

CALENDAR NOTICE (to be published 17 July 2015)

Disciplinary Committee Inquiries

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

Mr R Woodworth CBE (in the chair)

Mr J Akerman

Mr R Coughlan

POSITIVE SAMPLES FOR 5-HYDROXYTRYPTOPHAN (5-HTP)

The Disciplinary Committee received reports of four positive samples for 5-hydroxytryptophan (5-HTP) taken on the following dates:

ROURKEYS OPTIONS – Henlow Stadium 1 February 2013 - Greyhound Trainer Mr S Gaughan

HIGHFIRE BRUCE – Perry Barr Stadium 26 June 2014 - Professional Trainer Mr J Lambe

STEP DANCER- Hall Green Stadium 25 February 2013 - Professional Trainer Mr S Deakin

HERE COMES TWO – Hall Green Stadium 27 March 2013 - Professional Trainer Mr S Deakin

The three Trainers concerned had attended Local Inquiries which considered each of the positive tests. The Disciplinary Committee had the opportunity to review the written transcripts of those Inquiries which included detailed questions and answers between the Trainer and GBGB's Investigating Officer Jim Snowden covering all aspects of the case.

The Committee heard evidence from Professor Tim Morris that 5-HTP is not a natural constituent of food but the essential amino acid tryptophan is found in many foods. 5-HTP is a metabolite of tryptophan. 5-HTP is not available as a veterinary medicine but is available as a nutritional supplement for people and is also used in animals. In dogs and in people 5-HTP increases serotonin concentrations, which within the nervous system affects sleep, cognition, behaviour and motor activity amongst other things. Side effects are not uncommon and can include seizures, diarrhoea, abdominal pain and transient blindness. It is therefore a substance which, by its nature, could affect the performance of a greyhound or prejudice the welfare of a greyhound.

In his evidence Professor Morris referred to administration studies of doses of 50-100mg of 5-HTP to dogs which showed resultant urine levels of over 1µg/ml and up to 22µg/ml. By way of comparison small amounts of 5-HTP would be expected to be found naturally in the urine of greyhounds from normal feeding, at a level below 0.06µg/ml. As a result of these studies GBGB has established a robust statistically defined laboratory reporting level, where findings of 1µg/ml will be reported as positive.

The Committee received in Professor Morris's evidence a study into the toxicology of 5-HTP in dogs following accidental ingestion over a ten year period 1989 and 1999. In that study, 19 out of 21 dogs showed symptoms of toxicity and 3 died as a result of this ingestion. The minimum toxic dose reported was 23.6 mg/kg, although the authors stated that the minimum toxic dose for some dogs could be lower. The minimum lethal dose was 128mg/kg. On the basis of the doses calculated in the report, the authors stated that a 500 mg capsule could potentially cause clinical signs in a 20 kg dog and could be potentially fatal to a 4kg dog. The conclusion reached by the authors was that 5-HTP ingestion can result in a

potentially lethal condition resembling serotonin syndrome in humans and requiring prompt and aggressive care.

The Committee heard evidence from Paul Illingworth that all licensed greyhound and professional trainers are in receipt of a copy of the GBGB Rules of Racing and additionally receive a copy of the GBGB Calendar which is published on a fortnightly basis. The Calendar includes various sections giving updated advice and guidance to trainers.

Mr Illingworth referred to a number of documents that have been included in the Calendar in recent years, relevant to the cases under consideration. In December 2011 trainers were strongly advised, in the context of Rules 214 and 217, only to use herbal remedies and “natural supplements” on the recommendation of a veterinary surgeon. Specifically this advice notice pointed out that 5-HTP could be fatal if used in greyhounds. The advice to seek veterinary advice before administering such products to racing greyhounds was reiterated in the publication “A Trainer’s Guide to Medication Control in Greyhounds” which appeared in the Calendar dated 7 October 2011. In that document trainers were advised that many supplements, herbal preparations and “natural” remedies contain banned substances.

Mr Illingworth’s evidence also drew the Committee’s attention to advice to trainers, available on the GBGB website, highlighting the importance of completing the trainer’s treatment book as a means of maintaining an accurate record of each greyhound’s medical history including the exact dates and dosages of legitimate treatments.

The Disciplinary Committee considered the alleged breaches of the rules of racing by each trainer.

5. Henlow Stadium – Greyhound Trainer Mr S Gaughan - ROURKEYS OPTIONS

Greyhound Trainer Seamus Gaughan was found in breach of rule 152 (i) and (ii), 174 (i)(a), 214, 216 and 217 (all admitted) of the GBGB Rules of Racing in that a urine sample taken from the greyhound ROURKEYS OPTIONS at Henlow Stadium on 1 February 2013 was analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the presence of 5-hydroxytryptophan (5-HTP).

Mr Gaughan was in attendance. Paul Illingworth, senior stipendiary steward, Clive Carr and Jim Snowdon, investigating officers Lorraine Sams area stipendiary steward and Professor Tim Morris, independent scientific adviser were also present. Paul Mellor racing manager at Henlow Stadium had apologised for his absence.

Professor Tim Morris’s evidence to the Committee was that 5-hydroxytryptophan (5-HTP) should not be present over the laboratory reporting limit [$1\mu\text{g/ml}$]. In this case Professor Morris noted that the level was specifically quantified and determined to be $12\mu\text{g/ml}$ for ROURKEYS OPTIONS.

Professor Morris expressed the opinion that 5-HTP was found in the urine of ROURKEYS OPTIONS in excess of the quantities expected after normal feeding and that the finding in this case is consistent with the use of at least one 50mg 5-HTP tablet on the day of the race. In oral evidence Professor Morris expressed the view that the level of 5-HTP found in this case was at the lower end of the toxicity scale but nevertheless with some risk to the greyhound’s health.

The Committee heard that at the Local Inquiry Mr Gaughan admitted that 5-HTP was administered in his kennels in order to treat dogs of an excitable nature and to help them to put weight on. He stated that he had heard about the substance when in Ireland. The Committee heard that Mr Gaughan did not enter the

treatment in his treatment book as he thought it was unnecessary for a “homeopathic “treatment”. Initially Mr Gaughan stated that the 5-HTP was not administered on the day of the race but in the face of the scientific evidence to the contrary stated that he might have been mistaken.

Mr Gaughan had said at the Local Inquiry that he had not consulted a veterinary surgeon before using this product because he did not think it necessary as the substance was “homeopathic”. Mr Gaughan also said that he had not seen or read the relevant notices in the GBGB Calendar, advising trainers of the risks involved in administering herbal remedies and “natural” substances to greyhounds. In oral evidence Mr Gaughan was adamant that he would not have administered or allowed the administration of 5-HTP to the greyhounds in his care had he known about the risks. He had stopped using any homeopathic supplements without prior veterinary advice.

The scientific evidence suggested that a clinically significant dose of 5-HTP had been administered to ROURKEYS OPTIONS on the day of the race and that Mr Gaughan was unable to provide an explanation as to how the drug came to be present in the greyhound’s system other than from using 5-HTP as a calming agent.

The Disciplinary Committee considered the explanations provided and acknowledged the Director of Regulation’s recommendations concerning the breaches. The Committee considered that these were serious breaches given the effect of 5-HTP on performance and the risk to animal health. Mr Gaughan had used the substance without undertaking any checks as to the possible adverse side effects that could jeopardise the welfare of greyhounds. He had also shown a disregard for his responsibility to take notice of important advice and guidance issued via the GBGB Calendar, particularly in regard to the use of herbal and “natural” substances.

The Committee expressed the view that it was unacceptable for any greyhound to be running with a banned substance in its system both in terms of the impact on the greyhound’s welfare and the integrity of greyhound racing. The Committee took into account Mr Gaughan’s attendance at the Inquiry, his admission of the rule breaches, his long previous exemplary record and his assurance that he will not give supplements or additives to his greyhounds in the future without seeking veterinary advice.

In all the circumstances of the case the Disciplinary Committee ordered that Mr Gaughan be reprimanded and fined £500.

6. Perry Barr Stadium – Professional Trainer Mr J Lambe - HIGHFIRE BRUCE

Professional Trainer John Lambe was found in breach of rules 152(i) and (ii), 174(i)(a), 214, 216 and 217 of the GBGB Rules of Racing in that a urine sample taken from the greyhound HIGHFIRE BRUCE at Perry Barr Stadium on 24 June 2014 was analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the presence of 5-hydroxytryptophan (5-HTP).

Mr Lambe did not attend the Inquiry and Mr M Seal the racing manager at the Perry Barr stadium also apologised for his absence.

In attendance at the Inquiry were Paul Illingworth, senior stipendiary steward, Clive Carr and Jim Snowden, investigating officers and Professor Tim Morris, independent scientific adviser.

Professor Tim Morris's evidence to the Committee was that 5-hydroxytryptophan (5-HTP) should not be present over the laboratory reporting limit [$1\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$]. In this case Professor Morris noted that the level was estimated to be $50\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ for HIGHFIRE BRUCE.

Professor Morris expressed the opinion that 5-HTP was found in the urine of HIGHFIRE BRUCE in excess of the quantity expected after normal feeding and that the findings in this case are consistent with the use of at least one 50mg 5-HTP tablet on race day rather than a "carry over" from Mr Lambe's admitted administration of 2 tablets for 3 days prior to each race. In oral evidence Professor Morris expressed the view that the levels of 5-HTP found in this case together with the evidence from Mr Lambe at the Local Inquiry that the 5-HTP caused his dogs to be "very loose" would not only be likely to have an effect on the performance of the greyhound but the toxicity would have caused an adverse effect on its welfare.

The Committee heard that at the Local Inquiry Mr Lambe admitted to administering 5-HTP for 3 days prior to race days, assumed to be two 50mg tablets, to calm the greyhounds in his care that were bad kennellers. The Local Inquiry heard that Mr Lambe heard about 5-HTP in Ireland.

At the Local Inquiry Mr Lambe stated that he thought the substance had a calming effect on nervous greyhounds. Mr Lambe was asked at that Inquiry if he thought that a dog that was calmed down would perform to its best endeavours, or whether the product would slow them down. Mr Lambe responded by saying that he administered the substance in order to help calm a bad kenneller and improve its performance.

Mr Lambe had said that he did not consult a veterinary surgeon before using this product nor had he recorded the use of 5-HTP in his greyhound Treatment Book because he did not think it necessary as the substance was a "herbal". Mr Lambe also said that he had not seen or read the relevant original notices in the GBGB Calendar, advising Trainers of the risks involved in administering herbal remedies and "natural" substances to greyhounds.

The Committee reviewed the 'PA Sport' form lines for the greyhound and the oral evidence of Paul Illingworth. In view of the scientific evidence that there had probably been a significant administration of 5-HTP on race day and the form of the greyhound the Committee concluded, on the balance of probabilities and in the context of Mr Lambe's admitted use of 5-HTP, that there were patterns in the form lines to indicate that Mr Lambe had administered 5-HTP deliberately to affect the performance of HIGHFIRE BRUCE and not as a calming agent. Unfortunately Mr Lambe had not been present at the Inquiry to convince the Committee otherwise.

The Committee found that Mr Lambe had failed to follow the rules (including the Trainer's Guide to Medication Control in Greyhounds and other Calendar guidance) by administering to the greyhound HIGHFIRE BRUCE a banned substance which is not licensed in the UK for use in dogs. Mr Lambe was found in breach of rule 152(i) and (ii) in that he was found responsible for taking action expressly forbidden by the Rules and so acted in a manner prejudicial to the proper conduct of greyhound racing as regulated by GBGB.

Mr Lambe was in breach of rule 174(i)(a) in that he had administered a banned substance to HIGHFIRE BRUCE which, by its nature, could affect the performance of the greyhound or prejudice its well-being.

Mr Lambe was in breach of rule 214 in that he did not ensure that a supplement given to HIGHFIRE BRUCE was free from any substance that might falsely affect performance or prejudice welfare and of rule 217 in

that the greyhound was not free of any substance that could affect its performance or well-being when taking part in a race.

Mr Lambe had failed to record the use of 5-HTP in his greyhound Treatment Book, contrary to the advice given to Trainers regarding their completion. The Committee accordingly found Mr Lambe in breach of rule 216.

The scientific evidence was clear that clinically significant doses of 5-HTP had been administered to HIGHFIRE BRUCE on the day of its race. The Committee considered that this was a serious breach given the effect of 5-HTP on performance and the risk to animal health. Mr Lambe had administered the substance without undertaking any checks as to the possible adverse side effects that could jeopardise the welfare of greyhounds. He had also shown a disregard for his responsibility to take notice of important advice and guidance issued via the GBGB Calendar, particularly in regard to the use of herbal and “natural” substances.

The Committee expressed the view that it was unacceptable for any greyhound to be running with a banned substance in its system both in terms of the impact on the greyhound’s welfare and the integrity of greyhound racing.

The Disciplinary Committee considered the explanations provided and acknowledged the Director of Regulation’s recommendations concerning the breaches. The Committee had concluded on the balance of probabilities that Mr Lambe had deliberately administered 5-HTP to affect performance. In all the circumstances of the case and having regard to his previous disciplinary record for banned substances the Committee ordered that Mr Lambe be severely reprimanded and fined £1,000.

7. Hall Green Stadium – Professional Trainer Mr S Deakin - STEP DANCER & HERE COMES TWO

Professional Trainer Simon Deakin was found in breach of Rules 152 (i) and (ii), 174 (i)(a), 214, 216, 217 and 18 (ii) of the GBGB Rules of Racing in that urine samples taken from the greyhounds STEP DANCER on the 25 February 2013 and HERE COMES TWO on the 27 February 2013 at Hall Green Stadium were analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the presence of 5-hydroxytryptophan (5-HTP), and that he had failed to report the retirement or euthanasia of the greyhound STEP DANCER.

Mr Deakin was in attendance. Paul Illingworth senior stipendiary steward and Clive Carr and Jim Snowden, investigating officers were also present with Professor Tim Morris, independent scientific adviser. Robert Coulthard, racing manager at Hall Green Stadium had apologised for his absence.

Professor Morris’s evidence to the Committee was that 5-HTP should not be present over the laboratory reporting limit (1ug/ml). In these cases Professor Morris noted that the levels were specifically quantified and determined to be 1.1ug/ml for STEP DANCER and 6 ug/ml for HERE COMES TWO.

Professor Morris further expressed the opinion that 5-HTP was found in the urine of STEP DANCER and HERE COMES TWO in excess of the quantities expected after normal feeding and that the findings in these cases are consistent with the use of at least one 5-HTP tablet on the respective race days. In oral evidence Professor Morris expressed his view that the levels of 5-HTP in these cases when considered with Mr Deakin’s evidence of administration of 5-HTP would be likely to have an effect both on the performance of the greyhounds and an adverse effect on their welfare.

The Committee heard that at the Local Inquiry Mr Deakin stated that he had researched the use of L-tryptophan in the racing greyhound as a calming agent for excitable dogs and had then concluded that 5-HTP was a related substance that was freely available. There was some confusion in terms of the substance that Mr Deakin had been administering but the Committee concluded that it had been 5-HTP rather than L-tryptophan. In these circumstances the dosage had been a heavy one of up to 500 mg ie 10 x 50 mg or 5 x 100 mg (the Committee noted that the 100 mg tablets were obtainable only from the internet). Unsurprisingly the dogs were described as emptying "a bit loose". Mr Deakin had not sought veterinary advice before administration (which included the day of the race) and said that he had not read the several Calendar notices regarding the use of herbal substances especially 5-HTP. Mr Deakin had furnished a list of 29 greyhounds in his kennels who had been on 5-HTP. He stated that he had stopped administering 5-HTP to his greyhounds when he learned of the positive tests.

The Committee were concerned that Mr Deakin appeared evasive at the Local Inquiry regarding the use of a "shared" Betfair account with another Hall Green individual who had "borrowed" Mr Deakin's phone to put bets on the dogs.

The Committee reviewed the "PA Sport" form lines for each of the greyhounds and received oral evidence from Paul Illingworth. The Committee concluded, on the balance of probabilities and in the context of Mr Deakin's admitted use of 5-HTP and his use of a shared Betfair account, that Mr Deakin had deliberately administered 5-HTP to affect the performance of STEP DANCER and HERE COMES TWO and not as a calming agent.

The Committee also questioned Mr Deakin regarding the euthanasia of STEP DANCER. Again Mr Deakin had been evasive at the Local Inquiry about whether this had been done after a gracilis injury at the track or at the veterinary's surgery. He had then stated that it had been done by his veterinary surgeon but the Committee considered a letter from the latter confirming that he had no record of the euthanasia.

The Committee found that Mr Deakin had failed to follow the rules (including the Trainer's Guide to Medication Control in greyhounds) and other Calendar guidance by administering to the greyhounds STEP DANCER and HERE COMES TWO a banned substance which is not licensed in the UK for use in dogs. Mr Deakin was found in breach of Rule 152 (i) and (ii) in that he was responsible for taking action expressly forbidden by the Rules and so acted in a manner prejudicial to the proper conduct of greyhound racing as regulated by the GBGB.

Mr Deakin was in breach of Rule 174(i)(a) in that he had administered a banned substance to STEP DANCER and HERE COMES TWO which by its nature could affect the performance of the greyhounds or prejudice their well-being.

Mr Deakin was in breach of Rule 214 in that he did not ensure that a supplement given to STEP DANCER and HERE COMES TWO was free from any supplement that might falsely affect the performance or prejudice welfare and of Rule 217 in that the greyhounds were not free of a substance that could affect their well-being when racing.

Mr Deakin had failed to record the use of 5-HTP in his greyhound treatment book and the Committee was therefore unable to confirm the exact dates and dosages of 5-HTP given to his greyhounds. The Committee accordingly found Mr Deakin in breach of Rule 216.

The Committee found Mr Deakin in breach of Rule 18 (ii) in that he had failed to report the retirement or euthanasia of STEP DANCER to the GBGB.

The scientific evidence and Mr Deakin's admissions were clear that clinically significant doses of 5-HTP had been administered to STEP DANCER and HERE COMES TWO on the day of their races. These were serious breaches given the effect of 5-HTP on performance and the risk to animal health. It was unacceptable for any greyhound to be running with a banned substance in terms both of the animal's welfare as well as the integrity of greyhound racing.

The Disciplinary Committee considered the explanations offered and acknowledged the Director of Regulation's recommendations concerning the breaches. The Committee had concluded on the balance of probabilities that Mr Deakin had deliberately administered 5-HTP to affect performance. In all the circumstances of the case and in view of his poor disciplinary record the Committee ordered that Mr Deakin be disqualified for 6 months but that disqualification be suspended for 12 months. The Committee also fined Mr Deakin a total of £2,250, being £2,000 for the breaches associated with the use of 5-HTP and £250 for the breach of Rule 18 (ii).

The Committee warned Mr Deakin that if he appeared before the Disciplinary Committee again there was a real danger that his licence would be withdrawn indefinitely and he was specifically reminded of his responsibilities under rule 18.