

CALENDAR NOTICE (16 December 2016)

Disciplinary Committee Inquiries

The Disciplinary Committee of the GBGB were in attendance at a meeting held on 24 November 2016:-

Mr H Starte (in the Chair)

Mr K Salmon

Mr A Hunt

1. Central Park Stadium – YASSOO KEITH – Professional Trainer Mr George Andreas

Professional Trainer George Andreas was found in breach of rules 152 (i), 174 (i) (b) and 217 of the GBGB Rules of Racing in that a urine sample taken from the greyhound YASSOO KEITH at Central Park Stadium on 19 April 2016 was analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the presence of dexamethasone.

Mr Andreas was in attendance. Andy Clayson, racing manager at Central Park Stadium, could not attend. Stipendiary steward Lorraine Sams and Professor Tim Morris, independent scientific adviser, were in attendance.

The Disciplinary Committee heard evidence from Professor Morris that dexamethasone is a corticosteroid available as a veterinary medicine in a variety of formulations. It is a very potent anti-inflammatory, with a range of side effects including metabolic disturbances and reduction in the body's response to infection, which by its nature could affect the performance and/or prejudice the wellbeing of a greyhound.

Professor Morris said he had been informed by LGC Health Sciences that the concentration of dexamethasone found in the urine had been estimated as 0.47 ng/ml. This was a very low concentration corresponding to what might be found at the end of treatment if it had come from dexamethasone being administered to the dog. If there had been an administration, its timing was unclear and he could not say it had been within 7 days before the dog was trialled, putting the trainer in breach rule 217.

In his evidence to the local inquiry Mr Andreas said YASSOO KEITH had not been treated with dexamethasone. The only possibly relevant treatment the dog had was with Aludex solution, a skin application which had been recommended and prescribed by the stadium vet from Mote Park Veterinary Surgery to treat his greyhounds for ticks. He had done research on the internet which led him to believe that this skin treatment was the source of the dexamethasone found in YASSOO KEITH's urine.

Mr Andreas's treatment book, shown to the local inquiry and the Committee, showed the only treatment of YASSOO KEITH recorded around the relevant time was magnetic and ultrasound treatment given at the stadium on 2 April 2016 for a muscle injury to a rear leg. There was no record of YASSOO KEITH or any other dogs being treated for ticks with the Aludex Mr Andreas said had been prescribed by the Mote Park Veterinary Surgery vet.

Mr Andreas told the local inquiry and confirmed to the Committee that he fed his greyhounds a breakfast of cereal, milk and honey and a main meal of Red Mills biscuit, meat, vegetable flavouring and brown bread, cooked with pasta, garlic, vegetables and tomatoes. Occasionally he would also feed his greyhounds fish and liver. Mr Andreas told the Committee that he understood the liver was beef or calves' liver or possibly pigs liver. He would just put the liver in to boil with the other ingredients.

Professor Morris told the Committee that Aludex was a brand of Amitraz. It was a very potent treatment, only available on prescription. Amitraz was chemically distinct from dexamethasone and

was not metabolised into dexamethasone. The Aludex treatment should have been recorded in Mr Andreas's treatment book, but there was no way that the presence of dexamethasone was connected to YASSOO KEITH being treated with Aludex.

As regards the feeding regime described by Mr Andreas, Professor Morris said that because of the way chickens are raised and the treatments given to them, it was very unlikely that the chicken meat fed to Mr Andreas's dogs was the source of the dexamethasone. The constituents of Red Mills biscuits and other proprietary brands of biscuit for greyhounds meant that they could not be the source. However, dexamethasone was commonly used to treat cows, for example for mastitis and for metabolic disorders of the digestion. Cattle slaughtered after treatment could have a residue of dexamethasone in the liver. Liver could be sold as Category 2 meat. So the liver fed to YASSOO KEITH was a possible source of the dexamethasone detected in the greyhound's urine. Professor Morris's evidence was that while dexamethasone had been found, its source remained unclear.

As regards there being no record in his treatment book of YASSOO KEITH being treated with Aludex, Mr Andreas told the Committee that he had not thought that this was a treatment that he was required to record, just as he would not have recorded worming his greyhounds.

The Manager of Integrity and Welfare Services, Duncan Gibson, said the Regulatory Board were not pursuing the case that Mr Andreas was in breach of Rule 174 (i) (a) because it accepted there was insufficient evidence that dexamethasone had been administered to YASSOO KEITH. The dexamethasone was in the dog but the GBGB just could not say how it got there. It could have come from liver fed to the greyhound. Rules 174 (i) (b) and 217 were matters of strict liability and Mr Andreas was in breach by virtue of the substance being found in the greyhound. There had also clearly been a breach of Rule 216 by not recording the treatment of YASSOO KEITH with a prescription-only treatment prescribed by the stadium vet. Necessarily Mr Andreas was in breach of Rule 152 (i) because of his other breaches.

The Committee agreed with the Board's decision not to pursue the case that dexamethasone had been administered to the greyhound. But it had to find that Mr Andreas was in breach of Rules 174 (i) (b) and 217 by having in his charge and trialling a greyhound, YASSOO KEITH, when it was not free of a substance that could affect its performance or wellbeing. As for failing to record the Aludex treatment in his treatment book, the Committee accepted that this had not been a deliberate breach of Rule 216 by Mr Andreas. However, he had been seriously misguided to think that treatment with a prescription-only treatment that he had obtained on prescription from a vet was not something that had to be recorded. By virtue of these breaches, Mr Andreas was necessarily in breach of Rule 152 (i). The Committee did not find his misconduct in failing to record the Aludex treatment was serious enough to be a breach of Rule 152 (ii).

The Committee heard that in November 2015 Mr Andreas had been given a severe reprimand and fined £750 for breaches of Rules 174 (i) (a), 216 and 217 and Rule 152 (i) and (ii) when the presence of the non-steroidal anti-inflammatory meloxicam had been detected in a greyhound in his charge.

The penalty imposed by the Committee was that Mr Andreas be reprimanded and pay a fine of £500 in respect of the breaches relating to dexamethasone being detected in YASSOO KEITH and a fine of £200 for the breach of Rule 216.

2. Belle Vue Stadium – KILARA ALLSTAR and MUCKY SULLY – Professional Trainer Mr John Walton

Professional Trainer Mr John Walton was found in breach of rules 152 (i), 174 (i) (b), 214 and 217 of the GBGB Rules of Racing in that urine samples taken from the greyhounds KILARA ALLSTAR and MUCKY SULLY at Belle Vue Stadium on 25 May 2016 were analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the presence of ketoprofen.

Mr Walton apologised for his absence, explaining by letter that he would be recovering from a knee operation at the date of the meeting and unable to travel. David Brayshaw, racing manager at Belle Vue Stadium, apologised for his absence. Stipendiary steward Peter Rosney and Professor Tim Morris, independent scientific adviser, were in attendance.

Professor Morris advised the Committee that ketoprofen was a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) used to relieve pain and reduce fever and inflammation. It was commonly used in animals and man. It was available as a licensed veterinary medicine in tablet or injectable form from a number of different companies, used to treat a number of species including dogs, cattle, horses and pigs.

All NSAIDs could induce adverse reactions, some of which could be life-threatening. Vomiting was the most common adverse effect in dogs. Gastrointestinal ulceration was the most common life-threatening effect. Ketoprofen had not been shown to directly affect a greyhound's performance. However, it could do so indirectly by mitigating adverse effects of pain or inflammation. In Professor Morris's opinion it was a substance which by its nature could affect a greyhound's performance or prejudice its wellbeing.

Mr Walton told the local inquiry that neither dog had received any treatment that could have been the source of the ketoprofen. He was as careful as he could be in what he fed to his greyhounds, but he believed the only possible source was contaminated feed. He said he fed his dogs meat 6 days a week. He fed 20% Gain and 80% beef. For about 4 years he had been buying beef from the supplier Lawrence Grace. He had never had cause to question its quality. He understood it was meat slaughtered as fit for human consumption that Lawrence Grace bought from Brian Betteridge Butchers. He received two deliveries a month from Lawrence Grace of about 300lbs of frozen minced beef.

The Committee received a statement made by Mr Simon Betteridge on behalf of butchers Brian E Betteridge, of Walsall. Mr Betteridge said they were butchers who supplied the general public from their shop and also ran a pet food business which supplied both individual customers and other wholesale outlets. All their beef pet food was made from Category 3 meat products bought from a Staffordshire company, H P Westwood Ltd. Their chicken mince produce was made from chicken obtained from Townsend Poultry, Wolverhampton. Lawrence Grace bought both their beef and chicken products. Mr Betteridge stated that his firm complied with all DEFRA regulations and food hygiene laws. He produced a copy of the firm's certificate of registration to collect and use animal by-products for pet food, as well as a copy of an example of its supplier's document recording delivery of Category 3 meat product. He stated that their products were regularly tested for harmful bacteria. Although they made every effort to source their products responsibly, they could not know if any substances had in fact been given to the animals slaughtered to produce the meat supplied to them as Category 3 meat that was fit for human consumption.

Professor Morris advised the Committee that the levels of ketoprofen found in the urine of both KILARA ALLSTAR and MUCKY SULLY were low, corresponding to an "end of treatment" level, if there had been an administration of the drug. But the levels were also compatible with the substance coming from a contaminated food source. It could not have come from the Gain said to have been fed. It could have come from the beef.

Professor Morris said that screening by LGC Health Sciences had shown evidence for hydroxy metabolites in the urine samples from both greyhounds. He explained that there were essentially two routes of metabolism of ketoprofen in different species: the production of hydroxy metabolites and glucuronide conjugation. In dogs, the latter route, and excretion of ketoprofen itself, was the main metabolic route leading to substances being found in the urine. In contrast, the hydroxy metabolite was seen in horses and in pigs and probably in cattle. This meant that, assuming all other things were equal, it was on balance more likely that the detected metabolite was from a "non-dog" source, supporting the likelihood that the ketoprofen had come from contaminated meat being fed rather than from an administration of ketoprofen.

Professor Morris also told the Committee that he was aware of another case under consideration by the GBGB in which, at around the time the samples were taken from KILARA ALLSTAR and MUCKY SULLY, both ketoprofen and a non-therapeutic substance used for euthanasia had been detected in the urine of a greyhound also fed on meat supplied by Lawrence Grace. The fact that the presence of a non-therapeutic substance had been found made it more likely that the source of the substances in that other case was contaminated meat. This in turn supported the likelihood that the source of ketoprofen in the case of KILARA STAR and MUCKY SULLY was contaminated meat and not an administration of ketoprofen.

The Manager of Integrity and Welfare Services, Duncan Gibson, said that particularly in the light of Professor Morris's evidence on the significance of the detection on screening of hydroxy metabolites, the Regulatory Board were withdrawing the case that there had been an administration of ketoprofen and a breach by Mr Walton of Rule 174 (i) (a).

The Committee found that Mr Walton had breached Rule 174 (i) (b) in that he had in his charge greyhounds, KILARA STAR and MUCKY SULLY, which showed the presence in their bodies of a substance that could affect their performance or prejudice their wellbeing. He had also breached Rule 214 by failing to ensure their feed was free from such a substance, and Rule 217 by racing the greyhounds when they were not free of such a substance. These breaches meant that he was also in breach of Rule 152 (i).

Mr Gibson, for the Regulatory Board, said it recognised that all Mr Walton's breaches had been inadvertent. The welfare of the greyhounds had not been jeopardised. The public had not been put at risk in any way. There had been no deception on Mr Walton's part. He had been a trainer for many years and there were no relevant previous disciplinary findings recorded against him. The Board recommended that the Committee should order that no further action be taken.

The Committee agreed with the Regulatory Board's assessment and recommendation. It ordered that no further action be taken.

3. UNLICENSED KENNELS – Greyhound Trainer Mr Steven Carrington

Greyhound Trainer Mr Steven Carrington was found in breach of rules 9 (i), 152 (i) and (ii) and 174 (iv) of the GBGB Rules of Racing in that he raced greyhounds at Kinsley Stadium from unlicensed premises which greyhounds he knew or believed or had cause to know or believe were disqualified from those races.

Mr Carrington, Craig Hunt, racing manager at Kinsley Stadium, and John Curran, Racecourse Executive at Kinsley Stadium and authorised representative, were in attendance by Skype link to Kinsley Stadium. Stipendiary steward Peter Rosney was in attendance at the offices of the GBGB.

Manager of Integrity and Welfare Services, Duncan Gibson, told the Committee that Mr Steven Carrington had been a Professional Trainer attached to Kinsley Stadium, licensed to race greyhounds from kennels at Lowgate Crossing Farm, Lowgate, North Humberside. In March 2016 Welfare and Integrity Services had received an anonymous letter alleging that greyhound trainer Steven Carrington was keeping more than 30 greyhounds in kennels at his home in Mansfield Crescent, Skellow, which he was racing at Kinsley Stadium. This had been investigated by stipendiary steward Peter Rosney, resulting in a local inquiry held at Kinsley Stadium on 5 June 2016.

By a letter received on 17 November 2016, Mr Carrington had admitted breaches of Rule 9 (i), Rule 152 (i) and or (ii) and of Rule 174 (iv) by racing greyhounds at Kinsley Stadium that had not been kept at the Lowgate kennels but at kennels at his home in Skellow.

The Committee heard that stipendiary steward Peter Rosney had visited Lowgate on 4 April 2016, where he found significantly more greyhounds recorded in the kennel book than were present in the kennels. On questioning Mr Carrington's son Andrew and granddaughter Ms Nicole Jobling, Mr Rosney

was eventually told that their father was keeping some of the greyhounds recorded in the Lowgate kennel book in kennels at his home in Skellow. He was not at the Lowgate kennels at the time of the visit because he was receiving dialysis treatment. Mr Rosney had then gone to Kinsley Stadium, where John Curran had told him the stadium had no idea that Mr Carrington had been keeping greyhounds at his home kennels and not at the licensed Lowgate kennels. Mr Curran had agreed to take all Mr Carrington's greyhounds off the strength immediately and until they were all being kept in licensed kennels. Kinsley Racing Office provided a list of all active greyhounds trained by Mr Carrington which, the Committee was told, showed that 58 had raced since the beginning of January 2016.

Mr Rosney visited the kennels at Skellow on 12 April 2016. By this time all active greyhounds had been returned to the Lowgate kennels and application was under way for Andrew Carrington to be the licensed Professional Trainer at those kennels and for his father Steven Carrington to be licensed as greyhound trainer at the Skellow kennels. Significant work was needed to bring the Skellow kennels up to minimum GBGB standards. Over the next few days Mr Curran had undertaken that Kinsley Stadium would refurbish the kennels to enable Steven Carrington to be licensed as greyhound trainer running dogs at Kinsley Stadium.

The Committee heard that Mr Carrington had told the local inquiry on 5 June 2016 that he had been licensed as a Professional Trainer at the kennels at his home in Skellow, kennelling about 22 to 24 greyhounds there before he had moved to the Lowgate kennels. In December 2015, the landlord at Lowgate had said he needed to increase the rent for those kennels to £1500 a month. Mr Carrington told the inquiry he could not afford that. A day or two later the landlord had started knocking kennels down at a rate of kennelling for 4 dogs each day. Mr Carrington had started moving dogs to the kennels at his home. He had also re-homed a number of retired dogs through Tia Rescue. The dogs moved to Skellow had remained there and the racers had continued racing at Kinsley until the stipendiary steward's visit. If they had not, it would have effected income from Kinsley Stadium and he would have struggled to feed the dogs and pay his staff. He had been in the process of changing the licensing for his son Andrew at Lowgate and himself at Skellow. All this had been happening when he had been suffering from ill health. All the dogs were owned by himself and two other people. Mr Carrington admitted that at least 9 greyhounds that had raced at Kinsley Stadium since 1 January 2016 were not recorded in his Lowgate kennel book and that 8 of these were among the dogs kennelled at Skellow.

Mr Carrington told the Committee that he and his son Andrew had thought about it but it had been impossible for them to pay the £1,500 rent that the landlord said he had to charge for the kennels he planned to convert to a business unit. This meant the Carringtons were losing kennel space at Lowgate for 22 dogs. He had told Kinsley Stadium in December 2015 that they planned to get Andrew Carrington licensed as professional trainer at Lowgate and that he would be licensed as greyhound trainer at the Skellow kennels. Mr Curran had got them the forms to change the licensing. But when they had to move dogs from Lowgate, they had had to pay £1000 to re-home 10 dogs through Tia Rescue. There was also going to be expense bringing the kennels at Skellow up to standard for licensing. Losing the weekly income received from Kinsley Stadium for each greyhound no longer raced by him as a professional trainer from the Lowgate kennels would have meant the operation could not afford to keep going. Mr Carrington said he was afraid that if that happened, racing and retired dogs' welfare would have been put at risk, with the prospect of dogs having to be euthanased. Throughout this period he had been unwell, requiring the treatment by dialysis he still received. Mr Carrington accepted that they should have got on with licensing Andrew Carrington as professional trainer at Lowgate and re-licensing him as greyhound trainer at the Skellow kennels, but had not. He admitted that between December and April 2016 he had kennelled around 17 active greyhounds at Skellow at any given time. Some of those dogs had been resting and some recovering from injury, while about 6 would have been racing at Kinsley Stadium.

John Curran told the committee that as an attached professional trainer Mr Carrington was receiving the higher rate paid for each greyhound running in graded races. Before moving dogs from the Lowgate kennels, Mr Carrington had been supplying between 30 and 40 greyhounds per racing week.

Supplying the dogs to Kinsley Stadium as a greyhound trainer from his Skellow kennels, his income would drop to the lower rate for each greyhound running in graded races.

The Committee heard from Mr Curran that after Kinsley Stadium had learned from the stipendiary steward that Mr Carrington had lost kennels at Lowgate and was supplying dogs from the unlicensed kennels at Skellow, considerable financial support had been given to Mr Carrington and to his son to enable Andy Carrington to establish himself as the professional trainer supplying greyhounds from the reduced number of kennels at Lowgate and Mr Carrington to bring the Skellow kennels up to standard and to supply greyhounds as a greyhound trainer licensed at those kennels.

The stadium had made an interest-free loan to Mr Andy Carrington to buy his father's transporter van. It had paid Mr Andy Carrington the wages for his kennelhand for 4 weeks, an outstanding vets bill and the costs for re-homing 5 greyhounds from the Lowgate kennels and it was continuing to pay a weekly kennel subsidy to Lowgate kennels. The stadium had made a trainer's welfare payment to Mr Steven Carrington to cover costs of labour, plant and machinery for improvements to the Skellow kennels. It had also made Mr Carrington an interest-free loan, to be repaid by deductions from his earnings from runners as and when these could be made without compromising the welfare of the greyhounds. The stadium had also agreed to pay Mr Carrington at professional trainer rates for the supply of greyhounds for the duration of the loan.

The Committee heard that the GBGB had agreed that Mr Carrington could continue to kennel greyhounds at the Skellow kennels and supply them for racing as a greyhound trainer licensed at those kennels while the improvements required to bring the kennels up to standard were carried out. The supply of greyhounds for Kinsley Stadium racing by Mr Carrington had never actually stopped. The improvements had been completed by the end of May 2016.

The Committee heard that Mr Carrington had been found in breach of Rule 174 (iv) on a previous occasion in 2010. Mr Carrington explained that this was when he had taken greyhounds that had been due to race at Kinsley Stadium into his kennels when they had been abandoned by their trainer who had "walked away" from the kennels where they had been kept. His breach of Rule 174 had been to allow greyhounds to remain entered to race at Kinsley Stadium when he knew they were not being kept at the kennels from which their trainer was licensed to race them.

Regarding the penalty that should be imposed on Mr Carrington for his admitted breaches of Rules 9 (i) and 174 (iv), the Committee accepted that Mr Carrington had found himself in a difficult situation in December 2015. He genuinely and probably rightly believed that he could not afford to carry on his operation - training active greyhounds but also keeping and caring for injured and retired dogs - on his earnings as a professional greyhound trainer attached to Kinsley Stadium if he had to pay the increased rent being asked to keep the kennels at Lowgate that the landlord wanted to redevelop as a business unit.

The Committee accepted that the scheme that Mr Carrington embarked on – to have his son licensed to race as the professional trainer racing from the remaining Lowgate kennels and himself licensed as greyhound trainer racing from the kennels at his home - was not motivated by a desire to save costs for the sake of it or to increase profits. It was a rescue scheme by which he hoped to save his greyhound training operation, and not only for his sake: the "Carrington family" operation also included and employed his son Andrew and his granddaughter Nicole Jobling. The Committee also accepted that Mr Carrington had been genuinely concerned for the welfare of the greyhounds in his charge, both active and retired, and feared that they would suffer if the Carrington family greyhound business could not continue.

However, it was a scheme that depended on deceiving Kinsley Stadium while it was carried into effect. Mr Carrington was also undoubtedly fully aware that what he was hiding from Kinsley Stadium was a breach of the rules. He had already been disciplined by the GBGB for being involved in greyhounds

being entered to race at Kinsley Stadium when they were disqualified because they were not being kept at the kennels from which their trainer was licensed to race them.

It was also the case that, having embarked on the scheme, Mr Carrington did not actually put it into effect. Until the deception was detected, nothing was done to get Andrew Carrington licensed to train at Lowgate or to re-licence Mr Carrington at the Skellow kennels or to make any improvements to the substandard kennels at Skellow. The Committee recognised that Mr Carrington was throughout suffering from serious and debilitating health problems, which continued. However, whatever Mr Carrington's good intentions, it seemed likely that the deception would have gone on indefinitely if it had not been detected.

The Committee noted that Kinsley Stadium had stood by Mr Carrington, to the extent of giving very considerable financial assistance which hopefully meant that there were now two, properly-run and sustainable greyhound training operations at Mr Andrew Carrington's Lowgate kennels and at Carrington's kennels at Skellow.

Nevertheless, however good Steven Carrington's intentions and whatever the attitude of Kinsley Stadium, the Committee considered these to have been serious and deliberate breaches by Mr Carrington of crucially important rules, namely Rule 9 (i) and 174 (iv), aimed at safeguarding the welfare of greyhounds and protecting the public. The Committee found that by his conduct in breach of those rules, Mr Carrington acted in a manner prejudicial to the integrity, proper conduct and reputation of Greyhound racing so as to be in breach of both Rule 152 (i) and Rule 152 (ii).

The Committee ordered that Mr Carrington be severely reprimanded and pay a fine of £500.