also have been meat related. They acknowledged Mr Sallis's statement that he was no longer feeding red meat and stated that they would not expect to see him before them again on a similar breach.

The Committee advised GBGB to reinforce the advice about the high risks involved in the feeding Category 2 meat, possibly by asking the stipendiary stewards to emphasise the dangers, as well as in a Calendar Notice.

Some of the GBGB Rules of Racing impose strict liability on the trainer or registered sales agent. In all the circumstances of the case, the Disciplinary Committee ordered that Mr Sallis be severely reprimanded and fined £1,200.