

## **CALENDAR NOTICE (to be published 19 December 2014)**

### **Disciplinary Committee Inquiries**

The Disciplinary Committee of the GBGB were in attendance at a meeting held on 3 December 2014:-

Mr K Salmon (in the chair)

Mr R Coughlan

Mr A Hunt

#### **1. Romford Stadium – LA CUCHILLA and BALLYMAC BOBBYJO – Greyhound Trainer Mr S Race**

Greyhound Trainer Steven Race was found in breach of rules 152 (i) & (ii), 174 (i)(b), 214 and 217 of the GBGB Rules of Racing in that urine samples taken from the greyhound LA CUCHILLA on 26 August 2014 and 19 September 2014 and BALLYMAC BOBBYJO on 10 September 2014 at Romford Stadium were analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the presence of benzoylecgonine (a metabolite of cocaine).

Mr Race was in attendance accompanied by Roy Ball, kennelhand and owner. Professor Tim Morris, independent scientific adviser, and Clive Carr, investigating officer, and stipendiary steward, Adrian Smith, were also in attendance. Peter O'Dowd, racing manager of Romford Stadium, apologised for his non-attendance.

The Committee heard evidence from Professor Tim Morris that Cocaine is a class A drug possession of which is an offence under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. It has no veterinary application and is a substance which by its nature could affect the performance of and prejudice the welfare of a greyhound. Professor Morris stated that the amounts of cocaine metabolites detected in the urine were not trivial. In the case of LA CUCHILLA, there had been at least 3 administrations of cocaine no less than one month prior to the hair sample being taken. In respect of BALLYMAC BOBBYJO, on a balance of probability the administration of cocaine occurred no less than one month prior to the hair test.

The Disciplinary Committee considered these to be extremely serious breaches of the Rules of Racing. The greyhound LA CUCHILLA tested positive for a metabolite of cocaine in respect of samples taken on 26 August 2014 and 19 September 2014. A hair sample taken on 19 September 2014 also tested positive for the cocaine. In addition, the point of registration sample taken on 21 July 2014 also tested positive for a metabolite of cocaine. The greyhound BALLYMAC BOBBYJO tested positive for cocaine and a metabolite of cocaine in respect of a sample taken on 10 September 2014. A hair sample taken on 11 October 2014 tested positive for cocaine.

Mr Race admitted breaches of Rules 152 (i) & (ii), 174 (i)(b), 214 and 217 of the GBGB Rules of Racing in that he had in his charge greyhounds which showed the presence of a substance which could affect their performance or prejudice their wellbeing. Rule 174 (i)(b) imposes strict liability upon the trainer. Mr Race did not admit a breach of rule 174 (i)(a) and the committee did not deal with him on the basis that he administered cocaine himself or had any knowledge that cocaine had been administered.

Mr Race suggested that the source of cocaine was a kennelhand he had employed between June and October 2014. The committee considered this to be a possibility but the committee could not say on the balance of probability that this was how these greyhounds came to test positive.

The committee found that it was not possible on the balance of probability to identify the source of the cocaine, but that the ultimate responsibility lay with Mr Race. By his own admission, due to other business commitments, he played a small part in the day to day running of the kennel at that time, hence the need to employ an additional kennelhand to transport his greyhounds to the races. He did not make any checks regarding that kennelhand nor did he insist on references. In short the committee considered that he had allowed a situation to arise in which there were four positive tests for a metabolite of cocaine involving two greyhounds in his charge.

In the opinion of the Disciplinary Committee the seriousness of these breaches cannot be overstated both in terms of their impact on the integrity of greyhound racing and the welfare of the greyhounds affected.

In all the circumstances of the case and given the number of breaches and the nature of the drug involved, the least penalty the committee could impose was that Mr Race be disqualified for a period of 28 days. In addition, Mr Race was fined £1,000 in respect of each of the three breaches, a total of £3,000.