

CALENDAR NOTICE (to be published 30 January 2015)

Disciplinary Committee Inquiries

The Disciplinary Committee of the GBGB were in attendance at a meeting held on 13 January 2015:-

Mr K Salmon (in the chair)

Mr R Coughlan

Mr A Hunt

1. Crayford Stadium – CHUARDAIGH– Professional Trainer Mr P Cusack

Professional Trainer Patrick (Patsy) Cusack was found in breach of rules 152 (ii), 174 (i)(b), and 217 of the GBGB Rules of Racing in that a urine sample taken from the greyhound CHUARDAIGH at Crayford Stadium on 28 June 2014 was analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the presence of amitriptyline.

Mr Cusack was in attendance. Danny Rayment, racing manager of Crayford Stadium, Lorraine Sams, stipendiary steward and Professor Tim Morris, independent scientific adviser, were also in attendance.

The Disciplinary Committee heard evidence from Professor Tim Morris, Independent Scientific Adviser, to the effect that amitriptyline is not available as a veterinary medicine. For human medical use, it is prescribed to treat depression. It is a substance which could affect the nervous and cardiovascular system and as such could affect the performance and/or prejudice the wellbeing of the greyhound.

Mr Cusack gave no explanation as to how amitriptyline was administered to this greyhound, but was adamant that he did not administer amitriptyline. Further, he stated that he had complete confidence in his staff and assured the Committee that they did not administer amitriptyline. He stated that he had no reason to administer this substance - he himself was not a gambler and did not bet on this race. The Committee considered Mr Cusack to be an honest witness who was doing his best to assist them and they accepted his evidence that neither he nor his kennel staff administered amitriptyline.

Mr Cusack had three previous breaches of the GBGB Rules of Racing recorded against him of which the Committee considered the breach of rule 174 (i)(b) regarding a positive test in respect of flunixin which came before the Disciplinary Committee on 20 October 2011 to be relevant for the purpose of this inquiry. On that occasion, Mr Cusack was reprimanded and fined £500.

Although the Committee found Mr Cusack in breach of rule 174 (i)(b) on the basis of strict liability, and not the more serious breach of rule 174 (i)(a), they were firmly of the opinion that it was wholly unacceptable for any greyhound to be running with amitriptyline in its system both from the point of view of the greyhound's welfare and in terms of the integrity of greyhound racing. For that reason,

the least penalty the Disciplinary Committee could impose was a severe reprimand and a fine of £750.

2. Swindon Stadium – JUMBO STEPS – Professional Trainer Mr D Davy

Professional Trainer Derek Davy was found in breach of rules 152 (i) & (ii), 174 (i)(a) and 217 of the GBGB Rules of Racing in that a urine sample taken from the greyhound JUMBO STEPS at Swindon Stadium on 16 September 2014 was analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the presence of cyclizine; and that he allowed a substance to be administered that could affect the performance and/or wellbeing of the greyhound.

Mr Davy was in attendance. Bill Glass, Authorised Representative of Swindon Stadium, Colin Betteridge, stipendiary steward and Professor Tim Morris, independent scientific adviser, were also in attendance. Clive Oseman, racing manager of Swindon Stadium, apologised for his non-attendance.

The committee heard evidence from Professor Tim Morris, Independent Scientific Adviser, to the effect that cyclizine is an anti-histamine which is not available as a veterinary medicine. It has a range of side effects, in particular it causes sedation at clinical doses and more serious effects on the nervous system at higher doses. As a sedative anti-histamine it is a substance which by its nature could affect the performance and/or prejudice the welfare of a greyhound.

A point of registration sample from JUMBO STEPS taken on 3 September 2014 was negative for cyclizine. It was therefore certain that cyclizine was administered to this greyhound between 3 September 2014 and 16 September 2014 whilst this greyhound was in the charge of Mr Davy.

Mr Davy offered no explanation for the positive test other than to say that he supposed the dog in some way picked up a tablet accidentally. He explained that he had 40 acres of land and exercised his dogs without muzzles. The Disciplinary Committee found that explanation very hard to accept. They thought it unlikely that a greyhound would find a cyclizine tablet at all in those circumstances and more unlikely that if a greyhound did find such a tablet that it would ingest it.

The Committee were also very concerned by the PA Sport form lines in respect of JUMBO STEPS. Whilst the dog was running in Ireland it showed very consistent form. When it came into Mr Davy's charge its performance was firstly, markedly inferior and secondly, very inconsistent. The Committee noted that the greyhound was trialed on 19 November 2014 when its time was 79/100th of a second slower than its previous trial on 11 November 2014, on the face of there was no explanation for this, but they found it consistent with the administration of a prohibited substance. The Committee also noted that the greyhound had shown consistent form since commencing its racing at Swindon on 6 December 2014.

These facts, together with the absence of any satisfactory explanation from Mr Davy, led the Committee to conclude that Mr Davy deliberately administered cyclizine to the greyhound JUMBO STEPS with the intention of concealing the greyhound's true ability.

Accordingly, the Disciplinary Committee found Mr Davy in breach of rules 152 (i) & (ii), 174 (i)(a) and 217 of the GBGB Rules of Racing.

These are extremely serious breaches of the GBGB Rules of Racing. The Disciplinary Committee found that this was a deliberate administration of a prohibited substance with the intention of affecting the greyhound's performance. The implication for the welfare of the greyhound and the integrity of the sport cannot be overstated.

In those circumstances the least penalty the Committee could impose was a six month disqualification and a fine of £1,000. However, given that Mr Davy had no previous breaches of the GBGB Rules of Racing recorded against him, the Committee suspended the disqualification for a period of one year.

3. **Poole Stadium – SILVERVIEW GIN – Professional Trainer Mrs T Tungatt**

This inquiry was adjourned at the trainer's request.