

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 23 April 2015:-

Dr AJ Higgins (in the chair)

Mr R Woodworth CBE

Mr A Hunt

1. Swindon Stadium – OCHOCINCO – Professional Trainer Mr R Jones

Professional Trainer Raymond Jones was found in breach of rules 152 (i), 174 (i)(a) and 217 of the GBGB Rules of Racing in that a urine sample taken from the greyhound OCHOCINCO at Swindon Stadium on 14 October 2014 was analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the presence of tetramisole; and that he allowed a substance to be administered that could affect the performance and/or wellbeing of the greyhound. Mr Jones admitted the breaches.

Mr Jones apologised for his absence as did Clive Oseman, racing manager of Swindon Stadium and Colin Betteridge, stipendiary steward. Professor Tim Morris, independent scientific adviser, was in attendance.

The Committee noted the opinion of Professor Morris that tetramisole is an anthelmintic (wormer) used in veterinary medicine. It is not licensed for use in dogs but may be prescribed by a veterinary surgeon under the 'cascade'. The Committee also noted Professor Morris's comment that medication provided by a licenced veterinary surgeon must be labelled. Indeed the Trainers' Guide to Medication Control in Greyhounds specifically states that all prescription only medicines (POM) must be individually labelled.

The Committee regretted that Mr Jones was not present to answer their questions and believed that as an experienced trainer and ear marking steward he would have been aware of the Guide and the requirements that only labelled medications should be given to racing greyhounds. Moreover, the Committee felt that Mr Jones should have immediately questioned the use of unlabelled products following the exposure and jailing of Mr Patrick Keniry (also known as Shaun Kehoe) as a bogus veterinary surgeon who had supplied the drugs. In mitigation, Mr Jones wrote that as the tablets had apparently been supplied by a veterinarian he did not have any reason to doubt the information given by Mr Keniry that they were a cheaper equivalent of Drontal Plus notwithstanding they had been supplied in a plain plastic bag with no identification or instructions.

In all the circumstances of the case, the Disciplinary Committee ordered that Mr Jones be severely reprimanded and fined £250.

The Committee recommended GBGB remind trainers of the need to comply fully with the Trainers' Guide to Medication Control in Greyhounds.

2. Sheffield Stadium – RASHERS LEGEND – Professional Trainer Mr P Sanderson

Professional Trainer Philip Sanderson 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 RASHERS LEGEND at Sheffield Stadium on 30 October 2014 was analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the presence of 6 α -hydroxystanozolol, a metabolite of stanozolol, an anabolic steroid.

Mr Sanderson apologised for his absence as did Richard Munton, joint racing manager of Sheffield Stadium. Mr Ward did not attend. Professor Tim Morris, independent scientific adviser, and Paul Illingworth, senior stipendiary steward, were in attendance.

The Committee noted the opinion of Professor Morris that a finding of 6 α -hydroxystanozolol, a metabolite of stanozolol, indicates the administration of stanozolol, which, as an anabolic steroid, is a substance that by its nature could affect the performance of a greyhound or could prejudice its well-being. They also noted that stanozolol is not available as a veterinary medicine in UK or Ireland and in Professor Morris's opinion its import into the EU for use in dogs would not be permitted under the prescribing cascade in the UK or Ireland.

The Committee regretted that neither of the arraigned parties attended the hearing. They were also concerned that Mr Ward had failed to reply to a letter from the Director of Regulation dated 9 March 2015 asking for further information and requesting his attendance at the Inquiry.

From the written evidence presented, the Committee noted that Mr Sanderson advised that his kennelhand, Thomas Wilson, had purchased RASHERS LEGEND from an advertisement on the Internet and that it arrived in poor condition and was slow to gain weight. When notified of the positive finding, Mr Sanderson gave evidence that he contacted the former owner, Thomas Ward, who said he had accidentally injected the (male) dog with Laurabolin and he accepted full responsibility. In his own written evidence, Mr Ward had stated that he had used Laurabolin every 3 weeks to suppress oestrus in his bitches but the administration to RASHERS LEGEND had been a total mistake as the dog was not a bitch.

Mr Wilson had also provided written evidence stating that RASHERS LEGEND was in an appalling state on arrival at Mr Sanderson's kennels on 8 August 2014. He had also contacted Mr Ward who had commented that the dog must have travelled badly and would soon put on weight.

The Committee noted that although RASHERS LEGEND arrived at Mr Sanderson's kennels on 8 August 2014, a point of registration (POR) sample was not taken until 10 September 2014, over 4 weeks later. When the POR sample was analysed by HFL on 12 November 2014 it revealed the presence of 6 α -hydroxystanozolol. An elective sample was collected on 15 December 2014 and returned a negative result.

Professor Morris advised that Laurabolin contains the anabolic steroid nandrolone, which is distinct from stanozolol. The duration of detection of nandrolone metabolites was possible for at least 140 days after administration. No nandrolone metabolites were detected by LGC in the urine samples collected on 10 September 2014 or 30 October 2014.

Professor Morris further advised that the detection of stanozolol metabolites is possible for several months after stanozolol administration to dogs but in this case he qualified his opinion in that the source of stanozolol, timing of its administration(s) and dosages were unknown although the presence of 6 α -hydroxystanozolol in the urine of RASHERS LEGEND collected on 30 October 2015 indicated an administration of stanozolol to the dog in the months previous to the collection of the urine samples.

On the balance of probabilities the Committee concluded that it was likely that stanozolol was administered before Mr Sanderson took charge of the greyhound. They noted that Mr Sanderson had admitted responsibility at the Local Inquiry and arranged at his own expense an elective test in December 2014. 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 no further action be taken.

The Committee was asked to consider warning off Mr Ward under Rule 160 (iv)(d). However, while expressing serious concern that Mr Ward had not responded to the Director of Regulation's letter of 9 March 2015, they did not feel that the evidence presented, including the comprehensive and helpful scientific opinion, was sufficiently conclusive to justify this order.