

## **CALENDAR NOTICE (to be published 24 March 2016)**

### **Disciplinary Committee Inquiries**

The Disciplinary Committee of the GBGB were in attendance at a meeting held on 8 March 2016:-

Mr R Woodworth CBE (in the chair)

Mr A Hunt

Mr M Elks

#### **1. Sittingbourne Stadium – JULIUS GEORGE / CASTLELYONS COFI – Professional Trainer Mr A Taylor**

Professional Trainer Anthony Taylor was found in breach of rules 152 (i), 174 (i)(b) and 214 of the GBGB Rules of Racing in that urine samples taken from the greyhounds JULIUS GEORGE and CASTLELYONS COFI at Sittingbourne Stadium on 6 October 2015 were analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the presence of an hydroxylated metabolite of the barbiturate secobarbital; and that he had in his charge two greyhounds showing the presence of a substance that could affect their performance and/or wellbeing.

Mr Taylor was in attendance. Andy Clayson racing manager of Sittingbourne Stadium apologised for his non-attendance. Lorraine Sams area stipendiary steward and Professor Tim Morris, independent scientific adviser were also present.

Under the supervision of Duncan Gibson, Manager of Welfare & Integrity Services, trainee sampling officers Mr R Steward and Mrs H Huntley attended Sittingbourne Stadium on 6 October 2015 and took random samples. Samples taken from the two aforementioned greyhounds were analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the presence of a hydroxylated metabolite of secobarbital.

In his written evidence to the Committee, the GBGB Veterinary Director stated that, in the UK, secobarbital is a Schedule 2 Controlled Drug subject to controlled drug requirements. The only preparation containing secobarbital licensed in the UK for animal use is in injectable form for the humane euthanasia of domestic animals cattle and horses and carries the brand name Somulose.

In his evidence, Professor Morris stated that secobarbital is available as a veterinary medicine in a concentrated solution for injection for euthanasia of animals. It affects dogs as it does other animals and people, with increasing doses causing sedation, anaesthesia and then death through respiratory failure and cardiac arrest. It is a substance that could affect the performance of a greyhound or prejudice the wellbeing of a greyhound.

Professor Morris stated that, in his opinion, as there are stringent legal restrictions on the supply of secobarbital, it was very unlikely that a specialist chemical supplier or a medical drug source could have been the potential source of supply. In contrast secobarbital is the most common drug used by veterinary surgeons for euthanasia of individual horses away from the slaughterhouse.

While Trainer Taylor had the appropriate DEFRA Licence for feeding Category 3 ABP meat to his greyhounds he acknowledged that he purchased both Category 2 and 3 meat and had fed both to his racing greyhounds despite GBGB advice to the contrary with which he acknowledged he was familiar. When the greyhounds JULIUS GEORGE and CASTLELYONS COFI had given positive samples they had been competing in the final of the Grand National at Sittingbourne Stadium on the 6 October 2015.

Having reviewed the evidence of Mr Taylor, Professor Morris stated his opinion that, despite the controls both on the use of secobarbital and the guidance on the use of animal by-products in making pet food, the most likely source of the secobarbital metabolites found in the urine samples of the two greyhounds was from a source (probably category 2 meat) contaminated with secobarbital used for euthanasia. Professor Morris referred to the GBGB "Advice for trainers: Feeding Red Meat" published in the GBGB Calendar in 2012 and 2014 that Category 2 ABP meat was classified under EC regulations as being of high risk to public and animal health, that it may contain drug residues and that trainers should only use Category 3 ABP meat for racing greyhounds.

Having considered all the evidence the Committee were satisfied, on the balance of probabilities, that there had been no deliberate administration of secobarbital by Mr Taylor and that the most likely source of secobarbital in this case was through the feeding of contaminated Category 2 meat. The Committee concluded that Mr Taylor had been careless in feeding Category 2 meat to his racing greyhounds but noted that he no longer did this.

The GBGB rules of racing impose strict liability on the trainer and Mr Taylor was found in breach of rule 174 (i)(b) in that he had in his charge two greyhounds, namely JULIUS GEORGE and CASTLELYONS COFI, which showed the presence of a banned substance, secobarbital, which, by its nature, could affect their performance or wellbeing. Having accepted that Mr Taylor did not in this case administer secobarbital to his greyhounds the Committee did not find him in breach of the more serious offence under rule 174 (i)(a).

Mr Taylor was in breach of rule 214 in that the greyhounds were not free at the time of racing or trialling, of a substance that could affect their performance or wellbeing. Mr Taylor, by his admission had fed Category 2 meat to his greyhounds and for this reason he was also found in breach of rule 152(i) in that he was responsible for a failure to take action to ensure that the greyhounds were free from a banned substance.

The Committee acknowledged the Director of Regulation's recommendations concerning the rule breaches and the submissions in response made by Mr Taylor. The Committee felt that Mr Taylor had been very open and had readily admitted a breach of rule 174 (i)(b). In all the circumstances of the case the Committee ordered that Mr Taylor be reprimanded and fined £400.

## **2. Towcester Stadium – DROOPYS FORD – Professional Trainer Mr M Wallis**

Professional Trainer Mark Wallis accepted that there had been a breach of rule 174 (i)(b) of the GBGB Rules of Racing in that a sample taken from the greyhound DROOPYS FORD on the 10 October 2015 at Towcester Stadium was analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the presence of 6 $\alpha$ -hydroxystanozolol a metabolite of the stanozolol and that he had in his charge a greyhound showing the presence of a substance that could affect its performance and/or wellbeing.

Mr Wallis was in attendance. Mr C Page racing manager at Towcester Stadium apologised for his absence. Lorraine Sams, area stipendiary steward and Professor Tim Morris, independent scientific adviser were also present.

In his written evidence to the Committee, the GBGB Veterinary Director stated that stanozolol is an anabolic steroid (a Class C Controlled Drug) which is a Prescription only Medicine legally obtainable only from a veterinary surgeon using a Special Treatment Certificate authorisation from the VMD to import it legally.

Professor Morris gave evidence that 6 $\alpha$ -hydroxystanozolol is a metabolite of stanozolol which will have been illegally imported and could thus be of poor quality and even contaminated with other materials. Stanozolol, as an anabolic steroid, affects dogs as it does other animals and humans in terms of muscle building and also has many serious side effects. The findings of 6 $\alpha$ -hydroxystanozolol indicates the administration of stanozolol which by its nature could affect the performance of a greyhound or could prejudice its wellbeing. Professor Morris noted that DROOPYS FORD came into Mr Wallis' charge on the 3 August 2015 and gave a Point of Registration Sample on the 7 August 2015 which also proved positive for 6 $\alpha$ -hydroxystanozolol. Professor Morris gave evidence that the administration of stanozolol had most likely taken place before the dog came into Mr Wallis' charge on the 3 August 2015. The Committee accepted that conclusion.

Mr Wallis gave evidence that he had purchased the dog in good faith from an Irish agent from whom he had previously purchased another greyhound without problems in terms of positive tests. However on further enquiry, after the positive test, Mr Wallis had concluded that he had been mistaken in not purchasing the dog only from one of his usual suppliers.

In all the circumstances of the case the Committee concluded that Mr Wallis had reason to believe at the time that he was buying the greyhound from a reputable source.

The Committee concluded that they would take no further action.

### **3. Poole Stadium – BAM BAMS BARNEY – Professional Trainer Mrs J Harvey**

Professional Trainer June Harvey was found in breach of rules 152 (i), 174 (i) (b), and 214 of the GBGB Rules of Racing in that a urine sample taken from the greyhound BAM BAMS BARNEY at Poole Stadium on 14 July 2015 was analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the presence of an hydroxylated metabolite of the barbiturate secobarbital; and that she had in her charge a greyhound showing the presence of a substance that could affect its performance and/or wellbeing.

Kennelhand Mr Tony Harvey was present (to represent his wife Professional Trainer Mrs June Harvey) together with Mr Craig Binge, the part owner of the dog. Ian Sillence racing manager at Poole Stadium apologised for his absence. Jim Snowden area stipendiary steward and Professor Tim Morris independent scientific adviser were also present.

On the 14 July 2015 random samples were taken from greyhounds at Poole Stadium and that of BAM BAMS BARNEY was analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the presence of a hydroxylated metabolite of secobarbital.

In his written evidence to the Committee, the GBGB Veterinary Director stated that, in the UK, secobarbital is a Schedule 2 Controlled Drug subject to controlled drug requirements. The only preparation containing secobarbital licensed in the UK for animal use is in injectable form for the humane euthanasia of domestic animals cattle and horses and carries the brand name Somulose.

In his evidence Professor Morris stated that secobarbital is available as a veterinary medicine in a concentrated solution for injection for euthanasia of animals. It affects dogs as it does other animals and people, with increasing doses causing sedation, anaesthesia and then death through respiratory failure and cardiac arrest. It is a substance that could affect the performance of a greyhound or prejudice the wellbeing of a greyhound.

Professor Morris stated that, in his opinion, as there are stringent legal restrictions on the supply of secobarbital, it was very unlikely that a specialist chemical supplier or a medical drug source could have been the potential source of supply. In contrast secobarbital is the most common drug used by

veterinary surgeons for euthanasia of individual horses away from the slaughterhouse and having considered the evidence supplied by Mrs Harvey he concluded that the most likely source of the positive sample was meat contaminated by Category 2 ABP products. While the Committee considered the possibility that the dog had been the subject of administration of the drug by persons unknown as a result of a breach of security when trialling at Poole Stadium, the Committee concluded that this was very unlikely particularly as the Committee was aware that greyhounds in the charge of 2 other trainers had given positive samples when tested within days of BAM BAMS BARNEY test and those trainers were using meat from the same supplier.

The Committee were concerned that while Mr Harvey said that he had used the same meat supplier for many years without any previous problem and had been assured that the meat supplied was Category 3 the receipts bore no confirmation that the meat was definitively Category 3 and Mr Harvey could not explain what quantities (in weight) the receipts referred to. Thus the Committee were therefore unable to take a view in terms of whether, from the price, it should have been self-evident whether the meat was Category 2 or 3.

While the Committee concluded on the balance of probabilities that there had been no deliberate administration of secobarbital in this case, they considered that Mrs Harvey had been casual in terms of ensuring that the meat supplied was indeed only Category 3 meat.

The GBGB rules of racing impose strict liability on the trainer and Mrs Harvey was found in breach of rule 174 (i)(b) in that she had in her charge a greyhound, namely BAM BAMS BARNEY which showed the presence of a banned substance, secobarbital, which, by its nature, could affect their performance or wellbeing. Having accepted that Mrs Harvey did not, in this case, administer secobarbital to her greyhound the Committee did not find her in breach of the more serious offence under rule 174 (i)(a).

Mrs Harvey was in breach of rule 214 in that the greyhound was not free at the time of racing or trialling, of a substance that could affect its performance or wellbeing. Albeit inadvertently, Mrs Harvey had fed meat probably contaminated with Category 2 ABP meat to her greyhound and for this reason she was also found in breach of rule 152 (i) in that she was responsible for a failure to take action to ensure that the greyhound was free from a banned substance.

The Committee took account of Mr Harvey's undertaking to verify in future that the documentation confirmed meat being supplied was indeed Category 3 meat but distinguished the case from that of the 2 other trainers whose dogs had given positive samples at the same time because of the previous recent breach for a banned substance.

Mrs Harvey was cautioned and fined the sum of £400.