

CALENDAR NOTICE (to be published 8 May 2015)

Disciplinary Committee Inquiries

The Disciplinary Committee of the GBGB were in attendance at a meeting held on 21 April 2015:-

Mr K Salmon (in the chair)

Mr R Coughlan

Mr M Elks

1. LICENSED PARADER MR P HARDY

Licensed parader Paul Hardy was found in breach of rules 152 (i) & (ii) and 174 (xii)(a) of the GBGB Rules of Racing into his conviction at Doncaster Magistrates' Court on 16 February 2015 in relation to the charge of common assault on Professional Trainer, Miss Diane Henry on 27 September 2014.

Mr Hardy and Miss Henry apologised for their non-attendance. Mr Clive Carr, investigations officer, was present.

On 16 February 2015, licensed parader Mr Hardy was convicted of common assault by the Doncaster Magistrates' Court conditionally discharged for 12 Months and ordered to pay a victim's surcharge of £15 and prosecution costs of £150.

The conviction arose out of an incident on 27 September 2014 at Doncaster Stadium. Miss Diane Henry had attended the stadium to run the greyhound KING KANE. As she was unloading the greyhound in the stadium carpark, Mr Hardy attacked her without cause or provocation and pushed her head onto the bonnet of her van. No lasting physical injury was caused, however Miss Henry was extremely distressed by this attack and continues to feel nervous and anxious to the extent that she did not feel able to attend this inquiry.

The Disciplinary Committee was of the view that this was a serious incident. Physical violence on GBGB licensed premises is intolerable in any circumstances.

The least penalty the Disciplinary Committee could impose was the withdrawal of Mr Hardy's licence for a period of 12 months, however they did not feel it would be fair for the Committee to impose a sentence in excess of that imposed by the Magistrates. The Committee therefore suspended that withdrawal until 15 February 2016.

2. HENLOW STADIUM – ASHGROVE HAWK

Registered sales agent Noel Sexton 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 ASHGROVE HAWK during Sales Trials held at Henlow Stadium on 15 June 2014 was analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the presence of carprofen. Mr Sexton admitted to the breaches.

Mr Sexton was in attendance. Paul Mellow, racing manager of Henlow Stadium, and Lorraine Sams, stipendiary steward, apologised for their non-attendance. Professor Tim Morris, independent scientific adviser was in attendance.

The Disciplinary Committee received evidence from Professor Tim Morris, Independent Scientific Adviser to GBGB, to the effect that carprofen is available in the UK as a veterinary medicine, chemically in the class of drugs described as Non Steroidal Anti Inflammatory Drugs used to relieve pain, reduce fever and reduce inflammation. All NSAIDs have the potential to induce adverse reactions. In the opinion of Professor Morris carprofen is a substance which by its nature could affect the performance, or prejudice the well being of a greyhound.

The circumstances giving rise to this positive test were that Mr Sexton's wife, in his absence, mistakenly administered medication prescribed to another dog belonging to Mr Sexton, to ASHGROVE HAWK, who was that dog's kennelmate.

The Disciplinary Committee noted Mr Sexton admitted these breaches at the first opportunity, had no previous breaches of the GBGB Rules of Racing (or their Irish equivalent) and had taken the time, and paid the costs of attending this inquiry.

The Committee were nonetheless concerned that this mistake had happened and advised Mr Sexton to take care that there was no repetition.

In all the circumstances of the case, the Disciplinary Committee ordered that Mr Sexton be reprimanded.