

## **CALENDAR NOTICE (to be published 16 December 2016)**

### **Disciplinary Committee Inquiries**

The Disciplinary Committee of the GBGB were in attendance at a meeting held on Tuesday, 22 November 2016:-

Mr K Salmon (in the chair)

Mr R Woodworth CBE

Mr R Coughlan

#### **1. Romford Stadium – BORNA TIME**

Professional Trainer Jim Reynolds was found in breach of rules 49 (iv) and 152 (i) & (ii) of the GBGB Rules of Racing in that he failed to use his best endeavours to ensure that the performance of the greyhound BORNA TIME at Romford Stadium on 14 July 2016 was to the satisfaction of the local stewards and/or the GRB.

Mr Reynolds was in attendance and represented by John Coleman who was assisted by Howard Berlin. Peter O'Dowd and Peter Miller, racing managers of Romford Stadium and Brighton & Hove respectively, and Adrian Smith, stipendiary steward were also in attendance. Meriel France, stipendiary steward, attended as an observer.

On 9 August 2016, a local inquiry was held to investigate the improved performance of BORNA TIME, a greyhound in Mr Reynolds charge, at Romford stadium on 14 July 2016. BORNA TIME ran in a 400m A6 flat race and recorded a time of 24.36, an improvement of 0.69 seconds from the greyhound's best recent form. Pursuant to rule 157 (iii) of the GBGB rules of racing Mr Reynolds was not willing to submit himself to the judgment of the Stipendiary Steward and exercised his right to have the case heard by the Disciplinary Committee of the GRB.

Danny Jones, a GBGB betting investigations officer, provided a written statement to the effect that there had been significant betting on BORNA TIME such that its on course price shortened from 9/4 to 5/4. It was said on Mr Reynolds behalf and the Committee accepted that longer prices of 7/2 and 100/30 had been available earlier in the day. It was Mr Reynolds case that this market support was explained by shrewd gamblers recognising the potential of BORNA TIME from his previous runs. The alternative explanation is that certain individuals had the benefit of inside information why BORNA TIME could be expected to show significant improvement. The Disciplinary Committee could not determine which of these explanations was correct. Overall the Committee was not assisted by the betting evidence, although they noted that the GBGB was not able to establish any links between any of the nine account holders placing significant amounts (i.e. more than £100) and Mr Reynolds or any licensed person associated with his kennel.

Mr Reynolds explained BORNA TIME's improved performance by reference to various matters. Firstly, it was a young dog who could be expected to improve as it matured and gained experience. Secondly, in its previous two runs on 2 July 2016 and 9 July 2016 it had broken badly and failed to get a clear run. In spite of this the dog made up ground during the race and was running on at the

finish, which demonstrated its true potential. In the race in question it broke well and was leading at the first bend. The other greyhounds in the race ran into trouble at the first, third and fourth bends, and the greyhound in trap one was guilty of deliberate interference. These factors contributed to the winning distance being greater than might otherwise have been the case. The disciplinary Committee were shown recordings of all three races, and Mr Coleman, on behalf of Mr Reynolds, explained in detail Mr Reynolds case by reference to those recordings.

Peter O'Dowd gave evidence. All the matters relied upon by Mr Reynolds were put to him and while he accepted that there was some force in what Mr Reynolds said his overall opinion was that the improvement of 0.69 seconds was simply too great to be explained in the manner suggested by Mr Reynolds.

The Disciplinary Committee carefully considered all the evidence and, based on Mr O'Dowd's evidence and their own knowledge and experience, reached the conclusion that they could not accept Mr Reynolds's explanation. They felt that while some improvement might be expected for the reasons advanced by Mr Reynolds, this improvement was too great to be explained in this way. Accordingly the Disciplinary Committee found Mr Reynolds in breach of rule 49(iv).

The breach of rule 152(i) followed inevitably from the breach of rule 49(iv). The Disciplinary Committee also found Mr Reynolds in breach of rule 152(ii). Racegoers are entitled to rely on the information provided in the racecard, and because this greyhound had not always run on its merits the quality of that information was compromised. That was something that directly affected the integrity and proper conduct of greyhound racing.

The Disciplinary Committee were told that there had been findings of breaches of rule 49(iv) on 25 October 2011, 17 November 2015, and 15 May 2016. A bundle of ten exemplary references had been produced on Mr Reynolds's behalf, which the Committee noted, but these were persistent breaches which tended to undermine the integrity and proper conduct of greyhound racing.

In those circumstances the least penalty the Disciplinary Committee could impose was a reprimand and a fine of £400.

## **2. Romford Stadium – AIRPORT GLIDER**

Professional Trainer Jim Reynolds admitted to breaching rules 49 (iv) and 152 (i) & (ii) of the GBGB Rules of Racing in that he failed to use his best endeavours to ensure that the performance of the greyhound AIRPORT GLIDER at Romford Stadium on 23 July 2016 was to the satisfaction of the local stewards and/or the GRB.

Mr Reynolds was in attendance and represented by Howard Berlin who was assisted by John Coleman. Peter O'Dowd and Peter Miller, racing managers of Romford Stadium and Brighton & Hove respectively, and Adrian Smith, stipendiary steward were also in attendance. Meriel France, stipendiary steward, attended as an observer.

On 9 August 2016, a local inquiry was held to investigate the improved performance of AIRPORT GLIDER, a greyhound in Mr Reynolds charge, at Romford stadium on 23 July 2016. AIRPORT GLIDER

ran in a 400m A5 flat race and recorded a time of 24.23, an improvement of 0.74 seconds from the greyhound's best recent form. Pursuant to rule 157 (iii) of the GBGB rules of racing Mr Reynolds was not willing to submit himself to the judgment of the Stipendiary Steward and exercised his right to have the case heard by the Disciplinary Committee of the GRB.

This was the second inquiry held on 22 November 2016 into the improved performance of a greyhound trained by Mr Reynolds. In the first inquiry, the improvement was 0.69 seconds and the Disciplinary Committee found, based on the evidence of Peter O'Dowd and its own knowledge and experience, that the improvement was too great to allow an innocent explanation. Against that background, Mr Reynolds admitted the present alleged rule breaches, for which the Disciplinary Committee commends him.

The Committee also noted and accepted the submission made on his behalf that AIRPORT GLIDER's previous best recent time was recorded in a trial held on the hottest day of the year which may have affected the greyhound's performance.

It was also suggested on Mr Reynolds's behalf that the going allowance made on 23 July 2016 may be suspect, but the Disciplinary Committee was unable to make any determination of that issue.

The Committee accepted that Mr Reynolds is a very experienced and successful trainer who had provided ten exemplary character references, and who had admitted these breaches.

Nonetheless, these were serious breaches which directly affected the integrity and proper conduct of greyhound racing. The Committee took into account the four previous breaches of rule 49(iv) recorded against Mr Reynolds (including the breach found earlier on 22 November 2016) since 2011.

In those circumstances the least penalty the Disciplinary Committee could impose was a reprimand and a fine of £400. The Disciplinary Committee would have imposed a considerably more severe penalty had there not been the mitigation in this inquiry as set out above.