

## **CALENDAR NOTICE (to be published 27 January 2017)**

### **Disciplinary Committee Inquiries**

The Disciplinary Committee of the GBGB were in attendance at a meeting held on 10 January 2017:-

Mr M Elks (in the chair)

Mr R Coughlan

Dr AJ Higgins

#### **1. Poole Stadium – FIZZYPOP YOYO – Professional Trainer Mrs JE Harvey**

Professional Trainer June Harvey 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 FIZZYPOP YOYO at Poole Stadium on 14 June 2016 was analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the presence of minoxidil.

Mrs Harvey apologised for her absence and was represented by her husband, kennelhand Anthony Harvey. Perry Madden, owner and kennelhand Paul Binge were in attendance. Ian Sillence, racing manager of Poole Stadium, apologised for his non-attendance. Professor Tim Morris, independent scientific adviser and Paul Illingworth, senior stipendiary steward, were also present.

Professor Morris stated that minoxidil is used as a topical treatment for hair loss in people but not dogs. Minoxidil tablets are also available to people in tablet form on prescription for the treatment of high blood pressure. Mr Harvey said he had not been prescribed minoxidil although he had been prescribed beta blockers. In dogs minoxidil has both a stimulating and toxic effect on the heart. It could therefore both affect the performance and/or prejudice the well-being of the greyhound.

Professor Morris found nothing in the feeding regime of the greyhound or in the oils, gels and shampoo used on the greyhound which could explain the presence of minoxidil in the sample. He also said that there was also no evidence of any human use which might account for its finding in FIZZYPOP YOYO.

Mr Harvey on behalf of Mrs June Harvey suggested the only other possible source was deliberate administration of the substance to the greyhound by a specified third party who, he suggested, had a motive to damage Mr and Mrs Harvey's reputation. The Committee accordingly heard a significant amount of evidence as to whether this was possible. Paul Illingworth gave evidence as to the good security arrangements in place at the kennels where the greyhound was placed before the race. This included CCTV coverage Although this is not compulsory it is installed at many tracks. Unfortunately, by the time this possibility was raised by Mr Harvey the CCTV footage for 14 June had already been overwritten. Even if it had been possible for a third party to establish which kennel FIZZYPOP YOYO had been allocated the Committee considered it unlikely that a third party would have been able to administer a substance to the greyhound, even though a spray could have caused the level of minoxidil in the sample if it had been sprayed into the mouth of the greyhound or the greyhound had licked it off its body after being sprayed.

The Committee also heard that the security maintained by Mr Harvey around the van in which he brought his greyhounds to the track was not good. The van had been left unlocked and unattended with some greyhounds including FIZZYPOP YOYO inside while Mr Harvey and a colleague took other dogs to be kennelled. Mr Illingworth explained that if a third party was trying to engineer a positive test on the greyhound by administering a substance in the van a lot of factors outside his or her control would have to come together for that to happen. In particular at the time of kennelling it would not be known whether a sampling officer was present to test greyhounds competing in the open races.

The Committee noted the evidence of Mr Harvey, accepted by Mr Bird, that the welfare of the dogs in his and his wife's care is paramount for them. This was borne out by the kennel inspection report provided to the Committee.

Having considered all the evidence the Committee was unable to establish the source of the minoxidil. In particular, the Committee did not find on the balance of probabilities that Mrs Harvey or anyone associated with her deliberately administered minoxidil to FIZZYPOP YOYO. The Committee was however concerned by the lack of security applied by Mr Harvey to his van when at the track, especially in view of the concerns he said he had about the conduct of the third party.

Some of the GBGB Rules of Racing impose strict liability on the trainer or registered sales agent. The Committee therefore found Mrs Harvey in breach of Rules 152(i), 174(i)(b) and 217 of the GBGB Rules of Racing.

In all the circumstances of the case, the Disciplinary Committee ordered that Mrs Harvey be cautioned and fined £250.

## **2. Hall Green Stadium – TOASTYMISSROASTY – Professional Trainer Mr S Buckland**

Professional Trainer Stuart Buckland 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 TOASTYMISSROASTY at Hall Green Stadium on 8 June 2016 was analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the presence of ketoprofen, a ketoprofen metabolite and a pentobarbital metabolite.

Mr Buckland was in attendance. Robert Coulthard, racing manager of Hall Green Stadium, apologised for his non-attendance. Professor Tim Morris, independent scientific adviser and Paula Clare, stipendiary steward, were also present.

Professor Morris stated that ketoprofen is a non-steroidal-anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID). NSAIDs relieve pain reduce fever and reduce inflammation. The alleviation of symptoms could have an indirect effect on the performance of the greyhound by mitigating the adverse effects of pain or inflammation. NSAIDs also have the potential to induce adverse reactions, some of which can be life threatening. Accordingly, ketoprofen is a substance which could affect the performance and/or prejudice the well-being of the greyhound.

He further stated that pentobarbital is available for use as a veterinary medicine for injection for euthanasia of animals. It is a controlled drug in the United Kingdom and is not available as a medical

drug. It is available as a medical drug in other countries. Pentobarbital is a depressant of the nervous and respiratory systems of dogs, other animals and people with increasing doses causing sedation anaesthesia and then death through respiratory and cardiac arrest. It is therefore a substance which could affect the performance or prejudice the well-being of the greyhound.

Pentobarbital is the most common drug used by veterinary surgeons for the euthanasia of animals.

Mr Buckland gave evidence, supported by documents, that he fed only Category 3 meat in accordance with the advice of the GBGB. The Committee accepted that evidence. Notwithstanding that, Professor Morris has expressed the opinion that the most likely source of the ketoprofen and metabolites of both ketoprofen and pentobarbital was contaminated meat. Professor Morris said that the scientific evidence indicated that the source was contaminated horse or cattle meat.

Some of the GBGB Rules of Racing impose strict liability on the trainer or registered sales agent. Accordingly, it found Mr Buckland in breach of Rules 152(i), 174(i)(b) and 217 of the GBGB Rules of Racing. The Committee recognised that Mr Buckland was fulfilling his responsibility to uphold the integrity of greyhound racing and noted he had stopped feeding meat of any sort to the greyhounds in his care.

In all the circumstances of the case, the Disciplinary Committee ordered that Mr Buckland be cautioned and imposed no fine.

### **3. Perry Barr Stadium – MONAVAHA HAWK/ STRATEGY SERVICE – Professional Trainer Mr JH Smith**

Professional Trainer John Henry Smith was found in breach of rules 152 (i) & (ii), 174 (i)(a) and 217 of the GBGB Rules of Racing in that urine samples taken from the greyhounds MONAVAHA HAWK and STRATEGY SERVICE at Perry Barr Stadium on 21 June 2016 were analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the presence of naproxen; and that he allowed a substance to be administered that could affect the performance and/or prejudice the wellbeing of the greyhounds.

Mr Smith was in attendance and accompanied by his kennelhand Tim Fisher. Martin Seal, racing manager of Perry Barr Stadium, apologised for his non-attendance. Professor Tim Morris, independent scientific adviser and Paul Illingworth, senior stipendiary steward, were also present.

Professor Morris gave evidence that naproxen is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID). As it has a long duration of action it is not licensed or recommended for use in dogs. NSAIDs relieve pain reduce fever and reduce inflammation. The alleviation of symptoms could have an indirect effect on the performance of a greyhound by mitigating the adverse effects of pain or inflammation. NSAIDs also have the potential to induce adverse reactions, some of which can be life threatening. Accordingly, naproxen is a substance which could affect the performance or prejudice the well-being of the greyhounds. Professor Morris concluded that the level of naproxen found in both samples was such that the substance would have an anti-inflammatory effect if a greyhound was suffering from an injury. Even if it was not, it was still exposed to the potential side effects. Accordingly, naproxen is a substance which could affect the performance or prejudice the well-being of the greyhounds.

Mr Smith said that he believed the presence of naproxen to be the result of cross-contamination. He said he had naproxen tablets prescribed to his wife or sister-in-law brought from his house to his kennels nearby by his wife when he was suffering from back pain. He said his own prescription for diclofenac effervescent tablets had run out. He said he did not take drugs in tablet form but only in soluble form. He therefore in the kennel kitchen crushed the naproxen tablet using two spoons, poured milk on the spoon containing the crushed tablet and took it. This was repeated over a period of about 7 days, during which time a strip of naproxen tablets was simply left in the kennel kitchen. He thinks that on one or two occasions he may have thrown the spoons into the sink but not washed them up before using them in connection with the feeding of his dogs. He said he appreciates now he should not have done this but was making mistakes as a result of the pain he was suffering.

The Committee did not accept that, as an experienced trainer, Mr Smith could be unaware of the dangers of taking medication personally at his professional racing kennels. It also did not accept his reasons for not producing a copy of his wife's prescription for naproxen. His evidence was inconsistent. At the time of the meeting in question he was looking after all his dogs. He brought his greyhounds alone to the race meeting as his kennel hand was on jury service. Yet he stated he was in such pain he made the mistake of not washing the spoons. He said he may have failed to wash the spoons on more than one occasion, but also stated that he had a spotlessly clean kitchen at his kennels.

It was also too much of a coincidence that the two greyhounds tested both had similar levels of naproxen in their urine samples.

Accordingly, the Committee concluded on the balance of probabilities that the presence of naproxen in the two samples was the result of deliberate administration by Mr Smith. The Committee therefore found Mr Smith in breach of Rules 152(i) & (ii), 174(i)(a) and 217 of the GBGB Rules of Racing.

In all the circumstances of the case, the Disciplinary Committee ordered that Mr Smith be severely reprimanded and fined £1,000 (£500 for each positive test).