

## **CALENDAR NOTICE (to be published 26 February 2016)**

### **Disciplinary Committee Inquiries**

The Disciplinary Committee of the GBGB were in attendance at a meeting held on 18 February 2016:

Dr A.J. Higgins (in the chair)

Mr J. Akerman

Mr R. Woodworth CBE

#### **1. Wimbledon Stadium – KIPPERS USAIN – Professional Trainer Mr C. Allsopp**

Professional Trainer Chris Allsopp was found in breach of Rules 152 (i) and 174 (i)(b) of the GBGB Rules of Racing in that a pre-race urine sample taken from the greyhound KIPPERS USAIN at Wimbledon Stadium on 27 June 2015 was analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the presence of sparteine; and that he had in his charge a greyhound that showed the presence of a substance that by its nature could affect the performance of a greyhound or prejudice its wellbeing.

Mr Allsopp was in attendance. Mr G. Matthews, racing manager of Wimbledon Stadium apologised for his absence. Jim Snowden (Area Stipendiary Steward) and Professor Tim Morris (Independent Scientific Adviser) were present.

The Director of Regulation advised that Mr Allsopp had admitted the breach of Rule 174 (i)(b) and that the GRB would be proceeding with the case in regard to breaches of Rules 152 (i) and/or (ii), 174 (i)(a), 214 and 217 of the GBGB Rules of Racing.

The Committee was told that KIPPERS USAIN had been due to participate in a supporting race to the 2015 William Hill Greyhound Derby final. After the urine sample had been collected, but before the greyhound went on parade for its race, the kennelhand had brought a toe injury to the attention of the track veterinary surgeon and the greyhound had been withdrawn before its race.

The Disciplinary Committee noted the evidence of Professor Morris that sparteine is a cardioactive drug and mental stimulant which by its nature could affect the performance of a greyhound or prejudice its wellbeing. He advised that the drug could remain in the system for 24 hours or more following ingestion or administration. Historically, sparteine was used to treat disorders of heart rhythm but it is no longer available as a human or veterinary medicine. The substance is however abused as a 'legal high', usually by smoking or drinking an infusion, to produce a stimulant effect, although high doses would be likely to exert a depressant effect.

Professor Morris advised that possible sources of sparteine include those directly derived from the growing tips of Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*). In his written evidence, Mr Allsopp stated that KIPPERS USAIN was a 'foraging dog' and he had concluded that the greyhound may have eaten some sort of plant or weed containing sparteine. He said that his Head lad, Steve Masters, had taken the dog to Wimbledon on 27 June 2015 and had stopped at Beaconsfield Services on the way. Mr Allsopp said he had revisited the Services and taken photographs of plants he had found. A number of

photographs had been circulated including some said to be of Beaconsfield Services and others of Mr Allsopp's kennels and surrounding area.

Professor Morris gave evidence that broom contained tannins and bitter principles and advised that in his opinion a dog would be most unlikely to eat such plant material. Moreover, he confirmed that the photographs presented by Mr Allsopp were not of Scotch broom but of gorse, which does not contain sparteine. He said that it was possible the greyhound might have ingested sparteine through intake of some form of 'legal high' or residue. In cross-examination, Mr Allsopp admitted that Mr Masters had told him that although KIPPERS USAIN was a foraging dog, it had been unmuzzled at Beaconsfield Service station on the way to Wimbledon.

In the light of the scientific evidence, the Committee did not find that KIPPERS USAIN ingested sparteine by eating broom, and the source of the sparteine remained unclear. Although it was possible that the drug had been administered deliberately to affect the performance of the greyhound the evidence for this was not compelling.

The Committee noted Mr Allsopp's comments that he is a leading trainer and would not risk his reputation by giving a drug such as sparteine to a racing greyhound. They also noted that KIPPERS USAIN had been withdrawn for a toe injury after a pre-race sample had been collected and so did not race. Mr Allsopp advised that KIPPERS USAIN was an excitable dog that had been affected by a long kennelling period on the night and had injured his toe in the kennel.

The Committee found this to be a complicated case but on the balance of probabilities gave Mr Allsopp the benefit of the doubt whilst expressing serious concern that the greyhound was allowed to forage unmuzzled in an open public area on the way to the race meeting.

The Disciplinary Committee found Mr Allsopp in breach of Rules 152 (i) and 174 (i)(b). They did not find him in breach of Rule 217 as the greyhound had been withdrawn from the race, nor of Rule 214.

In all the circumstances of the Inquiry, the serious nature of a drug that could well have had welfare implications for the greyhound, and the implicit careless actions admitted during the Inquiry, the Committee ordered that Mr Allsopp be cautioned and fined £400.

## **2. Wimbledon Stadium – SEE NO GAMBLE – Professional Trainer Mr P. Janssens**

Professional Trainer Patrick Janssens was found in breach of Rules 152 (i), 174 (i)(b), 214 and 217 of the GBGB Rules of Racing in that a post-race urine sample taken from the greyhound SEE NO GAMBLE at Wimbledon Stadium on 20 June 2015 was analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing a metabolite of pentobarbital; and that he had in his charge a greyhound that showed the presence of a substance that by its nature could affect the performance of a greyhound or prejudice its wellbeing.

Mr Janssens was in attendance. Mr G. Matthews, racing manager of Wimbledon Stadium apologised for his absence. Jim Snowden (Area Stipendiary Steward) and Professor Tim Morris (Independent Scientific Adviser) were present.

The Director of Regulation advised that Mr Janssens had admitted the breach of Rule 174 (i)(b) and that the GRB would be proceeding with the case in regard to breaches of Rules 152 (i) and/or (ii), 174 (i)(a), 214 and 217 of the GBGB Rules of Racing.

The Disciplinary Committee heard evidence from Professor Morris to the effect that pentobarbital was available in veterinary medicine as a concentrated solution for injection for euthanasia of animals. Pentobarbital affects dogs with increasing doses causing sedation, anaesthesia and then death through respiratory and cardiac arrest, and is a substance which by its nature could affect the performance of a greyhound or prejudice its welfare.

Mr Janssens gave evidence to the Committee and stated his belief that this positive test had arisen from the feeding of contaminated meat. He said that he had always asked for and received a verbal assurance from his supplier that the meat was only Category 3. He said he had always worked on a basis of trust with the supplier. Mr Janssens now accepted that for each batch of meat he should have asked for written confirmation that confirmed its source and that it was Category 3 meat if destined to be fed to racing greyhounds. Mr Janssens readily admitted his carelessness in this regard and confirmed that he had changed supplier and now bought all of his meat from a supermarket so ensuring that it was to human standards. Receipts confirming this change had been circulated to the Committee together with a summary of sales to Mr Janssens apparently from his original supplier, dated 28 August 2015, to which the words 'Cat 3 meat' had been written at the bottom.

The Committee heard the evidence of Professor Morris that pentobarbital present in the meat of an animal euthanased using the drug was not destroyed by cooking and there was evidence that the concentration in contaminated meat could be sufficient to affect performance or at least 'take the edge' off a greyhound, possibly for several days after consumption. Professor Morris advised that deliberate administration of pentobarbital to influence the performance of a greyhound would be very risky as the effects would be uncertain and the dog could be visibly sedated. The Committee found that deliberate administration in this case was improbable and that the most likely source of the metabolite of pentobarbital in the urine of SEE NO GAMBLE was contaminated meat.

The Committee found Mr Janssens to be a truthful witness who was doing his best to assist the Inquiry. He readily admitted that he was careless in not ensuring he received written confirmation that the meat he bought from his supplier was Category 3 meat, and he apologised to the Committee for his failure to do so.

The GBGB Rules of Racing impose strict liability on the trainer. In all the circumstances of this Inquiry, the Disciplinary Committee ordered that Mr Janssens be cautioned and fined £250.

The Committee urged GBGB to stress again to trainers (1) that they always insist that ABP meat suppliers specify their DEFRA Registration number and the category of meat supplied; (2) that if ABP meat is to be fed to racing greyhounds this must only be Category 3 meat, and (3) that Category 2 meat or meat mixed with Category 2 meat may contain prohibited substances such as pentobarbital, that pentobarbital and its metabolites are not destroyed by cooking, and that pentobarbital can have an effect on the performance of a racing greyhound for several days after feeding the contaminated meat.

### **3. Poole Stadium – SPEED GUN – Professional Trainer Mr P. Woodhouse**

Professional Trainer Paul Woodhouse was found in breach of Rule 174 (i)(b) of the GBGB Rules of Racing in that a pre-race urine sample taken from the greyhound SPEED GUN at Poole Stadium on 14 July 2015 was analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the presence of 6 $\alpha$ -hydroxystanozolol, a metabolite of stanozolol; and that he had in his charge a greyhound that showed the presence of a substance that by its nature could affect the performance of a greyhound or prejudice its wellbeing.

Mr Woodhouse was in attendance. Mr I. Sillence, racing manager of Poole Stadium apologised for his absence. Jim Snowden (Area Stipendiary Steward) and Professor Tim Morris (Independent Scientific Adviser) were present.

The Director of Regulation advised that Mr Woodhouse had admitted the breach of Rule 174 (i)(b) and that the GRB would not be proceeding with the case in regard to breaches of Rules 152, 174 (i)(a) or 217 of the GBGB Rules of Racing. There was no material dispute on the admitted breach but the Director of Regulation said he wished to present some details of the case to the Committee.

SPEED GUN had been purchased from Mr Michael Delahunty in Ireland on 16 April 2015 by Mr Peter Price, a greyhound owner. A Point of Registration sample had been collected on 19 April 2015. Following the positive post-race test on 14 July 2015, the Point of Registration sample was analysed and found to contain 6 $\alpha$ -hydroxystanozolol. Professor Morris in his written evidence had stated that there was no scientific evidence that stanozolol had been given between 16 April (when the dog entered Mr Woodhouse's care) and 19 April (when the Point of Registration sample was collected). This indicated that stanozolol had been administered to SPEED GUN before its purchase by Mr Price.

A letter from Mr Price had been circulated in which he confirmed he was co-owner of SPEED GUN and that he had purchased the dog from a trusted contact in Ireland who had provided reassurances that the greyhound was free of drugs. A handwritten note from Mr Delahunty to Mr Woodhouse dated 28 August 2015 stated that SPEED GUN had left his possession 'in good health and free of any known substances.'

The Director of Regulation drew the Committee's attention to a Memorandum issued by Bord na gCon dated 13 October 2015 which advised that the Trainers' Licence of Mr Michael Delahunty had been withdrawn on 23 September 2015 and a Disqualification Order imposed as a number of greyhounds kept, owned or trained by Mr Delahunty had tested positive for anabolic steroids including proven adverse analytical findings for stanozolol.

The Committee complimented Mr Woodhouse for admitting the breaches, for taking immediate action when the positive finding was reported, and for arranging subsequent elective tests until SPEED GUN tested negative and could resume racing. They noted that he had bought greyhounds from Mr Delahunty in the past, apparently with no adverse results. The Committee found Mr Woodhouse to be a wholly credible witness and although the GBGB Rules of Racing impose strict liability on the trainer, in the circumstances of this Inquiry the Committee made no order against him.

The Committee recommended that GBGB advise all trainers of these findings, and in the light of the decision by Bord na gCon, urge trainers to exercise caution in sourcing greyhounds from Mr Delahunty. Moreover, the Committee would encourage GRB to warn off Mr Delahunty indefinitely.