

## **Disciplinary Committee Inquiries**

The Disciplinary Committee of the GBGB were in attendance at a meeting held on 1 February 2017:-

Mr K Salmon (in the chair)

Dr AJ Higgins

Mr R Woodworth CBE

### **1. Incident at Owlerton Stadium – Registered Owner Mr N Wileman**

The Disciplinary Committee considered a report received from Mr P Rosney, stipendiary steward, concerning an incident involving registered owner Mr N Wileman in that it was alleged that, between races 8 and 9 of the Three Steps to Victory competition held at Owlerton Greyhound Stadium on 5 April 2016, Mr Wileman trespassed onto the racing track, entered an area where he had no reason to be and/or handcuffed himself to the fencing that separates members of the public from the grass verge adjacent to the outside running rail (the incident). That conduct was intended to disrupt the racing being conducted at the Stadium.

Registered owner Nicholas Wileman did not attend. GBGB was represented by Louis Weston of Counsel and instructed by Ben Rees of Charles Russell Speechlys.

The Disciplinary Committee first considered whether it was in a position properly to deal with the inquiry or whether it should be adjourned. The case had already been adjourned once on paper, having originally been scheduled for 11 October 2016.

Mr Weston strongly urged the Disciplinary Committee to deal with the inquiry forthwith, on the basis that the date for assessing Mr Wileman's conduct and motivation was 5 April 2016. He submitted that the Committee had all the necessary information before it, and nothing that might emerge in the future could be relevant.

Mr Wileman had maintained a consistent position. His case, as set out in extensive correspondence, was that he had acted on 5 April 2016 out of frustration because GBGB officials would not listen to serious information he had regarding potential corruption. His solicitor succinctly set out Mr Wileman's position in an email dated 10 January 2017:

1. *Mr Wileman maintains the position he has consistently held, that he cannot disclose at any GBGB hearing any information in his possession of relevance to the Police investigation and in the light of the extended exchange of correspondence in recent months, he considers that he cannot receive a fair hearing before the GBGB.*
2. *Further, after a 5 month series of exchanges, formal notification had been received from the police that a criminal investigation had been launched into allegations of fraud and bribery*
3. *It was made clear by the police that Mr Wileman will be providing input into the criminal investigation and accordingly they did not consider it appropriate that he appear before GBGB Enquiry (sic) during this time. Should GBGB persist in holding the inquiry in these circumstances...that will only demonstrate shortcomings in the procedure.*

The Disciplinary Committee took as its starting point the proposition that it is totally unacceptable for anyone deliberately to disrupt a greyhound race meeting for any reason and on the face of it such a person should be arraigned before a disciplinary inquiry, which, in the event a Rule was shown to have been breached, would be required to take into consideration any mitigating circumstances before deciding on a penalty

The Disciplinary Committee was, however, concerned that it did not know the nature or extent of Mr Wileman's evidence, which Mr Wileman plainly felt to be important and relevant and could impinge on mitigation. The Committee noted that Mr Wileman had been advised not to disclose anything which might prejudice the police investigation, albeit that only Mr Wileman and his legal advisers knew what information he possessed.

In those circumstances the Disciplinary Committee was not prepared to reject Mr Wileman's evidence at this stage as Mr Weston urged it to do. The Committee felt that to do so might result in Mr Wileman being treated unfairly.

The Committee also had drawn to its attention the existence of a statement from Paul Illingworth, Senior Stipendiary Steward, following a meeting he had held with Mr Wileman. This statement had not been seen by the Committee or Mr Wileman. The Committee considered that it would be unfair to Mr Wileman to proceed in those circumstances and this was a further, but secondary, reason not to proceed.

The Disciplinary Committee therefore ordered that the Inquiry be adjourned for three months to allow the police investigation to proceed. The matter will then be reviewed by the Committee.