

## **CALENDAR NOTICE (to be published 2 June 2017)**

### **Disciplinary Committee Inquiries**

The Disciplinary Committee of the GBGB attended a meeting held on Tuesday, 23 May 2017:-

Mr K Salmon (in the chair)

Mr H Starte

Mr A Hunt

#### **1. Brighton & Hove Stadium – SLAHENY FONTAINE – Professional Trainer Mr P Garland**

Professional Trainer Paul Garland 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 SLAHENY FONTAINE at Brighton & Hove Stadium on 12 September 2016 was analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the presence of hydroxyethylpromazine sulphoxide.

Mr Garland apologised for his absence but was represented by Mr John Coleman. Paul Illingworth, senior stipendiary steward, Peter Miller, racing manager of Brighton & Hove Stadium and Professor Tim Morris, independent scientific adviser were in attendance.

On 12 September 2016 at Brighton & Hove Stadium, a urine sample taken from SLAHENY FONTAINE, a greyhound trained by professional trainer Mr Paul Garland, was analysed by LGC Health Sciences which identified the presence of hydroxyethylpromazine sulphoxide.

The Disciplinary Committee heard evidence from Professor Morris that hydroxyethylpromazine sulphoxide is a metabolite of acepromazine, a sedative widely used in the treatment of dogs, cats and horses. As a sedative, it is a substance which by its nature could affect the performance of a greyhound.

The effect of Professor Morris's evidence was that there were two possible explanations for this positive test; either acepromazine was deliberately administered to SLAHENY FONTAINE or the greyhound was fed contaminated meat.

The Committee had evidence in the form of receipts that Mr Garland only fed category 3 meat to his greyhounds, which should have been free from any drug residue. However, the Committee was aware from its experience in other inquiries that on occasion, category 3 meat had been contaminated with drug residue.

Mr Coleman forcibly submitted that there would have been no reason or motive for Mr Garland deliberately to have administered acepromazine to SLAHENY FONTAINE and the Committee considered there was considerable force in that submission. They also noted that there were no suspicious betting patterns concerning this greyhound.

Accordingly, on the balance of probabilities, the Disciplinary Committee was satisfied that Mr Garland did not deliberately administer acepromazine and the likeliest explanation for this positive test was contaminated meat.

Some of the GBGB Rules of Racing impose strict liability on the trainer or registered sales agent therefore the Disciplinary Committee found Mr Garland in breach of rules 152 (i), 174 (i)(b) and 217. They ordered that no further action be taken in respect of these breaches.

## **2. Perry Barr Stadium – ROSSLYN DELIGHT – Former Sales Agent Mr G Reid**

Former Sales Agent Glen Reid was found in breach of rules 152 (i) and (ii), 174 (i)(a) and 217 of the GBGB Rules of Racing in that a urine sample taken from the greyhound ROSSLYN DELIGHT at Perry Barr Stadium on 31 October 2016 was analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the presence of 19-noretiocholanolone and 19-norepiandrosterone which are steroid metabolites.

Mr Reid was not in attendance. Martin Seal, racing manager of Perry Barr Stadium, was not in attendance and apologised for his absence. Paula Clare, area stipendiary steward and Professor Tim Morris, independent scientific adviser were in attendance.

On 31 October 2016 at Perry Barr Stadium, a urine sample was taken from ROSSLYN DELIGHT prior to its run in a two-dog sales trial, which was subsequently analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the presence of 19-noretiocholanolone and 19-norepiandrosterone which are steroid metabolites. The greyhound had been brought over from Ireland by Mr Reid and was at all material times in his charge.

The Disciplinary Committee heard very clear and persuasive evidence from Professor Morris to the effect that the steroid metabolites identified by LGC were metabolites of nandrolone, an anabolic steroid which by its nature could affect the performance and/or prejudice the welfare of a greyhound. The Committee noted that the anabolic effects of nandrolone include muscle growth, appetite stimulation and increased red blood cell production, and as such, was a substance which could be administered in order to enhance a greyhound's performance.

Area stipendiary steward Paula Clare attempted to speak to Mr Reid by telephone on 6 February 2017. She identified herself whereupon he hung up without speaking, and thereafter failed to answer his telephone. Paula Clare twice sent Mr Reid the GBGB Q & A forms, which he signed for on 10 February 2017 and 16 March 2017, but he did not return the completed Q & A forms to GBGB. The Committee was satisfied that by his actions, Mr Reid intended deliberately to hamper or frustrate the GBGB investigation and drew the only inference possible, namely that he was knowingly involved in the deliberate administration of nandrolone to ROSSLYN DELIGHT, with the intention of enhancing its performance in order to achieve the maximum price possible at the sales.

Accordingly, the Committee found Mr Reid in breach of rules 152 (i) and (ii), 174 (i)(a) and 217 of the GBGB Rules of Racing.

The Disciplinary Committee took the view that this was a flagrant and deliberate breach of the rules of racing carried out for gain. In some ways, it was difficult to imagine a more serious breach of the rules, which both affected the welfare of the greyhound and the integrity of greyhound racing. The Disciplinary Committee therefore ordered that Mr Reid be disqualified indefinitely and fined £2,000.

## **3. Perry Barr Stadium – AMAZING STORM – Greyhound Trainer Mr P Meek**

Greyhound Trainer Paul Meek 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 AMAZING STORM at Perry Barr

Stadium on 25 September 2016 was analysed by LGC Health Sciences as containing the presence of glaucine.

Mr Meek apologised for his absence. Martin Seal, racing manager of Perry Barr Stadium, was not in attendance and apologised for his absence. Paula Clare, area stipendiary steward and Professor Tim Morris, independent scientific adviser were in attendance.

On 25 September 2016, a pre-race urine sample was taken from AMAZING STORM, a greyhound trained by greyhound trainer Mr Meek. Subsequent analysis by LGC Health Sciences identified the presence of glaucine.

The Disciplinary Committee heard evidence from Professor Morris to the effect that glaucine was not available as a veterinary medicine. It was used as an anti-cough medicine in Russia and Eastern Europe, and can originate from plants such as the yellow horned poppy and the tulip poplar tree. It has been reported to cause weakness, sleepiness, nausea, dilation of the pupils, hallucinations and lowered blood pressure and is therefore, a substance which by its nature could affect the performance or prejudice the welfare of a greyhound.

Professor Morris was clear that the scientific evidence proved the presence of glaucine, but could not assist as to the source, although he accepted that wood shavings or sawdust was a plausible explanation.

Mr Meek had consistently stated his belief that the positive test resulted from AMAZING STORM ingesting wood shavings or sawdust which he used in his kennel at the time. He produced evidence from his supplier sufficient to establish on the balance of probability that the wood shavings supplied may have contained glaucine. The Committee noted that following this positive test, Mr Meek no longer used wood shavings or sawdust in his kennel.

The Disciplinary Committee accepted Mr Meek's explanation. However, some of the GBGB rules of Racing impose strict liability and the Committee therefore found Mr Meek in breach of rules 152 (i), 174 (i)(b) and 217 of the GBGB Rules of Racing.

The Disciplinary Committee ordered that no further action be taken in this case.