

CALENDAR NOTICE (to be published 5 June 2015)

Disciplinary Committee Inquiries

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

Mr R Woodworth CBE (in the chair)

Mr A Hunt

Mr M Elks

1. Henlow Stadium – ARCHATON TREND – Professional Trainer Mr A Woodman

Professional Trainer Mr A Woodman 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 ARCHATON TREND at Henlow Stadium on 26 October 2014 was analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the presence of benzoylecgonine (a metabolite of cocaine).

Mr Woodman was in attendance and accompanied by assistant trainer, James Donhou. Professor Tim Morris, independent scientific adviser, was also in attendance. Paul Mellor, racing manager of Henlow Stadium, apologised for his non-attendance.

The Committee heard evidence from Professor 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 affects the dogs as it does humans by stimulating the brain. Cocaine and benzoylecgonine are substances which, by their nature, could affect the performance of a greyhound and prejudice the welfare of a greyhound.

Professor Morris stated that the amount of benzoylecgonine detected in the urine of ARCHATON TREND on 26 October 2014 was 0.6-0.7 Ng/ml which was consistent with those seen longer than 120 hours after a clinically significant doses of cocaine to dogs in clinical studies. Professor Morris added that it was also possible that the level of the metabolite detected was the result of an administration of a much smaller dose of cocaine to the Greyhound closer to the race.

A hair sample taken from ARCHATON TREND on 20 December 2014 tested positive for cocaine. The sample also indicated the presence of tetramisole commonly used as a cutting agent. Professor Morris stated his opinion that the hair sample test results were consistent with the finding of the cocaine metabolite in the urine sample, and indicated that the Greyhound had been directly exposed to illegally sourced cocaine. The Committee noted that the Point of Registration sample for ARCHATON TREND had been negative.

While stating that he had not himself administered cocaine to the greyhound Mr Woodman offered a variety of explanations for the presence of the cocaine metabolite. He had first suggested that the Henlow track veterinary surgeon Olivia Cook had given the greyhound an injection about a week before the positive sample which might have contained cocaine but Olivia Cook confirmed that this was not so. He then suggested a number of alternatives explanations which included the greyhound drinking from contaminated water puddles, being contaminated by an ointment which he obtained from the Far East to apply to his knee or being "got at" by strangers entering his kennels. The

Committee found none of these explanations credible and Mr Woodman acknowledged that he had sole responsibility for the greyhounds in his charge and for the security of his kennels. However the Committee was concerned that Mr Woodman no longer was in full control of his kennels especially during his long periods abroad each year.

In all the circumstances of the case, the Disciplinary Committee ordered that Mr Woodman be disqualified for 6 months and fined £500.

2. Greyhound Trainer Miss C Parker

Greyhound Trainer Miss Christine Parker was found in breach of rule 152 (ii) of the GBGB Rules of Racing in that she acted in an ill-advised way by posting inappropriate photographic images on the social networking site Facebook.

Miss Parker apologised for her non-attendance as did Clive Carr, investigating officer. Craig Hunt, racing manger of Kinsley Stadium, and Paul Illingworth, senior stipendiary steward, were in attendance.

The matter concerned the posting by Ms Parker on her Facebook page of a photograph of a dead hare on a refuse bin in Ms Parker's kennels. Her evidence was that the hare had been found by her partner dead on the road and she had recovered it and brought it back to her kennels with a view to using it to encourage some of her greyhounds. She had taken a photograph of the hare on her mobile phone and posted it on her Facebook page in March 2012 and this possible timing was supported by the statement of Mr Clive Carr the GBGB's investigating officer. However there was no absolute certainty of this as the posting had been taken down by Ms Parker some 12-18 months ago on the advice of one of her owners and the actual caption which had accompanied the photograph had been lost at that time. Unfortunately before the image was removed it had been reproduced by CAGED North West, an anti-greyhound racing group, and had attracted substantial adverse publicity. Ms Parker was adamant that the hare had been "road kill" and that she had not been live baiting the greyhounds in her kennels. Given the condition of the hare and the location of Ms Parker's kennels the Committee believed Ms Parker but were disappointed that in the local inquiry conducted by the senior stipendiary steward on 16 March 2015 that she did not understand how foolish it had been for a greyhound trainer to post such an image on a Facebook page.

The Committed considered that Ms Parker had been both naïve and foolish to post the image of a dead hare on Facebook but accepted that there was no evidence to suggest that her caption was other than she had suggested. They noted that she had now apologised for her action but the Committee considered that her conduct had prejudiced the good reputation of greyhound racing.

In all the circumstances of the case, the Disciplinary Committee cautioned Miss Parker and fined her £250.