

CALENDAR NOTICE (to be published 19 June 2015)

Disciplinary Committee Inquiries

The Disciplinary Committee of the GBGB were in attendance at a meeting held on 9 June 2015:-

Mr K Salmon (in the chair)

Mr R Coughlan

Mr H Starte

1. TICCO FOODS / PENNYS SWAN – Former Professional Trainer Mr C Mosdall

Former Professional Trainer Christopher Mosdall was found in breach of rules 2, 152 (i) & (ii), 174 (i)(a), 174 (v) and 217 of the GBGB Rules of Racing. Hair samples taken from the Greyhounds TICCO FOODS and PENNYS SWAN at Mr Mosdall's kennels on 15 August 2014 had tested positive for the presence of cyclizine. Mr Mosdall had administered cyclizine as a stopper to those Greyhounds, knowing cyclizine was injurious and that the Greyhounds were being put at risk of injury. He had done the same and administered other drugs to other Greyhounds. He had done this for profit, conspiring with others in fraudulent and corrupt betting.

Daniel Foggo, freelance journalist, Charles Turner, former Greyhound owner and kennelhand, and Lorraine Sams, stipendiary steward, were in attendance. Louis Weston of counsel instructed by James Eighteen represented the GBGB. Professor Tim Morris and Investigating Officers Jim Snowden and Clive Carr were available if required.

Mr Mosdall had chosen not to attend the inquiry. Mr Weston invited the Disciplinary Committee to deal with the case in his absence. The Committee was satisfied that Mr Mosdall was well aware of the date of the inquiry, having told Lorraine Sams on 3rd June that it was his intention to attend. There was a statement from Declan Donnelly, Director of Regulation, detailing contact between Mr Mosdall and GBGB which made it plain that he had received all the relevant documentation by registered post. Mr Mosdall had sent Lorraine Sams a text message on the morning of the inquiry stating "I'm not coming. I still believe I am innocent but the GBGB have had me guilty from day one". In those circumstances the Committee agreed to hear the case in his absence.

This inquiry arose from an investigation of Mr Mosdall carried out by freelance journalist Daniel Foggo which formed the substance of a BBC Panorama programme broadcast on 4 November 2014.

In the course of that investigation, Mr Mosdall admitted administering cyclizine to TICCO FOODS and PENNYS SWAN, Greyhounds in his charge. He also admitted administering cyclizine and other substances including beta blockers to other Greyhounds in his care on other occasions, with a view to adversely affecting their performance. His motive in every case was to affect the betting markets to his advantage. He admitted to a number of successful betting coups achieved by those means.

It was certainly not the case, as Mr Mosdall suggested in his email, that the Disciplinary Committee had prejudged this case and they were disappointed not to have heard his side of the case.

As it was, the Committee had only the GBGB evidence before them which was overwhelming. They had heard live evidence from Mr Foggo; and had no doubts about his honesty and integrity. Insofar as Mr Mosdall suggested in correspondence that he had been 'set up' by Mr Foggo, the Committee rejected that suggestion.

During the course of his dealings with Mr Foggo, Mr Mosdall made numerous admissions which were set out in Mr Foggo's written evidence. They may be summarised as follows:

- a) Saturday, 12th July 2014 Mr Foggo visits the Kennels. During that meeting:
 - i) Mr Mosdall said that PENNYS SWAN would win at Wimbledon that night - *'She's called PENNYS SWAN. She'll run tonight at Wimbledon. And I mean... you've obviously been around kennels before, so you know fun and games get played and.... Where there's funny games going on, you mean you don't let a dog win... I ain't been letting her win'*.
- b) Wednesday, 16th July 2014 Mr Foggo visited the Kennels again. During that meeting:
 - i) Mr Mosdall showed Mr Foggo a product, which he called valoids. Valoid is a brand name for a preparation of cyclizine.
 - (1) In respect of PENNYS SWAN Mr Mosdall said: *'I done my job because she found eighty spots which means she found ten lengths'*
 - ii) In respect of TICCO FOODS:
 - (1) Mr Mosdall said: *'I've had her over six bends twice and stopped her twice cause I've had two dogs in the same race as her and they've both come out and won it'*.
 - (2) In discussion about TICCO FOODS runs in which she had timed at 29.62 (on 25.6.14), and 29.95 (on 18.6.14) and 29.97 (on 26.4.14) this exchange took place:

Q *'So were you stopping her in those'*
A *'Yeah'*

Mr Mosdall went on to explain how he gave an *'injection'* of strong vitamins and then said, still answering how he stopped the Greyhound, *'These are valoids. they have three of them. It holds eighty spots... it cuts the adrenaline out their body'*. He agreed with Mr Foggo that he would have the Greyhound run over 6 bends then *'I'll knock her over then she'll win.'* He made plain his intention to give her 3 tablets 3 hours before the race.
 - (3) Mr Mosdall agreed to stop the Greyhound on the following Saturday (ie 19th July 2014). The matter was further discussed in a text exchange between Mr Foggo and Mr Mosdall on 16th July 2014. TICCO FOODS ran on 19th July finishing 5th with a time of 30.13 in an A6 Race.
 - (4) Mr Mosdall knew that Valoids (which he knew to be cyclizine) were intended for the treatment of humans for travel sickness.
 - (5) Mr Mosdall knew what he was doing was wrong. He said *'You get caught you're out the door. But you take your chance'*. He described himself by reputation as *'the biggest crook within Wimbledon'*.
 - (6) Mr Mosdall said he bet on the Greyhounds losing but not often.
- c) On Saturday, 19th July 2014 Mr Mosdall exchanged texts with Mr Foggo in which he said *'Looking like I will be stopping PENNYS SWAN'* and advising Mr Foggo not to bet on the Greyhound.
- d) At a meeting on Saturday, 19th July 2014 between Mr Foggo and Mr Mosdall:

- i) Mr Mosdall said he was going to give TICCO FOODS three Valoids and again made plain he knew the risks of being caught and the consequences.
 - ii) Mr Mosdall said in respect of an unknown Greyhound in his care and another Greyhound in the care of another:
 - 'I had an Irish fella in the kennels the year before last. Up until about January last year. And what I used to do is I'd get two dogs like I've got in the race tonight, knock 'em over with the stuff, and I'd get on to another kennelhand and give him a thousand pounds to shut it and I'd knock his dog over'* leading to a substantial betting coup in Ireland.
 - iii) Mr Mosdall stated he had also given Greyhounds Beta Blockers but found Valoids to be better and cleared the system within 3 hours and had *'never had a dog win on these tablets'*.
- e) In a phone call between Mr Foggo and Mr Mosdall on Thursday, 24th July 2014:
- i) Mr Mosdall expressed his relief that his Greyhound had not been tested at the weekend. His relief was because he had stopped both TICCO FOODS and PENNYS SWAN and *'If I got caught with the gear I've got in them that'd be an end of it'*.
 - ii) Mr Mosdall expressed the plan in respect of TICCO FOODS *'I'm gonna knock her over in the trial on Wednesday over six bends, and that'll knock the fucking granite out of her.. I'll use the stuff.. when you [inaudible] it down their throat that holds them... it did the job the other night'*.
- f) In a phone call between Mr Mosdall and Mr Foggo on 5th August 2014:
- i) Mr Mosdall said in respect of TICCO FOODS and a race on 2nd August 2014 where she had come second to PENNYS SWAN *'I stopped her Saturday night, and we backed the other one that one, you can absolutely smash the fucking granite out of her this week...'* and confirmed that *'She was stopped... You'll be surprised how much I gave her. I gave her three tablets, which is a fucking lot for a bitch of her size'*.
 - ii) Mr Mosdall stated that giving too many tablets to the Greyhound would harm the Greyhound *'You stop her too many times with these tablets you're gonna knock.. You're gonna ruin her insides... I wouldn't let you take them'*.
 - iii) Mr Mosdall said he would stop TICCO FOODS in a trial the following Wednesday.
- g) At a meeting between Mr Foggo and Mr Mosdall on Thursday, 7th August 2014:
- i) Discussing TICCO FOODS:
 - (1) Mr Mosdall stated that in respect of two 6 bend races *'I knocked her over in both to bet LUGHILL and we bet him he won both times'*, he recognised that in doing so he was putting his licence in jeopardy. He stated he had given her three tablets.
 - (2) Mr Mosdall stated he had stopped the Greyhound in its outings when she had run 29.62 and 29.86.
 - (3) Mr Mosdall had stopped her five times that year.
 - ii) Mr Mosdall suggested that you should leave a few months between stopping a Greyhound to avoid burning their kidneys out.
 - iii) Mr Mosdall explained that by knocking dogs over you could bet on the other three dogs in a race. He was able to call on other persons to help him knock out dogs.

In the judgment of the Disciplinary Committee Mr Mosdall's admissions are true admissions.

If there were any doubts about that it would be answered by Mr Turner a former owner who kept Greyhounds with Mr Mosdall and who was his kennelhand. He gave live evidence before the Disciplinary Committee. He was a man whose honesty and integrity were not in doubt. He gave evidence to the effect that in respect of one of his Greyhounds, ROCKVIEW ROYAL, Mr Mosdall told him that the Greyhound had run too well and would need to be slowed down. He showed Mr Turner a packet of Valoids that he would use to do so. After this exchange Mr Turner moved his Greyhounds to another Trainer.

Hair samples taken from the Greyhounds PENNY'S SWAN and TICCO FOODS were analysed by LGC and found to contain cyclizine. Professor Morris had considered Mosdall's admissions as to the doses of cyclizine that were administered to the Greyhounds. His opinion was that firstly, the doses of 3 tablets would mean the Greyhounds were running under the significant influence of cyclizine, and secondly, that the finding of cyclizine in the hair of the Greyhounds was consistent with the timing of the administration admitted by Mr Mosdall. Professor Morris further stated that cyclizine was not available as a veterinary medicine. It is an antihistamine. It causes sedation at clinical doses and serious effects on the nervous system at higher doses. As such it could affect the performance of a Greyhound or prejudice its well being.

The Committee also noted the statement of Richard Payne to the effect that cyclizine will affect the mentation of the Greyhound giving depressed reflexes and lower awareness and may cause blurred vision and extrapyramidal symptoms. The Greyhound would be less coordinated and be at risk of injury when running.

Mr Mosdall made the admission on Tuesday, 5th August 2014 in reference to TICCO FOODS that '*I stopped her Saturday night and we backed the other one that one*'. The previous Saturday was 2nd August. On that date TICCO FOODS ran in an A6 race at Wimbledon over 480 metres at 2045hrs. That race was won by PENNYS SWAN with a time of 29.32. An investigation into the betting on that race by the Gambling Commission [as set out in the statement of Anthony Hall] revealed that 8 bets were placed on PENNYS SWAN in the Romford area between 1523 and 1901. The Disciplinary Committee noted maps showing the locations of the Betting shops exhibited to the statement of Clive Carr. It was submitted on behalf of GBGB that the cluster of sustained betting in multiple Betting shops and from relatively early in the day in Romford showed strong confidence in the success of PENNYS SWAN, and was consistent with Mr Mosdall's position that he had stopped TICCO FOODS and arranged back bets on PENNYS SWAN. The Disciplinary Committee agreed with that submission.

In the judgment of the Disciplinary Committee it followed that all the alleged breaches were proved upon the clearest possible evidence.

Mr Weston submitted that it was hard to imagine more serious breaches of the GBGB Rules of Racing than those. The Disciplinary Committee agreed.

The Committee was satisfied that Mr Mosdall pursued a prolonged and deliberate course of doping Greyhounds for gain. His motive was pure greed.

In doing so, he had no regard for the welfare of the Greyhounds in his charge which he exposed to the risk of serious injury. It is clear from his admissions to Mr Foggo that he was well aware of the risks to the Greyhounds in his charge, but he went on to expose the Greyhounds to those risks.

Further, by his remarks to Mr Foggo, he seriously compromised the reputation and integrity of Greyhound racing. The public was entitled to believe that Greyhounds running on GBGB licensed stadia are free from prohibited substances and that the betting markets are open and above board. As a result of Mr Mosdall's behaviour, dogs were not free of substances and betting markets were manipulated to his advantage.

In the experience of the Committee trainers such as Mr Mosdall were very much the exception rather than the rule, but it had to be made clear that such people had no place in the sport.

These were breaches of the most serious kind. Accordingly, the Disciplinary Committee imposed the maximum sanction available to them: Mr Mosdall was warned off indefinitely and fined £5,000. They also ordered that he pay £15,000 towards GBGB's costs. Mr Mosdall had been obstructive at every stage of this investigation and inquiry and his total lack of cooperation put GBGB to very substantial and unnecessary expense.